Utilizing Alternative Futures

Analysis to Analysis A Modern Terrorist Attack

Abstract

Terrorism has been a global issue for some time now. Both international and domestic terrorism has plagued the United States as well as other countries. With counterterrorism efforts and research within the criminal justice field continuing to expand. This paper will give an introduction into Bali Nightclub Bombing, as well as background on the attack. While analyzing the attack and focusing on past response and alternatives ways of handling the event. This research will also include current approaches and alternatives ways of effectively handling terrorism.

**Keywords:** Terrorism; counterterrorism

**Introduction**

On 12 October 2002, two bombs would rip through an Indonesian tourist island known as Bali causing massive causalities and injuring hundreds. Ten months earlier, operatives from South East Asian militant network Jemaah Islamiyah, Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, held a secret meeting plotting an attack that would ultimately kill 202 people and more than 200 others injured. Ali Imron, sentenced to life for his role in the bombings, states, "it was not until August 2002 that Bali was chosen as the place to strike." In that same secret meeting, it would be explained the reason for the chosen location. The terrorist group responsible for the attack was an Indonesian terrorist group with intentions of creating an Islamic state. According to the U.S. and Asian intelligence authorities, the attack had connections to al-Qaeda. At 11:05, a suicide bomber inside Paddy’s Pub detonated a bomb inside his backpack, causing many of the partygoers to flee outside when a second bomb more potent than the first would explode 20 seconds later. The second bomb was hidden inside a car outside of the nearby nightclub called Sari Club. A third bomb was placed in front of the United States consulate. Although the third bomb detonated, no injuries or casualties were reported.

**Background on the Attack**

A series of events took place that contributed to the Bali nightclub bombing. The conflict is between American and Middle East areas such as Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq. With the conflict between al-Qaeda and America dating back years, to one of our presidents at the time, George Bush declared war on terror on one terrorist group in particular al-Qaeda. Those responsible for the attack had an affiliation with the al-Qaeda network. According to Ali Imron, in that secret meeting, it was discussed why Bali was chosen. Bali was chosen "because it was frequented by Americans and their associates." He also quoted Imam Samudra, the planner of the Bali terrorist operation, "the attack was part of a jihad, or holy way, to defend the people of Afghanistan from America." In this same meeting, those would be informed of their role in the attack. Even with all the plotting and planning, more Australians and Indonesians died than Americans proving those plotting were poorly informed or manipulated by other people.

**History of the Geographic Region**

When examining the history of the geographic region where the terrorist organization originated ultimately had not contributed to the attack. The region's history of Americans frequently visiting the area devoted to the situation. There was no volatile atmosphere or tension between the region and the region the terrorist organization originated. As stated previously, al-Qaeda's on-going issues are with America, and the Bali bombing was just collateral damage. The tension and volatile atmosphere happened once the attack occurred.

**Historical Events**

The sequence of relevant past events that set the stage for the terrorist attack began with tensions between the United States and al-Qaeda. In 1992, al-Qaeda carried out its first attack on the American troops in Yemen (2002). Although the attack was unsuccessful, a series of other attacks followed. Besides the 1992 hotel bombing, three more explosions took place. In the year 2000s, al-Qaeda succeeded in bombing a U.S. Navy warship causing casualties. In 2001, two attacks from al-Qaeda would be carried out, one being 11 September. In 2002, five attacks would occur, including the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings. Several other al-Qaeda attacks followed in 2003 through 2016, with the killings of al-Qaeda’s head officials.

**Terrorist Organization**

Osama bin Laden founded al-Qaeda along with Muhammad Atef and Abu Ubaidah al Banshiri in 1989. Al-Qaeda operated out of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The mission of al-Qaeda served as a support network for Muslims to fight against the Soviet Union during the Afghan war. Once the Soviet Union withdrew from the war in 1989, the organization dispersed into other regions. Opposing what its leaders considered corrupt Islamic regimes and foreign (i.e., U.S.) presence in Islamic lands; ultimately settling in Afghanistan in 1996. Merging with several other militant Islamist organizations, which included Egypt’s Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Group. Al-Qaeda established camps for Muslim militants throughout the world to come and train thousands in paramilitary skills and preparing them to carry out numerous terrorist attacks. Those attacks included the destruction of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (1998), and a suicide bombing in Yemen. Nineteen militants associated with al-Qaeda carried out the 11 September attack causing a swift response by the United States killing and capturing thousands of their militants, driving the rest of their leaders into hiding. Key leaders, such as Osama bin Laden being killed in May 2011, weakening al-Qaeda significantly, causing a new leader to arise (2019).

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