

Education in the Fight Against Radicalization

Carmelo Galindo



Islamic Theology of Counter Terrorism

اسلام کے تھیولوجی آف کاؤنٹر ٹیرورزم

Covid-19 has not only been a pandemic at the health level. It has also hit social and economic structures globally.

Therefore, it has also been an element exploited by terrorist groups of jihadist etiology. Daesh first classified it as a punishment to China for the persecution of the Muslim minority in the area, and later, as the pandemic spread worldwide, as a "punishment from Allah for the death of Caliph Baghdadi" at the hands of the forces of the US Delta Force. . On the other hand, Al Qaeda in a more religious tone, and at the hands of its leader al-Zawahiri classifies it as "a situation that does not see the light at the end of the tunnel and that will end the economies of the West" and regarding how Muslims are being affected, he justifies it "by his estrangement from God and by his own sins."

In turn, they take the opportunity to travel in light of the limitations of movement of citizens. The result of this was the displacement from Algeria to Almería of one of the most dangerous foreign fighters of Daesh, where he was arrested by the Spanish police along with several other members. The world's economies are being affected and spending on social measures towards the most disadvantaged in this pandemic is skyrocketing in all countries and resources are limited. Therefore, the choice between "cannons or butter" must be chosen as established by the Nobel Prize in economics in his economic treatise when producing. (despite the fact that the origin of the phrase is in a speech by Goering in 1936 in the middle of the arms race at the dawn of the II.G.M).

This possible decrease in economic efforts in matters of security, plans against radicalization and the like, are taken advantage of by the jihadists and their recruiters. If we focus on our southern neighbors, Morocco and Algeria, there is no doubt that they have spent decades with their particular "cold war" and for achieving military hegemony in the area, dedicating very important items of their P.I.B. in plans to acquire first-rate war material, purchased from western countries, Russia even to China.

Algeria's defense budget is only surpassed on the African continent by Egypt, allocating more than 5% of its GDP to defense while Morocco destined more than 3% in 2018.

To show and not expand on the different weapons plans of the 2 countries, we will indicate that Morocco is in the 31st position of importing countries of war material in the 2015-19 period with an increase of 5% in imports compared to the 2010-14 period. For its part, Algeria is not far behind in purchasing aircraft of Russian origin. The insecurity in the area, hit by terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime, has led to the reinforcement of its armed forces. In Algeria, during the first half of 2020, 12 terrorists and 5 detainees have been eliminated. And the second semester, has not started better in the fight against jihadist terrorism. Morocco in fact in 2018 rose to position 49 to 47 in the ranking of countries that invest the most in defense.

Education, on the contrary, from the first moment of the pandemic has been hit hard. Suspension of face-to-face classes, new virtual or telematic teaching methods, with the added problem of the non-availability of all students of internet connection or devices for their connection.

UNESCO announced that worldwide more than 1.5 billion students worldwide, would be left without going to school or university because of covid-19. Some figures that should make us think, since this lack of education will be used to recruit individuals by jihadist groups.

In 2 countries with serious social and economic problems, will the population understand to allocate these items to defense contracts while the vast majority of the population suffers from shortages and needs at the level of education, health? Could it be a weapon and an excuse for the recruiters of the jihadist groups to bring supporters to the cause?

With very young populations in the 2 countries, the lack of training will be a loss of human, economic and social value for the future. The current rulers have a responsibility that should be reflected in the increase in education. You just have to see the early ages of the last detainees in Morocco in the dismantled Daesh cell (between 21-26 years).

A good example of the importance of education in the fight against radicalization has been the Virtual Week to Combat Terrorism, organized by the United Nations Office against Terrorism, held from July 6 to 10, 2020 where the practical and strategic aspects of the pandemic and education in the fight against terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

UNESCO's response to the problem of the pandemic has been to support education, from suspension to resumption and to make use of the coalition through the World Coalition for Education.

During the closing session, Mr. Vladimir Voronkiv, Deputy Secretary of the United Nations Office Against Terrorism (UNOCT), underlined that: "If we want to build healthy and inclusive societies, we need to invest massively in youth and initiatives gender sensitive and youth-led."

"COVID-19 has exposed, and may even increase, old and new challenges, as well as dividing lines that terrorists are willing to capitalize on. We must strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation at all levels. "

Acting collectively on education is not a private initiative of a certain country, since education is a global common good. Both at an immediate level to avoid new recruits to increase the terrorist ranks, and in the medium term, to work on the curricula so that they are more effective in the fight against radicalization. The military or police solution in the fight against this phenomenon is not valid if it is not accompanied by social, educational and diplomacy programs. It must be a multifaceted fight that must be fought on different battlefields and therefore international cooperation is essential.

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