

The Security Council: Topic A Primary Sources

Addressing International Terrorism

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September of 2006. The strategy is updated every two years to reflect changes and developments in global security and terrorism, but it is based on four pillars: 1) addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; 2) preventing and combatting terrorism; 3) building states' capacity and strengthening the role of the United Nations; 4) Ensuring human rights and the rule of law. Unlike the global war on terror, led by the United States, and supported by a broad coalition of Western and non-western countries, which seeks a military solution to the issue of terrorism, the United Nations strategy is primarily focused on eliminating the conditions that make terrorism more prevalent.

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

Source #2: International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

Passed in 2005, the Convention sought to criminalize acts of nuclear terrorism. The convention reaffirms the rights of all countries to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, but reiterates commitments made under the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material of 1980 to safeguard nuclear facilities and materials. The Convention, in Article 2, goes on to define nuclear terrorism as any person who posses or makes a nuclear device with the intent to cause serious bodily harm or damage to property or the environment; or the possession or use of radioactive material or damage to a nuclear facility with the intent to cause bodily harm, substantial damage to property or the environment or compel person or state to take a certain action.

https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2005/04/20050413%2004-02%20PM/Ch_XVIII_15p.pdf

Source #3: Iran Responds to US, labels CENTCOM terrorist

State-sponsored terrorism is an incredibly dangerous problem in the Middle East and South Asia. Many countries believe that Iran is a leading sponsor of terrorist activities. After the United States decided to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization, Iran responded by labeling the United States Central Command, a part of the American military, as a terrorist organization. By designating the Revolutionary Guard will bring additional sanctions to the group. This is the first time that the United States has labeled part of a government as a terrorist organization as it usually reserves such a distinction and the sanctions that come with it for non-state actors.

<https://www.apnews.com/f635668cc3d6478984ddcb39dd7c78c8>

Source #4: United Nations designated terrorist groups and targeted sanctions

The Security Council has designated 4 organizations as terrorist groups since 1999, and placed sanctions on each. Resolution 1267 designated the Taliban and its associates, namely al-Qaida, as terror groups. In 2015, the Security Council revisited the issue by designating ISIL and the Al Nusrah front (ANF) as terror groups as well. Despite these designations, organizations like al-Qaida have continued to operate, sometimes with impunity. However, these designations and the sanctions by the Security Council are important as they have helped countries better restrict and prevent these groups from funding themselves and their actions.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-1/key-issues/UN-designated-terrorist-groups.html>

Source #5: Security Council Members Call for Updating Sanctions Lists to Ensure Constant Vigilance against threat of Terrorist Attacks

Given the existing sanctioning regime in place against ISIL and al-Qaeda, the main concern of many of the representatives to the Security Council has been the threat posed by foreign terrorists relocating to areas previously cleared of al-Qaeda and ISIL. Many members specifically want these foreign fighters to be added to the sanctions list so as to try and limit their movement more effectively. However, despite the interest in adding foreign fighters to the lists, the Chinese representative spoke in favor of a more impartial process for delisting and adding individuals to the sanction list. Some members also spoke about the need for the Security Council to better handle far-right extremists.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13814.doc.htm>

Source #6: Introduction to International Terrorism

This document from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime outlines the history of international terrorism. The document starts by tracing its historical roots and outlining the Four Waves of Modern Terrorism; the first being the anarchist wave, followed by the anti-colonial wave, the New Left, and concluding with the Religious Wave, in which the world is currently in. This is a useful document because it highlights how the United Nations, and its predecessor, the League of Nations, have tried to manage international terrorism.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/e4j/18-04932_CT_Mod_01_ebook_FINALpdf.pdf