

DYNAMICS OF BRITAIN'S NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Musa Khan Jalalzai

(Research scholar and member of Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS). His intellectual experience is up to 15 years extensive research in political analysis, Pakistan, Afghanistan, terrorism, Taliban, the ISIS, nuclear and biological terrorism, and intelligence analysis. He retrieved master in English Literatures, and diploma in Geospatial Intelligence from University of Maryland Washington DC, certificate in Surveillance Law from University of Stanford, and DP in Counterterrorism from Pennsylvania State University. He can write and speak English, Pashto, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Dari, and Saraiki languages. He can be reached at: journalistn4@gmail.com)

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The twenty first century came to view with different classifications of national security threats, and changing line of preeminence. World leaders and National Security experts at the very first stage grasped geographical high-noon and its disadvantageous metamorphosis that evolved into a bigger threat. The risk of extremism and consistent alienation of citizens from states in Europe have both grown and diversified. Security experts and political observers have simulated function of these states in different way of looking. Some states in the EU still need security sector reforms and the replacement of old communist security and intelligence infrastructure to tackle the hydra of radicalization and extremism. The British state, for example; once intelligent and strong, put the chill on other with archetypal superiority, has abruptly and truly clattering down to “earth with a very hefty collision, thanks to the Brexit hydra”.¹ The state is in deep social and financial crisis-its machinery and security infrastructure are operating on long-established streak. Security sector reforms are needed to make the system professionalize and competent. WE have Mr. Tom Winsor police reform paper, and the Justice N enquiry report-both stressed the need of professionalization of police and law enforcement agencies, but no complete implementation occurred.

The state is in trouble and is sliding into the Brexit unholy-mess, and its future is going to become gloomy outside Europe due to its economic and political confrontation with the EU.² The culture of race, hatred, social and political discrimination intensified after the 2016 Brexit

referendum.³ Second, the Brexit crisis has become a permanent headache of government and civil society, which is going to kill special relationship between the UK and US. Recent leak of National Security Council meeting, in which cooperation on 5G infrastructure with Huawei-a Chinese Technology Company, (accused of espionage), was viewed by security experts as a displeasing matter of deep concern. If allowed the company to operate in UK, the country's relationship and intelligence cooperation with the US will be deeply affected.⁴

Civil society and intelligentsia don't want Britain to leave the European Union due to its century long relationship with the continent. On 13 February 2019, the Guardian newspaper reported concern of more than forty former Ambassadors and High Commissioners about the entanglement of Brexit and its ramifications. In a written letter to the Prime Minister May, they warned that "British influence in the world will wane if the country leaves Europe's trading and foreign policy bloc".⁵ These all-embracing developments forced British Intelligence Chiefs to jump up to explain the importance of Britain's intelligence sharing and security cooperation with the EU. On 20 June 2018, the GCHQ Chief Mr. Fleming's statement was evident from his irritation about the dilapidating security crisis. He firmly demanded sequentially intelligence cooperation with the EU allies. In his Brussels speech, Mr. Jeremy Fleming said; "After Brexit the UK will continue to work with the EU. Fleming stated."⁶ On 14 May 2018, Chief of MI5, Mr. Andrew Parker consistently demanded cooperation with the EU intelligence agencies: "In today's world, we need that shred strength more than ever. I can say confidently that the way we work together has prevented loss of life in EU. Mr. Parker argued."⁷ These statements were clear signs of irritation of the citizens.⁸

The Prime Minister did not bring to bear concerns of intelligence Chiefs about the consequences of Brexit. Under these happenstances, government introduced National Security Capability Review (2018),⁹ to tackle national Security challenges, but growing influence of extremist forces across the country (25,000)¹⁰, casted doubt on the credibility and weak approach of the May's administration to National Security. The first major strategic failure of the review is that it did not clearly elucidates the security road-map: "This lack of strategic clarity has been highlighted by the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy (JCNSS), the main parliamentary body scrutinizing its implementation".¹¹ The country's National Security Strategy also missed the boat to keep momentum with emerging threats, and didn't adequately respond to the exponentially growing threat of radicalization.¹²

In its 04 June 2018 version, the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy spotlighted many new weaknesses in its chapters, and things like proliferation of jihadism, and growing number of terror networks across the country have been noted with non-consent, which prompted negative perceptions about its operational effectiveness, and popularity.¹³ However, several new amendments were also generated to National Security Strategy, Strategic Defense and Security

Review, and Cyber Security Strategy, to make effective law enforcement and intelligence infrastructure against radicalized forces, lone wolves and foreign espionage, but these amendments were not a proper panacea to the looming security crisis-more work in making effective the police and agencies is a must.¹⁴

From January to June 2019, more than 100 people in England were killed, and 100 more were injured in different incidents, but the police and law enforcement agencies have no security plan to address the concerns of communities. Interestingly, no single Muslim was found behind these attacks, while British Home Secretary Sajid Javed shamelessly linked terrorism to Islam. His recent verbosity against Islam appeared in a recent report of Christian Today newspaper: "Islam has been responsible for terrorist attacks in Britain....."it is 'lazy' and 'wrong' to suggest terror has nothing to do with Islam. But I think it is absolutely fair to say that there is a special burden on Muslim Communities because whether we like or not these terrorists call themselves Muslims, the newspaper reported.¹⁵ Home Secretary Mr. Sajid demonstrated in an irresponsible way, and did not bother reservations of Muslim communities.

The country's Snoopers Charter Surveillance's (SCS) and its war on civilian privacy also added to our pain. Prospective magazine (2017) recently noted some powers of Snoopers Charter Surveillance and data collection methods that causing communities irksomeness: "When the UK government passed a law allowing the mass collection of data from all UK citizens.....The Investigatory Power Act, more popularly known as the "Snoopers' Charter," allow for the indiscriminate collection of data".¹⁶ The police has now practically started using the sword of Snoopers Charter Surveillance on borough level to monitor communities and their activities by the day. This scribe also experienced the pain of cacophonous and relentless surveillance in Hounslow West London.

Recently, Liberty and Privacy International called on local communities to report the negative impacts of this consternating and offensive surveillance of local policing authorities, to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The way local police stations using modern surveillance technologies in streets and markets have put our privacy at risk. From car surveillance to mobile phone and drone technologies, the police forces are enjoying the Tom and Jerry game movies day and night. Liberty and Human Rights Organizations recently warned that excessive and offensive use of surveillance tools by the police might alienate communities from the state and government: "From facial recognition in streets to monitoring social media and mobile phones, the police are not open and honest about what tech they use, where they use it, who they use it against and what laws allow them to do so. However, surveillance tech is being used without the public knowledge or consent, on the ground that 95% percent civilians know nothing about the evolving and changing operational mechanism of police surveillance in cities, towns and streets".¹⁷

More Worrying is the unauthorized surveillance in which South Asian agencies are using their spies against their political opponents. They are cruising in cities and towns with impunity, and receive their salaries through a third person, or from their embassies. This author has personally experienced an irksome eaves-dropping a number of times in high street and shopping plazas in London.¹⁸ Foreign terrorist fighters also present a significant threat to the national security, and national critical infrastructure of the country. Since 2014, we have seen large number of radicalized elements travelled to Iraq and Syria, while Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC), and Intelligence and Security Committee are showing their performance on papers in their annual reports, in reality their response has been very poor since the emergence of the Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq.¹⁹ Intelligence war of different states on Britain soil is making thing worse. Security relationship with the EU community remains in wrench, while internal political disagreement and deteriorating law and order prompting negative brain waves among civil society and intellectual forums.²⁰

The EU resentment towards the UK raised several questions; including the recent irritating attitude of France, and Germany towards the country. Germany immediately cancelled the cold war era agreement with UK in a knee-jerk reaction to the UK electronic intelligence surveillance operations on its soil.²¹ In 2013, Germany, France and Spain summoned the UK Ambassadors to explain the country's motive behind the spying diplomacy. To cover up these and other weaknesses, government in a snappy-comeback published a security document, in which the threat of 20 foreign intelligence agencies against the UK was underlined.²² This was just to prove that Germany, and France were also spying on Britain.²³

We are riding not only old horses but the weak and wrong horses as well. These horses cannot take us accurately to our destination. Our counter extremism, and counterintelligence power has broken. Our law enforcement agencies faces multifaceted crisis, including the lack of modern operational mechanism, and technical approach to domestic security.²⁴ The UK National Security Council also lacks professional capacity to deliver properly. Since the UK voted to leave the EU in 2016; huge question surrounding its place in international community was left unanswered. Prime Minister sacked her Defense Minister, Gavin Williamson over the leaks of security secrets of the discussion of National Security Council about the Chinese Huawei crisis. This act of the Prime Minister proved that many things were not going on right direction inside her government machine.²⁵ Research associate of the Institute for Government, Dr. Joe Devanny and Josh Harris in their research paper have underlined important aspects of NSC, and its significance to national security:

“The NSC is a relatively new committee, but it is only the latest iteration of over a century of Prime-Ministerial efforts to coordinate national security issues from the centre. To date, there have been few sustained attempts to examine the NSC and its performance. Four and a half years on different Prime Ministers choose to approach the issue, structure and appointment of senior advisors in different ways. It is important that the centre of government can accommodate each Prime Minister’s preferred way of working. Few Prime Ministers now take office with much experience of National Security issues, and National Security coordination is rarely a key theme in general election campaign. But no Prime Minister needs to reinvent the wheel once in office; their predecessors have grappled with similar problems of coordination for over a century”.²⁶ There is a bunch of national security, and law enforcement organizations-performing different stabilization role in the country, but if we closely look at their cycle of information, analysis, and operational mechanism, we will come to conclusion that without the introduction of security sector reforms, they cannot respond to the looming national security challenges²⁷.

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