

# TERRORISM IN LIBYA AND REGIONAL SECURITY

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**Abstract:** This study examined terrorism in Libya and regional security. The study reviewed the concepts of terrorism and regional security. The descriptive research design was adopted for this study. The data for the study was gotten through secondary sources and was analyzed using content analysis. Facts drawn from these sources were carefully examined in order to establish a logical trend from there, conclusions were drawn. The study found out that terrorism has impacted on Libya's energy and oil facilities, the population of Libya, health sector, humanitarian responses, as well as food and sanitation, in the same way terrorism has impacted on the neighbouring countries like, Algeria which shares boundary with Libya and fears that terrorist will have easy access to its territory, in the case of Tunisia most of the attacks carried out by terrorist are young people that are trained in Libya. The study recommended that, Libyan administration should create strong institutions which is without sentiments to counter terrorism in Libya as the current institutions are tremendously incapable and there ought to be a superior perceivability and more powerful commitment with states by guaranteeing strong establishments that will head towards ending terrorism that has affected on Libya and its neighbors.

**Keywords:** Institution, administration, international, humanitarian, states.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Terrorist activities has generally increased in Libya since the civil crisis that took place in Libya. In any case, the drivers of this contention, and the subsequent institutional and political parts that persevere has prompted a stalemate between contradicting political alliances in Libya's post-2011 transition and endeavors to intervene between rivals have so far demonstrated fruitless. The security circle stays divided in certain areas and more divided with local control, split between terrorist groups framed along regional, ancestral and philosophical lines. No genuine advancement has been made in incapacitating or coordinating these terrorist actors, and the contention has proceeded over the previous years, driven by contrasting dreams of the Libyan state, rivalry for assets and fears of not having certain authoritative, social and monetary rights regarded. By all accounts, thusly, apparently concerns identifying with the dissemination of terrorist, weapons and border control stays powerless. Terrorist groups keep on taking advantage of the spaces presented by the divided security circle, ostensibly in a considerably more unobtrusive way while weapons dealing proceeds, cross-border exchanges, movement of individuals from nearby nations into Libya, with regards to annoying policy centered issues identifying with non-Arab minority communities' citizenship rights, may well demonstrate a huger issue for the region going ahead.

Likewise, while terrorist groups probably keep on taking advantage of Libyan domain, consider the political circumstance of terrorist groups and Islamist in Libya and the potential for additional radicalization and brutality. Notwithstanding the terrorist threat, a wide range of crimes have developed in and from Libya and influenced its neighbors in the Northern part of Africa, including migrant smuggling and, most importantly, weapons dealing. The proceeded mayhem in Libya with regards to the breakdown of terrorist groups like Islamic States (IS) in the Middle East raises further worries in the light of speculation that the vast majority of the region's foreign contenders who went to Syria or Iraq and battled with IS or Al-Qaeda's partners in Syria, particularly Al-Nusra Front, have chosen to move to Libya and build up the terrorist allies with IS and Al-Qaeda there. Without a doubt, in the Middle East these contenders have gained a significant degree of both

military and revolutionary philosophical training, just as direct battling experience, as well as building up networks with fellow terrorist from other parts of the world. However, against this background the study examines the impact of terrorism in Libya and other neighbouring states in the region.

## 2. CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

### Concept of terrorism

Terrorism is a polemical word that has since quite a while ago incited translation inconsistencies in the international community. Despite the fact that definitions are short details utilized with the aim of passing on lucidity, we might be confronting an instance of planned uncertainty, of an absence of clearness to smother the need to articulate good judgment about terrorism. The outcomes to achieve a definition that evokes widespread acknowledgment have been baffling so far on the grounds that the issue of characterizing terrorism lies in its subjectivity. Whittaker (2007) is of the view that there are clear differentiations in insight for those in power, spectators, popular assessment, casualties or culprits; for the people who denounce or excuse terrorism. Everything appears to rely upon one's perspective, says terrorism expert Brian Jenkins (1985); in the event that one party can effectively append the name terrorism to its rival, it has innately convinced others to embrace its ethical perspective. Hoffman (2006) in his definition sums up the reasoning behind the discussion encompassing terrorism, which is embodied in the relativistic view, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter".

In spite of the fact that there are various reasons preventing global agreement, subjectivity remains a significant obstruction in characterizing the term. The global community has logically decided to handle the issue by skipping to utilize the actual word and zeroing in rather on the reception of a progression of conventions and settlements that manage a portion of terrorism highlights. Albeit this piecemeal methodology might be semantically inadequate, it has turned into a fruitful exertion in getting that a greater part of states signs on these limiting peaceful accords for the arraignment or removal of the culprits of some assigned demonstrations, for example, airplane hijacking, prisoner taking and an assortment of vicious assaults against people and property (Guillaume, 2004).

### Concept of Regional Security

The regional security has a long practice in global relations and is perceived as viably executed insurance of the system of shared relations between nations in the region against the dangers of insecurity, emergencies, armed struggles and territorial conflicts (Malak, 2015). Most every now and again, security at the regional level is fabricated dependent on a framework or a partnership working within the characterized region, and "regional security organizations are frequently, however not generally, set up based on geographical limits of the region, at the interface of useful collaboration" (Malak, 2015). Simultaneously, it is likewise significant that occasionally this geographic extent of regional security foundations can be unique, as the feeling of normal security might go across practical interests (e.g., trade). It's somewhat high event happens on account of military unions, which in the post-war global framework regularly covered and still covers a region bigger than the region in rigorously geographic or economic terms (Malak, 2015).

With regards to regional security, it is likewise important to recognize the primary dangers in this circle. These primary dangers to security in the regional setting are indistinguishable from the list dependent on the rules of a large number of contemporary security methodologies. They connect specific significance to the components of dangers like the chance of the episode of a conflict, the multiplication of weapons of mass annihilation and method for their conveyance, global terrorism, coordinated crime, uncontrolled relocation, social strains, climate debacles, debasement, scourges or demographic dangers related with low populace development and maturing of populaces in the conditions of a given region (Gorka-Winter, 2003).

## 3. METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the descriptive research design. Materials for this study was sourced through secondary sources of data which includes; textbooks, journal articles, newspapers, magazines, official documents from the government and internet materials. Content analysis was utilized to analyze data so generated.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

At this point, data were presented that help to address the objectives raised in the introductory section. In other words, this section is aimed at establishing an empirical link of the analysis of the terrorism in Libya and regional security.

**Terrorism in Libya and its impact****Figure 1: The impact of terrorism in Libya**

**Source:** Computed by the researcher based on data from <https://www.google.com/search?q=humanitarian+needs+overview+2017>

From the figure 1 above showing the impact of terrorism in Libya, terrorism have impacted on different sectors in Libya, for instance on energy and oil facilities, the population, health sector, humanitarian response, water sanitation and hygiene and food.

**The impact of terrorism in Libya****Impact on energy and oil facilities**

The effect on the energy and oil amenities are clear following equipped terrorist bunches assault on a few oil fields, and abducted a few nationals of other nations. Terrorist have conducted comparable activities in 2015, when they assaulted two oil fields and harmed two oil pipelines that moved oil from the fields to As Sidr, which ended the movement of oil supplies to the seaport (Tichy & Eichler, 2018). These and numerous terrorist assaults brought about the closing of 11 oil fields, stoppages of oil supplies, and capture of various prisoners by these terrorist organizations (Faucon, 2018).

**Impact on population**

The effect on the populace is clear given the way that the terrorist exercises likewise influenced a populace of an estimated 1.62 million individuals across Libya, 217,000 individuals keep on being dislodged. The impacted populaces keep on confronting basic challenges as it relates to protection, as well as hazard of death and injury because of aimless utilization of arms, opportunity of movement limitations and crisis related mental injury by the terrorist assaults.

### Impact on health sectors

The effect likewise impacted the health sector because of terrorist assaults on medical services offices and clinical staff continued in the nation over, as well as, Benghazi, Derna, Azzawya, Sebha and Tripoli, influencing the prosperity of patients, the establishment of health administrations and the vocations especially of ladies, who comprise 56 % of workers at clinics across the 3 Libyan regions (United Nations Support Mission in Libya). Nonetheless, it was found that 17.5% of clinics, 20% of essential medical care offices and 8% of other health offices were not functional because of terrorist destroying them, absence of upkeep, detachment and occupation by individuals and entities.

### Impact on humanitarian response

The effect has additionally influenced the philanthropic response, because of the terrorist assaults in Libya that have likewise halted the humanitarian response that has been carried out by associations that were attempting to help with offering helps to people who have been impacted by the emergency that has happened in Libya. The effect of terrorism on is clear given the way that before the terrorist assaults by terrorist organizations in Libya, the water supply inclusion was assessed as 100% in metropolitan networks and 95% in local populations, while the sterilization inclusion was 60% in metropolitan regions and 40% in local areas. Since, various terrorist assaults break out, appraisals show that just 64% of the impacted populace have access to satisfactory drinking water sources.

### Impact on food

The effect was likewise felt on food as in 2016 as it was found that 24% of all IDP families are insecure as regards food uncertain because of activities of terrorist (Rapid Food Security evaluation for Internal Displaced Persons, 2016). The food insecure families have reduced food consumption and can't meet their fundamental food needs without taking part in serious and conceivably irreversible negative adapting strategies.

### Terrorism in Libya and its impact on the neighbouring countries

**Table 1: The impact of terrorism on the region**

Countries	Impact of terrorism in Libyan on its neighbouring countries
<b>Algeria</b>	Expansion of light weapons in Libya which has influenced Algeria, dangers from threats bunches in Libya
<b>Egypt</b>	Security problems that have prompted expansion in viciousness carried out by terrorist along the Libyan- Egyptian border and impact on their bilateral exchange
<b>Morocco</b>	Youngsters from Morocco have gone to Libya to join terrorist sets
<b>Tunisia</b>	Security challenges emerging from terrorist who were trained in Libya and the effect on the Tunisian economy

Source: Computed by the researcher based on data from <https://www.cidob.org/en/publications/publication>

From the table 1 above showing the impact of terrorism on its neighbouring states, the impact on Algeria expansion of light weapons in Libya which has influenced Algeria, dangers from threats bunches in Libya. While in Egypt security problems that have prompted expansion in viciousness carried out by terrorist along the Libyan- Egyptian border and impact on their bilateral exchange. However, in Morocco youngsters from Morocco have gone to Libya to join terrorist sets which is a threat to them. In Tunisia security challenges emerging from terrorist who were trained in Libya and the effect on the Tunisian economy.

### Impact of terrorism on Algeria

Algeria is worried that its eastern boundaries with Libya and Mali, Tunisia, comprise a "circular segment of danger" controlled by Libya. For sure, a large number of terrorist associations, regardless of whether partnered with Al-Qaeda,

like AQIM, or IS, consider Algiers as a first concern target. Libya was an open market for arms during 2011–2015 and the present circumstance lastingly affects the security circumstance that proceeds with today.

### Impact of terrorism on Egypt

Terrorism in Libya straightforwardly compromises Egypt's public safety and its security (Dentice, 2017). A significant security challenge is the 1,150-km Egyptian-Libyan boundary. Since Ghaddafi's overthrow, brutality along the boundary has dramatically expanded. Given the flimsiness in Libya because of terrorist exercises along the boundary, complete border security is viewed as unthinkable from Egyptian authority side. In spite of a huge number of Egyptian soldiers in the western desert, landmines along the border and military contender jets in the sky, the boundary remains a significant pirating center for arms, medications and individuals, as well as terrorists (Megahis, 2017)

### Impact of terrorism on Morocco

Terrorism in Libya has affected on Morocco regardless of whether Morocco has appeared to be stable, unconstrained uproars can flood inconsistently as they did on 2 November 2016, following the death of a fish merchant Mohcine Fikri, a case suggestive of the immolation of Tunisia's Mohamed Bouazizi, which started the commotion in 2010. Without a doubt, as in the remainder of the region, underestimation and joblessness are the essential factors that push youngsters to join terrorist groups. Also, 66% of the Moroccan contenders who joined the terrorist groups in Libya are under 25, and 3/4 come from helpless strata living in the slums of enormous and medium-sized towns, like, Tangier, Salé and Casablanca (Stitou & Guguen, 2015). In any case, the arrival of the contenders from Libya to Morocco constrained the Moroccan administration to overhaul the tolerance they had displayed toward terrorists up until recently, however it has not achieved the required outcomes.

### Impact of terrorism on Tunisia

Tunisia has been enormously and straightforwardly undermined by the breakdown of the Libyan state, prominently as far as its security, political strength and economy, representing a specific danger to its popularity-based transition particularly in 2015–16. Without a doubt, the most noticeably awful terrorist assaults that have happened in the nation have started in Libya and been directed by youthful Tunisians having a place with terrorist bunches who were trained in Libya. Amongst these, the June 2015 assault in the ocean side hotel of Sousse, in which 38 Western sightseers were murdered, stays right up 'til the present time the deadliest terrorist assault throughout the entire existence of Tunisia.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that terrorism has impacted on Libya in the areas of energy and oil facilities, the population of Libya, health sector, humanitarian responses from organizations, as well as food and sanitation. It was also concluded that terrorism has also impacted on the neighbouring countries like, Algeria which shares boundary with Libya and fears that terrorist will have easy access to its territory, for Tunisia most of the attacks carried out by terrorist are young people that are trained in Libya. However, based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made which includes; the Libyan administration should create strong institutions which is without sentiments to counter terrorism in Libya as the current institutions are tremendously incapable and there ought to be a superior perceivability and more powerful commitment with states by guaranteeing strong establishments that will head towards ending terrorism that has affected on Libya and its neighbors.

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