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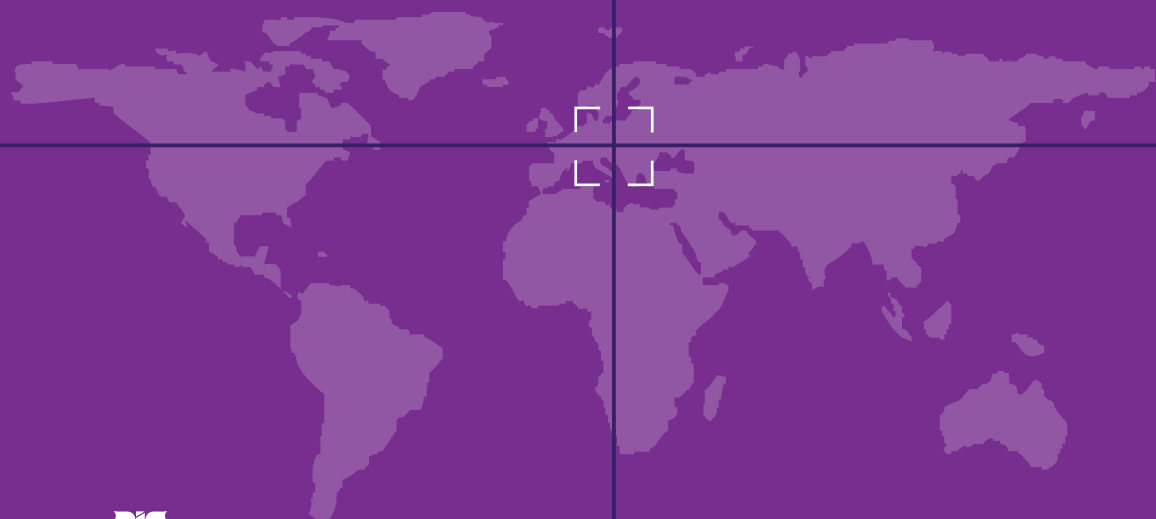


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# Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe

From Common Sense to Evidence-based Policy-making

25-27 SEPTEMBER, 2018 // LJUBLJANA // SLOVENIA



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# **Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe**

**From Common Sense to Evidence-based Policy-making**

**Conference Proceedings**

Editors:

**Gorazd Meško**  
**Branko Lobnikar**  
**Kaja Prislán**  
**Rok Hacin**

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# CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: FROM COMMON SENSE TO EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY-MAKING, CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

*Gorazd Meško, Branko Lobnikar, Kaja Prislan, Rok Hacin*

## ABSTRACT

Starting in 1996 and reconvening for its twelfth session in 2018, the Biennial International Conference Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe addresses contemporary challenges in the field of criminal justice and security by encouraging the exchange of the latest views, concepts, and research findings from criminal justice and security studies among scientist, researchers, and practitioners from all over the globe, mainly from Central and Eastern Europe.

This year's Conference is subtitled From Common Sense to Evidence-based Policy-making. The theme of the Conference covers a wide range of topics related to the policing strategies and criminal justice policy development. Authors contributed more than fifty papers that focus on evidence-based policy-making and evidence-based policing, criminal investigation, penology and punishment, security issues, organised crime and corruption, crime analysis, crime prevention, and legal perspectives.

*Keywords:* conference, criminal justice, security, Central and Eastern Europe, Slovenia

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# FEAR OF TERRORISM – AN EMERGING RESEARCH AGENDA IN BIH

Mile Šikman<sup>1</sup>, Velibor Lalić<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

One of the major features of the phenomenon of terrorism is to intimidate and instill fear in people. These effects are achieved by brutality and the scale of violence which cause anxiety and terror. The fear of terrorism is an important research subject because psychological effects considerably outweigh its physical effects. There is an abundance of papers published in the literature in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) dealing with terrorism. However, there is a lack of research into the fear of terrorism. This paper presents findings from a questionnaire administered to the academic experts in terrorism and members of law enforcement agencies. The aim of the paper is to examine the attitudes based on the participants' professional experience regarding public fear of terrorism and to assess the justification for conducting, and the methodology of, research into the fear of terrorism.

*Keywords:* terrorism, Bosnia and Herzegovina, fear, risk, victims

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## INTRODUCTION

Causing fear is one of the major features of the phenomenon of terrorism. This effect is achieved by brutality, quantity, and type of violence, which cause anxiety and horror on the one hand, while on the other hand terrorism gives an impression of terrorist organizations as being “powerful and strong”, thus proving the authorities’ “inability” to protect its citizens. Thus, “pressure” is created on government bodies, all for the purpose of achieving the terrorist goals. The psychological effects of terrorism considerably outweigh its physical effects, that is, the victim in this case is not limited to the immediate victim of a terrorist attack. Fear is one of the constitutive features of the phenomenon of terrorism. Despite various interpretations and definitions of terrorism, there is a consensus regarding the element of fear (Schmid & Jongman, 1988). Fear is immanent in the phenomenon of terrorism; it is its essence and dominant consequence. Terrorism is a global problem<sup>3</sup> and research into the fear of terrorism is important to gain a deeper understanding of the concept. The entire Western Balkans region may be deemed vulnerable to radicalization and recruitment to terrorism. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism emphasizes that radicalization and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters have recently reached alarming levels (United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, 2017: 108). According to Europol report (Europol, 2017: 5), the conflict in Syria has had an enormous resonance in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia. The estimates demonstrate that

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3 According to the Global Terrorism Index, there has been an increase in the number of countries affected by terrorism over the last years. In 2015, terrorist attacks were carried out in 65 countries, while in 2016 terrorist attacks occurred in 77 countries (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2017: 2). In 2016, 142 terrorist attacks were either carried out or prevented in the European Union. In 2014, 226 terrorist attacks were carried out and 211 attacks in 2015 (Europol, 2017: 11).

more than 800 foreign terrorist fighters from the Western Balkans region traveled to Syria to join the terrorist organization. Some parts of the Western Balkans are particularly prone to radical Islamist ideology promoted by radical preachers or Salafi groups, questioning the traditional dominance of moderate Islam in the region. According to Europol, until recently, the region was considered to be the main hotspots for radicalization, recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters traveling to Syria as well as a well-established and recognized travel route to and from conflict zones in the Middle East (Europol, 2017: 5). BiH, one of the states formed after the breakup of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), is facing the problem of terrorism. Thus, in the period 1992-1995, foreign terrorist fighters guided by the ideology of global jihad participated in the civil war (Schindler, 2007). During the first two decades following the Bosnian war, several terrorist attacks were carried out, while in recent years the focus of attention has shifted to the citizens of BiH traveling to Syria and Iraq to fight. According to Global Terrorist Index, the number of Bosnian citizens that have gone to Syria and Iraq estimated to around 300 (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2015: 47). The return of these fighters to BiH and the further process of radicalization are some of the issues that intensify the fear of terrorism. The topic of terrorism is very current in BiH (Azinović & Jusić, 2016) and has attracted a large amount of media coverage. The problem of terrorism in BiH polarizes the public and by analyzing the content of the media, it is possible to determine a deep polarization of the media space along ethnic lines (Bogdanić, 2009; Cvjetičanin, Sali-Terzić, & Dekić, 2010: 16; Turčilo & Buljubašić, 2014) and quite different perceptions of the problem of terrorism. They range from indifferent attitudes, denial, and minimization, to oversimplifying the problem of individual media coverage and statements made by officials (Aljazeera Balkans, 2016a). Researchers have explored the fear of crime for well over 40 years, so the conceptualization of this notion is thoroughly addressed in the literature. The fear of crime is defined as a construct including emotion (fear of crime), likelihood of risk (perceived risk), and precautionary behaviors (constrained behaviors) (Rader, 2017). As far as research into the fear of terrorism is concerned, it would not attract substantial interest from scholars until many years later, after the September 11 attacks in the United States in 2001 and the declaration of a worldwide war on terror (Aly, 2010; Aly & Green, 2009; Lerner, Gonzales, Small, & Fischhoff, 2003; Marshall, Bryant, Amsel, Suh, Cook, & Neria, 2007; Nellis & Savage, 2012). The review of the literature on terrorism in the languages of the South Slavic peoples, that is, in the languages of the former SFRY, demonstrates that no research into the fear of terrorism has so far been conducted. Also, there is a small number of papers dealing with the fear of crime in the former Yugoslav republics (Đurić & Popović-Čitić, 2012; Ljubičić & Dragišić Labaš, 2010; Meško, Fallshore, Muratbegović, & Fields, 2008). Since no previous research into the fear of terrorism has so far been conducted, meaning we could not use any earlier model as a basis of our study, our research is primarily exploratory in nature. The aim of this paper is to explore the fear of terrorism in BiH perceived by domestic counterterrorism experts. The respondents were asked to express their opinion on the extent to which the fear of terrorism is present in the public and whether there is justification for conducting research pertaining to this issue. The lack of previous research into the fear of terrorism in BiH and the South Eastern European region prevents us from conducting a comparative evaluation of our research findings. The research findings may be the starting point of further, more complex, research that would include ethnic, regional, and other socio-demographic indicators related to the fear of terrorism in BiH.

## TERRORISM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

BiH was one of the six republics of the SFRY, which became independent following the breakup of SFRY<sup>4</sup>. The dissolution of the former state was followed by armed conflicts, which peaked in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period 1992-1995.<sup>5</sup> It is precisely the beginning of these armed conflicts in BiH that may be linked to terrorism, which was then “imported” to the country based on the ideology of the global jihadist movement<sup>6</sup>. Twenty years later, a reversed paradigm occurred when BiH became a country from which fighters led by the same ideology traveled to other countries in the world to participate in armed conflicts. The war in BiH significantly influenced the spread of the ideology of the global jihad (Kohlmann, 2004). Following the end of the war in Afghanistan (1979-1989), BiH was the first country to which Islamist fighters were “imported” with the mission to fulfill Jihad obligations, who would later participate in armed conflicts in Somalia (1993, 2014), Chechnya (1994, 2009), again Afghanistan (2001-2014), Yemen, Indonesia, the Philippines (since 2000), and Syria and Iraq (2012) (Hegghammer, 2011: 53; Schmid, 2015: 3; Šikman, 2018: 119). Prior to this period, the mujahedeen in Afghanistan had defeated rival fractions, while their predecessors headed for “the new hotspots where Islam was threatened, the one in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (Azinović, 2007: 40). With the arrival of the mujahedeen in BiH, the training camps for domicile population were established in which, in addition to military training, religious indoctrination was given a great importance. In 1993, the mujahedeen became part of the 3rd Corps of the Army of BiH, under whose command they had participated in armed conflicts<sup>7</sup> (International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 [ICTY], 2006; ICTY, 2008). There is no accurate data on the number of mujahedeen who participated in the war in BiH and estimates vary. According to Kohlmann (2004: XII) the number of mujahedeen amounted to about 5,000. The arrival of mujahedeen at the Bosnian front had changed the character of the war: the Bosnian war was driven by radical Islam coupled with the ideology of jihad (Guskova, 2013). Additionally, their inhumane and cruel treatment of war prisoners, which included torture, degrading acts, and ritual decapitation, and all the atrocities committed by them were recorded on a videotape. Following the signing the Dayton Peace Agreement (The Office of the High Representative [OHR], 1995), a large number of mujahedeen left BiH, while a number of them remained in the country, where they obtained the citizenship and started families with domicile women. They established

4 The dissolution of the SFRY began in 1991 when Slovenia and Macedonia declared their independence; Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina followed in 1992, and in 2003, the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia ceased to exist.

5 All three ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the conflict, which fought one another at different times during the war. The war officially ended with the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement on November 21 1995 under which Bosnia and Herzegovina was divided into two entities and the Brcko District.

6 The global jihadist movement consists of organizations, regional and local cells, and sometimes individuals, who advocate the radical ideology of jihad or holy war (Gunaratana & Orega, 2015: 1). It is believed that the movement, which was based on the idea of pan-Islamism, originated in the 1980s and it has “produced” foreign fighters who still operate today in a somewhat altered form of Al Qaeda (Hegghammer, 2011: 56).

7 This has been confirmed by the judgments of the International Tribunal for War Crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia (Hague Tribunal) in Case No. IT-01-47-T of 15 March 2006 and Case No.: IT-04-83- T of 8 September 2009, containing a special chapter which describes “Mujahedeen” (pp. 124-258) and “Mujahedeen forces” (pp. 51-62) (ICTY, 2006; ICTY, 2008).

closed religious unions, the so-called quasi jamaats,<sup>8</sup> mainly in isolated areas, where they practiced a stricter version of salafism than the one professed in Saudi Arabia, the home of Salafism (Bećirević, 2016: 36). A number of them do not advocate violence and simply want to live their lives according to their interpretation of Islam (Bećirević, 2016: 39), while others, according to the BiH Ministry of Security (2010), have focused their activities on spreading radical religious ideology and recruiting new members (Ministry of Security of BiH, 2017: 30). This view may be corroborated by the fact that all the terrorist acts having occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1997 are linked to the activities committed by members these communities (Bećirević, 2016: 18). The following attacks have been carried out: the terrorist attack in Mostar (1997), the planning of terrorist attacks by the so-called “Algerian groups” (2001), a triple murder motivated by religious-ideological initiatives in Konjic (2002), the planning of terrorist attacks in Sarajevo (2005), or in BiH (2007, 2008), the terrorist attack on the police station in Bugojno (2010), the activation of an explosive device in Zenica (2011), the terrorist attack on the US Embassy building in Sarajevo (2011), the terrorist attack on the police station in Zvornik (2015), the killing of two members of the Armed Forces of BiH (2015), including the dismantling of an explosive device at the police station in Zavidovići (2015) (Šikman, 2018: 124). For some of the cases referred to in this paper, it was determined by the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the perpetrators who committed these criminal offenses acted on grounds of “ethnic and religious extremism and radicalism” (Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2011) and in accordance with the idea that a “Sharia state governed by Sharia law should be violently established in BiH” (Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2013), and such behavior is reflected in disobeying the Constitution and laws of BiH along with the institutions responsible for the implementation of these laws (Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2011). Finally, BiH became the country of origin of the ideology of the global jihadist movement, since its citizens are involved in jihad in Syria and Iraq, fighting on the side of terrorist organizations, such as the Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and al-Nusra Front (Šikman, 2018: 124). Some of them took their families with them to Syria and Iraq, others were killed in armed conflicts, whereas some returned to their home country (Azinović & Jusić, 2016). Some of them were convicted of joining ISIL and received very low sentences (up to one year in prison), but most of them were released from prison in 2017. According to the assessments of the BiH Ministry of Security (2017: 30), fighters returning home from the Syrian and Iraqi battlefields still pose a significant and long-term security threat to BiH and the region, including the member states of the European Union (Europol, 2017: 33). Not only is such a threat completely justified, but it also creates fear among the citizens for several reasons. First, it is about individuals with experience in handling firearms and explosives which they have acquired over the course of armed conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Second, the level of their radicalism has remained high, meaning that these individuals have the power to continue spreading radical ideology and to recruit new supporters. Foreign fighters returning from war zones often use media to promote their agenda, which fuels the fear of terrorism and cause alarm among the citizens. Being faced with the problem of terrorism, BiH has taken certain steps to suppress it. Thus, as a member of the international coalition against terrorism, BiH participates in the work of international organizations regarding this issue, accepts international documents, and so on. Nevertheless, these efforts are mostly reflected in criminal legislation, which is characterized by extremely light punishments. On the other hand, there is an evident absence of serious

8 According to the data available in BiH, there are 22 quasi jamaats which refuse to integrate into the Islamic Community (Aljazeera Balkans, 2016b).



and systematic measures to deradicalize members of the Wahhabi/Selafi community and solve the problem in this way. This attitude is best corroborated by the fact that many people after serving their prison sentence for terrorism continued with the same ideology and further terrorist activities, while others continued to radicalize the prison population itself<sup>9</sup>.

## METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this paper, we used, as a methodological model, an investigation into the fear of crime in the cities of the former Yugoslav republics (Đurić & Popović-Čitić, 2012), having adjusted the instrument to our research object. We proceeded from the fact that terrorism is a form of criminal behavior, regardless of its specificity in relation to other types of crime. Considering terrorism in BiH, experts in terrorism often make public statements regarding this issue. Therefore, the aim of our research is to address the views of experts in terrorism, both academics and practitioners employed in law enforcement agencies dealing with the suppression of terrorism. Due to the lack of previous research into the fear of terrorism, we conducted a pilot study and more qualitative research with in-depth interviews needs to be carried out in the future.

For the purpose of this research, a questionnaire comprising five groups of statements was designed (with a total of 22 statements). The first group of statements refers to the respondents' attitudes toward general issues related to terrorism in BiH and the prevalence of the fear of terrorism in relation to other types of crime, while the second, third and fourth group of statements relate to affective, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of the fear of terrorism. The fifth group of statements refers to the justification for investigating the fear of terrorism in BiH. For the operationalization of affective, cognitive, and behavioral dimensions, we used the existing definitions in literature (Đurić & Popović-Čitić, 2012). Đurić and Popović-Čitić (2012) define the affective dimension as an individual sense of being threatened in certain situations. The authors refer to previous research which, according to the affective dimension of crime, dominantly emphasizes the emotional reactions of an individual to possible victimization (Beaulieu, Dubé, Bergeron, & Cousineau, 2007), the connection between the intensity of emotions and fear of crime (Jackson, 2005), including the correlation of hypothetical situations of vulnerability to crime and the level of fear of crime (Ferguson & Mindel, 2007). Đurić and Popović-Čitić (2012) view the cognitive or evaluative dimension as the probability of victimization in a certain period, that is, the subjective examination of the personal risk of victimization in the environment, referring to previous studies addressing this issue (Gabriel & Greve, 2003; Ljubičić & Dragišić-Labaš, 2010), including the severity of the consequences of potential victimization (Jackson, 2005). Regarding the behavioral dimension of the fear of crime, Đurić and Popović-Čitić (2012) consider behavior in terms of using security measures to protect themselves from criminal offenses. Regarding this segment, the authors started with the previous research into the fear of crime, which implies taking individual proactive measures to avoid potential victimization (Beaulieu, Dubé, Bergeron, & Cousineau, 2007; Gabriel & Greve, 2003). The respondents were asked to express their agreement or disagreement to the specified statements using Likert's five-point scale, where (1) represents the lowest level of non-agreement (I strongly

<sup>9</sup> Thus, according to available information, one of the Wahhabi leaders, while serving the seven-year prison sentence, recruited 30 inmates who, in accordance with the Wahhabi movement's rules, changed their physical appearance, shortened their trousers and grew their beards, and now express their religious needs in the form of everyday prayers and teachings unrecognized by the Islamic Community of BiH (Nezavisne novine, 2017).

disagree) and (5) the highest level of agreement with the specified statement (I strongly agree). A total of 15 experts in terrorism suppression participated as respondents in the survey.<sup>10</sup> The sample consisted of six university experts in terrorism and nine experts, that is, practitioners, employed in law enforcement agencies at the entity and state level (Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska, cantonal ministries of the interior, SIPA,<sup>11</sup> OSA<sup>12</sup>), a total of 9 respondents. The respondents' years of experience in the area of terrorism range from 5 to 25 years. When compiling the sample, we took into account the uniform organizational and territorial representation of the respondents, meaning the respondents were representatives of institutions at the BiH level, as well as the Republika Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entities. Also, when selecting the respondents from the academic community, we took into account geographical equilibrium, so the representatives of the academic community from the universities in Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar were included in the research. The criterion for the selection of respondents within the academic community was their scientific references in the area of terrorism, while for practitioners the criterion was the position at the organization and years of experience in the prevention and suppression of terrorism. After having selected the potential respondents, they were contacted by telephone and asked to complete a questionnaire sent to them by e-mail. The analysis of data collected by the survey was based on the application of the descriptive statistics method.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### GENERAL CLAIMS ON TERRORISM IN BIH

*Statement 1: BiH is affected by terrorism.* The highest percentage of respondents (40%) agreed that BiH is affected by terrorism, while 27% strongly agreed. Of the total number of the respondents, 20% neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement, while 13% of the respondents disagreed. Attitudes regarding the presence of terrorism in BiH vary. Although the majority of the respondents believe that BiH is facing the problem of terrorism, the percentage of respondents with opposite views is alarming and they believe that the problem of terrorism is not expressed or it does not exist. In the public discourse, opinions on the problem of terrorism in BiH are different. As it has already been stated, the views range from over exaggeration to denial of the phenomenon. Our research findings are somewhat similar to that of other studies, meaning opinions are mixed on this issue. It should be noted that this group of respondents consist of experts studying the phenomenon of terrorism either as academics or members of law enforcement agencies. They have theoretical knowledge and practical experience regarding the phenomenon of terrorism, unlike other citizens who do not have professional knowledge. Terrorist acts have occurred in BiH and the problem of persons returning from the battlefields in Syria is very current, thereby the views of experts who deny the problem of terrorism in BiH are questionable.

*Statement 2: Terrorism poses a threat to security, peace, and stability in BiH.* The majority of respondents (47%) strongly agreed that terrorism poses a threat to security, peace and

10 According to generally accepted views, the optimal expert team consists of 10-15 domain experts. In discussing the formation of an expert team, Ratko Zelenika (2000: 39), among other things, argues that "If one takes into account the average error of an expert team and the average degree of reliability of an individual expert in such a team along with the results confirmed by this method in practice, the optimal number of experts in a team should be 10-15 experts".

11 State Investigation and Protection Agency

12 Intelligence-Security Agency

stability in BiH, while 27% agreed with this statement. Only a small number of respondents (20%) had a neutral attitude toward this issue, that is, they neither agreed nor disagreed. Only 7% of respondents disagreed that terrorism poses a threat to security, peace, and stability in BiH. It should be noted that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with this statement. The analysis of the responses to this statement indicates that the majority of respondents think that terrorism in BiH poses a serious security problem that can negatively affect peace and stability in BiH.

*Statement 3: In relation to other forms of crime such as organized crime, corruption, major crimes, terrorism poses a major security problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina.* The highest percentage of respondents disagreed with this statement. The large majority of respondents (60%) disagreed, while 13% of strongly disagreed. Only 7% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement. Only a minority of the total number of respondents believe that terrorism poses a higher security problem than other forms of crime. In this respect, 7% of respondents agreed and 13% of respondents strongly agreed that terrorism is a major security problem in BiH. Considering the overall responses, we may conclude that the majority of respondents do not think that terrorism in BiH presents a major security problem in relation to organized crime, corruption, and major crimes in BiH, while a small number of respondents held an opposite view. These attitudes are somewhat contradictory to the aforementioned opinions, because the respondents stated that terrorism is considered a problem for the peace and stability of BiH, which cannot be said about other forms of threats, such as organized crime, corruption, or general major crimes.

*Statement 4: Bosnia and Herzegovina responds properly to terrorism.* The majority of respondents (53%) agreed that BiH responds properly to the problem of terrorism. However, none of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement. 13% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement, while 33% of respondents disagreed that BiH responds properly to terrorism in BiH. It is also important to note that none of the respondents disagreed with the above-mentioned statement. From what has been said above we may conclude that the dominant opinions of the respondents are that BiH adequately counter terrorism, although a significant, but a smaller number of them held an opposite view.

*Statement 5: Citizens acquire information on terrorism.* Regarding this statement, the majority of respondents indicate that citizens often acquire information on terrorism through the media.

## **AFFECTIVE OR EMOTIONAL DIMENSION OF THE FEAR OF TERRORISM**

*Statement 1: The citizens of BiH fear terrorism.* Regarding the affective or emotional dimension of terrorism, the starting point is whether the citizens of BiH fear terrorism. The highest percentage of respondents (53%) agreed with this statement while 7% strongly agreed. Other 7% of respondents held a neutral view, that is, they neither agreed nor disagreed, 27% disagree, and 7% strongly disagree with this statement. Based on the findings, we may conclude that the majority of the respondents believe that the fear of terrorism is present with the BiH citizens, although there are views that there is no fear of terrorism in BiH. Such distribution of respondents is expected given the previously mentioned polarization regarding the problems of terrorism in BiH.

*Statement 2: the terrorist acts carried out so far in BiH have created fear of terrorism among the general public.* Regarding this statement, the prevailing attitude is that the terrorist acts carried out in BiH have created a sense of fear of terrorism among the public. The largest percentage of

respondents (47%) agreed, while 20% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement. The findings indicate that neutral attitudes (20%) are present as well as a several attitudes denying such a statement. In this regard, 7% of respondents disagreed, while 6% strongly disagreed with this statement. The survey findings corroborate the statement that the terrorist acts carried out so far in BiH have a negative impact on the perceptions of security and that they incited fear of terrorism in the citizens.

*Statement 3: There is fear in the public in BiH of future terrorist acts.* The vast majority of respondents believe that there is fear in the public of BiH about future terrorist acts. The highest percentage of respondents (40%) agreed with this statement, while 7% of respondents strongly agreed. However, the respondents' attitudes are mixed. In this regard, 33% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, 13% disagreed, while 7% strongly disagreed. Based on the survey findings, we may conclude that the acts committed by the terrorists have influenced the perceptions and anticipation of future terrorist acts, creating a sense of fear among the citizens. This perception has been expected, given that one of the key features of terrorism is the impact on citizens to achieve the set goals.

*Statement 4: Fear of terrorism is justified considering the existing situation in BiH.* 47% of the respondents agreed with this statement and 7% strongly agreed. While more than 50% of the respondents believe that the situation regarding the terrorist threats in BiH is such as to generate justifiable fear, 26% of respondents strongly disagreed with this statement, 13% disagreed, while 7% neither agreed nor disagreed. Although most of the respondents believe that the fear of terrorism is justified considering the existing situation in BiH, our findings indicate that attitudes toward this issue are somewhat different.

*Statement 5: The government response to terrorism increases the fear of terrorism in BiH.* Terrorism creates fear by its violent approach, but giving great importance to countering terrorism by government authorities and can negatively affect the citizens' perceptions of terrorism and intensify the fear of it. The survey findings demonstrate different attitudes toward this statement. The highest percentage of respondents disagrees with this statement, 27% strongly disagree, while 13% generally disagree, 27% neither agree nor disagree, 20% generally agree, with 13% of respondents who strongly agree.

## COGNITIVE DIMENSION OF THE FEAR OF TERRORISM

*Rating question 1: Based on your personal assessments, how high is the level of the terrorist threat in BiH?* Regarding the level of the threat, the highest percentage of respondents (57%) chose Level 3 (on a scale of 1-5) of the terrorist threat in BiH, which is referred to as the middle level of threat. A small percentage of respondents (27%) chose Level 4, while only 7% of respondents believe that the level of terrorist threat is high in BiH (Level1), and the same percentage of respondents (7%) believe that the level is very high. Only 6% of respondents think that the level of terrorist threat is very low.

*Statement 2: The likelihood of a terrorist attack.* The respondents were asked to rate the likelihood of a terrorist attack on individual objects of the attack. The members of the military and the police were specified by the respondents as the possible object of the terrorist attack. Such an attitude may be explained by the terrorist attacks in BiH where the members of the police and the army were targeted. The next possible objects of the attack are diplomatic missions, which has already occurred in BiH. Respondents listed a high level of threat, followed by public places, manifestations, government institutions, while educational institutions were listed by respondents as the lowest level of threat.

*Statement 3: Extremism and radicalization of certain social groups increase the terrorism threat level in BiH.* The highest percentage of respondents (60%) strongly agreed that extremism and radicalization increase the terrorism threat level in BiH, while 27% generally agree. None of the respondents strongly disagreed with this statement.

*Statement 4: A potential terrorist attack in Bosnia and Herzegovina would lead to destabilization and increase ethnic tensions.* 40% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement, 40% agreed, 7% neither agreed nor disagreed, 13% disagreed, while none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. The findings indicate that potential terrorist attacks in BiH would worsen the security situation and result in an increase in ethnic tensions.

## **BEHAVIORAL DIMENSION OF THE FEAR OF TERRORISM**

*Statement 1: The fear of terrorism in Bosnia and Herzegovina has changed the habits and behavior of people.* The majority of respondents (74%) mainly disagreed that the fear of terrorism has changed the habits and behavior of people, 13% strongly disagree, while 13% neither agree nor disagree. From the above we may conclude that the respondents' attitudes toward the fear of terrorism did not significantly affect the habits and behavior of the citizens of BiH.

*Statement 2: Citizens avoid crowded places due to the fear of terrorism.* The answers to this statement are very similar to the previous statement that terrorism has not changed the habits and behavior of people. This is also the case with the claim that citizens avoiding crowded places due to a fear of terrorism. Of the total number of respondents, 40% strongly disagree, 47% disagree, 7% neither agree nor disagree, while only 6% of respondents agree. None of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement. We may conclude that on the basis of the survey findings that citizens do not avoid crowded places due to the fear of terrorism.

*Statement 3: Due to the fear of terrorism, citizens avoid contact with radicalized individuals and groups.* The large majority of respondents (66%) agreed that citizens avoid contact with radicalized individuals and groups due to the fear of terrorism, 27% of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, while 7% strongly disagreed. None of the respondents disagreed or strongly agreed with this statement. There are radical Islamist groups in BiH, the so-called quasi jamaat, which are beyond the jurisdiction and control of the Islamic Community of BiH. Although it is evident from the respondents' views that the citizens of BiH have not significantly changed their habits and behavior, the views on this issue indicate that a significant percentage of respondents still believe that citizens avoid contact with these groups and that the reason for such behavior is the fear of these radical groups and their activities. There is no real explanation for the mixed views on the issue of habits and behavior, considering that all terrorist attacks are connected with the actions of the quasi jamaats in BiH.

*Statement 4: Due to the fear of terrorism, citizens avoid traveling to countries with high threat of terrorism.* The views on this issue are mixed. The large majority of respondents (40%) agreed with the statement, while 7% neither agreed nor disagreed. However, 27% of respondents disagreed, while other 27% agreed with the above statement. Thus, we may conclude that, according to a portion of the respondents, the citizens of BiH avoid traveling to countries with high threat of terrorism due to the fear of terrorism.

## **RESEARCH INTO THE FEAR OF TERRORISM**

*Statement 1: Research into the fear of terrorism in BiH is useful and needed.* 67% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement, while 27% agreed. Only 6% of respondents disagreed

with the statement. We may conclude that the respondents' attitudes confirm that research into the fear of terrorism is useful and needed.

*Statement 2: Research into the fear of terrorism may contribute to a better understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism in BiH.* Respondents' attitudes toward this issue are very similar to the attitudes regarding the previous statement; therefore, we may conclude that research into the fear of terrorism may contribute to a better understanding of this phenomenon in BiH.

*Statement 3: Developing a methodology and conducting longitudinal research into the fear of terrorism in BiH would contribute to developing a comprehensive action plan for countering terrorism.* Similarly to the previous statements, the high percentage of respondents (60%) strongly agreed with this statement, while 40% agreed. The investigation of fear of terrorism would contribute to developing a comprehensive action plan for countering terrorism.

*Statement 4: Research into the fear of terrorism would further increase the level of fear in citizens.* The highest percentage of the respondents (53%) strongly disagreed that research into the fear of terrorism would further increase the level of fear in citizens, while 27% disagree. We may, therefore, conclude that research into the fear of terrorism would not increase the level of fear of terrorism in citizens.

The research findings indicate that there is agreement about certain issues but also disagreement about important issues. There is general consensus that the media plays a pivotal role in informing the public about terrorism and terrorist threats. There is also agreement about radicalization and extremism as factors increasing the level of terrorist threats in BiH. There is agreement among respondents that terrorism in BiH has not affected the citizens' daily habits and that research into the fear of terrorism is useful and may contribute to a better understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism. Additionally, there is some disagreement about key issues, primarily whether BiH has been affected by terrorism, whether it represents a serious security threat, and how BiH responds to terrorism. Also, there is some disagreement about the fear of terrorism in the BiH public and its justification.

## CONCLUSION

In this pilot study, we have considered how domestic experts in the field of countering terrorism perceived the problem of the fear of terrorism. Terrorism is an important topic in BiH, both in the professional circles and the public. BiH has faced specific terrorist attacks along with the problem of BiH citizens traveling to Syria and Iraq to fight. The research findings demonstrate that the experts agree about some issues but strongly disagree about key issues.

Based on the views of the large majority of respondents, the survey findings indicate that BiH is facing the problem of terrorism and that the fear of terrorism is present. Terrorism poses a threat to peace and stability in BiH. However, although, according to the majority of respondents, BiH is facing the problem, terrorism does not present a major security problem in relation to other forms of crime, especially organized crime, which is to a certain extent contradictory to previously stated findings. In fact, this distribution of respondents is expected. This thesis is based on the fact that the BiH society is deeply divided over many issues, which does not make this an exception. This leads us to conclude that such a serious problem is actually politicized, giving rise to biased and unprofessional debates.

Regarding the affective or emotional dimension of the fear of terrorism, the survey findings demonstrate that fear is present in the general public and that terrorist acts have intensified the existing fear of terrorism and the fear of possible new terrorist attacks.

Regarding the cognitive dimension of the fear of terrorism and the likelihood of victimization and consequences, the research findings indicate a moderate level of the likelihood of terrorist attacks in BiH, and that members of military and police along with diplomatic missions are at the highest level of risk. According to the respondents' views, new terrorist acts would lead to the deterioration of the security situation the security situation and an increase in ethnic tensions in BiH. Regarding the behavioral dimension of fear of terrorism, we may, based on the research findings, conclude that terrorism in BiH has not affected the habits and behavior of the people, although certain level of fear exists in the citizens of BiH when traveling to countries where terrorist attacks have been carried out. There are radical Islamic groups in BiH, but citizens generally avoid these groups.

The findings demonstrate that an investigation into fear is needed to gain a better understanding of this phenomenon in BiH and undertake appropriate measures to counter it. In fact, understanding fear of terrorism may, on the one hand, contribute to overcoming, that is, neutralizing the negative effects of terrorism and understanding this phenomenon, on the other.

In the future, qualitative research should be carried out with in-depth interviews with experts along with quantitative research that would include ethnic, regional and other socio-demographic indicators related to the fear of terrorism in BiH. These research findings should contribute to a better understanding of the fear of terrorism and help to develop more effective policies for the prevention of terrorism in BiH.

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