

Minors and Terrorism: A Discussion about the Recruitment and Resilience

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Abstract : This theoretical study argues how terrorism is rising around the world and which are the factors and situations that contribute to this process. Linked to aspects of human development, minors are one of the most vulnerable collectives to be engaged for this purpose. Its special weakness and lower possibility of self-defense makes them more likely to become victims as a result of a brainwashing process. Terrorism is an illicit way to achieve political and social changes and new technologies and available resources make it easier to spread. In this sense, throughout a theoretical revision of different recent and scientific articles, it is evaluated which risk factors can provoke its affiliation and later develop of antisocial and illicit behavior. An example of this group of factors could be the inter-generational continuity between parents and their children, as well as the sociodemographic aspects joined to cultural experiences (i.e. sense of dishonor, frustration, etc.). The assess of this kind of variables must be accompanied by the evaluation of protective factors, because the reasons through one person decides to join to terrorism are inherently idiosyncratic and we can only install mechanisms of prevention knowing those personal characteristics. To sum, both aspects underline the relevance of the internalizing and externalizing personal factors, each of them in one specific direction: a) to increase the possibility of being recruited or follow this type of criminal group by himself, and b) to be able of avoiding the effects and consequences of terrorism thanks to personal and resilient characteristics (resilience).

Keywords : criminality, minors, recruitment, resilience, terrorism

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