**Lecture preparation**

for subject **Environmental** **Security**

on topic **Terrorism with environmental impacts**

**Brno 2020**

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# Characteristics

**Learning outcomes:** students know and reproduce the conceptual apparatus, basic legislation related to the topic, are able to describe the mechanisms of functioning and tools for prevention

**The aim of the lecture** is to acquaint students with the issue of environmental migration

**Tasks for students:** prepare for seminar lesson

# Definition

* one of the most common is: *"Terrorism is a planned, deliberate and politically motivated violence against non-participants in order to achieve its goals."*
* Department of Defence (2000): *"Terrorism is the calculated use of violence or threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological."*
* The FBI defines terrorism (Code of Federal Regulations) as “*the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives“*

After 11 September 2001 European Council issued (in document *„on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism“*, 2001/931/SZBP) its definition:

* *"Persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts"* means individuals, groups and entities on whom there is accurate information proving that they have committed, are attempting to commit or are facilitating the commission of terrorist acts.
* *"Terrorist acts"* are defined as intentional acts that may seriously damage a country or an international organization by intimidating a population, exerting undue compulsion of various types or by destabilizing or destroying its fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures. The list of terrorist acts includes:
* attacks on a person’s life or physical integrity;
* kidnapping or hostage-taking;
* causing extensive destruction to a public or private facility, including information systems;
* seizure of means of public transport, such as aircrafts and ships;
* manufacture, possession, acquisition, transport or use of weapons, explosives, or nuclear, biological or chemical weapons;
* release of dangerous substances or causing fires, explosions or floods;
* interfering with or disrupting the supply of water, power or any other fundamental natural resource;
* directing or participating in the activities of a terrorist group, including by funding its activities or supplying material resources.
* Merely threatening to commit any of these criminal acts is also to be treated as a terrorist offence.
* The common position also defines "terrorist groups" as structured groups of persons, acting in concert to commit terrorist acts, regardless of their composition or the level of development of their structure.

# Legislation and Institutions

* European council – **Council Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism** (2002/475/JHA)
* National legislative
* National strategic documents
* Ministry of Interior Affairs
* Ministry of Environment
* Ministry of Agriculture
* Ministry of Health
* ...

# Eco-terrorism vs. environmental terrorism

* there is no general consensus on what acts to include under eco-terrorism
* the public identifies as eco-terrorists members of various environmental movements and organizations (e.g. the Green Party or Greenpeace) x attacks on these people
* eco-terrorism = radical environmental activism (i.e. violence committed in order to protect the environment, animal rights, etc.)
* environmental terrorism = violent and harmful activities against the environment

# Terrorism with environmental impacts

* eco-terrorism
* environmental terrorism
* classical / conventional terrorism with environmental impacts

# Eco-terrorism

* the ideological basis is environmentalism (not uniform):
* right-wing environmentalism
* ecosocialism
* ecoanarchism (most often associated with eco-terrorism)
* ecofeminism
* currents differ quite fundamentally in their ideological basis
* differences also in the forms of organizations (in the form of political parties, non-governmental organizations or informal global networks)
* the roots of eco-terrorism are in the early 1970s in the USA ⇨ actions of individuals or very small groups in the form of sabotage against alleged environmental destructors
* at the turn of the 70's and 80's, the first major organizations performing ecotage (monkeywrenching) were created – Earth First!
* Animal Liberation Front (ALF) are organized especially in Britain
* EF! and the ALF gradually began to expand to Western countries, and in the 1990s generally focused Earth Liberation Front (ELF) emerged from their factions

# Internal group structure

* environmental organizations and activists have created their own distinct identities
* some organizations (Sierra Club) – large corporations with headquarters, local offices, legal teams and lobbying efforts
* other organizations (Environmental Protection Information Center) – grassroots groups (lowest level groups) – deal with local issues (the main tools are community organization and strategic litigation)
* other environmental activists – do not believe that change is happening fast enough through mainstream channels and identify with radical movements such as EF! or ELF

# Methods

* to achieve the goals, they use so-called **direct actions** - organized campaigns of illegal and violent activities planned to cause financial damage to entities and individuals involved in practices that are considered harmful to the environment and animals
* although violence is used, larger organizations (ELF and ALF) declare that they are taking extraordinary measures to prevent any physical harm to people, and rely on their activists to act appropriately
* the damage caused by these events is really large – in the USA, eco-terrorism is ranked among the most serious threats of domestic terrorism (11/9/2001 x ecotage)
* sabotage, vandalism, burglary or infiltration for the purpose of freeing animals, extortion, spreading false news, arson and incendiary bombings and cyberattacks
* it is necessary to distinguish non-violent methods of promoting interests ⇨ exceeding legislation without violence against people and living creatures and damage to other people's property
* blockades (e.g. nuclear power plants), occupation of industrial enterprises damaging the environment, street protests, attachment to endangered buildings, etc.
* non-violent direct actions are implemented by a number of large and well-known environmental NGOs, including Greenpeace and the Green Parties

# Is eco-terrorism terrorism?

* participants and experts alike are of the opinion that environmental activists should not be called eco-terrorists
* The main transgression of terrorism is the disregard for the distinction between members of the armed forces and civilians, so-called eco-terrorists seek to achieve their goals by committing crimes against property, respecting the rule that there are no legitimate human goals and instead used by these people to harm the environment
* The FBI's definition of *„…violence against persons or property…"* was designed to allow groups such as the ELF to be classified as a major terrorist threat and to direct their direct actions to more severe penalties in the United States
* the use of the term "terrorism" for offenses or acts of vandalism without personal injury or death ⇨ can be seen as reducing the meaning of the word
* the goals of terrorism are chosen randomly, the victims are innocent but the ecotage targets only the property of specific perpetrators ⇨ lacks randomness
* the target can be governmental and non-governmental entities, or even individuals

# Goals of eco-terrorists

* a wide range of potential objectives ⇨ primary and secondary objectives can be distinguished
* primary goals:
* enterprises and / or individuals involved in housing or urban development
* enterprises and / or individuals involved in the mining industry
* manufacturers and sellers of SUV cars
* enterprises and / or individuals involved in the production, sale or distribution of animal products (manufacturers and sellers of leather and fur products, restaurants, etc.)
* animal testing facilities
* companies and universities involved in genetic engineering
* animal farms
* hunting associations
* facilities such as shelters and veterinary clinics that perform vivisection on animals
* secondary objectives include entities that are indirectly involved in harmful activities ⇨ the blame is derived from cooperation with the primary objectives (enterprises or individuals with business or financial ties to the *"main culprits"*)

# Functioning of eco-terrorist groups

* a sophisticated and highly decentralized network without a central hierarchical structure and complex organizational infrastructure
* information contained in materials from freely available sources makes it impossible to accurately estimate the number of individuals and groups participating in activities
* individuals are not required to join a group of eco-militant activities ⇨ an obstacle in assessing the composition and strength of the movement
* organizations such as the ELF and the ALF are not made up of members in the traditional sense ⇨ individuals who want to engage in illegal activities (including violent activities) to protect animal rights and our planet are considered members of the movement on the basis of these activities
* Internet ⇨ large amount of information (from the theoretical basis of eco-terrorist ideology to tactical and operational methods)
* social networks ⇨ a platform for disseminating contacts and exchanging information between like-minded individuals
* big amount of printed materials ⇨ e.g. David Foreman's book Ecodefense: **A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching** (1985) – detailed instructions for performing sabotage actions, including graphic manuals
* actions are performed by individuals, or in small cells not subject to central management ⇨ connected only by ideological goals
* autonomous cells and individuals draw on common Internet or printed materials, tend to carry out their activities independently of others and the movement in general ⇨ in accordance with the slogan "Think globally, act locally!"
* the most widespread is eco-terrorism in North America and Western Europe, i.e. in the centers of industrialization and globalization
* in Europe, most groups and individuals occur in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands

# Environmental terrorism

* terrorism seeks the means and targets of its attacks ⇨ the possibility is attacks against environmental components providing ecosystem services (water resources, soil and ecosystems, including production)
* the most likely source of the risks of a terrorist attack on the environment is the misuse of chemicals and chemical mixtures
* the possibility of misuse of radioactive substances and biological agents is also significant
* two forms of a chemical terrorist attack on components of the environment:
* attack on industrial buildings in which substances dangerous for the environment are present in large quantities, and the immediate vicinity of the affected company or the water flow downstream from it and over a long distance is endangered
* misuse of substances with a very high danger to the environment (obtained legally or criminally) ⇨ attack on places with vulnerable components of the environment (e.g. water resources, soil, valuable ecosystems), which may be very distant from the place of origin of the substance
* misuse of biological agents, especially highly virulent pathogens and intentionally introduced invasive species of plants and animals ⇨ the misuse of not only common pathogens, but also genetically modified highly virulent and purposefully resistant organisms can be expected

# Agroterrorism

* agroterrorism can be defined as an attack against cattle or agricultural crops, but also water resources
* agroterrorist attacks can cause multimillion-dollar damage, disrupt the national economy, the political system, cause widespread panic and draw the attention of the general public to those responsible for the attack
* based on the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in the UK in 2001, experts estimate that a terrorist attack on the US meat industry would cause damage of USD 60 billion
* measures against agroterrorism ⇨ the USA talks about so-called agrosecurity, which deals with animal and plant diseases, economic pests and invasive species with the potential to affect the health and economic benefits of the agricultural community and the general public
* in the Czech Republic, this issue falls under the safety (health safety) of food
* water resources can also become a possible target for agroterorists
* biological contamination by viruses, cysts (in the sense of stage) or bacteria (Escherichia coli or spores of Bacillus anthracis)
* chemical substances (synthetic organic chemicals) or radioactive substances
* direct attack on a water company, water treatment plant or reservoirs in order to disrupt the water supply or cause anthropogenic floods
* conventional methods of water treatment can destroy some substances (sufficiently large bacteria and viruses), but protection against others would often require too high costs
* in the 1970s, for example, the eco-terrorist group R.I.S.E. sought to obtain biological agents for water contamination. and a left-wing Weatherman

# Classical / conventional terrorism with environmental impacts

* impacts can be observed on all components of the environment
* damage can in some cases be so severe that irreversible changes occur, which can result in, for example, the complete devastation of the ecosystem
* compared to the loss of human lives, environmental impacts are secondary ⇨ it must not be forgotten that the integrity of the environment is the basis for preserving life on this planet
* the environmental impacts of terrorism can be divided according to their extent into **mild**, **serious** and **permanent**
* the extent of damage to individual components of the environment, or entire ecosystems, depends on specific forms of terrorism
* attack with conventional weapons – intervention and subsequent explosion of targets (infrastructure) ⇨ contamination of the environment with oil substances and the emission of harmful substances into the air
* environmental damage due to large-scale fires, which occur especially when using flammable substances in a dry environment (savannah, semi-desert, etc.), or in a forest stand
* when using weapons of mass destruction, the decontamination process is costly and time consuming
* the infested areas cannot be fully exploited and in some cases their reclamation is not possible

# Impacts of attacks on the environment

* 11 September 2001 attacks
* bomb attacks on planes
* sarin attack on the Tokyo subway
* bomb attacks on railways, buses and the metro ⇨ increase in the use of car traffic
* financing of terrorism through organized crime (violations of CITES, etc.)

# Main used sources

<https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/definice-pojmu-terorismus.aspx>

<https://theses.cz/id/zbq5mv/27768877>

<https://vojenskerozhledy.cz/kategorie-clanku/bezpecnostni-prostredi/potravinovy-terorismus-a-agroterorismus>

Vybrané aspekty soudobého terorismu (Řehák, Foltin, Stojar, 2008)

Koncepce environmentální bezpečnosti, a to na období 2016-2020 s výhledem do roku 2030