TERRORISM: WHAT THE STATISTICS SHOW

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism has been widely used as a tool by extremists to achieve their
goals. Terrorists consider themselves as freedom fighters to liberate the so-
called "oppressed" people. The destructions caused by terrorists are enormous
where many lives perished in this "holy war". How the media cover the acts
of terrorism actually differ and varied according to their media policy on how
they want to present the terrorist stories in their news reporting especially for
the headlines. Like what has been stated earlier, there are two types of media
coverage of terrorism namely as pro-terrorist and anti-terrorist. Nowadays,
international media especially the Western cable is pro-terrorist press as they
believed terrorism news will increase their readership and profit. Without
realizing it, they actually trigger and developed the fear of Islam within the
world society, as most of them labeled Muslim or Islam as terrorists. This
study is based on secondary data to look at the phenomenon of terrorism
throughout the world. Descriptive statistics are used to describe and to
summarize the acts of terrorism. The statistics on terrorism include the
incident information, incident location, attack information, weapon
information, target/victim information, perpetrator information, casualties,
and consequences. The statistics are summarized using an existing database
managed by the University of Maryland, USA, which is named as the Global
Terrorism Database (GTD). Information on terrorist attacks captured were
incidences in the period of 1970 to 2015. The GTD includes systematic data
on domestic as well as transnational and international terrorist incidents that
have occurred during this period and contain more than 140,000 cases. The
study uses descriptive information about the incidences of terrorism, to show
dominant features on certain variables such as attack information or group
information, as well as how these dominant features connect with the rest of
the variables in the database.

Keywords: *Terrorist; Terrorism; Freedom Fighters, Text Mining, Global
Terrorism Database (GTD)*

TERRORISM AS REPORTED IN THE MEDIA

In recent years, media play an essential part in covering and spreading the word concerning terrorism. In fact, without the media's coverage, the impact of a terrorist act is arguably wasted, remaining narrowly confined to the immediate victims of the attack, rather than reaching the broader 'target audience', who are the terrorists' actual aim (Hoffman, 2007). By winning the attention of news media, terrorist indirectly gain maximum publicity to create an atmosphere of fear and anger to reach a much greater audience in order to achieve their political goals.

Indeed, Rhine, Bennet and Flckinger (2002), also suggest that terrorists are primarily interested in an audience, not the victims, and emphasising that the way the audiences reacts is as important as the act itself. Hence, by captivating the attention of the media, national and foreign publics, and decision-makers in a government is one of the primary goals of terrorists. They will carefully and strategically plan their attack on the targeted location with the complete awareness of the influence of media coverage aiming to inform about their political causes, motives and rationale for the violence acts.

For decades since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 tragedy, media is a great influential mechanism in shaping world experiences and views concerning terrorism. The media reports terrorist acts by writing sensation-seeking, enlarging anecdotic stories, especially on who is to blame, repeating the same images over and over again, separating both physical and mental health consequences of disasters, and thus creating new syndromes (Vasterman, Yzermans, and Dirkzwager, 2005). Additionally, the media traumatizes the audience by exaggerating the threats, for instance the case in the US after 9/11, showing nonstop footage of combat scenes (Long, 2002).

The way in which the media covers news stories has a crucial impact on how terrorists communicate and carry out their attacks. Through the media reporting, the terrorist successfully gains a foothold in the audiences' daily lives. The better terrorists understand the mechanism behind the media in which the more coverage they received, it will take further steps for massive publicity and the opportunity to showcase their ability to strike. In any case, the terrorists' need for media publicity and mutually, media's need greater stories for larger audience and profits that directly forming a symbiotic relationship between terrorism and the media.

The U.S. authorities for instance estimate that several thousand Americans consume ISIS propaganda online creating what has been described as a "radicalization echo chamber (Vidino & Hughes, 2015)." American ISIS sympathisers and activists were active on a number of social media platforms, from open forums like Facebook, Google, and Tumblr to more discrete messaging applications such as Kik, Telegram, and the dark web. But Twitter is by far the platform of choice of this supposed "echo chamber".

The effect of terrorist advocacy is not as something simple as empirical data. Much of the damage that has been done reverberate across multiple layers of society. In Canada, for example, due to the rise of the advocating of terrorist organisations, a

new bill has been passed which would limit freedom of speech. And while one may argue necessity of such laws, it also necessary to consider the possibility of how much we are giving up just because we are living in fear of few.

There are a lot of factor contributed to the increased of people travels to the conflict zone. One of the factors is the successful of propaganda used by the terrorist group. The propaganda is so effective because it is exploiting people weakness. According to Alejandro Beutel, a researcher at the University of National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, ISIS using "cognitive closure" or "a quest for certainty" to influence people. For example, young Muslims today are pressure from Islamophobia. They are torn between how to blend themselves in the society who has stigma upon them and finding the purpose in their lives (Geller, 2016). The ISIS provides these desires through their propaganda video.

One has to understand that the relationship of media and terrorism in the past few decades should be change in order to tackle this issue in more productive way. The time has come for media to act more wisely and decrease the attention they have given to terrorist in sequence to cause less attacks for the better world in the future. In the battle against terrorist ideology, it is essential to take ultimate action by closing the publicity chance at all cause as they depend on this instrument to spread their words.

In 2015 the number of foreign fighter who travels to Syria has increased double which is estimated between 27000 to 31000 people according to a study by the Saufan group entitled *foreign fighters An update Assessment of the Flow of Foreign Fighters into Syria and Iraq.* From the study, out of 86 countries listed, the highest foreign fighters are from Tunisia with 6500 people, followed by Saudi Arabia with 2500 people and Russia with 2400 people (The Soufan Group, 2015).

This paper looks into the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), an open-source database, stores information on terrorist events around the world since 1970. Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as international terrorist incidents that have occurred since 1970 and now includes more than 150,000 cases. For each GTD incident, information is available on the date and location of the incident, the weapons used and nature of the target, the number of casualties, and – when identifiable – the group or individual responsible. Data from GTD between the years 2000 to 2015 is used in this paper to describe the status of terrorist incidences, which can be accessed from the URL, https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/.

Over the past 15 years, the world has experienced a terrifying, exponential increase in the number of terrorist attacks. The GTD listed 1,813 attacks in 2000, a figure that has steadily risen since then, reaching a record high of 14,806 in 2015. Between the year 2000 and 2015, the total number of casualties from terrorist attacks has soared from 4,422 to 38,422 (refer to Figure 1).
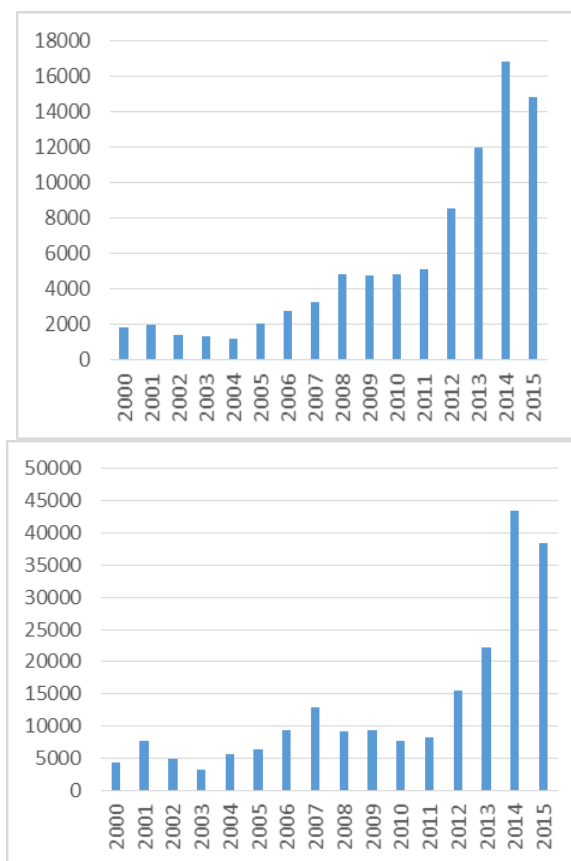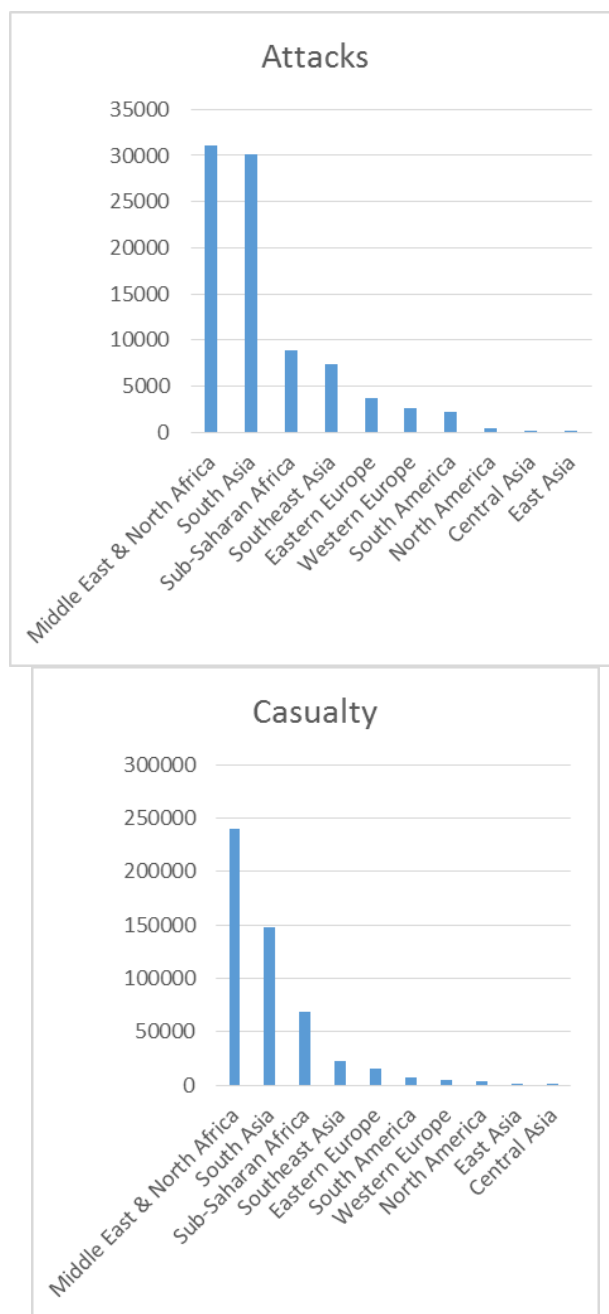
Figure 1: Total attacks from 2000 to 2015 (on the left) and total casualties (on the right). Numbers from the GTD

Acts of terrorism have occurred throughout the world in almost every continent. Based on the data from the GTD, the top ten countries with the highest number of attacks and casualties are Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Philippines, Thailand, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, Colombia, and Russia. These countries are in the regions of the Middle East & North Africa, South Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, South Africa, North America, Central Asia, and East Asia (refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3).

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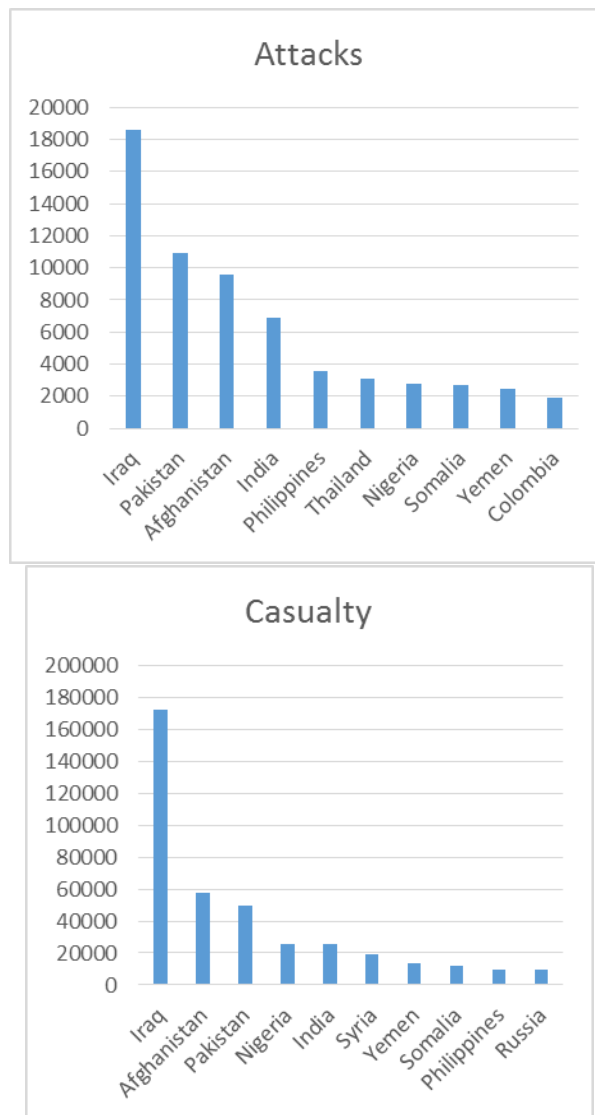
Figure 2: Top ten countries with most attacks from 2000 to 2015 (on the left) and
most casualties (on the right). Numbers from the GTD.

Figure 3: Top ten regions with most attacks from 2000 to 2015 (on the left) and most casualties (on the right). Numbers from the GTD.

The three most frequent attacks are bombing/explosion, armed assault, and assassination. The data on the number of casualties in the top ten countries from the GTD shows the proportion of attacks varies across some countries (refer to Figure 4). For example, in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and, Colombia, bombing/explosion accounts for more than 50% of the attacks. While in countries like Philippines, Thailand, Nigeria, Somalia, India, and, Yemen, armed assault is a dominant attack type along with bombing/explosion.

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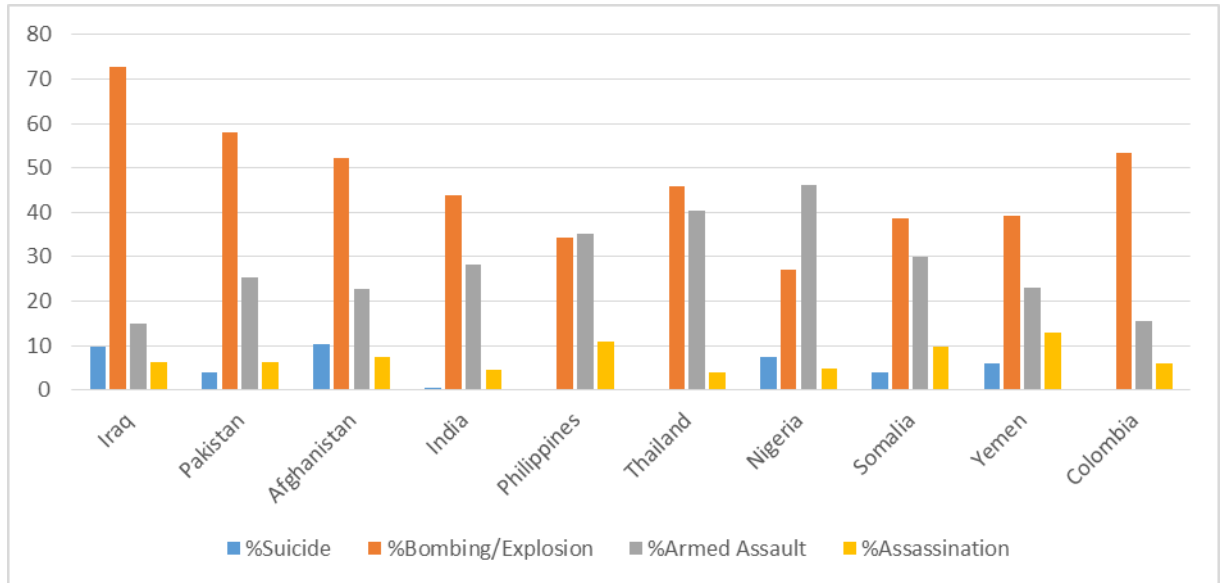
Figure 4: Top ten country total attacks from 2000 to 2015 by types of attack. Numbers from the GTD.

Terrorist groups involved in the attacks are identified as known or unknown groups. The known groups are terrorist groups with a group name, while the anonymous group is the unknown. The known groups are the terrorist groups that attack the most for most of the countries, except, Iraq, Pakistan, and Thailand. Refer to Figure 5.
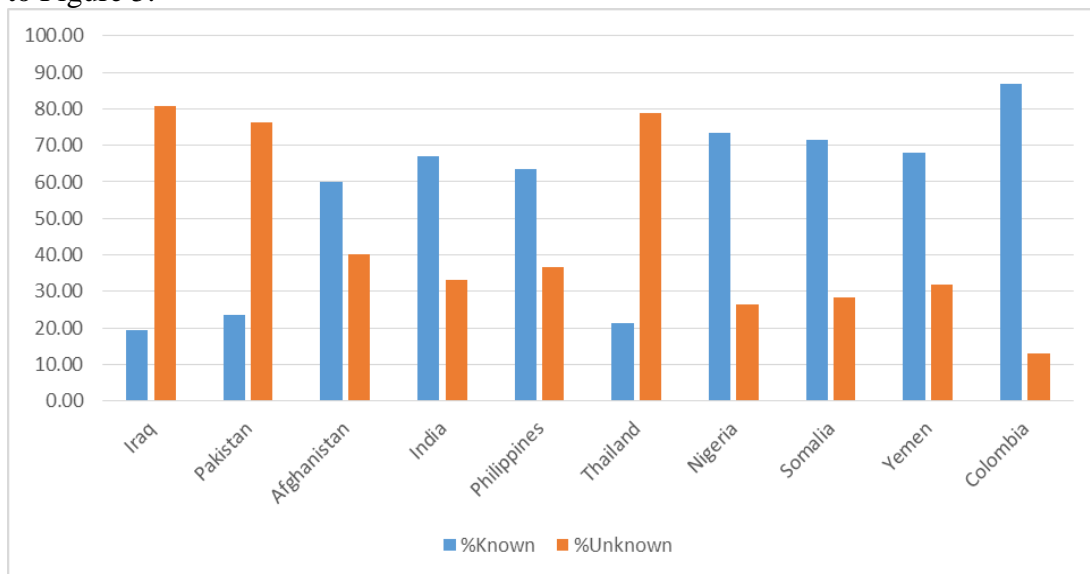
Figure 5: Top ten country total attacks from 2000 to 2015 by types of group. Numbers from the GTD.

The terrorist groups attack many targets. The top five targets are classified as private citizens and property, military, police, government, and business; military is the main target in Somalia and Yemen, private citizens and property is the main target in Iraq, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Nigeria, and Columbia; and police is the main target in Afghanistan. Refer to Figure 6.
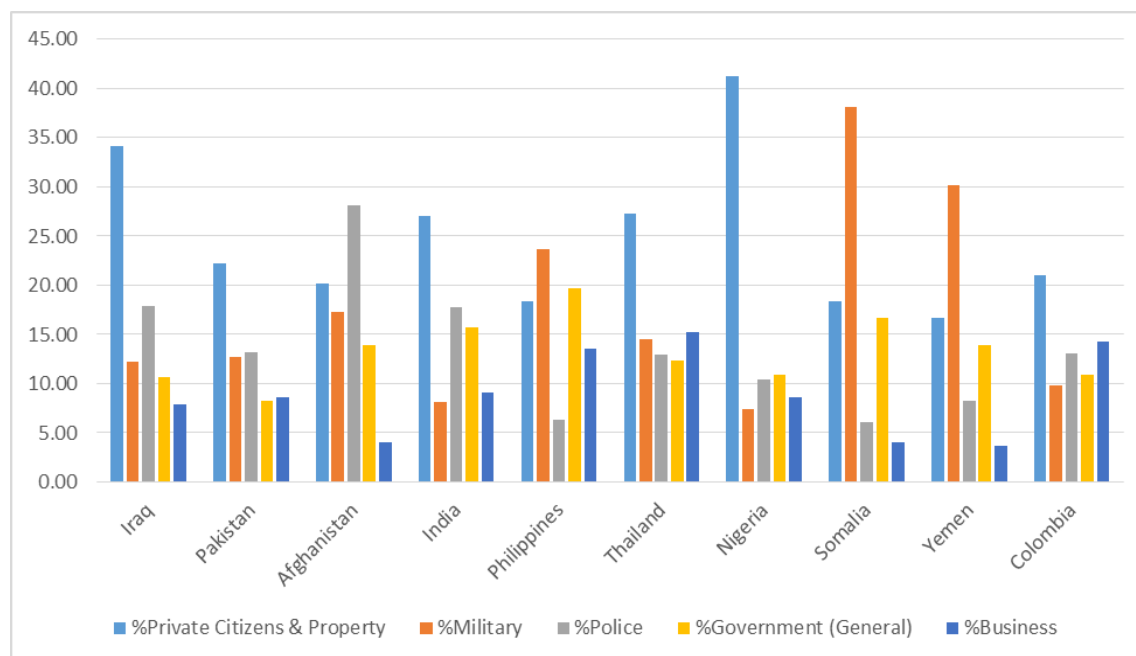
Figure 6: Top ten country total attacks from 2000 to 2015 by types of target. Numbers from the GTD.

In the Middle East & North Africa Region, where the number of terrorist occurrences is the highest, the top three countries are Iraq, Yemen, and Syria. The trend on the number of casualties increases every year since 2010 to 2015 and is at an alarming rate in Syria and Yemen (refer to Figure 7).
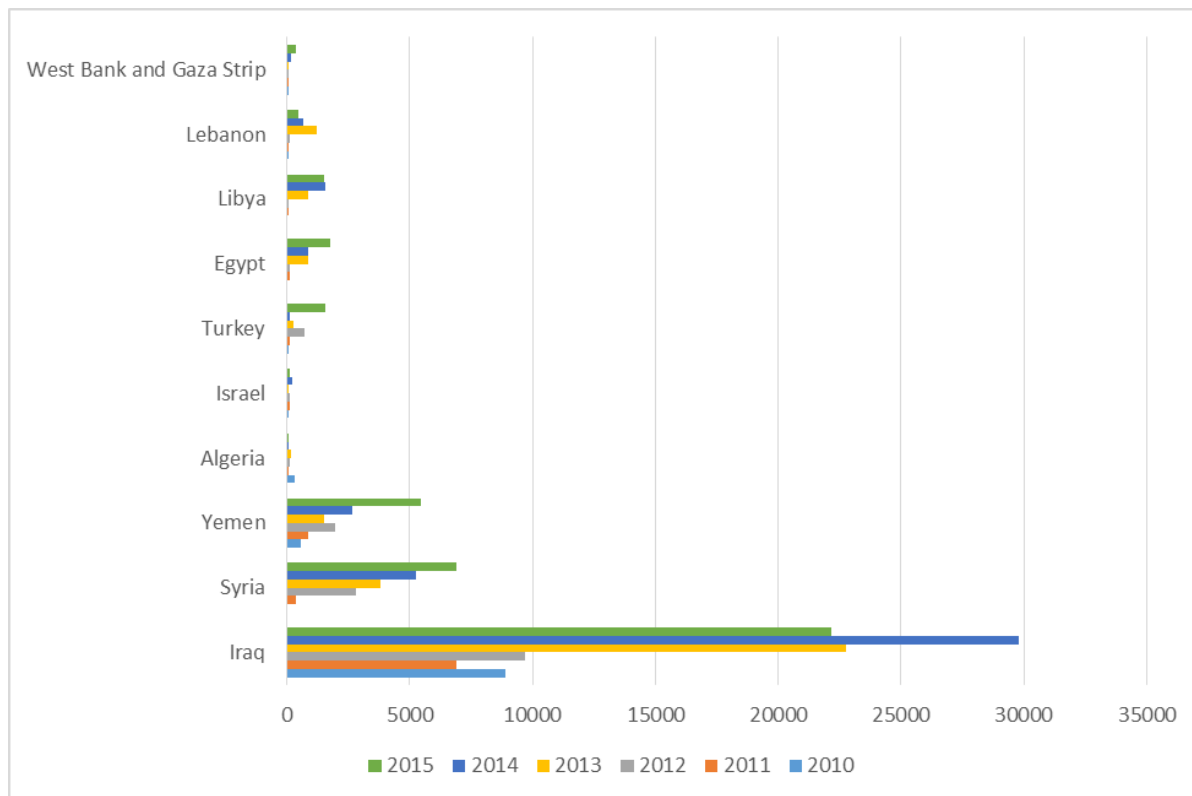
Figure 7: Top ten countries in the Middle East & North Africa Region total casualties from 2010 to 2015 by year. Numbers from the GTD.

Media has a profound influence in shaping society views and attracts a substantial number of audiences focusing on the terrorism issue, but the goals of terrorists are not solely confined to winning the attention of the masses. Additionally, through the media, they aim to inform both allies and enemies about the motives for terrorist deeds, to publicize their political causes, and explain their rationale for resorting to violence (Nacos, 2006). Besides, they also aim to be treated like regular, accepted, legitimate world leaders, as the media gives them a similar status. That is to say, for terrorists, the media functions as a tool to shrink the power asymmetry between them and the entity they fight against in an actual and ideological warfare, create an atmosphere of fear and suspicion, legitimize their acts, and reach greater audiences (Bilgen, 2012).

Terrorism can also be referred to as politically motivated deeds perpetrated by groups or individuals for the sake of communicating messages to a larger audience. Terrorists usually transmit their messages with a series of violent attacks including bombing, shooting, suicide attempts and others. The attacks are designed to create an atmosphere of fear or a sense of threat in the society. Given the motives, it can be deduced that the attacks are rationally and strategically made with full awareness of the influence of the media coverage on almost every segment of a society and government officials of almost all levels (Bilgen, 2012). Terrorism uses its immediate victims and material targets for semiotic and symbolic purposes (Lewis,

2005). Today, most terrorists depend on the modern media and technologies to communicate their goals and ideologies to the society locally and internationally.

In Europe, for example, the British newspaper The Guardian mostly covered 9/11 through an expressive journalistic style, highlighting emotional responses of fear, horror and outrage; and after the London bombings, terrorism has been framed slanting more towards Islamic fundamentalism (Norizzati Saifuddin & Ismail Sualman, 2017).

MEDIA ADVOCACY

Media advocacy can be defined as the strategic use of mass media and community advocacy to promote environmental change, a public policy initiative, or political agenda (Chapman & Lupton, 1994). A major application is a response to issues about well-financed opponents who use their wealth to shape the political and social environment. Compared to public relations, media advocacy will divert more focus on a particular policy goal, resulting in social change, as it is also more decentralized, community-based, and community owned (Jernigan & Wright, 1996). Thus, it is a perfect strategic used by terrorists in their efforts to hijack and communicate their ideological goals worldwide. Terrorists need the mass media to win free publicity to transmit their message and gain more support and recognition, which can lead to larger victories in their series of violent campaigns.

Media advocacy does not attempt to persuade individuals to make specific behavior changes but rather in some ways; it seeks to utilize the media to change the social environment in which individuals make personal behavior decisions. Media advocacy focuses more on the social forces that shape behavior such as on public and private policy, or government bodies rather than on personal behavior. Importantly, its goal is to attain a more sweeping and permanent change in society. Therefore, an act to corrupt information for their purpose are usually known as Information warfare as it can be carried in different ways of communication of channels that are available in the information flows (Abdulrahman R. Alazmi, 2014).

In the past five decades, the total number of terrorist attacks increased from 9,837 to 62,022 (Figure 8). Attacks caused by known terrorist groups versus unknown terrorist groups have increased tremendously in the past 15 years, 57% of 72,814 killed in the 2000s to 71% of 135,548 killed in 2010s. The number of casualties by the known terrorist groups has risen at an alarming rate (refer to Figure 9).
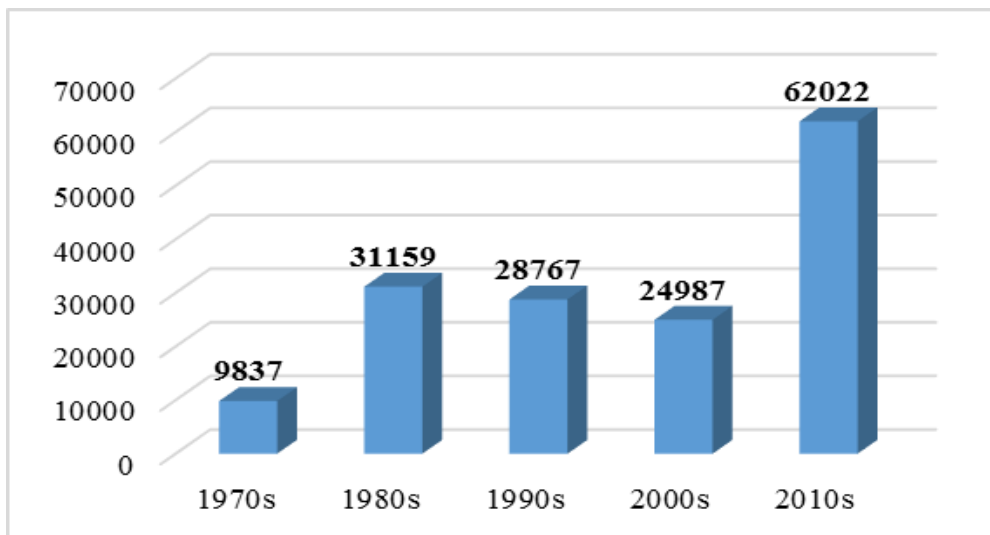
**Figure 8:** Number of Attacks 1970 - 2015. Numbers from GTD.
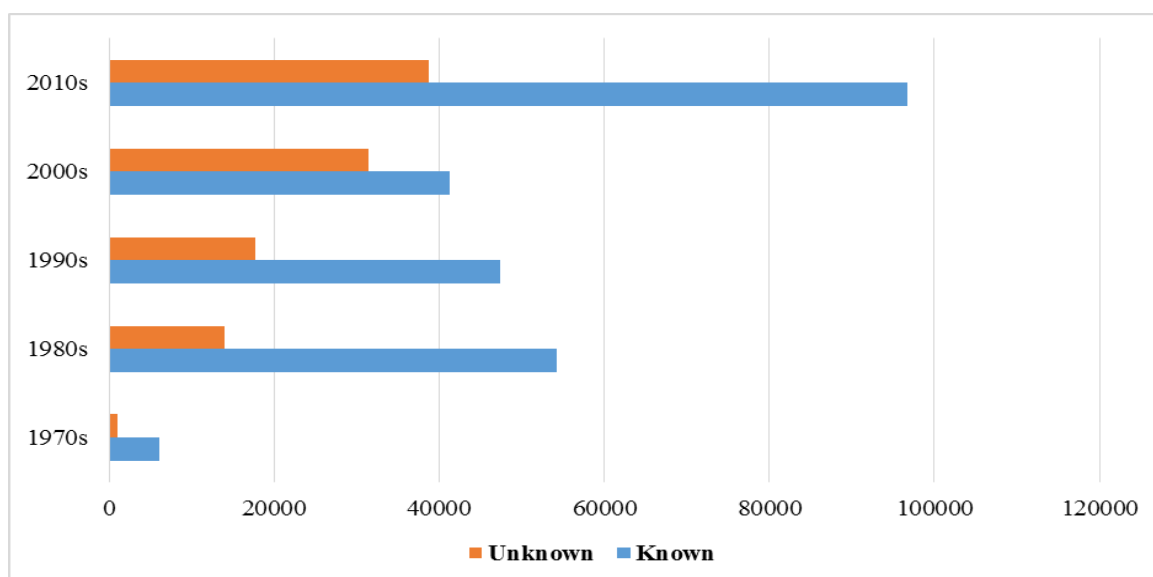
Figure 9: Number of casualty from 2000 to 2015 by types of terrorist
group. Numbers from the GTD.

Thanks to the media, the terrorist group managed to gain great attention in promoting their agenda and spreading the power across borders. Media also can play a significant part in countering terrorism through framing the phenomena or situation. For some media houses with the ideology of anti-terrorism, they have the power to highlight specific characteristics of the terrorist group to influence public perception.

Since 2000, the intention of these terrorist groups to promote their agendas was dominantly carried out in Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, and

Somalia. However, the graph shows, two countries, namely Iraq and Pakistan, exhibit less distinction in the terrorist groups' intention (refer to Figure 10).
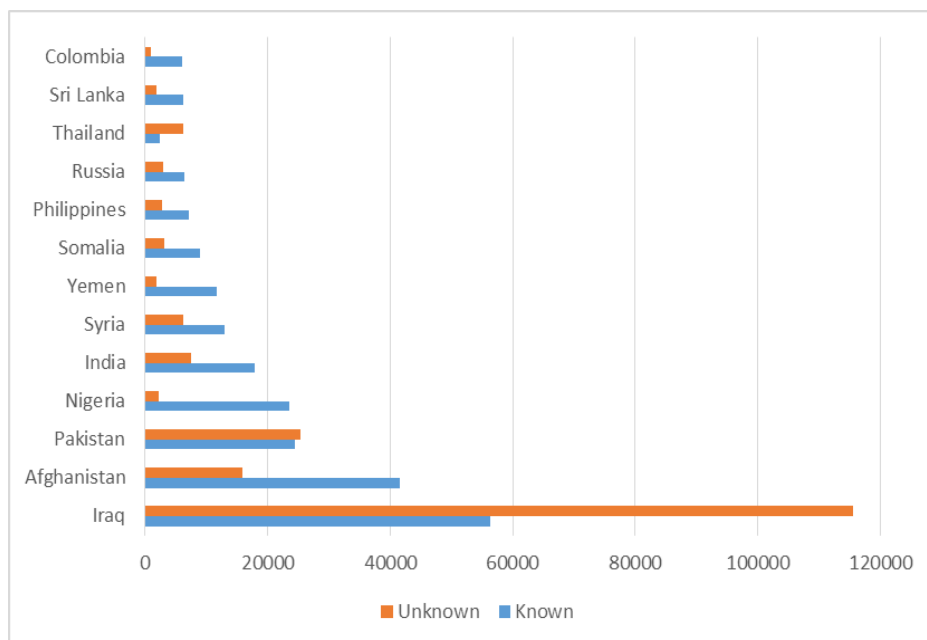
Figure 10: Number of casualty from 2000 to 2015 by country. Numbers from the GTD.

The top three types of attack are bombing/explosion, armed assault, and kidnapping. The number of people killed by known group attacks is higher than the unknown groups. Examining the known groups further shows that the number of people killed by armed assault attacks is higher for the Not Claimed group (refer to Figure 11).
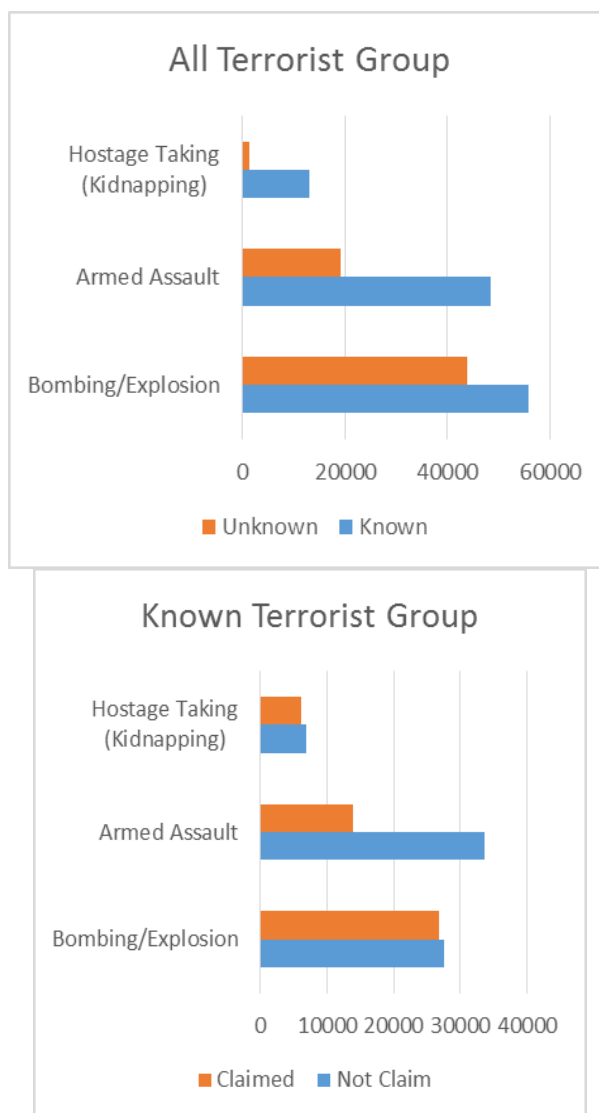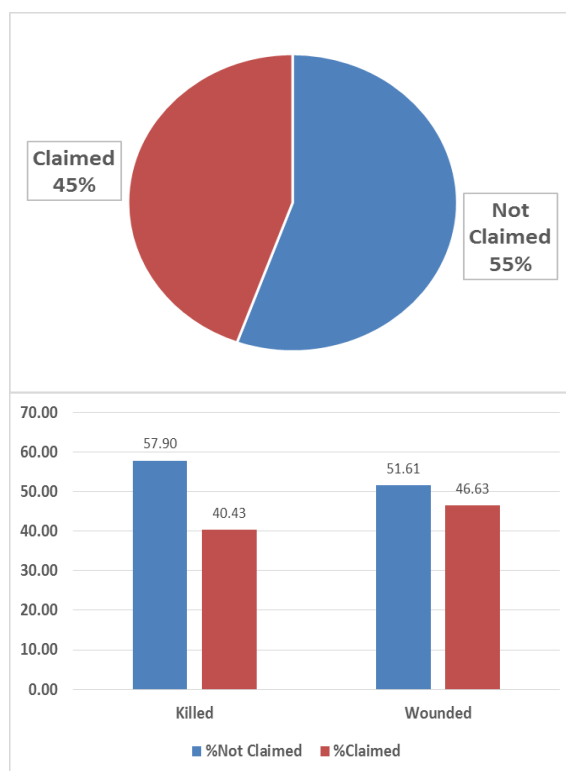
Figure 11: Number of killed from 2000 to 2015 by types of attack (on the left) and
types of attack of known terrorist group (on the right) claimed and not claimed
responsible for the attacks. Numbers from the GTD.

The terrorist groups that have the intention to publicize their intention of attacks
always claim as the responsible group immediately after the attack. In the past 15
years, for the known terrorist group, almost half (45%) of the attacks are claimed by
the responsible group, while 55% are not claimed. Among the groups that have
consistently claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks are the Islamic State of
Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Iraq and Syria), Al-Qaida in Iraq, Taliban (Afghanistan),
Boko Haram (Nigeria), and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (Pakistan).

When the attacks were not claimed, most of the time, the media can identify the
responsible group based on the modus operandi used in each attack. Each group
exhibits its signature in terms of the tactical operations involved. Through series of

attacks, the media have learned, and thus able to identify the groups responsible for the attacks.

The modus operandi for most of the suicide attacks indicates the claimed groups (refer to Figure 12). Almost half of the bombing/explosion attacks of the known groups are suicide acts (refer to Figure 13). Also, known groups claim most of the suicide acts. By country, the higher proportion of suicide acts is in Iraq, Pakistan, and Syria, while the government is the main target of suicide attacks (Figure 14).

Figure 12: Known terrorist group number of casualty 2000 - 2015 by claimed and not claimed responsible for the attacks (on the left) and by killed/wounded breakdown (on the right). Numbers from the GTD.
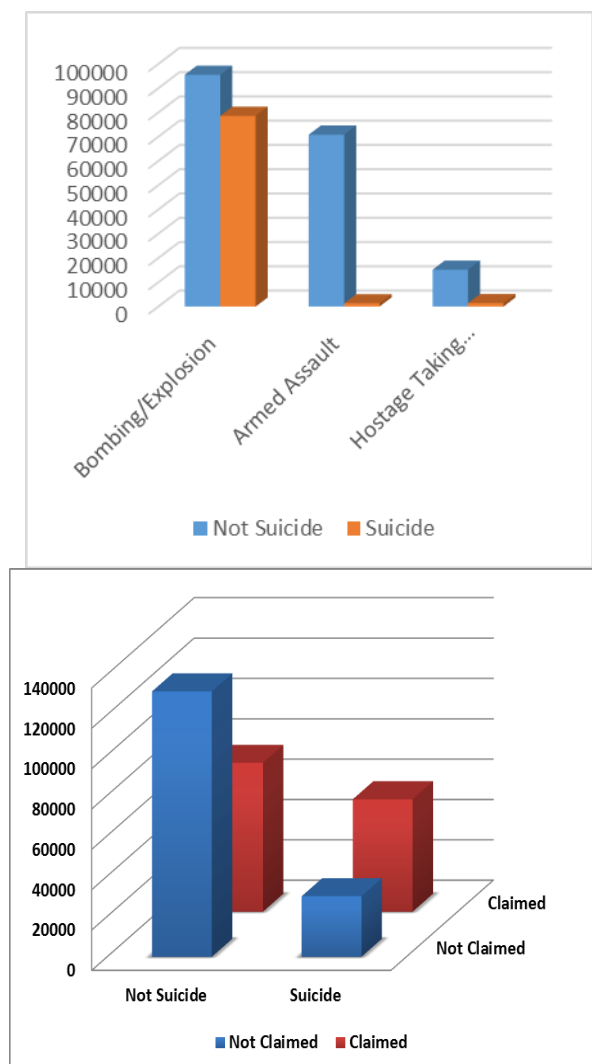
Figure 13: Known terrorist group number of casualty 2000 - 2015 by types of attacks and suicide attacks (on the left) and by claimed and not claimed (on the right). Numbers from the GTD.
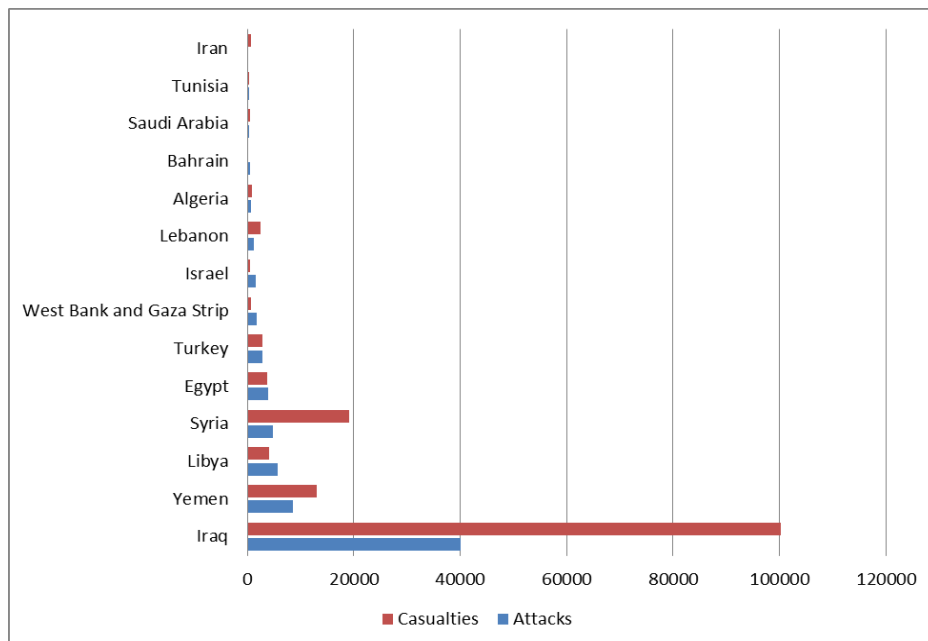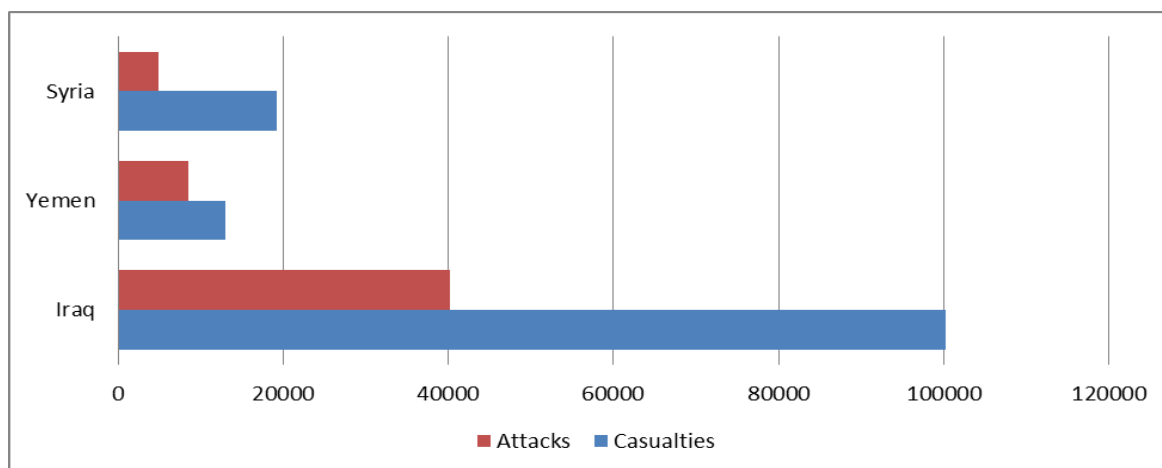
Figure 14: Number of casualty and attacks 2010 – 2015 in the Middle East &
North Africa Region. Numbers from the GTD.

In the Middle East & North Africa Region, where the number of terrorist occurrences
is the highest, the top three countries are Iraq, Yemen, and Syria. Focusing on the
number of attacks and casualties in these three countries, the gap between the number
of casualties and number of attacks are high in Syria and Iraq. As for the groups
involved in the attacks, the number of casualties compared to the number of attacks
are almost twice in percentage for both groups (refer to Figure 15).

Figure 15: Examination of the gap in the proportion of casualties' vs attacks in
Iraq and Syria (2010-2015). Numbers from the GTD.

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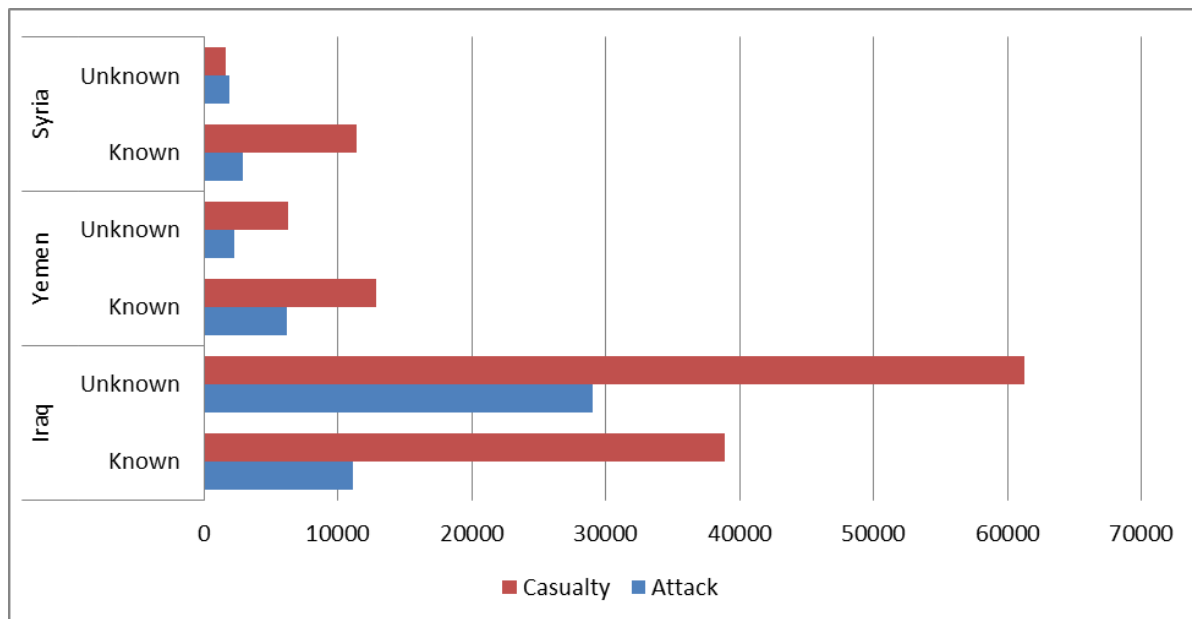
Figure 16: Number of Attacks and Casualties 2010-2015 by Known and Unknown Groups in Iraq, Yemen and Syria. Numbers from the GTD.

Through media, the attacking groups claimed responsibility for the attacks. These groups are categorized as the known group by the media. However, for several attackers from the other group, the unknown group, although did not claim responsibility, were also categorized as the known group by the media as they were able to be identified (Figure 16). The percentages of the Not Claimed group, that were identified as the Known group are quite high in Syria (44%) and Yemen (81%) (refer to Figure 17).
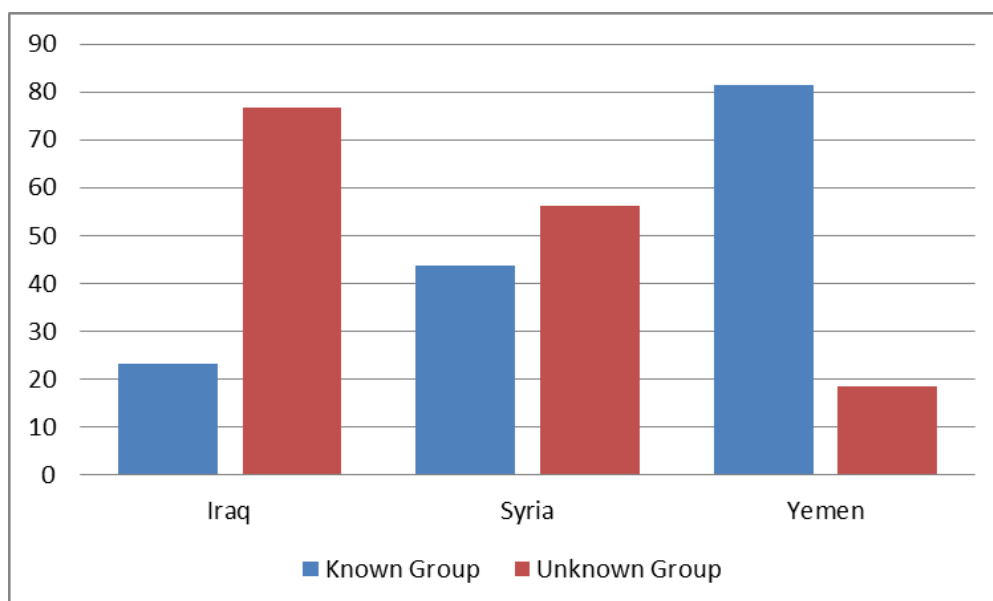
Figure 17: Percent of Total Casualties of the Not Claimed Group identified as Known Group by the Media.

The means of communication for terrorist vary significantly. Through technological advancements in changing audience behaviour in the last twenty years, terrorist groups have been able to utilize the tools of the media with greater ease (Berger & Morgan, 2015). The emergence of the modern media has made it convenient for terrorists to publicize their messages worldwide through websites at their discretion. The developments of new technologies have simply allowed the dissemination of terrorist messages to reach a broader audience with a more concise message.

News reporting of terrorist attacks indirectly has attracted a broader amount of audience, which led to increased profit for media companies, especially for newspapers and television. Terrorism is an attractive boon for media coverage, mainly because terrorist attacks make viewer rating surge and profits increase. Specifically speaking, terrorism has many aspects that make it a very attractive subject for the media, as it has the elements of drama, danger, blood, human tragedy, miracle stories, heroes, shocking footage, and action (Bilgen, 2012).

Sadly, it is a fact that the media indeed gain higher profits from the drama terrorism creates by reporting the terrorism-related news in a sensational way. Through employing the mediums mentioned above, however, the media may directly or indirectly serve the interests of terrorists by sensationalizing stories for the viewers to the point that it has little to do with the actual events. Repeating the traumatizing scenes and stories may also serve the goal of the terrorists is to be in the media as often and as long as possible (Rohner & Frey, 2007). Thus, this has not only aided media houses to makes million from the news coverage but at the same time assists the terrorist in achieving their aim for excessive attention.

As terror attack continues to be a contagious infection throughout the world, it seems not only to involve religion but also simultaneously affected political changes and economic growth of nations. Several terrorist acts have shown that they not only affect actual victims but randomly killing people everywhere, creating fear and insecurity among the society. Media also play a vital role in portraying and disseminating terrorism news. Conversely, media coverage of terrorism can trigger further attacks. Some of the media channels such as YouTube is unable to apply a certain degree of censorship, especially of images of executions and dead bodies of innocent people.

Governments should play their part in the constant effort to limit the harm caused by terrorism to the society, as we do not tolerate terrorists who continue to seek attention and publicity freely. According to Enders and Sandlers (2002), the government must maintain to resolve terrorism threat and plan the right strategy to fight against them. The developments of technologies, with the help of social media, for instance, have led terrorist groups to communicate, connect and recruit followers from around the world. In the long term, this group will develop a sophisticated strategy in attacking their targeted places. The terrorist groups are quite dynamic, especially when planning strategies to improve their application of technology. The government should take action and seek to better understand how to deal with these groups, particularly to control their manipulation of modern technology and the media.

Terrorism is a violent act that is intentionally carried out by sub-national group agents. They have their specific agenda and objectives; mainly to overthrow the rule of law and promote change through violence. Some even used religion as their objective and motivation for their actions. Furthermore, terrorist groups threaten with violence such as killing, kidnapping, and torturing to achieve their ideological goals and purpose. The attacks can affect political action and social perception since many terrorist groups claim the reason for the attacks (Bush, 2009).

Anti-terrorism or counter-terrorism is used to combat or prevent a terrorist activity that could happen anywhere in the world. It has been applied in governments, intelligence agencies and military service to strengthen the fight against terrorism. All authorities can reinforce laws, especially on counter-terrorism, by providing some acts and practices.

MEDIA POLICIES

According to Cuilenburg and McQuail (2003), communication and media policy can be included in the three paradigmatic phases including the emerging of communication industry policy (until the Second World War), the paradigm of public service media policy (1945-1980/90) and the current phase of media policy (from 1980/90 onwards). In the first phase, it mainly referred to surface technologies of telegraphs, telephones and wireless. However, social-political concerns dominated the media policy after the Second World War, not economic or national strategic concerns. In many countries, governments decided to break the policies in media and communication, which has been monopolized and privatized as much as possible. This is because media policies have been the most challenged to search for a new communication policy paradigm (Cuilenburg and McQuail, 2003).

Media policies also play a great deal in handling terrorism. Media houses, for instance, play a big role to disseminate news to the public concerning war and terrorism. However, how far do media houses try to balance news reporting and terrorist messages, especially for the Western media? According to Spencer (2012), media is important for a terrorist group as it provides a medium to attract attention and as a significant instrument to spread their messages. Considering terrorism as a communication strategy, Spenser also stated that the media provide the publicity, which helps them to sell their 'product'. Thus, media plays a central role in terrorism publicity. Spencer (2012) revealed that terrorism uses media in three ways including as attempts to gain public attention, to gain sympathy for their cause and to spread concern and terror in the general public which affects political change.

According to Cohen-Almagor (2005), the media coverage of terrorism was problematic and irresponsible, which evokes public criticism on authorities on how they deal with terrorism. In a research of media coverage of acts of terrorism, Cohen-Almagor stated that important lessons should be learned from irresponsible actions by some media in crises such as in the United State, United Kingdom, Israel, and Canada in order to develop a set of guidelines for a correct and responsible way for the media to report terrorism. However, most importantly, both government and the media should be aware of their roles and responsibilities in fighting terrorism.

Particularly, some media are still not committed to deal with terrorism, as they believe it is still considered as reporting as long as they do coverage of terrorism, even though there is a limitation of fairness and balance in the news reporting.

According to Doward (2015), the news reporting on terrorism can lead to further violence. Several research findings suggest that sensationalist media coverage of terrorism results in more such acts being committed. Besides, the media reports of terrorism also upsurge the possibility it can be seen as a "warning" that following attacks will be perpetrated shortly. Based on the research by a professor at the School of Economics and Finance at University EAFIT, Colombia, more than 60,000 terrorist attacks happened between 1970 until 2012. The Global Terrorism Database listed 1,395 attacks in 1998, a figure that has steadily risen since then, reaching a record high of 8,441 in 2012.

According to South China Morning Post (2015), the right of the media to report on news of terror attacks in China will be tightened up by a new law. The new anti-terrorism law has attracted deep concern in Western capitals, as it requires technology firms to hand over private information to the government. The new law also included a provision that media and social media cannot simply report on the details of terror activities as it might lead to imitation of the cruel and inhumane acts.

Furthermore, social media also plays a vital role in curbing the terrorist threat. With the development of technologies and social media, most of the media agencies should be strictly controlled to curb the spread of terrorist ideologies. It is currently essential to reduce terrorism influence to gain the public support. Social media such as Twitter and YouTube have been widely used by terrorist groups such as IS to recruit and connect with society. This medium has become a strategic mechanism for them to inform about their future actions and targeted locations.

The attacks of al-Qaeda directly against the United States, for instance, seems more desirable for terrorist groups. In Afghanistan, the strikes against terrorist seem to provide an easier way for them to recruit more people and gain resources (Enders and Sandler, 2002). Thus, the government should tighten up the policy, especially in the media landscape to prevent worse attacks.

As the policy maker, a government should take tactical actions to reduce terrorist threats by insulating their resources, including financial, membership and leadership, which indirectly helps to reduce the overall amount of terrorism. Essentially, attempts to frustrate and paralyze the terrorist group by freezing their assets can lead to the possibility of reducing the number of terrorist attacks in the future. For example, the National Defense Authorization Act can reduce the terrorist threat into other attack modes that would occur. It may force terrorists to substitute for less harmful events (Enders and Sandler, 2002).

According to the Gallup Review: US Public Opinion on Terrorism, November 2015 (Gallup Polls, 2015), most Americans agreed that ISIS and international terrorism are the critical threats to the U.S than any other possible threats. It shows that the ISIS threat is higher than the development of nuclear weapons by Iran and the military power of North Korea (Refer to Table 1).

Table 1: The Gallup Review: US Public Opinion on Terrorism, Nov 2015.

Critical Threat Factors	Critical Threats to the United States	
	% Critical threat	% Important but not critical threat
Islamic militants, commonly known as ISIS, operating in Iraq and Syria	84	12
International terrorism	84	13
Development of nuclear weapons by Iran	77	16
The military power of North Korea	64	26
The military power of Russia	49	41
The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians	49	41
The conflict between Russia and Ukraine	44	45
The economic power of China	40	44

Based on the survey done by The Gallup Review: US Public Opinion on Terrorism, November 2015, it shows that only 3% of Americans feel that terrorism is the most important problem for the U.S Government. This percentage has lessened over the 14 years after reaching a high of 46% in 2001 after the 9/11 terrorist attack in the U.S. It clearly shows that most of Americans nowadays are less worried about terrorism then they were before.

CONCLUSION

There have been much discussion and debates about terrorism as a critical international problem that is affecting the global community, whether directly or indirectly. Terrorism begets a complicated question considering it is a long-term problem involving various international aspects. Simply, terrorism is a mechanism used by terrorist groups to achieve political, religious and ideological goals, which develops the feeling of fear, anxiety, hate, and uncertainty for the entire world. Thus, it is dangerous to take terrorism lightly as it has been responsible for the loss of uncountable lives and can cripple a whole nation. In today's modern world, terrorism is the biggest threat concerning many people. Governments should deal and take the right actions to curb this contagious phenomenon, especially in controlling the technologies being manipulated by the terrorist groups.

Governments can reduce the terrorist threats by taking legal actions, which include strengthening the government policies regarding the media. Media policies should be tightened as mass media such as radio, television, and newspapers can be powerful

weapons and strategic instruments to attract the wrong attention and publicity. By implementing some strategic actions, governments not only reduce terrorism threats but also help to secure the society better. Terrorism, without a doubt, will affect government policies (Enders and Sandler, 2002).

The connection between terrorism and the media exists due to the importance of communication for the publicity of terrorism and the news value of the media. With the assistance of media, terrorism could reach broader and global audiences as most people acquire their information from the media. It potentially influences how people perceive terrorism. The media coverage of terrorism can influence not only the publics' opinion but also the decisions made by governments that would favour the terrorist, and the media will always have their agenda. As for journalists, besides reporting, they should also contribute in assisting governments by predicting possible public reactions on future government decisions (Hoffman, 2003).

Lastly, the media plays an important role in countering terrorism by framing the reports in a less provoking manner. It can help to deconstruct terrorism by highlighting certain criteria and downplaying others. The government has the most power in the deconstruction process of terrorism.

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