The Art of Counter-Terrorism
Conference Summary

World Summit on Counter-Terrorism
The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism’s (ICT’s) 18th Annual World Summit on Counter-Terrorism took place in Herzliya, Israel from September 3-6, 2018. Guests from around the world convened for two days of plenary sessions which were held on September 3rd and 4th, 2018 and two days of workshop sessions which took place on September 5th and 6th, 2018. The 18th Annual World Summit surrounded the theme of the “Art of Counter-Terrorism”, addressing five major areas every “artist” of counter-terrorism must master in order to effectively counter terrorism.

ICT’s Annual World Summit is the largest of its kind, and provides unparalleled opportunity for cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. Boasting the presence of over 1,000 world-renowned experts, practitioners, scholars and academics with diverse backgrounds in areas of counter-terrorism, the International Summit allows for the establishment of professional networks, and fosters meaningful international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The conference commenced with keynote addresses and plenary sessions held at the Sharon Hotel in Herzliya, Israel. The Master of Ceremonies throughout the conference was Mr. Jonathan Davis, Vice President for External Relations & Head of the Raphael Recanati International School (RRIS), IDC Herzliya, Israel.

The Honorable Moshe Fadlon, Mayor of Herzliya, Israel, opened this year’s conference with a discussion on the changing nature of the municipal infrastructure under his jurisdiction. He highlighted his belief that the cyber realm is the most salient theatre of terrorism today, and the primary threat that he, as a mayor must cope with.
Following the Honorable Mr. Fadlon, **Prof. Boaz Ganor**, Founder & Executive Director, ICT, Ronald Lauder Chair & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC, Herzliya, briefly addressed the topics to be covered in the duration of the conference, and stressed the need to evaluate the ever-changing terrorism climate. He particularly emphasized the problems caused by the fall of the Islamic State and the strengthening of the “Axis of Evil” which is formed by the relationship between Iran, Hezbollah, Shi’ite militias and the umbrella support of Russia. The **Honorable MK Gilad Erdan**, Minister of Public Security, Strategic Affairs & Information, Israel, followed with a discussion on current challenges in terrorism, focusing on the recent trend of lone-wolf attackers both in Israel and internationally. He shared three methods for combating this threat; increasing attention and awareness in public, prioritizing security forces and primary responders such as police, fire-fighters and prison guards, and the need to fight incitement and radicalization. The **Honorable Hans-Georg Engelke**, State Secretary for Security, Federal Ministry of Interior, Germany spoke next, reinforcing Prof. Ganor’s sentiments with a discussion on the fall of the Islamic State and its implication for global terrorism. He described three primary threats from the decline of the Caliphate. The first is the threat created by returning terrorist foreign fighters, the second is the threat posed by the influx of refugees and the third is the challenge of online radicalization. After the Honorable Mr. Engelke, **ASG/DE Michele Coninsx**, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Security Council, United Nations, discussed her solution to some of the challenges raised. She argued that the evolving nature of terrorism described by the other speakers requires a unified response which spans all levels of cooperation: local, regional and international.
Terrorism Threats to Israel

The plenary session held on the topic of “Terrorism Threats to Israel” was comprised of a number of Israeli experts, who convened to discuss the terrorism related challenges currently facing the State of Israel, and the potential solutions to these challenges.

The session, which was moderated by Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, commenced with opening remarks by Maj. Gen. Yair Golan, Former Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel. Maj. Gen. Golan addressed three major security challenges facing Israel today: the regional threat which comprises both the Iran-led axis and the Palestinian threat, the technological threat, and a conceptual threat. Brig. Gen. (Res.) Itai Brun, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Head, Research Department, Military Intelligence Directorate, Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel followed, explaining that while Israel’s borders are currently secure and quiet, it is a fragile, and temporary situation, due to the first threat discussed by Maj. Gen. Golan, the ongoing war in Syria and the ongoing involvement of the Iranian backed axis. Mr. Yaakov Peri, Senior Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Minister, Member of the Knesset and Director of the Israel Security Agency (ISA), Israel, described four primary threats to Israel today, including a specific threat posed by Hamas. Finally, Dr. Daphne Richemond-Barak, Senior Researcher and Head, International Humanitarian Law Desk, ICT & Assistant Professor, Lauder School of Government, IDC Herzliya, Israel concluded with a discussion of what she perceives as a chief threat to Israel today, the use of tunnels by terror entities. She claimed that Hamas, Hezbollah and the Islamic State all utilize the tunnel strategy as a method of minimizing the asymmetry of the wars they fight. The threat of tunnels, much like the most recent threat of pyro-terrorism, requires a rethinking of traditional counter-terrorism methodology and challenges existing legal frameworks.

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Maj. Gen. Zohar Dvir, Deputy Commissioner, Israel National Policy, Israel, addressed the evolving terror threat, and its spread from the Middle East to the rest of the world. He discussed the need for effective and sophisticated intelligence gathering methodology and the necessity for quick action by police forces in the wake of terror attacks, in order to minimize the spreading of fear and reduce the success of terrorist goals. Later, Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director, Officer of Counter-Terrorism, United Nations, affirmed the United Nations’ strong commitment to fighting terrorism and emphasized that although it is necessary to anticipate future terror incidents, and to work to counter them, this must not come at the expense of human rights and that there should be greater resource allocation to the victims of terrorism. Following Dr. Khan, Brig. Gen. Dr. Yuval Bitton, Head, Intelligence Division, Israel Prison Services (IPS), Israel, spoke of the dangers of radicalization and terrorism coordination in prisons. He believes that combatting these challenges involves a two-pronged response, the first of which includes the study of Palestinian terror organizations and their impact and influence in Palestinian society, and the second requires a systematic deepening of Palestinian rifts, in order to prevent the formation of a united Palestinian front against Israel. The Honorable David Glawe, Under Secretary for Intelligence & Analysis, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States, discussed the DHS’ main working principles and outlined the history of home-grown terrorism in the United States and
how it has shaped the department’s approach to counter-terrorism. He stressed the necessity to respond to threats proportionally and that prevention of individual radicalization is the key to fighting terrorism. **Commissioner Ian Dyson**, Commissioner, City of London Police, United Kingdom, presented an overview of the British approach to protecting businesses and other entities in the inner city from terrorist attacks. He discussed the widespread use of CCTV cameras and the implementation of Servator, a strategic method of policing which involves unpredictable, highly visible police deployments. The **Honorable MK Tzipi Livni**, Leader of the Opposition and Head of HaTnuah Party and Co-Leader, Zionist Union Party; Former Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Israel, followed and provided a summary of her main critiques of Israel’s current counter-terrorism policy. She recommended that a new counter-terrorism strategy be implemented which includes the creation of united, moderate front (including the Palestinian Authority), against the radical elements.

**Lone Wolves: Threat & Response**

With the threat of lone-wolf terrorism being a phenomenon on the rise around the world, due to the fall of control by the Islamic State in Syria, and the competition between terrorism entities. The plenary session on the topic was designed to discuss trends in the phenomenon and present response tactics to mitigate this threat. **Prof. Ariel Merari**, Senior Research Fellow, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, Tel Aviv University, Israel, and **Lt. Col. (Res.) Adv. Uri Ben Yaakov**, Senior Researcher & Director of Development, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel opened the panel with a presentation of a pioneering project conducted by the ICT on the psychological profiles of lone-wolf terrorists. The research included three primary components. The first was the compilation of data obtained from cataloguing lone wolf attacks in Israel between 2015 and 2017. The second involved a series of psychological and sociological tests conducted on imprisoned perpetrators of lone-wolf attacks, and the third included a set of interviews, also conducted with the inmates.
The research concluded that there is no singular motive for most perpetrators of lone-wolf attacks, but rather a combination. Prof. Boaz Ganor, Founder & Executive Director, ICT, Ronald Lauder Chair & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC, Herzliya who moderated the panel, further explained this phenomenon by introducing the “bath model”, which utilizes running water as symbolism for the various motives, the wall of the tub to the stability of the attacker and the overflow of the water symbolizing the eventual perpetration occurs when enough “motives” fill of an attack, which only the tub. Commissioner Luc van der Taele, Project Manager, Community Policing and the Prevention of Radicalisation (CoPPRa) & Superintendent, Central Counter-Terrorism Unit, Federal Police, Belgium spoke next, discussing the impact of lone wolves on the radicalization process in Belgium. He stressed the need for international data sharing to identify vulnerable individuals early on and highlighted the importance of civilian training. Dr. Daniel Heinke, Chief of Detectives and Director, State Bureau of Investigation, Bremen State Police, Bremen, Germany followed explaining that the research presented is not yet applicable to Germany, where only 3 lone attacks have transpired over the past several years. That being said, he stressed that he does expect a rise in the number of lone-wolf attacks in Germany, with individuals searching for a sense of belonging.

Mr. Brian M. Jenkins, Advisor to the President, RAND Corporation & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, United States concluded the panel by discussing the fast radicalization process that lone attackers undergo in the United States, and discussed his findings of a rise in a history of aggression, substance abuse and psychological problems among attackers.

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The day continued with a series of keynote addresses. The **Honorable Ditmir Bushati**, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Albania, discussed the Albanian effort to counter-terrorism, including the implementation of new laws, improvement of border security and the participation in United Nations sessions on the topic. He stressed the transnational nature of terrorism, and the need for a transnational response to counter the threat. **Col. (Res.) Lior Lotan**, Senior Researcher & Former Executive Director, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Coordinator for POWs & MIAs, Prime Minister’s Office, Israel, discussed the altered nature of hostage situations. He stressed that there has been a shift from use of hostage situations as a way to free prisoners, to a more political event, utilized to express an ideology and send a message to supporters. Col. (Res.) Lotan stressed the importance of evolving the response to hostage situations accordingly. **Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi**, Deputy Assistant Commissioner (Specialist Operations), Metropolitan Police, United Kingdom discussed the lessons learned by the United Kingdom from the recent attacks on its soil. She identified the return of British terrorist foreign fighters as a major threat, and called for international cooperation to keep track and monitor these individuals. The **Honorable Michael Balboni**, Chairman, Infrastructure Protection & Cyber Security Committee, New York Power Authority & President and Managing Director, Redland Strategies Inc.; Former New York Senator & State Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, United States, addressed the rising threat of the cyber realm, and explained that cyber attacks have diminished the need for real weapons. The Honorable Mr. Balboni stresses the need for involvement from the private sector in mitigating the threat. Closing the conference’s first day was **Mr. Aimen Dean**, Author, My Time as the West’s Top Spy Inside Al-Qaeda, United Kingdom. Mr. Dean discussed his journey from an Al-Qaeda operative to an MI-6 spy, stressing his ideological shift as a major driver of his change.
The conference’s second day, September 4th, 2018, commenced with a series of keynote addresses. While the speakers hailed from different backgrounds, there was an overwhelming similarity in their call for international cooperation as a key to fighting terrorism.

The day began with an address by the Honorable MK Naftali Bennett, Minister of Education, Minister for Diaspora Affairs, Israel, who explained that when choosing between a policy of disconnecting from the enemy or the policy of maintaining ongoing contact with the enemy, the latter is best approach, as proven through Israel’s history. Lt. Gen. (Res.) Moshe (Bogie) Ya’alon, Former Minister of Defense & IDF Chief of General Staff, Israel, continued and emphasized the need for a change by the United Nations and member states of the European Union. He calls on these units to change focus and rather than condemning Israel, they should stand with the United States in holding Iran accountable for its support and funding of terror activities. Mr. Yigal Unna, Director General of the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD), Israel, discussed the vulnerability of democracies in the cyber arena as well as the need for greater global awareness of the cyber threat. Mr. Robert Singer, CEO and Executive Vice-President, World Jewish Congress (WJC), Israel, emphasized the need to protect Jewish communities around the world, and the World Jewish Congress’ effort to do so by working with individual countries security apparatuses to ensure their safety. Mr. Marc Timmer, Head of Stadia & Security, Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) discussed his view that in order to effectively fight terrorism, there must be a balance of service, safety, and security.
The Future of Global Jihad

In cooperation with the International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC) & the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK)

The panel on the “Future of Global Jihad” was held in cooperation the International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC) & the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK). The debate, which was moderated by Mr. Brian M. Jenkins, Advisor to the President, RAND Corporation & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, United States, focused on trends in global jihadi movements, attempting to predict the future of global jihad, and aiming to foster solution building on the topic. Mr. Charles Lister, Senior Fellow and Director, Extremism and Counter-terrorism Program, Middle East Institute (MEI), United States, stated that jihadism doesn’t live in the dark web but wherever the audience is, directly connecting to any potential recruit. She believes that is why the Islamic State continues to fully operate its sophisticated media machine, regardless of its recent territorial setback. When there are defeats on the ground the online network continues to organize and radicalize for attacks. Mr. Jacob Zenn, Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University & Fellow, Jamestown Foundation, United States delved into specifics, explaining his belief that the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda can cooperate in Northwest Africa as both have learned that tech-inferiorism is harmful. Dr. Eitan Azani, Deputy Executive Director, ICT & Head of BA & MA Specializations in Counter-Terrorism, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, discussed his belief that mega events influence the direction of global jihad organizations. He believes efforts should be focused on influence the future, by solidifying what Western leaders and societies will do in response to the threat. The debate concluded with a resounding agreement among the experts that the is still a threat, and that jihad organizations will continue to morph, adapt, and fragment.

We have a new model of Jihad, it is the experiment with nationalism in an attempt to create a more popular, nationally focused Jihad

Mr. Charles Lister

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During her keynote address, **Dr. Qanta Ahmed**, Associate Professor of Medicine, State University of New York, United States, discussed her experience with the armed military forces of the Iraqi Kurdistan region, also known as the Peshmerga. She discussed their efforts to battle Islamic States settlers present in close proximity to their homes, and praised the fighters, who are primarily women for protecting a community of persecuted, stateless people. **Prof. Luigi Moccia**, Project Coordinator “Trivalent”, EU Horizon 2020, Roma Tre University, Italy, presented the Trivalent project set to be completed in April of 2020. He explained that Trivalent is a project focused on prevention, and on testing the feasibility of information technology early-detection tools for extremism and radicalization. He argues that communities play a central role in the prevention of extremism and radicalization and therefore engagement at the community level must be made a priority. During his keynote session, **Mr. Brian Dodwell**, Director, Combating Terrorism Centre (CTC), U.S. Military Academy, West Point, United States, addressed the importance that the CTC at West Point gives to primary source material, especially captured documents. Mr. Dodwell explained that the center is focused on capturing documents that can help explain the relationship between Islamic State branches, and the broad Islamic State leadership and that the CTC has already found documents with instructions on judicial processes, the use of social media, management of finances and geographic presence. During his keynote address, **Mr. Joseph Opondo**, Deputy Director, National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Kenya, spoke about the rising problem of Kenyan youth recruitment to jihad activities abroad. Mr. Opondo explained that in the recent influx of jihadi foreign fighters, especially for al-Shabaab, there exists a large number of Kenyan boys who have been radicalized and later arrested for their involvement in the organization. Mr. Opondo shared a fear that these individuals will return to Kenya.

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**9/11 Memorial Ceremony**

In his address, the **Honorable Boyko Borissov**, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, stressed that winning over the minds of people is a key part of breaking the action-reaction spiral of counter-terrorism efforts today, and a key to prevention of radicalization. He stressed his belief that regardless of the religious background, people can live in peaceful coexistence. According to the **Honorable MK Israel Katz**, Minister of Intelligence &
Transportation, Israel, the attacks of September 11, 2001 marked a watershed moment, which caused terrorism, the perception of it and proposed counter measures against it to escalate. He stressed the challenges posed by Iran, and believes that pushing back Iran’s adversarial influence in the region can be achieved by sanctioning the country and isolating it by means of trade boosting projects. In his address, Prof. Uriel Reichman, President & Founder, IDC Herzliya, Israel, expressed his concern of the recent anti state-of-law developments in European democracies, and believes that the fight against terrorism has actually led to a deepening of radicalization of some European societies, ultimately leading to the loss of balance between counterterrorism and democratic values. He called upon national governments to be self-critical and to counter anti-democratic tendencies rising in the wake of counter-terrorist campaigns. In their addresses, Mr. Shabtai Shavit, Chairman of the Board of Directors, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, Ambassador Hélène Le Gal, Ambassador of the Republic of France to Israel, Deputy Ambassador Tony Kay, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Israel, Col. John Kenkel, US Army Attaché to the State of Israel and Lt. Col. Brent Lindeman, United States Army War College Fellow, ICT Herzliya, paid tribute to the victims of global terrorism and emphasized the emergency forces who risked their lives when arriving at the scenes of attack.

We must educate the next generation of academics who will work in the field of counter-terrorism which makes the work of the ICT very important

Deputy Amb. Tony Kay

Diplomatic Counter-Terrorism: The Case of Hezbollah in Europe

In partnership with the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, IDC Herzliya

The conference’s third day took place on September 5, 2018 at the IDC Herzliya campus. It commenced with a panel titled “Diplomatic Counter-Terrorism: The Case of Hezbollah in Europe” moderated by Amb. Ron Prosor, Head, Abba Eban Institute, IDC Herzliya; Former Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Former Ambassador to the United Nations, Israel and held in cooperation with the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, IDC Herzliya. Amb. Prosor presented an investigative documentary depicting the growing threat of Hezbollah in Europe. The movie presented Hezbollah’s use of criminal activities including money laundering and drug trafficking as main sources of income. Amb. Prosor stressed that Hezbollah is not only a threat to Israel, but to Europe as well and that only its military branch has been designated as a terror entity in Europe. He stressed that Europe must take a strategic approach, not the previously used tactical approach in order to combat this threat. Dr. Eitan Azani, Deputy Executive Director, ICT & Head of BA & MA Specializations in Counter-Terrorism, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, also emphasized Hezbollah’s ties to the drug trade attributing Hezbollah with opening the drug trade to Europe. He expressed fear that American sanctions will cause a rise in the importance of the drug trade. Mr. Yaniv Cohen, Executive Director, Abba Eban Institute, IDC Herzliya, Israel, continued, diving into what he considers to be the two problems of Europe: the lack of knowledge and the lack of willingness. He stressed that the movie is an academic effort not a governmental one, claiming it will have an interesting effect on Europe, primarily from the bottom up. Dr. Matthew Levitt, Former Wexler-Fellow and Director, Jeanette and Eli Reinhard Program on Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, agreed that while the identification of the military arm as a terrorist organization is not insignificant, Hezbollah increasingly relies on the diplomatic arm. He attributes the fear of action in Europe to the concern of destabilizing Lebanon, the fear of retaliation, and a misunderstanding of
European legislation. **Dr. Magnus Ranstorp**, Research Director, Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), National Defence College, Sweden, reinforced this statement claiming that the fear of Hezbollah is rooted in the fear of Iranian involvement. He focusses on the video’s factual base claiming that Europe is the last man standing, and stressed his hope that the video’s affect will illuminate the threat. Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, agreed that while the identification of the military arm as a terrorist organization is not insignificant, Hezbollah increasingly relies on the diplomatic arm. He attributes the fear of action in Europe to the concern of destabilizing Lebanon, the fear of retaliation, and a misunderstanding of European legislation. **Dr. Magnus Ranstorp**, Research Director, Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), National Defence College, Sweden, reinforced this statement claiming that the fear of Hezbollah is rooted in the fear of Iranian involvement. He focusses on the video’s factual base claiming that Europe is the last man standing, and stressed his hope that the video’s affect will illuminate the threat.

The workshop titled the “Nexus Between Prisons, Radicalization and Terrorism” was held in cooperation with the Israel Prison Services (IPS), with the aim of highlighting the challenges that prisons pose to the radicalization process, and raising solutions from around the world on how to effectively counter these threats. The panel was **(Ret.) Orit Adato**, Associate, Imoderated by Lt. Gen. CT, IDC Herzliya & Former Commissioner Israel Prison Services (IPS), Israel who commenced with a general discussion of the issue, and provided an explanation for why radicalization and terror activity is made convenient by incarceration, stating that prisoners have plenty time since they are not
being chased and have resources provided, and have nothing to risk. **Col. Regev Daharug,** Commissioner; Former Commander of Masada Unit & Head of Operations Branch, Israel Prison Services (IPS), Israel, also stressed some of the main challenges IPS faces with terror inmates, including the challenge of intelligence collection within the prisons, and the need to isolate prion leaders from events transpiring outside of prison. He claims that a key within prisons is reminding the prisoners that they will lose benefits should they not abide by the rules. **Mr. Thorkild Fogde,** Director, Danish Prison and Probation Service & Former Police Director, Copenhagen Police, Denmark, reiterated Col. Daharug’s sentiments, stating the need to maintain and strengthen intelligence gathering within the prisons. He explained that the situation in Denmark differs drastically from that of the Israeli prisons, and that the 2015 attack in Denmark highlighted the need for the prison system to adapt and change in accordance to external events. **Mr. Angel Vicente Lopez Muriel,** Co-Chair, RAN Working Group on Prison and Probation & Director, Security Department, Prison of Madrid, Spain, discussed the challenge of prison radicalization in Spain, and emphasized the need to prevent group gatherings. **Mr. Pierre Maltrot,** Head, Security & Intelligence Division, National Prison Administration, Ministry of Justice, France, discussed similar challenges with radicalization, in the French prison system. He named cellphone access as one of the primary challenges, with inmates being allowed to use phones in the prisons for personal use and stated this as one of the primary changes that must be made.

**Terrorism Threats to the West: Is the Worst Over?**

With the steady fall of the Islamic State, the threat of terrorism in the West has increased. The panel titled “Terrorism Threats to the West: Is the Worst Over?” discusses this threat and addresses whether the threat will persist, or if the worst has already passed. **Prof. Boaz Ganor,** Founder and Executive Director, ICT, Ronald Lauder Chair of Counter-Terrorism & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, who moderated the workshop, opened the session with a series of questions on the topic, including whether or not terrorists have the motivation to keep carrying out attacks and if yes, do they have operational capability? He
Executive Assistant to the believes that the answers to these questions are that terrorists possess the motivation, as they remain disgruntled by various issues and that they have operational capability because the weapons of today are as simple and readily available as knives and vehicles. **Amb. Daniel Shapiro**, Former US Ambassador to Israel & Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Tel-Aviv University, Israel, provided a strategic overview of the terrorism threats to the West, and stressed that it is imperative not to forget the 9/11 attacks and the failure to thwart them due to a lack of creativity. He argued that today, we must not fall into the same trap, and foresee trends in terrorism, as technology advances. **Mr. Brian M. Jenkins**, Senior Advisor to the President, RAND Corporation & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, United States, focused his presentation on lone-wolf threats to the United States, and explained that while terrorism will continue, it has changed in nature, becoming less of an ideological phenomenon and more of a phenomenon undertaken by disturbed individuals. **Prof. Fernando Reinares**, Professor and Chair, Political Science and Security Studies, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos & Senior Analyst on International Terrorism, Real Instituto Elcano & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Spain, provided insight on the recent terror attacks in Barcelona and explained that the worst is not over in Western Europe, and that the attacks in Barcelona do not emerge from nowhere and should not only be considered after the fact. **Dr. Magnus Ranstorp**, Research Director, Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), National Defence College, Sweden, addressed the threat of terrorism to Scandinavian countries. He explained that Sweden assumed they were immune to terrorist attacks until the April 2017 attack and addressed a number of challenges posed to Scandinavian countries, including the differing legislation between Nordic countries, and and their different approaches to prevention.

**We have seen the rise in the attack of lone-wolfs. They don’t pose a strategic threat but they can frighten the population**

**Amb. Daniel Shapiro**

Left to right: Adv. Deborah House-Couriël, Mr. Pedro das Neves, Amb. Daniel Shapiro
The Steven E. Stern Workshop on Cyber Terrorism

This annual workshop addresses the threats and vulnerabilities facing the constantly developing cyber world. In collaboration with Steven Stern, the ICT created the workshop to help experts both understand and mitigate the cyber-space terror threats through an esteemed panel.

Dr. Eitan Azani, Deputy Executive Director, ICT & Head of BA & MA Specializations in Counter-Terrorism, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, opened the workshop by describing the 3 tiers needed to analyse information: operational, defensive and offensive arenas. He explained that cyber terrorism trends in 2018 do not differ widely from 2017 activity, which included defacement, DDoS and Ransomware attacks at low level capabilities. He described the need for jihadis to reach the masses as reason for their operating in the open space, often seen through digital currency. Prof. Gabriel Weimann, Full Professor, Department of Communication, University of Haifa, Israel, spoke of the way in which terrorists adopt Western technologies to fight the West. He reiterated Dr. Azani’s point of open net appeal to target mass audiences. Prof. Weimann explained that the dark net holds instrumental information regarding terrorism ‘know-how’, despite it requiring skills to access, whereas the open net is the platform for radicalisation. Mr. Ariel Levanon, Vice President, Cyber and intelligence, MER Group, Israel, described the numerous connections between cyber crime and terrorism, claiming an increase in Ransomware attacks on Internet of Things (IoT) devices to be imminent. Mr. Levanon attributed part of the problem to victims opting to pay the Ransomware fee, thereby encouraging these easily deployable cyber attacks. He believes these simple attacks will soon no longer be
restricted to electricity or water systems, predicting that military, healthcare and transportation attacks will greatly increase within the next 5 years. **Adv. Deborah Housen-Couriel**, Research Associate and Adjunct Lecturer, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Fellow, Interdisciplinary Research Centre (ICRC), Tel Aviv University, Israel, described the legal dilemmas in countering cyber threats, particularly the lack of specific international cyber legislation. She spoke of various national accurately distinguish truth from falsities, with evidence backed statements more likely to be believed, even if false.  

**General Charles Shugg**, Executive Director, Global Consortium for Counter Cyber-Terrorism (GC3T) and Partner and COO, Syint, United States, concluded the workshop by dividing cyber terrorist groups into four distinct threat groups: al-Qaeda, ISIS’ United Cyber Caliphate, proxies, and hactivists & militants. Gen. Shugg believes proxies to be the most dangerous threat group due to their loose affiliation to nation states. Gen. Shugg closed the workshop by reiterating the threat of IoT and its remote access, as operators can connect to any facilities from HQ, and thus the threat can be connected. groups into four distinct threat groups: al-Qaeda, ISIS’ United Cyber Caliphate, proxies, and hactivists & militants. Gen. Shugg believes proxies to be the most dangerous threat group due to their loose affiliation to nation states. Gen. Shugg closed the workshop by reiterating the threat of IoT and its remote access, as operators can connect to any facilities from HQ, and thus the threat can be connected.  

**Terrorists on the Dark Net: Attacks in Paris 2015 were bought by a German seller on the dark web using Bitcoin**  

**Prof. Gabriel Weimann**  

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**Counter-Terrorism & Emerging Technologies: AI, Crypto and Big Data**  

The panel, chaired by **Prof. Liav Orgad**, Senior Researcher, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Director, Global Citizenship Governance, EUI Florence & WZB Berling, Israel, and **Dr. Jennifer Woodard**, Co-Founder and CEO, Insikt Intelligence, Spain, dealt with the challenges and benefits of new technologies in countering-terrorism. The
panel focused on the role of governments and private companies in countering terrorist use of these platforms.

Dr. Jennifer Woodard, emphasized the threat emanating from terrorist use of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, arguing that in this context, AI will be serve as an essential tool to easily detect relevant material which can then be taken down in collaboration with human counterparts. Mr. Yaniv Azani, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), National Cyber Unit, Israeli National Police, Israel, contributed relevant insights on the topic from a law enforcement perspective, arguing that in the cyber realm, terrorist or other entities can achieve as much firepower as a country, and that essential to countering this problem is the use of Big Data Fusion. Mr. David Karpf, Head of AI Center, Ministry of Defense, Israel, highlighted the difficulties of making use of AI in the context of crime prevention and argued for the need of a technological revolution. Here, Mr. Karpf stressed the need to combine the human and computer sphere more efficiently, outlining the important role that data analysts will have in this context in the future. Mr. Omri Timianker, Founder and President, Cobwebs Technologies, Israel, described the synergy between AI and WEBINT, clarifying the process from how data is scanned, how it leads to the sending of an alert, what the network and its core is in the web and how it is further processes by an analyst. In an insightful discussion, the panelists exchanged their viewpoints on the practical implications that the increased use of machines has for humans, as well as pivotal ethical and legal concerns.

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**New Battlefields/Old Laws: When Disaster Hits: Threats, Preparedness & Legal Gaps**

In cooperation with the Institute for National Security and Counter-Terrorism (INCT)

The panel titled “New Battlefields/Old Laws: When Disaster Hits: Threats, Preparedness & Legal Gaps”, held in partnership with the Institute for National Security and Counter-Terrorism (INCT), discussed various disaster types and the legal methodology for handling them.

Prof. Kristian Lauta, Associate Professor, Centre for International Law, Conflict and Crirs, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, argued that the solution to the social
impact disasters have on society is a modification of the social system, and to think 500 years ahead when doing so. **Prof. William Banks,** Founding Director, Institute for National Security and Counter Terrorism (INSCT) and Professor of Law, Public Administration and International Affairs, Syracuse University & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, United States, argued that it is imperative to know whether a disaster is natural or not in order to determine response. **Dr. Daphne Richemond-Barak,** Senior Researcher and Head, IHL Desk, ICT & Assistant Professor, Lauder School of Government, IDC Herzliya, Israel, argued that States are increasingly willing to incorporate health and environment in their national security issues, and argued in favour of a multi-hazard approach to health disaster. **Prof. Pinchas Halpern,** Director, Emergency Medicine Department, Tel-Aviv Sourarsky Medical Centre, Israel, argued that Israel is well prepared to handle terrorist attacks. However, it has no preparation or resilience whatsoever for natural disasters. **Dr. Katja Samuel,** Director, Global Security and Disaster Management Limited & Co-Chair, American Society of International Law Disaster Law Interest Group, United Kingdom, stated that international disaster laws are hybrid laws, and draw on many existing treaties. It is very dynamic field in a period of evolution and there now is the time to influence the direction it will take. The panelists agreed that disasters, whether natural such as floods or earthquakes, or man-made with malicious intent such as terrorist attacks or cyber-attacks on a country’s infrastructure should be approached similarly, for all disasters have a primary impact on society.

To watch the full session online click here >>

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The Syrian Quagmire

The Syrian Quagmire workshop’s aim was to unravel the geopolitical complexities of Syria. The workshop laid out the current state of Syria and hypothesized about its future, with the fall of the Islamic State and the continued power struggle. **Mr. Charles Lister,** Senior Fellow and Director, Extremism and Counterterrorism program, Middle East Institute (MEI), United States, stressed the international community’s in
creasing indifference to the Syrian conflict, although the threat has escalated, and believes that countries are preoccupied with the symptoms of the conflict. **Dr. Yaccov Falkov**, Research Fellow, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, asserted Russia’s main objective for being involved in Syria in particular, and the Middle East in general is to reestablish itself as a global superpower. He highlighted Russia’s interests in the Middle East, including their desire for agricultural imports and exports, energy competition, increased financial investments, infrastructure building, and knowledge acquisition. Dr. Falkov emphasized that Russia does not want to be fully in-charge in the Middle East nor fund everything, but that they aim for small local deals with Iranians, Syrians, Saudis, and Israel as leverage for their interests. **Mr. Ilan Berman**, Vice President, American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC), United States, focused his address on the Iranian strategy in Syria, stating that Iran’s three-prong strategy includes the preservation of the Assad regime, demographic transformation, and forward operating presence. **Dr. Col. (Res.) Rateb Amro**, Director General and Founder, Horizon Strategic Studies, Jordan, talked about the state of relations between Jordan and Syria, stressing the influx of refugees into Jordan as a result of the events in Syria. **Ms. Lydia Khalil**, Research Fellow, West Asia Program, Lowy Institute, Australia, addressed the Iraqi perspective on the Syrian situation, including structural problems the presence of the Islamic State, Sunni Arab grievances and the Kurds in Iraq. She warned of Iran’s goal of establishing a contiguous swath of influence in Syria. **Dr. Craig Whiteside**, Associate Professor, Naval War College, United States, discussed the Islamic State in relation to Syria. He focused on the perceived positives (from an Islamic State perspective) including a successful transition back to insurgency, Syrian government cooption of rivals, no peace deal, frozen reconstruction, and overcrowded prisons. He also discussed the Islamic State’s perceived negatives including loss of economic resources, ideological fissures, and a morale bust. Lastly, workshop chair, **Dr. Ely Karmon**, Senior Research Scholar, IDC Herzliya, Israel, addressed the Turkish and Israeli perspective. He concluded with a sobering plea that Israel not accept a new Lebanon in southern Syria.

*To watch the full session online click here >>*
Current Trends in Radicalization and Deradicalization

Addressing one of the hottest topics in counter-terrorism today, the workshop on current trends in radicalization and de-radicalization addressed the growing threat of radicalization around the world, and proposed methodology for countering this phenomenon. **Prof. Teresa de Almeida e Silva**, Associate Professor, Institute of Social & Political Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal focused on the current complexities of radicalization of Muslim individuals in European countries and the failure of border-control to address the home-grown threat emanating from self-radicalized individuals. According to **Prof. Edythe London**, Professor In-Residence, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), United States, radicalization depends on the way individuals receive and process messages. Her hope is to use neurocognitive processes to influence individual’s susceptibility to radical messages.

In his talk, **Prof. Randall Rogan**, Professor of Communication, Wake Forest University, United States, linked the individual quest for significance in life to the process of a person’s radicalization. Radical Islamist ideology provided individuals with the prospect of achieving symbolic and literal, immortality and, by this means, significance. **Prof. Alex Schmid**, Director, Terrorism Research Initiative; Research Fellow, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) and Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, the Netherlands summarized various parts of the academic literature on the radicalization process making individuals susceptible to terrorists’ messages. He made the case for intensifying research on the contrast between radicalism and a moderate belief system. **Prof. Gerald Steinberg**, Founder & President, NGO Monitor and Professor of Political Sciences, Bar Ilan University, Israel and **Ms. Olga Deutsch**, Director, European Desk, NGO Monitor, Israel, made the case for demystifying the role of civil society when it comes to the deradicalization of individuals. They illustrated this through several case studies from Western European countries, pointing to links between civil society organizations and open support for terrorism.

To watch the full session online click here >>
The Legal Battle Against Terrorism - A Comparative Perspective

Battling terrorism through the legal system is a difficult and complex thing to do. With every country enacting its own counter-terrorism laws, there is much to learn by comparing international legal methods. “The Legal Battle Against Terrorism- A Comparative Perspective”, dealt with this topic, honing in on comparative legal methodology for prosecuting terrorism. Dr. Dror Harel, Research Fellow, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, referred to the Israeli counter-terrorism law and reviewed the changes that it has undergone. The goal of these laws was to mainly provide law enforcement apparatus with the tools needed to counter-terrorism. Adv. Paul Landes, Head, National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing (NBCTF), Ministry of Defense, Israel, talked about the financing of terrorism in general and specific terrorism designations. He also discussed the Bureau of Counter Terrorist Financing and their efforts to prevent payments from the Palestinian Authority to terrorists. Adv. Thibault de Montbrial, Attorney, Paris Bar & Chairman, Centre de Reflexion sur la Securite Interieure (CRSI), France, focused on major assets France has in fighting terrorism: the database of terror suspects, the French ‘FBI’ and a central organization of the counter terrorism legal-prosecution. Adv. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, President, Shurat HaDin, Israel, talked about the role of Shurat HaDin and explained that lawsuits have decreased terrorist attacks by 60% because terror organizations were not able to get their money.

To watch the full session online click here >>

Israel-Hamas: Hudna or Victory?

The conference’s final day, September 6, commenced with a plenary session titled “Israel-Hamas: Hudna or Victory?”. The panel, moderated by Ms. Tallie Lipkin Shahak, Editor and Anchor, Defense Programs, Galei Tsahal, Israel, contextualized and assessed the current politico-military situation in the Gaza Strip and discussed the prospects of reaching an agreement with Hamas. Whether or not defeat was feasible, the speakers agreed on the absoluteness of strong and effective military and intelligence services. Emphasizing the
strategic, longer-term perspective, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Amos Gilead, Director, Institute for Policy & Strategy (IPS) & Chairman, Herzliya Conference Series, IDC Herzliya, Israel, warned that the conflict with Hamas might escalate because of internal struggles between Hamas officials for leadership over the Gaza Strip. Maj. Gen. (Res.) does not believe Hamas constitutes an existential threat to Israel. MK Ksenia Svetlova, Member of Parliament, Zionist Union, Israel, expressed deep skepticism towards the prospects of an agreement with the current Hamas leadership due to their unabated radicalism and their continued commitment to terrorism. She believes that the demilitarization and reestablishment of PA rule in Gaza was the best option available. Weighing different options how to deal with Hamas, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Shlomo “Sami” Turgeman, Former Commander Southern Command, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Senior Fellow, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel argued that a formal arrangement with Hamas leading to de-escalation of violence is acceptable and is better than occupying Gaza and bearing the burden of administering it. Col. Avi Eliyahu, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Southern Command Chief Intelligence Officer, IDF, Israel identified the lack of a clear negotiation partner on the side of Hamas as a major obstacle for setting up a clear intelligence strategy. Nevertheless, Hamas constituted, from an intelligence point of view, a respectable because vigorous counterpart.

To watch the full session online click here >>

Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism Policing

The plenary session was followed by a series of workshops. The workshop titled “Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism Policing” united an array of security professionals to discuss the role of law enforcement in counter-terrorism policing, and share best practices from around the world. The panel’s Chairman, STARCOM & Former Assistant Commissioner of Police, Nassau, New York, United States iterated his belief that only through analysis of best practices can we achieve the end-goal and beat the threat of terror networks. A common discussion point was community policing, as Cmdr. (Ret.) Dr. Eran Israel, Secretary General, International Police Association (IPA), Israel, stated it is a factor which consistently plays a pivotal
moderator, Mr. Denis Monette, Member of the International Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya; role in the success of countering attacks, crime, or radicalization. Cmdr. James Phipson, Chief Officer, Special Constabulary, City of London Police, United Kingdom, continued the emphasis on community policing, and regaled participants with the methods and actions utilized by police in the United Kingdom, specifically the City of London Police. Commander Phipson provided a brief on the strategy to bolster capabilities and detection via a multi layered citizen and policing apparatus. The need for community policing and cooperation on all levels of society and various forces was further stressed by Comm. Luc Van Der Taelen, Project Manager, Community Policing and the Prevention of Radicalization (CoPPRa) & Superintendent, Central Counter-Terrorism Unit, Federal Police, Belgium, who reiterated the need to include citizenry for a more prepared, resilient society.

Mr. Levi West, Director of Terrorism Studies, Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security, Australia discussed the ominous differences between Australia’s pre and post-2014 reality. West continued, discussing the importance he attributes to cooperation and relationships of law enforcement agencies.

Det. Charlie Benaim and Det. Chris Capone, Police Attaches, New York Police Department (NYPD), United States, focused on the advancing collaboration between the NYPD and the New York Fire Department in regard to combat and terror situations, reaffirming the need for cross-agency cooperation.
Theatre of Global Jihad

The workshop focused on the current trend of global jihad in different parts of the world, as well as the ideology that guides these trends. With the territorial defeat of the Islamic State and the endurance of Al-Qaeda, the panelists talked about the ways in which these groups continue to exert their presence. Dr. Yossi Mann, Middle East Studies, Bar Ilan University, Israel, discussed the impact of terrorism on the prices of oil and concluded that there is no correlation between the two. Furthermore, he argued that terrorism can be fought economically by putting pressure on banks and cutting revenues of organizations. Mr. Jacob Zenn, Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University & Fellow, Jamestown Foundation, United States, focused on the African arena, discussing the three styles of jihadi conflicts that are present. These are consolidation, expansion, and spillover conflicts. He argued that in order to prevent more states from having conflicts consolidate we must prevent spillover conflicts from spreading across new borders. Dr. Aaron Zelin, Richard Borow Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States, also discussed the African arena, and highlighted his view that current trends in North Africa dictate less hostility between the Islamic State and Al Qaeda. Mr. Milo Comerford, Analyst, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, United Kingdom, highlighted the fact that although the Islamic State is in decline, it is the Salafi-jihadi challenges we should be paying attention to. Dr. Eitan Azani, Deputy Executive Director, ICT & Head of BA & MA Specializations in Counter-Terrorism, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, further elaborated on these ideological differences by discussing the role of leaders in determining policies that get translated into strategies. Additionally, he emphasized how the Islamic State has begun a similar process that Al-Qaeda underwent over a decade ago to try to survive. Finally, Dr. Stephen Tankel, Assistant Professor, American University & Senior Editor, War on the Rocks, United States, discussed global jihadism in Afghanistan and Pakistan where the government has different policies and relationships with the varying organizations in the region. The workshop concluded with a discussion centered around effective ways to combat and counter these organizations from countering violent extremism, to military responses.

To watch the full session online click here >>
Iran’s Global Reach

Mr. Chagai Tzuriel, Director General, Ministry of Intelligence, Israel opened the session on “Iran’s Global Reach”, which was meant to address the impact Iran has on the region, and around the world. He stated that any campaign to counter Iran in the region and Iran’s global reach must be waged in Syria first as what happens there affects the rest of the region and the world. He emphasized his believe that the opportunity to counter Iran in Syria and the region rests on four pillars: the first is Trump’s tough stance on Iran through sanctions and continued American presence in Syria. The second is Israel’s resolve to enforce its red lines by preventing Iran from establishing a base in Syria and turning it into platform against Israel. The third pillar is the growing realization that the Iranian intervention in Syria and its insistence to deploy ground to ground and missiles is dangerous and volatile. The fourth pillar of opportunity is Iran in its current situation, with a failing economy.

Dr. Ori Goldberg, Senior Researcher, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, who moderated the panel, continued with an explanation of his view of Iran. He stated that Iran should be seen as a normal country. Once you transcend the idea of Iran as a precision machine, there are many more ways to effectively deal with the threat.

Prof. Meir Litvak, Chair, Department of Middle Eastern and African History & Director, Alliance Center for Iranian Studies, Tel-Aviv University, Israel explained the Iranian perspective, stating that Iranians see themselves as secluded and threatened by the outside world. He argued that despite Iran’s loneliness or constraints, Iran has leadership aspirations in the region, not necessarily a Persian Empire, but to achieve a leadership role which they believe they are entitled to. Dr. Eran Shadach, Research Fellow, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel continued with a psychological profile of the terrorist group, Hezbollah. The typology he presented is based on six axes and each axis was divided into three levels of psych maturity: low, medium and high. He concluded that Hezbollah is psychologically a medium-high level organization and that attempts to challenge it should take its profile into considerations.

Mr. Naftali Granot, Former Deputy Director of the Mossad & Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel also focused his discussion on Hezbollah, whom he believes Iran uses as part of a grand strategy to destroy Israel. He emphasized his belief that Hezbollah is the main military enemy of Israel, as determined by an ICT-led initiative studying how Israel could better prepare for a possible war.

Mr. Meir Javedanfar, Lecturer on Iran, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, reiterated the Iranian threat, and discussed Iranian presence in Yemen, Syria, and throughout the Middle East. He believes that if you compare the past to the current revolutionary model, Iran has much more influence.

Lt. Col. (Res.) Michael Segall, Senior Analyst, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), Israel, describes Iran’s
desire to duplicate Hezbollah in different regions. He says that this can be seen in Iraq against the coalition forces and in Yemen using Houthis in the fight against the Saudi coalition. **Dr. Ronen Bergman**, concluded the panel by also discussing the possibility for the next big war to be “the Northern War.” While Israel underwent the First Lebanon War and then the Second Lebanon War, it now is expecting a cross border war between Israel, Hezbollah in Lebanon, forces in Syria and Iranian forces.

**Recovery and Resilience**

The panel on recovery and resilience focused on coping with the threat of terrorism. **Prof. Robert Friedmann**, Founding Director, Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) & Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice, Georgia State University, United States, who chaired the session on “Recovery and Resilience” commenced the panel with an introduction to the topics and a suggestion to view recovery and resilience as keys to ‘business continuity’ with terrorism threats included in the model in order to better prepare authorities and first responders. **Lt. Col. (Res.) Adv. Uri Ben Yaakov**, Senior Researcher & Director of Development, ICT, IDC Herzliya, detailed an ICT led project, aimed at preparing for the next upcoming war in Israel. He detailed a potential scenario of war with Hezbollah, and emphasized the need to work with local systems in order to achieve preparedness on a national level, and the need to implement bottom-up solutions so that every neighborhood is able to manage the crisis within a small scale range of operation. **Asst. Comm. Graham Ellis**, Assistant Commissioner, Operational Resilience/Special
Operations Groups, London Fire Brigade, United Kingdom, described resilience and recovery as a process that starts before the attack, as a method of ensuring that emergency responders are able to recover rapidly and effectively once the attack has occurred. He discussed how the London Police’s experience with IRA terrorist attacks in the past have reflected the need for effective response and how the effectiveness of emergency responsiveness is strictly linked to communication and sharing of information between law enforcement agencies. The success of this information sharing can only be successfully actualized through joint training, joint intelligence and joint response to ensure a risk reduction. Asst. Comm. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Prime Minister’s Office, Israel, explained his view that effective recovery and resilience requires the population to place complete trust in the authorities and institutions. Law enforcement officials must strike a balance between training exercises and drills and the stressful, real-life situations. Mr. Yotam Dagan, Research Fellow, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Director of International Programming, Israel Trauma and Resilience Center (NATAL), Israel, continued, by stating that in his view, the best way to cope with crisis management is through the deployment of resources, in which first responders are the main actors. Thus, the key to a resilient society is having resilient first responders. Mr. Iija Bonsen, Managing Director and Founder, IB Consultancy & President, CBRNe Society, the Netherlands, discussed the threat of CBRNe attacks, and the challenges these attacks pose to recovery and resilience, due to their social economic and psychological impacts on society. The way these attacks are handled depend heavily on mechanisms of recovery and resilience that exist within that society. Chief Joseph Spillane, Chief of Police, Georgia State University, United States, stressed his view that preparedness is the foundation for an effective recovery and resilience system. After major events, communication failure is often a consequences to take into account, which can prevent a proper police response, or hinder timely recovery post...
Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters: New Challenges

In cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) of the United Nations

The panel on the “Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, moderated by Mr. David Wells, Political Affairs Officer, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Security Council, United Nations, discussed the nature and scale of the problem of foreign fighters returning to their home countries. The panelists agreed on key points such as the transnational nature of the problem, the unpreparedness of national legal systems to cope with the problem and on the difficulties in reintegrating returned fighters.

Dr. Ely Karmon, Senior Research Scholar, ICT, IDC Herzliya, presented a cross-country outline of how foreign fighters managed to become a significance force in terrorist activities, with a geographical focus on the Middle East and North Africa. According to Dr. Magnus Ranstorp, Research Director, Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), National Defence College, Sweden, the problem of returned foreign fighters is multifaceted ranging from individual resistance to cooperate with officials, to radicalization networks inprisons, geographical hubs of returning fighters’ destinations and a lack of expertise in Western countries. Ms. Lydia Khalil, Research Fellow, West Asia Program, Lowy Institute, Australia, categorized foreign fighters according to the nature of their destination countries. She pointed to the problem of foreign fighters held in custody in various war-torn countries and the unsolved question of how to deal with the women and children of foreign fighters. In her remarks, Ms. Meredith Stricker, Executive Director, The Soufan Centre, United States, focused on the challenge of deradicalizing and reintegrating returned foreign fighters. She emphasized that national security apparatuses do not have the resources to surveil all potential security threats. Dr. Aaron Zelin, Richard Borow Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States, presented his research on the current level of threat emanating from Libya as the fourth largest destination country for foreign fighters. Terrorists continued to exploit the networks and logistics established in the region.

To watch the full session online click here >>
The ICT Debate: An Internationally Accepted Definition of Terrorism:  
Necessity or Wishful Thinking?

One of the conference’s pinnacle events, was a debate by two world renowned counter-terrorism experts. The debate transpired between Prof. Boaz Ganor, Founder & Executive Director, ICT, Ronald Lauder Chair & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC, Herzliya and Col. (Res.) Adv. Daniel Reisner, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Head of International Law Department, IDF, Israel on the definition of terrorism. Prof. Ganor commenced the debate with his proposed definition of terrorism, as a “deliberate use of violence against civilian targets by non-state actors in order to achieve political ends”. He argued that this definition distinguishes between criminal activity and terrorism thus making it clear that normal criminal code is not applicable in prosecution, restricting this to only political goals. He also emphasized that terrorists are rational actors and that having a standard definition would change their cost-benefit analysis. Col. (Res.) Adv. Daniel Reisner rebutted, stating that Prof. Ganor’s proposed definition of terrorism is problematic from a legal perspective because it leaves room for a lot of loopholes that make prosecution of terrorism-related cases difficult. He also explained that he finds attempts to come up with a universally accepted definition to be futile as each individual state has a different definition of terrorism for different departments. He proposed an approach that seeks to understand why such a definition is important- giving states’ legal structures the leeway to do to terrorists what is not normally done to criminals such as targeted killings; and creating a coalition of likeminded states that will work together against an agreed upon target that they believe engages in terrorism.

To watch the full session online click here >>
The 18th Annual World Summit concluded with an address by Mr. Michael McPherson, Deputy Assistant Director, Counter-Terrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), United States, who explained that the United States has zero tolerance for terrorism both in the US and overseas. It is important that law enforcement agencies have all the information needed to stop terrorism which makes international cooperation and partnerships crucial. Social media has opened opportunities for terrorist organizations to inspire acts of violence by homegrown violent extremists. The main challenges in dealing with the evolved terrorism is difficulty in defining homegrown violent extremists’ demographic profiles as all factors gravely vary. Furthermore, many terrorists are going dark- using encrypted technologies faster than law enforcement are able to catch up. Consequently, communities are instrumental in helping law enforcement intervene before homegrown violent extremists reach a tipping point beyond which they carry out attacks.
Make sure to save the date for next year’s conference.

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The Honorable Boyko
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Bulgaria

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Mr. Aimen Dean
Author, My Time as the
West’s Top Spy Inside
Al-Qaeda

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DAC Lucy D’Orsi
Deputy Assistant
Commissioner
Metropolitan Police

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MK Gilad Erdan
Minister of Public
Security, Strategic
Affairs & Information

ICT’s 19th International Conference
on Counter-Terroeism
Terrorism2020: Understand the Present,
Prepare for the Future
About ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability, risk assessment, intelligence analysis, national security and defense policy.

ICT also serves as a joint forum for international policymakers and scholars to share information and expertise through research papers, situation reports and academic publications for worldwide distribution. A number of international seminars, workshops and conferences are organized monthly by ICT to discuss and educate on global and regional issues of security, defense, and public policy in order to better facilitate the exchange of perspectives, information and proposals for policy action. Finally, ICT administers the largest public domain research database on the Internet encompassing global terrorist attacks, terrorist organizations and activists in addition to statistical reports.

ICT draws upon a comprehensive and international network of individuals and organizations with unique expertise on terrorism and counter-terrorism research, public policy analysis and education, dispersed all over the world, including the United States, European Union and Israel. An acclaimed management and research staff at ICT spearheads the Institute's efforts to coordinate the struggle against global terrorism and leads a worldwide team of affiliates and academic partners working to encourage cooperation among experts and disseminate innovative ideas for policymakers in the fight against terrorism.

ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

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