

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

from the forum

### *“Terrorism and Organized Crime”*

organized by

**The Association of Macedonian Alumni of  
the “George C. Marshall” European Center for Security Studies**

Skopje, November 13, 2008

As part of its 2008 program, the Association of Macedonian Alumni of the “George C. Marshall” European Center for Security Studies held a forum entitled **“Terrorism and Organized Crime”** at the Army House in Skopje. In attendance were numerous experts from the public and the private sector of the Republic of Macedonia, guests from the Marshall Center, scholars from other countries, and others with a background in this area.

The forum began with opening remarks from the president of the association Prof. Stojan Kuzev. Dr. Metodija Dojchinovski was the moderator. Mr. Vasko Zafirovski spoke on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, which sponsored the event.

The goal of the forum was to discuss and analyze the large-scale threat posed by terrorism. Special focus was given to the activities of the international community in the fight against terrorism and organized crime, in particular to the way these two phenomena are financed. Macedonia's views were expressed on the current situation, activities, goals, expectations and challenges. The forum was an opportunity to see the current situation within the context of the measures and activities that are being taken at the national level to fight terrorism and organized crime and the links between them.

Mrs. Svetlana Kostova from the Ministry of Interior, Cap. Zoran Ivanov from the Ministry of Defense and Dr. Christopher Harmon, a professor from the Marshall Center shared their experiences during the working part of the forum.

The following are the key points that emerged from the presentations and the ensuing discussion:

The threats of terrorism and organized crime have made societies insecure. A brief review of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the USA suggests the appearance of a new form of threat: the so-called asymmetric threat. This encompasses terrorism, organized crime, the threatened use of weapons of mass destruction, sabotage, suicide attacks, kidnapping, extortion, blackmail, poisoning and other forms of terror.

Terrorism has become danger number one for the whole world and for all nations. International solidarity and cooperation has become essential as security and intelligence agencies focus their coordinated and collective efforts on gaining preventive intelligence and on sharing the information developed. The control of weapons of mass destruction is now seen to be essential. Special attention in the fight against the terrorism is being paid to the financing of terrorism.

The UN Security Council has approved Resolution 1373, a document which directly authorizes the fight against terrorism. The EU has drafted an Action Plan to fight terrorism, while the OSCE has created a Department of Counter-intelligence.

NATO and OSCE have held several summits with which they have strengthened the determination of member countries and “partners” to fight against terrorism and organized

crime. At each of these meetings the “exchange of intelligence” was given center stage. The international community has declared a global war on terrorism which is still going on. Meanwhile, societies have transformed their institutions and systems by establishing crisis management centers, protection and rescue agencies, as well as counter-intelligence and security agencies etc.

Although it didn't receive an invitation for NATO membership, the Republic of Macedonia remains solidly behind international community's efforts against terrorism and in support of peace. Macedonian contingents ordered to crisis regions continue to carry out their assigned tasks.

Terrorism today can be defined as the threat of non-conventional, unpredictable and unexpected, asymmetric attacks, entailing mass casualties and extensive material damage. For the Republic of Macedonia, terrorism is a continuous, realistic and serious threat, which jeopardizes the peace and security of the country and the world.

The following are some of the features that characterize terrorism:

- terrorism has no universally accepted definition;
- terrorism represents a category of aggression that is evolving;
- terrorism is not local, rather it is a universal evil;
- terrorism spares no one;
- terrorism targets the civilian population;
- terrorism seeks to inflict mass casualties and material damage.

Terrorist formations may be established by rebels, criminals and others who use the same tactics to achieve a desired goal. In fact, these formations are “irregular forces,” which threaten the security system from the inside.

Organized crime is transnational. The connection between terrorism and organized crime lies in their common interests and their efficient use of illegal resources as well as the use of organized illegal structures for logistical purposes. The financing of these two phenomena is the securing or collecting of resources with the intention of using them to accomplish a set of goals.

The current security situation in the Republic of Macedonia is stable, and so far there are no indications of possible danger from individual acts of terrorism. However, the activities of criminal groups which use terrorist methods continue to pose a potential threat. And one should not overlook the fact that Macedonia's participation in the international anti-terrorist coalition could also pose a security risk.

Research has been done on security threats at all levels and in different areas of society. Some are a result of the link between the security situation and other problems in the country (economic, social, ethnic etc.) that might eventuate in acts of terrorism. Such problems can be identified during the creation and implementation of a strategy for the fight against terrorism, while exchanging intelligence, conducting reforms in the legal system, in the anti-corruption programs, and in the implementation of projects for confidence building. There is a need to draft a special law for the fight against terrorism.

As part of the fight against terrorism and organized crime, the Republic of Macedonia determines the legislative measures encompassed by the Strategy for National Security, the Law for the Prevention of Money Laundering as well as other flow of money, which are a

work of crime, and financing terrorism as well as the Law for the Monitoring of Communications.

Measures and activities undertaken by the state authorities so far are appropriate to the current security situation. This can be seen in the preparation and maintenance of capacities for undertaking special actions to prevent and combat terrorists attacks, in the unifying of the reactive and operational components in the fight against terrorism and in the application of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to solving problems at the national level.

We applaud the cooperation in the fight against terrorism and organized crime between the following state institutions:

the Ministry of Interior and the Finance Ministry;

the Directorate for Prevention of Money Laundering and the Directorate for Security and Counter-intelligence at the Ministry of Interior;

We also urge support of the project to create a single national crime and counterintelligence database.

At the international level, the Republic of Macedonia through the Ministry of Interior exchanges counterintelligence and other data with foreign intelligence agencies and cooperates with NATO (NOS, ILU, TTIU), SEEIC, MEC, EUROPLE and EUROJUST.

The protection of its critical infrastructure must be a key priority as Macedonia pursues its goal of building a modern democratic society. This means securing the smooth functioning of governmental and nongovernmental institutions and organizations, combating and controlling external influences, threats, and security risks, and protecting society as a whole.

As a result of extensive discussion during the forum, the following goals were defined:

**F**irst, passage and implementation of effective legislation, under which national security will be protected and the wellbeing of society maintained. Furthermore, the government should monitor the efforts of the international community in fighting terrorism and organized crime, and where necessary should amend and supplement existing legislation.

**S**econd, implementation of the measures and activities envisaged under the action plan for combating terrorism together with intensified cooperation with international organizations and institutions, having in mind that the Republic of Macedonia did not receive an invitation to join NATO in April 2008.

**T**hird, additional measures under the jurisdiction of the appropriate ministries in the Republic of Macedonia to coordinate all activities and resources in the defense against terrorism and organized crime. The emergence of asymmetric threats should be a warning to us of possible unpleasant surprises that can occur as the result of thoughtless behavior by institutions and their personnel. Special attention should be devoted to protection of critical infrastructure such as border crossings, public gathering places (train and bus stations), airports, industrial plants, government institutions, buildings of special significance, etc).

**F**ourth, it is necessary to have further education throughout the system on early threat detection and possible endangerment of society. At the same time, the massiveness in conducting protection measures should equally be represented in the public and private sector. The secret to promoting a creative approach to security lies in the state successfully achieving domestic security and defense. In addition, projects should be carried out to come to grips with stated problems. This is an imperative in collective security systems. Protection of information should provide personal and collective security.

These goals represent points of view and considerations expressed during the forum, and contribute to filling existing gaps in the system. They also underline the need for permanent realization of the rule of law.

In that sense, it can justifiably be concluded that the Association of Macedonian Alumni of the “George C. Marshall” European Center for Security Studies represents a meaningful factor and factor in the country. Its contribution enables observation of current security issues at local, regional and global level. The association remains ready to contribute with knowledge, expertise, analysis, assessment and reports to accomplish the goals defined by the policy of the state institutions and the government of the Republic of Macedonia.

Skopje, 27th of November 2008