

|  
*by* JJ

---

**Submission date:** 11-May-2021 09:16AM (UTC-0400)

**Submission ID:** 1583559051

**File name:** Terrorism.edited.doc (32K)

**Word count:** 720

**Character count:** 4039

## **International Terrorism**

Name

University

Course

Instructor

Date

## **International Terrorism**

Efforts to arrive at a precise and internationally accepted definition of international terrorism have been long overdue, majorly due to a lack of consensus between states and international interests. International terrorism was first defined under legal grounds by the League of Nations convention in 1937 as a criminal act(s) against a state in creating a form of fear to a person, group of persons or the general public (Margariti, 2017). Notably, despite failing to define the specifics of a 'state of fear,' the League of Nations definition of international terrorism served as a benchmark to the following definitions.

In the quest to bring out a specific and acceptable definition, the United Nations, through anti-terrorism treaties and conventions, have different definitions of terrorism over the years. A comprehensive draft convention on terrorism by the UN came close to bringing consensus by defining global terrorism as acts that intentionally and unlawfully cause death or serious body injuries to an individual. On the other hand, those that cause serious damage to property owned by public or even individuals. Lastly, destruction of property involved results or is deemed to lead to economic breakdown when purpose of terror attack is to intimidate the population or government to act or not towards a certain condition (Margariti, 2017). While the above definition brings consensus in terms of the offenses involved, there is still a problem of differentiating a terror act and an act of violence.

Both are categorized as criminal offenses in the definition. Thus, states have come up with definitions of international terrorism, drawing some insights from international law, but contradictions still seem to exist. For instance, in the USA, international terrorism refers to acts

that are violent against the criminal laws of US or other states; activities intended or appear to intimidate the population affect the policy of a government through coercing and affecting functioning of the government through mass destruction or even kidnapping (Young, 2006). International terrorism in the USA also includes activities that occur beyond the jurisdiction and boundaries of the US in how they are carried out or people they mean to intimidate or the country in which terrorists seem to operate. For that reason, the main conflict between the US and international law definition of terrorism is distinguishing terrorism as an act of war or criminal activity as the UN prohibits the use of force on international conflicts apart from defined exclusions.

The best way to deduce a more inclusive definition of international terrorism is through dwelling on the lowest common intent of the acts. Majorly, all definitions provided for terrorism seem to dwell on the objective and subjective elements of the acts. For instance, most definitions recognize the physical injury to individuals and the damaging property involved. Consequently, the intentions of the acts are major to destruct the functioning of governments and intimidate the populations. Basing a definition of such common factors can help reach a consensus on the definition of international terrorism.

Despite the interrelation of threats among countries, failure to translate international law to reflect regional and national law is a problem. States seem to go against the international law regarding prosecuting those that fund, facilitate and perform terrorist acts. There are disparities in how to deal with the individual perpetrators and countries that harbor criminals and fund criminal activities (Nesi, 2016). For that reason, several states express their concern in that international law does not incorporate the interests of individual countries when it comes to

countering terrorism. For example, in the fight against Al Qaeda, the US faced a major challenge in using extradition as a law enforcement tool. Some countries seemed to distance themselves from extraditing their nationals who were involved with the terrorism group. Notably, when the US sought the application of death penalties on suspects, they were faced with the dilemma of going against countries that have abolished death penalties.

### References

- Margariti, S. (2017). Defining International Terrorism. *International Criminal Justice Series*, 15, 109-144.
- Nesi, G. (Ed.). (2016). *International cooperation in counter-terrorism: the United Nations and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism*. Routledge.
- Young, R. (2006). Defining terrorism: The evolution of terrorism as a legal concept in international law and its influence on definitions in domestic legislation. *BC Int'l & Comp. L. Rev.*, 29, 23.

---

ORIGINALITY REPORT

---

**1** %  
SIMILARITY INDEX

**0** %  
INTERNET SOURCES

**0** %  
PUBLICATIONS

**1** %  
STUDENT PAPERS

---

PRIMARY SOURCES

---

**1** Submitted to Regent's College **1** %  
Student Paper

---

Exclude quotes On

Exclude matches Off

Exclude bibliography On