

## **Editor's Note**

### **A New Publication Release: "Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel: Global Reach and Implications" (February 27, 2013)**

The mission of Terrorism: Electronic Journal and Knowledge Base is to provide continuity to earlier studies on the "Age of Terrorism" and close research gaps in the growing contemporary literature on the manifold aspects of the subject.

In addition to the two issues published each year, we are planning to periodically provide updates as deemed necessary. We are therefore pleased to formally release a new report on "Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel: Global Reach and Implications," published by the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies on February 27, 2012.

The context for this study is as follows: One cannot fully understand the impact of rising terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel without looking back to warning signs from previous years that exploded with deadly results in January 2013 in Mali and Algeria. In the decade since 9/11, the threat from Al-Qaida has evolved and expanded as it seeks to exploit new regions and recruits. It is clear now that an "Arc of Instability" has emerged across Africa's Sahel, opening a path for Al-Qaida to shift its center of gravity to a new sanctuary and potential launching pad much closer to US and European shores.

The new study reports that rising terrorism in Africa's Maghreb and Sahel has created a serious strategic challenge for the international community. With the takeover of northern Mali in 2012 and deadly attack in Algeria in January 2013, a terrorism threat level that had been rising for the past decade soared, and a regional problem metastasized into a crisis of global implications. The French intervention drove Al-Qaida-linked forces out of Mali's cities, but from desert and mountain hideouts and with ties to AQAP in Yemen, al-Shabaab in Somalia, Boko Haram in Nigeria, Latin drug cartels, and Polisario militants in Algeria, Al-Qaida poses "a most dangerous threat" to the region and beyond. The report makes recommendations to address this risk for a region that continues to experience unprecedented transition and change from the Arab Spring.

As an electronic academic tool, we are looking forward to readers' reactions, comments, and suggestions for further studies in this area of regional and global security concerns.

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