ТЕОРІЯ ТА ІСТОРІЯ ДЕРЖАВИ І ПРАВА, МІЖНАРОДНЕ ПРАВО

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LOCAL COMMUNITIES SAFETY IN THE CONTEXT THE RISE OF LONE-WOLF ACTIVITY

Abstract.

Purpose: the main aim of this article is to describe the phenomenon of so-called 'lone-wolf' activity in local communities as a number of attacks were recently carried out by individuals and small groups of people in various countries in the world. It seems that these are not incidental cases any more, but the phenomenon that will threaten the functioning of the state and societies. According to undertaken research a 'lone-wolf' attack mainly for political, social or religious reasons, that could differ in each community.

Methods: the data presented in the article was gathered using a variety of methods and techniques, mainly theoretical such as e. g. formal legal and case-study methods together with reasoning and comparison. Additionally, all collected data collected was cross-referenced with media reports, such as newspaper and Internet articles when possible.

Results: the 'lone-wolf' terrorism is a very dangerous phenomenon, being a challenge for state services at the same time to identify and combat such activities. As the number of attacks involving 'lone-wolfs' is increasing very rapidly there is no reason to suspect that it will change in the nearest future. According to collected data and experts' opinion in this field, it is more likely foreseen that a 'lone-wolf' terrorism will spread around and will be a threat for all countries in a world-wide scale.

Discussion: in the context of increasing number of so-called 'lone-wolfs' activity, one of the points that should be currently considered is whether these are just incidents or a new threat that will paralyze the functioning of the state and its structures in the 21st century and will give the 'new face' of terrorism that will spread through local communities and will come as an unexpected event to any state services. There is also a question about the motivation and the profile of each 'lone-wolf'.

Key words: local community, terrorism, 'lone-wolf' activity, security.

1. Introduction

A number of attacks, carried out by individuals and small groups of people, have recently happened in various countries such as e. g. USA, Turkey or France and that tends experts in the field of security to analyze this phenomenon. The main point to be considered is whether these are just incidents or a new threat that will paralyze the functioning of the state and its structures in the 21st century. There is also a question about the motivation and the profile of so-called 'lone-wolfs' terrorists who carry out acts of violence on their own. It is also worth considering whether nowadays this is the new face of terrorism that will spread through local communities and will come as an unexpected event to state services. In the past several months a number of such attacks have increased in local communities and what should be clearly stated in all cases the offenders were viewed as 'regular' citizens. Therefore, Kury's thesis saying that since ages the threats are the main topic of discussion undertaken in local communities and most people are convinced that number of threats is increasing constantly[1].

2. Definition of local community

The 'local community' is a very ambiguous term, not easy to define. However, for the purpose of its paper, it might be recognize as a 'cluster of

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1 H. Kury, *Lokalne zapobieganie przestępczości w Europie,* Kraków 2002, p. 343.

human inhabiting a limited and relatively isolated territory and who value a common tradition, values and symbols, utilities and cultural institutions. Also, they are conscious of unity and individuality at the same time, ready to cooperate, living and feeling the quality of belonging and internal safety'[2]. Such community identifies itself with a particular region and highly appreciates safety as a prime human and social groups' need[3]. By fulfilling it, the community contributes to both social and economic state development. Berger and Luckmann[4] have stated that local community has a limited number of actors and the relationships between them are immediate. Those actors are joined by common aims and measures that come as a result of everyday life and often leads to social growth and motivates other pro-social behaviors. According to Berger and Luckmann[5] such communities generate symbolic universes such as values and standards based largely on historical transformations and governing everyday and festive, retaining their rhythms or cycles.

Last, the local communities can also be characterized as a kind of an autarky – people's lifetime can expire within it[6]. Such hermetic approach may result in underestimating any new threats that are possible to appear in such community. Nowadays most local communities are strongly focused on social problems – the local strategic documents draws attention mainly on issues such as unemployment, poverty and different social pathologies. A terrorist threat or any other activity related to 'lone-wolf' terrorists is usually recognized only in a small extent or not at all. The Polish community have not been exposed to it yet, but that may change in the nearest future. The number of terrorist attacks conducted by a 'lone-wolfs' have strongly increased in a world scale during the past years. There are many different reasons for it such as e. g. political ones, but it should also be remembered that globalization,

the new technologies, mass media and the idea of multiculturalism unintentionally promote those acts of terror in most countries all over the world. The free exchange of ideas, thoughts and knowledge allow threats to spread around and beyond any country and can surely affect any local community.

3. Previous research in the field of terrorism

Although there are many different publications and research in the field of terrorism, it seems that such acts still come as a surprise in a world scale[7]. The question is why? One of the field experts claims that the main reason is constant transformation of this phenomenon, that is very chaotic and complicate the proper evaluation of it[8]. As a result, there is no clear definition of terrorism. The original term comes from Greek and Latin. In Greek *threo* means *trembling* and *afraid,* but also *escape*, while in Latin *terror-oris* means *fear* and *terror* and the meaning of *terrero* verb is *causing terror and scare[9]*. The conclusion here is that the key point is to provoke fear and panic among people and communities.

The classic approach of this phenomenon is presented by Weitling[10] who says that 'terrorism is like creation of heaven on earth by using hellish methods by criminals'. According to Rubinstein terrorism is an acts that 'uses violence, illegal and is committed by an individual or a group'[11]. *The national security glossary* defines terrorism as a 'form of violence involving thoughtful action or assault to force governments or any other specific social group for political, economic and other purpose'[12]. In this context the offenders' motivation and the fact that they conduct the action in specific purpose should be underlined. According to Hoffman[13] terrorist activity is specifically designed to exert far-

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2 T. Pilch, *Środowisko lokalne –struktura, funkcje, przemiany*, [in:] *Pedagogika społeczna*, (red.) T. Pilch, I. Lepalczyk, Warszawa 1995, p. 157.

3 J. Stańczyk, *Współczesne pojmowanie bezpieczeństwa*, Warszawa 1996, p. 18.

4 P. Berger, T. Luckmann, *Społeczne tworzenie rzeczywistości*, Warszawa 1983.

5 Ibidem.

6 B. Jałowiecki, M. S. Szczepański, *Rozwój lokalny i regionalny w perspektywie socjologicznej. Podręcznik akademicki*, Tychy 2002, p. 23.

7 T. Łachacz, „*Samotne wilki" zagrożeniem dla bezpieczeństwa państwa,* [in:] *Forum bezpieczeństwa. Instytucje państwa a bezpieczeństwo człowieka*, (red.) K. Karwacka, Gdynia 2013, p. 74.

8 B. Bolechów, *Terroryzm w świecie podwubiegunowym*, Toruń 2003, p. 33.

9 E. Nowak, M. Nowak, *Zarys teorii bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Warszawa 2011, p. 137.

10 K. Indecki, *W sprawie definicji normatywnej terroryzmu*, [in:] *Przestępczość zorganizowana. Świadek koronny, terroryzm*, (red.) E. W. Pływaczewski, Kraków 2005, p. 261.

11 R. E. Rubistein, *Alchemists of Revolution*, New York 1987, p. 17.

12 W. Łepkowski, *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Warszawa 2011, p. 137.

13 B. Hoffman, *Oblicza terroryzmu*, Warszawa 2001, p. 42.

reaching psychological effects, well beyond the immediate victim(s) or object of a terrorist attack. Its aim is to spread the fear and frighten as many as possible, such *audience* can be an ethnic or religious group, the state, the government, political party or the public in general. With the publicity gained by violence, the terrorists are seeking to gain influence and power, which they normally do not have to conduct political changes both at local or international level'. Hoffman clearly underlines the local dimension of the problem. Based on the research undertaken by Schmidt and Jongmann the conclusion might be made: the most typical features of terrorism are: violence, fear, threat, psychological effects, also expected reactions and planned, constant and organized action, also publicity[14].

Many researchers emphasize that the essence of terrorism is to intimidate through violence. Therefore, any terrorist action is characterized by ruthlessness and cruelty, in order to spread the fear and frighten the general public. The psychological effect is usually achieved – the target group is surprised and unprepared for the attack. What is also important is the specific terrorist target that is thoughtful out and carefully planned well in advance. The terrorists are focused mainly on nonmilitary targets, civilian objects and public infrastructure. The experts claim that 'the acts of modern terrorism are no longer directed towards governmental buildings, power structures or security services. The blade is directed against society, against the civilian population'[15]. But at the same time it should be said that it seems that for terrorist it is more important to gain desirable public reaction rather than the number of people killed[16]. The mass media interest seems the best medium for terrorism. Therefore, the more publicity they get, the better. Looking for spectacular forms of terrorist acts in nothing unusual in this context.

Jenkins notes that terrorists can attack anything, anyone, anywhere and anytime, and the state can not protect everything, everyone, everywhere and at all the time[17]. The methods used by terrorists are extremely various and very dynamic in order to obtain the greatest possible effect of surprise. The most popular nowadays are e. g. murders, people kidnappings and hijacking of planes and other means of mass communication, bombings, attacks with firearms or other dangerous objects[18]. It has been underlined several times already that the other important determination is terrorists' motivation. It is said in the literature that the nature of terrorist attack can be as follow: separatist, nationalist, fundamentalist, religious, ideological, or racial one[19]. It is indicated that the essence of modern terrorism 'is not to reach the political goals but to cause a maximum loss among the population, as well as big economic damages[20].

4. Domestic and international regulations in the field of terrorism

Terrorism is a problem at both global and local scale and that is clearly underlined in strategic documents devoted to security and safety. In 1991 and 1999 it was pointed out by NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) as a potential threat affecting security in all member states. The current Strategic Concept *Active Engagement, Modern Defense* adopted in November 2010 at the Lisbon Summit stated that 'terrorism poses a direct threat to the security of the citizens of NATO countries, and to international stability and prosperity more broadly. Extremist groups continue to spread to, and in, areas of strategic importance to the Alliance'[21]. It is followed by declaration that NATO will 'enhance the capacity to detect and defend against international terrorism, including through enhanced analysis of the threat, more consultations with the partners, and the development of appropriate military

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14 A. P. Schmid, A. J. Jongman, *Political terrorism. A new guide to actors, authors, concepts, data bases, theories and literature*, New Brunswick 1998, p. 32.

15 J. Gotowała, *Ciernista droga do globalnego bezpieczeństwa*, [w:] *Terroryzm-rola sił zbrojnych w zwalczaniu zjawiska*, Warszawa 2006, p. 192.

16 B. M. Jenkins, *International Terrorism: A New Mode of Conflict. California Seminar on Arms Control and Foreign Policy*. Los Angeles 1975, p. 1.

17 T. Jemioło, K. Malaka (red.), *Bezpieczeństwo zewnętrzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Warszawa 2002, p. 175.

18 Ibidem, s. 20.

19 K. Jałoszyński, *Organy administracji rządowej wobec zagrożeń terrorystycznych. Policja w walce i przeciwdziałaniu terroryzmowi*, Bielsko-Biała 2009, pp. 11-12.

20 J. Gotowała, *Ciernista droga do globalnego bezpieczeństwa…*, *op. cit.*, p. 192.

21 http://www.nato.int/lisbon2010/strategic-concept-2010-eng.pdf, [accessed: 22.07.2015].

capabilities, including to help train local forces to fight terrorism themselves'[22]. in addition, increasingly there are voices that the Alliance should develop a strategy against terrorism. In addition, the number of voices saying that the Alliance should develop a strategy against terrorism is increasing.

The European Security Strategy (ESS) titled *A Secure Europe in a Better World* that was adopted by the European Council in December 2003, provides the conceptual framework for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including what would later become the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). It is mentioned in there that 'terrorism poses a growing strategic threat to the whole of Europe (…) The most recent wave of terrorism is global in its scope and is linked to violent religious extremism. It arise out of complex causes. These include the pressures of modernization, cultural, social and political crises, and the alienation of young people living in foreign societies (…) Europe is both a target and a base for such terrorism'[23]. The importance of fighting against terrorism by using an active policies that will counter the new dynamic threats is underlined, as well as the need to 'think globally and act locally'[24]. At the same time the need of international cooperation, particularly with NATO and European Union is declared. Another document that draws attention to the need of multi-faceted cooperation in the field of combating terrorism is 'the European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy' adopted in 2005.

Also 'the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland' adopted in 2014 takes into account the possible terrorist threat. This strategy analysis the security environment both at global, regional and local levels. It is stated that 'threats to global security are international terrorism and organized crime'[25]. It is also recognized that terrorism nowadays is especially dangerous in combination with extremism and modern IT technologies. In addition, at the domestic level it is stressed that terrorism is particularly dangerous because of individuals or small groups who use methods of terror as a tool to develop their own purposes, motivated both by political, social, economic and religious reasons'[26]. It clearly appeals to 'lone-wolf' activity that has rapidly increase in the other countries, not excluding Poland. By giving the examples of such activity, a better understanding of the problem should be made.

5. Examples of 'lone-wolf' activity in a world scale

On December 6th 1989 a 25-year-old Marc Lépine brandished a firearm burst into a college classroom at the École Polytechnique in Montreal, Canada killing within 20 minutes 14 women students. By the time Lépine turned the gun on himself, the another 10 were injured[27]. He was armed with a legally obtained Mini-14 rifle and a hunting knife. Lépine had previously been denied admission to the École Polytechnique and had been upset, it later transpired, about women working in positions traditionally occupied by men[28] and these who were accepted at the École Polytechnique in particular. He was full of hatred against feminists and pointed out 19 women he hated most, claiming he is fighting feminism. Marc Lépine was the son of a Canadian nurse and an Algerian businessman and he was known as a normal teenager[29]. He planned his attack carefully − he attacked at the university he dreamed to study at, in a local community that was unprepared for any activity of that kind. Canadian government set the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, also known informally as White Ribbon Day, is commemorated each December 6th[30].

The other example of the 'lone-wolf' activity as we may named it today was the history of Ted Kaczynski, also known as *the Unabomber* (for the

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22 Ibidem.
23 http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf, [accessed: 22.07.2015].
24 Ibidem.
25 *Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2014*, Warszawa 2014, p. 18.

26 J. Jurczak, *Akty ekstremizmu na polskich i europejskich stadionach piłkarskich*, [w:] *Współczesne ekstremizmy. Geneza. Przejawy. Przeciwdziałanie*, (red) W. Pływaczewski, P. Lubiewski, Olsztyn, 2014, p. 53.
27 http://metro.policja.waw.pl/portal/km/276/28592/22_rocznica_masakry_w_Montrealu.html, [accessed: 22.07.2015].
28 http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/dec/03/montreal-massacre-canadas-feminists-remember, [accessed: 11.08.2015].
29 http://bejsment.com/2014/12/05/nathalie-nigdy-nie-zapomni-tragedii-na-politechnice, [accessed: 22.07.2015].
30 http://wyborcza.pl/1,91446,17022532, Poczatek_kampanii_16_dni_przeciwko_przemocy_ze_wzgledu.htm, [accessed: 22.07.2015].

UNiversity and **A**irline **BOM**bing targets involved). The man came to word attention in 1978 with the explosion of his first, primitive homemade bomb at a Chicago university. Over the next 17 years, he mailed or hand delivered a series of increasingly sophisticated bombs that killed three Americans and injured 24 more'[31]. At the age of 16, Kaczynski was accepted into Harvard University. He then enrolled into the University of Michigan, earning a PhD in mathematics and taught undergraduate courses in geometry and calculus at the University of California at Berkeley for a short time[32]. After sending his last letter bomb in 1995, he was not caught by FBI for quite a time. In USA he was considered as a serious terrorist until September 11th 2001. The criminal activity of Ted Kaczynski was strongly related to his manifesto published in 1995. He claimed that 'the Industrial Revolution and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race. They have greatly increased the life-expectancy of those of us who live in advanced countries, but they have destabilized society, have made life unfulfilling, have subjected human beings to indignities, have led to widespread psychological suffering (in the Third World to physical suffering as well) and have inflicted severe damage on the natural world. The continued development of technology will worsen the situation'[33]. His figure was brought to world's mind by Anders Breivik – another example of a contemporary 'lone-wolf' criminal.

Anders Breivik was a terrorist that conducted two sequential attacks against the government, the civilian population and a Workers' Youth League (AUF) in Norway on 22 July 2011[34]. Then a 32-year-old man, far-right fanatic killed eight people at Oslo's government quarters with a car bomb, before murdering 69 Norwegian Labour Party youth members on the island of Utoya, 33 people were seriously injured[35]. As it was described in the court, 'Breivik was standing with his hands held above his head in passive surrender when police has finally caught up with him at the end of his gun rampage'[36], saying he is ready to fight even from the jail[37]. He was sentenced 21 years in prison. As it was verified, he was acting on his own, using simple measures such as firearms and bombs and planning the attack for over 3 years before. Two main motives are political and religious ones. Before the Norwegian massacre Breivik has published *2083 A European Declaration of Independence*, writing that he wanted to stop *the Islamic colonization* in Europe, as well as the rise of cultural Marxism and multiculturalism[38] and that mainly lead him to commit the terrorist act.

Also in Russia few years ago there was a terrorist act conducted by a 'lone-wolf' – a 30-year-old Dmitry Vinogradov. On November 7th 2012 Vinogradov – a lawyer for a pharmaceutical company in Moscow, shot dead six people and severely wounded another two[39]. Later, he claimed his motive was a broken heart, as he split up with the girl working in the same company several months before. It is hard to believe as few hours before his attack, Vinogradov posted a 'manifesto of hate' on the internet, comparing mankind to a 'giant cancer tumour'[40], which drew immediate comparisons with Norwegian mass killer Anders Breivik. In his manifesto, Vinogradov declared: 'I hates human society and I am disgusted to be a part of it! I hate the senselessness of human life! I hate this very life! I see only one way to justify it to destroy as many parts of the human compost as possible. This is the only right thing which everyone can do in his life, it is the only way to justify it, the only way to make this world better'[41]. Vinogradov, just like Marc Lépine, attacked in his very local community, shooting his work colleagues.

31 https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2008/april/unabomber_042408, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

32 http://criminalminds.wikia.com/wiki/Theodore_Kaczynski, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

33 http://cyber.eserver.org/unabom.txt, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

34 http://www.biography.com/people/anders-behring-breivik-20617893, [accessed: 11.08.2015]

35 Ibidem.

36 http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/norway/8666351/Norway-shootings-Anders-Behring-Breivik-surrendered-with-his-hands-above-his-head.html, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

37 T. Walat, M. Ostrowski, W. Smoczyński, *Strach krąży po Europie*, „Polityka", nr 31 (2818)/2011, pp. 8-10.

38 https://publicintelligence.net/anders-behring-breiviks-complete-manifesto-2083-a-european-declaration-of-independence/, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

39 http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2229919/Dmitry-Vinogradov-Gunman-seconds-embarking-shooting-spree-office-rampage-claimed-lives.html, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

40 Ibidem.

41 Ibidem.

On April 15th 2013 in Boston, USA, during the Boston Marathon, there was another terrorist attack conducted. It was followed by subsequent related shootings. Two explosives went off near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three and severely wounding 264 people[42]. Three days after the massacre a Chechen brothers Dzhokar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev were identified as a suspects. Dzhokar was 19, and Tamerlan a 26-year-old, they both came to USA 10 years before as immigrants. According to media sources, the motive for the attack was scrawled inside the boat where Dzhokar was hiding just before he was captured. Their motives referred mainly to US wars in Muslim countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq[43] and three people that were killed in the Boston bombings were accidental victims, just as Afghan civilians. During the investigation it was verified that both brothers were strongly influenced by an extremist ideology and have links with Islamic terrorists from The Caucasus[44]. As no radical organization had admitted to the attack, the Tsarnaev terrorist activity again can be recognized as a 'lone-wolf' one.

In June 2015 there was the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of modern Tunisia. About 10 kilometres north of the city of Sousse a 23-year-old Seifeddine Rezgui Yacoubi shot down 39 people, mostly tourists from Great Britain, Germany and Belgium[45]. He was an engineering student, who had links with the Islamic State terrorists. The attack was probably supported by two other people and was a protest expressing Muslims' dissatisfaction with the actions performed by Western leaders. It should also be underlined that in the small French village of Saint-Quentin-Fallavier a 35-year-old Yassine Salhi tried to blow up a local gas-fired plants the same month. The man was associated with the company which supplied gas in the local community. In the scene there was a headless body found (most likely his boss) and flags with Arabic inscriptions that indicate links with the Islamic State[46]. Both attacks can be recognized as a 'lone-wolf' activity.

On July 23rd 2015 a shooting occurred at the Grand 16 cinema in Lafayette, USA. A 59-year-old John Russell Houser opened fire during a showing of the film 'Trainwreck', killing two people and injuring nine others before committing a suicide[47]. The perpetrator was probably employed in a multiplex cinema and according to the police psychiatric treated. According to the media sources there were suspicious materials found in his car what may suggest it was a planned action rather than a random attack[48]. Three years before a similar tragedy occurred in the town of Aurora in Colorado during the screening of the 'The Dark Knight Rises' movie. The perpetrator – James Holmes – opened fire killing 12 people, 70 were seriously injured[49]. Until this day his motives remains unknown, although it is believed that he had serious mental and personality problems.

There are also numbers of school and university shootings that happened not only in United States, but also in Germany and Finland in the past few years. The perpetrators – mostly young men conducted the attacks in local communities. As their motives are unclear and various mental problems were identified, the experts do not described them as 'lone-wolfs', but such activity should not be forgotten.

Based on the presented examples it is clearly proven that in the recent years the terrorist activity of single person or a small group of individuals have intensified and have become a serious threat to any state and its citizens. The perpetrators mentioned above attack in various public places, including universities, cinemas, beaches or offices, generally in a small local communities that were unaware of the possible danger. After 2011 and the Norwegian massacre on Utoya island the number of a 'lone-wolf' activity have increased significantly. It

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42 http://wiadomosci.wp.pl/gid,17453809,kat,1356,title,2-rocznica-zamachu-w-Bostonie,galeria.html, [accessed: 22.07.2015].

43 http://www.tvn24.pl/wiadomosci-ze-swiata,2/cbs-dzochar-carnajew-zostawil-notke-wyjasnil-dlaczego-za atakowali-boston,326162.html, [accessed: 26.07.2015].

44 http://wiadomosci.wp.pl/gid,17453809,gpage,7,img,17453893, kat,1356,title,2-rocznica-zamachu-w-Bostonie,galeria.html, [accessed: 26.07.2015]

45 http://swiat.newsweek.pl/zobacz-amatorskie-nagranie-ataku-terrorystycznego-wideo-,artykuly,365828,1.html, [accessed: 28.06.2015].

46 Ibidem.

47 http://wiadomosci.onet.pl/swiat/usa-strzelanina-w-kinie-w-luizjanie-nie-zyja-trzy-osoby/vhje8z, [accessed: 28.07.2015].

48 http://www.polskatimes.pl/artykul/4681792,usa-strzelanina-w-luizjanie-dwie-osoby-nie-zyja-siedem-odnioslo-rany-videozdjecia,id,t.html, [accessed: 28.07.2015].

49 http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jul/20/nation/la-na-nn-colorado-shooting-update-batman-20120720, [accessed: 11.08.2015].

should be strongly underlined that because of the attacks' location (e. g. in Canada, United States, Norway, France, Russia) this phenomenon is not typical only for one country, or even a region. In the nearest future it will probably be a challenge of a global nature. Therefore, the characteristic of each 'lone-wolf' attack should be analyzed in order to find any similarities.

6. A 'lone-wolf' characteristic

The 'lone-wolf' term was popularized by the extreme right American in the nineties. Then, the far-right leaders encouraged to attack the government by a single person or in a small group[50]. Initially, the problem was a marginal one and attacks conducted by an individual occurred rarely. Over the years the phenomenon has intensified and developed which made security experts confused in defining it. In the literature there are various definition on a 'lone-wolf' attacker. Recently, the most common is the one saying that a 'lone-wolf' is an individual, usually not openly involved with any terrorist organization, who conduct a terrorist attack[51]. This perspective emphasizes the self-determination of the attacker, despite any methods that were used. According to Weimann[52] a 'lone wolf' is an individualist or a small group of people who use typical terrorist tactics, including attacks on civilians, in order to achieve political or ideological goals. They mostly act without any membership, internal cooperation or any support from a particular terrorist organization, either official or unofficial. There, those are individuals acting self-reliant and having a goal that should be achieved. What is more, Spaaij[53] indicates that described above a 'lone-wolf' is a dangerous leader, anti-social outsider and unpredictable individual. Generally the experts in the field of security agree that a 'lone-wolf' is a self-determined individual, acting alone by attacking civilians[54]. However, there are several differences that can be described as well.

Undoubtedly, a 'lone-wolf' terrorist is a person acting independently, formally not belonging to any organized terrorist group or network. Their attacks are usually well thought out and planned. A perfect example here is Anders Breivik who planned the massacre for over three years. According to Spaaij[55] any attack begins and is controlled only be a 'lone-wolf' himself, there is no executives or any hierarchy. As a result, it is extremely difficult to identify a potential bomber as he does not exchange any information on the attack with anyone. Described attackers may be influenced by a radical ideology, usually in a small extent, but generally they are not supported by any extreme parties while committing the terrorist act[56]. Also, 'lone-wolfs' can identify themselves with a terrorist organization, not being a member of it – such situation took place in Tunisia, where attackers sympathized with the Islamic State. In the future terrorist groups might intentionally use such individuals to conduct the terrorist attack.

There is always a particular motive for each 'lone-wolf' attacker, although the background might be different. They might represent various ideologies, mostly of a political or religion nature. Lépine railed against feminists, Kaczynski denied any technical progress, Breivik rejected the idea of multiculturalism and Vinogradov hated the human race in general. Some of them presented theirs views in manifestos published long before the attacks. They were fighting against state policies or the actual social condition[57]. Some of them are also strongly devoted to religion such as e. g. Tsarnaev brothers or bomber from Tunisia – they all were inspired by Islamic religion. But there are also those, whose motives are unknown such as e. g. Holmes, Houser or others responsible for school shootings. They are usually not recognized as a 'lone-wolf' by experts as there is no clear motive for their activity. However, in authors' opinion this kind of phenomenon should not be underestimated suggesting only their mental problems.

An important role in the 'lone-wolf' activity play the usage of new technologies. As it was mentioned before while planning the terrorist attack, usually they do not gain any knowledge or support

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50 T. Łachacz, *op. cit.*, p. 74.

51 J. Kaplan, H. Lööw, L. Malkki, *Introduction to the Special Issue on Lone Wolf and Autonomous Cell Terrorism*, "Terrorism and Political Violence 2014", Volume 26, No. 1, pp. 1-12.

52 G. Weimann, *Lone Wolves in Cyberspace*, "Journal of Terrorism Research"2012, Volume 3, Issue 2, pp. 75.

53 R.F.J Spaaij, *Understanding lone wolf terrorism: global patterns, motivations and prevention,* Dordrecht, New York 2012, pp. 17.

54 T. Łachacz, *op. cit.*, s. 74.

55 R. F. J. Spaaij, *op.cit.*, pg. 17.

56 M. Becker, *Explaining Lone Wolf Target Selection in the United States.* "*Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*" 2014 (37), pp. 970.

57 T. Łachacz, *op, cit.*, s. 79.

from any organization or a network. They search the Internet, sharing their views and extreme ideologies at the same time. Simon[58] draws the attention to the importance of technology, especially the Internet, as a source of accessing practical tips and instructions for any potential 'lone-wolve'.

In addition, it is worth noticing that a 'lone-wolf' is a young male, well educated, some of them having a well-paid job. For example Dzhokar Tsarnaev was a medicine student, Holmes graduated with honors from the university, Kaczynski, having his doctoral degree had worked as a mathematician at the university, Vinogradov was a lawyer. They all were in some sense an *extraordinary individuals*, conscious of both undertaken actions and its consequences. In the local communities where they lived and worked, they were recognizable as an ordinary, although a little shy and unsociable person. The age of 'lone-wolfs' should be also emphasized – while conducting the attack most of them were between 20 and 30 years old.

There is one more element characteristic for the 'lone-wolf' terrorism – the place/area where the attack takes place. Very often it is a local community where they live, study or work. All the attacks described in the article took place in a public place such as a university, beach resort or cinema located in a small town. They were not conducted in capital cities and were not aimed at governmental buildings, but in local communities that were not prepared for this kind of violence. In a long term perspective it may result in the cohesion of social relation in local communities, as the 'lone-wolf' might be their neighbor, a work colleague or friend from the university.

7. Conclusion

Through the last several years the number of 'lone-wolf' attacks has significantly increased, happening very often and in various countries all over the world. It seems that these are not incidental cases any more, but the phenomenon that will threaten the functioning of the state and societies. The security experts call it a 'lone-wolf' terrorism which is described as an individual activity, who usually is not linked with any organized terror-

ist organization or a network, but who used a terrorist method in order to frighten and/or kill random civilians. The attackers are usually young individuals, self-determinate and introvert at the same time, very intelligent who by use of violence try to promote an extreme ideology or belief. According to undertaken research a 'lone-wolf' attack mainly for political, social or religious reasons. In the past few years *supporters* of the Islamic State and Muslim religion were particularly active and that should be taken seriously as the Islamist may use them to conduct another attacks as a voluntary one. For the international society it is a serious, but very real vision of threat. In addition, it is noteworthy that are also those, whose attacks' motives are unknown to this day. The experts do not recognized as a 'lone-wolf', but their mental problems should not be taken as the only motive for the attack. Somehow, their activity has increased in the past years, just the same as the number of *typical* 'lone-wolf' attacks. Moreover, all the attacks that were conducted so far took place in a local communities that were not important from the state – strategic point of view. The 'lone-wolfs' were usually described as an ordinary citizen, work colleague or a friend from the university. The 'lone-wolf' terrorism is a very dangerous phenomenon, being a challenge for state services at the same time to identify and combat such activities. As the number of attacks involving 'lone-wolfs' is increasing very rapidly, there are some opinion to change the legal regulations on firearms and that is particularly discussed in the Unites States. There is also a debate on limiting the freedom of individual in the Internet[59], as terrorist commonly collect the date from there. It is dubious that the number of the 'lone-wolf' terrorist acts will decrease in the coming years, it probably will escalate. According to collected date and experts' opinion in this field, it is very possible that a 'lone-wolf' terrorism will spread around and will be a threat for all European countries, even if sometimes with a delay[60].

58 J. D. Simon, *Lone Wolf Terrorism: Understanding the Growing Threat,* Amherst, New York 2013, pp. 25.

59 T. Łachacz, *op. cit.*, s. 82.

60 http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114871,12951640, Osiem_osob_cwiczylo_strzelanie_z_broni_rakietowej.html z 28 lipca 2015 r., [accessed: 11.08.2015].

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