

ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS IN TERRORISM

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a kind of war, which is launched from hideouts by employing speed, surprise and indiscriminate violence. Assassinations, killing of innocent people including women and children, and invisibility, are at the heart of the strategy of the terrorists. Aim being to create fear, uncertainty and question the legitimacy and capacity of the established order. It is an organized system of intimidation and coercion by use of violence that does not obey the rules of war to achieve political or religious ends. One of its ingredients is that it is politically and emotionally charged. It is committed by highly trained and motivated people who have no value for human life, in some cases, including their own. It is a way of waging war by the weak and timid. A cause (real or assumed), political frustration, corruption and economic disparity, weak administration, foreign support, finance, drugs, arms availability and hungry media provide favorable conditions and environment for terrorism to take roots. Terrorist sees dividends out of proportion to the effort he puts in. Indiscriminate violence or terrorism cannot claim roots in any religion, for religions teach and share core values of peace, tolerance and compassion.

Keyword: United Nations, Terrorism, Violence, War

I. INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is, in the broadest sense, the use of intentionally indiscriminate violence as a means to create terror among masses of people; or fear to achieve a religious or political aim. It is used in this regard primarily to refer to violence during peacetime or in war against non-combatants (mostly civilians and neutral military personnel). The terms "terrorist" and "terrorism" originated during the French Revolution of the late 18th century but gained mainstream popularity in the 1970s in news reports and books covering the conflicts in Northern Ireland, the Basque Country and Palestine.

There is no particular form of terrorism, any act which is intended to create terror in the minds of a particular person, or a group of persons, or the general public may be a form of terrorism. The most common forms of international terrorism at present are the hijacking of aircrafts, attack on diplomatic missions, taking of hostages and crimes against intentionally protected persons. In generally there are two types of terrorism. Initially, there is domestic terrorism. Domestic terrorism includes acts of terror which are committed by those who are located in and operate from the United States. Moreover, the efforts of a domestic terrorist are solely aimed towards the United States. Conversely, international terrorism is a type of terrorism which includes acts of terror committed by individuals affiliated with foreign countries. The efforts of international terrorism is typically to further a political or social objective.

The Goals of terrorism are, to gain publicity and media attention and to destabilize polity and damaging economies. Among the long-run goals of terrorism is a redistribution of power, influence and wealth. Terrorist organizations must have goals that are not enforceable in the ordinary political process and for whose implementation their members are willing to use force. Tactical terrorist behavior, serves to achieve these strategic goals, making violence a means to meet more abstract objectives. There are different forms of terrorism, and each form has its own causes. Terrorism happens in both poor and rich countries and regardless of the type of government and the causes of terrorism are: Economic, Political, Social, Religion and Ethno-nationalism factors.

The potential effects on victims of terrorism can be devastating and multiple; it may be experienced at many interrelated levels - individually, collectively and societally. From a victim logical perspective, there are three circles of 'personal victimization' which are determined in accordance with their proximity to the direct victim: " primary or first order victimization ,experienced by those who suffer harm directly, whether it is injury, loss or death; secondary or second order victimization, experienced by family members ,relatives or friends of primary victims; and tertiary or third order victimization, experienced by those who observe the victimization, are exposed to it through TV or radio coverage of the victimization, or help and attend to victims"¹.

Although the term is not subject to a universally agreed definition, terrorism can be broadly understand as a method of coercion that utilizes or threatens to utilize violence in order to spread fear and thereby attain political or ideological goals. according to oxford dictionary: The systematic use of violence and

¹ Sergey Anatolievich Vavrenyuk, *International Terrorism*, 1st edn, 2016, p. 213

intimidation to coerce a government or community, especially in to acceding to specific political demands².

According to U.S department of defense: The calculated use of violence or the threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.

According to F B I: The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives³.

II. HISTORY OF TERRORISM

The term terrorist was first used in 1794 by the French philosopher Francois Noel Babeuf, who denounces Maximillian Robespierre Jacobin regime as a dictatorship. Most scholars today trace the origins of the modern tactic of terrorism to the Jewish Scarier Zealots who attacked Romans and Jews in 1st century Palestine. They follow its development from the Persian Order of assassin through to 19th-century anarchists. The "Reign of Terror" is usually regarded as an issue of etymology. The term terrorism has generally been used to describe violence by non-state actors rather than government violence since the 19th-century Anarchist Movement.

The terms "terrorism" and "terrorist" gained renewed currency in the 1970s as a result of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict the Northern Ireland conflict the Basque conflict and the operations of groups such as the Red Army Faction. Leila Khaled was described as a terrorist in a 1970 number of Life magazine. A number of books on terrorism were published in the 1970s. The topic came further to the fore after the 1983 Beirut barracks bombings and again after the 2001 September 11 attacks and the 2002 Bali bombings⁴. In the 20th century, terrorism continued to be associated with a vast array of anarchist, socialist, fascist and nationalist groups, many of them engaged in third world anticolonial struggles. Some

² Paul Wilkinson, *the answers terrorism*, 1stedn, 2012, p. 15.

³ G .Meggle, *Ethics of terrorism and counter terrorism*, 1stedn, 2002, p.21.

⁴ "Historical background of terrorism", Available at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism> (Visited on 4 April, 2019).

scholars also labeled as terrorist the systematic internal violence and intimidation practiced by state such as the Stalinist Soviet Union and Nazi Germany⁵.

III. TYPES OF TERRORISM

Terrorist typologies are descriptive classifications explaining the quality of political violence arising from distinct political and social environments. Although many terrorist typologies are accepted without controversy by analysts, some are the subject of definitional debate. Accepted typologies include the following: There are two types of terrorism. Initially, there is domestic terrorism, Domestic terrorism includes acts of terror which are committed by those who are located in and operate from the States. Moreover, the efforts of a domestic terrorist are solely aimed towards the States. Conversely, international terrorism is a type of terrorism which includes acts of terror committed by individuals affiliated with foreign countries. The efforts of international terrorism is typically to further a political or social objective.

Another types of terrorism are: political terrorism, state terrorism, religious terrorism, right and left wing terrorism, narco terrorism, separatist terrorism and cyber terrorism⁶.

IV. CAUSES OF TERRORISM

Terrorism is not monolithic phenomenon it is quite divers, not only in term of ideology but also in organization and inception. Sometimes terrorism associated with a social movement or political party that enjoy significant popular support largely as a result of its non-violence activities such as providing much needed social services. There are different forms of terrorism, and each form has its own causes. Terrorism happens in both poor and rich countries, and regardless of the type of government. What is most likely is that any certain form of terrorism is the result of a combination of factors. Many reasons have been specified for the causes of terrorism, economic factors, political factors, religious and social factors⁷.

(1) ECONOMIC FACTORS

The most popular theory is that poverty causes terrorism. When people are deprived of certain resources and opportunities, poverty can create resentment and cause some to turn to terrorism in order to express

⁵ Supra note 1 at 213-214

⁶ Gus Martin, *types of terrorism*, 1stedn, 2016, p.1.

⁷RumkiBasu, *International politics*, 2nd end, 2018, pp. 289-290.

their outrage. When social inequality develops, many people become angry because they are unable to achieve what others are easily able to, thus creating internal conflict within certain geographic areas, and making it more likely for terrorism to occur as a result.

(2) POLITICAL FACTORS

When the government is unable to provide basic standard of living, citizens become displeased and this is when terrorist organizations are able to recruit. It is up to the government to provide the resources necessary for the people to survive. This includes hospitals, medical care, jobs and schooling. Many believe it is the job of the government to provide political freedom to their citizens.

(3) RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL FACTORS

The human development Index includes per capita income, life expectancy, and education into account in regards to terrorism, and found that there is a correlation between terrorism and human development. Religion is another social aspect that needs to be considered. Modern terrorism has seen an enormous increase in religious extremism, the scale of violence has intensified, and the global reach has expanded. Religious terrorism can be defined as political violence that is motivated by an absolute belief that and other-worldly power has sanctioned, or sometimes commanded, terrorist violence for the greater glory of the faith. People who partake in religious terrorism believe that any acts they commit will be forgiven and perhaps rewarded in the afterlife. Extremism is not limited to just one religion. There are many different forms of religious terrorism, but the most common is Islamic extremism. Overall, there has been a dramatic increase recently in religious terrorism, making it one of the main contributors to terrorism globally. Therefore, the dominant religion of a country seems worthwhile to examine in order to see if religion plays a role in the number of terrorist attacks.

V. OBJECTIVES OF TERRORISM

The most important goals of terrorism are (1) gaining publicity and media attention (2), destabilizing polity and (3) damaging economies. Among the long-run goals of terrorism is a redistribution of power, influence and wealth. Terrorist organizations must have goals that are not enforceable in the ordinary political process and for whose implementation their members are willing to use force. Tactical terrorist behavior then serves to achieve these strategic goals, making violence a means to meet more abstract objectives.

VI. SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACK

The September 11 attacks (often referred to as September 11th or 9/11) were a series of coordinated suicide attacks by Al-Qaeda upon the United States on 11 September 2001. On that morning, 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners. The hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, New York City, killing everyone on board and many others working in the buildings. Both buildings collapsed within two hours, destroying nearby buildings and damaging others. The hijackers crashed a third airliner into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville in rural Pennsylvania after some of its passengers and flight crew attempted to retake control of the plane, which the hijackers had redirected toward Washington, D.C. There were no survivors from any of the flights. As a result of the attacks, 3000 victims and the 19 hijackers died. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including nationals of over 70 countries. The United States responded to the attacks by launching the War on Terror. It invaded Afghanistan to depose the Taliban that had harbored Al-Qaeda terrorists. The United States also enacted the USA PATRIOT Act. Many other countries also strengthened their anti-terrorism legislation and expanded law enforcement power⁸.

VII. TERRORISM A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

Terrorism, a global phenomenon has become a challenge and threat to national and international security. It is commonly understood as political violence resulting in an asymmetrical conflict, designed to induce

⁸ Supra note 7 at 294

terror and psychic fear through the violent victimization and destruction of noncombatant targets. A modern trend in terrorism is towards loosely organized self-financed international network of terrorists⁹. Although global terror began in the 1880s a century elapsed before a few scholars began to understand its peculiar dynamic. One reason for the difficulty was that many scholars and government officials had “historical amnesia.” When they saw terrorism begin to disappear they assumed it had become part of history and no longer had contemporary relevance. But global terror disappears and then reappears. Another reason they failed to understand the pattern is that the concept of generation was rarely used to describe politics, a concept that requires one to recognize the importance of life cycles. Global terror comes in the form of waves that are precipitated by major political events that have important global significance. A wave consists of a variety of groups with similar tactics and purposes that alter the domestic and international scenes. Four very different waves have materialized: the Anarchist, Anti-Colonial, New Left and Religious. The first three have been completed and lasted around 40 years; the fourth is now in its third decade. If it follows the rhythm of its predecessors it should be over in the mid-2020s, and a fifth wave may emerge thereafter. The first measures to fight terrorism in the international arena were made in the 1970s. The events of 11 September changed it all when terrorism hit the center of the increasingly globalized post-cold war international system. Immediately there has been a conceptual transformation of terrorism, now as global both within international diplomacy as well as its mainstream scholarly discourse. This conceptual transformation of terrorism from its regional to global nomenclature has again manifested the built in hierarchy of the hegemonic post-cold war global system and the pecking order of its concerns both normative and operational¹⁰.

There is no particular form of terrorism. Any act which is intended to create terror in the minds of a particular person, or a group of persons, or the general public may be a form of terrorism. Thus, it includes any wilful act causing death or bodily harm or loss of liberty to public officials in general, wilful destruction of, or damage to public property, or property devoted to a public purpose any wilful act calculated to endanger the lives of members of the public, the manufacture, obtaining possession or supplying of arms, ammunition, explosives or harmful substance with a view to the commission in any

⁹ Dr. PushpaNegi, *The Changing Faces of Terrorism*, 1stedn, 2012, p. 1.

¹⁰ "Terrorism as a Global wave Phenomenon", Available at <https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-299> (Visited on 10 April 2019).

country whatsoever of one of the offences mentioned above. International terrorism in various forms has considerably increased since last two decades and has caused or endangered many innocent lives or otherwise jeopardized human rights and fundamental freedoms. The most common forms of international terrorism at present are the hijacking of aircrafts, attack on diplomatic missions, taking of hostages and crimes against intentionally protected persons¹¹.

VIII. UNITED NATIONS AND COUNTER TERRORISM

International efforts to eliminate terrorism started years before the United Nations was established. Terrorism was of concern to the international community as early as 1937, when the League of Nations prepared a draft convention for the prevention and punishment of terrorism. The draft convention defined terrorism as: "All criminal acts directed against a State and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or a group of persons or the general public." Although this convention never came into existence and the definition ignores acts against civilians, rather than against the State per se, it did serve as a point of reference for later discussion of terrorism when the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealt with the issue from a legal and political perspective¹².

The UN's counter-terrorism work in recent years can be organized under three headings: first, a norm-setting role that includes (1) the development and promotion of a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and efforts to counter violent extremism, (2) a set of international conventions, and (3) far-reaching Security Council resolutions imposing counter-terrorism obligations on member states; second, capacity-building activities to help countries meet these obligations; and third, Security Council mandated sanctions, in the 1990s, against state sponsors of terrorism, and since 9/11 against hundreds of individuals and entities affiliated with Al Qaida¹³.

On September 12, 2001 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1368, which, first of all, stated in the preamble, in a general way, that terrorist acts cause threats to international peace and security (by implication, all of them, no longer some of them) and expressed determination to combat them "by all means", which implies the use of armed force as well. Secondly, by recognizing the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense in accordance with the Charter, the Resolution, for the first time

¹¹Dr H O Agarwal, *International Law and Human Rights*, 19thedn, 2013, p. 679.

¹² Javier Ruperez, *The UN in The Fight against Terrorism*, 1stedn, 2006, p. 2.

¹³ Sebastian von Einsiedel, *Assessing the UN Efforts to Counter Terrorism*, 1stedn, 2016, p. 1.

,recognized military self-defense as applicable against terrorist acts perpetrated by non-state actors, again in a general way and not only in respect to September 11 attack. This automatically legitimized unilateral military strikes against another country, at least until the Security Council takes its measures, something that that occurred earlier but was never given the stamp of approval by the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006. The strategy is a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. Through its adoption that all Member States have agreed the first time to a common strategic and operational approach to fight terrorism, not only sending a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestation but also resolving to take practical steps individually and collectively to prevent and combat it. Those practical steps include a wide array of measures ranging from strengthening state capacity to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating United Nations system's counter-terrorism activities¹⁴.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy consists of four pillars:

- Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.
- Measures to prevent and combat terrorism.
- Measures to build States 'capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard.
- Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism¹⁵.

IX. INTERNATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM SYSTEM

Social development causes the transformation of terrorist attacks and the constant emergence of new factors .However, meanwhile, the international community establishes new organizations aimed at the struggle against international terrorism. Thus, the international counter-terrorism system has been already established, and it provides for the bilateral cooperation at the global and regional level. First of all, the matter is in the United Nations (UN), which deals with the release of important counterterrorism documents and the establishment of anti-terrorist centers. As of today, the United Nations is considered a

¹⁴ "Role of UN in Combating of Terrorism", Available at <http://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-117-role-of-united-nations-in-combating-terrorism.html> (Visited on 2 May 2019).

¹⁵ United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime, "International Law Aspects of Countering Terrorism", 2009, p 19.

single universal mechanism to support international peace and global security through the collective regulation of international relations and sustainable development and stability¹⁶.

X. CONCLUSION

Terrorism is not subject to a universally agreed definition, but it can be broadly understand as a method of coercion that utilizes or threatens to utilize violence in order to spread fear and thereby attain political or ideological goals. Contemporary terrorist violence is thus distinguished in law from ordinary violence by the classic terrorist triangle: A Attacks B, to convince or coerce C to change its position regarding some action or policy desired by A. Contemporary terrorists utilize many forms of violence, and indiscriminately target civilians, military facilities and State officials among others. The Goals of terrorism are. (1) Gaining publicity and media attention (2), destabilizing polity and (3) damaging economies.

The term terrorist was first used in 1794 by the French philosopher Francois Noel Babeuf. The term terrorism has generally been used to describe violence by non-state actors rather than government violence since the 19th-century Anarchist Movement.

At generally there are two types of terrorism domestic terrorism and international terrorism. But the subdivisions of terrorism are: 1. Narco terrorism 2. Political terrorism 3. Bioterrorism 4. Cyber terrorism 5. State Sponsored Terrorism 6. Right-wing terrorism 7. Left-wing terrorism 8. State terrorism 9. Religious terrorism

10. Separatist Terrorism 11. Nuclear terrorism 12. Nuclear terrorism.

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¹⁶ Sergey Anatolievich Vavrenyuk, *International Terrorism and the basic Ways to deal with it at the present stage*, 2nd edn, 2018, p. 224.

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