

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: BEFORE AND AFTER 9/11

By

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"The modern thief can steal more with a computer than with a gun. Tomorrow's terrorist may be able to do more damage with a keyboard than with a bomb".

—National Research Council, "Computers at Risk", 1991.

Terrorism and terrorist activities are the burning issues from the centuries. The need to tackle this problem is must. Although there were certain attempts by making conventions and treaties in the past at both international and national level as well as regional levels. But all the attempts were ineffective, the terrorist activities are continuously happening and day by day new terrorist organisations are coming into existence.

Over the past 20 years, terrorists have committed extremely violent acts for alleged political or religious reasons. Political ideology ranges from the far left to the far right. For example, the far left can consist of groups such as Marxists and Leninists who propose a revolution of workers led by revolutionary elite. On the far right, we find dictatorships that typically believe in a merging of state and business leadership.¹

Although the basic dispute is about the uniform definition of the Terrorism or Terrorist activities but this is because of the same famous contention that *one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter*. Therefore the terrorism and the terrorist activities are defined through the specific convention or treaties which are related to a particular unlawful act e.g. aircraft hijacking, crime on the board of ship, nuclear terrorism etc.

The research on the International Law and International Terrorism is very much important in the sense that this study is going

to deal with the various aspects of the international terrorism, the new concepts of terrorism, as well as the international regional and national legal regime dealing with the problem of terrorism.

Terrorism Turns International²

International terrorism became a prominent issue in the late 1960s, when hijacking became a favoured tactic. In 1968, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijacked an El Al Flight. Twenty years later, the bombing of a Pan American Flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, shocked the world. The era also gave us our contemporary sense of terrorism as highly theatrical, symbolic acts of violence by organized groups with specific political grievances. The bloody events at the 1972 Munich Olympics were politically motivated. Black September, a Palestine group kidnapped and killed Israeli athlete preparing to compete. Black September's political goal was negotiating the release of Palestine prisoners. They used spectacular tactics to bring international attention to their national cause. Terrorists also took advantage of the black market in Soviet-produced light weaponry, such as AK-47 assault rifles created in the wake of the Soviet Union's 1989 collapse. Most terrorist groups justified violence with a deep belief in the necessity and justice of their cause. Terrorism in the United States also emerged. Groups such as the Weathermen grew out of the non-violent group Students for a Democratic Society.

1. History of Terrorism, see http://www.terrorism-research.com/history_01/09/08;

2. <http://terrorism.about.com/od/whatisterroris1/p/Terrorism.htm>, last accessed on 29/09/2008.

They turned to violent tactics, from rioting to setting off bombs, to protest the Vietnam War.

1990s: The Twenty First Century: Religious Terrorism and Beyond

While the 1980s saw a growth of politically inspired terrorism, the 1990s has seen a dramatic increase in terrorism motivated by a religious agenda.

Religiously motivated terrorism is considered the most alarming terrorist threat today. Groups that justify their violence on Islamic grounds are Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, come to mind first. But Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and other religions have given rise to their own forms of militant extremism. Muhammad Atta, the architect of the 9/11 attacks, and “the Egyptian hijacker who was driving the first plane, was a near alcoholic and was drinking vodka before he boarded the aircraft.” Alcohol would be strictly off limits for a highly observant Muslim. Atta, and perhaps many others, are not simply orthodox believers turned violent, but rather violent extremists who manipulate religious concepts for their own purposes.³

The Real Face of International Terrorism

The news of the tragic assassination of Lord Louis Mountbatten, his grandson and the Irish boatman manning his boat on the 27th August, 1979, while holidaying, by the underground members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of the northern Ireland, has shocked the world throughout.⁴ The 19th century saw terrorism come into its own. The consolidation of the industrialisation saw the growth of capitalism, imperialism, colonialism and terrorism. By the end of the third quarter of the century the Nihilists in Russia and the Anarchists in Europe had adopted terrorism as a political philosophy. Since the newly consolidated industrial societies influenced and used the instruments of the state apparatus to terrorise and coerce their subjects, both at

home and in the new colonies, the dispossessed individuals and groups saw terrorism as their only means of fighting back. Raids of banks to finance themselves, assassination of the rulers to highlight the vulnerability of those in power, planning of bombs to disrupt meeting as a method of voicing protest, all became the standard methods of fighting back.⁵

The terrorist actions left their own impact on history. Some psychologists have asserted that Lenin’s total commitment to revolution was promoted by the fact that his brother was hung as a terrorist; while a school of historians have agreed that it was Archduke Ferdinand’s assassination by a anarchist which sparked off World War I. Assassinations of rulers by anarchists reached on its peak in the century because of their some successful attempts including the death of President McKinley of the USA.⁶ In the modern Indian History the first known terrorist activity was the murder of two government officers, Mr Rand and Lt. Ayers by the Chaptekar Brothers, in June 1897.

On August 7, 1998, terrorists bombed United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, killing twelve Americans and nearly three hundred Africans and wounding hundreds of others. The United States dispatched the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and Central Intelligence Agency (“CIA”) to the bombsites to gather evidence and search for suspects. Secretary of State Madeline Albright responded to these events by declaring war against international terrorism and vowed to use all resources necessary to carry on the fight. Approximately two weeks later, based on United States intelligence community information, the United States pre-emptively struck terrorist targets in Afghanistan and the Sudan with Tomahawk cruise missiles.⁷

5. Ibid p 50;

6. Id;

7. Tyler Raimo, “Winning at the Expense of Law: The Ramifications of Expanding Counter – Terrorism Law Enforcement Jurisdiction Overseas”, American University International Law Review 1999;

3. Ibid.

4. Verinder Grover (Ed.), “Encyclopedia of International Terrorism”, 1st ed., 2002, vol. 1, p49;

During the early 20th century, terrorism was perceived as a contest between two sides, a group of people or organization and a sovereign state. But during the course of second half of the 20th century various countries began to use terrorist organizations to promote state interests in the international domain. In some cases states have established puppet terrorist organizations, whose purpose is to act on behalf of the sponsoring state and to represent its position in domestic and regional fronts. The patron state provides its beneficiary terrorist organization with political support, financial assistance and the sponsorship necessary to maintain and expand its struggle. The patron uses the beneficiary to perpetrate acts of terrorism as a means of spreading the former's ideology throughout the world or in some cases the patron ultimately expects the beneficiary to gain control of the state in which it resides or impart its ideology to broad sections of the general public.⁸

Since the late 20th century, acts of terrorism have been associated with Italian Red Brigades, Irish Republican Army, Palestine Liberation Organization, Peru's Shining Path, Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the Weathermen and some members of U.S. "militia" organizations, among many groups. Religiously inspired terrorism has also occurred, such as that of extremist Christian opponents of abortion in the United States; of extremist Muslims associated with Hamas, Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda, and other organizations; of extremist Sikhs in India; and of Japan's Aum Shinrikyo, who released nerve gas in Tokyo's Subway System (1995).⁹ The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by Al Qaeda on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon were the most devastating terrorist attacks in history after which "war on terrorism" was declared by the US political leaders.

Unconventional terrorism is regarded the most threatening of all terrorist tactics. With the string of chemical-weapon terrorist attacks on various targets in Japan in early 1995,

where the toxic gas Sarin began wafting through the tunnels of Tokyo's Subway System. Some major types of unconventional terrorism are as following:¹⁰

Nuclear Terrorism

A nuclear terrorist attack is an incident in which a terrorist organization uses a nuclear device to cause mass murder and devastation. Nuclear terrorism also includes the use, or threat of use, of fissionable radioactive materials in an attack, for example, an assault on a nuclear power plant for the purpose of causing extensive and/or irreversible environmental damage. In this case terrorists need not develop, acquire use of any nuclear weapon but they use only conventional weapons against one of the many nuclear reactors thus releasing radioactive matter into the atmosphere. Such an attack can endanger large population centres. A terrorist organization may attempt to obtain fissionable material or nuclear weapons in a number of ways:

- It may purchase fissionable material on the Eastern European black market. The disintegration of the Soviet Union, the economic crisis that has gripped most of the FSU, the demoralization of the Russian Army and the deterioration of governmental control of radioactive material and nuclear bombs in some of these countries have encourages black-market commerce in radioactive material.
- It may purchase or obtain radioactive materials from other countries, particularly those that support terrorism. Several, "revolutionary" states such as Iran, Iraq and Libya are known to be actively and regularly assisting various terrorist organizations.
- It is rather unlikely that a terrorist organization would itself construct a nuclear bomb, for this requires special resources and training that terrorist organizations do not possess at the

8. L. R. Reddy, "The Worst of Global Terrorism", 1st ed., 2002, p. 121.

9. "Terrorism", Merriam-Webster's Dictionary (1795);

10. Supra note 8, pp. 123-124.

present time. But organizations may try to construct a simpler radioactive device, either by using its own scientists or by hiring scientists on the black market.

Chemical Terrorism

The most conspicuous terrorist attack occurred in early 1995, when members of the Supreme truth cult in Japan released toxic gases on various targets, particularly the subway system of Tokyo and Yokohama, killing several people and injuring dozens. Chemical terrorism may be divided into two main categories:

- Attacks intended to cause mass devastation: In these cases, the terrorist organizations release a toxin on congested population centres, bodies of water and unventilated areas in order to cause as many casualties as possible.
- Chemical attacks intended primarily to terrorize blackmail or cause economic damage, for example, an attack on a particular product, such as a food product, by introducing a toxic chemical substance into the product itself.

Chemical terrorism has several advantages over conventional or nuclear terrorism for the organizations involved. Chemical substances are more readily available. They can be manufactured using simple chemical components known to any University student. The components are usually simple products that can be obtained on the open market. A chemical attack can be perpetrated using off-the-shelf pesticides sold in grocery stores. Chemical substances also have the advantage of mobility. A chemical terrorist attack for the very reason that it involves a non – conventional weapon, will inevitably trigger a serious lowering of morale and undermine the personal security of the citizens of the country attacked.

Biological Terrorism

Biological terrorism is the use and dissemination by various means of biological weapons in population centres, in order to undermine morale and cause numerous

casualties. The principal purpose of the biological weapons is mass devastation. The result of the biological attack is not immediate; they become apparent several hours or days later. This may make it harder to detect the perpetrator and target of the attack. Biological weapons are not as common, accessible or available as chemical weapons. For a terrorist organization the two main sources of biological weapons are home manufacture or purchase from sovereign states. Homemade biological weapons require the use of sophisticated biological laboratories and resources of diverse kinds, which on the whole are not available to terrorist organizations.

Some Incidents during 1980s and 1990s

Communist insurgents in Malaya were very ruthless in their acts. Indiscriminate murders were committed, buses were bombed, grenades were thrown in cinema houses and in one case the whole village was destroyed.¹¹ Terror was planned and executed coldly and brutally. If a family opposed communists' demands one or two leading members would be dismembered in front of their family members or pegged out in the sun for ants to eat. Even women were not spared. Mau Mau terrorists in Kenya also indulged in indiscriminate murders. People were mercilessly butchered only on suspicion. In both Malayan and Kenyan counterinsurgency operations terrorism was one single factor which turned the tide in favour of the ruling Government.

In Vietnam, the Vietcong also made use of terror on a large scale but it was more systematic and well coordinated and thus played a significant role in building the strength of the Vietcong. The value and result of terrorism was duly realised by the Vietcong both as a strategy and tactics and it was assigned to a specific organizational wing ensured elaborate curriculum for assuring precision and control. Their purpose was to undermine and bring down the Government by systematic elimination the prestige of the Vietcong by demonstrating its capability and its superiority to the existing Government.

11. Supra note 5, p. 128.

Unlike the Malayan terrorists, the Vietcong was more rational in selecting the potential targets of annihilation and considerable gains were achieved in inducement of defections and recruitment into the Vietcong fold. Terrorist activities caused serious drain in the Government strength without antagonising the masses in general.

Present day terrorists are not interested in the affairs of their own country. According to a CIA,¹² the terrorists of Turkey were using a Palestinian camp for training in Syria and it also revealed the growing involvement of Cuban terrorists in operations in Africa and Middle East. Cuban instructors were training the Palestinians in Syria, Lebanon and Cuba. Shelter given to terrorists by various countries helps in spreading international terrorism.

On December 21, 1988, Pan American Flight 103, bound from London to New York, exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland.¹³ The blast killed all 259 people on board and eleven people on the ground. Of those killed on board 188 were Americans. The investigating officials assigned responsibility for the bombing to two Libyan Intelligence Officers, Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi and Lamien Khalifa Fhimah, whom they accused of planting the bomb with the aid of the Libyan Government.

On February 26, 1993, an explosion shook the World Trade Centre in lower Manhattan.¹⁴ A car bomb in the basement of the compound sent the chock of an earthquake through the building above, at least six people dead and over a thousand injured. The investigation revealed that a network of fundamentalist Islamic terrorists planned and executed the bombing in an attempt to bring down the towers and kill tens of thousands of Americans in retaliation American support

for Israel.¹⁵ On August 7, 1998, two bombs exploded nearly simultaneously outside the American Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.¹⁶ The explosion killed 12 Americans and over two hundred Kenyans and Tanzanians and caused severe damage to the Embassy building and other buildings around the blast sites. A suspect apprehended in Pakistan linked the attack to a fundamentalist Islamic terror network financed by millionaire Saudi expatriate Osama bin Laden. Investigation confirmed that Osama bin Laden and his terror network were responsible for the bombing.

Before 1990, terrorism tended to be an outgrowth of national liberation struggles or anti capitalist movements, whereas today far right and religious terrorism are prevalent. The "new" far right terrorism does not have fixed organizational structures within a group. Instead, far right terrorists, like Timothy McVeigh for example, follow models such as "leaderless resistance" and commit "lone-wolf" terrorist acts. Religious terrorism, the other prevalent category, has experienced quite an impetus in the last few years and should not be underestimated. Terrorists, driven by their religious beliefs, usually consider their religion as the sole key to a messianic age - other perspectives are sternly rejected.

Compared to the 1970's and 1980's, terrorists today rely on a network of various groups; hierarchical structures are avoided as far as possible. Modern technology and globalization have aided this transformation process. Thus, several terrorist groups are said to have links to each other and support each other in carrying out attacks. The advantages of dispersing geographically and acting on a decentralized basis are obvious: terrorists can act more securely which complicates the process of detecting and apprehending them.

Another new aspect is that terrorists sometimes do not claim responsibility for their actions. At the beginning of March 2003

12. Published in 1977.

13. "Responding to Terrorism: Crime, Punishment and War", Harvard Law Review, vol. 115, 2001-02, part I, p. 1218; *Her Majesty's Advocate v. Al Megrahi*, Case No. 1475/99, at I (H.C.J. 2001) (Scot).

14. Ibid; *United States v. Salameh*, 152 F.3d 88, 108 (2d Cir. 1998).

15. "Responding to Terrorism: Crime, Punishment and War", Harvard Law Review, vol.115, 2001-02, part I, p.1219.

16. *United State v. Bin Laden*, 92 F. Supp. 2d 225, 231 (S.D.N.Y. 2000).

for example, a terrorist blew up a bus in Haifa, Israel. The suicide bomber was identified within the following day, but no terrorist organization had claimed responsibility for the attack. Religious terrorists particularly evidence such behaviour. Because God is and shall be the only witness, they must not warrant their actions in public. Undoubtedly, this makes it very difficult to apprehend the perpetrators and dismantle terrorist organizations. Often, it is also difficult to link terrorists with religious motives to organizations or bases.

Consequently, they do not feel constrained by boundaries. Recent attacks have showed that terrorists seek to kill as many people as possible at once, *e.g.* Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the World Trade Centre bombing in 1993 as well of course the attack on September 11, 2001; the bombing of the AMIA building in Buenos Aires in 1994, *etc.* All these changes and new characteristics make it much more difficult to monitor and prevent terrorist acts.

After the 9//11 attack in USA the whole world has been changed. USA declared the war against terrorism. It attacked on Afghanistan for the elimination of the Taliban and al-Qaida. Then it attacked on Iraq in the suspected shed of chemical and biological weapons. It called the whole world to participate in the fight against terrorism to eliminate the roots of it. All the countries came together for combating of international terrorism. And after the Iraq war on 2003 USA is continuously warning Iran which is supposed to be a safe haven of the terrorist organizations. After the 9/11 we are seeing so many drastic changes in the international scenario politically and diplomatically as well as sociologically and economically.

Attacks on USA (9/11)

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 saw the world in a state of stunned disbelief at the most audacious act of terrorism ever committed. Nineteen hijackers seized planes and had three of them crash into America's most predominant buildings within a span of 60 minutes. Planes were used as weapons to destroy the World Trade Centre in New

York and to attack Washington, DC. Almost simultaneously, terrorists hijacked two other planes: one crashed into the Pentagon in northern Virginia while the other crashed in western Pennsylvania, apparently the result of the passenger resistance to the terrorists. In all, this day of terrorist activity resulted in the death of thousands, the injury of countless others and property damage totalling tens of billions of dollars.¹⁷ The events of September 11, 2001 were roundly condemned as an act of war.¹⁸ The United States retaliated by waging war against al-Qaida, its network of violent extremists, and those who provided them safe haven. "We set out to destroy the terrorist enemy, using every instrument of national power, diplomacy, intelligence, law enforcement, and financial and military tools to disrupt and defeat the global network. We have also waged a war of ideas, confronting the ideology that drives the murderous agenda of the terrorists. As a result we have made significant strides in making America and its allies more secure".¹⁹ The events of September 11, 2001 have confirmed the global reach of terrorism and also demonstrated that its covert offensive can be more deadly than open air.

Changes after the 9/11 in the chapter of International Terrorism

- Before 9/11, al-Qaida was in Afghanistan training thousands of would-be terrorists and planning attacks unfettered, while the Taliban provided safe haven and imposed a totalitarian religious regime on the Afghans. Today, Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for al-Qaida, and there are no

17. The death toll from September 11 will likely never be known precisely, but over 3000 people are believed to have been killed in those attacks.

18. Declaring that the United States is "entitled to respond to the attacks under international law" and referring to a "war" against terrorism; address before a Joint Session of the Congress on the United States Response to the Terrorist attacks of September 11, 37 WEEKLY COMP> PRESS, DOC. 1347 (Sept. 20, 2001).

19. 9/11 Five Years Later: Successes and Challenges see <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/wh/71924.htm>, last visited on 27/08/08.

functioning al-Qaida training camps. Afghanistan is a strong partner in the War on Terror, and the Afghan people are free and are being led by their democratically elected President, with a National Assembly and new Constitution. As a result of a concerted international effort, key al-Qaida leaders and lieutenants have been killed, captured, or put on the run.

- Before 9/11, Iraq was a designated state sponsor of terrorism, ruled by a tyrant, believed to hold weapons of mass destruction and was in violation of United Nations resolutions and sanctions. Today, Iraq is off the state sponsors list, governed by a duly elected representative government, and working to be fully integrated with the international community and a partner in the United Nations.
- Before 9/11, Libya was a designated state sponsor of terrorism, seeking the capability to produce WMD. Today, Libya is off the state sponsors list and has renounced WMD.
- Before 9/11, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were not taking active measures to combat support to terrorists. Today, they stand with the United States as key allies in opposition to terrorism and are making important efforts to deny safe haven and stem support to the global terrorist network.
- Before 9/11, financiers of terrorism and terrorist financing networks went untouched and largely ignored by the international community. Today, we continue the aggressive worldwide campaign to disrupt terrorism financing, making it harder, costlier, and riskier for al-Qaida and other terrorist groups to raise and move money around the world.
- Before 9/11, combating terrorism was treated largely as a law enforcement problem. Today, the United States is leading an international coalition to take the fight to the terrorists and their supporters and acting preventatively, using all instruments of national power.
- Before 9/11, there were barriers restricting the sharing of information between law enforcement and the intelligence community to counter terrorism. Today, with the passage and reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act and the creation of the National Counterterrorism Centre, these walls no longer exist, and the United States continues to create a robust information sharing environment to ensure appropriate information sharing between the law enforcement and intelligence community and among Federal, State, local, and tribal authorities.
- Before 9/11, terrorism and WMD proliferation were treated largely as separate concerns. Today, we have a comprehensive strategy to combat WMD terrorism with domestic institutions to support its implementation, bolstered by an international framework²⁰ and strategic partnerships.²¹
- Before 9/11, the A.Q. Khan nuclear network was working in over three continents to provide North Korea, Iran, and Libya sensitive centrifuge technology and parts for their nuclear weapons programs and was poised to expand its services to other countries. Today, the network has been exposed and shut down. Each of its key members is in prison, under house arrest, or facing prosecution, and Governments are acting individually and collectively to make it harder for similar networks to operate in the future.
- Before 9/11, there were insufficient international standards for identity documents and no comprehensive use of tools to verify identities. Today, there are strong domestic and

20. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the Convention against Nuclear Terrorism.

21. Proliferation Security Initiative and the newly unveiled Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

international standards for passport and travel document issuance, use of biometrics to verify identities of travellers, comprehensive screening of passengers at airports, and a National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel.

- Before 9/11, the United States, did not openly challenge repression and restricted liberties in the Arab world, prioritizing stability, yet stability was not the outcome the lack of freedom in the region meant anger and resentment grew, radicalism thrived, and terrorists found willing recruits. Today, democracy and freedom are an integral part of the U.S. agenda globally, reflected in such initiatives as the G-8's collaboration with the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) in the Partnership for Progress and a Common Future.
- Before 9/11, throughout most of the broader Middle East and North Africa, democratic institutions and processes were, with the exception of Israel, largely weak or even nonexistent. Today, freely contested multiparty elections are more common and are increasingly accepted as the basis for legitimate Government.
- Before 9/11, the world did not act against the threat from violent Islamic extremism. Today, the world, including our Arab and Muslim partners and Muslim voices around the world, are rejecting the message, agenda, and tactics of the violent extremist movement.
- Before 9/11, the protection of civil liberties was not systematically and comprehensively balanced in our counterterrorism efforts. Today, the Administration established first the President's Board on Safeguarding Americans' Civil Liberties and then, in coordination with Congress, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board to ensure that all American citizens' civil liberties are considered and respected in our counterterrorism efforts.

- Before 9/11 the USA was the ultimate superpower of the world. It did give importance of the developing and poor countries. The developing country like India has been facing the terrorism since three decades. When India tried to take initiatives for combating terrorism at international terrorism in UN it was neglected by the superpowers. But now after 9/11 USA is no more the superpower. It realised the pain of the terrorist activities and is feeling the need of mutual understanding in fighting against terrorism. It feels the importance of developing countries at the international level.
- Following 9/11 international statements demonstrated unparalleled unity in the condemnation of international terrorism. The Security Council for its part called on states not only to adopt wide ranging measures on the domestic level, but also urged ratification of existing conventions and support for pending conventions, in apparent reference of the Draft Comprehensive Convention.²²

Conclusion

In the light of above study one can say that the 19th century was the witness of the changing face of the terrorism. It was the time when international terrorism in real sense came into picture. There were several incidents which affected world at large. In that time new concept of the terrorism came before the general public because of the industrialization, liberalization, and globalization. The obvious reason behind the emergence of the new things in the terrorism arena was the cold war era. During the cold war lot of the things happened, even one state used the terrorism as a means against the enemy state. In that period the superpowers of the world created some private organization for the intelligence and secret attacks over the enemy territory and after the end of the cold war the result of creation of those

22. Helen Duffy, "The War on Terror and the Framework of International Law", 1st ed., 2006, pp. 20-21.

organizations is before the new generation. And ultimately these organizations created problems to the superpowers in return and the 9/11 is one the example of those problems.

Though America and its allies are safer as a result of these achievements, we are not yet safe. We have important challenges ahead as we wage a long-term battle not just against terrorists, but against the ideology that supports their agenda. These challenges include:

- Terrorist networks today are more dispersed and less centralized. They are more reliant on smaller cells inspired by a common ideology and less directed by a central command structure.
- While the United States Government and its partners have thwarted many attacks, we have not been able to prevent them all. Terrorists have struck in many places throughout the world, from Bali to Beslan to Baghdad.
- While we have substantially improved our air, land, sea, and border security, our Homeland is not immune from attack.
- Terrorists have declared their intention to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to inflict even more catastrophic attacks against the United States and our allies, partners, and other interests around the world.
- Some states, such as Syria and Iran, continue to harbour terrorists at home and sponsor terrorist activity abroad.
- The ongoing fight for freedom in Iraq has been twisted by terrorist propaganda as a rallying cry.
- Increasingly sophisticated use of the Internet and media has enabled the terrorist enemies to communicate, recruit, train, rally support, proselytize, and spread their propaganda without risking personal contact.

TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

By

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Introduction

The problem of terrorism is not limited to the particular country, but it is a problem at world level and it is true to say that no country is free from the terrorism. Terrorism continuing to target innocent people, the prevention of terrorism task has been ever challenging for the institutions around the world.¹ The social order largely depends on justice and individual accountability². In many parts of the world the problem of terrorism appearing in many ways, the world has

become complicated web³, it is to say that. The destinies and the interests of the nations and their citizens have become interlinked to such an extent that, invariably, the action of the one has adversely affected the other, leading to strife and suffering. In all such tragic situations, it has been affecting mostly the common people, like men, women and children whose rights have been violated⁴. The challenges by the terrorist outfit the world have to respond in positive way. In their constant endeavour for better future, nations and their citizens should always respect the

1. Dr. D.R. Sachdeva, Social Welfare Administration Kitab Mahal 5th Ed. 2006

2. Dr. D.M. Mahajan, Jurisprudence, Eastern Law Book Co.

3. Computers and Commonsense, Hunt Shelley, 4th Ed.

4. Dr. S.K. Kapoor, International, Central Law Agency 8th Ed. 1994. P51