



POSMUN 2022

Security Council

Resurfacing of extremist groups in
Western Europe: prevention and
combat against terrorism

Otto von Maltzan and Felipe Rucker

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01. Greeting letter

Esteemed delegates,

We are going to serve as your chairs and are pleased to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council of POSMUN 2022. It is truly a pleasure to be able to chair the UNSC and welcome you into this relevant and urgent discussion. Before diving into the topic, though, we wanted to tell you a little bit about ourselves.

Hello, my name is Otto von Maltzan and I couldn't be more excited to take part as a Chair in POSMUN 2022 after attending last year's edition as a delegate. Concerning my personal life, I'm currently taking the Abitur (12th grade) at Colégio Visconde de Porto Seguro. Since a child, along with my passion for debating, I have always had a special interest in international politics. Naturally, diplomacy and news revolving around international relations were always very captivating for me. Now that you know me a little better, please don't hesitate to contact me or my vice-chair Felipe Rucker, if any help is needed!

Sincerely,

Otto Friedrich von Maltzan Pacheco, Chair of the Security Council

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Dear delegates,

Whether you are first-timers or already experienced participants of MUN simulations, it is our pleasure to welcome you all to the 2022 Security Council. My name is Felipe Junger Rucker, and I'll be your vice-chair during this council's debate regarding the resurfacing of extremist and terrorist groups in western Europe. I am currently in the last year of my Abitur and, up until now, I have taken part in one POSMUN, representing the sudanese delegation in this same committee. My experience, as we hope yours will be too, was incredible. The opportunity to participate in POSMUN not only expanded my repertoire on new topics, but also made it possible for me to meet new people in atypical scenarios.

Therefore, our main goal throughout this three-day debate session is to make this experience as pleasant and comfortable to you as possible, while also instigating a thought-provoking and challenging debate. With that being said, we're available to any questions you might have. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Felipe Junger Rucker, Vice-Chair of the Security Council

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The chair and vice-chair strongly recommend the delegates to read this guidebook thoroughly and use it as an initial research tool, but also to research and find information beyond it, seeking a better and more complete understanding of every delegation's position in this matter.

It should also be noted the importance of mutual cooperation, respecting the morals and values of all countries present and always bearing in mind that the U.N. was created to collectively make the world a better and safer place. Lastly, they urge the elaboration of a resolution that aims at a consensus between the majority of delegations present in the council.

02. Introduction letter

The United Nations Security Council is primarily responsible for the preservation of world-wide peace and security. Accordingly, this committee's major goal is to develop a forward-thinking and thought-provoking debate that leads, ultimately, to a suitable resolution to the respective problematic being discussed.

In 2022, the Security Council will be discussing the complexity revolving the resurfacing of terrorist groups in western Europe and the consequent prevention and combat against terrorism needed in this region. In this context, it is of great importance to analyze the historical context behind this issue - including socio-economic, cultural and political regional dynamics - when developing a fitting resolution regarding the contemporary situation in this area. Only so, will the delegates be able to take the sociocultural roots of the western Europe into consideration, while hoping to solve a problem that



demands both regional and international awareness.

Therefore, this council seeks a reasonable resolution that aims for a peaceful environment, while ending and preventing all acts of terrorism, precisely those originated in Western Europe by terrorist-extremist groups. Lastly, we, as chairs, expect and hope that these matters will be achieved within our three-day sessions, through fruitful, intriguing, and thought-provoking debates.

For your reference, the majority of the data used in the production of this study guide was published between 2019 and 2020, but for the sake of your research, we'll be allowing a time period of ten years to make it easier for you to find information about your respective delegations.

03. Committee history

Founded in October 1945, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. Its major purpose is to maintain peace and security throughout the world; therefore, the council may meet whenever harmony is threatened, as described in the UN Charter. Differently from the other organs, where all the decisions are seen as recommendations to the member nations, the security council has the power to make obligatory decisions that all the affiliate states must follow.

The UNSC is built by 15 members in which just 5 are permanent (the so-called P5) based on the UN Charter: United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia, France, and China. These five countries have the power of veto, which gives them the ability to block any substantive draft resolution regardless of the other's approval. The other



non-permanent members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for two years terms and can't be reelected directly after their term.

As defined in the UN Charter, the Security Council may investigate any circumstance which may lead to a risk to international peace and recommends finding peaceful solutions to whatever issue is in debate. If necessary, this council has all the power to interrupt economic relations as well as take military actions and interventions if necessary, but always aiming for global harmony. Just in a few moments in history military interventions were authorized: in the Congo Crisis and in the Korean war, as well as peacekeeping operations in the Suez Crisis.

04. Topic overview

a) Introduction to the topic

Since September 11th, a spectre has been haunting the world: international terrorism, a blind, murderous force that is at once a direct product and the implacable enemy of globalisation, has shattered the serenity of our democracies. Apart from the urgent need to protect civil populations that now find themselves in the front line, terrorism is confronting democracies with two major problems. Firstly, on the strategic level, the traditional rules of the game no longer apply. Faced with a threat that is by its very nature anonymous, non-state and unpredictable, it is almost impossible to construct a defensive system based on a prediction or anticipation of the adversary's policy, difficulting the success of the traditional responses that relied on discussion and negotiation.



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Secondly, on the psychological level, international terrorism tends to produce extreme reactions of either hyperbole or denial: on the one hand, it develops a general propensity to regard terrorism as the sole frame of reference for the complexity of the world and influence people to live in constant fear because of it; on the other, a certain level of scepticism regarding the reality or the imminence of these threats. For instance, the events of 9/11 moved all Europeans, but were never truly understood for what they really were: the return of the war to the most developed societies. Thus, the emotions quickly gave away to the belief that an isolated event had taken place, or at least one that would not be repeated on the same scale, even though terrorism was already and had already created roots in the European territory at this time.

In this context, western Europe grew as a potential target for terrorist groups, given this region's and its countries' international influence and relevance. For instance, the terrorist group known as ISIS continues to project its influence by fomenting attacks against symbolic European targets and public spaces, and recruiting from European countries. Most of these incidents occurred in Western Europe and Russia and involved simple plots with easily executable tactics.

b) Current situation

When it comes to the current situation regarding terrorism in Europe, there are three main threats taking place in European territory: **left-wing terrorism**, **right-wing terrorism** and, in its vast majority, **jihadist terrorism**. In the year of 2020 alone, within the EU, 21 people



died as a result of terrorist attacks and at least 54 people were injured. The deaths were the result of one right-wing terrorist attack (9) and six jihadist terrorist attacks (12). In the UK, three people lost their lives in a jihadist-inspired terrorist attack. Alongside, a total of 449 individuals were reported to have been arrested on suspicion of terrorism-related offences in the EU. Furthermore, the UK reported 185 arrests.

Although **left-wing terrorism** in Europe is not as dominant, it still threatens and concerns States within the EU. In 2020, 24 terrorist attacks in the EU were perpetrated by left-wing organisations or individuals, all of which occurring in Italy. Left-wing terrorist groups seek to trigger violent revolution against the political, social and economic system of a state, in order to introduce socialism and eventually establish a communist and classless society. On that matter, Anarchist terrorism is also categorized as a left-wing ideology for its characteristic pursuit of a revolutionary, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian agenda.

Right-wing terrorism shares a long history of conflicts with European States. As of for recent events, particularly in 2020, there was one completed, one failed and two foiled right-wing terrorist attacks that were reported by Belgium, France and Germany. Nine people were killed in the successful attack and arrests of suspects planning to commit terrorist or violent extremist attacks were made in several EU Member States within the same year. Right-wing is often linked to supremacism or the idea that a certain group of people sharing a common element (nation, race, culture, etc.) is superior to all other people. Right-wing extremist groups are known for self radicalized individuals of very young age, united by a shared ideology and



worldview, and loosely connected through online channels, forums and platforms.

Jihadist terrorism has been one of Europe's major problems in the 21st century, although the problematic has dramatically deteriorated since 2015. The new wave of Islamist attacks are known as a violent sub-current of Salafism, a revivalist Sunni Muslim movement that rejects democracy and elected parliaments, arguing that human legislation is at variance with God's status as the sole lawgiver. Jihadists aim to create an Islamic state governed exclusively by Islamic law (shari'a), as interpreted by them.

The EU suffered 10 completed jihadist terrorist attacks in 2020, in which 12 people were killed in Austria, France and Germany. More than 47 people were injured. An additional four attacks were foiled in Belgium, France and Germany. The UK reported three jihadist terrorist attacks (one of which led to three people being killed), and two thwarted plots. Major representatives of jihadist groups are the al-Qaeda network and the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) terrorist group.

FTOs (Foreign Terrorist Organizations) such as al-Qaeda and IS (also known as ISIS), are directly and indirectly responsible for the majorities of attacks within Europe. Directly, when it comes to planned attacks, executed by recruited and trained terrorist linked to formed terrorist organizations. But also, indirectly, by motivating and inspiring terrorist attacks. In 2019, nearly 60% of jihadi attackers had the citizenship of the country in which the attack or plot took place. Radicalisation of home-grown terrorists has speeded up as lone wolves are radicalised by online propaganda, while their attacks are inspired rather than ordered by terrorist groups.



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c) Key terms

FTO: A Foreign Terrorist Organization that uses terror as a weapon to achieve its goals.

FTF: Foreign Terrorist Fighter.

State Sponsor of Terrorism: State-sponsored terrorism is the government support of non-state actors engaged in terrorism. States can sponsor terrorist groups in several ways, including but not limited to funding terrorist organizations, providing training, supplying weapons, and hosting groups within their borders.

Terrorist Safe Havens: Terrorist safe havens include ungoverned, under-governed, or ill-governed physical areas where terrorists are able to organize, plan, raise funds, communicate, recruit, train, transit, and operate in relative security because of inadequate governance capacity, political will, or both.

Al-Qaeda: Broad-based militant islamist terrorist organization founded by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s.

ISIS: Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), is a Sunni jihadist group with a particularly violent ideology that calls itself a caliphate and claims religious authority over all Muslims. It was inspired by Al Qaeda but later publicly expelled from it.



05. Position of involved countries

Federal Republic of Germany:

Germany continued its counter-terrorism cooperation with the United States and the international community as a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and the GCTF and in multilateral CT operations in Africa and the Middle East. In 2019, Germany allocated more resources toward combating all forms of terrorism. Law enforcement targeted a range of suspects, including Islamist terrorists and REMT actors. German officials describe the latter as an increasing trend and the greatest threat to national security.

Germany also remains an active participant in other GCTF initiatives. In May 2019, Germany organized a workshop, Strengthening Capacities to Prevent and Counter Terrorism by Enhancing Cross-Border Collaboration and Information Exchange on Foreign Terrorist Fighters Between 83 Law Enforcement Agencies, under the auspices of the GCTF FTF Working Group. Germany also cooperates with other OSCE-participating states in the fight against terrorism, proving this country's influence as one of the leading international counter-terrorism combatants, especially in western Europe.

French Republic:

France remained a key partner of the United States in international CT efforts in 2019. It is a longstanding and important member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. France continued to conduct important CT operations world-wide, f.i.: in Iraq, Libya, Mali, Syria



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and the Sahel region, as well as in the Lake Chad Basin. the terrorist threat in France remained high but was lower than its 2015 peak. French law enforcement remained concerned with the threat of domestic terrorism inspired by or affiliated with ISIS. French law enforcement and intelligence agencies thwarted at least four attacks in 2019 and arrested at least 12 individuals on Islamist terrorism-related charges. French authorities also arrested two individuals linked to REMT. The new national CT prosecutor's office became operational in July and is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all terrorism-related cases.

In 2019, the government continued to implement its 2018 National Plan to Prevent Radicalization. Presenting its one-year assessment of the plan's implementation at an April 11 press conference, the government identified four areas where additional focus is required to counter terrorist radicalization and recruitment: prison, delinquency prevention programs, poverty prevention programs, and government programs to promote social cohesion.

Kingdom of Spain:

Spain remained on "high" national alert for terrorism throughout 2019 for the fifth year in a row, and Spanish authorities continued to arrest individuals suspected of planning terror attacks; facilitating terrorist financing; and engaging in ISIS- and Al-Qa'ida-related recruitment and radicalization, both online and in their communities. Spanish CT cooperation with the United States was excellent. Spain maintained its contribution to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, with up to 550 personnel deployed to Iraq throughout the year in



military and police training missions. Spain continued to exercise leadership in regional and global CT fora, including the GCTF and the 5+5 Defense Initiative.

In 2015, the Spanish government published its first National Strategy Against Terrorism to unify and update its strategy to prevent, combat, and counteract terrorist threats, replacing the 2012 Comprehensive Strategy Against International Terrorism and Radicalization. The Ministry of Interior, through the Center for Intelligence against Terrorism and Organized Crime (CITCO), with contributions from the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Justice, developed the document to align with the Counter- 101 Terrorism Strategies of the EU and the UN with four pillars: Prevent, Protect, Pursue, and Prepare the response. Up until 2019, the strategy had already been in force for four years.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Throughout the years, the UK has remained as one of the strongest and most able U.S. partners in the global fight against terrorism. Within the majority of 2019, the terrorism threat level in the UK was at the second-highest rating (severe). In early November 2019, the UK lowered the threat level to substantial, meaning the threat of an attack was reduced from “highly likely” to “likely.” In this context, UK officials categorize Islamist terrorism as the greatest threat to national security, though officials identify a rising REMT threat, which they refer to as “extreme right-wing” terrorism.



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In 2019, the UK government transferred responsibility for investigations and operations to counter REMT from local police to the national-level Security Service (MI5). As a partner in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, the UK continued to contribute to stabilization efforts in Iraq and northeastern Syria. Countering ISIS remains one of the UK's top CT priorities, and the UK is working with regional partners to develop border infrastructure, watchlists, and biometric capabilities to counter FTF movement.

People's Republic of China:

The People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent countries in the Security Council, which highlights this delegation's importance in the decision making process throughout this debate. Still, the People's Republic of China (PRC) response to terrorism remained difficult to distinguish from the government's suppression of peaceful activities that authorities deemed separatist or subversive in nature, even when regarding this delegation's opinion on other problematics outside the country, for instance: the current situation in western Europe.

When contemplating China's attempt to counter the financing of terrorism, it is important to recognize China's membership of the FATF, the APG, and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (EAG). The PRC is also a member of the Defeat ISIS Coalition's CIFG.

The PRC government continued to promote the UN as the primary international forum for counterterrorism, where it actively promotes a repressive approach to counterterrorism. In October, the UN



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Counterterrorism Executive Directorate conducted its first ever assessment of China's implementation of international counterterrorism obligations. The PRC engaged in a range of multilateral, regional, and bilateral fora, while seeking to present itself as a global leader on counterterrorism.

Italian Republic:

Italy collaborated closely with the United States, the EU, and the UN in its international CT efforts. Domestically, Italy investigated and prosecuted terrorist suspects within its borders and deported 98 subjects for terrorism-related security reasons in 2019. Italy is a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. As part of the Coalition, Italy was among the top contributors of troops in Iraq, heads the Coalition's police training sub-group, and leads efforts to train Iraqi police and security forces. Italy continued to co-chair the Coalition's CIFG with the United States and Saudi Arabia. Italy is a Framework nation and the fourth-largest troop contributor to NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

In June, Italian and U.S. authorities cooperated to repatriate one Italian FTF from Syria to face prosecution for terrorism-related crimes in Italy. Italian authorities are concerned about the risk posed by returning fighters, as well as fighters dislodged from areas formerly under ISIS control in Libya and elsewhere who may try to use migrant flows to reach Italy. In addition, officials are concerned fighters from the Western Balkans returning to Europe could also pass through Italian territory, given the significant Balkan-origin communities in Italy.



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Kingdom of Belgium:

Belgium continues to make incremental improvements to CT-related policy, information-sharing practices, and resource allotments, which have enhanced authorities' abilities to investigate and prevent terrorist attacks. Belgium actively shares terrorist and criminal information with the United States under the Visa Waiver Program. However, Belgium's highly decentralized government presents challenges to effective internal information sharing and cooperation, and the caretaker status of Belgium's government throughout 2019 hampered its ability to make meaningful policy advancements. Belgian law enforcement authorities remain under-resourced. The Belgian criminal code's short sentencing guidelines limit the criminal justice system's ability to deter and prevent terrorist activity.

Meanwhile, the country's greatest terrorism threat is homegrown terrorism, including both Islamist extremism and, to a lesser extent, REMT, which Belgium calls "violent right-wing extremism." Belgium is a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and plans to resume contributing troops and airstrike capabilities to the Defeat ISIS military campaign in 2020.

Hellenic Republic:

The Greek government remained a collaborative CT partner in 2019. The Greek Parliament passed legislation to criminalize terrorist travel and the provision of material support to terrorists. Following Greece's first comprehensive national assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing in 2018, the FATF upgraded Greece's standing in 2019. Greece continued to vet irregular migrants arriving in



significant numbers. Greece worked toward implementing its PNR law to screen air passengers in accordance with international standards. There were no major terrorist incidents in Greece in 2019; however, domestic groups carried out intermittent small-scale attacks. Greece is a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

On November 13, the Greek Parliament passed changes to the penal code to increase penalties for some terrorist acts and to adopt elements of EU Directive 2017/541 criminalizing terrorist travel, training, and the provision of material support. Greece's law enforcement and border security officials used watchlists, databases, and biometrics to detect, deter, and prevent acts of terrorism. Greece is working toward implementing its 2018 PNR law to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute terrorist offenses and serious crime.

Republic of Austria:

Throughout the years, U.S.-Austrian law enforcement cooperation has remained strong. Parliament ended its ad-hoc probe of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (BVT), Austria's key counterterrorism agency within the Ministry of the Interior. The parliamentary inquiry exposed internal weaknesses and the need for restructuring, which an independent commission began in August 2019. Austria's CT efforts focused on "Islamist extremism," the potential for homegrown terrorism by "lone actors," and REMT groups⁶³ promoting anti-Muslim and anti-migrant violence (which Austria refers to as "New Right" groups). Austrian courts continued to impose strong sentences for convicted Islamist terrorists. Austria expanded its national action plan for the



“prevention of extremism and deradicalization,” and legislators called for better staffing of the BVT’s extremism section.

Overall, Austria has an extensive legal structure to counter terrorism. Relevant statutes criminalize training in terrorist camps abroad and allow wiretapping of individual suspects or small groups with the permission of an independent judge or ombudsman.

Russian Federation:

The Russian Federation is one of the five permanent countries in the Security Council, which highlights this delegation’s importance in the decision making process throughout this debate. Throughout 2019, Russia continued to prioritize CT efforts and remained a target of international terrorist groups, particularly ISIS. Low-level militant terrorist activity remained a problem in Russia’s North Caucasus region despite increases in CT activities and political consolidation efforts.

On the other hand, the government has not committed great attention to countering terrorist radicalization and recruitment in 2019. However, according to NGO reports, Russian government authorities, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Center for Countering Extremism and the FSB, continue to misuse the country’s expansive definition of extremism to curtail freedoms of expression, belief, assembly, and association.



Republic of Iraq:

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) remained in nominal control of territory liberated from ISIS. ISIS continued to present a serious threat to Iraqi stability, undertaking targeted assassinations of police and local political leaders and using IEDs and shooting attacks directed at both government and government-associated civilian targets, in support of a violent campaign to reestablish a caliphate. ISIS sought to reestablish support among populations in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah ad Din, and Anbar provinces, especially in the areas of disputed control between the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the federal government, where the division of responsibility for local security is unclear. Although ISIS maintained the capability to conduct deadly terrorist attacks in Iraq, these attacks resulted in fewer casualties in 2019 than in previous years.

Major FTOs originally from Iraq, such as ISIS, are responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in Europe. The country's problematic in dealing with its own national combat against terrorism lead to a lot of Europe's problems countering terrorism. Iraq made no significant changes to its counterterrorism legal and law enforcement framework in 2019. Border security remained a critical capability gap, as the ISF has limited capability to fully secure Iraq's borders with Syria and Iran. While border security along the periphery of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) is robust and administered by various security units under the Kurdish Minister of Interior, the border with Syria south of the IKR remained porous and vulnerable to ISIS and other terrorist networks, as well as to smuggling and other criminal enterprises.



Republic of Turkey:

Turkey is a source and transit country for FTFs seeking to join ISIS and other terrorist groups fighting in Syria and Iraq. Turkey is an active member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, co-chairs the Defeat-ISIS Coalition FTF Working Group, and continued to provide access to its airspace and facilities for Coalition CT operations in Iraq and Syria. According to public data, as of November, Turkey's "Banned From Entry List" included about 76,000 individuals. Turkey continued its efforts to defeat terrorist organizations both inside and outside its borders, including the PKK and ISIS. Turkey remained an active contributor in international CT forum, including the GCTF.

Since 2011, Turkey has repatriated more than 7,800 FTFs from more than 100 countries. As part of a new push to return suspected ISIS members and family members to their home countries, between mid-November and early-December 2019, the Turkish government deported or denied entry for more than 70 individuals for alleged terrorism. The Ministry of Interior reported that, as of December 9, there were 1,174 ISIS members and 115 al-Qa'ida members in Turkish custody.

Kingdom of Netherlands:

The Netherlands continues to respond effectively to the global terrorist threat in border and transportation security, counterterrorist financing, CVE, and bilateral and multilateral CT cooperation. On December 9, the Dutch lowered their national threat level from "substantial" (Level 4 of 5), where it had been since 2013, to "significant" (Level 3). The main threat is Islamist terrorism, followed by REMT (which the Dutch refer



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to as violent “right-wing extremism” or “right-wing terrorism”). The Dutch assess the threat of REMT violence as less acute in the Netherlands than in other European countries. The Netherlands has a comprehensive national CT strategy that implements policies to counter all forms of terrorism at the local level through multidisciplinary interagency cooperation.

The Netherlands is a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, participates in Coalition working groups, and is co-chair of the Coalition’s FTF Working Group with Turkey and Kuwait. The Netherlands has liaisons embedded at various operational command centers, provided force protection, and contributed military personnel and trainers in Iraq. The Dutch do not contribute troops or aid in Syria. The Netherlands is a member of the GCTF.

Islamic Republic of Iran:

Designated as a State Sponsor of Terrorism in 1984, Iran continued its terrorist-related activity in 2019, including support for Hizballah, Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza, and various terrorist groups in Syria, Iraq, and throughout the Middle East.

The Iranian government maintains a robust offensive cyber program and has sponsored cyber attacks against foreign government and private sector entities. Iran remained unwilling to bring to justice senior al-Qa’ida (AQ) members residing in the country and has refused to publicly identify members in its custody. Iran has allowed AQ facilitators to operate a core facilitation pipeline through Iran since at least 2009, enabling AQ to move funds and fighters to South Asia and Syria.



As in past years, the Iranian government continued supporting terrorist plots to attack Iranian dissidents in several countries in continental Europe. In recent years, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Albania have all either arrested or expelled Iranian government officials implicated in various terrorist plots in their respective territories. Denmark similarly recalled its ambassador from Tehran after learning of an Iran-backed plot to assassinate an Iranian dissident in its country.

Syrian Arab Republic:

Designated in 1979 as a State Sponsor of Terrorism, Syria continued its political and military support to various terrorist groups. The regime continued to provide weapons and political support to Hizballah and continued to allow Iran to rearm and finance the terrorist organization. The Assad regime's relationship with Hizballah and Iran grew stronger in 2019 as the regime became more reliant on external actors to fight opponents and secure areas. Syrian government speeches and press releases often included statements supporting terrorist groups, particularly Hizballah and vice versa.

Over the past two decades, the Assad regime's permissive attitude towards AQ and other terrorist groups' FTF facilitation efforts during the Iraq conflict fed the growth of AQ, ISIS, and affiliated terrorist networks inside Syria. The Syrian government's awareness and encouragement for many years of terrorists' transit through Syria to Iraq. As part of a broader strategy during the year, the regime portrayed Syria itself as a victim of terrorism, characterizing all internal armed opposition as "terrorists."



Kingdom of Sweden:

In 2019, the Swedish Security Service annual report stated “the [terrorist] threat remains largely at the same level as a year ago, although very few individuals are likely to have the intent to carry out attacks in Sweden.” The report further stated the threat to Sweden from “Islamist-motivated actors” had not changed significantly from last year; however, “xenophobic and white supremacist groups” were increasing in size and collaborating more frequently with one another. At the end of 2019, the national alert level remained Level 3 (elevated threat, no evidence of planning) on a scale of 5 (attack imminent, evidence of planning).

The government continued efforts to strengthen its CT framework. In October, the government proposed draft legislation that would criminalize collaboration with terrorist organizations and another draft law that would authorize law enforcement access to encrypted data on computers and mobile devices. Parliament will debate the laws in 2020. In November, the Terrorist Investigation Commission completed its systematic review of criminal laws pertaining to terrorism. The report proposed that the government draft a comprehensive, updated terrorism law to replace the existing patchwork of laws. Sweden is a member of the Defeat-ISIS Coalition. In addition to being a leader in humanitarian support to ISIS-affected communities, Sweden deployed 70 military trainers to Iraq in support of Defeat-ISIS efforts.



United States of America:

The United States is one of the five permanent countries in the Security Council, which highlights this delegation's importance in the decision making process throughout this debate and consolidates this country's influence in the international counter-terrorism attempts. Throughout the years, the United States has continued to be vigilant about individuals affiliated with international terrorist groups, including al-Qa'ida and ISIS, who have made attempts to exploit the country's region, as well as other continents, such as western Europe. These include a suspected AQ operative in Brazil, about whom the FBI issued a public notice in August, as well as ISIS supporters and sympathizers in a number of European countries.

During 2020 the United States and its partners made significant major strides against terrorist organizations; however, the terrorism threat has become more geographically dispersed in regions around the world. Together with international partners, the United States has responded to the evolving threat, including by expanding the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, which now counts 83 members. The Defeat-ISIS Coalition worked to consolidate gains in Iraq and Syria, while broadening efforts to counter the growing ISIS threat in West Africa, Sahel and Europe.

Kingdom of Denmark:

The Kingdom of Denmark (which includes Greenland and the Faroe Islands) devoted significant assets to CT programs, domestically and abroad. Denmark cooperates closely with the United States, the UN, and the EU on CT initiatives, including within the GCTF and the



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Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

According to the Ministry of Justice, at least 158 people from Denmark have traveled to Iraq or Syria to join ISIS since 2012. The Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) remained concerned that Danish fighters returning to Denmark with terrorist training would seek to radicalize others. According to the PET-administered Center for Terror Analysis (CTA), the primary terrorist threat to Denmark is small, simple attacks perpetrated by radicalized members of the Islamic community. Radicalization in prison facilities remains a particular concern. CTA also assesses a limited but increasing threat from other terrorist actors who target Denmark's asylum centers, religious minorities, and migrants.

Kingdom of Norway:

Norway and the United States maintained good collaboration on CT. Norway's Police Security Service (PST) continued to assess that individuals and groups inspired by "extreme Islamist groups" represented the most significant terrorist threat to Norway. Norway saw an increased level of mobilization and recruitment among REMT groups, which it calls "right wing extremist groups." The PST reintroduced a five-level scale to describe the national terror threat level and set the risk level at 3, which indicates a moderate chance of a terrorist attack taking place.

Norway is a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. The government co-sponsored UNSCRs 2178 and 2396 and contributed to the Coalition's five lines of effort, including military personnel support to a capacity-building mission for Iraqi security forces in



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Anbar, Iraq. In 2019, Norway provided country specific funding of approximately US \$334 million to address the humanitarian crises in Iraq and Syria.

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The United States partners with Afghanistan in a bilateral CT effort through Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The U.S. military, along with 38 other Coalition nations, also supports the ANDSF through the NATO Resolute Support "Train, Advise, and Assist" mission. In 2019, the Taliban and the affiliated HQN increased terrorist attacks targeting Afghan civilians, government officials, and members of the international community. Additionally, ISIS-K continued to attack civilians and especially targeted religious minorities. The enemy-initiated attack trend in 2019 defied its usual seasonal pattern; while in most years, such attacks decrease in cold-weather months, they remained consistently high following the summer fighting season. ISIS-K, elements of al-Qa'ida, including affiliate AQIS, and terrorist groups targeting Pakistan, such as TTP, continued to use the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region as a safe haven, which eventually enabled these terrorists to follow through towards Europe. Afghanistan is also the only member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS from South and Central Asia.



06. Purpose of the council

This council has the purpose of decreasing all conflicts in the western-european region. It is of utter importance to keep international peace and security while also finding ways to cease all threats to the countries in the region.

07. Guiding questions

1. What has your delegation already done in the fight against terrorism?
2. What is your delegation still willing to do?
3. How can delegations outside the western-european region contribute in the fight against terrorism?
4. Should there be a direct intervention in terrorist safe heavens in this region?
5. How should other delegations intervene in state-sponsored terrorism?



08. Further research

For first-timers:

A website that has always been helpful to us at MUN conferences is <https://bestdelegate.com/>, where you can find tips on how to make an opening speech, how to do the right research, Notwithstanding and much more! (most of the stuff will be needed are under 'Learning Center' - there are many videos and resources to use while deepening your research).

This website (<https://bestdelegate.com/research/>) has great tips to pay attention to while researching your country's politics and position.

The website of the council itself is a great place for research and study: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/> and <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/>

This report contains the majority of the information used in this study guide, regarding each country's policy against terrorism: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Country-Reports-on-Terrorism-2019-2.pdf>

This document contains a lot of information regarding the most recent research about international terrorism: <https://visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GTI-2020-web-1.pdf>



These documents have a lot of data on the current situation in Europe regarding terrorism:

https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/tesat_2021_0.pdf

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/right-wing-terrorism-threat-europe>

Global Terrorism Index (2019):

<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>



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