United Nations Counter Terrorism Project: Ireland

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With all the violence happening around the world the threat of their safety from terrorist is a problem we face to protect them. We take a look at what we should do to solve these problems that take not only our brightest and best, but everyone to get involved to solve. That problem being physical violence towards others like terrorism and what has the United Nations done to make sure as group of our nations best to figure out how to counter terrorism and make sure civilinans are not harmed. Terrorism caused by radical groups with an extremism mindset attack people to be heard and feared by people who are different or just have a different opinion and values than they have so they become targets. For this project we take a look at the terrorism that is happening in Ireland and what we could do to stop the violence that the IRA and the new IRA are doing to civilians that are targeting.

The IRA, Real IRA, and the new IRA, the irish republic army was created in the response to keep northern ireland unstable and out of control so that the british wouldn't be able to install and unify a power sharing government to end the northern ireland conflict that ended up lasting about thirty years. This conflict that happened in Ireland took many lives of innocent northern Irish and British citizens. Violence over land, religious beliefs ,and political values in the past has caused plenty of deaths around the world. This is talked in the 2030 UN agenda article from Aboulatta when he says that, "Nothing can ever justify an act of terrorism. No religious pretext can ever excuse violent methods. At the same time, we will never be able to defeat terrorism long term unless we address conditions conducive to its spread. Several Security Council resolutions pertaining to the most serious threats to international peace and security generally, and to terrorism specifically, have underlined this, inter alia, in Security Council resolutions 1963 (2010), and 2129 (2013). The first pillar of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) also resolves to address conditions conducive to the spread of

terrorism." (Aboulatta, 2015). The IRA is a prime example of terrorism starting over fear of losing something like land, political power so they used fear tactics like bombings, kidnapings, and attacks against protants. They tried to instill fear to do the most damage to make Britain finally give up the Northern counties of Ireland back so Ireland would be whole again and not the United Kingdom. Over time the bloodshed has become less and less as the former members of the IRA turn to more political and diplomatic ways of handling problems between Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The bloodshed almost ended when the Real IRA gave up their weapons that they had in 2005 until the New IRA was formed in 2012 and continued the attacks to free Northern Ireland from British rule. This cycle of violence that happens that pinned people of different religions and political beliefs over Northern Ireland won't end unless people decide they have finally had enough of the violence and want to negotiate again. The last time this happened, it made headway with the IRA. Which was to compromise between both parties so that Northern Ireland is power sharing between Ireland and UK instead of just being under the rule of Britain. Since the New IRA has started we see that the violence has started again with the death of journalist Lyra McKee and more bombings like they did in the past.According Rosa and Romero article it talks about how,"Today, negotiations are deadlocked because of a lack of consensus on "a basis for determining when the use of violence (directed at whom, by whom, and for what ends) is legitimate" (DEMA, 2019; UNGA, 2019), or whether the element of violence needs to be present. Current definitions of terrorism are controversial." (Rosa and Romero, 89-101). So with the conflicts that are happening to Northern Ireland the lines get blurry when calling the New IRA members terrorist since as an orgainzation if you cannot be able to talk and communiticate issues then the terrorism will continue. So we need to figure out a way we can stop this threat

from becoming even bigger, we can take a look at the counter terrorism messures that the U.N has done in the past to stop further bloodsled from happening.

With the U.N resources the issues that are happening in Northern Ireland between the New IRA and UK can be handled. There are many ways we can handle this conflict with the counter terrorist methods that the U.N help with. First the UN could give better support on the Northern Ireland Border. So that they can catch car bombs that go into Northern Ireland also to give support to the irish counter terrorism unit that make sure people do not get harmed. If the border is not secure then anyone with bombs or weapons can enter and harm people and then we will just have another Omagh. The UN giving more support to the Irish terrorism unit it needs to be able to have the resources to be able to have those counter terrorism stratgies. Then the UN could help with negotiation talks so they can run smoothly between both parties that They can startup peace negotiations to see if the terrorist group can be reasoned with so that they don't harm anyone. According to the United Nations general assembly article it says, " That the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is essential because it offers a structure for shared collaboration, said that work on the draft resolution was guided by inclusion, transparency and dialogue despite COVID-19's challenges to diplomatic negotiations. While the outcome of the common effort adopted today is quantifiable in the form of 166 total paragraphs — more than 50 of them new — he said that the text's qualitative aspect is even more important, and its adoption by consensus sends a clear political message: "we stand united against terrorism". Specifically, the resolution addresses shifts in the counter-terrorism paradigm" (United Nations, June 30 2021). Showing the people responsible that they will use actions more than just words when it comes to threats against the safety of citizens of any country. Safety of civilians is the number one concern so when people want to start violence then as an organization you must answer with actions that are

helpful for the country to continue the peace. The UN hearing and being there for IRA and UK during the negotiations that can end with them being peaceful which they did until the New IRA was formed because of a merger with other republican groups with members of the Real IRA to fight against the United Kingdom with a political party and violence, but also to combat against the drugs that are infiltrating the communities.

The United Nations has always been a protector over human rights so when a situation like Ireland comes to their table they have to take the road that will stop the violence. This is hard when terrorist violate those human rights that countries put in place to keep people from harming them. Especially that " The Convention also confirms the right of peoples to oppose "all forms of foreign occupation, and aggression by whatever means, including armed struggle."This fails to recognize the limits imposed by the Geneva Conventions and Protocols, which expressly prohibit the deliberate targeting of civilians." (International Peace Academy, 2003). From an outside United Nations perspective looking at the issues over Northern Ireland you can see how the IRA no matter how many times they rebranded themselves since the troubles have committed crimes that attack citizens, those human rights are violated so making those words mean something. According to Rosands article that talks and criticizes the United Nations strategies, he says that, " The Task Force has improved coordination among different UN entities working on counterterrorism, albeit in small ways. To date, however, it has had to rely exclusively on voluntary funding contributions from member states and a small secretariat staffed by junior officials and has operated without a full-time coordinator. The Task Force has so far not been provided with the necessary resources to allow it to carry out its coordination role effectively, provide the necessary support to the various working groups, and reach out beyond UN headquarters in Geneva, New York, and Vienna to find ways to have an impact on

on-the-ground efforts to implement the Strategy." (Rosand, 2009). So with the UN relying on voluntary funds it puts the world at risk since they wouldn't have the funding to be able to protect people's human rights with the government. If the UN can't fund counter terrorism stargies then terrorism would still affect not only citzens, but the country as a whole would be under attack if they do not have the fire power to fight back.

So if the United nations had funding what effective counter terrorism strategies the united nations should do when it comes to Ireland. The first step should be help with law enforcement and counter terrorism unit in Ireland and Northern Ireland to prevent or limit violent actions towards civilians. The UN can by giving resources and information from interpol that could help track down suspects of crimes committed by the IRA (real or new) and make sure they see their day in court. Also help make sure that the agents that they have on the inside of the IRA are safely removed and so they have all the information on crimes and future crimes that would be committed against innocent citizens. Another thing that the United Nations can do is to help shut down imported guns with Ireland so that the IRA are limited on weapons that they are already limited on. The United nations can do alot, but it all stands on the Ireland government to hold terrorist accountable for their actions and make sure that further cilivans do not get hurt. Which then they could help with humanitarian aid and provide Ireland help with medical supplies and people to be able to help the doctors and nurses that might be overrun and under-staffed.

Ireland is a democratic republic government that is filled with former IRA members. They decided to stop the violence and fought their battles not with the people of Northern Ireland, but with the United kingdom so that people would stop getting hurt. Now not every member of the IRA did this and are still fighting against the UK even though Northern Ireland wanted to still be a part of the United Kingdom. Which we have to take a look at before truely

solving this terrorist problem. So in the beginning the IRA thought it would be counterproductive if the UN was involved. This was shown in Williamson's article talking about " Its role in the United Nations considerably exceeds its actual political and economic strength. It would be appropriate and worthwhile to express appreciation for Ireland's active involvement and participation in international affairs" (Williamson, 2007). This being one of the big problems the United nations has to countries and that is trust. When people do trust the United Nations exceeds its expectations of handling conflicts between parties. This should happen more so all the countries come together so we can figure out where the funding can go to effective provided counter terrorism measures to be able to figure out and stop terrorist from commiting any act of violences to people.

The United Nations is a beacon of reason and hope when it comes to stopping terrorism and that it will not stand if it harms and takes away people's basic human rights. In Ireland with the car bombing and killing of jourist, we can see that there is a major problem that needs to be resolved their espeicallly with the younger members joining the IRA that are continuing the violence that the generation before them have been doing. Educating the youth that violence instead of the answer would be a difficult task that the government needs to do so if you have it backed by the United Nations the youth would see how the violence that they cause is just repeating the cycle of violence that ended. In conclusion, The actions and attacks that are happening to the people of Northern Ireland and the officers how are their to protect the law and order of Northern Ireland needs to be address by the united nations by giving medical aid to citizens, support by both governments to stop the violence, and prevention strategies that stop all forms of aggression and violence that end with the lives of the innocent lost.

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