Role of Intelligence Agencies against Cross Border Terrorism in West Asia

Ronit Sharma

Student,
B.A. Political Science (Hons.),
Amity University,
Noida (Uttar Pradesh, India)

Dr. Anna Nath Ganguly

Faculty,
Amity Institute of Social Sciences,
Amity University,
Noida (Uttar Pradesh, India)

Abstract:

In the volatile landscape of West Asia, the menace of cross-border terrorism poses a significant threat to regional stability and global security. This paper examines the pivotal role of intelligence agencies in countering such terrorism within the region. By delving into the historical backdrop and contemporary dynamics of West Asia, the study illuminates the complex interplay of geopolitical factors that fuel cross-border terrorist activities. Through a comprehensive analysis of the roles and functions of intelligence agencies, including information gathering, threat assessment, and preemptive measures, this research sheds light on the intricate mechanisms employed to mitigate the terrorist threat.However, amidst their crucial endeavors, intelligence agencies encounter multifaceted challenges ranging from political complexities to resource constraints. By examining case studies of both successful and unsuccessful interventions, this paper elucidates the factors influencing the outcomes of intelligence operations.

Keywords: Cross-Border Terrorism, West Asia, Intelligence Agencies

Introduction:

In an era marked by persistent threats of terrorism and regional instability, the role of intelligence agencies in countering cross-border terrorism in West Asia has become increasingly paramount. With its complex geopolitical landscape, diverse ethnic and religious communities, and longstanding conflicts, West Asia presents unique challenges and opportunities for intelligence operations aimed at safeguarding national security and promoting regional stability. Against this backdrop, this paper seeks to explore the multifaceted role of intelligence agencies in addressing the cross-border terrorism menace in West Asia. By examining the strategies, challenges, and impact of intelligence operations in the region, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the complexities of countering terrorism in one of the world's most volatile regions. Through a comprehensive analysis of case studies, empirical evidence, and scholarly research, this paper seeks

to shed light on the evolving dynamics of intelligence-gathering, analysis, and coordination efforts in West Asia, offering recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of counterterrorism measures and promoting peace and security in the region.

Methodology:

For this research, a qualitative research methodology is employed. Qualitative research allows for an in-depth exploration of complex phenomena, such as the role of intelligence agencies in countering cross-border terrorism in West Asia. It involves gathering rich, descriptive data through methods such as case studies and textual analysis. In this case, the researcher conducts a thorough review of existing literature, including scholarly works, books, journal articles, and reports on the topic. This literature review serves to establish the theoretical framework, identify key concepts and theories, and provide context for the study.

Additionally, qualitative research may involve the analysis of textual data from reports, documents, and case studies related to cross-border terrorism in West Asia. This textual analysis helps to identify themes, patterns, and trends that shed light on the role of intelligence agencies in the region. By employing a qualitative research methodology, the researcher can capture the complexities and nuances of the topic, offering a deeper understanding of intelligence agencies' efforts to counter cross-border terrorism in West Asia.

Research Questions:

This paper seeks to delve into three main questions concerning the role of intelligence agencies in countering cross-border terrorism in West Asia. Firstly, it examines the mechanisms through which intelligence agencies gather information, analyze threats, and coordinate counterterrorism efforts amidst the complex geopolitical landscape of the region.

Secondly, it investigates the challenges faced by intelligence agencies, ranging from political constraints and resource limitations to the complexities of operating in hostile environments, and explores how these hurdles impact their effectiveness.

Lastly, it evaluates the impact of technological innovations on intelligence operations, considering both the opportunities presented by surveillance systems, cybersecurity measures, and data analytics, as well as the challenges of privacy concerns and potential misuse.

Through addressing these questions, the paper aims to offer a nuanced understanding of the dynamics surrounding intelligence agencies' efforts to counter cross-border terrorism in West Asia, providing valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars navigating this complex security landscape.

Research Gap:

The research gap in the field of intelligence agencies' role in countering cross-border terrorism in West Asia is multifaceted. Firstly, there's a notable scarcity of empirical studies

providing a comprehensive analysis of intelligence agencies' operations within the region. While the importance of these agencies is widely acknowledged, existing research often lacks empirical evidence derived from primary sources or field research, instead relying on theoretical frameworks or anecdotal evidence. Secondly, the impact of political dynamics on intelligence operations remains relatively underexplored. While political factors such as interstate rivalries and alliances significantly influence intelligence operations and cooperation, their nuanced effects have not been thoroughly examined. Additionally, there's a lack of research into how intelligence agencies in West Asia are adapting to technological innovations such as surveillance systems and data analytics to combat cross-border terrorism. Understanding the role of technology in intelligence operations is crucial for identifying potential gaps and areas for improvement. Lastly, there's insufficient focus on the effectiveness of regional cooperation mechanisms among West Asian countries and their international partners. More research is needed to analyze the challenges and opportunities for intelligence sharing, joint operations, and coordination, which are essential for countering cross-border terrorism effectively. Addressing these research gaps can lead to a more nuanced understanding of intelligence agencies' role in countering cross-border terrorism in West Asia and inform policy decisions to enhance security efforts in the region.

Literature Review:

The literature on the role of intelligence agencies in countering cross-border terrorism in West Asia reveals a nuanced understanding of the historical context, geopolitical dynamics, operational challenges, and technological innovations shaping this complex phenomenon. Scholars have extensively examined the origins and evolution of cross-border terrorism in the region, highlighting its multifaceted nature and the influence of historical conflicts and geopolitical rivalries. Central to this discourse is the crucial role played by intelligence agencies in gathering information, analyzing threats, and coordinating counterterrorism efforts. However, the literature also underscores the numerous challenges faced by intelligence agencies, including political constraints, resource limitations, and the complexities of operating in hostile environments. Moreover, scholars have explored the impact of technological advancements on intelligence operations, emphasizing both the opportunities and challenges presented by surveillance systems, cybersecurity measures, and data analytics. Despite the recognition of the importance of regional cooperation in countering cross-border terrorism, issues such as political rivalries and mistrust continue to impede effective collaboration among West Asian countries and their international partners. By addressing these complexities, policymakers and practitioners can develop more effective strategies for combating cross-border terrorism and promoting stability in the region.

Historical Context:

The terrorist activities across the border in West Asia have deep historical roots, shaped by a

difficult interplay between political, social and religious factors. Geopolitical rivalries, ethnic tensions and unresolved territorial disputes have characterized the region throughout the ages providing a fertile ground for emergence and proliferation of terrorist organizations.

One key aspect of this context is Arab-Israeli conflict which has been ongoing since establishment of Israel state in 1948. The long-standing contestations over land, resource control and sovereignties are responsible for many years' violence and terrorism perpetrated by Palestinians groups such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) against Israeli targets within as well as without its borders.

Moreover, Iranian Revolution of 1979 signaled an important milestone in regional security landscape shaping up with Islamist militant groups like Hezbollah emerging in Lebanon. Hezbollah, supported through Iran together with Syria emerged as a powerful force within the region attacking Israeli and Western targets while at the same time establishing transnational support network. Additionally, Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 played another critical role leading to spreader of cross-border terrorism in West Asia. The Afghan struggle was a mini ghoul for fighters holding extremist viewpoints across various Muslim societies, including those that birthed Al-Qaeda. The Afghan freedom fighters, with backup from the U.S. and friends, managed to shove out the Russians but unfortunately, left hardcore radicals and destructive thoughts in their wake.

Next, the 1990-1991 Gulf War and the ensuing stick-around of U.S. troops in the area made bad worse, goading groups who bucked Western meddling in Muslim regions. Post this war, Al-Qaeda popped onto the global stage as a Grave terror outfit, under Osama bin Laden, who openly took on the U.S. and its allies.

Role of Intelligence Agencies:

Since the beginning of time, espionage has been a vital component of nation survival in order to obtain intelligence and information. But since the incredible advancements in technology and daily living have occurred, there has been a significant shift in the way intelligence services operate. Moreover, intelligence agencies now play a completely different function than they did a few years ago. Rather than being limited to gathering and analyzing data, intelligence services are now fully fledged covert armies that are called upon to act when no one else can. These organizations have performed everything from nuke deterrence to coup staging.

Mechanisms:

By performing a variety of tasks and duties, intelligence agencies in West Asia are essential in combating cross-border terrorism. They frequently use covert tactics and cooperative efforts. These organizations use a variety of intelligence-gathering tactics, including as open-source intelligence (OSINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), imaging intelligence (IMINT), and human intelligence (HUMINT), to obtain vital information.As an illustration of its skill in HUMINT

operations, the Israeli intelligence service Mossad is well known for its ability to infiltrate terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. Agencies also carry out in-depth threat assessments and analysis to comprehend the potential targets, capabilities, and objectives of terrorist organizations active in the area. For example, the Saudi General Intelligence Directorate (GID) plays a crucial role in tracking and evaluating the operations of organizations such as Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). In addition, these organizations carry out clandestine operations, including as targeted operations and surveillance, to neutralize high-value targets and thwart terrorist activities. Iranian militant groups that pose a threat to Iran's security interests both locally and internationally have been the target of covert operations carried out by the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). In addition, West Asian intelligence services work closely with both local and foreign partners to exchange intelligence, plan operations, and strengthen group efforts against terrorism. Working together, intelligence services from nations such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, and Turkey have been able to combat common security concerns in the region posed by cross-border terrorist groups. In general, West Asian intelligence services play a vital role in preventing cross-border terrorism, maintaining national security, and advancing regional stability through their many roles and responsibilities.

West Asian intelligence organizations face a dynamic and ever-changing threat landscape that is defined by geopolitical rivalries, historical conflicts, and socioeconomic grievances. Extremist groups have been using political, religious, and ethnic conflicts to achieve their own goals, making the area a breeding ground for terrorist activity. For instance, Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed organization headquartered in Lebanon, has carried out a protracted campaign of violence against Western interests in the area as well as Israel, as seen by the Israel-Lebanon conflict in 2006 and the Beirut barracks bombings in 1983. Tensions in the area have also been exacerbated by Hamas, which is active in the Palestinian territories and has launched multiple attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets.In addition, the emergence of international terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS has presented serious difficulties for West Asian intelligence services. Particularly in Syria and Iraq, ISIS has taken advantage of political vacuums and sectarian strife to form a self-declared caliphate and begin a terror campaign throughout the region. However, with affiliates active in nations like Yemen, Somalia, and Syria, Al-Qaeda still poses a threat.West Asian intelligence services have increased their efforts to get intelligence, evaluate threats, and plan counterterrorism operations in response to these threats. As an illustration, the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) of Jordan has been instrumental in foiling terrorist schemes and dismantling extremist networks that are active in the area. In a similar vein, the State Security Directorate (SSD) of the United Arab Emirates has put in place strong security measures to thwart terrorist organizations' operations and stop assaults on its territory.In addition, West Asian intelligence services have improved their cooperation with foreign

partners in order to tackle shared security issues. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which includes nations including Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, has put in place systems for exchanging intelligence and coordinating counterterrorism initiatives. Furthermore, regional gatherings like the Manama Dialogue and the Riyadh Summit offer forums for discussion and collaboration on security-related matters.

Limitations and Challenges:

Despite tremendous efforts, intelligence services in West Asia have encountered a number of setbacks and obstacles in their attempts to combat cross-border terrorism, underscoring the intricacy of the region's security environment and the difficulties associated with thwarting transnational threats. The failure to stop the growth of extreme ideology and terrorist organizations, which has resulted in a continuous threat of violence and instability, has been one of the main mistakes. For instance, ISIS was able to capture large areas of territory in Syria and Iraq, declare a self-declared caliphate, and launch savage attacks against security personnel and civilians in spite of intensive intelligence gatherings and military campaigns. This setback highlighted the intelligence community's shortcomings in predicting and averting the rise of fresh terrorist threats, especially those motivated by sectarian strife.In addition, West Asian intelligence services have come under fire for their poor performance in tackling the underlying issues that lead to terrorism, such as political persecution, socioeconomic grievances, and sectarian strife. For example, the harsh counterterrorism policies of the Saudi government, which include mass arrests and crackdowns on dissent, have come under fire for escalating extremism and stoking animosity among vulnerable people. Similarly, efforts to combat terrorism have been hampered and regional instability has been increased by the Iranian regime's support for militant groups and proxy wars in nations like Yemen and Syria. These blunders demonstrate the intrinsic limits of intelligence services when it comes to tackling the intricate socio-political processes that give rise to extremism and bloodshed in the area.Additionally, the inability of intelligence services in West Asia to properly coordinate and share information both locally and internationally has made it more difficult for them to combat cross-border terrorism. For instance, efforts to create a cohesive response to shared security challenges have been hampered by tensions between rival regional powers, such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, resulting in fragmented and disconnected counterterrorism measures. Similar to this, attempts to dismantle terrorist networks and stop attacks have been impeded by the lack of confidence and collaboration among intelligence services in nations like Iraq and Lebanon. Terrorist organizations have taken advantage of this lack of cooperation to their advantage, allowing them to bypass law enforcement and take advantage of security flaws.

West Asian intelligence services face numerous obstacles that make it difficult for them to effectively combat cross-border terrorism. Their operational capacities are significantly hampered by

a variety of issues, including resource limitations, political restrictions, and the difficulties of working in hostile situations. Political obstacles that impede intelligence-sharing and cooperative efforts frequently result from regional rivalries, diplomatic difficulties, and competing national interests. As an example, the tense relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have bred distrust and suspicion, which has impeded cooperative efforts to fight terrorism. Similarly, shifting alliances and interests brought about by political unrest and government changes in nations like Yemen and Syria have made it more difficult to coordinate counterterrorism measures regionally.The inability of intelligence services in West Asia to conduct covert operations, conduct surveillance, and gather and analyze intelligence is a major problem that is further compounded by resource constraints. Agencies' ability to properly monitor and respond to terrorist threats is hampered by budgetary restrictions, a lack of staff, and poor technological infrastructure. For instance, after years of unrest and instability, Iraq's intelligence services have found it difficult to reestablish its capacities. They have also encountered major difficulties in attracting and maintaining qualified workers as well as in obtaining cutting-edge tools and technology. Similar resource shortages make it difficult for nations like Jordan and Lebanon to keep an eye on and combat terrorist activity near their borders, making them open to infiltration and assaults.The difficulties intelligence services in West Asia confront in operating in hostile situations are exacerbated by the fact that terrorism flourishes in the middle of continuous conflicts, insurgencies, and civil instability. Difficult to traverse security dynamics are created by the existence of non-state actors, rough terrain, and permeable borders. For example, it is difficult to obtain trustworthy intelligence and carry out covert operations in war areas like Syria and Yemen because of the ongoing dangers that foreign players, armed militias, and terrorist organizations pose to these institutions. Additionally, the spread of cutting-edge weaponry and equipment throughout the area puts intelligence agents at risk for enemy monitoring, infiltration, and targeted assaults.

All things considered, political restraints, resource scarcity, and operating in hostile situations are among the many obstacles that intelligence services in West Asia must overcome if they are to effectively combat cross-border terrorism. Governments, foreign partners, and regional organizations must work together to strengthen intelligence capabilities, foster stability and security in the area, and improve cooperation in order to meet these challenges.

Innovation and Technology:

Technology advancements have had a significant impact on intelligence operations in West Asia, offering benefits and difficulties to intelligence services as they fight cross-border terrorism. The intelligence gathering and analysis process has been transformed by surveillance technology, cybersecurity protocols, and data analytics. This has improved agencies' ability to identify and thwart terrorist actions. These developments, however, also give rise to worries over data security, privacy

rights, and the possibility of abuse by authoritarian governments.Drones, satellite images, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, and other surveillance technology have become effective instruments for tracking terrorist networks and activities throughout West Asia. To identify and discourage cross-border threats, nations such as Israel and Turkey have implemented sophisticated surveillance technology along their borders. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have also been utilized for information gathering and reconnaissance, offering real-time imagery and data to assist counterterrorism operations. Reportedly, Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system, which possesses surveillance and interception powers, has been effective in stopping a large number of rockets and projectiles fired by terrorist organizations from nearby areas.Furthermore, cybersecurity precautions are essential for defending communications networks and sensitive data against online threats and hacking attempts.

West Asian intelligence services have made significant investments in cybersecurity technologies to protect their digital infrastructure and stop illegal access to sensitive data. For example, Israel's Unit 8200 is a highly covert intelligence unit that specializes in signals intelligence and cybersecurity. It is well known for its proficiency in both offensive and defensive cyber operations against adversaries.Additionally, data analytics has transformed intelligence analysis by allowing organizations to process enormous volumes of data and spot patterns suggestive of terrorist activity. Social media, financial activities, and communications metadata are analyzed using sophisticated algorithms and machine learning approaches to spot possible risks and anticipate upcoming attacks. For instance, the National Electronic Security Authority (NESA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has created advanced data analytics techniques to track social media users and spot those who are spreading terrorist propaganda or using extremist language.Notwithstanding the advantages of technology advancements, worries exist regarding invasions of privacy, security lapses, and potential abuse by autocratic governments in West Asia. For instance, governments in Saudi Arabia and Iran have been charged of violating their citizens' right to privacy by allegedly utilizing surveillance technologies to track and quell political dissent. The careless gathering and archiving of private information also gives rise to worries about data security and the possibility of spy agency misuse. To sum up, technological advancements have improved agencies' capacities to get, evaluate, and act upon intelligence, which has had a substantial impact on intelligence operations in West Asia. To ensure the responsible use of surveillance systems, cybersecurity measures, and data analytics technologies, strong monitoring procedures and protections are necessary. Nevertheless, these improvements also raise concerns about privacy rights, data security, and the potential for misuse.

Case Studies:

Israel:

In West Asia, Israel's intelligence services—most notably Mossad and Shin Bet—have shown to be remarkably successful in combating cross-border terrorism. Mossad is known for its proficiency in human intelligence (HUMINT) operations. It has carried out multiple covert operations with the objective of impeding terrorist networks and averting attacks. One such instance is the 2008 assassination of prominent Hezbollah operative ImadMughniyah in Damascus. Hezbollah's leadership and operational capacities were severely damaged by Mossad's operation, which also showed the agency's capacity to infiltrate enemy ranks and eliminate important targets. Similarly, to foil terrorist plans within Israel and the Palestinian territories, Shin Bet has used cutting-edge monitoring equipment and intelligence-gathering procedures.The agency's proactive strategy of anticipating threats has proven crucial in preventing terrorist strikes against Israeli civilians and infrastructure. The importance of intelligence operations in thwarting terrorist threats and preserving national security in Israel and the larger West Asian region is highlighted by these case studies.

Saudi Arabia:

Terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda and ISIS have consistently posed a threat to Saudi Arabia, focusing on the nation's security forces, government buildings, and foreign citizens. Saudi Arabia has responded by putting strong counterterrorism measures in place and using its intelligence resources to break up terrorist networks and stop assaults. Targeting suspected terrorists and their allies, the kingdom's intelligence-led operations have resulted in multiple raids and arrests that have destroyed their infrastructure and thwarted their intentions. In order to oppose extremist beliefs and stop radicalization among its population, Saudi Arabia has also made investments in counter-narrative projects and deradicalization programs.These initiatives serve as a reminder of the critical role intelligence services play in spotting and eliminating terrorist threats as well as the demand for all-encompassing counterterrorism policies that deal with the underlying causes of radicalization. Notwithstanding these achievements, threats from both local and foreign terrorist organizations continue to pose a concern to Saudi Arabia, highlighting the continued significance of intelligence-led operations and international collaboration in the fight against terrorism.

Turkey:

The National Intelligence Organization (MIT) of Turkey has been instrumental in fending off terrorist threats from organizations like ISIS and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). To dismantle terrorist networks and stop attacks on Turkish land, MIT has collaborated with international partners and carried out substantial intelligence collecting, surveillance, and collaboration. Targeting PKK militants operating in northern Iraq and Syria is one example of MIT's cross-border activities. The goal of these actions has been to weaken the PKK's capabilities and stop them from attacking Turkish territory. They have been carried out in cooperation with local authorities and ally forces.

Furthermore, Turkey has taken steps to strengthen border security and stop the transfer of foreign fighters and weapons to extremist organizations in nearby nations.Turkey nevertheless faces formidable obstacles from terrorist threats in spite of these measures, highlighting the intricate dynamics of security in the area. Turkey's experiences demonstrate how crucial intelligence-led operations and regional collaboration are to effectively combating cross-border terrorism.

Findings and Suggestions:

Several important conclusions have been drawn from a thorough examination of the intelligence community's involvement in thwarting cross-border terrorism in West Asia. First and foremost, intelligence services are essential to the region's information gathering, threat analysis, and counterterrorism operations. These agencies protect national security and advance regional stability by identifying and neutralizing terrorist threats through a combination of human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), and cooperation with foreign partners. But the study has also uncovered important obstacles that intelligence services must overcome, such as resource shortages, political restrictions, and the difficulties of conducting operations in dangerous areas.The efficacy of agencies in counterterrorism is frequently impeded by diplomatic difficulties, competing national interests, and regional rivalries that impede intelligence-sharing and cooperation initiatives. Inadequate technology infrastructure, staff shortages, and financial restrictions also restrict an agency's ability to perform clandestine operations, conduct surveillance, and acquire and analyze intelligence. Additionally, the spread of cutting-edge weaponry and equipment throughout the area puts intelligence agents at risk for enemy monitoring, infiltration, and targeted assaults.

These results provide up a number of options for improving intelligence services' ability to combat cross-border terrorism in West Asia. To start, stronger political will and regional collaboration are required to ease diplomatic tensions and enhance the systems for exchanging intelligence amongst the nations in the region. Agencies' capacities to get intelligence and carry out coordinated actions against terrorist threats can also be improved by fortifying alliances and collaborations with foreign allies. Furthermore, addressing resource constraints and improving agencies' operational capabilities can be achieved by funding cutting-edge technology, training initiatives, and recruitment campaigns.In addition, increasing accountability, openness, and respect for human rights is crucial for establishing legitimacy and public confidence in intelligence operations, which in turn encourages increased community participation and collaboration. Overall, intelligence services in West Asia can be more successful in thwarting cross-border terrorism, preserving national security, and advancing peace and stability in the region by addressing these issues and putting these recommendations into practice.

Conclusion:

To sum up, the study conducted on the function of intelligence agencies in thwarting cross-

border terrorism in West Asia highlights the vital significance of these organizations in maintaining national security and advancing stability within the region. Intelligence agencies play a critical role in identifying and neutralizing terrorist threats through a mix of intelligence gathering, analysis, and coordinating efforts. This reduces the likelihood of bloodshed and instability in the region. The research has also brought to light important obstacles that intelligence organizations must overcome, such as resource restrictions, political limitations, and operating in hostile situations. Conflicting national interests, regional rivalries, and diplomatic conflicts frequently impede efforts to cooperate and share intelligence, which reduces the efficacy of agencies in combating terrorism. Notwithstanding these obstacles, there exist prospects for augmenting the efficacy of intelligence agencies via amplified political determination, cooperative efforts within the region, and allocation of resources towards technology and educational initiatives. Joint actions against terrorist threats can be facilitated and intelligence-sharing methods can be improved by fortifying partnerships with foreign allies and organizations. In addition, increasing accountability, openness, and respect for human rights is crucial for establishing legitimacy and public confidence in intelligence operations, which in turn encourages increased community participation and collaboration.Intelligence agencies in West Asia must confront these issues going forward and put plans in place to improve their operational capabilities. In order to effectively combat cross-border terrorism, protect national security, and advance regional peace and stability, intelligence services must overcome political obstacles, resource shortages, and operational difficulties. Furthermore, to detect new threats, assess counterterrorism tactics, and guide policy choices meant to tackle the underlying causes of extremism and violence in the area, more study and analysis in this area are required. Ultimately, intelligence services can help ensure a safer and more secure future for people in West Asia and beyond by cooperating and utilizing their combined assets.

References:

1. Sims, Jennifer. (2015). The Contemporary Challenges of Counterterrorism Intelligence. 10.5040/9798400647420.ch-008.

2. Iraq. (n.d.-a). Countering Global Terrorism and Insurgency. https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137383716.0011

3. Gohel, S.M., 2020. Prevention of Cross-Border Movements of Terrorists: Operational, Political, Institutional and Strategic Challenges for National and Regional Border Controls. International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT).

4. Madhian, B., Majed, M. and Naval Postgraduate School Monterey United States, 2017. Saudi Arabia's Counterterrorism Methods: A Case Study on Homeland Security (Doctoral dissertation, Master thesis in Security Studies, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA).

5. Dawoody, A.R. ed., 2016. Eradicating terrorism from the Middle East: Policy and

administrative approaches (Vol. 17). Springer.

6. Alharith, A.A.S.A. and Samak, Y., 2018. Fighting terrorism more effectively with the aid of GIS: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia case study. American journal of geographic information system, 7(1), pp.15-31.

7. Impact of Technological Innovations on Intelligence Operations: Case Studies from West Asia