

## **TERRORIST ATTACKS - OBJECTIVES, CHARACTERISTICS AND METHODS OF EXECUTION**

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**Abstract:** There is probably no greater security challenge for security services than a terrorist attack. Terrorist attacks are always politically motivated. When the prosecutor opts for the qualification of a criminal act that left behind human victims and destruction, if he discovers a political (ideological) motive, there is no dilemma - it is a terrorist act. The goals of the terrorist cells are clear: using violence to instill fear and panic among citizens and government structures, all in order to achieve political concessions. No one is safe or protected - is the basic message of terrorists. The topic of the work will be terrorist organizations and the method of carrying out a terrorist act. Is it still a suicide vest, a Kalashnikov, explosives, or do you reach for a simpler tool (knife, axe, truck)? The objectives, characteristics and methods of carrying out terrorist attacks are becoming diverse. In any case, the consequences of terrorism are terrifying, primarily in terms of loss of human life.

**Keywords:** terrorism, political motive, explosives, fear, organization

### **Introduction**

Although terrorism in security, especially in public discourse, is considered a phenomenon of modern times, a "modern global scourge" - as it is often said, this phenomenon has a long history. The French bourgeois revolution is a glaring historical example, that is, a period full of terror and terrorism, but there are others. So Schickman indicates that "violence during the French bourgeois revolution (1789 - 1799), which was designated as terrorism, became a significant factor in it, bombings marked the period of anarchism (during the 19th century), hijackings shocked the public from the second half of the 20 century, and religious radicalism has become a feature of the modern era (since the end of the 20th century). (Šikman, 2015:5) However, after the attack on the Twin Towers, the number of terrorist attacks at the global level increased many times, and the importance given to terrorism in the public sphere is directly proportional.

According to the Global Terrorism index (GTI), published by the Institute for Economics and Peace based in Sydney (Australia), the intensity of theorizing has increased over the last two decades, and one of the trends in terrorism is that since 2002 there has been an increase of all forms of terrorism, with terrorist attacks using explosives and armed attacks accounting

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for almost half of all terrorist attacks (47% in 2017). A particularly worrying fact is the use of biological and chemical agents to carry out terrorist attacks.

In the period from 1970. to 2017. year 383 terrorist attacks involving chemical agents were recorded, and in 124 cases, chemicals classified as war poisons were used. The trend of the use of chemical agents in terrorist attacks shows an increase from 6 attacks per year, on average in the period from 1970. to 2011. to 24.9 attacks per year in the period from 2011 to 2017. year. Asphyxiating agents (chlorine), tear gas and blood agents (cyanide-based compounds) were most often used. (DeLuca et al., 2021).

Terrorist attacks using biological agents were carried out in 33 cases in the period from 1970 to 2019, using which 78.8% of the attacks were carried out in the period from 2000 to 2019. The most commonly used biological agents are anthrax and salmonella bacteria and a naturally occurring toxin called ricin. (Tina, Sabetib & Ciottonea, 2022)

Bearing in mind the consequences for people and the environment, special attention is paid to the possible use of nuclear and radiological weapons for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks. ( Wirz & Egger , 2005).

Reports GTI have been publicly available since 2017, when it was noted that that year was a turning point in the fight against terrorism, mainly due to the beginning of the collapse of the so-called Islamic State and terrorist organization Boko Haram. It is noted that terrorism has significantly decreased in Syria and , Pakistan in , Afghanistan in and Nigeria and , which are said to be four of the five countries most affected by terrorism. At the same time, it is pointed out that terrorist attacks that include taking hostages, assassinations and attacks on objects or infrastructure increased by ten times in the period from 2002 to 2017. ( Institute for Economics & Peace, Global Terrorism Index 2017 and 2018 ).

The report for the year 2023 states that the death toll from terrorism has increased by 22 percent, i.e. to 8,352 deaths and is at the highest level since 2017. The number of deaths resulting from terrorist attacks in 2015 was at its peak . The report further states that the largest single terrorist attack in 2023 is by far the worst . was the attack by militants led by Hamas in Israel on October 7 . During the attack , 1,200 people were killed , which was the largest single terrorist attack since September 11 , and one of the largest terrorist attacks in history . It is interesting, according to the report, that even if Israel suffered the biggest terrorist attack in 2023 , Israel is not the country most affected by terrorism , but Burkina Faso is in first place . Four terrorist groups responsible for the most deaths in In 2023 , they were the Islamic State, Hamas, Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islamwal Muslimeeni Al-Shabaab. ( Institute for Economics & Peace, Global Terrorism Index 2024 ).

According to the statistics published by GTI for the year 2023, the so-called The Islamic State is the ninth deadliest terrorist organization, and it accounts for the highest number of attacks and deaths. It is still active, although its influence is constantly decreasing, but the number of deaths attributed to this organization and its branches is increasing: Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISK), Islamic State - Sinai Province (ISS), Islamic State - Sahel, and Islamic State West Africa (ISWA). What is worrying is that the last 12 months , the highest percentage increase in terrorism was observed since the beginning of GTI statistics. ( Institute for Economics & Peace, Global Terrorism Index 20 2 4 )

## Definition of terrorism

It is obvious that this is a phenomenon that "does not subside", that is, a global danger that takes many lives and is a constant threat. The area of the Western Balkans has not been spared from terrorist attacks either. In order to study their goals, the nature of the policy and methods, we will start from the definition of terrorism. In the theoretical treatment of this term, there are over a hundred definitions, that is, attempts to define terrorism. It should be noted that one of the most famous definitions of terrorism is the one used by the US government. According to this definition, terrorism is "premeditated politically motivated violence directed against non-combatant targets by non-state groups or secret agents in order to influence the public". (US Departments of State, 2001) Dutch theorists Schmid and Jongman, in a joint work published in 1988, analyzed over a hundred known definitions of terrorism and observed 22 elements that appear in most of them: violence, fear-mongering and panic, desire for publicity, organized action, secret organization, victims, etc. (Schmid & Youngman, 1988)

Professor Simeunović, the author of the well-known book *Terrorism*, presents a broader thought about terrorism: "Kao more dimensional political phenomenon contemporary terrorism se can theoretically the most general determine like complex shape organized group, i less often individual or institutional political violence marked no only terrifying brachial physical and psychologically, already and sophisticated - technological methods political fighting which se usually in time political and economic crisis, a rarely and in conditions come true non-economic and political stability one society, systematically they try accomplish the "great goals" on morbid spectacular way, a inappropriately given conditions, before everything social the situation and historical possibilities those which him like political strategy exercise". (Simeunović, 2009:80) According to Simeunović, there are several classifications of terrorism: according to the main goals, according to the methods and means of action, and according to the type of actor.

The definition of terrorism is a complex issue due to the double standards associated with terrorism. A terrorist is often called a freedom fighter, depending on the angle of observation. "Rarely any concept today has more political and less analytical power than terrorism." Politically, to declare an act of violence or an organization terrorist means to deprive it of any legitimacy. Ljubomir Stajić in *Basics of Security* indicates that "terrorism is increasingly becoming a multidimensional political phenomenon, which in its new forms is experiencing a social and political culmination." (Stajić, 2006:241) Radoslav Gaćinović, author of the books *Terrorism in Political and Legal Theory* and *Contemporary terrorism* emphasizes that terrorism is "the organized use of violence (or the threat of violence) by politically motivated perpetrators, who are determined to impose their will on authorities and citizens by causing fear, anxiety, defeatism and panic" (Gaćinović, 1998:31 and 2010: 73). According to Trifunović, "terrorism is an illegal act of violence directed against a certain state with the intention of causing fear or collective damage, in order to achieve a certain political goal." It is about the deliberate use of force, and terrorism is used as a way of fighting to achieve the aforementioned political goals." (Trifunović, 2007:27)

In determining terrorism, the political motivation of the perpetrators of the terrorist act is certainly an unavoidable element. Other elements are the use of violence, leaving an impression on the audience, creating pressure on state institutions to comply with the

declared demands of terrorists. (Ćeranić, 2020:71) "Terrorism is certainly a phenomenon that can be studied from several aspects. However, two elements are represented in the largest number of definitions of terrorism: the political nature of the phenomenon and the systematic use of organized violence. Therefore, terrorism is primarily a political act, on the basis of which it is always possible to recognize the motivation of an ideological nature." (Putnik, 2009:151).

When the prosecutor opts for the qualification of a criminal offense, indicators of political motivation are crucial in order to qualify the offense as terrorism. On the contrary, the qualification may be causing general danger, murder or attempted murder, and the like.

### **Goals, characteristics and methods of performing terrorist attacks**

As we pointed out in the opening remarks, terrorism has a long history, but the real "momentum", that is, the expansion both in the application of terrorist attacks and in the way of countering terrorism occurred after the attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. That event is simply called "11. September" and was the trigger for the global fight against terrorism, the stationing of American troops first in Afghanistan, then in Iraq. The attack is attributed to the Al Qaeda terrorist organization. Today, terrorism is most often associated with the activities of Al Qaeda, an organization that has several proclaimed political goals, the primary of which is the creation of a caliphate, a unique Muslim state in the entire Islamic world; the withdrawal of American troops from the Middle East, and in general, the Arabian Peninsula; the destruction of the state of Israel; change of power in Arab monarchies. (Potežica, 2007) "The goal of Islamic fundamentalism is a unique religious community brought to life in the form of a caliphate with a supreme legal law based on Sharia, and the goal of extreme religious activity is the establishment of a system in which academic freedoms and secular judiciary would be abolished by terrorism as a means of establishing that system (Nuhić, 2009:140) The communist movement did not shy away from the use of terror either. Numerous parallels can be drawn between the organization and methods of operation of al-Qaeda and the communists. Al Qaeda ideologues study the reasons why communism succeeded and survived in Cuba, but not, say, in Bolivia. (Ćeranić, 2020:69)

All in all, the attacks on American symbols, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, put the issue of terrorism at the forefront of international relations and at the center of the discourse on security. Originally proclaimed by the Bush administration, the term "global war on terror" was changed to the war against Islamofascism. (Ćeranić, 2020:69) "In its most extreme forms, in some influential American circles, that war was understood as the 'fourth world war' and it is as much a matter of the survival of civilization as previous world wars, including the 'third world war' against the Soviet Union." (Williams, 2012:238)

The attacks were carried out by four commercial planes that took off from three different airports. The planes were hijacked by 19 Al Qaeda members. The reasons, i.e. the motives for the attack, were, as Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden later admitted, American support for Israel, the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia and sanctions on Iraq.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Bin Laden claims responsibility for 9/11". CBC News. 29. 10. 2004. Accessed 1. 9. 2011. "Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden appeared in a new message aired on an Arabic TV station Friday night, for the first time claiming direct responsibility for the 2001 attacks against the United States ."

The attack on the editorial office of the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo took place on January 7, 2015 in Paris. Two masked attackers opened fire on members of the newsroom while the meeting was in progress and killed 12 people. It will later be established that it was the brothers Sherif and Said Kuashi. They were liquidated in a police operation. The reason for the attack was mocking the Prophet Muhammad through cartoons and jokes that Charlie Hebdo often published. First there were threats, then a bomb was thrown at the editorial office, which is why the newsroom of the newspaper was provided with police protection. Then there was an attack during which two police officers engaged in the security of the paper were also killed. The attackers used firearms, that is, automatic rifles and pistols, and they also had hand grenades and hand grenade launchers.<sup>4</sup>

The consequences of the second terrorist attack in Paris were catastrophic. It was coordinated, it happened in six places during November 13 and 14, 2015, 130 people lost their lives, 350 were wounded. The attackers opened fire with firearms on visitors to the *Bataclan concert hall*, and on three restaurants in the center of Paris. Several explosions rang out near the Stade de France national stadium. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>5</sup> People who celebrated the fall of the Bastille on July 14, 2016 were victims of a terrorist attack. Tunisian Muhammed Buhpep was driving a truck that brutally mowed down pedestrians on the Nice waterfront. He killed 84 people. The police liquidated him. A search of the truck revealed that it was full of weapons and bombs.<sup>6</sup>

The famous Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks in France. The political goal was the creation of the Ummah, a unified state of all Muslims, or the caliphate. It is believed that the last caliphate was the Ottoman Empire. The attacks were carried out using firearms, explosives, and trucks.

The attack on concertgoers at the Crocus City Hall in Moscow, which took place on March 22, 2014, when at least 115 people were killed, is one of the deadliest in the history of post-Soviet Russia, and there was a whole series of them. The most famous are the hostage crisis in the Moscow theater in Dubrovka in 2002 and in the school in Beslan in North Ossetia. The hostage crisis in the Moscow theater on Dubrovka seems to have been well remembered by the public. In a crowded theater, a larger group of armed Chechens held 912 spectators of the musical "North-South" hostage from October 23 to 26, 2002. Due to the danger of the building exploding and loss of life, on October 26 Russian special forces carried out a forced operation to release the hostages. 130 hostages were killed in the terrorist attack. All the militants, 21 men and 19 women, were then killed.

With the help of seven kilograms of dynamite, on December 5, 2003, a suicide bomber blew up a train on the Kislovodsk-Mineralne Voda line. On that occasion, 47 people died and 186 were injured. Chechen terrorists took responsibility for the terrorist attack. On September 1, 2004, Chechen terrorists took hostage more than 1,100 high school students, their relatives and teachers in Beslan, North Ossetia. On September 2, after negotiations, the bandits released 25 women and children, while the following day, during the attack, most of the hostages were released. Previously, there was an explosion in the sports hall of

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<sup>4</sup> [sr.wikipedia.org](http://sr.wikipedia.org) Attack on the editorial office of the Charlie Hebdo newspaper accessed on August 25, 2024

<sup>5</sup> [sr.wikipedia.org](http://sr.wikipedia.org) Attacks in Paris, accessed on August 25, 2024

<sup>6</sup> [sr.wikipedia.org](http://sr.wikipedia.org) Attack in Nice, accessed on August 25, 2024

the school, so the detainees started to run away. This was followed by an exchange of fire between the special forces and the terrorists, and on that occasion 27 attackers were killed. The balance of the terrorist attack was 334 dead, among whom 186 were children, 17 teachers and school staff as well as ten special forces. The last attack before the attack on Crocus City Hall, with more than 40 victims, took place on March 29, 2010. Two bombs exploded in the Moscow subway, killing 41 people and injuring 88 people.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to the aforementioned terrorist attacks, the murder of journalist Daria Duginova, war correspondent Maksim Fomin, better known under the pseudonym Vladlen Tatarski, and the attempted murder of world-famous writer Zahar Prilepin should certainly be counted. The mentioned terrorist attacks are connected with the conflicts in Ukraine.

Daria Dugina was killed on August 20, 2022, in the explosion of a Toyota Land Cruiser SUV on the Mozhaisk highway in the Moscow region. The Russian Federal Security Service has accused the Ukrainian special services of murdering a journalist, the daughter of the influential Russian philosopher Alexander Dugin. The Federal Security Service (FSB) announced that it shed light on Dugina's murder, claiming that it was committed by Ukrainian citizen Natalia Vovk, who arrived in Russia on July 23, 2022, together with her daughter. "It was established that the crime was prepared and committed by the Ukrainian special services." The perpetrator is Ukrainian citizen Vovk Natalia Pavlovna, born in 1979, who arrived in Russia on July 23, 2022, together with her daughter Shaban Sofia Mikhailovna, born in 2010," the FSB states.<sup>8</sup>

War correspondent Maksim Fomin, also known under the pseudonym Vladlen Tatarski, was killed on April 2, 2023. Vladlen was killed in an explosion in a cafe in St. Petersburg. As a result of the explosion, 40 people were injured. The terrorist attack on the journalist was planned by the Ukrainian special services. In the northern capital, Daria Trepova was detained on suspicion of being involved in the explosion.<sup>9</sup> Another terrorist attack took place on the territory of Russia, in which a writer and fighter from the Donetsk region was injured. Zahar Prilepin's car was blown up in Nizhny Novgorod. Prilepin survived, but was injured, his daughter, who was taking things from the car at the time of the explosion, was unharmed, and the driver, who was also his bodyguard, died. According to preliminary investigation reports, an explosive device was planted under the car. The spokeswoman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Maria Zakharova, on her Telegram channel accused Ukraine, the USA and Great Britain of organizing the attempt to kill Prilepin. "Washington and NATO fed another international terrorist cell - the Kiev regime. Bin Laden, ISIS, now Zelensky. Direct responsibility of the United States and Britain. We pray for Zahar", Zakharova wrote.<sup>10</sup>

Apart from the attack on Crocus City Hall, which was carried out by terrorists from Tajikistan, and responsibility was taken by the Islamic State - Khorasan (although the Russian authorities disclosed that they had evidence of Kiev's involvement), the other terrorist attacks were carried out by terrorists from the Caucasian republics, primarily Chechnya and Dagestan. The political goal was the independence of those Russian republics. The murder of

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.rts.rs/vesti/svet/5396776/najslimetsniji-teroristicki-napadi-u-rusiji.html> accessed on August 25, 2024

<sup>8</sup> Politics online, 22.08.2022. Accessed on August 25, 2024

<sup>9</sup> <https://russian.rt.com/tag/ubiistvo-vladlen-tatarskii>, accessed on August 25. in 2024

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.politika.rs/scc/clanak/551233/Zahar-Prilepin-povreden-u-teroristickom-napadu>

Daria Dugina, Vladlan Tatarski and the attempted murder of Zakhar Prilepin were organized by the Ukrainian security services with the aim of instilling fear and panic in the Russian Federation.

On June 29, 2024, a terrorist attack was committed in Belgrade attacks on the Embassy of Israel . The attacker used a crossbow and on that occasion wounded a member of the Gendarmerie engaged in security in the neck. He opened fire and killed the attacker. In the German town of Soltingham on August 23, 2024, an attacker killed three people with a knife and injured eight others. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Islamic State, which after the attack published a video in which the attacker (a 26-year-old Syrian man) was bragging to his parents, saying that the attack was revenge for the "people of Palestine", the victims of the "Zionist" massacre, alluding to the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip .<sup>11</sup>

### **Terrorist attacks in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, all terrorist attacks are linked to the Wahhabi (Salafi) community, and researchers often quote the thought of Jasmin Merdan, one of the authors of the book *Wahhabism/Salafism* and founder of the non-governmental organization *Zapret - Center for the Prevention of Terrorism* : "Not every Wahhabi is a terrorist, but every Wahhabi terrorist". It is an unavoidable security problem in any discourse about the Wahhabi movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this country, several court verdicts for terrorism were pronounced, two terrorist attacks were prevented by the reaction of the security authorities, also, several terrorist attacks took place, but the perpetrators were killed in a conflict with the police and were not prosecuted, and for several attacks, the indictment and the verdict were changed for another criminal offense.

The first court proceedings for terrorism before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina were conducted in 2006 "for planning terrorist attacks in Sarajevo"<sup>12</sup> against five defendants, three of whom were accused of terrorism. The planned (suicide) terrorist attack was prevented, and in 2007 three defendants were convicted before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the criminal offense of terrorism, while two were convicted for the criminal offense of unauthorized possession of weapons or explosive materials. Another criminal case "planning terrorist attacks in BiH" was also conducted against five persons. They are accused of forming a terrorist group, training and equipping themselves for the use of firearms and explosive materials, preparing and possessing components for the manufacture of explosive devices <sup>13</sup>, possessing videos glorifying terrorist attacks around the world and undertaking other actions, with the intention of committing terrorist act on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 2007 to 2009. The goal of their actions was serious destabilization of

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<sup>11</sup> Alternative television Banja Luka <https://www.atvbl.rs/vijesti/svijet/islamska-drzava-objavila-snimak-napadaca-iz-solingena-pominje-se-i-bih-26-8-2024>

<sup>12</sup> Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number X-KŽ-06/190 dated January 10, 2007.

<sup>13</sup> According to the Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number S1 2 K 003342 10 K ( connection number : XK-09/670-1) dated November 10, 2011. this terrorist group had different types of weapons and mine-explosive devices, ammunition of different calibers, parts and accessories for weapons, and mine-explosive devices.

political, constitutional and social structures in BiH, as well as serious intimidation of the population, where they acted from the position of ethnic religious extremism and radicalism, advocating the views that a Sharia state should be established in BiH. (Šikman, 2011:175) In 2011, three defendants were convicted of the criminal offense of terrorism, one was acquitted, and the criminal proceedings against one were suspended.

In the period from 2010 to 2015, several terrorist attacks took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of the worst and most famous was in June 2010 in Bugojno, when a group of people close to the Wahhabi movement planted explosives in the police station. Six persons were charged, three of them for terrorism, and three for assisting the perpetrator after the commission of the crime. The first defendant ( Haris Čaušević aka Oks ) placed and activated an improvised explosive device in the police station building in Bugojno in the early morning hours of June 27, 2010. One police officer was killed ( Tarik Ljubuškić ) and six people were slightly or more seriously injured, causing great material damage, both to the police station building and to the surrounding buildings and vehicles. The goal of this attack was to seriously intimidate the population or force the BiH authorities to do something, with the aim of seriously destabilizing the basic political, constitutional and social structures of BiH. High prison sentences were imposed on the defendants, the first defendant a long-term prison sentence of 35 years, the third defendant 14 years. (Šikman, 2011: 176-178)

The terrorist act that took place on October 28. 2011. carried out by Mevlid Jašarević by shooting at the US Embassy in Sarajevo was a global event and the main news in the world media. During the attack, one policeman was wounded, and 50 bullets 7.62 millimeter were fired at the embassy building. Three persons were charged before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and "the first accused, as a member of the Wahhabi community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, attacked the US embassy in Sarajevo by moving in the immediate vicinity of the aforementioned building and firing an automatic rifle at the embassy building, injuring one police officer and causing major material damage to the embassy building" <sup>14</sup>. The agony in front of the American embassy lasted about 50 minutes , and the attacker was neutralized by police action , when he was shot in the leg by a sniper shot. Jašarević, who was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, was a member of the Wahhabi movement, and the investigation confirmed that he stayed several times in the well-known Wahhabi stronghold in Gornja Maoča, near Brčko. The goal of this terrorist attack was to force concessions by demanding that NATO forces leave Afghanistan, by threatening the citizens of the USA and Germany, and by intimidating the population and destabilizing the basic political and constitutional structures of BiH government.<sup>15</sup>

Of the other terrorist acts that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and criminal proceedings were not conducted before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we can mention three terrorist attacks, all of which happened in 2015. In the first case, 27.04. In 2015, an attack was carried out on the police station in Zvornik, one police officer was killed and two others were wounded. The attacker, Nerdin Ibrić , a member of the Wahhabi movement, killed Dragan Đurić, a member of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska, and wounded his colleagues Željko Gajić and Stevo Milovanović during the attack on the

<sup>14</sup> Cited according to: Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number S1 2 K 007723 12 Code of 6 December 2012.

<sup>15</sup> Cited according to: Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number S1 2 K 007723 12 Code of 6 December 2012.

Police Station in Zvornik . The attacker was killed in the exchange of fire, and the attack was characterized as a shot at Republika Srpska and a terrorist act. The attacker shouted "Allahu Akbar" during the action. Immediately after the attack, two members of the same community who were connected to the attacker were deprived of their freedom, and they are suspected of having influenced him to carry out the attack.

The second terrorist attack took place on November 18, 2015. year, and was aimed at members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, when two members were killed and one was wounded. Enes Omeragić killed Armin Salkić and Nedeljko Radić, members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The attacker subsequently blew himself up with a bomb after the police surrounded his house. Previously, Enes Omeragić spent some time on the battlefield in Syria . The attacker was associated with the Salafi community, and as in the previous case, during the attack, he shouted "Allahu Akbar". The Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina characterized this attack as a terrorist act, and not long after that in the part of Sarajevo where the attack took place, several members of the Salafi movement who are close and maintain contacts with the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq were deprived of their freedom. In both terrorist attacks, the perpetrator of the terrorist act was killed (in the first case in a conflict with the police, in the second he committed suicide). The third case happened on November 24, 2015. when two explosive devices (hand grenades) were thrown at the police station in Zavidovići, one of which exploded and caused material damage. After the investigation, it was established that the criminal offense of "Terrorism" was committed by one or more unknown persons. (Šikman, 2011: 185)

Three more acts of terrorism took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but during the court proceedings the indictment was brought for other criminal acts or was changed. One is the installation and activation of the so-called explosive device. car bombs in Mostar in 1997. Three foreign citizens, from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Yemen, who came to BiH under the ideology of global jihad and were directly connected to Al Qaeda, were accused of the attack. It is interesting that one of them, Ali Hamad, while in prison, also wrote the book "In the web of evil - international terrorism and Al Qaeda", in which he described how he joined the ranks of Al Qaeda, a notorious terrorist organization. Although they were accused of terrorism, based on the amendment of the indictment, they were convicted of the criminal offense of causing general danger. The attackers used a bomb with 30 kilograms of TNT and MES . It was placed in a vehicle , and 29 people were injured in the explosion.

The second event took place in 2002 in the village of Kostajnica near Konjic, when a member of the Wahhabi community, motivated by ideological fanaticism, committed a triple murder and attempted a fourth murder. The accused was sentenced to 35 years in prison for the criminal offense of aggravated murder committed for ideological and religious reasons, which was imposed by the County Court in Mostar. (Šikman, 2011: 185)

The third event was in October 2008 in the "Fis" shopping center in Vitez, in the hypermarket department . The explosive device killed Zvonk and Barbić , and smore people were injured. The Federal Police Administration declared the explosion an act of terrorism. Suvad Đidić , who was accused of making an explosive device , was sentenced to nine years in prison for that terrorist act. in 2011 . The Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina filed an indictment charging two defendants with the criminal offense of terrorism , but subsequently changed it to a criminal offense against general danger.

Although there has not been a terrorist attack in BiH for almost ten years, in view of global events, anxiety exists. The conflict in Gaza between the military forces of Israel and the Hamas movement does not abate and seems to inspire individuals to attack Israeli diplomatic missions, religious buildings and completely innocent civilians anywhere. The attacks in Belgrade and Solingen confirm this. The fight against terrorism cannot be reduced to the police and special services. It requires a wide front.

## Conclusion

Since time immemorial, terrorism has primarily been a method for the realization of political, geopolitical or ideological goals. Another method is missionary work, that is, public action, for which the Internet is particularly suitable. By using violence, or even the threat of violence, in order to cause fear and panic, terrorists want to realize their politically motivated goals. Publicity and audience are necessary for them. The more the news about their attack resonates, they believe that the success is greater. Victims can be members of the military and police forces, but also civilians. Although terrorism has a long history, after the attack on the American Twin Towers, it is linked to Islamic radical organizations. Al Qaeda and the so-called The Islamic State is the most famous terrorist organization, and although their power has been weakened after the defeat on the Syrian battlefield, the idea that these organizations stand for is still alive and gaining followers. It is about the restoration of the umma, that is, the caliphate, the state of all Muslims. The Ottoman Empire is considered to be the last caliphate. The victims of the attackers are usually Muslims themselves who practice Islam in a different way than the way advocated by the Wahhabi (Salafi) movement. Terrorism was also used during the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In the attacks that took place on Russian soil in large Russian cities, well-known journalists were killed, even in public places. The goal is clear: to intimidate the population, to show that no one is safe even in Russia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, all terrorist attacks are linked to members of the Wahhabi movement, which is very intolerant of anyone who prays to God in a different way. Police stations, members of the Armed Forces, the US Embassy were attacked. The characteristics of terrorist attacks are cruelty, well-planned, organization. The methods of execution have changed and are varied today - from suicide vests, explosives, automatic rifles to trucks, knives, crossbows. Anything that can be used to kill as many people as possible is a usable weapon for terrorists.

The fight against terrorism involves a broad front of public policy actors, non-governmental organizations, the media, educational and religious institutions, and financial institutions. Of course, the police and secret services are indispensable. They are not enough by themselves.

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### **Court rulings**

- Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number X - K Ž-06/190 dated 10.01.2007.
- Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number S 12 K 003342 10 K (link number : X - K -09/670-1) dated 10.11.2011.
- Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, case number S 12 K 007723 12 Code of 6 December 2012.