

THE ROLE OF THE INTERPOL IN THE COUNTER-TERRORISM IN IRAQ 2003-2017

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism poses threat to International peace and security. To avert the threat posed by transnational terrorists, members of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), including Iraq, have been working together to counter transnational terrorist attacks. The article identifies the level of performance of INTERPOL counter terrorism in Iraq, to determine the factors that affect the improvement of the performance of INTERPOL counter-terrorism and to identify the barriers faced by Interpol in its counter-terrorism efforts. This article uses qualitative methods to investigate the development of international counter-terrorism of INTERPOL. This in turn enables a more in-depth insight regarding the current role of the INTERPOL in countering terrorism. The cooperation among INTERPOL member countries depends on various factors such as training of staff, political stability of the members, technology used in combating terrorism and conducting counter-terrorism and the conduct of investigation and interrogation. All these factors have an impact on the effectiveness of the implementation of counter-terrorism efforts at the national level and the cooperation between INTERPOL Member Countries. In particular the study refers to the development in Iraq that has some impact on the effectiveness of Iraqi INTERPOL to conduct counter-terrorism activities. This article asserted four main factors determining the function of Interpol in countering terrorism: Staff Training, Political instability, Technology Support and Interrogation.

Keywords: INTERPOL, International Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Iraq, Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION

The Interpol has assumed a larger role in curbing transnational terrorist attacks that, through their victims, perpetrators, or implications, impact two or more countries. Terrorist incidents that begin in one country and end in another (e.g. skyjackings) are transnational, as are assassinations or kidnappings of foreigners by a domestic terrorist group (Sandler, Arce and Enders, 2011). If the perpetrators cross an international border or receive training and support from abroad, then the terrorist incident is transnational. International terrorist attacks have reached an alarming level of violence, and the consequent societal impacts and threats to international peace and security have spread to all regions. The complex combination of shifts in travel patterns, fraudulent travel documents, far-reaching and devastating attacks, and communication and social media manipulation have led to a 'decisive stage' in the fight against terrorism, which demands a comprehensive, coordinated and appropriate response (Koehler, 2016).

To stop terrorism activities, countries around the world are undertaking counter-terrorism activities. At the international policing level, countries work closely with international organisations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). To direct its counterterrorism activities, INTERPOL created a Public Safety and Terrorism (PST) sub-directorate in October 2001 following the September 11, 2001 attacks (henceforth, 9/11) in the United States. In so doing, Interpol focused more of its crime-fighting resources on counterterrorism. In particular, Interpol assumed a proactive role in fighting transnational terrorism by bolstering international cooperative linkages among law enforcement agencies, and its member countries' National Central Bureaus (NCBs). Some countries also established diplomatic relations or military coalitions to counter terrorism but lost control when dealing with intelligence methods like ISIS in Syria and Iraq (Crelinsten, 2011).

The article argues that the Interpol is increasingly perceived as a key international partner in the fight against terrorism by national law enforcement authorities and regional and global partners around the world (INTERPOL, 2017). The Interpol plays an important role in the development of the International Counter-Terrorism especially in responding to ISIS and preventing its expansion.

INTERPOL'S EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE GLOBAL THREAT OF TERRORISM

Interpol's activities are centered upon three global crime programs namely Counter-terrorism, Organized and Emerging Crime, and Cybercrime. In counter-terrorism, the Interpol works to help its members in preventing and countering the terrorist nets through a plan consisting of five parts namely Identification, Travel and Mobility, Online presence, Weapons and Materials, and finally Finances. These strategies and the initiatives within them will evolve to reflect the dynamic nature of the operating environment (Yapsan, 2012).

INTERPOL, being the main police cooperation organization in the world is in the best position to counter terrorism activities. The nature of terrorism that involves well organized non-state actors and state-sponsored terrorism activities poses a big challenge to the counter-terrorism efforts of the INTERPOL. The efforts have been more difficult with the nature and secrecy of terrorism investigations, taking place around the globe. The difficulties in the counter-terrorism activities is further caused by the inherently sensitive given the nature of the threat, geo-political considerations, and concerns about sources of information. Moreover, terrorist investigations often involve various national and international agencies and organisations, including the law enforcement and intelligence communities, which operate in fundamentally dissimilar ways, with different legal standards and governing paradigms. As a result, the major issue that confronts Interpol in this area is the extent to which countries are prepared to cooperate by sharing counter-terrorism information. Importantly when countries actively participate in global anti-terrorist efforts, not just national or bilateral efforts, it reduces the risks of terrorist attacks; conversely, not participating increases the risk (Ong-Webb, 2006).

The efforts of Interpol in countering terrorism were summarized by Robert Boylan, a Technical Advisor at Interpol's Legal Counsel office, in a conference held on 11-12 March 2004 in Vienna, Austria. He mentioned the following steps:

- i. Interpol changed its counter-terrorism policy by concentrating on new programs like establishing the task force at the general secretariat in Lyon, France. This task force had succeeded in establishing the largest global database of suspected terrorists and forged and stolen travel documents.
- ii. Interpol created a global communications system called i-24/7 which allows Interpol members to exchange important information (such as photographs and fingerprints of suspected terrorists) within seconds. This program is now considered as an essential condition for the possibility of police co-operation.
- iii. Interpol established a unique command and coordination center for the exchange of important information among Interpol's members which is conducted in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish).
- iv. Interpol had initiated an electronic system called Red Notices. This system is similar to the global control system. It helps Interpol's member countries to find any suspect issued with a red notice for serious crimes. This system enables Interpol members to issue a Red Notice within just one day. Since 18 November 2003, Interpol had started new policy which allows it to issue a Red Notice against any suspect who is a member of any terrorist group even if the suspect was never arrested before by any law enforcement.
- v. Interpol started to issue the Orange Notice which is a security alert to inform members and selected international organizations and entities of the characteristics of threats like letter bombs.

In summary, Interpol provides a wide range of counterterrorism resources and tools that can be used by the member countries for arresting suspected terrorists and their supporters. Since Interpol does not deploy agents to make the arrests, its measurement of the benefits from Interpol's counterterrorism activities is necessarily by inference. The most direct measure of Interpol's success in curbing transnational terrorism is from terrorism-related arrests, where notices and/or diffusions had been issued. It known that the arrests included individuals suspected of financing, planning, or carrying out terrorist incidents. there were few instances where person was arrested: for example, on 18 August 2005, a suspected bomber in the 3/11 Madrid train bombing was arrested in Serbia by border authorities who used I-24/7 and Interpol's databases. A Red Notice had been issued in March 2004 for this suspected terrorist (Interpol, 2005). In addition, it was not known the final disposition of those arrested i.e. whether or not they were convicted.

The base of the counterfactuals is on the utilization of Interpol tools and resources particularly the facilitated arrests of terrorist suspects and "hits" (i.e. positive matches) on its Stolen and Lost Travel Document (SLTD) database. Thus, it linked Interpol's resources – i.e. its secure global police communication link, terrorism-related databases, police support services, and training workshops – to the arrests of suspected terrorists that stemmed from Interpol-issued arrest notices or diffusions (i.e. an NCB-issued arrest request) in 2006 and 2007. Based on past transnational terrorist events, it then devised a means for translating arrests into fewer incidents (Sandler, Arce and Enders, 2011). The programs are supported by a set of policing capabilities that the Interpol provides to the member countries. These include police data management, criminal analysis, forensic support, fugitive investigate support, a Command and Coordination Centre, capacity building and training, innovation and special projects (Adams, 2011).

Interpol circulates alerts and warnings on terrorists, dangerous criminals and weapons threats to the police forces in member countries. These alerts are known as Notices and Diffusions. Red notices are issued to all countries for individuals wanted by national authorities, seeking their provisional arrest with a view for extradition. Blue Notices are issued to collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime. Green Notices provide warnings and intelligence about individuals who have committed a crime, while Yellow Notices help locate missing persons (Fooner, 2013).

Additionally, the Interpol-United Nations Security Council Special Notice is used to alert member countries about individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban as listed by United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee 1267, and to help countries implement the freezing of assets, travel bans and arms embargoes. In September 2014, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2178 recognizing Interpol's global role against the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (Mehra, 2016). In the event of a terrorist attack, member countries may request the assistance of an Interpol Incident Response Team (IRT). Experts can be quickly deployed to the site of the incident to provide a range of investigative and analytical support services, in coordination with the General Secretariat. Interpol offers a number of tools and services to help member countries enhance security at their borders, and works with national authorities to extend access to its I-24/7 secure communications network to border points to ensure that these tools are accessible in the frontlines (Bernd, 2013).

INTERPOL sub-directorate Public Safety and Terrorism (PST), which was established in October 2001, is primarily responsible for coordinating Interpol's counterterrorism activities including running best-practice workshops, the bioterrorism program (BioT), and the Interpol Weapons and Explosive Tracking System (IWETS). Both PST and Interpol's Command and Coordination Centre are involved with the Incident Response Teams that are dispatched at the member countries' requests to assist in the investigation of terrorist incidents. For example, the teams were dispatched to investigate the Bali nightclub bombings (October 2002), the Madrid commuter train bombings (March 2004), the Amman Hotels bombings (November 2005), the Mumbai attacks (November 2008), as well as to help Iraq in countering the effect of the chemical weapons used by ISIS in al-Mousel and to facilitate the Iraqi security forces in the attack of the Al-Mishraq Sulphur Factory in 2019.

As part of PST, the Fusion Task Force (FTF) was formed in 2002 to initiate a proactive, multi-disciplinary approach to assist member countries in terrorism-related investigations. The FTF works with member countries to collect information on terrorist groups and their members. This information is accessible to all the member countries, unless a country-specific limitation applies, through Interpol global police databases. The FTF focuses on six regions – Southeast Asia, Central Asia, South America, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. These task forces also track the movement of suspected terrorists and post warnings on Interpol's secure website. Resultantly, several Asian-based terrorists have been apprehended in Europe as they flew into an airport hub in Paris¹. These task forces also organize working group meetings to inform law enforcement agents about regional terrorist risks. In recent years, the FTF has proven to be a valuable asset in assisting countries in arresting individuals who were either planning or financing terrorist attacks.

¹ Some examples of this kind were presented to the authors at a briefing, made by a task force member at the General Secretariat in October 2008.

INTERPOL AND DISRUPTION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

As a global, neutral platform, Interpol has developed a five-year strategic plan to assist and create opportunities for law enforcement in its 190 member countries to prevent and disrupt terrorist activities through five action streams.

Interpol has hundreds to thousands of database connections and training programs, some of which are only accessible to members, which allow small local police organizations to carry on their work across borders. Interpol does not perform field work independently in member states as their only goal is assisting police in member states with fighting crime. Due to the importance of Interpol in fighting crime, many of the member states assisted by Interpol do not actually have diplomatic relations but work together for the sake of making the world safer (Bigot, 2015). This makes Interpol a rare case of an international organization that has the ability to defy diplomatic conflict.

Interpol's main objective in today's world is to facilitate connections between member states by bridging the gap between international and domestic policing and helping local police departments improve their abilities through capacity building measures. The work of Interpol is more important today than ever and facing more problems than ever because of one main factor i.e. globalization (Cruz, 2016).

Their objectives are to tackle the key factors facilitating terrorists:

- i. Increase the ability to detect and positively identify terrorists and their affiliates.
- ii. Reduce cross-border mobility of terrorists, and interdict their facilitating networks.
- iii. Increase the ability to exploit terrorists' digital activity to facilitate tracking and identification of their affiliates.
- iv. Increase the identification, tracking and interception of the trafficking of weapons and materials necessary for terrorist activities.
- v. Increase the exchange of financial-related information so as to trace and disrupt financial streams connected to terrorism funding.

Through these action streams, the strategy seeks to deploy and maximize the exploitation of a range of global policing capabilities including police data management, intelligence analysis, forensics support, border security, and capacity building and training. FTF regional activities are supported mainly with two global initiatives - Project Passage and Project Tent. The aim of Project Passage is to interrupt movements of terrorist organizations across national borders. It is focused especially on groups of organized crime that provide logistic support to members of terrorist organizations (e.g. in the form of identification or travel documents). The other global initiative is Project Tent which aims to identify individuals who have visited terrorist training camps and transmit this information to the individuals' countries of residence.

Under global counterterrorism initiatives, Interpol carries out an additional four working projects² defined in cooperation with member states. These are:

- i. Project IWETS – Interpol Weapons and Electronic Tracking System;
- ii. Project Geiger – stolen radiological materials and radiological terrorism;
- iii. Project CRIT – Co-operative Radiological Instrument Transfer; and

² Terrorism. [cit. January 28th, 2007]. Interpol. [on-line]. Available on WWW: [http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/FactSheets/TE01.pdf].

iv. Project on Bio-Terrorism.

Interpol also provides assistance to member states in cases when a terrorist attack occurs on their territory. After an attack, member states can request for the support of the Interpol Incident Response Team (IRT) that subsequently in cooperation with the Secretariat General provides investigation and analytical support on site. This support includes the issuing of international notice of terrorists upon request, database enquiries regarding fingerprints or suspicious travel documents, expert opinion in the area of money laundering or assistance in identification of attack victims. Last but not least, it is necessary to mark out that within counterterrorist efforts, Interpol has issued significant resolutions³. The Cairo Declaration against Terrorism⁴ approved by the General Assembly on the 67th Interpol session in Cairo on 22-27 October 1998 is probably the most important one.

INTERPOL AND COUNTER-TERRORISM IN IRAQ

Interpol is not a supra-national police organization with the power to investigate cases across the member states. Interpol works by providing mutual assistance between the police forces within the limits of the national law (Deflem, 2006) and the effectiveness of Interpol's efforts including on counter-terrorism depends on the cooperation between the Interpol, the relevant member states and the cooperation among the member states.

Iraq has its own Counter Terrorism Service (CTS), which is an independent, quasi ministerial level organization, separate from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior (Witty, 2015). The CTS consists of the CTS headquarters, the Counter Terrorism Command (CTC), and three Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) Brigades. In addition, the CTS also established a training centre to train officers and the personnel, which put a lot more emphasis on precision counter-terrorism capability. Witty (2015) also asserted that the positioning of the CTS outside the Ministry of Defence freed the organisation from the larger Ministry of Defence structure and internal machinations.

The positioning of the CTS outside the Ministry of Defence also means that it has more policing functions, especially in tracking the cross-border movements of terrorists going into and moving out of Iraq. The policing activity is not just about tracking individual terrorists but also about movement of funds and other assets such as looted antiquities forming part of cultural heritage (UN Security Council, 2019). In relation to movement of funds, the UN Security Council states that Cash couriers, unregistered money service businesses and *hawaladars* remain the most commonly used methods of transferring funds in support of ISIL and Al-Qaida. These mechanisms are largely out of view of regulators and law enforcement, making it extremely difficult to identify the remitters and beneficiaries.

Further, the UN Security Council (2019) recognised the efforts by the National police authorities in many jurisdictions in identifying and stopping the illicit trafficking of stolen or looted cultural property. The UN Security Council called for special training for police in the operational

³ Interpol's resolutions on terrorism. [cit. February 7th, 2007]. Interpol. [on-line]. Available on WWW: [<http://www.interpol.int/Public/Terrorism/resolutions.asp>].

⁴ Cairo Declaration against Terrorism. [cit. February 11th, 2007]. Interpol. [on-line]. Available on WWW: [<http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/GeneralAssembly/AGN67/Resolutions/AGN67RES12.asp>].

tools necessary to address illicit trafficking in antiquities and goods related to cultural heritage and to encourage the establishment of specialized police units (see General Assembly resolution 73/130, para. 17), as well as a national database of stolen works of art that is linked to the corresponding database of the Interpol.

Hence, the working of the CTS and the Interpol, through the Ministry of Interior is becoming an important element of the counter-terrorism in Iraq. The CTS and counter-terrorism cooperation with the Interpol is very important as the Islamic States (IS) terrorist groups in Iraq was very strong and involved many foreign terrorists coming to fight within the Iraqi border (Gunaratna, 2017). The ability to tract down the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist forms part of the downstream capabilities, where states pursue kinetic means to catch and kill terrorists or disrupt terrorist organisations (Gunaratna, 2017). It is also acknowledged that despite its recent defeat, it clearly has an Iraqi pedigree (Connable, 2020), hence the need to have a strong Iraqi policing, requiring strong collaboration with police forces around the world, through the Interpol.

To ascertain the level of development and cooperation on counter-terrorism between the Interpol and Iraq, the author conducted interviews with several Iraqi officials, whose names are concealed for security purposes. Ten respondents were selected among experts and administrators from the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The researcher chose these samples because they are highly knowledgeable and experienced. Another reason is that the experts and administrators at the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have political experience, awareness, and knowledge about the role of Interpol with regards to International Counter-Terrorism. The samples were divided into two groups; the first group consisted of five experts from the Ministry of Interior whilst the second group consisted of five administrators and experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The approach allowed us to understand the perception of the informants.

Interpol's Role in Countering Terrorism in Iraq between 2003 and 2017

Interpol exerts important and effective efforts in countering organized crimes through special tasks principally and practically through a number of mechanisms. To answer about the role of Interpol in countering terrorism in Iraq, the first respondent from the Iraqi Primes Minister office⁵ said: "Interpol had an essential role in countering terrorism in Iraq i.e. by supplying the secured communication system 1-24/7 in 2005 as well as by organizing workshops and terrorism conferences and sponsoring Iraqi delegations to most of the events especially after the financial crunch that Iraq went through during the hostile offensives of ISIS in 2014. Moreover, Iraq was permitted to access the entire international database and we were also supplied with free appliances and devices that connect border checkpoints to the international database through the MIND network."

His view is supported by a senior official of the Iraqi Interpol. The official said that:⁶ "There is cooperation with the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC) in Tunisia through the classification of the member countries into groups called action groups in which the Arab regions are further classified into groups called action sub-groups and numbered as group one, two and

⁵ Interview. 18.Nov.2018.

⁶ Baghdad's Interpol Bureau. Interview .15. Nov.2018

three. Iraq is in the first action sub-group besides Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon. Their main task is to ensure the consistency of cooperation, swift sharing of intelligence information among the group members and holding meetings when necessary to reach suitable solutions for organized cross-boundary crimes among the council member countries through the council communication units, including the Communication Unit of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC) in Baghdad which functions within the Arab and International Police Directorate. Currently, their meetings are held on the side-line of the Annual Meetings of the Arab Chiefs of Counter Terrorism Agencies.

The action group meetings had achieved great success in exchanging information via the Sheikh Zayed Modern Communication System, a feature which can only be found in the council members' countries, including the Arab and International Police Directorate in Baghdad, in coordination with the International Criminal Police Organization/ Interpol. Member countries are permitted to access the secure global police communications system I-24/7 in virtue of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the International Criminal Police Organization/Interpol and the Arab Interior Ministers Council in 1999.”

The answers above demonstrate the efforts of Baghdad’s Interpol Bureau in cooperating with other Interpol bureaus on one hand and with other Arab countries on the other. Although this can be seen as a positive measure, there is also a negative side to it because it requires the use of two communication systems for exchanging information i.e. one with the other Interpol Bureaus and the other with the regional Arab Bureaus which is highly costly in terms of time, effort and money.

How Does Interpol Establish Formal Relations with Government Agencies to Assist in Solving the Problems and Crises in Iraq?

Another respondent from the Iraqi Interpol⁷ said: “Interpol establishes formal relations with national entities through the national central bureau in Baghdad, as it is the only agency that is in connection with the Interpol. Article (4) of the Interpol constitution stipulates that any country may delegate as a Member to the Organization any official police body whose functions come within the framework of activities of the Organization, whereas article (31) stipulates that in order to further its aims, the Organization needs the constant and active cooperation of its Members, who should do all within their power which is compatible with the legislations of their countries to participate diligently in its activities, and this cooperation is elaborated in article (32) which stipulates that in order to ensure the above cooperation, each country shall appoint a body which will serve as the National Central Bureau. It shall ensure liaison with the various departments in the country i.e. those bodies in other countries serving as National Central Bureaus and the Organization’s General Secretariat.”

He emphasized the necessity to reach practical solutions via the cooperation with police forces, research centers, academic institutions as well as private and government sectors to prevent criminals from harnessing modern technology. He also advised for the establishment of training courses via the Interpol Innovation Centre in Singapore.

⁷ Director of Baghdad’s Interpol Bureau. Interview .15. Nov.2018

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In its early years, Interpol's activities were limited in nature, restricted to facilitating message exchanges between its members and maintaining small repositories of police data. At present, Interpol is considered as the best solution for countering global terrorism because it can coordinate and exchange information among local security agencies and national bureaus with global Interpol Bureaus faster than the information exchange among countries.

Challenges Faced by Interpol in Countering Terrorism

Respondents from the Iraqi Interpol, Refugee Department and the Counter-Terrorism Department agreed that there are a number of obstacles faced by Interpol and other counter terrorism global bodies. They are:

- i. Lack of information and data sharing of certain counter terrorism countries.
- ii. Reluctance of some countries in paying their annual financial contributions which leads to the stalling of counter terrorism projects.
- iii. Lawlessness and instability in some countries make it difficult to set up the necessary infrastructure as well as for Interpol to counter terrorism.

Their view is supported by a senior official at the Iraqi of the Ministry of Interior.⁸ The respondent mentions that the Interpol and the Arab Police Directorate in Baghdad face a number of problems that can be summarized as follows:

- i. No networking between the directorate and other national bodies in countering terrorism due to the financial crises in Iraq. This in turn has led to the ineffective sharing of intelligence information obtained from Interpol via the secure global police communications system I-24/7 in Baghdad's NCB.
- ii. Lack of seriousness of some liaison officers in the national bodies to engage in the secure global police communications system in the directorate for information feedback.
- iii. Some government institutions make use of Interpol in the field of counter terrorism without involving the directorate in relevant missions or utilizing the database in the secure global police communications system.

The same respondents from the Iraqi Interpol and the Prime Minister's Office⁹ discussed about the challenges faced by Interpol in managing crises and the necessary facilitations. The challenges include:

⁸ Iraqi Ministry of Interior. Interview .16. Nov.2018

⁹ Iraqi Prime Minister. Inerview. 18.Nov.2018.

- i. Financial support to carry out its security activities and services activities towards other member countries, and also to extend its control as much as possible to fulfil all the security requirements.
- ii. Disparities between the national laws of the member countries.
- iii. Conflicting political stances among some of the member countries.

They also added that financial and non-financial arrangements in the Interpol to counter terrorism comprise the following:

- i. Interpol is financed annually by the 194 member countries.
- ii. Interpol receives financial support from some countries to finance certain projects for the benefit of some other member countries subsequent to declaring the nature of the project and the possible benefits reaped by these particular countries especially for terrorism-related projects.

The answers above demonstrate the obstacles faced by Interpol in executing its mission to counter terrorism. Most notably is the poor exchange of information with regards to wanted persons. For example, most of the wanted persons by Iraq are located in Jordan, the UAE and Turkey, but these countries refuse to handover these wanted persons to the Iraqi government despite agreements to do so and the provision of financial support. Furthermore, unstable political situations like what happened in Iraq and Syria make it very hard to control the borders between the two countries. Besides that, Interpol is the only international organization that does not use international employees to run its global bureaus as some countries may use these bureaus for their own interests such as the Turkish government which used its Bureau as a tool to laminate their enemies.

Factors Affecting the Role of Interpol in Countering Terrorism

Level of Professionalism and Staff Training

The main objective of training is to improve the performance of both the individual and the organization. All training activities should be linked to the improvement of the staff's core and functional competencies in order to raise individual performance on the job and meet the organizational performance standards. Competencies are the knowledge, skills and behaviour required for the effective performance of a job. Core competencies are generic competencies required by a group of job holders across different functions.

Law enforcement styles vary widely. Some countries use interrogation techniques that violate what other nations would consider civil liberties, although these protections might not exist in both/all countries in terrorism investigation. Among the four major legal traditions, there exist a variety of standards of acceptable interrogation procedures. Prosecution procedures vary widely as does the protocol for detaining suspected terrorists. More recently, America's rendition policies have led to a renewed criticism by its allies in the war on terror. The questions of "what constitutes torture?" and "is it ever appropriate to use terror?" have created a wide divide between international police organizations many of which are dead set against this as a human rights abuse. So, much like other barriers, a lack of consensus hampers the potential cooperation between nations.

A number of issues arise when considering the objections against certain interrogation techniques. These are typically centred on the Geneva Conventions International law and issues of state sovereignty. National standards for interrogation are a by-product of a complex national institutional process. As a result, interrogators in non-democratic states may use practices that are illegal in democratic states including the use of torture (Bansahel, 2006).

During interviews about the level of professionalism of the Interpol counter-terrorism network, the respondent from the Iraqi Interpol ¹⁰said: “There are certain relevant divisions in the Interpol for every penal field i.e. sub directorate of countering terrorism, which is highly professional because of the highly qualified experts who keep abreast of terror crimes. From our side, being the national bureau of Interpol in Baghdad, we play the leading role in coordinating between Interpol and Iraqi national entities especially when it comes to sharing information with other intelligence agencies, outside the job scope of the Interior Ministry. Our intelligence agencies acquired numerous skills through security practices adopted by the Interpol and which is being applied in Iraq to train our professional staff in countering terrorism and to identify the weak and strong points in law enforcement agencies.”

Another respondent, ¹¹ said: “Arab Police and Interpol played a positive role in supporting our agencies during Iraq’s struggle against global terrorism in the form of intelligence information feed from the Interpol through a secure global police communications system i.e. I-24/7 which is a special feature of the national central bureaus in the Interpol member countries, and the outcome was that plenty of terror attempts were foiled and terrorist’s influx point and mobilizing paths were uncovered.”

Another respondent ¹² answered on the question about terrorism affecting Interpol’s performance: “It was an important effect as the Interpol worked on establishing plans on how to counter terrorism by developing the security officers’ skills in the member countries, training them, enhancing their experiences and setting up databases to trace terrorists such as the clock maker project related to explosives makers, the foreign terrorists project which aims at identifying terrorists around the world and circulating their details, Project First (Facial, Imaging, Recognition, Searching and Tracking) which helps countries share the biometric data on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and other terrorist suspects which helped us to identify a number of British terrorists who were arrested in Iraq and of which we did not have any information about except for their nicknames. Besides that, other coloured notices (orange, purple and other UN Notices) were added to the main international coloured notices (red, blue, green, yellow and black) in order to curb the expansion of organized crimes.”

Political Instability

The absence of a strong central government in Iraq often serves as an open invitation for the relocation of international terrorists and criminal syndicates. It sends out signals much the way that broken windows do in bereft communication in urban ghettos, that this is a place to conduct criminal enterprises. With the absence of a meaningful central authority, there is little to prevent a

¹⁰ Baghdad’s Interpol Bureau. Interview .15. Nov.2018.

¹¹ Arabic and International Bureau/ Iraqi Ministry of Interior. Interview .16. Nov.2018

¹² Baghdad’s Interpol Bureau. Interview .15. Nov.2018

terrorist organization from taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them as such a condition offers an attractive base for terrorist groups. One needs to look no further than failed governments in each hemisphere and in most countries to find regimes that have evolved into terrorist organizations. Here, unimpeded terrorist groups are free to build training camps, recruit new terrorists, conduct strategic planning meetings and increase their base of support (AlHashimi, 2015).

Technology Support

When it comes to access to modern technology, there is a major divide between the have and have not countries. It should be a high priority for these countries to enter agreements that allow for the sharing of access to the most modern counter-terrorist technology. These disparities in technology can act as a shield for terrorist groups that are likely to take refuge in such states. Major problems also include the existence of obsolete technologies and the inability of one technology to interact with another. The events of September 11, 2001 alone provided a tremendous example when the various phone technologies used by the fire fighters, police officers, building security and headquarters failed to communicate properly.

A respondent from the Crisis Cell ¹³ added: "...also, using modern technology to counter terrorism through a secure global police communications system as well as Interpol's MIND/FIND network in curbing transnational terrorism which are used to screen suspects and stolen passports and vehicles at border crossings against Interpol databases. Iraq has the biggest database out of all the member countries of stolen and lost passports because ISIS' involvement in 2014 led to the loss of 84,000 Iraqi passports including blank documents. We praise the efforts of the Passports and Visa Directorate which swiftly provided all the needed information to the Interpol bureau in Baghdad and managed to key in this information into the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database via Interpol's MIND/FIND network, and disseminated it on all the entry points in the member countries. This massive effort eventually paid off when many terrorists, who forged passports, were arrested and their movement among other countries, through blank passports, was curbed."

The head of the Iraqi Interpol said that ¹⁴ "We, as Interpol and Arab Police Directorate, played our part in sharing our experience to other relevant national agencies in detecting materials of dual usage. We also coordinated with Interpol to organize training courses for almost 150 officers, sponsored by the organization."

A respondent from the Iraqi Interior Ministry¹⁵, added: "The efforts of Interpol culminated upon the formation of a joint national team for countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terror. They are based in the Civil Defense Directorate, Counter Explosives Directorate, National Security Division and the Chemical Unit in the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Sciences and Technology. They are considered the national communication hub with Interpol's CBRN Program via the Interpol and Arab Police Directorate. All the coordination is carried out through the I-24/7 secure global police communications system.

¹³ Baghdad International Airport Interpol Bureau and member of Crises Cell added. Interview. 16. Nov.2018.

¹⁴ Abdulrahman.S.F. Director of Baghdad's Interpol Bureau. Interview .15. Nov.2018.

¹⁵ Nasir F. M. Iraqi Fire Department/Iraqi Ministry. Interview. 17.Nov.2018.

All the responses agreed on the level of professionalism of Interpol's counter terrorism network and how Interpol supported Iraq by providing modern communication systems and training courses. They also emphasized on the importance of monitoring the stolen Iraqi passports because ISIS members are using these passports as their travel documents to other countries. Such incident happened in Malaysia when the immigration arrested multiple travelers from different countries trying to enter or exit Malaysia using these passports. They also use these passports as a financial means i.e. by selling them.

CONCLUSION

The new generation of terrorism will be more danger than the current one, because the new generation will be extremes since his childhood and the best example of that what happening in al-Hul camp in Syria where is the ISIS women are raising their sons and daughters on the extreme ideology to prepare them to take their place in the future terrorists.

Besides that, the new terrorism will be globally not locally or regionally using the new technology of social media which will the terrorists recruiting new members, sharing their experience giving the orders to make attacks without needing to travel from one country to another. Under all these elements, the countries still struggling to counter this dangerous forgetting that the only way to fight it is working together because no country will be safe from it, and the best solution for the country to work as one is through the INTERPOL which is consider the biggest international security agency.

Because of that in this article, the author analysed issues of terrorism and counter- terrorism and the role of the Interpol organization and its role in fighting terrorism in the world in general and in Iraq in particular. The article also discussed the collective efforts of Interpol in Iraq focusing on its fight against transnational terrorism through the international law enforcement cooperation frameworks.

The above discussion shows that the respondents agreed that there are certain elements that contribute to the development of Interpol's counter terrorism system such as the expansion of its partnerships with government organizations and institutions in the member countries. Interpol bureau offices have limited cooperation with other national security agencies, except for police agencies and external intelligence agencies which can provide them with important databases. Another such element is the adoption of advanced databases in countering terrorism and networking expansion between national bodies with Interpol's data as well as the full utilization of Interpol's database.

This article also revealed that there were three underlying factors influencing the role of Interpol in countering terrorism: Staff Training, Political instability, Technology Support and Interrogation. The article found that staff training contributes fundamentally in building the capabilities of Interpol's counter terrorism system. This includes the ability to use and utilize Interpol's systems and database; the orientation of employees in the national central bureaus and other law enforcement agencies (i.e. customs, immigration and others); the identification of crimes and their countering approaches through advanced methods.

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