

**The International Counterterrorism Database
Briefing Presentation at the UNSC CTC Working Session**

Supplementary Report

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the course of the several past decades terrorism has been transforming into a clear and omnipresent threat to the entire global community. As the practical experience of combating TERRORISM shows, the primary sources of its operational viability and manpower losses replenishment potential are the international links, essential for the ideological, financial, combat training and post-combat rehabilitation of terrorist elements.

The currently established universal information environment based on the broad use of mass-media facilities including the global information and telecommunication networks, above all, the Internet, has become one of the critical components of an international terrorist infrastructure. Through the Internet the terrorist ideology is being disseminated with its core philosophy based on the pseudo-Islamic radical appeals to the 'holy jihad' for the cause of the 'Worldwide Islamic Caliphate'. This ideology is oriented at the radicalization of young people, portraying terrorists as heroic figures, and recruitment of mercenaries. The Internet is also being considered very practical in terms of providing instructions on bomb-making and subversive techniques. In fact, what we are witnessing, is the process of forming a terrorist sub-culture, which apart from the Internet is being broadly propagated in mosques and *madrassahs*, or otherwise at terrorist training camps located in remote and out-of-government-control areas of the Near and Middle East and Maghreb. This sub-culture existing within a global informational setting does have a potential of autonomously reproducing terrorist subversive infrastructure and initiating new terrorist attacks. In which case the function of terrorist ideologists is reduced to operating on the information warfare theater.

It is our strong belief, that the issue of international terrorism could not be addressed successfully without the creating of a universal anti-terrorist information environment. Therefore, the Russian Federation Federal Security Service took the initial step towards gaining this objective.

During the 6th Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies, and Law-Enforcement Organizations held in September 2007 in the city of Khabarovsk, we had reported on the introduction of Russian national segment within the Counter-Terrorism Database, and correspondingly invited our counterparts to jointly participate in its practical operating. So far, 18 countries have stated their readiness to co-operate with us within the project. Although the segment contains exclusively unclassified information, for the purposes of the data protection against

any destructive impact from the outside the access to this information shall be implemented by means of private user authentication procedure. Currently we are in the process of submitting all the users concerned with the necessary digital credentials (i.e. logins and passwords). The only request from our side to the potential users is to provide us with either the IP-addresses to be used for remotely accessing the Database or otherwise the address details of the Internet-access gateways which are not public proxy-servers.

The basic element of the International Counter-Terrorism Database is a structured information resource where the security / intelligence and law-enforcement agencies of all states concerned could deposit the counterterrorism-related data and, correspondingly, obtain such data in order to use them in their ongoing counter-terrorist operations.

The data posted in the unclassified segment of the Database are categorized by the following dedicated sections:

- Terrorism-related incidents (terrorist attacks with specific world map references);
- The individuals watchlisted in connection with their involvement in terrorist activity;
- The individuals, who remain subject to a legal conviction after having served a corresponding terrorism-related sentence;
- The individuals who have been missing in the areas of the ongoing terrorist activity;
- The organizations and groups of individuals involved in terrorist activities;
- The Internet resources related to terrorist activity, particularly, in the form of terrorist propaganda (data of this category could be a useful reference when conducting operations aimed at disrupting such resources);
- National and international legal frameworks in the field of counter-terrorism (national laws, international treaties and agreements, legislative initiatives focused on the improving of the counter-terrorist efforts efficiency).

Given the emphasis many governments of the world are currently placing on the prevention of radicalization within the community and, particularly, among the young people, we singled out within a separate section the data categories essential in terms of countering the spread of terrorist ideology. The work of filling this dedicated section with relevant data is underway. We believe that the following reference categories should be included:

- Causes and preconditions facilitating the spread of terrorist ideology (based on the post-apprehension interrogations of terrorists and related analytical studies);

- Methods of propaganda / dissemination of terrorist ideology employed by terrorism ideologists;
- Specific activities carried out by terrorism ideologists under the umbrella of different nongovernmental organizations, that could be resulting in the general increase of community radicalization (conferences, open discussions, demonstrations, rallies, and other public events involving ideological indoctrination of the participants, advocating terrorist methods of action, and iconizing terrorists);
- Data on the involvement of nongovernmental organizations and educational institutions located in different regions of the world in terrorist propaganda, including its financial aspect (legally substantiated by interrogation records);
- The facts of public repentance by terrorists and their ideologists. This section should contain relevant documentary materials (printed publications, photos, video and audio records, documentary films);
- Theoretical works of Russian and foreign scholars, statements of leading governmental officials and public figures, including those representing different ethnic and religious groups, focused on the critical aspects of inter-ethnic and inter-congregational relations influencing the general radicalization of the community and spread of terrorist ideology;
- The internationally recognized best practices of countering the spread of terrorist ideology as well as any other information that could be helpful in performing this particular task and combating terrorism, in general.

In line with the Database operational criteria the input data from the partner agencies, including digital documents supplemented with either English or Russian texts, should be transferred through international liaison channels. In order to ensure the appropriate security of the system the input data shall be processed and subsequently inputted in data arrays by Russian technical experts. Correspondingly, we will be ready to consider the Database operating option involving the wide area distribution of data arrays.

The Database was designed with the application of advanced information technologies providing for both processing and categorizing the data in the most user-friendly form, to include digital map visualization and graphic diagram features. The system is also handy in terms of site-navigation and creation of analytical requests in order to find possible links between different subjects.

Therefore, considering the Database as an automated information / referential system we will be concentrating our efforts on making it an operable and accessible facility to be used in analytical and academic work in the dedicated field of counterterrorism.

Hopefully, the system we have presented would be facilitating in terms of further increasing the efficiency of the international information sharing.