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CYBER-TERRORISM IN THE AGE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY

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Over the past several years, terrorism has been one of the complex issues faced by government policy makers, analysts, and the public. The complexity of terrorism has emerged not only from the definition of the concept itself but also the tactics that terrorist groups use, the countries that support terrorist groups, and the policies and procedures that have been used to counter terrorist actions by the target countries. In this perspective the concept of Cyber-terrorism present new challenges for law enforcement and policy makers. Due to its transnational nature, a real and sound response to such a threat requires international cooperation involving participation of all concerned parties in the international community. However, vulnerability emerges from increased reliance on technology, lack of legal measures, and lack of cooperation at the national and international level represents real obstacle toward effective response to these threats. Terrorists and cyber criminals will exploit vulnerabilities, including technical, legal, political, and cultural. Such a broad range of vulnerabilities can be dealt with by comprehensive cooperation which requires efforts both at the national and international level. “Vulnerability-Comprehensive Cooperation-Freedom Scale” identified variables that constructed the scale based on the expert opinions. Also, the study presented typology of cyber-terrorism, which involves three general classifications of cyber-terrorism; Disruptive and destructive information attacks, Facilitation of technology to support the ideology, and Communication, Fund raising, Recruitment. Such a typology is expected to help those who are in a position of decision-making and investigating activities as well as academicians in the area of terrorism.