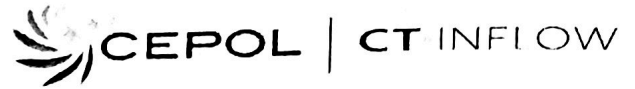




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MENA TERRORISM SITUATION AND TREND (TE-SAT) REPORT

On Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia

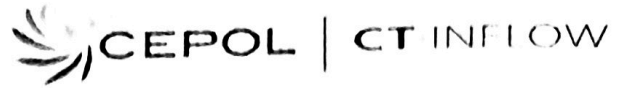
Period:

01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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Prepared by the governments of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia.

In collaboration with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) of the African Union.

Coordinated by the Contractor Radar Europe, in cooperation with Violence Prevention Network and VNG International, in line with Framework Contract for Services CEPOL/FWC/2022/002 (hereafter the contract).



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) (the Report) has been produced by five countries in collaboration with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and coordinated by CEPOL and its contractors in the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Information Exchange and Criminal Justice Responses (CT INFLOW) project. The project, initiated in 2020 aims to contribute to preventing and countering terrorism by disrupting terrorist networks and their activities.

The overall goal of CT INFLOW is to contribute to building and strengthening a counterterrorism analyst network (CT) in EU Member States and the Southern Partnership countries of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The project aims to strengthen information exchange with the objective of (1) preventing and disrupting terrorist networks and the activities of recruiters to terrorism, (2) cutting off terrorist funding, and (3) bringing terrorists to justice while respecting human rights and international law. It further aims to strengthen inter-regional collaboration, networking, and capacity-building between the EU and national and regional actors in the MENA region.

This deliverable aims to enhance capacities in partner countries for exchanging information on terrorism matters and to establish a model to deliver a joint regional threat assessment process. The MENA TE-SAT report should be seen as a strategic policy and sustainable outcome to promote CT information exchange.

Its key objectives are predicated on the need to enhance a common understanding of the threat assessment processes and their value and to foster increased local ownership of the analytical processes.

As such, this first MENATE-SAT Report, covers the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, and is one of the outputs of the CT INFLOW Project. It highlights the terrorism situation based on the quantitative and qualitative data provided by the focus countries, emphasises the identification of legal and policy instruments, and assesses both the trends, as well as the counter-terrorism responses in place.



The Global Terrorism Index (2021¹) indicated that terrorism attacks in the MENA region have reduced since 2019. However, to be able to assess trends and analyse figures, data should be collected and shared in a structured manner. Data over multiple years would be needed to compare results.

The security situation in the MENA region generally, and in the five countries included in this report, is ever-changing.

The MENA TE-SAT will allow for a consistent way to measure this impact in the different countries going forward which further increases the relevance of this product. The facts will add value to the exchange of information and policy approaches. The increased tensions and threats call for intensified international cooperation across the regions and between the EU and MENA countries. It is the ambition of all those who contributed to this report to reduce the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. It should be considered as a starting point contributing to the reduction of threats and terrorist incidents through the exchange of strategic facts, figures and approaches.

¹ <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>



INTRODUCTION

The MENA region has experienced dire security challenges ushered by terrorism and violent extremism over the years, with multifaceted root causes ranging from socioeconomic, political and religious factors. The Arab Spring of 2011 played an important role in instigating political upheavals and civil unrest in several Arab countries, directly affecting the ongoing conflicts in Syria, Libya and Yemen. The political and civil unrest in the MENA region, in return, created a fertile ground for terrorism and violent extremism to take root in the region. In 2011, the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS/Daesh) terrorist group, formed in 2004 from the remnants of al-Qaeda in Iraq, resuscitated and began to actively engage in combat, leading to the creation of the so-called Islamic Caliphate in Syria and Iraq. Although the group later expanded to other regions worldwide, MENA countries became primary sceneries of "Daesh" mutations through active recruitment and the establishment of its cells.

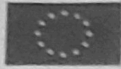
The Global Terrorism Index (2021²) indicated that terrorism attacks in the MENA region have reduced since 2019. However, to be able to assess trends and analyse figures, data should be collected and shared in a structured manner. Data over multiple years would be needed to compare results.

The objective of this report is to focus on supporting a common methodological approach to regional threat assessment production by promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience at institutional level between project partners in order to strengthen the CT analysts' network capacity. The report may also be useful to inspire policy discussions between the region and the EU. Since it is the first time for the region to produce a joint Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, it is a starting point with no ulterior data collection reference. This means that the identification of the trends over time still requires further future work.

This first MENA TE-SAT report is jointly produced by the five countries, and it is a unique collaboration among two countries in the Levant, three countries in the Maghreb region and the ACSRT. The ACSRT is the expert hub for training and data collection in the field of terrorism of the African Union. Although the MENA region and the African Union do not overlap, the importance given to the issue of counterterrorism in the MENA region was a major consideration in profiting from the expertise of the ACSRT.

It has been a big joint leap towards exchanging information on the contemporary situation and trends related to terrorism. This report only marks the beginning of closer collaboration among MENA countries and between the EU and MENA countries. EU experience shows that the collaboration on producing the EU TE-SAT Report played a crucial role in strengthening institutional cooperation, data sharing, and cross-cutting awareness on how these threats are transnational and how cooperation offers opportunities for more effective responses.

² <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>



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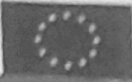
METHODOLOGY

In line with the contract, the delivery of the MENA TE-SAT is seen as strategic, desirable policy and sustainable long term outcome to promote CT information exchange between the EU, its Member States and the MENA region, by taking into account the working methods of the EU Members States, EU Institutions and Agencies as good practices.

The preparatory activities for the MENA TE-SAT were implemented in 2022 and 2023. Within the CT INFLOW project, the activities were organised with the ultimate goal of fostering regional cooperation and supporting the development of the network of CT analysts, in order to develop the first MENA TE-SAT report for the five target countries.

The main objectives of the activities undertaken were 1) to enhance the common understanding of the processes of the TE-SAT to foster increased local ownership of the analytical processes and products, 2) implement targeted capacity building to strengthen the networking of CT analysts, 3) implement joint simulation exercises to foster regional cooperation, to take stock of skill gaps and needs and encourage common analytical culture 4) support a methodological approach by promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience at institutional level between the institutions in the region.

Accordingly, main activities included:



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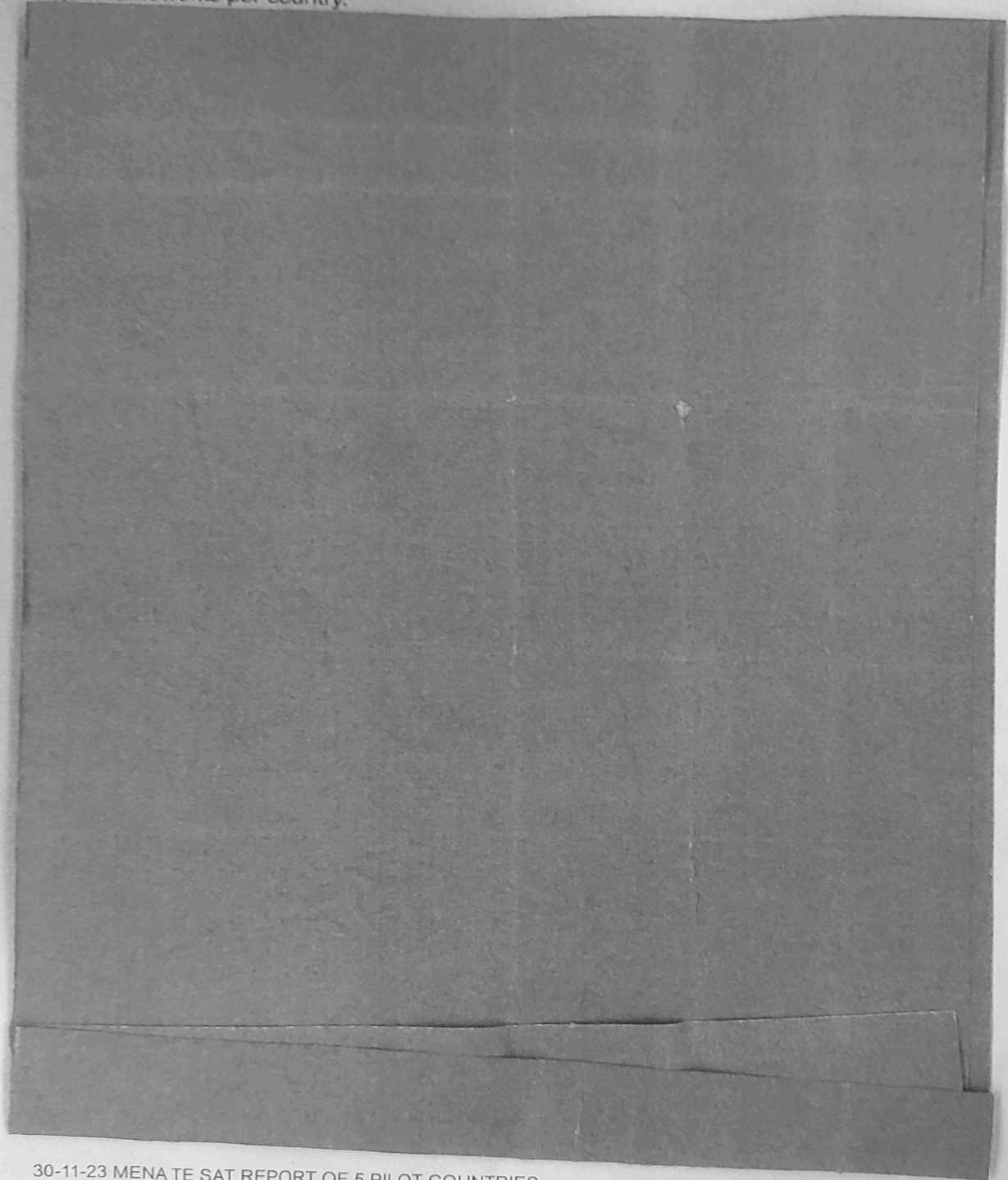
CT-INFLOW

**TERRORISM IN THE FIVE PILOT COUNTRIES: A QUANTITATIVE
OVERVIEW (JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023)**



1 Legal framework and CT and PCVE policies and responses

This chapter describes the CT and PCVE responses, as well as the Capacity Building and Legal Frameworks per country.





2. Strengthening the Counter-terrorism legal framework

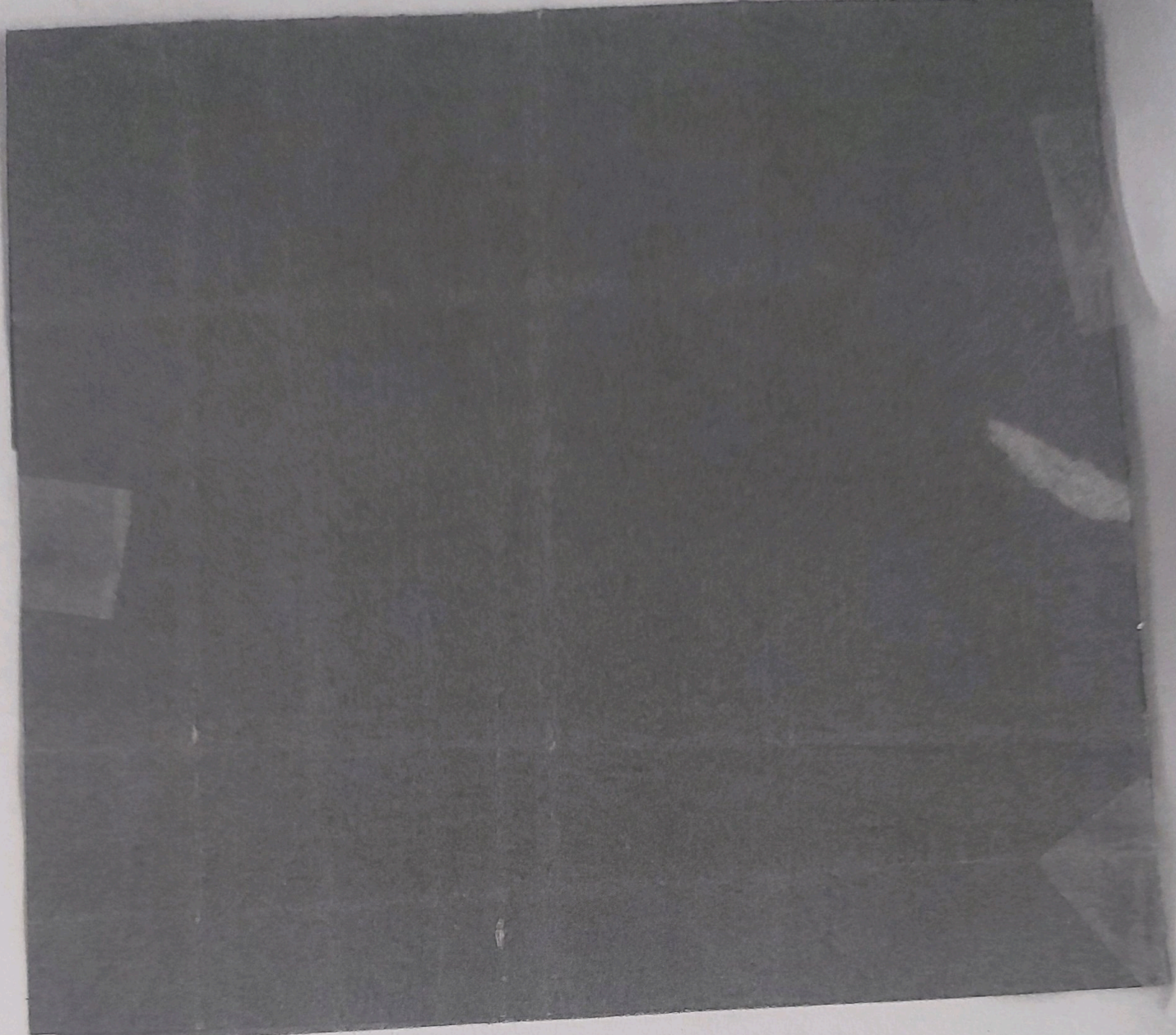
Algeria developed a complete legal framework aimed at preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. The following were adopted:

B. Jordan

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan works within the framework of the comprehensive national plan to combat extremism and in accordance with comprehensive security strategies and plans to protect internal security t

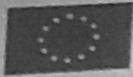
C. Lebanon

The main focus of the Republic of Lebanon is to respond as effectively as possible and with all available means to combat terrorism and prevent and combat violent extremism, and more in particular:



D. Morocco

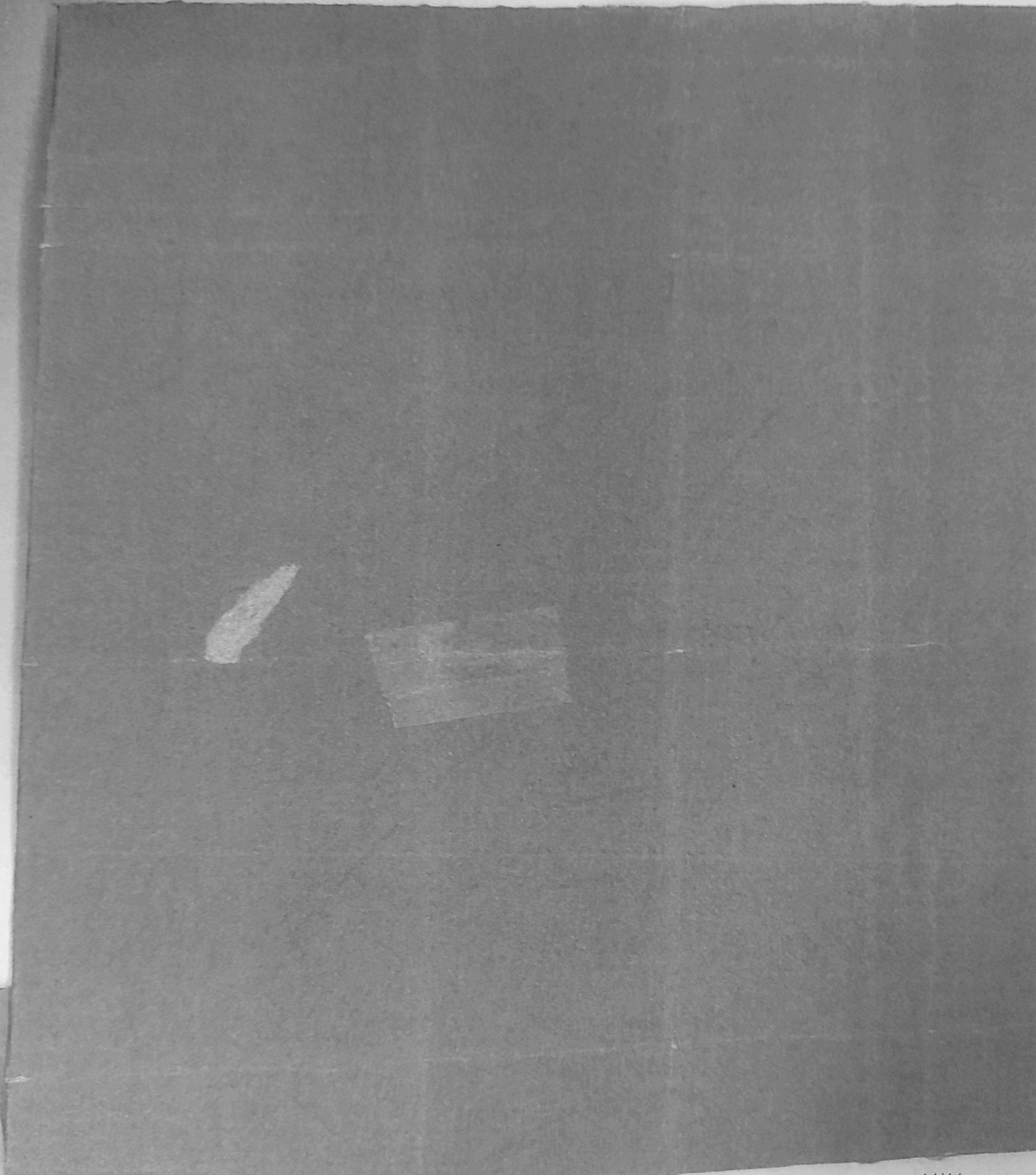
The Kingdom of Morocco has always expressed its unwavering, continuous and proactive commitment to fighting terrorism and its financing within the framework of the national strategy to combat terrorism. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Morocco has taken significant steps to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for counter-terrorism.

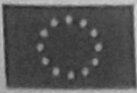


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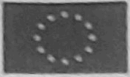
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6. Respecting Human Rights

The Moroccan anti-terrorist approach has placed respect for human rights and the rule of law at the centre of its priorities, as evidenced by the signing on September 14, 2022, of a convention- a framework of partnership and institutional cooperation between security departments and the President of the “National Council for Human Rights” (CNDH). It relates to training and strengthening respect for human rights in the exercise of police function and the promotion of the culture of human rights in police training courses and internships.



Morocco's dedication to adhering to UN recommendations on human rights, particularly in the fight against terrorism, was officially recognised with the country's election for a third consecutive term (2023-2025) as a member of the "United Nations Human Rights Council" in October 2022. Further showcasing its commitment, Morocco hosted an international conference on December 7 and 8, 2022, in Marrakech. The conference gathered numerous national and international human rights organisations with the goal of sharing experiences and fostering collaborative efforts to address common challenges in this crucial area.

Likewise, Morocco's strategy is based on security governance, as well as the upgrading of the legal framework for combating terrorism, notably through the application of UN Resolutions, including Resolution 1267 (1999), Resolution 1373 (2001), Resolution 1989 (2011), Resolution 2178 (2014), Resolution 2253 (2015), Resolution 2396 (2017) and Resolution 2462 (2019).

It should be noted that, upon a proposal from Morocco, a Resolution was adopted in July 2019 by the UN General Assembly on the promotion of interreligious dialogue and the fight against hate speech.

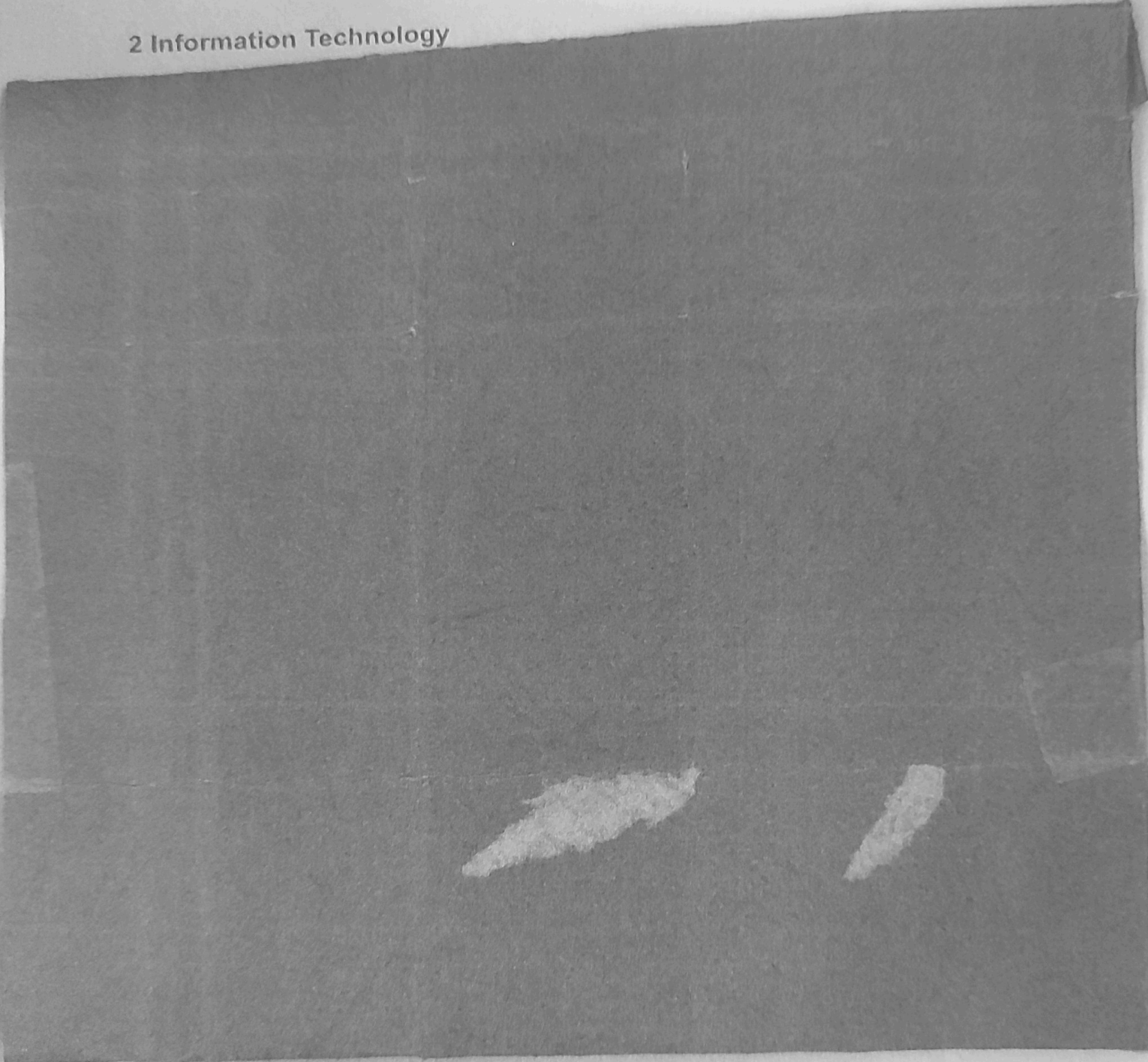
E. Tunisia

The Republic of Tunisia attaches great importance to the fight against terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. The country has put in place several initiatives aimed at strengthening its capacity and legal framework in this area. A few examples:



International cooperation: Tunisia works closely with other countries, as well as international organisations such as the United Nations, INTERPOL and Europol, to share information, coordinate actions and strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

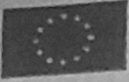
2 Information Technology





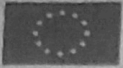
recruitment, planning for terrorist





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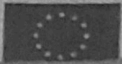
Min. However in Labor



3 Foreign Terrorist Fighters



... OF 5 PILOT COUNTRIES



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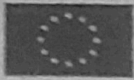


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30-11-23 MENA TE SAT REPORT OF 5 PILOT COUNTRIES

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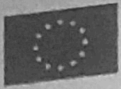
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4 Arrests and Amnesty

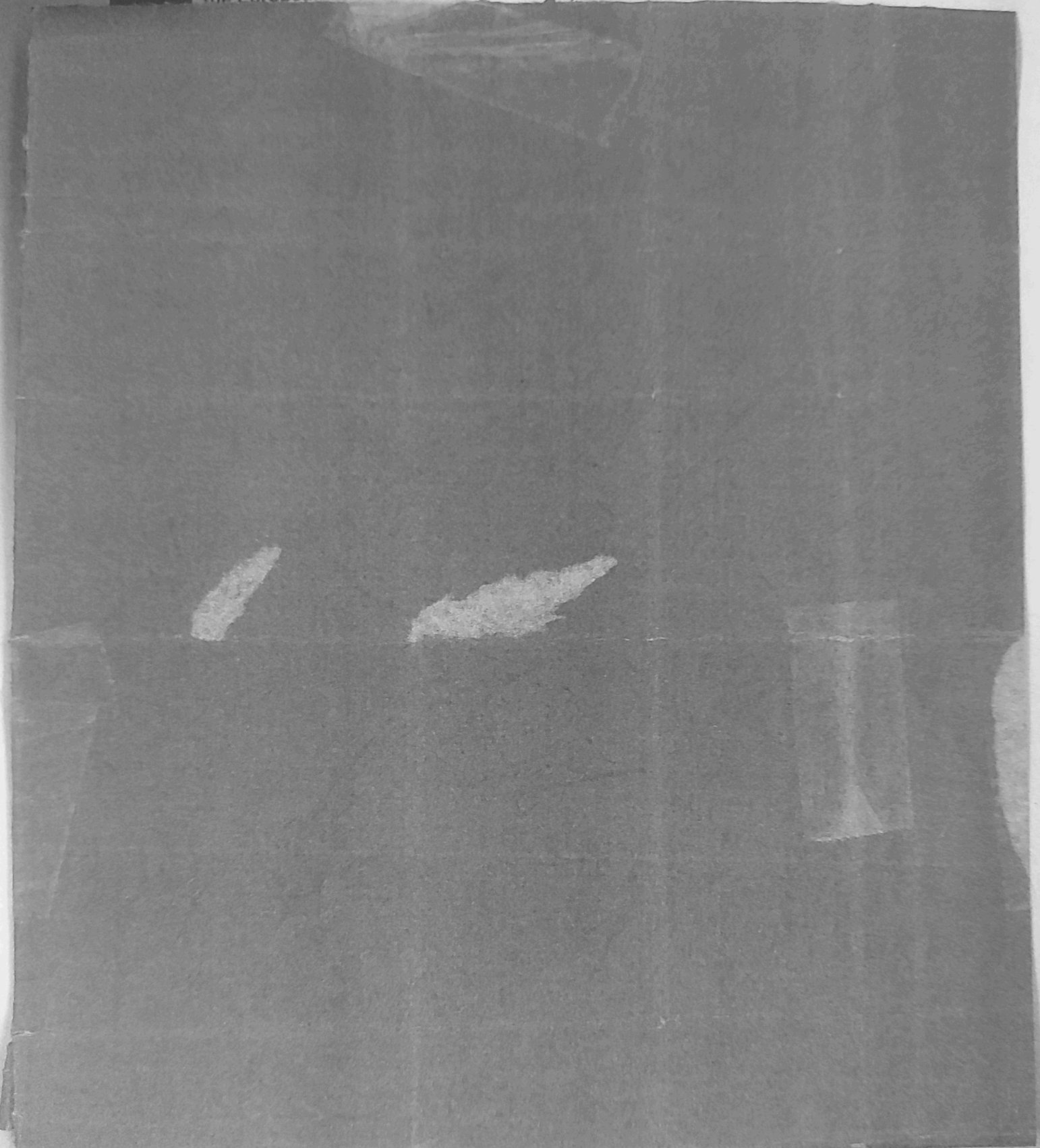


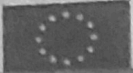


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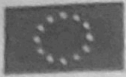


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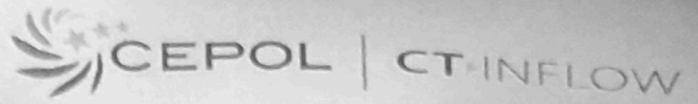


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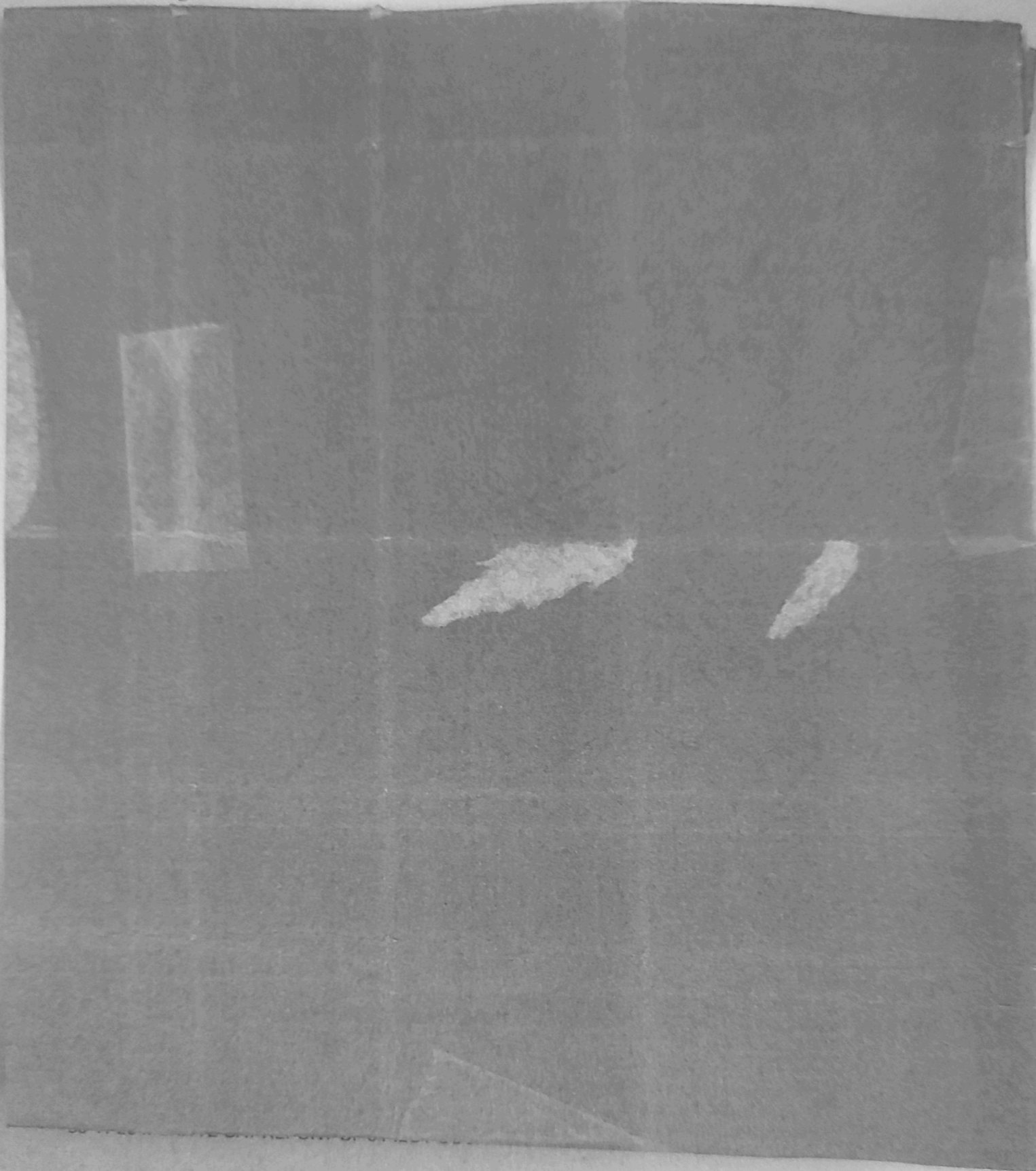
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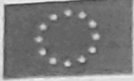
5 Financing of terrorism






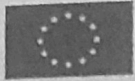
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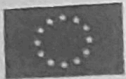
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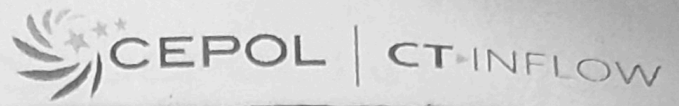
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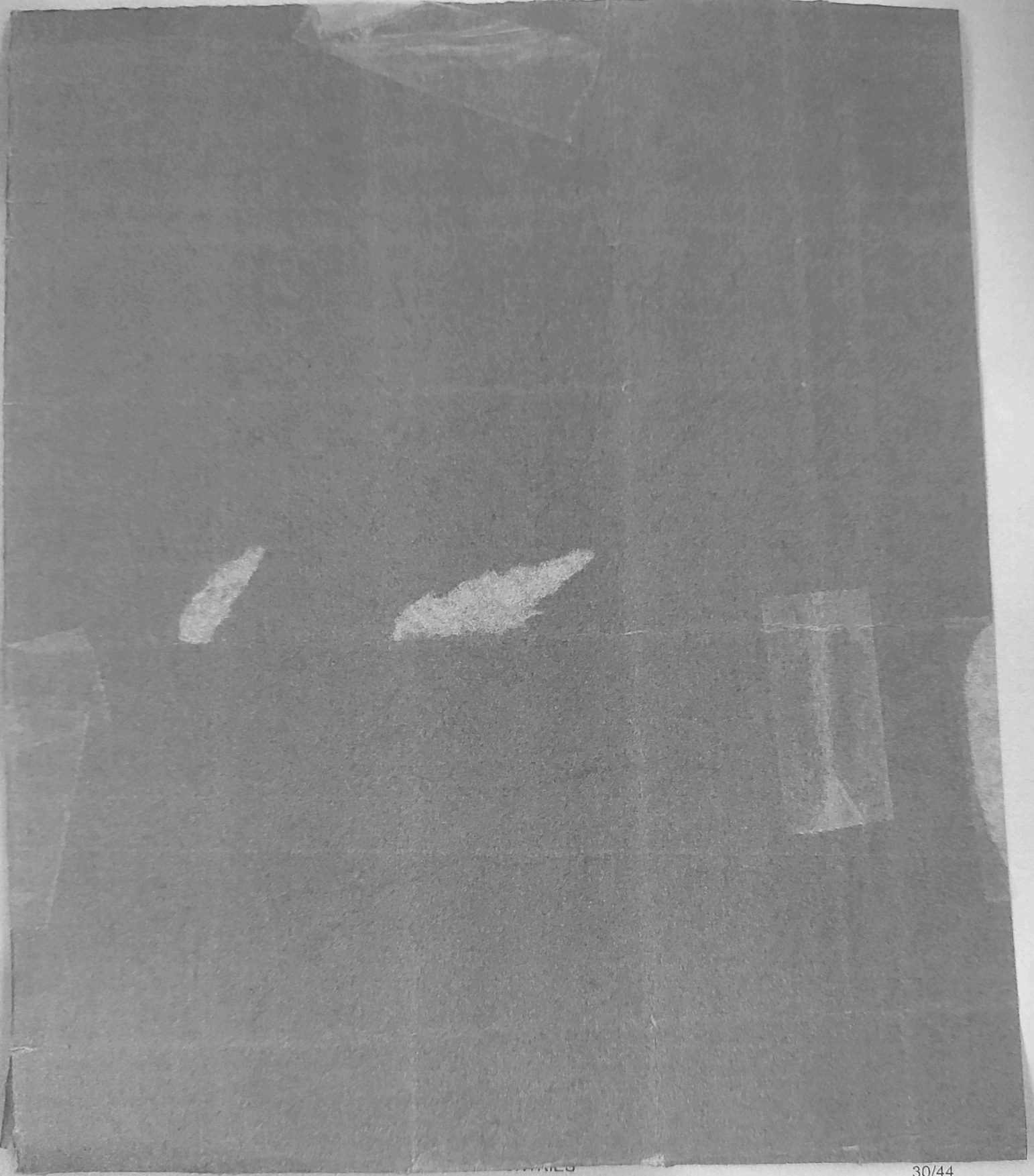
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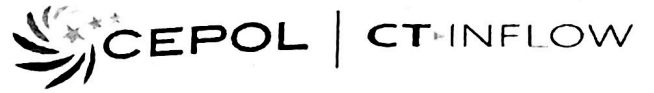


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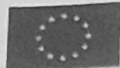




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ANNEXES



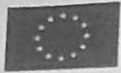
ANNEX I, Qualitative questionnaire for participating countries

CEPOL CT INFLOW PROJECT

MENA Terrorism Trend and Situation Report (TE-SAT)

QUALITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE MECHANISMS



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ANNEX II, Quantitative questionnaire for participating countries

CEPOL CT INFLOW PROJECT

MENA Terrorism Trend and Situation Report (TE-SAT)

QUANTITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

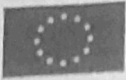
COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE MECHANISMS



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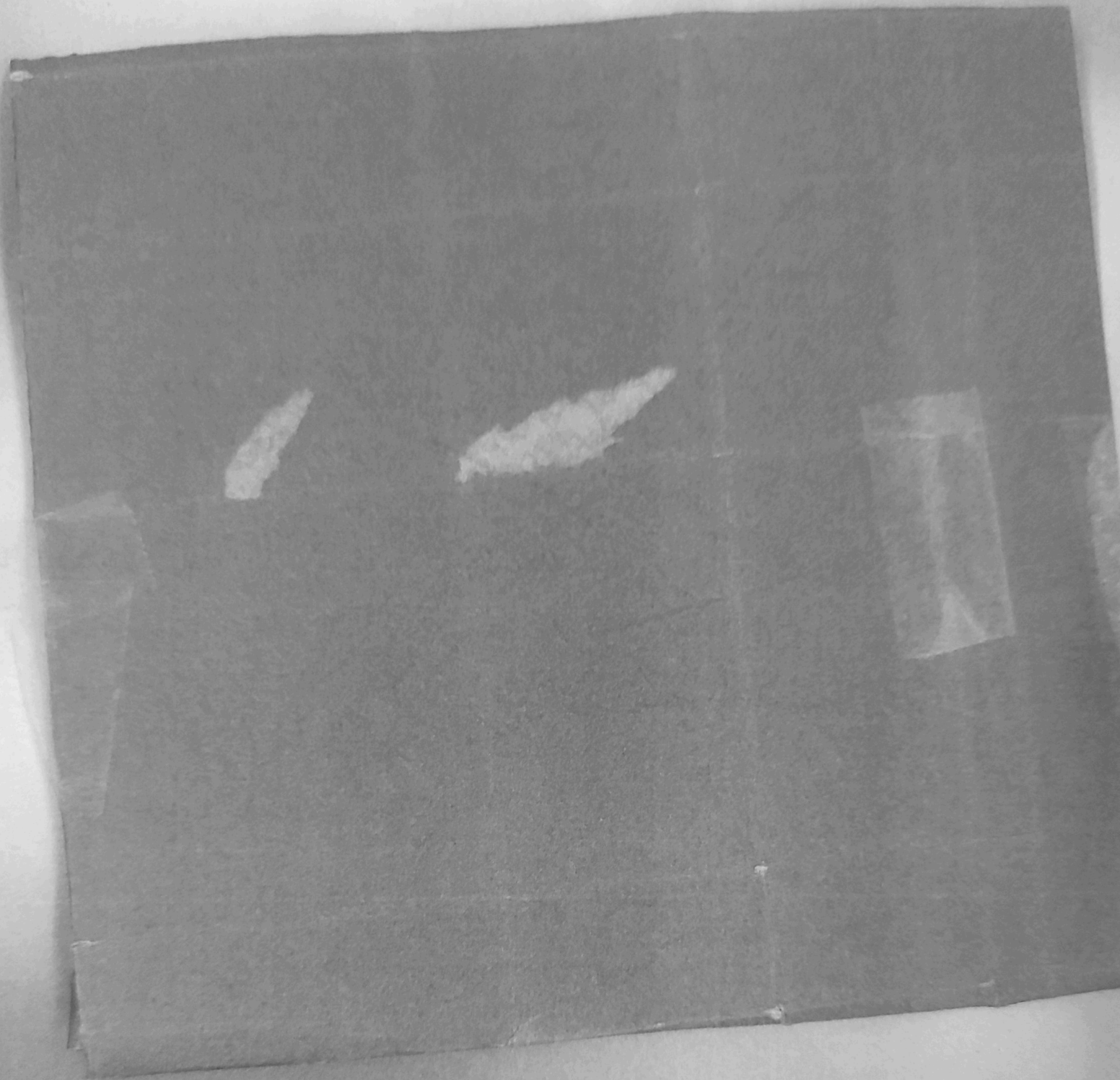
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ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIMC	Arab Interior Ministers' Council
ANRF	National Financial Intelligence Authority in Morocco
AQIM	al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
ACSRT	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism of the African Union
BCI	Central Office of Judicial Investigations in Morocco
BNP	National Brigade of Judicial Police in Morocco
CNLCT	National CT Commission in Tunisia
CT	Counter-terrorism
CTRF	The Financial Intelligence Processing in Algeria
"Daesh" / IS / ISIS	Self-proclaimed Islamic State terrorist group also referred to as "Daesh", Da'ish, ISIS or ISIL
DGAPR	General Directorate for Prison Administration and Reintegration in Morocco
DGSN	Général Directorate of National Security in Algeria
EU	European Union
FATF / GAFI	Financial Action Task Force
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighter
GCTF	Global Counter-Terrorism Forum
GIA	Armed Islamic Group
GOSP	Special Police Operations Group
GSPC	Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). The GSPC became later the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)
ICCT	International Centre for Counter-Terrorism in The Hague, the Netherlands
ICC	International Criminal Court, The Hague, the Netherlands
ICT	Information and communication technologies
INDH	National Initiative for Human Development in Morocco
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS)
JNIM	Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NCTV	National Coordinator on Terrorism and Security in The Hague, the Netherlands
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
ONUCT	United Nations Office for the Fight against Terrorism and Training in Africa
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
SGPF	Border Control System Morocco
SNLCET	National Strategy for the Fight against Extremism and Terrorism in Tunisia
UTRF	Financial Intelligence Processing Unit of Morocco
TE-SAT	Terrorism Situation and Trend Report