

WJC STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
'OPTIONS FOR ACTION'
- DRAFT -

ISSUE	Fighting Terrorism
STAFF COORDINATOR	Michael Thaidigsmann
MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP	Roger Cukierman; Nuno Wahnnon Martins; Mike Whine
BACKGROUND	<p>Since the "9/11" attacks in New York and Washington DC in September 2001, the Madrid and London bombings in 2004 and 2005, and the attacks in Bali (2002-2005), Islamist terrorism has emerged as a major threat around the world. Jewish sites have also been specifically targeted, as in the bombing of a synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia, in 2002, the attacks on synagogues in Istanbul and Casablanca in 2003, and the attack on the Mumbai Chabad centre in 2008. These attacks follow the 1992 Israeli Embassy and the 1994 AMIA bombings in Buenos Aires.</p> <p>Recently, new threats have been made against Jewish communities by al-Qaeda leaders Ayman Al-Zawahiri, on 24 March 2008, and Yousef Al-Qaradawi, on 02 April 2008, and against Jewish and Israeli interests in Islamic countries by Muslim Brotherhood leader Himam Sa'id. In January 2010 police in Egypt foiled a terrorist plot against Jewish pilgrims visiting the grave of Rabbi Yaakov Abuhitzeira near Alexandria.</p>
OBJECTIVES	The spread of violence and terror must be fought by eradicating its root causes, halting the proliferation of arms to countries sponsoring terrorism, and by actively defending democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

	<p>Governments need to provide adequate security measures to protect Jewish centers and Jewish individuals from terrorist threats.</p> <p>The financing of terrorist groups must be stopped through better international cooperation, and such groups – e.g. Hezbollah and Hamas - must be put on a list of illegal terrorist organizations.</p>
<p>OPTIONS FOR ACTION</p>	<p>The WJC should be at the forefront of negotiating with governments regarding the fight against terrorism.</p> <p>The WJC should initiate and coordinate a rolling program over two years to enable member communities to press their governments to take further action against terrorism and to enhance the security of their Jewish citizens. The program should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a coordinating body, to be appointed by the WJC Executive, and the appointment of an Anti-Terrorism Coordinator, who shall be responsible to the coordinating body; • Publishing a history of terrorist attacks against Jewish communities which can be used by communities. This could be based on the booklet <i><u>Terrorist Incidents Against Jewish Communities and Israeli Citizens Abroad 1968-2003</u></i>, which is published by the Community Security Trust in the UK and currently being revised and updated; • Convening a symposium of experts on terrorism to discuss international terrorism with a particular emphasis on Islamist terror, its ideology, its strategies, its anti-Semitic aspects, and its funding. This could be done as a stand-alone event or in partnership with an NGO with expertise on the matter or a think-tank /university institute. A good choice would be the Herzliya International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism. • Lobbying governments to designate as terrorist entities Hamas, Hezbollah and those groups who fund them. To this end, Jewish communities should initiate research into terrorist fundraising in their respective countries. This should be done in collaboration with the current Israel government initiative to persuade the European Commission to designate the Union for Good as a funding agency of Hamas;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuading governments of the particular threat to their Jewish citizens and to implement minimum protective security measures for Jewish institutions; • Lobbying 'Western' governments to prosecute and expel radical Muslim clerics who incite to violence and terrorism; • Discussing strategies with the governments of certain Islamic countries, such as Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, on how to best combat Islamist terrorism and on how to protect Jewish sites in these countries; • Initiating an international campaign with governments and supra-national organizations such as the United Nations or the European Union to bring to justice the Iranian suspects in the AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires in 1994.
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