TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM

Dealing with terrorism and the future

Unanswered questions

- Side affects on counterterrorism
- Media, terrorism and the Internet (freedom of expression)
- Human Rights violations in response to terrorism (How serious it is?)
- Implications of the Arab Awakening
- Warning the public an responsible crisis communication prior during and after terrorist attacks
- Strengthening public resilience

International Center for Counterterrorism

- The Hague (ICCT) is an independent think and do tank providing multidisciplinary policy advice and practical, solution-oriented implementation support on prevention and the rule of law, two vital pillars of effective counter-terrorism.

- 1) Why do people join terrorist organizations? Why do they choose violence?

- 2) Integration with «Formers» in order for them to go back to «normal» life

ICCT

Fear and resilience

- After the 11th of September investments into counterterrorism were increased
- Terrorism has a great impact on society which diminishes effectiveness of counterterrorism
- High level of fear causes:
- Distrust and stereotyping
- Preference for tough actions and simple explanations (by Media)
- Polarization of society

Fear and impact Management

- Organization of fear management
- Cooperation
- Establishing partnerships with relevant actors
- Listening to the public`s concerns ( it`s important to give honest answers and avoid secrecy to help authorities to avoid further attacks
- «Gold hour» (Give factual information; explain current situation)
- In case of incomplete picture give concise messages in one tone of voice. Keep communication with public no matter what – no news is good news. Be aware of risk of overreaction and avoid unnecessary rhetoric
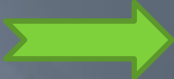
Resilience

- The authorities have to care for the public
- Do not focus on the direct victims but also the survivors or traumatized ones
- Fear/impact management should be a part of counterterrorism

- Terrorism will become less affective

Future of terrorism

- Impossible to predict the changes of weapons and tactics
- Insight into possible future
- Look at past attempts to avoid terrorism and add to this list another ways
- Obvious forecasts:
- Terrorism will exist
- It`s not static   terrorism will definitely change
- Terrorism is influenced by many factors : economical, geographical, political, ethnic, religious etc.

Failure of imagination

- There are limited insights about the cause of terror changing
- Current forecasts say more about today`s terrorism than the future
- Most forecasts are made by men ,mainly from Western countries , who had little experience in counterterrorism and their works are not transparent enough or systematic in counterterrorism approach
- We have to come up with new ideas/ fresh pair of eyes/ out-of-box thinking