# Terrorism In The New Era And Human Rights Issues Involved: An Overview

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## Abstract

Every act of terrorism infringes on the human rights of people. To counter this it requires the development of counter terrorism. Strategies that seek to prevent acts of terrorism and prosecute those responsible for such criminal acts and promote and protect human rights and the rule of law.

The closing decade of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century witnessed great political and economic changes in the world. The fall of Berlin wall and unification of Germany, disappearance of communist governments from Eastern Europe, disintegration of USSR etc. changed the world political order . It signaled the end of cold war and movement of world from bipolar system to a unipolar system with domination of America. In the economic field the liberalization and globalization policies and establishment of WTO as world trade regulating authority created more economic insecurity than confidences in majority of the nations and among the people.

There was confusion among western European powers regarding the security system of Europe. European Union preferred establishing its own security system while Britain and some other countries favored security guarantee under NATO. The aggression of Iraq on Kuwait in 1990 and the resultant operation Desert Storm led by UNO and USA created international tensions. There after America tried to contain rouge states like Iraq, North Korea, and Libya etc. The terrorist attack on world trade center on 11th September 2001 had something to with future international order. It led to America declaring war on terror and confronting those states which were allegedly promoting terrorism and challenging international stability.

US intervened in Afghanistan with the objective of removing the Taliban government and eradicating the Al-Qaida terrorist network. US suspended Taliban regime shielding Al-Qaida. After defeating Taliban regime in Afghanistan us invaded Iraq in 2003 to eliminate Saddam Hussain but the direct or indirect effect of invasion of Iraq and killing of Saddam Hussain was bolstering of terrorism instead of extinguishing it.

The US policy on war on terror instead of eliminating terrorist groups created a situation of proliferation of terror network. Terror groups and networks periodically surfaced in the Middle East, south Asia, Western Europe and Africa. Sunni radicalism with its origin in Saudi Arabia spread to countries in the Middle East and to other parts of the world including Afghanistan, Palestine, Bangladesh etc. Most of the North African and central African countries were also affected by it. It became a major security concern for India as also for the west.  Pakistani Talibanisam operating from the northern mountainous region of the country is a serious security concern for both Afghanistan and India. They are also aiming at taking over of nuclear armed Pakistan.

India is gradually being affected by the operation of the foreign funded and assisted terror groups. The south Indian states which were known for its communal harmony have been getting communalized and destabilized gradually as a result of flow of funds from some foreign countries and groups who were promoting terrorism.

The ushering of the 21$^{st}$ century also witnessed the emergence of many new terrorist groups based on religious fundamentalism. There is a manifold increase in the death toll from terrorism since its beginning in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Palastein, Afghanistan etc. Some terrorist since its beginning in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Palastein, Afghanistan etc. Some terrorist groups like IS and Boko haram emerged a deadliest groups in the world. Majority of terrorist deaths in recent times have been reported from the countries like Iraq, Syria etc. The deadly terrorist groups currently operating in the world includes ISIS and Boko haram.

**Rise and fall of ISIS**

The phenomenal rise Islamic state of Iraq and Syria and their controlling of large territory of Iraq and guiding terrorist operation in other parts of the world created serious security concern and threat to world peace. By 2014 about one third of Iraqi and Syrian territory had fallen under the control of IS.  Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq was under the control of IS. It is regained by Iraqi force with support from US and UN force recently; but after a long struggle and serious losses to humans and materials. IS spread its wings to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, North Africa, Nigeria, Afghanistan and to many other countries.

IS represented a new brand of jihadism. Its leader Abu Baker Bagdadi is the self-appointed calipha or supreme ruler of Muslims worldwide. This ideology is an extension of global jihadi movement. The group benefited from the sectarian conflict between sunni and shia Muslims of Iraq and Syria and they consider shias as infidels and a sect to be either converted or exterminated. The same attitude they followed towards Christian, Jews etc.

The IS operation and civil war in Syria , Libya etc. led to mass migration or flow of refugees to European countries to save their life and in search of new pastures. The crisis caused by huge influx of refugees from the Middle East has developed as a political theme and issue in most of the western European countries.

A combined operation of Iraqi Govt. and the American troops stationed there with the support of Khurdish forces and Yazidi volunteers succeeded in eliminating IS threat to a great extent from Iraq. At the same time, military operation conducted by Syrian Govt. with the support of Russia in Syria was capable of eliminating ISIS threat in that country. In the similar fashion the Lybian and Egyptian governments also carried out similar military operation in the countries. Recently America succeeded in killing the IS chief Abu Baker Bagdadi which is a great set back to muslin terrorist organizations worldwide. Anyhow, the killing of Bin laden or Abu Baker Al Bagdadi will not be the end of religion based terrorism in the world. Elimination of leaders may not necessarily lead to the end of terrorist ideology. Terrorism and terrorist groups may erupt at any time and at any place. There needs a retrospection from the part of terrorist organizations about the efficacy of terrorist mean to solve the problem or issues that they want to address.

Human Rights Issues Involved

Terrorism clearly has a strong and direct impact on human rights. It aims at the very destruction of human rights, democracy and rule of law. The destructive impact of terrorism on human rights and security has been recognized at the highest level of United Nations. UN lists out some of the important human rights issues caused by the unscrupulous act of terrorist groups.

They are given below

- Terrorism threatens the dignity and security of human beings everywhere and endangers or takes innocent lives.
- It has an adverse effect on the establishment of the rule of law and destabilizes legitimately constituted governments.
- It has links with transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering, trafficking in arms, illegal transfer of nuclear, chemical and biological materials and the consequent commission of serious crimes.
- It has adverse consequences for the economic and social development of the state.
- It threatens territorial integrity and security of the states and also poses a threat to inter-national peace and security.

Human rights discussion always stresses role of the states in countering terrorism and addressing the problems of victims. It is the duty of the state to protect their citizens and to safeguard their human rights. In order to fulfill these obligations governments needs to establish effective criminal justice and law enforcement systems. The states have a right and duty to take effective counter terrorism measures and to prevent and deter future terrorist actions and also to prosecute those that are responsible for carrying out such acts. But

countering of terrorism poses grave challenges to the protection and promotion of human rights. The rights of those who have suffered at the hands of terror machine should be addressed properly.

## Conclusion

Every act of terrorism infringes on the human rights of people. To counter this it requires the development of counter terrorism. Strategies that seek to prevent acts of terrorism and prosecute those responsible for such criminal acts and promote and protect human rights and the rule of law.

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