

DISINFORMATION - THE SECRET WEAPON OF MODERN TERRORISM

Sandra Sophie-Elise OLĂNESCU*

ABSTRACT: *This study was developed for the purpose of making a thorough analysis in relation to one of the fundamental impact drivers of terrorism, in the absence of which its very existence would have been purely conceptual, not materialized in the objective reality as it happened in the last three decades, or at most would have had little significant dimension internationally, namely: **disinformation**.*

This study focuses on the contemporaneity of disinformation, as a phenomenon of mass manipulation, in the current circumstances of spreading information and data with unprecedented speed, via social networks, news websites and online press publications, online television (including with broadcast live) and, last but not least, the "Internet of things", all of this disinformation becoming a true "weapon" in the hands of anyone who knows how to use it, especially if we talk about the phenomenon of international terrorism .

The theme of the study was chosen to make a comparative assessment of the purpose and effects of disinformation, in relation to those of terrorism, so that, at the end of its reading, it can be concluded whether the two phenomena are complementary or at least work " symbiotically" or these notions are mutually exclusive, not presenting any connection (not even hypothetical) with each other.

In view of this approach, the study proposes an analysis inclusive of the legal framework currently in force at international level regarding disinformation in order to highlight a general perspective - by the similarities of these rules - and a particular one, outlined by the differences of these regulatory frameworks, be it international, regional or local.

KEYWORDS: *disinformation; communication; manipulation; misinformation; weapon*

JEL Code: *K00, K33, K30*

* Lawyer, Bucharest Bar, ROMANIA.