



# Effects of Terrorism on Global Security and Counter Terrorism Measures

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**Abstract:** *The world has seen numerous terror activities with several effects that follows the target of interest as well as the collateral to the target of interest. Terror has been used as means or strategy to counter asymmetry of means by weaker or almost equal opponents. The use of these terror strategy creates several effects on the target audience as well as to the collateral to the audience called here as non-combatants. Non-combatants effects manifest in political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal spheres. The effects on target audience or object of focus manifest on security apparatus, national capabilities, and population of interest. These effects have domino effect beyond the immediate object of interest. The counter-terrorism measures are in policy means, physical means and diplomatic means. The paper therefore takes the view that terrorism is a means of strategy and looks at how the strategy of terrorism in achieving its objectives creates a knock-on effect both intended and unintended. It is these effects of the terror strategic path that requires means and ways to create friction on them thereby stopping or minimizing its pace from reaching the intended target audience.*

**Key Words:** *Terrorism, Terrorism target audience, Effects of terrorism, Counter terrorism means.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION :

(Oxford Dictionary, 2021). defines Terrorism as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.<sup>1</sup>

North Atlantic Treaty Organization, (NATO), defines terrorism as ‘the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence, instilling fear and terror, against individuals or property in an attempt to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, or to gain control over a population, to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives’<sup>2</sup>.

Schmid A. and Jongman (1987), ‘Terrorism is an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby the direct targets of violence are not the main targets’<sup>3</sup>.

Wardlaw, (1982), Political terrorism is the use, or threat of use, of violence by an individual or a group, whether acting for or in opposition to established authority, when such action is designed to create extreme anxiety and/or fear-inducing effects in a target group larger than the immediate victims with the purpose of coercing that group into acceding to the political demands of the perpetrators.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Oxford dictionaries online.(2021).Retrieved from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>

<sup>2</sup> North Atlantic treaty organization

<sup>3</sup>Schmid A and Jongman (1987). A derived 22 word categories from a study of 109 definitions; Political Terrorism North-Holland, Amsterdam.

<sup>4</sup>Wardlaw, G. (1982). The problem of defining terrorism. In Political Terrorism: Theory, Tactics and Counter-Measures (pp.16). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511598821.003



US Department of State (2021), 'Terrorism is the unlawful use of violence or threat of violence, often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs, to instill fear and coerce individuals, governments or societies in pursuit of terrorist goals'.<sup>5</sup>

International convention for the suppression of financing terrorism (UN), "Terrorism is a criminal acts where they are intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons".<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, for the purpose of this paper, terrorism is the means or strategy by which an opponent use to dislocate the strength of adversary in the process of attaining the full spectrum of objectives towards their end state.

Effects of the terror strategy means results or consequences of an action or inaction in a particular case. Therefore, the effects of terrorism are those consequences or outcomes that emerge either directly or indirectly from a terroristic activity.

Month	Total Attacks	Total Deaths	Total Injured	Kidnapped/Hostages
January	688	1348	1610	210
February	689	1210	1621	711
March	782	1780	1770	1042
April	671	1387	1232	355
May	845	2300	2303	1463
June	879	2057	1955	1382
July	749	1447	1436	717
August	757	1628	1936	695
September	668	1154	1283	310
October	632	1914	1716	342
November	647	1491	1472	1487
December	577	1037	1127	223
<b>Total</b>	<b>8584</b>	<b>18753</b>	<b>19461</b>	<b>8937</b>

Source: Global Terrorism Database (GTD) 2017<sup>7</sup>

What can be noted here is the increase of effects of terrorism in May and June 2017. This is not out of blues but a reflection of what was happening around the world on war against terror. Global terror index point to the period when ISIL and Al-Qaida suffered greet loss and went on desperate indiscriminate attacks to show their existence.<sup>8</sup>The main effects are; fear, terror, abstinence and anxiety while the purposes are; coercion, intimidation, criminal, injury/death, political, idiosyncrasy and shaping. Other indicators but on a lower scale of the likely effects of terrorism are; focus, end state, target and process. From the definitions, focus looks at the means of shaping and methods of inspiration. The end state yields influence of specific groups targeted for influence. The target of terrorism yields collateral damage and government/ society. Process yields unlawful means. Therefore, these effects can be clustered as terroristic action triggering outcomes from: non-combatants and target audience. Non-combatants are believed by terrorists to have some form of influence on the target audience. These are people, individuals or system. Target audience are the real object of interest. This is the group or object required to read a story of the actions and response in a specific manner. Essentially, it is purpose driven which could be ethnic, community, government, international organization among others.

## 2. Effects of Terrorism on Non-combatants with Form of Influence on the Target Audience :

**Political.** Politics are the main focus of terrorism due to its influence on governance thereby affecting the freedoms and restrictions that people face. Crenshaw, M. (1981:379). Terrorist violence communicates a political message.<sup>9</sup>Politically, use of terror has the effect of manipulating the believe system of the targeted population. It forces the mind set adjustment to see violence as everything thus democracy has no meaning. Unpopular leaders could be voted through

<sup>5</sup> US DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms (2021)

<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 52/60 (1997, December)

<sup>7</sup>Erin Miller (2018, August). Global Terrorism Database (GTD) 2017. University of Maryland. Retrieved from [www.start.umd.edu/gtd](http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd).

<sup>8</sup>Global Terrorism Index 2017.retrieved from

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global%20Terrorism%20Index%202017%20%284%29.pdf>

<sup>9</sup>Crenshaw, M. (1981). The Causes of Terrorism. *Comparative Politics*, 13(4), 379-399. doi:10.2307/421717. Pp.379



coercion for fear of reprisals. Therefore, terrorism disenfranchises the targeted population from rational political decision making process. Terrorism can cause wars. Example is the 11 September 2001 attack on twin towers that led to US going to war in Afghanistan in pursuit of terror. The United States has now been at war in Afghanistan for some seventeen years and been fighting another major war in Iraq for fifteen years. The U.S. has moved far beyond counterterrorism to counterinsurgency, and from the temporary deployment of small anti-terrorism forces to a near "permanent" military presence. The line between counterterrorism and counterinsurgency has become so blurred that there is no significant difference.<sup>10</sup> Terror can easily trigger political turmoil where leadership is not level headed to realize the consequences of their action. Terrorism is now a tool for proxy wars which has been utilized by many countries to further their political and strategic interest. Somalia indeed has been controlled by terror groups ranging from ISIS to Alshabaab whereby they are fight for territorial dominance so as to increase their political control. This is called strategic terrorism by some scholars. Thus, (Neumann and Smith, 2005). defines strategic terrorism as the attempt to obtain political objectives through the use of primarily terrorist activity rather than through some other means.

**Economic.** Economically, terrorism disrupts the existing economic processes through separation of the market forces from taking effect. On the other side, terrorism breaks the chain of production as routes are blocked or destroyed. When bread winners are maimed, killed or forced to abandon their way of livelihood, households are exposed to the dangers of hopelessness and paralysis. Other economic effects are transfer of resources to security and not in critical areas like education. Terrorism has made many countries in the world to focus on it thus defining national resource focus. Businesses like tourism and airline are seriously affected by terrorism activities. The following challenges will follow through when the countries whose population has been target of terror react diplomatically through diplomatic travel advisories. In some cases, other countries refer others to the UN sanctions which in the long run strain the international relations. This thus compound the global security as relations are strained within the period that the two countries are engaged. Eritrea was sanctioned by UN for supporting terror activities in Somalia. President of the Security Council statement( 2009), "The Security Council also expresses its concern over reports that Eritrea has supplied arms to those opposing the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in breach of the UN arms embargo, and calls on the Sanctions Monitoring Group to investigate<sup>11</sup>. The terror labeling by other countries in some cases are counteracted by the named state focusing on international leveraging areas like the maritime choke points and international hub critical infrastructure areas. For instance, Iran enjoys the geostrategic power from straits of Hormuz and in several occasions has threatened or made moves that threatens the world oil prices. Jerusalem post (2019), "Adm. Alireza Tenksiri, commander of the naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, stated last week that Iran would close the waterway to all traffic if Tehran were prevented from using it. The Strait of Hormuz is a sea passage in accordance with international law. No one will benefit from it if we do not use it, Tenksiri said"<sup>12</sup>. The action of focusing vulnerabilities forces the labeling country to consider the overall thought process so that they can be able to reduce the tension. Therefore, terrorism has turned out to be the best strategy used covertly and overtly in balance of power by many countries when challenged with asymmetry of means. The effects of terrorism are varied and so are even remotely recognizable. Until the national or international strategic thinkers can see through the effects and counter effects, it will not be easy to afford a direct and quick way of realizing the point of focus to unlock the trajectory of effects that terrorism is and will be taking.

**Social.** Social effects of terrorism are many among them are loss of family morals either by coercion or choice due to prevailing circumstances. The targeted noncombatants find themselves helpless as economic systems are disrupted. To fend for life, drugs become a common thing to hallucinate the young boys and girls in order to forget their miseries. Social fabric is broken in the event that houses are destroyed and families are forced to live in camps. Among serious social effects are human trafficking and transnational crimes. Because terrorist can pay for any would be suicide bomber or hired terrorists, loss of livelihoods has led to children leaving schools to join terror groups for fake promises of good life later. The effects of terror bring about population relocation in form of IDPs or refugees. Others are illegal immigrants. 12,078 people were displaced between 27 June and 14 July from Wisil town (Galmudug) and surrounding

<sup>10</sup> Anthony H. C., (2018, August 8). Terrorism: U.S. Strategy and the Trends in Its "Wars" on Terrorism. center for strategic & international studies. Retrieved from <https://www.csis.org/analysis/terrorism-us-strategy-and-trends-its-wars-terrorism#:~:text=Terrorism%3A%20U.S.,August%20%2C%202018>

<sup>11</sup> Statement by the President of the Security Council (2009, May 18).

<sup>12</sup> Dima Abu Maria, (2019, April 30). Kuwait expresses concern that Tehran will close passage vital to world oil trade. Jerusalem post. Retrieved from <https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Iran-threatens-to-block-Strait-of-Hormuz-as-US-sanctions-take-effect-588331>



villages as a result of armed attacks. More than half of them are stuck on the way due to high transportation costs to Gaalkacyo where they were heading. Local authorities in the towns and villages where the IDPs are stranded have imposed movement restrictions citing insecurity, which is raising protection concerns for unaccompanied minors and women.<sup>13</sup>

**Technological.** The effect of terror on technology is enormous. In Kenya the best effect of terror has been borne by telecommunication company Safaricom. Key mobile masts some to the tune of 10million Kenyashillings have been destroyed by terrorists. The terrorists targeted the base stations which cover wide area that even neighboring areas covered by other base stations bore the consequences. The token system of linking movement of subscribers was affected. This not only causes economic effect on businesses like mobile money transfer. The ripple effect goes to death of patients who might not access money for treatment. Security also suffers from the effects of terror on technology. The national connectivity dependent on this critical infrastructure are affected as mobile banking and other online services are cut off. Terrorism retrograde the country synergistic system some that are completely dependent on internet. Railway attacks have disrupted services including many missing on their critical journey of medical treatment. Terror is indiscriminate, so is the effects. Terror of technological swing points of a country can lead to war. The terror paralysis of financial system, air traffic control system can actually cause serious damages leading to existential threat to the state which could trigger wars. Hamas attacks on the Israel territory triggered ethnic wars that had not been witnessed by the two countries in areas where there was coexistence over a very long time.

**Environmental.** Depending on the targeted area, the surrounding could have serious environmental repercussions. Taking from the Houthi terror attacks using drones, Saudi oils fields have been set ablaze resulting in air pollution<sup>14</sup>. Terror on chemical facilities can cause untold suffering. Oil tankers that have been attacked have caused fires and effect set fire on other hazardous system which in the end cause allot of environmental damage. Cyberterrorism on nuclear plants could trigger nuclear explosion that could have devastating effects on environment both fauna and flora affected. It could wipe out the whole world. It is these possibilities that have force security operators and thinker to focus on serious anti-terror operations and strategies.

**Legal.** The effects of terrorism on legal system is the challenge of inadequacy in the existing laws. As such, the positive aspect is improvement of laws that are week creating loopholes of maneuver by the terrorists. On the other hand, terror generates concept of suspicion implying that legal systems could be sidestepped. The security apparatus could at time assume un-orthodox means to gain information at the expense of freedom. As companies try to cope with the new system of abnormality in operations, legal system gets complicated due to terror activities unpredictability. Globally, countries could repeal some specific laws that guarantee human rights or specific freedoms so as to counter terrorism. International instruments that were balancing country behaviors could be rendered irrelevant by withdrawals from those treaties or protocols for fear of those instruments protecting terrorists within their means of action.

### **3. Effects of Terrorism on Target Audience :**

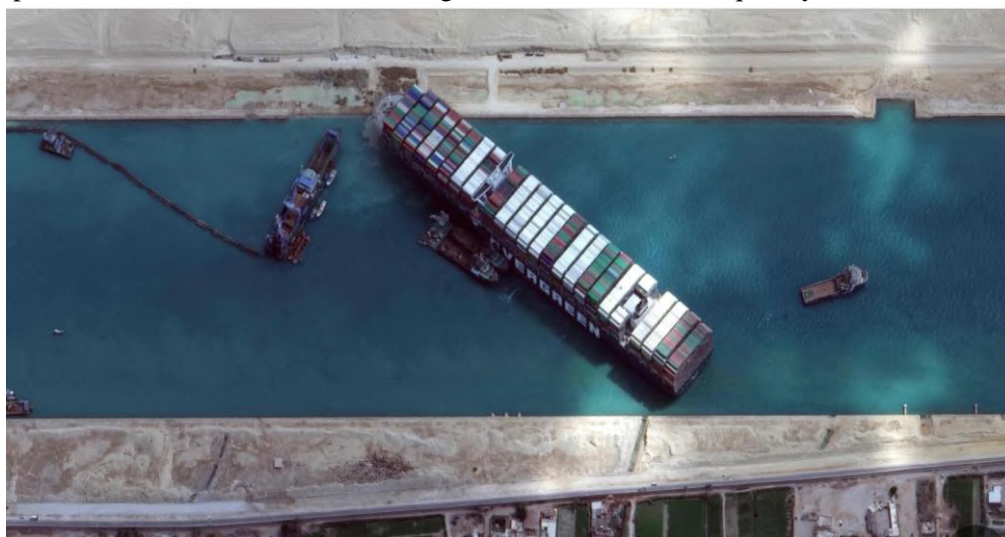
**Security Apparatus.** The likely effects on the security apparatus is manifested in terms of reaction and counter reaction. With terror, freedoms of weapon controls are relaxed. They may have higher benefit of doubt even in cases where it is obvious that they are misusing the self-defense principle. Generally, the anxiety generated by terrorism make security organs paranoid thereby complicating achievement of rational security considerations on human freedoms. On the side of allies, terrorism could fracture the alliances by virtue of its target on vital interests. The consequences are that states focus on their interests above all other things. In the event that the strength of allies dwindles to the level that individual country could not bridge the net loss, it becomes easy to cooperate with the terrorist sponsor. Case in point is the shift from the hardline stand on not negotiating with terrorists to the current cooperation by USA with the Taliban in Afghanistan<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2021, July 14). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/June%202021%20humanitarian%20bulletin%20final.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Ahmed Jadallah., (2021, March 7). Houthis fire missiles, drones at Saudi oil facilities. Aljazeera, Reuters. Retrieved from Aljezeera.com

<sup>15</sup> Vanda Felbab-Brown, (2019, January 29). The US-Taliban negotiations breakthrough: What it means and what lies ahead. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/01/29/the-us-taliban-negotiations-breakthrough-what-it-means-and-what-lies-ahead/#>

**National Capabilities.** Terror reduces the national capabilities to defend itself against further attacks. Where vital assets or equipment that are very costly are destroyed by terror, that capability could be lost as more pressing areas takes center stage. Cases like cyber terror could cripple a critical infrastructure thereby denying services provided by that infrastructure. The world has specific critical choke points namely; straits of Hormuz, Malacca straits and Suez Canal. When the Ever Given — one of the largest container ships ever built, got stuck in the Suez Canal for six days in March 2021, it dammed up worldwide shipping and froze nearly \$10 billion in trade a day<sup>16</sup>. The destination of goods delayed could have serious repercussions on critical manufacturing industries for items frequently used all over the world.



**Suez Canal blocked by MSC Ever given march 2021**  
**Ships pass through a choke point in red sea towards Suez Canal**



**Source: Earth Exact<sup>17</sup>**

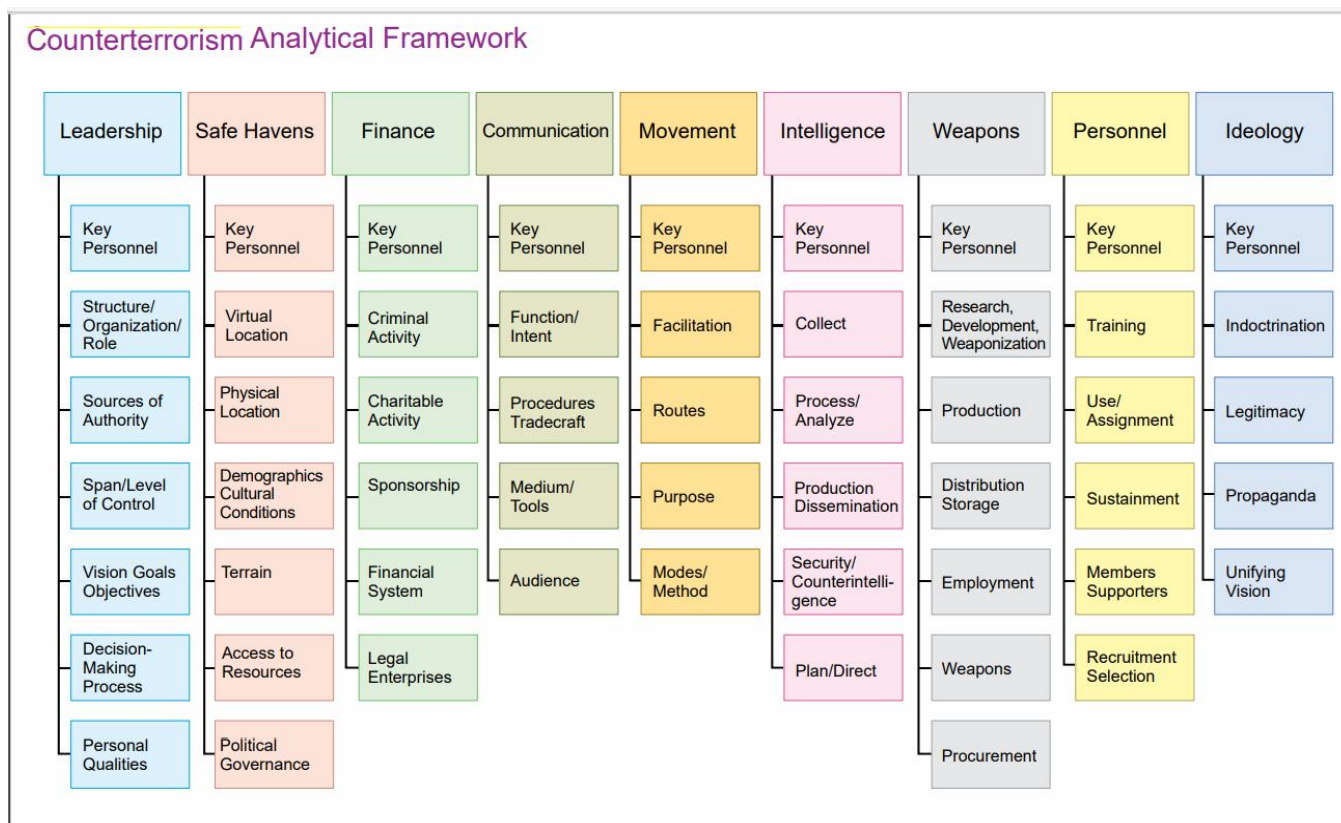
**People.** Loss of lives, livelihood. These two have a secondary effect of psychological burden complicating the national disease burden. The fact that disease burden increases has a domino effect on other sectors like literacy rate and poverty index. It can then be further extended to the effect on social stability. The case of the bomb blast of 1998 maimed many people, leading to the need for occupation therapy to assist rehabilitate victims to new occupations. For those who could

<sup>16</sup> Vivian Yee and James Glanz, (2021, July17). How One of the World's Biggest Ships Jammed the Suez Canal. New York times. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/by/james-glanz>

<sup>17</sup>Exact Earth. <https://www.exactearth.com/home>

not afford the change of occupation, they were rendered jobless creating allot of social distress. This social distress distorts the national fiscal planning and could change the trajectory that the national economic growth takes.

### Counter Terrorism Measures



### Source USA joint publication 3-26: counter terrorism<sup>18</sup>

Counter terrorism is the means or strategy by which terrorism activities or threats are averted. Using the USA counter terrorism framework, focus should be dealing with the nine key enablers of terrorism which are leadership, safe havens, financial system, communication system, movement routes, intelligence system, weapons used or sources, personnel and ideology behind terrorism. These enablers are to be targeted through critical means addressing the system not the people. The means available are policy, physical and diplomatic.

**Policy Means.** Policies should be established that looks at policy vulnerabilities that affords terrorism freedom of action directly or indirectly. Policies that deter terror leadership development and freedom of action, financial system that assist terrorists or terror activities, communication channels that market terror ideology or publicize the terror activities, intelligence gathering system, weapon handling/acquisition and development of negative ideology. Thus Price, (2019). asserts that, removing the leader of a terrorist group significantly contributes to organizational decline. <sup>19</sup>While Terrorist group leaders have a unique incentive structure and face different constraints than leaders in other organizations<sup>20</sup>. These policies can either be procedural or non-procedural. Procedural means include policies like verification or authentication of personnel entering the country, organization or a venue, provision of localized dispute resolution mechanism for any grievances locally and if international if it has the potential of spill over. All entries should be across the country rural or urban should be identified through local security apparatus and government localized means peculiar to the area community. Issues of effective personnel identification data sources linked to personnel movement and other activities. Non-procedural means includes legal policy directives on conduct or procedures including building codes and other

<sup>18</sup> USA joint publication on counter terrorism 2020

<sup>19</sup>Price, B. (2019). The Effects of Leadership Decapitation on Hamas. In *Targeting Top Terrorists: Understanding Leadership Removal in Counterterrorism Strategy* (pp. 150-178). New York; Chichester, West Sussex: Columbia University Press. Retrieved August 23, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/pric18822.8>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid pp. 179-190



requirements. These are basically aimed at building resilience within the would be terror targets premises or national security infrastructure. Profiling of persons of interest through all available means including holding mobile providers accountable for apparatus used that belong to them without proper identification and authentication.

**Physical Means.** This include hard security on organizational entry places through security guards, barriers, fortification, technological surveillance systems and alarms. Ensuring existed of redundancy security means in the event that one is breached. Mapping of national critical infrastructure or organization and designing responsive measures that address the needs of these critical infrastructure. Other measures are identification of high pay-off and high value targets for enhanced physical protection. Hardy and Lushenko asserts that high value target is a tactic which involves lethal strike, raids and /or offensive cyber operations to capture or kill key enemys combatants and material. It is based on the assumption that removal of critical personnel and assets will eventually lead to disintegration of enemy's network. Hardy and Lushenko(2012). Areas like university laboratories are national critical infrastructure. Others are research institutes and national strategic force multipliers in economic development. There are also human resource personnel that are critical by voluntary or through captivity by terror groups. Specialized doctors and engineers whose knowledge can be converted to negative use. The reclassification of personnel occupation with clear indicators when states of such person change. Case of Cuban doctors being kidnapped by Alshabaab and being used to safe lives of Alshabaab fighters especially key leaders has changed how professions like doctors of higher specialization could become weaponized by terrorists. Therefore, measures to securitize them and others high value professions like software engineers, Remote sensing specialists among others should be established.

**Diplomatic Means.** National or transnational terror activities can be targeted through diplomatic means which include: sanctions of supporters and sympathizers, sanctions of the terror organizations, governments and leadership. Assets freezing of the organizations supporting or actively promoting terrorism. Other diplomatic means are denial of equipment or technology to vulnerable groups. Vulnerability could be economic, political and socially. These vulnerabilities render them susceptible to terror probing or advances for acquisition of technology of interest.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Terrorism effects are many and manifest in very many way including to the non-combatants; political shaping, economic manipulation, social distortion, technological shutdown, environmental degradation and legal reassessment. While to the real target audience, it manifests in security apparatus behavior beyond normal, destruction of national capabilities and population displacement.

These effects require therefore to be countered through concerted efforts in counter terrorism means which include, policy means so as to allow for systemic management, physical means for deterrence including response and diplomatic means to cut off the external inroads. Given these counterterrorism means, the effects can be eliminated, minimized to the point negligence.

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