On the occasion of the ICT’s 20th anniversary, Mr. Dan Diker, ICT Research Fellow sat down with Prof. Boaz Ganor, Founder and Executive Director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT).

The year 2016 marked the 20th anniversary for the ICT, making it an opportune time for Prof. Ganor to reflect on the roots of the organization and to see how far the ICT has come. Mr. Diker and Prof. Ganor also discussed contemporary terrorism following a recent series of terrorist attacks around the world that have been devastating, frequent and mostly unpredicted.

Looking back at the early 1990s when he first discussed the idea for the ICT with other founding members, Prof. Ganor said, “We saw ourselves back then as [an organization] bridging the gap between academic perspective and practical experience.” The beginnings were difficult. Prof. Ganor noted that it took five years for scholars and counter-terrorism practitioners to abandon their initial skepticism of the other side and endorse the idea of a counter-terrorism research institute combining members from both camps. The institute was founded on the IDC’s leafy Herzliya campus in 1996. Counter-terrorism was still in its infancy and 9/11, the start of most states’ CT efforts, was five years away. Prof. Ganor gave precise examples of what the newly founded institute brought to the table: for the first time, people from disciplines such as “psychology, criminology, computer science, biology, chemistry, physics” sat together to create novel solutions against terrorism.

Most adults remember where they were when the 9/11 attacks occurred, and Prof. Ganor is no exception. On this fateful day in the history of terrorism, Prof. Ganor was in the United States to give a lecture entitled “Preventing Suicide Attacks: The Israeli Challenge.” The paper invitation to the talk in San Francisco is dated “September 11, 2001” and hangs in Prof. Ganor’s office to this day. It serves as a reminder that fifteen years ago, the Israeli challenge became an American challenge, and indeed a global challenge, against terrorism.

Mr. Diker noted that even the term “counter-terrorism,” present in the institute’s name from the beginning, was avant-garde in 1996 while today “decision-makers in the whole world put their hand up,” desperate for answers and solutions in this field. Prof. Ganor gained international fame for articles and books defining terrorism, but what exactly is counter-terrorism? In his words, “counter-terrorism is a certain type of art.” It is often a balancing act: balancing between countering motivations of terrorists and countering their operational capabilities; balancing counter-terrorism activity against guardianship of liberal democratic values, such as human rights; and so on.
How has counter-terrorism changed over the past two decades, and what will the future hold? Prof. Ganor points to Europe as an example. The recent Brussels attacks have shown that “the strength of the [European] chain of counter-terrorism security is as strong as the weakest link of the chain.” Prof. Ganor elaborated with the precise examples of the Paris and Brussels attacks, both planned in part from the Brussels neighborhood of Molenbeek: “if you have a loophole, a weak link such as Belgium, and you are living in France or Germany where practitioners are knowledgeable and systems are strong, the weakness of Belgium may leak into your own country.”

Prof. Ganor also noted that European states have all called for increased cooperation in their counter-terrorism operations following the Brussels attacks, but argued that these operations may not be enough. He called for a truly joint effort under united doctrines and a new supranational counter-terrorism apparatus with a police force, intelligence unit, and other sophisticated capabilities. In his view EUROPOL does not fulfill these requirements as it is still a body of national representatives; rather Europe needs an apparatus that “will be European and work for all the countries at the same time.”

Mr. Diker congratulated the ICT’s founder on giving “a perfect microcosm of the ICT’s interdisciplinary nature” with his recommendation to the European states. This interdisciplinary approach has served the ICT well over the past twenty years. It will surely equip Prof. Ganor and his colleagues with the necessary vision to stand at the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts in the years to come.
The ICT operates a number of desks which address current and important challenges to counter-terrorism. The desks provide comprehensive and integrated knowledge based on ICT research and analysis.

- Jihadi Monitoring Group (JMG)
- Cyber-Terrorism Desk
- International Humanitarian Law Desk
- Governance & Political Violence Desk
- Database Desk
- Extremism and Hate Crime Desk
- CBRN Desk
- Terrorist Prosecution Desk

https://www.ict.org.il/
Who Is The Enemy? Terrorism As An Unidentified Fighting Object

Prof. Alain Bauer

The plurality of terrorisms poses a serious problem, because we have designed a “prêt-à-porter” anti-terrorism system to fight against “bespoke” terrorism. It is the compatibility of these two systems that is the most pressing matter to be dealt with today. It is not the competence, efficiency, or experience of the agents which is in question, but rather the necessity of altering the method of apprehending threats. We need to stop operating according to a retrospective model and to admit the ruptures that have appeared in these rhythms, the mutations that have not been understood, and the major changes on which we must concentrate. There is no specific criticism to be addressed at anti-terrorism. It is, in any case, always very easy to give lessons in hindsight. On the other hand, the real issue is that it is now months and even years since we have been circling the same problem—the necessity of developing a special instrument dedicated to anti-terrorism.

Such a service has only ever once been created, not by a national police force, but by a local one. In 2002, the New York police decided to create the only service completely dedicated to anti-terrorism in the West. And it is now thirteen years in which this service has done nothing but prevent attacks. Of course, one may occur some day, because 100% risk prevention is impossible. However, between 90% and 100% there is room for improvement. These percentage points represent dozens and possibly hundreds of deaths and injuries that can be avoided. After each attack, a commission of inquiry is created which nearly always reaches the same conclusions: (1) in fact, we knew everything, or almost everything; (2) for some mysterious reason, we did not properly understand what we knew (the Americans have the perfect phrase to express this: “We did not connect the dots”); and (3) this must never happen again.

The problem is that it does happen again. Whether because we are surprised (and we have every right to be surprised) as in the Keikal affair; or because we were tricked (and we have the right to be tricked), as in the case of the Kouachi brothers; or because there is a problem with adapting culturally to the realities of terrorism and the fact of having dozens of services that do the same thing in competition with each other presents a problem. It is here that there is the opportunity to improve the situation. The task of simplification is absolutely vital. We will not prevent all attacks in this way, but if at least we can prevent those that could have been prevented because it turns out fifteen minutes after identifying an attacker that we have a thick file on them, this at least will be a net improvement. Resistance and resilience cannot consist simply of proclaiming after each attack that we are going to resist. We must also remind ourselves that effective anti-terrorism lies not in arresting the perpetrators of attacks, but in preventing the attacks themselves.

The essence of the reforms that must be undertaken today. It is not necessary to create a new organization, but rather to take a firm hold of the instruments of anti-terrorism and make of them an operational and functional system. We need to leave counterespionage agencies to get on with counterespionage, which they do very well, and crime fighting agencies to fight organized crime, at which they acquit themselves admirably. But we need now to take genuine anti-terrorism measures, and not to apply counterespionage or crime-fighting measures to anti-terrorism.
The Berlin Vehicular Ramming Attack

On Monday, December 19, 2016, Germany witnessed the worst terrorist attack carried out on its soil since the 1980s. While the full identity of the attacker is still under investigation, Germany has a history of being the victim of both international and homegrown terrorism. Germany continues to be a significant target for terrorists, especially since the country joined the anti-ISIS coalition led by the United States.

Germany is a strategic and diplomatic hub of Europe and its important stature makes the country a figurehead of European and Western values. As such, Germany is considered a prime target, listed amongst countries such as France and Belgium, which have seen their fair share of terror attacks in recent times. In 2016 alone, Jihadists targeted / tried to target Germany 8 times; including a suicide bombing, attempted nail-bomb attacks, and various cold-weapon assaults (axes, knives, etc.).

A 12-year-old boy attempted to carry out two bomb attacks in Ludwigshafen, Germany. On November 26th, 2016 he placed a nail bomb at a Christmas market in the city (the bomb failed to detonate) and on December 5th, 2016 he attempted to target a building housing both the town hall and a shopping center (the backpack with the bomb was spotted by pedestrians and destroyed in a controlled explosion).

The opening of borders between European Union countries has led to increased freedom of movement, which has in turn led to a rise in transnational crime and terrorist activities. Countries in Europe can no longer be solely concerned with their own vulnerabilities, but must also be mindful of the threats posed by operatives who may enter from the surrounding region. High levels of cross-border communication and intelligence-gathering are now crucial to prevent the further perpetration of atrocities on German soil.

It is worth noting that Germany serves as a fertile ground for radicalization. Radicalized individuals have the option to remain in the country, or as is becoming increasingly popular - travelling to theaters of Jihad abroad. These foreign fighters pose a significant risk, as when they return to their home countries, they have acquired combat field experience, knowledge, connections and expertise. With about 700 Foreign Fighters, Germany has one of the highest numbers (after France and similar to the United Kingdom) of foreign fighters of any European or Western country. As mentioned, Germany has also witnessed several terrorist attacks on its soil and it is clear that there exists in Germany a terrorist infrastructure affiliated with Global Jihadi ideology.

For the full article >>
Online Campaign Encouraging Lone Wolf Attacks in the West: The Telegram Account of the Isnad Group

JMG Desk

One of the difficult challenges facing the West is the phenomenon of “lone wolf” terrorist attacks; a phenomenon encouraged by Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, among others, due to the ease with which they can be carried out, the great psychological deterrence effect that they generate, and the strengthened image that they provide to the terrorist organization in whose name they act. Al-Qaeda has encourage individual terrorist attacks by Muslims in the West for several years. For example, Al-Qaeda published a pocket guide titled, “Lone Mujahid Pocketbook” in 2013, which contained a series of tips and recommendations on how to carry out attacks. The Islamic State gave the phenomenon significant impetus thanks to its use of social networks.

The ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group discovered such a network campaign on the Telegram channel of the Isnad Center. The media center is responsible for supporting jihadist accounts, coordinating campaigns on social networks and publishing materials related to media institutions of jihadist groups, particularly for Al-Qaeda. The network campaign was launched on December 30, 2016 on the eve of Christmas celebrations and continued until January 4, 2017 when it was shut down by Telegram management. In the framework of the campaign, banners were distributed in English and Russian encouraging Muslims in the West, especially in the United States, France and Russia, to carry out lone wolf attacks in revenge for their forceful involvement in Syria. For example, several banners stated that the lone mujahid is supposed to instill terror and fear among the infidels on their own lands.

The “Lone Wolf” Terrorist Attacks in Israel 2015/16: The Medical Perspective

Prof. Gadi Shaked

The recent wave of terrorist attacks against Israelis during the last 6 months has been characterized mainly by stabbing and shooting events usually carried out by individuals. Thus, the perpetrators are being nicknamed “lone wolves”.

This paper deals with the medical perspectives of the current wave of terrorism with recommendations for action in order to strengthen Israeli public resilience.

As a result of an ongoing wave of terrorist attacks against Israelis since September 13, 2015, 30 people have been killed and approximately 350 people have been injured. According to official reports, the attacks have included 170 stabbings and attempted stabbings, 70 shootings, and 38 vehicular (ramming) attacks [1]. In contrast to previous periods of Palestinian uprising, this current wave of terrorist attacks is characterized by seemingly unguided, non-organized popular acts that are being carried out by young, lone terrorists (some as young as 13-15), most of them from east Jerusalem and some from other parts of Judea and Samaria. Such incidents, which have earned the nickname “lone wolf” attacks, have become a popular means of terrorist activity. These “lone wolves” are not directed by any organization, but rather are inspired by intense incitement that is easily accessible to them in the local media and via social networks. As these attacks were designed to be an expression of “popular resistance”, the assailants use cold weapons such as knives, scissors and screwdrivers in most of the incidents. In the majority of these incidents, the attacker was killed at the scene by a soldier, law enforcement personnel, or even by a civilian bystander.

For the Full Report >>
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On October 31, 2015 a Russian Airbus A321 plane was shot down on its way from the Sinai Peninsula to Saint Petersburg by a bomb that was planted under one of the plane’s seats. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the terror attack and said that it had been able to detect a security breach at the international airport in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Sinai Peninsula. The force of the blast on the plane was equivalent to one kilogram of TNT explosive material which, according to the organization, had been hidden in a beverage can. The attack, which was carried out in the wake of Russia’s involvement in the war in Syria, caused the plane to crash and killed all 224 people on board.

Shortly after the terror attack in Sinai, three more significant attacks were carried out against the aviation industry. In the first attack, on February 3, 2016, a bomb was planted by Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen on a passenger plane in Somalia, which caused a hole in the plane shortly after takeoff. The second attack was carried out a month later on March 22, 2016 in Brussels by the Islamic State. Two suicide terrorists exploded at the entrance to the international airport terminal in Brussels and another suicide terrorist blew himself up inside a train carriage in a subway station next to the EU Parliament. The third terror attack took place on June 28, 2016 in Ataturk international airport in Istanbul, Turkey. In this attack, three terrorists opened fire in the departures terminal and later detonated explosive vests, killing more than forty people and injuring 150 others.

These attacks testify to the existence of terrorist organizations’ motivation and ability to carry out terror attacks against the aviation industry, which they consider to be an attractive target. The motivation to attack public transportation targets in general, and the aviation industry in particular, is tied to the direct psychological effect of this type of attack. These attacks create fear and anxiety among the population, and may paralyze the transportation at the state level and sometimes at the international level. The famous statement made by George Habash following the successful hijacking of an El-Al flight to Algeria at the end of the 1960’s that “when we hijack a plane it has a more significant effect than if we killed a hundred Israelis in battle”, emphasizes the importance that terrorist organizations ascribed, even then, to the psychological and media effect of terror attacks in the aviation arena. Recent successful attacks against aviation targets strengthen the motivation of terrorist organizations to carry out attacks in this arena, which are not limited to attacks on planes but include attacks within airports as well.

One of the main trends emerging from recent terror attacks is the attempt to make use of personnel employed by the aviation industry to aid or execute an attack. This issue has a significant impact, especially in the European context where there is the potential to recruit a relatively large number of airport employees to carry out terror attacks.

Another trend emerging in light of events taking place in conflict zones and from the jihadist discourse has to do with the tactical and technological knowledge and experience that terrorist organizations and their fighters accumulate. This knowledge is likely to be applied to the implementation of terror attacks in the local and international aviation industry, in the foreseeable future. For instance, in addition to the “traditional” threats to the aviation industry posed by rockets, new threats are emerging in technologies such as simulators, drones, laser, as well as cyberspace capabilities.

For the full Report >>
Analysis of Cyber Trends 2016

The potential of cyberspace, including the Internet, was first recognized by terrorist organizations over a decade ago but in recent years there has been a significant increase in the scope of Internet use and in the level of sophistication with which it is used. At first, terrorist organizations operated using Internet sites only and later combined these sites with basic interactive elements. Today, through the use of social networks and various applications, these organizations operate on the Internet with full interactive features. The Islamic State is considered a pioneer in this arena and a leading player among terrorist organizations regarding innovation in the cyber world.

The operational arena serves as the main layer used by terrorist organizations in almost every respect, including communication, propaganda, psychological warfare, recruitment and manpower training, intelligence gathering, information sharing and financing. One prominent trend in this context is the use of a wide range of platforms (social networks, applications, forums etc.) coupled with the sensible utilization of the relative advantage inherent in any platform and appeal to specific target audiences. In this context, use of off-the-shelf software is increasing as independent application development is declining. In addition, there has been a significant improvement in the quality of various products used by terrorist organizations, both visually speaking and in terms of adapting their content and visibility to various target audiences.

The offensive arena is designed to serve the operational arena, such as propaganda and psychological warfare (Web site defacement, hacking, the publication of killing lists, etc.) Terrorist players do not yet have advanced independent offensive capabilities but these can be purchased on the Internet and may be accepted by state sponsors of terrorism (like in the case of Iran and Hezbollah). In addition, there has been an increase in activities by terror-supporting external hackers as well as the recruitment of hackers to the ranks of terrorist organizations.

The defensive arena is designed to protect the anonymity of users and information security. Terrorist organizations publish guidebooks on safe and anonymous Internet use and on information security, as well as instructions on how to copy activity to the “darknet”. In addition, use of encrypted applications such as Telegram is also on the rise.

Read the full Report >>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
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Financing Terrorism through Advertisements on Jihadist Websites >>

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Use of the ZeroNet Network by the Islamic State >>

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“Killing Lists” – The Evolution of Cyber Terrorism? >>

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*****
The Islamic State’s Propaganda Activities in the Shadow of the Battle in Mosul >>

*****
The Telegram Chat Software as an Arena of Activity to Encourage the “Lone Wolf” Phenomenon >>

*****
When Hamas comes into your living room>>
International law does not directly address intelligent defense systems (IDSs), of which Israel's Iron Dome embodies the most successful implementation to date. This Article argues that IHL should encourage the development and use of systems like Iron Dome by conceptualizing such systems as civil defense.

That IHL should incentivize IDSs is not as obvious as it may seem. While incentivizing IDSs would uphold humanitarian law's ultimate purpose (i.e., the protection of civilians), the data suggests that IDS deployment can lead to an increase in rockets and the (re)emergence of violent tactics. IDSs also challenge the prevailing logic of IHL, which is typically focused on protecting the other side and not one's own. But not incentivizing systems like Iron Dome flies in the face of IHL's essence and leads to more casualties.

IHL should choose to incentivize intelligent defense systems for reasons grounded in humanitarian law itself, data analysis on Iron Dome, and offense-defense theory. Ultimately, conceptualizing IDSs as civil defense best addresses the complex legal and security dilemmas arising out of the use of intelligent defense systems.

Read the full Report >>

The emerging legal framework governing foreign fighters, whose importance is set to grow, epitomizes assumptions we've made about the good, the bad, and the ugly in Syria. While the international community condemns the recruitment of “foreign fighters” by ISIS, it condones the recruitment of “foreign volunteers” by the Kurds. That the international community has come together to condemn the recruitment of foreign “fighters” joining the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is unsurprising: Since the late 1960’s, it has repeatedly opposed the involvement of foreign individuals in conflicts to which their state of nationality is not a party. After decades of condemnation by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, an entire (albeit-ineffective) regime outlawing mercenaries emerged, primarily to stop Westerners from fighting in African conflicts. It sent a clear signal as to the illegitimacy of participating in someone else’s war.

Read the full Report >>
Prof. Boaz Ganor, Founder & Executive Director, ICT, Ronald Lauder Chair for Counter-Terrorism & Dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, met with INTERPOL President, Mr. Meng Hongwei, during a conference in Paris (A FRAGMENTED WORLD: The Centrifugal Forces of Globalization).

Lt. Col. (Res.) Adv. Uri Ben Yaakov, ICT Senior Researcher, briefed representatives from the Polish Embassy in Israel and representatives from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on global Jihad and the cyber terrorism risk to Poland.

Prof. Boaz Ganor, met with Mr. Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, and Prof. Irwin Cotler, Former Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Canada and delivered a briefing on recent trends in Counter-Terrorism.

Prof. Boaz Ganor met with a delegation of British Members of Parliament led by Deputy Leader of the Labour Party MP Tom Watson and delivered a lecture titled "The Art of Counter-Terrorism".

Dr. Eitan Azani, ICT Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Ely Karmon and Lt. Col. (Res.) Adv. Uri Ben Yaakov, ICT Senior Researchers briefed a delegation of researchers from the Middle East Studies Institute (MESI) in China on "The Development of the Islamic State, Influence and Challenges".

Experts from the ICT met with a delegation from Taiwan and discuss recent terrorism threats to Israel and the region. The delegation included leadership from the Taiwan Office of Homeland Security and the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau.
Activities

ICT had the pleasure to meet with H.E. Daniel Mitov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

Minister Mitov met with Prof. Uriel Reichman, President and Founder of IDC Herzliya and then received a briefing from experts from ICT. Mr. Shabtai Shavit, Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICT and Former Head of the Mossad, Dr. Eitan Azani, Deputy Director of ICT and Senior Researchers Dr. Ely Karmon and Dr. Amichai Magen spoke to the Minister on the current terrorism threats to Europe, the geopolitical situation in Syria and radicalization.

ICT held a meeting with Prof. Thierry de Montbrial, Founder and President of France’s leading think tank, the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI).

Dr. Eitan Azani and Dr. Ely Karmon met with Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Prof. Kresimir Cosic, Former Deputy Minister of Defense, Croatia and H.E Pjer Šimunović, Ambassador of Croatia to Israel.
Activities

Prof. Boaz Ganor delivered a lecture on "The impact of global terrorism on the EU" in a conference titled "The Fight Against Terrorism: The Need for Global Cooperation" which was organized by the European Parliament in Brussels.

Dr. Ely Karmon, Senior Research Scholar, ICT, IDC Herzliya, visited Prague in the framework of ICT’s cooperation agreement with the CEVRO Institute. Dr. Karmon conducted meetings with the Vice President of the Czech Police Academy, Frantisek Hrebik, and Prof. Jozef Sabol, the Academy’s CBRN expert. He also briefed Czech officials on the situation in the Middle East. During his visit, Dr. Karmon delivered a lecture titled "The Support of Communist Regimes for Terrorist Organizations in the Middle East" organized by the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations (PCTR).

Prof. Assaf Moghadam, Associate Professor and Director of the MA Program Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy Director of Academic Affairs, ICT, IDC Herzliya, met with a delegation of young Muslim German leaders. The meeting was held as part of the ICT’s long-standing cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Israel. The discussion included topics such as radicalization of youth in Germany, integration of Muslims in Europe, and the activities of Salafist groups in Germany, and the changing character of Europe.

Dr. Gil-ad Ariely, Chief Knowledge Officer and Senior Researcher at the ICT, IDC, Herzliya delivered a lecture in conference titled “Migration, Borders, and Security” organized by the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relation of the CEVRO Institute (PCTR) in cooperation with HOME AFFAIRS Internal Security Forum Prague.

Col.(Ret.) Jonathan Fighel, Senior Researcher & Head of the Terrorism Prosecution Desk, ICT, IDC Herzliya, delivered a lecture in a conference titled "Internal Security Forum Prague" which was organized by the European Values Think Tank.

Lt. Col. (Res.) Adv. Uri Yaakov, ICT Senior Researcher took part in the "Baltic - Russia Youth Conference" which was organized by the Atlantic Treaty Association, in Lithuania. He also participated in a panel that dealt with "Threats to NATO from the East and South" and delivered a lecture on
Activities

Prof. Boaz Ganor briefed French members of Parliament, Mr. Éric Ciotti and Mr. Guillaume Larrive, on Israel’s Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Dr. Eitan Azani briefed a delegation of Professors from Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences, China on current issues in Counter-Terrorism.

Lt. Col. (Res) Uri Ben Yaakov ICT Senior Researcher and Chief Supt. (Ret.) Asher Ben Artzi, ICT Associate, briefed diplomats and media personnel from Japan, China and USA.

Dr. Eitan Azani delivered a lecture on “Fighting Terror within the Law in Germany, Israel and Europe” in a Summer Program in Germany for Law Students from Germany and Israel.

Dr. Amichai Magen, Senior Researcher & Head of the Terrorism & Governance Desk, ICT, briefed Australian Parliament members on the changing Middle East and the terrorism challenges Israel faces, in the Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Lt. Col. (Res) Uri Ben Yaakov ICT Senior Researcher and Prof. Phineas Dickstein, ICT Research Fellow delivered lectures on current issues in counter-terrorism in a conference for European diplomats organized by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ICT Experts briefed The Honorable Jan Jambon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Security & Home Affairs of Belgium on the threat posed by lone wolves, terrorism in Europe and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Prof. Boaz Ganor briefed Nicholas J. Rasmussen, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) on current trends in terrorism and counter-terrorism.
ICT co-hosted an International conference with INSS South Korea in Seoul on "The Emerging Terrorist Threats and National Security". During the conference Dr. Eitan Azani, Deputy Director of ICT provided a lecture on "The Israeli Case: International Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism Strategy". INSS Korea is the think tank of the Korean Ministry of Defense.

Prof. Boaz Ganor briefed a delegation of World Affairs Councils of America on current issues of Counter-Terrorism.

Dr. Michael Barak delivered a lecture on Cyber-Security at a conference organized in collaboration with the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) in Sweden and the Academy of Military Science (AMS), China.

Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov and Mr. Edan Landau provided a series of lectures on Counter-Terrorism in an International Workshop on Anti-Terrorism in Varna, Bulgaria.

Dr. Boaz Ganor met with former French Presidential Candidate Jean-François Copé and discussed the emerging terrorist threat to Europe and how to counter it.

Prof. Boaz Ganor briefed a delegation of World Affairs Councils of America on current issues of Counter-Terrorism.

Dr. Ely Karmon delivered a lecture at a conference organized by the Center for Israeli Studies (CISS) together with the Israeli Embassy in Romania, at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Romania on "Israeli Political Reality between Internal and International Challenges".

Chief Supt. (Ret.) Asher Ben Artzi, ICT Associate, briefed diplomats from South Korea, Romania, Greece and Australia.

Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov and Mr. Edan Landau briefed a delegation from Olmsted-Fulbright Field Study in Peace and Conflict, Canada.
Activities

Police Commissioner of New South Wales, Australia, Andrew Scipione was briefed by Prof. Boaz Ganor, Dr. Eitan Azani, and Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov.

A delegation led by Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic, Jacob Landowska visited the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) and met with ICT senior researchers, Prof. Assaf Moghadam, Dr. Amichai Magen and Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov.

Chief Supt. (Ret.) Asher Ben Artzi, ICT Associate and Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov, ICT senior researcher, briefed representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Israel.


Prof. Boaz Ganor briefed members of the British Parliament: MP Joan Ryan, MP Ian Austin, MP Gisela Stuart, Lord Roger Liddle, as well as Robert Philpot and Gregory Halimi from Labour Friends of Israel on the security situation in the Middle East and the current terrorism threats to Israel.

ICT Senior Researchers Dr. Ely Karmon and Dr. Amichai Magen with H.E. Dr. Clemens von Goetze, German Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Norbert Rottgen, Chairman of the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag, and Members of the Bundestag Marieluise Beck and Roderich Kiesewetter.

Prof. Boaz Ganor, Dr. Ely Karmon and Lt. Col (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov met with Lt. Gen. Massimiliano Del Casale, President of the Centre for the High Defence Studies, Italy.

Chief Supt. (Ret.) Asher Ben Artzi, ICT Associate, met with representatives from the Spanish Embassy in Israel.
The ICT and the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC), held the annual scholarships award ceremony to promote research in counter-terrorism and homeland security. The scholarships were given in memory of Architect, Major Eyal Ragonis Z"l, for his military and civilian accomplishments. Among the commemorators was Former Defence Minister Lt. Gen (Ret.) Moshe Bogie Ya'alon. The event focused on current issues related to cyber-terrorism. The keynote address was given by Dr. Eviatar Matania, Head of the National Cyber Bureau in the Prime Minister office of Israel followed by a panel which included Prof. Boaz Ganor, Dr. Amichai Magen Dr. Dima Adamsky and Dr. Dror Harel.
Between September 11th-15th, 2016 the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at The Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya held its annual conference “Unpuzzling Terrorism”. The ICT’s 16th International Conference opened on the evening of September 11th, 2016 at IDC Herzliya with a ceremony honoring the memory of the victims of 9/11 and terrorism worldwide. On September 12th-13th, the conference convened at the Sharon Hotel in Herzliya, where keynote addresses were made as well as the Summit’s plenary sessions. The topics of discussion during the plenary sessions included the evolving threat of Global Jihad; terrorist use of social media; the terrorist threat posed to Israel and other democratic countries; and a session on Lone Wolves. The last two days of the conference, September 14th-15th, explored the general theme of the conference through a series of workshop sessions, keynote addresses and a concluding simulation.

This year, ICT’s annual conference brought together over a thousand top decision-makers, defense, intelligence and police officials, scholars, and security industry leaders from over 60 countries to learn from each other about the challenges posed by terrorist organizations and strategies for dealing with them.

Prof. Uriel Reichman, President & Founder, IDC Herzliya, Israel delivered opening remarks and stressed that terrorism has become a world problem. Fifteen years after the 9/11 attacks there is no territory immune from terrorism; not a physical space nor a virtual space. The world is at a changing point, from climate change to economic crisis, and only international cooperation and international legislation will put an end to terrorism.

Mr. Shabtai Shavit, Chairman of the Board of Directors, ICT, IDC Herzliya and Former Director of the Mossad, Israel emphasized the importance of international cooperation to prevent terrorists from acquiring and using non-conventional weapons and urged the participants of the conference to learn from each other and for "common wisdom to prevail".

Prof. Boaz Ganor, Founder & Executive Director, ICT, Ronald Lauder Chair for Counter-Terrorism & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel discussed the counter-terrorism situation 15 years after the 9/11 attacks. On one hand, the world has more ungoverned spaces than ever. These spaces have been filled with terrorist organizations that possess advanced technologies that they had not been able to utilize in the past. On the other hand, we now have better cooperation in all aspects, including intelligence technology sharing. The key point to success in fighting the innovative terrorist is the “Art” of Countering Terrorism and the artists are those who arrived at the conference.

For the Full Conference Summary >>
The Executive Certificate Program in Counter-Terrorism Studies, offered by the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, was held from July 10-29, 2016 and included over 200 students participants from over 10 countries.

AJC ACCESS Israel and the ICT held a Counter Terrorism course for foreign Diplomats posted in Israel. The course included 16 diplomats from 10 different countries learning from the Israeli Counter-Terrorism experience.

ICT conducted a seminar for the Israeli Border Police. The seminar, led by Dr. Eitan Azani and top ICT researchers, included topics related to Islamic Radicalization, cyber threats, recent developments of Jihadi terrorism, in depth lectures on Hezbollah and Hamas and an overview on challenges in the Middle East.
ICT Academic Program

The Counter-Terrorism Studies Program combines academic study, simulation models, workshops, and onsite briefings. The courses provide concentrated, in-depth exposure to the phenomenon of modern terrorism and its characteristics, modus operandi, scope and dissemination throughout the world. In addition, participants will obtain an understanding of the challenge this phenomenon presents to decision-makers, security establishments, first responders and the business sector, based on the experience Israel has accumulated in the field. Circumstances have forced Israel to develop sophisticated counter-terrorism strategies and techniques and to amass extensive knowledge regarding terrorism. The program will allow participants from around the globe to benefit from Israel’s experience and advanced international counter-terrorism efforts.

The Executive Certificate Program in Counter-Terrorism Studies, offered by the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, is a unique opportunity for professionals to learn about central issues in counter-terrorism and homeland security both from those with first-hand experience and those involved in cutting-edge research in these fields. Based on years of extensive research, instruction and work in the field, this multidisciplinary program brings together the best of academic theory and practical knowledge.

ICT Internship Program

The ICT Internship Program, led by Ms. Arava Lev, offers year round internships for undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students. Interns are provided with the opportunity to contribute to the Institute’s daily research activities and events. For the 2016 academic year, the ICT Internship program has over 160 BA and MA interns volunteering at the ICT.

ICT accepted interns from over 35 states, coming from the United States and Europe to carry out a rigorous internship at the ICT offices on the beautiful Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya campus. ICT Interns come from prestigious universities including: Harvard, UCLA, Georgetown, Science Po, Université de la Sorbonne, Colgate, University of Virginia, Pepperdine, Dartmouth and Tufts.

In September 2016, over 60 student volunteers took part in ICT’s 16th Annual International Conference, assisting the ICT in organizing the conference and insuring that events run smoothly.

The start of fall semester in November 2016, saw the start of the IDC BA and MA interns. 86 BA interns and 70 MA interns from the IDC help assist with current ICT research projects, including the ICT Database, ICT Cyber Review, and JMG.

In addition, MA ICT Interns have the opportunity to take part in the ICT MA Internship Seminar, in which students have a chance to present their ICT research projects in a safe environment and receive constructive feedback from fellow interns and researchers.

During the academic year, the ICT runs three sessions of interns from abroad, in our Fall, Spring and Summer sessions. In each of these sessions, 7 interns are chosen from a highly competitive pool to join the ICT for 3-4 months as a full member of the ICT team. These interns come from top European and American universities.

For more information on BA and MA programs, please click here>>

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For more information >>
Counter-Terrorism Today

The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) in cooperation with the IDC International Radio and Voice of Israel.

Counter Terrorism Today - 28/01/16 - Three experts joined Counter Terrorism Today to discuss ISIS’s March from Syria to the Sinai: Is ISIS becoming a regional and national strategic threat, or is it an intransigent insurgency limited to Syria and Iraq?

Counter Terrorism Today - 11/02/16 - Counter-Terrorism and the Democratic Dilemma: how do liberal democracies defend themselves by passing counter-terrorism legislation; and, whilst being vigilant in the fight against terrorism, can Israel continue respecting the rights of individuals in its liberal democracy?

Counter Terrorism Today 18/7/16 – In this edition of Counter Terrorism Today at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Mr. Dan Diker invited several prominent experts in the fields of national security, counterterrorism and Middle Eastern studies to discuss Turkey’s unstable role in the Middle East. Col. (Res.) Dr. Shaul Shay, Research Fellow at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Director of Research at the Institute for Policy and Strategy at the IDC Herzliya and former deputy head of the Israeli National Security Council, accurately outlined Turkey’s problematic relations with its neighboring countries in its attempt to bridge the gap between Western values and moderate Islamic schooling.

Unpuzzling Terrorism with Dr. Ely Karmon 21/09/2016 – Dr. Karmon spoke at Counter-Terrorism Today, answering questions by MA students about the current regional conflicts. Dr. Karmon is a senior research scholar at the ICT and a senior researcher at the Institute for Policy and Strategy Center at the IDC Herzliya. He is also an expert in both regional conflicts and Hezbollah.

Unpuzzling Terrorism with Lt. Col. (Res) Uri Ben Yaakov 21/09/2016 – Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov discussed the counter-terrorism bill that has since been passed by the Knesset. Lt. Col. (Res.) Ben Yaakov, who is a senior researcher and project manager at the ICT, was sent to the Knesset as a representative of the ICT during the debate and formulation period of the law.

Counter Terrorism Today 7/12/16 – In this edition of Counter Terrorism Today, Mr. Dan Diker invited Dr. Anan Wahabi and Dr. Sagit Yehoshua to discuss radicalization. Dr. Wahabi was formerly a Colonel (Res.) in the Israeli Defense Forces and is a professor of political science at the University of Haifa, and Dr. Yehoshua is lecturer at King’s College in London, specializing in criminology. Both also serve as research fellows at ICT.
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