

Targeting and threatening local political goals of (potential) franchise VEOs can deter globally networked VEOs.

33; 34

General Description of the Literature:

Various political scientists have addressed the connection between franchise VEOs and globally networked VEOs. Kilcullen suggests that breaking the link between local and global VEOs can limit the greater global jihad (2005). Hoffman notes the importance of local, or franchise, extremist organizations to the continuation of globally networked organizations. Franchise organizations are often “co-opted” in such a way that they act to perpetuate the international organization’s goals, which may or may not be in line with their own goals (2003). Trager and Zagorcheva suggest that threatening the political goals of local franchised VEOs can fracture a global terrorism network. Often, terrorist groups with global objectives are even more concerned with local goals. Some organizations advance the agenda of other groups in exchange for tactics and funding that can be applied locally. Terrorist groups primarily focused on local political goals may be deterred from cooperating with other groups in exchange for less interference or some political accommodation in their local conflict. The relationship between the U.S. and Philippine governments and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is cited as an example of coercing a group that has previously provided assistance to global VEOs against doing so in the future. However, effective counterterrorism can catalyze a local VEO’s shift to international terrorism when the VEO’s local agenda is not achievable and/or the group is targeted by force (2005/6).

Detailed Analyses

33: *Targeting and threatening local political goals of (potential) franchise VEOs can deter globally networked VEOs.*

Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence: Beyond theory, actual evidence directly addressing the likelihood of deterring globally networked VEOs is not apparent.

Empirical Support Score: 0 = No empirical support (for or against the hypothesis)

Applicability to Influencing VEOs: N/A.

Applicability Score: Not Applicable – There is no empirical support in any context.

34: *Locally oriented VEOs can be deterred from joining global terrorist campaigns by threatening to hold their local objectives at risk.*

Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence: Trager and Zagorcheva’s case study of MILF provides the singular empirical support for the hypothesis. MILF had previously cooperated with al-Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah. After 2002, the U.S. and Philippine governments started an aggressive campaign to coerce MILF to cut these ties. The threat of inclusion on the U.S. FTO list and loss of earmarked funding were part of the coercion attempts. MILF, aiming to avoid the ‘terrorist’ label, assisted authorities in information that led to arrests of approximately 100 al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah operatives. MILF was potentially coerced to break ties with international VEOs when its local goals were jeopardized (2006). However, this



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study does veer from the hypothesis since MILF was being coerced from providing future support rather than being deterred from ever assisting global terrorist campaign.

Empirical Support Score: 4 = Single systematic case study supporting the hypothesis

Applicability to Influencing VEOs: The case study supporting this hypothesis is in the VEO context making the empirical support fully applicable.

Applicability Score: Direct: At least some of the empirical results directly concern the context of influencing VEOs.

Bibliography:

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