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## Welcome from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume X, Issue 2 (April 2016) of *Perspectives on Terrorism* at [www.terrorismanalysts.com](http://www.terrorismanalysts.com). Our free online journal is a joint publication of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (TRI), headquartered in Vienna (Austria), and the *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies* (CTSS), headquartered at the Lowell Campus of the University of Massachusetts (United States).

Now in its tenth year, *Perspectives on Terrorism* has nearly 6,100 regular subscribers and many thousands more occasional readers and website visitors worldwide. The *Articles* of its six annual issues are fully peer-reviewed by external referees while its *Research Notes*, *Policy Notes* and other content are subject to internal editorial review.

This issue begins with a research article by Timothy Holman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, who explains the critical role of facilitators in the foreign fighters phenomenon. Facilitation, a mechanism, bridges the gap between the local and transnational, helping resolve security problems for both the terrorist group and the potential recruit. Next, in a unique contribution to our journal, pre-eminent scholar of terrorism studies David Rapoport offers his thoughts and observations on the evolution of Islamic State's strategy in the wake of the attacks in Paris and Brussels.

Four contributions follow in an expanded Research Notes section, beginning with a detailed analysis from a team of researchers led by Claire Ellis and Raffaello Pantucci. Their report, the culmination of a European Union funded project (CLAT: Countering Lone-Actor Terrorism) is followed by a policy paper by Jeanine de Roy van Zuidewijn and Edwin Bakker on the personal characteristics of lone-actor terrorists. Next, Caitlin Mastroe of Cornell University highlights the inherently contextual nature of countering violent extremism, focusing specifically on the United Kingdom and its *Prevent* strategic approach. And in the final piece of this section, Stefano Bonino of Northumbria University interviews former undercover agent (and now counterterrorism expert) Mubin Sheikh about his role in disrupting the "Toronto 18" terrorist cell.

The Resources section features an extensive bibliography by Judith Tinnes on terrorism research literature, and 30 short book reviews by Joshua Sinai. Finally, the Editorial Notes section includes an Op-Ed by Hashim al-Rikabi about competing (and perhaps conflicting) strategic approaches to countering ISIS, and a conference announcement/call for proposals is provided from the Terrorism and Political Violence Association.

This issue of the journal was prepared by the co-editor of *Perspectives on Terrorism*, Prof. James Forest at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The next issue (June 2016) will be prepared in the European offices of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (TRI) by Prof. em. Alex P. Schmid.