

## New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Strategy For Build Positive Peace To Support National Security

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### Abstract

This research is discusses the counter-terrorism strategies implemented by the New Zealand government following several terrorist attacks, including the Christchurch shooting (2019) and the Dunedin and Auckland stabbings (2021). Using Arthur Lyyke's strategy theory (2008), this study analyzes the means, ways, resources, and risk considerations inherent to effective counter-terrorism strategies. The study applies the counter-terrorism approach proposed by Jones & Libicki (2008), which divides counter-terrorism strategies into three categories: military deployment approach, police and intelligence approach, and policy approach. Through qualitative research with an analytical-descriptive approach, the study finds that the New Zealand government's counter-terrorism strategy comprises of two main approaches: the police and intelligence approach and the policy approach. The government's "no face no name" policy aims to deny terrorists any platform for recognition, while amendments to firearm possession laws and counter-terrorism legislation proposed by the prime minister facilitate the police's ability to restrict terrorist activities. These initiatives intend to foster positive peace and support national security.

**Keywords:** Acts of Terrorism, New Zealand Government, Strategy, Counter-Terrorism Abstract.

## INTRODUCTION

New Zealand is a country located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, south of Australia. It consists of two main islands, Te Ika-a-Māui (North Island) and Te Waipounamu (South Island), as well as more than 700 smaller islands . New Zealand is ranked second in the world's most peaceful country after Iceland according to the Global Peace Index (GPI) for 2022 (IEP 2022).











RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
1	 Iceland	1.107	↔
2	 New Zealand	1.269	↔
3	 Ireland	1.288	↑ 3
4	 Denmark	1.296	↓ 1
5	 Austria	1.3	↑ 2
6	 Portugal	1.301	↓ 1
7	 Slovenia	1.316	↓ 3
8	 Czech Republic	1.318	↑ 1
9	 Singapore	1.326	↑ 1
10	 Japan	1.336	↑ 1

Figure1. Table of the World's 10 Most Peaceful Countries  
Source: Institute for Economics & Peace, 2022

While New Zealand is generally a peaceful country, there is always the potential for conflict, including the emergence of acts of terrorism. Terrorism is indeed rooted in the root word terror, which comes from the Latin word "terrere" which means to make someone tremble or feel horrified by fear (Jahroni 2016).

Terrorism in this context is an attempt to exploit and intensify human fear by perpetrating horrific acts of violence. Its goal is to create a sense of instability and vulnerability, which can manipulate the emotions of both the victims and potential future targets. Acts of terrorism can be particularly traumatizing, as they can leave a lasting psychological impact on those who witness or are directly affected by them. The aim of terrorism is to spread fear and anxiety (Jahroni 2016).

On March 15, 2019, a terrorist attack took place in Christchurch, New Zealand, where a lone gunman entered two mosques during Friday prayer, beginning at the Al Noor Mosque in the suburb of Riccarton and continuing at the Linwood Islamic Centre (Al-Jazeera 2019). The act of terrorism was carried out by Brenton Tarrant, an Australian citizen. This heinous act resulted in the deaths of 51 people and numerous injuries (Guardian 2019).

Further acts of terror continued in May 2021, there was a stabbing in the city of Dunedin with 4 victims. Then, in September 2021 there was a stabbing at a supermarket in Auckland. This terrorist act resulted in 6 injuries and the perpetrator was shot dead by the police. (Sorongan 2021). The sequence of terrorist attacks dealt a severe blow to New Zealand, a country known for its peace and tranquility. The attacks induced fear and insecurity amongst its citizens, and left a lasting impact on the nation's psyche. Such acts of terrorism are particularly heinous, as they have the potential to disrupt the social fabric of a nation, sow seeds of distrust, and undermine the basic human right of safety and security.

This act of terrorism constitutes a serious threat to a country's national security. The reason being is that national security encompasses the ability of a country to protect its citizens and maintain a sense of security and stability within its borders. (Syamsunasir 2022). The study aims to analyze the counter-terrorism strategy implemented by the New Zealand government to foster positive peace and strengthen national security.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

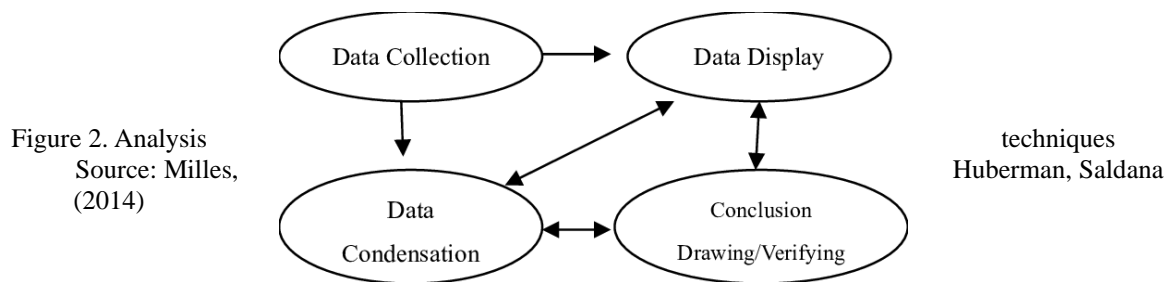
This research approach utilizes qualitative research methods, which encompass procedures that generate descriptive data in the form of spoken or written from observed behaviors or individuals (Moeloeng 2006). Lincoln & Guba said that qualitative research has the following characteristics: natural – descriptive (Guba 1985).

In qualitative research, researchers must focus on qualitative aspects of data collection, such as documentation or interviews. Documentation involves collecting written sources, including documents, someone's work, or pictures. These sources can be official, such as laws or decrees, or unofficial, such as personal notes (Mawardani 2020).

One of the other data collection techniques in qualitative research is through interviews. Interviews involve interactions between researchers and informants as a means of obtaining data sources. The data collected is considered raw data, which will subsequently be processed by the researchers to generate insights and understanding of the research phenomenon (Stedward 1997). For this study, face-to-face interviews were conducted with Prof. Kevin Paul Clements, Director of the TODA Peace Institute, using the Zoom meeting platform.

For this study, Miles, Huberman, and Saldana's data analysis techniques were used, involving data collection through documentation and interviews, data reduction or selection of

relevant information, presentation of data using writing, tables, or graphics, and drawing conclusions that form the basis of the research results (Milles 2014).



## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The act of terrorism that occurred in New Zealand in 2019 left the victims with deep sorrow and also served as a lesson for the New Zealand government. The government compiled a counter-terrorism strategy as a preventive measure to protect the new zealand's citizens.

A counter-terrorism strategy consists of a set of tactics and techniques aimed at preventing and mitigating terrorist attacks. The term "strategy" originates from the Greek word "stratego" meaning to plan for the annihilation of the enemy using available resources effectively and efficiently. By formulating a counter-terrorism strategy, governments aim to safeguard their citizens and minimize the impact of terrorist threats on their society (Arsyad 2002). In terminology, the term "strategy" refers to the art or science of using resources to implement specific policies. (KEMENDIKBUD 2002).

Strategy can be understood as a deliberate effort and way of thinking to plan something with the aim of achieving a desired outcome. It is often associated with politics or power, and involves balancing goals, methods, and available resources. Strategies can serve as a mechanism for identifying goals, managing resources and capabilities, and determining the methods used to achieve those goals.

Arthur Lykke explained that determining strategy involves several key efforts. First, understanding the objectives (ends) that the strategy aims to achieve is essential. Second, developing plans (ways) to utilize resources quickly and effectively is crucial. Third, identifying the specific resources (means) needed to execute the planned strategy is necessary. Finally, assessing and managing the risks associated with the strategy is important to optimize its success (Lykke 2001).

To achieve Arthur Lykke's strategic approach, several measurement criteria are used, including suitability, feasibility, and acceptability. Suitability refers to the strategy's compatibility with national interests and the prevailing conditions, as well as the potential impact of the strategy when implemented (Lykke 2001).

Counter-terrorism is the policy pursued by a country or state to prevent and eliminate acts of terrorism. Its primary aim is to prevent terrorist groups or individuals from carrying out attacks that could result in harm to civilians (Hapsari 2022). According to Gus Martin, there are four methods used in counter-terrorism efforts: 1) the use of force; 2) repressive options; 3) conciliatory options; and 4) legalistic options. (Gus 2013).

The "use of force" method is used in counter-terrorism efforts with the aim of punishing or destroying terrorist movements. This military utilization can take several forms, including direct attacks, covert operations, and other means. Another approach is "conciliation" which involves using peace processes, negotiations, and social reforms. Finally, "law enforcement" is

used on both national and international levels to prevent acts of terrorism. Within a nation, law enforcement policies are determined by individual governments, while international policies are regulated by the Montreal and Hague conventions (Hapsari 2022).

Jones and Libicki explained the state's counter-terrorism strategy, which involves several approaches to combat terrorism:

1. The military option involves the deployment of military force when a terrorist movement has turned into an insurgency;
2. The police and intelligence approach; and
3. The policy approach. (Jones 2008).

The second method is the police and intelligence approach, which is considered effective because the police are the front line in maintaining a country's security against acts of terrorism. This approach places emphasis on law enforcement, and is strengthened by the legalization of anti-terrorism measures. The police play a crucial role in protecting citizens and ensuring the stability of the country in the face of terrorist threats (Hapsari 2022).

The next method involves a political approach, which refers to policy changes or regime changes. This approach has been effective in reducing terrorist activity after its implementation by governments. In fact, most counter-terrorism strategies involve a combination of approaches, as relying solely on the military is considered ineffective. Collaboration between the police and intelligence approaches, as well as a political approach that yields policies and rules related to counter-terrorism, are essential to success.

In response to the acts of terrorism in New Zealand in 2019, various counter-terrorism approaches were taken, including the immediate arrest and punishment of the perpetrators by the New Zealand police. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also took several actions to address the problem of terrorism in New Zealand, such as:

1. Strongly condemning the act of terrorism and labeling the suspect as a terrorist.
2. Announcing a ban on the use of semi-automatic and assault weapons within 10 days following the act of terrorism, as one of the reasons for such acts is the legalization of gun ownership in New Zealand, which was evidenced by the perpetrators legally owning firearms.
3. Calling for international efforts to combat online extremism and convening countries to study this issue.
4. Establishing a relationship with the victims of the act of terrorism and offering support, whether morally or financially.
5. Giving special attention to minorities in New Zealand, such as Muslims and other minorities, and appointing a terrorism prevention consultant to work with the government (BBC-Indonesia 2019).

The top priority of the New Zealand government is to provide assistance to grieving victims (Hendropriyono 2020). During her visit to Christchurch and her speech there, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern stated that New Zealand's: "no name, no face" policy was motivated by the two goals of terrorism: creating fear and gaining popularity. This policy is one of several counter-terrorism measures aimed at preventing the achievement of the goal of terrorism to gain popularity.

Furthermore, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's firm response to this act of terrorism was demonstrated by the amendment of the law on firearms possession (Berlianto 2019). This is a bold undertaking, as some countries legalize firearm possession for reasons related to industry and personal security. However, if such ownership leads to acts of terrorism, then amending firearm possession laws can be appropriate as the prime minister's firm stance.

The firm stance of the New Zealand government on counter-terrorism strategies is also reflected from this research interview:

*"The response of our prime minister to the 2019 Act of Terrorism massacre was clear and decisive. He adhered to the 'no name, no face' policy and refused to identify the Australian perpetrator. The government is committed to protecting democratic social values and ensuring that every citizen has the right to safety and security. This commitment is reflected in the work of intelligence agencies to identify potential threats, special units within the prime minister and cabinet departments that focus on counter-terrorism issues, and the Christchurch Bell initiative, which aims to prevent violent hate speech on the internet. The government takes this commitment seriously and ensures that all individuals in New Zealand, regardless of citizenship status, have the right to protection, safety, and identity preservation."* (interview with Prof. Kevin Paul Clements (Director of the TODA peace institute) on Wednesday, 31st May 2023).

After two years of acts of terrorism in the city of Christchurch, there have been further incidents of terror in New Zealand. In May 2021, a stabbing in the city of Dunedin resulted in four victims, and in September 2021, a visitor to a supermarket in Auckland was stabbed, resulting in six injuries and the perpetrator being shoot dead by police. The perpetrator, a Sri Lankan citizen who had moved to New Zealand in 2011 and was under local authorities' supervision since 2016, was suspected of being affiliated with ISIS (Sorongan 2021).

A series of terror acts after 2019 prompted the New Zealand government to submit a Counter-Terrorism Bill to parliament. This bill is an amendment to the 2002 Combating Terrorism Act and other related laws. New Zealand's government says the bill could address a major gap in law by criminalizing the planning or preparation of terrorist acts. Law enforcement agencies recommended the change for a long time. The new law also gives the police the power without a warrant to enter, search and monitor, in an effort to stop the planning and preparation of terrorist acts and criminalize weapons training or combat training for terrorist purposes (Saputra 2021).

New Zealand's Justice Minister, Kris Faafoi, argued that this law brings New Zealand in line with laws in countries such as Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. However, critics argue that the New Zealand government seems rushed in proposing this counter-terrorism bill, as it was introduced without sufficient discussion and risks creating legislation that could cause further harm to marginalized communities (Saputra 2021).

Nevertheless, after four years since the incident, the New Zealand government remains committed to addressing terrorism and violent extremism against New Zealanders. Andrew Little, the government's chief coordinating minister, stated that the government continues to take these threats seriously. Little even traveled to Australia for the 4th Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Security on the 4th anniversary of the terrorist act in New Zealand. The meeting was attended by Australia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Thus, the counter-terrorism strategy carried out by the New Zealand government aligns with Arthur Lyyke's concept of building positive peace in the country. This is achieved by issuing policies and legal products in the form of counter-terrorism laws and allocating resources to optimize the police force through legislation. Despite the associated risks, the New Zealand government remains committed to fighting terrorism and creating a sense of security for its citizens. The citizens' sense of security will contribute to positive peace and improve national security in New Zealand.

## CONCLUSION

New Zealand ranks as the second most peaceful country in the world, according to data from the Global Peace Index (GPI) for 2022, following Iceland. Despite this designation, New Zealand still faces potential conflicts, such as the emergence of acts of terrorism. Such acts began in March 2019 with a mass shooting in Christchurch that resulted in 51 fatalities. The terrorism continued in May 2021 with a stabbing in Dunedin that resulted in four fatalities, and in September 2021, a visitor was stabbed at a supermarket in Auckland, resulting in six injuries and one fatality. The perpetrator was shot dead by police.

After a series of terrorist acts, the New Zealand government developed a counter-terrorism strategy to eliminate and prevent such acts from causing casualties. Seth G. Jones and Martin C. Libicki suggest that there are three counter-terrorism strategies that the state should undertake to fight terrorism: 1) Military Option Approach; 2) Police and Intelligence Approach; and 3) Policy Approach.

The New Zealand government's counter-terrorism strategy combines a police and intelligence approach with a policy approach. When acts of terrorism occur, the police swiftly respond and perpetrators are processed according to the applicable law. Furthermore, the government strongly condemns such heinous acts and provides full support to the victims both morally and materially.

Furthermore, the New Zealand government has implemented a 'no name, no face' policy to counter terrorism and limit the popularity of terrorists. This policy aims to close the space for terrorists to exist. Additionally, the prime minister has amended the firearms possession laws and submitted a counter-terrorism bill that makes it easier for the police to track the movements of terrorists.

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