THE IMAGE OF PIRACY AND MARITIME TERRORISM.
THE MEDIA AS A TOOL FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT

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The subject of the article was the issue of shaping the image of piracy and maritime terrorism. Emphasis was put on the media, including those using information and communication technologies. The answers to problem questions were sought: (1) Who and why forms that image (2) what tools are used for its construction. The article presents the trends and development tendencies of the analyzed phenomena, based on the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Furthermore, the results of surveys, conducted among students of military academies, on perception of piracy and maritime terrorism, are cited.

Key words: image, social media, feature films, piracy, maritime terrorism.

1. INTRODUCTION

‘To be effective, you must try to have bigger part of the audience and more people on the stage follow your script, not an adversary’ [1].

This article is the second in a series devoted to piracy and maritime terrorism [2]. In the first, on the issue of core competences of piracy and maritime terrorism, the intention of the authors was to present a terrorist organization linked to the environment of marine waters and maritime piracy through the prism of theory of resources, skills and competencies of strategic management. Such approach is unusual for the analyzed phenomena and attitudes of the actors involved in maritime security environment. On the other hand, it is justified in the light of contemporary trends in interests of organization and management science, emphasizing the importance of intangible assets, which could determine the success of the organization. Against the background of the problem situation formulated in this way, the essence of the research actions was to find answers to the question of success carriers, as key competences of terrorist organizations and maritime piracy, aimed at generating risks and causing tangible and intangible damages in the security environment. This applies in particular to its stakeholders, for example the individual states and their interests. In the first paper, the authors have characterized the phenomena mentioned in the title, confronting them with new thinking on the organization as a set of resources and skills, and consequently competences. A comparison of terrorist organizations and maritime piracy with Japanese
companies, whose strength lies in human capital, indicating the role of leadership as well as information and communication technologies for the efficient communication of members of the organization and even enabling immediate contact with the public to provide specific information, aimed at gaining the desired response, for example fear, horror, compassion, sympathy and solidarity. This article focuses precisely on one of the above-mentioned factors, namely the media, including information and communication technologies, which influence the perception of piracy and maritime terrorism. It is recognized as one of the most important factors in achieving marine environment security effectively.

The problem is so important, because in the period of 2003-2012 the number of attacks by pirates offshore increased, and at the same time the areas, where they occur, also changed. Decreasing trend of piracy, which is the content of the two-part report prepared under the aegis of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, should be also noted [3]. Analyzing the attacks on the marine facilities on the ground of terrorism, it must be stated that they represent only about 2% of the total number of events that have taken place in the last 30 years. Nevertheless, we should expect increase in their activities in these areas, as well as the combination of terrorists and pirates. This is reflected in the postulates of experts to define both phenomena as activities of a terrorist nature.

It should be emphasized that in the area of strategic communications of the organization social networking sites play an important role. In addition to the website, information and data on piracy and maritime terrorism is published on Twitter [4], Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. These issues will be addressed later in the article.

Attitudes concerning these issues come also from a broader perspective, namely the image depicted on the big screen. To the authors of the article that context seemed extremely important in shaping the image of the activities discussed in the article.

The definition image of the organization, which was adopted for the purpose of the article - is an idea of organization existing among stakeholders, which includes a set of associations evoked by the name or distinctive graphic sign. This idea does not necessarily coincide with reality, it can also be a subjective image of the organization, created by its offerings. The areas related to the process of building the image include [5]:

1. identifying factors influencing the image,
2. targeted actions related to the creation of identity,
3. analysis of the image,
4. identification of gaps between image and identity,
5. activities to reduce discrepancies between identity and image.

The authors focused on the analysis of the first three aspects, meaning the perception of piracy and maritime terrorism by the environment (external image).

In order to determine the image of piracy and maritime terrorism in the eyes of public opinion [6] created with feature films, documentaries, media and social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, authors used a diagnostic
survey technique of unfinished sentences, carried out at the turn of the year 2015-2016. The questions, which were asked, related to the comparison of piracy and maritime terrorism to animals that possess specific characteristics. The respondents were students of military universities profiled for defense, security, international relations and humanistic university profiled on pedagogical education and art [7].

Thus, questions arise about why these students perceive taken issue in certain way, therefore, how the image of piracy and maritime terrorism is presented in the media, including electronic media? Who formed it and for what purpose? What tools are used to build the image? Answers to these questions are the essence of authors’ deliberations in this article. Thus, the authors aim to present a possibly unprejudiced image of piracy and maritime terrorism on a background of the trends and development tendencies of presented phenomena.

2. IMAGES OF PIRACY AND TERRORISM IN MOVIES

Based on the analysis of source material the authors have decided that, in relation to public opinion, pirates and terrorists are perceived identically. Pirates are looked at through the prism of legends, novels and movie heroes, marine adventurers, as played, among others, by Johnny Depp in a series of movies about lovable pirates of the Caribbean [8]. Another adventure, comedy and costume movies are Pirates [9], Treasure Island [10], Cutthroat Island [11], Peter Pan [12] and Hook [13]). It should be noted that in movies worldwide, subconsciously formed since childhood, image of pirates is them being somewhat limited, unorganized but all in all lovable. However, we also find movies based on facts, such as Blackbeard [14], which represent the pirates as well-organized, effective organization.

Not surprisingly, such interest in the subject among the producers and film directors comes from the roots of piracy being always combined with the history of navigation. Forms and methods of operation have changed over the centuries, but the essence remained the same - the struggle for power, money and fame, or as a way of life.

Modern pirates are both small groups coming from poor thieves living in ports and impoverished fishermen moving into primitive boats, and powerful gangs living from the sea loot, which are well organized, owning satellite navigation systems (GPS), machine guns and rocket antitank guided missiles as well as super-fast boats. Therefore, pirates increasingly often look and behave like terrorists [15]. Example can be a movie based on facts, Captain Phillips, which describes the fate of captain abducted by Somali pirates [16]. In addition, information about the kidnapping of crews and ships is becoming increasingly frequent in media reports, as well as the Internet, more and more often including social networks.

In contrast to piracy, maritime terrorism is a phenomenon with beginnings that can be traced in the 60s of the twentieth century. It is difficult to find a positive undertone, as it appears to be taking away the lives of innocent victims, causing incalculable damage to property. Terrorists also possess modern
navigation equipment, weapons, and they are even trained during specialist courses in various fields [17]. The press, radio, television inform about spectacular attacks (usually on land [18]). The movies presenting this phenomenon are: Unthinkable [19], World in Flames [20], Transfer [21] and My Name Is Khan [22]. However, the image they present shows that terrorism is multi-threaded phenomenon, because in addition to the tragic terrorist actions, it reveals a callousness of services, hatred of strangers. The problem of terrorism was even presented in comedy called Four Lions [23], which can be seen as part of psychological game - to ridicule potential enemy posing a threat to security.

It should be noted then, that the attentive viewer will not have a clear view at terrorist activity, as pictures show its various causes, controversial methods of fighting with it. That is the role of the movie - to present global problems of the world in a philosophical way, which are reflected in the results of the research.

It is impossible not to mention the series of documentaries showing different aspects related to terrorist activity and piracy that affect their image (however they relate to piracy to much lesser extent than to terrorism). This applies, however, to viewers interested in these problems, for which we acknowledge the students of military academies.

3. THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE CREATION OF THE IMAGE

With the development of ICT, social media increasingly influences creation of the image. Małgorzata Góralaska interestingly describes the issue of its development and dissemination, stating that by promoting new media, humanity gained an adequate spatial-temporal perspective, which sets out a framework for social communication. The possibility of reaching ideas and opinions to the farthest places inhabited by humans without direct contact with the author, knowledge about past derived from stories of people living in it, written in the documents - all these factors influence the formation of a particular social and cultural reality. The content of these stories, however, is only one of the elements of the process of creating a specific connection between past and present, as well as places often distant from one another (geographically) [24].

Against this background, it should be emphasized that the essence of social media is to provide means of communication (such as chats, instant messaging, forums, mailing lists, blogs and personal messages), and to enable sharing of information, interests. These types of services are co-created by people that know each other (in the real world or only via the Internet), with similar interests or who want to know the interests of others. Currently the most popular social networking site is Facebook, where you can add content with links, photos. Another example of the service is Pinterest, which won the greatest popularity in the United States. Twitter begins to play increasing role, with more than 300 million users monthly.

Social media inform about what interesting content appeared
on information portals, so it is not surprising that on UNCTAD’s Twitter profile there is information about the availability of the aforementioned document [25] presenting statistics on pirate attacks. In the years 2003-2012 there was 3436 events like that recorded. The number of attacks on ships (flowing, anchored or standing in the harbor) has increased from 49 in 2008 to 249 in 2010. It decreased to 202 in 2012. In the same period, the number of successful hijackings of ships increased from 49 (2008) to 53 (2010) and significantly decreased to 28 in 2012. Change in the number of attempted attacks - from 445 in 2010 to 297 in 2012. According to data from the first three quarters of 2013, reported were 188 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (attempts and successful acts) against ships, which is considered the lowest level since 2006. Better prevention contributed to this decrease, in the form of various preventive measures ship-owners take, including an increase in armed guards on board ships. Nevertheless, in the period January-September 2013, attacked or kidnapped were 140 ships, with 266 crew members taken as hostages, 34 kidnapped, 20 injured and one person killed.

The report highlights that the geography of piracy changed in the analyzed period. While previously most attacks were recorded in the seas of Southeast Asia, now there are two main areas of violence: the Indian Ocean, particularly off the coast of East Africa (area of the Gulf of Oman, the coast of Somalia to the Mozambique Channel, also a region of the Maldives) and Atlantic coast of West Africa (Gulf of Guinea). Some observers stress the increasing levels of violence and determination in pirates, especially in the area of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea. In contrast to the modus operandi adopted by Somali pirates who hijack ships and crew for ransom, pirates in the Gulf of Guinea region focus on theft of cargo from ships, especially oil and petroleum products in order to resell them on the black market.

The report estimates that it is difficult to calculate the losses inflicted by piracy. It interferes significantly with the transport of goods by sea, and thus the trade. Moreover, it has an impact on other economic activities such as fishing and energy production, thus potentially threatens the development of the economy. The report estimated that in 2005-2012, only in the region of Somali, the value of pirates’ ransom increased from 339 million USD to 413 million USD. A global economic cost of piracy off the coast of Somalia was estimated at 18 billion USD, with a margin of error of about 6 billion USD.

Searching for similarities and differences between the analyzed phenomena, it should be said that the maritime terrorist acts are more scattered than data quoted above which indicates the geographic arena for acts of piracy. Different are also objects of attacks. The most desirable targets of terrorist attacks are marine tankers, passenger vessels and cruise ships with dangerous cargo and warships.

Maritime terrorism does not have as long history as piracy. Despite the mentioned differences, it seems that soon there will be a move away from the term ‘piracy’ to define acts of violence at sea, in favor of ‘terrorism’. This is because the actions of organized pirate groups
resemble terrorism. This specific matter is closely related to the case of kidnapping of five Polish sailors from the crew of the vessel "Sapphire", who were abducted by the end of 2015 [26]. It can be evaluated a typical case study, taking into account all relevant elements for both parties - the kidnappers (the pirates) and their victims, as well as institutions and authorities standing behind them. On November 27 off the coast of Nigeria, there was an attack on general cargo vessel "Sapphire", flying the Cypriot flag. The ship-owner is Euroafrica. The boats of the attackers swam to the ship during the night. Part of the crew managed to hide but five crew members were kidnapped: captain, three officers and a seaman. As is clear from the reports, the activities of the Polish side after the kidnapping was routine. Crisis team was created immediately, consisting of representatives of many institutions that could help in this case. Polish facility in Abuja received a strengthening for diplomatic and consular posts, and immediately undertook contacts with the Nigerian authorities at central and local levels. On the coast, where they could lead the rescue, went consular and diplomatic personnel; representatives of the company also appeared. Talks started between the local authorities and hijackers.

In information published by Polish Press Agency [27] it was emphasized that seafarers and their families in country received the state support, including psychological support. It was noted that the issue of kidnapped Polish sailors and leading it to a happy finale was a priority for the Polish authorities and the owner - the company Euroafrica, which led tedious and difficult negotiations with the kidnappers. From November 27 crisis team set by government was operating, which coordinated the work of Polish state services and was in constant contact with the ship-owner and the relevant Nigerian services. Actions for the release of kidnapped were taken immediately, as well as ensuring the safety of the crew and assisting them in a safe return home. All the time on the site in Nigeria Polish consul was present, and the team gave support to the ship-owner in collaboration with the Nigerian authorities. Regional offices were also in constant contact with their families. As a result of action taken, after almost two weeks there has been a happy ending.

The case of kidnapping and release of Polish sailors was commented on social networks, especially Twitter. After entering words #szafir many users’ reactions to the situation could be traced. 8 December 2015 #szafir was defined as the trend of the portal @TrendsPolska [28]. Also, there have been reports in foreign languages about the alleged events. There was no shortage of comments stressing that the Polish media were silent when kidnappers got free. However, general message about the release of the crew of the ship "Sapphire", will positively impact the evaluation of the performance of the Polish government in crisis situations.

It should be noted that realizing the role of the media, including social media, which they played in carrying out terrorist actions, the Chinese authorities have banned publicizing this type of activity. However, this is not possible in the case of countries
such as France, Germany and Poland, where there is freedom of the media and access to them is unlimited.

4. THE PERCEPTION OF PIRACY AND MARITIME TERRORISM IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF SURVEYS

The multitude of mass media means access to information and multiplication of information resources. Media seek sensation, create their own drama in events, determine an increase in viewership or effort, getting audience accustomed to a certain creation of events, which result in neutralizing response to some even drastic acts of terror (even served by the terrorist organizations themselves) and piracy. In connection with the assumption that students have very good access to information and that students of military academies profiled on the security are conscious customers, they were considered to be the respondents where the gap between the real and the subjective image is lower than in the case of college students not related to security. The results were compared with answers of students of the humanities. Undoubtedly, films, exemplified earlier in the paper, influence the reception of analyzed acts of violence. This is evidenced by statements of humanities students who indicated parrot (3 for 28 surveys) as a symbol of the pirates, while panda reminds them of the pirate with a patch over his eye.

Analysis of the external image made on the basis of a diagnostic survey technique of unfinished sentences among students of military academies lead to the following evaluation (Figure 1) [29]:

- they compared the piracy to the following 16 different animals, which sets the repetition factor at 1.4 (assuming that the coefficient of 0.0 is the lack of repeatability): 1. hyena 26% of respondents; 2. fox 18%; 3. shark 16%; 4. magpie and 5. vulture 5%; 6. lion, 7. wolf 8. tapeworm, 9. falcon, 10 wild ducks, 11. tiger 12. viper, 13. parrot, 14. alligator, 15. leech, 16. ticks - 2.5% ;

Humanities students compared:
- terrorists to 16 different animals, which is the repetition factor of 0.7: 1. shark - 25%, 2. lion 11%, 3. piranha 11%, 4. orca - 7%, 5. jellyfish 7%, 6 dolphin, 7. jellyfish, 8. narwhal, 9. wolf, 10. vulture, 11. skunk, 12. turtle, 13. hawk, 14. hippopotamus, 15. hyenas, 16. fly - 3.5%. (Figure 2)
Answers in the case of military academies show that we have received a significant difference in the quantity of these animals, as well as the frequency of indications (the repetition factor). This may be due to more complex issues. Referencing piracy to hyenas, foxes and sharks amount to 60% of responses. In the case of terrorism, the highest indicator (four instead of three as in the case of piracy) are: lions, sharks, wolves and tigers, which were pointed by 43% of respondents. It is worth noting that the comparison to a shark occurs in both surveys, which indicates a similarity in the reception of piracy and maritime terrorism. This is reflected in literature, in this case social media as well as feature films. Increased polarization of opinion on the image exists with regard to terrorism than to piracy. Confirmation of this is found in the assigned characteristics.

The repeatability factor for students studying humanities looks different than in the military academies. Pirates are referred to as sharks, parrots and magpies by 36% of the responses. In the case of terrorism highest indications belongs to sharks, lions, piranhas and totaled 47%. When compared to sharks in both surveys repeatability is the highest. However, as was established, discrepancy between reality and subjectivity for humanities students is higher than for students of military academies.

The divergence of results may suggest: 1. the need for repetition of the research, 2. the lack of a deeper interest in the problem by respondents, 3. incoherence in creating the image of these processes.
5. CONCLUSIONS

"When we fight to win the support of the population, it is not only facts that count." [30]

As it is apparent from authors' intentions, specified in the introduction of the article, the aim was to present a possibly fair image of piracy and maritime terrorism against the trends and developments of these phenomena. Searched for was the answer to question about the image of piracy and maritime terrorism in the media, including electronic media and the tools used to build the image.

The authors believe that the information revolution carrying the new technical possibilities for the exchange of information makes the community and individuals react almost immediately to events occurring in the environment, their reactions resulting from the dominance of emotion over rationality also being reduced. However, one should be aware of the social inequalities caused not so much by lack of access to modern technology, but rather the lack of broadly defined powers to communicate at this level. Respondents should be the group that is prepared and constantly participates in the exchange of ideas on virtual information exchange markets. It can therefore be assumed that the realism of subjectivity gap is much reduced for students of Naval Academy, and it applies to a lesser extent to students of the National Defense University. However, the role of the media in shaping public opinion in creating social attitudes and the presentation of opinions, is undoubtedly enormous and increases with technical capabilities. This also applies to the possibility of creating an image by the same organizations that have access to modern technology and the skills of conscious impact on stakeholders. In the case of terrorist organizations, the wish to influence public opinion seems to be much larger than in relation to piracy. A thesis can even be formulated, that the increase in the social importance of terrorism is derived from the development of the information society while the possibility of broad reach with information helps in the achievement of the main goals of the terrorists - getting publicity.

Available date resources resemble dustbin where finding useful information requires certain skills and knowledge enabling to distinguish it. In addition, an important aspect is the willingness to reach such a source of information and not be content with the information that can be accessed most easily. Research show that worse information is replaced with more valuable. This is a consequence of a primitive instinct of lazy recipient, because people are attracted to the line of least resistance. Hence, the mass media present the lowest common denominator. Entertainment is ranked above the ideology: no matter what and from what point of view is presented, the overriding assumption is that it is aiming to play, to shock and upset [31]. Among other things, these factors affect the perception of the phenomena by analyzed students. Given that the problem
of piracy and maritime terrorism is of particular importance to the security environment, characterized by being multi-threaded and a kind of unpredictable, the authors intend to continue deliberations on the subject.

NOTES AND REFERENCES


[3] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a subsidiary body of United Nations. Founded in 1964 in Geneva. Its task is to support economic growth (especially in developing countries), international trade and worldwide investments. In between sessions the role of an executive body is played by Trade and Development Board, TDB. Currently UNCTAD consists of 194 countries, including Poland. Basic functions are: promoting international trade to accelerate economic growth; sketching rules and policies concerning international trade and economic growth, as well as presenting propositions to implement them; revising and helping in coordination of action concerning trade and economic growth between organs and institutions of United Nations; initiation of implementation of multilateral treaties concerning international trade; Centre for harmonization of trade and development – source: http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Home.aspx, (access: 6-01-2016).

[4] Twitter account @UNCTAD, was founded in November 2009. The number of followed users is 468, while number of followers is 84 500. Until 6 January 2016 the account posted 3915 tweets and 1115 pictures and films.


[7] The study involved a random sample of students, one a population of 20 students of the National Defence University in Warsaw, the other 18 students from the Naval Academy in Gdynia. A total of 38 students from military academies, 18 women, 20 men, 32 people aged 15-24, 2 aged 25-34, 4 in the range of 35-44; all had secondary education: 26 profile related to security, 5 people with technical profile, and 5 of the humanities, one economic and 28 students of the Academy of Special Education, 26 women and 2 men; 26 in age group, two in the range of 25-34; 26 had secondary education: 13 with pedagogical profile, 15 art; 2 higher education.

[8] Pirates of the Caribbean series include 4 movies (5th in development). The first one, The Curse of the Black Pearl was published in 2003. The movies are accompanied with albums, soundtracks. There is also six computer games. Therefore, it affects the subconscious perception of piracy In the vast scope. Source: https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piraci_z_Karaib%C3%B3w, (access: 7-01-2016).


[10] Film based on a novel. The action takes place around searching for a hidden treasure. This once incredibly popular book influence many imaginations and myths about pirates, for example key protagonist with wooden leg. Source: https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyspa_skarbu%C3%B3w, (access: 7-01-2016).

[11] For a change, in the film the main character is a woman - pirate, of course beautiful, easy-going daughter of a pirate

[12] Peter Pan is a character from the novel, which was the basis for recording four animated films in 1953, 1989, 1990, 2002; a feature film in 2003, silent film in 1924, the comic book series and musical. The story is based on the Peter's fight with the evil Captain Hook and his pirates (negative heroes). It is worth noting that Hook is of dishonorable nature, nasty and cruel but he is also charming and aristocratic. Source: https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piotru%C5%9B_Pan, https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piotru%C5%9B_Pan_(film_2003), (access: 7-01-2016); Piotrus Pan i piraci#Opis_fabu.C5.82y, (access: 8-01-2016).


[14] Blackbeard is a historical figure, one of the most feared pirates of his time. At his peak, he had 4 ships, 60 guns and approx. 400 people. In the film, this character is presented as a genius of crime, which forces fear and terror along the eastern coast of the United States. Film premiered in 2006. Genre: drama. Source: https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czarnobrody, http://www.filmweb.pl/film/Czarnobrody-2006-422642/descs, (access: 8-01-2016).


[16] Captain Phillips is a drama from 2013, which show a captain (Tom Hanks) responsible for lives of his crew and vast cargo ship under attack of pirates. In the movie there is no easy answer, because there is no easy divison on into good sailors and bad pirates. Director (P. Greengrass) presents everyone as victims of a cruel system, in which everybody wants to work, they have their superiors, want to earn money. Source: M. Pietrzak, Na oceanie inteligentnej rozrywki, http://www.filmweb.pl/reviews/Na+oceanie+inteligentnej+rozrywki-14966, (access: 8-01-2016).


[19] Psychological thriller from 2010, touching the issue of planting nuclear bombs by terrorists in different locations, in this case the United States. Source: http://www.filmweb.pl/film/Bez+regu%C5%82-2010-460941, (access: 8-01-2016).


[21] Drama, thriller from 2007 is an ex ample of American cinema of moral anxiety that captures the public mood resulting from the interrogation methods carried out under the so-called war on terrorism. There is another side: young boys who have fallen victim to religious fanaticism and violence of the state apparatus. It is noted here that the Western world is by no means blameless, and terrorism
is very often the result of desperation, poverty and enslavement. Source: K. Michałowski, Słuszny niepokój, http://www.filmsweb.pl/reviews/S%C5%82uszny+niepok%C3%B3j-4996, (access: 8-01-2016).

[22] Film from 2010 presents a man, a Muslim who, because of prayer in Arabic at the airport, is considered a terrorist. It is therefore a story of hatred and mistrust. Source: M. Pietrzak, Nie jestem terrorystą, http://www.filmsweb.pl/reviews/Nie+jestem+terroryst%C4%85-10593, (access: 8-01-2016).

[23] The film shows not particularly witty terrorists, therefore terrorism presented here does not have demonic face. The director shows that terrorists may also be a subject of jokes. Source: B. Staszczyszyn, Terrorysta z ludzką twarzą, http://www.filmsweb.pl/reviews/Terrorysta+z+ludzk%C4%85+twarz%C4%85-12487, (access: 8-01-2016).


