Chapter 86
Managing Terrorism in Africa:
Assessing Policing Issues

Gerald Dapaah Gyamfi
University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana

ABSTRACT

Terrorism has contributed significantly to the unstable and unavoidable conflict and threat to security to many countries in the twenty-first century globally. In this qualitative case study, the author explores the causes and devastating effects of terrorism on the continent of Africa. The study used purposive sampling method to select and interview eight executive police officers from the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre (KAIPTC) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service (GPS). The researcher also assessed issues of policing in Africa relating to terrorism using archival records kept at criminal investigations departments, empirical studies, and other records on the menace published by renowned experts. The study reveals that socialization and radicalism through some interventions are the major causes of terrorism in Africa. The study recommends that international bodies led by the United Nations should support the policing efforts to curb the menace of terrorism in Africa.

INTRODUCTION

In Africa, organized crime and terrorists' movements and networks have increased pains resulting from killing of innocent people and cruel mishandling of many other people by the criminals. The acts of the terrorist movement call for thorough policing interventions to bring about improvement in security and reduction of human afflictions and cruelty that contribute significantly to the woes of many Africans. Terrorism is an intentional act of a group of people with the aim of causing death, serious injury, or harm to intimidate the people of a society who may be unarmed civilians and/or intended to cause the people's government to refrain from certain acts provocative to the group members, based on their belief system (Botha, 2015). Attention of international bodies on the fight against terrorism was made more pronounced after 9/11. The 9/11 terrorist attack sparked off the fight against terrorism in South Asia and the Middle East with rippling effort on Africa (Ewi & Aning). Terrorism can be considered as one

of the tactics that militants use to accomplish their outcome goals and process goals. The outcomes are usually politically oriented, targeting ousting a political regime or seeking territorial homeland. The process goals involve the recruitment of followers, acquiring monetary income, seeking the support of the public, and/or acting as opposition against a ruling government (Abraham, 2012). The protagonists of terrorism are usually referred to as rebels, insurgents, freedom fighters, warlords, jihadists, or violent people. Most of the terrorists' recruits are given training as gunmen or gunwomen using small arms, hand grenades, and how to prepare themselves as suicide bombs.

In Africa, terrorism is spreading at a fast rate through network of terrorists' movements, but not many studies have been carried out on the causes, outcome, and other policing issues that are required to curb the menace. In this paper, the author assesses policing issues involving the causes, outcomes, and how Africa is being regarded as the new battle ground for terrorism, the network of terrorism causing devastations in Africa, and strategies to curb the menace. The author seeks to know the root causes of terrorism in Africa, using interviews, empirical work that has been carried out by researchers in terrorism, and archival records. The internal and external dynamics that push Africans to contribute to the causes of terrorism in Africa are also explored. Policing issues involving police knowledge on the courses of terrorism, the radicalization network, the extent of massacre, and the means to deal with the menace are some of the other issues assessed.

RESEARCH JUSTIFICATION

The author is of the view that policing efforts to manage acts of terrorism in Africa will be enhanced if the root causes of the menace are identified clearly. The study contributes knowledge on identifying the root courses and spread of terrorism across Africa. This knowledge should pave way for police actions that all people on the African continent should consider in dealing with the menace. Knowledge of the root course and assessing the outcome of acts of terrorism in Africa will provide a clue leading to the eradication of the menace, such as tackling the social and radicalization issues that trigger acts of terrorism on the African continent. The outcome contributes significantly to the identification of the strategies that the terrorists' movements penetrating the African continent adopt and the police's use of concerted effort to minimize, if not eradicate, acts of terrorism from Africa.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Terrorism: Social Capital and Networking

Literature has revealed that there are two opposing strands of terrorism; classic terrorism and the new global terrorism. Prior to the 1970s, terrorism was regarded as rational strategic act that hijackers, assassinators and other criminal actors used to threaten Western civilization. (Stamnitzky, 2013). The new global terrorism involves the spread of violent criminal messages to influence and attack nations with the intention of putting fear for the achievement of a desired goal. This fear has compelled many nations to formulate policies to curb terrorism that threaten the nations (Howie, 2013; Korstanje, 2017; Altheide, 2007; Sustein, 2005). The main pillars of terrorism depend on the criminals' social capital and networking activities for the dissemination of knowledge to optimize offences against individuals

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