

## Welcome from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume XV, Issue 1 (February 2021) of *Perspectives on Terrorism* (ISSN 2334-3745). Our independent online journal is an Open Access publication of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (TRI), Vienna, and the *Institute of Security and Global Affairs* (ISGA) of Leiden University's Campus in The Hague. All past and recent issues are freely available online at URL: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/perspectives-on-terrorism>.

*Perspectives on Terrorism* (PoT) is indexed by JSTOR, SCOPUS, and Google Scholar. Now in its fourteenth year, it has nearly 9,400 registered subscribers and many more occasional readers and website visitors in academia, government and civil society. The *Articles* of its six annual issues are fully peer-reviewed by external referees while its *Research Notes* and other content are subject to internal editorial quality control.

The current issue features five **Articles**. The opening article by Lorne Dawson critically examines whether religious motivations have been misrepresented in relation to religious terrorism. The second article by Atal Ahmadzai examines the written and audio-visual materials used by the Taliban to motivate and operationalize suicide bombings in spite of social and cultural resistance in Afghan society. Next Carlos Igualada and Javier Yagüe explain how the practice of declaring bay'ah (taking an oath of allegiance) has helped al-Qaeda and Islamic State pursue global expansion by establishing allegiance relationships with dozens of groups around the world. In the fourth article, Ronald Mendoza, Rommel Jude Ong and Dion Lorenz Romano review some key legal issues regarding counterterrorism efforts in the Philippines. And in the final article of this issue, Stephane Baele, Lewys Brace, and Travis Coan compare the content and discussion of six different /pol boards of "chan" forums, identifying how popularity and extreme content can distinguish one from another amid a fragmented subculture.

These articles are followed by two **Research Notes**. In the first, Jeremiah Asaka examines relationships and patterns of interaction between climate change and terrorism. And the second is an extensive inventory of institutions and centers in the field of terrorism research, compiled by Reinier Bergema and Editorial Assistant Olivia Kearney,

Our **Resources** section open with the *CT-Bookshelf* wherein our Book Reviews Editor Joshua Sinai provides abbreviated reviews of 8 new publications. This is followed by an extensive bibliography on terrorism in South-east Asia by Information Resources Editor Judith Tinnes, and an equally extensive bibliography on civilian casualties of terrorism and counterterrorism, by Assistant Information Resources Editor David Teiner. Then Assistant Editor Brody McDonald provides a bibliography of academic theses on preparedness for, and resilience to, terrorism. The reader will also find in this issue a list of new web-based resources on terrorism and related subjects by Associate Editor Berto Jongman and a Conference Calendar compiled by Olivia Kearney.

Finally, the February issue concludes with some words of appreciation to all the peer reviewers and members of the Editorial Board who have contributed their time and effort towards the continued success of this open source journal, and a reminder that submissions for the TRI Best Thesis Award competition for the Best Doctoral Dissertation on Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism must be received by 31 March, 2021. The articles and other texts of the current issue of *Perspectives on Terrorism* have been edited by Alex Schmid and James Forest, the journal's principal editors. Editorial Assistant Jodi Moore handled proof-reading, while the technical online launch of the February 2021 issue of our journal has been in the hands of Associate Editor for IT Christine Boelema Robertus.