`**Forum:**   Human Rights Committee

Issue: Protecting the Rights of People Affected by Terrorism in the Horn of Africa

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Introduction

Human rights are relevant to terrorism as concerns both its victims and its perpetrators.
The suspected perpetrators of attacks also have rights, as members of the human family, in the course of their apprehension and prosecution. They have the right not to be subject to torture or other degrading treatment, the right to be presumed innocent until they are deemed guilty of the crime and the right to public trial.

While terrorism has become a well-known phenomenon, the countering of terrorism became a hot topic of the twenty-first century, especially in the aftermath of 9/11. The current terrorism in the Horn of Africa is no different. The Horn of Africa is one of the most complex and conflicted regions of the world. Each of the countries of the Horn—Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Sudan—suffers from protracted political strife, arising from local and national grievance, identity politics and regional inter-state rivalries. For 150 years, the Horn has also been a theater for strategic power struggles—the British Empire's demand to control the Red Sea, Egypt's attempt to control the Nile Waters, the Cold War confrontation in which each of the principal countries of the Horn switched sides at crucial junctures, and most recently the U.S. Administration's "Global War on Terror." As a result, good governance is proving to be difficult to achieve in the countries of the Horn of Africa.

The rise of the Union of Islamic Courts in Somalia, the Ethiopian invasion to install the President Abdullahi Yousif in power, and the U.S. bombing raids aimed at suspected al Qa'ida members have again highlighted the turbulence of the Horn. The resurgent conflict in Somalia comes against the backdrop of a successful exercise in locally-driven reconstruction in Somaliland (north-west Somalia), an unresolved war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, internal political crises in both countries, and a host of active, latent and imminent conflicts in Sudan. Meanwhile, African institutions—notably the African Union,

headquartered in Addis Ababa—are struggling to establish new principles and an architecture for regional peace and security.

Furthermore, one of the most dangerous terrorist groups in the Horn of Africa is Al-Qaeda. AL-Qaeda was created during the War on Terror, also known as the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). This war refers to the international military campaign that started after the September 11 attack on the United Sates. The terrorist group originated in 1988 and has divided itself into many divisions such as the Al-shabaab terrorist group in hopes of increasing the participants while inflicting more attacks.

Definition of Key Terms

Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa is a peninsula in Northeast Africa. It stretches hundreds of kilometers into the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, lying along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden. The area is the easternmost projection of the African continent. The Horn of Africa denotes the region containing the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. It covers approximately 2,000,000 km^2 (770,000 square meters) and is inhabited by roughly 115 million people (Ethiopia: 96.6 million, Somalia: 12.3 million, Eritrea: 6.4 million, and Djibouti: 0.81 million). Regional studies on the Horn of Africa are carried out, among others, in the fields of Ethiopian Studies as well as Somali Studies.
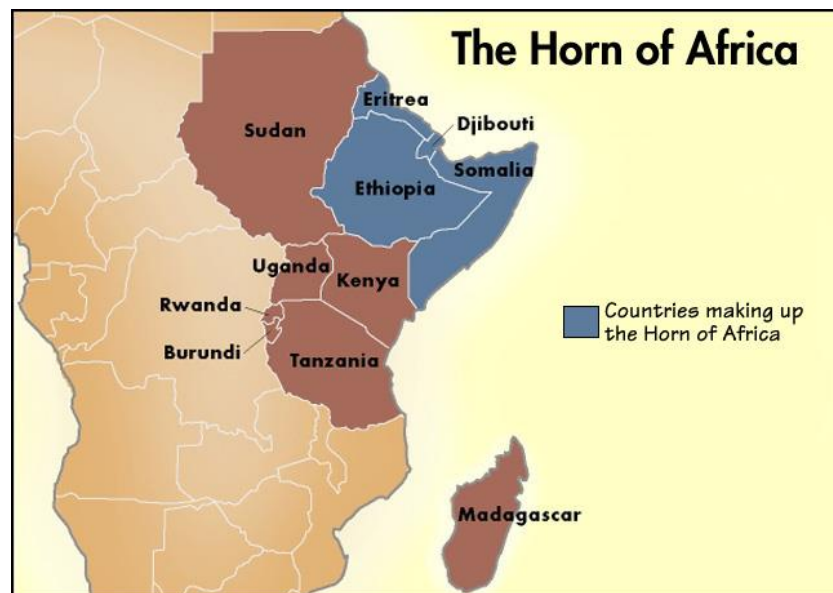
Countries making up the Horn of Africa

Terrorism

Any act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that occurs in the advancement of an individual or collective criminal agenda and seeking to sow panic among people, causing fear by harming them, or placing their lives, liberty or security in danger, or seeking to cause damage to the environment or to the public. Of course, this

part of the world is significant in terms of the current war on terrorism. Terrorists associated with al Qaeda and indigenous terrorist groups have been and continue to be present in this region. In the long run, the varying levels of terrorist presence in countries around this region will continue to challenge regional stability. These terrorists will also enable terrorist networks who are at large to continue to survive.

Human Rights

Human rights are moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law They are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights "to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being", and which are "inherent in all human beings" regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. They are applicable everywhere and at every time in the sense of being universal, and they are egalitarian in the sense of being the same for everyone. They are regarded as requiring empathy and the rule of law and imposing an obligation on persons to respect the human rights of others, and it is generally considered that they should not be taken away except as a result of due process based on specific circumstances; for example, human rights may include freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution.

Governance

Term used to describe how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. Governance is "the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)". The term governance can apply to corporate, international, national, local governance or to the interactions between other sectors of society.

General Overview

Causes of terrorism

Religion

The most commonly held belief today is that terrorism is caused by religion. Though it is not the main cause of terrorism, religion does play a significant role in driving some forms of it. Religion has long been a factor of terrorism. Nowadays, religion as a part of terrorism has been mainly attributed to Islamic fundamentalism (though other examples, such as the Aum Shinrikyo cult that carried out the 1995 sarin gas attacks in Tokyo, also exist). As a driver of terrorism, the true danger that religious doctrine poses is its encouragement of attacks that are more violent in nature than other types of terrorism. By being promised

rewards in the afterlife, terrorists are more likely to carry out suicide bombings and other such "all in" tactics that are harder to defend against.

Discrimination

Many times terrorist groups face discrimination in the countries they reside, leading to further feelings of isolation. They commonly move from poorer countries to wealthier ones to go to school or find work. Once in these countries, they begin to feel alienated. The new host nation is substantially different than their own culture and is usually much less community oriented. This causes alienated individuals to seek out communities with cultures like their home countries or others like themselves. These groups may become jaded towards society around them as they don't fit in and feel excluded. Growing sentiments of discrimination can lead groups to look to more conservative, and eventually, extremist ideologies which lead to acts of brutal violence and ruthless destruction.

Political

A lack of political inclusiveness in states or grievances against a certain political order may cause individuals to join or create terrorist groups. Left and right wing terrorists often seek a political system. As well, many in nations with authoritarian regimes lack avenues for dissent. Frustrated expressions of political will can turn to violence as an alternative to exclusive political systems. These political grievances are not born from the desire to create a new state but to change the order within the current one. In brief, the desire of a population to break away from a government or ruling power and create a state of their own can cause the formation of terrorist groups.

Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is a militant Sunni Islamist multi-national organization founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden, Abdullah Azzam, and several other Arab volunteers who fought against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. Al-Qaeda operates as a network made up of Islamic extremist, Salafist jihadists. It has been designated as a terrorist group by the United Nations Security Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), etc. Al-Qaeda has mounted attacks on both civilian and military targets in various countries, including the 1988 U.S. embassy bombings, the September 11 attacks, and the 2002 Bali bombings. Just like many of the other affected countries, Al-Qaeda has carried out countless terrorist attacks on the countries in the Horn of Africa.

Terrorist group Al-Qaeda gathers for a meeting with their leader

Governance

The rights of victims of terrorism are protected by human rights law. Under international human rights law states have a general duty to protect human rights. This may mean putting into place a proper legal framework for criminalizing certain activity that violates human rights and for dealing with victims of terrorism. States have a duty to provide protection for victims of crime, including acts of terrorism.

There is a positive obligation on the state to protect identifiable potential victims who are at a real and immediate risk of serious crime or terrorist acts, which the law-enforcement agencies know about or ought to have known about. Under these circumstances, the state must take all reasonable measures to put in place procedures and practices to prevent terrorist activity and to minimize the collateral impact of counter-terrorism activities.

Due to some of the economic and financial struggles of the governments of the countries of the Horn of Africa, the concept of a good governance can't be easily achieved.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations have attempted to resolve the issue countless times before. They've passed several resolutions concerning the issue and they've also created several treaties and campaigns in the hopes of protecting human rights of the ones affected by terrorism in the Horn of Africa. For example, the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 68/178 was adopted on 18 December of 2013 concerning this same topic highlights the importance of rights for trial for all human beings. It "Urges states, while countering terrorism: …(b) To take all steps necessary to ensure that persons deprived of liberty,

regardless of the place of arrest or detention, benefit from the guarantees to which they are entitled under international law, including the review of the detention and other fundamental judicial guarantees…"7 The second problem brought up by these means is the comparison of casualties caused by the war on terrorism versus the casualties caused by terrorism itself. It is undebatable that both of these cause the death of innocent civilians. As terrorist acts murder innocent victims, drone strikes kill civilians mistaken to be affiliated with terrorist groups, or innocent bystanders killed accidentally. Resolution 68/178 also "Expresses serious concern at the occurrence of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as of international refugee and humanitarian law, committed in the context of countering terrorism…"8 This brings up 7 UN Resolution: United Nations. "Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism", General Assembly Resolution A/68/456/Add.2 (New York: United Nations, 18 December 2013). The United Nations has also urged the countries within the Horn of Africa to join the Operation Enduring Freedom project, with Somalia being one of the biggest supporters. The purpose of the Operation Freedom project was to combat terrorism and protect the human rights of its citizens. Furthermore, it was created is the name of the United States military operation to combat militant Islamism and piracy in the Horn of Africa. It includes eight African states stretching from the far northeast of the continent to the oil-rich Gulf of Guinea in the west.

Organizations other than the UN has also attempted to resolve the issue. For example, a smaller organization called The Department of Defense Background Briefing hosted an eight-hour session that stressed, emphasized and attempted to resolve the increasing terrorist threats in the Horn of Africa after several reoccurring attacks. They analyzed the current issues at hand and came up with solutions such as expressing their thoughts in serious peace negotiations with the terrorist groups, which didn't resolve the issue because the terrorist groups refused to speak with anyone.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1981	African Charter of Human and People's Rights adopted by the African Union
December 10, 1948	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its third session
March 8, 2002	The Department of Defense Background Briefing stresses, emphasizes and attempts to resolve the increasing terrorist threats in the Horn of Africa after several reoccurring attacks
	The Horn of Africa joined the Operation Enduring Freedom for Horn of Africa

October 7, 2002	(OEF-HOA) in hopes of combatting terrorism and protecting the human rights of its citizens United Nations global initiative o fight child trafficking launched
May 2003	The Kenyan government admits that a key member of the al Qaeda terror network was plotting an attack on western targets, confirming al Qaeda's firm local presence
2007 ~ 2011	A strong financial foundation from foreign actors, including al-Qaida groups, allowed al-Shabab to gain control of most of southern and central Somalia, as well as most of the capital Mogadishu and the port town of Kismayo
December 18, 2013	The United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 68/178 adopted
March 11, 2017	Terrorist group Al-Shabaab remains a threat as they carried out a series of attack in the hotels, military installations and population in Somalia

Possible Solutions

Successfully fighting terrorism requires understanding the aims, goals, and desired end state of the will of these extreme political groupings. It may be difficult, perhaps impossible, to stop a determined individual who wants to commit an act of terrorism if they get through every security check, but there are some things that can be done to limit the spread of extremist violence and divert their support.

Firstly, the strengthening of security and such relating defenses should be established. This can help defend the country more. It will also decrease the possibility of increased attacks and terrorism from new terrorist groups. One way to ensure better security is to enforce stricter security screening systems on people entering the country. A stricter screening system can further prevent disastrous situations such as bombings and shootings because these weapons will be completely detected and stripped off the offender during the screening process. This will prevent the forming of new terrorist groups and terrorist attacks. One downside of this solution, however, is that it will still be extremely difficult for present security officers to stop any acts of assault executed by the terrorist on the very spot as they usually come in the form of direct shooting and suicide bombing.

In addition, the countries receiving financial aid from more developed countries should make their aid accountable. Developed countries give millions of dollars to countries such as Pakistan, for example, in the name of "economic aid." This aid should be monitored and the recipient countries made accountable as to how they have spent this money. It seems most countries who give aid just think that they have done a good job giving the aid. They leave it at that. Especially if these countries are ruled by corrupt leaders;

all this aid has basically gone either into the pockets of these leaders or gone into affiliated extremist groups, who might, in fact, use it for their purpose to terrorize the citizens.

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