

Abstract

The evolving nature of transnational Jihadist terrorism has become a major security challenge to many nations around the globe. Despite military setbacks, transnational Jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS has continuously proven their ability to launch attacks across borders, inspire a new breed of lone wolf terrorists and launch information campaigns which pose a grave threat to national security. A comprehensive analysis on the global security conditions in the past and in Sri Lanka which has influenced Jihadist terrorism has been outlined. This research which is based on both firsthand accounts and secondary sources, has utilized information obtained from interviews conducted with key individuals who shed light on the transformation of Jihadist militancy which took shape in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province. Excerpts of an interview conducted with the mastermind behind the Easter Sunday attacks, Zahran Cassim in 2009 provides an in depth look at his process of radicalization and his campaign of terror. The topic of this study which was approved on 27th January 2018, includes both academic and Policy implications. This research will provide an in depth look at the evolution of Jihadist terrorism in Sri Lanka and the threats to the island's national security in an age of transnational terrorism.

Keywords: Jihad, National Security, Counterterrorism, ISIS, NTJ, Wahhabism, Hybrid threats, Sri Lanka, Islamic extremism