Deradicalization efforts using religious arguments are relatively more effective in rural areas; in urban areas efforts to disengage will be more fruitful.

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General Description of the Literature:

Cragin (2009) states that deradicalization is likely to be more effective in some contexts than others but provides no empirical evidence or theoretical justification. As noted in other hypotheses, several authors question the possibility of deradicaliation and instead pin their hopes on disengagement. A disengaged actor still harbors radical thoughts but does not act on them. The study of deradicalization in Aceh by Woodward, Amin and Rohmaniyah (2010) may help inform a theoretical mechanism for future study: Perhaps the implication is that rural radicals can be convinced more easily that the interpretation of Islam they are subscribing to is wrong and they will cast off radicalism and take on a different world view; additionally, their urban counterparts might only be swayed by operations considerations and thus not be swayed by the religious argument. To be clear, Woodward, Amin and Rohmaniyah (2010) are commenting on motivations for deradicalization and disengagement but *not* the rural/urban dichotomy. Even with these insights the theoretical articulation for this argument is merely conjecture at this point.

Detailed Analyses

117: *Deradicalization efforts using religious arguments are relatively more effective in rural areas; in urban areas efforts to disengage will be more fruitful.*

Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence: There is currently no relevant empirical evidence addressing the hypothesis.

Empirical Support Score: 0 = No empirical support (for or against the hypothesis)

Applicability to Influencing VEOs: The hypothesis could plausibly be applicable once a theory is articulated.

Applicability Score: Not Applicable – There is no empirical support in any context.

Bibliography:

Cragin, Kim. 2009. "Cross-Cutting Observations and Some Implications for Policy Makers." In *Social Science for Counterterrorism: Putting the Pieces Together*, edited by Paul Davis and Kim Cragin. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Woodward, Mark, Ali Amin, and Inayah Rohmaniyah. 2010. "Lessons from Aceh Terrorist De-Radicalization." *Consortium for Strategic Communication, Arizona State University*. http://comops.org/article/124.pdf.