Abstract

Europe as a whole is suffering from invisible fear and terrorism obsessions. In recent years, new types of attack terrorism, such as truck terrorism, have frequently occurred, and many of them show the characteristics of “homegrown terrorism” and “lone wolf terrorism.” In the United States, the threat of jihadist terrorism is relatively low compared to that of Europe, but attempts to terrorism continue.

The jihad terrorist groups are divided into several factions, but they have created a loose network. In the West, they are preoccupied with showing off their power through violent means and promoting their ideology without engaging in public political and social activities and campaigns. The subject of jihadist terrorism is not specified. Although it is targeting soft targets with relatively weak protection, it is willing to attack them if the propaganda effects of terrorism, such as national important facilities, transportation, and tourist attractions, are sufficient targets.

The ripple effect of ISIS after al-Qaida is still valid. Although not concentrated in the home base, it is dispersed into small groups in the Middle East, Southwest Asia, Europe and North Africa, recruiting sympathizers and encouraging and supporting extreme action. Following the large-scale terrorist attacks by terrorist organizations with thorough division of labor, expertise, and financial power, a small number of terrorist organizations are also moving closely.

[Keywords] Dispute, Jihadist, Extremism, Information Sharing, Counter-Terrorism Group

1. Introduction

With regard to various terrorist incidents, Europeans and Americans have a vague repulsion of Islam[1]. Because salafi jihadist groups have always been behind major terrorist incidents. However, some argue that this is an optical illusion caused by the terrorist incidents that have stirred the Western world, such as the Sept. 11 attacks, committed by jihadists.

According to a survey conducted by The Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security and the Police Executive Research Forum in the United States, police officers and sheriffs said the threat of violent extremism is the biggest concern, and 39 percent of them said they should be wary of jihadists like al-Qaeda.

But it cannot be overlooked that terrorism by white extremists is increasing in Europe, the United States and Australia. White extremism terrorism, which was nine in 2011, gradually increased, peaked at 135 in 2015 and occurred 88 in 2017[2].
According to a 2017 report by the United States Government Accountability Office, 62(73%) of the 85 violent extremist cases that have led to death since September 12, 2001 were caused by right-wing extremists and 23(27%) by Salafi jihadists. The total number of deaths from attacks by far-right extremists and Salafi jihadists is almost the same, with 106 and 119 deaths, respectively, over about 15 years.

Jihadist terrorism continues to be attempted in Europe and the United States. Islamic extremists from Iraq and Syria continue to flow into European countries. As the Internet is actively used as a media that encourages extremism, there are more than 5,000 websites that instill extremism in Westerners. As the bases that the IS had built in Syria and Iraq collapsed, followers gave up entering their homes. Concerns are rising over the so-called homegrown terrorism, which causes terrorism in a country born at a time when the number of IS members is increasing. In this paper, we look at the status of uninterrupted jihadism and the strategies of the EU and the United States of America’s counterterrorism.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Perspectives on terrorism

Conceptual definitions of terrorism differ depending on the political and social background of the researcher, expressed and used differently by the political culture, ideology and interests of the country to which the researcher himself belongs.

For example, in the former Soviet Union, terrorism was an important means of revolution by supporting the violent revolution based on Karl Marx’s Class Revolution theory. Lenin argued that ‘revolutionary struggle should use terrorism properly,’ and Trotsky also regarded the use of terrorism as a tactical weapon of guerrilla warfare as justified. On the other hand, most societies that advocate free democracy generally criticize the injustice and violence that terrorism has.

Each United States government department specifically defines the definition of the concept of terrorism, with some differences in each. The State Department in the United States defines “terrorism as a carefully prepared political violence in which non-combatants are targeted to influence a large number of people, either quasi-state organizations or national secret agents,” and the FBI has divided terrorism into international and domestic terrorism.

Through the Official Journal of the European Communities published in 2002, the EU defines terrorism as a violent crime aimed at seriously threatening citizens, forcing governments or international organizations to carry out or abandon any act, or to seriously destabilize or destroy the fundamental political, economic, or social structure of a state or international organization[3].

2.2. Motivation and continuity of jihadist terrorism

Despite the different definitions of terrorism by many people, there is something in common with the concept of terrorism in that it uses violent means that affect the majority of the public for the realization of political, religious and ideological purposes[4][5]. Terrorism is used as a tactic by groups of diverse political motivations. Terrorism has become the preserve of radicals armed with religious beliefs, ethnicity, political beliefs and nationalism[6].

Traditionally, terrorism has been the tactics of the weak, ie of those who lack the power to impose political will through general political or military means. As Carl von Clausewitz said, war is a continuation of politics by other means, and terrorism is a kind of war[7]. Terrorism is a tactic used by the weak, so it mainly attacked ‘soft targets’ rather than attacking military targets.
The September 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center in the United States is understood to be a different type of terrorism in many ways. In other words, it went beyond the conventional method of terrorism by conventional weapons to give the international community a greater impact, indiscriminately mass murder of civilians using public transportation, simultaneously conducted to increase the likelihood of success of terrorism, and forewarned and implemented successive acts of terrorism, not one-time, one-off terrorism. Terrorism has now gone beyond the stage of a momentary creation of fear and has turned into a constant hostile act that threatens national security itself.

It builds the world's most extensive network of jihadists compared to other terrorist groups based on jihadism, and constantly reproduces similar organizations. The Islamic State(IS), which has been dominant in recent years, has been one of the deadliest and most successful jihadist groups in modern history, surpassing even al-Qaida[8]. Despite the recent military defeat of ISIS, the threat of jihadism in Iraq, the surrounding areas of Syria and the EU has not diminished. And still, jihadists are setting the United States as a major enemy and watching for opportunities for extreme attacks.

3. Expanding and Networking Jihadist Terrorism

3.1. Conflict, discrimination and terrorism

Far-right terrorism is on the rise in Western Europe and North America. The total number of accidents has increased 320% over the past five years. In 2018, the death toll from far-right groups rose 52 percent to a total of 26[9]. One of the three major political motivations that occurred in the West, extending to the last 50 years, is by far-right extremists. But far-right terrorism is a tiny fraction of total terrorism around the world. Historically, there is much more nationalism or separatism, salafi jihadists and terrorism by far-left forces.

Conflict in the region is the main driver of terrorist activities. In 2018, 95 percent of deaths from terrorism occurred in countries where violent conflicts are taking place. Terrorism is also associated with the intensity of conflict. There is a strong correlation between the annual number of combat deaths in conflict countries and the number of terrorist attacks. Terrorist attacks in conflict countries are more than three times more deadly than those in non-conflict countries. Rebel groups are using terrorism as a tactic of struggle, targeting infrastructure, police and troops. The average period of all disputes was 17 years, and the average period of conflict caused by terrorist groups was 33 years, nearly doubling.

In the EU in 2018, there were fewer than 10 cases of jihadist terrorism, but the plot for jihadism has increased considerably, and attempts to produce and install chemical and biological materials have been found. Terrorists exist at the individual, small organization and network level, and are attempting to use terrorism as an efficient tactic to harm the society in which they live[10].

Unfortunately, violence is also rampant outside Europe and the United States. In countries like Syria, Libya, Mali and Afghanistan, the terrorist group has become so influential that it is comparable to the state, due to its political incompetence, weak economic and social safety nets and corruption. Citizens of these countries belong to a particular community or are exposed to threats to their lives and property according to certain practices or beliefs.

In Europe, too, new complaints and prejudices are being created among communities, creating a gap in the prosperity of destructive ideological and terrorist networks. With the boundaries of the on-off-line community becoming increasingly blurred, the propaganda of terrorists preparing for terrorism abroad is spreading unprecedentedly to European citizens, encouraging some of them to carry out terrorism, and encouraging others to accept extremist ideology. As anxiety over terrorists has the potential to undermine the cohesion of society, the rise in social polarization and the rise of extremists have become an important policy agenda for EU member states.
3.2. Networking of jihadist terrorism

Jihad terrorist groups are often divided into factions, sharing members, changing names and aliases, changing locations and personnel, forming mergers, alliances and "branches" over time, groups and organizations are evolving. The broader movement continued to expand geographically as violence committed by Islamic State agents in Iraq decreased[11]. Attacks carried out by key operatives, affiliated agencies, or individuals suggesting loyalty to the Islamic State have become 34 countries in 2018 and 56 countries in 2019. The recent jihadist terrorism in the West has been perpetrated mainly by lonely wolves. They often maintain relationships with loose networks or small, loose terrorist groups, and receive material or mental support from individuals of the same ideology[12].

The EU is concerned about the growing number of believers in jihadist ideology, the existence of extremists linked to jihadist organizations, and the possibility of returning home from the conflict zones of Iraq and Syria[13]. The fighters who return to their homeland belong to the jihad network and can carry out terrorism at any time. They are also brainwashing other inmates to train new terrorist fighters if they are in prison.

4. Organization and Cooperation for the Response of Jihadist Terrorism in the West

4.1. European counter terrorism centre

The jihadist group's intensive terrorist strategy in Europe has put EU member states on new challenges. To respond effectively to these problems, in January 2016, Europol created the European Counter Terrorism Centre(ECTC), an operations center and specialized technology hub that reflects the need for the EU to strengthen its response to terrorism[14].

The key functions of ECTC include stopping terrorism, sharing information and expertise on terrorism financing, coping with online terrorist and extremist propaganda and illegal arms trade, and international cooperation among anti-Terrorism agencies.

The ECTC's team of anti-terrorism analysts and experts contrasts the operational information of law enforcement agencies in all member countries as well as third parties, and presents a broad EU view of the operational and strategic objectives for violent terrorism based on this comparison of information. Europol's ECTC maintains close partnerships with the European Cybercrime Center(EC3) and the European Migrant Smuggling Center(EMSC), other departments of Europol. As a result of the information-sharing work between ECTC and EC3 and EMSC, Europol's overall counter-terrorism capabilities have been enhanced. The ECTC is assessed to be playing a role in effective management of counterterrorism information to member states and key partners such as Interpol and Eurojust.

4.2. Counter-terrorism group

The EU operates CTG(Counter-Terrorism Group) separately from Europol. CTG is an informal group of intelligence agencies in 30 European countries. The CTG was established in 2001 and includes all institutions of the EU member states, including Norway, Britain and Switzerland[15]. Britain's MI5 is expected to remain a member of the CTG even after the Brexit. The Berne Club was created by an information sharing plan that began in 1971, but it focuses on counter-espionage roles, and CTG was created to focus only on terrorism, especially jihadism.

At first, it wasn't the nature of a permanent organization, but in the wake of Paris Terrorism(2015), it set up a permanent office in The Hague and began to play a more active role in Greater Terrorism. Prior to that, the CTG had only consulted the EU on a case-by-case basis[16].
In addition to allowing member states to conduct cross-border investigations, CTG also provides expertise and threat assessments to intelligence agencies in countries in the EU, although Europol is not a member of the CTG, he works with Europol[17].

Under the chairmanship of Dutch intelligence agency Dutch(AIVD), the group created a virtual platform to improve the exchange of information on terrorism among European agencies. Though not a CTG or EU member, the United States is involved in information exchange with the group.

4.3. Homeland security department of the United States

The United States, which became the 'main enemy' of Salafi jihadists, has already established four principles of counter-terrorism in the 1980s. It does not compromise first with terrorists, and secondly, terrorists must be put on the court of law. Third, it encourages international isolation and puts pressure on countries that support terrorism, and, finally, help improve the counter-terrorism capabilities of countries that work with the United States on anti-terrorism policies.

The United States government, which experienced the damage caused by 9/11 terrorism, increased defense spending to carry out the counter-terrorism while maintaining its principles against terrorist groups and strengthened its offensive intelligence gathering on terrorist groups. Major intelligence agencies in the United States have enhanced their ability to track terrorists by expediting the processing of primary information on terrorism collected at home and abroad and strengthening electronic surveillance systems, and have sought to expand and strengthen the size of special forces against terrorism in order to improve their special warfare capabilities, such as identifying and wiping out terrorist organizations.

In addition, at the suggestion of the National Security Council in the 21st century, President Bush created the Department of Homeland Security as the new competent body of government, which was tasked with integrating and coordinating homeland security-related tasks scattered across various departments in the United States government. On March 1, 2003, DHS absorbed the United States Custom Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service(INS) and assumed its duties.

4.4. Information sharing system between the United States and the EU

The area where the United States and the EU have made the most progress in United States cooperation on greater terrorism is the information-sharing sector. This is because securing information related to the movement of goods, people, fund and services is essential to prevent the occurrence of terrorism and to ferret out terrorists.

The vast exchange of human, physical and monetary resources on both sides of the Atlantic has prompted the United States to call for European cooperation to obtain relevant information. The sharing of information between the EU and the United States has been carried out as a two-track agreement between the EU and the United States on the processing and delivery of financial and communications information from the EU to the United States for the purpose of preventing "terrorism," which stipulates the transfer of passenger-name records by airlines between the EU and the United States, and the sharing of information on money laundering[18][19].

In order to share and revitalize the Terrorism Fund Tracking Program, the European Commission and the United States Treasury Department have written a joint report on the value of data provided by the Terrorist Financial Tracking Program(TFTP). The report was provided by the United States Treasury Department, Europol and member states. The report contains how TFTP-supplied data was used and specific examples of counter-terrorism investigations in the United States and the EU.

Both the PNR and TFTP agreements allow public institutions to access personal information collected for commercial purposes for the purpose of public interest (in response to terrorism and serious crimes), collect, store and analyze this information and transfer it to a third party. While the PNR agreement mandates the automatic transfer of the entire database held by airlines to the intelligence
authorities, the TFTP agreement has a difference in financial information that meets certain criteria set by the United States government by financial network companies under EU permission at the request of the government[20].

5. Conclusion

PNR and TFTP agreements were signed between the EU and the United States for Greater Terrorism cooperation. As the TFTP agreement increases the ability of the United States and Europe to collect, analyze, and share information on terrorism, there is a growing possibility that terrorists will use countries that are relatively lax in their defense as a detour to terrorism.

Efforts by law enforcement agencies, security service providers and private businesses and civil society organizations to fight terrorism have shown substantial results in reducing terrorism in Europe. Since 2014, security organizations and private organizations have established new and creative ways of cooperation, with Europe facing a surge in terrorist violence.

But the EU, unlike the United States, has some problems with its counter-terrorism policy. Since the EU is not a single national government, it cannot arrest or prosecute terrorists on its own, nor can it track them using spies or satellites. Therefore, the police and intelligence agencies of the member countries are in charge of the actual work of terrorism. Intelligence agencies in each country hesitate to provide terrorism information to other countries. Due to the nature of the intelligence agency, it does not want to share certain information with other agencies. Also, member governments are having difficulty coordinating their work because terrorism is an issue that spans a wide range of policy areas. Terrorism requires action from all government departments as well as departments in charge of law enforcement, border control, foreign and defense policies. The Treasury should track terrorist funding, the Health Ministry should stock up on vaccines, and the Education Ministry should provide academic research funds to Islamic organizations[21].

On the other hand, member states are actively cooperating with the EU in providing information on investigation support and spying and funding. This is especially due to the perception that security policies related to the protection of citizens are at the core of national sovereignty. In other words, governments are reluctant to give the EU the power to disrupt existing laws and national security practices. The EU is trying to coordinate national counterterrorism policies, but still has many challenges.

6. References

6.1. Journal articles


6.2. Books

6.3. Additional references


7. Contribution

7.1. Authors contribution

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