

On Terrorism – Europe, a target for islamistic terrorists

2017

On the 9th to 13th October I attended the above course at Gimborn Castle Germany. I travelled to Germany from Christchurch New Zealand. In attending this course it gave me a very good insight to some of the problems that my fellow Police Officers are having to deal with in Europe. In terms of the radicalization of young people in the extreme teachings of Islam.

Coming from New Zealand we don't have these problems and issues as of yet, but from attending this course I have a greater appreciation of the Islamic concepts that the ISIS recruiters are turning to their advantage to recruit people to perform their terrorists attacks. It appears that many religious based terrorist are using religion as a means to an end. It's easy to justify them to commit acts of terrorism. "My God has commanded me to do this". God's law is above all other law, it's a higher authority. It gives them the belief and justification to commit the terrorist act, because they truly believe this.

I gained an understanding on how ISIS is changing its tactics in recruiting people to their cause, specifically targeting the youth audience and in particular young males, or the Allah generation, as it appears that these males are either 2nd or 3rd generation immigrants from the Middle East and Africa. These people are generally suffering from mental health, lack of identity and feel discrimination from their new country that they have taken residence in, these people are then looking for something to be a part of, or a sense of belonging so therefore are very easy targets for the ISIS recruiters.

These recruiters use a variety of methods to recruit and radicalize young people, this can be from online and social media to joining a Salafism movement at a low level and then raising up through the more extreme Salafism. We have also seen a move away from getting to people to go to the Middle East to join ISIS, to encouraging people once radicalized to stay home and be given instructions from Islamic extremist to preform terrorist attacks in their new home country. This was highlighted by the very good presentation of from the British Met Staff who came and gave a brief on the recent attacks in London. This lead to quite an interesting debate regarding the merits or an unarmed and armed Police Force, as New Zealand like the UK are still deemed an unarmed Police Force whereas most of the European Countries and USA are very much armed all the time.

So where to from here? How can we bring this Allah generation back into the general society? It appears the magic word is "Prevention", keeping something bad from happening. It's also about education and understanding this Salafism so we can tackle the extremist. This has to come from education and social services. We also should not just focus on religious causes, but also on social causes e.g. effects of hardships at home, so social workers, teachers and parents need support in their environment. The

parents are a major element here. Security being seen as a social responsibility. Integration policy we should focus more on the child and young persons. The popularity of the Allah generation is increasing and the younger people are joining this following in increasing numbers, so education and supporting social workers, teachers and parents are the key areas to support to try and reduce the increasing number joining the Salafism Allah Generation.

I also really enjoyed the guided tour around the Cologne Cathedral and surrounding township, I saw and learnt about things I would not have normally seen. I would also like to thank the IPA for awarding me the Arthur Troop Scholarship it was thoroughly insightful and enjoyable and made some good new friends that I plan on meeting up with again.

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