



Seminar Report: Understanding Terrorism In Africa: Building Bridges and Overcoming Gaps

Dates: 19-20 May 2007

Venue: University of Cairo, Egypt

Introduction:

On 19 and 20 May 2007 the ISS, in partnership with the Terrorism Studies and Research Program at the University of Cairo with the financial assistance of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a seminar titled "Understanding Terrorism in Africa: Building Bridges and overcoming gaps." Held at the University of Cairo, Egypt, the seminar was attended by fifty people representing a number of countries and disciplines. The main objective of the seminar was to explore the gaps in the efforts to combat and prevent terrorism in Africa and to come up with ways of building bridges particularly across the continent. In general, the seminar sought to build bridges between North and sub-Saharan Africa, between Africa and the West, and between practitioners, scholars/researchers, civil society, communities and the general public. It was reasoned that the process of building these bridges would provide opportunities for forging and strengthening partnerships that are necessary in combating and preventing terrorism in Africa.

Background to the Seminar:

As part of its overall mission to conduct applied policy research on human security issues in Africa, the ISS initiated a project in June 2002 to assess the threat of terrorism in the SADC sub-region and to examine existing legislations relating to prevention and combating of terrorism. Since then the project has developed to cover the whole African continent.

In pursuit of the project's aim of promoting greater understanding of the threat of terrorism in Africa, the ISS has since last year organized a number of seminars bringing together experts, scholars and analysts from different parts of the continent and overseas. The first in the seminar series was held Dar-es-Salaam from 21 to 22 March 2006 under the theme of "Towards Understanding Terrorism in Africa." During this seminar, a concern was raised that despite the long history of terrorism in Africa, in particular domestic terrorism, the continent is largely excluded from the global debate. The participants pointed out that there is a need for an "African Voice" in the ongoing global debate as well as a clearer understanding of the threat and impact of terrorism in Africa. Some of the presentations made in the Dar seminar were later included in ASR 15:3 that focused on terrorism in Africa. Besides being charged to host more meetings to bring more understanding of terrorism in Africa, ISS was also requested to steer the formation of a network of African researchers, scholars and analysts on issues related to terrorism. This network is now called African Research Network on Terrorism and Counter Terrorism (ARNTACT).

Following the Dar es-Salaam seminar, the ISS hosted the second seminar in Benoni, South Africa, from 6 to 7 November 2006, in fulfilment of the task of promoting the “African Voice” in the debate on international terrorism. The seminar, under the banner of “Understanding Terrorism in Africa: Searching the African Voice,” was jointly sponsored by the Norwegian and American governments and brought together about sixty researchers, practitioners, media civil society and diplomats. During this seminar the ISS was asked to co-host three seminars during the course of 2007 in partnership with other institutions. Subsequently the ISS formed partnerships with the Terrorism Studies and Research Program at the University of Cairo and the African Centre for Strategic Research and Training of the National War College, Nigeria. The ISS was also asked to prepare the papers presented at this seminar for publication and distribution before the Cairo seminar.

Seminar Objectives:

The Cairo seminar had the following objectives:

- Bridging gaps on definitions of terrorism (liberation movements, separatist movements, roles of religion);
- Bridging gaps on Understanding Roots of Terrorism (domestic & international);
- Bridging gaps on strategies of combating terrorism (legislative, Judicial, Security, Political);
- Bridging gaps on Understanding Impacts of “War on Terrorism” (economics, political, cultural, etc.); and
- Towards Building a Common Ground.

PROGRAM

08:45 – 09:30: Welcoming remarks and Objectives

- Director of Terrorism Studies and Research Program (**Dr Abdel Aziz Shady**)
- Institute for Security Studies representative (**Dr. Wafula Okumu, ISS**)
- Norwegian MFA (**Jon Erik Strømø**, Senior adviser on Terrorism)

09:30 – 11:15 Panel 1: *Bridging gaps on definitions and understanding of terrorism* (Chair: Prof Mustafa Alwi Seif)

1. *Methodological and Epistemological Dimensions of Terrorism* (**Dr Mhand Berkouk**)
2. *Overlapping Concepts: Insurgency, Terrorism and Political Violence: A Legal Perspective* (**Dr Abdeen Kandil**)
3. *Challenges of Understanding Terrorism in Africa* (**Anneli Botha**)

11:30 – 13:00 Panel 2: *Bridging Gaps in Understanding the impact of the “War on Terrorism”* (Chair: Mounir Lallali)

1. *Impact of war on terrorism on Western liberal democracies* (**Dr Clinton Watts**)
2. *Impact of War On Terrorism on Governance and Human Rights in Northern Africa* (**Dr Mohamed Kamal**)
3. *Impact of War On Terrorism on Governance and Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa* (**Prof Sam Makinda**)

14:00 – 16:00 Panel 3: *Bridging Gaps in Understanding the Impact of the “War on Terrorism” continue* (Chair: Amb. Ahmed Haggag)

1. *Impact of War on Terrorism on the Economy in North Africa* (**Dr Alaa Hafez**)
2. *Impact of War on Terrorism on the Economy in Sub-Saharan Africa* (**Martin Kimani**)
3. *Impact of War on Terrorism on the Media and Civil Societies in North Africa* (**Amb Al Arabi ibn al Sheikh**)
4. *Impact of War on Terrorism on the Media and Civil Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa* (**Salim Lone**)

16:15—18:15 Panel 4: *Building Bridges in Preventing and Combating Terrorism in Africa* (Chair: Dr. Istifanus Zabadi)

1. *Sub-Regional Counter Terrorism Measures in North Africa* (**Dr Ismail Abdrahmen**)
2. *Sub-Regional Counter Terrorism Measures in East Africa* (**Dr Wafula Okumu**)
3. *Sub-Regional Counter Terrorism Measures in Southern Africa* (**Mabula Goyayi**)
4. *Sub-Regional Counter Terrorism Measures in West Africa* (**Dr Gani Yoroms**)

DAY TWO

Keynote Address **Min Moufeed Shehab**, Minister of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

- Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, University of Cairo (**Dr Mona AlBaradai**)
- President of Cairo University (**Dr Ali Abd EL-Rahman**)

10:30—12:30 Panel 5: *International Experiences in Preventing and Combating Terrorism* (Chair: Amb. Dr. M. Shaker)

1. *Middle East Experiences in Preventing and Combating Terrorism* (Dr Samir Ghattas)
2. *Asian Experiences in Preventing and Combating Terrorism* (Dr Mohamed Bin Ali)
3. *European Experiences in Preventing and Combating Terrorism* (Dr Karin Kneissl)
4. *United States Experiences in Preventing and Combating Terrorism* (Dr Donovan Chau)
5. *Canadian Experiences in Preventing and Combating Terrorism* (Dr Kent Roach)

13:30 – 15:00 Panel 6: *Roundtable discussion on towards a common approach* (composed of panel chairs)

15:00 – 16:00 Closing Remarks (Dr Wafula Okumu, Dr Istifanus Zabadi, Dr Abdel Aziz Shady)

THE WAY FORWARD:

A. Dissemination of seminar proceedings:

After acknowledging the deep appreciation of the November 2006 report, and as part of the research proposal, the ISS will publish and disseminate all the papers presented at the Cairo seminar in both English and Arabic.

B. Follow-up Seminars:

It was agreed that the next two seminars will be held at following locations and dates:

- Abuja, Nigeria, 20-21 August 2007. This seminar will be co-hosted with National War College, and will specifically focus on domestic terrorism. Broadly as agreed upon in the research proposal and MoU between the three partner institutions the pretext of this seminar will be as follows: “Although the international community has mainly focused on the threat and consequences of trans-national terrorism, domestic terrorism poses an equally serious threat to human security in Africa. It is therefore essential to address this phenomenon in order to gain a deeper and comprehensive understanding of terrorism on the continent and efforts to combat and prevent it. Experiences from Northern Uganda, the Niger Delta, Liberia, Sierra Leone and elsewhere in Africa have shown that domestic terrorism has devastating economic, social and political consequences in Africa. Besides creating humanitarian crises, it has undermined the general livelihoods of the communities and retarded development.”
- Nairobi, Kenya, 29-30 October 2007. The ISS will be the “local host” of this seminar with the objective critically assessing CT strategies and measures in Africa by:
 - Assessing the success of counter- and anti-terrorism strategies in Africa;
 - Analysing the challenges of implementing CT measures in Africa;
 - Reviewing the relations between the international requirement to prevent and combat terrorism and other security threats on the continent;

- Sharing lessons learned, especially in effective use of resources;
- Assessing the commitments of African countries to implement international instruments and strategies against terrorism;
- Evaluating the influence of Africa in developing an international strategy against terrorism;
- Considering the possibility of developing and implementing regional and sub-regional CT measures and strategies; and
- Proposing the role(s) of the international community in preventing and combating terrorism in Africa.

C. Creation of Partnerships:

The participants also made a commitment to continue building partnerships between researchers, practitioners, institutions and others other stakeholders on issues and matters related to terrorism and counter-terrorism. Suggestions were made to revitalise the African Research Network on Terrorism and Counter Terrorism (ARNTACT) established in Dar-es-Salaam by structuring this network, redefining its objectives and mandate, and expanding it to include other stakeholders.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

The following is an incomplete list of participants at the seminar

Surname	Name	Institution
Abyrr	Mayada	Kenya Embassy
Abdrahmen	Ismail	Cairo University
Ahmal	Mohamed Hashem Ali	FEPS
Albaradai	Mona	Dean of Faculty, Cairo University
Ali	Mohamed Bin	Research Analyst
Amable	Ruby	Program Officer
Aref	Ahmed	Cairo University
Assem	Marwa	Interpreter
Atta-Asamoah	Andreas	Research fellow
Baldeo	Parsad Jayani	Mauritius Police Force
Berkouk	Mohaad	University Professor
Botha	Anneli	African Security Analysis Programme ISS Pretoria
Chau	Donovan C.	California State University, San Bernadino
El Korashi	Mona Moustafa Mohamed Ahmed	FEPS
El-Rahman	Ali Abd	President Cairo University
El-Rasheedy	Ahmed	Associate Dean, Cairo University
El-Touny	Amr Hassan	FEPS
Haggag	Ahmed	African Society Cairo
Harry	Charlene	ASAP ISS Pretoria

Hwacha	Tichaga Victor	Embassy of Zimbabwe
Kaepfel	Charlotte	TSRP, Cairo University, Vienna University
Kamal	Mohamed	Cairo University
Kandil	Abdeen	Cairo University
Kimani	Martin	IGAD (ICPAT)
Kneissl	Karin	Journalist
Lawlor	Nuala	Political Officer, Canadian Embassy in Sudan
Lone	Salim	Columnist, Daily Nation KENYA
Mabula	Goyayi	Interpol/Sarpcoo, Southern Africa
Mahran	Weam	Alwatan Aloum
Makinda	Samuel	Murdoch University
Malowola	Valentine	Tanzania Police Force
Mc Cants	William	CTC West Point
Mohamed	Khalid Abdel Megeed	FEPS
Okumu	Wafula	African Security Analysis Programme ISS Pretoria
Oloo	Adam	University of Nairobi
Richardt	Matthias	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
Rilly	Peter	Kenya Embassy
Roach	Kent	University of Toronto
Shady	Abdel-Aziz	TSRP, Cairo University
Sheehab	Moufeed	Minister of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Egypt

Shehatah	Abdallah	Cairo University
Stromo	Jon Erik	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway
Taylor	Max	St. Andrews University
Tolbert	Frank	Embassy of Liberia
Yoromos	Gani	National War College, Nigeria
Wali	Hanan	Interpreter
Yousri	Iman	Middle East News Agency
Zabadi	Istifanus S.	Dean, Abuja War College