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Terrorism and Suicide Attacks: The Crime to Eliminate Human Kind

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ABSTRACT

The human cost of terrorism has been faced by every country and every citizen of the world-destroying every individual's human rights to live peacefully without any threat to their life. Terrorism clearly has devastated many lives and properties over the years. Terrorist groups like ISIS, Al-Qaeda many others have put a permanent fear in the life of civilians who are busy earning their daily bread and butter. Suicide bombers are being used to sacrifice their lives in the name of religion and martyrs to destroy the lives of more thousand, aircrafts are being hijacked and lives and properties are being destroyed due to terrorist activities. Even the United Nations family has been terrorized and suffered from human loss with the attack on its office in Baghdad in 2003. And the attack in 2001 on the World Trade Center has left the world terrorized forever. This paper has dealt in detail with terrorism and the terrorist groups dwelling into some of its past attacks. Giving adequate importance to 'Suicide Bombings' and 'Aircraft Hijackings' which directly and widely affects international law. The paper has tried to highlight the United Nations fight against terrorism and the various conventions that the UN has constructed to effectively fight terrorism.

Keywords: *Terrorism, Al-Qaeda, Suicide bombings, Aircraft hijacking, International law, Human rights.*

I. TERRORIST AND TERRORISM

Terrorist attacks have threatened the lives of thousands since time immemorial, though the international community has yet to adopt a legal definition for terrorism, we all know what it is because every time a terrorist attack happens every civilian's life in every country is in danger. Terrorism is commonly the act of violence that targets civilian's life in the pursuit of political and ideological aims. The terrorist attacks are done by terrorist groups who are trained extensively before carrying out any attacks.² With the advent of technology, terrorists have been using the internet as an easy and effective way of communication all over the

¹ Author is a student at Amity University, Kolkata, India.

² Willem Schinkel, 'Theory and Practice On the concept of terrorism', Contemporary Political Theory Vol. 8, 2, 176-198.

world. The internet has helped to carry out such communications to happen unanimously without getting caught.

The age of information and the internet has not only affected the types of targets and weapons terrorists choose but also the ways in which the terrorist groups are carrying out their operations. Terrorists are using computer software, telecommunication devices to plan, propagate, and conduct their terrorist activities. A lot of time simple e-commerce websites and even online interactive video games are used as an undercover communication system by terrorist groups.³ The most interesting example of a terrorist network was created by Osama bin Laden, the founder of the 'Al Qaeda' terrorist group.⁴ Bin Laden has been known to have and operated a complex terrorist network of communication carried on through the internet. There are reports that their communication system combined elements of a 'hub and spoke' structure where the node of communication with Bin Laden and his close associates were made directly, and a 'wheel structure' where communication was done without any reference to Bin Laden.⁵ Other than this all kinds of large monetary transactions were made through unanimous bank accounts over the internet under the dark web from different parts of the country, and cash transactions were also quite common.

The United Nations General Assembly's Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism includes criminal act to provoke a state or create terror among the civilians.⁶ It also highlighted the fact that to conduct any terrorist activity, financing is a very important ingredient in the whole process a terrorist attack is set up. In 2004, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and Security Council Resolution⁷ which was initially made in 1999, mentioned several key elements and identified the nature and context of terrorism and described terrorism as any action to create a global threat and cause bodily harm and death to intimidate and scare a population or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing a certain act. Terrorism has seen an immense rise within the years 2010 and 2014, resulting in deaths increasing from 8,000 to 44,000. According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), terrorism activities increased by 80% in 2014 and were recorded to be the highest. The GTI also mentioned that terrorist attacks have increased nine-fold since the year 2000. Among all of

³ Michele Zanini & Sean J.A. Edwards, *The Networking Of Terror In The Information Age*, Chapter Two

⁴ Designated as a terrorist group by the United Nations Security Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union, and various countries.

⁵ Indictment testimony from U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, United States of America vs. Osama bin Laden et al., 98 Cr. and S(2) 98 Cr. 1023 (LBS)

⁶ 1994, the General Assembly's Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, Res 49/60, 49 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 303, U.N. Doc. A/49/49 (1994).

⁷ Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, S.C. Res 1566 (2004)

the attacks, 57% of the attacks and 78% of all deaths were concentrated in only five countries, Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria.⁸ The recent Global Terrorism Index of 2020 has reported 13,826 deaths in 2019 due to terrorism and has seen a 15% decrease than the prior years. The countries which have been affected the most are Sub-Saharan Africa, Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka (where there has been an increase in terrorism deaths from 208), and Afghanistan.⁹

The three most deadly terrorist groups operating at present are; the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant/Syria (ISIL/ISIS), this is an extreme Sunni Jihadist organization and occupies large parts of the Middle East including portions of Iraq, Syria, and Palestine and have affiliated groups all over the world also in the Western countries. The ISIS is known for the executions they have carried out and world-wide terrorist attacks. The ground attack in Syria, in 2015 being one of them. The ISIS is also known for their slave markets where they capture and trade women.¹⁰ The second-largest terrorist group is the Al-Qaeda. For nearly 30 years it has been one of the biggest terrorist groups in the world. It is a militant Sunni Islamist multi-national organization. It was founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden and several other Arab and Islamic volunteers. The organization has been designated to be one of the top and dangerous terrorist groups by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the European Union, China, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, India, and various other countries.¹¹ Al-Qaeda has been responsible for the 1939 World Trade Center bombings, 1998 US. Embassy bombings in Africa, the 9/11 attacks on U.S. soil in 2001, and many other terrorist attacks. Osama bin Laden was declared to be the most wanted man in the world after the 9/11 attack in the United States which killed almost 3,000 Americans and injured 25,000 people.¹² Osama bin Laden was captured and killed in Pakistan in May 2011 by the American soldiers.¹³ Since then Ayman al-Zawahiri has been the successor of Bin Laden and the leader of Al-Qaeda. Boko Haram is another large terrorist group situated in the West African region. It is a branch of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Syria (ISIS), the group is known to have close ties with Al-Qaeda. Muhammad Yusuf is the founder of the terrorist organization and was once one of the deadliest terrorist groups according to the Global Terrorism Index 2015. The militant Islamist Boko Haram is

⁸ Global Terrorism Index 2015, Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

⁹ Global Terrorism Index 2020, Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

¹⁰ CNN Editorial Research, ISIS Fast Facts, CNN International, Updated 1508 GMT (2308 HKT) Sept 6, 2020.

¹¹ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Al-Qaeda-Islamic militant organization, Encyclopedia Britannica, Feb 6, 2019.

¹² Peter L. Bergen, *September 11 attacks*, Encyclopedia Britannica, September 10, 2020.

¹³ HISTORY.COM EDITORS, *Osama bin Laden*, History.com, Dec 16, 2009.

on a war to overthrow the government and create a complete Islamic state.¹⁴ In 2011, Boko Haram took responsibility for bombing the headquarters of the United Nations in Nigeria. Other than these terrorist organizations many other such organizations are operating from all corners of the world, like the Taliban, Jaish-e-Muhammad (JEM), Asbat-al-Ansar (ANA), and many others.¹⁵ Many of these work in close ties with the big terrorist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

II. SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Suicide bombings and attacks have been a part of history for a long time. There is evidence of suicide terrorisms from the first century¹⁶ and also in World War II.¹⁷ But the September 11 attacks in 2001 on the United States have seen the extent of damage that suicide attacks can have. Since then suicide attacks have escalated very quickly and dangerously. During 2002 and 2004, there have been 472 attacks in 22 countries which left more than 7000 dead and innumerable wounded. About 80% of the suicide attacks occurred after the September 11 attacks on the United States. Suicide attacks in 2004 ranged to be maximum than any other previous years.¹⁸ The Iraq attack between 2003 and 2010 proved to be deadly with attacks almost averaging to be more than once per day.¹⁹ On 7th July 2005, one of the worst terrorist attacks on British soil took place, when four suicide bombers carrying sacks of explosives attacked central London, which killed 52 people and injured the life of many hundreds. The four of the terrorists in the attack were identified to be Mohammad Siddique Khan, Shehzad Tanweer, Germaine Lindsay, and Ross Parry.²⁰ 90% of all the suicide attacks between 1981 and 2006 were mostly clustered in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, some Palestine territories, and Sri Lanka.²¹ And, as of 2015 more than half of the suicide attacks occurred in mainly the three Muslim countries of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.²² The Global Terrorism Index has seen a sharp rise in the suicide attacks from 2003 and it reached

¹⁴BBC NEWS, *Nigeria's Boko Haram group explained - in 60 seconds*, Video produced by Jasmine Coleman, 6th May 2014

¹⁵US Department Of State, *Foreign terrorist organization*, Bureau of Counter terrorism.

¹⁶ Julian Madsen, *Suicide Terrorism: Rationalizing the Irrational*, Strategic Insights, Vol 3, Iss 8 (August 2004).

¹⁷Japanese Kamikaze Pilots

¹⁸ Scott Atran, *The Moral Logic and Growth of Suicide Terrorism*, waybackmachine.

¹⁹ Katherine R. Seifert & Clark R. McCauley, *Suicide Bombers in Iraq, 2003-2010: Disaggregating Targets Can Reveal Insurgent Motives and Priorities*, Bryn Mawr College Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College (2004)

²⁰ *7 July London bombings: What happened that day?*, BBC News July 3, 2015.

²¹ From 1987 to 2001, the Tamil Tigers launched 76 suicide bombing attacks in Sri Lanka and India, killing a total of 901 people, including two prominent national leaders: India's former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lanka's President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 (Pape, 2005).

²²Riaz Hassan, *What Motivates the Suicide Bombers?*, YaleGlobal, Sept 3, 2009.

approximately 400 cases in 2011.²³

Other than these there are thousands of instances and information available globally for suicide attacks that have happened over time. In the context of suicide terrorism, it is very important to understand what suicide terrorism is and why such actions take place. Suicide terrorism is sacrificing one's life by being a part of the terrorist attack and contributing to it for the purpose of destroying or attempting to destroy a target for political and religious gains or agendas. The attacks are mostly carried out by using explosives that the terrorist wears or carries with themselves or plants in vehicles, mostly in between a public place where it can go smoothly unnoticed. Suicide operations are more attractive and functional than any other form of terrorism because it results in many casualties, causes extensive damage, guarantees the appropriate time and place and can be carried out in a public place among a lot of people, and requires no escape plan which tends to leave very little evidence as to connect with the actual terrorist head.²⁴ In a research paper by Philip Thomas Holdredge²⁵, the Durkheimian theory of suicide terrorism has been explained in a quite distinguished manner, there it has been mentioned that most of the suicide attackers are made to believe that it is the person's duty to carry out such an act in the name of honor or of particular religious propaganda.²⁶

Today suicide attacks are being used as a massive stage for huge media coverage and a means for political awakening. Most of these attacks are based on the root cause of a clean strategic global objective rather than a religion or ideological reason.²⁷

One of the biggest examples of such attack is the agenda of Al-Qaeda, which was primarily driven by Osama-bin-Laden whose main agenda of terrorism was to drive out any hand of the United States from Saudi Arab, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, and ultimately from all the Muslim countries, completely.²⁸ Scott Atran in his paper²⁹ studied in depth the paradigm for suicide attacks and mentioned that most of the bombers are from the largely secular and educated middle class rather than people from poverty-stricken areas and are derived mostly because of the underlying difference between the first world countries and the third world countries especially the Muslim countries.³⁰ The productivity of suicide bombers has been considered

²³ Michael C Horowitz, *The rise and spread of suicide bombing*, Annual Review of Political Science Vol. 18:69-84 (2015).

²⁴ Julian Madsen, *Suicide Terrorism: Rationalizing the Irrational*, Strategic Insights, Vol 3, Iss 8 (August 2004).

²⁵ Philip Thomas Holdredge, *A Durkheimian Explanation for Suicide Terrorism*.

²⁶ Durkheim, 1979, 219.

²⁷ University of Chicago political scientist Robert Pape, *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*

²⁸ On Sept 11, 2001, for example, 15 of the 19 suicide attackers came from Saudi Arabia, where nearly 5,000 U.S. combat troops were billeted at the time, with 7,000 more stationed elsewhere on the Arabian peninsula.

²⁹ Scott Atran, *The Moral Logic and Growth of Suicide Terrorism*, The Washington Quarterly.

³⁰ suicide bombers come disproportionately from among the largely secular and educated middle classes that aspire to freedom and greater opportunities, yet see their hopes stymied by corrupt dictators and one-party elites

to be more effective and worthwhile. A suicide bomber is considered a martyr who engages in Jihad or the holy war and is believed to serve a greater purpose and set an example for others to take part in such activities if they believe in getting justice, gaining freedom, and other religious beliefs. They are trained and mind-washed to be calm under extreme pressure and carry out their assigned duty. Suicide bombers are also used for harder and single targets like the president or the prime minister or some important person of a country as it is easy for a single person to get close and kill the attack at the perfect time without bringing in much suspicion.^{31,32}

III. AIRCRAFT HIJACKING

An aircraft crime or aircraft hijacking is the act committed on-board in an aircraft, unlawfully, with the use of arms and bombs to threaten the life of the people on the aircraft in order to negotiate with a country or government for any gains or use the aircraft as a means of suicide terrorism to threaten countries, governments, and the people. Aircraft hijacking is used as a weapon of terrorism for a long time. It is not only a means to terrorize or destroy the lives and properties of many but also when we look into terrorism through aircraft hijacking we directly look within the range of international law which makes the whole international community unsafe. The routes of airplanes are such that they are bound to cross international borders in most of the cases, resulting in any crime involving an aircraft results in an international crime and comes under the purview of international law which results in threatening not just one country but the whole world.³³

If we look into the history of aircraft hijacking, the first recorded aircraft hijacking was on 21st February 1931 in Peru.³⁴ Since then a lot of cases of hijacking has taken place all over the globe.³⁵ Most of these airplane hijacking followed a pattern to come in the negotiation of a certain kind between the terrorist and the government of a country or to come to terms with some international agreement and other reasons that the terrorist wanted to accomplish. But, the September 11 attack on the United States and the World Trade Center changed the normal pattern of hijacking. Four aircraft, American Airlines flight 11, United Airlines flight 175, United airlines flight 93 and American Airlines flight 77 were hijacked by the Al-Qaeda terrorists and used as a suicide weapon³⁶ when two of the planes crashed in New York twin

acting in collusion with U.S. oil and other interests.

³¹Dr. Maria Alvanou, *Terrorism through Suicide Bombings*.

³²**Professor Swaran Singh, *The assassination of Indira Gandhi, Warwick Medical School.***

³³S. K. Agrawala, *Aircraft Hijacking and International Law*, JALC Vol 39 Iss4 Article 8 (1973).

³⁴Dugdale-Pointon, T, *Hijacking*, June 14, 2005.

³⁵*History of airliner hijackings*, BBC NEWS, Oct 3, 2001.

³⁶Priscilla D. Jones, *The First 109 Minutes: 9/11 and the U.S. Air Force*, Air Force History and Museum

towers 110 store building World Trade Centre (WTC), the third plane crashed in Washington at Pentagon and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, after the passengers in the flight tried to overpower the hijackers.³⁷ These devastating attacks resulted in mass casualties and left the world terrorized forever. Over 3000 people died that day including 265 people on the four aircraft and 2,606 people in the World Trade Center and 125 people in the Pentagon and left innumerable people injured.³⁸

It occurred to the international community that it is very important to bring special major conventions, rules, regulations, laws, and protocols because aircraft hijackings are not just a matter of a certain country but these attacks repeatedly result in a breach of the international law and disturb the global peace leaving every people of the world terrorized.

The Tokyo Convention of 1963, the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft negotiated under the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) was signed at Tokyo on 14th September 1963, and came into force on 4th December 1969. The Tokyo Convention has been stipulated to follow the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft³⁹ under which Article 1 (a)⁴⁰ deals with penal offenses and offenses that threaten the safety of people while the aircraft is in flight Clause 2 deals with offenses committed while in a different area and state or above any high seas, or any other areas outside the territory of any state. There are a total of 26 articles in the act and its main objective is to provide safety of passengers on board and applies only toward civil aircrafts. The drawback of this act was that it had several missing pieces and incomplete legal stands. The convention did not at all define the term hijacking and did not actually deal with the offense itself and was not considered a crime in total. The convention also did not consider domestic airlines and only talked about airlines that pass over high seas and outside the territory of the state. And the most important deficiency was that there was an absence of provisions that dealt with punishments that were completely binding and unavoidable. All of these defects did not allow the Tokyo Convention to prevent or at-least suppress airplane hijacking.

The Hague Convention of 1970, the year between 1968 and 1969 witnessed an alarming increase in successful aircraft hijacking cases of about thirty in 1968 and eighty nine in

Programme, Washington, D.C. (2011)

³⁷ History.com editors, *FLIGHT 93*, HISTORY.COM, Original Nov 9, 2010.

³⁸ Amy Tikkanen, *Timeline of the September 11 Attacks*, BRITANICA.

³⁹ UNODC, Convention On Offences And Certain Other Acts Committed On Board Aircraft 1963 (Tokyo Convention).

⁴⁰ Convention On Offences And Certain Other Acts Committed On Board Aircraft, Signed At Tokyo, On 14 September 1963 (Tokyo Convention).

1969.⁴¹These showed the failure of the Tokyo Convention and to curb aircraft hijacking the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft was adopted on 16thDecember 1970, the convention came into force on 14thof October in1971. The convention clearly defined the offenses that will be covered under the convention in Article 1⁴², Article 2⁴³ of the convention requires each contracting state to make laws and make the offense punishable by severe penalties and also Article 4 needs each Contracting State to take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offense and any other act of violence against passengers committed by the alleged offenders under different conditions.⁴⁴ Article 7⁴⁵made it crucial for every contracting state where the alleged offender will be found to extradite and submit the case without any exception whatsoever. The convention consists of a total of 14 articles and devoted largely to suppress the problem of hijacking. However the scope of the convention did not prove to be as wide and effective as it should be and issues like the convention protect only an aircraft in flight, considering an act as an offense only when it is committed by a person on board of the particular aircraft and failing to recognize that hijacking is an international crime breaching international law did not serve the purpose as effectively as planned.⁴⁶To improve the efficiency of this convention a protocol supplementing The Hague Convention Protocol was adopted on 10thSeptember 2010 in Beijing. This protocol included some important provisions like replacing Article 1 with a more definite description of what will be considered as an offense and Article 3 of the protocol considered an aircraft to be in service from the beginning of the pre-flight preparation until 24 hours after landing and many other articles were replaced to make the convention more effective.⁴⁷

Montreal Convention of 1971, The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation was adopted on 23rdSeptember 1971. It came into force on 28thJanuary 1973. The convention focused on more detail to make the air convention laws stricter and functioning the convention also looked into unlawful acts done to private individuals on board other than the aircraft in total. Other provisions are more or less similar

⁴¹ Dr. H.O. Agarwal, *International law and human rights*, Central law publication, 22nd ed, Aircraft Hijacking,705-706.

⁴²The Hague Convention, 1970, Art 1

⁴³ Each Contracting State shall likewise take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offence in the case where the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite him pursuant to Article 8 to any of the States mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article.

⁴⁴The Hague Convention, 1970, Article 4 (1)

⁴⁵ The Hague Convention, 1970, Article 7

⁴⁶ R. H. Mankiewicz, *The 1970 Hague Convention*, JALC (1971), Vol 37 Iss 2 Art 6.

⁴⁷Protocol Supplementary To The Convention For The Suppression Of Unlawful Seizure Of Aircraft (2010)

to that of the Hague convention.⁴⁸ Later in 1988, a protocol was adopted supplementing the Montreal Convention which came into force on 6th August 1989.⁴⁹ This protocol brought in severe penalties for unlawful international acts of violence in an international airport committed against any person or persons. Severe punishments and penalties have also been put for accomplishing such an act.

Some other very important protocols have also been added lately like The Convention on the Making of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection⁵⁰ was adopted on 1st March 1991 under the International Conference on Air Law which came into force on 21st June 1998. The convention was made to regulate the making and supplying of explosives and made a lot of rules and regulations to prohibit and prevent countries from manufacturing unmarked explosives in their territory and also the movement of such explosives outside the territory. Later, on 10th September 2010, The International Convention on Air Law adopted the Convention on The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation⁵¹ at Beijing. The convention further strengthened the legal framework in preventing and suffering from unlawful acts against civil aviation.

IV. UNITED NATIONS FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

International community has made long efforts to eliminate terrorism even before the formation of United Nations. Post-World War I, the League of Nations in 1937 defined terrorism⁵² when the league prepared a draft convention for the prevention and punishment of terrorism. Later the United Nations attempted to broadly define terrorism in a number of instances. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in its 1996 non-binding declaration to supplement the Declaration of 1994 on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism defined terrorist activity as criminal activity to provoke a state of terror.⁵³ Later in 2004 the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) gave a broad definition for terrorism⁵⁴ and the following year the then Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Anan endorsed the definition and asked all states to set aside their differences and to adopt this definition.

⁴⁸ Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation (with Final Act of the International Conference on Air Law held under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization at Montreal in Sept 1971). Concluded at Montreal on 23 Sept 1971.

⁴⁹ Protocol For The Suppression Of Unlawful Acts Of Violence At Airports Serving International Civil Aviation 1988 (Montreal Protocol)

⁵⁰ Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, 1991 (Explosives Convention)

⁵¹ Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation, 2010

⁵² "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." - https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2006_01_26_cted_lecture.pdf

⁵³ United Nations General Assembly: A/RES/51/210, 88th Plenary Meeting, 17 Dec 1996.

⁵⁴ S.C.Res. 1566 (2004)

However, it did not turn out as planned. The international community has never actually succeeded in developing and accepting a well laid out comprehensive definition for terrorism which has been accepted by all countries. The main reason for it is, many times the definitions do not cover all aspects, and other times all parties do not accept the laid down definition. However, the 2004 definition of terrorism has been given a lot of importance. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism strategy on 8th September 2006⁵⁵ as a very important step in the international sector to specially deal with and take steps against terrorism; it was adopted as a unique global instrument to combat terrorism by regional and international reforms to preserve human rights. UN makes sure to keep it a living document and is reviewed every two years to priorities the strategy. The resolution of the Counter-Terrorism strategy consists of four pillars to combat terrorism and to strengthen the United Nations actions in fighting terrorism. The first pillar strategizes in addressing the conditions that are influencing the spread of terrorism. The UN Intends to resolve the basic problems which directly results in terrorist activities and safeguard people who have been a victim of such terrorism. It intended to resolve prolong conflicts, lack of rule of law in states, violations of human rights, ethical, national, and religious conflicts. The UN continues to arrange initiatives, programs, and conventions to prevent conflicts, negotiate, mediate, and settle issues for peacekeeping. The second pillar is completely dedicated to taking measures to combat and prevent terrorism. The process includes denying terrorist access to countries, strengthening border security especially to prevent and terrorist links to enter a country, access to means to stop any terrorist attacks. The UN makes sure that states would cooperate fully to eradicate the problem of terrorism under this pillar the UN also have the access to prosecution or extradition of terrorists through the help of international laws, humanitarian law, and refugee law. The third pillar deals with measures that can be taken to build state capacity to combat terrorism and prevent any kind of terrorist activities or eliminate any terrorism threat. The fourth pillar deals with the safeguard of human rights, which we shall deal with in the next chapter. Along with international measures some national measures are very important and the UN has taken proper strategies to take measures by states to combat terrorism, like ratification of international conventions, extradition or prosecution, conclusion of bilateral treaties, mercenaries and mutual co-operation.

⁵⁵ United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Other than the conventions for aircraft hijacking and air terrorism the UN has also been responsible for many other conventions to counter terrorism⁵⁶. Some of the important among them have been mentioned below:

Hostages convention (1979)⁵⁷, this convention was adopted by the United Nations on 7th December 1979, exclusively for the case of terrorists taking hostages for achieving their agendas. By 17th September 2001, the convention had 96 state parties. The preamble of the convention lays down the offense of taking hostages is of grave international concern and is an offense punishable by law. The convention includes seizing, detaining any person, or to threaten to kill any person to compel a third party or state or any international community to perform a certain act will be defined under hostage-taking.

Convention for the suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)⁵⁸, on 15th December 1997, the General Assembly adopted an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings. The convention defined a terrorist bomber under its Article 2. Under Article 8 the convention provides for the states to take actions against suicide bombers within their territory which includes prosecuting them or extracting them. Article 9 of the convention lays down that the offense of terrorist bombings shall be deemed to be included as an extraditable offense in any extradition treaty existing between any of the state parties.

Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)⁵⁹, till now this convention has proved to be one of the most effective conventions. The General Assembly on 9th December 1999 adopted this convention and was opened for signature on 10th January 2000. The convention has its main agenda to stop illegal funds, bonds, drafts, securities, shares, cheques to be transferred or passed without proper authorization and validity intended to cause harm to civilians, states shall be immediately caught and stopped. A terrorist activity requires a lot of money and if the basic can be checked and cut off it will suppress terrorism. The convention came into force on 10th April 2002, and as of 2018, the convention has 187 state parties.

Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)⁶⁰, other than the previous conventions this convention exclusively focused on the use of nuclear bombs it was adopted on 13th April 2005 by the General Assembly and came into force on 7th July 2007.

⁵⁶Noha Bakr, *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy To Resolve Challenges & Enrich Opportunities*, 7-8, (Jan2017)

⁵⁷Multilateral, *International Convention against the Taking of Hostages*, 1979

⁵⁸*Convention for the suppression of Terrorist Bombings*, 1997

⁵⁹*Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism*, 1999

⁶⁰*Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* 2005

This was an essential convention for the suppression of terrorism through radioactive material. Article 2 of the convention laid down the meaning of the convention and anyone who uses any radioactive material or device to commit terrorism will be an offender under this. Article 5 of the convention makes it compulsory for state parties to adopt such measures to establish the crime as a criminal offense and to make these offenses punishable by appropriate penalties.

The drawback of all these above-mentioned conventions and many other such similar conventions adopted by the United Nations is that because these conventions have not been ratified by most of the states of the world, and a need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism still lies to make this crime universally punishable on the same grounds and same methods to completely remove the threat of terrorism from the world.

Due to terrorism, human rights are completely destructed and so are democracy and rule of law. It has a direct impact on every person's right to life with liberty and physical integrity. Counter terrorism poses a lot of challenges⁶¹ mostly because it is on an international level in spite of such challenges it has become very important to exclude terrorism to preserve the human rights of the whole world.

⁶¹*Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism*, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, fact sheet 32, Chapter 2.