

Committee: General Assembly 1

Issue: Measures to strengthen international cooperation to combat terrorism

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Introduction

The risks evoked by terrorists are characterised differently than many existing risks in society such as natural catastrophes and health issues. Terrorism is typical and it deals more with security - terrorism pose the risk of catastrophic harm that inclines us to accept whatever means to offer any necessary measures of protection and security. Although Terrorism doesn't have an exact comprehensive term adopted by international community, it is commonly recognised as acts of violence towards civilians with the pursuit of political and ideological aims. The United Nations General Assembly's Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (1994, Resolution 49/60), first internationally and officially, stated terrorism as : "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for *political purposes* and such acts are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them." Since terrorism imposes many features that undermine the fundamental values of the United Nations (UN), the UN allegedly emphasizes and warns its unprecedented threats to peace. Approximately 11,000 terror attacks happened in 2016, resulting in 25,000 deaths worldwide. Ranges of risks associated with terrorism is now worldwide, and nations tend to avert this harm internationally. Countering and combating terrorism is now one of the most common solutions and 'fighting' against terror is now what most of the nations tend to act upon.

Definition of Key Terms

Terrorism

Since the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States, several counter-terrorism measures have passed, and among them, the United Nations Security Council 1566 have decided terrorism as 'criminal acts committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of

hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization’.

Counter Terrorism, Anti-terrorism

Counter-terrorism includes the practice - military tactics, techniques, and strategy that government, military, law enforcement, business, and intelligence agencies use to prevent terrorism. Counter-terrorism strategies relates more deeply into combating financing of terrorism, while anti-terrorism is a more specific term to ‘combat against terrorism’. Anti-terrorism legislations include specific bombings or assassinations, that may sometimes be controversial dealing with human rights. Most argue that: Although governments have a responsibility to protect those within their jurisdiction from extremist attacks, they must ensure that all counterterrorism measures respect human rights.

Global Terrorism Index

This report is annually presented, by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), and the scoring system is counted in four categories of each nations:

- Total number of terrorist incidents
- Total number of fatalities caused by terrorism
- Total number of injuries caused by terrorism
- Approximate level of property damage from terrorist incidents.

Terrorist Propaganda

This is defined as: Propagation of a particular extremist worldview that brings individuals to consider and justify violence.

As technological advancement furthers civilization, terrorist groups have been able to exploit and expand their territory. The most notable example is the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) spreading propaganda and advertising their political and religious aim to civilians online and teaching methods of terrorism. This has allowed ISIL to substantially increase their number of supporters not just domestically but internationally. Furthermore, ISIL has also used social media as a platform to carry out acts of terrorism.

Transnational terrorism

This is defined as: 'Crimes referring to self-perpetuating associations of individuals who illegally operate transnationally to obtain power, influence, or monetary and commercial gains'.

Al Qaeda

A militant Sunni Islamist multi-national organization founded by Osama bin Laden and Abdullah Azzam in 1988, it was the first generation of global international network and where ISIL originated. Its aim is also to root out western influence and implement extreme Islam.

Background Information

Modern Terrorism

The United Nations Security Council has declared in the Resolution 1456 (2003) that : "States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, and should adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular, international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law."

International terrorism is not a new phenomenon: the word 'terrorism' dates originates back to the French Revolution of 1789 used by the establishment to describe the conduct of revolutionaries. Terrorism has as well been one of the biggest concerns for the United Nations since the 1960s, following a series of aircraft hijackings. The time of 11 September 2001 has become an age where transnational activity has intensified and become easier, and where technology and the media can be taken advantage of by terrorist entities to further the impact of terrorist conduct and intimidate civilians. Despite the long-lasting presence of international terrorism, there is currently no comprehensive and universally accepted definition of the term.

Brief History

In early 1968, the hijacking of an El Al airline international flight showed the beginning of the modern terrorist era. This hijacking incident is known as the first type of international terrorism highlighting the major techniques of terrorism going forward: skyjacking and hostage taking.

Since 1968, international terrorism has been a big issue leading to techniques and evolved international terrorism to a stage of potential mass destruction. The most tragic example is the attack on September 11, 2001 in the United States and the recent attacks in Madrid, London, Bali, Amsterdam and Paris. There are 13 international conventions as means to prevent terrorism and stop terrorist funding. The Security Council has also adopted Resolution 1373 calling for 'all states to criminalize assistance for

terrorist groups and activities, denying financial support and safe haven to terrorist and to share intelligence on terrorist network and activities in the global community’.

The global community has been extremely supportive of anti-terrorism actions and there has been significant progress made in the past decade. Terrorism is a critical issue in the twenty-first century as a threat to civilization and it has become global responsibility of nations to eliminate international terrorism.

Anti-Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism

As a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and several bombings, a ‘prevention-focussed’ counter-terrorism approach has developed across the EU (European Union). While the majority of these laws, regulations and policies recognise the importance of the rule of law and human rights, it remains relevant to examine whether in theory and in practice certain security measures that were implemented have had disproportionate effects on ethnic and religious minorities and thereby violate non-discrimination standards.

Role of the United Nations: The United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee

The United Nations has always been keen to the threats included in the narrower definition of terrorism, and it started to take new action after the events of September 11, 2001.

The Security Council adopted three important resolutions, 1368, 1373 and 1377 after the 9/11 attacks. These resolutions affirmed threat to international peace and security stressing the accountability of the supporter as well as the perpetrator of terrorist acts. They required member states to limit the ability of terrorists and terrorist organizations to operate internationally. They also set forth a Ministerial Declaration on International Terrorism Specialized Agencies.

The Security Council has established a Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) by the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373. The CTC stimulated the progress in seven critical areas: legislation, financial asset controls, customs, immigration, extradition, law enforcement and arms traffic.

Various agencies of the UN also took new actions. Agencies like the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted resolutions committing members to take measures to limit terrorists' ability to act. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is affiliated with the UN, adopted a UN Role in Fighting Terrorism resolution addressing measures to protect against acts of nuclear terrorism. It is developing a program to coordinate assistance to member states in an effort to improve security of nuclear facilities and of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1988	Al-Qaeda is founded by Osama Bin Laden
2000	International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism from the 1999 United Nations Treaty
2001	Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four passenger planes: two flew into the World Trade Center, and another hit the Pentagon resulting in 3,000 deaths.
2004	Explosion in Madrid linked with Al-Qaeda
2005	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism from the UN General Assembly Resolution
2006	Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN, and it is the first time all member states have agreed upon a strategic approach towards the war against terrorism.
2007	Bombing in Iraq in the Yazidi Towns, the second deadliest attack
2011	Founder of Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden confirmed to be dead
2014	ISIL drives Iraqi government forces out of key cities and captures Mosul and conducts the Sinjar massacre
2015	Terrorist attacks in Paris is marked as Europe's worst terrorist attack

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 731, 21 January 1992, **S/RES/731**
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 748, 31 March 1992, **S/RES/748**
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 883, 11 November 1993, **S/RES/883**
- General Assembly on Measures to eliminate international terrorism, 17 December 1996, **A/RES/51/210**
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1269, 19 October 1999, **S/RES/1269**

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1368, 12 September 2001, **S/RES/1368**
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, 28 September 2001, **S/RES/1373**
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1377, 12 November 2001, **S/RES/1377**
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1378, 14 November 2001, **S/RES/1378**
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 13 April 2005, **A/RES/59/290**

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