

Editor's Note

As we are posting the December 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 “Turkey-U.S. Strategic Partnership”; “U.S. Combating the Islamic State: Is a New Strategic Blueprint Needed?”; “Russia’s Middle East Strategy: Quo Vadis?”; “The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Third Intifada or an Endgame?”; “NATO’s Mission in the Old-New Strategic Environment: Confronting Regional and Global Challenges”; “Combating Separatist Terrorism: Assessment of Past Lessons, Future Outlook, and ‘Best Practices’ Response Strategies”; “Terrorism Captives: Tactical, Legal, and Strategic Implications”; “Combating Terrorism: The Role of Law Enforcement”; and “International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism: Review of 2014 and Outlook for 2015”. These seminars were held during the period March-December 2015. More updated electronic and printed versions will be published subsequently.

Items incorporated in this issue include a special report published in hard copy on “Syria: Quo Vadis?” as well as the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense report (co-sponsored by the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies) on “A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize Efforts.”

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 Caitlin Davis (Duquesne University), Patrick Tully Devereux (University of California, Los Angeles), Ruben Lopez-Chavez (University of California, San Diego), Daniel Marfurt- Levy (George Mason University), Veeravaroan Mavichak (American University), Faith Pollard (University of Mary Washington), 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
December 31, 2015