

Printed from

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Governments need to be proactive

16 May 2010, 0212 hrs IST, Rohan Gunaratna,

Topics: [afghanistan](#) [attacks](#) [kashmir](#) [terrorism](#)
[Lebanon](#) [Crime](#) [Global Jihad Movement](#)

Rohan Gunaratna, Head of Intl Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research in Singapore

Like crime, terrorism is emerging as a day-to-day phenomenon in most countries. Amidst sporadic terrorist threats and attacks, both the public and private sector must continue. The corporate sector is more resilient than the government.

In fact, the corporate sector has been the principal source of revenue in most countries affected by terrorism.

As such, the public-private sector cooperation is crucial to mutually protect and reinforce each other. Today, governments working in partnership with the business sector should develop strategies to counter extremism and its vicious by-product terrorism by creating jobs for the most vulnerable segment of societies.

Most governments are reactive—they must become proactive to stay ahead! They must rely on intelligence, the most essential ingredient in the fight against terrorism and other threats. We need to train our leaders better—the quality of leadership has suffered and declined. If we better train, groom and mentor our leaders, they will be proactive and not reactive.

The principal motivation and justification of the Global Jihad Movement is the ideology that the US is the enemy of God. Politicised and radicalised Muslims believe that the US, its Allies and friends are killing Muslims and attacking Islam, and the US' invasion and occupation of Iraq, a conflict that is likely to last more than a decade, is nurturing and driving this growing belief.

This false belief is also reinforced by multiple conflicts world-wide where Muslims are suffering—Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, Chechnya, Afghanistan, Mindanao, Algeria, and Iraq.

In the Muslim world, the threat is moving from the periphery to the centre. Traditionally, the threat groups emerged from the Arab countries (Arabs are only 20% of the world's Muslim population). Increasingly, political Islam is spreading from the Arab World to the non-Arab Muslim World especially South Asia.

As a result, Asians, Africans, and even Muslims in the West are being politicised and radicalised. Thus, the future threat to the world from the Global Jihad Movement is likely to persist and may even grow. Instead of demonising the Muslims governments world-wide, we must work with Muslim governments and public to fight the threat of terrorism and extremism.

Powered by Indiatimes

[About Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Code of Ethics](#)

Copyright © 2010 Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher; Firefox 2.0 or higher at a minimum screen resolution of 1024x768