

### *Editor's Note*

The first issue of *Defence Against Terrorism Review* (DATR) published in the Spring of 2008 was very warmly welcomed by our readership, which is composed of a wide variety of distinguished individuals and institutions, both from the civilian as well as the military sectors. We have received letters of commendation from all corners of the world where DATR aims at reaching out to its readers. We have also received invitations to be listed in the prestigious academic indexes that are highly observed by the researchers. This level of success attained with just one issue out, I must admit, was beyond our expectations, even though we were confident that DATR would attract the attention of large segments of its target audience. I would, therefore, like to thank all of our supporters who have contributed to the journal in various ways. The success that we are proud of now, thanks to the quality of articles in the Spring 2008 issue, has also put heavier duties on our shoulders in keeping up with at least the same level of achievement in the second issue. With this in mind, we worked even harder. Yet we have encountered a major problem that caused delays in meeting the intended date of publishing the current Fall 2008 issue. The copy editor who worked with us in our first issue, and with whom we were planning to work for longer periods, has quit the job at an unexpected time for reasons that we have appreciated. Hence, due to the difficulties of hiring foreign professionals by a military organization, the period of getting the articles to the printer after a compulsory copy editing process that involves a series of interactions among the editors of DATR, the copy editor and the authors, has much prolonged. Hopefully, having drawn lessons from this experience, and also having taken the necessary precautions for the forthcoming issues, we will do our best so as not to encounter a similar problem in the future.

The current issue starts with an in-depth analysis of a fundamental question that for long tackles the minds of professionals as well as the laymen as regards the thin line between the legality and the legitimacy of the use of armed forces -in dealing with security problems including defence against terrorism- which is often blurred and also became a powerful source of controversy in public debates. We are extremely lucky to have Dean Tom Farer from the University of Denver on board in this issue who provides us with a very comprehensive elaboration of all facets of the problem at hand. Professor Farer's authority and wisdom, it goes without saying, shed brilliant light to the proper understanding of the issue with his article often exemplified by specific cases from around the world. Unarguably the foremost expert in the field of terrorism studies, Professor Yonah Alexander from the Potomac Institute, contributes to our edition with his invaluable observations about the degree and the extent of the collaboration among the terrorist organizations in the world that have pretty diverse backgrounds. Professor Alexander argues that shared ideologies and commitments to radical strategies such as professed struggles against capitalism, imperialism, racism, Zionism, and democracies motivate groups to work together on a global scale. Thus, defence against these groups requires utmost cooperation among the states. That said, it is also extremely important to make particular evaluations of all kinds of violent acts that we face today, and that identifying the purposes of the performers. In this regard, Dr. Luis Mesa Delmonte from El Colegio de Mexico analyzes and deals with a wide spectrum of violent manifestation. Dr. Delmonte carefully underlines the fact that instead of labelling all of them as only one kind of threat, considering their ideological, social and economic reasons is crucial. At this very point, the value of familiarizing oneself with the peculiarities of particular terrorist organizations gains currency. Syed Manzar Abbas Zaidi from the University of Central Lancashire traces the resurgence and reorganization of the Taliban into a new

organizational entity, namely the Taliban in Pakistan. According to Zaidi, the Taliban, having been forced to flee Afghanistan, have found a haven in Pakistan's tribal areas, re-organizing and recruiting anew in the process, and became the new face of the Taliban. Having said this much about terrorists, insurgents, and guerrillas, the fundamental questions like what is terrorism, why is it there, who are terrorists, and what are the ways to deal with terrorism that concern researchers who have studied this social phenomenon remain to be the key subject matter, which is eloquently discussed by Dr. Özgür Özdamar from the TOBB University. Dr. Özdamar presents various theoretical approaches to the study of terrorism and suggests that the instrumental approach provides a firm base to develop comprehensive theories of terrorism provided that it can resolve the weaknesses mentioned in his article and develops itself to meet his four criteria. One of the scariest scenarios concerning the future trend in terrorist activities is the one that involves the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), in their sophisticated or crude forms. Dr. Zafar Jaspal from the Quaid-i-Azam University attempts to examine the potential for WMD terrorism and its likely repercussions for Pakistan security. In his well-thought article Dr. Jaspal asks three central questions such as whether WMD terrorism is a myth or reality; what the current trends are in terrorism that undermine Pakistan security; and what the appropriate countermeasures would be to thwart terrorists' efforts to acquire WMD. He accordingly emphasizes that national and international initiatives aimed at improving the system of controlling the import/export of sensitive materials and instruments should be developed so as to limit the risk of WMD smuggling. Starting with this issue, alongside the major articles, we are planning to spare some space also for case studies that take interesting developments in the field of defence against terrorism into their scopes with a much closer look into the specifics of various events. Dr. Ali Dikici from the Turkish National Police offers us the Şanlıurfa case in his elaborate study of community policing that aim at preventing the misuses of children by the PKK terrorist organization. According to Dr. Dikici, the role of community policing is vital but it will not be sufficient alone to fight terrorist activities. Contingencies should be developed with parents, school officials, mental health professionals, probation officers, and social service workers who are already involved or may need to be involved with the youngsters and their families. Dr. Dikici argues that with a mixture of authority, psychological sophistication, and persistence, the officers and other state officials, universities, educators and NGOs involved in terrorism prevention efforts will be enormously successful.

The terrorism predicament is likely to concern the body of intellectuals as well as the civil and military authorities everywhere in the world. No one would be happier to have nothing to publish than the editors of this journal who would not only hope but also pray for the termination of the terrorist activities in the world. Naïve as this may sound, the editors are also realist enough to believe that their job to provide a platform for exchange of views on how to deal with terrorism will persist at least as long as the root causes remain to be fully addressed by all the relevant institutions as well as the individuals who have both the capacity and the authority to do so. Thus, should you feel like you have the answers to the question of how to do it, feel free to share with our readers in the next issue. Those interested joining others in the Spring 2009 edition of DATR, please take a moment to review the note for contributors at the back of this volume.

Mustafa Kibaroğlu  
Editor in Chief