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TERORRISM AS A TYPE OF IRREGULAR WARFARE: THE ROLE OF JORDAN IN COUNTER TERORRISM

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Exercise Solo Flight

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TERORRISM AS A TYPE OF IRREGULAR WARFARE: THE ROLE OF JORDAND IN COUNTER TERORRISM

“Terrorism is a psychological warfare. Terrorists try to manipulate us and change our behaviors by creating fear, uncertainty and division in society.”

“Patrick Kennedy”

INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of Humanity, terrorism has always been a plague that drove communities and families apart and brought nothing but death and suffering to many. The point of terrorism is to upset people. It makes us feel vulnerable. Sometimes, attempts at rational analysis are viewed as giving aid and comfort to, or sympathizing with, the enemy. ‘The trouble with terrorism’ tries to define terrorism and asks why it is so difficult to define. Terror and war are intimately related. There are three elements in the terror process: seizing action (shock, horror, fear, or revulsion), getting the message across, fight or flight (the response to terrorism). In simpler words terrorism is indefinable, undetectable at times however it can be avoidable and deferrable.¹

The thesis of this paper is to demonstrate that Jordan succeeded to face and counter terrorism although it is surrounded by hotspots controlled by terrorist groups with long unguarded boarders from Syrians and Iral-Qaeda in Iraqs sides, and in addition to the internal and external threats of the terrorists. The success is because of its brave and wise leadership, the national unity of the Jordanians in support of counter terrorism efforts, and the cooperation with the allies in fighting against terrorism

¹ Charles Townsend, "Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction," (OXFORD, 2011).

Terrorism and its Synonymy with Regular and Irregular Warfare

Terrorism in its hardest sense and definition is the utilization of harmful and deadly means or force to strike terror in masses of people to achieve political, financial, religious and ideological aim(s).² Groups displaying such behavior are both logistically and financially supported by certain groups or countries or have invented methods to finance and supply their operations and logistics. Their modus operandi relies mostly on irregular warfare in contrast to regular warfare as a matter of fact.

Terrorism is considered by many experts a form of irregular warfare, having mentioned irregular warfare, one cannot ponder but to introduce it since this term was derived from a 1986 book, entitled "Modern Irregular Warfare in Defense Policy and as a Military Phenomenon."³ The book clearly described the irregular warfare as indirect and asymmetric or rather improvised and unconventional methods of warfare approaches and history books pages display numerous figures that employed such methods to achieve their goals and astonishingly some of whom achieved their objectives. , e.g. Roman leader Fabius Verrucosus, Albanian leader George Skanderberg and last but not the least the Vietnamese leader HCM. Most of historians and military writers linked directly or indirectly irregular warfare with insurgency of which terrorism can be implied on basis of the group's ideology in other words one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter and that adds a confusing meaning for the purpose of war.

The term "terrorism" is not normally accepted definition, and it is often used by some opposites as a political method to criticize adversaries who has unclear status as terrorists. Attempts have been made to develop a global definition of terrorism within the framework of

² Virginia Page Fortna). "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes". (International Organization, 2015.) 69.

³ Friedrich August Heydte, "Modern Irregular Warfare, in Defense Policy and as a Military Phenomenon" 1986.

the comprehensive convention against terrorism. This definition focuses on developing the term terrorism by focusing action rather than focusing on the groups. Through this definition, terrorism refers to the serious harm to humans and the real destruction of property, which leads to large economic losses. Terrorism according to that definition intended to “intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.”⁴ For instance, according to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation there were calls to distinguish the acts of terrorism from the legitimate fight of the people against occupation and colonial or foreign control in the implementation of their right of freedom according to the international law. Similarly, terrorism has been described by some academics as a label given by oppressive regimes to groups and ideological standings which oppose them, and therefore a coherent definition of the word has never legitimately been arrived at.

As regular warfare would have several forms and branches which culminate in direct and symmetrical war approaches which do not need to be introduced, so is irregular warfare would have several forms which would branch into different aspects including terrorism. Apart from our main subject “Terrorism” the following are presumptive and paramount forms of irregular warfare activities and types of conflict included in IW are

- **"Colonial war:** various conflicts that escalated as the result of overseas territories being settled by foreign powers creating a colony."⁵
- **"Asymmetric warfare:** war between two enemies whose relative military power differs significantly, or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly."⁶

⁴ United Nations General Assembly (2005). "Draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism". www.un.org.

⁵ Kaushik Roy, "The Army in British India: From Colonial Warfare to Total War 1857 – 1947," (BLOOMSBURY, 2013. P55.

⁶ Tomes, Robert, "Relearning Counterinsurgency Warfare" , (Parameters. US Army War College. 2010.

- **"Insurgency/Counter-insurgency (COIN)** comprehensive civilian and military efforts taken to simultaneously defeat and contain insurgency."⁷
- **Guerrilla warfare (GW):** "most important form **IW** in which a small group of combatants, such as paramilitary personnel, armed civilians, or irregulars, adopting the use of military tactics including ambushes, sabotage, raids, hit-and-run tactics."⁸
- **"Civil-military operations (CMO)** activities of a military force to minimize civil interference on and maximize civil support for military operations to counter insurgency."⁹

The KINGDOM of JORDAN VERSUS TERROSIM in the PAST and PRESENT

The location of the Royal kingdom of Jordan has definitely bestowed a strategic value upon the country, during the days and months of battle on terrorism and it was the battle in which the kingdom was involved within the frame of a regional security alliance and an international military alliance.

Observers have increased their interest in the military and political role played by the kingdom and such interest is evident in recent official confirmed declarations that French fighter jets have been sent to participate in in war missions against terrorism and other news reports indicated military secret meetings took place near the eastern and northern border points in Jordan. According the points of views of veteran politicians, Jordan has been "State

⁷ Oxford English Dictionary second edition 1989 "insurgent B. n. One who rises in revolt against constituted authority; a rebel who is not recognized as a belligerent."

⁸ Dragos Simandan , "Competition, contingency, and destabilization in urban assemblages and actor-networks." (Urban Geography, 2017) 2. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2017.1382307>

⁹ Canadian Department of National Defence, Canadian Force Operations, National Defence Pub B-GJ-005-300/FP-000 (Ottawa: DND, August 15, 2005), p. 19-2.

of pivotal role” in the region, because of its unique characteristics a volatile region.¹⁰ These most important characteristics are "political stability and security throughout the history of the kingdom, since its independence in 1946".¹¹

They stressed that, throughout the modern history of Jordan, all obstacles to political and security instability was overcome in the decades of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. By accumulating institutional structure, the Kingdom was able to retain those characteristics or rather advantages that made it a “tension-resistant state.”

The Kingdom's credit in its ability to retain advantages of stability and the security goes back to the Hashemite leadership and decision-making centers that predict the danger and fortify the national front through sound relations with neighboring countries and being friendly with the West and the United States.

There are many instances of terrorist attacks and attempts that were either averted or successful. They could have been successful in striking temporary terror however they've never succeeded in striking it permanently in the heart of Jordanians and their eminently wise leadership. Since the beginning, attempts to thwart the progress of newly developed country were present in fact the founding King Abdullah I fell a victim of terrorism when he was assassinated by Palestinian terrorists.

The successor King Hussein who himself was almost killed along with his father was resilient, brave and firm on the path of his late father and made it clear that terror attempts would never stop the progress of the Jordanian army and people. His challenge came on 17 July 1971. When a group of Palestinian guerilla fighters known as (Black September) took a hold of a refugee camp in the capital Amman and took civilians as human shields King

¹⁰ Hussain Al – Majali, Mohammed Abu Rumman, "Lessons from the event: In the fight against terrorism and extremism," (Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan 2016). <http://www.ammonnews.net/article/276128>

¹¹ Ibid.,

Hussein eventually emerged victorious. "The events proved to be a decisive landmark in the history of Jordan; it witnessed the emergence of a distinct Jordanian identity."¹²

"The courage that Hussein displayed against the joint Palestinian-Syrian challenge impressed both the West and Israel. Nixon ordered \$10 million in aid to be delivered to Jordan, and another \$30 million requested from Congress."¹³ Several other incidents over the history of Jordan have contributed to the strength of Jordanian government and people. All over the subsequent years Jordan was a stage for a number of other attempts and incidents perpetrated by different groups such as black September, Mosad, Alqaeda and Isis, in this research only three contemporary significant incidents that would be set out for discussions. These are three serious terrorist incidents in Jordan took place over the past few years;

- The first incident occurred in March 2016. In the city of Irbid, there were unprecedented confrontations in the streets with a group of terrorists (ideologically associated with Daesh), which led to the killing of all of them.
- The second incident in June 2016 was the attack on the General Intelligence Bureau in the Ain al-Basha area, near the Palestinian refugee camp of al-Baqa'a, and it resulted in the deaths of 5 officers before the suspect was arrested.
- The third incident, in June 2016, was a suicide car bomb attack on a military checkpoint near the dirt road adjacent to al-Rikban camp, killing seven members of the army and security forces and injuring 14 others, this was the second largest attack on Jordan after Amman explosions 2005.¹⁴

¹² Avi Shlaim, "Lion of Jordan: The Life of King Hussein in War and Peace." (Vintage books, NY, 2008). 30.

¹³ Ibid., 30

¹⁴ Hussain Al – Majali, Mohammed Abu Rumman, "Lessons from the event: In the fight against terrorism and extremism," (Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan 2016). <http://www.ammonnews.net/article/276128>.

Terrorism and Jordan Previous Experiences and Lessons Learned

Jordanians government and people have learned to adapt to the hot and volatile situation in the region and that made the Jordanian people resilient, sturdy and well-adapted to the variable situations surrounding them. Few figures and incident are worthy of being noted in the research as it reflects the lessons learned by Jordanians and how they effectively dealt with them.

Amman Incident 2005

On November 9, 2005 Jordan experienced one of the worst day in its history when al-Qaeda in Iraq conducted a suicide bombing in three hotels in Amman; Grand Hyatt, the Radisson, and Days Inn which caused a killing of 57 people in that attack. Thousands of angry Jordanians protested all over the country after the terrorist attack. "After the bombings, an al-Qaeda in Iraq Internet post called Jordan a backyard garden for the enemies of the religion, Jews and crusaders ... a filthy place for the traitors."¹⁵ "A second al-Qaeda in Iraq post justified the number of Arabs killed in the attack by calling the hotels favourite places for the work of [western] intelligence organs."¹⁶

The terrorist attack conducted by four bombers of al-Qaeda in Iraq who arrived to Jordan in the 4th of November 2005 and rented a room in a hotel in Amman. Iraqi lady whose name was Sajida al-Rishawi and her husband Ali al-Shamari planned to blow themselves up in the Radisson but Sajida al-Rishawi forgot to bring a piece of her explosives

¹⁵ HASSAN M. FATTAH, "Shocked Jordanians Protest Bombings in Their Capital," (the New York Times, 2005). https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/featured_articles/20051111friday.html

¹⁶ Conal Urquhart, "Shocked Jordanians take to the streets in protest at triple suicide bombing," (The Guardian, Nov 2005). <https://www.theguardian.com/international>

belt., Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi , Al-Rishawi's brother, was the deputy of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi al-Qaeda in Iraq founder.¹⁷

Soon after Sajida al-Rishawi was captured by Police." Jordan's state security court sentenced her to death. The other two bombers Safaa Mohammed Ali and Rawad Jassem Mohammed Abed were identified by authorities of Jordan. "¹⁸ In February 2015 Al-Rishawi was executed in response to DAESH's killing of the Jordanian pilot Mouath Alkaseasbeh.

Muath al-Kaseasbeh in Hands of DAESH

DAESH released a video On February 3, 2015 showing the caged immolation of Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh the Jordanian air force pilot. DAESH caught al-Kaseasbeh in after the crash of his aircraft in December 2014 while he was attacking target of DEASH in Syria. Al-Kaseasbeh death had been reported by the Jordanian state TV in the 3rd of January. The video caused a lot of anger amongst the Jordanians and their leadership and increased the support of Jordanians to the military strike against DAESH in Syria as revenge.¹⁹ Two terrorists from of al-Qaeda group; Sajida al-Rishawi and Ziad al-Karbouli were hanged as a reaction on the killing of the pilot.

"Jordan announced it had conducted 56 airstrikes over three days against DAESH positions and killed 7,000 DAESH combatants and damaged 20 percent of the group's military capabilities. King Abdullah promised that Jordan would be persistent in the war against DAESH."²⁰

¹⁷ Conal Urquhart, "Failed bomb attacker confesses live on air," (The Guardian, Monday 14 November 2005). <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/nov/14/alqaida.topstories3>

¹⁸ Ibid.,

¹⁹ "Jordan pilot hostage Moaz al-Kasasbeh 'burned alive." (BBC News February 2015). <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31121160>.

²⁰ Ishaan Tharoor, "Jordan's eye-for-an-eye response to the Islamic State," (The Washington Post, February, 2015).

Karak Attacks

The Karak events took place on December 2016 after a terrorist cell consisting of four terrorists belonging to the terrorist group DAESH had been discovered. The cell was discovered after an explosion in the apartment they were renting in a village in southern Jordan, making the owner contact police officers who clashed with the terrorists, one policeman was killed and another injured. Later, the terrorists fled to Karak and fired at the police station and civilians, killing 10 people, including a Canadian tourist.

The terrorists then holed up in the Crusader castle of Karak, fired at the security men and took hostages inside the castle. By midnight, the security services had managed to eliminate the terrorist cell, kill all terrorists and free the hostages. About 34 people wounded by the attackers, 17 Jordanians civilians; 11 police officers and two foreigners. "Jordanian security sources identified the attackers as Jordanian nationals. ISIS claimed responsibility two days after the attacks."²¹

In years, it was the first time that Jordanians experience such that attack on a civilian location. "During the siege, dozens of Karak residents were filmed carrying weapons and pledging to help security forces fight the terrorists. Following the attacks, Jordanian forces discovered suicide vests and other explosives in the house in Qatraneh."²² Police found ammunition and Automatic weapons in the taken castle. The attackers were ready for more attacks. "Hani Mulki the Jordanian Prime Minister pronounced the attackers as "outlaws" but he said that there were no evidences on their relationship with external terrorist groups."²³

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/02/04/jordans-eye-for-an-eye-response-to-the-islamic-state/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.70012090f3d8.

²¹ Suleiman Al-Khalidi, "Jordan declares end of castle siege, says four gunmen killed." (REUTERS, DECEMBER, 2016). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-jordan-security-shooting-idUSKBN1470GG?il=0>.

²² Ibid.,

²³ KARIN LAUB, OMAR AKOUR, "Canada, UK Tourists Hid in Jordan Castle During Gun Fight." (AP News, Dec, 2016). <https://apnews.com/d0bca7fb9fce404c8e4a21d08f938db9>

Refugee Crisis and its Impact on Jordan

As mentioned previously Jordan has a rather uniquely strategic location in the region which only can be described as volatile and unstable with heating conflicts and wars of which remnants tend to spill over to Jordan e.g. Al-Rikban camp that contains former Isis fighters on the border of Syrian, such camp is constant security scrutiny and strict access policies due to the threat it poses on Jordan should these former fighter breach into Jordan ,It would have been a national security failure of great proportions and repercussions. Palestine refugee crisis at first followed by Iral-Qaeda in Iraq and Syrian crises, bringing within its fold, financial, security and logistical challenges and under the security tab , terrorism emerges as a the greatest threat to the safety and well-being of Jordanians .

The CONNECTION BETWEEN TERRORISM and EXTERMISM, and the RELEVANT JORDANIAN COUNTER-EXTREMISM APPROCHES.

Whether it is religious, ideological or political extremism, fanaticism of fundamentalism is a major motive that stands behind acts of terrorism and it definitely has a strong link with hatred or prejudices against certain a group or all of those who are opposed to the ideas or teaching of such group or organization. It also yields a conversion process namely radicalization which comes in play almost immediately, once a certain group or individuals cater to the ideas of the extremist group publicity.

Extremism fuels the fire behind terrorism which begins as a spark, initially cindered at the hands of a religious scholar, thinker or a politician. Extremism began to be a major player in recent years which made it a priority target for all law and security enforcement agencies across the globe. In Jordan for instance most of terrorist attacks were in a way or another fueled by extremism and extremist groups and in Jordan's case it was both Political and religious extremism, thus The Jordanian Government acknowledged the existence of such

issue quicker than most the neighboring countries and labored hard to contain its spread and thwart its malicious effect by spreading positive thoughts and ideas among the youth and all categories of Jordanian people.

In addition to the positivity, Jordanian Government tried to remove obstacles and hurdles in the path of Jordanians which could lead to adopting such harmful ideas as substitutes. Some of these obstacles include unemployment and social issues such as addiction, poverty and illiteracy. Two of the most notable cases of extremist influential figures were the extremist cleric Abu Qatada and Mohammad al-Chalabi, a.k.a. Abu Sayyaf with whom preaching's and activities were banned and prosecuted Jordan.

The Jordanian government has pioneered approaches to deal with extremism. One of which is the close collaboration with The Counter Extremism Project (CEP). "The CEP is a not-for-profit, non-partisan international policy organization formed to help confront the growing strength of extremist groups worldwide and it is in fact an important educational tool for both the public and security agencies."²⁴ moreover Jordanians are known for their national pride and unity and their passion about their country and king is exemplary, actually Jordanians have demonstrated time and time again how they are vigilant and supportive to their security forces on many occasions one of which example is the horrible 2005 attacks when many citizens instantly came forward with information that subsequently led to the arrest of the culprits.²⁵

²⁴ Jordan: Extremism & Counter-Extremism.
<https://www.counterextremism.com/countries/jordan>

²⁵ John Ellis, " Police Analysis and Planning for Homicide Bombings: Prevention, Defense, and Response." (Charles C Thomas Publisher2007) p. 171.

Jordanian Government Approaches to Sustain Security

Jordan has taken few numerous steps, “learning from bad experiences along the way”. These steps are vital to predict, combat, contain and obliterate any threats the nation would possibly face in future:

- Containing and monitoring extremism and curb the spread of harmful ideas and materials (Promotion of awareness and the spirit of national unity)
- Creating decision making centers such as Jordanian Crisis Management Center.
- Work closely with allies and counterparts to strengthen Jordan’s security.
- Provide constant training and support to security frontline personnel.
- Learn from past experiences and touch base on them when making new decisions.

The IMPORTANCE of DECISIONMAKING CENTERS in JORDANIAN WAR on TERROR

Decision making centers is a common designation for law and security agencies and government bodies that have the ability to make decisions and ensure the response of all agencies in cases of emergencies such as terror attacks, wars and civil unrest. Examples of such centers are:

Jordanian National Center for Security and Crisis Management

The Center was established under royal directives in 2005 following the terrorist attacks in hotels in Amman and is now fully operational. The idea of establishing the National Center for Security and Crisis Management was the vision of the Royal High - which called for a state of interaction and response to the strategic environment, according to

an institutional perspective based on the principle of coordination and unification of national efforts to confront potential crises.

The mission of the Center is not only to develop rapid crisis strategies, but also to conduct periodic mock exercises; "counter-terrorism", "hostage release" and disaster management from fires or earthquakes.²⁶

The center building is characterized by shock, rocket and chemical attacks. It is equipped with internal air and water purification systems in the event of exposure to any pollutants and works with special generators. It also contains separate sleeping mats for men, women and the gymnasium for emergency accommodation.

The main tasks of the Center are to coordinate the work of the largest crisis management center in the Middle East, which is expected to be adopted as a regional center for an Arab crisis management network. The "big operations hall" in the center of the building is equipped with a 40-screen "Video Wall", which is linked to thousands of sources of information.

Jordanian Counter-terrorism Center

In March 2018 Jordan and the United States unveiled a counterterrorism training centre. The new facility will be part of the Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy. It was constructed, funded and equipped through the U.S. Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program.²⁷ It aims to prepare security forces to cope with crisis

²⁶ The National Center for Security and Crisis Management System No. 02 of 2010.
<http://moi.gov.jo/EchoBusV3.0/SystemAssets/PDFs/AR/Regulations/RegulationsNew.pdf>

²⁷ "US, Jordan Launch New Counterterrorism Training Centre." (AFP News, March 2018)
<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/us-jordan-launch-counterterrorism-training-centre-145630803.html>

management, hostage-taking, cyber terrorism, explosive incident countermeasures, post-blast investigations, and tactical medicine.²⁸

ASSESS POLITICS to COMBAT EXTREMISM and TERRORISM

Jordan has successfully managed to reduce the danger of this trend, historically, and the intelligence service from the occurrence of dozens of operations, some of them dangerous, and the capture of hundreds of wanted and the detection of sleeping cells and the device is distinguished on a global and regional level in the follow-up rule.²⁹

- Jordan has been integrated into the war on terrorism and has become a part of it. It is one of the countries that are active in pursuing this danger and has occupied a large part of Jordan's foreign policy priorities.
- Establishment of the Counter Terrorism Center in cooperation with USA.
- Militarily, Jordan managed to secure the border relatively large, preventing the fighters from trafficking back or forth, and faced serious infiltration attempts. The air force intervened at times. Jordanian forces were very successful in the face of the external threat.
- Jordan has also adopted the so-called "pillow policy", relying on a strong network of social, security and military relations in both southern Syria and western Iraq, and building important alliances, which has contributed to the strengthening of the role of the Free Army, In the course of the military operation in Houran, and in reducing the presence of da'ash and victory in those areas. Iraq has a good network of relations with the Iral-Qaeda in Iraq tribes in Anbar and the Sunni leadership, and is currently

²⁸ Ibid.,

²⁹ Hussain Al – Majali, Mohammed Abu Rumman, "Lessons from the event: In the fight against terrorism and extremism," (Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan 2016). <http://www.ammonnews.net/article/276128>.

working to extend this network to the countryside of Deir al-Zour and the eastern region of Syria adjacent to the camp of the rugban, where there is a strong lobbying there, so Jordan supported the new Syrian army, From several factions, notably the Salafi Front for Salafi and Salafist Front, and in Hauran, Jordan supported the Southern Front factions.

- Pendulum theory has proved its great and vital role in protecting Jordan's interests and national security and enhancing Jordan's ability to deal with the external threat before it reaches the border.
- In the field of legislation and laws, Jordan amended the anti-terrorism law, and the crime of joining the Nusra, Dada and terrorist organizations, and promoting these organizations through any means, including the Internet, and monitoring mosques and religious discourse more strongly than before.
- At the cultural, scientific and media levels, successive governments have promoted conferences, seminars and committees to counter terrorism and extremism. However, the results to date are not clear and concrete, while the importance of sound scientific studies to address the phenomenon, its transformations, its causes and strategies to deal with them has been neglected.
- The previous government formed a committee to combat extremism and presented its plan, in which the various ministries participated. However, the plan suffered from a severe lack of awareness of the causes and entrances resulting from extremist ideology, in creating strong and strong links between institutions and ministries and in real coordination to build an integrated map.
- In spite of the establishment of a special Directorate to combat extremism, the official perception of this Directorate remained unstable, unaware of the role it could play at

the civil level. It was first linked to the Ministry of Interior, and then transferred to the Ministry of Culture, to the work of the institutions and ministries concerned and full coordination with them.

- There is a program of dialogue with prisoners associated with the organization of jihadist or Salafist Jihad in general, but its results are still limited, and its problem is incomplete, in the way of dealing with those who reject this thought, whether inside prison or out of prison and rehabilitation, compared to more effective programs. In Saudi Arabia and in the Arab Maghreb in dealing with members of these groups, or even European programs for their rehabilitation.

It is important to give young people a real and significant importance in the thinking of decision-making centers in the state and in the work of the institutions concerned. The high rate of unemployment is 14% among the young generation, which is a dangerous socio-cultural indicator. The opportunity to work after graduating from university, in search of jobs and jobs that provide him with the conditions of a decent life and good, and if he cannot achieve this, the feelings of frustration and disappointment will dominate, which may mingle with political and economic crises, which may reflect deeply on Their attitudes, thoughts and psychological tendencies.³⁰

The Strategy of Curbing Extremism

The decision-making centers were aware of the seriousness of the "culture of extremism" as a prelude to terrorism. A committee was formed to combat extremism, in which the ministries concerned participated. The National Plan to Combat Extremism was

³⁰ Hussain Al – Majali, Mohammed Abu Rumman, "Lessons from the event: In the fight against terrorism and extremism," (Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan 2016). <http://www.ammonnews.net/article/276128>.

established to coordinate the work of various ministries and institutions in implementing the plan. But because the Directorate did not give resources or real powers, and did not find deep cooperation with them to carry out its mission, the blood of the plan distinguishes between different tribes.

It is necessary to limit radicalization of thought in mosques, religious discourse and the work of the Ministry of Awqaf (religious affairs), not only from the standpoint of cracking down on hard-line ideas. What is more important is to present the convincing Islamic alternative capable of engaging with, criticizing and refuting hard-line views. But such an alternative is not born out of thin air. It has basic conditions and incentives, primarily training and rehabilitation programs for preachers and imam by elite within and outside the ministry who have a briefing and knowledge of this discourse and its religious rationale.

Counterterrorism Policies

State institutions have worked to amend laws and legislation related to terrorism in order to deal with groups and individuals belonging to these organizations, including all types of activities, whether by actively joining or promoting such groups through cyberspace or even in the public sphere, for this thought.³¹

There are intensive daily efforts being made by the security services to monitor and block these activities and to prevent acts that threaten national and community security. There are now dozens of cases in the State Security Court for suspects to whom the previous charges apply, and others who have been tried and are serving their sentences.

³¹ Hussain Al – Majali, Mohammed Abu Rumman, "Lessons from the event: In the fight against terrorism and extremism," (Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan 2016). <http://www.ammonnews.net/article/276128>.

CONCLUSION

Terrorism is considered a form of irregular warfare and it is the most dangerous type as it uses fear against both civil and military parties. Terrorist attacks' objectives are usually costly in terms of the human and economic levels .it uses civilians as shield and method to frighten its adversaries.

Jordan has been facing terrorism since its beginning and has experienced several terrorist incidents especially after the repatriation of mujahedeen from Afghanistan in 1970s .These incidents have affected both citizens and army personnel ever since .

Two years after the collapse of the Iral-Qaeda in Iraq Army in 2003 and the rise of Alqaeda in Iraq under the leadership of Alzarqawi. Jordan experienced the first main terrorist attacks against hotels in Amman since that point Jordan has gotten involved in counter-terrorism operations against terrorist movements. Recently Jordan faced several attacks perpetrated by misguided individuals who were loyal DAESH.

Jordan is still dealing with internal issues due to terrorist groups loyalists inside the country who pledge to conduct terrorist attacks against the country in order to achieve the their terrorist groups objectives, the number of these individuals comes to almost 2000 .

Jordan succeeded to face and counter terrorists because of its brave, decisive and wise leadership, the national unity of Jordanians against terrorism and in support of military efforts to defeat the terrorist groups, and the collaboration with international allies to fight and defeat terrorism and terrorist groups. There were many approaches by Jordan in which it succeeded to combat terrorism such as

- .Establishing the national center for crises management
- Establishing counter-terrorism training center in cooperation with US

- Providing advanced technological means to border guards for the purposes of surveillance and security of borders with Syria and Iraq to prevent terrorist groups from entering and attacking the country.
- Restructuring the Jordan armed forces to confront the danger of terrorists
- Establishing the Gendarme forces to deal with the internal threat such as what occurred in Karak , Irbid and Amman in 2016.
- Establishing counter-extremism department in the ministry of religious affairs to control and monitor the religious preaches and speeches in religious gatherings.
- Participating in the international undertakings to combat and curb terrorist groups by sending forces and conducting air strikes against terrorist groups within hot spots in accordance with the international coalition forces efforts.

In the course of Jordanian history, Jordanians have proudly offered lots of sacrifices whether they were civilians or military in its war on terrorism. In fact their first sacrifice was the founder of Jordan the late king Abdullah I who was a victim of terrorism. Jordanians leadership and people will always possess the spirit of resilience and courage in the face darkness.

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