# **Train the Trainer Course, Day 3**

# **Scenario: Use of lethal force**

**Case**

A law enforcement agency receives intelligence that a group of radicalized young people plans to commit a terrorist act which has the potential of harming many people. Four of them are tracked loading an explosive device in a car and departing towards an unknown destination.

They evade surveillance during the trip, but they are re-identified by surveillance teams within two hours. At this point, they are driving a different car from the one they were seen loading the explosive devices in. The authorities do not plan to intercept them by regular police, but by specially trained, military-like troops, which have previously been used in war zones and are trained to shoot to kill. The troops are given relatively wide rules of engagement which allow them to open fire if they believe there is a threat to life and can avoid giving a warning if they believe such warnings are unfeasible.

The four are stopped and confronted by these troops. On the belief that they are reaching in their pocket for the trigger of an explosive device, the troops shoot straight for the body and kill all the participants in the group. By inspecting their bodies, it is discovered that none had either a gun or the trigger of the explosive device on them and that the car they are driving was not rigged with explosives. The car where the explosive device was held is found parked 20 km from the place of the shooting.

**Questions:**

1. Do you believe that the action of the planners of the operation was necessary and proportionate? Please argue in favour of your response.
2. Do you believe the actions of the troops were necessary and proportionate? Please argue in favour of your response.
3. If you have argued that the actions of either the planners of the operations or of the troops were disproportionate, please describe how the situation would need to change to make the actions of the planners of the operation or of the troops necessary and proportionate.