

A Solution to the *ISIS* Crisis

<Kenji Abe>

Toin University of Yokohama

Department of Law, Toin University of Yokohama,

1614 Kurogane Aoba Yokohama 225-8503, Japan

k-abe@toin.ac.jp

Abstract: The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) problem has become a global concern. The meaning of the slogan “War on Terror” is now so stretched that it almost divides the whole world into Islam and others. This paper aims to provide concrete measures to work on this issue from three separate angles: the local areas where actual battles are continuing, suicide bombings (which are spreading worldwide), and refugee issues. These three issues require leaving more decisive power to the UN so that it can act as the true world headquarters for leading global operations, with grassroots operations closely looking to it for direction. How we handle this ISIS problem, in a sense, will be a model case for the rest of all the global issues we are facing today.

Keywords: ISIS, IS, solution, crisis

1. Introduction

Today, the ISIS problem is becoming a global concern [1]. With multiple national interests entangled with it [2], how to solve this problem, in a sense, will be a model case for solving today’s international problems in general.

An objective analysis would suggest that what ISIS is doing is a reaction by the local people to actions initiated by external countries, which time and again have taken advantage of them historically. Thus, if we are to solve this problem, the first thing we have to work on strategically is to end those actions [3] to stop the primary engines of the rebellion. After removing this root cause, we then will need to work on the remaining problems one by one.

For a matter of convenience, we would like to divide this problem into three phases: (1) what should be done inside Syria/Iraq, (2) what should be done globally (especially in those countries where terrorism is actually happening, such

as the US, UK, and EU), and (3) what should be done about the refugees.

2. What Should Be Done Inside

It is a fact that the interests of multiple nations, such as the United States, Israel, Russia, and China, are currently jumbled in Syria and Iraq [2] [4]. The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is also a part of the problem [5]. Each of these nations has its own ulterior motive. Syria/Iraq is in reality up for grabs for all of these nations.

Admitting this fact, as the first step in stopping the rebellion by ISIS, we first need to remove the very cause of their rebellion [3]. That is, we need to remove the ulterior interference by all of these other nations—pure and simple. Once this is done, we will need to announce this so that ISIS will clearly know about this fundamental situational change.

Thus, all the current forces consisting of multiple nations

will need to retreat for a short time period. And then, after a short interval, we will need to newly launch a perfectly neutral UN force without ulterior national interests. However, this is not an easy task because, after all, the UN itself is made up of delegates who represent the interests of each nation [6]. Thus, to send a truly neutral UN force, we will need to set up a special ISIS task force. The members of this special task force must be independent of the usual representatives of each nation and should include professionals—with impartial minds regarding national interests—who specialize in such problems. Therefore, it would be best for these members to be newly elected through an appropriate procedure, possibly from outside the UN, so that they could reflect the true local interests of Syria/Iraq. Once this is done, we will need to clearly declare a new direction in which the goal of this new UN force will be to help establish independent legitimate local governments and simply remove unreasonable violence prompted by biased/one-sided ideologies. We will also need to clearly state the exact following steps to be taken. We may be able to use Social Networking Services (SNS) or YouTube, which ISIS has a history of using. All of these procedures will be used to clarify that the actions that ISIS has reacted against will have been removed. Therefore, ISIS would no longer have grounds to fight anymore. This should be an effective strategy to discourage new recruits from joining this rebel group.

After providing enough of a moratorium period for civilians to leave the area, we would then actually start fighting against the rebels who still choose to resist this new constructive move. First, we will need to use intensive/strategic air raids to destroy arterial roads [7] and then ground forces of overwhelming power to enclose those who resist in a designated area in the cities. Reportedly, the current ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was once seriously wounded in a US coalition airstrike in western Iraq in March 2015. These tactics should work and be continuously maintained mainly at arterial roads [8].

We need to put pressure by any means imaginable to

promote defections and internal breakups [9]. At the same time, we need to be able to screen ISIS members from civilians by using a special intelligence agency consisting of cooperative people from the local areas. Here, the key factor is that we conduct all our operations in a manner in which we could gain as much local understanding and support as we can [10] by familiarizing ourselves with the local history/interests and strategically orchestrating each move to produce maximum results. We must be sensitive to the local dynamics at each location for this purpose because working against it would be counterproductive. We also need to incarcerate hardcore ISIS members and defecting and cooperating ISIS members separately so that the latter would have better conditions to further motivate defections and internal disunities.

After the removal of the ISIS force is completed, unless an existing government is functioning, we would leave a minimum sustainable interim UN governance body with the necessary military force to discourage and block other insurgencies [11]. We would maintain this minimum UN governance until the region is truly safe and a reliable government is firmly established. The interim governing body will help carry out a new election to set up a new regional government. In case the existing government takes it over, we will establish an inspection agency that will check the transparency of the government to ensure human rights.

3. What Should Be Done Outside

What is happening outside needs a completely different approach from what is happening inside Iraq and Syria. We need to effectively prevent all suicide bombers from acting globally, especially in those countries directly undergoing these attacks (e.g., the US, UK, and EU).

The act of suicide bombing is considered a type of mass murder [12]. Mass murder is an act in which a subject who cannot enter/relax in human circles accumulates internal daily stress and explodes when it reaches his or her limit [13]. Very often, radical ideologies and/or fundamental

religious beliefs play an important role in justifying/encouraging a subject to take a final step toward radicalization [14] [15]. To those who have been placed outside of civilized human circles and filled with strong envy/anger, the acting-outs by other jihadists can also give courage and foster a copycat effect [16]. The global image of ISIS as being *the public enemy No. 1* gives strong encouragement to potential recruits because those who feel ostracized by the majority have a strong tendency to identify themselves with these notorious dark forces [17]. Homegrown suicide bombers are typically young men with family backgrounds, and then outside influences—such as the teaching of radical Islam teaching, acting out by other jihadists, and spreading the global evil status of ISIS—all lead to helping build up the suicide bomber personality [26].

Thus, today's bipolarizing trends of dividing the world into the good and bad could contribute to bringing about backfires in dealing with these renegades. It is clear that a more strategic approach is needed to remove the radicals' spiritual backbone by discontinuing such a dichotomy [18]. This means we had better put down today's familiar "War on Terror" sign. As mentioned, the movements of Al-Qaida and ISIS originated in the West's meddling in the regions for their ulterior economical /political interests [19]. To those who were taken advantage of, it appears wrong to assign right only to the West and wrong only to Al-Qaida/ISIS. Perhaps we could take down the old sign and put up a new one, such as "War on Ourselves," to signify a new world direction. In this new world, maybe we could straighten up our own acts without invading other territories, and if we respected, accepted, and enjoyed differences, maybe would-be suicide bombers would lose the very reason they act out in the first place. We need to make such a new inclusive world slogan and establish it throughout the world [20].

At the same time, we need to set up a headquarters at the UN in which religious representatives can regularly discuss and solve issues in a peaceful and safe atmosphere so that it

will make it difficult for regional radicals to act out individually. At the same time, at local levels, we need to set up stations or networks with professional advisors to educate families about appropriate child rearing and to scoop up those who stray from society [21]. These stations will need to educate families on the impacts that abuse and neglect have on children's minds [22]. Extra attention must be paid to the loners with foreign backgrounds, including those from Islamic backgrounds [23]. To avoid unnecessary labeling of such subjects, this might be done as part of mandated counseling for more general populations.

4. What Should Be Done for Refugees

The acceptance of refugees is now as serious a problem as handling suicide bombers. It is true that accepting all the people who are going through these hardships would be the humane response. However, considering the fact that many of the attacks on their homelands were done by the host nations that accept them, we cannot deny the possibility that these accepted refugees may have mixed feelings about their host nations, in addition to the possibility that there could be terrorists creeping into these refugee communities [24]. Considering the implicit dynamics and the fact that most refugees indeed love their home countries, it would be both prudent and considerate to establish provisional safe zones within Syria/Iraq and have them stay at interim housings within these zones [25]. This is necessary to guarantee that they can live under humane living conditions in these safety zones where they could be provided counseling and policing services.

Finally, as long as ulterior interests are hidden behind our acts, these rebels, inside or outside, will have every right to deny and fight against our whitewashed, self-righteous justice. It is about time for us to get rid of our insidious, greedy vulture-like attitude. For this, we must shift from a capitalistic world system to a truly supportive new world system, in which we can see other countries not as a source of our own interests but as independent sovereign nations. A renewed, more tightly focused UN governance approach to orchestrate global actions is needed now more than ever.

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Author Profile

Kenji Abe, Ed.D. specializes in Globalization & Social Pathology, researching the causes of social dangers (i.e., dictatorship, terrorism, serial murder, mass murder, gangs, nationalism, etc.) as well as how to accomplish a truly safe and peaceful world. He was an *Honorable Guest of the Nobel Peace Prize 2015*.