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Counter Terrorism Strategy

Abstract

The history of civilization is also the history of terrorist acts. These types of attacks have been and are carried out for various motives, such as political, ethnic, and religious. A certain change in the philosophy of preventing terrorism took place after the attacks on September 11, 2001 in the US – on a global scale and after March 11, 2004, when 191 people died in the Madrid attack – on a European scale. These events have contributed to the creation of new international legislation and the establishment of institutions that have begun coordinating activities in the field of preventing such phenomena. To date, this is not a simple process due to many aspects, such as the establishment of one common definition referring, for example, to forms of terrorism. Terrorist attacks are dynamic threats, with perpetrators adapting much faster to reality than legislation does – especially on an international level. For this reason, there is a need for constant cooperation between states based on adopted and accepted counter terrorism strategies, which will allow effective combating of this type of phenomena.

Keywords: terrorism, strategy, prevention, international cooperation

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Strategia zwalczania terroryzmu

Abstract

Historia cywilizacji to również historia aktów terrorystycznych. Tego typu zamachy dokonywane są z różnych motywów, takich jak polityczne, etniczne, religijne. Pewna zmiana filozofii zapobiegania terroryzmu nastąpiła po zamachach, które zostały dokonane 11 września 2001 r. na terenie USA – w wymiarze globalnym oraz po 11 marca 2004 r., kiedy to w zamachu w Madrycie zginęło 191 osób – w wymiarze europejskim. Powyższe wydarzenia przyczyniły się do powstania nowego prawodawstwa międzynarodowego oraz powstania instytucji, które rozpoczęły koordynację działań w zakresie zapobiegania tego typu zjawiskom. Do chwili obecnej nie jest to prosty proces ze względu na wiele uwarunkowań, w tym chociażby ustalenie jednej wspólnej definicji odnoszącej się na przykład do form terroryzmu. Ataki terrorystyczne

są zagrożeniami dynamicznymi, o wiele szybciej dostosowującymi się do rzeczywistości niż prawodawstwo – zwłaszcza na poziomie międzynarodowym. Tym bardziej istnieje konieczność stałej współpracy pomiędzy państwami w oparciu o przyjęte i zaakceptowane strategie zwalczania terroryzmu, które skutecznie pozwolą na zwalczanie tego zjawiska.

Słowa kluczowe: terroryzm, strategia, zapobieganie, międzynarodowa współpraca

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Стратегія протидії тероризму

Анотація

Історія цивілізації – це також історія терористичних актів. Ці види нападів здійснюються з різних мотивів, таких як, політичний, етнічний, релігійний. Певна зміна у філософії запобігання тероризму сталася після нападів, які відбулися 11 вересня 2001 р. в США – на глобальному рівні та після 11 березня 2004 р., коли в нападі на Мадрид загинуло 191 людей – на європейському рівні. Вищезазначені події сприяли створенню нового міжнародного законодавства та створенню інституцій, що розпочали координацію діяльності у сфері запобігання подібним явищам. На сьогодні це не простий процес з погляду на багато умов, включаючи встановлення одного загального визначення, що стосується, наприклад, форм тероризму. Терористичні акти – це динамічні загрози, які набагато швидше адаптуються до реальності, ніж законодавства – особливо на міжнародному рівні. Тим більше, існує необхідність у постійній співпраці між державами, що базується на прийнятих стратегіях боротьби з тероризмом, які дозволять ефективно боротися з цим явищем.

Ключові слова: тероризм, стратегія, запобігання, міжнародне співробітництво

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Introduction

Terrorism is not a phenomenon, which has appeared only recently. One of the first documented examples of a terrorist attack was arson of the Artemis Temple in 356 BC

by Herostrates from Efez. The most likely objective of this poor shoemaker was to gain fame and recognition [1, p. 120].

When commencing a discussion of issues related to the strategy of combatting terrorism, one should begin with the statement that a turning point – if we can call it that – in this respect were attacks of 11 September 2000 on selected facilities on the territory of the United States of America. The scale of this terrorist “undertaking”, as well as means that had been used for the implementation of this goal of the terrorists have not been recorded ever before [2, p. 95]¹.

A recently achieved obvious success on an international scale, both at the level of the United Nations and the European Union, was the development of many documents despite differences that exist in legal, political and social systems, which are aimed at effective preventing of terrorist attacks.

Given the extensive nature of materials comprising the strategy of preventing terrorism, in this article only certain legal solutions have been signalled used to counteract this type of events. For the needs of the present materials the adopted definition of strategy was the ascertainment of J.A.F. Stoner who has stated that this concept may be defines at least from two viewpoints, in the first place – what an organisation intends to do, and secondly – what such an organisation really does [3, pp. 98–99]. Taking into consideration the second element of the above observations, each state has at its disposal relevant legal instruments (comprising national or international legislation) used to prevent or combat terrorism. In the formal aspect, for the needs of this article a presentation was made of the implemented solutions on three levels, and namely the global one – the United Nations, regional – the European Union, and the national level – Poland.

1. Difficulties with coining a definition for terrorism

Analysed of definitions of terrorism may be performed from the viewpoint of many disciplines, e.g. psychology, criminology, security sciences and sociology. Nevertheless given the nature of the interdisciplinary nature of this concept, common identification areas may be distinguished, which comprise: perceiving of the same phenomenon with regard to legally prohibited activity, objective of activity the core of which is enforcing

1 On 11.09.2000 terrorists originating from the Al-Kaida hijacked scheduled passenger jet planes and carried out attacks by hitting the World Trade Center and Pentagon buildings – author’s note.

the anticipated standpoint, as well as the ensuing consequences, such as for example passing on information to the public, death, communication chaos etc.

Over the years many attempts have been made to develop a universal definition of the term of terrorism. However, as indicated by the available literature, this appears to be impossible owing to numerous factors, as may be proved by a review carried out by A. Schmidt, which comprised over a 100 definitions from the analysed area. The drawn conclusions enabled the above mentioned researcher to distinguish the following repeatable elements:

- violence, force;
- political nature;
- fear, emphasis of terror;
- threat;
- psychological results and anticipated reactions;
- differentiation victim-target;
- target planning, systematic and organised action;
- methods of fighting, strategies, tactics;
- abnormality, conflict with adopted rules, lack of humanitarian limitations;
- extortion, enslavement, causing docility;
- aspect of fame, advertising;
- randomness, impersonal nature;
- civilians, persons not involved in the fight – neutral, outsiders, victims of intimidation;
- emphasis on innocence of the victims;
- group, movement, organisation as perpetrator;
- symbolic aspect, demonstrating force to the others;
- unpredictability, randomness, unforeseen act of violence;
- secret concealed nature;
- uniqueness, serial or advertising nature of the violence;
- criminal aspect;
- demands posed to third parties [4, p. 58].

For the needs of the present article the definition will be limited only to a presentation of the origin of the word terror, from which terrorism derives. This term originated from the Greek word *τρέω/treo* meaning tremble, be afraid, and from the Latin *terror, -oris* – fear, anguish and fright [5, p. 12].

Taking the above deliberations into account a terminological simplification may be made, which consists of considering terrorism as all attempts made at achieving a certain goal with the use of means that generate fear.

Also the presentation of uniform criteria thanks to which a division of terrorism can be made is very difficult, as may be seen for example from the rather general division, which comprises the following:

- ideology;
- targets of attackers;
- objects of attacks and area of operation;
- historical background of terrorist groups [6, p. 190].

Another division based on the devised criteria has been proposed by P. Lubiewski who has indicated the following elements:

- spatial element – which allows the identification of global, regional or domestic (local) terrorism;
- territorial element – where we can distinguish domestic and international terrorism;
- philosophical basis – which allows the distinguishing of separatist, nationalist, separatistic, nationalistic, fundamentalist, religious and racist terrorism;
- dimension – which allows the division of terrorism into land terrorism, air terrorism, water terrorism and cyberterrorism;
- involvement of forces – of group nature (teams), or individual;
- motivation for acting – political, criminal and pathological;
- applied means;
- organisation methods;
- range;
- properties of the facility at which activities of the terrorists are oriented [3, pp. 103–104].

The above listing shows that terrorism is not a uniform phenomenon, and may acquire diverse forms. Basic criteria of the analysed phenomenon that may be found in literature certainly comprise location, objective of operation, applied methods, professed ideologies and forms of specific terrorist acts [7, p. 189].

2. Terrorism preventing strategy on a global scale

It has nowadays become quite clear that terrorism has a global dimension, both in the direct way – owing to the possibility of selecting the location of the attack, or in an in-

direct way – by providing information on such an event in modern mass media having a global range (such as the Internet, social media etc.).

The most important element that affects the adoption of measures with respect to combatting terrorism of a global nature is the United Nations (UN). Over the years several legal acts have been issued which are related to counter-terrorism, which include:

- Convention on preventing and punishing perpetrators of crimes against persons using international protection, including against diplomats [8].
- International convention against hostage taking [9].
- International convention on combatting terrorist bombings [10].
- Convention on combatting the financing of terrorism [11].
- Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft, the Hague 1970 [12].
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal 1971 [13].
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome 1988 [14].
- Protocol on counteracting illegact acts against the security of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf, Rome 1988 [15].

Naturally there are many more legal acts of an international rank that regulate the analysed issues, yet the ones mentioned above serve as a starting point for further studies and evaluations of solutions in the analysed scope². At this point it is worthwhile to draw attention to one minor yet important element. One of the principles of strategic thinking and acting is a constant assessment of situation prevailing in the surrounding world, diagnosing problems and search for solutions [16, p. 58]. If this principle is adopted, one should emphasise the contribution of the diplomatic corps to the devising of documents related to the analysed issues, which later on were incorporated in the international legal usage despite the existence of different legal systems binding in particular signatory countries. It should be noted that the majority of resolutions, declarations, recommendations and similar legal acts, among others as to difference of political systems, do not have a legally binding nature, but all the same they may serve as a source of political obligations, as well as new international legal standards.

One of the six main bodies of the United Nations is the United Nations Security Agency (UN SA), which is responsible for operations in favour of global security. Key

² At the UN level adopted were 18 UN conventions and protocols pertaining to preventing and combatting terrorism. Poland has signed and adopted 14 of them – author's note.

documents that regulate counter-terrorism issued by the UN SA certainly comprise Resolution 1373, which was developed as a result of the terrorist attacks in the USA on 11 September 2001. The resolution adopted on 28 September 2001 concerns among others the following issues:

- adopting by signatory countries relevant legal measures with respect to limiting the access of financial resources by terrorist organisations;
- refraining by the state from organisation, incitement of help or involvement in terrorist actions or granting consent to the organisation of terrorist activity on its area;
- refraining by the state from granting any type of support to entities or persons participating in terrorist attacks, including rendering impossible any recruiting of members of terrorist groups, as well as elimination of deliveries of arms for the terrorists;
- refusal to grant shelter to people or organisations that finance, plan, support or execute terrorist attacks;
- information exchange between the countries to warn of attacks;
- preventing movements of terrorist groups by effective securing of borders, border control, issuance of identity documents, as well as travelling documents, and the deployment of solutions preventing the falsification of identity and travel documents [17].

On 8 September 2006 the United National General Assembly adopted the UN Global Strategy to Combat Terrorism (GCTS). This strategy has been based on the following four pillars:

- Pillar I “Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism”;
- Pillar II “Measures to prevent and combat terrorism”;
- Pillar III “Measures to build states’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard”;
- Pillar IV “Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism” [18].

The analysed strategy comprises new initiatives oriented at enhancing counter-terrorist actions, which consist inter alia on the following:

- enhancing the cohesion and effectiveness of providing technical assistance in combatting terrorism so that all countries could play its role in them in an effective way;
- organisation of assistance systems for victims of terrorism and their families;
- counteracting bioterrorist hazards by establishing a single database comprising all information concerning cases in which biological agents had been used;

- involvement of the civil society, regional and subregional organisations for counter-terrorism and development of partnership with the private sector with the aim of preventing terrorist attacks;
- development of innovative means for counteracting the hazard ensuing from the growing use of the Internet by the terrorists;
- modernisation of border and customs control systems and enhancing the security of travelling documents to prevent movements of terrorists and moving illegal materials;
- enhancing cooperation in the scope of combatting procedures of money laundering and financing of terrorism [19].

3. Terrorism preventing strategy on a regional scale on the example of the European Union

When analysing the counter-terrorism strategy on the territory of Europe, the European Union (EU) comes to the fore as the main entity in combatting such incidents. It should be borne in mind that this is not an easy task, given for example the division existing in the EU as such into countries into those using the Schengen Agreement, EU member states not associated in the Schengen zone, as well as the need of comprising countries not associated in the EU.

Attempts at regulating international measures aimed at combatting terrorism in Europe date back to 1977 when the Council of Europe adopted a European convention on combatting terrorism [20]. The first article of this document indicates that the signatories would not be treating the below specified crimes as political crimes or those that remain in relation to a political crime, as well as a crime committed for political causes:

- crimes to which applies the Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft, The Hague, 16 December 1970
- crimes to which applies the Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation, drawn up in Montreal, 23 September 1971;
- serious offences consisting in an attempt at the life, physical integrity or freedom of persons suign international security, including diplomatic representatives;
- offences consisting in kidnapping, taking hostages or serious illegal detention;
- offences consisting in using a bomb, grenade, rocket, automatic firearms or bomb in the use of a letter or a parcel, if their use poses a hazard to people;

- attempt at committing any of the above discussed crimes or cooperation or aiding a person that commits such a crime or attempts to commit it.

The remaining documents that regulate the the analysed topic comprise the following:

- Convention on the Europol [21];
- Convention on the prevention of terrorism [22];
- Protocol amending the European Convention on combatting terrorism [23].

The involvement of the European Union into combatting terrorism has become intensified after the attack of 11 September 2001 and after the Madrid attack of 11 March 2004. At this point worthy of mentioning is a change in the approach to the problem. The document dated 1977 specifies combatting terrorism, yet the document of the Council of Europe from 2005 used the term preventing terrorism. The concept of this convention is the commitment of the signatories to adopting adequate measures, especially by law enforcement bodies, as well as with respect to education, culture and information from the media. The proposed catalogue of means comprise for example information exchange, introduction of effective, proportional, dissuasive penal sanctions, improvement of physical security of people and property, enhancing the training process and coordination of crisis management. An important element in those measure is also constituted by raising of social awareness, which will be transposed on appropriate knowledge in the scope of preventing crimes of a terrorist nature and their adverse consequences [22, art. 3].

On the basis of the European Union strategy adopted by the Council of Europe with respect to preventing terrorism, the following four directions of operation have been specified;

1. Prevention – measures in this respect comprise combatting the radicalisation of attitudes and recruitment of terrorists by way of identifying methods, means of propaganda and tools used by terrorists. The tasks of the EU comprise coordination of policies implemented in Member States, as well as the determination of principles for good practice and information exchange.
2. Protection – protecting citizens and infrastructure and reducing their susceptibility to attacks by securing external boundaries, enhancing transport security, protection of strategic objects, enhancing security of critical infrastructure.
3. Prosecution – in this priority the focus of attention of EU member states should be focused on achieving the following objectives: enhancing cooperation and information exchange between the police and judicial authorities, cutting away terrorists from means of support and communication, combatting the financing of terrorism.

4. Responding – the last direction of the EU strategy is oriented at assuring readiness, direct responding and minimising consequences of a terrorist attack by actions consisting of expanding the system of EU crisis coordination system, working out risk assessment tools, sharing proven methods for providing help to victims of terrorism [24].

There are many entities in the EU structures, which implement the security policy related to preventing terrorism, which comprise among others:

- EU Intelligence Analysis Centre – IntCen;
- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy;
- Foreign Affairs Council – FAC;
- Political and Security Committee – PSC;
- Working Party on Terrorism International Aspects – COTER;
- Working Party on implementation of Council Common Position;
- Working Party on Terrorism – WPT;
- Committee for List Review according to the regulation of the EU Council 881/2002 related to Al-Kaida and the Talibans [25, p. 65].

At this point another agency of the European Union should be mentioned, which implements tasks related to preventing terrorism, and namely European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation – EUROPOL. The following are the competencies of this organisation in the analysed scope:

- compiling, storing, processing and analyses of information and exchange of information, as well as data of an operational nature;
- immediate notification of member states via national units of all information and relations between crimes that apply to them;
- coordination, organisation and execution of procedural and operational measures aimed at supporting and enhancing measures implemented by relevant bodies of Member States;
- providing to member states information and assuring analytical support for all important international events;
- developing risk assessment, strategic and operational analyses;
- supporting cross-border operations executed by member states related to information exchange, cross-border measures and preparatory procedures, as well as joint investigation teams, among others providing operational support [26, art. 4].

4. Counter-terrorism strategy in Poland

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland assuring the security of the citizens [27, art. 5] is one of the basic obligations of the state. Naturally such a feeling of security is of a multi-dimensional nature, as it also takes into consideration such everyday life fields as personal, social, economic freedom, protection of material goods from crime, including also from terrorism [28, p. 90–91].

Legal regulations that regulate the above issues certainly include the following:

- Act of 6 June 1997 – The Penal Code [29];
- Act of 16 November 2000 on counteracting money laundering and financing of terrorism [30];
- Act of 24 May 2002 on the Agency of Internal Security and Intelligence Agency [31];
- Act of 26 April 2007 on crisis management [32];
- Act of 10 June 2016 on counter-terrorism [33];
- National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland [34];
- “Efficient State Strategy 2020” [35];
- “National Anti-terrorism Programme for 2015–2019” [25].

The primary institution that is competent for matters of internal security protection of the state and the constitutional order with regard to identifying and detecting terrorist crimes in Poland is the Internal Security Agency (ISA). Another entity that is responsible for the fulfilment of tasks in this scope is the Government Centre for Security (GCS) – a state budgetary unit that reports to the Prime Minister. The obligations imposed upon that entity include the fulfilment of tasks intended to counteract, prevent and eliminate the effects of terrorist incidents.

If one refers the previously mentioned concept developed by J.A.F. Stoner – that strategy also involves what an organisation actually does – to the issue at hand, i.e. matters related to terrorist prevention, a need to present the situation of Poland arises, as it determines the further actions of the state authorities and other entities responsible for state security. Having analysed the initial situation, the GCS declared that Poland is not the primary target of terrorist attacks. However, this is not to imply that there is no risk of this sort. Particularly dangerous may be individuals or small groups of people who employ terrorist methods as means to their own political, economic or religious ends. The threat of such attacks is real considering, for instance, the Polish army’s participation in operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, as well as its close political cooperation with the US. Therefore, the risk of a terrorist attack

targeted at people or structures located in Poland or abroad must taken into account. According to an analysis conducted by the GCS, the greatest risk of a terrorist attack in which Polish nationals may suffer can involve areas outside of Poland, where the following elements can be targeted:

- human gatherings – locations singled out due to high human traffic, in particular sports centres, shopping centres, or events that attract large numbers of people;
- offices of authorities, public offices, diplomatic posts and other facilities related to the operation of state and local government institutions;
- the chemical processing sector – industrial plants that use large quantities of hazardous chemicals in their production processes;
- the energy sector – power plants, combined heat and power stations and transmission grids;
- the fuel and gas sector – structures related to the extraction, production, processing, storage or transport of petroleum products and natural gas;
- culture, science and religion– cultural venues, memorial sites, places of religious worship and academic institutions;
- military facilities – units, munitions production plants;
- transport infrastructure – means of transport, transport routes and their infrastructure;
- water management structures – water mains, water intakes and treatment plants, retention basins and dams [36].

The strategy of terrorism prevention also depends on the proper diagnosis of threats. This type of an index was established at the level of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration. It encompasses the following terrorist incidents [37]:

- incidents that threaten the security of the Republic of Poland;
- incidents related to the foreign representatives of the Republic of Poland and Polish nationals outside of Poland;
- incidents that involve threats occurring outside of the Republic of Poland in conflict zones and areas of international crises, which impact its security;
- incidents related to the illegal production, possession of and trade in firearms, ammunition, explosives or explosive devices, and weapons of mass destruction in the area of the Republic of Poland;
- incidents concerning the production and trade in dual-use goods, technologies and services;
- incidents involving threat to military structures;

- incidents involving crimes and offences related to the violation of customs laws;
- incidents concerning border traffic controls;
- incidents related to foreigners' stay in the area of the Republic of Poland;
- incidents related to terrorist activity in mass media and online;
- incidents related to the introduction of assets from illegal or undisclosed sources to the financial circulation;
- those concerning terrorist incidents related to kidnapping and taking of hostages;
- incidents concerning the activities of circles related to or supporting violence-based ideologies;
- incidents related to the protection of people, structures and equipment protected by the State Protection Service, the Marshal's Guard or the Military Gendarmerie, and to political activity;
- incidents of terrorist nature that occur within the maritime domain of the Republic of Poland.

The Polish anti-terrorist system involves the following levels:

- Strategic level – at which the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers take key systemic actions in the scope of protection of the state against terrorism.
- Operational – at this level, tasks intended to coordinate the exchange of information between particular services and institutions involved in the anti-terrorist system of the Republic of Poland are fulfilled, and terrorist threats are monitored and analysed. The entity that coordinates all the undertakings is the Anti-terrorism Centre of the Internal Security Agency, while crisis management tasks are coordinated by the Government Centre for Security.
- Tactical – a function served by particular services, bodies and institutions whose competence involves the protection of the country against terrorism, which include (among others) the Police, Border Guard, State Fire Service, State Protection Service, Internal Security Agency, Foreign Intelligence Agency, Military Intelligence Service, Military Counterintelligence Service, General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, Military Gendarmerie, General Inspector of Financial Information, National Revenue Administration and Government Centre for Security [25].

As mentioned above, the leading entity in the field of broadly defined terrorism prevention is the ISA, which fulfils its tasks via the Anti-terrorist Centre of the Internal Security Agency (AC ISA). The Centre operates 24/7. The primary tasks of the Centre encompass the coordination of information exchange among the entities comprising the terrorism protection system by:

- supporting the decision-making processes in the case of a real threat of a terrorist attack;
- coordinating operational and exploratory activities with regard to combating terrorism;
- undertaking analytical and information activities;
- participating in the development and amendment of crisis response procedures for the event of an attack and development of operating algorithms prior to an attack;
- monitoring radical media;
- following a terrorist attack, supporting the actions of services and institutions that take part in the protection of Poland against terrorism;
- international cooperation.

As has been emphasised on numerous occasions, effective prevention and combating of terrorism requires bilateral and multilateral international cooperation. The AC ISA has been internationally active in this scope for many years, which may be proven by involvement in the below initiatives:

- international Counter-Terrorist Group – CTG,
- EU Working Party on Terrorism – WPT,
- the Bernese Club, which concentrates intelligence and security services of the EU Member States along with Norway and Switzerland;
- NATO Special Committee (AC/46);
- Middle Europe Conference – MEC [38].

When analysing the national counter-terrorist strategy it should be noted that on 10 June 2016 the Sejm of the Republic of Poland passed an act on counter-terrorism actions. This was the first document of the kind, which in a relatively complex way regulates principles for the execution of anti-terrorist actions and cooperation with entities relevant for this type of measures. It should be emphasised that this document differentiated anti-terrorist measures from counter-terrorism operations [33]. The first of those measures comprise all activities of public bodies which are based on basic rules arising from crisis management, and namely prevention, preparing, responding and restoring. On the other hand, counter-terrorist measures comprise all activities undertaken against the perpetrators, persons preparing or assisting in performing of a crime of a terrorist nature³.

³ According to the penal code, a crime of a terrorist nature is an illegal act, committed with the aim of serious intimidation of many persons, forcing a public authority body of the Republic of Poland

Furthermore, the act specifies counter-terrorist operations meant to prevent events of a terrorist nature, alerting degrees in the event of occurrence of such hazards, and also actions on the scene of event of a terrorist nature, including counter-terroristic ones.

Summary

Terrorism is clearly a phenomenon which has a significant impact on the destruction of the society.

When considering the terrorism combating strategy one should bear in mind that the variability of methods adopted by terrorists make it necessary for the ruling authorities to draw up relevant documents, which would be used for effective prevention and elimination of this type of events.

Contemporary terrorism is characterised by international relations, secret financing, utilisation of cutting-edge technical achievements and comprehensive media messages. If we assume that a terroristic attack as such is merely a small part in the entire process comprising preparation, training, acquiring firearms, ammunition etc., the greater importance is gained by tasks to be adopted by relevant authorities, organisations and institutions specialised in preventing the phenomenon of terrorism, which consist in obtaining, analysing and passing on information between particular countries.

All operations with respect to terrorism prevention must have a relevant legal basis. This applies to solutions both on an international and national scale. All types of documents, which are ratified by particular countries, are aimed at forming appropriate conditions for the effective atcity of countries through relevant services with respect to effective combatting in areas already diagnosed, which are conducive to the development of this type of attacks.

According to the analysis made by the Government Security Centre, the territory of Poland is secure as regards potential terrorist attacks. Nevertheless taking into ccount the geopolitical situation and the involvement of polish armed forced in stabilisation operations worldwide, it seems obvious that basic obligations of state

or another ontry or am international organisation authority to take up or give up specific actions, causing significant disturbances to the regime or in the economy of the Republic of Poland, of another country or international organisation – including also a threat of committing such a deed, Article 115 §20 of the act dated 6 June 1997 The Penal Code..., *op.cit*

authorities include assuring the security of citizens by the deployment of adequate measures both of the nature of legal regulations, as well as international cooperation related to counter-terrorism.

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