

Discussant comments by Elena Ianchovichina
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based on

Youssef KIENDREBEOGO & Elena IANCHOVICHINA (2016)

“Who Supports Violent Extremism in the Developing Countries? Analysis
of Attitudes Based on Value Surveys,”

Policy Research Working Paper No. 7691, World Bank.

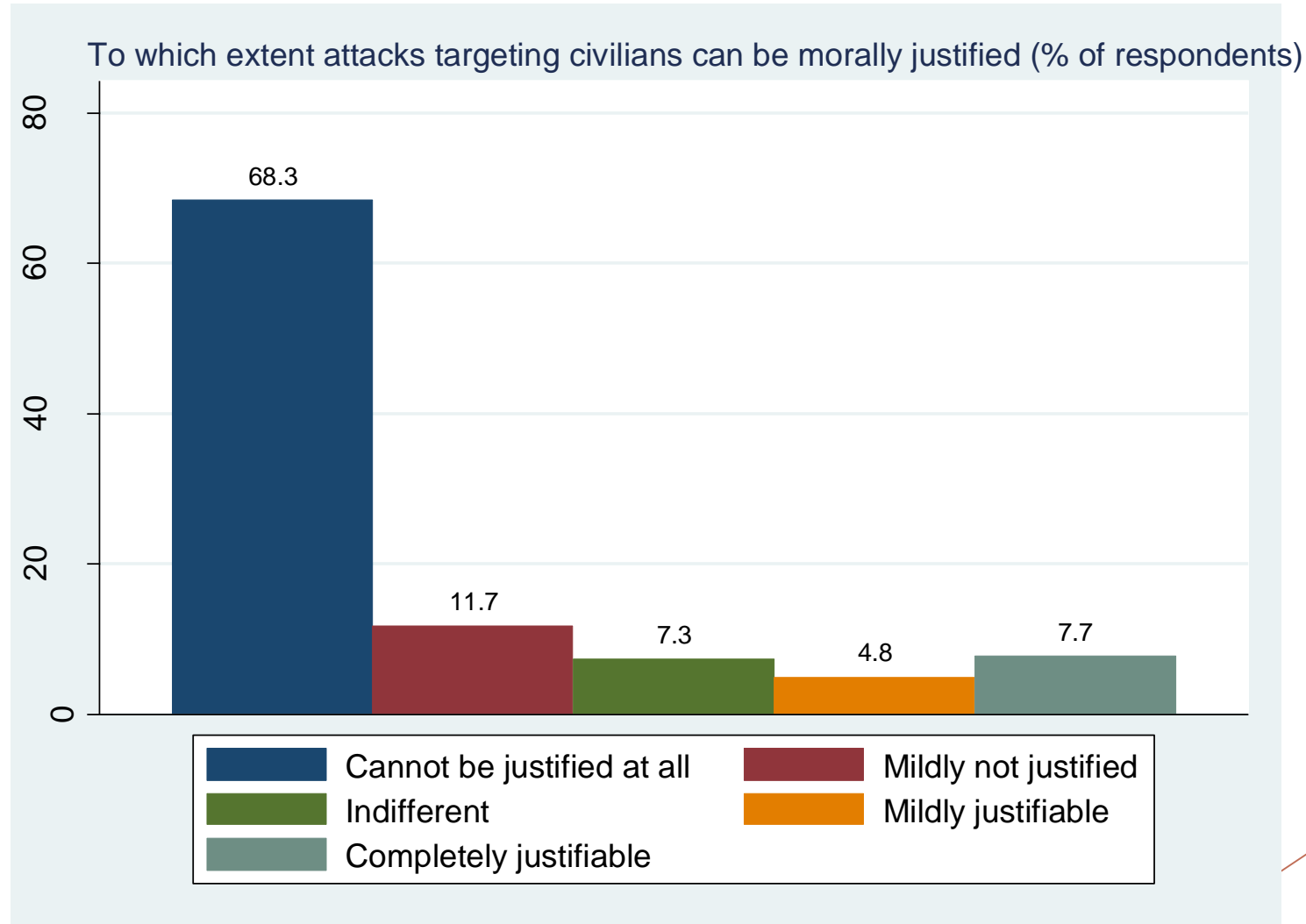
September 14, 2016

Objectives

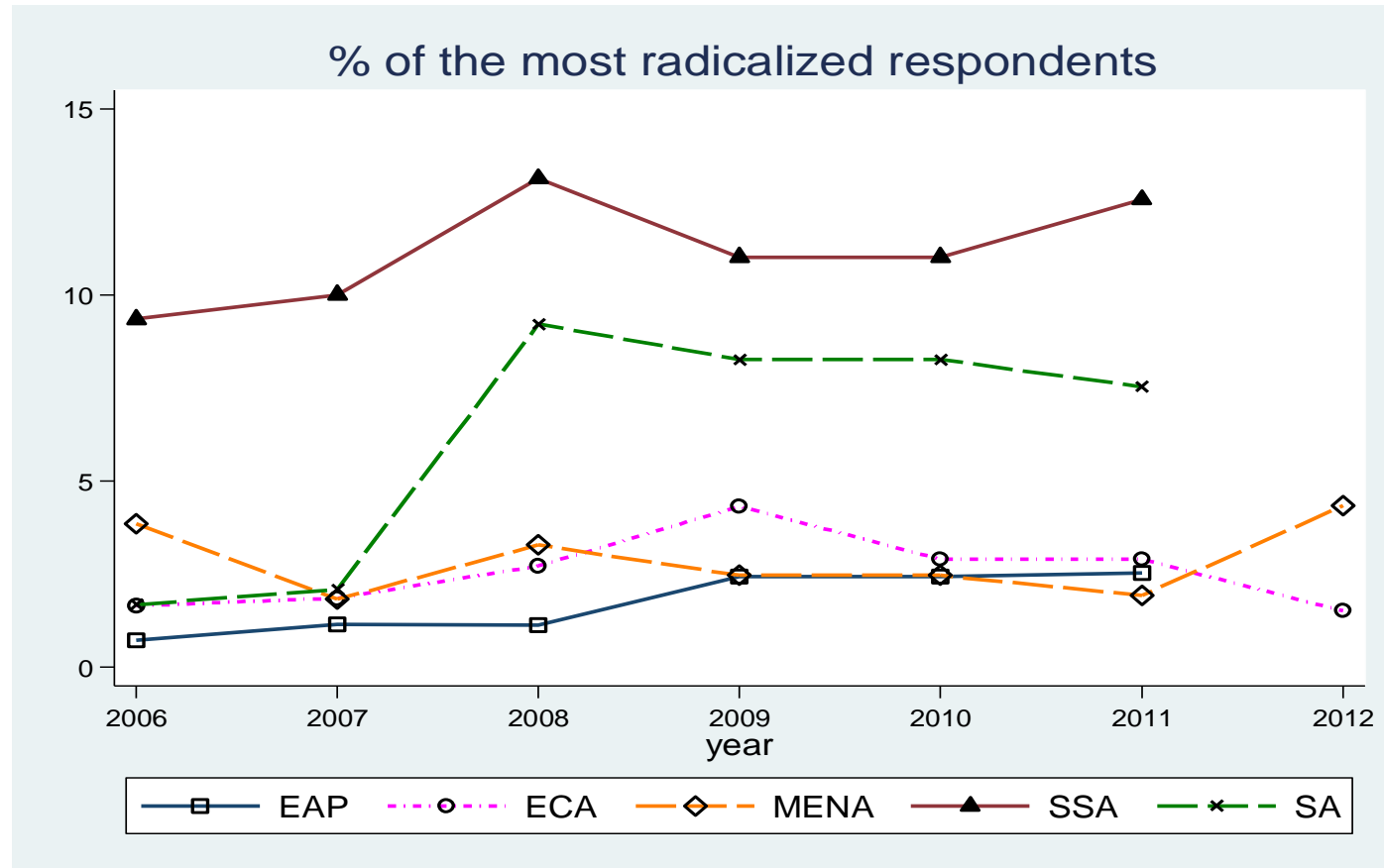
- Understand the factors associated with radicalization in the developing world
 - Data limitations do not allow us to address causality
- Our focus is on the individuals who morally justify the killing of innocent civilians using data from 2006 to 2012 Gallup World Polls
- No systematic, empirical studies on the topic
- Use results to think about policies for dealing with conditions that promote radicalizations

A glance at the data

- ▶ Overall, the incidence of radicalization is pretty low: 7.7% of respondents completely justify attacks targeting civilians ...



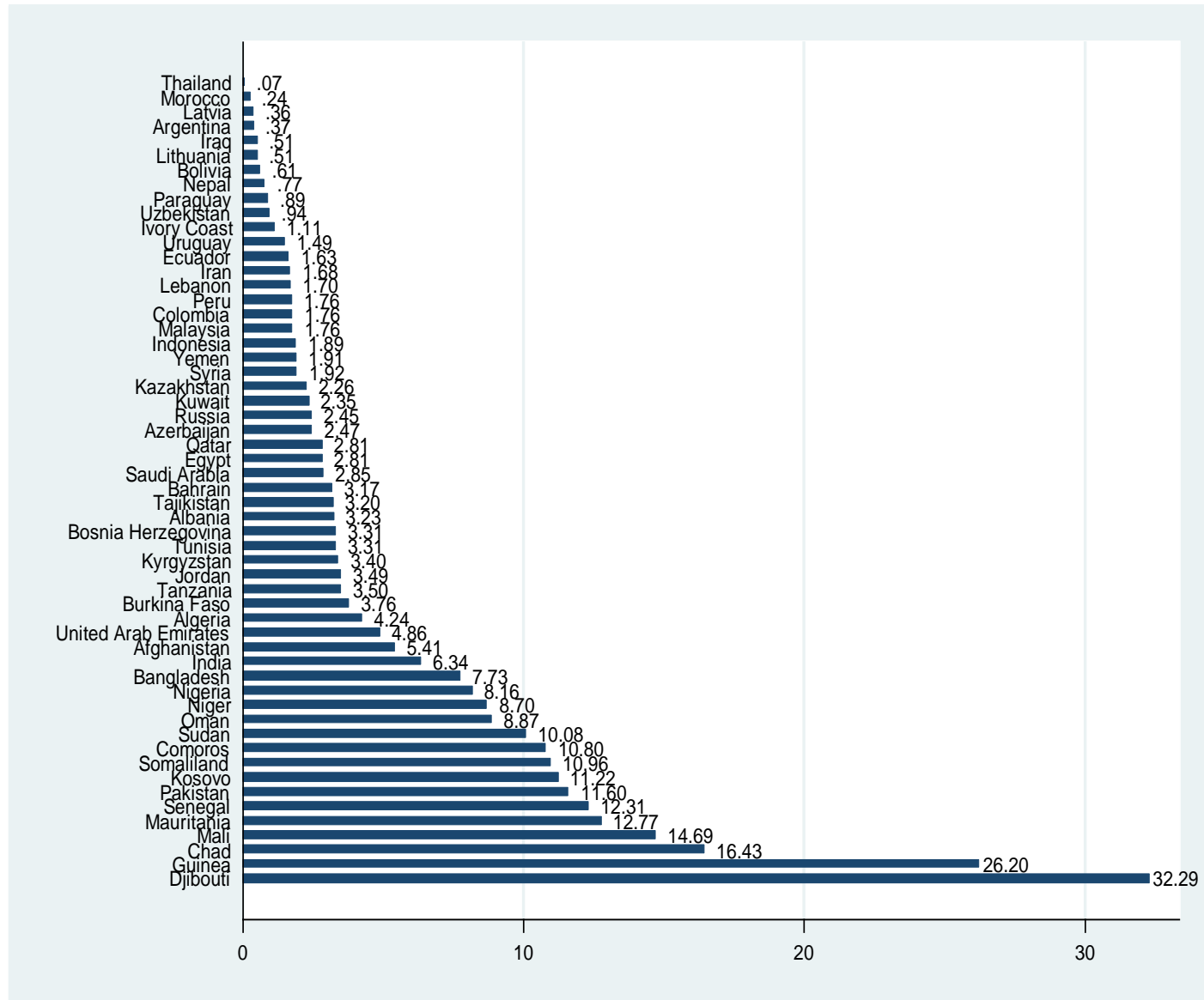
Radicalization rates across regions



- Radicalization rates are highest in SSA and SA
- Until recently the incidence of radicalization in MENA was low and comparable to the rates in other middle-income regions
- Escalation in radicalization rates in MENA in recent years

A glance at the data

...but varies widely across countries....



Summary of key findings

- Using Gallup World Poll data, we find that the typical radicalized individual who morally justifies terrorist attacks on civilians tends to be:
 - young (the risk increases with age and peaks at 33, decreasing afterwards)
 - unemployed and struggling to meet ends
 - relatively uneducated
 - not as religious as others but more willing to sacrifice own life for his or her beliefs
- In some specification with reduced sample we find additionally:
 - Belongs to the bottom 20% of the income distribution
 - Not satisfied with the freedom to choose what to do with their life
 - Less attached to the community and
 - Less engaged civically
- Results are robust although may vary in magnitude and significance across countries and geographic regions

Summary of key findings

- Results are robust but may vary in magnitude and significance across countries and geographic regions
- Women are just as likely as men to have extreme attitudes towards violence targeting civilians
- Marital status is not found to significantly explain the individual-level variation in radicalization, except in Central Asia, where single people are more likely to hold extreme views than married people
- Results dispel the myth that religious people in general are more likely to approve of violence toward civilians
 - only in ECA (Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan) are extremists more likely to be people for whom religion plays an important role
- Individuals willing to sacrifice their own lives for their beliefs - social, religious, political or economic - are also significantly more likely than others to be extremists in their attitudes toward violence.
 - Extremists are a small but non-negligible subset of this group in developing world

What can be done to find out about the link between extremism and migration?

- Survey the population of interest
- Structure surveys in a way that allows empirical investigations to address causality
- Evidence so far indicates the crucial importance of youth programs