Terrorism in Europe

Seiki Yorozu
of the English Groups

1. Introduction

Recently in Europe, the number of attacks by Islamic terrorists has increased. I focused on the situation in France and found that there are three main reasons for this increase. First, there is a political party in France which focuses on excluding followers of Islam through hateful and discriminatory rhetoric. Second, there is a problem with "Home Grown Terrorism". Finally, there are often some incidents of racism or insults directed toward Islamic people before those attacks were carried out. Due to these things, I feel it is important to know more about each religion to solve these problems in our society.

.

2. Why has the amount of terrorism in Europe increased?

（1） Political party in France

In France, there is a political party which tries to exclude Islamic people from French society. This political party is called National Front. This party claims that the separation of church and state is important. However, some people say that this party actually rejects any kind of Islamic belief and there are some cities where any kind of Islamic customs are prohibited by the power of this party. For example, in one of the cities in France, a traditional way of dressing for Islamic women, which is covering their whole bodies, is banned in public places,

（2） Home Grown Terrorism

"Home Grown Terrorism" means that an act of terrorism is carried out against a country by people who were born and raised as citizens within it. Although, they claim that they were saved by Islam, it is usually believed that their interpretation of Islamic teachings are wrong. This false interpretation is why they carry out acts of terrorism against their own countries. It is necessary to keep terrorists under surveillance so that this type of terrorism is prevented. However, it is difficult because there is little information on Home Grown Terrorism. Therefore, we should be cautious of attacks by terrorists and collect as much information as possible.

（3）Incidents of Racism or Insults against Islamic people

There are often some acts, which directly insult the Islamic religion or people, are often carried out before an attack by Islamic extremists were carried out. For example, in Europe, in early 2015, a magazine publisher was attacked by Islamic extremists because that publisher issued an Islamic caricature insulting the Islamic prophet, Muhammad. This caricature made Islamic extremists angry.

3. Conclusion

These days, the number of attacks by Islamic extremists has increased. You may think Islam is a scary religion which supports attacks of terrorism due to its portrayal in the media. However, it is not always an accurate depiction. According to the Quran, the Islamic bible, all people are equal. Most Islamic people say that the ideas of Islamic extremists are very different from that of ordinary Islamic people. The important thing is to understand each religion, and try to address the problems we have in our society in a way that is respectful of and toward others who also live here.

4. References

Mitsui, M. (2015). *Islamized Europe.* Trans. Tokyo: Shincho Shinsho.

(三井美奈　『イスラム化するヨーロッパ』　新潮新書、2015)

Mapped: The countries where a terrorist attack is most (and least) likely. (2017). Retrieved September 13, 2017, from https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/maps-and-graphics/Mapped-Terror-threat-around-the-world/