



## PORG Model United Nations 2018

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

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### *Outlining the Extent of Cooperation Between Government Agencies with Regards to Major Terrorist Activity in Order to Effectivize Global Counter- Terrorism Efforts*

### INTRODUCTION

Terrorist activity has become a pressing issue. With the developing technology, the risk and impact of terrorist attacks increases rapidly. Therefore, global counter-terrorism efforts are more important than ever. Terrorism has been used by political organizations with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and “religious groups”, by revolutionaries, and even by state to push their demands through. However, no terrorist behaviour is excusable and it must be stopped in order to protect the world peace, the people and prevent them from suffering due to terrorist actions.

### DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

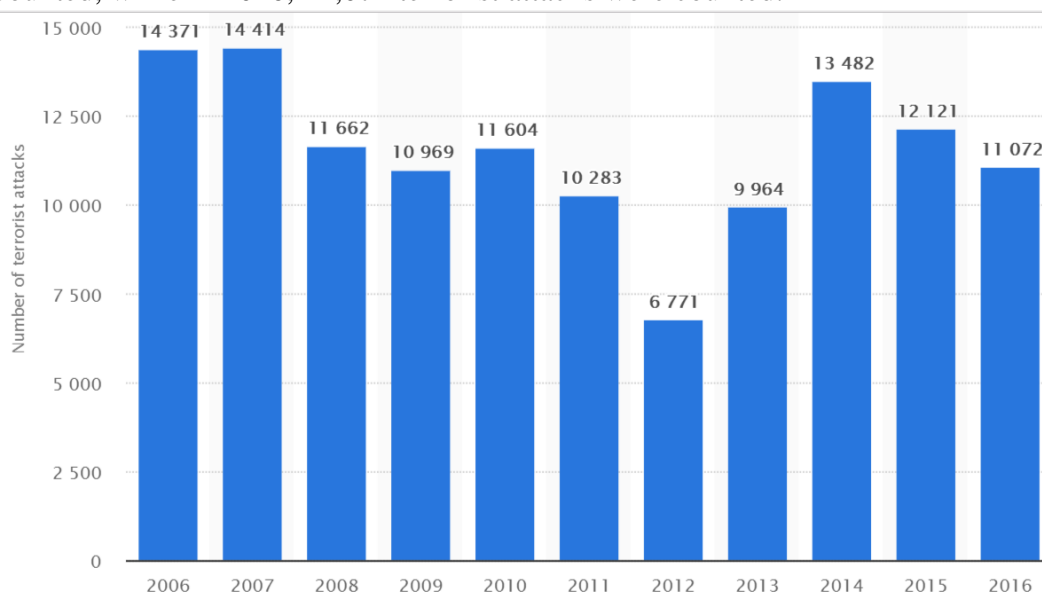
**Terrorism** - defined as unlawful violence or systematic use of terror against civilians or politicians for ideological or political reasons, with the intention to create fear

**Government agencies** - a permanent or semi-permanent organization in the machinery of government

### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Early terrorism, according to some historical studies, dates back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century in the ancient Rome, where what could be today view as extremist groups rebelled against the Roman rule. However, the most known early terrorist action was the Gunpowder plot in 1605, where conspirators attempted to destroy the English Parliament. Since the turn of the millennium, few themes have shaped the global discourse as much as terrorism. On

September 20, 2001, George W. Bush declared “War on Terror” during the reactionary speech in which he sent America to war with Al-Qaeda following the September 11 attacks in New York. The phrase “War on Terror” has now become synonymous with American foreign policy in the Middle East, alongside the foreign policy of many of America’s allies. Today, however, with the improvement of technology, terrorism was proven to be much more dangerous and causing greater casualties. In recent years, the number of terrorist attacks reached a low in 2012 with 6,771 attacks globally. In 2014, the number of attacks had more than doubled to 13,463 attacks. The majority of terrorism acts have been located in Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq and Pakistan, which suffered 2,965 attacks and 734 attacks. Soon after the September 11, 2011 attacks in the United States, the fear of another terrorist attack was prominent among American citizens. The Al-Qaeda terrorist attack killed 3,000 people on this occasion, in comparison; some 202 people were killed in another October 2002 attack in Bali, Indonesia. In 2002, 49 percent were worried a great deal about terrorist attacks but the percentage of concerned citizens dropped to 34 percent by 2013. About 13 percent of citizens also claimed they were very afraid of terrorism and almost half stated that they believed that the government’s policies had not gone far enough to adequately protect the country. Some studies have shown that Americans fear an attack from terrorism more than the prospect of being a victim to a violent crime or even being hospitalized, which could indicate a necessity to increase understanding of public attitudes in order to improve programs used to manage public risk perception.<sup>1</sup> Between 2006 and 2016, 25,621 people were killed worldwide by terrorists in 2016. The number of terrorist attacks worldwide declined between 2006 and 2016. In 2006, about 14,371 terrorist attacks were counted, while in 2016, 11,072 terrorist attacks were counted.



### Major terrorist organization

Nowadays, one of the societies biggest threats is the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). ISIS is a theocracy, a proto-state. It follows a heterodox interpretation of Islam, which promotes religious violence. It labels Muslims who do not agree with its interpretations as unfaithful. These belligerents fight against authorities with significantly different military power, strategies and tactics, such as professional armies. Consequently, this is one of the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/202864/number-of-terrorist-attacks-worldwide/>

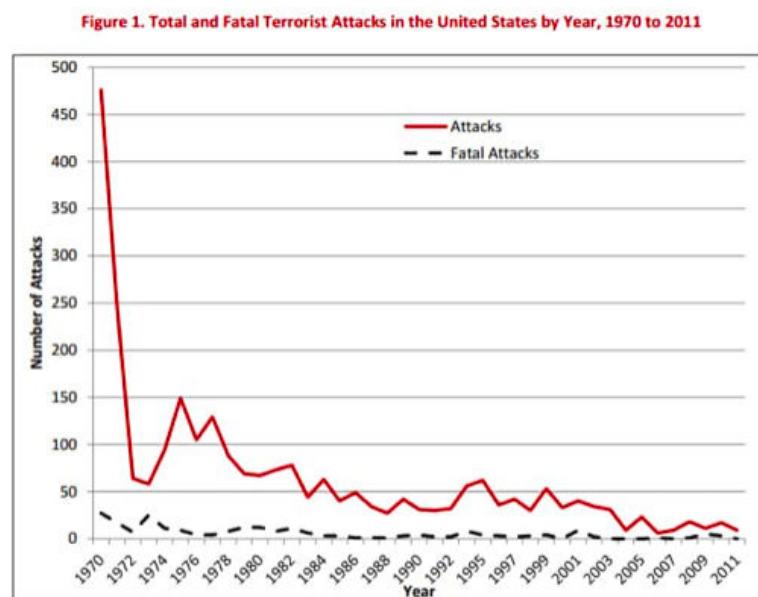
most recent examples of asymmetric warfare. For instance, in Syria, ISIS was in charge of various ground attacks on both government forces and opposition groups.

### Terrorism in Europe

The threat of terror-related incidents is currently one of the main thoughts of many European citizens. The European continent has seen an increase of Islamic terrorist activity since 2014. That year, Europe suffered from 290 terrorist attacks. It is seen that terrorism was the most important issue EU was facing in 2015. Moreover, from most recent incidents it appears that fear has increased. Specifically, in the UK the perceived threat of a terrorist attack was considerably high in 2016, and the same perception of risk was detected in Germany. The Global Terrorism Index 2016 systematically ranks countries of the world according to their terrorist activity. The index includes, among European countries, Turkey, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece and Sweden. In 2016, there were 363 terrorist attacks reported in Turkey with 139 people killed. Between 2014 and 2017, France has been a critical target within Europe, with a major terrorist attack in November 2015 in Paris. Also, the United Kingdom witnessed an increase in terrorist activity in 2017, with three major attacks. Unfortunately, there are much more other notable targets such as Germany, Belgium and Spain.

### Terrorism in USA

Even though, terrorist attacks and attempted attacks in the United States have become less frequent since the 1970s, many notable terror attacks with fatalities took also place in the US. Every state in the US has been hit by terrorist attacks since 1970. One of the most widely known took place, in 2001, nineteen al Qaeda members hijack four US passenger airliners, from which two were flown into the Twin Towers in New York, one crashed into the Pentagon and another crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside. Furthermore, in 2013, a twin bomb exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. It killed three and wounded at least 264 people.



Note: There were 2,608 total attacks and 226 fatal attacks between 1970 and 2011.

### Terrorism in Africa

Over the years, terrorism has become the most important challenge to peace, security and development in Africa. The terror activities have grown exponentially in the continent, not only in terms of the number of attacks but also the number of countries affected due to increased proliferation of terrorist groups. The three most recent terror attacks, one by al Shabaab in the port city of Barawe in southern Somalia, then a suicide bomb attack by Boko Haram in Maiduguri in Nigeria, and an attack on a military post in Mali by an al Qaeda-linked terror group have brought the focus back on terrorism in the African continent. Additionally, after major losses in Iraq and Syria the Islamic State seeks a safe harbour and is looking to secure it in the sub-Saharan region.

## **MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED**

Security Council - one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with the maintenance of international peace and security as well as accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to its United Nations Charter

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons

CTITF - *Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

UNCCT - United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

TPB/UNODC - Terrorism Prevention - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNICRI - United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

CTC/CTED - The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is assisted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

ISIL/al Qaida sanctions committee - the Security Council *Committee* pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015)

1540 committee – established on an initial mandate of 2 years under the Security Council charging the examination on the implementation of 1540 resolution

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE**

- 1963 Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed On Board Aircraft
- 1970 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
- 1971 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation
- 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation
- 2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation
- 2010 Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
- 2014 Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Acts Committed on Board Aircraft

- 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons
- 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages
- 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- 2005 Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
- 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
- 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf
- 2005 Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf
- 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection
- 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings
- 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism
- 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

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