ISLAMIC - FUNDAMENTALIST INSPIRED TERRORISM – ASYMMETRIC SECURITY RISK

- **S U M M A R Y** -

Scientific Coordinator

Univ. Prof. Dr. Adrian IVAN

PhD student

Adrian Cătălin GURĂU

- Cluj Napoca 2015 –

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The chosen field to be deepened during these doctoral studies, **terrorism** respectively, was not randomly selected, but after a long and serious analysis and reflection. However, this choice was mainly due to my professional training and experience, as practitioner in preventing and combating organized crime and crime risks and threats to the national security of Romania, coupled with my passion for the subject and for the Arab world. Of course to the subjective / personal motivation an unbiased cause was also added, represented by the geopolitical situation and the existing security worldwide in late 2010 - early 2011, with the advent and increasing of the national liberation movements of the northern African states from under dictatorial domination exercised over several decades, popular movements known in the literature and media, under the generic name of "*Arab spring*".

Subsequently, throughout the scientific research, regional political stability in the Middle East has experienced deep changes generated precisely by these revolutionary movements, changes that led to reorientation of power poles in the area. The situation of regional security was fundamentally transformed within 3 - 4 years, changes were mainly due to the killing of the leader of Al Qaeda, **Usama bin Laden**, by the allied forces in their offensive waged against terrorism, and culminated in the emergence and development brutal of the *Islamic State* terrorist entity, as well as degeneration and transformation into genuine revolutionary conventional wars of some movements, like the example of those worn in Syria and Iraq today.

Considering all these aspects, together with the fact that terrorism is a very extensive domain, for better individualization in time and space, as well as in order to achieve a meaningful and thorough analysis upon scientific research, I chose as theme for thesis "*Islamic Fundamentalist inspired terrorism - asymmetric security risk*". My choice, although at first was contested by some members of the *Doctoral school of international relations and European studies* at the "Babes Bolyai" University of Cluj Napoca, being reasoned for me that this is an area that has been greatly studied and also discussed in a variety of scientific papers, reason for which I cannot come up with issues of novelty or that "*added value*", there was ultimately proven to be a good choice and especially an issue of the utmost and topical

importance, in perfect agreement with the daily realities of both the area of the Middle East and Europe.

As previously revealed, the field of terrorism studying is a very vast and although both the concept of terrorism has emerged as a concept in its own right, well defined and criminalized under international law rather late, only in the twentieth century, and studies in the field have begun to multiply especially in the second half of the last century, scientific research and bibliography on terrorism is very rich, both in terms of number of volumes and in terms of plethora of hypotheses and theories.

Considering the diversity and multiplicity of scientific works in the field, I tried to identify an area not much studied and also fount constantly in recent years, under public attention, especially after the outbreak of conflict in the Persian Gulf in the years of '90, for which I stopped upon Islamic - Fundamentalist inspired terrorism. I also proposed myself to make a presentation on connections between this kind of terrorism and organized crime activities.

The bloody events that have succeeded rapidly during 2015, both in Europe (attacks in France, Belgium, Denmark, Turkey) and in the Arab world (bombings in Tunisia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt), with devastating consequences for the civilian population and especially in the collective consciousness have demonstrated to us that terrorist organizations and in particular the terrorist is an entity with a totally unpredictable behavior and that as much as studied and analyzed this phenomenon actions will never be entirely known and anticipated, which makes terrorism a topical domain.

Additionally with the crisis of immigrants from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries with terrorist potential, that hit Europe in the second half of this year and with the situation generated by recent bombings in Paris and Saint Denis in November, puts increasingly more concerned and acquires new meanings connections between organized crime, organized criminal groups and terrorist acts committed by terrorist organizations.

Considering these aspects we can strongly affirm that terrorism and especially the one of Islamic - Fundamentalist origin, is the number one subject in the attention of all Western governments, being often discussed at the bi and multilateral encounters between Heads of State and at meetings of regional or international bodies active in the field of security. Also the issue of illegal migration, trafficking in arms and explosives, cyber crime and laundering and illicit transfers of money in direct connection with supporting terrorist organizations is one of the main concerns of law enforcement and intelligence bodies, worldwide in 2015 and 2016.

The main objective of this work was that based on the presentation of theoretical issues relating to terrorism and an overview of the history of Islam and the geopolitical situation in the Middle East to focus then on the emergence and evolution of Islamic fundamentalism, which is the base of vast majority of terrorist actions, worn nowadays, and then through the case study to present the concrete connections and interdependence between the actions of terrorist organizations and illegal activities carried out by organized criminal groups on the main levels of organized crime, like drug trafficking, Cyber crime, arms trafficking, vast economic - financial crime, as well as money laundering and human trafficking. The purpose of the presentations and discussions of interconnection was to show that the two asymmetrical risks for global security are intertwined in most cases, the line of which is very fine and very hard to establish, making the work of the law enforcement and intelligence structures in these tasks very difficult. At the same time I wanted to draw attention to the fact that in order to effectively prevent and combat terrorist activity it is required a permanent and active cooperation between authorities responsible in these areas of the states, both nationally and especially at cross-border (regional or international) level, to effectively address, first, the activities of organized crime and to succeed later in preventing terrorist acts. These issues are a proactive response of authorities to the terrorist activities.

Given that doctoral studies were performed in the field of international relations and European studies, the approach used during the research is a *multidisciplinary* and *interdisciplinary* one, with references to demography, global studies, geopolitics, geo-strategy, geography, history, religion, economics, law, cross-border terrorism and organized crime. If terrorism is tackled during the thesis both in legal - theoretical, international relations, the emergence and development of the phenomenon terms, and in terms of practice, organized crime with Islamic - fundamentalist inspired terrorism are the concepts that will be addressed in detail in the case study, they actually being two axes which this study is based on.

Using the *statistical method* and a *mainly quantitative approach*, by collecting and analyzing statistical data processed by U.N.O.C.D. on production, routes and drug seizures on global level, arms trafficking as well as on globally and regionally human trafficking, in the case study are presented the main levels of organized crime and the huge profits generated by these illegal activities. Then from these criminal activities and the whole mechanism which revolves around them are presented and substantiated links and interpenetrations of the acts of terrorist organizations and illegal actions of criminal groups. From a qualitative perspective I preferred the choice of those sources because they confer accuracy, reliability of data and information used.

This paper uses as the main research method the *study of the bibliography*, particularly on works published nationally and internationally in the field of terrorism and the history of religions, focusing on the emergence and development of Islam and Islamic fundamentalism, as well as online articles and sources, in order to give topicality and novelty to data used and listed in the paper.

Nevertheless, during the scientific research, there were used as bibliographic sources a series of legal, national and international regulations, which stood or underlying the enactment of the legal regime of terrorist actions, such as international conventions, international agreements, strategies, laws, ordinances and decisions of the Romanian Government. Also the use of studies and conclusions provided by them on the geopolitical and geostrategic situation of the wider Middle East and on the global damages and consequences of the attacks of September 11th, 2001 have given me the opportunity to achieve a more complete and comprehensive picture of the security situation of the world and especially of the one on the Middle East level.

Another method that I used in my scientific approach was the one of legal research, sense in which a section of the first chapter was devoted to the legal, national and international framework, applicable to terrorism sector. I have also resorted to a working methodology allowing knowledge on security and geopolitical realities so singular in general, by *inductive* manner, as well as *from general to particular*, via *logical deductions*. The importance of the inductive - deductive method for revealing characteristics of strategic interest space over which I conducted the research, is clear, as long as, in its essence, the concept of security is based on multilevel realities amount.

The use of *descriptive analysis* is also essential. Thus we will not refer only to observations and descriptions of the context where there is security paradigm in the Middle East or sequential approach to different situations by different actors but we will try as from causes that determine the manifestation of area regional security dilemma to determine the effects that it may generate.

Using the *comparative method* has allowed me in the first part of the paper, the theoretical one, to highlight the similarities and main differences between terrorist acts, on the one hand and revolutionary movements, the national liberation or guerrilla attacks, on the other hand, as well as the main common elements of different definitions of terrorism given over time by a series of researchers in the field. This had as main consequence a correct understanding and definition of the concept of terrorism and its proper placement in the current international geostrategic framework. This method has been used extensively and successfully

in the second part of the paper, put aside for the case study, to allow us to make a concrete, but not limited, presentation of the similarities between the actions of terrorist organizations and organized criminal groups activities.

The comparative study focused on highlighting the similarities and / or differences between terrorist organizations and acts performed by them, most often with violence and aiming at generating a sense of fear and on the other side the organized criminal groups and illegal activities carried out by them that have as main goal to obtain significant profits in time intervals as short as possible.

Although the study is an exclusively empirical oriented one, the research has tried to combine specific knowledge of international relations (as a discipline clearly outlined in the academic area) and safety studies with the specific ones in the area of history, geography (especially demographic, political and social), the economy, law and religion. Also through the case study presentations conclusions were attempted to be drawn on the two areas which mostly deliver practical experience of law enforcement structures with tasks in the field.

However, given the specificity of the field and its importance for proper security at national and international level, access to some bibliographic sources, with increased value and relevance for scientific approach and a better understanding and presentation of the phenomenon could not be achieved due to the fact that most of them have a special regime for access and manipulation (they are classified or not for advertising documents). Following this reason, this work can be assessed and cataloged by practitioners and specialists in preventing and combating terrorism as a purely theoretical paper.

If we add to this the fact that the current geostrategic context and developments in Islamic - fundamentalist inspired terrorism are in constant transformation, we find that there is more space for the continuation and deepening research in this field, terrorism remaining for another long period of time one of the most topical asymmetric threats to global security.

The doctoral thesis "*Islamic-fundamentalist inspired terrorism - asymmetric security risk*" is a work of scientific research which addresses theoretical issues about terrorism, field legislation, the emergence and development of Islamic faith and Islamic fundamentalism and a presentation from a historical, geopolitical and geostrategic perspective of terrorist organizations and the risks generated thereby to the global security. The thesis concludes with a case study which highlights the connections and interdependence between terrorist organizations and activities generated by the organized criminal groups that carry out criminal activities on the main levels of organized crime.

The paper is divided into five chapters, with separate sections for introductory and conclusions issues.

In the introductory section I made a short presentation of items relating to terrorism and its evolution over time, focusing on the period after the two world wars and more active involvement of governments in preventing and combating this phenomenon. This section was introduced to familiarize the ones who will study the work with elementary aspects about terrorism.

The first chapter of the thesis "*The conceptualization of terrorism*" is divided into two distinct sections, which in turn are divided into several subsections each. Thus the first section is devoted to paradigms of terrorism knowledge, meaning there are addressed: *Crisis Paradigm*, *Culture paradigm, Instrumental paradigm*, *Social paradigm* and *Ideological paradigm* and based on this, further aspects concerning the etymology of terrorism and on the multitude of definitions of terrorism are detailed. After basing a division between terrorist activities on the one hand and the national liberation movements, revolutionary movements and guerilla ones, on the other hand, also identifying the main defining elements present in most definitions of terrorism, we can define terrorism as a *programmatic act, a violent conflict by which the perpetrator seeks to impose position of authority over society and the state in order to control social relationships or change or destruction of the already existing ones*.

Also in this section I have carried out an overview of the main types of terrorism, classified by a number of significant criteria.

The second section is entirely devoted to presenting the legal international and domestic framework, in force in the field of criminalization of terrorist acts, realizing also a presentation of institutions forming the National System for Preventing and Combating Terrorism in Romania and their duties in preventing and combating terrorism. In this part there are presented in detail provisions of Law 51/1991 and Law 535/2004, the main domestic laws applicable in this area.

In the second chapter "*Islamic religion and causes of Islamic fundamentalist inspired terrorism*" a trip in geographical and demographical terms is made in the Islamic world, aiming to present the main Muslim concentration in the world and the development and permanent expansion of the number of followers of Islam.

Also this part contains a presentation, in terms of the history of religions, the emergence and development of Muslim culture. Thus, I conducted a review of the bases of Islamic faith, starting from the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, considered the founder of the religion of Islam, his wars to conquer the entire Arab world and to the evolution of Islam after

the Prophet's death, period which merges with the division of Muslim religion followers into three main categories:

1. Sunnis - called *Ahl As-Sounnah wal Jama'ah*, representing about 85-90% of all Muslims, and they are almost a billion. According to tradition they joined the tradition, namely the interpretation of Quran transmitted by word of mouth and they are those who recognize the four caliphs as followers of Muhammad, in the order in which they succeeded: **Abu Bakr** (632-634) **Omar** (634-644), **Othman** (644-656) and **Ali** (656-661).

2. Shiites - representing approximately 10-15% of all Muslims being in an estimated number of 165 million, mainly concentrated in Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and India. They claim that **Ali** (Muhammad's cousin and his adopted son) and his and Fatima's descendants (daughter of Muhammad) are the legitimate successors of Mohammed. So Shiites are those who believe that the right of Prophet's succession belongs to his family and the ones that follows it (*Ahl al-Bayt*), who also ensure the proper understanding of revelation transmitted by the Prophet. The Prophet's family members are the chain by which teachings and grace are also transmitted (*baraka*). In Shi'ism the Imam, as the Prophet is impeccable and is worshiped along with it. The list of recognized imams differs in various groups[1]. The vast majority of Shiites believes in 12 imams, *infallible leaders*, the first of whom is **Ali** and the last of them named **Mahdi**, it does not die itself, but disappeared in the **ninth century** and hides, his appearance will mean the administration of justice on Earth, which could mean an Islamic equivalent of Judgment.

3. Kharijits - have spread in the Arab world, now accounting for about 3-4% of the Muslim population, which is concentrated in Oman, Zanzibar and North Africa. According to their beliefs every man can lead a Muslim community, regardless of race or tribe, he may be elected as a leader on one condition, that of being a Muslim with irreproachable behavior.

A chapter of this part is intended for presentation of origins and evolution of Islamic fundamentalism as one of the main causes behind the terrorist acts. Thus there are listed the reasons that led to the events of Islamic fundamentalist type in the modern era, starting from 1928, the emergence of the "*Muslim Brotherhood*" organization in Egypt, continuing with the Cold War, when there also takes place the Iranian revolution and culminating with the attacks on September 11th, 2001, marking the culmination of religious fanaticism shown by Islamic fundamentalists terrorists.

---

[1] Nadia Anghelescu, "Introduction to Islam", Ed. Polirom, Bucharest, 2014

The third part of the paper "*The main terrorist organizations of Islamic fundamentalist origin*" is divided into two sections, each of which is in turn divided into two or three subchapters. The section entitled "*The military - politico situation in Orient*" is focused on the geopolitical and geostrategic analysis of the situation at global and regional levels in the wider Middle East, with particular emphasis on stability and risk factors in the area. In this regard given the political, military and economic situation in the wider Middle East we can see that after the completion of the second Gulf War, the killing of Iraqi leader Saddam HUSSEYN, removal from power, by the so-called revolutionary movements, of the dictatorships that for decades ruled the states, this region is torn by a strong instability, which generates a number of risks and vulnerabilities to world security and peace.

Today the Muslim world is torn by conflict, being in full swing: the Arab - Israeli conflict, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq for obtaining and exercising power, the war in Syria for independence and for removing the regime of Bashaar al Assad, as well as the Kurdish issue, and a series of grievances and disputes being in a latent state, which can escalate at any time and can turn into armed conflicts.

Thus the constant internal struggle waged by tribes in Afghanistan, as well as among the Iraqi to impose a certain political regime, led to the division of the two countries, which currently have ceased to exist as unitary states, which generates a major risk for area security and global security perspective. A special situation we find in **Syria**, considered one of the main pillars of security and peace in the area, until the outbreak of street movements that later escalated and turned into an open armed conflict between governments forces loyal to the President and opponents of Bashaar al Assad at first, and later with representatives of the Islamic State. The fighting, which is currently on the Syrian territory have led to the migration of a significant part of the population in Turkey (at the Turkish - Syrian border there are 1,500,000 immigrants of Syrian origin, awaiting identification of opportunities to move to Western Europe) and then to Western states, which generated very strong weakening of the state both economically and in terms of the influence that it could exert on other Muslim states.

In a similar situation is **Egypt**, as well. which until the outbreak of the "*Arab spring*" and the ouster of **Muhammad Hosni El Sayed MUBARAK** was considered the center of stability and security in the Arab region, being the state that coagulated around it all the other Arab states in the region. Today Egypt is strongly ground by armed conflicts between opposing forces and the army, which gives a strong instability of the country, something that seriously affects economic development of the state. This is magnified by the possibility that "*Muslim Brotherhood*" to return back to power (immediately after the overthrow of the dictator, during

the first free elections held in Egypt, the representative of the *Muslim Brotherhood* was elected as President, **Mohamed Morsi Muhammad Morsi Isa Al-Ayyat**, who further was removed from power by the army), which could lead to major changes in foreign policy of the country as well as in the escalation of the Egyptian – Israeli conflict, given the Islamic -fundamentalist doctrine by which this organization guides its actions.

Meanwhile countries like Sudan, Tunisia and Libya are also ground by interminable political and military fighting, internally for taking power, which generates besides a series of obstacles to economic and social development of these countries, their isolation to the world and a state of uncertainty which is an important vulnerability, which can turn any moment into a major risk to global security.

Another state ground by internal political, dormant conflicts, is Iran. Here, although the country has experienced lately a considerable economic development in the last decade protests have intensified (protests of the Arab population in Khuzestan in 2005, protests of Azerbaijanis on the territory of Iran which took place in 2006) issues that are magnified the negative and uncertain situation located in some Iranian provinces: Baluchistan, Kurdistan and Sis tan. Given the fact that Iran is considered one of the states that have the technology required to manufacture a nuclear weapon, being also in possession of ballistic missiles and that underlying the governance of this state are Islamic - fundamentalist laws we conclude that the deterioration of the internal security environment and the outbreak of armed conflict in its territory or against an external aggressor can cause serious harm to public order and security at the regional and even global level.

The second section of this chapter presents the main stages of the evolution of modern international terrorism and terrorist organizations that have emerged and developed over these stages as follows:

1. *The emergence of modern international terrorism* (1968-1979) - a period in which appeared terrorist organizations like: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P.), Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Headquarters (P.F.L.P. - GC) and Abu Nidal Organization (ANO);

2. *Afghan Jihad and sponsor states for terrorist organizations* (1979-1991) - period which is confused with the development of strong terrorist organizations like: Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), GAMA'A AL -ISLAMIYYA ("Islamic Group - GI");

3. *The globalization of terrorism* (1991-2001) - period of maximum expansion of international terrorism, which culminated in the terrorist attacks that occurred on 11.09.2001

and when many of the current terrorist organizations have developed, including: Al Qaeda (Foundation, Base), Islamic Army of Aden - Abyan (AIAA), Harakat ul - Mujahidin (HUM), Jaish - e - Mohammed (Army of Mohammed), Lashkar - e - Taiba (Army of the righteous) and the Islamic Armed Group (GIA)

Chapter IV "*The impact of terrorist actions on global security*" is a geostrategic presentation, of the Islamic fundamentalist, of its link with European security and terrorism which is based on those principles as well as the threats and effects of this kind of terrorist actions on the world security and economy.

In this respect it points out that **Fundamentalist Islam**, also called the **Integrant Conservative Islam**, presents itself as a *powerful structured movement, uncompromising and xenophobic, that does not tolerate any opening to the West*. Thus due to these concepts, the Western European states and the U.S.A. are the main targets of terrorist actions initiated by Fundamentalist Islamist terrorist groups. Also during the first section of Chapter four major outbreaks of existing Islamic fundamentalist-inspired terrorism in Europe are presented, such as the ones in the Caucasian republics and the former Yugoslavia area.

A second section of this chapter describes the aftermath produced by the attacks on World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 11.09.2001, both direct damage and loss of life and indirect effects of these actions on the world economy and particularly on the U.S.A.

Chapter Five "*Connections of Islamic fundamentalist - inspired terrorism with organized crime*" is built based on the one case study carrying out a review of the main pillars of organized crime (drug trafficking, cyber crime, trafficking of arms, great economic and financial crime and money laundering and human trafficking) focusing on the relationships and interconnections between organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations of Muslim fundamentalist origin.

This chapter is divided into five subchapters, each addressing in practical terms, the links between Islamic fundamentalist terrorist organizations and one organized crime landing. In this way the first subchapter, after presenting places of cultivation and production of the main types of drugs: opiates, cannabis and synthetic drugs and routes used to transport them to market, in the end I'm focusing the scientific approach on interconnections between terrorist organizations and organized criminal groups acting in drug trafficking, establishing the following links:

- Organized criminal groups sell and distribute drugs, heroin and cannabis products, mostly in areas controlled by terrorist organizations like Afghanistan, Morocco etc;

- Criminal associations distribute and sell synthetic drugs and raw materials for the production of synthetic drugs in the Middle East in areas controlled by networks of terrorist organizations (Syria, Jordan and other countries in the Arabian Peninsula);

- Organized groups produce drugs or use transport routes that transit countries, under the influence of terrorist organizations (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Caucasian republics) meaning they are forced to pay various sums of money to get their support in order to conduct the criminal activities;

- Members of criminal groups pay different amounts of money in the form of protective duties to be allowed to carry out criminal activities, either in the territory of states under the influence of terrorist organizations or outside their territory without being reported to the authorities;

- On the other hand interconnection works in reverse, so that terrorist organizations receive various sums of money from members of criminal groups as they are allowed to carry out illegal activities but also in the form of donations, money that will be later used to finance terrorist activities;

- Also terrorist entities use routers used to transport drugs for transport of equipment, weapons and people to the targeted countries;

- There were also encountered many situations where some members of criminal groups become members, supporters or followers of terrorist ideas and even committing terrorist acts on their behalf;

- Finally, but not unimportant, is the use of "Hawalla" system (money transfer system specific to Arabs ethnic) by terrorist groups to transfer funds from the western countries to origin countries.

The second subchapter focuses on a brief overview of cybercrime and the connections between it and the Islamic fundamentalist-inspired terrorism, identifying in this respect the following areas the two activities interfere;

1. *Propaganda and making requests*: terrorist groups accuse the limitations of freedom of expression and pleading the cause of comrades imprisoned for political reasons or because of religious beliefs, of different schemes, themes with great resonance among the democrat public of the West and not only;

2. *Fundraising by charity organizations*, NGOs as well as by financial institutions, both from the followers of fundamentalist ideas in the regions where these organizations are stationed and from other parts of the world whether it refers to Islamic, Christian or other religious confessions;

3. *Recruitment and mobilization*: terrorist organizations collect information about frequent visitors of the sites they own and then contact them. The Internet - cafes, chat - room sites and bulletin board sites are also the most visited and frequented by members of such organizations seeking new followers or even supporters of Islamic - fundamentalist ideologies, to later turn into new recruits of the groups. However there are times when the relationship works both ways, proponents of extremist ideas offering services via Internet networks. At the same time members of terrorist organizations also use the internet in situations where it is necessary to mobilize activists and new recruits to conduct operations under the banner of the organization;

4. *Training*: On the Internet there are many sites that offer complete guides and manuals for the use of poisons, explosives and for manufacturing of devices using explosives, use of weapons and survival skills, fighting and even Aircrafts Handbooks;

5. *Communication and coordination between operative members and groups followers as well as planning terrorist attacks*: specialized sites, chat - room sites, email and VOIP communications media are increasingly used in relations between terrorists giving instructions, knowledge and technical data necessary for planning and execution of terrorist actions;

6. *Misinformation* - issuing threats or images to inspire feelings of fear, lack of defense and horror;

7. *Gathering of information*: by using the INTERNET the ordinary members of terrorist groups, only by using search engines, collect relevant information on transport infrastructure, power plants, ports, airports, public buildings, government offices etc. Also from the online environment they can obtain data and information on the security systems used by the authorities to protect certain objectives of strategic importance;

8. *Assumption of committed attacks*.

The third subchapter summarizes some relevant data on weapons, nuclear, biological and chemical materials trafficking and connections between criminal groups acting in this area and terrorist organizations, the most important of which is the supply of weapons to terrorist entities by these groups.

The fourth subchapter focuses on the great economic - financial and money laundering crime, a field of great interest to terrorist entities, which was also one of the leading providers of financial resources required to support the activities of organizations and means through which the moneys obtained by terrorist organizations in the legal or illegal activities are transferred and introduced into the legal circuit.

Finally it is shown the connection between terrorism of Islamic fundamentalist origin and human trafficking, with a particular focus on illegal migration and smuggling. Thus, I identified the following links between the two illegal activities:

- *Recruiting new members*: it is well known that the vast majority of suicide bombers are women, most of them recruited from victims of human trafficking;

- *Money transfers*: the fact that the groups involved in trafficking are numerous both in terms of members and victims, terrorist organizations are using this asset for transport and repatriation of money from western countries to countries of origin;

- *Fundraising*: given the current geopolitical situation and the growing number of people who want to travel to EU member states, terrorist organizations, which also control vast areas of countries of origin of migrants or those transited thereby, obtain major sums of money to facilitate their traveling to EU;

- *Transport of their members to target countries*, using groups of migrants and logistics of criminal groups involved in their trafficking.

In conclusion, links of Islamic - fundamentalist inspired terrorism to organized crime, in any of its main pillars, are imposed by the need to obtain new sources of financing, recruiting new members or sympathizers as well as for transfer and relocation of goods, values or members of groups in different areas under the greatest possible support enjoyed by countries which terrorist organizations are in conflict with.

Nevertheless the terrorist entities take advantage of the fact that they have influence on the authorities in certain regions of the Islamic world or control certain areas in this part of the world and get some of the huge profits generated by illegal activities undertaken by organized criminal groups in return to ensure the protection of these groups and their illegal activities.

Lessons learned during the scientific approach were addressed from an international perspective, on the one hand and on the other hand from the perspective of Romania as a member state of the European Union and NATO, in a separate section of this paper.

In the current regional geopolitical situation the states in the Middle East are more concerned with radical regimes or their domestic threats than **Israel**. This phenomenon is becoming increasingly visible since 2011, after the outbreak of the popular movements for liberation from the dictatorial domination of Arab states, which in some areas have turned into real lasting civil wars (Egypt, Syria, Libya etc).

Moderate States do not accept any ideology or leadership of some radical regimes, and they are unwilling to satisfy them. They see attempts to destroy **Israel**, to remove Western

influence or to unite the Arab world by force, as unduly burdensome and as a threat to their prosperity, interests or even their sovereignty and survival.

Peace, stability and economic development are seen as more important priorities now more than ever in the last half century.

Radical regimes are weaker and more divided now than ever before, which is mainly boosted by the revolutions of the *Arab Spring* started in winter of 2010 - spring of 2011. This difficult situation dictates caution among countries of the world and especially in the Western states, as, on the verge of despair, these regimes (which lose popular support) can lead terrorist organizations it supports, to the accomplishment of terrorist acts with particularly serious consequences.

The fanaticism and intolerance are phenomena currently affecting much of the world. Multi-religious Nations (**India, Pakistan, Indonesia** or the **Philippines**) bear true civil wars on behalf of the Cross, Islam or Buddhism.

Countries where religion was imposed as state policy (*Iran, Afghanistan, and Somalia*) are more or less true export funds of intolerance in its extreme form: **terrorism**.

Terrorism based on Islamic fundamentalism has become and has established itself as ideology, just after the attacks of 11th of September 2001. The code by which his followers understood the world was summarized in one word: *holy jihad*. Great danger of impending war is thus ideologically, that of final transition from Islamic terrorism to a true ideology followed by a state policy.

If, however, the West has military and technological superiority, **totalitarian Islam** has population force (over one billion six hundred million people spread across the globe and reaching into strategic places, such as more than 36 million in the European Union) and fanaticizing of the *Koran*.

The Islamic world, having not advanced technology within reach of mass destruction, opposes modern, total warfare, permanent war, wear and demoralization strategy, which is *terrorism.*

Although it can be said that we are witnessing an *asymmetric war*, that threat to Europe is one of asymmetrical type, it is not insignificant, given that the main obstacle to globalization is represented by the Islamic fundamentalism. For this reason, threats to Europe impose further enlargement of the *European Union* and its de facto union with the **U.S.A**. and **Russia** to prevent and control latest terrorist threats.

Thus, from lately geopolitical realities, consisted primarily of the Middle East crisis, caused by the civil war held in Syria with insurgents of the Islamic State and the one in Iraq

with representatives of the same terrorist groups that caused a large influx of refugees that stormed the gates of the European Union, in September the works of key multilateral and regional forums (UN meeting at the end of the month and meetings of the Council of Europe from mid September) had as headline finding solutions to counteract and solve crisis in this part of the world, taking ever more seriously into question the necessity of creating a new international coalition under the direction of Russia, this time, to intervene armed in Syria and then in Iraq against members of the Islamic State terrorist group. As of September 29th, 2015 Russia and France went to launching air raids on their own against this terrorist entities under the pretext of self-defense of national territory in the face of terrorist attacks initiated by members or sympathizers of the Islamic State. Later Russia announced it would send ground troops and engage in armed conflict.

Over time and especially after the attacks of September 11th, 2001 U.S.A. made a debt of honor in eradicating Islamic terrorism. It began by proposing and performing a series of alliances, mostly formally and not actually, only concluded at the level of Heads of State, impossible to achieve among population, where dislike of the western world is great.

U.S.A. and Europe had large differences in tackling terrorism in general, but also in particular the Member States sponsors of these phenomena. Yet, developments of Islamic fundamentalist inspired terrorism, in the last fifteen years, led all Christian nations to a coalition against globalization of activities of Islamic terrorist organizations.

No one can say that following the anti-terrorism actions of the world countries in some Muslim countries like Afghanistan and Iraq the activity of the terrorist organizations was stopped or eradicated. There are many analysts who believe that these entities have become more dangerous because they were "cornered" and will do everything possible to harass other nations, terrorism becoming, thus, the weapon of desperate, immoral politics.

Therefore, now more than ever it is imperative for all countries to sit down at the negotiating table and to contribute to finding a solution to prevent and especially combating terrorism of any kind, especially the Islamic one, which led to fanaticism becoming more dangerous. The premises and the need to initiate and strengthen international anti-terrorist coalition was created with the UNO meeting this fall with the Russia initiative to also call other world powers to join it in an offensive against the Islamic State terrorism. Still looking for the best solution to eradicate the phenomenon, it should be borne in mind that the military offensive may be updated, only if all other peaceful conflict resolution solutions have been exhausted.

Romania, as a member state of the European Union and NATO, has certain rights and obligations to be met, especially in terms of ensuring European and world security. This is increasingly visible in recent times, when due to the large wave of refugees from the Middle East, Romania and all other EU countries should contribute to the takeover of part of these refugees.

Given the fact that our country is on the eastern border of the Union, we have a duty to ensure the security of borders and not to allow penetration into Europe of features of terrorists or sympathizers or followers of them who subsequently, by their actions, can cause risks to European security.

In this respect, Romania, along with other states that provide security at EU borders need to focus all institutional efforts to ensure the security of borders, but also to prevent and combat as efficiently as possible, the criminal activity of organized crime kind, carried out both by European citizens and those of third countries, particularly those coming from countries with terrorist potential.

Romania, along with Bulgaria and Greece, is one of the states ensuring the Union's eastern border, border located in close proximity to the Middle East. In this regard our country has adjusted its strategies in national security and the public order and security, to the realities and current developments of the modern world and fully consistent with the strategies developed and adopted at EU level in the policies cycle for the period 2014 - 2020.

Based on programmatic, strategic documents, the Romanian authorities with responsibilities in preventing and combating crime, ensuring and protecting the national security of Romania in the coming years should aim and focus their efforts and actions to prevent and combat transnational organized crime and terrorism . This goal can be achieved, but not without intense international cooperation between all authorities of the Member States with those of third countries, as well as in international institutions and regional competitors.

Based on the close links existing between terrorist organizations and organized criminal groups involved in activities of organized crime, links that generate a close interdependence and interaction between the two entities, together with the fact that the vast majority of programming documents developed and adopted at European and global level, organized crime along with terrorism, is the main threat to the national security of states and implicitly of Romania, at the end of the thesis I made a proposal of ferenda law, to improve national security legislative framework by introducing in **Law 51/1991** republished and completed, on the national security of Romania, under **Art. 3** a new threat to national security,

the organized crimiminality namely, *with its main levels: drug trafficking, human trafficking including illegal migration, great economic - financial crime and cyber crime.*

Keywords: terrorism, Islam, Islamic fundamentalism, organized crime, Middle East, security, terrorist organizations.