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Disarmament

Measures to prevent violent extremist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

LARA SADI



RESEARCH
REPORT



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Issue: Measures to prevent violent extremist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Student Officer: Lara Sadi - Deputy Chair

Introduction

The possibility of terrorists and their supporters gaining access to mass destruction materials presents a significant threat to international peace and security. Terrorist groups have come up with new ways to obtain and operate more dangerous weapons in order to maximize harm and create panic over the years. Some of these weapons have become more accessible as a result of technological improvements and the expansion of illegal networks.

Definition of Key Terms

Weapons of Mass Destruction: weapons that hold the power to cause destruction to a great measure and so when placed in the wrong hands it becomes a grievous threat. These are referred to collectively as CBRN; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear materials.

Nuclear Weapons: a weapon that releases nuclear energy in an explosive manner

Chemical Weapon: a class of chemicals, mainly toxic substances, designed to kill, harm, or incapacitate people

Biological Weapon: germ weapon, can be called a “disease-producing-agent”, by using bacteria and viruses and other biological agents the weapons are used against humans to infect them. In many cases they have done more harm than combat arms even when not used consciously.

Radiological Weapons: a weapon, generally a bomb, that is designed to harm a target by emitting hazardous radioactive elements.

UNDP: The United Nations Development Program, is a UN organization that helps countries build stronger policies and better the partnership between them.

OPCW: The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is not a UN body but works in relation to the UN. With its member states the OPCW helps them protect their country from possible chemical weapon threats.

General Overview

Biological, chemical, and nuclear technologies unfortunately have a great potential for dual use. The revolution in biotechnology while promising new solutions to many awaiting healthcare problems also carries the risk of new kinds of weapons created through genetic recombination. Technological innovation also creates possibilities for the militarization of new chemical agents. The nuclear field however imposes the most severe problem given its potential to help as a new energy source especially in a world immensely threatened by climate change, need to reduce carbon emission and the decline of non reusable energy sources.

A substantial increase of these industries is anticipated by many analysts however how to make sure to keep these activities at the civilian level is the big question. The international community needs to support the potential positive input of each industry to sustainable progress however the issue regarding uncontrolled proliferation remains a major issue to be resolved. The challenge of non-state actors' attempts to purchase weapons, technology and expertise is as detrimental as ever, since simple and undeveloped technology is enough for terrorist groups to develop nonconventional weapons. The use of chlorine in attacks in Baghdad in 2007 is an example of this.

A large-scale nuclear attack has not yet been carried out by non-state actors however one needs to worry that the terrorists can cause real damage without the presence of actual materials by merely letting their opposition into believing they do and provoking a real response from them. Their lack of security in nuclear test sites and materials is another area of concern. Not enough is being done to address concretely the risks of WMD us by terrorist groups.

While the UN and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are important institutions working on the subject, new innovative solutions are needed to ensure compliance. The issue involves more than just the traditional players of states, so the actions need to include new partners such as actors in the industry or in the scientific community to raise awareness about the misuse of dual technologies and steps needed to avoid the misuse of them.

Major Parties Involved

Russia: Russia is the Country that has the greatest amount of Nuclear weapons, approximately 40, 000 metric tons

NPT Members with Nuclear Weapons: The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty allows the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China to have nuclear weapons. Pakistan, North Korea, and India have all publicly tested nuclear weapons, and Israel is commonly suspected of having them as well. All NATO members are prohibited to have any nuclear weapons except the ones listed above due to the NPT as of 1971.

All Violent Extremist Groups Characteristics:

- Terrorist groups follow every similar motivations, the reasoning behind their actions usually are either that they are not happy with the current political regime and want to change the status quo, that they want to spread fear or would like to intentionally harm certain groups or people.
- Extremists usually have very similar mindsets; they are cautious, slower at perceptual processing and have a weaker working memory. This is combined with impulsive personality traits that seek sensation and risky experiences.

Timeline of Events

					DESCRIPTION	
1	COUNTRY	SRI LANKA	CITY	MUTIPLE LOCATIONS	DEATHS 266	Eight coordinated attacks took place in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday targeting churches, hotels and a housing complex.
	DATE	21/4/19	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL)		
2	COUNTRY	MALI	CITY	OGOSSOGO AND WELINGARA	DEATHS 157	Assailants opened fire on the villages of Ogossogou and Welingara in Mopti, Mali.
	DATE	23/3/19	GROUP	DAN NA AMBASSAGOU		
3	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	MAYDAN SHAHR DISTRICT	DEATHS 129	A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle and assailants opened fire on a National Directorate for Security (NDS) base in Maydan Shahr district, Wardak, Afghanistan.
	DATE	21/1/19	GROUP	TALIBAN		
4	COUNTRY	CAMEROON	CITY	DARAK	DEATHS 101	Several hundred assailants armed with rocket launchers attacked military positions in Darak, Extreme-North, Cameroon.
	DATE	9/6/19	GROUP	BOKO HARAM		
5	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	KABUL	DEATHS 93	A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vest at the Dubai City wedding hall in Kabul, Afghanistan. At least 93 civilians were killed and 142 others were injured in the blast. The Khorasan Chapter of the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the incident.
	DATE	17/8/19	GROUP	KHORASAN CHAPTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE		
6	COUNTRY	SOMALIA	CITY	MOGADISHU	DEATHS 84	A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden truck at a police checkpoint in Darkheyneley, Mogadishu, Somalia.
	DATE	28/12/19	GROUP	AL-SHABAAB		
7	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	JAWDARA	DEATHS 74	A suicide bomber detonated targeting a mosque in Jawdara, Nangarhar, Afghanistan.
	DATE	18/10/19	GROUP	KHORASAN CHAPTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE		
8	COUNTRY	NIGERIA	CITY	BADU	DEATHS 70	Assailants attacked a funeral in Badu, Nganzai, Borno, Nigeria.
	DATE	27/7/19	GROUP	BOKO HARAM		
9	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	SHAKAR SHILI AND MAJID CHAWK	DEATHS 65	Assailants attacked an unknown number of security outposts in Shakar Shili and Majid Chawk in Sangin district, Helmand, Afghanistan. At least 65 people were killed and 38 people were injured across both attacks. The victims included soldiers, police officers, intelligence officers, and civilians.
	DATE	23/3/19	GROUP	TALIBAN		
10	COUNTRY	NIGERIA	CITY	RANN	DEATHS 60	Assailants attacked Rann, Borno, Nigeria. At least 60 people were killed and dozens were reported missing in the attack.
	DATE	28/1/19	GROUP	BOKO HARAM		

(global Terrorism Index 2020)

					DESCRIPTION	
11	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	CITY	ARBINDA	DEATHS 57	Assailants attacked civilians and raided Arbinda, Sahel, Burkina Faso.
	DATE	24/12/19	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE IN THE GREATER SAHARA (ISGS)		
12	COUNTRY	MALI	CITY	BOULIKESSI AND MONDORO	DEATHS 53	Assailants raided military camps in Boulikessi and Mondoro in Mopti, Mali. At least 15 assailants and 38 others, including soldiers and civilians, were killed and seven people were injured across both attacks. At least 60 soldiers were abducted across both incidents. 36 hostages were rescued on October 18, 2019, while the fate of the other hostages remains unknown.
	DATE	30/9/19	GROUP	JAMAAT NUSRAT AL-ISLAM WAL MUSLIMIN (JNIM)		
13	COUNTRY	NEW ZEALAND	CITY	CHRISTCHURCH	DEATHS 51	An assailant opened fire on Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Mosque, both in Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand. At least 51 people were killed and 50 others were injured across the two attacks. The perpetrator stated the attack was carried out in retaliation for attacks perpetrated by Muslim extremists.
	DATE	15/3/19	GROUP	ANTI-MUSLIM EXTREMISTS		
14	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	CHORA DISTRICT	DEATHS 51	Assailants equipped with firearms and explosives-laden vehicles attacked checkposts in Chora district, Uruzgan, Afghanistan.
	DATE	30/5/19	GROUP	TALIBAN		
15	COUNTRY	SYRIA	CITY	BAGHUZ	DEATHS 50	Assailants, including at least three suicide bombers, attacked Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) members in and around Baghuz, Deir ez-Zor, Syria.
	DATE	24/1/19	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL)		
16	COUNTRY	CAMEROON	CITY	DABA LAMY	DEATHS 50	Assailants, armed with knives, attacked fishermen in Daba Lamy, Extreme-North, Cameroon.
	DATE	22/12/19	GROUP	BOKO HARAM		
17	COUNTRY	INDIA	CITY	LETHPORA	DEATHS 41	A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle targeting a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy along Srinagar-Jammu highway in Lethpora, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India.
	DATE	14/2/19	GROUP	JAISH-E-MOHAMMAD (JEM)		
18	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	KUNDUZ	DEATHS 41	Assailants attacked security checkpoints in Kunduz, Afghanistan. The victims included police officers, pro-government militia members, soldiers, and civilians.
	DATE	13/4/19	GROUP	TALIBAN		
19	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	CITY	MARUF DISTRICT	DEATHS 40	Four suicide bombers detonated explosives-laden vehicles and assailants attacked a district center in Maruf, Kandahar, Afghanistan.
	DATE	30/6/19	GROUP	TALIBAN		

1993	CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention)
2002	ICSANT (International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism)
2004	UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION #1540: This resolution states that countries should refrain from giving any support to non-state actors and their attempts to develop, transport any weapons.

Treaties and Events

ICSANT

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. This convention was entered into force on the 10th of April 2002. The goals of this convention is to with the help of supportin countries build a stronger legal framework to prevent the supply access to terrorists, aswell as prevent the dindereact financiing of terrosist. Implement national measures on the prosecution of these actions.

NPT

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty(1968) is a treaty that has the main goal of stopping the wide spread of nuclear weapons. This treaty has the goal of completing full nuclear disarmament and resulting in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

This convention of 1972 successfully stops the development, production and transfer of biological weapons. This was the first treaty banning a whole category of WMD's.

Chemical Weapons Convention

The convention of 1993, entered into force in 1997 having the goal to eliminate the usage and manufacturing of chemical weapons. It has been a very successful convention, over 96% of all chemical weapons have been declared by possessor states that have ratified the treaty. The weapons have been destroyed under the oversight of the OPCW.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

On August 5 1963 the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty took place. CTBT prevents any nuclear weapon test or explosion. When opened for signing in the year 1996, 185 countries signed but only 110 have ratified. Along the 15 that haven't are China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the United States.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

An organization within the UN that helps to reach a forum of scientific and technical cooperation to maintain the peaceful usage of nuclear energy.

Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

The treaty was adopted in December 1993. This is an international agreement prohibits countries producing major components to nuclear weapons, highly enriched uranium and plutonium.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

All States must adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their delivery systems, and to establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking, according to UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

According to the 19 March 2019 UN Security Council Meeting Coverage, the following measures will be taken:

- 1) putting together national action plans
- 2) appointing point people and
- 3) carrying out peer reviews

Similarly, according to the same report, Initial reports have been provided by 182 nations, peer evaluations have been done by an increasing number of countries, and 105 countries have identified national points of contact to coordinate implementation. The US government has contributed over \$4 million to the 1540 Committee Trust Fund, but the issue requires more resources and devoted personnel.

The Security and Technology Programme (SecTec) of UNIDIR (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research) aims to increase knowledge and awareness of the international security implications and risks of specific technological innovations, as well as convene stakeholders to explore ideas and develop new thinking on how to address them.

Possible Solutions

The UN's need to urgently give priority to nonproliferation and disarmament is becoming more vital as time passes. There are some ideas for actions:

1. Incentives should be given to encourage greater transparency and participation in non-proliferation. The incentives can include assistance for capacity building, sharing resources and prevention of access to WMDs by terrorist groups in their perspective countries
2. Strengthen national measures with the goal to prevent terrorists from gaining access to WMD's by cutting of there means of delivery and all technology, materials that help with there manufacturing
3. States to work together to pool intelligence and law enforcement efforts.
4. As long as countries use WMDs as a source of self protection the access terrorists have to these weapons will be much easier and non proliferation efforts will not be successful.
5. Countries need to ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and implement what the treaty states.

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