

'GA6' 'Combatting the
issue of international
terrorism through
global cooperation'



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Introducing your Chairs


Hello, my name is Junayd Merimeche and I am this year's chair for GA6 for the upcoming FAMUN 2024 (1st February – 4th February). I am very excited to meeting all of you in February and have created this report to help all delegates create a basis for their research

I currently attend the British School in the Netherlands which is located in Voorschoten near the Hague. I am 15, turning 16 in May and I am in my last year of my GCSE's (year 11).

Once again, I am truly excited to guide you throughout this topic and would like to open the floor to any fruitful debate.

An Introduction to the Issue

Terrorism has proven to be one of the biggest threats to the security of international stability and relations. This issue has been persistent due to its nature of having no 'border, nationality or religion'. Various supranational organisation had combined efforts into addressing the issue through solidarity. In the 21st century there has been a marked increase of acts of international terrorism. Such crime requires the common approach of states to prevent further acts of terrorism. Various events such as the 11th of September, the 2005 London Bombings, and the 2016 Brussels Bombings have proven to be turning points for global forces to combine a political agenda for the prevention of terrorism. It is



accepted that international crimes are considered extremely atrocious that any state can claim universal jurisdiction on the individual(s) and prosecute the offender(s). Therefore, states are required to bring terrorists within national law or towards the international sphere including but not limited to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Current counter terrorism campaigns span the spectrum of latest trends in warfare technology including but not limited to deploying equipped special operations forces and launching aerial drones that target terrorist operatives.

Furthermore, the growth of the internet and media have given such terrorist groups platforms to virtualize their space and conduct various activities that are not confined to convention physical structures such as recruitment and fundraising or even increasingly extreme standards such as command and control of operations. In turn, this allows individual to bypass physical borders where national governments have upgraded their defences.

In addition to the technological advancements and ever-changing evolving tactics in the fight against international terrorism, it is crucial to recognize the significance of intelligence-sharing and cross-collaboration among nations alike. The interconnected nature of global security demands a unified effort to gather and disseminate information effectively reducing latency. Multinational cooperations, facilitated through initiatives like Interpol, UNODC and bilateral intelligence-sharing agreements, plays an important aspect in identifying and pre-empting potential risks of terrorist threats. The exchange of intelligence not only enhances the early detection of extremist activities but further fosters a collective response to dismantle terrorist connected networks. As the landscape of international terrorism continues to change and evolve, creating stronger alliances and information-sharing mechanisms remains imperative for the global community to stay one step ahead in the ongoing battle against this transnational menace.

Definition of Key Terms

- **International terrorism:**

terrorism that goes beyond national boundaries in terms of the methods used, the people that are targeted or the places from which the terrorists operate. (*Note: there is no current agreement upon the objective definition for <terrorism>*)
- **Anarchism:**

a political theory advocating the abolition of hierarchical government and the organisation of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis without recourse to force or compulsion.
- **Socialism:**

a political and economic theory of social organisation which advocates that the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community.
- **Self-determination:**

the legal right of people to decide their own destiny in the international order
- **Liberation conflicts:**

conflicts fought by nations to gain independence from or against colonial or alien occupation exercising their right to self-determination

- **Global Counterterrorism Forum:**

A global forum and platform which fosters collaboration in addressing evolving terrorism. Although not directly in the UN it works closely with it and has a strong affiliation with the UN.

- **Law enforcement Agencies**

National or International organisations and government entities aimed at enforcing laws collaborating directly with foreign countries to ensure safety. Notable examples include: FRONTEX, Interpol, Europol, FBI (Federal Bureau of investigation)

- **Extremist groups**

Groups and movements that advocate for extreme ideologies often employing radical measure to achieve their objectives using violence or aggression. Most times motivated by political or religious beliefs including Taliban, ISIS (Islamic state of Iraq and Syria), Red Brigades

- **International Criminal Court (ICC)**

The ICC is an international tribunal created to prosecute individuals of international concern implemented for the most heinous and serious crimes such as war crimes and terrorism

- **USA PATRIOT Act**

standing for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act", was a US law enacted in response to the September 11 attacks enhancing the ability of law enforcing to investigate terrorism

- **anti radicalisation measures**


measures aimed to prevent individuals from being radicalized and involving in extremist ideologies which employ violence

A General Overview of the Issue

International terrorism has been a subject of foremost importance in recent times. Terrorism can be traced back to the 18th century in which political theory surrounding anarchism and communism began to emerge. In short, these ideas understand the state being an unnecessary instrument and believe individuals must come together to dismantle the state. Therefore, due to their inability to provoke revolution amongst the masses they resorted to means of putting government under pressure and resorting to violence.

The issue of international terrorism represents a multifaceted and complex obstacle that transcends national borders, threatening global stability, peace, and diplomacy. Characterized by acts of violence perpetrated by non-state (*sometimes perpetuated by the state*) actors with political, religious, or ideological motivations, international terrorism poses a persistent threat to societies worldwide. Understanding the dynamics, root causes, and effects of this phenomenon is crucial for formulating effective international strategies to combat it. At its core, international terrorism is distinguished by its transnational nature. Terrorist organizations operate across borders, exploiting the interconnected world to recruit, fundraise, and execute attacks. The absence of defined borders, nationalities, or specific religious affiliations allows these groups to navigate and operate in diverse environments, making them challenging to track and counter due to their diversified nature.

The globalization and industrialization of communication and transportation has exacerbated the rapid dissemination of extremist ideologies, enabling terrorist networks to recruit individuals from different countries and cultures as well as through online networks. Motivations driving international terrorism are polar and often rooted in



political, religious, or ideological grievances. Some groups seek to challenge so-called perceived injustices, advocate for self-determination, or resist perceived foreign occupation. Others are driven by radical interpretations of religious doctrines, using violence to establish or defend their vision of a political or religious order. The motives may vary, but the common thread is the use of violence to instil fear, coerce governments, or provoke societal and political change which in turn destabilizes government.

The consequences of international terrorism are very wide, affecting not only the victims with physical damage of attacks but also societies, economies, and international relations inclusive. Acts of terrorism can large death tolls, physical and psychological trauma, and displacement of entire populations. Beyond the human toll, the economic impact can be substantial, as terrorism disrupts trade, tourism, and investment. Moreover, it strains diplomatic relations between affected countries and undermines global efforts to foster peace and cooperation.


Historical Background

As mentioned before, political theory greatly rose in the 18th century in turn influencing events in the 19th century. In the early days of terrorism, means of assassination was used such as the assassination of Tsar Alexander II (1881). Due to the alternative nature of this act, it differentiated from normal criminal acts. As such, this made terrorism a 'humane form of violence than civil war' as they would only fight towards 'state oppressors'.

Furthermore, the 20th century has seen the greatest form of technological development which in turn altered the sphere of international terrorism. Consequences of such developments allowed terrorists to perpetrate their acts on a wider scale. Additionally, the development of mass communication and migration allowed organisations to perpetuate their propaganda. This was also due to inventions such as the telegraph and press meaning newspapers and alternative forms of media could be transmitted around the world giving billions of people access to information instantly.

The assassination of the Russian Tsar was a turning point in revolutionary history as it inspired violence in Europe and America. As such, anarchists would carry out bombings in various western countries including but not limited to France, Italy, and Germany which essentially turned anarchists seeking retribution against authorities. To confront the issue, western systems attempted to implement various legal mechanisms including *immigration controls* and '*extradition treaties* targeted against 'undesirable aliens'.

The post World War one era concluded another phase of international terrorism. Furthermore, Lenin's political socialist theory rose which argued for self-determination. The League of Nations represented factors to be considered through the formation of new states to issues relating to self-determination. For example, in 1920 between Sweden



and Finland the council appointed the International Commission of Jurists to determine the matter. It had been concluded that the 'recognition of the principle of self-determination ... did not create a positive rule of law of nations.

In this era, terrorism continued and in the 1930s bilateral agreements in regard to the suppression of terrorism were concluded. In response to the assassination of the King of Yugoslavia and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1934 the committee of experts was established by the League council was created in order to draft a Convention on Terrorism for the establishment of the International Criminal Court which was binding on national law. However, the *1937 Terrorism Convention* lacked an 'international' criminal law.

Furthermore, in the aftermath of World War two issues of terrorism have been further pursued. The UN charter urges for the obligation to 'develop friendly relations' among member states with underlying principles of equal rights and self-determination. In any case, various terrorist activities in the 20th century have been characterised to not be in the field of self-determination. As such, causes of terrorism have gained a wider range including but not limited to human discontent in the sphere of economics, politics, and ideology. Furthermore, there has been a steady increase in other forms of terrorism such as bombings, arson, kidnapping, hijacking and more. Other unconventional forms of terrorism include *nuclear terrorism, cyber-attacks, and ecological terrorism*. Notably, acts including liberation conflicts were dealt with under alternative spheres of international law. Recently, the term had broadened to include groups including the Taliban and ISIS to reflect a constant terrorist threat to the international community.

Major Parties Involved

United states: The most predominant terrorist attack occurred in the United States being the 9/11 attacks. As terrorist groups such as ISIS continue to threaten the state the department of state has continued to build global consensus in order to combat the issue. This includes diplomatic engagement and foreign assistance in order to strengthen law enforcement and judicial capabilities. In the international sphere, the United States has been a driving force in shaping legislation and policies to counteract global terrorism. One notable example is the USA PATRIOT Act, enacted after the 9/11 attacks, which influences and encourages other nations to strengthen their counterterrorism measures and policy. Beyond domestic legislation, the U.S. actively contributes to international initiatives, supporting United Nations Security Council resolutions which addresses terrorism and playing a vital role in global partnerships such as the *Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)*. These efforts highlight the United States' commitment to shaping a coordinated global response to the challenges posed by international terrorism.


United Kingdom: Similarly, the UK has been victim to various terrorist attacks particularly through the 2005 London bombings. The UK has been actively involved in developing international counter terrorism techniques and collaborating with member states intelligence in order to combat extremist ideologies. Efforts within the UK national system include the implementation of counterterrorism legislation, community engagement programs, and the coordination of security measures to prevent terrorist attacks.

Russia: Historically, Russia has been the centre of the early forms of terrorism. In modern times, it has faced challenges with International terrorism in the conflicts of the caucus regions. The insurgency in Chechnya and other areas have led to instances of violence and terrorism. As such, Russia has engaged in various counterterrorism efforts within their national legal frameworks as well as international conventions and legislation. Furthermore, Russia's involvement in the conflict in Syria has positioned a significant actor to fight terrorism in the middle east where it has supported the Syrian government's effort to combat extremist groups.

Middle eastern states: These states have been rife and continuously had to combat international terrorism. States including but not limited to **Iraq, Syria** and **Afghanistan** have faced impacts of terrorist activities with organisations such as ISIS and the Taliban. Organisations such as these have risen to extreme levels engaging in military operations with international support. States in the gulf have implemented various anti radicalisation measures and participated strongly in international efforts to combat this issue by diplomatic means.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

At present there are 13 international conventions and protocols that exist in order to prohibit acts of terrorism. Such agreements have been maintained and developed under the United Nations (UN) and are applicable to each member state. The first modern convention to hold and address the issue of international terrorism was the *Tokyo Convention (1963)*. This addressed the behaviour on a flight that affected safety and was therefore followed by the *Hague convention* which made it an offence for any person onboard an aircraft to attempt to seize or exercise control of the aircraft by means of threat, force, or intimidation. Following, in 1970, the Hague convention was developed in a response to the 1968 hijacking of a plane enroute from Rome. This event was considered to be "principal initiator of the deadly continuum of international terrorist attacks" (Canadian security intelligence) that has continued into modern day. As a result, when faced with an international terrorist crime, states within the global sphere have made efforts in order to criminalise such behaviour that applies internationally as well as national jurisdictions. Specifically in response to the hijacking of the plane, international determination is required for a consistent response addressing acts that violate safe shipping that are committed against travellers whether they are on aircrafts or in airports. As such,



these conventions impose contracting states to prosecute individuals/organisations who have violated the convention.

Furthermore, in specific response to increased terrorism the UN General Assembly (1997_ enacted a convention declaring universal jurisdiction over the unlawful and intentional use of explosives in public places. This is known as the international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings. Following, a convention was concluded in 1999 for the suppression of financing terrorism requiring states to prevent the financing of terrorist groups and consequently prosecute such organisations. The UN has further emphasised that resorting to violence as a means to ensure international and political stability that no more would the terrorists be solely subject to sanction when caught within territorial jurisdictions in which they have committed the act. Rather, the offender would be liable to criminal sanction wherever captured by an authority.

In addition to the 13 aforementioned international conventions. Post the 9/11 attacks the UN general assembly as well as the security council adopted resolutions that address the criminality of terrorism in particular security council resolution 1373 (2001). Furthermore, the UN general assembly imposed a positive obligation on member states.

Possible solutions for the Issue

Law enforcement and border security: to strengthen international cooperation among intelligence and law enforcement agencies in order to coordinate efforts such as existing organisations being Interpol and Europol. Intelligence sharing mechanisms allows to track potential threats. Investing in advanced surveillance technology to monitor potential terrorists including facial recognition systems and data analysis. This comes into combination with counter terrorism units as well as cross border police cooperation. For example, most notably the *European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)* is responsible for coordinating border control amongst member states.

Counter radicalisation programs: developing community-based programmes that engage individual citizens such as religious leaders and educators which aim to promote cultural tolerance and understanding to counter radical ideologies. Implement de radicalisation programs which aim towards individuals who have been radicalised. These programmes may involve psychological counselling and vocational training in order to disengage in extremist ideologies. This may come into combination with collaborating with religious institutions to promote moderate interpretations faith and counter extremist ideologies. For example, the *Singaporean religious rehabilitation group* focuses on rehabilitating individuals involved in terrorism or radical activities.

International legislation: although UN treaties and resolutions are not binding, they remain in playing a leading role in establishing legal frameworks to combat terrorism. For example, the UNSC 1373 resolution requires member states to take measure to prevent terrorist activities. Furthermore, the implementation of a binding counter

terrorism strategy which provides comprehensive frameworks to address the various conditions under international terrorism.

Cybersecurity measures: developing and implementing national as well as international cyber security strategies to address cyber threats posed by terrorists involving risk assessments. In order to protect infrastructure such as transportation systems and communication networks a call to enhance cybersecurity measures from cyber-attacks. Governments may find the opportunity to work with private sector entities to implement such practices.

Timeline of Key Events

1881: Assassination of Tsar Alexander II considered an early act associated with terrorism.


20th Century: Significant technological developments and the rise of mass communication alter the landscape of international terrorism.

1934: Assassination of the King of Yugoslavia and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs prompts the League of Nations to establish a committee of experts to draft a Convention on Terrorism.

1963: Tokyo Convention addresses behaviour affecting the safety of flights.

1970: The Hague Convention responds to the hijacking of a plane en route from Rome.

1997: UN General Assembly enacts a convention declaring universal jurisdiction over the unlawful and intentional use of explosives in public places.



1999: International convention for the suppression of financing terrorism is concluded, requiring states to prevent the financing of terrorist groups.

Post-9/11 (2001): UN General Assembly and Security Council adopt resolutions addressing the criminality of terrorism, including Security Council Resolution 1373.

21st Century: Marked increase in acts of international terrorism, with notable events such as the 9/11 attacks.

2005: the 2005 London Bombings.

2016: 2016 Brussels Bombings serving as turning points for global cooperation.

Current Era: Ongoing efforts involve the enactment of various international conventions and protocols, reflecting a collective commitment to combatting terrorism.

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