Project: Cyber Security

Head of Project: Mayssa ZERZRI

PROJECT REPORT

Roundtable on "Cyber Terrorism: Risks and Challenges"

and

Launch of e-portal "Tunisians against Cyber Terrorism"

22 September 2018, Hotel Acropole, Tunis – Les Berges de Lac

CONCEPT NOTE

Round Table "Cyber Terrorism: Risks and Challenges"

on the occasion of the launch of the e-portal on Cyber Terrorism

Hotel Acropole, Les Berges Du Lac, Tunis

22 September 2018, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

To raise awareness of the dangers of cyber terrorism and its repercussions, a round table entitled "Cyberterrorism: Risks and Challenges" is to take place on 22 September 2018, at the Hotel Acropole, Les Berges Du Lac, Tunis. In cooperation with several institutions and organizations, Ms. Mayssa Zerzri, an expert in cyber security, will launch the new e-portal which will be a practical step toward confronting the threat of cyber terrorism as it brings together active subject matter competencies and expertise, therefore gathering a great deal of valuable material such as a number of studies and research highlighting cyber terrorism risks and prevention methods.

Cyber terrorism has become one of the most serious threats to national security after the spread of social media and websites that incite and call for violence and extremism. This dangerous new type of electronic and digital crimes is usually committed by "hackers" who have excellent skills in software and operating systems allowing them to proliferate the most powerful systems by exploiting their vulnerabilities which sometimes leads to the destruction of entire government or infrastructure systems. It is noteworthy that extremist groups have not stopped at the Daawa or fundraising level, nor at carrying out physical operations, but have also developed their methods of activity in accordance with technological progress. They have consequently succeeded in destroying entire systems and vandalising the infrastructure without leaving any trace, which is the most important concern of specialists and experts in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

From this standpoint, the e-portal can be considered a preventive measure worth encouraging. It is proposed by the cybersecurity expert Mayssa Zerzri and launched under the programme of "Policy Advice and Strategy Development" implemented by the Center for Applied Policy Research (C.A.P.) at the University of Munich, Germany, in partnership with the Faculty of Juridicial, Political and Social Sciences of the University of Carthage, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and the Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL), and is part of the Joint Action Plan 2016-2018 of the Free State of Bavaria and the Republic of Tunisia.

This project was launched after passing through some foundational stages:

- Selection of researchers, academics, experts and civil society activists and training them in policy analysis and in writing and publishing policy papers on various topics of reform in Tunisian public politics.
- In her policy paper titled "**The Threat of Cyber Terrorism and Recommendations for Countermeasures**", Ms. **Mayssa Zerzri** puts emphasis on the risks of cyber terrorism and the challenges Tunisia faces, without neglecting the protective and preventive aspects, as it refers to the necessary mechanisms to address this somewhat developed threat.
- The subsequently developed e-portal **"Tunisians Against Cyber Terrorism" (www.tact-tunisie.tn)** becomes a space that brings together and unifies various experiences and drives towards mobilising efforts to counter cyber terrorism.
- The portal provides an area to exchange of expertise, information and conducted projects to enrich the defence system against cyber-attacks, especially those of terrorist and extremist nature.
- The portal also covers awareness raising by allocating space for videos and articles and documented real life experiences.

Project supported by the Government of the Free State of Bavaria

Bayerische Staatsregierung

AGENDA

8:30	Registration
9:00	**Welcome Adresses** • Ms. Mayssa Zerzri, cybersecurity expert and civil society activist • Mr. Ludwig Schulz, head of the Middle East Programme, Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP), Munich Ludwig Maximilian University • Mr. Moez Ali, President of the Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL)
9: 1 5	**Opening Speeches** • Mr. Neji Jalloul, Director General of the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies – Presidency of the Republic • Brigadier Mokhtar Ben Nasr, President of the National Counter Terrorism Commission – Presidency of the Government
9: 4 5	**Session I: Cyber Terrorism** Moderator: Mr. Fadel Ghajati **Intervention 1:** *Luring and recruitment through social media networks* Mr. Sami Msekni, The Fusion Centre for Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime **Intervention 2**: *The role of the virtual world in the dynamics of Al Qaeda and ISIS since September 2001 to date* Mr. Riadh Somrani, Engineer in Weapons Applied Science, Researcher in the Dynamics of Jihadi Groups and Extremist Thinking, and member of the Tunisian Association of Young Security Agents **Intervention 3:** *Risks of cyberterrorism and countermeasures* Ms. Mayssa Zerzri, Cybersecurity Expert
11:00	Coffee Break
11:30	**Session II: Cybersecurity** Moderator: Ms. Maysaa Zerzri **Intervention 1:** *The national strategy for information security* Ms. Awatef Homri - National Agency for Computer Security

	Intervention 2: *Cyber space security against extremism terrorism* Mr. Fadhel Ghajati, Computer Security Expert, National Agency for Computer Security **Intervention 3:** *Cybersecurity and Protecting Human Rights* Ms. Sana Bouzaouach, Public Departments Advisor, Secretary General of the National Commission of Human Trafficking I**ntervention 4:** *Cybersecurity and Open Data* Ms. Rim Guernaoui, Public Departments Advisor, Electronic Administration Unit of the Presidency of the Government
12:45	Presenting the initiative of designing the **e-portal "Tunisian Against Terrorism"** and launch of the e-portal Mayssa Zerzri
1 3 :30	Lunch

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LIST OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Presidency of the Republic / Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies
Presidency of the Government
National Counter Terrorism Commission
Alternative Narrative Platform
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Religious Affairs
Ministry of the Interior
Fusion Centre for Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime
Ministry of Local Affairs
National Agency for Computer Security
UK Embassy
Hanns Seidel Foundation
Search for Common Ground
CEFA Tunisie
Aktiv Strategy
JCI Tunisie
OUERSEAS
AFRICAICTIM
CGTN
Mosaique FM
Tunisian Radio
National TV
Dubai TV

REPORT

On Saturday 22 September 2018, a roundtable entitled **"Cyberterrorism: Risks and Challenges"** took place at the Hotel Acropole in Tunis. The event started at 08:30 with registration of participants and attendees from media, experts and interested parties.

This event seeked to shed light on the danger of the growing phenomenon of terrorism, not in its traditional sense, but from an Information Technology (IT) perspective, namely cyberterrorism which has grown in recent years due to the progress of the Internet.

This event was therefore planned to be a participatory occasion to celebrate the launch of a new tool to counter modern terrorism – the e-portal "Tunisian Against Cyber Terrorism" (www.tact-tunisie.tn) that is supported by several parties, namely the Center for Applied Policy Research (C.A.P.) at the University of Munich, Germany, in partnership with the Faculty of Juridical, Political and Social Sciences of the University of Carthage, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and the Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL).

The roundtable was attended by a group of experts and specialists and media professionals. **Mayssa Zerzri** gave the welcoming address by demonstrating briefly the importance of the project and by presenting the initiative and the e-portal as an innovative preventative and defensive tool in the field of Cybersecurity. She was followed by Mr. **Ludwig Schulz**, Head of the Middle East Programme and researcher at the Centre for Applied Policy Research, Munich Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, who explained the framework of the event, which is the Program "Political Advice and Strategy Development" as part of the Bavarian-Tunisian Action Plan 2016-2018. Another, last welcome address was given by Mr. **Moez Ali**, President of the the Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL), who stressed the importance of young talents, such as the emerging creative and active expert Mayssa Zerzri, and their need for an adequate environment to function as part of the solution, and who can be

role models for the rest of the Tunisian experts as they can contribute to the development of strategic policy papers. He also emphasised the role of civil society as a permanent partner and an integral part of the counter terrorism chain, and noted the remarkable progress in the fight against terrorism in reality and virtually, through young talents.

Mr. **Neji Jalloul**, Director of the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies for the Presidency of the Republic, expressed his interest in the field of virtual reality which is attracting a significant proportion of Internet users, and in the fast-paced development of technology which has resulted in an equally fast increase in terrorism, as it no longer requires soldiers and swords to be a threat, but only a computer. The absence of a legal regulatory framework has contributed to the increase of terrorism in the virtual space. Mr. Jalloul mentioned more than once during his intervention the urgency of allocating more attention to this modern field to fight cybercrime, and of working on the development of appropriate defensive methods. In this respect, he touched on the role that the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies may play, as he encouragement the creation of a unit of subject matter experts in order to further strengthen the cybersecurity research system.

A second opening speech was given by Mr. **Mokhtar Bennasr**, President of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission (NCTC). He warned of the danger of the Internet and the fast pace of its growth, making social media networks a two-sided actor, as they provide entertainment but at the same time present a risk and a threat in the absence of supervision and regulation. Mr. Bennasr predicted that the electronic war will be the most important future war, noting that the concept of cybersecurity is still not defined to many stakeholders and experts as an electronic attack threatening governments in pursuit of political or ideological or ethnic goals or possibly even the destruction of entire government systems. Mr. Bennasr also discussed the history of the development of terrorist operations and extremist organisations that have realised the importance of the Internet which provides them with all methods of concealment and communication after their terrorist and sabotage actions. He further spoke about the National Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy that warned against the danger of luring and recruitment using information systems and the Internet, hence the need for an action plan

to be implemented by the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Defence, centers of strategic studies, and the Integrated Security Centre.

The first session entitled "Cyberterrorism" commenced at 10:30 with moderator **Fadel Ghajati** starting to define the concept of cybersecurity and its various notions before giving way to the first intervention by Mr. **Semi Msekni** from the Fusion Centre for Counterterrorism and Organised Crime. Mr Msekni pointed out the importance of the Internet in terms of widening the scopes for terrorist organisations. He began his analysis by referring to the importance of social media networks which ranked first in luring the youth, contrary to the traditional methods which aren't as effective. The Internet enabled terrorist groups to easily identify their target categories and to develop their communication methods without the need for direct communication and mobility.

In his analysis, Mr Msekni pointed out the almost complete absence of monitoring and the production of a narrative that would distract the youth from this danger; the most targeted category consisting of 27% of students and pupils, 85% of marginalised groups, and 55% of youth, all active users of the Internet. Mr Msekni looked into the strategy adopted by jihadist terrorist groups and organisations, which focuses on the most popular social networking sites that are essentially Facebook and Twitter, which have become a secure platform to promote content inciting violence, extremism and hatred. Despite taking down a great number of videos and content every day, terrorist and extremist groups resort to other websites and pages to post their content again.

In the second intervention, Mr. **Riadh Somrani**, Engineer in Weapons Applied Science, Researcher in the Dynamics of Jihadi Groups and Extremist Thinking, and member of the Tunisian Association of Young Security Agents, analysed the six stages of the International Jihad Strategy stretching from 2001 to 2016 (The Awakening, The Eye Opening, The Expansion, The Demise of Arab Governments, The Islamic Caliphate, and the Armed Confrontation with Israel). The use of the Internet was a strategic choice in the implementation

of the above-mentioned stages, as one single forum can host more than 10,000 jihadis, making cyber security a priority to secure the Internet, according to Mr. Somrani.

Mayssa Zerzri in her intervention presented of recommendations and countermeasures against cyber terrorism based on her policy paper "The Threat of Cyber Terrorism and Recommendations for Countermeasures" published in 2017 in the series C.A.Perspectives on Tunisia, in addition to elaborating on the techniques that underpin terrorist activities, which are usually propaganda, luring, communication, training and execution of attacks. She also addressed the topic of the strategies used by terrorist organisations to enhance their defence and attack capabilities through the deep web, where all illegal and terrorist activities take place and different techniques are used without concern or fear from users.

The cybersecurity expert delved into the virtual currencies which are not subject to any rules or regulations and do not have a known launch party, and are a means of transactions on the deep web. In this respect, Ms. Zerzri explored countermeasures and possibilities available to fight this trend of terrorism and mentioned the new legislation in Tunisia such as the counter-terrorism and the money laundering laws. She also pointed out the gaps and shortcomings such as the yet to be conducted update of the legal and legislative systems, and called for the regulation of the information framework through the legal monitoring of the virtual space to reduce the risk of breaches, especially as Tunisia enters the Open Gov experience.

The second session on the topic of "Cybersecurity" started with the first intervention by Mrs. **Awatef Homri** from the National Agency for Computer Security who pointed out the dangers that violate and threaten cybersecurity. She further highlighted the potential mechanisms to protect this space against all types of risks, namely the compromisation of personal information by spying, piracy and theft. She has also spoken about possible mechanisms and methods to protect information critical infrastructure and immune it against cyberterrorism.

The second intervention was given by Mr. **Fadhel Ghajati**, an expert in information safety at the National Agency for Computer Security, who addressed the issue of the protection of cyberspace against extremism and terrorism, pointing to the importance of the recent

decision that prevents the use of smart phones for students and the work on blocking some of the games that led to the suicide of a significant percentage of adolescents. Through these points, the speaker paved the way to a discussion on the danger of this space involving sensitive groups such as youth, adolescents and even children, whom he described as the most vulnerable targets, as they are the most active and the most connected to the Internet and smart devices. He enumerated all measures taken by the National Computer Safety Agency to protect them of this danger and urged for more efforts in this field.

The third intervention was delivered by Ms. **Sana Bouzaouach**, Public Affairs Adviser and General Secretary of the National Commission for Human Trafficking and a former member of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. She refuted the common misconception that human rights shall be disregarded in matters of terrorism and national security, and insisted that whether dealing with traditional or cyberterrorism, human rights must not be violated at any time, and international law must be respected while dealing with terrorists.

The fourth and last intervention was by Ms. **Rim Guernaoui**, a Public Affairs Advisor at the e-administration Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, who raised the issue of cybersecurity and open data, revealing that efforts have been invested into the dissemination of information to citizens as per the stipulations of the new constitutional rights rather than on the repercussions of the access to data and its aftermath if used maliciously. This calls for establishing warranty measures that prevent the use of available data for destructive or terrorist purposes.

At the end of this roundable, Mayssa Zerzri presented the e-portal initiative **"Tunisians Against Cyberterrorism"** (www.tact-tunisie.tn) and urged the various stakeholders and actors and partners to provide more support to move forward with the e-portal by providing videos or reports and analyses by subject matter experts. She has also emphasised the importance of sensitisation and awareness raising to address the dangers of cyberterrorism.

MEDIA COVERAGE

1. Screenshots from Internet-TV News outlets Tunisie 1/ Wataniya 1 (with Facebook/ Youtube linkage)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJnX5bYXLtE&t=34
https://www.facebook.com/mayssa.zerzri/videos/10215262709495555/

https://www.facebook.com/itestunisie/videos/541688166291525/

2. Further Radio / News Coverage online

https://www.mosaiquefm.net/ar/%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/410894/%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%86%D9%8A

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	https://www.alsharqtimes.com/More/2437752/%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%86%D9%8A
	http://6060news.com/eg/Story/Details/45692434
	http://tunisia.shafaqna.com/AR/TN/922316
	http://almacira.tn/archives/3345

	https://ven.tn/2018/09/22/%d8%a7%d8%b7%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%82-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a8%d9%88%d8%a7%d8%a8%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%83%d8%aa%d8%b1%d9%88%d9%86%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d9%88%d9%86%d8%b3%d9%8a%d9%88%d9%86-%d8%b6%d8%af/
	https://tn24.ween.tn/ar/article/tl-k-lbo-b-l-lktrony-039-039-tonsyon-dd-l-rh-b-lsybyrny-quot-22311
	https://www.facebook.com/badil.news1/photos/a.671627099579741/1855722764503496/?type=3&theater
	http://www.alkabarplus.net/articles/3368

PHOTOS

Welcome Addresses and Opening Speeches

ملتقى حول
"الإرهاب السيبرني: المخاطر والتحديات"
الإعلان عن إطلاق بوابة
"تونسيون ضد الإرهاب السيبرني"
TUNISIANS AGAINST CYBER TERRORISM

ملتقى حول
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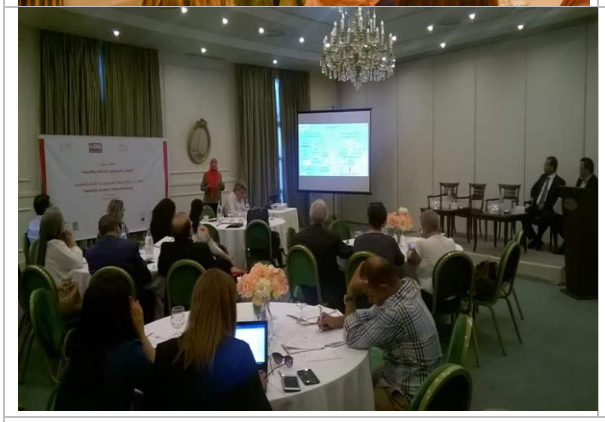
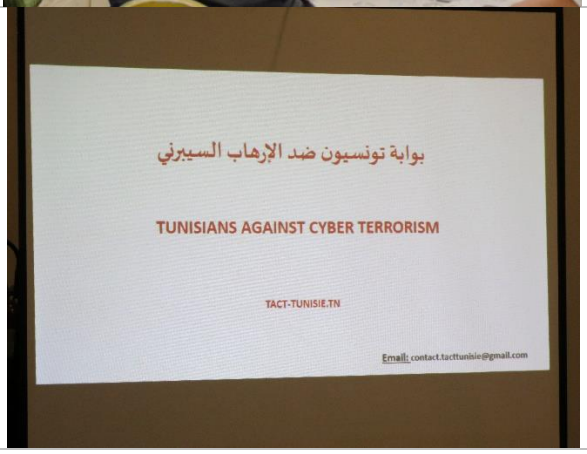
TUNISIANS AGAINST CYBER TERRORISM

First Session



Second Session and TACT Launching