

Tom Parker Bio

Tom Parker is the author of “Avoiding the Terrorist Trap: Why Respecting Human Rights is the Key to Defeating Terrorism”. For the past 6 years he has been the Head of the Counter-Terrorism Unit in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office in Nigeria, prior to which he was the Chief of Party of a European Union project providing assistance to the Office of the National Security Adviser in Baghdad during the height of the ISIL emergency. Tom has previously served as an adviser on human rights and counter-terrorism to United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) where he was one of the lead drafters of the Secretary General’s Plan of Action for Preventing Violent Extremism, as well as the Policy Director for Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Human Rights for Amnesty International USA, a Special Adviser on transitional justice to the Coalition Provisional Authority, a war crimes investigator for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) working in the field in Bosnia and Kosovo, and an Intelligence Officer in the British Security Service (MI5). Tom has taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses on international terrorism at Yale, Bard College, and the National Defense University at Fort Bragg. He is a graduate of the London School of Economics (BSc), the University of Leiden (LLM) and Brown (AM), and has held research fellowships at Yale and Duke universities.