



## General Assembly

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### Security Council

This is a special part of the United Nations. The UN created this group to try to protect peace. They decide what is a danger to peace. There are 15 members of the Security Council: 5 are permanent and 10 change every two years. The permanent members are China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the US. The other members are Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

This groups helps peace in several ways. They ask states to solve problems peacefully. They also advise states to do something different or offer ways to resolve the situation. If a problem becomes bad the Security Council recommends sanctions. This means other states will punish the country in a non-violent way. An example might be not buying the country's products or not allowing a country's sports teams to compete internationally. If things get really bad the Security Council recommends the use of force to bring back international peace and security. All the states of the UN must follow what the Security Council decides.

All the permanent members of the Security Council get a veto. This means no resolutions can pass unless all the permanent members agree. All the other members get one vote. They have passed resolutions on peacebuilding, the situation in Western Sahara, and starting peacekeeping operations.

### Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts

#### Background

Terrorism is the use of violence to change politics. The word comes from the Latin word *terrere* (to frighten). This is what terrorism is trying to do. It is trying to scare people into doing what they want. For this reason, terrorism is sudden, directed towards civilians, and shocking. It is not usually done by states. It is done by groups who want to force states to change. Terrorist groups can have one person or thousands. This makes it hard for states to stop.

Terrorism upsets the international community. In 1936, the League of Nations started to create a convention. This convention was going to punish people involved in terrorism. As you can see, the world has wanted to do something for many years. The convention was never ratified. Since 1963, there have been 15 conventions about counter-terrorism. These conventions cover hostages, financing, hijacking planes, and other situations.

Terrorism is a focus of the Security Council. It became more of an issue on September 11<sup>th</sup>. On September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, the terrorist group Al-Qaeda attacked the US. Terrorists destroyed the Twin Towers in New York City. 2977 people died. This started the Global War on Terror. The United States and other states began a new effort. They searched for terrorists and tried stop them. This resulted in the invasion of Afghanistan and the Iraq War.

## Background

In 2013 US President Obama said the War on Terror was over. He said states should focus on specific targets and not terrorism in general. Other states agree. States need to work together to stop terrorism. Terrorism is a global problem and a “war” cannot stop it. It is much better to cut their sources of money. Although countries have been working together there were over 1000 terrorist attacks in 2016.

Since 2001 the Security Council has passed 32 resolutions related to terrorism.

The UN created the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 to help stop terrorism. There are four things that it focuses on:

- 1) Stopping the root causes of terrorism
- 2) Actions to stop terrorism
- 3) Strengthening countries so they can stop terrorism
- 4) Protecting human rights and the rule of law

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force works to implement this strategy. They help states reach the four goals and run projects to meet these ends.

States with a lot of deaths from terrorism create refugees. Syria has 4 million refugees. Many of these people are in refugee camps or trying to reach Europe. Some states are afraid to take in these people because they think they might be terrorists. However, the West has less to worry about when it comes to terrorism. Since 2000, only 2.6% of total deaths from terrorism have been in the West. A lone wolf attack is when one person does a terrorist act alone. This is the most common type of terrorist act in the West.

Although terrorism seems like it is happening everywhere, 72% of deaths happen in just five countries: Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Nigeria and Afghanistan. Also 74% of deaths are due to only four groups: ISIS, Boko Haram, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. There were 270 other groups that did an attack in 2015. The cost of all these terrorist attacks was US\$89.6 billion. Imagine what else that money could have been used for.

Turkey and France are two countries that have seen a sudden rise in terrorism in 2016. ISIS is a terrorist group acting in Turkey. The Kurdistan Workers' Party is another terrorist group attacking Turkey in order to get their own country. Together they increased the number of deaths in the country from 20 to 337. Since the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris France has been in a state of emergency. Many people in the Muslim community in France feel their rights are being violated. The state of emergency allows the police extra powers to search and arrest people.

The Financial Action Task Force works with states to help stop terrorists from raising money. This is one of the most important ways to stop terrorism. However, some countries support terrorists. They do this because the terrorists might attack a country they see as an enemy. The US says Sudan, Iran and Syria have supported terrorist groups.

## Recent Developments

## Key Topics

### **Financial Support of Terrorism**

In 1999, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was created. It asks states to stop groups or people from raising money for terrorism by saying they are a charity. In 2001, the Security Council asked the world to do more. It wants states to create strong laws to stop terrorists from getting money. This means freezing the bank accounts of terrorists. They also want states to stop the transfer of money across borders.

### Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Terrorists need new members all the time. They are always recruiting. One of the biggest problems is people moving from one state to another in order to be involved in terrorism. They can get training and become very dangerous. It is believed that over 30 000 people from 100 countries have left to pursue terrorist actions. Many are young people. Both men and women are convinced that becoming a terrorist is a good thing. Another problem is these fighters eventually returning to their home countries and committing terrorist acts.

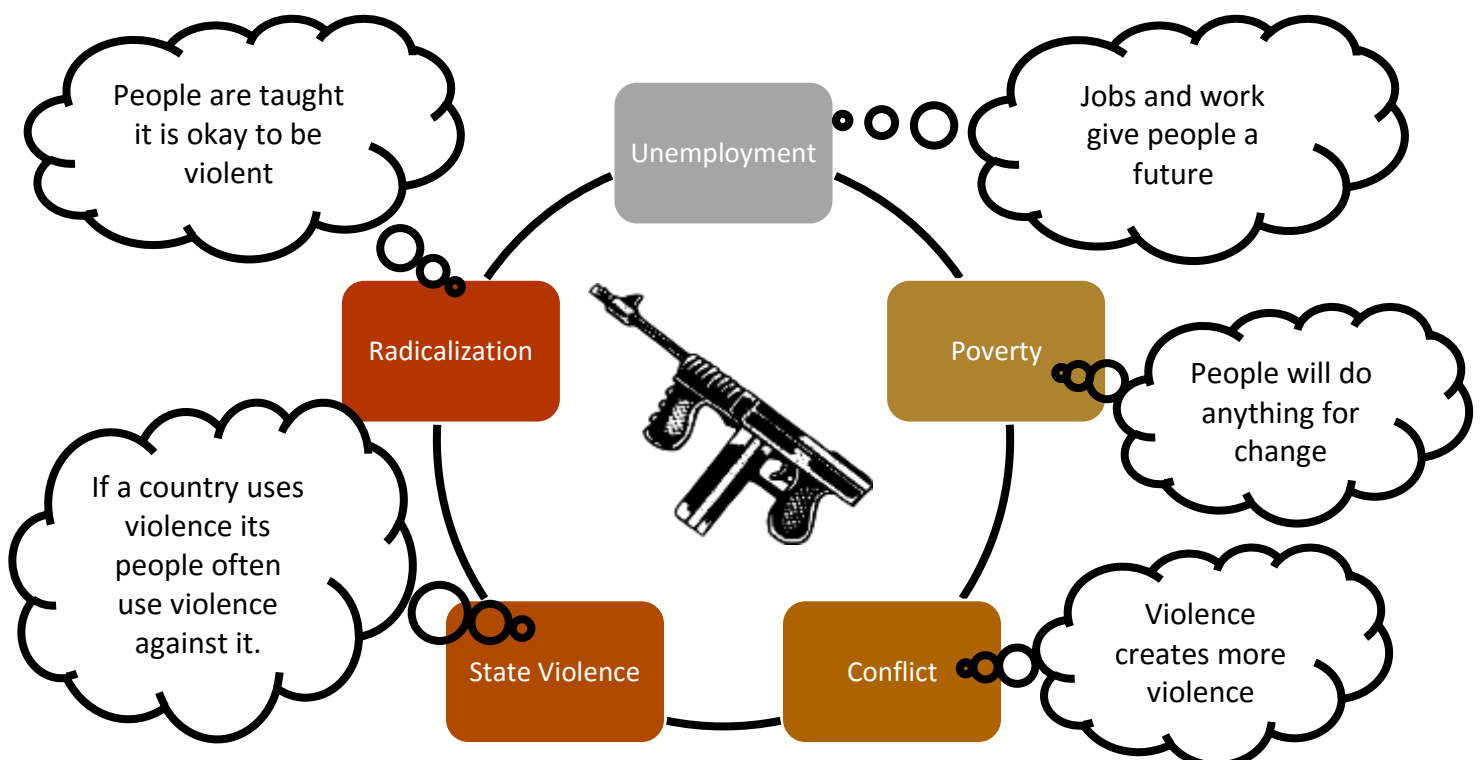
### Sharing Information

If countries work together they can do more to stop terrorism. The Security Council would like states to improve how they communicate and work with one another to stop terrorism. However, some people do not think this is always a good thing. There is a group called Five Eyes (FVEY). This is made up of Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. They share information, monitor cell phones and the internet. A lot of people think they get too much information and do not always have a good reason to share it. However, their work probably stops some terrorist acts.

### Definition of Terrorism

One of the major problems with fighting terrorism is not having a clear definition. The UN has never created an official definition of what terrorism is. Some countries disagree on what a terrorist is. Many countries in the Middle East believe that people fighting to create a homeland for their ethnic group should not be labelled terrorists. Many Western countries believe that all armed groups that target civilians should be called terrorists.

## Root Causes of Terrorism



## Guiding Questions

1. Does your country have a problem with terrorism? Its neighbours?
2. How do you think the word terrorism and terrorist should be defined?
3. What are the reasons some states have a lot of terrorism and some do not?
4. Look at the root causes of terrorism. What can be done to solve each of these problems?
5. How can states work together to stop international terrorism?
6. How can people most at risk be protected?
7. China, Russia, France, the UK and the US all have vetoes. What can they agree on? What will they disagree on? How can they work together?
8. Does the problem exist in your community?
9. Who is working on it? NGOs, not for profits, other groups or individuals?
10. Knowing about this problem, how does it impact your world view?
11. How could you make an impact on this issue through your life choices?

## Resources

Title	Hyperlink	How is it helpful?
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<b>Security Council</b>	<a href="http://www.un.org/en/sc/">http://www.un.org/en/sc/</a>	UN main page about what the Security Council does.
<b>What We Investigate: Terrorism</b>	<a href="https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism">https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism</a>	The FBI's website on terrorism and their role in investigations.
<b>Counter Terrorism Committee</b>	<a href="https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/">https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/</a>	UN committee on how to stop terrorism. Includes information on some of the focus areas.
<b>2016 Terrorist Attacks</b>	<a href="https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/terrorist-attacks/?year=2016">https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/terrorist-attacks/?year=2016</a>	An interactive map that shows all the terrorist attacks in 2016.
<b>Global Counterterrorism Forum</b>	<a href="https://www.thegctf.org/">https://www.thegctf.org/</a>	A group of 29 countries and the EU working to end Terrorism.
<b>Global Terrorism Index 2016</b>	<a href="http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2016.2.pdf?utm_content=buffer93890&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_source=twitter.com&amp;utm_campaign=buffer">http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2016.2.pdf?utm_content=buffer93890&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_source=twitter.com&amp;utm_campaign=buffer</a>	A very large report about terrorism in 2016. There are some helpful graphics and bulleted information which can be helpful for research.
<b>Globally, Terrorism is on the Rise</b>	<a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-17/global-terrorism-index-increase/6947200">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-17/global-terrorism-index-increase/6947200</a>	Australia newspaper article looking at some of the trends in terrorism.
<b>French Parliament Votes to Extend State of Emergency</b>	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/14/french-parliament-votes-to-extend-state-of-emergency-until-after-2017-elections">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/14/french-parliament-votes-to-extend-state-of-emergency-until-after-2017-elections</a>	The Guardian article about how France has been under a state of emergency for the last two years.
<b>What We Do: International Terrorism</b>	<a href="https://www.mi5.gov.uk/international-terrorism">https://www.mi5.gov.uk/international-terrorism</a>	Official website of MI5 (UK Security Service). It highlights how they combat international terrorism. A lot of background information.