

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The issue of Counter-terrorism: tackling possible gaps and challenges since the adoption of resolution 1373

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INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is a complex term to map, and it has been a subject of debate in the fields of both academia and politics for many years. Some researchers and experts prefer to deal with open-ended concepts, while others have used many different definitions, a majority of which explore and seek to incorporate the several factors that characterize what terrorism is.

Throughout history, there have been numerous terrorist attacks but the one of September 11th, 2001, is perhaps the most well-known. On the 11th of September 2001 (9/11), 19 suicide bombers affiliated with the Islamic extremist organization Al-Qaeda hijacked four planes and orchestrated suicide attacks against US targets. In New York City, two commercial aircraft were flown into the World Trade Center buildings, while the Pentagon was struck by a third plane just south of Washington, D.C., and a fourth plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field. Following the tragic events of 9/11, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted a more active role in counterterrorism.

On 28 September 2001, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1373. Resolution 1373 is a counter-terrorism resolution that acts upon Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and is therefore binding for all Member States of the United Nations. With Resolution 1373, the Security Council reaffirmed resolutions from the past on counter-terrorism, namely resolutions 1189, 1269, and 1368. The adoption of resolution 1373 triggered a chain reaction of counter-terrorism resolutions like resolution 1456 (2003), which was also adopted unanimously by the Security Council Member States and declared that all Member States should prevent and suppress any support to terrorist organizations. Another resolution that followed the adoption of resolution 1373 is resolution 1566, which spelled out what the Security Council declares as terrorism.

All things considered, terrorism is a multifaceted issue with many causes and intents. Being a global and pressing issue, it is crucial that we realize the importance of it. A terrorist attack has many effects. For example, when a terrorist attack is carried out, there are many physical consequences like injuries and casualties—keeping in mind that terrorism is a global phenomenon, we ought to cooperate in order to prevent any upcoming issues.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Terrorism (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566)

Terrorism has been defined in the UNSC Resolution 1566 as “Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.”¹

Hijacking

The illegal seizure of a land vehicle, aircraft, or other conveyance while it is in transit.²

United Nations Charter

United Nations (UN), international organization established on October 24, 1945. The United Nations (UN) was the second multipurpose international organization established in the 20th century that was worldwide in scope and membership. Its predecessor, the League of Nations, was created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and disbanded in 1946. Headquartered in New York City, the UN also has regional offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi. Its official languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.³

Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter

The UN Security Council's powers to ensure peace are outlined in Chapter VII of the UN Charter. It enables the UN Security Council to determine the existence of any threat to peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression" and to take military and nonmilitary action to restore international peace and security.

Rule of law

¹ Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) on Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts - United Nations and the Rule of Law <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/blog/document/security-council-resolution-1566-2004-on-threats-to-international-peace-and-security-caused-by-terrorist-acts/> United Nations 2004

² Hijacking <https://www.britannica.com/topic/hijacking> Encyclopædia Britannica

³ United Nations <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations> Encyclopædia Britannica

Rule of law, the mechanism, process, institution, practice, or norm that supports the equality of all citizens before the law, secures a nonarbitrary form of government, and more generally prevents the arbitrary use of power. Arbitrariness is typical of various forms of despotism, absolutism, authoritarianism, and totalitarianism. Despotic governments include even highly institutionalized forms of rule in which the entity at the apex of the power structure (such as a king, a junta, or a party committee) is capable of acting without the constraint of law when it wishes to do so.⁴

Child exploitation

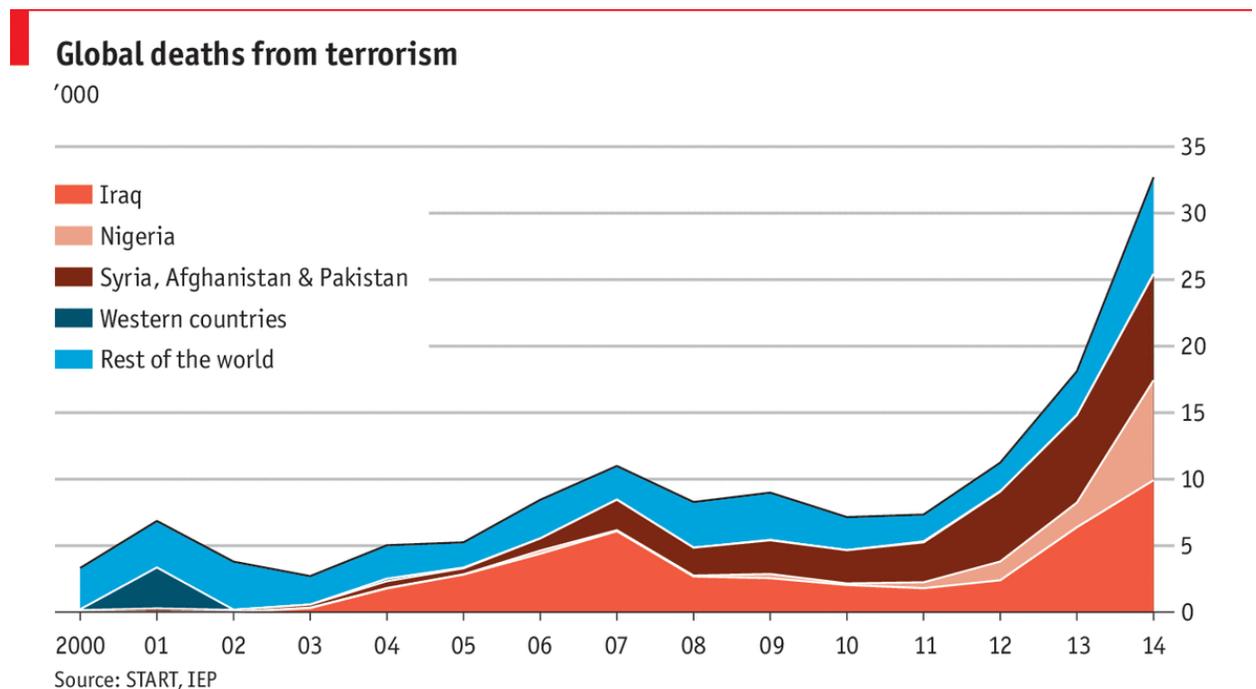
Child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimization, oppression or ill-treatment.⁵

Deep Neural Network

An artificial neural network that consists of several in between layers, the input and output layers. Each mathematical manipulation as such is considered a layer, and complex DNN have many layers, justifying the name "deep" networks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

⁶Terrorism through the years has evolved into a global phenomenon capable of causing immense damage to everyone and everywhere, as shown by the attacks on the United States, which took the lives of almost three thousand innocent civilians. Due to the severity of the implications of terrorist attacks and the influence of said attacks, Member States should all act upon the issue in order to eliminate any threats. The issue of terrorism did not first appear on



11 September 2001, but that date had a massive influence on sectors extending from geopolitics and economics to society and culture in general.⁷

The four waves of terrorism

The anarchist wave

The anarchist wave began in Russia and eventually expanded throughout the world. Anarchist groups sprung up all throughout Western Europe, the United States, and even Japan and China, where anarchist activity in the May 4th Movement is still recognized today. According to Rapoport, the early stages of the anarchist wave (from the 1880s to the 1890s) became known as the "Golden Age of Assassination," since government officials, leading politicians, including President William McKinley, and military commanders were assassinated by dedicated anarchists. Although bullets and explosives predominated, Rapoport does not particularly mention a distinctive weapon associated with the Anarchist wave. However, he did point out one feature that set the Anarchist wave apart from earlier terrorism: worldwide communications technology. Russian anarchists were able to spread their revolutionary theory around the world as a result of this. Russian anarchists were also unique in their desire and ability to train other revolutionary groups, even if they did not share anarchist principles. Clearly, the transnational nature of terrorist action is what sets modern terrorism apart from its historic forerunners. Each following terrorist wave was distinguished by a worldwide terrorist culture.⁸

The anti-colonial wave

With the outbreak of World War I, the anarchist wave came to an end. WWI was the first conflict in which the whole population of each opposing nation was involved. Anarchism quickly vanished from the public scene in the face of such conflict. With the end of the war, European colonies as well as a number of European ethnicities, notably in the Balkans, believed that political independence was within their reach. The expressed backing of American President Woodrow Wilson boosted their expectations even further. The Treaty of Versailles, in the end, shattered these aspirations. By dismantling the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Treaty changed Europe into national states, and the Mandates that followed were established on the premise that self-determination would come in time. Although they had the effect of preserving colonial

⁷ Final Project Blog <https://cs210proposal.home.blog/2019/04/02/cs210-final-project-proposal/> CS210 Final Proposal May 19, 2019

⁸ Waves of Political Terrorism <https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-24?print> Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics November 22, 2016

rule, they were not supposed to become permanent territories. The second wave was sparked by the Treaty.⁹

The New Left Wave

In response to the Vietnam War, the New Left situation emerged in the mid-1960s. Resistance to the United States and the much-maligned country that pursued it became a worldwide phenomenon, fueled by the revolution in communications technology and opposition to the War and the much-maligned country that followed it. During the Cold War, Soviet active measures appeared to succeed for a period of time in portraying the US as rapidly increasing war mongers and associating the communist world with the word "peace," drawing a clear distinction between the two, allowing the Soviets to funnel aid, resources, and intelligence to terrorist groups in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. As a result, governmental support of terrorism was unavoidable throughout the Cold War. Furthermore, the third wave was more internationalist in scope than previous waves due to fast advances in communications technology. The elements were there, as the grievances and exploits of the third wave of modern terrorism were as accessible as a movie, a rock album, an underground journal, or the ubiquitous image of Ché Guevara affixed to a lamppost. Globalization as we know it today would have to wait until the end of the Cold War.¹⁰

The status quo of religious terrorism

Three essential revolutions, led by Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Mao and the Chinese Revolution, and Imam Khomeini and the Iranian Revolution, which sparked the fourth wave of modern terrorism, shaped the history of the twentieth century. In reflection, the significant time lapse between the 1979 Iranian Revolution and academic and official acknowledgement of the event's significance appears astonishing. The Shi'ite Iranians, on the other hand, were not unaware of it, and neither were the majority of Sunni Arabs. For a brief period, following the torching of the American embassy in Islamabad by Iranian-inspired Sunnis in 1979 and the loss of 300 marines and the US embassy in Lebanon to Shi'ite Hezbollah in 1982, Tehran assumed the mantle of the fourth wave "Terror Central" that many had witnessed in Moscow a generation before.¹¹

⁹ Waves of Political Terrorism

<https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-24?print> Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics November 22, 2016

¹⁰ Waves of Political Terrorism

<https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-24?print> Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics November 22, 2016

¹¹ Waves of Political Terrorism

<https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-24?print> Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics November 22, 2016

The global framework against terrorism and UNSC Resolution 1373

The United Nations was concerned with the issue of terrorism even before the 9/11 attacks. The Security Council, in 1999, imposed sanctions on the Taliban and Al-Qaeda after their deadly attacks in East Africa, which escalated the situation in Afghanistan. The situation in Afghanistan started when the Afghan government was pressured to hand over Osama Bin Laden. Taliban refused to do so, thereby, in October 2001 the United States started bombing Afghanistan.¹² After said sanctions were imposed on the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, the Security Council created a list of people and entities affiliated with these organizations, thereby putting them in a position of liability to asset freezing, travel bans and arms embargoes. The Security Council took even greater measures after the attacks in the US as the United Nations realized the range of the issue of terrorism. The Security Council adopted a resolution far more drastic than any other resolution that may have ultimately decided the course of actions of the United Nations on the issue at hand. The resolution mentioned above is resolution 1373, adopted in 2001.



2 9/11 WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACKS

¹² The history of the Afghanistan war - CBBC Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15214375> BBC News

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373

Resolution 1373 was adopted on 28 September 2001, and it passed unanimously by the Security Council following the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. The resolution acts under the United Nations Charter's Chapter VII, therefore, binding all Member States. Its goal was to thwart terrorist organizations in a variety of areas, while also referring to terrorism-related clauses in Resolutions 1189 (1998), 1269 (1999), and 1368 (2001). To assist in the fight against international terrorism, UN Member States were urged to share their intelligence on terrorist groups as well to change their domestic legislation to allow for the ratification of all current international terrorism treaties.

Resolution 1373 consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph of the resolution has four points that are later elaborated on. The first point stresses that all Member States shall prevent and suppress any financing of terrorism. The second point criminalizes the willful provision or collection of funds by their citizens or on their territories in any manner, directly or indirectly, with the intention or knowledge that the funds will be used to carry out terrorist acts. Furthermore, all Member States shall immediately freeze all funds, financial assets or economic resources that are associated with persons or organizations of entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such persons, “Freeze without delay funds and other financial assets or economic resources of persons who commit, or attempt to commit, terrorist acts or participate in or facilitate the commission of terrorist acts”;¹⁴ and of persons and entities acting on behalf of or under the direction of such persons and entities, including funds derived from terrorist acts. The fourth point this paragraph makes is to prohibit their citizens or other individuals or institutions within their territories from having any funds, financial resources, economic commodities, or financial or other related services accessible, directly or indirectly, to persons who commit or threaten to commit, encourage, or engage in terrorist activities, or organizations controlled or supervised by such groups, directly or indirectly.

The second paragraph stresses out seven points. The first point is to cease supplying direct or indirect assistance to organizations or individuals engaged in terrorist activities, including suppressing terrorist recruiting and eliminating the provision of arms to terrorists.” Refrain

¹³ Why an attack like 9/11 is much less likely today than it was in 2001
https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vox.com%2F2016%2F09%2F09%2F12839824%2F9-11-anniversary-terrorist-attack-safer-today&psig=AOvVaw2op5xC0FKbzg0xTgxk3D4R&ust=1624048690793000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAoQjRxqFwoTClly4PzCn_ECFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD Vox September 09, 2016

¹⁴ United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) - United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/resources/databases/recommended-international-practices-codes-and-standards/united-nations-security-council-resolution-1373-2001/> United Nations

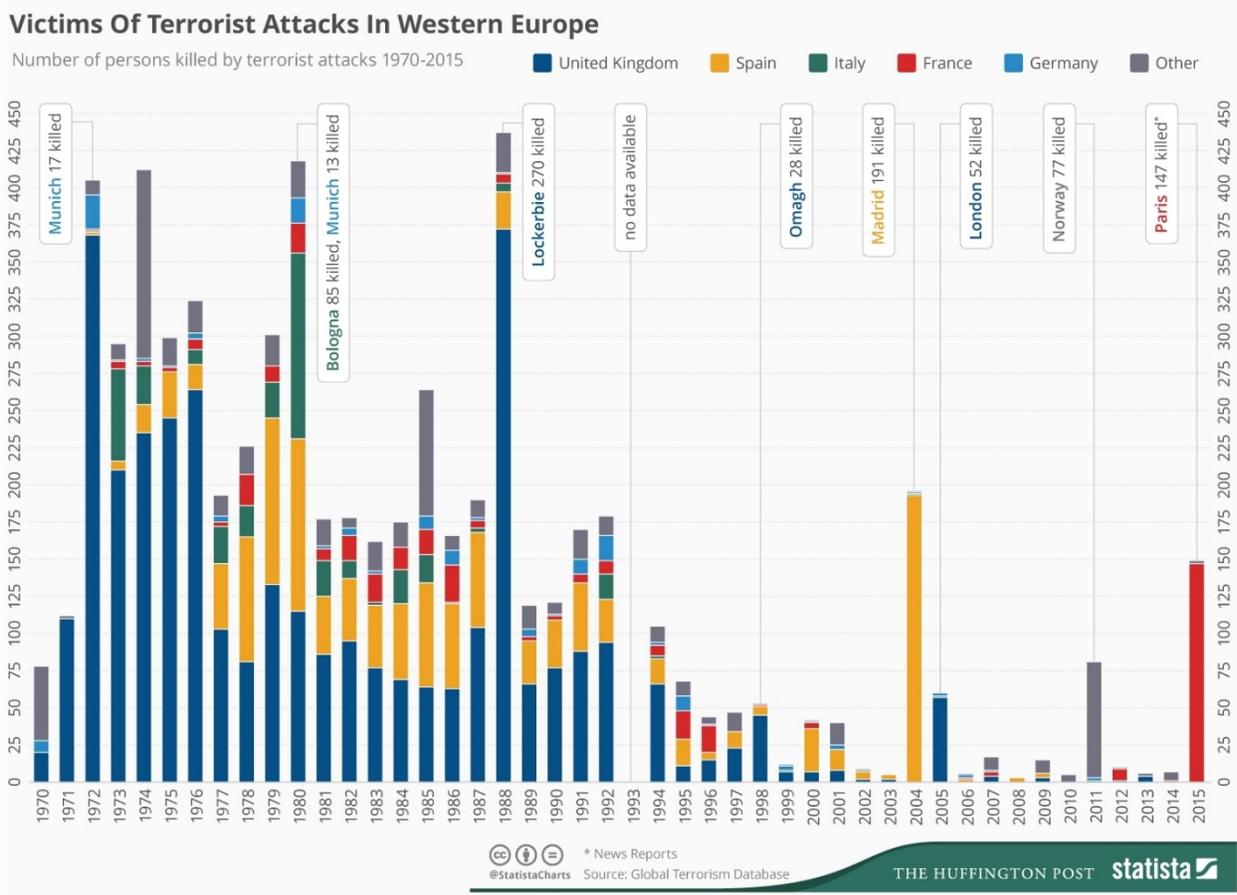
from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists”¹⁵. The second point is to take the appropriate steps to prevent terrorist attacks, including providing early notice to other countries via intelligence sharing. The third point elaborates on denying a safe haven to those who assist by financing, planning, supporting, committing terrorist acts, or providing safe havens to those who commit said attacks. The fourth point is to prevent those who fund, organize, assist, or carry out terrorist activities using their respective territory to harm other countries or their citizens. The fifth point is to ensure that anyone involved in the financing, planning, preparation, or execution of terrorist acts, or in supporting terrorist acts, is brought to justice, and that, in addition to all other measures taken against them, terrorist acts are classified as severe criminal offenses in domestic laws and regulations, with appropriate punishment reflecting the severity of the crime. The sixth point says that all Member States should assist one another as much as possible in criminal cases or criminal prosecutions involving the funding or support of terrorist activities, including help in collecting information in their custody that is required for the proceedings. The last point of this paragraph insists on effective border control and adequate controls of issuing identification papers and travel documentation, as well as efforts to avoid counterfeiting, forgery, or fraudulent use of identity papers. In this way, terrorists and terrorist organizations are prevented from moving.

The third paragraph also consists of seven points. The first point is to find ways to improve and accelerate the sharing of operational intelligence, particularly about terrorist individuals or networks' activities or movements; forged or falsified travel documents; trade-in weaponry, explosives, or classified materials, “Find ways of intensifying and accelerating the exchange of operational information, especially regarding actions or movements of terrorist persons or networks; forged or falsified travel documents; traffic in arms, explosives or sensitive materials; use of communications technologies by terrorist groups; and the threat posed by the possession of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups;”¹⁶ The second point is for all Member States to deter terrorist attacks, exchange intelligence in compliance with international and domestic law and collaborate on regulatory and judicial matters. The third point discusses the cooperation to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks, especially by bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements, and to take action against those who perpetrate such acts. The fourth point stresses out for all Member States that have not signed the applicable international conventions and agreements relating to terrorism to do so as soon

¹⁵ United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) - United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/resources/databases/recommended-international-practices-codes-and-standards/united-nations-security-council-resolution-1373-2001/> United Nations

¹⁶ United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) - United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/resources/databases/recommended-international-practices-codes-and-standards/united-nations-security-council-resolution-1373-2001/> United Nations

as possible, including the International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing of 9 December 1999. The fifth point serves to increase collaboration and fully enforce applicable international agreements and treaties on terrorism and the Security Council's Resolutions 1269 (1999) and 1368 (2001). The sixth point calls for all Member States, before granting refugee status, to take necessary actions under applicable provisions of national and international law, including international human rights standards, to ensure that the asylum-seeker has not prepared, aided, or engaged in the execution of terrorist acts. The seventh point is to ensure that terrorist suspects, organizers, and facilitators should not abuse refugee status and that allegations of political intent are not accepted as reasons for denying requests for extradition of suspected terrorists according to international law.



3 VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN WESTERN EUROPE 1970-2015

Issues regarding the Resolution

The absence of a universally accepted definition of terrorism. Because terrorism is a controversial topic that divides the world community, Resolution 1373 did not include a definition of the term. Any debate on the subject would have jeopardized the resolution's rapid passage. This issue appears to be the most significant impediment to the United Nation's development of a comprehensive international treaty on international terrorism. Because it failed to garner worldwide consensus, the Security Council's attempt to fill this vacuum with its own definition of terrorism in Security Council Resolution 1566 (2004) was disregarded. As a result, the CTC/CTED has sought to avoid the dilemma and has mostly accepted national terrorist definitions, despite the inconsistencies and interruptions that this disparity causes in international counter-terrorism cooperation.

Budgetary limits in regard to development or other political goals Counter-terrorist legislation and regulations can be costly to implement and need a large number human resource. The policing of the internet or the tracking of financial transactions necessitates a significant amount of effort from highly trained staff and ongoing training, whereas border surveillance normally necessitates the purchase of expensive equipment. A state may claim to have put in place a legislative and institutional architecture to combat terrorism that officially complies with Resolution 1373, but fail to execute the legislation due to a lack of funding or professional human resources. This is true in many Member States, particularly those with severe demands resulting from health or food shortages, or those in the midst of armed conflict.

International information exchange is hampered by a number of issues. One of the most effective techniques for preventing terrorist attacks has been the interchange of information across various jurisdictions. As a result, numerous instruments, like as the Egmont Group, have been constructed to enable the transmission of data between states, and various institutions have built shared databases to enable inter-State information sharing (e.g. Europol or Interpol). However, the necessity to preserve intelligence sources, as well as political mistrust between countries, continue to obstruct the rapid exchange of anti-terrorist data, even between allies.

In recent years, the Security Council and the CTC have lacked political clout in counter-terrorist collaboration. Although this might be a deliberate endeavor to depoliticize counter-terrorist collaboration at the United Nations, it might also indicate that the Security Council's major members believe that political collaboration against terrorism has reached its limit inside the United Nations system. In any event, the fact is that the CTC's actions have grown increasingly diplomatic, with the CTED taking a technocratic lead in the Security Council's operations. This

lowering of political direction may explain the creation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) in 2011, which lacks the United Nations's legitimacy, diversity, and universal projection but allows donor countries to address their political priorities in counter-terrorist cooperation flexibly and quickly. Even if this is not the aim, measures like this wind up undermining the leadership and legitimacy of the Security Council counter-terrorist strategy.

Children in terrorism

Terrorist organizations use young recruits in various capacities, including support, recruiter, propagandist, and fighter. Their age and gender frequently define the positions that people are assigned to. Girls and young women are typically assigned to support roles such as food preparation, firewood collection, medical care, and camp maintenance. This is valid for both those who participate willingly and those who are forced to join. Many terrorist groups employ girls and young women in positions that are unique to their genders, such as serving as fighters' wives and mothers to their children. These gender-specific roles, however, are closely related to other supporting roles.

Reasons that terrorist organizations recruit children

Terrorist organizations recruit children all around the country in both armed conflict and non-armed conflict situations. Recruitment almost often leads to exploitation and victimization of children, regardless of the circumstances. The motives for terrorist and violent militant organizations recruiting children are varied and multifaceted, and they can differ based on the situation. It also suggests that children are recruited alongside adults, but are deliberately targeted, as the use of children benefits the organizations in different ways. Some reasons are economic considerations and effectiveness, tactical advantages, and community expectations.

Ways in which terrorist organizations recruit children

Although terrorist and violent militant organizations continue to recruit children using tactics similar to those used by militias recruiting child soldiers, they slowly transition to new and advanced methods. The practices used can differ depending on various reasons, including the group's and child's circumstances. Although terrorist and violent militant organizations continue to recruit children using tactics similar to those used by militias recruiting child soldiers, they slowly transition to new and advanced methods. The practices used can differ depending on various reasons, including the group's and child's circumstances. Some methods terrorist uses are forcible recruitment, economic enticement and the allure of free schooling.



4 A CHILD SOLDIER

18

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America (USA)

Despite a number of deadly attacks by individuals and groups motivated by jihadism in the United States, the Nation now a difficult destination for international terrorist organizations. This is the product of a multi-tiered security system that includes community tips, citizen participation, and the extensive use of informants. In addition, the United States is a challenging target for terrorist organizations. For example, on 22 December 2001 a man was arrested after trying to detonate a show bomb into an American Airlines flight and now he is serving a life sentence without parole.

France

France engages in high-level discussions on radicalization prevention with its key partners and participates in multilateral discussions on the topic. France's counterterrorism efforts continue to concentrate on preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. France is in .Discussions with digital firms to ensure fast and long-term removal of extremist material from the Internet. Furthermore, France participates in a variety of activities aimed at reducing the

¹⁸ Driven by hate? What we've gotten wrong about children and terrorism <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/371405-driven-by-hate-what-weve-gotten-wrong-about-children-and-terrorism> TheHill February 12, 2018

threat faced by foreign extremist fighters, both at the UN and inside the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), which puts together 29 countries and the European Union. Moreover, France is implementing training programs for its partners: law enforcement investigators, magistrates, and services working on counterterrorism. Lastly, Terrorist organizations need funding, and they use all available ways to obtain it, including emerging tools for collecting and transferring money. As a result, France mobilized countries in 2018, intending to identify and drain all channels of terrorist funding.¹⁹

United Kingdom (UK)

The UK's counter-terrorism strategy has four strands. The first is pursue meaning to investigate possible terrorist attacks. The second is to prevent people from becoming terrorists or being in favor of terrorist acts and supporting them. The third is to protect by improving the protective security in order for terrorist attacks to be prevented. The fourth strand is prepare meaning that work is being done to minimize the impact of a terrorist attack and minimize the time needed to recover from a said attack.²⁰

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, which sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and eastern Europe after World War II.²¹

Taliban

Following the departure of Soviet forces, the fall of Afghanistan's communist government, and the resulting deterioration of public order in the mid-1990s, an ultraconservative political and religious faction arose in Afghanistan. The group originated from its membership, which was mostly made up of students who had been educated in madrasahs (Islamic religious schools) that had been set up for Afghan refugees in northern Pakistan in the 1980s.²²

Al-Qaeda

During the Soviet–Afghan War in 1988, Osama bin Laden, Abdullah Azzam, and several other Arab volunteers formed Al-Qaeda, a militant Sunni Islamist multi-national terrorist group. Al-

¹⁹ Terrorism: France's International Action <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/> France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

²⁰ Counter-terrorism strategy (Contest) <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-and-crime-policies/contest> Kent County Council February 03, 2020

²¹ North Atlantic Treaty Organization <https://www.britannica.com/topic/North-Atlantic-Treaty-Organization> Encyclopædia Britannica

²² Taliban <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Taliban> Encyclopædia Britannica April 21, 2021

Qaeda is a network of Salafist militants and Islamic extremists. During the Afghan War, Al-Qaeda started as a logistics network to assist Muslims battling the Soviet Union; members were drawn from all over the Islamic world. When the Soviets departed Afghanistan in 1989, the party disbanded, but its founders continued to condemn what they saw as anti-Islamic governments (i.e. US) The group was based in Sudan for a time in the early 1990s before relocating to Afghanistan (c. 1996) under the patronage of the Taliban.²³

United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee

The CTC works to strengthen UN Member States' capacity to deter terrorist attacks both within their borders and across regions, driven by Security Council Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). It was established in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) assists the CTC by implementing the Committee's strategic recommendations, conducting expert evaluations of each Member State, and facilitating counter-terrorism technical assistance to countries.²⁴

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT ²⁵
11 September 2001	Al-Qaeda terrorists stole four commercial planes, intentionally smashing two of them into the upper floors of the World Trade Center Building's North and South towers, and a third plane into the Pentagon in Arlington.
28 September 2001	The United Nations Security Council following the attacks in the US adopted resolution 1373 which is a detrimental counter-terrorism resolution.

²³ Al-Qaeda <https://www.britannica.com/topic/al-Qaeda> Encyclopædia Britannica

²⁴ Counter-Terrorism Committee - United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/> United Nations

²⁵ https://since911.com/explore/terrorism-timeline#jump_time_item_467 Terrorism Timeline

11 March 2004	Three days before Spain's general elections, the 2004 Madrid train bombings were almost simultaneous, orchestrated bombings against Madrid's commuter train infrastructure.
26 March 2004	Resolution 1535 was adopted by the Security Council and endorses the report of the Committee on its revitalization ²⁶
28 April 2004	Resolution 1540 was adopted by the Security Council the Security Council decided that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes ²⁷
8 October 2004	Resolution 1566 was adopted by the Security Council. The resolution Condemns in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism as one of the most serious threats to peace and security ²⁸
11 July 2005	In a course of 11 minutes a sequence of bombings took place in Mumbai's Suburban railway and in India's capital Maharashtra.

²⁶ United Nations Digital Library <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/518306?ln=en> Resolution 1535 (2004) / adopted by the Security Council at its 4936th meeting, on 26 March 2004

²⁷ UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) – UNODA <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/sc1540/> United Nations

²⁸ United Nations Digital Library <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/532676?ln=en> Resolution 1566 (2004) / adopted by the Security Council at its 5053rd meeting, on 8 October 2004

29 July 2005	Resolution 1617 was adopted by the Security Council deciding to review some measures that were imposed by paragraph 4(b) of resolution 1267 ²⁹
14 August 2007	Four coordinated attacks were carried out in Yazidi towns of Kathania and Azeera in Iraq (Ninawa)
26 November 2008	In a four-day span of time 12 attacks (shooting, bombing) were carried out across Mumbai from 10 members of a Pakistan based Islamist militant organization the Lashkar-e-Taliban.
11 July 2011	Two attacks took place in Norway by Anders Behring Breivik against numerous targets including civilians.
1 March 2013	At the Kunming railway station in Yunnan province, south-west China, a group of eight armed with knives attacked and killed 29 people and injured several others.
14-15 April 2014	276 females between the ages of 16 and 18 were kidnaped in Nigeria's Secondary School in Chibok.
13 November 2015	Mass shootings and suicide bombing took place in Paris near the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, at cafés, restaurants and a music venue central Paris.

²⁹ S/RES/1617 (2005) Security Council <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/s/res/1617-%282005%29> United Nations

22 March 2016	Two attacks at Brussels Airport in Zaventem and one at Maalbeek metro station in Brussels took place on the morning of 22 March 2016.
23 December 2016	First suicide bombing carried out by a woman. She detonated her explosives in Bangladesh during a police raid.
1 October 2017	Two young women were stabbed to death at the Saint-Charles train station in Marseille, a southern French port city. Amaq, the media arm of Islamic State, assumed responsibility for the attack.
13 May 2018	In the Opera district of Paris, France, an assailant stabbed five people, one of whom, a 29-year-old man, died. Khamzat Azimov, a 20-year-old man, was shot dead by police on the spot after non-lethal efforts to subdue him failed.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373

Resolution 1373 (2001) of the United Nations Security Council, adopted on September 28, 2001, mandates all UN Member States to take a series of steps to improve their legal and operational capacity to deter and fight terrorist attacks in their regions and around the world. This resolution was adopted seventeen days after the 9/11 attacks in the United States. Resolution 1373 was adopted after voted upon and passing unanimously by the Security Council Members.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1624

The United Nations Security Council reaffirmed resolutions like, resolution 1373, resolution 1540 and resolution 1617, as well as the declaration added to its resolution 1456 (2003) of 20 January 2003, and other resolutions addressing threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. This resolution called upon all Member States to enhance international border security by strengthening terrorist screening and passenger security procedures.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

European Union (EU) on terrorism

Although member states bear primary responsibility for fighting crime and maintaining stability, terrorist activities in recent years have shown that security is also a shared responsibility. Through supporting member states, the EU contributes to the security of its citizens. The European Union's actions to combat terrorism are to enhance information exchange, reinforce checks at external borders, prevent online radicalization, and improve firearms control. Moreover, other actions of the EU towards the issue are digitalizing judicial cooperation, criminalizing terrorist offenses, cutting the financing of terrorism, harmonizing the use of air passengers' data, and strengthening cooperation with the non-EU countries. Furthermore, in 2015, a joint statement was filed by EU leaders that ensures the security of citizens, the prevention of radicalization and safeguarding values, and cooperating with international partners. The EU is currently looking for ways to make data accessible to border guards through relevant EU databases and improve criminal investigations and prosecutions.³⁰

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

The NATO say that "Terrorism poses a direct threat to the security of the citizens of NATO countries, and to international stability and prosperity. It is a persistent global threat that knows no border, nationality or religion, and is a challenge that the international community must tackle together."³¹ NATO will continue to tackle this menace in a united and determined manner. NATO's counter-terrorism efforts are aimed at raising awareness of the danger, building preparedness and response capabilities, and enhancing cooperation with partner nations and other international actors.

³⁰ EU's response to the terrorist threat <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/> Consilium March 18, 2021

³¹ Countering terrorism https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_77646.htm NATO May 17, 2021

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

International patterns to share information on terrorism

To fight terrorism, improve international cooperation and intelligence exchange. Additionally, funds should be made available to create a Passenger Information Unit. The unit will analyze airline records, such as reservation details, and collaborate with similar units in all Member States. The data collected will be used in the fight against serious crime and religious extremism/ terrorist acts. Support for information exchange, particularly connectivity and information management across national PIUs, will be given as a supplement to initiatives supported by the International Security Forum (ISF)-Police 2014 Arctic Warfare Police (AWP) and national programs. This comprises tasks such as establishing secure communication routes amongst PIUs for the sharing of such data, developing acceptable data formats, and formulating standards for the exchange. The most advanced Member States in this sector will be encouraged to apply for financing aimed at expanding experience and knowledge sharing.

Security of potential targets

Governments should take protective measures to protect individuals and organizations that could be attacked. This lowers the risk of a terrorist attack. In the case of a terrorist attack, governments should be prepared to mitigate the consequences of said attack. Military and civilian government facilities, international airports, large cities, and high-profile landmarks are all high-risk targets for terrorist attacks. Large public gatherings, water and food supply, utilities, and corporate centers might all be targets for terrorists. Terrorists can also instill fear by mailing explosives, as well as chemical and biological substances, through the mail. Recently, machine learning techniques were utilized to investigate the many aspects of terrorism. Neural Network (NN) and, in particular, Deep Neural Network (DNN), are gaining popularity as a result of the recent availability of a large amount of labelled data. Advances in computer technology have allowed for the creation of far more powerful computer systems capable of doing the computations required by DNN. NN and DNN models are employed in this field of work to predict several aspects that contribute to terrorist activity. The model aids law enforcement authorities in making predictions before an incident occurs, perhaps resulting in the loss of human lives. The factors that were anticipated are listed below:

1. Suicide: to predict whether a terrorist activity is going to be suicide or not.
2. Success: to predict whether a terrorist activity will succeed or not.
3. Weapon type: to make a classification of the general type of weapons used in terrorist activity.
4. Region: to classify the region that will be targeted by the terrorist activity.

5. Attack type: to classify the type of attack carried out as a terrorist activity.³²

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