

THE TYPOLOGY OF UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS IN CROSS-BORDER ZONES

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Abstract: *The phenomenon of illicit cross-border traffic with strategic components represents an outstanding vector of over-borders organized crime, with global implements, of the most diverse: nuclear weapons traffic, radioactive, and bacteriological; arms traffic, ammunitions and warfare equipment; gold traffic, silver and other valuables; intelligence, technology, research, projects etc. In this paper we will discuss only few of the elements that this global and extremely dangerous phenomenon implies for the contemporaneous times.*

Keywords: *contemporaneous security environment, organized crime, illicit cross-border traffic, global illicit phenomenon.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The dynamics of change regarding political, economic and military at international level at the beginning of the third millennium is fast and unpredictable. Each event can have a decisive influence over the way those strategic entities that share economic resources and markets carryout the debate on the construction of a new international order and geopolitical changes. Therefore, any attempt to shape the new international order, built after 11 September 2001, seems increasingly difficult. However, such attempts already exist and are emerging along two main axes. The first is part of the American doctrine, nominated by the US President at the end of January 2001, when the message to the nation stated that the states Iraq, Iran and North Korea were axis of evil. The second, called suggestively axis of reconciliation, includes European members of NATO and countries like China, India, and Brazil. Axis conciliation is, in fact, not so much opposition to the US, as the expression of wish that the component states to be associated with the effort to build this new world order in the new international security.

Among the risk factors specific to illicit trafficking thriving in this article will be detailed strategic international terrorism, the spread of organized crime, migration and xenophobic manifestations, the proliferation of means of mass destruction, manufacture and sale of weapons etc.

2. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

After September 11, 2001 we entered into a new period of transition marked by terrorism and counterterrorism globalized. Global terrorism must be eliminated by military and economic means. Romania's participation in combating global terrorism through economic and military means is fully justified and the civil society must support the Romanian government in this endeavor. The game-plan of terrorist threats and elements of specificity corresponding period of their manifestations highlight that in a world dominated by conflicting interests, rights and fundamental freedoms are diverted from their meanings natural and used as motivation for exacerbating nationalism and ethnic separatism and religious, which determines on a daily basis terrorist acts that result in hundreds of thousands of casualties.

Terrorism as a phenomenon and terrorist groups, united as a network or acting as independent entities, is one of the most serious threats of the beginning of this century considering the fact that so many nations of the planet have a fragile international security.[1] Any strategy to combat terrorism must reflect, however, not only the understanding of the reasons and objectives of terrorism, but also an understanding of the advantages that some features of the modern world gives those who engage in terrorist activities.

First of all, the globalization more and more increasingly pronounced of the economic and political life causes irritation in population groups whose values and lifestyles are affected, giving them more and more opportunities to act against democratic nations, institutions of security system global as well as the goals representative of civilized countries (recent actions on targets in France and Belgium).

Secondly, the growing capacity of terrorist groups towards acquiring weapons of destructive power, consequence of technological development and the weakness of public institutions in some countries, give terrorists the opportunity to commit acts that neither would have designed in the past.

Last but not least, the existence of a global expanded media network enables live snapshots of an event anywhere in the world thus giving them terrorists a certainty that their actions, no matter how horrible it may be, will not have a limited impact, but will gain worldwide audience. On the other hand, terrorism itself offers itself as a solution to societies that want, without undergoing a transformation.[2] They may take action to marginalize terrorism and the transformation of public attitudes towards it, so that acts of terrorism will become less probable.

At this moment, Romania's fundamental interests require capitalization unification and valorizing of solitary experience, in order to pass towards a superior organizational stage, that of setup and making operational of the inner mechanism in order to prevent and combat terrorism in a manner that meets specific challenges current security context through national efforts and international cooperation.

3. THE EXPANSION OF ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized crime is one of the most serious transnational threats. Money from drug trafficking and other illegal activities make it easier for organized crime, introducing new techniques and new ways of improving the means of operation from computer fraud to trafficking in arms and human organs. Organized crime is a particularly important element in the logistics of terrorism. Tax evasion, money laundering, illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs, tax system protection, the control of prostitution or gambling networks, extortion, ransom charging, smuggling, fake currency etc. are the usual means by which terrorist organizations clandestinely procure necessary funds.

Thus terrorism is an amplification factor of economic and financial crime, and their symbiosis emerges from a new type of global threat.[3]

Destabilizing criminal process as subversion, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, the works of various mafias are not carried out in isolation, but are intertwined. Today, terrorist groups generally are subsidized directly by drug trafficking (by participating in this activity) or indirectly (offering protection to those dealing with drug trafficking), with links to various mafias, arms trafficking, counterfeiting documents and many other illegal activities.

Organized crime areas known as so-called "gray" areas of the underground economy and are tolerated result in an alternative, at least at certain times, to the legal economy inability to meet market demands or sometimes a dysfunctional economic system. Bad functioning legal economic system is, among other things, the effect induced expansion of organized crime and its control by the leaders of the major levers that influence their decisions and diverts to achieve their goals.

The networks have economic and financial strength that allow them to act as factors, particularly strong, for putting pressure on governments, authorities and institutions, constituting a permanent threat to the legal order. By corruption, in particular, but also by brutal means, uncrowned kings of organized crime can come to dictate governments, political parties or to buy options to manipulate the electorate, inducing lethal danger for democracy.

At international level there is a true power of organized crime whose screening and whose subsequent control are increasingly difficult.

The situation is worsened even more as it appears that the protagonists of illegal activists or anti-system protagonists are prevailing over the legal system. In this case, structured real "cores" of pressure are affecting the national stability, regional and international security.

Transnational criminal activity and related activities, are considered a threat to the political, economic, social and legal, causing: undermining of the society by corrupting political structures and consider violence as a normal fact; distorting market mechanisms to the detriment of economic and trade systems; encouraging individuals to act outside the legal economy and evade taxes; environmental degradation systems, evading restraints and regulations; destabilizing economic progress in transition and developing countries; interfering with foreign policy objectives and with the international system; harming the society by social and economic costs that come from illegal drug trafficking.[6]

4. MIGRATION AND XENOPHOBIA PHENOMENA

In terms of ceasing conflicts with a direct or indirect contact regarding Cold War, it believed that migration movements will be diminished. This phenomena didn't take place due to the fact that on one hand several political, ethnical and religious conflicts appeared and led to people migration and on the other hand the economic and social state specific to the countries of origin got worse.[8] These processes have led to migration as they were looking for better living conditions. Millions of human beings are marched away from their countries due to wars, violence, massacres, hunger, poverty or environmental disasters. Ordinary people become refugees, migrants or forced displaced persons.

In the same time, as an unwanted effect, it was exacerbated xenophobic feeling of the population from countries where the migration increased, with all the negative consequences that this sociological phenomenon implies. Moreover, migration phenomena as yellow danger which could easily modify the equilibrium and demographic composition of regions and led to loss of identity are increasingly common. Furthermore, more than 11 million of Muslims live now in the European Union states. Their presence is nothing else but the effect of migration flows from colonial empires of Asia, Africa and Caribbean.

The migration flows represent a risk for the country they are migrating toward because of consequences as they follow: the impact they could have in social and economic area as the labor force appears and impossible to be entirely absorbed; the implementing of authentic "endocultures" not assimilated by the society; new individuals confronted with the lack of jobs and involved in organized crime activities; increase of health and education expenses in the country they are migrated toward; the migration advantages for terrorist groups.

The conclusion for the consequences mentioned above is xenophobia, the resuscitation of the nationalist extreme right, prohibited legislation regarding free movement of people, and sometimes massive campaigns against immigrants. A rebirth of a strong xenophobia and racism could be explain- as Alexander King and Bertrand Schneider have mentioned in a Council Report of Rome Club-by taking into consideration a millions of people migration. Using Asia, Africa, America and Europe as examples, they are considered as „a threat for country equilibrium and a real danger for its cultural identity, just when this identity is a question mark for its own followers. The insecurity feeling of the individuals against severe affirmation of planetary dimension and regional or inter-regional organizations are to contribute to these xenophobia phenomena”.

5. PROLIFERATION AND ILLICIT TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR COMPONENTS

Proliferation and illicit transfer of nuclear components, and WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) are considered to be a real threat and danger for the international security. The Gulf War (1991) provided an opportunity for contradictory and revealing debates in terms of Occident fears. The battle against the proliferation of nuclear weapons continues by acts of war in order to destroy the nuclear installations of the rival state or by legal and diplomatic measures, internationally stated, but hard to follow in terms of application due to their limitations and contradictions.

The first difficulty is focused on the stopping politics of nuclear proliferation in terms of their discriminated principles. So, we can talk about the contradiction between sovereign states equality (with their right to defend themselves) and the idea of a particular type of weapon for a single category of states designed by the states that have to proliferate that type. This discriminated aspect, political, strategic and psychologically sensitive, has the adverse effect and not the right one, making the nuclear weapon a symbol of national independence and dignity. Never the less, what it seemed to be right and cautious for the most powerful and rich states is received as an unbearable humility for disadvantaged states, Arabic states is such a good example for dramatic rebellion.

The second difficulty is the fact that the nuclear weapons are the product of a dual technology, civilian and military, both in the same time. Nuclear power plant producing electricity uses weakly enriched uranium, and using combustion produces radioactive wastes and plutonium. Reprocessing of these led to manufacture of bombs. Dual character of atomic energy complicates the stopping of nuclear weapons proliferation. We face again the discriminatory issue. It is hard to forbid states to give up on atomic beneficial applications (medical research, electricity, etc.) as well as to outline and control the difference between beneficial utility of a nuclear military power plant or a technological flow.

As nothing stop reunited Germany - the most powerful economic state of Europe - to think seriously of a nuclear option in order to gain the same power as military state. Moreover, new generations of fuses, bombs, small sizes nuclear ammunition, easy to transport and launch, and relatively small effects encourage their use. These new types could be used in order to partially destroy enemy positions or its neutralization, and no harm for the radiations to be propagated. This is one of the most dangerous evolutions of the nuclear weapons because of the fact that they could be the reason for triggering wars or limited nuclear attacks.

Another security issue is considered to be analyzed, the beneficial nuclear technology, due to its physical and moral use. We have to take into consideration risks in terms of hijacking the results of scientific research, as an actor with an efficient ICP (Intelligence Collection Plan) could elaborate, achieve or use a surprise technology in his favor. In the future, terrorist and fundamentalist groups and organizations getting nuclear weapons of different sizes is a very dangerous issue. Unfortunately, the most important powerful states in the world (USA, UE, Russia, China, Japan, etc.) didn't seem to agree in terms of strategies and international means of control and coordinated prevention of deviations from the Nonproliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons or other weapons of mass destruction.

6. WEAPONS PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

The ability to produce weapons associated with the interest to sell is, consistently, a landmark for identifying major issues of the security agenda of the future. According to the geopolitical context presented it may say that the current security environment has the following features: dissolution of bipolarity and entering a new phase: the US is considered the only political, economic, financial and military superpower, credible and viable; the increasing of EU visibility as a factor of stability and progress, economic and military development of China and Russia's involvement in solving or complicating some major problems faced by some countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Syria, etc.); appearance and consecration of international non-state actors that relate to national values; the implementation of new solutions in the functioning of political, economic and security organizations; the transition from collective defense to the collective security; the initiation and the affirmation of crisis management trends on regional considerations.

CONCLUSIONS

The proliferation of risk factors specific to the intensification of illicit trafficking with strategic materials is the expression of multiple causes, such as: the diversification and the complexity of technology transfer with uses in strategic nuclear environment; the existence of legal programs for the manufacture of dangerous vaccines and production of bacteriological agents; the multiplication capabilities of some states from „ axis of evil “ area concerned by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: intensifying recruitment of experienced specialists who may give at modest prices, the advantage of technological surprise; reducing access to high technologies for criminal or terrorist structures who can obtain information and technologies in advanced forms in order to grasp the competitive market, using internal corruption.

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