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The Electronic Terrorist Rumors and Their Effects on The International Safety and Peace

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Abstract: The technological development which the information revolution made has a big impact on the life of the people and the environment they live in. In particular, it facilitates many of traits in life especially in the cognitive, news, medical and health issues. However, there were many shortcomings in life which directly or indirectly affected people such as terrorist rumors in the electronic world. These rumors are described as the most dangerous phenomena affecting the community security which stormed life and affect the international safety and peace. Last, this matter requires combating internationally through preventing rumors which the terrorist organizations use and most often incite violence and racist strife.

شائعات الإرهاب الإلكترونية وأثرها على الأمن والسلم الدوليين

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الخلاصة: كان للتطور التكنولوجي الذي أحدثته ثورة المعلومات تأثير كبير على حياة الناس والبيئة التي يعيشون فيها ، وعلى وجه الخصوص ، فإنه يسهل العديد من السمات في الحياة وخاصة في القضايا المعرفية والأخبار والطبية والصحية. ومع ذلك ، كان هناك العديد من أوجه القصور في الحياة والتي أثرت بشكل مباشر أو غير مباشر على الناس مثل الشائعات الإرهابية في العالم الإلكتروني. وتوصف هذه الإشاعات بأنها من أخطر الظواهر التي تؤثر على أمن المجتمع وتقتحم الحياة وتؤثر على الأمن والسلم الدوليين. وأخيرا ، فإن هذا الأمر يتطلب محاربة دولية من خلال منع الإشاعات التي تستخدمها المنظمات الإرهابية والتي تحرض في أغلب الأحيان على العنف والفتنة العنصرية.

Introduction

Rumors has become one of the means of war communication in terms of physical and spiritual reality in different form, times and places, particularly in the time of conflict in its different types because of their swift spread and real influence on the people. Often, they are not transmitted in their original forms to the receiver who adds to, and distort, them sometimes to shake the security of a community and trouble the people. This matter made the phenomenon a dangerous means which terrorist exploit to achieve their aims, and interests.

First: Problem of The Study

This study problems are represented in showing the negative role of terrorist rumors and their effects on the safety and security of a community in different life sides. Have the rules of the laws treated and covered this phenomenon? Or The International Community should excrete more efforts to control the environment, which spread rumors particularly in technology through controlling the computer-generated world, deter the performers and cite them to forensic courts because what they do is considered international crimes at the end? Despite the actions The International Community takes in terms of focuses, the international security is still porous in times of economic, political crises and all different forms of conflict. This means these rumors can spread terrorism in countries.

Second: Importance of The Study

This research is importance because it studies the terrorist groups' use of the traditional and electronic rumors to break the societies and frighten them. However, The International Community is sometimes unable to fight them because of the anonymity of the sources and the hidden faces spreading them.

Third: Reasons for The Study

One of the motivations to study this topic is international peace and safety cannot happen in a society unless all forms of rumors are controlled, particularly the terrorist ones which cause unstable psychology and safety in the society.

Fourth: Method of The Study

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach through the analysis of the international legal texts, which are directly related to the topic, and some international rules and reports.

Fifth: Research Hypothesis

The study analyses the existence of clear flaws in The International Community from the law perspective which increases the opportunity of misuse of the electronic world by some users, particularly the terrors groups. Therefore,

combating this issue will only happen by making international agreements and activating the role of The International Community. This is to censor the contents of the electronic world for threatening tools increase sectarianism and racial discrimination. This discrimination leads to committing cybercrimes, the most dangerous is terrorism particularly the emotional ones, reflecting on the human peace.

Sixth: Research Structure

In accordance with what was mentioned before and for the sake of controlling the research, the study is divided it into two parts preceded by preliminary section on rumors, their forms, concepts, and their distinctions from other. The second illustrates the effect of the electronic terrorist rumors on in the security of the society and the role of the international law in controlling them. The research is finished with a conclusion containing many findings and necessary suggestions.

Preliminary

The Concept of Rumors

This section deals with the concept of rumors and distinguishing them from other. Then it shows their forms as follows:

First Requirement

The Concept of Rumors

All in his holly book states “Those who love (to see) scandal published broadcast among the Believers, will have a grievous Penalty in this life and in the Hereafter: Allah knows, and ye know not.” (Quran 24:19, Quranic Arabic Corpus).

Rumors have different definitions differ according to the angle from which you define them. In Arabic language, they have different forms. Rumor can mean to make rumors. It is said, a piece of news is popular which means it became popular

and people knew it. It is also said if you distributed it among them and show the secrete, i.e. broadcast it. It is also said the mam is mushae'a' (in Arabic) which means s/he is a broadcaster and does not keep a secret (Abu Al-Fadl, 2003). Ibrahim (1983:503) stated that "a piece of news which is spread which is not fixed and a rumor is the news which is broadcast and is not fixed".

Form terminology perspective, it is known as " promoting information that has no basis in reality and that is based on exaggeration or distortion in releasing news or information in a different way with a intent to influence the psychological opinion of the local or global public to achieve economic, political or social goals as one of the methods of psychological warfare". It can also be "a private idea in which people believe and is transferred among people. This happens by means of words which humans pronoun without depending on a source" or witness (Hassanin, 2014:120). It is also said it is a "manner of war psychology and a narration of a fabricated piece of news, or narration of part of reality which is intended to influence the local, universal, or regional opinion of the public in whispering campaign or by social media to fulfill political, economic, social, or military gains in the scope of countries, regions or worldwide" (Mohammed, 1418:12). On that basis, a rumor is merely a narration pronounced to affect the psychology of the hearer who believes it, and it is not important to be true.

Therefore, it can be said that terroristic rumors are only rumors used by terrorists as a psychological weapon and in forms of reporting and false threats to frighten opponents or enemy. Rumors also aim to cause a loss of their morale and undermine their security, stability and losing control over the situation particularly in times of crisis. As a result, these publics lose trust in the security forces through spreading fear and psychological terrorism among them by using it as war and organized and targeted media war.

The Second Requirement

Distinction Among Rumors and Other Interrelated Concepts

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It is important to clearly distinguish between rumors and other concepts such as news, and hearsays; that's is through:

First: news: Ibrahim (2011:222) explains: "what is communicated and conversed, spoken or written can be right or wrong". Terminologically, it means "its in the information related to a specific event and depend, or seems to depend, on the physical reality. Thus, no forecasting interferes because they are imaginations which do not depend on objective subjects and has no basis in the physical reality" (Abdel-Muhaimin, 1970:220). False news is defined as "the wronged or inaccurate content which pours through social press and carries information vulnerable to be transmitted into news interesting in the news media and people". Therefore, news can be right or wrong and thus news narration is the starting point for rumors. That is if the narrator gets far away from the ways the news came in. However, news is different from rumors in that news have know sources and can be confirmed and its authenticity can be approved, and transferable in different modes. In contrast, rumors depend largely on whispering, secret and ambiguity. The news most often is neutral and has one interpretation while rumors aims at fulfilling a malicious aim particularly in war times. It is also difficult to find a clear-cut evidence to them in contrast with news (Amro: 87).

Second: propaganda: it is "any information, ideas, beliefs or private calls spread and distributed in any forms of general or public media affecting the opinions and feelings, and beliefs and behavior of any group in a specific time for a general known purpose whether, military, economic or political (Salah, 1966:434-435). Or to benefit the party which directs it directly or indirectly.

Propaganda and rumors share the same method of distribution and aim at affecting the psychology of the publics. They were used as a means or manner if psychology war. If the psychology were field is a person, its weapon would be words. This does not mean they are similar.

Propaganda is communication activity and rumor are a social activity. Propaganda is an organized campaign, while a rumor is different form propaganda in aims which could not be an aim to hurt the general or public interest. It might be for marketing, economic, political purposes as it is the case in election campaign while rumors only aim at hurting the interest of the society and person.

The Third Requirement

Forms of Rumors

Rumors can be classified into different types according to different criteria such as time space, topic and the interested parts:

First, in terms of time: It is of three types, the first of which is crawling, i.e. growing slowly until it reaches to the biggest group of people after undergoing distortion in the passage of time. The second is thrusting; it is quickly spreading and appears in crisis and danger which threaten human beings. The last is diving which appears in a specific time and circumstance, disappears and appears again when the circumstances appear too (Reda, 2015).

Second, the criterion of space which is either local rumors which do not go beyond local borders such as city or a region and ends very quickly for different reasons such as public awareness or the opposition of the public. The interference of the media and the official parties. It is usually related to race and like local rumors, yet its expansion extends to include the whole nation because losing control over it or stopping its spread and spreading in the local region. That could be because it contains issues important to the whole society. They can be universal beyond local or region of a country. That is because it affects many countries and leave its impact internationally from these rumors which are considered a fatal disease in a country. The international news agent broadcast the news deliberately or under the influence of misinformation and deception (Amna, 2019).

Third: in terms of content: this type of rumors are classified into different time such as political which is the most dangerous now and plays a key role through its influence on the individual and society and for political aims and serve it by influencing people's beliefs and change their beliefs on specific issues (Iman, 2011). Some of them are related to social issues which concentrated on what interests the society. They affect it, weaken its determination, discourage its abilities and paralyze their will and make it nervous frightened and ready to accept any rumors and believe it. This kind of rumors is dangerous because it inherits social hatred, malice and odiousness among the individual of a society (Abdul Rahem, 2010). Also, there are economic rumors which attack a specific field such as economy or all fields in the hopes of achieving a specific aim. Yet, economic rumors are used in military, security or terrorist fields such as demoralize the security forces which target the national issues etc.

Fourth: in term of the targeted party, rumors are either individual targeting a specific individual and less important particularly when its subject is an ordinary person. However, their importance increases if it targets an important person who has a significant status in a society.

It can be social targeting a group in a society or a group of individuals belonging to a specific class or part. It can be social which depend largely on external press media to affect the whole society. This is what distinguishes it from the other types of which is set out and promotes in the local or regional borders and can not find supports from press media or external press (Amna,2019).

The Second Section

The Effect of Terrorist Rumors on The Security of The Society and The Roles of The International Law in Confronting It.

This section deals with the role of social media in distributing terrorist rumors and their effects on the society and ends with the role of the international law in facing them:

First Requirement

The Role of Social Media in Distributing Terrorist Rumors

Internet and its social applications are worse than what happened yet simultaneously the best of what happened to terrorist rumors because there is no other equal media in its validity, and expansion for communication through their pages and emails. This allows the space to distribute and exchange false news very easily. With the existence of internet, the interaction in it and the swift communication through it, it becomes easy to communicate via emails and electronic rumors are the hidden unofficial sources.

With the spread of rumors and their quick circulation among the people of a society through social media, the structure and media of distribution changed and varied (Abdul -Qader, 2003) with the change of nature and feature of their environment promoting it. Social media in all its different forms are the best media which strategic terrorist station depends on to distribute their activities in different forms such as violence- unrest- terrorism and criminal acts and distribute rumors and false news, shaking the beliefs and ideological principles, the morale in a society (Naser, 2019). Also, the terrorist group depend on these sites to promote lies and claims to affect the public opinion to create crises among people as it is one of the means of war of fourth generation.

The strategies of the terrorist organizations aim to spread rumors on social media to break through the system of values, culture and naturalize their ideological and intellectual reference in their users, and produce a discourse of force and power, declare psychological war against enemies and lobbying users and trafficking fighters.

The media discourse for these organizations aims to create a mass of the public cohered with them in their beliefs and manners and develop the awareness of the individual and acceptance to concord with the system of values for the organizations practicing their belief for conflict (Reham, 2019).

Rumors and terrorism share conducting terrorist acts and if they were able to establish a school of terrorism, their first lesson would be “do no rush to shoot bullet, start first shoot a rumor and deliberately make it is crude and exciting.

It plays a key role in preparing a suitable environment and stage to execute their terrorist crimes and stimulate whoever have the wish, intention and psychological preparedness. They also try to numb the public social opinion so that they do not condemn it, but accepts it and justify it (Nihal, 2019).

With the development in the media of transferring general and terrorist rumors, the increase in the spread and distribution of the rumors enlarges the negative influence on a nation too. Also, whenever, the media expand the extent or terrorist rumors the borders of a nation to the regional and international borders, it is followed by varying and expansion of their effects reaching the effects of clear violation of the rules of the international laws which we will show next:

The Second Requirement

The Effects of Rumors on Society

Rumors spread in different interactive social fields such as political, social, economic and military. The interaction between individuals and groups can spread rumors even if there are differences in the size of danger and forms. Some of its consequences are:

First: its use as psychological war: rumors and whispering campaign are bases of psychological war. They are the most modern dangerous wars because they aim to change beliefs, misrepresents and distort facts and exaggerate in sayings and deeds using different techniques of persuasion such as the ones in Hollywood to ingress defeat in the psychology of others. Terrorism seems not to be using armed wars only against nations and people recently. It started to resort to psychological wars through spreading rumors and bloody horror videos to affect and weaken the determination of the people. Also, war rumors are part of the political violence followed by terrorist organization to reach the power of a country, control it, and invade it by force.

Second, the social and economic influence: the society in which rumors spread is vulnerable to loss morale because it builds barriers which blocks realities and causes gossip to hide the truth and realities of rumors. This matter generates a perplexing environment affecting the credibility of the opinion of the public and sends negative powers in the society paralyzing its activity, mobility, productivity, corruption, unrest and crimes prevail. This is reflected negatively on the whole country. It is the main means to break the social relationships and destroy families, creating strife among groups. It is also a method for psychological diseases such as anxiety, exhaustion and wandering (Reda, 2015). In addition, rumors also affect the economy of a country because the economic situation of many countries are shrinking every now and then since their markets face a fierce competition from the external markets. Most often, the competition is established based on invalid tendentious rumors. Usually they affect sect production which is destructing for the income and income is the economic bases for countries such as tourism. Every now and then they it is said that terrorist acts targeting targeting sects and establishments such as tourism particularly tourist hotels and general sects. If the content of the rumor is related to reducing the price of a main currency such as dollar, that results an increasing demand for it and reduction in the demand for the local currency. This causes inflation wherein the prices enhance because of the too much offer of the local currency and therefore the effect of the rumor depends on the nature of the targeted economic activity, its importance and the extent to which it is linked to individuals for example, the more of social activities the economy activity it is, the more the affected are (Mufreh,, 2001).

Third: the political and military influence

Rumors affect political activities in many countries because of some situations. Often rumors target some political cases in a country to affect the various political gains or disturb the relationships between one country and another or dragging some to change their attitude. This prevails in internal political

circumstances whose governing is democratic particularly at the time of election so that political parties can win and weaken the leader of rival parties. In terms of external politics. Rumors were and still the strongest factor for destruction particularly at war times targeting decision makers in the government and army leaders to affect their beliefs, attitudes, and awareness to serve the party which spread the rumor (Reha, 2015).

In military terms, rumors attempt to frighten, shake determination and lose confidence in the army's ability and weaken the morale in the fighters and citizens. Rumors do not only cause unrest but accompany it and increase its violence (Nayef, 2010).

Rumors are a form of the psychological war and one of its important tools which tries to weaken the morale of the enemy and paralyze its movement before hitting and crushing them militarily during wars. They facilitate undergoing weapon war and its consequence. Because of the validity of rumors in this field, some military leaders believe it is possible to make the enemy destroy themselves i.e. defeated in terms of morale so there is no need to use weapon which means morale defeat is equal to real defeat (Abdullah, 2019).

Fourth: the influence on national security of the countries: Through instigating demonstrations and violence in a country particularly the ones related to suppressed sects as well as gossiping for the public opinion, rumors reduce confidence in the government and its systems and affect the decision of the country attempting to confuse the decision makes in the hope of making them rush some decision, delay some important issues or misjudge important cases by hiding realities. This shatters the mind of the ordinary people and people in charge and directing them to secondary issues (Miteb, 2013). Rumors work on shaking the internal stability of the nations and society particularly when they target leaders or stars of countries or discussing issues related to the social peace such as the one conducted by ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Here, the effects of rumors will remain active and continue for period of time particularly in the era of swift

communication through social media and technology which spread like the spread of fire in chaff (<http://www.siyassa.org.eg/News/15187.aspx>).

The Third Requirement

The Roles of The International Law in Fighting Terroristic Rumors

Having shown the effects of terroristic rumors on the society and its security, it is important to show the attitude of The International Community in terms of prohibition, criminalizing and punishment.

Because of the effect of rumors on the international publics opinion and directing it in a bad and misleading way, which lead to wary of the society and the vital interest and the protection of the individual which are countries and behind it the interests of these countries. So, the more the rumor is dangerous, the more these interests are in danger or harm. This matter requires an international fighting (Alaa, 2019).

Today, rumors are one of the critical terrorist tools and a manner of the fourth-generation war in which and media press and news makers play a key and dangerous role. They are employed in making in advance unrest and directing the attention, news making and amplifying the selected events to shake the stability and mislead the publics (Majdi, 2016). It is one of the media of smooth force which has become equal in danger to the physical force. Fourth-generation war tactics most often depend on rumors and secret which are lead by trained people to make unrest, disturbance and terrorist acts, explosions, stealth and cultural invasion and spreading rumors and other forms of packing activities which are based to destroy the morale and affect the psychology of the opponent. These practices developed and became theories for the new generation of wars among nations or among nations and groups and vice versa. It depends on breaking the determination and failing the systems of the countries causing huge unrest, confusion and internal horror until it allows

external interference to achieve and fulfil particular aims or continue this internal unrest to prevent the countries from looking on other countries and involve them in their internal problems in a way which serve international or regional aims and forces (<http://www.siyassa.org.eg/News/15187.aspx>).

It is seen that the traditional and regional treatise does not include any texts that criminalize or prohibit these terrorist rumors. They do not interfere directly in the forensic court in article 5/A of its original system. However, because rumors are a threat to the internal national security, they can also be a threat to the international security when the terroristic rumors are linked with the four international crimes. This causes trouble and fear in the people and the public interest. Therefore, whoever spread news, data, rumor and suspicious propaganda which can cause genocide or crimes against humanities or war crimes or enemy crimes is considered a real international criminal because of sizes and effects of the ideas. Although rumors are not directly criminalized internationally, the international law prohibited any propaganda for war, hatred, sectarianism or racism or religious hatred which instigate hostility, violence or discrimination (Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966). This confirms with rumors because of the clear link between them and propaganda. There is no doubt the danger of press war propaganda negatively packs the public opinion. The International Community has taken direction towards, since the era of The United Nation, to criminalize it and this was the first attempt in Geneva in 1936 which is related to organize wireless radio in time of peace. Their parties agreed “to cooperate to prevent any radio in their countries- and related issues- on stopping the radio without delay-if required- if these radios were to harm the international understanding regardless of its content such as violation of the internal system or harming the peace of the lands of another country”. The involved nations also promised in the second article to “cooperate on making sure there is no broadcasting in their counites, no instigation on war in a country which leads to war” (Hassanein, 1990 :172).

Moreover, The International Community promised to condemn all forms of propaganda which can initiate threat to peace and security of societies or violate them. That was emphasized in more than one decision in The United Nations General Assembly No. 110 / II of 1947.

The International Community also prohibited committing international crimes in any form or means, some of which are terrorist acts through electronic press. Many laws and recommendations were issued. They obliged the nations to take necessary actions to prevent urgings on violence to commit crimes. The nations are responsible to fight hatred speech through encouraging positive messages which call for cohesions. It also emphasized the role of the of those in charge of media press to limit the spread of hatred calls which may cause instigation on discrimination, hostility or violence (Security Council Resolution 1624 of 2005).

The International Community tackled instigation on terrorism in many decisions because instigation is considered an act against the principals of The United Nations in its article No. 1373 of 2001. Furthermore, it concentrated the importance of taking necessary actions to prevent terrorist act (s) (Security Council Resolution 1624 of 2005).

The European Council also signed an agreement to prevent terrorism which went into actions in 2007 and included preventative measures to prevent new acts such as overt prompting on committing terrorism. In article 5, it stipulates “ the purpose of this agreement means overt instigation to commit terrorist acts spreading a message with the aim to instigate terroristic crime...” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Legislative Guide to the Global Legal System against Terrorism, (United Nations United, 2008: 7-9).

In the context of organizing the positive and peaceful use for the computer world, The United Nations contributed a key role. It took the authority to issue many decisions related to that A/RES/53/70 in 1999 which state the

necessity of preventing technology resources or exploiting it for criminal and terrorist acts A/RES/68/243 in 2014 and A/RES/71/28 in 2016. These decisions concentrated on the application of the international law particularly The United Nation charter to the use of information and communication technology. It is a necessary matter to keep the safety, stability and preparedness of an open and secured and peacefully accessible environment. In press regards, The United Nations issued many decisions. It asked nations not to misuse traditional press media and modern technology for press and communication such as racism, hatred for foreigners and encouraging hatred violence or extremism (UN General Assembly Resolution A / RES / 5664). For that purpose, The General United Nations issued many decisions related to the misuse of information technology for criminal acts to fight racism and racial discrimination.

It becomes clear that the international law does not leave the matter of prohibiting terrorist rumors and punishments without organizations, even if that is not direct through signing agreement which all countries should follow, but it dealt with it indirectly through issuing many international texts, decision and reports which prohibit violating the internal and international peace and security. It also prevents calls and encouragement to war and terrorism and violence and all of which can lead international crimes because rumors include all these acts. Rumors often include violations of human rights, which every individual enjoy, calls and encouragements for war and terrorism and spread racism and sectarianism which lead to genocide or war against humanity. For all of that, the importance of international references appeared to prohibit electronic rumors and preferably through signing agreement mandatory for all nations.

Conclusions:

At the end, the following findings and recommendations are reached:

Findings:

- 1- Rumors find their fertile environment in societies which lack awareness and literacy where unemployment prevails.
- 2- Often terrorist rumors include multiple harms, because of the multiplicity of the forms of impact that result from it such as psychological, social, economic, political and military impact at the same time.
- 3- Rumors represent a major challenge to the sovereignty of states, their control over the electronic world, the information and news that affect their national security. As it is difficult to control this world because it provides advantages of hiding evidence before reaching the perpetrator. In addition, most actors in this world rely on the right to freedom of opinion, expression, communication and access to information.
4. Terrorist rumors are characterized by their international dimension because of the environment in which they spread and being an international environment, which is not a subject to the restrictions of space, time and sovereignty.
- 5- Terrorist rumors are one of the tools of soft power, which is a distinctive feature of the wars of the fourth-generation and proxy wars. The importance of rumors and their effectiveness exceeded the military force in real wars and were not neglected by terrorism.
- 6- Social media serve terrorism because they are a suitable platform to conduct terrorist plans, attract, use and influence their users through their organized rumors.
- 7 - The absence of direct and open international fighting of rumors in general and terrorism in particular. The role of international law is limited to prohibit call for war and instigation to terrorism, hatred, violence, and discrimination. It should also organize the use of the electronic world by regulating the peaceful use of information, communication technology and the media.

Recommendations

The study recommends to

- 1- Activate international control over the use of the electronic environment, its social media sites, and what is being communicated and transmitted through it, tracking the terrorist presence on it by prohibiting terrorist websites, investigating those in charge of them, and not neglecting the rumors spread during them.
- 2- Emphasize the activation of the authority of those in charge of the media, the internet and the founders of social websites regarding the content published therein, focusing on the importance of the policy of prohibiting terrorist content in those sites and not limiting it to specific contents than others, otherwise, it led to security chaos in an environment that is difficult to control.
- 3- Activate the laws governing the questioning and investigating those involved, announcing them through displaying samples of this in audio, visual, and electronic media. It is also recommended to increase security awareness of the citizen to become parallel to the security services, informing the security authorities to follow-up and taking the necessary precautions to curb the rumor and correct and correct its wrong information.
- 4-Deter rumors through studying the reasons and responding to the causes, i.e. a thorough understanding the causes of the rumor, which are bases of ignorance, misuse of social media and the curiosity of some.

5. Find official awareness-raising platforms through social media, and differentiate between the freedom of expression in unrest and violation in promoting rumors on the one hand and on the other hand for the purpose of interfering with national security.
- 6 -Law colleges should play their role in studying and researching rumors and the way to fight them, in addition to holding seminars and awareness seminars for their students to increase their legal and knowledge awareness of the seriousness of rumors and the way to ignore rumors.
- 7- The importance of making The International Community aware of the seriousness of terrorist rumors, especially the electronic ones, on international peace and security and attempting to r signing an international agreement that regulates this issue.
- 8- Improve international cooperation to achieve an effective confrontation of spreading terrorist rumors by a program of extraditing criminals, exchanging information, experiences, following up and investigating active terrorists in this field.

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