

Committee: Disarmament and International Security (GA1)

Issue: The question of the use of Improvised Explosive Devices

Student Officer: Tania Agathangelidi

Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates of the GA1 committee,

My name is Tania Agathangelidi and I will be serving as one of the Co-Chairs of the Disarmament and International Security Committee at the 3rd DSTMUN. I started attending MUN conferences back in 2018 and since then I have successfully participated in six, with this one being my seventh and my second time as a member of the Students Officers Team.

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you all to this year's DSTMUN, an experience that will surely provide you with the opportunity to debate, cooperate and compromise with others in order to come up with innovative solutions for the world's most concerning and challenging issues. Furthermore, I sincerely hope that through your participation in the Disarmament and International Security Committee you'll develop a clear understanding of the purpose of MUN and its contribution to society.

The first topic of the GA1 committee focuses on the question of the use of Improvised Explosive Devices or, for short, IEDs. In this study guide, you will find all the basic and necessary information concerning the aforementioned topic. However, you are highly encouraged to conduct your own research as well, in order to fully understand your country's or NGO's position and to be capable of proposing original and realistic solutions.

Should you need any clarifications about this study guide or if you have any question concerning the topic as a whole, do not hesitate to contact me via my email address, tanyaagath@gmail.com, at any time prior to and during the conference.

Best regards,

Tania Agathangelidi

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

During the course of time, the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) has grown exponentially across all nations. Their unlawful use – particularly by terrorist and rebel groups, such as ISIS and Hezbollah – is spreading quicker than ever anticipated. Notable examples of illicit utilization of IEDs mainly include attacks on places known to hold/have large concentrations of civilians, similar to the ones which took place at a 2015 peace rally in Turkey. For the overwhelming amount of time, the attacks focus on achieving maximum levels of terror, societal disruption and lethality. Such actions largely impact the safety and stability of communities around the worlds as well as disrupt a vast number of humanitarian and peace operations conducted by the UN. Taking that into consideration, governments from all member states as well as several NGOs, including Action On Armed Violence (AOAV) and the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI), have made it a priority to address and tackle the issue head-on with the hope of sparing the loss of more innocent lives.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

An Improvised Explosive Device is described as a “homemade” bomb and/or destructive device which is more commonly used by criminals, terrorists and suicide bombers. Due to the fact that it’s improvised, meaning it’s created in ways other than conventional military procedure, it can be manufactured in numerous forms, ranging from a small pipe bomb to an advanced device capable of causing massive damage and loss of life.

Suicide bomber

A person who has a bomb hidden on his or her body and who kills (him or her)self in the attempt to kill others.¹

Minefield

An area in which mines have been placed, either on land or at sea.²

¹ "SUICIDE BOMBER | Meaning In the Cambridge English Dictionary". *Dictionary.Cambridge.Org*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/suicide-bomber>.

² "MINEFIELD | Meaning In The Cambridge English Dictionary". *Dictionary.Cambridge.Org*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/minefield>.

Booby Traps

A bomb, designed to kill or injure someone, hidden somewhere which is originally considered safe.³

Domestic Terrorism

Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.⁴

Insurgency

An occasion when a group of people attempt to take control of their country by force.⁵

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The involvement of Improvised Explosive Devices in warfare

Vietnam War (1955-1975)

The Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War, was a long and brutal conflict between the North and South Vietnam. On the one side, there was the communist government of North Vietnam (DRVN) who allied with the Communist World, namely the Soviet Union and China. On the other



Figure 1: Ancient Tech in Modern War – Hidden Punji Sticks of Vietnam War

side, there was the Republic of Vietnam or South Vietnam with its principal ally, the United States. However, against the South was another organization known as the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam or The Viet Cong who were working under the direction of the North. The Viet Cong were widely feared due to the fact that they used booby traps and IEDs against the US soldiers during the twenty year war. Their most common weapons were punji sticks, a form of booby traps, which were made by sharpened bamboo and hidden underground. In

³ "BOOBY TRAP | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/booby-trap.

⁴ <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>

⁵ "INSURGENCY | Meaning In The Cambridge English Dictionary". *Dictionary.Cambridge.Org*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/insurgency>.

total, Improvised Explosive Devices were responsible for 70 percent of all the vehicle losses and some 45.000 casualties.⁶

Northern Ireland conflict (1970-1998)

The Northern Ireland conflict, more commonly referred to as The Troubles, was primarily caused by political and nationalist reasons and it can be characterized as complex due to the vast amount of armed political actor that was involved. For the most part, the conflict was between the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Defense Association (UDA) which were described as Protestant unionists (loyalists), and the Catholic nationalists (republicans) such as the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA). The first parties desired the Northern Ireland province to remain part of the United Kingdom while the others wanted it to become part of the Republic of Ireland. The conflict left a lot of casualties for both parties, with the loyalists and the British army suffering the most due to the prominent use of IEDs by IRA. The Provisional Irish Republican Army used IEDs gradually throughout the twenty-eight years, with 1993 marking the highest number of IED events in any given year of the conflict. They had self-acquired knowledge about the devices since they began building simple ones in the early 1970s but slowly developed increasingly advances IEDs with little to no external training over the next few years. Thus, the provisional IRA was behind somewhere around 19.000 IED attacks on British territory throughout the conflict and were responsible for approximately 87–90% of the total British security force deaths, and 27–30% of the total civilian deaths in the conflict.⁷

Soviet-Afghanistan war (1979-1989)

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, or the Soviet-Afghanistan War, was in support of the Afghan communist government in its conflict with anti-communist Muslim rebels. However, those insurgent groups (mujahideen) were backed primarily by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United Kingdom, turning the invasion into a cold war-era proxy war. Mine warfare was a major component of the nearly ten-year war since it was used extensively by both parties. The Mujahideen reused old Soviet mines to manufacture their own fougasse (blast mines), which are now referred to as improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Consequently, the Soviets developed mine countermeasures such as issuing flak jackets, sandbagging and

⁶ *U.S. Army Center of Military History*, history.army.mil/html/books/090/90-21/CMH_Pub_90-21-1.pdf.

⁷ "CAIN: Sutton Index of Deaths." *CAIN: Northern Ireland Conflict, Politics, and Society. Information on 'the Troubles'*, cain.ulster.ac.uk/cgi-bin/tab2.pl.

reinforcing vehicle floors, and riding on the tops of armored vehicles. Despite their efforts, the Soviets lost somewhere around 1.995 soldiers and 1.190 vehicles to mines and IEDs.⁸

Iraq war (2003-2011)

The Iraq War broke out in 2003 following the United States invasion in the country that overthrew the then-government of Saddam Hussein. The conflict continued for nearly a decade more due to the fact that insurgency emerged to oppose the post-invasion Iraqi government and the occupying US forces. After the violence began to decline in 2007, the US gradually decreased its military presence in the country, and formally withdrew completely at the end of 2011. Throughout the 8 year war, Improvised Explosive Devices shaped the battlefields with terrorist groups using them as their weapon of choice against US troops. Their extensive use triggered the creation of an official term for the weapon, which didn't exist prior to the Iraq War. The United States military was forced to conduct quick and effective counter-IED measures to protect from the alarming amount of attacks they faced. As a result, total IED attacks and the casualties that follow fell drastically at the beginning of 2009 after numerous efforts. Despite the attempts made by the US to limit the number of losses caused by Improvised Explosive Devices, they were still the cause for almost 60% of all American fatalities in the Iraq War.

Israel-Hezbollah War (2006)

The 2006 Israel-Hezbollah War, mostly known as the 2006 Lebanon War, was a month-long conflict between Israeli defence forces (IDF) and Hezbollah, which took place in Lebanon, Northern Israel and the Golan Heights. The war began on July 12th with the Hezbollah cross-border raid and ended on August 14th upon the interference of the UN. During this 32-day period, thousands of IEDs and mines were planted throughout the Israeli-Lebanon border, which seized the life of numerous IDF soldiers. On top of that, Hezbollah would also use them to kill and injure Israelis living in settlements in northern Israel. Citizens living near the border had to abandon their homes and find refuge further in the south due to the fact that the constant attacks had disrupted their normal life and caused them economic and humanitarian difficulties. However, life in south Lebanon was also under peril from the artillery bombings conducted by the IDF. Countless homes were demolished and the country faced an uncontrollable rise of in-land displacement. In total,

⁸ "Afghan IEDs Hammered Soviets." *Military.com*, 15 Dec. 2009, www.military.com/dodbuzz/2009/12/15/afghan-ieds-hammered-soviets.

both parties suffered a vast amount of losses with each side facing economic and humanitarian damages.

Syrian Civil War (2011-present)

The Syrian Civil War has been an ongoing civil war in Syria since the Arab spring of 2011 that marked its beginning. Given the fact that its multi-



Figure 2: Syrian Civil War

sided, the participants and the sides they are fighting for are highly complicated, however, for the most part, it is fought between the Bashar al-Assad led the Syrian Arab Republic along with its foreign allies and various domestic and international insurgent groups who, in addition, are opposing each other in varying combinations. It has been characterized as one of the deadliest wars in the 21st century due to the widespread and continuous use of explosive weapons, especially IEDs and mines, which in their turn leave behind a various range of explosive hazards. It is estimated that 10.2 million civilians living in somewhere around 1.980 communities⁹ are threatened by the untraceable and unpredictable hiding of explosive hazards. On top of that, this uncontrollable rise in, both vehicles borne and roadside, Improvised Explosive Devices, particularly in Hama-controlled areas, has resulted in high civilian casualties as densely populated areas and transit routes have been the targets of the attacks. As of 2020, the battlefield still remains highly contaminated by landmines and IEDs which have caused over 10.000 deaths from all parties involved throughout the nine-year war.

British/US invasion in Afghanistan/ Afghanistan war (2001-2014-present)

The United States invasion in Afghanistan was done with the purpose of removing the Taliban from power in the country, given the fact that they were protecting Osama Bin Laden, the head of Islamist terror group al-Qaeda and the man behind the September 11 attacks. With the help of its allies, the US was able to overthrow the Taliban from power. However, since then the United States and other countries involved, such as the United Kingdom and France, have struggled to stop Afghanistan's government from collapsing and

⁹ "Syria." *ITF Enhancing Human Security*, www.itf.si/activities/middle-east/syria.

to end the deadly IED attacks conducted by the Taliban. Improvised Explosive Devices became the weapon of choice for the Taliban after having received help from al Qaeda in Iraq. Throughout the conflict, IED strikes rose rapidly, reaching more than 7.000 in 2009, and eventually decreasing with somewhere around 1.200 incidents in 2017. The period between 2009 and 2011 is considered the peak of explosive violence in the war with 8.680 out of the 14.627 casualties being the result of IED explosions¹⁰. All in all, Improvised Explosive Devices are responsible for more than half U.S. fatalities as well as almost half of all British deaths (224 British soldiers).¹¹

Their exponential use by terrorist groups in the 21st century

ISIS

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, more commonly known as Islamic State (IS), is a jihadist terrorist group who fights for the creation of an Islamic state, called a caliphate, across the countries of the Middle East. It started off as an al Qaeda splinter group in 2006 and since then it has become one of the most feared. The group uses suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices to carry out most of their attacks which have taken place in countries such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen. ISIS's development of explosive technology presents a continuous threat to not only citizens of the Middle Eastern countries but all around the globe.

Taliban

The Taliban is an Islamic political movement in Afghanistan, currently pursuing war within the country. They emerged in the early 1990s following the withdrawal of Soviet troops. From that point on, they quickly extended their influence, eventually overthrowing the regime of President Burhanuddin Rabbani. They were later removed from power by the United States. Their use of explosive weapons –especially IEDs- has caused concerns in the international community. Throughout the ongoing Afghanistan War, they have planted over 20.000 IEDs which have claimed the life of thousand international soldiers.

Al-shabaab

Al-shabaab is an al Qaeda affiliated group that emerged in the midst of Somalia's decade long anarchy. It once held power over the capital of Mogadishu and the surrounding countryside but was pushed back by an

¹⁰ *National Defense University Press (NDU Press)*, ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/Books/understanding-war-in-afghan.pdf.

¹¹ "War in Afghanistan." *National Army Museum*, www.nam.ac.uk/explore/war-afghanistan.

African Union-led military campaign. However, it remains the principal challenge in Somalia given that it carries out various IED attacks across the nation. Its use of IEDs has made it the deadliest terrorist group in Africa, having obtained technology knowledge from its growing international connections with other terrorist organizations.

Hezbollah

Hezbollah is a Shia Islamist Organization that was founded during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990). Even though it is characterized as a terrorist group, it has evolved into a Lebanese political party. It was known for extensively using Improvised Explosive Devices in the 2006 Lebanon War against the Israeli military army. On top of that, it has continued its IED attacks in the Syrian Civil War where they are fighting in the side of the government forces.

Biggest IED attacks (non-war related)

Turkey, Ankara 10.10.2015:

At 12:00 pm on 10th of October 2015, a peace rally demanding an end to violence between the Kurdish militants and the Turkish government was due to take place. However, as people from all over Turkey were starting to form crowds, two explosions happened near the city's central train station, where they were gathered. The attacks are considered to be the deadliest of their kind on Turkish soil. It later became known that the explosions were conducted by IED infested suicide bombers who hid amongst the crowd. The incident left behind 602 casualties with people all over Turkey mourning for days.

Lebanon, Tripoli 23.08.2013:

On the 23rd of August 2013, two mosques in Tripoli were bombed just as the worshippers were leaving from their weekly Muslim prayers. The first IED blast hit the Al-Taqwa mosque which is located in the centre of the Sunni city, while the second one, Al-Salam mosque, sits near the city's port. The incident left 47 people dead and injured nearly 500 more and it has been characterized as the biggest and deadliest bombing in the city since the end of the Civil war.

Iraq, Baghdad 03.07.2016:

As children and their families were out shopping in the Karrada district, an IED car bomb detonated in the area, claiming the lives of 125 people and leaving hundreds wounded, many of whom were children. The Islamic State (IS) group asserted responsibility for the attack. This bombing in Baghdad was the deadliest in the country as of 2016 and came a week after the city of Falluja, which was previously in the hands of IS militants, was recaptured by Iraqi security forces.

Yemen, Sana'a 20.03.2015:

Four suicide bombers attacked two Shia Houthi mosques, using Improvised Explosive Devices, during the midday prayer hours. The al-Badr and al-Hashoosh mosques both suffered 2 bombings, one on the inside of the building, and the other right outside the gate. The blasts caused more than 400 casualties with hospitals nearby overflowing with victims, making it the deadliest terrorist attack in the country's history. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Conclusion

As humanity has seen numerous times before through war-affiliated or not-explosions which were followed by a vast number of casualties, Improvised Explosive Devices are one of the most dangerous explosive weapons that terrorize the international community. Not only are they easy to recreate with little to no prior technical knowledge, but they are also very hard to trace and predict given that their designs vary according to the supplies available when making. Thus, for the aforementioned reasons, the need to tackle the threat posed by the irregular use of IEDs has grown exponentially across all nations.

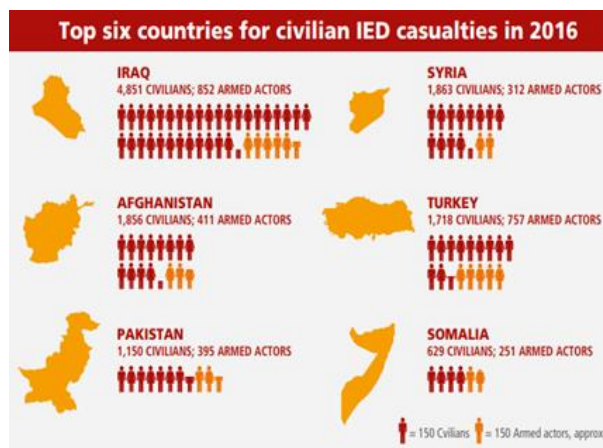


Figure 3: Top six countries for civilian IED victims in 2016

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Iraq

From the years 2011-2015 Iraq was the worst impacted country by IEDs. During that five-year span, the country suffered approximately 42.114 injuries and deaths from 2.266 IED attacks with civilians accounting for 87% (36.772) of the casualties. On top of that, in 2016 Iraq witnessed a 50% rise in civilian injuries and deaths from suicide attacks most of which took place in just one city – Baghdad. As of 2018, there have been 71.231 casualties from explosive violence in the country, 55.444 of which were civilians. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) faces a similar threat given that Improvised Explosive Devices now account for nearly two-thirds of military deaths from hostile actions.¹²

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has consistently been one of the worst impacted countries by Improvised Explosive Devices. Even though it is considered one of the worlds heaviest landmine-contaminated countries, Improvised Explosive Devices still kill 10 times more civilians than landmines do. Between the years 2011 and 2015 the country saw 11.838 deaths and injuries from 1.157 IED incidents with 73% (8.608) of these being civilians. In that time, the Taliban were the principal perpetrators of such incidents, with IEDs proving to be their deadliest weapon. However, 2016 saw the emergence of ISIS-affiliated attacks in the country and along with that a 105% increase in civilian deaths the next years. By 2018, ISIS and the Taliban were responsible for more than 45% of all civilian casualties affiliated with IEDs, which had reached 16.200.¹³

Pakistan

Pakistan has a notable and growing IED challenge that threatens its population and soldiers given that it has consistently been one of the worst impacted states by explosive violence. Improvised Explosive Devices have caused the most harm to the country, being responsible for 73% of all civilian casualties in the past decade. In total throughout the last eight years, Pakistan has seen almost 28.000 injuries and deaths from explosive violence, 19.308(69%) of which were civilians. For Western Pakistan, most attacks are conducted by the Taliban and other armed groups to undermine the government and their policies.¹⁴

¹² "Iraq." AOA, aoav.org.uk/explosiveviolence/iraq/.

¹³ "Afghanistan." AOA, aoav.org.uk/explosiveviolence/afghanistan/.

¹⁴ "Pakistan." AOA, aoav.org.uk/explosiveviolence/pakistan/.

Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic has been facing an alarming number of casualties caused by IEDs since the start of the civil war in 2011. Over the last nine years, Syria has become one of the worst affected countries, having had approximately 79.206 deaths and injuries from explosive violence with IEDs accounting for over 15.000 of them. However, the biggest issue that the country faces is the rising number of children deaths and injuries caused by such weapons. The fact that Syrians have started to return to previously ISIS occupied locations has led to the endangerment of numerous innocent children who carelessly pick up items found on the ground, which in this case are leftover IEDs and landmines.

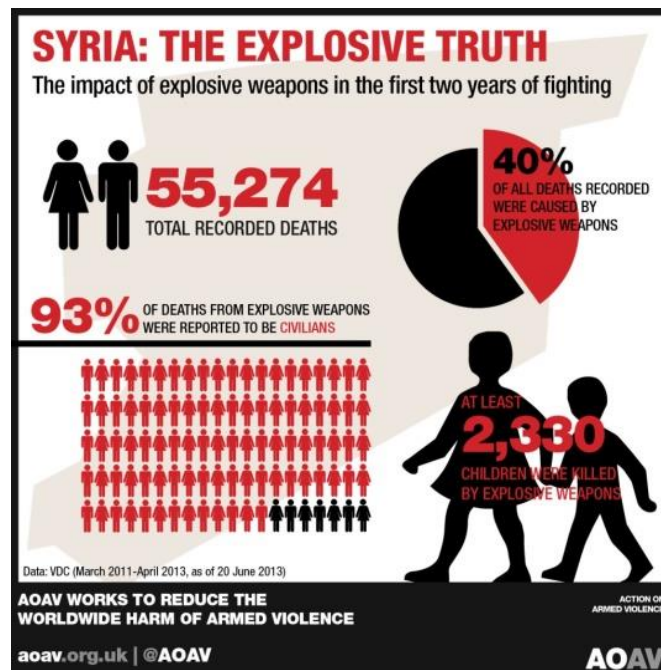


Figure 4: AOAV report in 2016 shows the impact of IEDs

Somalia

For many years prior to 2016 Somalia was not as heavily affected by Improvised Explosive Devices as its neighbours. However, the country saw civilian deaths and injuries from explosive violence increase by 132% in 2016. This was the highest level of harm reported in Somalia in the last six years. By 2017, it had become one of the worst impacted countries with civilian casualties increasing even more. Thus, through the span of seven years (2011-2018) the casualties had reached 9.460 with 6.319 (67%) of these being civilians and by 2019 it had become the sixth worst impacted country. Unlike the other affected nations, in Somalia IEDs have been used serving the purpose of assassinating politicians and killing uniformed personnel.

Turkey

Throughout recent years, Turkey has seen both a major increase and a steady decrease in IED violence. Between 2011 and 2018 the country has suffered a little over 5.000 injuries and deaths from IEDs with 3.345 (66%) being civilians. The numbers though weren't the same every year; in 2016 turkey was the fifth worst impacted country by Improvised Explosive Devices having a seen a 1,671% increase in casualties since 2011. Fortunately, through 2017 and 2018 there was a drastic decrease in attacks with only 47 casualties recorded in total.

Action On Armed Violence (AOAV)

Action On Armed Violence (AOAV) is a British not-for-profit organization with their main mission being the reduction of global armed violence through research and advocacy. In October 2010 it started the Explosive Violence Monitor Project which records casualties caused by explosive weapons, including IEDs, at a global level. On top of that, AOAV has a particular research focus on Improvised Explosive Devices which aims to limit their exponential use on both a regional and an international level. On October 25th, 2017, Action on Armed Violence presented its findings from the IED Monitor partnered with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an alliance between the territories of North America and Europe. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed in 1949 by 11 countries. Its main purpose is to defend and aid countries in any form of crisis through all means necessary. Given the fact that NATO has peacekeeping troops in a lot of IED-affected nations, it has suffered a great deal of losses from such weapons. Thus, NATO has developed an action plan to detect and neutralize Improvised Explosive Devices in order to remain prepared to counter them in any land or maritime operation.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The U.S Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is characterized as an administrative branch of the United States federal government. It was created as a response to the 9/11 attacks and its central missions involve anti-terrorism, border security, cybersecurity, and disaster prevention and management. The DHS's Office for Bomb Prevention (OBP) carries out the National Counter-IED policy by enhancing the nation's capacity to avert and diminish the utilization of explosives against federal, local and territorial entities. The OBP provides training and awareness products to further strengthen nationwide C-IED capabilities.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1955-1975	Vietnam War with the use of booby traps by the Viet Cong.
1970-1998	Northerner Ireland conflict where the Provisional Irish Republican Army employed the use of IEDs.
1970-1998	Northerner Ireland conflict where the Provisional Irish Republican Army employed the use of IEDs.
1979-1989	Soviet-Afghanistan War which saw an exponential use of IEDs.
2001-present	British and US invasion in Afghanistan where IEDs were used extensively.
2003-2011	Iraq war that triggered the creation of the term IEDs due to their constant usage.
2006	Israel-Lebanon war with Hezbollah employing the use of IEDs.
2011-present	Syrian Civil War where IEDs are primarily used by terrorist groups.
August 23 rd , 2013	ISIS twin car bombing outside of Al-Taqwa mosque and Al-Salam mosque caused 547 casualties (Tripoli, Lebanon).
March 20 th , 2015	Four ISIS suicide bombers attack two Shia Houthi mosques in Sana'a, Yemen.
October 10 th , 2015	Suicide bombings target a peace rally in Ankara, Turkey resulting in 602 deaths.
July 3 rd , 2016	ISIS suicide car bomb in Baghdad, Iraq.
April 21 st , 2019	270 people were killed by an IED suicide bombing in Sri Lanka.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices

This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2015¹⁵ and amended on 5 December 2016¹⁶, 4 December 2017¹⁷ and 5 December 2018¹⁸. The resolution overall focuses on the need for action against IEDs not only through the sharing of information concerning their construction and their use by certain terrorist groups but also by financially aiding States in order to strengthen their capacity to counter such weapons. The amendments added ways to raise awareness about the topic and effectively inform citizens of the issue.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restriction on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)

The Protocol was first adopted on the 10th of October 1980. However, the first Review Conference of States Parties amended and adopted this protocol on the 3rd of May 1996. It came into force 2 years later, on the 3rd of December 1998. This Protocol relates to the use of devices defined as herein such as mines, including those laid to interdict beaches, and booby-traps, but does not apply to the use of anti-ship mines at sea.

Security Council resolutions

The resolutions 1894 (2009) and 1296 (2000) focus on the protection of civilians in armed conflict through peacekeeping missions and increased humanitarian assistance, and the resolution 2365 (2017) covers the issue concerning illegal mine action.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III)

The Protocol was adopted on the 10th of October 1980 by the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of the use of Conventional Weapons which was held in Geneva. It focuses on the use of incendiary weapons meaning flame throwers, grenades, fougasses, rockets, mines and bombs.

¹⁵ A/RES/70/46

¹⁶ A/RES/71/72

¹⁷ A/RES/72/36

¹⁸ A/RES/73/67

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Despite the fact that there have been numerous attempts to solve this issue, on both a regional and an international level, the number of IED attacks has only decreased by a few since the 2015 peak. Notable examples of the aforementioned attempts are the following:

C-IED Action Plan

In 2010, NATO created a C-IED Action Plan with its main purposes being the neutralization of IEDs, the identification and disruption of the networks that support the threat and the protection of forces. The Action Plan guided the effort to reduce the effects of Improvised Explosive devices by covering all aspects of the issue, from strategic to tactical. On October 2013, a revised version of the aforementioned Action Plan was approved by NATO. The new Action Plan mostly emphasized on the need to institutionalize counter-IED tactics in the NATO forces and on supporting nations' efforts in doing the same.

Explosive Violence Monitor Project

On the first day of October 2010, Action On Armed Violence's Explosive Weapon Monitor Project began its record of the global data regarding explosive violence. Since that date, the Monitor has recorded over 22.000 explosive violence incidents that have cause approximately 300.000 casualties. Out of those casualties, over 105.000 were the result of nearly 6.320 IED attacks.

Training programs

Training programs concerning the identification and careful neutralization of Improvised Explosive Devices have been conducted by multiple organizations around the globe such as the Departments of Homeland Security Office on Bomb Prevention (OBP) and the European Defense Agency (EDA). The OBP has delivered more than 3.000 training courses since 2003 that focus on building C-IED capabilities and enhancing awareness on terrorist threats. Similarly, EDA has been working on counter-IED education training and exercises since 2007 with the target being the mitigation of the IED threat.



Figure 5: Trainings conducted by the EDA

National Counter-IED efforts

Countries, having realized the gravity of the issue, have started to develop regional plans in order to eliminate the attacks of such sort. The responses that have emerged to mitigate the effects caused by IEDs, throughout the past decade, are diverse. For example, the Pakistan Army, seeing the high number of attacks in the country, developed its own C-IED school. The school does not only provide training for military personnel, but also for the police and other security actors who are likely to respond to local events and threats. Another notable example is the Kurdish Security Forces (Peshmerga) from Iraq's Kurdish region who have cooperated with the Iraqi Army in the land clearance operations of liberated areas.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Enhancing information sharing

Due to the impromptu design of Improvised Explosive Devices, there is a prevailing need for Member States to share any and all information concerning their production and composition methods. The information shared on basic IED designs and components from countries and organizations have the potential to lessen the obstacles that security and military forces have to face in order to develop constructive countermeasures.

Using technology to our advantage

With the advances of technology in the 21st century, incorporating innovative devices into military and peacekeeping operations is easier than ever before. For example, a multi-camera system could be attached to autonomous vehicles or drones to check the ground before troops are sent there. The data collected from these cameras could be analyzed in order to help military personnel identify IEDs and other devices more effectively.

Upgrading the quality of trainings

Given the fact that data concerning the designs and the use of Improvised Explosive Devices always changes, trainings concerning the topic are usually one step behind of the posed threat. The goal is to deliver trainings that meet the current IED situation with the purpose of better preparing the forces. This could be somewhat achieved through the incorporation of the most recent information and the possible future scenarios from that point forward into the training environment.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Afghanistan War." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War.
- "Almost 100 Dead in Ankara Blasts." *BBC News*, 10 Oct. 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34495161.
- "Al-Shabab." *Council on Foreign Relations*, www.cfr.org/backgrounder/al-shabab.
- "AOAV's Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Monitor." *AOAV*, 26 Oct. 2017, aoav.org.uk/2017/aoavs-improvised-explosive-device-ied-monitor/.
- "Counter-IED Training and Awareness." *CISA*, www.cisa.gov/bombing-prevention-training.
- "Counter-IED." *European Defence Agency*, www.eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/activities/activities-search/counter-ied.
- Department of Homeland Security*, www.dhs.gov/.
- "Explosive Violence by Country." *AOAV*, [aoav.org.uk/category/explosive violence by country/](http://aoav.org.uk/category/explosive%20violence%20by%20country/).
- "Explosive Violence by the Taliban." *AOAV*, aoav.org.uk/category/ieds-and-suicide-bombings/explosive-weapon-use-by-the-taliban/.
- Homeland Security*, www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/prep_ied_fact_sheet.pdf.
- Human Rights Watch | Defending Human Rights Worldwide | Human Rights Watch*, www.hrw.org/reports/1997/gen1/General-03.htm.
- "IED Attack Fact Sheet." *Department of Homeland Security*, www.dhs.gov/publication/ied-attack-fact-sheet.
- "IEDs – a Growing Threat." *Welcome to the United Nations*, www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds-a-growing-threat/.
- "Lebanon Blasts." *BBC News*, 23 Aug. 2013, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-23811328.
- "NATO and Iraq Tackle Deadly Improvised Explosive Devices Together." *NATO*, www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_105851.htm?selectedLocale=en.
- NATO. "Improvised Explosive Devices." *NATO*, 30 Apr. 2020, www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_72809.htm.
- "Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/event/Soviet-invasion-of-Afghanistan.

"Syria." *UNMAS*, www.unmas.org/en/programmes/syria.

"The Second Lebanon War: A Timeline." www.idf.il/en/articles/hezbollah/the-second-lebanon-war-a-timeline/.

UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, [www.unhcr.org/ip/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/protect/Yemen Position on Returns 08 04 2015 final.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/ip/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/protect/Yemen%20Position%20on%20Returns%2008%2004%202015%20final.pdf).

"UNICEF Statement on the Killings of Children and Families in Baghdad." *UNICEF / Children's Rights & Emergency Relief Organization*, 3 July 2016, www.unicef.org/media/media_91792.html.

UNIDIR | The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, www.unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/-en-641.pdf.

"United Nations Official Document." *Welcome to the United Nations*, www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/67.

"UNTC." *United Nations Treaty Collection*, treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-2-b&chapter=26&clang=en.

"Vietnam War." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/event/Vietnam-War.

"What is 'Islamic State'?" *BBC News*, 2 Dec. 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29052144.

"What is NATO?" *What is NATO?*, www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html.

"Who Are We?" *AOAV*, aoav.org.uk/about-aoav/who-are-we/.