The International Institute for Counter Terrorism
The year: 1996. Few people within the Western world of 1996 could fathom the direction toward which terror groups were reconfiguring in preparation for an assault on centers of population and enterprise or that these assaults would be unprecedented in their scope, coordination and devastating effect. Even fewer were prepared to mobilize the intellectual and practical capital needed to stem terrorist plots in their tracks.

Yet five full years before mega terror burst into the public consciousness on September 11, 2001, a group of individuals at the nascent Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya – Israel’s first private institution of higher education – formed an institute whose exclusive aim would be the examination of terror and how to fight it using an interdisciplinary approach. Founded by former senior members of Israel’s security forces and leading academic scholars whose familiarity with terror tactics was hard-won, the International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT) drew experts from both the practical and the academic worlds in a mix that was unprecedented at the time, but which has been replicated subsequently in groups far and wide who share the same concerns.

A decade later, ICT is sought after by governments, security establishments, scholars and business leaders for the body of knowledge at its disposal, for the clarity of its cutting edge assessments and analyses, and for the network of counter-terror experts who frequent and contribute to its think tanks, workshops and seminars.

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The Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya is Israel’s first private non-government funded institution of higher education. Founded in 1994, IDC has become an interdisciplinary university of international stature, attracting students from 48 countries and becoming a leader in the social sciences fields. In providing our students with theory and with real world experience and skills, we aim to instill our basic outlook, which is rooted in the twin concepts of individual freedom and social responsibility.

We salute IDC’s institute, the International Institute for Counter Terrorism, for its leading academic role in coordinating the struggle against global terrorism in an interdisciplinary and innovative spirit.

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The goal of the International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT) is to advise decision makers, initiate applied research and provide consultation and education to address terror and its effects. In pursuing these aims, we are fortunate to be based at The Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, Israel’s first private institution of higher education, within the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, where the International program provides a concentration in the areas of international affairs, conflict resolution, counter-terrorism and the Middle East. We make full use of the exceptional array of resources at our disposal, in the form of bright students and young scholars from Israel and around the world who pool their knowledge and drive to monitor relevant sources during coursework and internships. This energetic atmosphere adds to ICT’s appeal to former senior members of the security and intelligence communities from Israel and overseas at the highest levels, who join our forums, conferences and think tanks. This fertile ground ultimately sets the stage for analyses and recommendations sought after by decision makers at the highest levels of government and the private sector.

The interdisciplinary approach of IDC Herzliya is optimally suitable for comprehending the phenomenon of terrorism.

This brochure sets forth the International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)’s major pillars of operation. We enter our second decade of activity with a spirit of cautious optimism, sobered by the magnitude and complexity of the threats we face, but confident that with a synergetic effort between Western and Arab-Moslem countries against global jihad, we will see continued progress in our ability to deal with both their operational capacities and their motivation. Together, we stand determined to overcome the axis of evil with an axis of truth.

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Applied Research

The International Institute for Counter Terrorism conducts a highly diverse range of research on subjects relating to low intensity conflict, terror, guerilla warfare and insurgency fighting. This research is designed to apply directly toward improving international and local counter terror efforts.

Position Papers:
ICT brings a distinctive edge in its approach to counter-terrorism. Through its contacts across the sectors – academic, government and private – ICT researchers and fellows comb all relevant resources and produce position papers that represent a consolidated picture of pressing factors, from terror organizations’ methods of operation to their sources of funding, cutting edge counter-terror tactics across borders and the local and international laws that anchor them.

Through providing this comprehensive basis of information from both strategic and interdisciplinary perspectives, ICT aims to foster a multi-lateral consensus from which to set counterterrorism policy at the highest levels. These position papers are presented to governments, parliamentarians, standing government committees, law enforcement, security and intelligence communities.

Think Tanks
For issues that demand pointed consideration and debate, ICT has developed a Think Tank format. Think tanks bring academic and practitioners together on an ad hoc basis for in-depth, time limited discussion of specific issues and quandaries, and with the formulation of policy recommendations directly from the mouths of experts to decision makers.

War Games
ICT conducts War Games and Red Team Simulations in order to analyze the motivations, intentions, decision making processes and capabilities of terrorist organizations worldwide.
Advising Decision Makers

Good security depends on good intelligence, good understanding of the opponent’s rationale, methods of operation and capabilities. ICT’s researchers and associates provide wide-ranging security assessments and advise decision makers from around the world – political leaders, government ministers, members of parliament, heads of security and law enforcement systems, community leaders and opinion makers – with the aim to help in the formation of more effective policy and strategic practices on local, regional and international levels, while striving to maintain the delicate balance between effective counter terror tactics and the preservation of liberal-democratic principles.
Academic Activity

Academic Degree Programs in Counter-Terrorism
The combined assets of ICT expertise within the academic framework of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at IDC Herzliya create opportunities that allow students to earn a B.A. with a concentration in Homeland Security and Terror Studies. With seven courses in each track – English and Hebrew – these degree programs draw upon renowned faculty and researchers, creating a Homeland Security program that is unique – in Israel and worldwide. The English language courses attract graduate students and professionals alike. Plans are underway to launch a Master degree program in Terror and Homeland Security Studies, to be offered in English.

Homeland Security Certificate Courses
ICT offers highly acclaimed education curricula geared for individuals and organizations that interface with counter-terrorism, intelligence and security concerns, as well as special orientation courses tailored to first responders. The objective of these programs is to provide a deeper understanding of the strategy and psychology of terrorist networks, and to foster a greater awareness of issues related to international terrorism. This enhanced understanding of terror methods and tactics is aimed to promote more informed decision making in real life scenarios. Course participants – from both governments and the private sector – gain new analytical tools for coping with terror threats and assessing their own situational concerns.

International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC)
Having witnessed the horrors of terrorism around our planet along with the magnitude of the danger posed to the free world by post-modern terrorism, ICT spurred the creation of a networked community of academic experts and researchers in fields related to counter terrorism in 2003, the International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC). An academic community whose purpose is to lead the way in guiding politicians and decision makers, ICTAC’s activities are primarily academic in nature. Academics from their participating institutes are all involved in recommending policy for their respective countries – serving as a model for international agencies.

It takes a network to beat a network.
Executive Education

ICT experts deliver counter-terrorism workshops and seminars for academics, professionals, and law enforcement agencies that provide comprehensive theoretical and practical analysis of the subject. With an academic curriculum that is modular in nature, curricula can be customized to suit specific operational or organizational needs. The program takes place twice a year at the Herzliya campus, in English, and may be offered on-site anywhere in the world, covering subjects such as:

- Modern Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Strategies
- Counter-Terrorism Issues and Challenges for Homeland Security
- The Financing of International Threats
- Gender and Terrorism
- From Da'awa to Jihad
- Arab Culture and Environment
- Terrorism and Technology
- Terrorism and Medicine
Courtrooms have become an active front on the war on terror. Battles are being won through convictions which hold terrorists and their organizations legally accountable for their crimes and through punitive sentences which render them inoperable. Since terrorists have infiltrated and exploited many of the democratic institutions and freedoms they seek to destroy, it is imperative that we guard and use our legal system to condemn and dismantle the organizations and the deceptive fronts that support them.

To fight terror on this important front, ICT has developed an indispensable service in bringing court cases against financial institutions which have supported terrorist activity. ICT works with prosecutors, private law firms and law enforcement agencies worldwide using legal means to prosecute terrorist organizations and operatives. ICT prepares reports which document and analyze evidence for ongoing cases, supplying testimony and expert witnesses, as well as escorting sensitive and classified evidence internationally. ICT’s extensive databases, library of exclusive reports, diverse language capabilities, and operational experience in counter-terrorism make ICT among the leading authorities in this field.

Terrorist networks’ financial infrastructures form prime targets for successful prosecution. Their finances are the lifeblood of the organization enabling training, purchasing of weapons, maintenance of safe houses, recruitment, propaganda activities, the procurement of false documents and perpetration of attacks. By identifying and tracking money which is illegally funneled through banks, charitable front organizations and laundering, the rule of law can be used as a powerful weapon in countering terrorism.
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The Legal Battle:
Prosecuting Terrorism

ICT experts conduct Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering and analysis, designed to convict terrorists and their supporters, and also serve as expert witnesses in the courtroom.

Col. (Res.) Jonathan Fighel – ICT senior research scholar and head of The Prosecuting Terrorism Intelligence Unit
Building Resilience

Terrorism is first and foremost psychological warfare. The ability of a small group of individuals to manipulate public opinion, and thus steer the overall policies of a nation, is what makes terrorism a threat to every country. The public’s fear of terrorism and sense of vulnerability influence political, social and economic divisions on both regional and international levels. One may win the battle by preventing individual terror attacks, but lose the war when the threat of terrorism succeeds in disrupting daily life. By providing education to the public, ICT works to limit the psychological damage inflicted by terror.

Public Opinion

ICT Research Fellows have gained recognition as authoritative and sought-after commentators on topics related to terror groups and counter-terrorist approaches. Through regular appearances in the print and electronic media, ICT information and perspective generates an understanding of in realistic proportions. Research fellows and associates also feature at seminars, conferences, universities and private functions as well as a press conferences and briefings for media and communications providing expert analysis and commentary.

Programs in Schools

Education drives public opinion, which in turn drives national policy. A core belief at ICT is that proper education and awareness forms a powerful counter-terrorism tactic, in that it helps citizens maintain the knowledge, wisdom, conviction and integrity needed in order not to be swayed by the threat of terror. ICT’s multi-perspective approach to counter-terrorism takes special account of the psychological impact of terrorism on the general public, and has developed educational and outreach programs for educators, policy makers and the media with the aim of redirecting feelings of helplessness, rage and fear into constructive activities.
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ICT offers tailor-made, "Educating the Educator" programs designed for teachers, mental health professionals, journalists and lay leaders.
Business Consultation

Providing security for large public events is fraught with a set of unique and pressing concerns: the requirements of providing public access, facilitating media coverage and keeping a low security profile. Counter-Terrorism Solutions Ltd. (CTS), ICT’s consulting arm, provides the blueprint for clients’ security planning and package, alerting them to threats and potential hazards of their specific situation, and illuminating a solid base upon which to build a tailor-made tactical security operation.

CTS draws from the experience and expertise of ICT researchers and its pool of former senior personnel from the Israeli security and intelligence communities. Specializing in the analysis of existing terrorist groups and individuals, CTS applies this research to clients’ potential and impending situations.

OSINT (Open Sources of Intelligence)

Primary among the CTS arsenal of tools is the OSINT System, a comprehensive survey of Open Sources of Intelligence. OSINT entails access to ICT’s Incidents and Activists Database, one of the most all-encompassing non-governmental resources on terrorist incidents in the world. Based on comprehensive and integrated information compiled since 1975, the database records over 31,000 incidents, including successful terror attacks, foiled attacks, and counter-terror operations, along with background and follow-up information. All material is interlinked and cross-referenced in order to provide the user with an interactive system for retrieving data in an intuitive manner. While not exhaustive, this database provides a valuable resource for the study of changing methods, tactics and targets.
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CTS’s Threat Assessment service provides an overview of international terrorist trends and how they are poised to affect Western governments and organizations. The Risk Analysis services depict specific threat scenarios and their ramifications as they apply to a wide range of industries, organizations, locations, venues and events and provide an informed plan of action. Whether evaluating the vulnerability of a specific country or region to terrorist infiltration, or examining potential terror threats to tourist venues, international events of Olympic proportions, critical urban or national infrastructures, to known danger zones around the world, CTS supplies case studies that provide methodical overviews and exhaustive analyses, with a concise articulation of current status and recommended action items.

Interactive Simulations play a vital role in these consultations and training sessions, which are based on Homeland Security and Markets Analysis, R&D Technology Investments, Risk Assessments, Threat Analyses, Decision Making in Terrorist Events, Extortion, War Game and Red Team Simulations.
Website

ICT’s website is among the first and the foremost of counter terror websites in the world. It monitors and posts fresh and updated information regarding terror events, guerilla and insurgency fighting, as well as information pertaining to counter terrorism, homeland security and international cooperation. Also available through the website are ICT’s publications, books, articles, commentaries, and exchanges, thus serving as a platform for dialogue and exchange within the Institute between colleagues around the world.

ICT’s website is the core of the Institute’s public outreach program. A dynamic public resource on issues related to terrorism and counter-terrorism accessible to all, the site is updated daily with news, video-clips, articles and editorial commentaries by ICT staff and research fellows. Interactive and user-friendly, the website provides real-time access to information for policymakers, scholars and the general public. Cross-correlated for easy browsing and retrieval, ICT’s databases provide a virtual encyclopedia of data, making it among the most comprehensive online libraries in the world.

Web Forum for Experts

In order to provide further opportunities for dialogue and consultation between those on the front line fighting terror, ICT enables selected top experts to discuss dilemmas, pursue solutions and pose queries through a closed forum. Decision makers, security service personnel and practitioners may receive an ICT-assigned password enabling them to monitor the form discussion.
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ICT holds one of the leading and most highly attended international conferences of its kind. Scheduled traditionally to fall on September 11, the conference draws professionals from academia and security-related fields from Israel and around the world. Excerpts from ICT’s Annual Conference provide an idea of the singular platform of content and participants, and the fruitful discussion of trends, challenges, threats and dilemmas.

Plenary discussions on Best Practices in Counter Terrorism Policies offer new assessments of the current organizational capacities of terror organizations and cutting edge perspectives, while over a dozen workshops examine specific dimensions of the issues of terror and its prevention in greater depth.

The three day proceedings examine terrorism from the widest possible scope of disciplines and perspectives, bringing together an unprecedented number of experts to grapple with the magnitude of the challenge, along with the enormity of just what is at stake if these challenges are not met.

9/11 Commemoration Ceremony

“It is deeply moving to hear the national anthems of the United States and Israel played side by side,” remarked Michael A. Mason, Executive Assistant Director of the FBI in his opening address. “Our countries do indeed stand side by side in fighting the scourge of terrorism.”

Capt. John Flynn of the New York Fire Department: “Firefighters have a lot in common with the Israel Defense Forces. We have gone through some very similar experiences.”

Boaz Ganor, on Terrorism of Local Jihad and the Challenge to the Civilized World: “Radical Islam offers what appears to be a solution to susceptible first and second generation Moslem immigrants, an alternative value system, belonging and goal: restoring the Caliphate in Europe and Palestine. Recruits are indoctrinated to the global jihad organization, trained as sleepers and then returned to their societies for fundraising, collecting intelligence and for launching terror attacks.”

Prof. Martha Crenshaw of Wesleyan University, CT on Unintended Consequences of Counter Terrorism Policies: “Paradoxically, governments frequently fail to anticipate consequences of policies designed with other reasons in mind. We know all policies are contingent, but could we do better in looking to the future? This lies more in the mindsets of the decision makers than anything else and we should do our utmost to try to think more broadly.”
Prof. Rafi Melnick, Dean of IDC Herzliya’s Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, on: A Quantitative Analysis on Terrorism and the Media: "Terrorism's economic impact could be diminished by reducing its media coverage. Could the media, as a profit-based industry, accept a voluntary convention to regulate the coverage of terrorism as a counter-terror measure? Is there a democratic way of coordinating media coverage in a free competitive atmosphere?"

Steven Emerson, Executive Director of the Investigative Project on Terrorism, on The Grand Deception: Militant Islam, the Media and the West: "The cover of human rights groups and NGOs for radical Islamic groups, such as CAIR, is the soft underbelly of Western society. The West's legitimation of these groups operating in the name of Moslems aids radical Islam to pursue its ideology and terror."

MK Benjamin Netanyahu, former Prime Minister of Israel and Leader of the Likud Party: "Who will win? Based on history, we will. The West defeated Nazism and Communism once it realized what was at stake. President Bush noted pointedly that "the free nations" will not allow Iran to have nuclear arms. Seeing the danger is the prerequisite for any living organism. This conference is an important means of enlightening all who share a common interest in understanding terrorism and fighting it."

Lior Lotan, Col. (res.) and ICT's former Executive Director, on Al-Qaeda's Activities and Tactics: "The mujahadeen victory over the USSR in the 1980’s was perceived as both a tactical and an ideological moral victory over the infidels and deepened the conviction that jihad – combating infidels through military means and terror – is the obligation of every Moslem with the grand strategy of liberating all Moslem land from foreign presence in its former caliphates, establishing Islamic Sharia rule and enforcing a hegemonic control over the entire world."

Prof. Uriel Reichman, President IDC Herzliya