In a global security environment, there is a growing risk that unrest or a security problem in a single country or region could immediately develop into a security challenge or destabilizing factor for the entire international community.

The conflicts occurring in recent years in various parts of the world are not necessarily of the same nature. An array of problems is at the root of conflicts, including ethnicity, religion, territory, and resources. The impacts of climate change and other global issues have also been suggested as causes of conflicts. Conflicts can take diverse forms, from armed conflicts, to the continuation of military standoffs. Furthermore, human rights violations, refugees, hunger, poverty, and other consequences of conflicts can have impacts affecting not only the countries in the conflicts but also a wider area. In many cases, areas where civil wars or regional conflicts have created or expanded a governance vacuum have become a hotbed of the activities of terrorist organizations. Among them are organizations which operate across national borders and regions, which continue to pose imminent security challenges to the international community. The presence of states with weak governance has made it difficult to tackle risks such as the explosive outbreak and spread of infectious diseases.

Particularly in states with unstable political situations and weak governance, which are often found in the Middle East and Africa, border control is inadequate, leading to cross-border movement of terrorist organization members and weapons, as well as narcotics that are a funding source for terrorist organizations, posing threats to the regions. Furthermore, these regions have seen renewed fighting even after a temporary ceasefire is achieved pursuant to a peace agreement or other arrangements between the parties in conflict. The “Arab Spring,” which grew into a full-scale movement in 2011, encouraged transitions to democratic systems in some countries in the Middle East and North Africa. However, political turmoil associated with the change in government created clashes between tribes, religions, and political parties, and these clashes have still not ended in some countries. The underlying factors are deemed to include public dissatisfaction, especially among young people, with economic and social disparities as well as with high unemployment rates. Furthermore, in developed countries, such as the United States and European countries, there has been a rise in young people who sympathize with the extremism of international terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) that had gained strength in Iraq and Syria, against the backdrop of dissatisfaction towards estrangement from society, discrimination, poverty, and disparities. In an increasing number of cases, these people have joined the activities of international terrorist organizations as fighters and also conducted “homegrown” and “lone-wolf” terrorism activities in their home countries.

As evidenced by the simultaneous terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015 and the act of terrorism in Bangladesh in July 2016, the global expansion of such extremism has resulted in growing terror threats not only in the Middle East and Africa but also in the rest of the world. In countries, such as Mali and the Central African Republic, the people’s dissatisfaction with politics and economics under their weak governance systems as well as clashes over territories and resources have caused conflicts. The rapid, vast outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa in 2014 threatened the stability of the affected countries and spread the disease to other countries including Western nations, shedding light on the seriousness of the risk posed by the spread of infectious diseases.
UN PKOs have been established. In recent years, their missions have come to include a wide range of activities, including those by civilians and police, encompassing such traditional roles as the monitoring of a ceasefire or military withdrawal as well as the monitoring of disarmament, security sector reform, the monitoring of elections and administrative activities, and humanitarian assistance (e.g., return of refugees to their homeland). Under such circumstances, the importance of the roles related to the protection of civilians and peace-building has been increasing.

In addition, Syria faces the issue of the Assad administration’s use of chemical weapons. In August 2013, when the United States, which called for a military response to the use of chemical weapons, clashed with Syria, and Russia, which sought to place Syrian chemical weapons under the control of the international community, were at odds, chemical weapons were used in the suburbs of Syria’s capital city Damascus, which killed many civilians. Following this attack, U.S. President Barack Obama who had stated previously that the use of chemical weapons would cross a red line, assessed that the Syrian government was responsible for the attacks and then return to their countries and conduct terrorist attacks.

In recent years, “lone-wolf” terrorism is also seen as a threat because it is difficult to detect signs in advance and prevent it. “Lone-wolf” terrorism is planned and committed by individuals or groups who become influenced by extremist ideology through information found on the Internet and elsewhere, without having any official relations with terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and ISIL.

In addition to the UN PKO framework, multinational forces authorized by the UN Security Council and regional organizations engage in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. In Africa, regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) undertake their activities based on UN Security Council resolutions, and their activities are sometimes handed over to UN PKOs later. The international community also offers recommendations and training assistance and supplies equipment from a long-term perspective, prompting African nations to help themselves so that they can enhance local government organizations and improve the capabilities of their military and security organizations.

“Homegrown” terrorism in which residents are inspired by the extremism espoused by Al Qaeda or ISIL and conduct terrorist attacks at home has become a threat in European countries and the United States. In particular, there are concerns that their nationals would accumulate combat training and combat experience in conflict-torn regions such as Iraq and Syria, become indoctrinated into extremism, and then return to their countries and conduct terrorist attacks.

In recent years, “lone-wolf” terrorism is also seen as a threat because it is difficult to detect signs in advance and prevent it. “Lone-wolf” terrorism is planned and committed by individuals or groups who become influenced by extremist ideology through information found on the Internet and elsewhere, without having any official relations with terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and ISIL.

Current Situation of Regional Conflicts and the International Response

Situations in Syria and Iraq in Response to the Rise of ISIL

(1) Political Turmoil in Syria and the Rise of ISIL

In Syria, since March 2011, the Government has mobilized military and security forces in response to the outbreak of anti-government demonstrations across the country calling for democratization and the resignation of President Assad. As a result, the clashes between the government forces and the opposition forces have continued to take place throughout the country. Taking advantage of the instability after the “Arab Spring”...
democratic movement, international terrorist organization Al-Nusrah Front and ISIL\(^7\) have gained strength in Syria. Meanwhile, following the withdrawal of U.S. Forces in December 2011, the security situation in Iraq deteriorated rapidly against the backdrop of political feuds and religious confrontations. In January 2014, ISIL, which had increasingly gained strength from its stronghold in Syria, seized the unstable situation in Iraq.

\(^7\) For organizational characteristics of ISIL, see “3 Trends in the Spread of International Terrorism.”
to begin invading areas in western Iraq. In June 2014, ISIL took control of the second largest city, Mosul, in northern Iraq. Following this, ISIL’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a self-proclaimed “caliph,” unilaterally declared the establishment of the “Islamic State” and called on Islam followers throughout the world to pledge their allegiance to him.

(2) Trends in Military Operations against ISIL
In August 2014, ISIL launched an offensive against the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq, and made advances towards Erbil where the U.S. Consulate and other facilities are located. In response to this development, the United States and other countries began airstrikes on ISIL in order to protect U.S. citizens in Iraq, among other purposes. In an address on the U.S. strategy for ISIL delivered in September 2014, then President Obama stated that the military action would be extended to cover Syria. The countries in the Coalition are participating in the military operations for the main missions of: (1) limited air raids; (2) education and training of local forces; (3) supply of weapons; and (4) rescue of hostages by the special forces.

Although the Iraqi Security Forces (including paramilitary troops and the police, in addition to Iraqi government forces) were reportedly plagued with problems such as weak command functions and low morale, primarily among the Iraqi forces, they appear to have improved their operational capabilities, through the Coalition’s education and training, among other means. In contrast, the Peshmerga, the military organ of the KRG, has experience with the Iraq War and is considered to have relatively advanced training and a functioning chain of command, and plays a critical role in the military action against ISIL.

The Coalition and the local forces are cooperating in the operations to recapture strategic cities in Iraq from ISIL. In the past two years, ISIL lost its strongholds in Iraq one after another, including Ramadi and Fallujah. In particular, the Coalition and the local forces in October 2016 launched an operation to recapture Mosul, an important city for ISIL as a symbol of its expanding influence, and took control of the eastern half of the city in January 2017. In February 2017, they began the military operation to gain control of the western half of Mosul. As of the end of June 2017, with Iraqi government forces recapturing the Great Mosque of al-Nuri, a symbol to ISIL, it is clear that ISIL has become inferior to the Coalition and the local forces, and is said to be weakening under such circumstances.

In Syria, meanwhile, in addition to air raids by the Coalition, the United States provided support to the opposition forces fighting ISIL. The forces have thus far, however, failed to adequately cope with ISIL. Under such circumstances, Russia launched its military operation in Syria in September 2015 in an apparent bid to support the survival of the Assad administration and protect its own interests. In the initial phase of its military operation, Russia carried out air raids and sea-launched cruise missiles. Furthermore, after concluding that the October 2015 crash of a Russian airliner was a terrorist attack by ISIL, Russia used various platforms, including dropping precision satellite-guided bombs using strategic bombers to enhance airstrikes, and in November 2016, temporarily deploying the flattop Admiral Kuznetsov to conduct air raids by carrier-borne aircraft. It has been noted that a string of military actions by Russia were designed to display its military capabilities as well as to verify these
capabilities, while it has also been pointed out that Russia’s military operations are targeting not ISIL but the opposition forces in confrontation with the Assad regime.

Turkey, concerned about the growing influence of Kurdish forces in northern Syria, launched Operation Euphrates Shield in August 2016, and crossed the border into northern Syria to attack ISIL together with some of the opposition forces, gaining some achievements, including seizure of part of the areas controlled by ISIL.

The Coalition continued air raids on Raqqa, claimed to be the capital by ISIL, while the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, among the opposition forces, declared the launch of the Euphrates Wrath Operation in November 2016 to take over Raqqa. The military operations are now under way to seize the surrounding areas to isolate Raqqa, and the Syrian Democratic Forces commenced the final stage of the Euphrates Wrath Operation and have allegedly fully encircled Raqqa as of late June 2017. Attention will be on whether the forces including the Syrian government forces will be able to coordinate with each other going forward.

(3) Weakening of ISIL and its Future Outlook

Anti-ISIL military operations by the U.S.-led Coalition and Russia have fragmented ISIL’s command and control functions through the killing of ISIL fighters including commanders and airstrikes on oil facilities, undermined ISIL members’ morale, and led to the greater escape of fighters. As a result of the loss of territories under its control, ISIL’s financial capacity has eroded and its ability to govern is believed to have been compromised. Consequently, it has been noted that ISIL has been gradually driven back and weakened. In January 2017, U.S. President Trump instructed Secretary of Defense Mattis to submit a comprehensive plan of operations to defeat ISIL. Considering that the Trump administration cites the elimination of ISIL as a top priority, it has been suggested that an expansion of U.S. military actions may become one of its options.

(4) Situation in Syria and its Peace Process

In terms of the violent clashes between armed groups in Syria that have been continuing since March 2011, the Syrian government forces have been gradually gaining an upper hand in the wake of Russia’s air raids against the opposition forces launched in September 2015. Following the takeover of Aleppo, the largest stronghold of the opposition forces, by the government forces in December 2016, the overall situation is turning in favor of the Syrian government forces.

Meanwhile, in UN-led peace talks, UN Security Council Resolution 2254 was adopted in December 2015 as a roadmap for the peace process. In February 2016, UN Security Council Resolution 2268 that calls for a cessation of hostilities in Syria was adopted. However, the ceasefire has collapsed frequently due to violations by various forces.

Under these circumstances, Russia, Turkey, and Iran sponsored Syrian peace talks in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, in January, February and March 2017, where they discussed a framework for monitoring a ceasefire. Representatives of both the Syrian Government and the opposition forces refused to sign the deal, bringing the challenges ahead in sharp relief. Nevertheless, at a meeting held in May 2017, an agreement was reached on the creation of safe zones and the provision of humanitarian assistance supplies, among other matters.

As the international community puts efforts into achieving peace in Syria, the United States launched an attack on the Syrian government forces in April 2017, concluding that the Assad Government used chemical weapons in attacking an area under control of the opposition forces in the southern part of Idlib province in northwestern Syria. In this attack, 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from two U.S. naval vessels deployed

---

16 ISIL has lost 50,000 km² of the areas it controlled (announcement of the U.S. Department of State, 2017).
17 ISIL’s financial capacity is said to have decreased by about 30% as of April 2016 compared with mid-2015. It has also been noted that the deterioration of ISIL’s financial conditions has prompted some of the relatively well-treated foreign fighters to flee ISIL. Furthermore, due in part to tighter international controls, the number of fighters joining ISIL declined to just about 20 a month as of July 2016 from the peak level of around 2,000 a month.
18 UN Security Council Resolution 2254 calls for establishing an inclusive and non-sectarian government and setting a schedule and process for drafting a new constitution within six months, and expresses support for the holding of free and fair elections within 18 months pursuant to the new constitution.
19 While the United States asserted that the Syrian Government carried out a chemical weapons attack with sarin, the Russian Government insisted that an induced explosion of chemical weapons stored by the opposition forces on the site of air raids caused the chemical damage, showing the stark differences in their views. In April 2017, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) released a report that an analysis of samples taken from the victims at the four designated laboratories shows that the victims were exposed to sarin or sarin-like substance.
in the Mediterranean Sea hit Al Shayrat airfield in western Syria, causing material damage to Syrian aircraft and support infrastructure. U.S. President Trump said in a statement that it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to prevent and deter the spread and use of deadly chemical weapons, indicating that there could be further military actions by the United States depending on the Syrian Government’s responses.

(5) Growing Number of Refugees and their Impact on Europe

Against the backdrop of the unrest in the Middle East situation, a growing number of refugees and immigrants mainly from the Middle East and North Africa fled to Europe mainly via routes through the Mediterranean Sea or routes that pass through Turkey and Greece heading north on the Balkan Peninsula in 2015. Though the situation has begun to calm down recently, the international community including Europe is still struggling with its response.

The refugee problem has led to increased terror threats in Europe, as ISIL and other terrorists have concealed themselves among the refugees, flowing into Europe and joining potential terrorists in various parts of Europe to form networks. It has been pointed out that the terrorists who carried out the simultaneous attacks in Paris in November 2015 included terrorists who mingled with refugees and immigrants in entering Europe. European countries thus face various challenges including the acceptance of many refugees, the prevention of ISIL fighters’ flow into Europe, the crackdown on refugee smuggling boats and the rescue of refugees on smuggling boats that capsize in the Mediterranean Sea.

In a bid to resolve problems brought about by the rapid influx of refugees and immigrants, the United Kingdom, France and other European countries are making diplomatic efforts such as engaging in the Syrian peace process and participating in military operations against ISIL to stabilize Syria and Iraq.

2 Situation in Yemen

(1) Political Turmoil

In Yemen, anti-government demonstrations from February 2011 following the Arab Spring democratic movement, as well as international pressure, led to a non-military transition of government through election from then President Ali Abdullah Saleh to new President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, though it was accompanied by some clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

President Hadi implemented the national dialogue process. Nevertheless, from August 2014, the confrontation between the government and the opposition insurgent group Houthis, based in northern Yemen, intensified and deepened the political unrest. In September 2014, the Houthis captured the capital city of Sana, and President Hadi subsequently fled to the southern Yemeni city of Aden.

(2) Military Intervention in Yemen and Islamic Extremists’ Expansion of Power

Subsequently, the Houthis advanced into the Red Sea’s coastal areas and key cities between the capital city of Sana and Aden. In response to this situation, President Hadi’s faction requested the support of Arab countries. Then, in March 2015, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition launched airstrikes against bases of the Houthis and the alliance forces led by former President Saleh. Nonetheless, the Houthis have still maintained their strength. In Yemen and near the Saudi Arabian border, civilians and others caught in the exchanges of ballistic missiles and rocket fire and airstrikes have died, prompting the international community to express strong concerns to both sides. In April 2015, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2216 and implemented initiatives to bring the situation to a close. Nevertheless, the Houthis continued attacks on Saudi Arabia in the border areas, while Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries continued airstrikes and ground operations against the Houthis. Although ceasefires

---

20 The United States stated that it decided to attack Al Shayrat airfield based on the belief that the airfield was the base for aircraft that carried out the chemical weapons attack, and that the chemical weapons were stored at the airfield.

21 However, it has also been pointed out that Russian airstrikes have resulted in increasing the number of refugees and immigrants.

22 In April 2011, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait established in 1981 for their coordination, integration and cooperation in all fields including defense and economic policies, proposed a GCC initiative including a clause that the president could escape indictment in exchange for immediately transferring power to the vice president.

23 The Houthis are followers of the Zaydi branch of Shiite Islam and are based in Saada governorate in northern Yemen. From 2004 to 2010, the Houthis staged an armed uprising as an antigovernment group, and an armed conflict broke out with the Yemeni military.

24 The resolution provides for the withdrawal by the Houthis and others from government buildings they seized, the return of weapons they captured from the Yemeni forces, an arms embargo, a freeze on assets and other measures.

25 In June 2015, the Houthis and Yemeni forces units supporting former President Saleh fired a Scud missile at Khiam Mushait in southern Saudi Arabia. Saudi forces fired two Patriot missiles to intercept the Scud and identified and destroyed the Scud launching site in southern Saada governorate. Since then, multiple similar incidents have occurred. It has been suggested that the Yemeni Scud missile was purchased from North Korea and that Yemeni forces units supporting the Houthis were involved with its firing.

26 In addition, Egypt, among other countries, dispatched naval ships.
and peace talks have been implemented repeatedly under mediation by the UN since June 2015,\(^{27}\) no final peace agreement has been reached.

Meanwhile, Yemen has become a foothold for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which is based in southern Yemen. Amid the politically unstable situation following the Houthis’ incursion into Aden in February 2015, Islamic extremists gained strength, with ISIL setting up a branch in Yemen and conducting terror attacks on key government officials and Shiite mosques. AQAP and ISIL have taken advantage of the confusion to recruit fighters and gained strength, creating a new matter of concern.

### (3) Attacks on Naval Vessels Navigating in the Red Sea and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait

In October 2016, there was an incident in which anti-ship missiles were fired from an area under control of the Houthis against the guided-missile destroyer USS Mason of the U.S. Navy in the Red Sea, though no material damage in the attack was confirmed. In January 2017, the Houthis reportedly used a bomb-laden boat to attack a frigate ship of the Saudi Arabian Navy, causing casualties.\(^{28}\)

Regarding commercial vessel, an anti-ship missile hit and caused some damage to a UAE-registered commercial vessel, leased by the Coalition that was continuing air raids on the Houthis. The Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack. In addition, a string of other attacks on commercial vessels has been noted. A group of the Houthis is said to have been involved in the aforementioned attack on the commercial vessel.

Furthermore, in January 2017, the Houthis were reported to have laid mines in Yemeni territorial waters around the port of Mocha in western Yemen. It has been pointed out that the Houthis apparently laid mines there to prevent the Coalition from using the port.

At present, there have been no reports of damages to vessels affiliated with Japan. As the Red Sea and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait are important areas through which many Japanese ships navigate, it is hoped that the turmoil surrounding Yemen will be settled at an early date.

### 3 Situation in Libya

#### (1) Collapse of the Gaddafi Regime

In Libya, following the collapse of the Gaddafi regime in 2011, elections for a General National Congress were held in July 2012. However, progress has not been made in the rehabilitation of the military and public security.\(^{29}\) Militia and tribal leaders exert strong influence,\(^{30}\) and while receiving their support, secular and Islamic groups struggle for power. Confrontation between Islamic and secular groups intensified, and consequently, Libya became fragmented with two assemblies existing in parallel – the Islamic groups’ General National Congress based in the capital city of Tripoli and the secular groups’ Council of Representatives based in Tobruk in eastern Libya. In December 2015, the UN mediated an agreement to form a national consensus cabinet. In March 2016, the national unified government was established, while both Islamic groups and secular groups remained opposed to it. However, as former Islamic groups took control of the new government, former secular groups turned their back and refused to join the national consensus government. As a result, Libya remains divided between the East and the West, with the establishment of domestic governance and security not yet in sight.

#### (2) Trends of Islamic Extremists

Amid the political instability, Islamic extremists have gained strength in Libya.\(^{31}\) From January 2015, ISIL-related organizations in Libya conducted a series of terrorist attacks.\(^{32}\) ISIL positions Libya as the strongpoint in North Africa, and with up to about 6,000 fighters operating, the Libyan branch was considered to be the most developed.\(^{33}\) Based in Sirte, in particular, ISIL in Libya has been gaining strength mainly through attacks on coastal oil facilities. In May 2016, militias of the

---

27. The first round of peace talks under the mediation by the UN took place in Geneva. Both the Yemeni Government and anti-government forces participated in the talks and had indirect consultations, but fell short of reaching any final agreement. In Switzerland in December 2015, the Yemeni Government and anti-government forces held the second round of peace talks, realizing their first direct negotiations. Although a ceasefire was put into force before the second round, repeated ceasefire violations occurred, leading the second round to be suspended without any major achievement.

28. In October 2000, the guided-missile destroyer USS Cole was attacked by a small boat loaded with high explosives. The attack, planned and carried out by Al Qaeda, killed 17 U.S. sailors.

29. According to The Military Balance 2011 and 2014, Libyan troop strength has decreased from 76,000 before the Arab Spring to 7,000 as of 2014.

30. In the eastern coastal area, a militia seeking to expand autonomous rule occupied oil-related facilities for nine months.

31. In September 2012, an Islamic extremist group attacked the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, killing four Americans, including the Ambassador. In January 2014, the U.S. Department of State designated Ansar al-Sharia, an offshoot of Al Qaeda that is deemed to have been involved in this incident, as a terrorist organization.

32. In January 2015, an armed group attacked an upscale hotel in the capital city of Tripoli, killing at least 13 people. ISIL's "Tripoli Province" claimed responsibility for the attack. In May 2015, an extremist organization that has sworn allegiance to ISIL posted a video on the Internet of what is believed to be the murder of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians. In April 2015, an extremist organization that has sworn allegiance to ISIL also released a video on what is believed to be the murder of 28 Ethiopian Christians. Furthermore, in January 2016, a suicide bomber's truck ran into a police training facility in Zliten in western Libya and exploded, killing over 67 trainees and injuring 120 trainees. On the same day, ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

33. Congressional testimony by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence on global threat assessment in February 2016.
national united government began an operation to capture Sirte, where several thousands of fighters entrenched themselves, and in August 2016, at the request of the national unified government, the U.S. Forces commenced air raids on Sirte. Thus, military operations against ISIL in Libya gradually widened, and in December 2016, the ground units of the national unified government, with the support of air raids by the U.S. Forces, recaptured Sirte. On the other hand, it has been pointed out that the threat of ISIL still remains in Libya, and the U.S. Forces has indicated its intention to continue military operations in Libya. Going forward, there are concerns that ISIL fighters who fled Libya may intensify their activities in neighboring countries.

4 Situation in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) that the U.S. Forces launched in November 2001 has been engaged in the mop-up operation of the Taliban and other groups. Furthermore, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have conducted security duties. These efforts have reportedly been reducing the Taliban’s assault capabilities. Nevertheless, the Taliban is still continuing to conduct terrorist attacks across Afghanistan.

In December 2014, ISAF’s mission was completed. In January 2015, the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) was launched, which primarily provides education, training, and advice under the leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The U.S. Forces, while providing training to Afghan forces as a member of NATO, implements Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS) against terrorism. In June 2016, then U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter indicated that the U.S. Forces would expand its missions in Afghanistan to cover (1) close air support to increase firepower, and (2) accompanying and advising Afghan ground and air units. As there are destabilization factors, including the Taliban’s expansion of influence, it was noted that the U.S. Forces may again expand engagement in Afghanistan. In July 2016, then President Obama reaffirmed the policy of maintaining the U.S. troop strength at around 8,400 through the end of the term of his administration. While the Trump administration has not made its intention clear with regard to enhancement of the U.S. engagement in Afghanistan, the commander of the U.S. Forces in Afghanistan in February 2017 requested a reinforcement of around 1,000 troops for the missions of education, training and advice for the Afghan forces.

As ISAF completed its mission in December 2014, its security authority in Afghanistan was transferred to ANDSF, but ANDSF faces challenges with logistics, morale, air capabilities and leadership. According to a report released by the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) in January 2017, the U.S. Forces stationed in Afghanistan estimates that the areas controlled by or under the influence of the Afghan Government decreased by as much as 15% from November 2015, suggesting that the Taliban is expanding its own areas of control.

Meanwhile, ISIL has established a Khorasan branch in Afghanistan and its vicinity and has been carrying out terrorist attacks there, and they need to be closely monitored going forward.

Afghanistan faces not only security problems but also a plethora of challenges related to reconstruction, including preventing corruption, enhancing the rule of law, strengthening the crackdown on narcotics trafficking, and promoting regional development. Ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan is a common challenge of the international community, which requires continuing engagement with the country.

34 As of February 2017, about 13,000 troops were participating in the RSM. Based in Kabul, they were active in five locations (Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, and Laghman). See Part I, Chapter 2, Section 8 for NATO’s tasks for the RSM.
35 In July 2015, the death of supreme Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar was confirmed. While the Taliban has elected Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansour as its new supreme leader, an internal strife between pro- and anti-Mansour groups has been confirmed. However, the Taliban has mounted offensives in northern, southern and western parts of Afghanistan, as well as in the capital Kabul, effectively expanding areas under its control.
36 This is based on the “Worldwide Threat Assessment 2016” by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence (released in February 2016). According to a report released in December 2015 by the Soufan Group, a think tank studying regional conflicts, some 50 ISIL fighters from Afghanistan are operating in Syria and Iraq.
5 Situation of the Middle East Peace Efforts

In the Middle East, there have been four wars between Israel and Arab countries since the foundation of Israel in 1948. Meanwhile, a peace process between Israel and Palestine made temporary progress, including the 1993 Oslo Agreement, but has fallen short of achieving peace. As Israel has yet to sign peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon, the international community needs to take further initiatives.

6 Situation in Egypt

1 Security Situation after the Arab Spring

Then President Mohamed Mursi from the Muslim Brotherhood, elected by the presidential election following the Arab Spring, was dismissed as an outcome of the intervention by the armed forces in July 2013, and a provisional government was formed. In May 2014, a presidential election was held in line with the roadmap drafted by the provisional government, and former Defense Minister Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi was elected. In the subsequent parliamentary election, supporters of President el-Sisi won most of the seats. In the third year since its inauguration, the el-Sisi government faces major challenges, including the Libyan situation, responses to domestic terrorism, shift to a floating exchange rate system, and long-term stability through economic reforms, such as abolition of subsidies.

(2) Trends of Islamic Extremists

In light of the rise in terror attacks by Islamic extremists in the Sinai Peninsula in recent years, the Egyptian Armed Forces has enhanced counterterrorism measures, including operations to subdue them. Recently, however, ISIL’s Sinai Province has gained strength, carrying out repeated terror attacks on security forces and other targets. The group is said to have implemented operations based on very advanced, organized plans, including an attack on an Egyptian coast guard ship in August 2015. In October, a Russian jetliner crashed due to the explosion of a bomb set on the aircraft by an airport employee supporting ISIL, killing all 224 passengers and crew members. Later, ISIL’s Sinai Province claimed responsibility for the incident. This kind of incident has become a new matter of concern suggesting that the ISIL network has been gradually penetrating into Egypt. In addition to the Sinai Peninsula, terror attacks have occurred in the Egyptian capital of Cairo and ISIL claimed responsibility for these attacks, indicating that ISIL threats have been spreading not only in the Sinai Peninsula but also in the rest of Egypt.

---

37 Between Israel and Palestine, a peace process through full-fledged negotiations started through the 1993 Oslo Agreement. In 2003, both Israel and Palestine accepted a roadmap for realizing a peace initiative featuring their coexistence. However, its implementation has made little progress. Following rocket attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces launched large-scale military actions from late 2008 to early 2009 that included airstrikes on the Gaza Strip and the mobilization of ground forces. In November 2012, Israeli forces again conducted airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. By 2012, Israel thus conducted two major military operations against the Gaza Strip. In both cases, fighting ceased under mediation by Egypt and others.

38 Israel and Syria disagree on issues such as the return of the Golan Heights that Israel has occupied since the Third Middle East War. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been deployed in the Golan Heights to observe the implementation of the ceasefire and military disengagement between the two countries. Concerning Israel and Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) increased its presence following the 2006 clash between Israel and Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim organization. Military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) are also active in this region.

39 A Sunni political organization established in Egypt in 1928 as an organization targeting the general public to “revive Islam.” In the 1950s, it became a target of a clampdown for plotting the assassination of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. However, by the 1970s, the organization became moderate to the extent of conducting political activities through parliament. Meanwhile, extremist organizations were derived, with Muslim Brotherhood serving as the parent organization.

40 The predecessor of ISIL’s Sinai Province is said to have been Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, an Islamic extremist organization based in the Sinai Peninsula that aimed to overthrow Israel. It is deemed that the organization intensified its terrorist activities targeting Egyptian security authorities following the collapse of the Mursi Government in July 2013.

41 According to “Worldwide Threat Assessment 2016” by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence.

42 In June 2015, a terror attack targeted Egypt’s top public prosecutor. In July 2015, a bombing attack occurred near the Italian Consulate General.
Situation in South Sudan

Following the end of the North-South civil war that had continued since 1983, the Republic of South Sudan was separated and gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan on July 9, 2011. On the same day, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1996 in order to maintain peace and stability, and to support the establishment of an environment contributing to the further development of South Sudan.43

In South Sudan, President Kiir dismissed Vice President Machar and all other cabinet ministers in July 2013, bringing to the surface a political conflict between the pro-President faction (government) and the pro-Vice President faction (anti-government group). In December of the same year, clashes that broke out between the pro-President faction and the pro-Vice President faction in the capital city of Juba and violent acts targeting specific ethnic groups spread to different areas of the country in a short span of time, resulting in a large number of casualties, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Under these circumstances, on December 24, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2132 and decided to enhance UNMISS by increasing the maximum military personnel by 5,500. In addition, the “Intergovernmental Authority on Development” (IGAD)44 assisted by the UN and the AU initiated efforts to start dialogues among South Sudanese leaders and enable their reconciliation. The IGAD helped the government and anti-government group to sign an agreement in January 2014 on ceasing hostile activities in South Sudan.

As confrontation between the government and the anti-government group intensified again subsequently, the UN Security Council in May 2014 adopted Resolution 2155, which stipulated that the mandate of UNMISS would be restricted to the four areas of the protection of civilians, monitoring and investigating human rights, creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement. Later, IGAD added international organizations (the UN, the AU, and the EU), the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, China, and African countries (South Africa, Chad, Algeria, Nigeria, and Rwanda) to its mediation mission and continued the mediation. In August 2015, the government and the anti-government group reached the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS), including the establishment of a transitional government. In response to the agreement, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2241 in October 2015 to add support for the implementation of the agreement and other missions to the UNMISS mandate, and Resolution 2252 in December 2015 to extend the mandate of UNMISS until the end of July 2016. Later, efforts to implement the agreement were made, and on April 29, 2016, Transitional Government of National Unity was established in which Mr. Kiir and Mr. Machar were the president and the first vice-president respectively.

On July 7, 2016, a shooting occurred in Juba between the security forces of President Kiir and First Vice President Machar. The fierce exchange of fire took place in Juba until both sides declared the cessation of hostilities on the night of July 11. As First Vice President Machar left Juba and fled the country after July 10, President Kiir dismissed First Vice President Machar on July 25 and appointed then Mining Minister Taban Deng as First Vice President. It has been pointed out that after Machar fled the country, his unifying force of the anti-mainstream faction45 has weakened compared to before July. After leaving South Sudan, Machar stayed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and then went to South Africa. He is now believed to be waiting for the optimal opportunity to return to South Sudan from South Africa.

On August 12, 2016, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution to renew the mandate of UNMISS46 for the purpose of maintaining security in Juba and surrounding areas, added the provisions to enable the creation of the Regional Protection Force (RPF) with the strength of up to 4,000 members47 and the consideration

---

43 The initial mandate period was one year, with UNMISS comprised of up to 7,000 military personnel and up to 900 police personnel. UNMISS was designed to fulfill the roles of: (1) supporting peace consolidation and thereby fostering long-term state building and economic development; (2) supporting the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution and protection of civilians; and (3) supporting the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish the rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

44 IGAD was established in 1996. Its members are the eight East African nations of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, and South Sudan.

45 After then First Vice President Machar was dismissed and Taban Deng of the anti-government faction became a member of the provisional government as First Vice President in July 2016, the “anti-mainstream faction” is used instead of the “anti-government faction.”


47 According to UN Security Council Resolution 2304, the RPF reports to the UNMISS Force Commander and is responsible for providing a secure environment for Juba and neighboring areas. The RPF is authorized to use all necessary means to achieve the following three mandates: (1) support the development of conditions for safe and free actions in entering and departing Juba; (2) protect the airport and enable the steady and continued operation of the airport; and (3) promptly and effectively deal with assailants against the UN and citizens.
The deployment of the RPF was delayed in the absence of proactive cooperation of the South Sudanese Government. Then, the Government adopted a cabinet decision on November 25, 2016 to accept the RPF immediately and unconditionally, allowing the work to move ahead to coordinate details for the acceptance of the RPF deployment. On April 20, 2017, an advance party of Bangladesh’s construction engineering company arrived in South Sudan as the first unit of the RPF.

On December 16, 2016, the UN Security Council decided to extend the mandate of UNMISS for another year to December 15, 2017, and asked the UN Secretary-General to report on the situation of South Sudan every 30 days, 90 days and six months.

In December 2016, President Kiir announced the initiation of the national dialogue and issued the relevant decree. On May 22, 2017, a swearing-in ceremony of the national dialogue steering committee was held to launch the national dialogue, showing some progress in the political process towards domestic stability.

8 Situation in Somalia

Somalia has been in a state of anarchy since its government collapsed in 1991. In 2005, the “Transitional Federal Government” (TFG) was established as a product of mediation by neighboring countries, but fighting escalated with opposing groups such as the “Union of Islamic Courts” (UIC). In 2006, Ethiopian forces intervened with assistance from the United States and drove away the UIC. In 2007, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was established based on the approval of the UN Security Council. On the other hand, Al Qaeda-related extremist insurgents derived from the UIC, “Al-Shabaab”, gained strength in the central and southern parts of the country and resisted the TFG. In response to this, neighboring countries dispatched troops to AMISOM and other organizations, and seized Kismayo, a major stronghold of Al-Shabaab, in October 2012. In August 2014, AMISOM launched Operation Indian Ocean and successfully recaptured some of the cities in the central and southern areas which had served as the bases of Al-Shabaab. In the following month, Al-Shabaab’s leader Godane was killed by the attacks of the U.S. Forces. In retaliation, Al-Shabaab frequently staged terrorist attacks on AMISOM troops and member states. It has been pointed out that these attacks are designed to restrain AMISOM member countries.

Additionally, in Somalia, especially the northern part of it, there are believed to be outposts of pirates who are active off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The international community implements a series of initiatives to enhance the security capabilities of Somalia based on the perception that instability of Somalia triggers piracy issues. The international community has continued to implement initiatives off the Somalian coast, which have contributed to steadily reducing the number of pirate attacks.

Somalia saw the end of the transitional governance period of the TFG in August 2012 and convened a new federal assembly. A new president was elected in September 2012 and a new cabinet was formed in November 2012, establishing the integrated government for the first time in 21 years. The situation in Somalia deteriorated in October 2016 with armed clashes intensifying in the Puntland autonomous region in the northeast and Galmudug autonomous region in the central part of the country. Despite such circumstances, elections were held for the House of the People and the Upper House of the Federal Parliament across the country.

48 When the UN Secretary-General reports that the deployment of the RPF is being obstructed in political or operational aspects and/or the implementation of the mandate of UNMISS is being obstructed, the UN Security Council, within five days of the report, is to consider appropriate measures, including an arms embargo.


50 The political process to manage the important transitional period of the state, including achieving a breakthrough in the political impasse.


52 AMISOM is composed mainly of troops from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, and joined by Ethiopia in January 2013. Under UN Security Council Resolution 2124 (November 2013), it was decided that the number of troops would be increased from 17,731 to 22,126.

53 In January 2016, Al-Shabaab attacked an AMISOM base in El Adde, southern Somalia, killing and injuring a large number of people.

54 See Part III, Chapter 3, Section 2 for counter-piracy initiatives implemented by the MOD/SDF and other countries.
in November 2016. In February 2017, the presidential election was held by votes of the members of the lower and upper houses of parliament, where Farmajo, former prime minister of the provisional government, was elected by defeating incumbent President Hassan.

9 Situation in Mali

In Mali, an anti-government Tuareg\(^{55}\) insurgent group, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), raised a rebellion in January 2012, joined by other groups, including “Ansar Dine,” an Islamic extremist group. The MNLA conquered northern cities and declared the independence of the northern region in April 2012. Subsequently, Islamic extremist groups, including Ansar Dine that expelled the MNLA, “Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa” (MUJAO), and “Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM), governed the northern region based on the sharia law, aggravating the humanitarian and security situations in northern Mali.

In response to this situation, in December 2012, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2085 and approved the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA),\(^{56}\) whose tasks included revitalizing the capabilities of Malian troops and security organizations and supporting the Malian authorities. The Malian provisional government recaptured its major cities in the northern part of the country, assisted by the sending of troops by France and the deployment of AFISMA. In April 2013, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2100 to determine the establishment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), whose tasks include the stabilization of densely-populated areas and support for the reconstruction of national functions throughout Mali. Based on this resolution, MINUSMA, which had its authority delegated by AFISMA, became operational in July 2013. With the support of MINUSMA, a presidential election was held in a peaceful manner, and a new government was established in September of the same year.\(^{57}\)

In August 2014, the French forces integrated and reorganized its units in Mali, Chad, and Niger in order to deal effectively with the expanding threat of terrorism across the whole Sahel region, including Mali,\(^{58}\) and launched Operation Barkhane covering the entire region.\(^{59}\) The French forces are currently working with MINUSMA and the troops of the countries in the region to stabilize the Sahel region, including northern Mali.\(^{60}\)

In June 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2295 to extend the mandate of MINUSMA to June 2017 and decided to increase the strength of MINUSMA by about 2,500 troops.\(^{61}\) In February 2017, the Mali Government and armed groups began joint patrols based on the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.\(^{62}\)

---

55 The Tuareg Tribe is a nomadic ethnic minority in the Sahara Desert. It is pointed out that the tribe has been in conflict with the Government of Mali seeking for autonomy in northern Mali.
56 AFISMA receives troops from member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria.
57 In June 2013, the provisional government and MNLA reached an agreement on such issues as allowing the northern area to participate in the presidential election and approving the dispatch of Malian troops to northern cities.
58 The Sahel region refers to the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. The countries in the Sahel region include Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad.
59 Operation Barkhane consists of a total of around 3,500 troops. The Operation’s headquarters is located in Chad, and it has bases in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The operation is executed through the swift deployment of units to various areas. In northern Mali, the French forces collaborate with MINUSMA units, and in other areas, collaborate with the military forces of the countries in the region. The Operation mainly conducts mop-ups of terrorists and joint patrol.
60 A UN Security Council resolution authorizes the French forces to take every measure to support MINUSMA personnel under urgent and serious threats at the request of the UN Secretary-General. Germany has increased its MINUSMA personnel to effectively reduce the burden of France.
61 Under UN Security Council Resolution 2295 (June 2016), it was decided to extend the mandate period to June 2017, expand the maximum military personnel from the existing 11,240 to 13,290, and increase the maximum civilian police personnel from the existing 1,440 to 1,920.
62 The Mali Government signed a peace and reconciliation agreement with the Platform, a pro-government armed group in northern Mali, on May 15, 2015, and a similar agreement with the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA), an anti-government armed group operating in northern Mali, on June 20, 2015.
Chapter 3
Trends in the Spread of International Terrorism

1 Characteristics of Recent International Terrorism

International terrorist organizations, including Al Qaeda and ISIL, are based primarily in countries and regions where governing systems have been weakened or collapsed mainly in the Middle East and Africa. They cross insufficiently controlled national borders to expand and boost their operations. Some organizations are capable of implementing terror attacks in locations far from their bases. These terrorist organizations, though considered to be differing in their objectives and capabilities, generally tend to use cyberspace, including social media, for information sharing and coordination, and to form global networks to obtain weapons and funds. Some organizations use sophisticated public relations strategies to skillfully promote themselves, recruit fighters and inspire terror attacks. Some organizations are said to have the potential to conduct cyber attacks.

While Western countries have led the War on Terror since the September 2001 terror attacks in the United States, the number of victims of terror attacks in recent years is increasing.

In European countries and the United States, “homegrown” terrorism in which residents are inspired by the extremism espoused by Al Qaeda or ISIL and conduct terrorist attacks at home has become a serious threat. In particular, there are concerns that their nationals would accumulate combat training and combat experience in conflict-torn regions such as Iraq and Syria, become indoctrinated into extremism, and then return to their countries and conduct terrorist attacks.

In recent years, “lone-wolf” terrorism is also seen as a threat because it is difficult to detect signs in advance and prevent it. “Lone-wolf” terrorism is planned and committed by individuals or groups who become influenced by extremist ideology through information found on the Internet and elsewhere, without having any official relations with terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and ISIL. Given that ISIL has continued to call for terrorist attacks in Europe and other parts of the world, there are concerns about terrorist attacks taking place in the future as well.

In connection with Japan, in early 2015, when there was a terrorist incident involving the murder of Japanese nationals in Syria, ISIL declared clearly that its acts of terrorism would target Japanese nationals. In October 2015, ISIL claimed responsibility for the murder of a Japanese national in Bangladesh. An ISIL magazine has also cited Japanese nationals as terror attack targets. In light of the terrorist attack in Bangladesh in July 2016, in which seven Japanese nationals were murdered, Japan is not in any way immune from the threat of international terrorism.

The proliferation of the threat of terrorism has gained momentum. The diversification of its perpetrators, coupled with the growing complexity of regional conflicts, has made it further difficult to prevent their occurrence. For this reason, international cooperation on counterterrorism measures has become even more important. Currently, the international community as a whole is taking various steps, including military means as well as measures to cut off the funding sources for terrorist organizations and prevent the international movement of terrorist fighters.

2 Trends of Major International Terrorist Organizations

(1) ISIL

ISIL is characterized by its pursuit of a unique political and religious order by rejecting the conventional system of national governance outright and claiming the establishment of the caliphate.

ISIL, unlike traditional terrorist organizations, is also said to be characterized by its abundant funds, powerful and sophisticated military forces, well-

---

63 International terrorist organizations use the Internet and social media to recruit young people as fighters. According to a UN report in May 2015, the international community is called on to cooperate in efforts to address the issue of women joining terrorist organizations.

64 In January 2015, a cyber attack was lodged against the U.S. Central Command’s Twitter account. The attacker is believed to be the Cyber Caliphate, an ISIL-affiliated cyber unit.

65 ISIL and other Islamic extremists have increased attacks on soft targets, leading to a rise in the number of ordinary citizens becoming victims of terrorist attacks.

66 The seventh issue of the ISIL propaganda magazine Dabiq published in February 2015 included descriptions of the murder of two Japanese nationals in Syria and renewed a call for terror attacks on Japanese nationals and interests. Furthermore, the 11th issue (published in September 2015) called for terror attacks on Japanese diplomatic missions in Bosnia, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The 12th issue (published in November 2015) described the murder of a Japanese national in Bangladesh and warned anew that Japanese nationals and Japanese interests would be the targets of terror attacks.

67 In connection with Japan, in early 2015, when there was a terrorist incident involving the murder of Japanese nationals in Syria, ISIL declared clearly that its acts of terrorism would target Japanese nationals. In October 2015, ISIL claimed responsibility for the murder of a Japanese national in Bangladesh. An ISIL magazine has also cited Japanese nationals as terror attack targets. In light of the terrorist attack in Bangladesh in July 2016, in which seven Japanese nationals were murdered, Japan is not in any way immune from the threat of international terrorism.

Defense of Japan 178
developed organizational structure, and effective control of certain areas. It is deemed that ISIL has excellent military operational capabilities with the participation by Ba’ath Party members from the former Iraqi regime and former Iraqi military officers, and includes numerous foreign fighters. Thanks in part to an adept public relations strategy, ISIL was able to increase the number of its fighters for a while. It has been noted, however, that the number of fighters has declined markedly because of the killings of many fighters in air raids and the growing number of deserters due to delays in salary payments amid ISIL’s financial difficulties and the degradation of morale.

Since the start of the invasion of Iraq, ISIL had brought under its control strategic cities, oilfield regions, and military facilities in succession, making clever use of a variety of equipment captured from the Iraqi Security Forces and using deceptive tactics. Recently, however, ISIL has suffered significant loss of territories under its control, and the terrorist group is reportedly shifting gradually to asymmetric warfare. In October 2016, it was confirmed in Iraq that ISIL adopted the tactic of using a small commercial drone loaded with bombs.

Since ISIL has also called for terror attacks in European countries and the United States, there are credible concerns that ISIL fighters returning home from regions of conflict like Iraq and Syria would carry out terrorist attacks in these countries. As seen in the series of terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015 and the attack on a restaurant in Dhaka, Bangladesh in July 2016, ISIL perpetrated terrorist acts in places far away from its bases, including Europe and Asia. ISIL is also urging its supporters to carry out terror attacks using knives and vehicles if bombs or guns are not available, raising the specter of more terrorist attacks with the use of whatever is around. Furthermore, it has been pointed out that terror attacks are recently being transformed from those directly directed by ISIL into remote-controlled attacks by some supporters who are urged to carry them out, giving rise to concerns over the further spread and intensification of terrorist activities.

(2) Al Qaeda

With regard to Al Qaeda that is believed to have directed the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Osama Bin Laden, the group’s leader who was hiding in Pakistan, as well as many executives of affiliated organizations, were killed in U.S. operations in May 2011. The Al Qaeda core is now said to be focused on ensuring the survival of the organization. Nonetheless, the possibility of Al Qaeda attacks has not disappeared. While the command and control capabilities of Al Qaeda’s leadership have been declining, Al Qaeda affiliates have reportedly gained strength and are perpetrating terrorism from their bases mainly in North Africa and the Middle East.

---

**Column**

**Recent Tactics of ISIL**

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has adopted brutal methods to carry out terrorist attacks from before, and recently it has resorted to attacks making use of new tactics, including the use of drones.

For example, the U.S. Department of Defense has stated that ISIL uses small commercial drones that can fly for 45 minutes for its terrorist attacks in the eastern part of Mosul liberated by the Iraqi Security Forces. These drones were reported to have engaged in reconnaissance and other missions previously, and now they appear to be used to drop grenades and other explosives from above. Since ISIL has carried out attacks using chemical weapons in the past, there are fears that the group may conduct attacks using drones loaded with chemical weapons.

ISIL has been distributing manuals over the Internet regarding various methods of terrorist attacks*, and has also been calling on supporters around the world to carry out terrorist attacks against Western interests. In this light, there are also fears that terrorist attacks using drones may take place in Western developed countries.

---

* Islamic extremists often give online lessons on terrorist attacks. In the past, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and other groups have disclosed bomb-making methods in their official publications, thereby fueling the spread of terrorism.

---

68 It has been pointed out that ISIL uses combat uniforms, etc., obtained from the Iraqi Security Forces and others to approach security checkpoints and vehicles to conduct suicide bombings. ISIL is also reported to have camouflaged seized armored personnel carriers and ordinary vehicles with armor plates for suicide bombing attacks.
(3) Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

AQAP is a Sunni extremist organization based in Yemen. While Yemen has remained in a state of confusion, AQAP has expanded operations based in Yemen and taken control of a Yemeni military base. It is feared that AQAP will take advantage of the power vacuum to expand its influence further. The United States is engaged in the limited military operation, including the killing of AQAP leader Wuhayshi in a mop-up operation using drone strikes. In January 2017, the United States carried out an operation using the Osprey aircraft.

(4) Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

AQIM, a Sunni extremist organization based in Algeria, has kidnapped mainly Algerians, Europeans, and U.S. nationals. The strength of AQIM in northern Mali has declined due to the French-led military intervention that started in 2013, but the group is still continuing its terrorist attacks in northern Mali and other regions in West Africa and is also continuing activities in Libya and Tunisia as well. In December 2015, Al-Murabitoun joined AQIM, and in March 2017, AQIM Sahara, Ansar Dine and Al-Murabitoun were integrated. It has been pointed out that the integration was designed to counter ISIL, which had been gaining strength in western Africa and began to hurt AQIM’s vested interests. AQIM is reportedly expected to scale up its terror attacks going forward.

3 Trends in Global Terrorism

(1) The Middle East and North Africa

Terrorist attacks by ISIL, which is based and operating in Iraq and Syria, and Al Qaeda-affiliated groups and other Islamic extremist organizations continue to take place in various parts of the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia, cited by AQAP and ISIL as their attack target, has continued to crack down on those alleged to have connections with these organizations. In particular, ISIL has very frequently conducted terror attacks on Shiite mosques and issued statements vowing to continue such attacks. Therefore, it is feared that ISIL will continue expanding terror attacks.

It has been noted that the number of terror attack incidents has been on the rise in Turkey in recent years. In the country, terror attacks by the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan), or PKK, which has been feuding with the Turkish Government for years, and others have been occurring continuously. ISIL is also believed to have been responsible for a bombing attack at a tourist spot in Istanbul in January 2016, a suicide bombing attack at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul in June 2016, and an attack on a nightclub in Istanbul in January 2017. It has been pointed out that the increase in terror attacks apparently carried out by ISIL can be traced to Turkey’s deeper involvement in the military operations against ISIL.

Among North African countries, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia have seen frequent terrorist attacks in recent years, indicating that ISIL and Al Qaeda affiliates have been operating in these countries. In January 2013, the masked brigade of Al-Murabitoun led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar launched an assault on a natural gas plant in In Amenas, southeastern Algeria, killing numerous people, including 10 Japanese nationals. In Tunisia, ISIL attacked the Bardo National Museum in Tunis in March 2015, killing 21 people, including foreign tourists, among whom were three Japanese nationals. ISIL was also involved in the indiscriminate firing at a hotel beach in the tourist spot of Sousse in June 2015, in which 38 people were killed.
(2) Sub-Saharan Africa
In Sub-Saharan Africa, Islamic extremists have been gaining strength in countries such as Kenya, Mali, Somalia, and Nigeria.

In Kenya, Al-Shabaab73 is stepping up terror attacks in Nairobi, Mombasa, in the northeastern region and the coastal region. Meanwhile, ISIL had many of its members arrested in Kenya in 2016. Despite this, the group still claimed responsibility for the assault on the Mombasa police station in September 2016 and the assault on policemen guarding the U.S. Embassy in October 2016. It has been noted that these incidents demonstrate the broadening of the ISIL network in East Africa and the possible increase in the number of returning ISIL fighters, raising the fear of further terror attacks by ISIL within Kenya going forward.

In Somalia, Al-Shabaab has been continuing attacks on AMISOM units. In February 2016, the group evidently resorted to terror techniques different from previous ones, exploding a personal computer-shaped bomb on a plane departing from Mogadishu to Djibouti.

In Nigeria, Boko Haram,74 which aims to create an Islamic state, has stepped up its activities since 2009, repeatedly carrying out terrorist attacks75 in retaliation against crackdowns by police and other authorities. In March 2015, Abubakar Shekau, who leads the biggest faction in Boko Haram, pledged allegiance to ISIL, which accepted the pledge the same month and recognized Boko Haram as ISIL’s West African branch. However, as ISIL designated al-Barnawi as the new leader of Boko Haram, internal strife has been intensifying within the group. Cited as an underlying factor of the internal strife is the difference in approaches between the Shekau faction and the Barnawi faction. While the Shekau faction targets ordinary citizens and Muslims in suicide bomb attacks by children and women, the Barnawi faction targets the Nigerian security forces and Christians. As the Nigerian forces and military forces of neighboring countries are mounting mop-up operations against Boko Haram, its influence is reportedly declining to make it difficult to carry out large-scale terror attacks.

(3) Europe
In Europe, individuals inspired by Islamic extremists and fighters returning mainly from Iraq and Syria have been conducting terror attacks. It is possible that ISIL has its foreign fighters return to their home countries and instructs them to conduct terror attacks at home. It has been pointed out that European countries participating in the coalition against ISIL are exposed to the threat of terror attacks by individuals directly instructed by ISIL or inspired by its ideas. In line with this warning, the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) notes that France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom face a particularly large risk of terror attacks.

In France, the shooting attacks, including one at the head office of the French weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo,76 occurred in January 2015. In November 2015, large-scale coordinated terror attacks were carried out in Paris, killing a large number of people. “ISIL France” claimed responsibility for these attacks in a statement. Furthermore, in July 2016, a truck driven by a person inspired by ISIL’s extremism ran into pedestrians in Nice, southern France, killing 86 people.

In Belgium,77 a string of terror attacks in Brussels killed 35 people in March 2016. “ISIL Belgium” later claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement.

Furthermore, in Germany, multiple terrorist incidents reportedly linked to ISIL occurred in 2016. For example, in December 2016, a truck ploughed into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people.

In the United Kingdom, in March 2017, an attacker drove a car into pedestrians on the pavement in central London and attempted to make a raid on the U.K. Parliament, killing five people in total. In May 2017, a suicide bomber attacked a concert hall in Manchester in

73 Al-Shabaab, an official Al Qaeda affiliate, has attacked the Somali military forces and foreign forces stationed in Somalia to found an Islamic state, overthrow the Somali Government, and remove foreign forces. Most Al-Shabaab members are Somali and foreign fighters. In February 2015, Al-Shabaab called on Islamic followers in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada to conduct attacks at shopping centers and business districts in these countries.

74 Boko Haram, aiming to overthrow the Nigerian Government, implement Islamic law and deny Western education, has repeatedly conducted suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks on the military, police, and government officials, as well as Christian facilities, mainly in northern Nigeria (primarily Borno State where there are numerous Muslims). Recently, soft targets such as markets have come under Boko Haram attacks. At present, Boko Haram operates as ISIL’s West African branch. In April 2014, Boko Haram abducted over 200 female students. In response, the United States dispatched drones and other assets to support the search activities of the Nigerian Government. In addition, the UN Security Council Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee (the name at the time) has since been renamed the ISIL (Da’esh) and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee added Boko Haram to its list of sanction targets.

75 Recently, Boko Haram has reportedly repeated suicide bombings using women and girls who are less likely to raise alarm.

76 Of the two brothers who conducted the shooting attack at the Charlie Hebdo head office, one is known to have received training at an AQAP camp. In addition, AQAP released a statement saying it had issued instructions directly to the brothers: Amery Coublybali, who attacked a Jewish grocery store, is believed to have posted a video on the Internet in which he swears allegiance to ISIL, although no clear link between these attacks has been confirmed.

77 In May 2014, a French national who had allegedly joined an Islamic extremist group in Syria opened fire at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, killing four people.
the central part of the United Kingdom, killing 22 people. In the incident in Manchester, in particular, the attacker contacted an ISIL recruiter and the possibility of his traveling to Syria was also noted. These incidents raised concerns over the penetration of individuals inspired by Islamic extremist groups in the United Kingdom.

It has been suggested that the string of terror attacks believed to have been perpetrated by ISIL-affiliated organizations and ISIL supporters in Europe in recent years have certain links among them. For example, the attacks in Nice, Berlin, and London were carried out in a similar manner using trucks. It is alleged that the groups responsible for the series of terror attacks in Paris and Brussels cooperated with each other. These attacks may indicate that ISIL, despite the dwindling territories under its control in Iraq and Syria, intended to demonstrate its operational capabilities even outside those countries. It has also been noted that ISIL is increasingly turning to remote-controlled terror attacks by continuing to call for acts of terrorism outside Iraq and Syria, prompting European governments to grow more alert.\(^{78}\)

(4) The United States and Oceania

Terror threats have spread to the Americas. Since December 2015, terrorist incidents perpetrated by ISIL have occurred in the United States as well. These series of terror attacks were carried out against soft targets, leading to concern over further occurrences of lone-wolf terrorist attacks by ISIL in the United States.

In Canada, a male convert to Islam, who is believed to have sympathized with ISIL’s extremism, shot and killed a soldier of the Canadian forces in front of the Parliament in Ottawa in October 2014.

In Australia in December 2014, an ISIL supporter attacked a Sydney café. Under the National Terrorism Threat Advisory System introduced in Australia in November 2015, the threat level remains “Probable,” the third from the top of the scale of five levels providing advice about the likelihood of an act of terrorism occurring in Australia. In September 2016, ISIL called for terrorist attacks by naming tourist facilities in Australia. While those suspected of planning terror attacks have been continuously identified and arrested in Australia, the threat of terrorism in the country is still deemed to be high.\(^{79}\)

(5) Southeast Asia

In Southeast Asia, while some progress continued to be observed in the crackdown on terrorist organizations in 2016, Islamic extremist groups have become more active in Indonesia and the Philippines. In addition, young people from Indonesia, Malaysia, and other countries have reportedly traveled to Iraq and Syria as foreign fighters, posing a new threat to the region.\(^{79}\)

While Indonesia has enhanced its crackdown on ISIL supporters, a bombing attack occurred in Jakarta in January 2016, the first terrorist attack by ISIL in Southeast Asia. As Indonesia provides the largest number of ISIL fighters among Southeast Asian countries, there is credible concern over the occurrence of terrorist attacks by returning fighters.

While no major terror attacks have been seen in Malaysia, in June 2016, a grenade exploded in a restaurant in the suburbs of the capital city of Kuala Lumpur, causing some injuries. This is said to be the first terror attack committed by ISIL in the country. In Malaysia, a large number of ISIL supporters have been arrested since 2014, leading some observers to believe that the layers of ISIL supporters have been expanding in the country.\(^{80}\)

In the Philippines, the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Maute Group,\(^{81}\) both of which pledged allegiance to ISIL, are perpetrating acts of terror. In particular, the ASG was responsible for a bomb attack on the market in Davao in the south of the country in September 2016. More recently, the militant group is believed to have been involved in attacks on ships navigating on the Sulu Sea.

---

\(^{78}\) After the Charlie Hebdo attack in January 2015, the French Government raised the terror alert to the highest level in Paris, mobilizing a large number of police officers and military personnel. It has also extended the declaration of the state of emergency issued immediately after the Paris terror attacks, and remains highly alert to the threat of terrorism.

\(^{79}\) In Indonesia, the Government banned participation in ISIL in August 2014. Under the existing legal system, however, it is said that the law enforcement authorities do not have the authority to arrest ISIL supporters unless there is evidence of their clear involvement in terrorism activities.

\(^{80}\) It has been pointed out that security force members, public servants and other government employees, as well as housewives and other ordinary citizens, were among those arrested.

\(^{81}\) The Maute Group is an Islamic extremist organization made up of remnants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MLF) and foreign fighters. The Philippine police is investigating the suspected involvement of the group in the case in which an explosive was found near the U.S. Embassy in December 2016.
and a number of hostage-taking incidents. In addition, Marawi, a city in Mindanao in the south of the country, has continued to be occupied by what is believed to be the same Group, among other forces, since May 2017. Despite the operation of the Philippine military to recapture the city, the Group has taken citizens as hostages and the casualties from the fighting have extended to civilians, becoming a significant concern to the country. Many people believe that the ASG’s pledge of allegiance to ISIL was for propaganda. But the group beheaded two Canadian hostages in June 2016, and a German hostage in February 2017, showing the brutality similar to that of ISIL, raising concern that ISIL’s extremism has penetrated deeply into Southeast Asia.

(6) South Asia
South Asia has been subject to frequent terror attacks for a long time. In Pakistan, particularly, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist organizations have frequently conducted terror attacks on educational, military and other facilities. In recent cases of terrorist attacks with large casualties, such as the bombing attacks that took place in Quetta, western Pakistan in August and October 2016, TTP and ISIL both issued statements claiming responsibility for the attacks. This is taken to indicate the possibility of ISIL deepening cooperation with extremist groups in Pakistan.

In Bangladesh, Japanese nationals were caught in terrorist incidents in October 2015 and in July 2016. In the terrorist attack on a restaurant in Dhaka in July 2016, a total of 20 people were killed, including seven Japanese aid workers. “ISIL Bangladesh” claimed responsibility for these incidents.

ISIL has unilaterally established the Khorasan branches in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the Indian subcontinent, in September 2014, Al Qaeda’s leader Ayman al Zawahiri announced the establishment of a new branch in India. Given these developments including a bombing near the German embassy in Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul in May 2017 that killed and wounded more than 500 people, Islamic extremists are feared to intensify terror attacks in South Asia.

(7) Russia
ISIL has gained strength in southern Russia, establishing a Caucasus branch in June 2015. Meanwhile, ISIL issued statements in October and November 2015 calling for terror attacks on Russia for implementing airstrikes in Syria. While no major terror attack had been confirmed in Russia previously, a bombing attack and an attempted bombing occurred targeting the subway in the second largest Russian city of St. Petersburg in April 2017, killing 13 people. The attack is said to have been carried out under the influence of Islamic extremists. Given that the northern Caucasus region is one of the major fighter suppliers for ISIL, there is concern that ISIL-inspired fighters and ISIL supporters in the region will carry out terror attacks and that terror threats will spread in Russia.

---

82 Al Qaeda’s leader Ayman al Zawahiri has stated that the goal of Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) is to free Muslim followers who are oppressed in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.
83 Islamic extremists in the Republics of Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Karachay-Cherkessia have been organized, pledging allegiance to ISIL.