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The minutes from the Polish nationwide conference “Picture of the current terrorism phenomenon”

The first Polish nationwide conference entitled “Picture of the current terrorism phenomenon” was held from 23 to 24 April 2018 at the War Studies University in Warsaw. It was organised and co-organised by the Political Science and Journalism Faculty, Adam Mickiewicz University; the Political Science Faculty, Mikołaj Kopernik University; the Social Science Faculty, the University of Gdańsk; the National Security Faculty, the War Studies University in Warsaw; the Faculty of Cybernetics, the Military University of Technology; the Faculty of Command and Naval Operations, the Polish Naval Academy; the Faculty of Security Studies, the Military University of Land Forces; the National Security and Logistics Faculty, the Polish Air Force Academy; the Faculty of Internal Security, the Police Academy in Szczytno; the Faculty of Security Studies, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow Academy; the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, the University of Warsaw; the Institute of International Relations, the University of Wrocław; the Institute of Political Sciences and European Studies, the University of Szczecin; the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań; the Scientific Institute for Security, the WSB University in Chorzów; the Centre for Political Analysis, the University of Warsaw; the Faculty of Security Sciences, the Rzeszów University of Technology; the Movement of Defence Communities and the Scientific Foundation of Research. The conference was held under the patronage of the following prestigious scientific journals: „Przegląd Zachodni”, „Przegląd Strategiczny”, „Przegląd Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego”, „Przegląd Politologiczny”, and the Polish Geopolitical Association, the AT-System Group Foundation, Difin S.A. and the Polish Association of Political Sciences. The patrons of honour were: gen. bryg.dr Ryszard Parafianowicz – Chancellor-Commandant of the War Studies University in Warsaw; insp. dr Marek Fałdowski – Commandant of the Police Academy; płk dr hab. Bogdan Grenda – Dean of the Faculty of National Security, the War Studies University in Warsaw; prof. dr hab. Ryszard Zięba – the Institute of International Relations, the University of Warsaw; prof. dr hab. Zdzisław Winnicki – Director of the Institute of International Relations, the University of Wrocław; prof. dr hab. Janusz Ruszkowski – Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and European Studies, the University of Szczecin; prof. dr hab. Sławomir M. Mazur – Dean of the Faculty of Security Studies, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow Academy; dr hab. Urszula Chęcińska – Dean of the Humanities Faculty, the University of Szczecin; dr hab. Andrzej Stelmach – Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University; dr hab. Stanisław Sulowski – Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, the University of Warsaw; dr hab. Stanisław Gędek – Dean of the Faculty of Management,

the Rzeszów University of Technology; dr hab. Zbigniew Karpus – Dean of the Political Science Faculty, M. Kopernik University; dr hab. Tadeusz Dmochowski – Dean of the Social Science Faculty, the University of Gdańsk; płk dr hab. Adam Radomyski – Dean of the National Security and Logistics Faculty, the Polish Air Force Academy; płk dr hab. Witalis Pellowski – Dean of the Faculty of Security Studies, the Military University of Land Forces; kmdr dr hab. Jarosław Teska – Dean of the Faculty of Command and Naval Operations, the Polish Naval Academy; dr Krzysztof Koj – Dean of the WSB University in Chorzów and dr Justyna Schulz – Head of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań.

The main goal of the conference was an in-depth reflection on the terrorism phenomenon, which has become one of the main challenges and threats to the security in a broader sense in the beginning of the 21st century. The main discussions were focused on a global war on terror – its background, dimensions and perspectives; the topic of terrorism and failed states or failing states; the topic of terrorism and migration problems in the current world; the topic of terrorism and democratic countries – challenges and threats; the topic of terrorism and weapon of mass destruction. The event was unique due to a careful choice of participants. Its multidisciplinary nature was guaranteed by the high level of the debate based on the methodology. Both practitioners and theoreticians took part in the considerations. There were representatives of different scientific areas from the major scientific and analytical centres in Poland. Apart from the scientific value of the conference its practical aspect should also be stressed. Establishing the level of the most important threats from a growing number of terrorist events seems a precious value which can be used by the state institutions and law enforcement agencies.

There were six scientific panels during the conference and 30 papers were read. There was also a reporter's debate held, in which, *inter alia*, Witold Repetowicz, Wiktor Bater, Rafał Stańczyk, Jan Wójcik and Dawid Wildstein took part.

On the first day of the meeting the tac-ops exercise with the use of a helicopter was presented. It was organised by the Bureau of Anti-terrorist Operations at the Police HQ. On the second day of the conference the equipment was demonstrated which is used by the representatives of the State Protection Service while performing their professional tasks.

The conference was officially opened by płk dr hab. Bogdan Grenda – Dean of the Faculty of National Security, the War Studies University in Warsaw; then the opening lecture was given by prof. zw. dr hab. Ryszard Zięba from the Warsaw University. The opening lecture by prof. R. Zięba was an in-depth study of the terrorism phenomenon in respect of other challenges and threats to security in the second decade of the 21st century.

There were two presentations in the first panel of particular interest. The first one entitled “Social goals of terrorists in the European Union states” was given by prof. dr hab. Jarosław Gryz from the War Studies University in Warsaw. The second presentation entitled „the Anti-Terror System” was a dynamic demonstration

of action taken by a single shooter in a situation of a direct danger. It was prepared by dr Aleksandra Gasztold from the University of Warsaw and Maciej Górski – both co-founders of the AT-System Group Foundation. Prof. J. Gryz presented operational, tactical and strategic goals of terrorist groups active in the EU states aimed at undermining fundamental cooperation and organization of the present democratic and liberal societies. The team from the AT-System Group Foundation showed the optimal model of behaviour in a situation of threat from the so called “single shooter” (the most frequently used method of terrorists attacks in the US and in the Western Europe states).

In the second panel there were two topics of a particular significance due to their timeliness. The first topic concerned the security of air traffic, which was presented in the most accurate and complex way by płk rez. dr hab. Adam Radomyski from the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin. The paper was entitled „The current aspects of countering the air terrorism”. The second topic presented the problem of refugees and its potential effects in the context of terrorist threat. There were also two papers worth mentioning in the area: “Anti-Terrorist and Refugees Policy as the EU challenge in the 21st century” by dr hab. Izabela Oleksiewicz from the Rzeszów University of Technology and „Is a migrant a terrorist? Revision of migration solutions: the UNO 2018” by dr Joanna Dobrowolska-Polak the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań.

The first day of the conference ended with a reporters’ debate, which aroused similar lively discussion to the papers presented earlier. The experienced journalists practitioners took part in this discussion, inter alia, prof. dr hab. Piotr Grochmalski – Head of the Strategic Studies Institute of the National Security Faculty, the War Studies University in Warsaw and Witold Repetowicz.

The second day started with two parallel panels. There were ten papers presented, among of which the following ones should be distinguished: “The Islamic State Activity in the Syrian Conflict” by dr hab. Marian Żuber from the Military University of Land Forces, „The use of the Internet by Islamic Terrorists” by płk dr hab. Piotr Dela from the War Studies University, and „Personal Recognition In the Scope of Terrorist Threat. Groups of Risk” by podinsp. Przemysław Wrzosek and podinsp. Mariusz Kupniewski from the Police Academy in Szczytno. Considering the three so distant topic regarding one basic subject, it should be stressed that during the discussion the need of interdisciplinary teams for fighting terrorism was raised and the need of an in-depth reflection on the subject while preparing strategic documents in the security area.

Two further panels were dedicated to challenges facing Poland as far as the fighting of terrorism is concerned, both in internal and external aspect as well as in bilateral and multilateral aspect. Analyzing the most important subjects the value of the presentation by gen. dyw. (rez.) pil. dr Anatol Czaban from Adam Mickiewicz University „Terrorism in the strategies of the states’ and organizations’ security. Present challenges” should be stressed. The presentation “The culture of security in the Polish society from the perspective of terrorist attacks in Europe” by dr Maciej Magiera from Adam Mickiewicz University and the paper entitled „Anti-terrorist security in view of the specific competencies of the Polish special services in terms of foreigners’

surveillance” by dr Remigiusz Rosicki from Adam Mickiewicz University should also be mentioned here.

In view of the complex approach of the above cited authors we should bear in mind how many deficits are there still in scope of countering terrorism in Poland and how much effort should be put into enhancing the Polish anti-terrorist system in Poland directed not only to fight the phenomenon but also to prevent it. The security education seems to be the most effective tool of the prevention.

In conclusion, this nationwide scientific conference, the first of that kind in Poland, was a big event in the country in 2018. Due to a highly specialized knowledge it has a chance to become an element of an effectiveness of the public administration in the area of terrorism counteracting.

This definite success of the event would not have been possible without support and engagement of many people who worked for its best professional and organizational success.

In view of this, on behalf of the organizers and co-organisers of the conference particular thanks should be extended to: dr Cyprian Kozera – the War Studies University, dr Piotr Lewandowski – the War Studies University, dr Przemysław Gasztold – the War Studies University, ppłk dr Grzegorz Motrycz – the War Studies University, dr Anna Mróz-Jagiello – the War Studies University, Ewelina Czerwińska – the War Studies University, Grzegorz Woźny – the War Studies University, Paulina Krawczyk – the War Studies University, Emilia Solarz – the War Studies University, Jowita Brudnicka – the War Studies University, Jagoda Gawliczek – the War Studies University, dr Monika Lewińska – the War Studies University press secretary, Monika Dzieciołowska – the War Studies University, dr Natalia Jackowska – the Western Institute („Przegląd Zachodni”), Anna Przyborowska – the Internal Security Agency („Przegląd Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego”), dr hab. Magdalena Karg-Musiał, Adam Mickiewicz University („Przegląd Politologiczny”) and prof. zw. dr hab. Sebastian Wojciechowski – Adam Mickiewicz University („Przegląd Strategiczny”).