Societal security. New challenges for the world in fighting two invisible but deathly aggressors

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Abstract

Societal security as a neo security concept can refer to actions, from juridical to political, meant to assure population the needed security. It can be linked to any kind of threats, from terrorism to healthcare, from economical threats to education, from energy to discrimination and food, all the threats that doesn't allow people to live their daily life in normal, free and democratic way. All threats to peoples daily life, anything that interferers with their opportunities to choose how and where to live, where to work, how to travel, what kind of healthcare to choose and benefit from, can be considered a threat to their societal security. Any kind of induced fear to a population can be also considered a societal security matter and governments and legislators are summoned to intervene and take political and legislative actions in order to mitigate the consequences and to prevent it from happening in the future.

Keywords: *Societal security; terrorism; CO-VID19; juridical actions; fear; political actions; society.*

1. Introduction

Societal security as a neo security concept can refer to actions, from juridical to political, meant to assure population the needed security. It can be linked to any kind of threats, from terrorism to healthcare, from economical threats to education, from energy to discrimination and food, all the threats that doesn't allow people to live their daily life in normal, free and democratic way. All threats to peoples daily life, anything that interferers with their opportunities to choose how and where to live, where to work, how to travel, what kind of healthcare to choose and benefit from, can be considered a threat to their societal security. Any kind of induced fear to a population can be also considered a societal security matter and governments and legislators are summoned to intervene and take political and legislative actions in order to mitigate the consequences and to prevent it from happening in the future.

One of the latest threats to the societal security has been, and maybe still is, the COVID19 pandemic (Nicola Malizia, Gianmarco Cifaldi, Ionut Serban and Adrian-Dan Nicolae), that had modified the way of daily life of people on global scale. For more than 2 years now, the pandemic had interfered with people's life, inducing fear, threatening their living, and changing the way they work, the way they travel, the way they interact, basically changing everything they were used to, or familiar to their way of living, and that was globally.

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The fact is that this threat has determined governments and legislators, all over the world, to take actions and modify fast the legislation regarding the societal security. Almost all countries instituted the "state of emergency" that gave governments extra power to deal with the pandemic threat. Suddenly people's life, as they knew it, was over. Restrictions took over freedom and liberties and people felt as being trapped in their own homes, not being able to visit family and friends, enjoy spectacles or holidays, basically, everything familiar until then was changed. People started to protest against restrictive measures, against being "forced" to vaccinate, against a "green pass" that allowed people to work and travel or even to shop or leave their homes.

2. International framework

There are some unofficial voices that assimilated the new Covid19 pandemic with a terrorist attack on humanity. These voices are few, but they really exist, and we cannot think that the geopolitical and strategic reasons are putting a hold on the decision maker's stands.

The reality is that even if we do not know for sure at this moment if the virus was leaked from a lab or not, intentionally or not, the fact that some people think that this may have happened, especially as the WHO has not given yet a pertinent answer, give them reason of suspicion.

Lately, more and more people are asking repetitively the same questions: was Covid19 intentionality released from a lab? Is it an artificial or a natural virus? Was it an act of terrorism in order to make an artificial selection for the human race that is overpopulating this planet? Where there economic and strategic reasons? Has the world changed forever? Will we be able to ever return to normal? and so on.

The first Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) released in February 2020 states on the origin of the virus: "on 30 December 2019, three bronchoalveolar lavage samples were collected from a patient with pneumonia of unknown etiology –a surveillance definition established following the SARS outbreak of 2002-2003 –in Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital. Real-time PCR(RT-PCR) assays on these samples were positive for pan-Betacoronavirus. Using Illumina and nanopore sequencing, the whole genome sequences of the virus were acquired. Bioinformatic analyses indicated that the virus had features typical of the coronavirus family and belonged to the Betacoronavirus 2B lineage. Alignment of the full-length genome sequence of the COVID-19 virus and other available genomes of Betacoronavirus showed the closest relationship was with the bat SARS-like coronavirus strain BatCov RaTG13, identity 96%" (WHO 2020).

The outbreak of the disease war incredible fast: "as of 20 February 2020, a cumulative total of 75,465 COVID-19 cases were reported in China. Reported cases are based on the National Reporting System (NRS) between the National and Provincial Health Commissions. The NRS issues daily reports of newly recorded confirmed cases, deaths, suspected cases, and contacts. A daily report is provided by each province at 0300 hr in which they report cases from the previous day" (WHO 2020).

At first, the unknown was immense and tremendous. Form scientist to governments and simple people the fear started to implement. At the beginning everybody was looking to their countries political deciders who were took by surprise and were totally unprepared. Many, also believed, and still believe that was/is a manipulation, fake news etc., refused to take the necessary precautions and what was at first categorized as a virus, a disease and epidemic, turned into a pandemic in a blink of an eye. Everybody than

turned their attention on the World Health Organizations, witch was also unprepared and very slow on important decisions, not to mention very wrong on many aspects of the entire affair, from the precautions that needed to be taken until the origin, the real danger of the infection etc. Many may argue that it is still the case.

Here is some date containing the reality of infections in Whuan and other provinces in China, released by the WHO more than a year later after the outbreak of the pandemic.
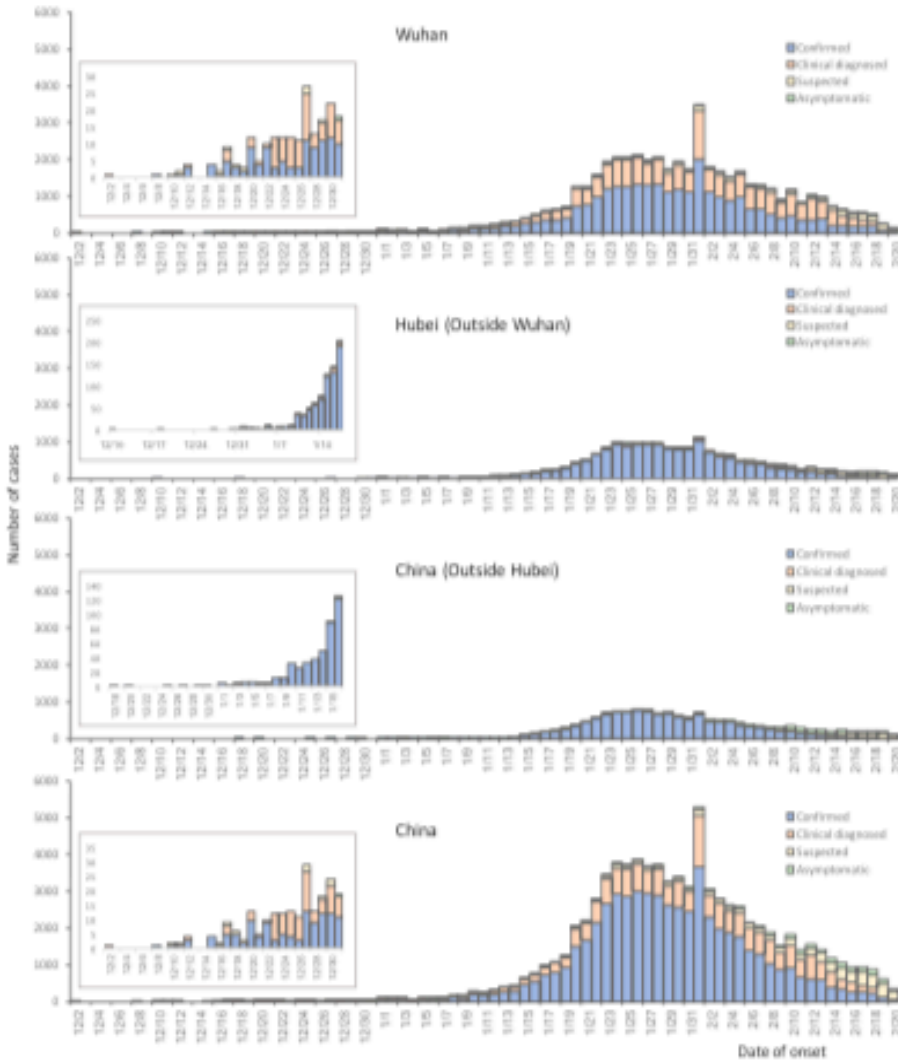

Figure 2 Epidemiologic curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases, by date of onset of illness, reported in China, as of 20 February 2020
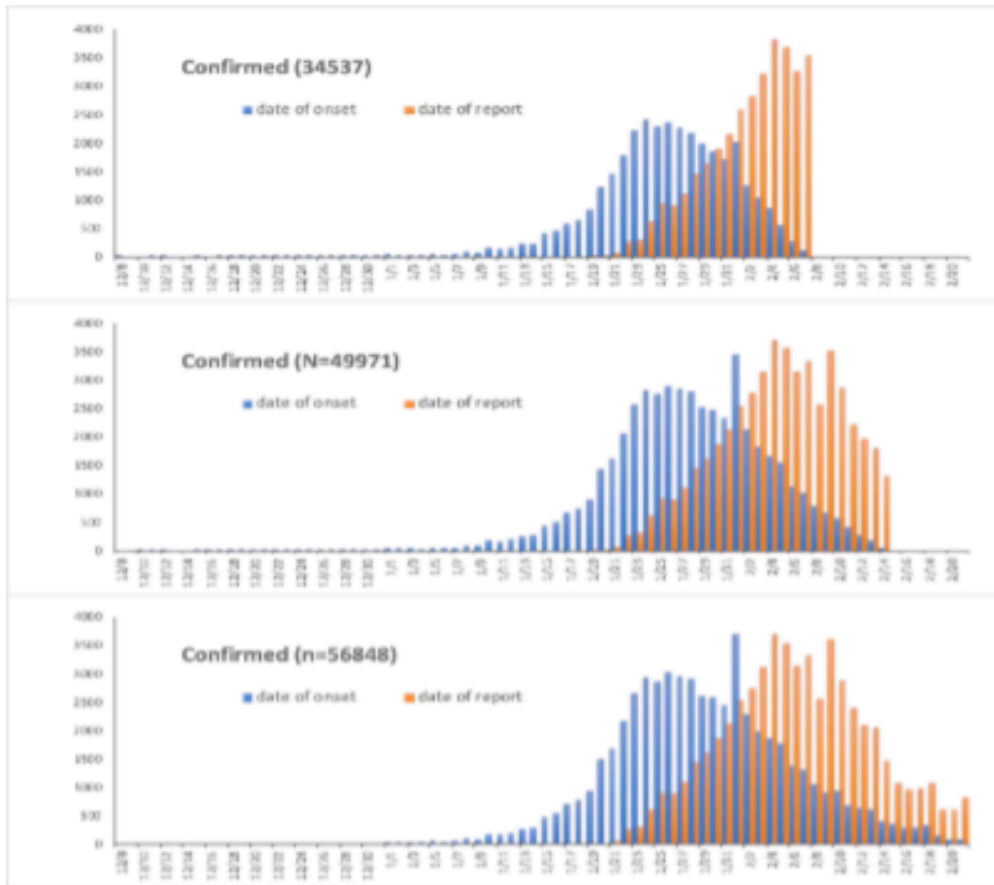
Figure 3. Epidemic curves by symptom onset and date of report as of 5 February (top panel), 12 February (middle panel) and 20 February 2020 (lower panel) for laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases for all of China

All data in fig. 2 and 3 are from the WHO report from February 2020 (WHO 2020)

The fact is that even today, the real origin of the SARS-CoV-2 is still unknown to the people and as it's seems even to the WHO experts: "WHO calls for further studies, data on origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus, reiterates that all hypotheses remain open" (WHO 2021).

Another question on everybody's lips is: was this pandemic a terrorist attack on humanity?

The fact that this pandemic and this virus act like a terrorist it is almost indubitable. They may not have the same background but they have the same ways of acting and more over the same results: to induce fear, chaos and panic into the people's lives. More over, the impact of the economic and health lives of people are even greater.

Another similarity between the two is the global reaction. As many countries in the past had declared war against the terrorism, these days the entire planet had declared war on the pandemic and the virus.

The reality is that both, the virus and terrorist, act the same, are invisible and choose their victims randomly. Usually people, as part of the human race, adapt, in order

to survive, but this pandemic is maybe the hardest situation yet, witch they have to deal with.

3. The research methodology on how the media associated the pandemic with terrorism and the results
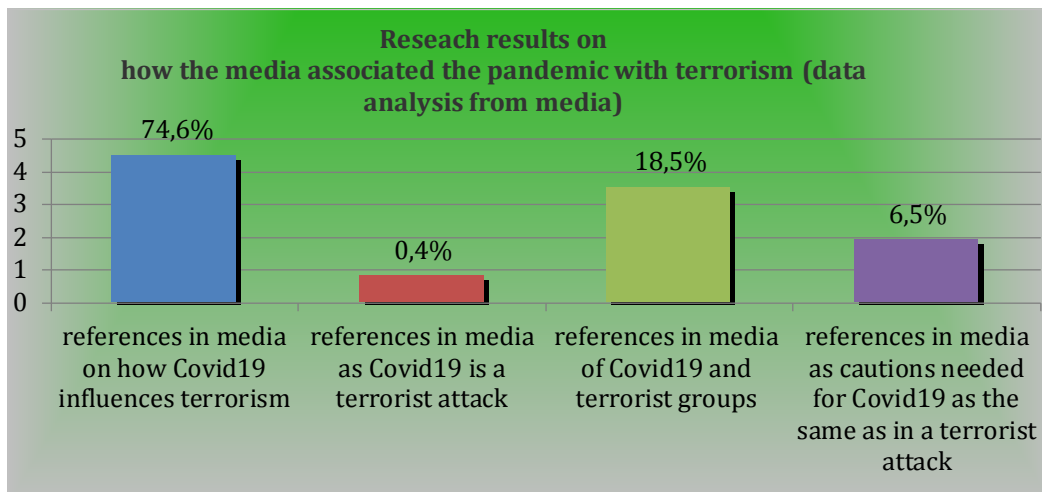
The research methodology resided in research, analysis, classification and comparison of levels and trends of online on how the people associated the pandemic with the terrorist attack in the media and especially in social media in the EU countries. The research covers the period between March 2020-March 2022. Various relevant public resources already produced in the participating countries are used, such as: media monitoring reports, media content analysis surveys etc., as well as a specially developed tool - an automatic data search algorithm (using certain key words such as: terrorism, Covid19, pandemic etc.), the application of which it is combined with local media monitoring. The reseach was conduced in the specialized Jurnalism and Statistc lab from the University of Craiova, Romania.

As we can observe from the fig.1., there are only a few references (0.4%) linking the pandemic to a terrorist attack, mostly when it's referred to it as an intentional or non intentional leak from a lab.

The most references (74.6%) are related to how the terrorists or terrorist groups (18.5%) take advantage of the pandemic and their intentions on how to act in these times.

Regarding the measures (cautions) to be taken, there are some references (6.5%) that are claiming these special times need special measures going all the way saying that should be the same as used in a terrorist attack. The only problem is seen by the general people that have had enough of the restrictive measures and also, with time, getting used to the virus, they do not manifest anymore the same fear and caution as they were in the beginning.

Figure no 1.

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And as we have seen even in the Capitol Hill "attacks", manifestations against the restrictive measures around the globe are taken place on daily basis, people that do not believe in the virus or in taking the necessary precautions are freely expressing their thoughts, free of all the cautions and thus contributing to a wider and faster spread of the virus.

In these unfortunate circumstances, governments and decision makers around the world are put in a difficult situation. On one hand they have to try to protect the population from the consequences of the pandemic, but on the other hand they also have to allow them to freely express their mind and also overview that the negative outcomes of the restrictive measures do not exceed the positive ones.

4. Discussion of the study results

Regarding the press, of course the serious one, thru official channels has never published something as "daring", but especially on social media and some unofficial channels this hypothesis has come up in the form of the 0.4 % of all the references made in media over the course of a year.

The reality is that nevertheless, the pandemic has affected people's life in the same manner as would have a terrorist attack, even more. The toll of deaths have been grater, the induced fear, the same, and the changes induced in people's every day lives are tremendous, to not talk about the duration of this modifications that could spread over some continuous years.

In stead, the most references (74.6%) are related to how the terrorists or terrorist groups (18.5%) take advantage of the pandemic and their intentions on how to act in these times and even if the press coverage has not been the same on the phenomenon, this does not mean the terrorists have taken a break. Far from it. Actually they have benefited form the fact that everybody's attention has been diverted on to the pandemic and so they have been left with a wide range of movement.

5. Recommendation

Overall, the 21st century has brought many difficult challenges upon the mankind starting with globalization, wars, terrorism, economic crises, hunger, overpopulating and over polluting the planet, at a certain point that many have started to search the possibility to continue live on other planets, and lately many diseases between witch the latest one, Covid19, one of the most disastrous of all.

It only depends on the humane race to overcome all these great obstacles in order to survive and continue its journey on this planet. It will take a lot of work, a great solidarity and the strength that it many times proved to have in times of challenge. I am sure that it will give its best and will emerge triumphant.

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