

HUMAN FACTORS IN THE DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM: THE CASE OF JORDAN

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Speaker Bio & Contribution

Biography

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Secretary General of the Atlantic Treaty Association, Jason Wiseman has been with the ATA Secretariat since 2012 and worked as a National Security Analyst with the NATO Council of Canada from 2011. He holds an MA in Government with a Specialization in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security and a BAH in Political Science. His areas of expertise include Counter-Terrorism, State Failure and Transnational Organized Crime.

Contribution

In an era of increased motivation and operational capability of terrorist organizations, matched with an era of rapid information access and citizen engagement through social media, the ability of governments and international organizations to counter-terrorism fall under heavy scrutiny from civil society.

Governments and international organizations like NATO recognize this and have thus chosen to cooperate with NGOs to leverage the full potential of each stakeholder engaged in the global counter-terrorism effort.

Three are the major assets of NGOs in this field:

First, is enhanced intelligence gathering potential. NGO representatives, operating in or near combat zones, such as Doctors Without Borders in Afghanistan, are able to assist in situational awareness, distinguishing civilians from enemy combatants and to monitor, recruit and implement deradicalization efforts.

Second, NGO's can be an ideal format for deradicalization programs as it can be an honest broker or neutral arbiter in gathering officials and relevant stakeholders to work on policy under a secure umbrella, a good example is ATA gathering you all here today in cooperation with NAMA and MEMPSI.

Third, NGOs can assist in providing credibility to government officials and international staff officers efforts to engage with at-risk civil society and persons unable or unwilling to go to the authorities. A good example of this is the Strong Cities Network which gathers mayors and municipal-level policy makers with practitioners to build social cohesion and resilience in a city to city tailored effort.

Our Allies place particular emphasis on shared awareness, and recognize that civil societies have huge capacities to prevent violence, mediate conflicts, create peaceful co-existence and set conditions for economic development, but we need the NGO's to formalize and coordinate such efforts, so that the appropriate action can be taken.