

Welcome from the Editors

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Welcome from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume VII, Issue 3 (June 2013) of *Perspectives on Terrorism* at www.terrorismanalysts.com. This issue has been prepared in the journal's European office by the Editor-in-Chief and his team. While the next issue (August 2013), prepared by our American co-editor James J.F. Forest, will be a single theme issue, dealing with the financing of terrorism, the present issue covers various topical themes.

There is, for instance, an Op-Ed by Philipp Holtmann on the conflict in Syria wherein he engages in Horizon Scanning, outlining several scenarios for the future. It makes for bleak reading as he concludes that the best possible scenario is also the most improbable one. Also topical are two articles on the Boston Marathon bombings. While a relatively minor incident when compared to the major daily tragedies in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and several other places, the events in Boston have received saturation coverage for a number of days in mid-April 2013.

Attention, respect, legitimacy and ultimately power is what terrorists want and while few violent individuals and terrorist groups get far beyond attention, massive news coverage is a reward for them and might invite other attention-seekers to engage in copycat crimes. Our public media have yet to learn to distinguish between news coverage of bona fide events and more restrained and responsible coverage of events staged mainly for publicity whereby violence serves as an entry ticket to get into the news system and obtain free media coverage.

This issue also features an original reflection by Dr. Bartoszewicz on the phenomenon of converts to Islam and their potential to fall into the terrorist trap. It goes against the grain of much current thinking and shows the power of a good conceptualisation. There is more that might be of interest to you - see the table of contents below.

Sincerely,

Alex P. Schmid

Editor