Bioethical Dilemmas in the War against Airport Terrorism: A Forensic-Psychiatric Dissection

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In 2016, American Unit of the UNESCO Bioethics Chair held a two day conference with a representative from Israel Airport Authority to discuss how to can one practice effective and ethical airport security. We explored how bioethically informed forensic psychiatric practices can be implemented to avoid the dynamic, pitfalls of responses to fear. These include stereotyping, false positives, denial and false negatives. The conference yielded a successful platform for a workshop for airport security personnel, but also raised multiple bioethical dilemmas at varying levels: dilemma of firstly defining bioethics against terrorism that exists as antithesis to all human morals and dignity, dilemma at staff personnel level, dilemma of implementation of bioethical practice at organizational level, dilemma at state level, and ultimately the dilemma at the international level. However, when one applies basic evidence-based model and core ethical principles as forensic psychiatrist, many of these dilemmas can be at least re-defined into dichotomies, such as bioethical dilemmas between subjective assessment and objective assessment at staff personnel level. Furthermore, these disparate assessments can ultimately reach consensus through using a shared, empirical method of identification. Likewise, at all levels from microscopic to macroscopic, core psychiatric ethics and scientific practices are implemented to address bioethical dilemmas in a war against Airport Terrorism.

Background

Bioethical Dilemmas at Varying Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Personnel Level</td>
<td>Bioethical Dilemmas at Staff Personnel Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Level</td>
<td>Bioethical Dilemmas at Organizational Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>State, Province, Country and International Level</td>
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Opposing Principles and Reconciliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Personnel Level</td>
<td>Nonmaleficence—cause no harm VS. Need of Risk Stratification -Profiling as biased form -Different ethical ideologies between personnel requirement for on-the-spot adaptations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Level</td>
<td>Nonmaleficence—to protect those within the organization -Developing a learning culture Obedience to Official Authority VS. Expansion of False Information -Overgeneralizing stereotypes -Attrition of members and subsequent loss of accumulated knowledge Social Obedience to Perceived Power of Authority and Conformity</td>
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Table 1: Principles of Medical Ethics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autonomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonmaleficence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
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<td>Beneficence</td>
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"We have to do it in an ethical way. Our job is preventing terror"—Amos Yadlin

State, Province, Country and International Level =Terrorists do not abide by or observe “rules of engagement in war”

References
