Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Topic 1: Improvement of social services and education system in order to prevent radicalization worldwide
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1. Key terms

Radicalization: The process of radicalisation consists in the support of a radical idea that can lead to the use of violence for political goals. any armaments capable of killing indiscriminately a great amount of living and human beings

Social services: Government services provided for the benefit of the community, such as education, medical care and housing.

Extremism: Shows up when an individual who has radical ideas, which are different from the key political ideas, accepts violence legitimated by the goal of propagandizing these ideas. The individual does not necessarily express violence himself.

Terrorism or violent extremism: When a group of individuals who share the same radical political ideals resort to violence and train for it, in order to use it against civilians. Often these victims are not seen by the terrorists as humans. But violence is the last resource when individuals do not see any other possibility to reach their goal.

Racism: 'prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.' Oxford English Dictionary (https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/racism)

Xenophobe: A person having a dislike or prejudice against people from other countries.

2. Introduction

Radicalization has always been a serious problem in history and has not been solved nowadays, yet. In modern society there are two main different significant radical ideas: right-wing extremism and the Islamic extremism.

It is mostly European radicals, but not only, who tend to right-wing extremism, which has caused a lot of disasters during the 20th century, especially in World War II. Its ideals consist in racism, xenophobia and intolerance to differences. Right-wing radicals also believe that there is a strong hierarchical order in a society based on skin colour or religion. Important historical examples of regimes inspired by far-right ideals are the Nazism of Adolf Hitler and the Fascism of Benito Mussolini.

Islamic extremists are more common in the Middle East, but this does not exclude muslims from western countries from joining radical groups such as ISIS or Al-Qaeda. Over 5000 Europeans have moved to Syria or Iran to become a member of such organisations. This type of extremists strictly follow the Muslim religion, especially the ramification of Sunni Islam, which follows the Koran literally. All the ones who do not believe in their religion are enemies. A famous example of how Islamic terrorism can cause a massacre is the attack on the Twin Towers, which caused the death of 2974 civilians.

There are a lot of different reasons why young people lean to radicalisation. There's often a connection and collision of these factors:
- ○ Poverty
- ○ Social exclusion
- ○ Extremist influences
- ○ An event or a series of traumatic events
- ○ Recent political or religious conversion
- ○ Identity confusion
- ○ Conflict with the family about lifestyle, religion, political view, …

- ○ Victim of religious or racial discrimination
- ○ Peer pressure.

Like these different causes show, radicalization has a lot of faces and is always different. But there are some traits which are recurrent.

The first common treat is that future radical people start unfollowing the key political ideals and values the citizens of a country live under. Therefore they imagine a future society based on their radical ideals. From just an imagination this can become a society they want to reach and if they think the only way to transform the society they live in in the one they wish is the use of violence, they will use it. This is terrorism.

As all the causes of radicalization come from the society and situation they live in, social services and education are a discriminant in this issue.

3. Timeline of the events

- ○ On 15th January 2016, the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism was presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary General of the UN.
- ○ On 12th February 2016, the General Assembly considered the initiative of the Secretary General and adopted a resolution that takes note of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which completed its general debate on the 16th February 2016 by member states.
- ○ On 6th – 7th April 2016, the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism – The Way Forward, which was hosted by the United Nations partnering with the Government of Switzerland, took place in Geneva. It allowed the debate of the General Assembly on February to continue and highlighted the major push factors to Violent Extremism and built actions to support the Plan of Action of the Secretary General.
- ○ On 1st July 2016, the General Assembly of the UN adopted resolution (A/RES/70/291) in support of the Global Counter-Terrorism strategy, as well as the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as it reinforced member states to reach global consensus to implement actions regarding preventing and combating terrorism.
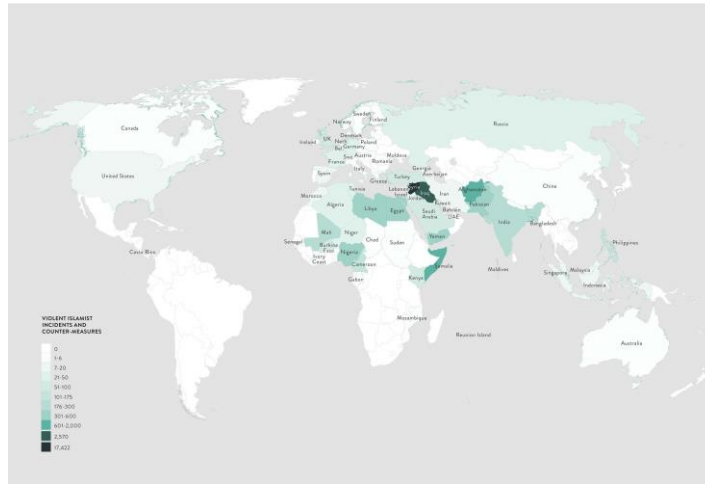
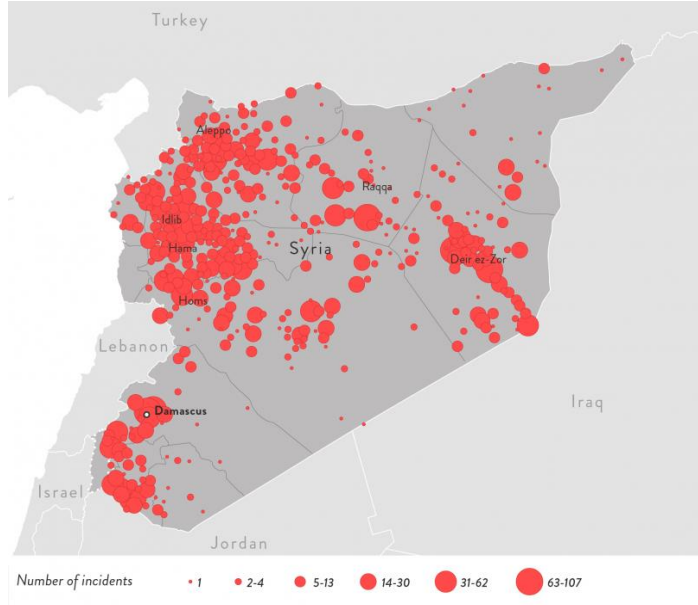*Countries Affected by Violent Islamist Extremism, 2017*
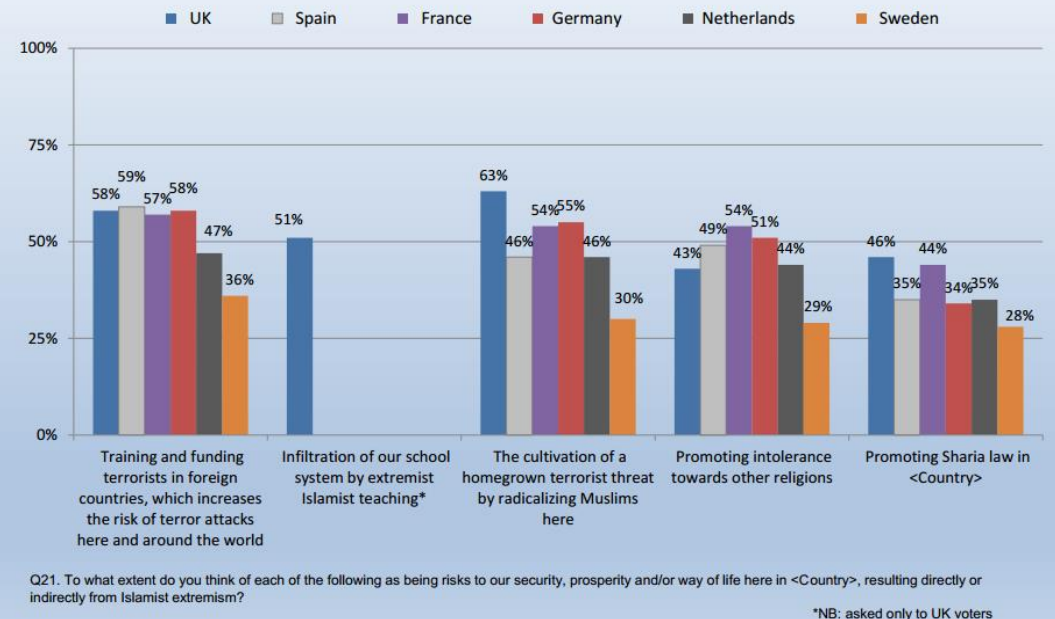
4. Major parties involved:

○ **Syria:**

Number of incidents   • 1   • 2-4   ● 5-13   ● 14-30   ● 31-62   ● 63-107

Syria is the country with the highest number of Islamist extremists. There are 29 violent extremist groups which use religion as an excuse for terrorist attacks in the cities and in refugee camps. In the year 2017 about 18,000 incidents were caused by violent islamists, 44% of those had connections with ISIS.
These actions caused about 8,000 deaths.

○ **Somalia:**

Number of incidents   • 1-5   • 6-10   ● 11-25   ● 26-50   ● 51-100   ● 101-200   ● 201-230
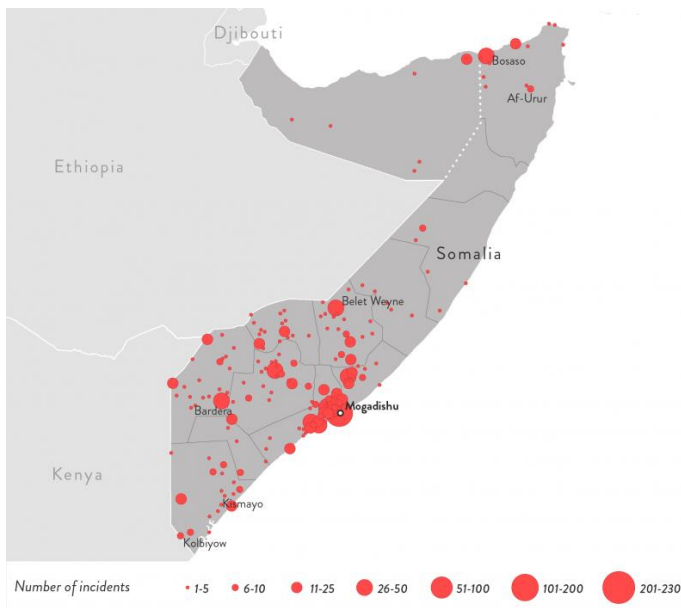
Somalia is the African country with the highest rate of violent islamic extremism.
Over 4,000 crimes were committed by the jihadi group al-Shabaab.
This group was considered as a terrorist group in year 2010. The Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is searching for solutions   to combat al-Shabaab. In year 2017 it killed 750 people, mostly local clan leaders or government officials and 61 of these deaths were assassinations.

○ **India:**

In India there is a strong division between Muslims and Hindus. Some Indians join the radical group Daesh. The consequences of this are the hate for the Hindu majority which they think causes every problem of the country. The reason of the increase of Muslim extremists is the proximity with the middle East. Many Indians migrate there and so they join the extremist groups. Therefore when they go back to India they carry them over in their country.

○ **United States of America:**

In 2008 the first black president Barack Obama was elected. Everyone thought he could break the barrier of the racial discrimination, but actually racism has increased in the USA. Online and on the streets the hate for black people has increased. In the last ten years the situation has got even worse, many people are part of radical groups which are called by Trump "alternative right", but have actually connections with neo-Nazis and neo-KKK. These organisations are as dangerous as ISIS and must be opposed openly. This is really confusing for a country which feels offended by Islamic extremists.

An example for right wing terrorism happened a few months ago when a man killed 11 persons and left a lot of other wounded in a Jewish community. This was the biggest massacre against Jews in the history of the country. The terrorist was actively posting anti-Semitic comments such as "HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) brings invaders in our country who kill our folks. I cannot assist anymore."

○ **China:**

On the 1st April 2017 a law was established which has the goal to prevent radicalisation and terrorism. This law works only in the autonomy region of Xinjiang.
In China there is a Muslim group composed of about 10,000 people.
This new rules consist in the obligation to send kids to public schools and the conformation of the families to civil marriage.

5. UN involvement

The United Nations plays a huge role in addressing the issue, this includes:

- ○ UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is offering aid to countries in order to implement educational programs to raise awareness of people and youth around Violent Extremism and Terrorism and their main contributors, which is all being done under the framework of Global Citizenship Education and UNESCO Executive Board Decision 197 EX/Decision 46. Furthermore, UNESCO supports national prevention efforts through their action to prevent violent extremism through education (PVE-E) which aims to enhance education systems by providing teachers and all those who are responsible with the correct knowledge and appropriate behaviour to promote critical thinking and global citizenship. Moreover, UNESCO has been active in establishing programs such as the World Heritage Youth Forums to widen the knowledge of the young on cultural and social diversity and the World Heritage Volunteers Initiative which assists the youth in promoting cultural heritage and conserving it as well as building an understanding of other cultures. Adding to that, UNESCO has established online programs including the Diversity Kit which aims at deepening the knowledge of the different cultures and raising awareness on understanding of diversity in cultures, as well as strengthening skills of self-expression and dialogue.
- ○ UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) has the goal of addressing two main subjects regarding the issue of violent extremism: "(1) the rise of violent extremism, using a development and peacebuilding approach firmly grounded in human rights principles, and (2) the need to govern increasingly diverse and multicultural societies, which requires attention to institutions, political and religious ideologies and people and promotion of human rights based approaches." The Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) conducts research regarding the different contributors of Violent Extremism and uses the insights and results of research to build support to combating the issue and strengthen the goal to prevent violent extremism (PVE). Moreover, UNDP has implemented Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) in Iraq in 2015 which was able to reconstruct the area of damage, return displaced Iraqis to their land and prevent the reoccurrence of Violence and terrorism against these Iraqis. This program has received over $900 million dollars by different donors to ensure proper services and security. Also, the UNDP created a Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Development to ensure security and prevent violence in fragile states.
- ○ Resolution (A/RES/70/291) adopted on 1 July 2016,
- ○ Resolution (S/RES/1624) adopted in 2005,
- ○ Resolution (S/RES/2178) adopted in 2014,
- ○ Resolution (A/RES/72/246) adopted in 24 December 2017,
- ○ Report on countering terrorism and extremism (A/HRC/33/29)

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7. Useful links

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