

# ICT's World Summit on Counter-Terrorism: Unpuzzling Terrorism

Defense, intelligence and police officials, academics, security industry leaders and decision makers all agree that international information sharing, cooperation, and collaboration are key to responding to the complex challenges of modern terrorism.



*Standing in memory of those killed on 9/11. From left: Jonathan Davis, Shabtai Shavit, Prof. Uriel Reichman, MK Gilad Erdan, Amb. Dan Shapiro, and Prof. Boaz Ganor.*

The 16th annual international conference hosted by IDC Herzliya's International Institute for Counter-Terrorism was devoted to discussing efforts to address the constantly shifting puzzle of terrorism. Participants came from around the world to attend plenary sessions at the Sharon Hotel in Herzliya, followed by two days of workshops on the IDC campus. Among the topics covered were the evolving threat of global jihad, terrorists' use of social media, "lone wolf" attacks, lessons learned from recent terrorist attacks around the world, and the ongoing civil war in Syria. Among the distinguished international guests were Michael Chertoff, former secretary of the U.S. Homeland Security Department, MP Georges Fenech, president of the Parliamentary Special Commission of Enquiry on the Terrorist Attacks in France, Friedrich Grommes, head of directorate TE, international terrorism and international organized crime at the German Federal Intelligence Service, Brian Michael Jenkins, senior adviser to the president of the RAND Corporation, Gilles de Kerchove, the European Union's counter-terrorism coordinator, Amb. Dr. Martin Kimani,

director of the National Counter-Terrorism Center in Kenya, Dr. Jehangir Khan, director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, Dragan Mektic, security minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nicholas J. Rasmussen, director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, and Dragan Mektic, security minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nicholas J. Rasmussen, director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, and Giulio di Sant'Agata Terzi, Italy's former foreign affairs minister.

Several ICT supporters attended the conference, including Daniel and Igal Jusidman, Steven Stern, Dafna and Gerald Cramer, Evelyne Tamman-Douek, and Sir David Garrard.

The conference opened on the evening of Sept. 11 with a ceremony honoring the memory of the victims of 9/11 and terrorism worldwide. Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC, said, "There have been some great accomplishments over the last decade as a result of open borders and globalization, but these have also allowed for a greater impact of the dark side of



civilization. The interdependency of the open world has brought with it changing demographics that threaten local beliefs and traditions. The brutality of radical Islam that purports that non-believers should be slaughtered has taken its toll on Western countries and also takes advantage of ungoverned territories like Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen. All of this can cause nations to move towards isolationism, when actually cooperation and collaboration is more necessary than ever."

**Shabtai Shavit**, former head of the Mossad and chairman of ICT's Board of Directors, said, "Now is the time for a multi-polar world to put aside all their differences, for an interim period, and to concentrate on the threat of global jihad in order to put an end to it once and for all."

Amb. **Daniel Shapiro**, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, pointed out that "there are people coming of age today who don't remember 9/11 – so we have to help them understand the event and what it meant." He also discussed in detail the

no restoration of justice if the perpetrators have not been brought to justice."

Israeli Public Security, Strategic Affairs and Information Minister **Gilad Erdan** addressed the so-called knife intifada that began against Israelis in 2015. "These terrorists are trying to shake people's resolve to live here," he said. "Over the last year, there have been 272 attacks against Israelis, including stabbings, shootings, and ramming attacks. Many of these are carried out by lone wolves who don't belong to a particular terrorist organization, whose weapons are simple and improvised, who don't necessarily tell anyone about their plans to attack and sometimes do so spontaneously. This has created a new reality which, if we can sum up in one word, is unpredictable. You don't know where the next attack is going to come from. So we need to make sure that we have the national resilience to adapt, fight back, and go back to routine as quickly as possible." Erdan also discussed legislation being proposed by the government that will allow for



Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan (center) receives a congressional citation, on behalf of Congressman Peter King, flanked by (from left): Denis Monette, Prof. Uriel Reichman, Prof. Boaz Ganor and Jonathan Davis.

strong U.S.-Israel relationship in countering terrorism, saying, "Fighting terrorism is a central goal that the U.S. shares with Israel. We work very closely with our Israeli counterparts on counter-terrorism and security cooperation and there is a robust military-to-military relationship. We've invested in Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow 3 to protect Israel from missiles, and we're now focusing on anti-tunneling technology, to which the U.S. has committed \$40 million. The new F-35 jet will form the backbone of the IAF. The U.S. is signing with Israel the single largest assistance package it has ever committed to any country."

Judge **Jean-Paul Laborde**, assistant secretary general and executive director of the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, also spoke at the memorial, devoting his remarks to the victims of terrorism. "There are two principles that have guided me throughout my career: honor for victims and the fight against impunity," he said. "There is

the issuing of warrants against those who engage in online incitement. "Social networks have not yet recognized the responsibility they have," he said. "But we in Israel cannot fight this alone – we need to form an international coalition to deal with this challenge."

The terrorist use of social media was a central topic at the conference, both during plenary sessions and during workshops. Israeli Justice Minister **Ayelet Shaked** said, "It was difficult to draw the line between freedom of expression and incitement, but since the last wave of terror we have defined it, and we now have legislation to punish incitement. There is no more hiding behind the keyboard." IDF Spokesman Brig. Gen. **Moti Almoz** discussed the lack of exclusivity of information in the digital age, saying, "Rumors can spread quickly, everyone is a photographer, and editors tend to put up whatever they know right away without waiting to get all the details as they did in the past. So everyone is reporting something a little different." Prof. **Boaz Ganor**, ICT's founder and executive director and dean of



Igal Jusidman.



Dafna and Gerald Cramer.



Evelyne Tamman-Douek with Ofer Bengal.



Sir David Garrad and Ava Chang.



Steven Stern with Prof. Uriel Reichman.



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– Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilad, director of Policy and Political-Military Affairs at the Defense Ministry



**“The notion of screening everyone equally doesn’t make sense.”**

– Naftali Bennett, education and diaspora affairs minister



**“Trying to pursue peace and fighting terrorism do not contradict to each other – they actually complement each other.”**

– Tzipi Livni, former foreign affairs minister



*Michael Chertoff, former secretary of the U.S. Homeland Security Department.*



*Judge Jean-Paul Laborde, assistant secretary general and executive director of the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.*



*Lt. Col. Jeremy Bartel, U.S. Army War College Fellow at ICT, with Dr. Eitan Azxani, ICT’s deputy director and head of specializations in counter-terrorism at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy.*



*Amb. Dr. Martin Kimani, director of the National Counter-Terrorism Center in Kenya.*



*Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yoav Galant, construction and housing minister.*

IDC’s Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, provided one positive perspective, noting that in the Facebook era it is sometimes possible to stop lone wolf terrorists by tracking their postings.

A comprehensive strategic overview was provided by Maj. Gen. (res.) **Amos Gilad**, director of Policy and Political-Military Affairs at the Defense Ministry. “Hezbollah, and its backer Iran, are the main threat to Israel. Iran’s radical ideological regime is determined that Israel does not have a right to exist, and it doesn’t matter how long it takes,” he said. “The horrible humanitarian tragedy in Syria will continue for a long time despite any cease-fire.” Construction and Housing Minister Maj. Gen. (res.) **Yoav Galant** echoed Gilad’s views, saying, “Our main enemies are Iran and Hezbollah – they are more serious threats to us than ISIS and al-Qaida. Any cease-fire with Syria should include the distancing of these actors from the arena.”

In a session titled “Global Jihad Divided: Al-Qaida vs. Islamic State,” editor-in-chief of CTC Sentinel **Paul Cruickshank** predicted that “al-Qaida is going to make a comeback. ISIS is better-funded, but it is weakening. It is losing the hearts and minds of Muslims around the world due to its brutality. Al-Qaida is playing the long game. With its affiliates and allies, it is gathering resources and territories, and is actually stronger than ever. Al-Qaida is driving towards a sustainable jihad, whereas ISIS is racing towards a caliphate – but brutal oppression will only be able to sustain it for so long. Al-Qaida is the tortoise, whereas ISIS is the hare.”

Among the speakers from across the Israeli political spectrum were Education and Diaspora Affairs Minister **Naftali Bennett** and former Foreign Affairs Minister **Tzipi Livni**.

“Israel has succeeded in the battle against terrorism over the past several decades by applying a



From left: Gilles de Kerchove, the European Union's counter-terrorism coordinator; Prof. Boaz Ganor; Pedro Serrano, deputy secretary general for the Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service; and Amb. Lars Faaborg-Andersen, head of the EU Delegation to Israel.



Ayelet Shaked, justice minister.



Nicholas J. Rasmussen, director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center.



Dr. Jehangir Khan, director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.



French MP Georges Fenech, president of the French Parliamentary Special Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attacks in France, with Prof. Boaz Ganor.

thoughtful approach," Bennett said. "The notion of screening everyone equally, for example, doesn't make sense. It's not efficient, not convenient, and not secure. When you're thoughtful, you optimize security and convenience for everyone." Livni said that "trying to pursue peace and fighting terrorism do not contradict to each other – they actually complement each other. Moderate Arab states are also threatened by radical elements and they want to strengthen ties with Israel. From a strategic understanding of the region, Israel must not miss this opportunity."

Col. (res.) **Lior Lotan**, a senior researcher at ICT and the Prime Minister's Office coordinator for POWs and MIAs, revealed during the conference that Hamas had rejected Israeli offers of a prisoner exchange that would include the bodies of IDF soldiers **Hadar Goldin** and **Oron Shaul**. "We will do everything to bring our boys home," he said.

An important perspective came from **Raheel Raza**, president of the Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow, who addressed the possibility of Muslim reform. "The hate that is being taught from a very young age in madrasas has to be challenged," she said. "Radicalized thoughts lead to radicalized actions. Islam needs to be seen through the lens of human rights. The idea of reform is just beginning to take root – it will be slow and painful. We are in a battle for the soul of Islam. We need to encourage an inclusive enlightened interpretation of Islam that rejects violence and social injustice."

As it does every year, the conference concluded with a thought-provoking simulation activity, this time dealing with the threat of chemical terrorism to Europe from a group of foreign fighters returning from Syria. ★

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler



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– Paul Cruickshank, editor-in-chief of CTC Sentinel



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