



Session 7: Understanding the Diversity of Violent Extremist Groups in Africa

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TOPIC

Understanding and Addressing the Diversity of Violent Extremist Groups in Africa

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AIM

To Provoke a discussion on understanding and addressing the diversity of VE Groups in Africa

SCOPE

- **Introduction – Bottom line Up Front**
- **A Perspective of VE in Africa & Response shaping Framework**
- **Major Violent Extremist Groups**
- **Response and Response Effectiveness**
- **Key Messages**

INTRODUCTION

- **Main Diversity: LRA, MNLA, IRSAD & Others - Jihadist.**
- **State Terrorism/Atrocity: Hissein Habre, Jean Bokassa : R2P**
- **R2P – Rome Statute - Crimes against Humanity - Sanctity of life.**
- **Global UN CT Strategy**

Pillar I

Addressing the
Conditions
Conducive to the
Spread of
Terrorism

Pillar II

Preventing and
Combatting
Terrorism

Pillar III

Building States'
capacity and
strengthening
the role of the
United Nations

Pillar IV

Ensuring Human
rights and the
rule of law

A Perspective: Violent Extremism

- **Contending Views:** Scholars, Politicians and Practitioners
- **Extremism:** Rejection of generally accepted societal beliefs, norms, way of life and/or legal framework in preference to an alternative.
- **Response: Violent or Non-violent. No control measures**
- **Violent Extremism:** Justification, Support and use of violence to achieve normally Political, Social, Religious or Ideological goals. Grievance Response to society - Violent/Terrorist acts.
- **Philosophy:** “Good” Ends justify any Means to achieve Goals. VE Groups unwilling to accept criticism - Intimidate & threaten Dissenters & Critics with harm/death.
- **Tools:** Fear, Intimidation, Violence, Terrorist Acts, Harm and Death rather than Peaceful means to seek change.
- **Africa:** LRA, Wahabist/Salafist VE Groups - (MNLA-Tuareg) (IRSAD - Peulh kingdom Djeelgodji)

RESPONSE SHAPING FRAMEWORK

- Compliance with UNSCR 1373 (2001)
- OAU 1999 Convention, AU Legal Framework and Model law
- Regional legal Frameworks and Strategies
- National CT architecture and Strategies
- Operational Harmony of UN CT Strategy: **Pillars I, II & IV**
- UNSG's PoA to PVE (Dec 2015)
- UNSCR on Youth Peace and security UNSCSCR 2250 (Dec 2015)
- ** AU Convention defines a Terrorist Act
- ** UNSCR 1373. Sharing of Int, Domestic Legislation. Ratify Intl Instruments – Legal basis CT/CVE action.

Group	AO/Org	Ideology/ Motivation	Tgts/Goals	Modus	Comment/ Financing/Affiliation
LRA (1988)	Uganda , DRC, CAR, S- Sudan Hierarchy	Mystic Christianity Political Insurgency	Civ/Mil Rule Uganda by 10 Commandments	Robberies, Oath taking , threat of death Marriage	ICC Arrest Warrant for Kony Ivory trafficking
GIA /GSPC	Algeria – Sahelo- Magreb Hierarchy	Salafist Jihadist /Political	Civi/Mil/ Govt Sharia Law	Seizure and control territory/Sabotage	GSPC out of GIA- Attack on Civs Donations, Robberies
AQIM- (3 March Coalition)	Sahelo-Magreb Hierarchy	Salafist Jihadist /Survival	Mil/Govt/West, Sharia Law	KFR, Link with Organized crime, Marriage	KFR, Link with Organized crime, - Drug and cigarette trafficking Alqaeda Al Murabitoon Ansar Dine, Mujao, Macina
MNLA	North Mali Hierarchy	Political	Govt/Mil Azawad State	Combat seizure and control of territory	Ansar Dine –Tuareg split - Iyad Ag Ghali,
BOKO HARAM/ ANSARU	Lake Chad Basin Hierarchy	Salafism; West African Province Islamic Caliphate	Mil/Govt/Church Sharia Law	IEDs, suicide bombing, Abductions, Forced recruitment, Robberies, Donations Marriage	ISIS claim–Al Barnawi new leader BH. Attack on Moslems Powerful propaganda: Video and audio. World’s most deadliest Muslim Interests in Africa
AL- SHABAAB	Somalia,Kenya, Uganda. Ethiopia, Djibouti Cell Based* H	Wahabist/Jihadist Qutbist, Salafist, Sunni, Takfiri,	Mil/Civ Spread Sharia to Africa	Assassinations, IEDs, Suicide B , Stoning Behead, Amputate, Elaborate training	Alqaeda Somali Pirates, Charcoal trade, Taxes, Kismayo port External Financiers, Strong recruitment and propaganda

Re-enforcers: Global Networks. Dominate Territorial space – Taxes, Criminality, Symbiotic relationship with TNCs, FTFs. Al Shabaab & AAP, Multiplicity of Doctrines, Lack of clear Religious hierarchy, Powerful Propaganda, External support Training and funding, Springing of New groups

Counter Strategies and Lessons

Group	Counter Strategy	Remarks /Lessons
LRA (1988)	Military Crackdown, ICC Uganda and AU	Successful against LRA in DRC—Maint of Momentum
GIA /GSPC	Military Crackdown: Weaken and offer Amnesty	Classic example: Remnants moved into Desert - Formed AQIM - Regional Coop Int Sharing
AQIM /Ansar Dine/Mujao/ Macina Bde	Military Crackdown & PCVE Combination – Inclusion- Whole-of Society Approach UN/AU/French/Mali etc	Mil crackdown not very successful. March 1 2017 Coalition Vast ungoverned Territory, Inclusion, Tuareg grievances
MNLA	Military Crackdown/ AQIM Attack French/Mali	Military crackdown not very successful- supported by AQIM. Later defeated by AQIM Dormant – Initiative,Pre-emptive action
BOKO HARAM	Military Crackdown/ MNJTF/ Local Militia/ Whole-of-Society	MNJTF efforts yielding results: BK On back pedal. Resort to suicide bombing and use of IEDs, Attacks on Isolated Mil posts Latest 5 May attack lost 40 men: Momentum, Int Effort
AL-SHABAAB	AU Military TASK FORCE, Whole-of-Society Approach Robust P/CVE AMISOM	Renewed AMISOM Mandate, Dislodged in Somalia: Resort to sporadic attacks, Suicide bombing: Early deployment

Security Sector Leaders: Practical Steps to mitigate/respond to VE

- **Shaping Response**: Guided by Pillars I, II & IV UN CT Strategy and UNSCR 1373. Hearts and Minds Approach, involving vulnerable communities. Response is context specific and should be shaped community by community – Kenya. Promote good Security-Civil relations to build mutual trust. Seek to Influence Govt Policy – Architecture, legislation.
- **Info/Int collection and sharing**: Dynamic multi sectoral collection effort with vulnerable communities as major source. Need to know vs Need to share – CISSA, CAERT, Neighbouring countries. Create strong mutually supporting Networks.

Security Sector Leaders: Practical Steps to mitigate /respond to VE Contd:

- Regional Cooperation. VE Groups networked, no respect for National borders: Need for regional cooperation, Joint Border Security Mechanisms, Common Information sharing Platforms and **active** trans-border networks between Services.
- Denial of Ability to Recruit. Take steps to identify recruitment grounds and means and suggest policy frameworks to deny VE Groups the ability to exploit those grounds and means means. *Kenya Refugee camp. Private Quranic schools, Scholarships offers*

Capacity building and institution strengthening.

- **AU/CAERT/RECs** Responsibility of CAERT to assist AU MS in capacity building on request- Explore Avenue –Law, Strategies, PoA, Best Practices, Awareness creation & Early Warning
- **OTHER INSTITUTIONS -ACSS:** Maintain strong links and build **active** networks. *Interpol, USDEA* etc
- **UN SYSTEM:** Avenues for capacity building **on request** –UNODC, UNCCT, UNCTIF, UNCTED – Assessments with CAERT – Nigeria, Kenya.
- **DEV Partners:** Various support programs for capacity building, Good Governance, Poverty Issues – Need to be assertive.
- **UNCR 2250 and UNSG's POA:** Various assistance opportunities - PoA dev & Implementation, Whole-of-Society Approach, Bringing role of Civil Society, Women & the Youth to the fore.

KEY MESSAGES ON VE GROUPS

- Targeting Extremism: Shaping and adopting a unified Ministry of Education approved national syllabus for Quranic education as part of the education system – Pre-emptive
- Promoting non-Extremist Islamic ideology: Meticulously promote NEIO as an alternative narrative to include taring of Imams and reviewing scholarships for Imam training.
- Strategic CT & PCVE Approaches: Combination of Hard and Soft approaches. Maintaining momentum to weaken active VE groups & explore timely Amnesty offer and involving whole-of-Society in planning and implementation of response including conditions conducive for spread of VE.
- State presence: Dominating ungoverned territory.
- Capacity Building and Cooperation: Capacity building, Intelligence collection and sharing and Regional cooperation are Key elements to weakening VE Groups into submission.

Thank You

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