

TRENDS IN TERRORISM AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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Abstract: *The aim of the article is to find trends in terrorism as a basis for improvement in crisis management. Trends were identified by analyzing data from the GTD (Global Terrorism Database), which contains all attacks since 1970. Trends are captured using graphs and then analyzed in terms of the importance of the identified trend towards crisis management. Based on the findings, the thesis discusses the current state of the problem solving in the Czech Republic and possible changes.*

Key words: *terrorism, security, trends, crisis management, databases*



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1. Introduction

Conflicts have always been between groups of people and terrorism is no novelty. As early as 500 BC, in his book *The Art of the War* of the Sun-C, he wrote about unconventional forms of warfare that today could be characterized as terrorism. Terrorism went through natural development until the French Revolution, when the term terrorism was first used.

The view of terrorism has begun to change as the number of terrorist attacks with more victims and considerable material damage has increased. However, it still seemed to be something distant, and it is not particularly relevant to us. But our eyes opened the attack of September 11, 2001 in the United States. After these events, not only European countries have begun to address this problem in order to prepare as much as possible for the possibility of terrorism in their territory. [1]

Since 2001, there have been several major terrorist attacks in European countries. Large and popular cities such as Madrid, Paris, London, Brussels and others were hit. These factors increasingly lead to different issues. Where will the next attack happen? How do terrorists attack? What attackers choose a target? Are we ready for this attack? My aim is to find relevant trends of terrorism through these questions and apply these results to the area of crisis management.

2. Terrorism

For the first time, the term terrorism can be encountered during the French Revolution. It was then part of military tactics. However, the principle is the same as at present. With the help of fear and threat to the population to reach its own goal. Terrorism has many definitions in the world, but none of them is internationally recognized. This can cause different data in different statistics, as in some borderline cases the attack may meet one definition, but not another.

The United Nations, which has been working on such a definition for several years, is addressing this problem. The Czech Republic works with three definitions. The oldest is the December 2001 EU Council definition, which was developed in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in New York. This is the wording set out in the Council Common Position on the use of specific measures to combat terrorism, designation 2001/931 / CFSP. [2]

A terrorist act is described here as a set of listed acts that, by their nature or context, can seriously jeopardize the operation of a particular state or international organization. Within the national legal systems, these are acts committed with the intention of:

- seriously intimidate the population;
- unduly compel the government or international organization to act or not to take concrete action;
- seriously destabilize or destroy the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or international organization, namely:
 - attacks on human lives that can cause death;

- attacks on the psychological integrity of persons;
- kidnapping or hostage-taking;
- causing widespread destruction of governmental or public facilities, transport systems, infrastructure facilities, fixed platforms on the continental shelf, public places or private property,
- endangering human lives or resulting in serious economic losses;
- occupation of aircraft, ships or other means of public or goods transport;
- the manufacture, possession, procurement, transport, supply or use of weapons or explosives of a nuclear, chemical or biological nature, as well as work on the research or development of such weapons;
- the release of these dangerous substances for free circulation, the establishment of fires, explosions or the cause of floods, the course of which endangers human lives;
- interrupting or interrupting the supply of water, electricity or other essential resources, which may also endanger human lives;
- threats by committing those acts mentioned above;
- leading a terrorist group;
- by participating in a terrorist group, including as an informant, provider of financial or material support, knowing that this assistance will help commit the criminal activities of the group. [3]

Terrorism typology

Terrorism is a complex term under which everyone can imagine something different. Precisely because it has so many different forms, it needs to be appropriately divided. Division of terrorism into types has its advantages. Thus, the study of terrorism can only deal with a specific type, which can be very different from another type. The division of terrorism, like the definitions, varies according to the author. For this purpose, I have decided to use the division given by the Ministry of the Interior. It is a division of terrorism into three types in terms of motivation to attack. [4]

1. Criminal Terrorism: terrorist acts carried out primarily to obtain personal material benefits. Crime and criminal terrorism differ from each other in the presence of the so-called terrorist calculus. This is a certain message that is sent through the public at risk to achieve the intended objectives. [5]
2. Pathological terrorism: terrorist acts carried out primarily for the psychological self-satisfaction of a terrorist or terrorist organization. The motivation for such terrorism may be to please the perpetrator of his ability to disseminate such a message and gain the attention of the media or even psychological illness by terrorists.
3. Political terrorism, resp. ideological: actions undertaken without the objective of direct material benefits but with the intention of politically motivated use of violence. This category can be further divided into:

- Ultra-left terrorism - this type of terrorism is pursued with the aim of creating social equality in society and eliminating all forms of social hierarchy.
- Ultra-right terrorism The main ideology of ultra-right groups is mainly nationalism, xenophobia and racism. The goals of nationalist-minded terrorist groups are most often attacks for the purpose of separation. The IRA is one of the most well-known separatist groups.
- Ethnic terrorism is characterized by promoting inter-ethnic interests.
- Religious terrorism in virtually every religion, it is possible to find records that, when interpreted specifically, may lead to the belief of others. As a result of these interpretations, fundamentalist groups are formed which, in order to convince others of their truth, are able to go to the detriment of the public.
- Environmental terrorism - so-called ecoterrorism is distinguished by the protection of the environment through the use of violence. It can be protection of the whole or protection of individual parts. For example: testing cosmetics on animals, breeding animals on fur coats or felling rainforests.
- Vigilantist terrorism is mainly a group that seeks to ensure justice and order that the state is unable to ensure.
- “Single-issue” terrorism, also known as single-item or monothematic terrorism, is characterized by a fight against one particular fact. These groups want to bring the issue to the attention of the public in the media and make changes.

Current security situation in the Czech Republic

Fortunately, the Czech Republic has avoided major terrorist attacks until now, there is no domestic terrorist organization, nor are there substantial parts of foreign and international organizations. To date, communities and social groups that have the potential to radicalize to the level of committing acts of terrorism or other serious acts of violence are relatively radical.

On the other hand, the fact that we do not hear about the problem does not mean that it does not exist. Social reconciliation is a very fragile issue and the radicalization of population groups can proceed quite quickly. The number of socially excluded localities has doubled in ten years. The number of people living in them is also increasing. [6]

At the moment, there are no organizations that need to be disintegrated, disrupted, infiltrated and prosecuted, as in many other European countries. However, in the past these organizations worked in the Czech Republic and the state had to intervene to abolish them. One of these organizations is the Workers' Party of Social Justice. This party was abolished due to extremism, militant racism, anti-democratic tendencies and links to neo-Nazis. [7]

Although the probability of a terrorist attack is relatively low, it is still here. Therefore, both the state and society should prepare for a possible terrorist attack and make individual potential targets more resilient.

3. Attacks in the recent past

For optimal preparation of the security forces, it is necessary to determine what cases are potentially expected. In identifying potential targets, I would be inspired by real situations that have happened in the recent past. The evolution of terrorism is gradual, so it is likely that the next attack will be similar to the past. I therefore divided the potential targets by type of attack and by target. The types of attacks in this case address the methods of terrorism, while the targets are more appropriate to the typology of terrorism.

Common types of attacks

So I created a graph showing the most common types of attacks in Europe since 2000 (Figure 4). Europe means here the geographical area from the east bounded by the Ural Mountains and in the south by the Black and Caspian Sea line and then through the Bosphorus canal in the territory of Turkey. As the countries of Russia and Turkey are located in this geographical area, they are included in the database with their entire territory in Europe. This certainly distorts the result as only 23% of the territory of Russia and even 3% of the territory of Turkey are in Europe.

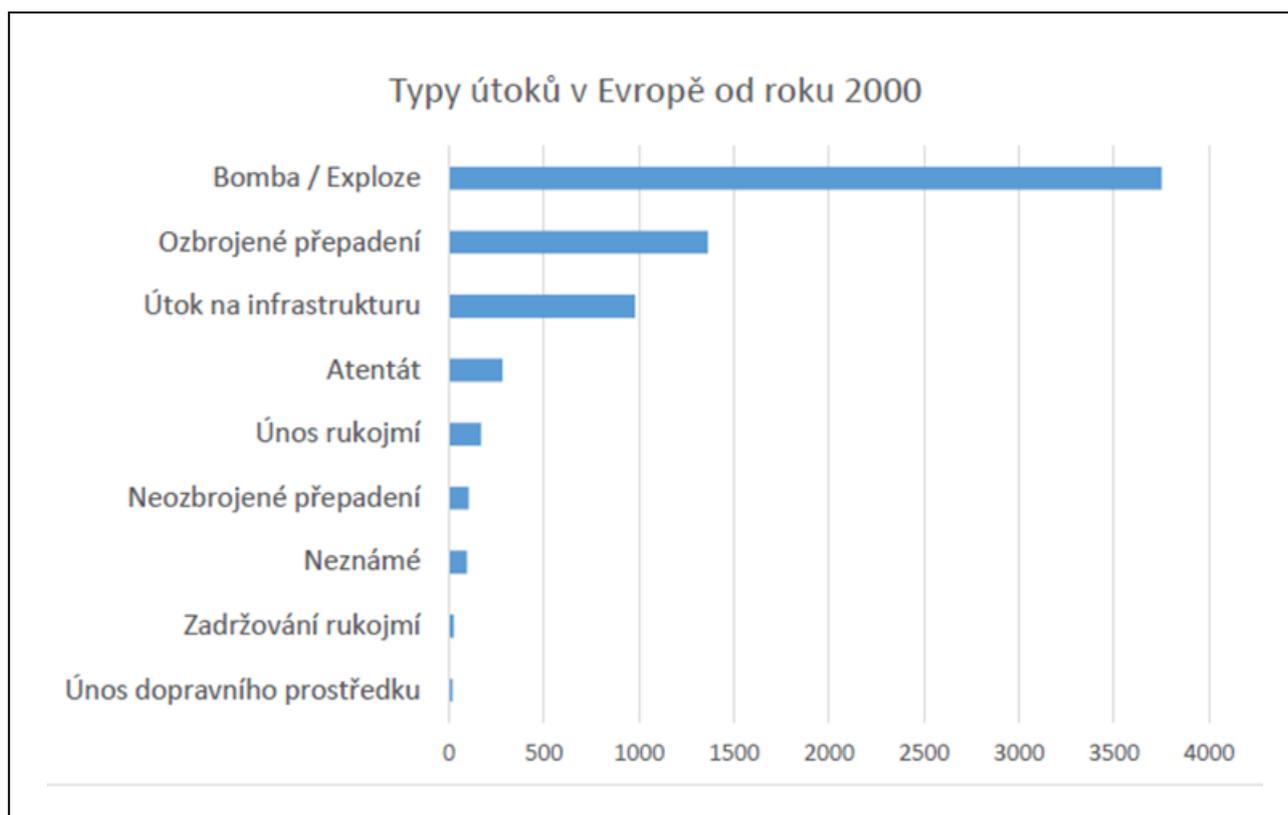


Fig. 1. Types of attacks in Europe since 2000

The graph shows that the most common way of attacking is by using bombs and other explosions. This technique is so common that the second "armed robbery" exceeds more than twice. It's quite logical. Explosives are relatively easy to manufacture or obtain and, if properly positioned, can cause great damage. In the past, use in public transport was very common.

For example, bombings on Madrid trains in 2004 or attacks on buses in London in 2005. The attacks were planned at a time when most people were transported to maximize terrorist consequences. An armed assault is an attack whose primary goal is to cause physical injury or death directly to people using a firearm or a knife. Firearms can be purchased on the black market and knives are even more affordable. However, the damage that can be done to them is likely to be less per perpetrator. As for the group of attackers, however, the consequences are equally devastating. This may turn out to be the same as in Paris in 2015, when three invaders armed with assault rifles and grenades into the Bataclan concert hall, killing 89 people. [8]

The third most common form of terrorism is an attack on infrastructure. According to the GTD, this is a targeted attack on a building, monument, means of transport, pipes, etc., without the use of explosives. These attacks include arson and other forms of sabotage. These are, therefore, cases where the building or the infrastructure is primarily targeted, but injury or fatalities are also likely. Other types of attacks in Europe are not so common, according to available data. They are therefore less likely, but that does not mean that they should not be foreseen. While writing this work, an incident occurred in France (March 23, 2018), when a terrorist claiming to join the Islamic State group barricaded himself in business and held several hostages with him. He did so because he wanted to exchange the hostages for the well-known terrorist Salah Abdeslam, who was behind the Paris attacks and was arrested by the Belgian police in 2017.

Terrorism is constantly evolving and it is possible that we will encounter such cases more often in the future, although this is currently unlikely. In recent years, the media-discussed type of attack has impacted a vehicle on a larger group of people. These events are marked in the GTD as armed or unarmed attacks, depending on whether the attacker was armed. Therefore, these attacks do not appear separately in the above graph. So I looked at these cases in more detail. Between 2000 and 2016, according to database data, there were 16 cases with a record that a vehicle was used as a primary or secondary weapon.

Such a number is not so dizzying, so why has so much media all over Europe been interested in it? I think that was because these attacks were unpredictable, devastating and not very well known until then. Securing a vehicle to attack is not a big problem today and the consequences of such an attack can be truly devastating. The first known media case of this kind was in 2016 in Nice, France, when a truck pulled onto a promenade full of people celebrating the anniversary of the Bastille conquest. The truck killed 86 people and injured more than 200. It is a terrible loss to an individual-led attack. [9]

Since 2016, there have been several other attacks conducted in the same way. Unfortunately, the data in the database is not updated frequently enough to affect the statistics.

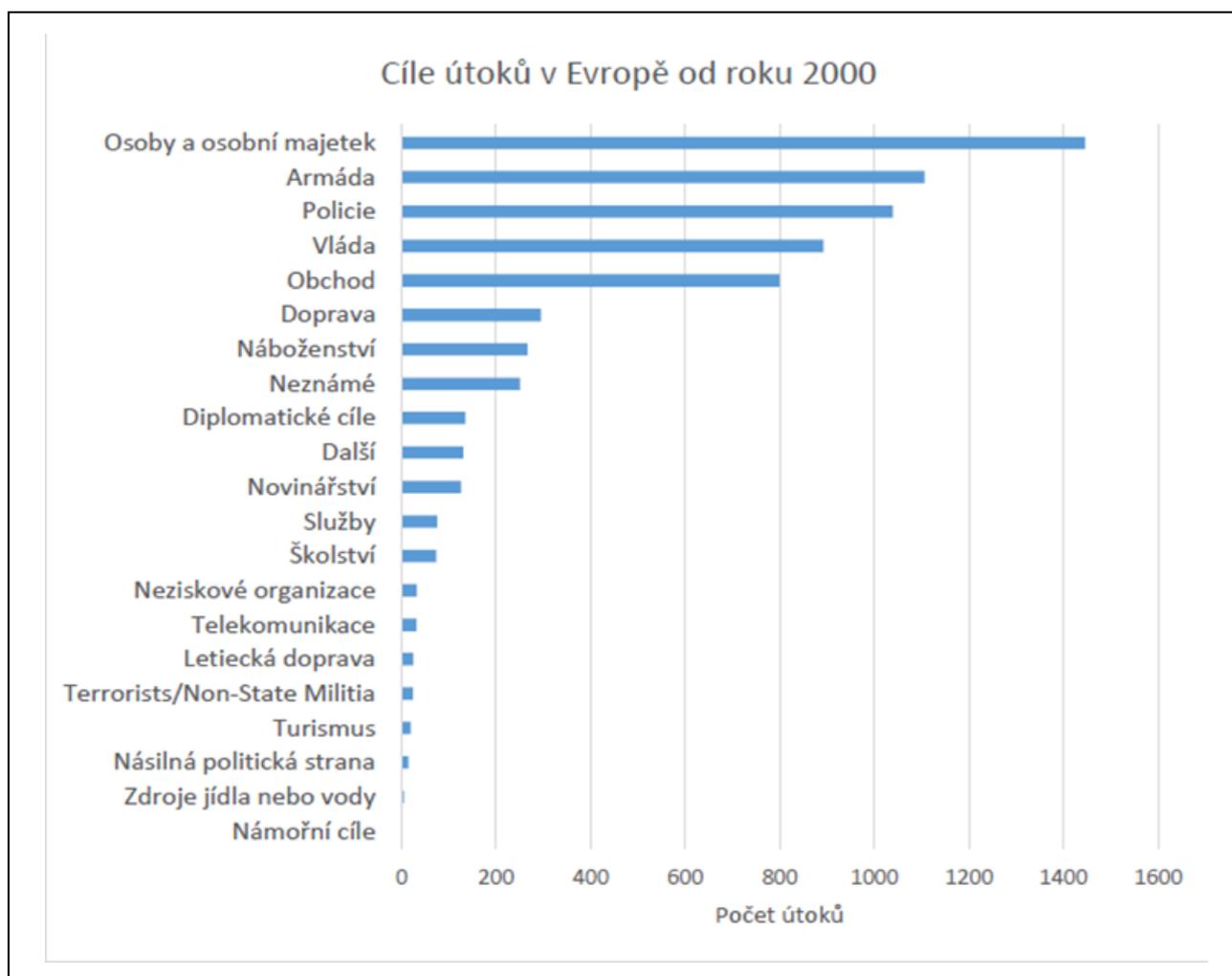


Fig. 2. Objectives of the attacks in Europe since 2000

Et for terrorists is people and their property. By attacking innocent citizens, terrorists can put pressure on states and the international community. People are usually not armed and do not put more resistance against the attackers and thus do not jeopardize the feasibility of the attack. According to the chart, the army, police and government are frequent targets of the attack. Such attacks are actually very similar and indicate internal instability of the state. These events were typical mainly in Ukraine, Russia, Great Britain and Spain. In the UK, these attacks are caused by separatists in Northern Ireland who want Northern Ireland to disconnect from the United Kingdom and join Ireland. In Spain, this is a similar problem, with the Basque group ETA attacking most of the time, which is to disconnect the Basque Country from Spain. These cases are indeed the actions of a small group of people who want to achieve their goal with these attacks. In cases from Ukraine, these acts are part of a much larger conflict and therefore, even if they have elements of terrorist acts, they may not be entirely relevant to the topic of this work. I will analyze this crisis in more detail to decide how to deal with this data. Another conflict that needs to be taken into account is the Russia-Chechen War in the North Caucasus. In this conflict, however, it is very difficult to divide the conflict between the Chechens and the Russians and the parallel conflict of Islamic mujahedin fighting for jihad.

Moreover, the terrorist attacks did not end with the end of the Second Chechen War, as the conflict between these three parties attracted many other jihad fighters who declared the Caucasus emirate in the North Caucasus in 2007.

4. Safety planning

The previous chapter showed which targets to focus on. They are critical infrastructure and so-called soft targets. Both of these objectives were often targets of terrorists within the European Union over the time span. In this chapter, I will try to bring the issue closer to the Czech security environment.

Soft targets

There are so many soft targets in the Czech Republic that it is virtually impossible for the state and its security services to take care of all protection. Therefore, the main part of protection is on the operators of soft targets. Many operators are also often able to ensure the security of an object better than the state.

This is mainly due to the knowledge of the environment, the presence on the spot and sometimes also greater financial resources. [10] The level of soft target security is currently not prescribed by law. It is therefore up to each operator to determine which level of security to use. Perhaps it would not be appropriate to set such a level by law to really ensure comprehensive protection for all soft targets. Another option would be to include this issue in one of the existing security laws. For example, the Police Act or the IRS Act.

Currently, there is a multi-purpose endeavor when using a security element. For example, access controls not only check the security insight, ie whether they bring weapons and dangerous items into the event area, but also check whether visitors are not bringing their own food and drinks to reduce sales to participating merchants. The operator is interested in economic profitability.

The expensive CCTV system not only protects visitors' safety, but also protects the operator against theft and property damage. It is therefore impossible to force the operator to a higher level of protection which does not bring him any obvious profit. There are many kinds of soft targets, and each has its own specifics. This precludes a consistent approach to protection solutions.

However, there are standardized issues that the operator should focus on to ensure a functioning safety system. These issues are available in the soft target protection methodology. There is also a special telephone line 800 255 255, which is intended primarily for operators or owners for the methodological support of soft targets. [10]

Dividing time slots when solving soft targets.

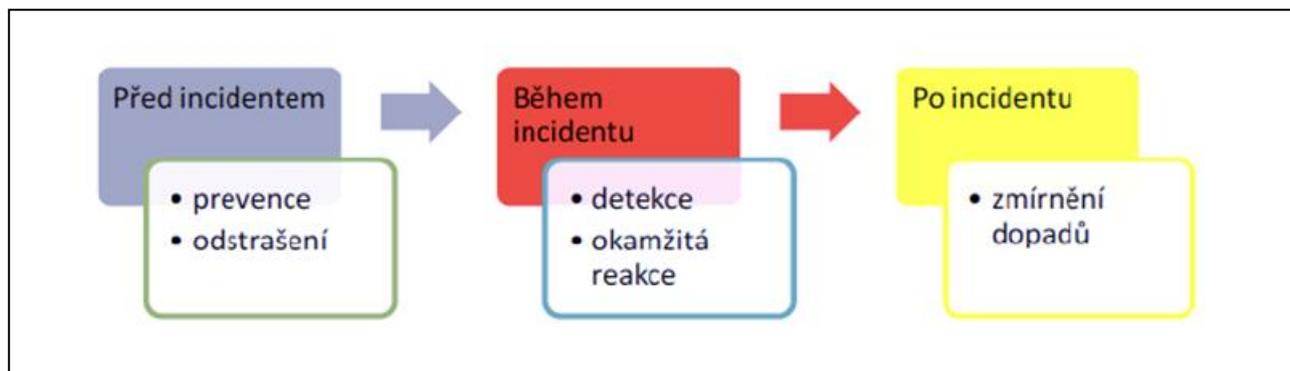


Fig. 3. Diagram of attacks on soft targets

Prior to the incident, it is a priority to focus on prevention. To do this, it is a good idea to create a plan in advance, which will be activated in the event of a crisis and ensure the greatest possible safety for the participants. It is also advisable to try to deter the attackers. This can be achieved by an increased number of security personnel or by the above-mentioned entry controls. Most important during the incident is the need to record the attack at all. Often, the sound of an attack can be mistaken for part of the performance, such as explosions and flashes from pyrotechnics. Early detection should be followed by a rapid response by security personnel and reporting to the police operations center.

When attacking soft targets, the most important are the first minutes at which the police are not yet available at the scene. Therefore, it is primarily up to the staff to try to minimize the consequences of the attack by timely and effective evacuation of the affected areas. For the subsequent coordination of IRS activities in a joint intervention serves, for example, STC 09 / IRS Intervention of IRS components in an emergency with a large number of injured persons or STC 14 / IRS Amok-attack active shooter. [11]

After the attack, the point is to minimize the possible impacts and communicate with the intervening stanzas. To get all participants safe and provide them with the necessary help. The last of the attack cycle are function restoration and scheduling. It is important to improve the security system and learn from the shortcomings that may have been better addressed last time. The greatest respect for security is given by large events such as music festivals (Colors of Ostrava, Beats for Love), military parades (NATO Days), sports events (World Hockey Championship, DavisCup). All of these events have huge attendance. For example, NATO Days in 2017 were visited by 90,000 visitors, Colors of Ostrava 2017 by 45,000 visitors. These are enormous actions where the potential attack would have enormous consequences and would certainly be a signal to the whole world. In addition, an attack on the North Atlantic Alliance security parade would be a sort of psychological win for terrorists. Relative novelty in this issue is the Czech technical standard, which was published in September 2016. It is the standard ČSN 73 4400 Crime prevention - safety management in the planning, implementation and use of schools and school facilities.

This standard has been developed by the Technical Standardization Commission as a possible answer to address the issue of protection of schools and school facilities. Thus, one can see the direction of creating a protection methodology for each type of soft target separately. [11]

What is not yet addressed is publicly accessible places such as shopping centers, theaters or tourist sites. For example, the Palladium shopping center in Prague is visited by more than 40,000 visitors daily. That's even more than most music festivals have in a few days. So what is the level of safety in these places? Private security services are used for soft target security. Their activity in relation to soft goals is usually such that they act as a guarding of shopping centers, hospitals and other buildings, or as an organizing and organizing service for sporting events and cultural events and the like. Currently, a law on private security activities is under preparation, which should address the issue of private security services.

5. Conclusion

The aim of the article was to identify relevant trends based on data provided by the GTD databases. The result of my research was to find out frequent targets of terrorist attacks. In studying the issues arising from these objectives, I came to the knowledge that could be a future contribution to addressing the protection of these objectives.

The first thing I was struggling with in creating this work was the loose definition of terrorism used in the GTD database. Therefore, the database has accumulated attacks, which in my opinion were only on the edge of terrorism. The possibility of solving such a problem is a single global definition of terrorism. Unfortunately, this is a harder task than it seems. The UN itself has been working on such a definition for several years, unfortunately without much result. Probably the problem will be the insight into terrorism in various regions of the world. Or, as Yasser Arafat said in a speech to the UN in 1974, "For one terrorist is a freedom fighter for another." .

In order to secure some of the modern methods of terrorism, a larger organized group of terrorists would be required to produce these weapons in their laboratories. At present, the attacks of decentralized groups, where radicalized individuals are attacking, are more relevant. These individuals do not have such technological capabilities, and therefore rather turn to classical methods of terrorism such as bombs, knives or firearms.

In a more detailed examination of the issue of soft targets, I came to the following suggestions. My main proposal is to create a legislative document on the protection of soft targets. This document would record clear rights and obligations of the owner or operator of the facility. The current solution, where the obligations of the owner or operator of the object are nowhere defined, I find insufficient.

Furthermore, I would suggest dividing the types of soft targets according to given parameters into categories. Depending on the categorization, this would entail rights and obligations. This solution would help to better categorize the objectives and identify unified conservation planning practices according to the category's threat.

One of the things in this legislative document would be (as in the Crisis Act) the possibility of selecting a liaison security officer who would fulfill the duties of the owner or operator of the facility when communicating with the security services.

With the 2015 Paris attack, I was inspired by another proposal. In this case, the terrorists were coordinated and attacked soft targets in different places one evening. This greatly complicated the reaction of the security forces. It would be appropriate to address this problem. This could be helped by the aforementioned proposal for categorization of soft targets. One of the parameters would be "time stability". Places such as shopping centers, theaters, tourist places are visited practically every day, but places such as concerts, festivals, sports events are only visited on the day of the social event.

But how to alert the organizers of such irregular events to a potential danger? A possibility would be to create a centralized database of such actions. Operators of a particular category should be required to report to this database. Along with information about these events, there would be contacts to the Security Liaison Officer or the facility operator. Thus the police could contact surrounding events about the impending danger and the organizers of the event could take appropriate security measures.

6. Acknowledgements

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