

Committee: Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (GA4)

Issue: Implementing measures to eliminate international terrorism

Student Officer: Hannah Clark

Position: Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

Congratulations on picking the best committee available to you!

My name is Hannah Clark, and I am a seventeen-year-old IB student at Champion School, Athens. It is my utmost honour to be serving as the Chair of GA4 in this year's session of ACGMUN. This conference will be my ninth overall, and my sixth as a Student Officer.

For me, MUN has been one of the most beneficial activities I have ever participated in. Through it I have developed countless skills that I know will help me in the future, such as public speaking, developing well-supported arguments and being able to respectfully listen to all sorts of opinions, regardless of whether or not I agree with them. It has also been amazing in introducing me to so many like-minded, enthusiastic and opinionated people, many of which have become very good friends of mine. The MUN community is so unique, and I truly believe it is where some of the world's future politicians, activists and great thinkers are born.

As a Student Officer, my prime goal is to create an environment in which each of you can flourish as individuals. I want to encourage you, help you with any issues you may come across, and support you as you tackle the tricky, yet important GA4 topics.

Myself and my wonderful co-chairs are open to any and all questions you may have, so do not hesitate to contact any of us.

I look forward to meeting you all in April!

All the best,

Hannah Clark

hclark@champion.edu.gr

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The term “terroriste” was first coined during the French Revolution, used to describe the way revolutionaries were governing France¹, having gotten rid of the monarchy (the Reign of Terror, 1793-1794). For multiple eras, it disappeared from the public eye, as a topic. It reappeared in the 1970s, when there was an escalation in conflicts around the world, namely the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Northern Irish conflict. It was during this period that the use of the word terrorism started being used frequently in the media. Finally, it is widely agreed that the 9/11 attacks of 2001 in the USA were the turning point in the global discussion of this issue, this time as the fully formed term we are focusing on in this topic, international terrorism.

Aside from 9/11, there have been other particularly significant examples in the last two decades. The 2004 Madrid train bombings, the 2015 Paris attacks, and, very relevant today, the issue of Russian-funded terrorism in Ukraine, building on the ongoing conflict that started in 2014. Despite the fact that no attack has yet reached the same scale of devastation that 9/11 did, international terrorism is far from disappearing from the public eye again. One can look to technology as one of the reasons this is the case, both in aiding communication and organization between cells and organisations, but also in aiding media coverage of such attacks.

Furthermore, international terrorism is quite literally a global issue. Every single inhabited continent has been plagued by it in recent decades. White-supremacist Christchurch shootings in New Zealand in 2019 (Australian belligerent), Nigerian-based terrorist group Boko Haram, that has been active in more than 4 African countries since 2012², Indonesian-based Islamic State activity in the Philippines (e.g., 2004 Super Ferry 14 sinking), the list goes on. The effects of these attacks vary, and pose threats not only to the safety of the victim groups and states, but also to the stability of their economic growth (particularly in countries like Afghanistan and Nigeria) and their political stability.

Over the last two decades, legislation changes, military initiatives, the establishment of international organisations, technological developments, counterterrorist missions and countless other responses, have defined a large proportion of media coverage and global political discussions. Therefore, as international terrorism is a matter of such significance, coming up with and implementing measures to prevent its effects is equally significant.

¹ “The History of the Word 'Terrorism'.” Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/history-of-the-word-terrorism>.

² “Nigeria Statement.” *International Terrorism - 6th Committee*, 2016, https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/72/pdfs/statements/int_terrorism/nigeria.pdf.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Belligerent

An individual, a group or a nation involved in conflict or war.

Counterterrorism

All practices used by a government, intelligence agency or specific international organisation to combat or prevent terrorism, including law enforcement, military tactics and use of force.

(Terrorist) Cell

A small group of individuals, usually between three and five, that to the same terrorist organization and function as unit in carrying out orders and following through with terrorist activity.

International terrorism

International terrorism refers to terrorism that goes beyond national boundaries in terms of the methods used, the people that are targeted or the places from which the terrorists operate.

Jihadism

Neologism, used to describe militant Islamic movement that believe that “armed conflict with political rivals is a theologically legitimate [...] method for socio-political change”³.

Neo-Nazism

A key sub-section of the white supremacist movements across the world, particularly in the United States, neo-Nazism covers all political and social organisations “whose beliefs are inspired or reminiscent of Nazism”⁴.

³ Sedgwick, Mark. “Jihadism, Narrow and Wide: The Dangers of Loose Use of an Important Term.” *Perspectives on Terrorism*, vol. 9, no. 2, Terrorism Research Institute, pp. 34–41, doi:10.2307/26297358. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

⁴ “Neo-Nazi Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.Com.” *Www.Dictionary.Com*, <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/neo-nazi>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

Radicalisation

Taking beliefs to an extreme level, “radicalization refers to a change in beliefs, feelings, and behaviors that justify intergroup violence and the demand for sacrifice in defending the own group”⁵.

Terrorism

The threat or use of unlawful violence by an individual or a group, “in the pursuit of political aims”⁶.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As the definition states, the term ‘international terrorism’ concerns all acts of terrorism where the belligerent is not from the country in which the attack / threat of attack takes place. International terrorism can largely be split into two eras: pre-9/11 and post-9/11.

Before 9/11, international terrorism was not as prominent an issue as it is today. The biggest examples of international terrorism pre-9/11 can be seen in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Other than acts of terrorism within the disputed areas, a lot of the time, terrorist acts from both sides spilled outside of the borders of the region. Planes getting hijacked, hostage situations with diplomats from both states, and, most famously, the Munich Olympics massacre of 1972, where affiliates of the Palestinian militant group Black September killed 11 members of the Israeli Olympic Team.⁷

However, overall, there weren’t as many instances of international terrorism, and therefore there aren’t many responses. The most prominent response pre-9/11 was the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism⁸ created in 1977. This mostly set out the foundations for the conventions and treaties that would go on to be created in the following decades.

⁵ Trop, Simona, et al. “Psychological Mechanisms Involved in Radicalization and Extremism. A Rational Emotive Behavioral Conceptualization | Psychology.” *Frontiers*, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00437/full>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

⁶ “TERRORISM | Meaning & Definition for UK English | Lexico.Com.” *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries, <https://www.lexico.com/definition/terrorism>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022

⁷ “Munich Massacre.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Munich-Massacre>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

⁸ “European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.” *Council of Europe*, 1977, <https://rm.coe.int/16800771b2>.

International terrorism post-9/11

The response to 9/11, in the form of the Global War on Terror and strict crackdowns following the trends that the Global War on Terror (GWT) set, had varying effects on international terrorism as a whole. On the one hand, much effort was put into successfully eliminating targets, such as the successful elimination of Osama Bin Laden, the founder of al-Qaeda, back in 2011. However, the harsh response was met with an influx in terrorist activity, garnering even harsher measures from counterterrorist organisations, leading to even more terrorist activity. Thus, a vicious cycle was created, making the issue of international terrorism even more complicated to solve. And, as technology has developed and tactics have evolved, complications have increased. In the early 2000s, the UN became increasingly aware of and worried by the acquisition of biological, chemical and even nuclear weapons by terrorist organisations, and overall great developments are prevalent in terrorist organisations.

However, equally significant developments have been made in the tactics and technology of counterterrorist responses. A report from the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism⁹ gives comprehensive explanations for the role technology can play in responding to counterterrorism. Though the report's focus is on issues with transparency within this form of technological advancement, it correctly outlines the fact that "in particular, security and intelligence agencies increasingly use surveillance technologies to gather (soft) intelligence about individuals and groups", which include "biometrics, visual surveillance and the tracing of personal data".¹⁰

⁹ "Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Transparency: Reconsidering State Accountability?" *ICCT*, <http://www.icct.nl/app/uploads/download/file/ICCT-Eijkman%20-Counter-Terrorism-Technology-and-Transparency-Reconsidering-state-accountability.pdf>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

¹⁰ "Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Transparency: Reconsidering State Accountability?" *ICCT*, <http://www.icct.nl/app/uploads/download/file/ICCT-Eijkman%20-Counter-Terrorism-Technology-and-Transparency-Reconsidering-state-accountability.pdf>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

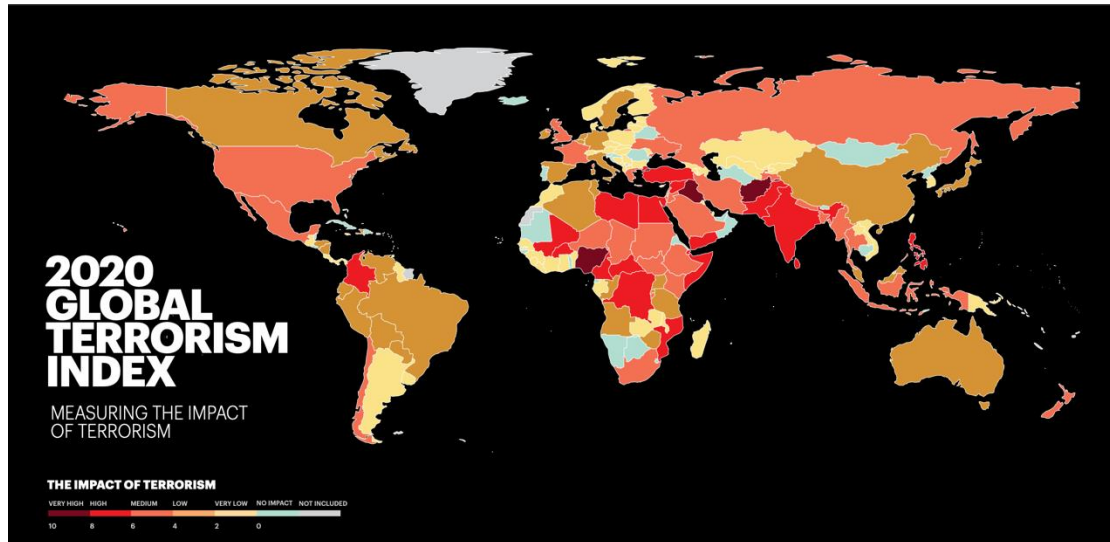


Fig.1: 2020 Global Terrorism Index¹¹

International terrorism within the Russo-Ukrainian conflict

As mentioned briefly in the Topic Introduction, a particularly prominent and relevant example of international terrorism is the ever-rising tensions of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Since 2014, at least 13,000 people have been killed in this conflict. Aside from “traditional” combat, concerning organized military activity, a large proportion of these deaths and the overall casualties suffered can be directly linked to Russian terrorist groups that are active in the Russian-annexed region of Donbas, in the southwest of Ukraine.

A statement from the Delegation of Ukraine, in the 71st session of GA6 (2016) sums up the situation:

“Since 2014, Ukraine, like no other country, has learned from its own tragic experience what foreign-grown terrorism feels like. The terrorist component of the undeclared hybrid war that Russia wages against Ukraine is evident and became a daily routine in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, where the Kremlin puppet masters have set up terrorist organizations of so-called “Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics”. The shocking reality is that there is a roughly 38,000-strong terrorist force in Donbas, stemming in its large part from Russia.”¹²

¹¹ “---.” *Vision of Humanity*, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

¹² “Ukraine Statement.” *71st Session Statements*, 2016, https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/71/pdfs/statements/int_terrorism/ukraine.pdf.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is ranked highest in the world on the Global Terrorism Index, which ranks states according to the impact terrorism has on them, measured by four categories: incidents, fatalities, injuries and property damage.¹³ Furthermore, in providing asylum to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden after 9/11, Afghanistan became a prime target of the US in the Global War on Terror. This started the War in Afghanistan, which lasted a full 20 years, ending recently in August 2021.¹⁴ Overall, it is a nation severely affected by international terrorism, which has played a big role in maintaining the perpetual state of political and social instability that has defined Afghanistan in recent years.

France

France has been affected by terrorism for many years. Other than being the country of origin of the term itself (“terroriste”), coined during the French Revolution in the 18th century, modern France has been struggling with international terrorism since the 1980s, per its involvement in the Lebanese civil war. However, the issue of international terrorism has escalated in recent years, as France has been the central victim of a great number of terrorist attacks in Europe. The Charlie Hebdo shooting in January 2015¹⁵, the November 2015 Paris attacks¹⁶ and the July 2016 attack¹⁷ are all prominent examples of the effects of terrorism in France. This has resulted in France being one of the most active European countries in the global response to international terrorism, and its heightened response after the Paris attacks in November 2015 attacks have been compared with the US’ responses after 9/11.¹⁸

¹³ “Global Terrorism Index.” *Vision of Humanity*, <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPeaceIndex>, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

¹⁴ Romo, Vanessa. “The Final U.S. Military Plane Has Left Afghanistan As America’s Longest War Ends.” *NPR*, <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/30/1032367184/rockets-kabul-airport-deadline-us-troops-bomb?t=1644781398850>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

¹⁵ “Charlie Hebdo Shooting.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 1 Jan. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Charlie-Hebdo-shooting>.

¹⁶ “Paris Attacks of 2015.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Paris-attacks-of-2015>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

¹⁷ News. “Nice Attack: What We Know about the Bastille Day Killings - BBC News.” *BBC News*, BBC News, 19 Aug. 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36801671>.

¹⁸ Zucchi, Kristina. “What Countries Spend on Antiterrorism.” *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 12 June 2015, <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/061215/what-countries-spend-antiterrorism.asp>.

Philippines

Particularly since 2014, the Philippines has been the target of multiple terrorist attacks from various international organisations. ISIL, Islamic State's Syrian and Iraqi branch, has been very active, carrying out a great number of terrorist attacks. The consistency and severity of the attacks over the last decade has negatively affected a number of aspects of Filipino society, particularly its political stability, with terrorist-backed insurgencies, and the safety of military personnel and naturally of civilians. It is ranked "within the top ten countries most impacted by terrorism" according to the Global Terrorism Index.¹⁹

Russia

Russia has been involved in funding terrorism in Ukraine, breaking a number of international conventions. The situation became so severe that the case was taken to the ICJ.²⁰ To this day, as mentioned in the Background Information, there are thousands of individuals belonging to terrorist organisations based in or funded by Russia, that are very active in the southeastern regions of Ukraine.

United States of America

The USA has been very active in the implementing measures to eliminate international terrorism, especially since 9/11. The leader of some of the biggest counterterrorist initiatives in the last two decades, namely the Global War on Terror, it has consistently put itself at the forefront of the efforts to eliminate terrorism in the international community. Very importantly, its counterterrorist efforts have not come without criticism. Particularly during its war with Afghanistan, thousands of instances of human rights violations and misdemeanours have come to light, invoking the criticism of organisations such as Amnesty International.²¹

¹⁹ "Terrorism in the Philippines » 2020 Global Terrorism Index." *Vision of Humanity*, <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPeaceIndex>, 11 Jan. 2021, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/country-close-up-the-philippines/>.

²⁰ "Latest Developments | Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation) | International Court of Justice." *Cour Internationale de Justice - International Court of Justice | International Court of Justice*, <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/166>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

²¹ "Afghanistan: War Crimes Investigations Crucial to Any Security Pact with USA - Amnesty International." *Amnesty International*, 20 Nov. 2013, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2013/11/afghanistan-war-crimes-investigations-crucial-any-security-pact-usa-2013-11/>.

al-Qaeda

One of the most prominent international terrorist organisations, al-Qaeda has had a target on its back since it organized and carried out the 9/11 attacks. It functions on a global scale, with significant activity in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Iraq. There is also a prominent branch in Bosnia and Herzegovina.²²

Islamic State (ISIS)

Similarly to al-Qaeda, ISIS is a very significant terrorist organization, with an equivalently vast global reach. Made up of radical jihadists, it is closely allied with al-Qaeda and has been very active in all regions of the world, specifically in Nigeria, the Philippines and Afghanistan.²³

Atomwaffen Division

Atomwaffen Division is an international far-right, neo-Nazi militant group, rooted in white supremacy and based in the Southern United States.²⁴ Though its impact, it is in no way comparable to that of ISIS or al-Qaeda, since 2016, it has been responsible for plotting terrorist attacks, while also carrying out a number of murders and encouraging violent extremism, especially amongst young white men. It has been outlawed and put on various terrorist lists around the world. Cells have been found in Russia, the UK, Canada, Italy, and many more countries.²⁵

European Union

The European Union has been very active in combatting international terrorism, and have passed a variety of laws and resolutions that seek to implement a range of methods to eliminate it, such as improving border control, criminalising more specific actions that can aid terrorists, and efficiently using trackers and lists as a way of communicating terrorist activity between its member states. See Previous Attempts section for more details.

²² "Project MUSE - Al Qaeda: The Balkans Connection." *Project MUSE*, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/190582>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

²³ al-Lami, Mina. "Where Is the Islamic State Group Still Active around the World? - BBC News." *BBC News*, BBC News, 27 Mar. 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-47691006>.

²⁴ "Atomwaffen Division | Anti-Defamation League." *Anti-Defamation League*, <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/atomwaffen-division>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

²⁵ "Atomwaffen Division | Anti-Defamation League." *Anti-Defamation League*, <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/atomwaffen-division>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

NATO

NATO has played a pivotal role in organizing counterterrorism responses on an international scale. A vast range of initiatives have been started by NATO, ranging from appointing experts to advise counterterrorist initiatives in vulnerable countries, to funding and leading technological developments within the counterterrorism sector. See Previous Attempts section for more details.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
September 5 th , 1972	Munich massacre, Germany
January 27 th , 1977	The Council of Europe signs the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism
September 11 th , 2001	9/11 terrorist attacks, USA
September 11 th , 2001	Global War on Terror starts, USA
February 27 th , 2004	SuperFerry 14 sinking, the Philippines
March 11 th , 2004	Madrid train bombings, Spain
September 20 th , 2006	UNGCTS established
May 2 nd , 2011	Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda founder, killed in US-led operation
November 13 th , 2015	ISIS Paris attacks, France
June 15 th , 2017	UNCTO established
June 2018	First UN Counter-Terrorism Week
March 15 th , 2019	Christchurch massacre, New Zealand

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

A/RES/60/288²⁶

This resolution, passed on the 20th of September 2006, established the United Nation’s Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS). The first clause states that “Member States resolve to consistently, unequivocally and strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it

²⁶ “Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” *United Nations*, https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/288. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security”²⁷, and the entire resolution gives a detailed outline of the aims and responses of the UN concerning this topic.

A/RES/71/291²⁸

“Strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in the implementing of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy” is the heading of this resolution. Passed on the 19th of June, 2017, this short resolution established the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the main organ of the UN involved with all strategies concerning counterterrorism.

A/RES/74/194 (2019)²⁹

A recent UN resolution specifically concerning “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”³⁰, it provides updated insight into the UN’s current strategies as far as international terrorism is concerned. It reiterates previous measures, and includes new, relevant methods to the ongoing battle to eliminate international terrorism.

S/RES/1373 (2001)³¹

This Security Council Resolution was passed on the 28th of September 2001, 17 days after the 9/11 attacks. Pivotal in the UN’s history of counterterrorist actions, this resolution shaped the way Member States would go on to respond to acts of terrorism for years, even today.

UN Counterterrorism Week (annually since 2018)

“The conference aims to build a new partnership for multilateral cooperation to strengthen the international community’s counter-terrorism efforts.”³²

²⁷ “Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” *United Nations*, https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/288. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

²⁸ “A/Res/71/291.” *United Nations Documents*, <http://www.undocs.org/a/res/71/291>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

²⁹ “A/RES/74/194.” *United Nations Documents*, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/194>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

³⁰ “A/RES/74/194.” *United Nations Documents*, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/194>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

³¹ “S/RES/1373(2001).” *United Nations Documents*, [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373(2001)). Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

³² “2018 Counter-Terrorism Week | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *Welcome to the United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/2018-counter-terrorism-week>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

Since 2018, the Counterterrorism week has taken place on a biannual basis, allowing for discussions, seminars and presentations to take place, each time with a different theme, with the overarching aim to improve the global response to terrorism.

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism³³

Adopted in 1999, entering into force in April 2002, the ICSFT has been the central treaty around which the UNODC's actions have revolved, as far as terrorism financing is concerned. It has been ratified by 188 states. 8 are yet to do so, Burundi, Chad, Eritrea, Iran, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu.³⁴

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

European Council actions

Initially, the Council created and ratified the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism on the 27th of January, 1977.³⁵

Other than clearly identifying and outlining the key areas the EU wishes to focus on in its response to international terrorism³⁶, in March 2017, the EU adopted a directive aimed at strengthening its terrorism response frameworks.³⁷ As an organisation, it has also prioritised the use of terrorist lists as a method of updating accurate communication between states, allowing for accurate information to be accessible. Among many other efforts, the EU has also established an arrest warrant

NATO actions

Invoking Article 5

The 5th article of the North Atlantic Treaty, the treaty upon which NATO was founded, states that “an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe

³³ “INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM.” *UN Treaties*, 1999, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/db/terrorism/english-18-11.pdf>.

³⁴ “ICSFT.” *United Nations Treaty Collection*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XVIII-11&chapter=18&clang=_en. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022

³⁵ “Details of Treaty No.090.” *Treaty Office*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatyenum=090>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

³⁶ “The EU’s Response to Terrorism - Consilium.” *Home - Consilium*, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

³⁷ “EUR-Lex - 32017L0541 - EN - EUR-Lex.” *EUR-Lex — Access to European Union Law — Choose Your Language*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

or North America shall be considered an attack against them all".³⁸ This was used for the first and, so far, only time, when the 9/11 attack happened, on the 4th of October 2001.³⁹ Invoking Article 5 resulted in actions such as naval patrols in the Mediterranean, to prevent the transportation of arms and other resources, and sky patrols over the United States, to track and locate potential threats.

Other actions

NATO have been very active in its counterterrorism strategies. Some of the many other actions they have taken include the creation of the Terrorism Intelligence Cell, which started to be used in 2017,⁴⁰ allowing for the dissemination of information and more accurate strategic analysis between NATO members. Furthermore, there are various NATO advisory units, that focus on training, advising and assisting counterterrorist forces in countries that are particularly vulnerable to terrorism. For example, NATO Mission Iraq has played a big role in helping Iraqi forces in their efforts to eliminate ISIS as a threat.⁴¹

Global War on Terror

Right after 9/11, on the 16th of September 2001, US president George W. Bush first coined the phrase "war on terrorism".⁴² With it, he launched a global campaign that is still active today. The target of this campaign is to eliminate the threat of international terrorism, primarily coming from radical jihadist groups (e.g. al-Qaeda, ISIS). There is a great deal that can be discussed within this attempt to eliminate international terrorism, but, overall, it is seen by most as a failure, due to its inefficiency, great cost, moral issues and frequent infringements of civil and human rights.

³⁸ "NATO - Official Text: The North Atlantic Treaty, 04-Apr.-1949." *NATO*, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

³⁹ "NATO Update: Invocation of Article 5 Confirmed - 2 October 2001." *NATO - Homepage*, <https://www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1001/e1002a.htm>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

⁴⁰ Venema, Agnes E., and Amy Ertan. "Establishing Collective Counter-Terrorism Defense: NATO's Scope and Challenges." *Atlantisch Perspectief*, vol. 45, no. 3, Stichting Atlantische Commissie, pp. 36–41, doi:10.2307/48638244. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

⁴¹ "NATO - Topic: NATO Mission Iraq." *NATO*, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_166936.htm. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

⁴² Bazinet, Kenneth R. "A FIGHT VS. EVIL, BUSH AND CABINET TELL U.S." *Wayback Machine*, https://web.archive.org/web/20100505200651/http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/2001/09/17/2001-09-17_a_fight_vs_evil_bush_and_c.html. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

ASEAN Convention on Counterterrorism, 2007

On the 13th of January 2007, at the 12th Summit of the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Convention on Counterterrorism was signed.⁴³ In a similar fashion to the European Council's Convention and the UNGCTS, the ASEAN Convention on Counterterrorism was created with the aim to united its member states in their protocols concerning counterterrorist responses.⁴⁴

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Suppression of financing to terrorist groups

International terrorism is fully reliant on funding, even more so than domestic terrorism (where the belligerent is based in the state it is targeting). Thus, it is vital for funding access to be limited as much as possible. This solution includes the ratification of all relevant treaties and conventions (both of the UN and of other organisations, such as the EU, the AU and the ASEAN), e.g. the ICSFT. Additional solutions include efforts to improve money-laundering restrictions, cooperation between member states as far as intelligence and aid is concerned.

Accurate dissemination of intelligence between Member States

Potentially one of the more effective solutions to this issue, collaboration between Member States can do so much to improve each state's response to terrorism, such as preventing terrorist attacks, or tracking down cells and organization headquarters. Identifying a common enemy in international terrorism is easy, as many countries are threatened by the issue and can do so much to help one another. Verified information of terrorist activity, developments on counterterrorist missions and instances of terrorist being detained / put on trial are examples of the types of information that can be useful. This communication can be achieved through secure networks, up-to-date lists of identified terrorists, cell locations and active organisations, and shared tracking technology (for tracking payments, shipments, transportation etc.).

Legislative change and reinforcement

This is crucial to the topic. Though terrorism is inherently unlawful, setting down solid legislative pretexts for adequate responses from governments when faced with

⁴³ "ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM (WG on CT)." *ASEAN Documents*, 2008, <https://asean.org/asean2020/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DOC-10-TOR-WG-on-CT-adopted-2008-1.pdf>.

⁴⁴ "NATO - Topic: NATO Mission Iraq." *NATO*, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_166936.htm. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

international terrorist activities can greatly improve the effectiveness and speed up the process of their responses. For example, though many countries will have already taken such actions, explicitly criminalising the provision of asylum to terrorists / suspected terrorists must be implemented.

Looking at a slightly different less common perspective, the reinforcement of the process of trial and imprisonment of terrorists is of great importance. If the protocols and methods of member states' legal organs are politically correct and fair, justice will be able to be carried out in a far more effective, diplomatic manner.

Preventing radicalisation

As technology has developed, the internet has become a place where individuals that share the same radical ideologies can encourage each other, communicate, cooperate and even plan full-scale terrorist attacks. Thus, implementing measures to restrict the potential for such influences is crucial in contributing to the solution of this issue. The removal of radical online content by service providers, countering terrorist propaganda, stricter terms of service, zero tolerance policies on online networks and due punishment in the form of banning, account suspensions and wiping of online data are all examples of ways such radicalisation can be prevented.

Prisons are also areas where it is easy and common for radicalisation to take place, that can lead to acts of international terrorism. So, it is important for counter radicalisation programs to be put in place, and, just as important, proper training and selection of staff, particularly those in charge of reform programs within prisons, must be properly funded and organized.⁴⁵ More detailed information can be found in the briefing paper, published by Penal Reform International, cited in this section.

Science and technology as counterterrorism tools

Technology is not only bad in this topic. It has become a key tool in the improved responses to international terrorism over the last decades. One key sector of its benefits is the tracking technology that has been developed. Locating individuals, cells, even headquarters of entire organisations, facial recognition, DNA detection, monitoring of purchases, funds being accessed and weapons being produced, are some of the more common examples of the use of technology in countering international terrorism. Other more combative uses include technology used specifically to track and inhibit the detonation of explosives.

⁴⁵ "Preventing Radicalisation in Prisons." *Penal Reform International*, <https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/PRI-Radicalisation-briefing-paper-V2.pdf>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

It is absolutely necessary for Member States to invest time and money into the development of such technologies.

Suppression of fire-arms distribution and sale

To further eliminate the question of international terrorism, access to firearms has to be tightly monitored and restricted. Examples of such methods include more rigorous background checks, limits on the amount an individual can purchase, updated intelligence on terrorist groups / individuals in relevant areas to activate stricter crackdowns on sales.

Travel restrictions

International terrorism, aside from funding, is very reliant on travel and transportation. Closely linked with the accurate dissemination of information, it is very important to have effective measures set in place that allow for efficient preventative measures to be taken in the form of travel bans, tight border controls and effective protocols at airports, ports and borders, prepared for any threat that may appear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“2018 Counter-Terrorism Week | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *Welcome to the United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/2018-counter-terrorism-week>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

“Afghanistan: War Crimes Investigations Crucial to Any Security Pact with USA - Amnesty International.” *Amnesty International*, <https://www.facebook.com/amnesty>, 20 Nov. 2013, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2013/11/afghanistan-war-crimes-investigations-crucial-any-security-pact-usa-2013-11/>.

al-Lami, Mina. “Where Is the Islamic State Group Still Active around the World? - BBC News.” *BBC News*, BBC News, 27 Mar. 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-47691006>.

“A/Res/71/291 .” *United Nations Documents*, <http://www.undocs.org/a/res/71/291>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

“A/RES/74/194 .” *United Nations Documents*, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/194>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

“ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM (WG on CT).” *ASEAN Documents*, 2008, <https://asean.org/asean2020/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DOC-10-TOR-WG-on-CT-adopted-2008-1.pdf>.

"Atomwaffen Division | Anti-Defamation League." *Anti-Defamation League*, <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/atomwaffen-division>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

Bazinet, Kenneth R. "A FIGHT VS. EVIL, BUSH AND CABINET TELL U.S." *Wayback Machine*, https://web.archive.org/web/20100505200651/http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/2001/09/17/2001-09-17_a_fight_vs_evil_bush_and_c.html. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

"Charlie Hebdo Shooting." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 1 Jan. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Charlie-Hebdo-shooting>.

"Counter-Terrorism Strategy." *United Nations*, https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/288. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Transparency: Reconsidering State Accountability?" *ICCT*, <http://www.icct.nl/app/uploads/download/file/ICCT-Eijkman%20Counter-Terrorism-Technology-and-Transparency-Reconsidering-state-accountability.pdf>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

"Death Toll Up To 13,000 In Ukraine Conflict, Says UN Rights Office." *RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty*, Death Toll Up To 13,000 In Ukraine Conflict, Says UN Rights Office, 26 Feb. 2019, <https://www.rferl.org/a/death-toll-up-to-13-000-in-ukraine-conflict-says-un-rights-office/29791647.html>.

"Details of Treaty No.090." *Treaty Office*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=090>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"EUR-Lex - 32017L0541 - EN - EUR-Lex." *EUR-Lex — Access to European Union Law — Choose Your Language*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism." *Council of Europe*, 1977, <https://rm.coe.int/16800771b2>.

"Global Terrorism Index." *Vision of Humanity*, <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPeaceIndex>, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

"---." *Vision of Humanity*, <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPeaceIndex>, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

- "ICSFT." *United Nations Treaty Collection*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XVIII-11&chapter=18&clang=_en. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.
- "INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM." *UN Treaties*, 1999, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/db/terrorism/english-18-11.pdf>.
- "Munich Massacre." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Munich-Massacre>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- "NATO - Official Text: The North Atlantic Treaty, 04-Apr.-1949." *NATO*, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- "NATO - Topic: NATO Mission Iraq." *NATO*, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_166936.htm. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- "NATO Update: Invocation of Article 5 Confirmed - 2 October 2001." *NATO - Homepage*, <https://www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1001/e1002a.htm>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- "Neo-Nazi Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.Com." *Www.Dictionary.Com*, <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/neo-nazi>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.
- News. "Nice Attack: What We Know about the Bastille Day Killings - BBC News." *BBC News*, BBC News, 19 Aug. 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36801671>.
- "Nigeria Statement." *International Terrorism - 6th Committee*, 2016, https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/72/pdfs/statements/int_terrorism/nigeria.pdf.
- "Paris Attacks of 2015." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Paris-attacks-of-2015>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- "Preventing Radicalisation in Prisons." *Penal Reform International*, <https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/PRI-Radicalisation-briefing-paper-V2.pdf>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- "Project MUSE - Al Qaeda: The Balkans Connection." *Project MUSE*, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/190582>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- Romo, Vanessa. "The Final U.S. Military Plane Has Left Afghanistan As America's Longest War Ends." *NPR*, <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/30/1032367184/rockets-kabul-airport-deadline-us-troops-bomb?t=1644781398850>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.
- Sedgwick, Mark. "Jihadism, Narrow and Wide: The Dangers of Loose Use of an Important Term." *Perspectives on Terrorism*, vol. 9, no. 2, Terrorism Research Institute, pp. 34–41, doi:10.2307/26297358. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"S/RES/1373(2001)." *United Nations Documents*,
[https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373(2001)). Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"TERRORISM | Meaning & Definition for UK English | Lexico.Com." *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries,
<https://www.lexico.com/definition/terrorism>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"Terrorism in the Philippines » 2020 Global Terrorism Index." *Vision of Humanity*,
<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPeaceIndex>, 11 Jan. 2021,
<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/country-close-up-the-philippines/>.

"The EU's Response to Terrorism - Consilium." *Home - Consilium*,
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

Trop, Simona, and et al. "Psychological Mechanisms Involved in Radicalization and Extremism. A Rational Emotive Behavioral Conceptualization | Psychology." *Frontiers*, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00437/full>. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

"Ukraine Statement." *71st Session Statements*, 2016,
https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/71/pdfs/statements/int_terrorism/ukraine.pdf.

Venema, Agnes E., and Amy Ertan. "Establishing Collective Counter-Terrorism Defense: NATO's Scope and Challenges." *Atlantisch Perspectief*, vol. 45, no. 3, Stichting Atlantische Commissie, pp. 36–41, doi:10.2307/48638244. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.

Zucchi, Kristina. "What Countries Spend on Antiterrorism." *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 12 June 2015,
<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/061215/what-countries-spend-antiterrorism.asp>.

Images:

"---." *Vision of Humanity*, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2022.