

Assignment 2

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Essay 1:

Why might terrorist organisations be involved in other types of criminality, and how might

intelligence gained in the investigation of such criminality inform counter-terrorism policing?

Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant

case studies

This essay will explore the link between traditional terrorist organisations and their potential links with other forms of criminality. The link of why this occurrence is present will be researched. Also, how might the intelligence gained in the investigation of such criminality be used to inform counter terrorism policing departments to further protect the country and identify potential terrorist organisations early on before they are in a position to undertake any of their terrorist acts.

As per the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who is a national service who have both intelligence services and law enforcement responsibilities in the United States of America. They describe there being two types of terrorism. "International terrorism: Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations (state-sponsored)", and also "Domestic terrorism: Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature" (Federal Bureau of Investigation, n.d.). Within the United Kingdom, terrorism is defined under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Legislation.gov.uk, 2000), as the use or threat of serious violence against a person or serious damage to property where the action is:

- i. Designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public or a section of the public; and

- ii. For the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

Terrorism has been a growing threat in the last few years and is worrying for many people. In 2017 a study was taken and 65% of the British population who took part in the survey said that they were concerned at the possibility of a terrorist attack in the UK (Bulman, 2018). The threat level in the United Kingdom is determined by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) which is part of MI5. There are five categories that the threat level of a terrorist attack could be set at in the UK. These are low, meaning an attack is highly unlikely. Moderate, meaning an attack is possible but unlikely. Substantial, meaning an attack is likely. Severe, meaning an attack is highly likely and finally critical, meaning an attack is highly likely in the near future. The current threat level in the UK is substantial (Security Service MI5, 2024).

The threat level in the UK fluctuates, however generally it remains at substantial. In recent years the threat level has increased and lowered. Recently it has been set at critical on the 23rd of May 2017 which is the day after the Manchester arena bombing took place. It remained at a critical level for four days before being lowered to severe. And in November 2020 it increased to severe which was described by the then-Home Secretary of the United Kingdom, Priti Patel as "a precautionary measure" following attacks in France and Austria. The threat level was lowered to on the 9th of February 2022 where it remains today (March 2024). As a result of world events and domestic terrorist threats, the threat level will shift up and down the scale (BBC News, 2020).

The United Kingdom has specialist counter terrorism policing units who work alongside other government security services to identify and tackle terrorism within the UK. Counter terrorism policing is a UK wide network of police personnel who focus on terrorism. The goal of Counter Terrorism Policing is to safeguard public safety and national security via the cooperation of UK police forces and the UK intelligence community. They do this by focusing in four main categories. The aim to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. They pursue terrorists and bring them to justice. They aim to protect the public from terrorist events, and they also prepare for instances of terrorist attacks so they are best suited to respond to the attacks and minimise the casualties and impact on society of said attacks (Counter Terrorism Policing, 2023). The United Kingdom have a strategy to tackle terrorism which is defined as 'CONTEST'. This strategy has been developed to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens, and interests overseas, so people can live freely and with confidence (Home Office, 2023).

Suella Braverman who was Secretary of State for the Home Department between 25th of October 2022 and the 13th of November 2023 stated that the UK will continue to stop terrorist attacks using the 'CONTEST' strategy as it has become the world leading counter-terrorism strategy in the world. She states that 'CONTEST' has evolved over time and that it is used to evaluate the threat, organise contingencies, and communicate with other departments of government, the British public, the corporate sector, and our foreign allies so that a multi agency approach to tackling

terrorism is used (Home Office, 2023). In conclusion, Suella Braverman states that 'CONTEST' is the answer to terrorism.

On the other hand, Steven Greer who is a professor of human rights at the University of Bristol Law School states that there is no solution to terrorism in the contemporary United Kingdom in the sense of legislation, policy or procedure being written up. Greer goes on to say that although the Irish republicanism and the violent far right cannot be ignored, that the primary terrorism threat to the UK is Jihadism. He justifies this statement as he states that of the 109 people killed during terrorist attacks in the UK since September 2001, that 96% were at the hands of jihadis who were also responsible for almost 100% of the 1,000 or so total casualties (Greer, 2021).

Terrorism also has links to serious organised crime. Terrorists take part and are funded through a variety of illegal operations, such as the trafficking of people, weapons, drugs, antiquities, and natural resources, as well as kidnapping for ransom and other crimes like extortion and bank robbery. Terrorists exploit and contribute to these traditional 20th century organised crimes operations so they are able to fund their terrorist agenda (unicri.it, n.d.).

As highlighted in UNODC's 2018 World Drug Report, cannabis continues to be the most widely produced and consumed drug around the world, thus providing a very lucrative avenue into traditional organised crime for terrorist organisations. The UNODC cite that multiple terrorist organisations have been involved in the drugs trade (LINKAGES BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM MODULE 16, 2019).

Essay 2:

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