TERRORISM- DEFINITION AND TYPES

Written by
Lieutenant Colonel Mustansar Mahmood
(Pakistan Army)
ABSTRACT OF RESEARCH PAPER ON “TERRORISM- DEFINITION AND TYPES”

Today, terrorism is one of the major threats, being faced by most of the world states. Unfortunately, absence of an agreeable definition is a major obstacle to meaningful international counter measures. An internationally acceptable definition is essential for effectively combating terrorism and for formulation of anti-terrorism laws.

During research, it is found that prevailing definitions are incomprehensive, vague, biased, and are based on self-interests of the state by which the definitions are given. These definitions do not differentiate between the freedom struggles/national liberation movements and terrorism. Definitions, which do allow pursuance of freedom struggles and guerrilla movements, are so ambiguous that these are likely to be exploited by the terrorists in the name of freedom struggles. For example, as per the definition proposed by the United States of America, acts of violence against civilians by the states may be the violations of international law but is not terrorism. It is feared that the prevalent concept of terrorism will affect all freedom struggles / movements of national liberation, being waged in different parts of the world.

However, fortunately, everyone agrees that indiscriminate terror, use of force for political, social, ethnic, economic and religious purposes, can never, in principle, be morally justified, whether committed by an individual, group, community or a state. This agreement will help to reach an acceptable definition and it is recommended that a comprehensive discussion be organized under the United Nations and definition be finalized, keeping aside the self-interests.
Furthermore, in the absence of agreed definition and international laws, many states are involved in state terrorism and are also sponsoring the same. Force is being used to suppress the basic human rights of freedom and that of social and economic justice. Due to globalization, social and economic injustice, totalitarian, religious and ethnic intolerance etc, various types of terrorism, such as, religious, anarchist, right wing, left wing and nationalist terrorism are on the increase. In future terrorist engagements, use of NBC resources and suicidal missions are likely to be the common phenomenon.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction 1

2. Part-1: Definitions of Terrorism
   a. Importance of defining terrorism 3
   b. Prevailing definitions of terrorism 5
   c. Analysis 7
      (1) Analysis of prevailing definitions 7
      (2) Various perspective about prevailing definitions 9
      (3) Complexities involved in defining terrorism 12
   d. Conclusions from the analysis and perspectives of prevailing definitions. 13
   e. Proposed definition and its acceptability 15

3. Part-2. Types of Terrorism
   a. State terrorism 17
   b. State sponsored terrorism 17
   c. Nationalist terrorism 19
   d. Religious terrorism 19
   e. Left and Right wing terrorism 21
   f. Anarchist terrorism 21
   g. Suicide terrorism 22
   h. NBC terrorism 23
   i. Cyber terrorism 23

4. Part-3: Recommendations 25
TERORISM-DEFINITION AND TYPES

INTRODUCTION

1. The terrorist attack on World Trade Center and Pentagon has given a new dimension to terrorism. The manner, in which the terrorist attack was launched, had shaken the entire world in general and United States of America in particular. The tragic event evoked a quick and united response from the world community under the umbrella of United States of America. However, consequently, the labeling of various organizations and groups as terrorists and the absence of an agreeable definition has complicated the problem of a united and effective response.

2. The statement, “One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter,” has once again come into limelight. The statement has become not only a cliché, but also one of the most difficult obstacles in coping with terrorism. In the struggle against terrorism, the problem of definition is a crucial element in the attempt to coordinate international collaboration, based on the currently accepted rules of traditional warfare.

3. The question of a definition of terrorism has haunted the debate amongst the states for decades. A first attempt to arrive at an internationally acceptable definition was made under the League of Nations, but the convention drafted in 1937 never came into existence. The UN Member States still have no agreed-upon definition.

4. In addition to the problem of an internationally acceptable definition, the events of September 11 have shown the new dimensions of terrorism. State-backed terrorism of the 1970’s and 1980’s, which grew out of observable and publicized protest movements, has mostly been joined or replaced by the new
terrorism. Its development at the micro level is more difficult to observe and analyze. The process that resulted in the political or religious extremist evolving into a terrorist has been foreshortened by easy access to technology and the materiel required committing the act of terror. It is now evident that terrorism has many forms/types and it can be executed in a variety of ways, using unimaginable means. The understanding of the various types of terrorism and methods of execution of terrorist acts is essential for evolving a suitable counter-terrorism strategy.

5. In short, an internationally acceptable and agreeable definition is necessary for a united and just response to the terrorist acts, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever these are executed. Similarly it is absolutely essential to understand the various types of terrorism and motive behind each one of these, for giving a viable response to these terrorist acts.

**AIM**

6. To analyze prevailing definitions of terrorism and its various types, with a view to propose a viable definition and offer few suggestions in this regard.
PART-1: DEFINITIONS OF TERRORISM

General
7. Scholars, politicians, security experts and journalists, all use a variety of definitions of terrorism. In their book Political Terrorism, Schmidt and Youngman cited 109 different definitions of terrorism. However, certain issues in the definition of terrorism still remain unresolved, some are¹: -
   a. The boundary between terrorism and other forms of political violence.
   b. Separating “terrorism” from simple criminal acts.
   c. The relationship between guerilla warfare and terrorism.

Importance of Defining Terrorism²
8. Defining terrorism is not merely a theoretical issue but an operative concern of the first order. Without answering the question of “what is terrorism”, no responsibility can be imposed on countries supporting terrorism or involved in state terrorism, nor can steps be taken to combat terrorist organizations and their allies.
9. In fact, the need for a definition of terrorism can be seen at almost every phase of contending with terrorism (diagram 1 below). Such phases include: -
   a. International Cooperation. An internationally accepted definition of terrorism is required to strengthen cooperation between countries in the struggle against terrorism and to ensure its effectiveness.
   b. Legislation and Punishment. A definition of terrorism is necessary for making laws, designed to ban terrorism and assistance to

² ibid
terrorism, as well as when setting minimum sentences for terrorists or confiscating their financial resources and supplies.

**IMPORTANCE OF DEFINING TERRORISM**

![Diagram 1]

- **States Sponsoring Terrorism.** States sponsoring terrorism use terrorist organizations as a means to their own ends. Terrorist organizations depend on the assistance they receive from such countries at the economic, military and operational levels. It is impossible to contend effectively with terrorism without severing the close tie between the terrorist organizations and the sponsoring
states. This tie, however, cannot be severed without agreeing on a broad definition of terrorism.

d. **Distinguishing between Terrorism and Freedom Struggles.** An internationally accepted definition of terrorism is required that will distinguish freedom fighting (which enjoys a measure of legitimacy among nations) from terrorist activity.

**Prevailing Definitions of Terrorism**

10. **League of Nations Convention (1937).** In this convention terrorism was defined as, “All criminal acts directed against a state and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or a group of persons or the general public”\(^3\).

11. A terrorist action involves violence, or force, or threat of force as a method of combat directed towards some political end. That end may be achieved through coercion, extortion, intimidation, or induction of compliance in some area of policy, addressed to a government, organizations or third parties. It is essentially criminal in character, where civilians, non-combatants, non-resistant, neutrals, or outsiders are the principal victims\(^4\).

12. Terrorism is a violent act aimed at influencing the political process\(^5\).

13. Terrorism is a political struggle, which operates by means of crimes\(^6\).

14. Terrorism is such a crime which is characterized by\(^7\): -
   
a. It has no organic connection with legitimate warfare.

   b. It has inhumane element.

---


\(^4\) Maxwell Taylor, The Terrorist, under the subject, “A Form of Definition”, page (P) 70.

\(^5\) Maxwell Taylor, The Terrorist, under the subject, “A Form of Definition”, P.3.

\(^6\) Henry Hyunwook Han, Terrorism, Political Violence and World Order, P.5.

\(^7\) Henry Hyunwook Han, Terrorism, Political Violence and World Order, P.6.
15. Terrorism is an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by semi-clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons. The immediate human victims of violence are generally chosen randomly or selectively from a target population, and serve as message generators.  

16. **United States Definition.** United States Code defines terrorism as,” premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by sub national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.  

17. **EU Definition.** Terrorist offences, include intentional acts, by their nature and context, which may be seriously damaging to a country or to an international organization, as defined under national law, where committed with the aim of:  
   a. Seriously intimidating a population, or  
   b. Unduly compelling a government or international organization to perform or to abstain from performing any act, or  
   c. Destabilizing or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or international organization.  

18. **Terrorism Research Center.** Terrorism research center of US has quoted following definitions given by various scholars and experts:  
   a. Terrorism is the use or threatened use of force designed to bring about political change. *Brian Jenkins*  

---

8 Same as footnote 4 above.  
9 Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f (d).  
b. Terrorism constitutes the illegitimate use of force to achieve a political objective when innocent people are targeted. *Walter Laqueur*

c. Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. *FBI Definition*

19. **Organization of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Proposed Definition.**
   Terrorism is an act carried out to achieve an inhuman and corrupt objective, involving threat to security of any kind and violation of rights acknowledged by religion and mankind.

![Diagram 2](image)

**Diagram 2**

**Analysis**

20. **Analysis of Prevailing Definitions**
   a. **Double Standards.** There is a vast amount of hypocrisy on the subject of terrorism. We all condemn it, except where our friends or
we are engaging in it. Then we ignore it, or gloss over it, or attach to it tags like “liberation” or “defence of the free world”\textsuperscript{12}.

b. **OIC’s Definition.** As per OIC, the fact that an operation is violent does not constitute a condition for considering it a case of terrorism. It necessitates ascertaining the nature of one act or another to determine whether it is a case of terrorism or not, which is not practicable. However definition does cater for the following:

(1) Acts of national resistance exercised against occupying forces and colonizers, which are recognized by international community, e.g., struggle of Palestinian against Israeli occupation forces.

(2) Retaliation against any aggression if there is no other alternative.

c. **EU Definition** The definition does not impose any restriction on freedom struggles/national liberation movements. However it is too broad and does not lead to any specific actions against terrorists.

d. **United States Definitions.** The definitions proposed by various departments and United States law, does not include acts of violence against civilians that are committed by the military forces of recognized states, but only those by individuals or non-state organizations. According to the U.S. violent acts by states might be violations of international law but are not terrorism. The violence carried out by the Israeli armed forces, that deploy such disproportionate firepower, tanks, helicopters and F-16s in civilian neighborhoods is not terrorism. Israel is using the consequent

---

\textsuperscript{12} Maxwell Taylor, The Terrorist. P 3.
violence for what is internationally recognized as an illegitimate purpose i.e., the maintenance of its occupation and the Palestinians are using it for what is recognized as a legitimate one i.e., the ending of the occupation.

e. Both state and non-state organizations can be involved in terrorism. Most countries in the world have the potential for undertaking terrorism whenever they become involved in violent acts aimed at influencing the political process (in suppressing a demonstration, for example). We do not usually think in these terms, of course, and we prefer to reserve the term terrorism for those states of which we disapprove.

f. There are abundant historical example of terrorist acts being performed by the civil, military, or security forces of liberal democratic states (for example, by certain French interrogators and policemen in Algeria, by certain U.S. soldiers and units in Vietnam and by certain individual members of British security forces operating in Africa and south east Asia).

g. If terrorism is defined strictly in terms of attacks on non-military targets, a number of attacks on military installations and soldiers' residences could not be included in the statistics.

21. **Various Perspective About Prevailing Definitions**

a. **Freedom struggle/National Liberation versus Terrorism.** The prevailing definitions do not distinguish between the terrorism and legitimate and internationally recognized freedom struggles, even when these are aimed at obtaining independence from foreign

---

occupation. The atrocities, being committed by the occupation forces and government machinery, are ignored and any retaliatory action of the sufferer is labeled as terrorist act. The Kashmir and Palestine are the glaring examples. The following major differences between the two concepts need due attention before finalizing any definition.

(1) **Freedom Struggles**

(a) It is a struggle that encompasses both political and armed struggle to achieve the right of self-determination/independence, as against terrorism, where violence is the only mean employed to achieve the goal.

(b) It does not resort to indiscriminate killing of civilian. In terrorism civilians are the main targets and violence is used for indiscriminate killing of people/destruction of property.

(2) Muslim world reiterates its absolute faith in the need to distinguish the brutal and unlawful terrorist activities perpetrated by individuals, by groups, or by states, from the legitimate struggle of oppressed and subjugated nations against foreign occupation of any kind.

b. **Terrorism or Self-defence.** All attacks on Israeli civilians, including those by Palestinian suicide bombers does not constitute terrorism, as many Arab states regard such acts as legitimate self-defence.
c. **Terrorism versus Guerrilla warfare**\(^1\) It is feared that the prevalent concept and understanding of terrorism will affect all the guerilla movements being waged in the different parts of the world. It is essential to differentiate between the two entirely different concepts.

(1) Paul Wilkinson distinguishes between terrorism and guerrilla warfare by stressing, “Guerrillas often do fight according to conventions of war, exchanging prisoners and respecting the rights of non-combatants. Terrorists place no limits on means employed and frequently resort to widespread assassination, the waging of ‘general terror’ upon the civilian population.

---

If an attack deliberately targets civilians, then that attack will be considered a terrorist attack, whereas, if it targets military or security personnel then it will be considered a guerrilla attack. It all depends on who the intended victims are. Refer to Diagram 3 above.

22. **Complexities Involved in Defining Terrorism**

   a. **Labeling Opponents as Terrorists.** Every international bloc, every state or indeed every community has enemies and opponents that seek to eliminate it, and, as the conflict becomes violent, each party tries to undermine the reputation of the other by attributing to it repulsive epithets, such as "anarchist", "criminal", “inhuman", "terrorist", and the like. We may even find that each of the two parties indulges in such allegations in order to carry out a plan, which involves the deprival of the other party of its rights on the pretext of collaborating with the enemy or plotting against lawful interests. To materialize this process, each party uses its international influence in order to win other parties over to its side either in action or in terms of support in international foray. Accordingly, feelings are influenced and sentiments are exploited for the implementation of such plans motivated by self-interest, under the banner of "anti-terrorism" for instance.

   b. **Terrorizing People.** For those who accept that terrorism is about terrorizing people, other questions arise. Does it include threats, as well as actual violence? A few years ago, for example, the Islamic

---

Army in Yemen warned foreigners to leave the country if they valued their lives but did not actually carry out its threat.

c. **Distinguishing between Terrorism and Warfare.** The state department regards attacks against "noncombatant targets" as terrorism but the "noncombatants" includes both civilians and military personnel who are unarmed or off duty at the time. In an article written by Brian Whitaker, following observations were made:

16

(1) The most lethal bombing in the Middle East was the suicide attack on USS Cole in Aden harbour, which killed 17 American sailors and injured 39 more. As the ship was armed and its crew on duty at the time, why is this classified as terrorism?

(2) A similar question arises with Palestinian attacks on Israeli settlements. Many settlers are armed (with weapons supplied by the army) and the settlements themselves - though they contain civilians - might be considered military targets because they are there to consolidate a military occupation.

**Conclusions from the Analysis and Perspectives of Prevailing Definitions**

23. It does not differentiate between the freedom struggles and terrorism. It is feared that the occupation forces of the states will exploit the present concept of definition, and freedom struggles will be crushed in the shade of terrorism. The

---

ambiguity is also likely to be exploited by the terrorists i.e., they will commit terrorist acts in the name of freedom struggles.

24. It does not lay a clear line between the terrorism and guerilla warfare, which will be used by the states for suppressing the normal guerilla movements.

25. Terrorist organization may make an attempt (Israel, USA and India etc feel that it is an attempt by terrorist) to justify the “means” (terrorism) in terms of the “end” (national liberation).

26. Terrorism is not, necessarily confined to clandestine groups, and if we see the term as referring to the attributes of certain kinds of acts, then of agencies, including states agencies, can show evidence of terrorist behavior\(^\text{17}\).

27. Common characteristics to all forms of terror are unpredictability, indiscriminateness and ruthless destructiveness.

28. Indiscriminate terror can never, in principle, be morally justified. But conversely many acts of rebellion, insurgency, and regular or irregular war which do not involve indiscriminate terrorization of the population, and which may be shown to be morally justified, are often labeled as terrorist acts by opposing parties.

29. The definition does not require that the terrorist organizations accept it as such. Nevertheless, reaching international agreement will be easier the more the definition takes into account the demands and viewpoints of terrorist organizations and their supporters\(^\text{18}\).

30. We must not be so absorbed in the horror and challenge of terrorism that we forget or ignore the circumstances that gave rise to it, and sustain it.

\(^{17}\) Maxwell Taylor, The Terrorist, P.40.

31. The idea that one person’s ‘terrorist’ is another’s ‘freedom fighter’ cannot be sanctioned. Freedom fighters or revolutionaries don’t blow up buses containing non-combatants; terrorist murderers do. Freedom fighters don’t set out to capture and slaughter school children; terrorist murderers do.

32. General consensus which emerges is that indiscriminate terror, use of force for political, social, ethnic, economic and religious purposes, can never, in principle, be morally justified, whether committed by an individual, group, community or a state.

**Proposed Definition**

33. Keeping in view the analysis and conclusions, terrorism can be defined on the following lines: -

   a. It is the unlawful use of force and violence against personnel and property by an individual, group, community or a state for intimidating the opposition for political, social, ethnic, economic and religious purposes. It involves following: -

     (1) Indiscriminate killing of civilians.

     (2) Indiscriminate killing of security forces/armed forces of a country, which are not the occupation forces.

     (3) Indiscriminate killing of security forces/armed forces of a country, which are occupation forces but which are not using the violent means (terrorism) to suppress the freedom struggles.

     (4) Indiscriminate destruction of buildings /infrastructure and other resources of the states, which are meant for the welfare and development of general public.
(5) Atrocities, mascaras, genocides and brutalities committed by the armed forces/security forces of the states, against its own people and freedom fighters with a view to suppress them.

b. **Acceptability of Proposed Definition and its Analysis**

(1) It includes individual, group, community or a state, so any one involved into terrorist acts can be brought to justice under the international law/conventions of anti-terrorism.

(2) It allows the perusal of freedom struggles and movements of national liberation; however it restricts the use of indiscriminate killing of humanity, especially the civilians.

(3) It does not impose any restriction on the guerilla movements, which are directed against the specific military targets.
PART-2: TYPES OF TERRORISM

State Terrorism

34. Use of violence by states in the furtherance of political ends. State agencies, just as much as secret societies or dissident groups commit terrorist acts in an attempt to produce or maintain political objectives\(^{19}\).

35. Terrorism used by states for repression of their own citizens, political opponents, and minorities, as well as against conquered peoples and enemies in war\(^{20}\).

36. **Example of State Terrorism**

   a. Mivtah Elohim, an Israeli-government specialist terror squad that raided Beirut in April 1973 and killed three Palestinian guerrilla leaders and over a dozen other people\(^{21}\).

   b. Most recent examples of state terrorism can be seen in Indian Occupied Kashmir and in Palestine. With the brutal use of force, both, Israel and India are trying to suppress the movements of independence and self-determination respectively.

State Sponsored Terrorism

37. State-sponsored terrorist groups are deliberately used by radical states as foreign policy tools—as Hoffman puts it, as "a cost-effective way of waging war covertly, through the use of surrogate warriors or 'guns for hire'\(^{22}\).

38. Acts of terrorism sponsored and launched by one country against another using violence and lethal force with a view to achieving long term political or strategic objectives. The aim of the country, which sponsors and abets terrorism

---

\(^{19}\) Maxwell Taylor, THE TERRORIST, P.41

\(^{20}\) Paul Wilkinson, Political Terrorism, P.22.

\(^{21}\) Paul Wilkinson, Political Terrorism, P.23.

and insurgency, can range from destabilization and weakening of a government or a central authority to the break up of the existing social and political order, in the targeted country\textsuperscript{23}.

39. **Examples of States Sponsoring Terrorism**
   a. According to State Department Iran is the primary state sponsoring terrorism. It also accuses Cuba, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria of sponsoring terrorism\textsuperscript{24}.

   b. RAW, Indian intelligence agency, sponsor terrorist acts in Pakistan.

   c. India blames ISI for sponsoring terrorism in Indian Held Kashmir and in India.

**Nationalist Terrorism**

40. Nationalist terrorists seek to form a separate state for their own national group, often by drawing attention to a fight for "national liberation" that they think the world has ignored. Nationalist terrorism can be difficult to define, since many groups accused of the practice insist that they are not terrorists but freedom fighters\textsuperscript{25}.

41. **Examples of Nationalist Terrorist Groups.** Nationalist terrorist groups include the Irish Republican Army and as per Israel the Palestine Liberation Organization. Others are the Basque Fatherland and Liberty, which seeks to create a Basque homeland separate from Spain, and the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, which seeks to create an independent Kurdish state apart from Turkey.

\textsuperscript{23} Major General Afsir Karim, avsm (retd), Counter Terrorism The Pakistan Factor, P.1

\textsuperscript{24} Henry Hyunwook Han, Terrorism, Political Violence and World Order, P.32.

\textsuperscript{25} Henry Hyunwook Han, Terrorism, Political Violence and World Order, P.174 and [Online] Available  http://www.terrorismanswers.com/terrorism/types.html
Religious Terrorism

42. Religious terrorists seek to use violence to further what they see as divinely commanded purposes, often targeting broad categories of foes in an attempt to bring about sweeping changes. Religious terrorism is characterized by compliance with belief. Sectarian killings, as practiced both by Nationalists and Loyalists in Northern Ireland fall into this category. As Hoffman puts it, religious terrorists can use limitless violence against an open-ended category of targets, that is, anyone who is not a member of the terrorist's religion or religious sect.\(^{26}\)

43. **Examples of Religious Terrorist Groups.** According to state department of America, religious terrorist groups include Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, the radical Jewish groups affiliated with the late Rabbi Meir Kahane etc.

Left Wing Terrorism

44. Left-wing terrorists are out to destroy capitalism and replace it with a communist or socialist regime. The Baader-Meinhof Group (Germany), the Japanese Red Army, the Weathermen (1970s America), and the Red Brigades (Italy) are examples of left-wing terrorist groups.\(^{27}\)

Right Wing Terrorism

45. These groups seek to do away with liberal democratic governments and create fascist states in their place.\(^{28}\) In February 2001, 200 members of Russia’s largest ultra-nationalist group marched in the capital with their Nazi-style armbands and stiff-armed salutes on display. Though it does not threaten the

---


\(^{28}\) Ibid
population at large, right-wing terrorism, enhanced by the huge coverage of modern media, represents mainly a political and psychological danger to the stability of democratic societies\textsuperscript{29}.

\textbf{Anarchist Terrorism}

46. Terrorism aimed at the production of limited change, designed perhaps to force the government to change its policy on particular issues. From the 1870s until about 1920, revolutionaries seeking to overthrow established governments launched a wave of bombings and assassinated a series of heads of state; one such victim was President William McKinley, killed in 1901 by a young Hungarian refugee influenced by anarchist sentiments. Some experts see signs of a new interest in anarchist violence arising out of the recent wave of protests against globalization\textsuperscript{30}.

\textbf{Suicide Terrorism}\textsuperscript{31}

47. \textbf{Definition}. It is defined as a politically motivated violent attack perpetrated by a self-aware individual who actively and purposely causes his own death through blowing himself up along with his chosen target.

48. \textbf{Examples}. Between July 1987 and February 2000, LTTE had carried out 168 suicide terror attacks in Sri-Lanka and India. It is the only organization that succeeded in assassinating two heads of states. Recent examples are the attacks by the Palestinian suicide bombers against the Israelis.

49. \textbf{Suicide Terrorism and Pakistan's Concerns}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{29} ibid
\item \textsuperscript{31} http://www.ict.org/inter-ter/frame.html
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
a. **Threat.** First ever suicide attack was launched in Pakistan in May this year. It should serve as eye opener to the concerned government agencies.

b. **Response.** Counter measures proposed in Para 13 g (2) (b) are equally applicable here.

**NBC Terrorism**\(^{32}\).

50. A NBC terrorist attack is an incident in which a terrorist organization uses a nuclear device or chemical/biological weapons 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.

**Cyber Terrorism**

51. It is defined as the use of computing resources to intimidate or coerce others. An example of cyber-terrorism could be hacking into a hospital computer system and changing someone’s medicine prescription to a lethal dosage as an act of revenge\(^{33}\).

\(^{32}\) [http://www.ict.org/inter-ter/frame.html](http://www.ict.org/inter-ter/frame.html)

\(^{33}\) [http://www.ict.org/inter-ter/frame.html](http://www.ict.org/inter-ter/frame.html)
PART-3: RECOMMENDATIONS

52. **International Conference under UN.** General consensus that indiscriminate terror, use of force for political, social, ethnic, economic and religious purposes, can never, in principle, be morally justified, whether committed by an individual, group, community or a state, can be used as a basis for finalizing a definition. For this purpose an international conference should be convened under the United Nations in order to discuss the subject of international terrorism and to finalize a definition.

53. **Differentiating between Terrorism and Freedom Struggles.** Terrorism should be differentiated from the struggle of peoples for their acknowledged national causes and the liberation of their territories.

54. **Anti-Terrorism Laws.** After finalizing an acceptable and agreeable definition, international anti-terrorism conventions and agreements should be revised so as to make them more adequate, to change national Judicial systems accordingly, to strengthen financial systems so as to detect terrorist groups’ financial transactions better, to accelerate the process of identifying terrorists, and tighten security measures.

55. **Avoid Double Standard.** International community should refrain from applying double standards as far as terrorism is concerned.

56. **Elimination of Causes of Terrorism.** The real cure of terrorism in general and acts of individual terrorism in particular consists, in removing the conditions/causes that have brought it about. Islam, in its treatment of all cases of deviation, strongly stresses this aspect. It seeks first to reform the social atmosphere and eliminate all inducements to crime. Therefore we should try to eliminate the basic causes of terrorism.
57. **Provision of Basic Rights.** We must seek the prevalence of a just system and prevent aggression and encroachment upon other peoples' rights. Under such circumstances when a person allows himself to be induced to commit terrorism or aggression, the whole mankind will stand up against him. If, however, we fail to fulfill this standard, all our treatments will be local and palliative, though they may alleviate pain, they will not eradicate the cause of the disease.

**CONCLUSION**

58. We face an essential need to reach a definition of terrorism that will enjoy wide international agreement, thus enabling international operations against terrorist organizations. The definition of terrorism will be the basis and the operational tool for expanding the international community’s ability to combat terrorism. It will enable legislation and specific punishments against those perpetrating, involved in, or supporting terrorism, and will allow the formulation of a code of laws and international conventions against terrorism, terrorist organizations, states sponsoring terrorism, and economic firms trading with them. Thus international community should refrain from double standards and self interests while dealing with the subject of terrorism.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

2. Henry Hyunwook Han, Terrorism, Political Violence and World Order.
4. Major General Afsir Karim, avsm (retd), Counter Terrorism the Pakistan Factor.

Magazines

5. Strategic Studies, an article, “Defining Terrorism” by Dr. Shireen M. Mazari.

Articles

Web Sites (internet)


13. Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f (d).


17. http://www.ict.org/inter-ter/frame.html