Terrorism 2020: Understand the Present, Prepare for the Future

World Summit on Counter-Terrorism
World Summit on Counter-Terrorism
ICT’s Annual International Conference

The International Institute for Counter-terrorism’s (ICT’s) 19th Annual World Summit on Counterterrorism took place in Herzliya, Israel from September 9 to 12, 2019. The ICT’s Annual World Summit is the largest of its kind and provides an unparalleled opportunity for cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. Over 1,400 of the top decision-makers, defense, intelligence and police officials, prominent academic scholars, and security industry leaders from over 65 countries convened for two days of plenary sessions at the Sharon Hotel, Herzliya, followed by two days of workshop sessions at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya. This year’s Summit centered around the theme “Understand the Present, Prepare for the Future”.

The Annual Conference emphasizes the need for an interdisciplinary approach to effectively deal with the threat of terrorism. ICT’s World 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. The Master of Ceremonies throughout the conference was Mr. Jonathan Davis, Vice President for External Relations and Head of the Raphael Recanati International School (RRIS), at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya. Monday, September 9

The conference commenced with opening remarks from the President and Founder of the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Prof. Uriel Reichmann. In his speech, Prof. Reichmann stressed the global drama that followed the inception of the Islamic State of
Iraq and Syria (ISIS), in which droves of people joined the organization to realize the vision of an extreme Sunni Caliphate. A conflicting Shiite vision was put in place by the spiritual leadership of Iran. Opposite these two, a coalition led by the U.S. brought the downfall of ISIS. This coalition is united and strengthened by each country’s commitment to liberal and humane values.

Mr. Shabtai Shavit, Chairman of the Board of Directors, International Institute for Counter-terrorism (ICT), IDC Herzliya, & Former Director of the Mossad, Israel, shared the history of terrorism in the Middle East and stressed the continued importance of gathering together each year at the World Summit to share new and effective counter-terrorism practices. He stressed the importance of continuing to combat terrorism unrelentingly whilst simultaneously reaching out to our neighbors to strive toward peace. The Honorable Moshe Fadlon, Mayor of Herzliya, welcomed the participants to Herzliya and stressed the importance of maintaining a strong civil society as a means to effectively counter terror. The greetings were concluded by Professor Boaz Ganor, Founder and Executive Director of the ICT, who noted the interesting changes in the international sphere including the move away from U.S. hegemony to a multi-power system; the rise of Iran; the changing nature of ISIS; the challenges posed by returning foreign fighters; and the implications of technological progress.

Keynote addresses The Hon. MK Israel Katz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Intelligence, Israel. Mr. Katz said that the Arab terror does not stem from desperation of the Palestinian population but rather, is encouraged by Iranian proxies and various terror organizations. Recently, Israel has gleaned Qassem Soleimani “fingerprints” on terror activities initiated out of Gaza, including new

“It is essential that counter-terrorism practice is founded on evidence-based conclusions rather than assumptions”

ASG/ED Michele Coninsx
technologies and guidance of Gaza based proxies. This gets Israel close to a campaign in Gaza that will include elimination of the leadership of the terror infrastructure followed by a separation that will include the erection of an artificial international island and a seaport with Israeli supervision over the cargo. Israel continues to contend with terror activity in Judea and Samaria. The Sinai Peninsula sees global terror elements that are trying to take hold and Israel cooperates with Egypt against these elements.

International pressure on Iran and its proxies can help guarantee Israel’s security, and help the Lebanese government take charge and assert sovereignty over its territory. Per Mr. Katz, there is a historic opportunity to develop relationships with the Gulf states in connection with intelligence and counterterrorism.

**ASG/ED Michele Coninsx**, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Security Council, United Nations, stated that the counter-terrorism chain is only as strong as its weakest link. There is a need to shift counter-terrorism operations from a local to a global context through increased cooperation, coordination, dissemination of intelligence and information.

It is essential that counter-terrorism practice is founded on evidence-based conclusions rather than assumptions. The future will entail greater weaponization of civilian infrastructure such as the internet, social media, AI, drones and emerging technologies; and it is essential that we prepare for this future. **Mr. Jay Tabb**, Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States, focused on the threat of racially motivated violent extremism. Homegrown extremists pose an increasingly difficult dilemma for law-enforcement agencies, and lone-wolves are particularly challenging. Groups are moving from hierarchical to decentralized structures and individuals are often connected or inspired via online rather than real world contact.

**The Hon. MK Avi Dichter**, Chairman, Foreign Affairs & Defense Committee, Knesset, Israel, followed, claiming that previously, three countries were considered as Israel’s enemies. Israel has signed peace treaties with two of them. However, Lebanon is still considered as an enemy state because of its failure to stop Hezbollah from acting out of its
intergenerational violence. He stressed that America considers Iran the single most destabilizing factor in the conflicts that span the Middle East. Maj. Gen. Gilead stated that Lebanon has become Hezbollah, a dependent entity at the expense of a sovereign Lebanon. He expressed deep concern at President Trump’s plans to meet with the Iranian regime as, at best, it will delay the Iranian nuclear ambitions, but will be unlikely to address other key threats Israel faces such as rockets and missiles. He said Israel felt an increasing sense that it was alone in the fight against Iran. Major Rayburn countered by stating that any future agreement with Iran would require discussion on sponsorship of terrorism and missile proliferation. Leaving Syria would be essential if Iran wants the US to stop applying a “maximum pressure” approach.

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Current Security and Terrorism Challenges to the Middle East
This Session was held in Memory of Lt. Col. Emmanuel Moreno (Z”L)

Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin, ICT Associate, led a discussion with Major Joel D. Rayburn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Levant Affairs and Special Envoy for Syria, United States, and Maj. Gen. (Res.) Amos Gilead, Director, Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS), IDC, Herzliya. Major Rayburn discussed three primary American goals in the Middle East: (1) to complete the campaign against ISIS, (2) to seek complete withdrawal of all Iranian forces from Syrian soil, and (3) to resolve the underlying conflicts to avoid intractable, intergenerational violence. He stressed that America considers Iran the single most destabilizing factor in the conflicts that span the Middle East. Maj. Gen. Gilead stated that Lebanon has become Hezbollah, a dependent entity at the expense of a sovereign Lebanon. He expressed deep concern at President Trump’s plans to meet with the Iranian regime as, at best, it will delay the Iranian nuclear ambitions, but will be unlikely to address other key threats Israel faces such as rockets.
and missiles. He said Israel felt an increasing sense that it was alone in the fight against Iran. Major Rayburn countered by stating that any future agreement with Iran would require discussion on sponsorship of terrorism and missile proliferation. Leaving Syria would be essential if Iran wants the US to stop applying a “maximum pressure” approach.

**Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yair Golan**, “Democratic Camp” Party & Former Deputy Chief of Staff, Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel, highlighted in his speech that Israel is not a regional super-power but rather a country that faces extinction at any given moment. Therefore, Israel takes a restrained passive approach. Maj. Gen. (Res.) Golan argues that we should be optimistic and execute bolder action and take risks.

Per Golan, Israel today faces its “life decision.” It is therefore important to be decisive as to the course it takes: Annexation of the territories or separation from the Palestinians? What would be better for Israel’s security? Separation from the Palestinians is essential because annexing over 2 million Palestinians will constitute a major blow to the Zionist endeavor because demographically the percentage of Jews (post annexation) will drop to 62%.

With regards to Gaza, Israel doesn’t have a real strategy. A carrot and stick policy should be implemented while identifying the common interests. Hamas’ violence level is a derivate of the level of hardship in Gaza. The last three Israeli operations were reruns of the same failed security strategy. The damage sustained and the harm inflicted reduced Hamas’ military might, but didn’t put out any “fires” in the region. Therefore, Israel, together with other countries, should assist in developing the Palestinian economy. Regarding the northern front, Golan says that the campaign between wars conducted by Israel is an important prevention endeavor intended to limit the enemy’s maneuverability while increasing Israel’s. Yet, we need to make sure it will not lead to an all-out war.

**Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Vincent Stewart**, Former Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command & Former Director, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), United States, emphasized that
cyber-attacks will be a top threat in the next five years without firing a single bullet. The West may underestimate ISIS’ cyber capabilities. It is therefore essential that terrorists are not able to launch strategic cyber surprises against Western assets. Cyber-attacks may originate from within the sovereign territories of allied states and this may pose difficulties when launching an effective response.

Keynote Addresses

The Hon. Ayelet Shaked, Chairperson, “Yamina” Party and Former Minister of Justice, Israel. In her speech, Shaked addressed the BDS as diplomatic terrorism and said that when it comes to litigation, Israel prevails. “Yamina” Party and Former Minister of Justice, Israel. In her speech, Shaked addressed the BDS as diplomatic terrorism and said that when it comes to litigation, she also discussed the internal tension between the effectiveness of counter-terrorism and liberal democratic values such as the demolition of terrorists’ homes. ISA research and investigations show that such demolition serves as a deterrent that prevents terror attacks. According to ISA, the best strategy is to demolish a house within 24 hours from the moment of the perpetration of the terror attack. However, since Israel is a democracy, the legal process to approve and execute such demolition takes nearly two months.

Mr. Wil van Gemert, Deputy Executive Director & Head of the Operations Directorate, Europol, explained the importance of Europol’s “Five C” process, namely: collecting information; cross-border crimes; coalitions between law enforcement and private industry; coordination on a European scale; and the need for creating innovative methods of investigation such as facial recognition systems and implementing AI. He indicated that Jihadi extremism still resulted in the largest number of arrests in the EU and remained Europol’s priority, but that the recent increase in both left and right-wing extremism raises concerns.

Mr. Jens Koch, Head of the Working Group on International Terrorism and Extremism,
Germany, also emphasized that Germany’s focus is primarily on Islamist extremism, although concurrent structures should be implemented to deal with all forms of extremism. He spoke of the importance of both the criminal justice system and holistic approaches including the implementation of deradicalization programs and the involvement of civil society. He emphasized the need to keep the suffering of victims of terror at the forefront rather than solely focusing attention on the perpetrators of terrorist acts.

Prof. Assaf Moghadam, Senior Researcher, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel, discussed the developing capacity of non-state actors as sponsors of terrorism, a trend which is rarely acknowledged. While state sponsors regard proxies as military tools, non-state sponsors regard proxies as political instruments used to advance their sponsor’s quest for legitimacy; such relationships will be more transactional and pragmatic compared to state-sponsored proxies and therefore may be more susceptible to external manipulation.

The Hon. Naftali Bennet, Co-chair “Hayamin HaHadash” Party, and Former Minister for Education, Israel, in a one on one talk with Prof. Boaz Ganor, addressed the Iranian threat. According to him, there is a sense that Iranian proxies are being hit, but Iran itself stays unharmed. Therefore, there is a need to manufacture some deterrence factor vis a vis Iran; this does not necessarily mean bombing Iran, but rather making it accountable and letting it bear the burden of responsibility for what is going on in the region. A message should be sent that whenever Israel will be hit, so will Iran. Furthermore, historically, Israel did not conduct preventive actions against the enemy’s buildup, only against its attacks. For the first time in history, Israel is acting to prevent an Iranian buildup in Syria.
so as not to allow the Iranians to reach a critical mass. Israel should continue with this pattern and implement a similar strategy in Gaza: when they start digging a tunnel it should be destroyed and missiles should be destroyed before they are launched at Israel.

**Keynote Addresses: Technology and Terrorism**

**Mr. Brian Fishman**, Head of Counter-Terrorism Policy, Facebook, spoke of the influx of counter-terrorism professionals into social media platforms. As a policy, there can be no praise, support or representation of a terrorist organization, act or event. Large scale automation is becoming increasingly important, but automation can face challenges identifying human sentiment; so the human review process is still important. The larger social media platforms are getting better at identifying terrorism. This is why terrorists are moving to smaller platforms, and these require support.

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**Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Vincent Stewart**

**Mr. Adam Hadley**, Director, Tech Against Terrorism, concurred and elaborated on the importance of supporting smaller platforms used by terrorists and described the complex and adaptive online ecosystem utilized by terrorist actors. He noted that overly restrictive policies might impede companies’ abilities to manage evolving online threats.

**Dr. Shlomit Wagman-Ratner**, Director General, Money Laundering & Terrorism Financing Prohibition Authority (IMPA)/Financial Intelligence Unit (FIA), Israel. Dr. Wagman’s speech revolved around the fight against terrorism financing, conducted by the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Prohibition Authority. The authority cooperates with all the relevant agencies in Israel and around the world to gather financial intelligence that assists to monitor terror activities, thwart them, nab the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Terror organizations understand the opportunity
embedded in the use of virtual assets like Bitcoin, and recently there has been a noticeable increase in the use of virtual asset platforms by terrorist organizations. Fund raising campaigns run on WhatsApp and Telegram, and potential donors are being encouraged to use Bitcoin, being referred to vendors around the world that are notorious for lacking control and compliance mechanisms. There is also evidence that Bitcoin is being used by ISIS, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas. Furthermore, the appropriate monitoring tools should be developed, and law enforcement agencies should become more proficient in this arena. The private sector should get assistance to identify irregular client activity and report it to the authorities, international legal cooperation should be developed and more.

After Dr. Wagman’s speech, a one-on-one discussion took place between Prof. Boaz Ganor and the Hon. MK Lt. Gen. (Res.) Moshe (Bogie) Ya’alon, Founder & Chairperson, "Telem" Party, "Blue & White" Party; Former Minister of Defense & Strategic Affairs, Israel.

The conversation was held in memory of Maj. Eyal Ragonis (Z”L). Israel faces various security challenges starting with knife wielding individuals (a primitive tool which is hard to deal with), and expanding into gun fire, rockets, and IEDs. The Hamas has artillery, rocket capabilities, UAVs and more. Hezbollah is militarily prepared in every aspect, equipped with rockets and sophisticated weaponry. Iran is the major element challenging Israel today: it finances, arms and transfers knowledge to the terror organizations.

The actions taken by Israel to distance the Iranian threat are important, but it shouldn’t claim responsibility in an effort to avoid retaliatory attacks. In regards to Hamas, there is a need to react forcefully even when kites or balloons are involved and claim a steep price for any hit on the Israeli side, putting the other side in a constant dilemma over whether to continue their terror attacks. As far as targeted killing is concerned, this is a legitimate tool. Regarding the Iranian nuclear program, Ya’alon claimed that the agreement executed by Pres. Obama enables the Iranians to enrich Uranium and manufacture missiles. Thus, continuing the
Keynote Addresses: A Law Enforcement Perspective

Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, National Lead for Counter-Terrorism Policing & Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations (ACSO), Metropolitan Police Service, United Kingdom, spoke about the importance of prevention as an under-resourced pillar in counterterrorism. It is important to use evidence-based practice in deradicalization in order to both stop terrorism and to save people from extremist ideologies and a false sense of victimhood and fear, allowing for increased social inclusion and mobility. Commissioner Michael Fuller of the New South Wales Police Force, Australia, discussed right-wing extremism in an Australian context, stressing the need to prioritize right-wing extremism in the same manner as Islamic extremism. He spoke of the tension between civil liberties and security and the need to have a healthy discourse surrounding this. He emphasized the importance of having mechanisms in place to tie people back into society through deradicalization. Commissioner Saad Amrani, Commissioner & Policy Advisor, Federal Police, Belgium, spoke about three specific dangers in the Western approach to counter-terrorism, namely: denial, naïveté and political correctness. He claimed that westerners view Islamism through their own lens and therefore misunderstand key issues, wasting vital resources. He advocated taking a realistic ‘ecosystem’ approach starting at the grassroots level.

Tuesday, 10th September

Keynote Addresses

The Hon. Davor Božinović, Vice Prime Minister & Minister of the Interior, Croatia, said that although terrorism transcended space and time, the advent of ISIS ushered in a new era of terrorism. Terrorist groups have shown a great ability to adapt to new social trends and to recruit globally using social media. Counter-terrorism measures should be multi-pronged including legislative measures, allocation of funds, border control and information sharing, alongside private and public cooperation. Societies should be realistic and focus on risk reduction and resilience rather than complete elimination of the terrorist threat. Sir Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union, European Union, noted that in the past few years, terrorism in Europe has evolved to become more transnational. Moreover, the return of foreign fighters from conflict arenas poses a very real threat to the EU. Sir King illustrated this by citing a variety of successful and thwarted attacks stemming from the foreign fighter phenomenon. The EU
is building a comprehensive approach to terrorism both internally and with external partners, particularly by reducing the flow of money, munitions and manpower, strengthening border security and information systems, and addressing radicalization at a local level. Lt. Gen. LO Adeosun Chief of Policy & Plans, Nigerian Army addressed the Nigerian approach to counter-terrorism and the deployment of African Union troops across the continent. He specifically spoke of Operation Yancin Tafki conducted in the Lake Chad region against Boko Haram and the ways Nigeria is adapting to the threat of terrorism through improved intelligence and logistics, humanitarian missions, additional army units and relocation of the army’s command and control headquarters. He emphasized the importance of international collaboration in combating the terrorist threat transnationally.

“Whilst we have been very successful in taking down the physical caliphate we have been far less successful in creating capable governance structures to replace ISIS” Ms. Jennifer Cafarella

Head, Foreign Office in Israel, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Dr. Eitan Azani, Director of Research, ICT & Head of BA & MA Specializations in Counter Terrorism, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, IDC Herzliya, opened the session by discussing the process of decentralization for al Qaeda and ISIS. Al Qaeda’s decentralization process has taken fifteen years and, by building a global network, the terrorist organization built the capacity to launch attacks all over the world. They invest in the capabilities of local leaders to deliver the messages of the organization globally. ISIS took five years to decentralize and now pushes a message out from its headquarters, often via digital media, which is then shared by its followers. Ms. Jennifer Cafarella, Research Director, Institute for the Study of War (ISW), United States, stressed that whilst we have been very successful in taking down the physical caliphate, we have been far less successful in creating capable governance structures to replace ISIS. ISIS exploits the lack of adequate resources and security in liberated areas, however their tensions with al Qaeda in Idlib delegitimize them to an extent. Al Qaeda is trying to re-establish its presence in areas that ISIS had held. The al-Qaeda movement in Syria has always claimed the most legitimacy because of its

Plenary Session: Theatres of Global Jihad
In cooperation with the International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC), the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK) & Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

After greetings from Dr. Alexander Brakel,
oppositional role to Bashar al-Assad. Dr. Hans-Jakob Schindler, Senior Director, Counter-Extremism Project, United States and Former Coordinator, ISIL, Al-Qaeda and Taliban Monitoring Team, United Nations, Germany, discussed the effective end of the presence of ISIS in Afghanistan in 2018 when they were pressured to leave by various factions. Thankfully, the fear that returning Central Asian foreign fighters would converge on Afghanistan has, thus far, been unrealized. Al Qaeda and its affiliates, however, still constitute a strong presence in the country. An agreement between the Taliban and the United States is more likely than ever but will not reduce the presence of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Dr. Aaron Zelin, Richard Borow Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States, spoke of positive progress in North Africa, which he argues is at its lowest point in terms of the number of Jihadists in North Africa since the 2011 uprisings. Jihadi groups have lost territory partly because the countries’ military and law enforcement agencies have become far more professionalized. Dr. Stig Jarle Hansen, Associate Professor, Norwegian University of the Life Sciences, said that al Qaeda affiliates in Somalia have proven themselves to be stable and predominantly locally focused. They are richer and stronger than they have ever been and benefit from the conflict between the governments and tribes through courting clan support. Al Qaeda has also prevented ISIS infringements in Somalia and other neighboring countries, meaning ISIS only exists on the periphery.

Keynote Address

Ambassador Edmund Fitton-Brown, Coordinator, ISIL, Al-Qaeda & Taliban Monitoring Team, United Nations, spoke about the long-term challenges facing the international community from ISIS, al-Qaeda and affiliated extremist groups. ISIS, no longer
structures. Its priority is survival and revival in the heartlands, with local Syrians and Iraqis favored over foreign fighters. He emphasized the long-term aspirations of many groups around the world and reminded the community that the manner with which this issue is being handled now will have long-term implications.

**Prof. Alex Mintz, Provost,** IDC Herzliya, discussed the Iranian issue. A computerized system he had developed can assist in analyzing and predicting the decisions of the Iranian leadership regarding a nuclear bomb. Per Prof. Mintz, Iran is overtly moving to implement its nuclear plan and well on its way to a nuclear bomb, simultaneously with the loss of the deterrence the U.S. had. The problem is that a renewed agreement between Trump and Rouhani may be even worse than the previous agreement or the price charged by the Iranians even steeper. Time is on the Iranians side and the U.S. sanctions do not affect them as significantly as one might think since they have huge contracts with China, Russia and Turkey. Regarding the Israeli issue, Iran has moved from deterring Israel towards creating deterrence and defeat capabilities. It conducts this buildup together with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad so the development of a nuclear bomb by Iran poses a real danger to Israel.

**Prof. Mintz's Book**

"An additional major challenge is the new war – the use of digital platforms by terror organizations. To date, there is a widespread use of social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Therefore, the IDF promotes today the seemingly unnatural concept of coupling public relations and intelligence”

**Brig. Gen. Manelis**

**Mr. Brian Michael Jenkins**, Senior Advisor to the President, RAND Corporation, United States, spoke about the evolution of terrorist organizations over the last decades. As secular ideologies have been replaced by religious ideologies, civilian deaths have increased. Although counter-terrorism efforts have caused groups to decentralize, the internethas enabled organizations to create active global enterprises and has fundamentally changed how terrorists are recruited. It has also facilitated a new movement towards autonomous and untethered terrorists. Technological
developments mean “we are in a realm of endless warfare punctuated by wars”. Sir David Veness, Honorary Professor of Terrorism Studies, University of St. Andrews, Former Under-Secretary General, Department of Safety and Security, United Nations and Former Assistant Commissioner, New Scotland Yard, United Kingdom emphasized that “no nation-state can claim to provide public protection by reliance on public sector resources alone,” therefore a comprehensive and inclusive approach is required to effectively integrate the public and private sectors. Protecting critical infrastructure and civilian spaces is vital. This approach must include key actors, such as faith leadership and private security, and must ensure that it also integrates small and medium enterprises.

Brig. Gen. Ronen Manelis IDF Spokesperson, Israel –Manelis reviewed a series of major challenges faced by Israel. Iran poses the major threat and its activity is characterized by its goal to obtain a nuclear bomb, and its support of proxy and other organizations at the border with Israel, such as Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas. The latter receive an ongoing budget towards military buildup as well as shipments of weaponry. Another characteristic is the Iranians’ attempt to establish themselves in Syria, to be in the forefront vis a vis Israel. Syria is being used for arms shipments (land and air), for the erection of militia bases across the country, and its industry has been harnessed for manufacturing weapons and ammunition. Another challenge is the missile accuracy program led by the commander of the Lebanon theatre and the commander of the Quds Force in Syria, both of whom report to Qassim Soleimani. An additional major challenge is the new war – the use of digital platforms by terror organizations. To date there is widespread use of social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). Therefore, today, the IDF promotes the seemingly unnatural concept of coupling public relations and intelligence.
Special Focus on the Israeli Elections: One on One Security Conversations

The panel focused on the elections period and included interviews with Ms. Tallie Lipkin Shahak, Editor & Anchor, Defense Programs, Galei Tzahal Radio, on Israeli security issues, especially ones tangent to political issues, with various political personalities.

MK Ofer Shelah Member of Parliament, “Blue and White” Party, Israel – In 2011, a window of opportunity opened in the middle east – Israel had common interests with various Arab countries such as Egypt, Morocco, Jordan and KSA. This common ground is important and needs to be leveraged upon. Per him, one of the bigger problems is the increased level of friction Israel has with the terror organizations which brings about a stronger than ever interaction between the military and the political levels. For example, whenever an action is being taken there is a debate whether to advertise it and if so how not to escalate the situation. Such a debate showcases the conflict between political needs and shaking the public’s belief that the leadership acts purely out of security considerations. It also begs the question whether Israel’s obscurity policy needs to be violated.

The Hon. MK Tzahi Hanegbi, Minister for Regional Cooperation, Israel – Per him, there is a Chinese wall between the decisions that are being made and the fact that this is an election period. When activity is being exposed, such exposure is done purely out of relevant considerations, and political considerations are not being involved. The exposure of the obscurity policy has not been done by Netanyahu but rather by the former IAF commander Gen. Amir Eshel and the Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eizenkot, and both have received prior approvals by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense.

The Hon. Amir Peretz Chairperson, Labor Party and Former Minister of Defense, Israel. Per him, there is an attempt to use the security apparatus as part of the Likud party’s campaign. Information leaked out of cabinet meetings serves the enemy and does not create any deterrence. The protection of the home front is an extremely important issue
Plenary Session: Dilemmas in Hostage Negotiations: Lessons Learned from the United States and Israel

The plenary session on hostage negotiations focused on the expert opinions of Col. (Res.) Lior Lotan, Senior Researcher & Former Executive Director, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Coordinator for POWs & MIAs, Prime Minister’s Office, Israel and Ambassador Robert O’Brien, Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, State Department, United States. The Plenary Session highlighted the approach and tactics used by Israel and the United States when faced with a situation of hostage negotiation. Ambassador O’Brien, who currently serves as the United States National Security Advisor, described the United States’ commitment to hostage rescue, while acknowledging the issue of weighing possible methods to bring home hostages while still accounting for the reality of geopolitical circumstances. Ambassador O’Brien, clarified the common misconception that the United States does not negotiate with terrorists, stating that the United States considers communication with such entities to be beneficial, but steadfastly refuses to make any kinds of concessions to terrorists. Col. Lior Lotan began by discussing Israel’s mandatory military service, describing it as a contract committing Israel to protect every member of its society. He spoke about the realities of hostage negotiations, saying that when such deals are necessary, “we are playing the game on the enemy’s moral ground—not our own,” and citing potential changes that could be made to Israel’s fundamental approach to hostage negotiations. He concluded with the following statement: “Our goal is to find any way possible to bring our guy back. Do not set rules or restraints of any kind. To do so is a sign of weakness.”

“Our goal is to find any way possible to bring our guy back. Do not set rules or restraints of any kind. To do so is a sign of weakness.” Col. (Res.) Lior Lotan
Memorial Ceremony for the Victims of 9/11 and Terrorism Worldwide

Prof. Boaz Ganor opened the ceremony to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks, and of terrorism worldwide, by unveiling the ENOUGH campaign. ENOUGH is a new initiative to give a voice to the global movement opposing and resisting terrorism, as well as providing a platform for real-time live direct reports via “millions of people [serving] as the eyes and ears of the authorities”. He spoke of the importance of changing the narrative on terrorism and of expressing global protest and opposition to terrorism everywhere, in every form, with no exceptions. Professor Ganor’s speech was followed by a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives in the fight against terrorism and by the Israeli and American national anthems. Congressman Robert Pittenger, Chairman of the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, United States then spoke on the importance of continuing to fight “the battle against this generation’s oppressors,” comparing leaders of global violent jihadism to other infamous despots and dictators throughout history. He also emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant to protect and defend against terrorism. Lt. Col. John Myers, United States Army War College Fellow, ICT Herzliya, recalled the events of 9/11, describing that day as “a dividing line in our history. It is easy to think of terrorism as something that happens to others,” Lt. Col. Myers said, concluding by articulating the questions every person must ask themselves: “What remains to be done? What can I do? What more can I do?” Brig. Gen. Charles E. Brown, Jr. Senior Defense official & Defense Attaché to Israel, United States, then spoke, stating that at its heart, counter-terrorism is about human beings, with a reminder to honor the living, those who continue to fight and remain vigilant against terrorism, along with the dead, saying, “we owe it to those who have perished to strive for peace.” The Hon. David Glawe, Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, United States, concluded the ceremony, describing the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security in the generational fight against terrorism and stating simply that “my job is to prevent the worst day from happening in someone’s life.”
Wednesday 11th September
High Level Breakfast – Invitation Only
Hezbollah – Defend, Diffuse and Designate
The Session was held in cooperation with the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel.
This session was chaired by Ambassador Ron Prosor, Head, Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, IDC Herzliya; Former Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Former Ambassador to the United Nations & United Kingdom, Israel and involved Adv. Miguel Bronfman, Attorney at Law & Former Court Officer, National Criminal Court, Argentina; Mr. Daniel Cohen, Head, Strategy & Intelligence, Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, IDC Herzliya, Israel; Ambassador José Rafael Cots Malavé, Special Representative to Portugal on behalf of Juan Guaido Interim Government; and 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, United States.

Conducted under Chatham House rules, the speakers discussed the importance of correctly designating Hezbollah, breaking the artificial divide between military and political wings, and stemming their sources of finance. By observing the flow of finance, one can see the complex ties Hezbollah has around the globe.

Germany and Australia both experienced high levels of Lebanese immigration and there are also extensive familial ties in South America and Africa. Hezbollah taps into its diaspora to advance its criminal activities. Of particular concern is Venezuela, which acts as a rogue state. Maduro’s regime has strong links to international crime and terrorism including cocaine trafficking, illicit gold, and raw material production. Since taking power, Maduro has already signed 300 agreements with Iran and Lebanon. Hezbollah uses the proceeds of criminal arms and drugs sales to enrich the organization and buy advanced weaponry. Countries should not be hesitant to vocalize Hezbollah’s criminal ties and make evidence public to obtain justice. One reason that countries may be reluctant to designate the political wing of Hezbollah is because they worry about affecting diplomatic and economic ties with Lebanon – however all countries who have designated Hezbollah,
Plenary Session: Technology, Terrorism and Counterterrorism

This session, moderated by Ms. Anna Ahronheim, Military Correspondent, The Jerusalem Post, Israel focused on the current challenges and opportunities technology presents in the field of counter-terrorism. The first speaker, Ms. Sophia d’Antoine, Security Researcher & Member of the Program Committee for Usenix WiSec, United States, focused on problems gathering information from social media, including the rise of encrypted platforms like Telegram. Mr. Erez Kreiner, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Director of the National Cyber Security Authority, Israel, discussed the transition of criminal activity from the physical to the cyber realm and the risks of terrorists concurrently using physical and cyber-attacks to inflict greater damage. Mr. Karl Wagner, Founder & CEO, Eastern Sky Technologies; and Former Senior Director for Global Security, Tesla, United States, focused on the threat of weaponizing social media through stealing information and data. We must learn to use AI as a beneficial tool in the fight against terrorism. Professor Gabriel Weimann, Senior Researcher, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, contended that we are currently fighting the wars of yesterday and not focusing on the wars of the future. We must come up with pre-emptive, preventative measures by trying to predict terrorists’ next moves online.

Ms. Jennifer Woodard, Co-Founder & CEO, Insikt Intelligence, Spain, concluded by concurring with other panelists regarding the risk of encrypted social media channels, and the everchanging nature of terrorists’ modus operandi online. She stressed the importance of preventative measures against radicalization before it occurs on social media platforms and posed the question as to how to best use artificial intelligence to enhance security measures.

"We are currently fighting the wars of yesterday and not focusing on the wars of the future, we must come up with pre-emptive, preventative measures by trying to predict terrorists’ next moves online."

Prof. Gabriel Weimann

Keynote Address

The Honorable Gent Cakaj, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Albania, spoke of the importance of international cooperation against transnational threats, particularly security challenges, refugee and humanitarian crises, illegal immigration, and increasing radicalization following the downfall of ISIS. He said, “the fact that there has been no terrorist attack in the Balkan region is not a matter of luck but rather is a reflection of deep cooperation that has taken
several measures to counter radicalization and extremism, particularly working with vulnerable Muslim groups. It has created special education programs to increase social immunity to extremism, including a special school curriculum to teach the history of religion in accordance with the principles of reason and in service of pluralism. It has trained 30,000 teachers and 2,000 family psychologists, emphasizing the importance Albania places on education and soft social measures.

**Morning Workshops:**

**Homegrown Terrorism in the West**

*In cooperation with the Program on Extremism, George Washington University*

*This session is held in the memory of Dr. Jonathan Fine (Z”L).*

The session, chaired by Mr. Seamus Hughes, Deputy Director, Program on Extremism, George Washington University, United States, discussed the growth of homegrown terrorism in the West. The first speaker, Dr. Matthew Levitt, Fromer-Wexler Fellow and Director, Jeanette and Eli Reinhard Program on Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States, carefully clarified that homegrown terrorism is a domestic problem; it is not a case of radicalized people immigrating into the United States, but rather that people were being radicalized within the United States. There is a problem of domestic radicalization that is largely being ignored by policy makers who favor tightening immigration controls. Unless the government acknowledges homegrown terrorism as a domestic problem, appropriate legislation will not be put in place to mitigate the threat. Dr. Francesco Marone, Fellow, Program on Extremism, George Washington University, Italy, discussed the case of Italian exceptionalism. There have been comparatively few Italian foreign fighters. This could be due to Italy’s strict immigration laws, which limit naturalization, it’s effective executive power which enables deportation without trial, or its relatively small number of second-generation migrants. Commissioner Luc van der Taelen, Project Manager,
Community Policing and the Prevention of Radicalization (CoPPRa) & Superintendent, Central Counter-Terrorism Unit, Federal Police, Belgium, discussed how youngsters with poor education, few future prospects, criminal backgrounds, and little knowledge of, nor connection to, mosques, were being actively recruited and that there is a trend away from collective attacks toward lone actors. This requires staff to be trained very extensively in a manner which is threat-based, target-centered, comprehensive and with full respect of human rights. Working with local partners and community groups to mitigate the homegrown threat will be essential. Sir David Veness, Honorary Professor of Terrorism Studies, University of St. Andrews; Former Under-Secretary General, Department of Safety and Security, United Nations and Former Assistant Commissioner, New Scotland Yard, United Kingdom, highlighted the primary threats facing the UK: jihadism, right-wing extremism, and Irish Republican violence. Jihadi violence is numerically daunting with over 20,000 subjects of interest. He spoke of the long-term impact of terrorism on a community, with more people taking their lives in the sixteen years following the Irish Troubles than those lost in the entire duration of the conflict. He stressed that there are three key components of counter-terrorism: a wide context of prevention, a whole society approach, and a 21st century strategic foundation at the global, regional, national and local levels. Dr. Lorenzo Vidino, Director, Program on Extremism, George Washington University, United States, stressed that the reasons for radicalization are complex and cannot be merely explained by a lack of integration, being poor, or being marginalized. In countries with strong integration programs, such as in Scandinavia and Austria, there have been higher levels of extremism than in countries with less robust programs such as Spain. The social level, individual psychological problems, and personal networks are all important facets to consider. The profile of terrorists is also changing in terms of gender, conversions, and the homegrown nature of the threats, and this creates political sensitivities that need to be addressed.
Countering Radicalization – Technology and Policy

In Cooperation with Red Alert – A Horizon 2020 Project

Adv. Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov, Senior Researcher & Director of Development, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, introduced the RED-Alert Project, funded by Horizon 2020, which combines artificial intelligence technologies to collect, process, visualize and store online data related to terrorists. He emphasized that we could no longer wage a traditional war against terrorists, and that a key feature of future intelligence would be big data analysis and becoming adaptable to face future threats.

Dr. Monica Florea, Coordinator, RED-Alert Project, Horizon2020 & Head of European Projects Department, SIVECO, Romania, discussed the use of RED-Alert to collect information and analyze data, particularly from social media channels increasingly used by terrorist groups. Perpetrators are often recruited or radicalized via online communication channels. The RED-Alert project utilizes algorithms to identify structures and clusters in evolving networks.

Professor Marco Lombardi, Full Professor of Sociology, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Milan, Italy, highlighted the need for a performative definition of terrorism in the face of the new framework of terrorism and hybrid warfare. Terrorism itself is a form of communication, hence it is necessary to create a counter-narrative. It is essential that we don’t fall into a linear way of thinking when addressing the complexities involved in fighting terrorism in the digital age.

Adv. Deborah Housen-Couriel, Research Associate & Adjunct Lecturer, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, discussed the International Cyber Terrorism Regulation Project, a project of the Institute of Counter-terrorism. The project aims to present a comparative analysis of regulatory models and dilemmas these models present in order to bolster counter-terrorism enforcement at the national and global levels. Law is the invisible infrastructure of enforcement; if we don’t have an enforcement framework it is not possible to move ahead. It is important to focus on areas where there is a high potential for strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation, and to agree on the definitions of illegal terrorist activities online. Multi-stakeholder engagement between government and private sectors is also crucial for success.

Mr. Yaniv Azani, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), National Cyber Unit, Israeli National Police (INP), Israel, discussed how cyber law enforcement presents unique challenges, as there are fewer physical leads to chase. Traditional terrorists are limited in their physical capabilities, but can create enormous damage utilizing cyber warfare with no physical access required. The greatest challenge is to know as much as possible, as early as possible, without violating the right
databases and task forces, together with cooperation from the private sector. Mr. Ram Levi, founder and CEO of Konfidas, Israel, emphasized that at present, most cyberattacks have criminal rather than terroristic intent. However, it is possible that cyber-terrorism will occur in the future. Hackers take the time to know networks better than the defenders. Large corporations often have good cyber-security, however small to medium businesses present a security risk to the overall chain, and new threats are materializing every day. He stressed the need to close the skills gap and the need for companies and individuals to implement basic protections such as multifactor authentication and computer updates as a first step to improving cyber security.

Covering Terrorism – Journalist Dilemmas in War Zones

In Cooperation with the Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute

This session was held in memory of journalists Daniel Pearl and Steven Sotloff.

Professor Noam Lemelshtrich Latar,
Founder & Dean, Sammy Ofer School of Communications; Chair, Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute (DPIJI), IDC Herzliya, Israel, commenced the workshop “by outlining media reliability in conflict zones. Research shows that journalists are influenced by the human suffering they encounter and the fear of their reports showing their ‘hosts’ in a negative light, resulting in physical risk to journalists or negatively affecting future access. Embedded journalists tend to be more positive about their military hosts and in some cases, conditions cause journalists to compromise their ethics. AI and technology may change the future of journalism, and job survival is dependent on adopting disruptive technologies and platforms and employing AI data analytics as a tool to create deep and meaningful journalism. Dr. Moran Yarchi, Senior Researcher, ICT, IDC Herzliya; Senior Lecturer, Sammy Ofer School of Communications & Head of the Public Diplomacy Program, IDC Herzliya, Israel, felt there had been two major changes over the last decades: a move to asymmetrical warfare and technological developments. We now need to have success in the military,
diplomatic, legal and media battlefields in order to be victorious. Today’s conflicts are actually about perceptions, and geographical borders are less relevant to image wars. Mr. Raf Sanchez, Middle East Correspondent, The Telegraph, United Kingdom, outlined three main challenges facing journalists: safety, not playing into the terrorists’ hands, and managing the relationship between counter-terrorism forces and government authorities. Social media has radically changed conflict journalism, removing the need for a middleman; journalists have been replaced by YouTube and Twitter. In the 1990’s, journalists often sat down with leaders of terrorist organizations, but “today you are more likely to be beheaded by a Jihadist group than get a sit-down interview with them.” Ms. Efrat Lachter, Correspondent, Channel 2 News, Israel, addressed the question of how journalists can report responsibly rather than exacerbating trauma or giving terrorists too wide of a platform. “We are actually serving ISIS in a very twisted way we didn’t think about by using those videos,” said Ms. Lachter during her speech. The role of journalists in conflict zones continues to be important, despite social media and technological advances, because it is not enough to sit in a studio and tell a story about ISIS; you need to show your audience that the story is so important that it is worth taking personal risks for. Dr. Seth J. Frantzman, Middle East Affairs Analyst, Israel, concluded the workshop by discussing the unique position of journalists in foreign conflicts. Often they are the first non-military people on the scene of atrocities. Although it is important for journalists to be selective about what they publish, they should document as much as they can because they have the technological resources to do so at little cost, and this evidence may be useful in the future.
NATO - Seventy Years of Contribution to Peace and Security

The workshop was chaired by Dr. Amichai Magen, Senior Researcher and Head of the Terrorism & Governance Desk, ICT & Head, MA Program in Diplomacy & Conflict Studies, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel. Dr. Magen commenced by outlining a series of current and future challenges faced by NATO, including the role of American leadership; European defense spending; the growth of hybrid, cyber and information warfare; and the emergence of China as a world power. Following Dr. Magen, Dr. Benedetta Berti, Head of Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary General, NATO, stated that whilst NATO’s mission remains unchanged, Russia’s recent aggression in Crimea, instability in the Middle East and North Africa, and the rise of China have made the alliance essential as an effective counter-balance to non-state actors, and ethno-authoritarianism. She stated that war and security have now become a multi-domain front encompassing not just air, land and sea but also cyber and space domains and that “whoever will have technological superiority will have battlefield dominance.” Mr. Jan Techau, Senior Fellow & Director of the Europe Program, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Germany, in contrast, spoke of the potentially diminishing American security guarantee in Europe; America is looking elsewhere for spheres of external influence and has a very inward looking internal climate. The security of the US and the security of Europe is not necessarily the same thing anymore. Mr. Ariel Shafranksy, Director, Multilateral European Organizations Department, Europe Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel, spoke of the relationship between Israel and NATO, and how NATO indirectly affects the stability of other regions. Mr. Tommy Steiner, Senior Research Fellow, IPS, IDC Herzliya, Israel, asserted that NATO’s ambitions in the Middle East and North Africa are too modest. Europe and America have different strategic priorities in the region, and there is no cohesively defined concept for NATO in the region. The workshop concluded with Mr. Gabriele Cascone, Head, Counter-Terrorism Section, Emerging Security Challenges Division, NATO. He outlined the main features of NATO’s 2017 Counter-Terrorism action plan which includes awareness and analysis, preparedness and responsiveness, increased capabilities, capacity building, and partnership and operations.
Keynote

The Hon. Sigal Mandelker, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, The United States, outlined the history of the Treasury for Financial Intelligence and the key role sanctions have played in disrupting the efforts of malign actors. She emphasized the need to perpetually evolve the fight against terrorism to prevent future attacks and affirmed the US government’s willingness to apply sanctions to any organization or individual who provides support to designated terrorist actors.

“Terrorists will usually attempt to strike where there is the highest impact. It can be difficult to balance the need for security with transparency and community life.”

Current Security Challenges to the Jewish Communities

Afternoon Workshops: Current Security Challenges to the Jewish Communities

In Cooperation with the World Jewish Congress

The workshop, held in cooperation with the WJC, was chaired by Ms. Gabriela Ben David, Senior Manager, Crisis Management, Global Jewish Community Security Department, World Jewish Congress (WJC), Israel and included presentations from Mr. Oren Baratz, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Jewish Federation of Cleveland, United States; Ms. Veronika Roubicek Sternova, Counsellor, Security Policy Department, Ministry of the Interior, Czech Republic; Commissioner Luc van der Taelen, Project Manager, Community Policing and the Prevention of Radicalization (CoPPRa) & Superintendent, Central Counter-Terrorism Unit, Federal Police, Belgium; and Adv. Lt. Col. (Res.) Uri Ben Yaakov, Senior Researcher & Director of Development, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel. This special closed session presented different threats currently posed to Jewish communities through both case studies and simulations, by exploring both real and hypothetical social media posts by violent perpetrators and target locations. Locations may be chosen for symbolic utility or practical accessibility; the online presence of schools and synagogues, including interior and exterior photography, may enable extremists to have extensive knowledge of facilities prior to attacks. Terrorists will usually attempt to strike where there is the largest impact. It can be difficult to balance the need for security with transparency and community life. It is also important to create situational awareness amongst congregants; the community must take some ownership over its own security. It is also important for Jewish communities foster a good partnership with law enforcement agencies.
Non-Violent Islamism in the West
In Cooperation with the Project on Extremism, George Washington University

While non-violent Islamism is not as noticeable and flashy as violent terrorism, its subtle pragmatic mission is potentially more dangerous as it embeds itself into Muslim communities, indoctrinating generations of Muslims. Ms. Raheel Raza, President, Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow, Canada, discussed how three main Islamist ideological movements (the Muslim Brotherhood, Khomeinism and Wahabism) have used pragmatic tools to teach divisive hate, pinning the allegedly victimized Muslim world against dar al-harb through political correctness, Islamophobia, and censorship. Dr. Michael Barak, Senior Researcher & Head, Jihadi Monitoring Group, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, discussed the historic role that al-Azhar University in Cairo is taking to combat Islamism through training imams, instant digital fatwas, and general education. While their curriculum does contain traces of hateful rhetoric, they represent a leading Muslim institution in the complex fight against radical Islamic movements. Mr. Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed recalled his personal experience studying in Cairo during the 2011 revolution, and asked what a democracy looks like in the Muslim world after the Muslim Brotherhood benefited from a democratic process in Egypt. Dr. Lorenzo Vidino, Director, Program on Extremism, George Washington University, United States, discussed the intricacy and complexity of how the Muslim Brotherhood utilizes network-like methods to infiltrate and organize institutions throughout Europe, and the gap between accurate intelligence and effective policy makers. Lastly, Dr. Magnus Ranstrop, Research Director, Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), Swedish National Defense College, Sweden, discussed how, in segregated cities, Salafi institutions have become the communal gatekeepers of norms and livelihoods, highlighting Sweden as a microcosm of the situation.
The Steven E. Stern Workshop on Cyber-Terrorism

Lt. Gen. (ret.) Vincent Stewart, Former Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command & Former Director, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), United States, opened the panel by discussing the reliance of Americans on technology, and how disruptions to grids could cause widespread disruption of vital services. Given individuals are so reliant on technology, they now constitute an attack surface. Professor Abraham Wagner, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs & Senior Research Scholar, Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, United States, discussed a project to examine the brain’s reaction to social media to better understand terrorist recruitment processes. It is hoped that by using these scans, governments and commercial partners can put neurologically effective counter-radicalization messages into the public sphere. Mr. Dave Aitel, Chief Security Technical Officer, Cyxterta Technologies, United States, spoke about the ability of artificial intelligence to detect extremism, sarcasm, and other complexities in both verbal and pictorial social media posts, and the need to analyze interaction patterns to detect bots. He emphasized that in order to confront extremism in cyberspace, we must acknowledge that boundaries have changed and that successfully confronting these challenges will be impossible without a similar evolution in thinking and practice. Mr. Eliyahu Assif, Head, Cyber Defense & Information Security, eToro, Israel, spoke of the difficulties of detecting and limiting illegitimate transfers and investments in cryptocurrencies. Terrorist organizations are adapting their methodologies to make investigation difficult. There is significant room for research into proactive rather than reactive approaches in this field. Ms. Sigalit Maor-Hirsh, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Head of the Cyber-Subdivision, Prime Minister’s Office, Israel, emphasized that the human factor is the most important thing to consider when addressing cyber-terrorism. Using ISIS as a case study, she identified three separate processes that must be addressed: recruitment, connective action mediated by an organization, and connective action that is inspired by, but independent from, organizations - typically lone-wolf attacks. Brig. Gen. (res) Rami Efrati, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Head, Civilian Division, Israel National Cyber Bureau, Israel, emphasized that new trends of threats also present new opportunities. Technology is changing dramatically and quickly, and terrorists are looking to take advantage of these changes. Cyber terrorism is a threat we can and should respond to kinetically, especially in times of war or crisis. Mr. Meidan Brandt, Director of Web Intelligence, Cobwebs, Israel, discussed his company’s marketing-style approach to
utilize AI for the purposes of finding terrorist or extremist sentiments and using positive social engineering capabilities to try to make the web a safer place. **Dr Eitan Azani**, Director of Research, ICT & Head of BA & MA Specializations in Counterterrorism, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, concluded the workshop by discussing the evolution of technology in defensive and offensive operational areas. Transitioning from websites and forums to social networking, the development of widespread smart technology, and the development of virtual currencies have all affected terrorist organizations’ methodologies.

**When Conflicts End and How: ISIS as a Case Study**

**In cooperation with the Emory Law School**

**The Session was held in memory of Mr. Gerald Cramer (Z”L)**

**Dr. Daphné Richmond-Barak**, Senior Researcher and Head, IHL Desk, ICT & Assistant Professor, Lauder School of Government, IDC Herzliya, Israel, began the workshop by delving into the legal history of the formal declarations of war and the negotiations of peace agreements. She argued that contemporary war, and its ending, has become informal and indecisive. She advocates for a return to formality in order to increase certainty amongst parties and contends that a detailed, negotiated settlement reduces the likelihood of a return to war, as it leaves less room for interpretation and misunderstanding between parties. **Mr. Brian Michael Jenkins**, Senior Advisor to the President, RAND Corporation & Member of the Professional Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, United States, stated that there were three key takeaways when discussing the ‘end’ of conflict: jihadist violence would continue as an expression of collective and individual grievances exacerbated by digital communications; the public would continue to have diminished tolerance for casualties in war; and rather than decisively winning, victory may be defined as containing the threat at an acceptable cost to society, while maintaining our individual freedoms. **Prof. Laurie Blank**, Clinical Professor of Law & Director of the International Humanitarian Law Clinic, Emory University School of Law, United States, discussed the problem of when war ends when fighting terrorists. Can the use of force be justified against both al Qaeda and all its current and future offshoots under the guise of self-defense against all possible future attacks? Such a project could last in perpetuity and, if this is the case, we can’t speak of the ‘end of war.’ The idea

“Immigration policies are an ineffective way of fighting terrorism as the majority of foreign-born terrorists are radicalized inside the United States.” **Ms. Katherine Bauer**
of military defeat lies in the commander of a force using a cost-benefit analysis to decide to cease conflict; there is no one person who can decide this within the enemy group (decentralized, fanatic Islamists). It is hard to therefore ascertain when the objectives of a conflict are achieved. Prof. William C. Banks, Founding Director, Institute for National Security and Counter-Terrorism (INSCT) & Professor of Law and Public Administration and International Affairs, Syracuse University & Member of the Professional, Advisory Board, ICT, IDC Herzliya, United States, spoke about the ambiguity in language that allowed the United States to pursue ISIS as a ‘designated associated force’ of al-Qaeda under the original AUMF. He stressed the importance of clarity in language and the need for appropriate sunset clauses in legislation to allow for considered and appropriate responses to extant and emerging threats. Prof. Assaf Moghadam, Senior Researcher, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) & Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel, examined the inherent weakness and countervailing environmental, organizational, and structural strengths of jihadi organizations to assert that jihadi forces will continue to evolve, probably in a multipolar and increasingly localized manner. They will continue to be a potent threat, but not an existential one.

Immigration, Integration and the Potential Counter-Terrorism Challenge
The first speaker, Ms. Katherine Bauer, Blumenstein-Katz Family Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States, stated that immigration policies are an ineffective way of fighting terrorism, as the majority of foreign-born terrorists are radicalized inside the United States. She instead suggested that a better approach is to build internal community resilience, isolating radicalized individuals and treating them through rehabilitation and deradicalization. Prof. Ruud Koopmans, Research Director, Department of Migration,
Integration & Transnationalization, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany, discussed the influence of religious knowledge on legitimation of violence. He found that Muslims with a higher amount of religious knowledge were more prone to violence, compared to knowledgeable Christians, for whom there was no effect, and knowledgeable Jews for whom religious instruction corresponded with a reduction in the levels of violence. **Col. Santiago Mata**, Home Affairs Counsellor, Embassy of Spain in Israel, discussed the five pillars Spain uses to reduce criminal activity and terrorism, which include: prevention in origin, operational projects on the ground, fighting the network of human trafficking, border control, and returning foreign fighters. He also emphasized the need for individualized collaboration with neighboring countries as being crucial for success. **Ms. Nadine Liv**, Researcher & Project Manager, Cyber-Terrorism Desk, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, discussed the connection between sex trafficking and terror financing. There are conservatively 24.9 million trafficked persons, and many victims are women and children fleeing conflict zones. ISIS’s loss of territory may see them trying to raise revenue through sexual slavery. Additionally, there is evidence of developing ties between terrorist organizations and trafficking organizations in Africa as a means of financing terrorism. **Dr. Milena Uhlmann**, Policy Advisor, Counter-Terrorism Task Force, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany, discussed the importance of preventative rather than reactive measures in mitigating extremism. Radicalization is very individual and should be treated as such, not every radicalized person poses a security threat. It is important to provide emotional and pragmatic support, creating a bond with a radicalizing individual is crucial for success. **Brig. Gen. Henri Bourdior**, Internal Security Attaché to the Embassy of France in Israel, France, discussed the growing challenge of radicalization within the French penitentiary system and the problem of lax sentencing of terrorism suspects. Of the 500 individuals detained, many have been sentenced for only six to eight years, meaning over 50% will be released by 2022. Additionally, there are 1,500 considered radicalized in custody and

“Of the 500 individuals detained many have been sentenced for only six to eight years meaning over 50% will be released by 2022”

**Brig. Gen. Henri Bourdior**
many more outside. Some of those radicalized in prison have gone on to commit crimes such as the brothers responsible for the Charlie Hebdo attacks. To counter this, the French government has inserted intelligence services within the prison system.

Thursday 12th September
Morning Workshops:
Terrorism in Africa: The Growing Battlefield of Global Jihad
Chaired by Dr. Col. (Res.) Shaul Shay, Senior Researcher at the ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel. Dr. Shay highlighted the growing challenges of effectively combatting terrorism on the African continent. He opened the discussion by emphasizing the need to create global coalitions to stymie the terrorist threat. Dr. Peter Knoope, Associate Fellow and Former Director, International Centre for Counter Terrorism (ICCT), The Netherlands, showed the increase in terrorist attacks on the continent since the early 2000s. He demonstrated how terrorist groups in North Africa have been slowly increasing their territorial influence and moving further south to inevitably try to gain access to the ocean. He also emphasized how wars are becoming less regulated with the laws of armed conflict neither obeyed nor enforced. Lt. Gen LO Adeosun, Chief of Policy & Plans, Nigerian Army, also emphasized the importance of adequate cooperation in the Sahel region and expressed concern about the increase in terrorists’ arsenals after the fall of the Gadhafi regime and emphasized the need for technical support and equipment from Western nation-states. Amb. Haim Koren, Former Ambassador of Israel to Egypt & South Sudan, Israel, discussed the state of terrorism in North-East Africa. He emphasized the fact that Egypt is dealing with terrorism on multiple fronts, and is cooperating with other countries, including Israel. Sudan presents a difficult terror theater, particularly regarding terror financing. He emphasized the changes in big tech and globalization which further speed these processes. Following, Mr. António Rodrigues, Member of the Oversight Committee of Portuguese Intelligence System, Portugal, emphasized that African countries must be supported to create

“Iran places IRGC cells in a number of nation-states under the guise of diplomats and military attaches, with hopes to extend Hezbollah models to spheres of influence”
Col. (Res.) Michael Segall
uniquely African models to combat terrorism, rather than importing European approaches; it is both expensive and ineffective to contract external services to fix internal problems. Lt. Col. (Res.) Michael Segall, Senior Analyst, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), Israel, spoke of the growing role of Iran in Africa, stating that Iran places IRGC cells in a number of nation-states under the guise of diplomats and military attaches, with hopes to extend Hezbollah models to spheres of influence.

Counter Terrorism and Policing – Sharing Best Practices was opened by chair Mr. Dennis Monette, former Assistant Commissioner of Police, Nassau County, New York, who emphasized the need for interagency cooperation and the importance of the growth of task forces in the US context.

Following, Dr. Sabrina Schönrock, Professor of Public Law & Dean, Department of Police and Security Management, Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany, discussed the unique challenges of interagency cooperation within the German federal system where each state maintains its own constitution, parliaments, courts, and police forces, without access to a standardized federal database. She also spoke of the German culture, where citizens are more worried about the government collecting data on them than being the victim of a terror attack. Lt. Col. Federico Palmieri, Special Operation Group (ROS), Counter-Terrorism Department, Italian Carabinieri Police & Counter-Terrorism Investigator, National Investigation Bureau, Italy, stated that there are three pillars in the fight against terrorism: prosecution, prevention, and criminal procedures. He emphasized the importance of being able to preventively monitor suspected terrorists, and the ability to share data on a national and international level. Likewise, Dr. Eddie Wasser, Medical Director for the Prime Minister’s Protection Detail (PMPD), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada, emphasized the role of inter-agency cooperation at the Canadian level, where provincial and municipal police, alongside the Royal Canadian Mounted police forces, all enjoy access to a central database. He also emphasized the importance of cooperation with Canadian military and intelligence agencies and the mutually beneficial intelligence relationship of the ‘five-eyes’ community. He also spoke of the success of Canada’s community outreach programs, which had enabled intercepts through imams and concerned family
members to prevent attacks. Major Anthony Astacio, Commanding Officer, New York State Park Police, United States, likewise spoke about the improvements in interagency cooperation since 9/11, and the proliferation of interagency reports that have grown exponentially in the last twenty years. He asserted that cooperation between partner agencies is essential to fight terrorism, as is the need to leave ego at the door in favor of the collective interest. Assistant Commissioner Ross Guenther, Commander, Counter-Terrorism Command, Victoria Police, Australia, also acknowledged the importance of interagency cooperation both nationally and internationally. However, he focused on the preventive aspect of Victoria’s countering violent extremism program and the rise of identified mental health issues in perpetrators, the interaction of local and international trends, and the narratives of grievance that resonate with the small number of individuals who go on to commit terror. Brig. Gen. Shaike Horowitz, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Former Commander of the Security Unit & Bomb-Disposal Unit, Israel National Police (INP), Israel, spoke about the need to build the ‘triangle of resilience’ for first responders. This triangle consists of high-quality personnel, professionalism, and creating a supportive ‘familial’ environment. He also emphasized the need to effectively train the public to recognize potential threats and report them.

Terrorism as a Tool for Exporting the Revolution – Iran’s Global Reach

Dr Seth Jones, Harold Brown Chair; Director, Transnational Threats Project; and Senior Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), United States, gave an overview of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Quds Force, noting its increase in activity in recent years. He explained how strikes against Iranian forces have limited tactical but more strategic influence. In his assessment, the IRGC has not been significantly weakened. Mr. Michel Wyss, Scientific Assistant, Swiss Armed Forces Military Academy (MILAC), ETH
Zurich, Switzerland, spoke about proxy relationships and their defining features. He also analyzed strategic and political advantages and disadvantages of proxy relationships. He noted the shift in Iran's proxy strategy, helping Iran to project its power and expand its regional influence. **Dr. Emanuele Ottolenghi**, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, United States, provided a comprehensive insight into Iran and Hezbollah’s activities in the Tri Border Area of South America, explaining why the area is so susceptible to illicit activities used for laundering money. He also elaborated on how youth movements are used to radicalize and generate new support. **Mr. Yaniv Cohen**, Executive Director, Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, IDC Herzliya, Israel, discussed the four vectors of Iranian activity and influence he believes are most influential, including the Iran Ministry of Intelligence, Qassem Soleimani and the Quds Force, Hezbollah, and community center. He contended that if Iran finds itself in need, it could easily activate the terror infrastructure it established in Europe. Dr. Ori Goldberg, Senior Researcher, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, spoke in contrast to the rest of the panel, arguing that Iran acts defensively and pragmatically as an isolated minority in the Middle East. He argued that Iran is not engaged in expanding its revolution, but rather it is merely acting as “practitioners and pragmatists seeking survival.” The chair, **Mr. Ilan Berman**, Vice President, American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC), United States, concluded the session by addressing Iranian cyber capabilities, remarking that Iran’s cyber campaign is expanding with its capabilities increasing. He argued that if Iran does not get its desired results through negotiations, the world can expect Iran to use cyber to demonstrate its resolve against the United States and its enemies.

“If Iran does not get its desired results through negotiations, the world can expect Iran to use cyber to demonstrate its resolve against the United States and its enemies.”

**Mr. Ilan Berman**

**Influence, Operations and Psy-Ops: The War between Wars** was chaired by **Mr. Brian Jenkins** who opened the workshop by contending that warfare in the future will increasingly be about the manipulation of perceptions by both military and non-military means. Civilians are increasingly playing a critical role in war; they are not merely bystanders who get in the way of military operations, but are an essential ingredient in any strategic calculation. When fighting
terrorist actors, narratives are vital. **Professor Boaz Ganor** emphasized utilizing both overt and covert perception campaigns to change people’s perceptions through psychological warfare. **Mr. Daniel Cohen** spoke of the efforts of social media companies to use artificial intelligence to detect and reduce platforms for terrorist propaganda. However, he also felt that there was further capacity to utilize these platforms to spread positive messages through algorithm manipulation. **Mr. Eyal Arad**, Associate, ICT, IDC Herzliya & Political Consultant, Israel, highlighted proactive IDF Psy-Ops case studies, such as Sharia based will-writing websites, where they could identify youths at risk of imminently committing terror attacks. He also highlighted the concern of Facebook memorial pages as a risk of inspiring future shahids. Campaigns such as the UK’s “not my brother” campaign, which encouraged British Muslims to look after their siblings to prevent radicalization, show how social media campaigns can be used for prevention and not just propagation of terrorist messages. **Dr. Robert McCreight**, Senior Consultant, Global Concepts & Communications, LLC, United States, was a psy-war operative during the Cold War. He stated that our brains struggle to distinguish between truth and propaganda, and the need to create an algorithm that could differentiate between the two. He expects Western countries will become targets of psy-war efforts from other countries attempting to undermine and divide our communities. **Major Keren Hajooff**, Head of Social Media, Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel, emphasized the deliberate strategy employed by the IDF’s social media team. While producing content, it is important to see social media as a battlefield, and he finds that effective posts arouse curiosity, provide an incentive, are simple, and aim to inspire.

**Afternoon Workshops**  
**White Supremacists and Right-Wing Terrorism: The Genie out of the Bottle**

“Western countries will become targets of psy-war efforts from other countries in an attempt to undermine and divide our communities”  
**Dr. Robert McCreight**

Dedicated to the memory of Professor Ehud Sprinzak (Z”L).  
**Dr. Kristy Campion**, Lecturer in Terrorism Studies, Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security at Charles Sturt University, Australia, talked about the Australian and international domestic environments that contributed to the radicalization of Brenton Tarrant. She discussed the previous reluctance of media
and academic journals to discuss right-wing extremism due to the lack of death toll and the subsequent abdication of Australian responsibility after the attack, alleging he ‘radicalized online.’ Abdication of responsibility results in policy inaction. Australia has had to construct a national/settler narrative and there have been domestic and transnational white supremacist organizations since the 1920s. Brenton Tarrant was not an anomaly but an articulation of threat, which has deep roots in the Australian extremist landscape. Dr. Seth Jones, Harold Brown Chair; Director, Transnational Threats Project; and Senior Adviser, International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), United States, stated that the number of right-wing extremism plots in the US now outweighs ISIS inspired attacks. The majority of right-wing attacks are de-centralized; Individuals may be radicalized online, but acts are usually committed by an individual. Compared to Islamic extremism, the attacks are quite targeted, which reduces lethality. Groups are increasingly turning to alternative social media sites such as Discourse, 8Ch, and 4Ch, and are careful in espousing hatred without calling for violence. The US has no domestic terrorism statute, so individuals need to be charged under existing legislation, which often means convicting on lesser offences. A key issue in the US is how to effectively convict these individuals. Commissioner Luc van der Taelen, Project Manager, Community Policing and the Prevention of Radicalization (CoPPRa) & Superintendent, Central Counter-Terrorism Unit, Federal Police, Belgium, emphasized that there had been a rise in right-wing extremism in Belgium due to problems of migration, feelings of insecurity, and manifestations of hate speech online. The profile of right-wing extremists has also changed: extremists go to university and get postgraduate educations. In Germany, 22,000 violently oriented right-wing extremists have been identified. Dr. Ariel Koch, Doron Halpern Middle East Network Analysis Desk (MENAD), Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel, talked about the rise of cumulative extremism; Salafi Jihadis provoke right-wing extremists who provoke ANTIFA. Rather than talking about race, counter-jihad right-wing extremists now expound doctrines of culture, religion, and heritage. Dr. David Spencer, Associate Professor, William J. Perry Center, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, National Defense University, United States, spoke about left-wing insurgencies in South America, emphasizing their reliance on
illicit economies to sustain their protests and to maintain effective power structures. The Chair, Dr. Ely Karmon, Senior Research Scholar, ICT, IDC Herzliya, Israel, concluded the discussion by speaking of Jewish extremism. Incidents including assault and property damage tripled in 2018 mostly carried out by teenagers who are radicalized in outposts in the disputed territories. This rise in Jewish extremism is likely to be met with increasing radicalization on the Palestinian side, resulting in cumulative extremism.

"Women have had a complex role in terrorist organizations from traditional home-makers to active fighters and these roles have ebbed and flowed over the course of conflicts. There is a need to understand how groups conceptualize women’s roles and that they can be both victim and perpetrator. Ms. Devorah Margolin"

The Return of Foreign Fighters: Are We Prepared for the Challenge? Chair, Mr. Brian Michael Jenkins, discussed the complex options available to states in dealing with returning foreign fighters, including denationalization, repatriation, domestic prosecution, remunerating Kurdish forces for continued incarceration, creating an international tribunal, or utilizing holding facilities like Guantanamo. He contends that none of these options are highly realistic or desirable, it is likely that countries will continue to use a mix of the above. Col. (Res.) Rateb Amro, Director General and Founder, Horizon Strategic Studies, Jordan, highlighted the growing problems of global criminal networks and the role they have in funding terrorist organizations. He emphasized the need for robust crime fighting to work alongside intelligence and counter-terrorism forces in order to preserve the stability of the region. Dr. Magnus Ranstorp, Research Director, Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS), Swedish National Defense College, Sweden, underlined the need for strong legislation to deal with the return of foreign fighters; judicial dimensions have geopolitical dimensions. Returning foreign fighters often come back to a Salafist environment within Europe. Whilst Sweden has made some steps to arrest extremist imams, they are unable to be held for long periods and they often have created robust radical institutions which operate in their absence. He believes the domestic Salafist ecosystem is where the
main focus should lie. Ms. Devorah Margolin, Senior Research Fellow, Program on Extremism, George Washington University, United States, discussed the role of female foreign fighters and the complexities of ascribing agency to women. Women have had a complex role in terrorist organizations from traditional homemakers to active fighters and these roles have ebbed and flowed over the course of conflicts. There is a need to understand how groups conceptualize women’s roles and acknowledge that they can be both victim and perpetrator. Dr. Daphné Richmond-Barak, Senior Researcher and Head, IHL Desk, ICT & Assistant Professor, Lauder School of Government, IDC Herzliya, Israel, praised the efforts of the United Nations and their proactive and adaptable approach to the foreign fighter phenomenon, through amendments to the 2015 Madrid Principles to reflect changing realities on the ground. She particularly emphasized the inclusion of women, children, and family issues in the 2018 amendments and encouraged wider reading of the Principles. Additionally, she said states need to adopt policies on returning foreign fighters and should aim to repatriate them under two conditions: that robust rehabilitation programs are in place, and that all family members are monitored regardless of age. Ms. Emerita Torres, Director of Research and Programs, The Soufan Center, United States, emphasized the continued presence of fifteen ISIS branches stretching from Nigeria to Afghanistan. She stated that refugee camps, such as al-Hol, create favorable conditions for continued radicalization. She contends that Western states’ preference of denationalization, hands-off approaches, and encouragement of local prosecution is an abdication of responsibility and that likewise, calls for an international tribunal are unrealistic. Instead she calls for states to repatriate and prosecute domestically.

Protecting Soft Targets – Prevention, Preparedness and Recovery

In Cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), United Nations

The workshop focused on inherent difficulties of protecting soft targets, why they are so vulnerable, and how to employ strategies to minimize damage when they occur. Ms. Farah Kasim, Political Affairs Officer, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), United Nations, chaired the conference and opened the panel by explaining the UN
initiatives aimed toward protecting soft targets including UNSC Res 2341 and 2396. She stressed that whilst the initiatives are a positive step forward, more work is still required to protect soft targets. Professor Robert Friedmann, Founding Director, Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) and Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice, Georgia State University, United States, highlighted the importance of drills and protocol, in the event of an emergency, by using the 1993 and 9/11 attacks on the World Trade center as case studies. Additionally, he highlighted the necessity for information sharing across agency lines. Assistant Commissioner Alistair Sutherland, Assistant Commissioner, City of London Police, United Kingdom, highlighted how the London police has changed their tactics and organizational structure as terrorism tactics have evolved. He also displayed how CONTEST and new counter-terrorism strategies being employed have helped London police respond when needed. Assistant Commissioner Graham Ellis, Assistant Commissioner, London Fire Brigade, United Kingdom, added to the previous presentation by highlighting how the inter-agency communication and resilience strategies are the backbone to London’s emergency service strategy. Professor Alex P. Schmid, Director, Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI); Research Fellow, International Centre for Counter Terrorism (ICCT), The Netherlands, discussed the challenges of protecting soft targets without resulting in the closure of public squares or changing the nature of society. He detailed layers of preventive measures that could assist in achieving this. The Hon. Raed Arafat, Secretary of State, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania, highlighted why emergency procedure and training is imperative to times of crisis by using a case study of a Bucharest hospital fire in the maternity ward. Lastly, Prof. Yair Galily, Senior Researcher, ICT and Founder & Head, Sport, Media and Society (SMS) Research Lab, Sammy Ofer School of Communications, IDC Herzliya, Israel, discussed the attributes of attractive soft targets, including sporting events, which are symbolic of national culture and provide a unifying point for cross-sections of society. He emphasized the need for continual assessment and improvement of physical security, procedures and crowd control measures; however, authorities must be mindful that paradoxically, such measures
make open spaces and transport routes to events more attractive targets.

Closing Event
Ambassador Nathan Sales, Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, Department of State, United States
The conference was concluded by Ambassador Nathan Sales, who emphasized the fluid nature of today’s terrorism threats. He particularly highlighted the evolution of al-Qaeda after September 11 and the organization’s decentralization across numerous countries. Its evolution requires counter-terrorism experts to also evolve in response. Ambassador Sales discussed the provision of sanctuary to al-Qaeda operatives in Iran, emphasizing their shared hatred of the West as a unifying factor. He emphasized the need to hold terrorists responsible through both legislative and financial mechanisms. Ambassador Sales took the conference as an opportunity to announce a five-million-dollar bounty leading to the capture of three Hurras al-Din leaders. Destroying al-Qaeda networks remains a top priority for the United States and, as a global menace, al-Qaeda requires a global response. Ambassador Sales concluded his speech by expressing his view that a sustained response and commitment to the fight against terrorism will inevitably lead to victory.
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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