

Mitigating ISIS Radicalization in Sri Lanka: Strategies and Challenges

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Sri Lanka experienced a period of relative peace and harmony after a 30-year protracted civil war. However, a new threat emerged with the radicalization ideas of ISIS, creating an unseen enemy. The devastating Easter Sunday attack on April 19, 2019, causing 269 deaths of innocent people and injuring over 500, marked a significant moment in Sri Lanka's history. These attacks serve as a lesson to society about the inability of mitigating radicalization without addressing its root causes producing temporary solutions. Radicalization is one of the main issues in the modern scenario. Controlling factors in radicalization, such as online radicalization, political and social grievances, and local extremist networks, may minimize the overall threat. With the emergence of AI, the threat can be elevated or countered, if necessary preventative measures are taken. This paper explores the origins of ISIS radicalization in Sri Lanka, the socio-political context that fosters such extremism, and outlines a comprehensive mitigation plan to prevent future radicalization. The findings will impact civil authorities' ability to handle such conflict situations before they escalate. The paper discusses qualitative recommendations to control and eliminate existing threats. This research takes the form of a qualitative study, utilizing both primary sources, such as statements, and secondary sources, including websites, books, government records, journals, and articles.

Keywords: *radicalization, extremism, mitigation*