

# Global Terrorist Rehabilitation and Community Engagement Programmes: The State-of-the-Art

**Prof. Rohan Gunaratna**  
**Professor of Security Studies**  
**Head**  
**International Centre for Political Violence and**  
**Terrorism Research**  
**Email: [secretary-icpvtr@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:secretary-icpvtr@ntu.edu.sg)**

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## Global Approaches

- 1. Counterterrorism Operations**  
“Fighting fire with fire”  
Although effective, will not by itself produce the desired outcome
- 2. Rehabilitation and Reintegration**  
Winning “hearts and minds” to transform beneficiaries through multi-faceted activities
- 3. Community Engagement**  
To “inoculate” vulnerable segments of the community against radicalisation

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## Global Approaches: (1) Counterterrorism Operations

- Coordinated intelligence measures
- “Hard” approaches:
  - Disrupt
  - Capture
  - Kill

## Global Approaches: (2) Rehabilitation and Reintegration

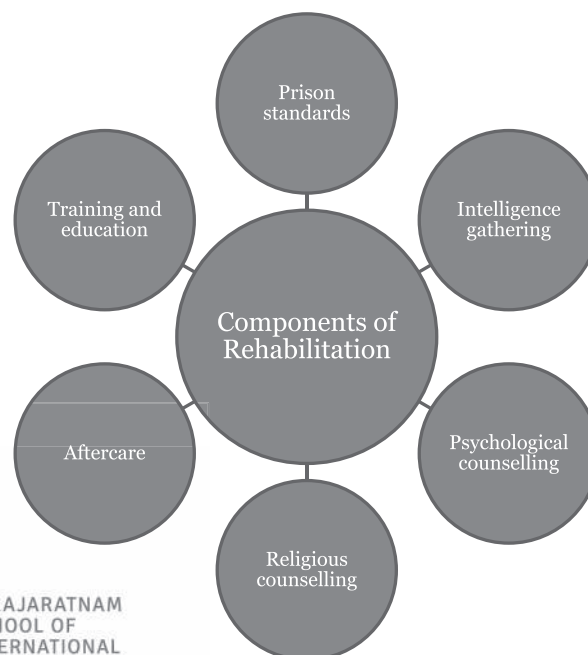
### Why rehabilitate?

1. **Security Threat:** Unless terrorists in custody transform, when released they will continue to pose an enduring threat to public safety and security
2. **Regeneration:** Terrorists will contaminate society and increase the pool of supporters and sympathisers
3. **Terrorist Iconography:** Terrorists will earn the status of heroes worthy of respect and emulation by the next generation of terrorist recruits

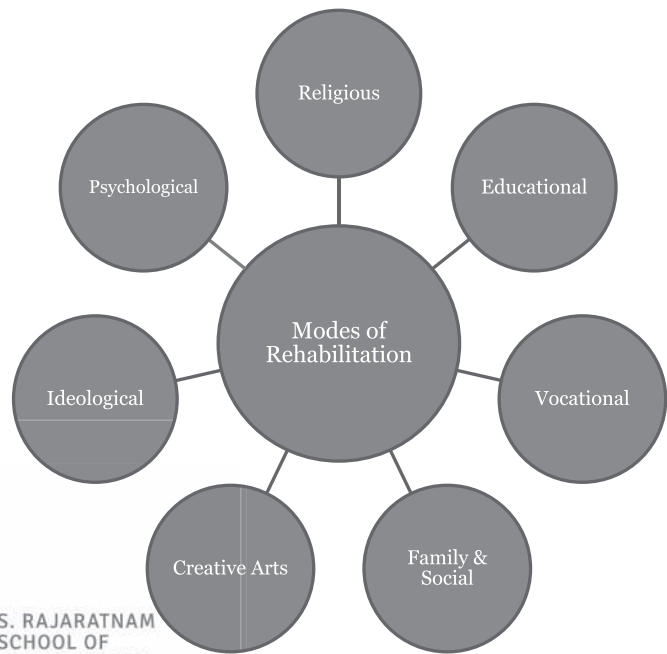
## Global Approaches: (2) Rehabilitation and Reintegration

- Dedicated specialist government body working with community partners and private sector
- Creating specialised units of *ulama* and *asatizah* with strategy and action plan
- Re-engineering prisons from “pesantren jihad” to become “pesantren salam” (peace)
- Robust reintegration strategy and aftercare plan

## Components of Rehabilitation



# Modes of Rehabilitation



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# Global Rehabilitation Initiatives



Egypt	Saudi Arabia	Singapore	Pakistan	Colombia
Algeria	Yemen	Malaysia	Sri Lanka	Spain
Libya	Iraq	Indonesia	Oman	UAE
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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: North Africa

- Egypt DEFUNCT
  - De-radicalisation of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Group of Egypt
  - State and civil society facilitated processes led threat groups to renounce violence and produce a corpus of ideological literature renouncing Al Qaeda
- Algeria DEFUNCT
  - De-radicalisation of the Islamic Salvation Army began with the leadership
  - Selective inducements led to de-radicalisation

## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: North Africa

- Libya DEFUNCT



## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: Southeast Asia

- Singapore **ACTIVE**
  - Best known programme in the region
  - A model for others
- Malaysia **ACTIVE**
  - Extensive programme under the Police
  - Well-supported by government, law enforcement, religious authorities and civil society
- Indonesia **ACTIVE**
  - Responsibility entrusted to the National Counterterrorism Agency: BNPT
  - Geared towards prison assistance, reintegration, and post-release livelihood programmes



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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: Middle East

- Saudi Arabia **ACTIVE**
  - Most comprehensive of existing programmes
  - Best-funded, longest-running effort with the most graduates
- Yemen **DEFUNCT**
  - Due to a lack of political support, the programme collapsed
- Iraq **ACTIVE**
  - The largest programme; drew on Saudi and Singaporean experiences



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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: Saudi Arabia



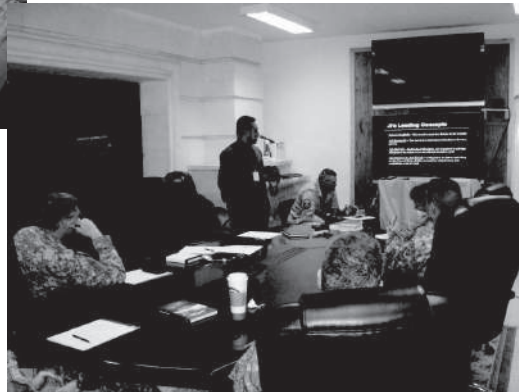
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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: Yemen



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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: Iraq



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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: South Asia

- Sri Lanka ACTIVE
  - Focused on Tamil Tigers surrendees since 19th May 2009
  - Comprehensive programme by the army run with the support of the civil society and private sector
  - Of 12,000 beneficiaries, only around 400 beneficiaries are left to complete the programme
  - Dedicated Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation

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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: Sri Lanka



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## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: South Asia

- Pakistan ACTIVE
  - 2155 adults and children rehabilitated so far
  - Functioning programmes in Mishal (Swat), Sabaoon (Swat), Heila (Tank) and Khar (Bajaur)

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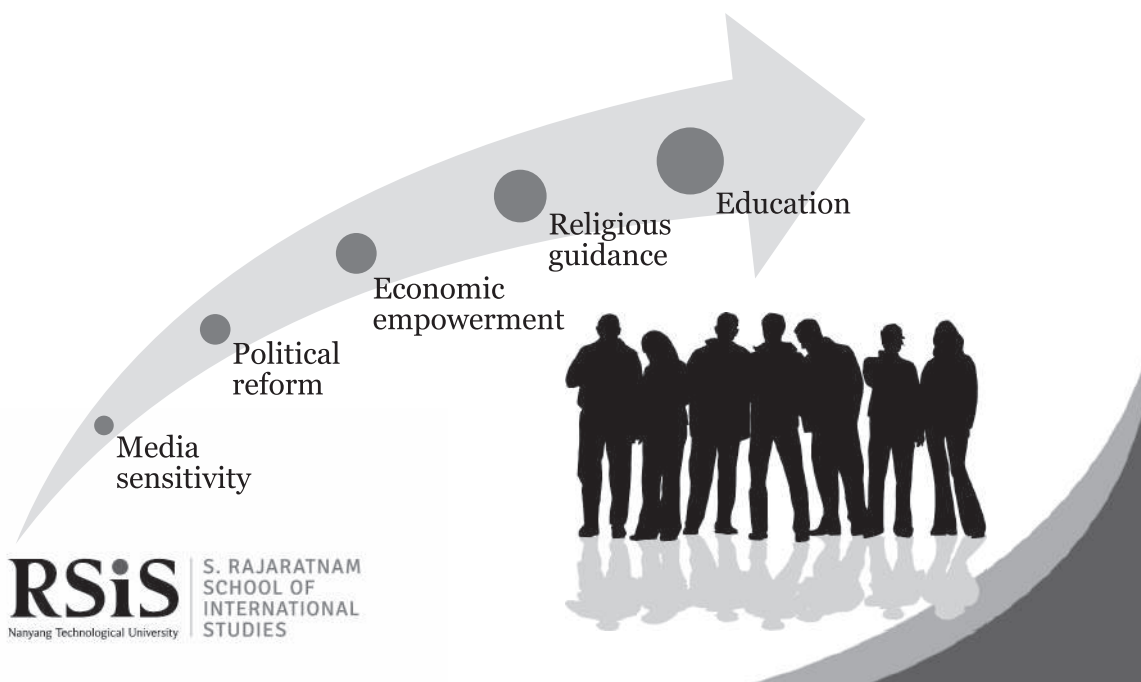
## Global Rehabilitation Initiatives: South America and Europe

- Colombia **ACTIVE**
  - Former members of both left-wing (FARC) and right-wing (AUC) groups are rehabilitated
- Spain **ACTIVE**
  - Focus on prevention and cultural integration
  - Long-running amnesty programme with ETA prisoners in Spanish prisons
  - Intentions to create a similar programme for Muslim radicals



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## Global Approaches: (3) Community Engagement



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## Community Engagement Initiatives

- Two dozen programs: mostly unstructured, few structured
- United Kingdom
  - Muslim Contact Unit
  - Focus on counter-radicalisation
  - Intelligence gathering
  - Partnership with community organisations
  - Increasing capability and resilience
  - Providing training and support to operational staff
  - Offender management and interventions
  - Strategic management and capacity

## Community Engagement Initiatives

- United States
  - Focus on deterrence
  - No public policy on de-radicalisation
- Netherlands
  - Separate terrorist detention unit
  - Counter-radicalisation programme in partnership with the community

## New Initiatives

- UNICRI
  - Rehabilitation and reintegration initiative to offer assistance to countries interested in addressing any or all of the full range of issues relating to violent radicalisation in their prisons
- EU Workshop on Effective Programming for Countering Violent Extremism
  - How the EU can support other countries in their efforts to address violent extremism and recruitment
  - Assist the European Commission with future CVE actions under the Instrument for Stability (IFS) as well as traditional development instruments including rehabilitation and community engagement

## Challenges

- No “one size fits all” approach: Every programme is unique
- Rehabilitation programmes must be tailored to individual country conditions and cultures
- Reintegration determines rehabilitation success
- Identify and empower rightful speakers of faith
- Create legal framework, systems and infrastructure to reconcile communities
- Build resilience: minimizing sympathy and support to violent and radical ideologies
- Political will, a must

## The Future

- Sustain structured programs
- Support ad-hoc Programs
- Develop a working model for rehabilitation
- Psychometrics: quantifying success
- Repenting and rejecting violence is inadequate, must embrace and champion the cause of peace
- Threat has shifted to cyberspace: build websites to counter-ideology and promote moderation
- Bring the West - EU and US - on board

## Conclusion

- Rehabilitation and community engagement are long-term processes
- Success can be determined overtime
- Government partnership with private sector and civil society is paramount
- In the battle against current wave of extremism and violence, engage all communities
- Emerging as a standard toolkit: Rehabilitation and community engagement are global imperatives

“He who fights with monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster”

Friedrich Nietzsche,  
*Beyond Good and Evil*, 1886.



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# Thank You

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