



Efforts to Address Prison Radicalisation

Symposium University of Malta, 13 June 2017

The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law

- The IIJ provides rule of law-based training to lawmakers, police, prosecutors, judges, corrections officials, and other justice sector stakeholders on how to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities within a rule of law framework.
- More broadly, it works to strengthen criminal justice systems and build regional judicial, police and other criminal justice practitioner networks to promote justice, security, and human rights.
- The IIJ places a particular focus on countries seeking to develop rule of law-based approaches to addressing security challenges such as terrorism and other transnational criminal activities.
- Although the IIJ's mandate will be global in nature, initial focus is on countries in North, West, and East Africa, and the Middle East, paying particular attention to supporting countries in transition.

The IIJ Structure and Partnerships

Board Members:

Algeria

European Union

France

Italy

Jordan

Malta

Morocco

The Netherlands

Nigeria

Tunisia

Turkey

United Kingdom

United States



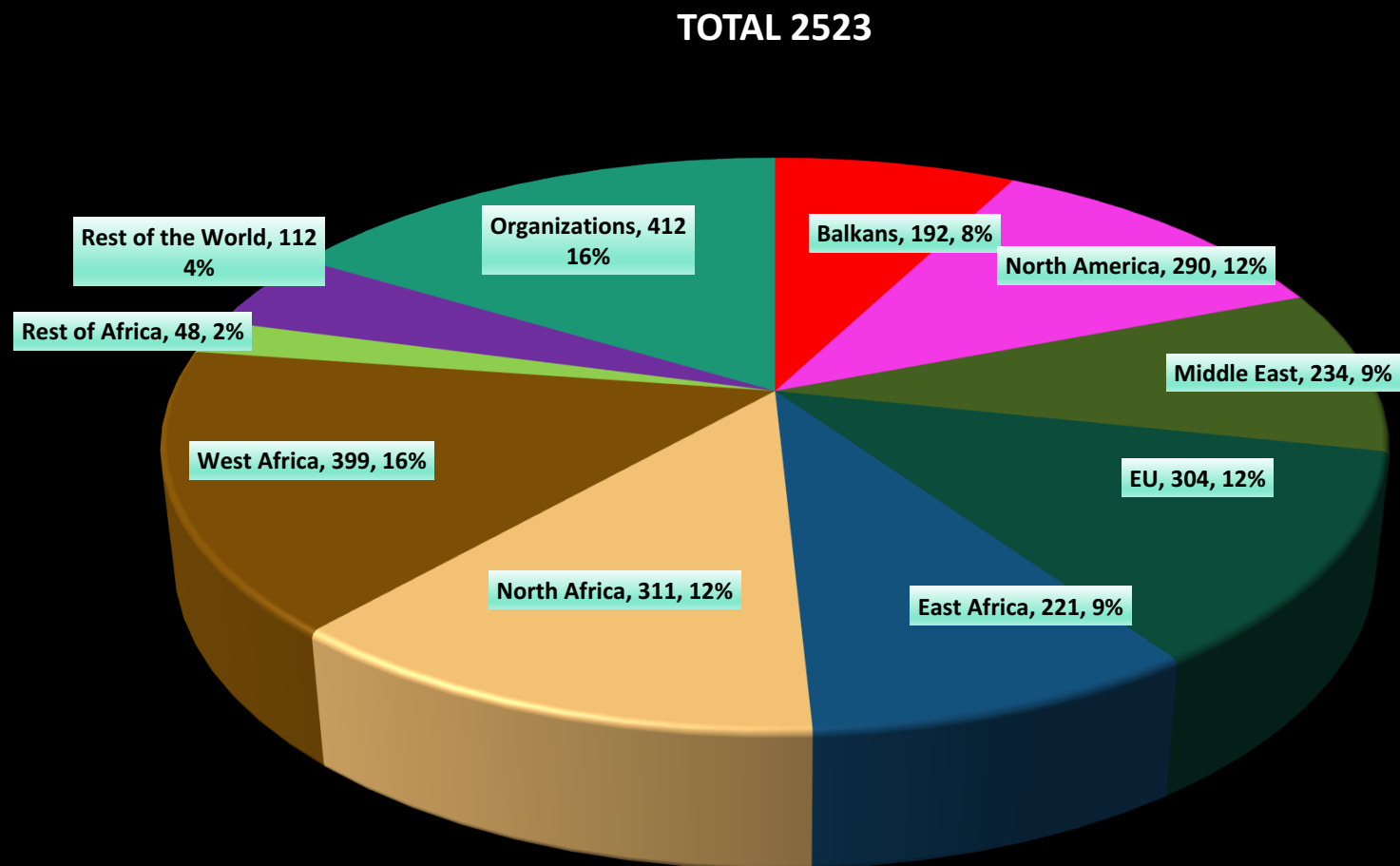
Images of the Founding Members from the signing of the IIJ's Deed in Malta, 18 June 2014

Team of 13 staff members from 11 countries speaking ten languages with both programmatic and practitioner backgrounds.

Executive Secretary (US), a Director of Administration and Outreach (Germany), two seconded Senior Advisors (Turkey and U.K.), four Program Managers (Italy, Morocco/U.K., Australia, and the Netherlands), a Procurement Officer (Malta), three Program Assistants (Malta, France, and Greece/Libya), and a Financial Officer (Malta).



Geographic Distribution of IIJ Participants and Experts Since Inception



IIJ Initiatives

The IIJ currently focuses on the following six initiatives:

- Judicial Training;
- Parliamentary Initiative;
- Juvenile Justice;
- Central Authorities;
- FTF / RFTFs; and
- Prison Management / Prison Radicalization



Prison Radicalisation

‘Prisons are places of vulnerability... highly unsettling environments in which individuals are more likely than elsewhere to explore new beliefs and associations.’ Patrick T. Dunleavy – *The fertile soil of Jihad*

The day a person is incarcerated ideally is the day to start his/her reintegration process back into society, sadly, more and more, this is the day towards radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism

Why are prisons breeding grounds for radicalisation?

- Prisons are places of vulnerability;
- Population contains identity seekers, protection seekers and rebels more than any other human environment;
- Overcrowding and understaffing a common factor in a lot of prisons;
- Poor quality of staff, untrained staff and corruption are factors; and
- Poor management of a prison enhances this problem.



Scope of the problem

- Exact data not available, more research is needed;
- In many prison services the scale of the problem not (yet) acknowledged;
- Complicated to compare countries due to different definitions of radicalization and crimes considered terrorist or extremist offences;
- Not all radicalised prisoners are the same, a range of beliefs and not all turn to violent extremism;
- Very limited information on female and juvenile prisoners.

Drivers for radicalization in general

- Though research found no direct causal link between poverty and radicalization, however many radicalized inmates are from marginalized backgrounds and with a low level of education;
- ISIS/DAESH recruiting through promoting the idea that radicalization helps to compensate for their offense and harm caused to family;
- Poor detention conditions, overcrowding, unnecessary use of pre-trial detention creates an environment where radicalization can flourish;
- Though inmates may radicalize, it is important to realize very few actually go on to commit terrorist acts.

Drivers for radicalization in the Balkans

- Strongly posttraumatic;
- Fictive kin identification with Sunni Muslims being 'under attack';
- Humanitarian concerns;
- High unemployment;
- Material benefits of joining;
- Desire for personal significance;
- Call for Jihad and 'End of Times' apocalyptic thinking;
- Wish to build and live inside a Caliphate and under shariah law;
- Desire to keep family ties intact when one member decides to go.



Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Balkans

Country	Total FTFs 2012-2016	Returnees
Albania	140	44
Bosnia and Herzegovina	240	56
FYROM	150	86
Kosovo	316	117
Montenegro	20	-
Serbia	40-100	11

Radicalized prisoners

- Martyrs of Morocco terrorist cell: recruited and radicalized in Salamanca prison. The network planned a suicide attack on the High Court in Madrid using a truck filled with explosives;
- Shoe-bomber Richard Reid who attempted to detonate explosives on a flight from Paris to Miami in 2001 was radicalized while serving a prison sentence;
- Kevin James, formed the terrorist group JIS (Jam'yyat Al Islam Al Saheeh) while serving a prison sentence in a California State Prison.



Prisons: Incubators for radicalisation or peace?

- Though radicalisation is a phenomenon that occurs increasingly in prison services throughout the world, prisons also have, on many occasions been incubators for peaceful change and transformation;
- Prisons can make a significant contributions towards reversing the process of radicalisation through de-radicalization and disengagement;
- For this to happen, sound policies, procedures and programs need to be in place, as well as constant monitoring by trained staff members.

IIJ's Efforts to address Prison Radicalisation

Expert Meeting took place in Valletta, Malta on 12-13 December 2016, organized by the IIJ

The aim of the workshop:

- Assist prison officials on how to best address terrorism issues;
- Enable practitioners to compare notes and best practices;
- Discussion of global and regional trends in prison radicalization;
- Discussion of the tools and guides on prison radicalisation*;
- Discussion of key issues such as prison intelligence and risk assessments.

Outcome of the Expert Meeting

- Enhanced awareness of the seriousness of this issue amongst participants;
- Enhanced knowledge on tools and guides available;
- Follow-up workshops and regional meetings such as:
 - Prison Management Workshops (Sahel, Balkans);
 - Workshop on Prison Intelligence;
 - Workshop for Probation Officers;

In light of the Expert Meeting, new projects and initiatives will be developed.



IIJ Recommendations to Counter and Address Prison Radicalisation

- 16 Recommendations;
- Drafted during two expert meetings, led by the IIJ;
- Recommendations on prison and prisoner management related to preventing and addressing violent extremist radicalisation of prisoners (and staff);
- Directed at prison practitioners, as well as policy-makers;
- Principle of Dynamic Security.

III Recommendations to Counter and Address Prison Radicalisation

Areas of recommendations:

1. Operations, Administration and Management;
2. Screening, Assessment, Classification and Case Management;
3. Discipline and Accountability;
4. Security and Intelligence;
5. Programs and Aftercare.



A. Operations, Administrations and Management

- Pre-trial detention phase (vulnerability);
- Maintaining a humane environment, avoiding overcrowding, alternatives to imprisonment;
- Transparent policies and procedures to facilitate trust
- Organisational culture: training to sensitize staff on cultural diversity and to be able to identify violent extremist behaviour/signs/

B. Screening, Assessment and Classification

- Correctional practitioners to determine segregation or dispersal of terrorism offenders and those vulnerable to violent indoctrination;
- Assessing the risks of radicalisation of incarcerated individuals (special categories);
- Sound classification procedures and set up/maintenance of an effective database.



C. Discipline and accountability

- Equality of disciplinary actions / equal treatment (inmates);
- Codes of conduct and accountability for prison staff;
- Standards and mechanism to prevent and combat corruption.



D. Security and Intelligence

- Central information gathering unit to produce Intelligence (fed also by intra-agency and international sharing);
- Monitoring external and internal communications (as permitted by law).



E. Programs and Aftercare

- Civil Society (including religious authorities) and social welfare systems to contribute to the rehabilitation procedure and prepare offenders' reintegration;
- Coordination with the community-level stakeholders to prepare the ground for reintegration.



Upcoming events with regards to Prison Management / Radicalisation

- 28-30 June 2017: Opening Policy-Level Workshop ‘Rehabilitating and Reintegrating RFTFs’ (Malta)

Project in 4 phases funded by the Netherlands (with support of Canada) focusing on countries’ development of coherent national policies jointly pursued by policy-makers and practitioners at a central and local level.

- 3-5 July 2017: Workshop on Prison Intelligence (Malta)

Project funded by the USA to enhance the understanding of the importance of CT Prison Intelligence, present best practices and provide knowledge on prison intelligence processes and methodologies

Upcoming events with regards to Prison Radicalisation

- 5-7 September 2017: Workshop Prison Management (*Italy*)

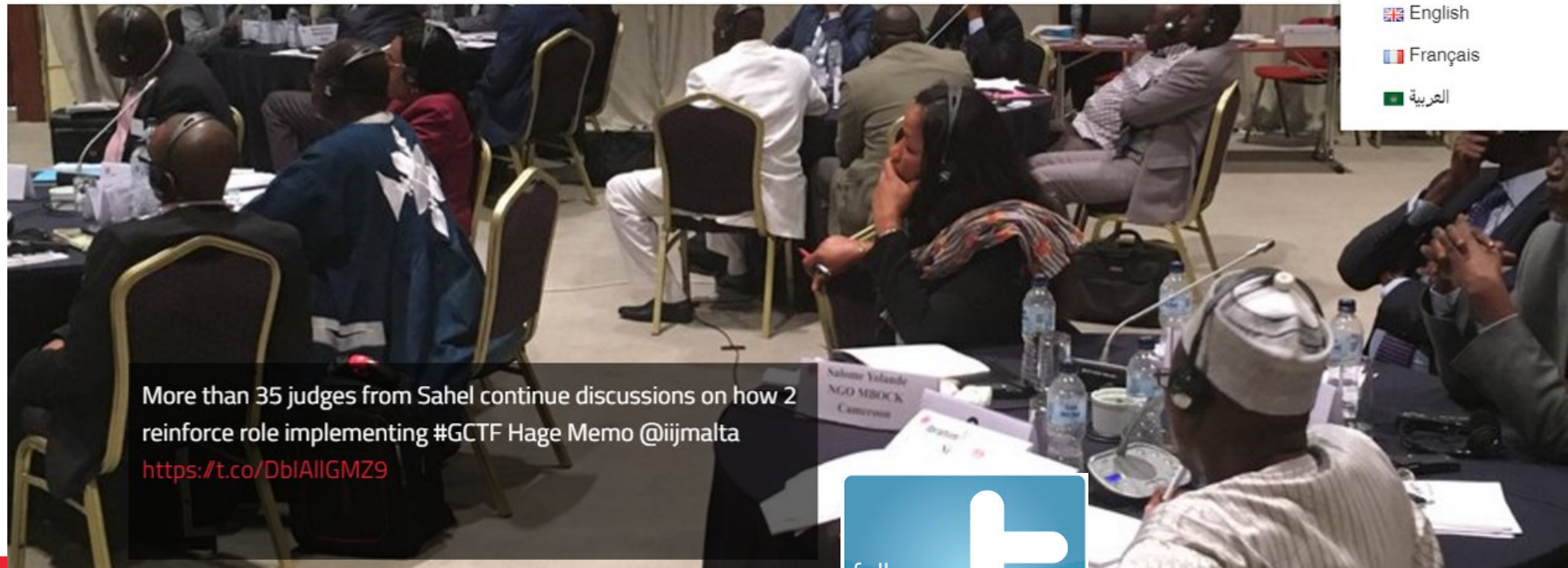
Project funded by the USA meant to enhance the skills, knowledge and capabilities of prison services in Sahel countries

- September 2017: Workshop on Rehabilitating and Reintegrating RFTFs (*Italy*)

Project funded by the USA on the role of probation officers in rehabilitation and reintegration of RFTFs

More Information

For more information on the IIJ and events, please visit our website at www.theijj.org, see our newsletter, email info@theijj.org, or follow the IIJ on twitter @ijjmalta.

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