

Terrorism and Human Rights

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Abstract

According to Amnesty International, war on terrorism undermines human rights. A war on terrorism waged without respect for rule of law undermines the very values that it presumes to protect. By using the human rights framework, we must restore the balance between liberty and security which provides legitimate and effective efforts to respond to terrorist attacks. This article would examine terrorism, causes of terrorism, types of terrorism, counter terrorism, and role played by United Nations in defending human rights.

Words: terrorism, counter terrorism, human rights, role of United Nations

The word terror means to be 'frightened and the state of being terrified'. Terrorism is the greatest threat to humanity as it is not direct war. Terrorists by using bombs in trains and shopping areas, kidnapping, taking hostages, assassination, severe destruction to property sabotaging, guerrilla tactics, human bombs, hijacking aeroplanes, attacking the innocent civilians to create a fear psychosis to further their aims. According to Professor Kanti Bajpai, 'terrorism is the organised use of violence for political ends and is directed primarily at non-combatants'. Walter Lacquer views terrorism 'as the use or threat of violence, a method of combat or a strategy, not an ideology to achieve certain goals, that its aim is to induce a state of fear in the victim, that it is ruth less and doesnot conform to humanitarian norms and that publicity is an essential factor in terrorist strategy'. Terrorism has been used by political organisations rightists or leftists, nationalistic or religious groups, by revolutionaries and even by states.

Some definitions treat all acts of terrorism, regardless of their political motivations, as simple criminal activity. For example, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines both international and domestic terrorism as involving "violent, criminal acts." A frequently mentioned example is the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, which committed violent actions against the apartheid government but commanded broad sympathy throughout the world. Another example is the resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of France during World War II. Ideology and political opportunism have led several countries to engage in international terrorism, often under the guise

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