

The Return of Foreign Fighters to Europe: Between Demands for Social Integration and Security Risks



Kahina Guebriout ^{1*}

Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, University of Algiers 3, (Algeria) ¹

Submission date: 01/10/2023 Acceptance date: 01/01/2024 Publication date: 30/12/2024



Abstract:

The success of the integration process requires passing through different stages and adhering to certain rules stemming from society itself. European countries especially Western ones, found themselves facing a security dilemma related to accepting or rejecting the return of foreign fighters and their families affiliated with the terrorist organization ISIS and demanding their integration.

Key Words: Social integration; Security; foreign fighters; Europe

عودة المقاتلين الأجانب إلى أوروبا: بين مطالب الاندماج الاجتماعي والمخاوف الأمنية

ملخص:

يتطلب نجاح عملية الاندماج المرور عبر مراحل مختلفة، والالتزام بقواعد معينة نابعة من المجتمع بحد ذاته. والدول الأوروبية وخاصة الغربية منها، وجدت نفسها أمام معضلة أمنية تتعلق بقبول أو رفض عودة المقاتلين الأجانب وعائلاتهم التابعين لتنظيم داعش الإرهابي والمطالبة بإدماجهم. الكلمات المفتاحية: الاندماج الاجتماعي، الأمن، المقاتلين الأجانب، أوروبا

Le Retour Des Combattants Etrangers en Europe : Entre Revendications D'Intégration Sociale et Risques Sécuritaires

Résumé:

La réussite du processus d'intégration nécessite de franchir de différentes étapes et d'adhérer à certaines règles émanant de la société elle-même. Les pays européens notamment occidentaux, se sont retrouvés confrontés à un dilemme sécuritaire lié à l'acceptation ou au refus du retour des combattants étrangers et de leurs familles affiliés à l'organisation terroriste ISIS et à l'exigence de leur intégration.

Mots Clés: Intégration sociale; Sécurité; Combattants étrangers; L'Europe



Introduction:

After the bloody events in some European countries following the terrorist bombings, the latter developed new security strategies within the framework of combating terrorism, and relied most on preemptive plans, such as targeted air raids on terrorist organizations control sites, especially where ISIS is located in Syria and Iraq. These attacks succeeded in eliminating the organization and stopping its advance, as it was able to recover many of the affected areas. However, a problem of security appeared on the horizon related to ISIS-affiliated elements of European origin, and the question was about their fate and the fate of their children. European countries remained divided between those who support the return of fighters and their integration into society, and those who oppose reintegration as a security threat that may result in the return of terrorist activity in Europe.

The problematic:

To what extent can the integration of foreign fighters pose a threat to the security of European countries?

The method of analysis:

In this article, we relied on the case study approach by focusing on European foreign fighters as a social unit, that is considered as security risk in the perception of European countries, and that could affect European society if they were integrated.

The hypotheses:

- The success of the process of social integration depends on the acceptance of society itself, and the adoption of long-term rules and solutions.
- Many European countries reject the idea of social integration of foreign fighters as a real threat to security.

Objectives:

Through this article, we aim to show the impact of the return of foreign fighters to Europe, and to highlight the necessary steps for the success of their social integration process.



THE FIRST TOPIC:

The Conceptual Framework of Social Integration

Through this study, we will expose the issue of social integration by clarifying the concept as well as the dimensions and patterns that characterize it with a focus on the various programs used in the integration process.

First requirement: The Concept of Social Integration

We devoted the first requirement to the conceptual aspect, through which we dealt with the definition and identification of integration patterns.

First section: Definition of Social Integration

The concept of society is based on each individual mixing with others and possessing a sense of community and cohesion. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, integration is: “the procedure or process of successfully joining or mingling with a different group of people”. Thus, we mean by social integration “that process in which units are formed.” Society is in a state of balance interconnectedness and mixing to the point of forming a society that meets the needs of the individual and the group, in which the individual is the most important unit.¹ The concept of social integration developed anthropologically in the 20th century, and scholars tried to understand how to maintain a single society based on religion, the political system and the economy, and it became a dominant term in political discourses in most Eastern European countries beginning in the 1990s, especially with regard to minorities and ethnicities such as Lithuania.²

But the integration of the individual into society is an ancient idea that began with the questions that revolved around how the individual lived alone in the past and the state of constant conflict that he was in, which required finding solutions to it through what was called at the time the social contract theories adopted by Thomas Hobbes. For his part, Auguste Comte found that society is a complex organism consisting of many interconnected and complementary cells which in society are represented by families. According to him, there are three ways to achieve social integration, which are:

1- Building a mechanism for mutual interconnection between various members of society.

¹<http://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/76581/1/Unit-7.pdf>(Consulted on :18/11/2023/23 :39)

² Vida Beresnviute, Dimension of Social Human Appraisal of Theoretical Approaches, Ethnicity Studies 2003, ISBN9955-12-044-4, institute for social research. vlnius.6-108. (Consulted on :19/11/2023/01 :04)

See the link : http://ces.it/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/ETSTBersen_enviciute_2003.pdf



2- Organizing the various parts of society by establishing centers of power for political control.

3- Ensuring the existence of common cultural symbols for various units of society.

Comte had a model of social statistics, which means that social integration does not end unless there is a societal balance between all members of society, and when the level of social discrimination is high, the ability to integrate becomes weak. In addition to other obstacles, such as the absence of central control and the unfair distribution of resources. Herbert Spencer also likened society to the natural sciences through his theory based on the idea of “organic similarity” between society and the human being, as both grow and develop to become more complex, intertwined, and in need of mutual dependence.

So, Social integration is the process that allows the individual to carry out his political, economic and social roles in his society. This definition stems from the theory of socialization, which dictates the need to build an integrated society that includes different groups that adapt and coexist with each other, and individuals can be mainly members of society or new individuals trying to integrate into it. The term goes back to the work of Durkheim in his book “Suicide.”¹

According to him, the facilitation of integration stems from the sharing of jobs with participation in social interactions and networks, and he warned against the idea of social exclusion that would make the process of integration difficult.² He focused his proposal on three main points: family, law and religion, which are collective values shared by a group of individuals. By belonging to institutions families, schools, clubs, associations and the media.. As for reintegration, it is the rebuilding of economic, social and psychological relationships through which a person is able to develop his participation capabilities in community activities. This process cannot be successful unless integration includes all social economic and psychological dimensions on several levels:

1- The individual level: pertaining to returning immigrants.

2- The local community level: related to the non-immigrant population.

3- The structural level: trying to create an environment that guarantees living in dignity.³

¹ Abdul Qadir Foshan, Ahmed Al-Alawi, Social Inclusion: Concept, Dimensions and Indicators, consulted on :16/06/2023/16 :37)

<http://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/downArticle/568/4/1/82171.V4,N°1/15/01/2017/pp29-45>

² Asmaa Nasir al-Din, Durkheim's Total Integration, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/18 :17), <http://mirdad.app/articles/1655/16/05/2023>

³ <http://reintegrationhb-iom-int/ar/module/fhm-aadt-aladmaj>, (consulted on : 16/06/2023/16 : 23)



The process of social integration, whether it concerns local residents or immigrants, requires a strong link to achieve what Durkheim called social solidarity in his book “The Primary Forms of Religious Life,” where he highlighted the role of religion in promoting social behavior and generating collective awareness, because the moral values imbued with religion are what contributed in achieving true integration, which he realized through his study of one of the indigenous tribes of Australia, the Arunta. Its members gather constantly to implement their religious rituals, which has become a sacred bond between them. The main problem in Europe is essentially related to religion, as there is religious diversity among the local population and non-European immigrants, and what is worse than that is the large number of atheists, which makes European society more fragile and susceptible to collapse at any time, this also explain the difficulty of accepting the reintegration of returning fighters in European countries (more details in the second topic)

The basic idea that Durkheim referred to is family ties, which are the important explanatory tool for criminology. An integrated society in which individuals are more compliant with social standards is what was confirmed by the anthropologist Radcliffe Brown in his theory: “The Role of Kinship Behavior in Achieving Positive Social Integration,” and so on the scientist Malinowski in his book “A Social Study”. Here the criminal does not see other individuals as a complementary element that he needs to achieve his goals, but rather as an obstacle to his interests, and this is the view that terrorists have towards Europeans on one hand, and the view of Europeans towards the families of terrorists on the other hand, and this clash is what disintegrates society, so that there is no common bond between them in particular. With the spread of some ideas that increased societal differences, such as homosexuality.¹

Despite the importance of both religion and family ties, according to Durkheim this is insufficient because it only achieves mechanical solidarity, while social integration requires organic solidarity, meaning that each individual needs the other.²

Peter Blau also pointed out that there are conditions other than family ties and religion, as well as mutual dependence, to achieve integration, which is what he called attraction, that is, the ability of an individual to demonstrate his social value to a group. Accordingly, the individual is obligated to make an effort to persuade others to join their society. It is difficult, for example persuading the Europeans to accept any individual who was a former member of a terrorist

¹ <http://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/76581/1/Unit-7.pdf>(consulted on :18/11/2023/23/39)

² [https://socialsci.libretexts.org/bookshelves/sociology/Introduction_to_Sociology/sociology_\(Boundless\)/01%3Asociology/1-02%3A_The_History_of_Sociology/1-2F%3A_Durkeim_and_Social_Integration](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/bookshelves/sociology/Introduction_to_Sociology/sociology_(Boundless)/01%3Asociology/1-02%3A_The_History_of_Sociology/1-2F%3A_Durkeim_and_Social_Integration).(consulted on :18/11/2023/23 :24)



organization if investigations do not show that he is innocent or if he does not make attempts to correct his behavior.¹

Second section: Dimensions and Patterns of Integration

According to sociologists, the dimensions of integration can be limited to two main dimensions:

1-Value-normative integration: This dimension is related to the values and standards that unite individuals in one society, and it is a very important dimension, this differences can lead to difficulty in integration, so that the more there is convergence in values and agreement in standards, the more integrated the society is, and vice versa.

2-Interactive integration: This dimension means mutual cooperation and family relationships. The success of the process of integrating individuals into society is linked to the family, as family disintegration due to lack of communication and the adoption of alien ideas, that destroys the family and societal structure as a whole.

As for integration patterns, Landecker summarized them into four main patterns:

a-Cultural integration: It is related to culture, such as language, religion...but integration in this case means abandoning old ideas, that is, abandoning everything that links us to the mother country. The other problem is cultural multiplicity in one society, despite the presence of multi-cultural societies that were able to merge among themselves, forming a harmonious social unit however, in many cases, diversity represented the first nucleus of disintegration and conflict.

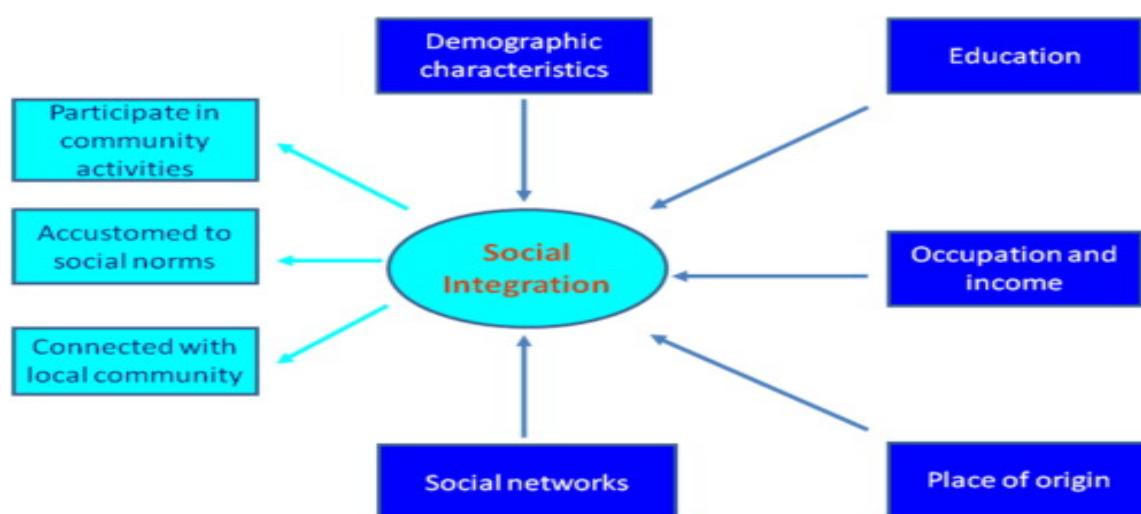
b-Behavioral normative integration: It is most related to the moral standard which is also the behavior acquired from the family and parents, and the most important stage for building behavior is childhood, so the child's connection with his family, especially the mother, is very important for shaping his behavior.

c-Communicative integration: The integration process cannot be successful if there is no communication between individuals. The language of dialogue and exchange is very important in building trust, and the media also has a prominent role in this, as one of its tasks is to convey the image, and here, it can play two roles: positive role is improving the image of others, which leads to rapprochement, and a negative role lies in transmitting false news and distorting the characteristics of some people, which causes not only distancing, but even clashes.

¹ www://atlas.101-ca/pm/concepts/social-integration/ (Consulted on :19/11/2023/01 :14)

d-Functional integration: It is specific to the exchange of services, so that each member of society belongs to a community environment based on cooperation and each one of them has a role or a function that he performs that complements the rest of the other functions, and therefore it is necessary to benefit from the services provided by these people without marginalizing any function or work that can be done, to be the basis for building an integrated society.

Figure1 : Social Integration Model



Source :<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0197397515001319>.

Second requirement: Procedures For Return and Integration Into Society

Through this requirement, we will review the various procedures and stages that the social integration process goes through, while clarifying the rules and laws related to the subject.

First section: Stages of The Return of Fighters and Their Families

The integration process goes through many steps due to the difficulty of persuading society and citizens acceptance of that, in addition to the risks that may accompany the return of integration applicants, especially those involved in acts that threaten security. Accordingly, a set of stages for the return have been identified, and they have been put forward and implemented in some of the most affected European countries. :



1 - Risk assessment stage: This is carried out through investigations by various security and intelligence services with the support of the police and the investigating judge, and prosecution including men and women, according to the European Union, especially in Germany, unlike the Balkan countries.

2- The rehabilitation stage: which includes prosecution and imprisonment in order to prepare the fighters well by rehabilitating them healthily and psychologically within long-term programs aimed at changing behavior and focusing on education.

3- Reintegration stage: Providing all means for social, political and economic reintegration

4- The integration process: It works according to specific mechanisms and different programs that are adapted to each case and include:

Coordination mechanisms: Among them are coordinators of activities for returnees and coordinators in charge of combating extremism and violence, in addition to coordinators of national action plans for reintegration.

Adapting exit programs and interventions: that is, working with previous prison programs and adapting them to new security plans that apply the same methods that were adopted with prisoners and applying them to foreign fighters through dialogue and communication, such as the Danish Aarhus program which is based on risk assessment and evaluation of physical and mental health. As for in Germany, advisory organizations and deradicalization programs work to support fighters in finding housing and stability, and this communicates directly with them in order to root out extremism.

Second section: Rules and Programs For Social Integration

Due to the complexity of the problem of returning fighters and their families many international attempts have emerged to define common formulas that constitute codified rules that can facilitate dealing with returnees without compromising human rights or the sovereignty of each country. The agreement was made to activate the various programs that were and still are used to deal with prisoners and criminals. These programs are based on education and treatment in order to distance them from crime and reintegrate them into society and include three categories:

-Rehabilitation programs in prisons.

-Reintegration and aftercare programs provided upon release.

-Non-custodial community programs.

According to the rules of Nelson Mandela, reintegrating criminals and assisting them with vocational education for work and treatment is a way to prevent more crime and protect the rights of society, and it is a task for the prison administration and the competent departments. The Bangkok Rules refer to the role of women, especially mothers, in the possibility of the success or



failure of the integration process. It says that there are a number of female offenders who do not pose a danger and their imprisonment makes their reintegration difficult.

Also, since children are innocent and have no connection to the crime, there is no need to treat them as criminals. This is what the Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms: "A child should not be arrested, detained or imprisoned except as a last resort and for the shortest period of time."

This is what was emphasized in Beijing's rules, as the child must be taken care of in order to make him play constructive and productive social roles in society.¹

THE SECOND TOPIC:

The Dilemma of The Integration of Foreign Fighters Into European Society

This topic was devoted to the applied aspect by studying the case of European foreign fighters within ISIS, who have become a threat to European security, by explaining the reasons for security concerns as well as the various obstacles to their integration, in addition to mentioning some solutions to the security dilemma.

First requirement: Security Concerns Among European Countries

Through this demand, we will expose the justifications put by European countries to refuse the return of fighters, and the various preventive measures to ensure that extremism does not spread.

First section: Reasons and Justifications

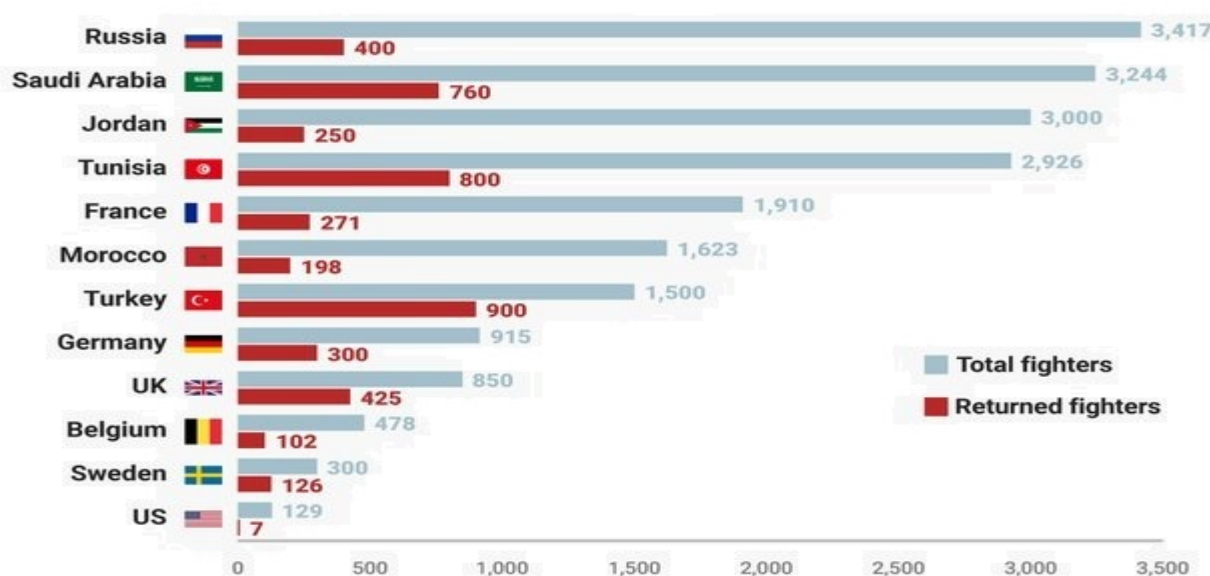
Europe has witnessed many terrorist operations that caused great human and material losses, and there are many countries that considered accepting the return of families to the homeland as a risk that requires a lot of time and a decisive political decision, especially since terrorism is an ideology that cannot disappear with the disappearance of the terrorist organization, which is what he stated Ilka Salmi, European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

The United Nations has set guidelines for returnees and made it clear that countries are free to accept or reject the return of fighters, although many of them remain in Syria and Iraq, as more than 800 individuals have been counted who are still detained by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).²

¹ Khalid Koser and Lilla Schumicky, ISIS Global Risks and Responses Issues Repatriating Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Families by The lowly, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/17 :52)
<http://www.lowlyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/risks-responses-repartriating-foreign-terrorist-fighters-families/03/11/2022>

² Tenta Audimetaj and Julie Colman, What EU Members States Can Learn From Kosovo's

Figure2 :Number of Foreign Fighters Returned



Source :<https://www.risetopeace.org/2019/01/31/ruturning-foreign-fighters-a-global-threat/kcHapman/>

There is also a high possibility that families will remain and join other organizations or continue their activities with existing organizations, especially in Syrian territories. Accepting their return means spreading extremist ideas among other individuals, reaching the point of using violence, which is the basis of terrorist thinking.

There are some countries that have justified their refusal position based on the laws, such that there is no law or general right to return to the homeland, and the most objectionable country is France, which stated that it is unable to bear responsibility for the violation of human rights in the camps and its inability to implement guarantees regarding their return to the homeland, especially the children because it is a violation of children's rights according to the European Court of Human Rights, especially since most of them were born there, and

Experience in Repatriating Former Foreign Fighters and Their Families, Clingendael, Netherlands, Institute of International Relations, May 2020. (consulted on : 18 /11/2023/22 :51)

See the link :https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/policy_brief_kosovo_experience_repatriating_former_foreign_fighters_may2020.pdf



what is worse is that those between the ages of 10 and 18 are considered to be recruits and fighters in the ranks of ISIS while they are in detention without trial. Among the most important justifications is the absence of diplomatic representation in Syria, since the camps suffer from many problems such as poverty, pollution (lack of hygiene and health), and the continuation of violence that killed more than 100 people in 2021. The large number of violations in the camps is evidenced by an interview conducted by the International Center for Combating Terrorism with the administration of Al-Hawl camp, and it was reported to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2022.

Which counted more than 2038 families, including 7,600 foreign women and children of 58 different nationalities, and the European foreigners were transferred to a camp where it was promoted About 801 families and 6,052 individuals, including 50% under the age of 12, not to mention other secret camps and depriving the child of kinship, while violating the right to obtain nationality and maintain their relationships with their families (Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). And the lack of health care, such as 371 children died in Al-Hawl camp in 2019, 157 children in 2020, and 62 children in 2021 due to illness and intentional killing.

In addition to child trafficking, which is prohibited by Article 3 of Protocol 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights. However, the European Court recognized that nationality alone is not sufficient for their return. What made the situation more difficult was the intolerance of the mothers and their refusal to send their children to schools for fear of obliterating their ideology, as they were the ones who indoctrinated their children into jihadist teachings. It was decided to separate between 300 and 350 children from their mothers and transfer them to other centers.¹

The European Union has always viewed returning foreign fighters as a source of threat to security, and this is what actually happened, as the events that Europe experienced, such as Charlie Hebdo and the Bataclan in Paris in 2015, were used to seek the help of foreign fighters who were radicalized and were recruited in Syria. The European Parliament stated in 2018 that returnees, including families are a danger to Europe, especially since they have involved children under 15 in fighting and have been classified as terrorist fighters in the Netherlands and Belgium based on videos.

¹ Tanya Mehra ; Matthew Wentworth and Abigali Thorley, The European Court of Human Rights Sitting on The Fence ?its ruling and impact on the repatriation of european children from north-east Syria/16/09/2022, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/17 :50)
See the link :<https://www.icct.nl/publication/european-court-human-rights-sitting-fence-its-ruling-and-impact-repatriation-european>



Second section: Preventive Measures

There was some acceptance by European countries who found it unfair to regard every returned foreigner as a terrorist so that they could also be victims who lived under threat, but the acceptance of France, Belgium and Germany to return the children was linked to the condition of providing the necessary documents, especially with regard to DNA tests. In 2021, the Prime Minister of Belgium affirmed his country's commitment to returning children under the age of 12, because it is their stay in camps and conflict areas that will turn them into terrorists, which was agreed with, by the European Union's counter-terrorism coordinator, Gilles de Kerchove.¹

According to a study by the European Parliament, most of the returnees were in batches between 2015 and 2016. For example, Germany and Denmark embodied a joint plan to receive 37 children and 11 women. The Netherlands 5 women and 11 children, Belgium 16 children and 6 women, Sweden 20 children and 10 women, France 35 children and 16 women, all of whom were in Syria. But she was the best strategy is to receive weak returnees only after lengthy security investigations and keep them in prisons throughout that period. These people received support from the Global Fund for Community Participation and Resilience organizations in the Western Balkans, which are the countries that initially allowed their return, compared to Western countries that refused to do so.² While leaving them to choose between:

- Return on condition of submitting to compulsory security investigations and isolation for a period for victims and repentants.
- Remaining in the organization's strongholds and trying to revive the new caliphate in Syria as long as the security situation remains tense, and this was the choice of most extremists.

The receiving countries worked to include women who reject extremist violence in the prevention process because of their effective role in a peaceful upbringing, which is essential to achieving peace.³ And this is done by focusing on the psychological and educational aspect by employing various segments of society such as presidents, clerics, and schools..and relying on journalists to convey pictures of their suffering, express their regrets, and show affect, and

¹ Ouafae Sandi, Affiliated With ISIS : challanges for the return and reintegration of women and children, UNDP, 24/10/2022, (consulted on :16 /06/2023/17 :49)

<https://relifweb.int/report/iraq/affiliated-isis-challanges-return-and-reintegration-women-and-children-enar>

² Khalid Koser.op.cit

³ Associated with ISIS: Challenges of Return and Reintegration for Women and Children (Report), (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/16 :48)

<http://www.undp.org/ar/arabe-states/publications/mrtbtat-bdash-thdyat-alwadt-waadt-aladma-j-aladmi-llnsa-walatfal>



adopted a motivational method based on rewarding employers who agreed to give them job opportunities, especially in the Western Balkans.

These countries were also keen on how to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder and develop plans for the reintegration of children through a multidisciplinary system and sectors and the use of preventive policies involving all segments of civil society and law enforcement agencies, and these policies were represented in:

- Opening in-depth investigations to find out the extent of the returnees' connection to the terrorist organization and the degree of its danger.

- Prosecuting foreign fighters locally in Syria and Iraq before returning to Europe to ensure evidence is available.

- Establishing a hybrid international court to facilitate criminal procedures (the hybrid court was established under Chapter 7 of Charter 26 of the United Nations and voted on by the Security Council and was rejected by the Chinese and Russian vetoes).¹

- However, some countries, especially western ones, relied on United Nations Security Council Resolution N° 2178/2014 and the Additional Protocol of 2015 attached to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism to impede the return of fighters as a preventive strategy. Likewise, criminalizing travel for the sake of terrorism according to Protocol (541/2017). This decision links the term foreigner to an individual who moves to a country other than his country of residence or nationality, which leads to a lot of ambiguity especially what relates to dual nationals, which are many and frequent cases of those returning from places of conscription. This decision was also criticized for not providing a specific definition of the terrorist and distinguishing him from the fighter in the liberation war.²

- The sufficiency of the international investigation within the framework of Security Council Resolution 2379 (2017) in addition to the United Nations mechanism to contribute to the investigation and prosecution of criminals based on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (284/71/2016)

- Creating an alternative to combating terrorism, such as combating extremism through the Radical Awareness Network (RAN) in Belgium and dividing children into categories:

¹ Anita Persin and Daniel Pisoiu, Repatriated Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Their Families : European experiences and lessons For P/CVE, publications office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/17 :45)

https://home-affairs.ec-europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/ram_ad_hoc_repatriated_ftfs_en.pdf

² Ghidelines For Addressing the Threats and Challenges of Foreign Terrorist Fighters Withen a Human Rights Frame Works, OSCE office for democratic institutions and humanrights(ODI HR).Poland2018(consulted on :18/11/2023/22 :31)

See the link :https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/4/7/393503_2.pdf



Category A: According to the Belgian National Council 2018, children under the age of 10 do not pose a risk. Category B: Children over the age of 10 are studied individually.

As for France, it settled on a 3month plan of physical and mental health evaluation through a group of institutions, including Aide Sociale à L'enfance which works to transfer children to emergency shelters or foster families. The Balkan countries relied on the regular education system, as well as adaptation to home life and the lack of original nationality.¹

Second requirement: Obstacles to The Social Integration of Foreign Fighters

This requirement focused on the various obstacles and challenges that European countries face to make the integration process successful and the solutions proposed to confront those obstacles.

First section: Difficulties and Challenges

Some European countries believe that the process of social integration of returning fighters and their families constitutes a security threat in itself, as this could lead to the return of terrorist operations. In addition, this process is marred by some defects that constitute an obstacle to facilitating integration. States are obligated under UN Resolution (2178/2014) to criminalize foreign fighters and combat terrorism through prosecution, using various means that reach the level of repressive measures such as prosecution and punishment, and an innocent person can be punished as a result of the difficulties that arise from obtaining evidence to prosecute foreign fighters and make all fighters or even their families in the same level. And the difficulty of defining laws to deal with them, on the basis of combatants in the event of armed conflict in international humanitarian law or foreign terrorist fighters in accordance with the anti-terrorism law, especially children who have been proven to have been recruited and used by militias in combat, so they cannot be tried under articles related to combating terrorism at a time when some countries see them as victims, not as criminals. In addition to the difficulty of investigating and finding appropriate accountability for recruits from a distance, these penalties are involuntary and increase extremism.

Fear of forming networks by exploiting instability, which leads to conflict and the emergence of new terrorist organizations. Consequently, returnees become restricted and unable to carry out their duties and are deprived of their civil and social rights, such as arbitrary travel bans, freezing of passports and deprivation of citizenship. This is inconsistent with human rights and contradicts the decision Security Council (2178/2014) Judge B:

¹ Anita Persin.op.cit



-The obligation of the countries of nationality or residence to prevent the departure of foreign fighters.

-Develop and implement prosecution strategies.

-Rehabilitation and reintegration of returning fighters and their families.

Separating children from their families is also difficult due to mothers' rejection on the one hand and the difficulty of finding foster families on the other. And the threat of the segment wishing to return, they usually register and then withdraw. This requires searching for profound solutions that require awareness-raising, financial and social support, and receiving lessons in citizenship.

Among the obstacles are the following:

ISIS women are marginalized, which pushes them back to extremism and leaves them exposed to permanent danger, as a reaction to the treatment of their countries of origin.

The evidence is blurred due to the remoteness and instability of countries especially the areas of influence of terrorist organizations.

Focusing on returnees only to prevent them from extremism, without taking into account those in prisons who can spread extremism easily.

The existence of active smuggling networks for transporting and financing ISIS women, with the cost of smuggling ranging between \$10,000 and \$35,000.

Second section: Solutions and Deep Management of The Security Dilemma

With the obstacles that stand in the way of the success of the process of integrating foreign fighters and their families, the receiving countries have realized that they need long-term solutions and deep prevention, and not only immediate measures that can exacerbate the situation. Among the proposals is the need to disengage from violent and radical behavior while deradicalizing that needs psychological follow-up to change from violent thinking to positive thinking generates a sense of belonging and patriotism.

So that the previous solutions were based on the psychological aspect as a means to facilitate the investigation and find out the extent of the extremism of the returnees, and their purpose was not psychological treatment in itself, and the receiving countries did not have a real desire to include them, but they realized that the policy of marginalization increases the distance, and the feeling that you are part of society keeps extremism away, which is what some countries have worked to implement by stimulating special programs for returnees, such as Aarhus in Denmark, and Free Democracy Germany, is preventing extremism in Belgium besides lifting. Germany also relied on diplomatic contacts with Turkey to deliver the families of the fighters, while Belgium relied on an administrative procedure, which is the hotspot, organized by the Belgian Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs, to ensure safe return. This procedure is based on the following points:



- Follow up contact with security and intelligence services.
- Assessing threats and risks for each individual.
- Delivery of the returnees to Belgium by the Federal Police and the Public Prosecution.

Thus, 6 children unaccompanied by their mothers were returned in 2019 from the Hol camp under Kurdish control. A court ruled that Belgium was obligated to return a mother and her two children who were detained in the Roj camp, and the rulings were multiple after that, which prompted security officials, especially the federal public prosecutor, The head of the fight against terrorism to join the voices demanding the orderly return of all European citizens to their homelands which is the safest way to ensure law enforcement, the rehabilitation of returnees, and the prosecution of those involved in terrorist acts.¹

The level of social awareness of the situation and acceptance of the returnees as victims and not as criminals, especially since they had the will to do so and that they were completely far from those crimes and their goal was not to join the organization to carry out terrorist acts, but rather they are victims of false media and therefore trust must be rebuilt between society and the returnees through reconciliation, communication, and trying to coexist among them, by involving fighters in reconstruction efforts and avoiding controversial discussions.²

And the European Union countries must find techniques for individual investigation with the returnees and measure the extent of their responsibility for crimes and hostilities in secret to protect the returnees and witnesses as well while relying on in-depth analyzes and research on women who have the ability to re-radicalize and recruit, as prison staff play a major psychological role.³

¹ Thomas Renard, Rik Coolsaet, From Bad to Worse :The Fate of European Foreign Fighters And Families Detained in Syria,One Year After The Turkish Offensive.EGMONT,royal institute for the international relations,N°130,october2020,Brussels. (consulted on :18 /11/2023 22 :06).See the link :https://www.egmontinstitute.be/pp/uploads/2020/10/spb130_final.pdf

² Carlota Rigotta.op.cit

³ Ouafae Sandi.op.cit



Conclusion:

Social integration is one of the most important ways to achieve coexistence and harmony in one society, but it becomes difficult when it is related to security aspects, and this is what European countries have realized, so that it is dangerous to rejoin individuals who were previously fighters in the ranks of terrorist organizations, because this could be the first building block for reactivating terrorist cells and spreading extremism. However, the fate of children who remain innocent in the eyes of international law cannot be neglected, as they can be benefited from their psychological and health rehabilitation.

Results:

- To succeed integration, the process must include all cultural, social, and economic aspects.
- Social integration means adopting values and norms that may be new, and require abandoning the original values.
- The lack of community acceptance makes the integration process impossible.
- The returnee must have a real will to integrate, which requires building confidence and eliminating doubts.

Suggestions:

Although it is difficult for some European countries to accept the returnees of ISIS members and their families, this does not preclude the need to seriously think about the fate of some of them who must be dealt with as victims and not as criminals, especially children and the weak among them who were forced to remain in the ranks of the organization or lived under threat. From this aspect European countries must follow security plans through which they work on a deep and individual investigation to verify their true goals of joining terrorist groups, as well as allocating most of the capabilities to provide them with psychological care, not only for the sake of treatment, but in order to eradicate extremist and violent thought from their thinking. Caution must also be taken while dealing with women, as they are the main players in raising children, as well as their position in the ranks of ISIS, as this organization recorded the highest percentage of female recruits and suicides compared to other organizations, and therefore they are as guilty as the rest of the terrorist elements.



Bibliography List :

1. Electronic Books :

1. Anita Persin and Daniel Pisiou, Repatriated Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Their Families : European experiences and lessons For P/CVE, publications office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/17 :45)
https://home-affairs.ec-europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/ram_ad_hoc_repatriated_ftfs_en.pdf
2. Carlota Rigotti and Julia Zomignam barboza, Unfolding The Case of Returnees : how the European Union and its member states are addressing the return of foreign fighters and their families ; Cambridge University Press, 2021.UK.pp683-703, (consulted on :16 /06/2023/17 :47)
<http://international-review-icrc.org/sites/default/files/review/02/2022.pdf>
3. Tenta Audimetaj and Julie Colman, What EU Members States Can Learn From Kosovo's Experience in Repatriating Former Foreign Fighters and Their Families, Clingendael, Netherlands ,institute of international relations, may2020 (consulted on :18/11/2023/22/51)
See the link :https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/policy_brief_Kosovo_experience_repartriating_former_foreign_fighters_may_2020.pdf

B. Internet websites:

1. Abdul Qadir Foshan, Ahmed Al-Alawi, Social Inclusion: Concept, Dimensions and Indicators, (Consulted on : 16 /06/2023/16 :37)
<http://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/downArticle/568/4/1/82171.V4,N°1/15/01/2017/pp29-45>
2. Asmaa Nasir al-Din, Durkheim's Total Integration, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/18 : 17)
<http://mirdad.app/articles/1655/16/05/2023>
3. Khalid Koser and Lilla Schumicky, ISIS Global Risks and Responses Issues Repatriating Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Families by The lowly, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/17 :52)
<http://www.lowlyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/risks-responses-repartriating-foreign-terrorist-fighters-families/03/11/2022>
4. Tanya Mehra ; Matthew Wentworth and Abigali Thorley, The European Court of Human Rights Sitting on The Fence ?its ruling and impact on the repatriation of european children from north-east Syria/16/09/2022, (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/17 : 50)
<https://www.icct.nl/publication/european-court-human-rights-sitting-fence-its-ruling-and-impact-repatriation-european>
5. Ouafae Sandi, Affiliated With ISIS : challanges for the return and reintegration of women and children, UNDP, 24/10/2022, (consulted on :16 /06/2023/17 :49)



<https://relifweb.int/report/iraq/affiliated-isis-challenges-return-and-reintegration-women-and-children-enar>

6. <http://reintegrationhb-iom-int/ar/module/fhm-aadt-aladmaj>, (consulted on : 16 /06/ 2023/16 :23)

7. <http://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/76581/1/Unit-7.pdf>(Consulted on :18/11/2023/23 :39)

8. [https://socialsci.libretexts.org/bookshelves/sociology/Introduction_to_Sociology/sociology_\(Boundless\)/01%3Asociology/1-02%3A_The_History_of_Sociology/1-2F%3A_Durkeim_and_Social_Integration](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/bookshelves/sociology/Introduction_to_Sociology/sociology_(Boundless)/01%3Asociology/1-02%3A_The_History_of_Sociology/1-2F%3A_Durkeim_and_Social_Integration).(consulted on :18/11/2023/23 :24)

9. [www://atlas.101-ca/pm/concepts/social-integration/](http://www.atlas.101-ca/pm/concepts/social-integration/)(Consulted on :19/11/2023/01 : 14)

10. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0197397515001319>

11. <https://www.risetopeace.org/2019/01/31/returning-foreign-fighters-a-global-threat/kcHapman/>

3.Reports:

1.Associated with ISIS: Challenges of Return and Reintegration for Women and Children (Report), (consulted on : 16 /06/2023/16 :48)

<http://www.undp.org/ar/arabe-states/publications/mrtbtat-bdash-thdyat-alwadt-waadt-aladmaj-llnsa-walatfal>

2.Ghidelines For Addressing the Threats and Challenges of Foreign Terrorist Fighters Withen a Human Rights Frame Works,OSCE office for democratic institutions and humanrights(ODI HR).Poland2018

See the link :https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/4/7/393503_2.pdf(consulted on : 18 /11/2023/22 :31)

4. Electronic articles:

1.Vida Beresnviute,Dimention of Social Human Appraisal of Theoretical Approaches, Ethnicity Studies 2003,ISBN9955-12-044-4,institute for social research.velnius.6-108. (Consulted on :19/11/2023/01 :04)

See the link : http://ces.it/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/ETSTBersen_enviciute_2003.pdf

2.Thomas Renard, Rik Coolsaet, From Bad to Worse :The Fate of European Foreign Fighters And Families Detained in Syria,One Year After The Turkish Offensive.EGMONT,royal institute for the international relations,N°130,october 2020.Brussels.(consulted on :18/11/2023/22 :06)