History of the Committee

The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which was adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States.

Committee Competence and Features

The Committee comprises of all 15 members of the Security Council and oversees monitoring the implementation of the resolution 1373 which requires countries to implement a series of measures in order to further improve the quality of their legal and institutional capability to defend against terrorist activities on a local, regional and global level including steps to:

- Criminalize the financing of terrorism
- Freeze without delay any funds related to persons involved in acts of terrorism
- Deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups
- Suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists
- Share information with other governments on any groups practicing or planning terrorist acts
- Cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in such acts; and
- Criminalize active and passive assistance for terrorism in domestic law and bring violators to justice.

The Security Council also directed the CTC to implement resolution 1624 in 2005.

Statement of the Problem

Extremists’ groups are defined as those that commit acts of violent extremism and have different beliefs and goals. They are located in many countries around the world and use different mechanisms to recruit people like social media. (FBI, n.d.). They don’t respect basic human rights or important values such as freedom of expression and freedom of religion. According to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), there are more than 50 violent extremist groups around the world that have been named terrorist organizations by the U.S. government. Some of them are listed here:

- Al Qaeda: means “The Base” in Arabic, is a global extremist network started in 1988 by Osama Bin Laden. It seeks to free muslim countries from the influence of Western Countries and attacks Muslim nations that don’t agree with its version of the Islamic religion.
- Al Shabaab: is a violent extremist organization based in Somalia that seeks to replace the current government through violence. Most of its attacks are in Somalia and Kenya. It has a history of kidnapping and hurting women and girls.
- Hizballah: as well known as “Party of God”, is an extremist group based in Lebanon supports the global rise of Shia, a branch of Islam inspired by the Iranian revolution. Their main target is Israel and its supporters.
- ISIS: s a highly violent extremist group that has killed thousands of men, women, and children, mostly Muslims. The group calls itself the “Islamic State,” but its members follow an extreme, fringe interpretation of Islamic law. They do not represent mainstream Islam, and the vast majority of Muslims are horrified by their actions. ISIL members work to enslave or kill anyone who disagrees with them and have taken over parts of Iraq and Syria. ISIL continues to actively recruit U.S. citizens, especially young people.
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC); Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia ("Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia"), or FARC, is a violent rebel group. Since it was created in 1964, FARC has tried to overthrow the Republic of Colombia, South America’s oldest democracy. It also sends a lot of illegal drugs into the U.S. and other countries. FARC mostly targets the people and government of Colombia through bombings, murder, and other attacks.

The Counter-terrorism Committee is a forum where this problem can be discussed furthermore with the purpose of agreeing in new measures to introduce solutions with the purpose of protecting those endangered by extremists groups and minimizing their impact in the international security.

Works Cited

- FBI, (n.d.). What are known violent extremist groups? From: [https://www.fbi.gov/cve508](https://www.fbi.gov/cve508)

Statement of the Problem

Bioterrorism is defined as the intentional release of biological agents which injures or kills people. The main objectives are social and political which are attained by scaring population and making them think their own government cannot protect them. Aerosol sprays, air transported particles, food, water and even people are all means of distributing or spreading bacteria, viruses or other germs that attempt against animal, plant, and other human health and life. The reason bioterrorism has become a trending topic in the international security is the immense difficulty to stop the plague once it has begun due to the time it takes to become apparent and identify the source. Therefore, implementing an early warning system for bioterrorist attacks has become an important objective on the agenda of the Counter-terrorism Committee.

Some examples of known attempts to introduce bioterrorism to the early warning system are:

- The use of drinking water to spread the biological agent has been a major concern for the protection of the international community. In the United States of America, it has been developed a system called Aqua Sentinel which with the use of algae intends to detect any foreign and toxic agent using a filter which can run permanently and alert a computer in case these substances are found before the water is released for public use.
- Since the first recognition of a terrorist attack is sick patients, rapid detection of symptoms has become another major concern. The use of syndromic surveillance which consists on databases to track health of communities has been proved effective in detecting anomalies and disease outbreaks.
- Several countries have Applied Epidemiology and Training Programs (AETPs) in their ministries of health, which main role is to detect and respond to severe health cases, including bioterrorism. The Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) is a global network by various health agencies who coordinate their advances and report any news in order to cooperate on reaction to an attack and prevent further attacks in other countries. The TEPHINET is supported by the CDC and the World Health Organization and was established in 1997.

The Counter-terrorism Committee is a forum where this problem can be discussed furthermore with the purpose of agreeing in new measures to introduce an effective early warning system for bioterrorist attacks across the globe.

Works Cited