

## **The Place of the Terror's Concept inside the Four Holy Books**

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### **Abstract**

*Terror has gained diversity conceptually. However, the common message given to the state and society is "violence". The level of violence was stated as fear and terrifying. The terrorist activities and actions which contained violence as they have gained importance today, they had gained importance in the past also. The Holy Books discussed about the death of innocent people who died by violence or as a result of violence with precision and they clearly stated their rules in the religious frameworks. Actions of violence were made to the prophets and to those who believed in them.*

**Key Words:** Terror, Terrorism, Violence, Concept, Psalms, Torah, Bible, Quran

### **Introduction**

Terror has the purpose to contain violence conceptually and to realize the ideology in accordance with the concept. The acts carried out by terrorist organizations and the policies which were pursued by the finance which these organizations tried to obtain, affect the social, moral, psychological, economical structure and the security of the community.

Although violence can be felt in the society, the action carried out by the terrorist organizations retains in the memory even more. As the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> which was carried out by the al-Qaeda affected America and the world community deeply, the concepts of "violence and terror" were examined again and re-took place in the public.

Terrorist activities contain violence not only in the present but it contained also in the past. In line with this, the Holy Books touched on this issue and clarified it. While explaining the false and negative activities that had affected the society and explaining those who had performed them, it is possible to say that these activities overlap terrorism and terror activities.

### **1. The Concept of Terror and Historical Process**

#### **1.1. The Concept of Terror and Terrorism**

It cannot be said that there is a common sight on the concept of terror. But the word "terror" which is a Latin word was stated to mean shivering or the cause of shiver. However, today it is used for meaning violence. It is also described as the violence applied for political purposes by a state or a non-state actor (Abdulkadir. B, 2000: 2). The concept of terror took place in western languages as *terrere*-It, *terror*- eng, *terreur*-fr. However, it is stated that both in Turkish and in western languages it includes "fear". This fear was depicted as not an ordinary fear but as "horror". Also the concept of terror is an old concept stated as the dosage of fear in the concept of terror (Cirhinlioglu.Z, 2004:23-24)

Terror has been defined as a concept of "a terror system regime" for the first time in the appendix of *Disctionnarire de l' Academia Francaise* which was published in 1789. Terror was expressed as using violence to drive conflict and war among the social, national, raced, religious classes as planned (İseri. R, 2008: 4-5). The global terrorism gained size by developing in waves.

These; strap on terror with the labour movements in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the global terror that used terror as a tool for the independence struggles in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, protects its effectiveness today (Bal. İ, 2006: 7). Terror is also referred as spreading the impact of action and discourses made to the victims or to the target audience to a wide mass (Rapin, A. (2011: 162-166).

Terrorism is defined as being based on action rather than telling in order to gain political weight. It is possible to say that terrorism makes political philosophy. It should be also stated that terrorism is the exploitation.

### **Terror and the Features of Terrorism**

Terror and terrorism represent features as conceptual also. These are; having political aims, involving violence, being likely to spread fear, targeting generally on innocent people and on points which have importance for the community, being historical, having national and international levels, being planned and systematic actions, creating panic, explaining itself through terrorism to certain population centres, groups or ethnic grounds, making actions in areas having strategic importance such as espionage, assassination, sabotage, the aim to create fear in crowded places or making actions to security forces (Cirhinlioglu. Z, 2004 :32-33), Its aims are political, showing diversity from the change of political management to the change of the economic and social structure, law does not restrict the movements of the terrorists, they seek to keep alive psychological trauma on civilians (Basbug, İ. 2011: 71).

#### **1.2. Terror, element of violence and panic**

Terror is perceived as “violence” in the literature and the dosage of violence is described as “horror”. Even so terror takes part in life by reflecting to society, families and even to social life as a terror concept characterized as violence and panic. Saying “spreading terror” to children is the plausible example for the use of the concept of terror in everyday life.

Although “spreading terror” is in the meaning of joke in fact it is used for doing things that would terrify people (Cirhinlioglu, Z. 2004: 26-27).

It can be remembered by the majority of the people in Turkey that on 31<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Taksim square in Istanbul, Turkey a live bomb action was made against the security forces by the PKK (NTVmsnbc, 2010). These words “ I won’t go to Taksim a bomb exploded there” of a little boy, who lived this event in any way personally or saw it by the press, shows the trauma that was experienced on the psychology and that the terror and the acts of terrorism are characterized in a sense of violence, terror and panic.

A marginalization is being realized as a result of the panic and anger that terror wanted to create and as a result of taking a stand by the target audience and the innocent people. It is noted that terror organizations as a result of panic and marginalization born by violence, became stronger in terms of psychology, strategy and moral (Ulunc. H, 2010)

It was stated that making people to exhibit abnormal behaviour by subtracting them from daily life is parallel with the severity of the action carried out by terror (CNN, 2013).

Terror organizations are aiming to create chaos and undermine the public’s confidence in the state by performing acts of violence in order to release fear in the community and to create a sense of weariness and exhaustion among the people (Aygün. M, 2012).

## **2. The Role of violence in the Holy Books**

Violence continues increasingly from the first existence of humanity till today. The reasons and the phases of violence are growing diversified. It is explained that as a result of the conflict between Cain and Abel who were the sons of Prophet Adam and are located in all of the four major religions beside Islam, with the murder of Cain by Abel violation appeared and for the first time blood was poured.

In narrow sense terror is identified as adopting themselves and their own ideology with difficulty for the purpose to deliver message to the political decision makers or to the target audience and to digest the civil innocent people. It was located in this section how the terrorist activities took place in the sacred books against the prophets and their believers and in which form these were described.

## 2.1 Psalter

“Giving bribery and trying to disrupt the order” which is located between the financial and operational methods of the terror, is mentioned in the Psalms, in one of the four Holy Books. It was clarified in the statements contained in 26/5 and 26/10 Psalms. Psalms 26/5: *“I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked”*, Psalms 26/10: *“in whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes”* (Psalms of David 26/5-26/10). While terror was becoming organizational these methods were applied continuously and it was located in Psalms in one of the Holy Books. While it was printed in the press that in the South Eastern Anatolian Region bribery, tribute and tax were taken from the public by PKK, the book of Psalms had alluded the subject.

The purpose of mischief and disturbing that take place in the conceptual description of terror coincides with the descriptions in the book of Psalms. In Psalms that is referred as Prophet David’s Book of Psalms and which is accepted as one of the Holy Books, the people who are satisfied with war and with killing innocent people were referred with the expression *“who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war every day.”* (Psalms, 140/2).

After the death of Solomon, Prophet David had passed to the head of the sons of Israel. It was stated that the wife of Uriya, who was a soldier of David was confiscated. For this reason the sons of Israel were divided into two. While these were becoming two kingdoms Israel and Judah, the kingdom of Israel was removed by the Assyrians, the kingdom of Judah had been exiled by the kingdom of Babylon and the people were subjected to torture (Adam. B, Katar. M, 2005: 40-41). Torture is among the actions often done by the terror organizations. The massacre of the family of Medical Major Nihat İlhan after torturing them in the bathtub by EOKA the Greek Terrorist Organization in 1963 in Cyprus, the tortures to citizens in the Turkish villages, the tortures made by the Greek gangs to the people of East Anatolian villages and Azerbaijani Turks villages overlap with the torture described in the Psalms and is strongly opposed against the violence in this issue. (Karabulut.A, 2013).

## 2.2 Torah

As it was mentioned earlier terror conceptually contains associations with the phenomenon “violence” in humans. Attacks with suicide bomb acts on civilians and soldiers, roadblocks and extortion come top among the terrorist activities. It is stated that the same extremely violent activities could be found towards the Holy Books and prophets who transmitted these books to the people. No matter what purpose and why, the killing of civilians and innocent people and showing cruelty was described to be false. In the Torah in chapter 49 in the section of Genesis 49/7 *“Damn their anger, because it is severe. Damn their wrath, because, it is cruel.”* It is possible to say that this description the brutal murder of people which was carried out by the actions of the terrorist organizations is parallel with the cruelty taken from the Torah (Torah, Chapter 49, Genesis 49/7). Indeed, in the book of Torah in Jeremiah section of the Judgement against the bad king 22/3 *“ And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.”*a description is included (Torah Judicial Section, 49/7).

In the Exodus section of the Torah: it is mentioned that the Israelis in Egypt were exposed to persecution and oppression even every new born male child was abandoned to death by the order of the Pharaoh in order not to increase and participate in a war against the Pharaoh.

*“Indeed, Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and made its people into factions, oppressing a sector among them, slaughtering their [newborn] sons and keeping their females alive. Indeed, he was of the corrupters.”* (Quran, Surat al- Qasas 4th verses).

It is stated that the terrorist organization Eta since 1938 until today as a result of 3426 terrorist attacks caused the death of 817 people and there were civilians also among the dead (Bal. İ, 2006: 120). It is true that the terrorist organizations with the actions on innocent people move against the Torah commandments also. In the old translations known as the Deuteronomy, in the Book of Deuteronomy takes place the ten commandments of Moses known as the various principles and rules for the people of Israel in the Promised Land.

*“You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. “* (Deuteronomy 16:18.19.20) *“You shall not murder. You shall not steal”* (Deuteronomy 5:17,19) *“So you shall not pollute the land wherein you are: for blood it defiles the land : and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it”*(Numbers 35:33).

In Torah the Lord declared to the Israelis who obeyed to His commandments not to be afraid of the enemies and not to be discouraged while complying the rules they shall live in harmony and peace in the Promised Land. Violence, cruelty and bloodshed were generally prohibited it can be said that the reason for this was the slavery and oppression period that was experienced in Egypt.

### **2.3 Bible**

The purpose of violence is reported to give moral and material damage. The Bible which is among the monotheist religions includes this phrases *“You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgement But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement.”* (Bible, Matthew 5.) In the Bible as in the other religions and in general social ethics being good to the people and the attitudes towards violence are clear. *“Only God is truly good. You know the commandments; you shall not kill, you shall not steel”* (Bible, 1998:162) So when looking at the kidnapping, theft and bribery, manslaughter or assault acts of the terrorist groups it is clear that the Bible is against the terrorism and the terrorist activities.

Although violence as mentioned above, takes place in the Bible it is also described that violence was applied against Jesus Christ. *“The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him”* this phrase shows that violence turned to splint and it became digesting. (Luke: 22:63-65). Religious shrines and acts towards worship places are among the intimidating acts of terrorist organizations that took place in the Turkish and world public opinion.

The intimidation policies that were applied to Jesus are the same methods applied by the terrorist organizations today. It was reported by various sources that before the crucifixion of Jesus, He and his disciples despite of being unarmed, were grinded violence and cruelty by the Jews’ King of Nazareth. It was noted that Jesus Christ with the cross loaded on him was exposed to whipping and torture in front of the people’s eyes (Ozgurel, A. 2004). Indeed the civilians and unarmed people were attempted to torture by the Roman rulers in order to adopt their ideologies these were actions that contained messages towards the believers of Jesus. These actions show overlap with the terrorism concept of today. The terrorist acts include actions such as assassination. Quran explains the assassination made to Jesus as follows: *“ And the disbelievers planned, but Allah planned. And Allah is the best of planners.”* (Quran, Surah Ali Imran 54).

The scriptures often included phrases about those showing violence and the sacred books showed sensitivity to this issue. In the Bible it was tried to explain how people were turned to violation in the past and people were warned in this regard. *“As for Saul, he made ‘havoc of the church, entering into every house and haling men and women committed them to prison.”* (Act of the Apostol’s 8:1-3)the phrase refers to the intensity of the violence in that period.

It was frequently reported in the Bible that in what extent rigid and hard the violence was that they applied to Jesus and to his believers. Among them:*“And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chiefcaptain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek? Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these daysmadestan uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers?”* ( Act of the Apostol’s 21:37-40)

The phrase is remarkable. The fact that those who practiced violence were described as terrorist shows lightness and clarity of the concept of violence and terror from the past to the present.

### **2.4 Quran**

This faith spread over a wide geographical area, it is believed by more than 1.5 billion people and there are people with Islamic faith in more than 59 countries from Indonesia to the Arab Emirates (Sabah, 2011). The Holy Book of Islam which is believed as the last monotheistic religion is the Quran. It is believed that God gave the duty to Prophet Muhammad to tell and transfer the Quran to the people.

In Quran it was mentioned how it should be approach to innocent people in situations like violence and war and with hadith it gained a different size (Kocyigit, T.2012).

Giving harm to innocent people by being in the acts of violence for interest, ideology or any reason in the name of an individual or a group as it is inconsistent to the public morality or to the law it is also against the Holy Books and religions. As in the other Holy Books, sensitivity was shown to these issues in Quran too. In Quran Surah Al-Baqara 190<sup>th</sup> verse: *“Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress.*

*Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors”* the war and fighting style is described (Quran Surah Al-Baqara 190). Persecuting civilians and killing people as a result of violence for ideological attitudes and interest is the narrow explanation of terror. The persecution and violence against innocent people can be found in 42th verse of Surat ash- Shura in the Holy Quran: *“The cause is only against the ones who wrong the people and tyrannize upon the earth without right. Those will have a painful punishment.”*(Quran Surat ash-Shura 42).

While the holy religions mentioned the rights to life of innocent people, the Holy Quran has defended in the phenomenon of religion the rights of the innocent people:

*“But however kills a believer intentionally- his recompense is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally, and Allah has become angry with him and has cursed him and has prepared for him a great punishment.”*( The Holy Quran, Nisa Surah).

The terrorist organizations assassinate for various purposes. In the past also violent terrorist acts were intended to carry out assassinate against the prophets. These assassination attempts were made by the government officials or powerful tribes. As there was assassination attempt against Jesus the same assassination attempt was carried out against Muhammad.

### ***Conclusion***

Although terror shows conceptually diversity in essence it is defined as violence even this violence is graded to “horror”. Terror has been re-examined after the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> in America and Europe.

Today terror is used as a tool of strategy; it is used as the analogy of “tongs” by public statement. In line with the interest the countries that support the terrorist organizations having a variety of ideologies and aims are placed in the world public opinion. But in line with these interests the caused harm by the implemented strategies both to the innocent civilians in their own countries as well as to the innocent people from various ethnicities believing in various faith in the targeted country are not be recognized or if they are noticed the countries still remain silent in these situation. Even if a country does not have a religion the people who are living in the country may be religious. Even they may be in religious fundamentalism ideology that was also adopted by a terrorist organization.

Whatever their ideologies are both the countries that support terrorist organization as well as the supported terror organization that act against the social justice and law, come against the orders and explanations of the sacred Books.

The violence that constitutes the essence of terror and the killing of innocent people or exposing them to torture as a result of violence as it was unappropriated in the scriptures there are serious sanctions about it. From Psalms to the Torah, from the Bible to the Quran the four major Holy Books mentioned the innocent people rights and those who move opposite to it or act in terrorist activities messages were transmitted through the prophets to them containing various sanctions against them.

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