

Terrorism- A Global Challenge

Group 1

[The definition of Terrorism]

Lately, a lot of military actions are claimed as acts of terrorism, as a result of the lack of a universal definition of terrorism. States and military organizations name each other terrorists, since states and military organizations have particular interests such as religious, economical and political power. There are two different ways of thinking, one believe that each country must have its own definition of terrorism because some major powers may take advantage of the fact of that lack of universal legal definition, on the other hand another point of view believe that we should have a universal definition because developed and developing countries should obey the same international law.

We have now agreed on a collective definition, terrorism is a very complicated issue but with the little knowledge we have gathered during the course of all the lectures, we would like to define terrorism as any act or the threat of violence by states, groups or individuals who deliberately target civilians or noncombatants in order to influence the behavior and actions of targeted publics and governments. According to this definition, we would like to follow the following steps in critically analyzing terrorism namely causes of terrorism, how to counter terrorism, suggestion and conclusion.

[The Causes of Terrorism]

According to the lecture we had the chance to listen to during the seminar. We conclude that there is no one single cause which consequences in terrorism.

In the lecture of Prof. Thakur we heard about 5 categories of root causes of terrorism; lack of democracy, group grievance under injustice, intractable conflicts, poverty and intercivilization suspicions.

There is always terrorism everywhere, even in the democratic society where we currently are. Consequently, it is impossible to let the terror disappear from the reality. What we can do is to reduce the chance of terrorism occurring.

As time changes, causes of terrorism also vary. It is difficult to

figure it out clearly. However, according to this global seminar, we proclaim that there are several potential causes which might bring the terrorism.

There are as followings, the combinations of conflicts of religion, inequality, poverty, failure of politics, corrupt politics and lacks of political freedom and civil liberties as well as authority of the government. These matters connect to other issues and expand to new causes, which make the situations even worse. Over the many reasons, we pointed to two main reasons, one is the lack of capability of governance and the other is lack of communication.

We believe that the major cause of terrorism is the lack of the liberty to have its own opinion and share with the others. Like as we look at Israel and Palestine, you see why the tragedy occurs over the number of decades. That is because the rest of the world does not listen to the Palestine but the Israel. So the people who want the attention, the Palestine, commit the terror over being international criminals, and even their own lives taken away.

[The Counter Terrorism]

We would like to classify counter terrorism methods in two ways. Namely “short term counter terrorism measures” and “long term terrorism measures.”

SHORT TERM

Knowing that present day terrorist operates as network, it is essential to look into how they finance their activities. And also, without funds, terrorists’ organization cannot function effectively. So, as part of effort to counter terrorism, their fund network should be looked into, and stopped if possible. Although locating their funds is huge task, because it is known that they transfer funds in the name of their wives or other close family relatives. This makes their funds a little bit difficult to locate. But if terrorism must be countered, one of the ways to do it is to locate their funds and stop their funds network transfer.

LONG TERM

Under the long term causes of countering terrorism, the following measures should be considered.

1. Capable state power: The need for capable state power cannot be over emphasized. This is a very important measure to use in countering terrorism. Considering the present Iraqi situation, it is clear to us that the lack of a strong and capable state power can give rise to political instability thereby living the civil society without law and order. In this state of political instability, civil society lacks social basic amenities. And this can give rise to poverty, lack of social security etc. Then, this leaves civil society vulnerable to terrorists' activities.
2. Bridging the gap between developed and developing countries: Although poverty is not known as a cause of terrorism, it can be classified as a factor of the cause of terrorism. So, in addressing this issue, positive steps must be taken in addressing the huge gap between the economic difference of developed and developing countries. This is a very difficult task, but it is a measure that must be carried out in countering terrorism.

If this gap is bridged, there is the possibility that the civil society in these countries will live in peace and harmony thereby discouraging any form or act of terrorism.

[Suggestion]

We will suggest that the media being a medium of information take a more responsible role in relaying actual information to the civil society. If this actual information is passed to the grass-root of civil society it can help in mobilizing the civil society. In this way, terrorism can be fought locally, regionally, and internationally.

[Conclusion]

In conclusion, terrorism is neither caused by one factor nor factors but a combination of factors. Critically looking at terrorism, it is something that cannot be eradicated but it can be reduced to a minimum level. How this is done without the violation of human rights laws determines whether it is counter-terrorism measure or a terrorist act in itself.

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