

Abstract

This bachelor thesis tries to analyze the effectiveness of the counterterrorism strategy of leadership decapitation in the Caucasus Emirate terrorist group. This strategy gained the attention of academia and policy makers mainly after the 9/11 attacks and the Israeli counterterrorism campaign during the second intifada. Governments are spending a major amount of finances and effort to capture or kill the leaders of terrorist groups; however the effectiveness of this approach is increasingly being questioned. The goal of this paper is to assess the effectiveness of the leadership decapitation strategy used by the Russian security forces against the Caucasus Emirate terrorist organization. The first part of this paper is presenting the current academic discussion on the leadership decapitation strategy. The second empirical part of this paper is analyzing the Caucasus Emirate organization and using gathered data to evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy.