

## **Editor's Note**

As we are posting the September 2015 issue of Terrorism: An Electronic Journal & Knowledge Base, I wish to remind our readers that this academic effort was initially developed in 1998 as an on-line follow-up to Terrorism: An International Journal, published in 1977 by Crane, Russak in New York and subsequently by Taylor and Francis in the U.K. As director of the State University of New York (SUNY) Institute for Studies in International Terrorism, it was my honor to be the founder and Editor-in-Chief of these two publications.

In its current form, Terrorism: An Electronic Journal & Knowledge Base was launched again in August 2012 in order to provide continuity to earlier studies on the “Age of Terrorism” and to close research gaps in the growing literature on the manifold aspects of the emerging disciplinary subject. Our primary objective is to focus on identifying warning signals on conventional and unconventional terrorism in the post 9/11 era and recommend national, regional, and global strategies to confront potential security challenges to all societies.

The current issue consists of selected presentations by invited speakers from both the public and private sectors as well as several regional reports published in 2015. Topics covered in this issue include “NATO’s Mission in the Old-New Strategic Environment: Confronting Regional and Global Challenges”; “Conversation with Pavel Shidlovsky, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of Belarus”; “Combating Separatist Terrorism: Assessment of Past Lessons, Future Outlook, and ‘Best Practices’ Response Strategies”; “Terrorism Captives: Tactical, Legal, and Strategic Implications”; “The Days After: Are Iran’s Deadlines Endless?”; “Iraq: Quo Vadis?”; “Combating Terrorism: The Role of Law Enforcement”; “Combating Terrorism: Strategic Assessments, the Military’s Role, and International Cooperation”; and “International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism: Review of 2014 and Outlook for 2015”. These seminars were held during the period March 2015-September 2015. More updated electronic and printed versions will be published subsequently.

Items incorporated in this issue include a report published in hard copy on “South and Central Asia Security Challenges” as well as information on two new books were released by the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies (*NATO: From Regional to Global Security Provider* and *The Islamic State: Combating the Caliphate Without Borders*).

Daily chronologies of terrorism-related events based on national and international media reports are also incorporated. This section was prepared by a team of researchers and interns that included Laura Blackerby (American University), Genevieve Boutilier (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Julie Byrne (The Catholic University of America), Dor Cohen (Brandeis University), Andrew Coley (Quinnipiac University), Caitlin Davis (Duquesne University), Patrick Tully Devereux (University of California, Los Angeles), Elinoram Hafner (University of Maryland), Elizabeth Howard (University of Mary Washington), Julia Johnson (Johns Hopkins University), Ethan Kannel (Cornell University), Dan Layman (Georgetown University), Ruben Lopez-Chavez (University of California, San Diego), Daniel Marfurt-Levy (George Mason University), Veeravaroan Mavichak (American University), Faith Pollard (University of Mary Washington), Eric Pons (Emory University), Benjamin Schaefer (Hofstra University), Andrew Tabas (Georgetown University), Rohit P. Tallapragada (Georgetown University), and Tyler J. Townes (Central Michigan University).

I would like to thank my colleagues on the International Advisory Board and the editorial staff for their continuing support of our publication. Thanks are due to Sharon Layani (University of Michigan) for her exceptional coordination of the editorial staff of this issue. As always, we encourage other academics and professionals globally to contribute to our research activities in the coming months and years.

Yonah Alexander  
Editor-in-Chief  
September 30, 2015