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Concept, Origin and Classification of Terrorist Phenomena

Abstract

The content of the article introduces the problem of the threat of terrorism that has long been accompanying countries around the world. The issues of the nature and forms of terrorism, their origins and an attempt to classify the concept of terrorism were discussed. The author aims to draw attention to the continuous evolution of modern terrorism and indicates to the reader the ruthlessness of this issue for the lives of people in the world, the threat of terrorism and the need to make society aware to counter this threat.

Keywords: *Security, Terrorism, Terrorist Act, Genesis, History*

Introduction

The phenomenon of terrorism is very difficult to clearly define. This is due to the multifaceted and ambiguous concepts, as well as to the difference in point of view. The term "terrorism" is derived from the Greek language τρέω / threo – "tremble, fear"; "Chick out, run away" and Latin terror, – oris – "fear, anxiety, horror", or "terrible word, terrible news" and the derivative of the Latin verb terreo – "to cause terror, to frighten" (*Słownik języka polskiego* 1979, p. 239). On this basis, terrorism can very broadly be defined as the spread of fear and terror through terror, fear, terror, terror and various aspects of rape and violence that cause fear. That is why terrorism is recognized as an act of rape of international significance (Liedel 2003, p. 9).

More specifically, non-state terrorism can be defined laboriously as the unlawful, deliberate use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or influence government, international organizations and civilians. The essence of terrorism is that the subject of terrorist activities are people who do not have a direct impact on the achievement of the goals that terrorist organizations want to achieve. Therefore, terrorist activities must have a significant psychological effect and potentially large social and media effect to be effective.

Such definitions, however, are too vague and in no way authoritatively state what is and is not terrorism and who we can call a terrorist. They are insufficient to capture the extremely complex phenomenon of terrorism. The lack of a generally accepted definition of terrorism is a serious obstacle to legal nature in international institutional cooperation in the field of combating terrorism and the deposition and transfer of captured organizers and perpetrators of terrorist attacks.

Characteristics of the concept of terrorism

The issue of the concept of terrorism has been discussed and described many times, currently there are over two hundred definitions of terrorism. Common elements for most definitions of terrorism are: the use of violence, the threat or threat of its use, action planning and its objectives, political motives, evoking a sense of threat and fear, using the media to publicize a given case and the unpredictability of perpetrators' actions.

In Polish literature, the most common view is that terror means rape and violence of the strong against the weak, and terrorism is rape and violence of the weak against the stronger. Frequent confusion between the terms "terror" and "terrorism" creates enormous problems when trying to define this phenomenon. Terrorism takes various forms and expresses different content, depending on its place and time of its occurrence. There are many different phenomena that are considered terrorist acts, which makes it difficult to develop a uniform legal concept of terrorism.

Among Polish political scientists, Bartosz Bolechów defines terrorism as follows: "Terrorism is a form of political violence involving the use of murder or destruction (or threatening the use of such means) in order to cause shock and extreme intimidation of individuals, groups, societies or governments, the effect of which is to be forced political concessions, provoking ill-considered actions and or demonstrating/ publicizing political beliefs".
chow 2003, p. 25).

In the further part of the incident or terrorist attack the author calls "an act of violence or credible threat of its use (based on typical terrorist methods), carried out in violation of the law whose main purpose is to intimidate the government, society or any part thereof, which is to enable the achievement of the assumed political goals" (*Ibidem*).

In turn, Adam Krawczyk gave a slightly different definition. He considered the phenomenon of terrorism "the process of influence of ideology (beliefs) through acts of violence (or the threat of their use) applied directly or indirectly to various decision-making structures in order to subject them to specific behavior. This phenomenon often occurs together with other factors having a direct or indirect impact on it" (Krawczyk 2008, p. 12).

According to Piotr Witkowski (2000, p. 37), terrorism is "the use of violence, rape, cruelty to intimidate someone". According to another definition, terrorism is a specific type of destructive activity directed both against individual persons of the power apparatus (individual terrorism), as well as against accidental members of society by assassinations of policemen, officials or civilians (collective terrorism), causing victims and evoking an atmosphere of fear. The victims of such activity are politicians, military men, policemen, as well as ordinary citizens, regardless of gender, age or education (Szafrański 2004, p. 5).

The problem with defining a given country or organization as a "terrorist" appears when you start to consider the sources of supply of weapons and other means of combat for official and unofficial organizations and terrorist groups. Problems with determining what is and what is not terrorism are largely due to the strong links between these themes and politics. The following questions are still unresolved: is terrorism an armed attack on politicians or police officers, can terrorism be justified in some situations? Is it possible to talk about terrorism used by the state?

Opinions expressed in these matters are always dependent on the moral beliefs and political views of citizens, usually shaped by the media. According to Ryszard Grosset, "terrorism is a method of political activity that changes in time and space, taking into account the tradition and methods of political struggle characteristic of a given political culture (civilization), illegal in the light of applicable law, affecting the sphere of the human psyche and introducing a sense of threat and fear in the addressees of the attacks (both direct and indirect) and forcing them to behave in accordance with the objectives of the policy of the participants using it"(Grosset 2009, p. 17).

Jarosław Tomasiewicz proposes that terrorism should be called "systematic use of acts of individual terror to achieve a political goal" (Tomasiewicz 2000, p. 12). A similar position was taken by Krzysztof Karolczak, who considers the phenomenon of terrorism as "politically motivated action which, using any intimidating methods, is to lead to the expected behavior of the object against which it is used" (quoted from: Jaroszyński 2003, p. 32).

According to Marek Madej, terrorism is "violence or threat of its use on the part of non-state (sub-transnational) entities, which is supposed to arouse fear in a group wider than those directly attacked and in this way induce governments to make concessions or destroy the existing public order" (Madej 2001, p. 7). Albert Pawłowski believes that terrorism is "a planned tactic of the political action of the persons involved, consisting in the use of spectacular physical measures against the personal and substantive rights of others, in order to draw attention to themselves and their ideas of public attention or with the intention of causing such terror to make third parties feel forced to behave according to terrorists" (Pawłowski 1980, p. 9).

According to Bruce Hoffman, "terrorism can be considered as violence or a threat of violence that seeks to achieve or serve political goals" (Hoffman 1999, p. 24). According to the definition proposed by Tadeusz Hanausk, "terrorism is a planned,

organized and usually ideologically justified activity of persons or groups aimed at forcing specific benefits, behaviors or attitudes from state authorities, society or individual persons, and implemented in criminal forms calculated to induce broad and the most intimidated publicity in public opinion" (Hanausek 1980, p. 33). Marian Flemming gave another definition of the concept of terrorism. In his opinion, "terrorism is intentional acts constituting a violation of criminal law and aiming by acts of violence or threat of such acts to intimidate state organs or significant sections of society and to force specific conduct" (Flemming 1996, p. 3).

The issue of lack of definition regarding the phenomenon of terrorism is a serious obstacle to legal nature in international institutional cooperation in the field of combating terrorism. It should also be noted that terrorism is a dynamic phenomenon that is constantly evolving. To ensure the security of citizens, changes in law should go hand in hand with new methods of fighting terrorists. The term terrorism has become more internationalized in recent years. 28 independent legal acts regulating the definition and concept of terrorism as an extremely dangerous phenomenon have been created in all the countries belonging to the European Union. In the context of EU Community law, 25 regulations, directives, decisions etc. have been developed, ending with international law, i.e. conventions, protocols and agreements to which the Republic of Poland is a signatory – over 60 agreements, bi- and multilateral agreements. In total, it is over 100 legal acts in force in the European Union.

According to the European Commission, terrorism is: "all intentional acts committed by individual persons or organizations against one or several states, their institutions or population, in order to intimidate and seriously weaken or destroy the political, economic and social structure of the country" (quoted from Pawłowski 2001, p. 12).

According to the definition of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a terrorist act is: "any act committed by a person or group of persons involving violence or threat of its use against the state, its institutions, its population in general or specific entities, motivated by separatist aspirations, extremist ideological concepts, fanaticism or irrational and subjective factors, oriented at creating a climate of terror among public figures, specific individuals or groups in society or in the whole society "(quoted from: Jaskiernia 2002, p. 81).

One of the most important acts regulating the issues of terrorism in the Polish legal system is the Act on Counteracting Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism

(Ustawa o przeciwdziałaniu praniu pieniędzy oraz finansowania terroryzmu 2018). This Act established the office of the General Inspector of Financial Information, whose main task is to combat financial crime and financing of terrorism. The legislator defines a terrorist act as "crimes against peace, humanity and war crimes, crimes against universal security and crimes" referred to in art. 134 and art. 136 of the Penal Code (Ustawa – Kodeks karny, paragraph 20). The legislator meant specific prohibited acts included in chapters XVI and XX of the Criminal Code, penalizing crimes against peace, humanity and war crimes as well as crimes against universal security, as well as in the two articles mentioned above, i.e. in art. 134 (assault on the President of the Republic of Poland) and art. 136 of the Criminal Code (assault on the head of a foreign country). The said act was the beginning of the regulation of the phenomenon of terrorism, and in subsequent years it was amended (among others, on September 26, 2002, June 25, 2009).

The system of protecting the state against terrorist threats is still subject to constant changes and improvements. His biggest problem is the fact that normative material on terrorist offenses is not a compact complex, and consists of both sources of domestic law such as the Penal Code, but also non-codex provisions.

To sum up, terrorist activities are carried out with absolute ruthlessness, by various means (psychological pressure, physical violence, the use of weapons and explosives), in the conditions of specially publicized to them and intentionally created anxiety in society, terror differs from terror in relation to power and status of socio-legal entities. Terrorism is the use of acts of rape and violence by individuals or organizations acting in conspiracy against the existing order established by the state, taken to force state authorities and society to conduct certain behaviors and services, often violating the goods of bystanders.

Genesis of terrorist phenomena

Scientific studies do not specify the exact time and place of the first terrorist acts in human history. It is assumed that the first terrorist in history was Herostrates of Ephesus, who in 356 B.C.E. set fire to the temple of Artemis. Herostrates was a poor shoemaker who wanted to gain fame by destroying the building considered by the Greeks as one of the wonders of the world at that time (Borkowski 2001, p. 20).

The use of terrorism can also be said in the case of ancient Greece, where the murder of the tyrant was considered justified. Seneca explicitly stated that for the gods there is no nicer sacrifice than the blood of a tyrant. An example of assassination was the killing of Julius Caesar by conspirators on March 15, 44 BCE. Terrorism also appeared in Athens, when after the defeat in the Peloponnesian war, the Spartans imposed the power of the oligarchic commission on the Athenians. During the rule of the Thirty Tyrants, 1,500 citizens were executed and a further 5,000 were expelled from Athens. The city was engulfed in persecution and plunder of property (*Ibidem*, p. 21).

In Israel in the first century C.E. anti-Roman factions of zealots and sikhushas used the assassination. In the period from the eleventh to the thirteenth century in the Middle East systematically used terror assassins (Hashishijun) – an Ismaelite sect specializing in assassination attacks. In the Middle Ages, the theory justifying the murder of a tyrant was created by Jan of Salisbury and was developed in the 16th century by monarchomoms (Tomasiewicz 2000, p. 32). The word terrorism became popular during the French Revolution, it was called the rule of the Public Security Committee and the Jacobins sitting on the committee were called "terrorists". At the time, the word meant a form of government based on the practice of using bloody repression.

Later, the concept of "individual terror" was created, which called the attacks of oppositionists against representatives of the state apparatus and the ruling class. During this period, about 40,000 victims were killed in public guillotine, pacification and murdering of prisoners. About 300,000 French people were repressed and imprisoned. In some regions of France, bloody executions and genocidal methods of pacification were used without any court orders (Bolechów 2012, p. 53). The concept of terrorism during the French Revolution, which significantly differed from its later meanings, however, it has features connecting it with its modern variation, and they are: first, no randomness and blind operation, and second, the purpose that guided it, i.e. to build a better, just and new society.

Terrorism in Western culture could only be seen during the Great French Revolution. It was identified with the phenomenon of terror and fear, and its goal was to intimidate the enemies of the revolution (Aleksandrowicz 2008, p. 45). Activities related to terrorism intensified in the second half of the nineteenth century thanks to anarchists who proclaimed slogans of rebellion against the then social orders. Terrorism at the turn of the 20th century was characterized by rebellion against the tyranny of

state power. He became a synonym of revolution, anarchism, separatist and national movements, and became a tool in the fight against state structures.

In 1874, many terrorist attacks took place in Italy, during which period the first attacks on heads of state took place. In the most famous terrorist attacks were killed: French President Lazare Hippolyte Cornot in 1884; the Prime Minister of Spain, José Canalejas de Castillo in 1897; Austrian Empress Elisabeth in 1898; Italian king Humbert in 1900; President of the United States, William McKinley in 1901; Spanish Prime Minister José Canalejas in 1912; heir to the Austrian throne Ferdynand and his wife Zofia in 1914.

However, over time, the goals of terrorists ceased to be individual politicians, and it became the society or its specific groups (government officials, etc.). The purpose of the attacks on society was to be to dislike government. Terrorist attacks directed at representatives, administration and police were socially supported.

In the 1930s, the meaning of the concept of "terrorism" underwent another evolution, during which time the term was less frequently used to describe revolutionary movements and violence directed against governments and their leaders. The development of technology increased the possibilities of terrorist acts, as a result of which the purpose of these attacks was changed. The targets of the attacks became, among others buses, trains, planes and ships. Since then, the invasion of terrorist attacks on means of transport began.

In the 1970s and 1980s, terrorism became international. This was evidenced by the links between terrorist groups originating from various countries. Terrorist acts have become one of the most popular methods of political struggle in many groups that try to solve many socio-political, religious and national problems in this way. During this period, the phenomenon of financial and logistical support for terrorism by some countries (USSR, Cuba, Libya) appeared.

In the early 1980s, religious terrorism emerged. Its origins are connected with the following events: the outbreak of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the invasion of the USSR on Afghanistan. During the war in Afghanistan (1979-1989), recruitment cells for Islamic fighters and a network of links between the fighting and supporting Muslim communities in the world were created. On September 11, 2001, the largest terrorist attack in history took place, an attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (Bartnicki 2008, p. 97).

A characteristic feature of religious terrorism is a different system of values, different mechanisms of legitimacy and justification, different concepts of morality and a different worldview of religious terrorists. For a religious terrorist, violence is primarily an sacred act, fulfilling the duty of divine command (Capana 2007, p. 59). In this way, terrorism acquires a transcendental dimension, and its perpetrators are not bound by any political, moral or practical restrictions. Secular terrorists rarely carry out acts of terror on a large scale, while religious terrorists often try to eliminate a fairly broad category of enemies, so violence is also on a larger scale. These are also the causes of more victims of terrorist attacks carried out for religious reasons.

In addition, secular terrorists try to appeal to their electorate, community members or their supporters through their activities. Religious terrorists treat their mission as a total war and do not try to appeal to any social groups. Finally, secular and religious terrorists have a fundamentally different view of themselves and their activities. For secular terrorists, violence is a way to make changes that will result in a new system. Religious terrorists see themselves not as part of the system that needs to be changed, but as fighters of fundamental changes in the existing order (Dziekan 2008, p. 129).

Terrorism in the 21st century is revealed in unlawful acts. The most common such acts are: hijacking and seizure of planes, hijacking other means of communication (e.g. ships, trains, buses) together with passengers as hostages, acts of economic sabotage, burglary, assaults, ransom demands, assassinations – assaults at life, health or freedom of representatives of the authorities, as well as persons who are subject to international protection, abduction and detention as hostages of persons who come from countries other than the terrorist area (e.g. journalists, clerics), the use of automatic weapons, rockets and explosives in public places and causing due to this, a special threat to bystanders (*Ibidem*, p. 132).

Most terrorist activities are associated with hostage-taking in order to intensify the drama of a terrorist action, gain publicity for the preached idea, as well as strengthen the position of terrorists in negotiations. In addition, terrorism is often associated with human trafficking, drug trafficking, weapons and fissile material (e.g. rockets). Favorable conditions for the development of terrorism and the activities of terrorist organizations are created by: Middle East terrorism, Muslim fundamentalism (jihad), nationalist tendencies in the former GDR, post-Soviet nationalism, the breakup of Yugoslavia (Horgan 2008, p. 38).

Currently, many specialists believe that the purpose of a terrorist attack is not at all to commit a specific crime, but to cause a specific effect on the part of the authorities or the public. It is often said that acts of terrorism are "a specific theater, where the goal is a specific effect and reaction of the viewer" (Szafrański 2007, p. 71). An additional danger is the fact that terrorism is a very dynamic and unpredictable phenomenon in international relations. At the same time, this means that due to the rapid development of technology, it can take various forms that are difficult to predict. Cyber terrorism is one such form today. It consists in an attempt to intimidate governments, threatening them with paralysis of various computer systems controlling important processes and areas of the economy, such as finance, banking and defense of the country, or systems supplying cities with water, launching ballistic missiles, etc. (Zasieczna 2004, p. 56).

Classification of the concept of terrorism

There are many types of terrorism. Terrorism is also the right tactics of the perpetrators, which can take various forms. They are, among others, offensive, defensive and repressive (Indecki 2005, p. 29). Due to the criterion of an entity conducting terrorist activity, we can distinguish (Kowalczyk, Wróblewski 2006, p. 60):

- **state terrorism (stateterrosism)** – intimidating action of state authority towards citizens. These are various forms of state involvement in terrorist activities as well as providing shelter and financial support to terrorist groups;
- **anti-stateterrosism** – carried out by movements, groups or individuals seeking to destabilize state structures and social order.

Due to the criterion of motivation, it stands out (Zasieczna 2004, p. 72):

- **Political terrorism** – terrorists, by causing intimidation, are guided by political motives, including religious or ideological issues. Within political terrorism there are:
  - **repressive terrorism**, mainly used by the state and its police apparatus to tame and order specific groups and individuals,
  - **sub-revolutionary terrorism**, activities of ideologically motivated small groups or individuals using violence for various purposes, e.g. intimidation, punishment or revenge, but are unable to make fundamental changes.
  - **Revolutionary terrorism**, whose goal is a revolution aimed at fundamental changes in the structure of the state.

- **Non-political terrorism** – not having any connection with politics, power, due to the motivation of action, but we can distinguish:
    · **criminal terrorism**, includes common crimes committed by perpetrators using terrorist methods of making a profit.
    · **pathological terrorism** are acts of terrorism committed by people with mental disruptions whose motives cannot be clearly determined, are undoubtedly the result of frustration or hatred felt towards specific people, social groups or institutions.

In addition, in literature (Pawłowski 1991, p. 94) terrorism was additionally classified as:

- **Individual terrorism** – acts of violence directed at the lives of people specifically selected or marked only as in groups.
- **Economic terrorism** – terrorism that harms existing economic relations, and in particular the right to exercise property rights by manufacturers, etc.
- **Repressive terrorism** – used by a dominant social group whose privileges are threatened.
- **Insurectionary terrorism** – of an ethnic-nationalist-separatist nature.
- **Socio-revolutionary terrorism** – seeking to change the political system.

Andrzej Pawłowski also classifies terrorism due to the tactics of the perpetrators. Due to this criterion, it distinguishes regressive terrorism, defensive terrorism and offensive terrorism. Another division criterion proposed by this author are the program assumptions of terrorist organizations. Given this criterion, we distinguish **direct causative terrorism** (regarding goals calculated on its own effectiveness), **indirect causative terrorism** (which tends to force a change of course in politics without taking over power) and **propaganda terrorism** (which is supposed to be a detonator of the mass rebellion). It is also worth remembering the territorial scope of the phenomenon of terrorism, which introduces the division of terrorism into **international terrorism** and **domestic (internal) terrorism**.

Conclusions

To sum up, although terrorism is a phenomenon known for centuries, it is still a kind of phenomenon, something difficult to understand, a complex and extremely dynamic problem, which makes research on it very difficult. This also confirms the trouble with

the adoption of a single, universal definition of terrorism by the United Nations, which still does not exist, which seriously hinders the effective fight against it.

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