The threat of Islamic terrorism in Europe

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ABSTRACT

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 realized to the international community that there are new challenges and threats, which in a completely different light presented the phenomenon of terrorism. They are characterized by an extremely significant result of social, psychological and media. The international situation has undergone dynamic changes. Conditions of international security has changed. The duty of the EU countries is to fight against this kind of threats. Ensuring the safety of citizens within the EU is the responsibility of each state element thereof. This paper deals with the problem of the threat of Islamic terrorism on the territory of the Community. The author tries to present it in the most transparent manner this threat, as well as selected aspects of counteracting this phenomenon.

Keywords: Islamic extremism; terrorism; terrorist attack; European Union

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Conor Gearty terrorism is an act consisting in the attack on innocent subversive forces unit, designed to induce fear and to kill or injure people, and thus to force political concessions to the person not being a direct victim of the attack or the organization, which do not belong attacked [1]. Terrorist attack in the USA presented in a whole new light of Islamic terrorism. Past bombings carried out by Islamic terrorists to the government authorities, police authorities and the military, economic zone of the state, and finally
innocent people had no direct impact on the achievement of the objectives they want to achieve.

The main tasks of the internal security of the EU, related to preventing, combating and prosecution of perpetrators of terrorist acts, are: to ensure public order; protection of the population against the risks and consequences of natural disasters, environmental disasters and threats to chemical and biological weapons; prevention of crime, including organized crime associated with illegal migration; protection of the state border which is the external border of the EU.

Enlargement UE about former communist countries, including the recent Soviet republics, was a huge challenge for both parties. At this point it should be noted that at that time there was a war in Iraq and the so-called global war on terrorism (conducted including in Afghanistan). This situation caused the bombings of Madrid (11th March 2004) And London (7th and 21st July 2005) echoed among the European community. These events caused the key theme of European security policy has become the issue of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

2. THE PROBLEM OF ISLAMIC TERRORISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Assumptions related to preventing, combating and prosecution of perpetrators of terrorist acts adopted urgently by the EU Council became the foundations of the uprising on March 25, 2004 Declaration on Combating Terrorism [2], which included an Action Plan be updated and expanded with new aspects. The most important provisions of this initiative include, among others records relating to the external dimension of the fight against terrorism:

- refer the pulse on the implementation of tasks security strategy in the context of the fight against terrorism and to develop a conceptual framework for security and defense policy;
- protect the security of international transport;
- deepening international dialogue and strengthen cooperation in combating terrorism, with a particular focus on external relations with third countries;
- fight against the financing of international terrorism;
- activities that affect the reduction of support and recruitment extremists.

Relying on the solidarity clause, set out in the Treaty on European Union [3], the Member States have announced joint action in the event of a terrorist attack on one of them, including the military aimed at eliminating the causes of the attack. Declaration on Combating Terrorism refers to the European Security Strategy (ESS) [4] - the so-called Solana strategy. It was adopted by the European Council of December 12, 2003, and recognize terrorism as one of the key threats to EU interests. The Council stressed that it is vital to eliminating the sources of terrorism. According to the recommendations, the assumptions of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) [5] has been extended to the issues of combating terrorism. EU action also aim to protect their own citizens well beyond the borders of the Union. Accelerated implementation of legal instruments such as the European arrest warrant and the creation of joint investigative teams. The Declaration on Combating Terrorism is also a question of freezing the assets of persons and organizations associated with terrorism.
Modern Islamic terrorism is, at least in part, rooted in European culture. The great transformation processes in the twentieth century favored the development of the European continent [6]. These processes include: revolutions in science and technology; decolonization ideological and political; confrontation between the countries of the West and East and the mass migration of Muslims to European countries. The biggest wave of terrorism took place in the 70s and 80s, to fall to a fairly low ceiling at the end of this decade. The terrorist attacks in Madrid and London have shown Europe that a significant threat to the security of European countries will be another wave of terrorism, called postmodern. Terrorism has been caused by religious fanatics from the circle of Islamic culture living in Europe, and it initiated the events of September 11, 2001. In effect, these Islamic terrorism has changed radically. There has been a marked increase organizational links and cooperation between terrorist organizations from different countries, while easing structures within the organizations themselves. The extremists began to direct their attacks against the interests of Western countries, they have moved their operations from the old areas of its activity on the territory of the EU and the USA. Terrorism has become a way battle between the world of the poor and backward Islam, a rich Christian Europe. As a result of such action there has been significant development of structures of terrorism and the radicalization of their attitudes among Muslim immigrants and Europeans converted to Islam [7].

Caused a matter of Islamic political upheavals in Europe, such as the murder of Dutch film director Theo van Gogh (November 2, 2004), the riots in France (October 27 - November 8, 2005), Initiated discussions on the deep cultural changes in Europe related to the immigration of Muslims on a large scale [8]. The wave of rebellion immigrants second and third generation, aged 14-25 years, who passed through the suburbs of Paris and other French cities (incidents occurred in other European capitals, eg. Berlin, Brussels and Athens), EU countries realized that the unresolved issues integration of immigrants are still a ticking time bomb that could explode at any time, among others, due to demographics, endemic racism (anti-Muslim) and economic stagnation, which may include, among others, lack of work. Union itself is far from creating a system that would allow visitors from foreign countries, equitable integration into the life of the Community, while eliminating from its ranks of political extremists [9]. In the long term, the fight against Islamic terrorism should be more active and focused on the elimination of the root causes of the phenomenon studied.

It should be noted that the terrorists who planted the bombs in Madrid and London, born and raised in Spain and the UK [10]. Therefore, an important issue is the cultural dialogue between Christian Europe and the Islamic world. Europe has become a hotbed of Islamic extremism and terrorism it, because European countries are unable to assimilate the millions of Muslims who have immigrated there, but still live in their ethno-religious ghettos. According to Francis Fukuyama nearly half of Muslims living in Europe is not adapted to life on the continent. Quite the opposite is the situation in the United States, where Muslim immigrants assimilate much better [11].

It should be also noted that important personalities from Islamic cultures (representatives of religious organizations in the European countries, imams) they foment racial hostility is not reasonable in relation to the indigenous peoples of Europe. As an example can serve the publication of Muhammad cartoons. In January 2006 the world rocked the wave of violence and protests from Muslims because published in Denmark 12 cartoons that linked the Prophet Muhammad with violence and Islamic terrorism. Caricatures were first published September 30, 2005 in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. Besides insignificant
protests of local Muslims in Denmark, satirical drawings have not caused major problems. Reprinted them, even the Egyptian newspaper Al-Fagr (October 2005), which is not accompanied by any incidents. This caused excitement among Muslims until reprinting the cartoons in Muslim circles by themselves imams from Denmark, who were joined by other obscene drawings, which the Danish newspaper never published. The aim was to trigger more anger in Muslim circles. The growing unrest has been used by radical Islamic leaders residing in Europe and countries such as Iran and Syria, which have benefited from the opportunity to turn these events to their advantage. Within the framework of solidarity and freedom of speech reprinted the drawings of other journals and newspapers in Europe.

An example of an imam, who foment hatred of the European population is Abu Hamza Al Masri (Mustafa Kamel Mustafa). He was born in Alexandria, a British citizen of Egyptian origin. Abu Hamza was the imam of a mosque in London's Finsbury Park. He is a form of extremely characteristic (his appearance is dominated by graying beard, hook instead of the right hand and the artificial left eye - he lost an arm and an eye in the fighting in Afghanistan, in which he participated since 1991). His resume is characteristic of the old fighters armed jihad. In 2004 Abu Hamza was arrested at the request of the United States. Following the attacks of 2005 in London. He started his trial ended February 7, 2006. Finding him guilty of 11 of 15 allegations and sentencing to seven years in prison. This process has brought a lot of information concerning the fight against terrorism in the UK, and in particular exposed the action, or rather the lack of them, the British intelligence and counter-intelligence [12].

Listeners sermons of Abu Hamza was 3 of 4 bombers of July 7, 2005 (Mohammad Sidique Khan, Shehzad Tanweer and Jermaine Lindsay), Kamel Bourgass (Algerian who killed while trying to stop a British police officer Stephen Oake in Manchester in January 2003 suspected of an attempt to make the UK a terrorist attack using ricin), Feroz Abbasi (computer science student captured in Kandahar by the Americans in 2001 and held three years in a camp in Guantanamo), Asif Hanif (the terrorist who blew himself up in a Tel Aviv April 29, 2003), would-be bomber - a suicide Omar Khan Sharif (whose body washed up sea on the Israeli shore shortly after the assassination of Asif Hanif), Richard Reid shoe-bomber (who in December 2001 tried to detonate a bomb on a plane from Paris to Miami, it was an explosive device hidden in a shoe), Zacarias Mousaoui (twenty alleged bomber from the September 11, 2001) and Dżamel Beghal (convicted in France in 2002 for the preparation of attacks on American facilities).

Placing Muhammad cartoons aroused, especially in January and February 2006, a wave of protests in Muslim countries because of the belief in the sanctity of the person of Mohammed, and ban the presentation of his character. In Arab countries, they turned into the anti-European riots. People were encouraged to boycott Danish products. They were not respected international law, in violation of the inviolability of premises of diplomatic missions and consular posts. In addition to the attacks on diplomatic missions, they were also attacked Western cultural institutions. There was also to demonstrate, among others, in Islamabad, Khartoum, Kabul, Istanbul. The first casualties of this conflict appeared February 6, 2006 in Afghanistan.

The response of Muslim communities in European countries were also trying to get more freedom and influence. In Poland, it was proposed to introduce an imam in the army. December 11, 2010 in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, street Drottninggatan, 29 year-old Islamic extremist Taimur Abdulwahab al-Abdalyada detonated an explosive device. A few
minutes later there was another explosion. As a result, one person died (suicide terrorist), two more were injured. Swedish news agency TT reported that 10 minutes before the blasts received an e-mail. The recording called for a jihad in Sweden and Europe. The person pointed in it to the Swedes and accused them that they reacted to the caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad by a artist and cartoonist Lars Vilks. Author recordings also mentions the presence of Swedish troops in Afghanistan. Swedish cartoonist since 2007 was threatened many times (in March 2010 American Jihad Jane accused of plotting to kill him, and in May 2010 someone tried to burn down the house cartoonist). The terrorist attack of December 11, 2010 was the first case of an act of terrorism directed against the people of the territory of Sweden.

Confusion surrounding the Mohammed cartoons, and especially involved with the distribution by radical imams, testifies to the fact that it is Muslims themselves may seek to elicit a confrontation with the EU and foster anti-European sentiment. Increasing tensions on the border of intercultural can lead to self-perpetuating spiral of terrorist violence of radical Muslims and extreme rightists and conflict within the European civilization [13]. It is necessary to widespread reorientation and streamline integration and asylum policies of the EU (eg. building a common identity), as well as a wide intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Otherwise, you can meet us what you experienced in 2004 in Netherlands (considered one of the most tolerant countries of the Union), after the murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh by a Muslim fanatic, a wave of attacks on Muslims swept the country.

Muslims in the European countries now accounts for approx. 5% of the total population of the continent. Their number is about 40 million. It should be noted that nearly 25% of Muslims living in Europe arrived at the Old Continent illegally from the Middle East and North Africa. So a large community event for Islamic extremist groups engaged in terrorism. The EU countries have become a base for network groups to promote the activities of Islamic terrorists and radical Muslim clerics, who in a democratic Europe had the opportunity to proclaim the radical fundamentalist views differently than in their countries of origin. Only after the attacks of September 11, 2001, prepared, among others, in Europe (the perpetrator of the attack lived and studied in Hamburg), there were arrests, expulsions and restrictions control (arrested more than 200 terrorists [14]).

The vast majority of immigrants from the so-called the first generation arrived in Europe, would only exist peacefully, to take care of their families and maintain ties with the old country [15]. A common phenomenon is the radicalization of their children and grandchildren. The second and third generation has only partial acculturation. The youngest group (people under 30 years of age) reject European values, such as democracy, equality of gender, human rights and political pluralism and frantically looking for their own identity, and radical Islam offered them participation in an imaginary supranational community of Muslims in their struggle the name of their religion.

Therefore, everything what they see as an attack on Islam, respond with violence. The main motive of conduct Islamic radicals is the deepening frustration and hostility towards the indigenous peoples of Europe. Another factor is the strength of action fundamentalist message. These people are not able to compete effectively in schools and universities, and this rarely pursue careers. Not without significance is the fact that they often live in suburban neighborhoods - ghettos and form closed diaspora living in separation from the whole world. Sociology has created a special term for European immigrants, who are still foreigners, defined them as a parallel society. The feeling of rejection by the culture of the West,
combined with other factors (e.g. a partial sense of guilty for the crisis and stagnation in the homelands of their parents), leads to aggression and criminal acts. In extreme cases, they cease to instill loyalty to the country of residence/birth, feeding the same ranks of passive or active supporters of the activity of Al-Qaeda or other terrorist networks. In effect, the original inhabitants of the EU, increasingly see Islamic immigrants as part of the anti-social, purely criminal, aimed at the use of violence to rebuild their region and lifestyle changes. Immigrants previously perceived as victims today are treated as a problem, a threat and a burden for the indigenous peoples of Europe.

In the twenty-first century, the greatest threat to security and freedom of EU countries are terrorist extremists grid (dormant and active), created at the end of the twentieth century, by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. A similar situation applies to the Islamic State, published on the territory of Iraq and Syria, which increasingly threaten to democratic states of the West. At the moment, there is evidence that the former leader of Al-Qaeda before the attacks of September 11, 2001. Co-workers built a grid eg. in Spain, establishing contacts with the terrorists of ETA. Islamists motivated religiously believe in the power of spectacular terrorist attacks, the nature of the media. This approach favors the use of techniques and measures to increase the number of victims of the attacks. What counts is only the fulfillment of religious duty and conscious acceptance of their fellow religious doctrine, especially spiritual leaders.

3. COUNTERING ISLAMIC TERRORISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The strategic objective of EU action in preventing and combating terrorism is primarily the strengthening of international cooperation and support for the UN’s activities through cooperation with international organizations and taking into account the so-called anti-terrorism clauses in agreements with third countries, as well as ensuring compliance with and implementation of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism [16].

The strategic objectives of the European Union in the fight against Islamic terrorism:

1. Deepening the international efforts related to preventing and combating terrorism.
2. Restrict access of terrorists to financial and economic resources; improving control of financial and economic ventures and exchange of information on how to finance the activities of terrorists.
3. Develop measures to identify terrorists; conducting investigations against them and thwart acts of terror; enhance the capacity of EU bodies (such as Europol), and improving the exchange of intelligence information.
4. Ensuring the security of international transport and border control systems (strengthening transport security, improve detection of migration terrorists and used by their agents at border controls).
5. Developing the capacity to face the consequences of acts of terrorism (efficiently manage the liquidation of consequences of acts and information to the public and ensure its proper support and assistance).
6. The search for terrorism prevention measures; creating a strategy to promote relations between religions and different cultures, and the elimination of incentives to join terrorist networks.
7. The orientation of measures taken in third countries, attacked by terrorists, consisting in strengthening the ability of these countries to fight and the fight against terrorism (within the Union's external relations).

An important issue remains that the appointment of the Office of the Coordinator of the EU to the fight against terrorism. The position of the EU Coordinator Terrorism was established immediately after the terrorist attacks in Madrid (2004). Coordinator acts within the external dimension of the fight against terrorism in the EU and is responsible, among others, for international cooperation with third countries. This position involves the cooperation of all agencies of the Union in this regard. The current external situation of the Union is particularly important for countries such as Poland, which are referred to as the so-called state front.

The European Council in December 2008 approved the report of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) on the implementation of the European Security Strategy (ESS). The report contained a number of recommendations, which were the guidelines for EU action in the field of security. The report aims to analyze the current strategy and identify areas and activities in which the EU should increase its efforts. The document identified a new threat to Europe. The most important were: energy security, the growing importance of the impact of climate change on international security, cyber security and piracy. The key to strengthen the EU's position remained the development of civilian and military crisis response capability. This report has become a cornerstone of the resolution on the ESS and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Resolutions were created to defend the EU countries against destabilizing factors. These factors can include primarily: Islamic terrorism [17], proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, regional conflicts, the disintegration of states and organized crime [18].

Aiming to defend the European peace and security, Member States have set themselves the following strategic goals: a common response to the threat caused by Islamic terrorism, building security in the neighborhood of Member States, international order based on effective multilateralism, which is the practice of coordinating policy for at least three states.

The European Union, based on the ESS and the ESDP can make decisions about military interventions in the following circumstances:

- Conflict prevention in resolving crises;
- Peace enforcement with the necessity of the use of force;
- Post-conflict stabilization;
- Classic humanitarian intervention or rescue.

Changes in the perception of Islamic terrorism became apparent at the end of the twentieth century. It began to appear more and more voices pointing to the need to integrate efforts to combat this phenomenon. Convincing impulse gave the events of September 11, 2001. In view of this event, EU countries have adopted a number of regulations, which initiate the formation of a unified system aimed at the joint prevention and combating Islamic terrorism.
The General Assembly in 1999 established the Terrorism Prevention Section. Its main task is to assist developing countries in implementing counter-terrorism conventions. Resolution No. 1373/2001 of September 28, 2001 on international cooperation in the fight against threats to international peace and security by terrorist acts, adopted by the UN Security Council extended the scope of activities of the Section. Its provisions are binding on the 191 UN member states. The resolution obliges Member States to pull criminally responsible persons or organizations that finance terrorism; freeze the bank accounts of persons for whom there is reasonable suspicion that they are involved in terrorist activities; refrain from giving assistance to entities or persons involved in terrorist activities; share information on terrorist activities with other countries. By virtue of Resolution 1373 established Counter-Terrorism Committee (Counter Terrorism Committee - CTC).

4. CONCLUSIONS

As mentioned earlier, the terrorist threat in the EU and the United States provides an opportunity to deepen transatlantic cooperation, as this is an area where the interests of the Union and the US overlap. Until the attack in 2001 predominant threat to the security of the EU was organized crime and illegal migration from the east and south (the area of the former USSR and the Balkans). EU enlargement will mean a potential increase in the threat from organized crime derived from the East, combined with concern about the tightness of the eastern border of the enlarged EU. The predominant objective of European integration is the threat of Islamic terrorism, both coming from outside and from within the European area. The arrangements for counter-terrorism strategy, as well as the ESB, identified mechanisms of the common fight against Islamic terrorism and organized crime. This resulted in the development of the European Arrest Warrant, the European list of terrorist organizations and the European definition of terrorism, the establishment of special task forces and agencies prosecutor Eurojust and cooperation mechanisms police and the prosecution, plans for the establishment of a European agency. Border protection, including special services to existing cooperation of police forces, returning more attention to the problem of the financial system to finance terrorism and organized crime (mainly money laundering) and the issue of occupation of evidence and the profits of crime.

According to the Council Framework Decision of June 13, 2002 on combating terrorism (2002/475/JHA) for terrorist offenses considered to be intentional acts, as defined under national law as a crime, which, due to their nature or context, may cause seriously damage a country or an international organization where committed with the aim of: seriously intimidating a population, unduly compelling a government or international organization to perform or failure to act, seriously destabilizing or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organization. For these crimes are: attacks on human life, which may cause death; attacks on the physical integrity of a person; kidnapping or hostage taking; causing extensive destruction to a Government or public facility, a transport system, infrastructure, including an information system, a fixed platform located on the continental shelf, a public place or private property likely to endanger human life or result in major economic loss; seizure of aircraft, ships or other means of public or goods transport; manufacture, possession, acquisition, transport, supply or use of weapons, explosives or of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, as well
as research and development of biological and chemical weapons; release of dangerous substances or causing fires, floods or explosions, the effect of which is to endanger human life; interfering with or disrupting the supply of water, power or any other fundamental natural resource, the effect of which is to endanger human life; threatening to commit acts mentioned above.

Until the implementation of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism only some EU countries have available in their domestic legal systems of special regulations concerning criminal terrorism and its definition. Even the existing cooperation mechanisms departments responsible for terrorism have so far been based more on goodwill than through formal. It was not until the tragic events of the March 11, 2004. Brought home how important are the rapid changes in the European security policy.

Considering the fight against Islamic terrorism, it is essential to take into account the ability of EU bodies to combat logistic support to terrorist organizations, including their financial facilities (freezing of funds, the identification of the owners of bank accounts). These activities should be carried out in accordance with the factor being the threat, not a determinant of government, or the state. However, it seems that among the leaders of the EU countries there is a view that the source of the terrorist threat are the only non-European factors - this is totally a misconception.

In the interest of European countries in the fight against terrorism and organized crime is broadening the powers of the European agencies (including Europol and the European Gendarmerie Force) as well as the setting up of a European border guard. Europol could be included in the action, even if the criminal activity affecting even one EU country has its roots abroad. Europol's activities would include the prevention of crimes against life, health, personal freedom or property, committed or to be committed is likely course of terrorist activities.

Another area requiring greater activity of the Union is the establishment of structures for exchange and assessment of intelligence information. For European countries in a corresponding operating base can be very useful element in the fight against international organized crime and Islamic terrorism. It should be noted that these threats are interwoven and tend to be backed by the state. In the case of terrorism, the key to solving the problem lies outside the EU, and the role of internal security services is only combat the effects of the processes taking place outside the Union. Effective counter-terrorism requires close coordination within the European countries - it should be a priority increasing common security, but also a common foreign policy towards external sources of terrorism. This requires effective cooperation with the United States.

Islamic extremist terrorism, which is a manifestation of the next wave of this phenomenon is the biggest challenge to the security of the whole of Europe since the collapse of the so-called iron curtain. The UK is still the most important logistics center and laundry of dirty money coming from wealthy citizens of Saudi Arabia and intended for Islamic terrorists [19]. On the other hand, Austria acts as a communications hub, Italy - point recruiting, and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is an area of logistics activities. In France and Germany recruited fighters. Since the attacks in Madrid, thanks to large-scale job interviews, EU member states, was arrested and breaking some dangerous cells of Islamic terrorists (including Spain, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany).
Biography

Wojciech J. Janik – Ph.D., university lecturer, a professional soldier, author of several monographs and dozens of scientific articles in the field of modern terrorism, national security and war theory with particular reference to the hybrid war.

References

[3] The Treaty on European Union is one of the primary Treaties of the European Union, alongside the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The TEU forms the basis of EU law, by setting out general principle's of the EU's purpose, the governance of its central institutions (such as the Commission, Parliament, and Council), as well as the rules on external, foreign and security policy. While the current version of the TEU entered into force in 2009, following the Treaty of Lisbon (2007), the older form of the same document was implemented by the Treaty of Maastricht (1992).
[5] The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), formerly known as the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), is a major element of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU and is the domain of EU policy covering defence and military aspects, as well as civilian crisis management. The ESDP was the successor of the European Security and Defence Identity under NATO, but differs in that it falls under the jurisdiction of the European Union itself, including countries with no ties to NATO. Formally, the CSDP is the domain of the European Council, which is an EU institution, whereby the heads of member states meet. Nonetheless, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. As Chairperson of the external relations configuration of the Council, the High Representative prepares and examines decisions to be made before they are brought to the Council.


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