



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING TERRORISM: REVIEW OF 2014 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2015

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International Cooperation
in Combating Terrorism:
Review of 2014 and Outlook for 2015

Ambassador Bonnie D. Jenkins

U.S. Department of State's Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of
International Security and Nonproliferation

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Please contact the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies,

901 North Stuart Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203
Tel. 703-562-4513, 703-525-0770 ext. 237 Fax 703-525-0299
yalexander@potomac institute.org www.potomac institute.org
www.terrorisemelectronicjournal.org www.iucts.org

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins

Thank you for inviting me, Yonah, to this event, and also thank you to the organizers. It is great to see everyone here today. I know that we have a distinguished panel here, so I am going to try to keep my comments brief.

My work in the government really focuses on ways in which we can keep weapons of mass destruction materials and weapons (WMD) out of the hands of non-state actors with an intent to do harm. So my perspective in terms of international cooperation in combating terrorism is that it is very important indeed to have international cooperation. The only way we can really reduce the threat of terrorism is to work together on a global scale, to work bilaterally, multilaterally with partners, and the work that I do really does foster that effort and ways in which we can develop programs to actually make sure that we do not have opportunities for non-state actors to use chemical, biological, nuclear, or radiological weapons.

The U.S. has developed a number of tools and initiatives to address this issue whether they are through working with international organizations, whether it is working through specific initiatives, or working on the ground bilaterally with countries. There are a number of ways which we have been focusing on addressing a very complex threat that follow individuals as they move around the world. Individuals with a threat to do harm may seek access to pathogens, precursors, or to nuclear materials.

There are a number of areas that I work on at the State Department focused on reducing WMD terrorism. I have worked since 2009 on the Nuclear Security Summit. I am the Department of State lead on the preparations for the Summit. It is an effort that was started in 2009 by President Obama in his first Prague speech where he announced that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats the world faces. And he announced we would have a security summit to bring together leaders around the world to focus on this important issue, recognizing that in order to prevent nuclear terrorism you want to prevent the access to nuclear material. So as you probably know, there have been a number of nuclear security summits since that speech. There was one in 2010 here in Washington, followed by the 2012 summit in Seoul, and 2014 in The Hague, and there will be a final summit under the current format in 2016 in the United States, the place and time to yet be determined.

Through these nuclear security summits we have worked with 54 leaders, to include four international organizations, providing commitments, communiqués, and other efforts to ensure that states who are working with us are doing what they can to secure nuclear materials. We have done this through a number of national commitments. There have been a number of what we call “gift baskets,” which are actually commitments by a group of countries on particular areas of nuclear security. So through this process of nuclear security summits, we have been providing ways in which we can consolidate nuclear material, get rid of excess nuclear material, and really focus on ways in which we can coordinate and work together internationally and with international organizations and initiatives like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (Global Partnership) and others to prevent nuclear terrorism in the future.

One of the other aspects about international cooperation is the recognition that we need to work with not only governments but with entities outside the government as well. Through the nuclear security summit there has been a process of working very closely with non-governmental organizations and industry, which are very important parts of ensuring that we do secure nuclear material. So when we talk about international cooperation, we are talking not just about governments; we are talking about all of the entities that exist around the globe that can help ensure that we prevent nuclear terrorism.

Another entity that exists to which I am the U.S. representative, is something called the Global Partnership. This is an initiative that was started in 2002 in Kananaskis under the then G8 chairmanship of Canada, and the main focus of this initiative is to help ensure, through programs and activities, that we do not let WMD get in the hands of non-state actors. It was originally to be a ten-year commitment amongst the G8 members with the United States putting in \$10 billion matched by \$10 billion of the other members. We now have twenty-eight members of the Global Partnership, so it has grown a lot since 2002. It was extended in 2011 to go beyond ten years. For the first ten years of the Global Partnership's main focus was destroying Russian nuclear submarines and Russian chemical weapons. We spent over \$22 billion in the first ten few years in the Global Partnership. Now the Global Partnership is looking at all areas of chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological weapons to prevent them from getting into the hands of non-state actors with intent to do harm.

Some of the activities that the global partnership has been engaged include: the physical protection of nuclear materials, securing the transport of nuclear materials, radioactive security, prevention of illicit nuclear trafficking, material management, verification and compliance, and work on export controls. In the area of biosecurity, there is work on securing and accounting for biological pathogens, preventing deliberate biological attacks, strengthening disease surveillance and detection, reinforcing biological non-proliferation instruments like the biological weapons convention, and ensuring the safe, secure and responsible conduct in the biological sciences. In chemical destruction, the global partnership members have completed the projects remaining for Kisner projects, assisted in destruction and activities in Syria and Libya, and are prepared to assist in the destruction of newly-declared stockpiles.

In addition I should mention that last year the Global Partnership has been having meetings focusing on CBRN security assistance in Ukraine. Ukraine is one of the members of the Global Partnership. It has been a member since 2003. And as a result of recent activities in Ukraine, we have been meeting and working with Ukraine in trying to address some of their CBRN threats that they may be facing right now.

I should also mention one other area that is getting a lot of attention called the Global Health Security Agenda. For those of you who do not know what this is, it is an effort that was started last year in the United States, with a launch in Washington, D.C., February 2014, to focus on reducing infectious disease threats, like Ebola, whether accidental or intentional. The focus of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), which is led by the White House, now has forty-four countries that are working on this effort. It is a security effort. It is also a human and animal health effort, and it is a law enforcement effort. In the United States you have quite a number of departments who have traditionally not been working on threat-reduction programs who are now

involved because we are looking at infectious disease and how to fight infectious disease from a prevent, detect, and respond lens. There is a strong bio-security aspect to the GHSA.

Those are just some of the programs that fall within my portfolio and that promote international cooperation to combat terrorism. I can go into detail on any of those during the question and answer period but with so many distinguished guests on the panel I think I will stop now and turn it over to our next speaker.

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Please contact the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203. Tel.: 703-525-0770 Email: yalexander@potomac institute.org, ICTS@potomac institute.org