

**XXVI**

**TECMUN Jr.**

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North Atlantic Treaty  
Organization

Ambassador,

The world as of right now is broken. Your parents broke it and their parents before them. The difference between them and you is that you still have a chance to do something about it. You have the power to change this broken world, and if you don't believe that then maybe the world already broke you. If you felt like reading this letter, if you are the kind of person who allows itself to dream and create and imagine and change, then you're exactly what this world needs. Ghandi said we should be the change we want to see in the world and although he was right, it's not that which achieves true change. You have to inspire. If you want to your friends and your family, and your sons and grandsons to live in a world that makes you proud, then make that world. If you follow your principles and improve yourself every single day, then you'll be able to inspire other people. Ambassador, if you want to change this world then know it's not an easy task. But if at times when you're scrolling through Instagram, you feel the urge to do something meaningful, then you need to follow that hunch. Do something with your life, be someone people can look up to. Ambassador, do not fear greatness. Do not fear success or growth. If you must fight for what you think is right then do so. It's better to go your whole life fighting for what you know is right, than to budge and compromise your own values. Do not give up, ambassador. The moment you give up will be the day this world's last hope extinguishes. If you're going to die then at least die knowing you fought to make this world a better place. Die knowing that people can learn about your life and that it will inspire them to be the change in the world. Because it's unrealistic to think that one person can change the world, but one person **can** inspire hundreds more. And when you're old and feel like you've done everything you could, then you will feel proud of yourself and you can live and die without regrets. Either you listen to me trying to inspire you to inspire others is your choice. I just hope you make the right one, the world depends on it.

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André Daniel Aguilar Molina

President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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# Outline of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereinafter referred to as NATO) is an international organism independent of the United Nations created in 1949 and constituted by 28 European members and the United States of America. The purpose of this organisation upon its creation and nowadays is to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of its members by either political or military means. This making reference to the agreement that if one of its members is attacked, it is considered an attack against all of the members. NATO allows all of its parts to debate and democratically achieve a consensus over different situations, while also establishing mutual trust between members and preventing further conflicts. Although the organisation believes in peaceful resolutions if these were to fail, NATO has its own military power *vis-à-vis* crisis situations.

## Topic A

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The improvement and standardization of the use of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's CBRN Defence Task Force in dealing with chemical threats with a main focus on the current Middle Eastern situation

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Throughout recent years there has been several attacks in various Middle Eastern countries, with a special emphasis on by the United States, French Republic, the United Kingdom and other members of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) in response to the international community's alleged use of chemical weapons by Bashar al-Assad. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) having already a Task Force dedicated to these situations embedded in it's running programs could, if agreed upon by the parties in the committee, establish a predetermined system in response to the formerly mentioned and reduce, by doing so, the misunderstandings and miscalculations in these kind of interventions.

### ***Background***

The tension regarding the Middle Eastern chemical usage conflict, with a special focus on the differences in the positions countries like the Russian Federation and the United States of America have, has proved to be an alarming situation. The fact that facilities to manufacture exist already, is more than enough to induce terror. This of course, because if all this weaponry came to fall into the hands of organizations such as the Islamic State, it's impossible to know how far the consequences would spread. There have been efforts to stop the popularization of chemical weapons in the Middle East, but many of the arguments made have been met, by newspapers such as The Guardian, RT News and TASS, as "biased" due to the use of chemical weapons in past conflicts. Although new regulations have been invented, the history must be taken into account in order to guarantee general wellbeing and foresee possible unwanted outcomes. Past attacks such as the gas attack in Damascus have been tracked all the way back to the Soviet Union, this nation being the one behind the attack and manufacturing of the weapons, but they were identified as headed to Libya, not Syria. This incident led to the United Nations ordering the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria altogether.

As of right now, the United Nation has in highlighted consideration this year's suspected Douma attack which has only amplified international worry since it was seen as unnecessary by at least 75% of the North Atlantic Council. These incidents have only led to the belief that the use of chemical weapons is becoming normalized, which is strictly not the case. The continuous conflict of Syria has also meant that the US and Russia are at odds, causing fear for an even greater threat, escalating even into a nuclear conflict. The probabilities for this happening at this moment are highly unlikely, but still possible, since both the US and Russia have in their possession nuclear-based weapons. Even though the United States have stated that they won't be using nuclear weapons and Russia would need to be in extreme conditions in order to use nuclear weapons, these must be treated with the same or even a higher

grade of care considering their belic capabilities. Considering also the fact that the NATO sees chemical weaponry as a threat, the situation calls upon urgent resolving. Russia is in fact one of Syria's main allies, considering the many chemical attacks in the Middle East in the past 7 years, the US/Russia relationship has worsened, resulting in an extremely delicate situation. Russia has vetoed their activities in at least 10 attacks.

### ***Regarding current laws***

Many conventions such as the Geneva Convention and Chemical Weapon Conventions have clear statements where it is said that any use of toxic substances to kill or injury is illegal. Still, these haven't been followed accordingly and due to the inactivity of countries, the long lasting ban on chemical weapons has been broken, ultimately putting at risk the relationship between the US and Russia. The Syrian Arab Republic has seen itself in a quick state of deter, all beginning with Bashar al-Assad becoming president in 2000. The people of Syria often protested their lack of freedom, unemployment, and many other injustices under this government, however, protests began to appear in the country in early 2011, demanding a democratic government. The president, in an attempt to shut down all rebels, sent military forces allowed to use deadly force on all demonstrations. This sparked outrage all throughout the country, and thus, the Syrian Civil War was born. However, what was at first a conflict between the rebels and the government has now escalated into a deeply complex situation, which has lead to more than 353,900 deaths (not counting the estimated 100,000 undocumented deaths), 1.5 million people left with permanent disabilities, and 5.6 million refugees, according to BBC News.

This conflict has been in the international watch, since the amount of in-fighting inside the country concerns a great number of extremist groups, political organizations and civilians, as well as posing a very important threat to global security. Currently, some of the groups fighting against each other are the Kurds, Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State, Syria's own government and even religious organizations inside of the country. The countries involved so far are the United States of America, the republic of Turkey, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as other western countries such as France and Germany have given varying degrees of support to the people revolting against the government, while the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been the most important members of the Syrian government's defense, mostly aiding them militarily. The Republic of Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the Republic of Yemen have also supported the Syrian government, though in a smaller scale.

Internationally the two protocols that regulate this kind of affairs most of the time are the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Both are the most important framework for every other subsequent legal allegation regarding chemical weapons and actively control the usage of the formerly mentioned to this day. These accords also establish the standards for the national and international prohibition of the production,, acquisition, developing, stockpiling, use, transfer, or retention of chemical weapons for all CWC state parties.

When becoming members of the CWC, eight countries (Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, Syria, the United States, Russia and an anonymous state) officially declared being in possession of chemical weapons. Nowadays Albania, South Korea, India, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Russia have stated that they have accomplished completion regarding destruction of their declared arsenals.

### ***Regarding nuclear threats and proliferation***

A number of states in the middle eastern region have stated that they have put into motion plans regarding nuclear energy, such as signing agreements of cooperation with countries of major nuclear knowledge, such as Russia or North Korea, while other countries started to take measures to build their own nuclear power plants inside of their territory, such as Egypt. The fact that most of these countries are not only involved in the Syrian conflict —whether that is directly or indirectly—, but also began talks about nuclear energy about the time that the rebel conflict exploded inside of the aforementioned country makes the possibility of nuclear retaliation against nations in opposing blocks latent, and has done nothing but raise the already high tensions in the region.

As of recent, one of the main international focuses is to halt Iran's nuclear power, due to the fact that one country's possession of nuclear weapons would immediately cause a response from all the other countries around it, which would most likely begin manufacturing nuclear weapons of their own, in a chain effect of proliferation that would irreversibly tatter peaceful international communication. A clear example of this is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, since it has repeatedly stated that “if [Iran] gets nuclear weapons, we will get nuclear weapons”. The fact that other nations could take a similar position is extremely concerning.

### ***Chemical warfare in the Middle East***

Ever since 2012, when Syria first admitted to having chemical weapons, international eyes have been laid upon this country and its movements using these resources. At first, the Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi, who was the person who revealed his country's possession of chemical arms, stated that the government would not use these against Syrian civilians, but rather would only deploy against "external aggression". However, the actions taken by the government on the following months put this declaration into doubt. Particularly, the attacks of December 23, 2012, March 19, 2013, and most importantly, August 21, 2013, with 1,032 in total, put the Syrian government under extremely heavy fire.

Upon investigations led by the French Republic and a research team sent by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, it became clear that it was becoming increasingly common for the Syrian regime to use agents such as sarin and mustard gas as a strategy against the rebels, since the places under attack on the aforementioned dates, Homs, Aleppo, al-Atebeh, and the Ghouta region, were mostly occupied by the opposition.

With the rise of extremist groups such as the Islamic State, chemical weapons quickly became the protagonists of many attacks around the middle east, such as the attacks to Kurdish People's Protection Units using mustard agent. This time and another 75 cases of chemical warfare coming from an extremist group show how dangerous these agents and the ease in which these people manipulate them, as they have been used by the Islamic State since the very beginning of their caliphate, going through their peak on April 2016 with eight separate incidents in a single month.

### ***The dormant threat of radiological warfare***

Radiological weapons have been largely dismissed as a threat by most nations when signing agreements and issuing regulations for weaponry and arms, because while these weapons are in fact classified as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), most people do not see them as such. The main difference between radiological weapons and the more usual WMDs is the way in which they act. While a traditional WMD will act instantly and end the lives of hundreds in an instant, the radiation, the main feature of radiological weapons, will not act this way. It will contaminate everything inside of its damage radius, and will produce a slow burn effect on the people it affects rather than finishing quickly. This is why many diplomats have been quick to dismiss this type of weaponry, because they believe that the style of action that extremists usually go for, wanting to make an impact to create fear, would not be effective with radiological arsenal.



However, the lack of surveillance and protection from these types of arms could very well lead to a surprise attack that, economically and politically speaking, would be incredibly difficult to recover from, without mentioning the number of lives that would be lost due to exposure to radiation, as well as the long term societal impact that a situation like that could arise.

### ***The CBRN Defence Task Force***

The Combined Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Task Force, which consists of the CBRN Joint Assessment Team (JAT) and the CBRN Defence Battalion, conform a NATO body specifically trained and equipped to deal with CBRN events and/or attacks against its members populations, territory or forces. The battalion, whose trains can not only intervene in armed conflicts, but also in times of crisis such as natural disasters and industrial accidents, including those involving hazardous material, and the JAT are multinational, multifunctional teams which can deploy to participate in the full spectrum of NATO Operations.

The CBRN Defence Battalion's mission is to provide a rapidly deployable and credible CBRN defence capability to maintain NATO's freedom of action and operational effectiveness in a CBRN threat environment. The North Atlantic Council must authorize the usage of military assistance to civil authorities by the Battalion, regarding the fact that the NAC is the Alliance's principal political decision-making body.

The CBRN's battalion can do the following duties:

- CBRN reconnaissance and monitoring operations.
- Sampling and identification of biological, chemical and radiological agents (SIBCRA).
- Biological detection and monitoring operations.
- Provision of CBRN assessments and advice to NATO commanders.
- CBRN hazard management operations, such as decontamination.

The CBRN features working mechanisms such as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), and operational control is delegated to a subordinate command as required, the Allied Command Transformation (ACT) which provides evaluation standards, supports training and determines future NBC defence requirements and develops capabilities. The Battalion-level organisation is composed of personnel from a number of member countries, and just like the NATO Response Force (NRF), dedicated personnel are based in their

countries, coming together for training and deployment. Other operational countries provide requisite troops, equipment and logistical support in accordance with mission requirements.

The CBRN was created because of the constant threats of radiological bomb attacks and releases. There is a constant threat around Europe regarding terrorist groups acquiring this agents for malicious purposes, as terrorists in the past have tried to purchase this materials. The Battalion has only done any real CBRN aircraft training a few times, since they started doing so in 2017, although this experiences and simulations of simulated chemical attacks provide the soldiers of the battalion the opportunity to learn from the expertise of other well-prepared soldiers.

Anytime the battalion`s soldiers work with other organizations they build capability to learn from each other and from the other organizations, as well as familiarize with them in a more direct and personal way. All the times the battalion`s soldiers have to do a simulation, they get great expertise and learn from various things such as how other organizations work, how they have to react in different situations, to see whether they are well-prepared or not, it brings some entities together, help shape their tactical standard operating procedures as they continue to bring support within their area of operation etc., this means all the simulations bring a big opportunity area.

On the other hand, some people say CBRN does not respond to country boundaries, and the battalion forces do not have as much preparation as needed, they do simulations, but when it comes to real life, they do not know measures to prevent disasters and some of the soldiers are not prepared for it, some of their decisions are not well informed and they lead to not the best result, this meaning, they need more years of preparation to fully understand and be aware of the dangers that all situations mean. NATO has not remained idle in the wake of these emerging threats. The decision taken by Allied leaders back in April 1999 in Washington to create a WMDC remains as valid as ever. Launched in May 2000 and located at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the Centre is celebrating 15 years of existence this year and is adapting its response in line with the evolution of these new threats.

“The Centre was central to very extensive information-sharing that took place with Russia in the context of the NATO Russia Council during the timeframe 2000-2005,” says Ted Whiteside, NATO’s Acting Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy and the first head of the WMDC. “The subjects covered all aspects of proliferation, with focus on missile technologies. The Centre also conducted discussions with partners. It was an exciting time,

we can look back on all of this work with considerable pride,” (Whiteside, 2015).

Since then, many measures have been taken and results achieved in improving NATO’s resilience against WMD and CBRN threats, showcasing that the Alliance is prepared to counter the threat. NATO tools include the build-up of a NATO Ballistic Missile Defence capability with interceptors and sensors on NATO territory and at sea, which achieved its interim operational capability by 2012. The CBRN force is part of the NATO Response Force (NRF) and can also be deployed to assist Allies in coping with crisis situations such as natural disasters and industrial incidents.

Also, as information and intelligence on weapons of mass destruction have been a key in order to identify potential threats and sources of financing, as well as to track potential attackers, their support networks, weapons-manufacturing sites, and intended transport routes for chemical or biological agents. The NATO Intelligence Fusion Centre (NIFC) in the United Kingdom plays an important role in this area. It is a multinational intelligence organisation in which 26 NATO nations are represented.

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## *Glossary*

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### **A**

**Agent:** - A substance that brings about a chemical or physical effect or causes a chemical reaction.

**Assessments** - The process of considering all the information about a situation or a person and making a judgement.

### **B**

**Ballistic Missile** - A missile that has power in order to direct it on its flight, but that continues and falls towards its target without power.

**Battalion**- A military unit consisting of three or more companies.

**Belic Capabilities** - The ability to achieve a desired effect in an specific operating environment.

### **C**

**Caliphate** - A government under the rule of a muslim leader.

**Chemical Weapons** - Any toxic chemical or its precursor that can cause death, injury, temporary incapacitation or sensory irritation through its chemical action.

### **D**

**Deploy** - To use something or someone, especially in an effective way.

**Deter** -Discourage from doing something, typically by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.

## **F**

**Facility** - A place, amenity, or piece of equipment provided for a particular purpose.

**Foresee** - Being aware of beforehand; predict.

## **I**

**Idle** - Not working or being used.

## **N**

**Nuclear Proliferation** - The spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons technology, or fissile material to countries that do not already possess them.

## **P**

**Personnel** - People employed in an organization or engaged in an organized undertaking such as military service.

## **R**

**Radiological Weapons** - Weapons that disperse radioactive agents to inflict injury or cause contamination or damage.

**Reconnaissance** - The process of getting information about enemy forces or positions by sending out small groups of soldiers or by using aircraft, etc.

## **S**

**Spectrum** - A range of different positions, opinions, etc. between two extreme points.

**Subordinate** - A person who has a less important position than you in an organization.

## **W**

**Weapons Of Mass Destruction** - A class of weaponry with the potential to, in a single moment, kill millions of civilians, jeopardize the natural environment, and fundamentally alter the world and the lives of future generations through their catastrophic effects.

## V

**Vetoed** - To exercise a veto against a decision or proposal made by a law-making body.



## Topic B

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The alarmingly fast jihadist growth in recruitment due to cyber methods and the threat it represents for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has as one of its major concerns the countering of terrorist acts as well as the jihadism movements in the Middle East. Due to the fact that the actions of these extremist groups represent a latent threat to civilian life, and said threat continues to increase exponentially and without any attempts to be stopped or regulated, NATO has decided to put in its crosshair the most furtherly reaching weapon the extremist groups have in recruiting new members: the internet. Everyone, with a special focus on young male candidates, is a target for these extremist groups. The usage of the internet not only as a publicity strategy, but also as a fundraiser and recruitment mechanism has become an imperative part of the problem being addressed, and should be treated as such.

### ***Background***

Jihadism is the name given to a violent group that has arisen in the middle east by western media. Members of this group believe in the restoring of the rule of Allah through the extermination of infidels, *i.e.*, all those who do not practice islamism. It is important to point out that not all muslim people have this mindset, however, those who do are extremely dangerous, due to the fact that the way that they see the massacre of infidels as a necessary sacrifice. Everyone, particularly men, are targets for these extremist groups as long as they are between the ages of 15 and 55, regardless of their position in the world. They typically target young adults from countries with an uncertain political climate or economy, such as Morocco, however, any other European country is not outside of their radar.

Jihadist groups are ever-growing. Their ultimate goal is to become a religious organization with world-wide reach, and the method to achieve that is through continuous recruitment. This recruitment can either be done by person, where the approach is quite violent and gives the targets no choice, separating them from their families and continuously threatening them, or can be done through the internet. The latter gives the recruiters a new, amazingly powerful and relatively simple tool through which their work is simplified grandly.

The internet has, in more than one time, proven to be as threatful as it is useful. Cyber methods currently stand as the main method of recruitment used by extremist organizations. The usage of the internet not only as a publicity strategy, but also as a fundraiser and recruitment mechanism has been used since the very beginning of its access to the public in the 1990s, and has only grown bigger following the September 11 attacks in the United States, as these groups began to translate their material to several languages, therefore making it accessible to a wider and international audience and becoming the best and most effective

method of recruitment, being used by groups such as Al-Qaeda, once again, following the aforementioned attacks. The main advantages that the internet unknowingly offers to these organizations can be summarized in two assets: Worldwide Spread and Anonymity.

Worldwide Spread refers to the access these groups have over communities all over the world. This access grants them the opportunity to spread their cause to gullible people and convince them to join, further resulting in the international community being unable to defend itself from possible extremist attacks because these can be made by any member of their own society. This also means that terrorist organizations can gather money through untraceable funding campaigns by just using a computer, resulting in more resources for these aforementioned organizations.

Anonymity refers to the fact that because privacy policies are imperative in the internet community and must be respected by all means, extremist members can create fake accounts or simply remain anonymous in internet sites and thus operate through there without consequences. Anonymity complicates the situation even more but, in order to respect the communities freedom of speech and respect their privacy, it cannot be abolished so the regulation of content is the only possible solution that has been implemented, although this regulation is easily avoided by using ambiguity, special codes, encrypted messages, etc. Many protests and petitions have been made to governments all across the international community in order to eliminate anonymity in the internet, because it directly facilitates harassment, violent acts or illegal activities. Some newspapers like the BBC News have even stated that anonymity encourages this type of behavior. This premise elaborates around the psychological principle that says that if other people do not know who you are and there can be no consequences at all for your actions, people tend more to align with illegal tendencies. Adding to this clause the amount of people who join these extremist organizations has doubled every six months for 2015 and part of 2016, because of internet access becoming more available for everyone. (Kirk, A. 2016) Cyber security has been developed for the betterment of society. As an example the research made by Jacob R Scanlon and Matthew S Gerber entitled Automatic detection of cyber-recruitment by violent extremists tackles particular situations regarding the topic and offers possibilities in dealing with these recruitment methods in various viable ways.

Another reason why the internet has become such a powerful recruitment tool is due to its lack of control of the content uploaded. On sites like Facebook or Youtube, the latter being the most used for training programs with an user friendly and professional look, the amount of

content being uploaded every minute is impossible to keep track of, and, unfortunately, the companies in charge of these sites have been unable to develop a software capable of accurately and efficiently monitoring these files, and the use of an artificial intelligence is absolutely imperative, since using manpower is simply impossible. Without the necessary supervision, many extremist campaigns that look non-threatening enough are perfectly able to slip through the cracks, absolutely unnoticed.

The closeness that recruiters have to their target is also a very strong reason why social media sites are attractive to jihadist groups. They usually seek vulnerable people who are easier to manipulate into believing their ideals, so, they necessarily have to gain their trust. Sites that offer instant messaging, such as Twitter or, again, Facebook, offer a closer interaction between the two people, helping them build up their trust and eventually know exactly how to convince them, either with promises of honor, money, a lavish lifestyle, and glory.

### ***About Recruitment Methods***

As far as recruitment comes, there are certain tools utilized which will be divided into three sections: Hosted sites, which include sites created and hosted by extremist groups, Non-hosted sites, which look at exploiting free network sites such as social networking and message boards, and thirdly the focus will be on al-Qaeda's latest strategy.

#### **Hosted sites**

Hosted sites are those made and managed by an extremist organization or an extremist organization's members and are used to serve as a gathering location and international communication between the organization's members and people who are considering joining to this cause. These sites originated in the Deep Web and were evidently more cautious about who had access to them and who could join, but since the internet has normalized the freedom of speech and belief it has made it more easy for these sites to exist.

#### **Non-hosted sites**

This refers to sites whose purpose is communication or social media connections but are used as tools to misdirect gullible young people into believing in extremist principles or rather to convince them to resort to terrorism in their own country. Also as another strategy there are fake online news articles who speak wonders about the life jihadist have and are easily mistaken by young readers as true, this diminishes the trustworthiness of newspapers in general and thus decreases the veracity people have in legitimate news providers as well.

### **Al-Qaeda's new method**

Al-Qaeda's latest cybertool is a colourful, professionally produced online magazine called *Inspire*. *Inspire*'s first article entitled "Make a bomb in the kitchen of your mom" gave detailed instructions on how to make a bomb using simple materials as part of open source jihad. Although the website has been shut down, the magazine was not difficult to find and could easily be circulated as a simple portable document file (PDF) through chat rooms and social groups. This magazine would no doubt find appeal amongst disaffected youth.

Many extremist attacks have had the same methods regarding cyber recruiting such as the 2004 Madrid Train Bombings and 2005 London Bombings. The Madrid bombers were inspired by online Iraqi jihad texts in attempt to cause Spain's withdraw from Iraq. Bombers have admitted that while they were not having direct contact with Al-Qaeda, they regularly visited their web sites, viewed their videos and read their propaganda (Awan, 2007). The Foiled Plot of 17 Canadian Muslims in 2004, there was an online chat room in which extremists would discuss the procedure of the foiled plot, this is an example of how extremist groups recruit disaffected youth to begin a path of radicalism.

There are many more examples of how these websites have affected and recruited many more people into doing these radical attempts such as the Five Young British-Muslims Charged Under the 2000 UK terrorism Act in 2004, and Adam Gadahn 1995 Onwards.

### ***About the Threat it Represents***

#### ***General spread***

Exploring the data on a variety of the extremist attacks perpetrated in western Europe can show that many of the extremists performing the attacks are in fact, western european. The biggest examples of this, aside from the aforementioned examples of the 2004 Madrid Train Bombings and the 2005 London Bombings, are the cases of the France and Brussels attacks, of which the main suspects, Mohamed Abrini and brothers Salah and Ibrahim Abdeslam, were all childhood friends from Brussels. Another example of this is the Manchester Arena bombing, where the perpetrator, 22-year-old Salman Abedi, was born in Manchester.

The internet, particularly blog-style social media sites are used as a venting site for many people. As people have access to a person's day to day life, many aspects of that person's personality are exposed, and this is something that recruiters unarguably use in their advantage. They prey on people who they deem will be easy to manipulate, using all the information they can gather from their social media platforms, from their relationships and opinions, to information about their surroundings. They analyze it all, and based on this data they pick their

targets and start luring them into their cause with false promises of an amazing future as a fighter of extremism. This turns almost every young user of social media into a target, regardless of their location in the world, which represents a very important threat to NATO and global security due to the possibility of a rise in internal and external terrorism.

Knowing this data, we can see why the reach of jihadism is so prejudicial in an international scale, and why it is so detrimental to halt it. Cyber-jihadism has indeed existed since the beginning of the World Wide Web but as its threatfulness increases so does the concern of international agencies as are the United Nations' Security Council and most recently the North Atlantic Council.

### ***Nuclear threat possibilities***

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's official site has already dedicated an entire article addressing this topic and in it, it has resolved many popular doubts regarding the topic of nuclear-level weaponry acquisition or production by extremist groups and how the internet may play a role in making it easier. Though the article was made from 2007, many of the data gathered in it is factual and has remained the same nowadays, with the exception of the part about the internet's involvement. As technology has been improving exponentially the last decade, the internet has also become more dangerous and the North Atlantic Council is concerned that if there are already tutorials on how to make homemade military grade bombs, and if there is an on-growing black market of weapons both in the Deep Web and the World Wide Web, the possibility of a nuclear attack by an extremist organization is bigger than ever.

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## *Glossary*

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### **A**

**Ambiguity** - Word, expression or concept which can be interpreted in more than one way.

**Aforementioned** - Synonym for 'previously mentioned' or 'mentioned above' .

### **C**

**Cyber-recruitment** - The action and process of adding people to a movement or organization through the internet and online services.

### **D**

**Diminish**- to reduce or be reduced in size or importance:

### **E**

**Encrypt** - Convert information into a code or cypher with the intention of protecting it and restricting access to it.

### **F**

**Fundraiser** - A person or event involved in collecting money for a particular purpose, especially a charity.

### **G**

**Gullible** - Adjective for people who are easily cheated.

### **I**



**Infidel** - Term used by jihadists for a person who practices any religion other than jihadism,  
or doesn't practice any religion at all.

## L

**Latter**- The second of two people, things, or groups that have just been talked about

**Lavish**- Given generously or too freely

## M

**Massacre** - The act or event of taking the lives of a large number of people, particularly in state of helplessness and/or vulnerability.

**Mindset** - A person's way of thinking and their opinions.

**Misdirect** - To direct wrongly.

## R

**Recruiters** - Refers to the person whose job is to enrol people as members of something or employees.

## T

**Threatful** - Synonym for dangerous.

**Threat** - A statement that you will harm or punish someone if that person does not do what you want.

**Trustworthiness** - The quality or fact of being trusted.