

Denying Terrorists Financial, Material, And Logistical Sources Of Support

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Introduction

9/11 Terrorist Attacks on the USA, 26/11 Terrorist Attack on Mumbai and The Easter Morning Attacks in Sri Lanka reminds us that, today's terrorist threat is different from that of the past. Modern technology has enabled terrorists to plan and operate worldwide as never before. With advanced telecommunications, they can coordinate their actions among dispersed cells while remaining in the shadows. Today's terrorists increasingly enjoy a force-multiplier effect by establishing links with other like-minded organizations around the globe. Now, with a possible WMD capability, they have the potential to magnify the effects of their actions manyfold. The new global environment, with its resultant terrorist interconnectivity, and WMD are changing the nature of terrorism. Our strategy's effectiveness ultimately depends upon how well we address these key facets of the terrorist threat.

The technological advances of the past century have created an interconnected world in which it is easier than ever to quickly move people, funding, material, and information across the globe. The backbone of this interconnected system is information technology—largely created and facilitated by the private industry—that is increasingly enabling faster transactions of all kinds across the world.

Terrorists use these same publicly available technologies to command and control their organizations and to plot attacks, travel and abuse the global financial system to raise funds and procure weapons, materiel, and necessities.

Terrorists cannot sustain their operations without these resources. India and its allies must, therefore, prevent terrorists from using them while safeguarding these resources for legitimate use. To accomplish this, we must increase information-sharing with the private sector and tear down existing barriers to information-sharing. Around the globe, the world should promote effective enforcement of legislation and policies aimed at protecting the commerce, transportation, and communication industries. We must also identify policies that must change as terrorists adapt.

Internal Threats and Challenges To India

Our internal threats manifest in different dimensions, and are briefly described below:-

1. India's multifaceted internal security challenges include an ongoing proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgencies in some States and organised crime. Left-Wing Extremism remains an important challenge that is sapping our National resources, while also impacting the pace of economic development of affected regions. Illegal cross border migrations due to poor socioeconomic conditions and/or law and order situations in their home States is another challenge.
2. Terrorism supported from outside is resulting in the loss of innocent lives. The fragile security environment in the Af-Pak region and neighbouring support to a proxy war in Jammu & Kashmir lends a possibility of it being a conduit for the eastward spread of fundamentalist and radical ideologies. Manifestations of these include an engineered radicalised tilt towards such ideology amongst India's youth. Mitigating it requires a multi-faceted approach facilitated by a robust intelligence network.
3. The easy access to high-end technology has increased the threats, making it multi-dimensional. Ensuring the sanctity of our land borders, protection of our airspace and the long coastline is imperative and remains our priority.
4. The radicalisation of youth in some States by suspected social media platforms is also a contemporary challenge to National Security. The management of the digital environment, which can manage conflicts through social media, merits high priority in our National Security calculus.

Actions Needed to Isolate Terrorists from Sources of support

Reducing Media Attention to Terrorist Acts the Easter Morning Attack in Sri Lanka reminds us that, when it comes to terrorism, governments often want to reduce the amount of media attention attackers receive. Therefore, the Sri Lankan government initially withheld the names of the attackers who killed nearly 300 and injured many more. The desire to deny perpetrators publicity is also why New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden publicly refused to utter the name of the gunman who killed fifty people attending mosques in Christchurch. Research tells us that countries that receive middle levels of press attention stand to gain in counter-terrorism campaigns by reducing press attention further. Conversely, countries at the upper and lower levels of press attention get much less benefit from reducing the attention afforded to terrorist organizations.

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Why Taiwan's entry into United Nations must be welcomed and facilitated

By Srikanth Kondapalli

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Four events recently highlighted the issue of Taiwan's entry into the United Nations. First is the 50th anniversary on 25 October of UN Resolution 2758 that brought in China (People's Republic of China) in the place of Taiwan (Republic of China). In its legal, psychological and media warfare, China reminded many countries of this event but also warned them not to expand relations with Taiwan, even as chances of conflict with the United States on the issue increased.

Second is China's brazen show of force with over 150 fighter aircraft and others in its arsenal to intimidate the 24-million people of Taiwan to surrender. More than 3,000 sorties were flown to coerce Taiwan in the last one year. This follows Beijing's "reunification" policy, "one country, two systems", "6 nos" and others. President Xi Jinping also vowed to "break heads" of anyone defying China's orders. This is a radical departure from what Mao Zedong said to Edgar Snow in 1936 that Taiwan should become independent.

The third is United States President Joe Biden's recent statement on "rock solid" commitment to Taiwan security. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken went further and said on 26 October that "we encourage all UN Member States to join us in supporting Taiwan's robust, meaningful participation throughout the UN system and in the international community". Previously, the Trump Administration had ended all self-imposed restrictions in meeting Taiwan officials and began sending health and finance officials to Taipei.

Fourth, while Taiwan has over 100 de facto diplomatic missions across the world, including with over 50 UN members, these are mostly subsumed under Taipei economic and cultural centres offering consular, trade and investment services. China insisted on other countries following its Olympics formula of "Chinese Taipei" as a way out of the imbroglio. However, Lithuania recently had changed the name of Taiwan's representative office to that of "Taiwanese Office" — suggesting that a new formation is coming up, which could possibly gather steam not only with the other hundred such offices across the world but in the UN as well. Taiwan is now recognised by 15 countries, down from 22 in 2016.

While China opposed any such representation in the UN or other bodies and in fact exerted pressure to curtail Taiwan in multilateral institutions like International Civil Aviation Organisation and World Health Assembly, Taiwan has also been attempting its bid for membership since 1993. This was scuttled by the UN General Committee ostensibly under Beijing's pressure. With China expanding its influence in many UN bodies, its say is increasing day by day on the UN functioning, with its impact falling on Taiwan's efforts as well.

When Taiwan occupied the UN Security Council seat from 1945 to 1971, and as it was getting tough to enter the UN, a defiant premier of China Zhou En-lai even thought of setting up an alternative "revolutionary UN", in vain. China's revolutionary policies, defiance of the UN and its resolutions, non-participation in arms control and disarmament under the UN and in fact involving in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and others were cited as some of the reasons for denying membership to China earlier.

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The World Is Fed Up With China's Belligerence

By – Chris Horton

Author is a Taipei-based journalist.

Democracies are no longer as worried as they once were about offending a fragile Beijing.

In Chinese-speaking communities beyond the reach of Beijing's censorship regime, the song "Fragile" has been an unexpected hit. With more than 26 million views on YouTube since dropping in mid-October, the satirical love song to Chinese nationalism has topped the site's charts for Taiwan and Hong Kong, its lyrics mocking Chinese Communist Party rhetoric about Taiwan while also taking aim at Xi Jinping and Chinese censors.

In parts, the Mandarin Chinese duet portrays Taiwan as an object of unwanted overtures that simply wants to get along with a hypersensitive and aggressive Beijing. Its chorus goes full it's-not-you-it's-me: "Sorry I'm so strong-minded / The truth always upsets you / Maybe I shouldn't be so blunt / I'm so sorry / I've angered you again."

The song, by the Malaysian rapper Namewee and the Australian singer Kimberley Chen, seems to have hit all the right notes for those tiring of a perpetually offended and angry China—and resulted in the scrubbing of the duo's Chinese social-media accounts.

In Taiwan, where many pop stars stay out of the political realm to retain access to China's lucrative market, the song has been greeted as a refreshing, and rare, send-up of its giant neighbor's refutation of Taiwanese sovereignty. (Beijing claims that Taiwan is its territory, though the CCP has never controlled it, and Taiwanese overwhelmingly reject the idea of unification.)

Yet it is also a sign of something more: Its lyrics and its context mirror the actions of democracies around the world that are growing tired of walking on eggshells to avoid angering a petulant Beijing. Rather than releasing a song, officials in Europe, Japan, and Australia are expanding long-ignored relationships with Taiwan. China's foreign ministry has lambasted and threatened them all, but echoing the song's ethos, they are no longer as worried as they once were about offending a fragile Beijing.

In a move likely to anger Beijing ...

The phrase—a touchstone of news reports about the Chinese government's countless and often shifting red lines—will be familiar to anyone who has read about China in the past several years. The context in which it is now used, however, is markedly different.

Not long ago, the Chinese government was economical and targeted with its outrage, typically lashing out only over what even critics might regard as major issues from Beijing's point of view, such as French President Nicolas Sarkozy's meeting with the Dalai Lama in 2008 (the CCP regards him as a Tibetan separatist), or the liberal activist Liu Xiaobo's being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010 (Liu advocated for issues that are anathema to the CCP, such as greater individual political freedoms).

"Now China just picks fights out of arrogance and bullying," Jorge Guajardo, Mexico's ambassador to China from 2007 to 2013, told me. When Beijing, immediately following Ottawa's release of Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, held as part of an extradition case, released two Canadians it had detained and isolated for more than 1,000 days, it seemed a clear message to the world that hostage taking has been added to its diplomatic toolbox.

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Inside China: Armed fishermen

Courtesy - washingtontimes

A leading Chinese fishing-industry official is urging the Chinese government to provide arms and military training for 100,000 Chinese fishermen to roam the South China Sea and defeat Vietnam and other countries in the region that are challenging China's sweeping claims of sovereignty in those waters.

He Jianbin, chief of the state-run Baosha Fishing Corp., based in Hainan province, urged the Chinese government to make fishermen into Chinese militiamen.

"If we put 5,000 Chinese fishing ships in the South China Sea, there will be 100,000 fishermen," Mr. He stated in a June 28 commentary in the state-controlled Communist Party newspaper the Global Times.

"And if we make all of them militiamen, give them weapons, we will have a military force stronger than all the combined forces of all the countries in the South China Sea," he said.

The fisheries official confidently disclosed that at present, China would have no problem deploying that many fishing ships. "In Hainan province alone, we now have over 23,000 fishing ships, with over 225,000 experienced and mature captains," Mr. He said.

"Every year, between May and August, when fishing activities are in recess, we should train these fishermen/militiamen to gain skills in fishing, production and military operations, making them a reserve force on the sea, and using them to solve our South [China] Sea problems," he continued.

China's government has been using fishing vessels in recent weeks to ratchet up tensions with almost all its maritime neighbors, including Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines. In several high-profile skirmishes, most noticeably with the Japanese and Philippine maritime vessels, Chinese fishing vessels have played a central role, followed by vessels belonging to the government's China Maritime Surveillance bureau [Haijian] and Bureau of Fishery [Yuzheng].

The People's Liberation Army's Navy is poised in the region but so far has not been directly involved in initial confrontations with several foreign vessels in an apparent effort to avoid direct challenges from the navies of other countries, including Japan, South Korea and possibly the United States.

China, in particular, regards the U.S. Navy as its main obstacle and the most formidable enemy in its South China Sea gambit. By making fishermen a maritime militia force, Mr. He argues, "we can make the PLA Navy our rear echelon for now but not the forward echelon in the South China Sea. This will alleviate our nation's burden, because if we put the PLA Navy at the front line now, we fall right into the trap set up by the U.S. government."

TANKS FOR OIL

China is set to provide \$500 million worth of amphibious assault tanks and vehicles to Hugo Chavez's military in exchange for Venezuela's oil exports, according to remarks by the Venezuelan strongman at a promotion ceremony for several generals near Caracas on July 3.

China has eyed Venezuela's oil exports for years and is eager to cultivate good relations with the leftist regime of Mr. Chavez, who has shown an increasingly strong interest in Chinese-made weapons to arm his military.

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From weapons procurement to defense investment

By – Anastasia Febiola S

Author is a research analyst on defense matters at Semar Sentinel PTE Ltd

Since his appointment, Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto has considered the modernization of the Indonesian Military (TNI) as one of the main objectives of his mandate. While the ongoing modernization attempt, known as the Minimum Essential Force (MEF) plan, has been considerably delayed, such policy is welcomed by end-users and defense experts. It is worth noting that on the TNI's anniversary on Oct. 5, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo relayed two important messages related to the modernization strategy of the TNI. First, which has been widely welcomed by observers, was to encourage the defense minister to acquire only the best weapon systems. Second, which has an important meaning for the country, is the President's emphasis on the need for investments in the defense sector. Jokowi said Indonesia must shift from defense equipment procurement to defense investment with long-term planning and implementation. As a matter of fact, the President's statement should lead to a legal framework, such as Law No.16/2012 on the defense industry, which provides a path and a legal basis for Indonesia to invest in its defense modernization program. The legislation makes it mandatory for foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to provide additional economic benefits to Indonesia through countertrade, local content and offset (CTLCO) obligations. Earlier this year, the Defense Ministry explained that the objective of offset programs was to support the development of Indonesia's defense companies, including to enhance cooperation between domestic companies and foreign suppliers. The cooperation will be directed toward CTLCOs to help local firms in order to achieve a major objective: "self-sufficiency" for Indonesia in terms of defense equipment procurements, which will lead to less dependence on foreign suppliers. To a greater extent, the policy also aims to increase Indonesian defense companies' contributions to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). As National Development Planning Minister Suharso Monoarfa said in September last year, the defense industry will be one of the key drivers of boosting the manufacturing sector, whose contribution to GDP continues to decrease. Nonetheless, until today, the implementation of the 2012 law to bring investment through the defense modernization program has not been very significant. While defense equipment is costly, it also represents a great chance for Indonesia to maximize the economic advantage of procurement programs, including developing and strengthening its Defense Technological and Industrial Base (DTIB). Although the implications are different for each country, it is essential to highlight that whether defense spending brings positive or negative impacts depends on the chosen offset and transfer of technology (ToT) programs. Research suggests that in general, defense industrialization in Indonesia has had positive impacts on the country's economic growth while allowing Jakarta to master new technologies. In the draft 2022 state budget, the Defense Ministry was granted US\$9.3 billion, which will be used for its defense equipment modernization program (\$3 billion) and military personnel expenses and welfare (\$840 million). In parallel, President Jokowi recently signed Presidential Regulation No. 85/2021 on the 2022 government work plan (RKP), which targets the achievements of the MEF to reach 85 percent by 2022, supported by a \$2.06 billion budget for defense equipment procurement and industry. Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry has also granted determination of source of funds (PSP) amounting to \$5.8 billion for defense procurement for 2021. Theoretically, the higher the military spending, the bigger the number of investment opportunities for Indonesia.

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New AI System Identifies Terrorist Threats In Singapore Waters In Real Time

By - Clement Yong

SINGAPORE - The Republic's shores will soon be safer with a new artificial intelligence data processing system that can identify threatening ships along Singapore's shores in real time.

The "sense-making system", which will be used by the Singapore Maritime Crisis Centre (SMCC), automatically takes in updated information from local and foreign governmental and commercial sources and uses anything from the crew's criminal records to the route the ship is sailing to determine threat levels.

This information and the vessel profile is then instantly shared with other maritime security agencies, allowing them to calibrate coordinated responses.

Such responses include boarding a ship by force, diverting and managing maritime traffic, extinguishing fires on board a vessel or, as in a case of a chemical tanker in 2019, banning the crew of a suspicious ship from disembarking.

The agencies using the sense-making system together are the Republic of Singapore Navy, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, Singapore Customs, the police and the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

In the SMCC control centre in Changi Naval Base on Friday (Nov 12), Colonel Desmond Low, director of the national maritime sense-making group, said the system, which replaces a previous one that could handle data only in batches, should be rolled out in the middle of next year.

Behind him, a map of Singapore beamed onto a screen was surrounded by blinking green dots, each representing one of more than 2,000 big vessels parked in Singapore waters daily.

He said: "With thousands of ships in Singapore waters and hundreds arriving each day, we cannot board or search every single one. We need to sense-make and focus on those of a higher risk. For SMCC, the objective is to detect threats early and as far away as possible."

"The new system will arrive at conclusions 10 times faster than its predecessor. This reduces time needed from hours to minutes."

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**Nation is Indebted to:
Kinkri Devi (Environmentalist)
1925-2007**



There are many people who stand against odds and revolt for what is not right. Only a few get noticed and one of these was Kinkri Devi of Himachal Pradesh.

She was an Indian activist and environmentalist, best known for waging a war on illegal mining and quarrying in her native state of Himachal Pradesh. A unique fact about Kinkri Devi was that she did not know how to read and write and yet made a name for herself owing to her commitment towards environment conservation.

She was born in the village of Ghaton in the Sirmaur district. Her father was a sustenance farmer of the Dalit community. She began working as a servant during her early childhood and was married to Shamu Ram at the age of 14. Her husband died when she was just 22 years old.

While working at her new job as a sweeper, she noticed the massive quarrying in some parts of Himachal Pradesh's hills, harming the water supply and destroying paddy fields. At this point she decided to take on the mining herself.

A local volunteering group, the People's Action for People in Need, backed her as she filed a public interest lawsuit in the High Court of Shimla against 48 mines owners. She accused that the quarriers were being reckless in their mining of limestone, though the group denied all allegations against them, claiming she was simply blackmailing them.

Her suit got virtually no response, so she went on a 19-day hunger strike outside the court. When the court decided to take up the issue, she had become a national celebrity by now. The court ordered in 1987 a stay on mining and imposed a blanket ban on blasting in her beloved hills. The mine owners appealed to the Supreme Court of India, which rejected their appeal in July 1995. Same year Kinkri Devi was invited to attend the International Women's Conference in Beijing. She was asked to light the lamp in the beginning of the ceremonies and spoke of the cause she was fighting against and how ordinary people can make an impact.

Besides her environmentalism, one of her other endeavor was campaigning for the creation of a degree college in Sangrah town, Sirmaur district. She claimed that while it wasn't right for her to study, she didn't want "others to suffer the way I did for want of education."

She was given the Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmi Bai Stree Shakti Puruskar-1999. This was given to her by Ministry of Human Resource Development. Kinkri Devi was facilitated with this award by the then Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the year 2001.

Kinkri Devi was a great doughty woman who fought relentlessly and brought a welcome change for the protection of fragile environment.

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