

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the “Białystok Legal Studies” focuses on selected aspects of terrorism, one of the greatest challenges of modern times. For many years, the Department of Criminal Law of the University of Białystok, has conducted research in this area. In particular, a number of bespoke research projects have been undertaken with the involvement of representatives of other academic centers and officers of law enforcement and administration of justice agencies¹. The projects have resulted in numerous publications, including papers covering the problem of terrorism². Terrorism was also the topic of national and international seminars, discussions, and lectures organized by the Polish Platform for Homeland Security, initiated by the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology of the University of Białystok. Of note is the international seminar titled “Terrorism, globalization, and measures to respond to terrorist attacks in the present era of globalization processes,” whose participants included representatives of academic circles from the USA and Japan³.

This publication consists of selected articles discussing the problems of terrorism, from the point of view of not only broadly-defined criminal law, but also criminology and international law, in both its domestic and international aspects, on the background of the contemporary processes of globalization. Terrorism cannot be discussed as an isolated phenomenon. This is demonstrated in “Terrorism” by Professor Brunon Hołyst, who not only presents a comprehensive criminological and legal analysis of terrorism, but also draws a number of very pertinent conclusions of practical importance⁴. The author takes the right, albeit difficult, assumption that the problem of terrorism should be looked at from as many angles as possible.

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- 1 The projects in question are two bespoke projects ordered by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education: project no. PBZ-MNiSW-DBO-01/1/2007 titled “Legal and organizational-technical solutions in the fight against organized crime and terrorism, with particular focus on process evidence and the institution of immunity witness” and project no. PBZ-MNiSW-DBO-01/1/2007 titled “Monitoring, identification and countering of threats to the security of citizens” performed as a part of a consortium formed by the University of Białystok and the Military Academy of Technology. Recently, the consortium of the University of Białystok and the PPBW Sp. z o.o. finalized the project ordered by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education titled “Legal and criminological aspects of implementation and use of modern technologies intended for protection of internal security” (project no. OR 00003707).
 - 2 See: in particular: E.W. Pływaczewski, ed., *Przestępczość zorganizowana, świadek koronny, terroryzm – w ujęciu praktycznym* [Organized crime, immunity witness, terrorism – a practical approach], Kraków 2005; K. Indecki, ed., *Przestępczość terrorystyczna. Ujęcie praktyczno-dogmatyczne* [The crime of terrorism. A practical-dogmatic approach], Poznań-Białystok-Łódź 2006.
 - 3 Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok, 15-16 March 2009.
 - 4 B. Hołyst, *Terroryzm* [Terrorism], vol. 1 and 2, Warsaw 2009. The second, supplemented issue of this work was published in 2011 by the same publisher.

Thus, terrorism cannot be discussed as an isolated phenomenon. One should also note that another dangerous phenomenon, organized crime, has been escalating for a number of years⁵. Organized crime has evolved and grown to become a serious issue in the contemporary world. This has been caused by a number of factors, to include the financial and social globalization of economies, the fall of the so-called “Eastern Bloc” and the development of a market for financial products. Consequently, this publication must include discussion on the links between terrorism and organized crime and maritime piracy, as well as the political, financial, and social aspects of terrorism⁶.

One of the priorities of agencies and institutions charged with the reconnaissance, countering, and combating of terrorist threats, is to create an effective platform for communication with the public regarding assurances of public security and order⁷. Development of a model of comprehensive anti-terrorist information polity, which takes into account the prevention of and response to terrorist events, is one of Poland’s priorities as a part of the works of the G-6 group.

It should be mentioned that the National Program of Prevention of Terrorist threats in the Republic of Poland includes the prevention of recruitment of prospective new members by terrorist organizations. Thus, it is very important that Poland take advantage of the experiences of other countries related to prevention of radicalization. This topic is discussed broadly in the paper prepared for the research task titled “Reconnaissance, countering, and prevention of radicalization of religious views among members of the Islamic faith living in the Republic of Poland – as an element of the national system of early detection of terrorist threats” constituting part of the development project of the Police Academy in Szczytno titled “Countering and combating organized crime and terrorism in the conditions of safe, accelerated, and sustainable socioeconomic development”⁸.

It appears that it is necessary to expand the studies on the methods of countering and combating terrorism to include the issue of the use of new technologies. Currently, law enforcement agencies and secret services commonly use new technologies to

5 See: E.W. Pływaczewski, ed., *Przestępczość zorganizowana* [Organized crime], Warsaw 2011.

6 See: P. Grabosky, M. Stohl, *Crime and terrorism*, Sage Publications, Los Angeles–London–New Delhi–Singapore–Washington D.C. 2010.

7 See: E. Pływaczewski, K. Laskowska, G. Szczygieł, E. Guzik-Makaruk, W. Filipkowski, E. Zatyka, “Polskie kierunki badań kryminologicznych nad bezpieczeństwem obywateli” [The directions of Polish criminological studies of citizens’ security], *„Prokuratura i Prawo”* 2010, no. 1-2, p. 176ff; *Terroryzm w poglądach społeczeństwa polskiego* [Opinions of the Polish society on terrorism], B. Hołyst, M. Goca, eds., Warsaw 2011; A. Furgała, A. Tulej, D. Szlachter, P. Chomentowski, eds., *Spójna antyterrorystyczna strategia informacyjna* [A coherent anti-terrorist information strategy], vol. I, II, III, Szczytno 2011.

8 Project no. O R00 0040 07, titled *Radykalizacja poglądów religijnych w społecznościach muzułmańskich wybranych państw Unii Europejskiej. Polska–Holandia–Wielka Brytania* [Radicalization of religious beliefs in Muslim communities of selected countries of the European Union. Poland–Netherlands–United Kingdom], (D. Szlachter, W. Kaczorowski, Z. Muszyński, P. Potejko, P. Chomentowski, T. Borzół, eds.).

obtain and analyze information in order to support the decision-making process in the course of their operational activities and in subsequent criminal proceedings.

This comprises, among other issues, crime analysis⁹ and the use of open-source intelligence¹⁰. These topics translate into a number of interesting legal and ethical issues. As it turns out, we are now facing the difficult and dynamically changing problem of a conflict between the right to privacy (to include protection of personal data) and the need to ensure the security of both the state and its citizens.

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9 See: W. Filipkowski, P. Chlebowicz, eds., *Analiza kryminalna. Aspekty kryminalistyczne i prawnodowodowe* [Criminal analysis. Criminalistic and legal-evidence aspects], Warsaw 2011.

10 See: W. Filipkowski, W. Modrzejewski, eds., *Biały wywiad. Otwarte źródła informacji – wokół teorii i praktyki* [Open source intelligence – theory and practice], Warsaw 2011.