

## **Proposal: Middle East and global trans-national terrorism – how can the West win?**

Dr. Sarel Birnbaum

Europe currently is facing the problem of terrorism by extremist radical Islamic groups. These groups inspired by the rise of "Islamic State" in Iraq and Syria, and the brutal power exercised there.

For now, Europe has not yet changed the "rules of the game". The levels of punishment against terrorists, supporters of terrorism, and its spiritual leaders – are miniscule, if any at all.

Even those involved in terrorism, receive light sentences and return to the street and to their terrorist activity. It seems that this was the case also for a pair of Kouachi brothers who fired at the offices of the magazine "Charlie Hebdo".

The problem is expected to worsen when the Muslim-Europeans who fought in "Islamic State" will return to Europe, equipped with combat experience. The situation will be similar to the Arab world after the returning of Islamists who volunteered to fight in Afghanistan.

First problem is the fact that many terrorists are citizens of the country in which they operate, and European countries are hesitant to institute a policy of revocation of citizenships, and deportation of terrorists and agitators.

The situation in the world have changed since WWII, when international norms were set, and now is focused on but Islamic terrorism rampant in multiple trans-national, and trans-continental, levels. In this context, the West will have to revoke, by law, the citizenship rights of any person convicted of involvement in terrorism. That is, if a citizen of any European country leaves his country to join the "Islamic State" he will be allowed to return to his country.

European countries can learn from different Middle Eastern models copying the fight against terrorism. This includes administrative detention of people who are considered dangerous to the public.

One can estimate that at least 85-90% of the population of Muslim immigrants in Europe does not support terrorism. The expected response of them will be divided into two parts:

Outwardly, the heads of the moderate community will protest against violation of civil rights of Muslims.

After the formal protests, members of the moderate majority approach the authorities, and silently thank them for the implementation of the new policy which will allow Europe to get rid of professional terrorists.

Moderate Middle Eastern countries (Jordan, Egypt, and Israel) have proven in the past decades impressive capabilities in curbing Islamic terror by breaking up terrorist networks and infrastructures, detention and treatment of primary agitators and organizers of terror.

We should note, that more determined policy implemented towards terrorism by key political factors, will stop the strengthening of the xenophobic and pro-fascist far-right, in Europe in general and in France in particular.