

West Lake Model United Nations 2019

Hangzhou International School, Hangzhou, China

Forum:	General Assembly One
Issue:	Preventing attacks and displays of terrorism in countries around the world
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Introduction

Terrorism purports to create widespread fear with violence or threats of violence. To achieve certain political aims, terrorists systematically employ violence to generate fear when direct military victory is not possible.

In order to attract and maintain the publicity necessary to generate rampant fear, terrorists engage in dramatic, violent, and high-profile attacks such as hijackings, hostage takings, shootings, and suicide bombings. Terrorists select their target venues for shock value. Thus, they often choose popular spots or venues of cultural importance that are crowded with civilians to wreak a havoc.

Terrorists have gotten mobility and lethality from technological advances such as automatic weapons and compact, electrically detonated explosives. Likewise, the growth of air travel provided new methods and opportunities for terrorists.

Terrorism seems to be a constant feature of political news. Ever prior to the September 11 attacks, fear spread of terrorists using biological weapons. Now, delegates must figure out a way to put a stop to these attacks and displays of terrorism in countries around the world.

Definition of Key Terms

Terrorism

Terrorism in its original usage implies an act of violence by a state against its domestic enemies. (Jenkins, 2018)

Radicalization

Terrorist radicalization is a process whereby an individual undergoes transformation to advocate terrorist violence as a possible, perhaps even legitimate, course of action. (Merriam Webster and European Parliamentary Research Service Blog, 2015)

State-Sponsored terrorism/establishment terrorism

State-sponsored terrorism consists of perpetrated acts of violence on a state or government by a state or government. (terrorism RESEARCH, 2019)

Dissent terrorism

Dissent terrorism is when terrorist groups rebel against their own government. (Online Degree Programs, 2011)

Religious terrorism

Religious terrorism occurs when terrorist groups are extremely religiously motivated. It is carried out based on motivations and goals that are religious in nature. (Online Degree Programs, 2011)

Background Information

History of terrorism

Terrorism in the 20th century

Technological advances nowadays like automatic weapons and electrically detonated explosives, provide terrorists with unprecedented mobility and lethality. Terrorism has been utilized multilaterally in anti-colonial conflicts in disputes between different national groups over a contested homeland, in

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conflicts between different religious denominations, and in internal conflicts between anti-government forces and established governments.

The most devastating terrorist attacks on the United States of America's soil include the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City in 1993 and the bombing of the Oklahoma City two years later, which killed 168 people. Many other devastating attacks resulted in the catastrophic destruction of both the Pentagon in the 9/11 attacks and the World Trade Center complex in 1993 and 2001, as well as approximately 3000 casualties.

[Recent events surrounding terrorism](#)

There have been numerous instances of terrorism in 2019. In June of 2019, the London Bridge attack resulted in 8 deaths and 49 injuries. Reports indicate that no defense were built around the bridge in spite of the fact that it had been identified as a prominent target for terrorist attacks. Earlier in May, another terrorist attack in Kabul injured dozens of children, destroyed a wax museum as well as a nearby TV station. Earlier in the year, there were two consecutive terrorist shooting attacks at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, resulting in 51 casualties and 49 injuries.

[Previous UN Involvement](#)

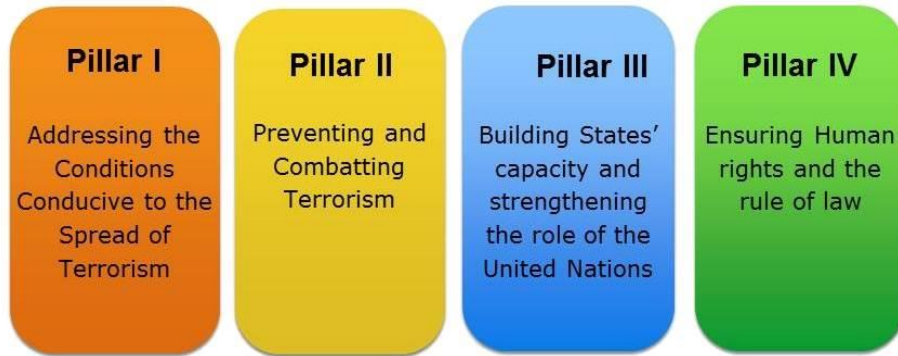
UN has prioritized countering terrorism has for more than 50 years as evidenced by the existence of 23 UN departments as well as several international and domestic entities participating in counter-terrorism efforts. To date, as many as 14 international instruments have been adopted to combat terrorism on the ground of the UN.

[The United Nations' High-Level High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change](#)

In 2003, the UN Secretary-General established The United Nations' High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change to analyze past threats and attacks in order to strengthen future security. The Panel pays special emphasis to biological terrorism and advises the United States on counterterrorism strategies.

UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September. The strategy is a unique global instrument to enhance regional, national and international efforts to counter terrorism. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy consists of 4 pillars and takes the form of a resolution (A/RES/60/288):



Caption 1: Four Pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The unique comprehensiveness of this Strategy is evident in its constituents: prevention, funding, and punishment of terrorist attacks.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

To date, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has launched more than 30 non-military counter-terrorism projects around the world at the regional, national and international levels. The UNCCT is currently implementing the expansion of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Key Issues

Violent extremism and radicalization

The notion of 'radicalization' is generally used to convey the idea of a process through which an individual adopts an increasingly extremist set of beliefs and aspirations. The definition of "radicalization" is inclusive of, but not exclusive to, the

willingness to condone, support, facilitate or use violence to further political, religious, or ideological goals.

Religious extremism

Religious terrorism is terrorism accounted for by religious reasons and motivations. In the last century, the number of religious terrorism movements tripled worldwide, and many of the most recognizable terrorist attacks in the past 15 years appear to have been motivated by religious or theological convictions. For example, Islamic terrorism stems from the ideology of Islamic supremacy which asserts that "Islam is exalted and nothing is exalted above it." According to the Global Terrorism Index 2016, four religious Islamic extremist groups—ISIS, Boko Haram, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda--were responsible for 74% of deaths from terrorism.

Issues regarding human rights

Terrorism is a human right issue as violence forced upon unknowing civilians violates basic human rights. On the other hand, counter-terrorism is also another human right issue as the government usually resorts to drastic counter-measures, which also infringes fundamental rights.

Not only is terrorism a direct threat to human rights, but it also destabilizes governments and disrupts social and economic development. It is also known to also have links with transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering, and trafficking in arms. Moreover, illegal transfers of nuclear and chemical and biological materials are often involved, not to mention other serious crimes such as murder, extortion, hostage-taking, and much more.

Major Parties Involved and their Views

USA

In the past, the United States has made major strides to defeat international terrorist organizations. However, the United States is very vulnerable to terrorists as it is a large country with long, desolate borders and many lucrative, high-value, symbolic targets. It has undergone several measures to ensure that 9/11 does not happen again.

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Iraq

Iraq is one of the most involved countries in terrorism. There were 2,415 terrorist incidents in Iraq in 2015 alone, causing 6,960 deaths and 11,900 injuries. To date, Islamic State forces have been held accountable for at least 11,000 deaths, although the actual figure may be far higher.

Iran

Iran has been the leading sponsor of terrorism and supported attacks against Israel. It openly and actively supports terrorist groups with the Lebanese group Hezbollah in particular. In addition, Iran supplies political support and weapons to HAMAS, an organization widely recognized as a terrorist organization.

Syria

Syria has announced its support for the global struggle against Islamic State (IS) militants, which heavily contradicts against the fact that it provides safe haven and material support for several terrorist groups: HAMAS, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and more.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date <i>MM/DD/YY</i>	Description of Event
9/11/01	Terrorists hijack four U.S. planes.
9/20/01	Bush announces the War on Terror, declaring war against al-Qaeda.
10/7/01	Airstrikes by the United States and Great Britain are launched in Afghanistan at Taliban and Al Qaeda training camps and targets.
10/20/01	France, Britain, Poland, Turkey, Germany, Italy, and The Netherlands all deploy troops to Afghanistan.
2003	The United Nations' High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change was created.

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3/19/03	U.S. and coalition forces invade Iraq following intelligence that they were developing weapons of mass destruction.
3/11/04	A coordinated bombing of four commuter trains in Madrid kills 191 people and injures more than 2000.
9/1/04	The Beslan school siege began. Over 1,100 people were held as hostages (777 of them were children). The siege ended with 334 casualties.
12/04	The United Nations' High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change produces a report on threats to peace and security.
12/30/06	Saddam Hussein is executed in Baghdad.
8/14/07	Four coordinated suicide bomb attacks detonated in the Yazidi towns near Mosul in Iraq.
12/24-27/08	The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group, attacked several villages in Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in 620 deaths.
8/30/10	President Barack Obama declared an end to U.S. combat operations in Iraq.
6/22/11	Obama withdrew of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and handed power back to Afghani security.
6/12/14	The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) killed at least 1,566 Shia Iraqi Air Force cadets.
12/28/14	The War in Afghanistan officially ended, though Obama stated that 10,800 U.S. troops would remain.
1/28/19	The U.S. and Taliban leaders worked toward an agreement for the withdrawal of the 14,000 U.S. troops who remain in Afghanistan.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

In June 2018, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underwent its sixth biennial review in New York. There were notable concerns from a group of prominent NGOs about failure to adequately address the human rights abuses being committed, and the increasing erosion of international humanitarian law in the name of combating terrorism. They highlighted the attention drawn to strengthening the aforementioned fourth pillar and the importance of gender analysis but noted that very little in terms of concrete steps emerged from the review. Finally, they believed that the

violations of human rights while countering terrorism is self-defeating and therefore, unsustainable in terms of a long-term solution to terrorism.

Possible Solutions

UNESCO has strongly emphasized the need for Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in countering terrorism, which is “defined as the ability to access, analyze, and create media, is a prerequisite for citizens to realize their rights to freedom of information and expression”. In addition, the role of education in preventing violent extremism has begun to gain global acceptance. The United Nations Security Council also emphasized this point in its Resolutions 2178 and 2250, which notably highlights the need for “quality education for peace that equips youth with the ability to engage constructively in civic structures and inclusive political processes.” Furthermore, it called on “all relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth.” The Council believed that if the above measure were implemented, then the youth participation “in acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination” would decrease drastically.

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