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Prospects of TERRORIST Organization in the Middle East: Recommendations for KOREA

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Abstract

In recent years, terrorist organizations and activities in the Middle East have been led by Al-Qaeda and its following terrorist organizations. However, the Islamic countries (IS), the Islamic extremist Sunni militant group, takes the lead as a new leading terrorist groups. In other words, many terrorist organizations that followed Al Qaeda are no longer under command of Al Qaeda, but tend to rely on IS organizations for financial and technical support and exchanges. The IS, which emerged as a new leader, is making radical changes such as securing terrorist organizations to take over the ideals of Islam fundamentalism and Jihad against the Western world.

As the al Qaeda couldn't sustain the leading position after the death of Bin Laden, the al Qaeda lost its directions in terrorist groups. The IS declared the establishment of the Islamic State, dominating the regions in Iraq and Syrian territory.

In Africa, a new terrorist organization, Boco Haram, emerged as a terrorist group in the world in April 2015, when 276 Nigerian girls were kidnapped. In a word, bin Laden who was the leader of the Islamic terrorist group in the Middle East, had died, but the activities of the new terrorist groups are even more arousing and threatening the international community. Therefore, in order to understand the trends of international terrorist organizations, it is necessary to examine the domestic and international situation in the Middle East. Dynamics in terrorist groups including al Qaeda and the IS organizations are complex and the conflicts and stances between Sunni and Shi'a have been more increasing than ever.

In particular, Syrian civil war, a center of the Middle East terrorist activity, and terrorist organizations based in the region should be studied. It seems to be different for each group, but in the end, the terrorist groups share the same religious objective and are characterized mainly by each region for the construction of a united Islamic empire.

Korea is also expected to be exposed to changes and activities of terrorist organizations due to the turmoil in the Middle East because many Koreans live in the Middle East such as dispatching troops to the Middle East. Thus, it is very important to take measures in advance.

[Keywords] *Turmoil in Middle East, Islamic State, Al Qaeda, Dispatched Korean Military Units, Counterterrorism*

1. Introduction

After the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011, the change in the terrorist organization in the Middle East has been shown to be diverging from various sects in line with the regional and political environment. This meant that the centralized control of Bin Laden had changed in the past, but on the other side it was a signal that the forces of Al Qaeda were dispersed and weakened. Since bin Laden's death, al Qaeda has pursued terrorist activities through the so-called 'strategy of franchised terrorism', but the terrorist groups, once again fragmented in their respective

branches, are turning their backs on each other as they form their own influence[1].

Boko Haram, an African al-Qaeda branch, has also been criticized by Islamic terrorist groups for its brutal counter-terrorism. In the Middle East, the activities of new international terrorist organizations on behalf of al Qaeda are becoming more active. The main reason for this phenomenon is the civil war in Syria and political confusion in Iraq. As a result of the civil war to overthrow the Syrian government, many Muslim militants have been gathered around northern Syria. The control of the government has been insufficient while the activities of terrorist organizations have become relatively free and proliferated than ever[2].

So as to understand the recent Middle East situation, we should look at the rise and falls of major Islamic fundamentalist groups. These organizations have shared the same goal, the construction of integrated Islamic empire. Also, conflicts between Sunni and Shi'a should be discussed in dealing with turmoil in the Middle East.

In Libya, Syria, Tunisia, and Egypt, dictators have long been ruled the countries, and the regime has weakened in the spring of Arabia. In other words, in a country where the dictatorial regime has weakened by the spring of Arabia, Islamic jihad organizations are revived, and anti-government organizations are revived as jihadist organizations as well.

The turmoil in the Middle East is a big concern of the international community. This essay focuses on international trends in terrorism and terrorist organizations in the Middle East.

2. Domestic and Foreign Situation in the Middle East

The democratization wave of the Arab Spring movement, which began in December 2010 in Tunisia with the demolition of the Ben Ali dictatorship, gradually spread to all Arab countries around, thus greatly altering the Arab political environment. In recent years, Syria has suffered civil war between the government and rebels, and about 60,000 people have died and 2 million refugees have been killed. In particular, it is a religious sectarian dispute that shows Iran and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, Russia and China are supporting the Syrian government and the Syrian civil war can spread to the other regions in the Middle East[3].

On the other hand, there has been a sudden increase in armed robbery cases against foreign residents in Libya after the Jasmine Revolution. In addition, U.S. diplomatic facilities were attacked in Benghazi in 2012. This shows that the Libiyan civil war ended but it shows that al Qaeda still has an influence on the region. In recent years, the western part of Libya has emerged as a new front for the Sunni militant group, the Islamic State (IS).

Moreover, Libya is now divided by two forces. The IS is expanding its influence by tapping into the gap between the two forces in Libya. For this reason, the Mediterranean coast of Libya drew attention from Europe for the "Mediterranean Refugees", but the expectation that the IS supporters pretending refugees will head to Europe brings the increase level of terrorism alert around the area[4].

In addition, Lebanon is the base of Hezbollah 3, and on August 23, 2013, there were car bombing attacks in two Lebanese Sunni Islamic mosques, killing 42 people and injuring hundreds. The Hezbollah militant group, Hezbollah, has been designated as a terrorist group by the European Union, and the Hezbollah regime has been supporting Syria's Assad regime.

Next, South Sudan won independence from Sudan in 2011, but there are many political, economic, and social problems such as tension between the North and South Sudan and internal racial conflicts, which may lead to instability and insurgence. In particular, regional conflicts surrounding the precise boundaries of territory, import and distribution of oil, refugee issues, and armed rebels are quite challenging[5]. The current situation in the Middle East is causing serious internal and external challenges to be solved.

On June 12, 2015, Nasser Al Wahshi, the second leader of al Qaeda and the top leader

of the Yemeni Al Qaeda (AQAP), was killed in an air strike by a US military drone attacks. He served as personal secretary for Osama bin Laden, who led the September 11 attacks in 2001, and has been leading AQAP since 2009. Mokhtar Bel Mokhtar, leader of Al Qaeda's North Africa branch (AQIM), also died in Libya on May 13, 2015, after U.S. air strikes and drone attacks. Belmokhtar is known to be the main suspect behind the killings of 38 hostages in the Algerian natural gas facility in January 2013. Al Qaeda leaders are being removed in succession. Moreover, it is also getting out of competition with the IS. Al Qaeda's top leaders are increasingly isolated and the organization is assessed to be on the brink of collapse. Al Qaeda, which once tied the Jihadist around the world with the emergence of Islamic countries, was in a crisis of decline[6].

3. Changes in the Middle East Conflict

3.1. Intensification of disputes between sunni and shi'a

The modern conflicts in Middle East that began with the foundation of Israel in 1948 have changed due to the 1979 Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel, which made the relationship between the Arab state and Israel change. The Muslim forces who opposed peace talks with Israel began to expand their opposition to Arab regimes. The Islamic Revolution, which succeeded in the majority of Shi'a in Iran in 1979, had fundamentally shaken not only the proliferation of Islamic forces but also the relations and sectarianism of the existing Middle Eastern countries. The conflict between Iran and the Arab states was expressed by the conflict between Sunni and Shiite. The Iraqi regime has brutally suppressed the Shiite insurgents by using chemical weapons. This was the beginning of the Sunni-Shiite conflict in the modern world[7].

In 2003, the US invasion of Iraq and the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime caused a massive change of power in the Middle East. As the regime of Saddam Hussein, which had played a role of deterrence, collapsed and the state of power became vacant, Sunni Muslim militants began to emerge in the region. Sunni Muslim militants have gathered Sunni people alienated from Iraq, raising sectarian strife against Shi'a. The Shi'ite Assad regime in Syria also released Islamic militants who had been imprisoned and helped the Islamic State grow. It was an attempt to establish the legitimacy of secularism by making the composition of Syrian civil war into secularism and Islamism[8].

3.2. The suffering of palestine refugees

The tragedy of the Middle East conflict, which began with Arab-Israeli conflicts and turned into sectarian disputes, is evident in the suffering of Palestinian refugees in Syria [9]. The Islamic State has launched an attack on the refugee camps since April 2015[10][11]. The 18,000 Palestinian refugees have lived in the blockade of Syrian troops for the past two years and have been invaded by Islamic States. The Islamic State attacked Palestinian secular militants and refugees who did not support them. Alliances and confrontations in the Middle East are also changing. The controversy between the Sunni National Solidarity and the Shi'a coalition is getting harder. In the past, the confrontation between Arab-Israeli, secularist and Islamic forces has faded, and Islamic sectarian The Muslim sectarian dispute seems to predict more bloodshed[12].

4. Recommendations and Conclusion

The international community's attention to the recent events in the Middle East, including Syria, is to what extent the expansion of the forces of the radical Sunni-militant Islamic States (IS) invading Syria and Iraq and the invasion of Iraq and Syria to a new dispute in the Middle East will be. Moreover, the IS has recently gained additional evidence that it is recruiting members in Afghanistan as an initial exploration phase to expand its power to Afghanistan. It is expected that IS will expand its influence to Afghanistan in the near future and will compete with the Taliban and other former militants in Afghanistan.

Moreover, radicalized Islamic militant groups working in Egypt, Libya and Nigeria

have turned their backs on al Qaeda and pledged allegiance to IS, increasing their influence even beyond the Middle East. It once occupied half of the territory of Iraq and Syria through the gap of al Qaeda and advancing to Africa, and constructing 'Empire of Islamic terrorism'.

The terrorist organizations in the Middle East and North Africa claim to be the "IS branch", and the foreign jihadist or foreign fighters, who the IS calls them "Muhajeerun", comes from nearly 100 countries. These changes and events in the Middle East are not only a matter for the Middle East, but they also show the possibility of global security risks and, in the worst case, there is a potential for global war and conflict. In addition, the bigger problem is that it is difficult to solve the problem because the countries or the dialogue channels that will check the newly emerging terrorist organizations have been lost.

It is realistic that the role of the United States has become increasingly obscure to militant groups that have grown rapidly in the region after the fall of the dictatorship in the Arab Spring of 2011. The political situation in the Middle East is also complex. Although the dictatorial regime of Yemen and Libya collapsed in the Arab Spring of 2011, the civil war continued due to geographical and ideological clashes and the intricate interdiction of fundamentalist factions.

Korea is also not safe from the terrorist attacks in the Middle East. Many construction workers and residents currently live in the Middle East. Approximately, 1,100 people have been dispatched to 17 areas in 15 countries around the world where our troops are deployed. In the Middle East, there is a peacekeeping force in Lebanon, and a reconstruction support team in South Sudan and a military training cooperation team in the United Arab Emirates. Because they are in charge of security and support work, they are likely to be attacked by terrorist groups.

Especially, as Korea is an ally to the United States, the possibility of terrorism against our Korean people and dispatched troops as well as recent changes in the Middle East situation is more worrisome than ever. Since the Korean troops can be directly or indirectly subject to terrorism at any time, it is important to consider the terrorist environment of the Middle East. The convergence management of information with prosecutors, police, and intelligence agencies of the NIS is more closely related. It is also necessary to establish terrorist and terrorist organization profiling system such as organization information management of major terrorist organizations in the overseas [13].

In addition, it is necessary to anticipate the demands of the hostages when kidnapping incident of the troopers occurs. Also, it is necessary to establish a dialogue technique and a cooperation system with the media to build a systematic hostage negotiation strategy. Korea has been demanding the participation of military measures in the West such as the United States. The IS and Islamic militant groups will not directly attack Koreans and Korean troops as a terrorist target. However, it is necessary to carefully examine whether such passive measure is appropriate and effective.

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