



# COMBATTING TERRORISM

# Presentation Outline

- 🌐 The first step.
- 🌐 Problems with definitions
- 🌐 Differing definitions – Australia, USA.
- 🌐 Why so difficult to reach agreement?
- 🌐 Do we need a definition?
- 🌐 Essence of terrorism – aims and strategies of terrorist groups
- 🌐 Aspects of Terrorism – Issues we need to understand in combatting Terrorism

# TERRORISM

- Australian definition – Intention and consequences
- The Australian Definition: (*Criminal Code Act (Cwlth.)* s.100.1
- “An action or threat of action, done with the intention of
- advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, AND
- coercing or influencing by intimidation an Australian or foreign government, OR
- intimidating the public or a section of the public.”

# TERRORISM

- The action must have one of the following consequences –
- Cause physical harm or death to a person
- Cause serious damage to property
- Endanger the lives of others
- Create a serious risk to the health or safety of the public
- Seriously interfere with electronic systems, such as those used for finance, transport, communications or the delivery of essential government services.
- Under Australian law, an act may amount to T where it involves eg. hacking of a website for a particular political purpose in circumstances designed to coerce government.

# TERRORISM

## The American definition: International vs Domestic

 The term **'international terrorism'** means activities that –

(a) involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State;

(b) appear to be intended -

(i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion;  
or

(iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping; and

(c) occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are **accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum; ...**

# TERRORISM

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

The **United States Department of Defence** defines terrorism as -

*“the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.”*

Within this definition, there are three key elements—violence, fear, and intimidation—and each element produces terror in its victims.

# TERRORISM

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & STATE DEPT

The **FBI** uses this definition:

*"Terrorism is the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."*

The **U.S. Department of State** defines terrorism to be

*"premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience".*

# TERRORISM

- 🌐 Why is it so hard to reach a consensus on a definition?
- 🌐 *“One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter.”*
- 🌐 (1) Political reasons – inconvenient if group popularly thought of as freedom fighters. May be useful to assist insurgents or rebels eg., aid to Afghanistan mujahadin and to anti-Soviet jihad
- 🌐 (2) Empathy for cause – possibly alienate a constituency if govt has empathy for goals eg., IRA, politicians did not address issue
- 🌐 (3) Bureaucratic reasons – different agencies use different definitions, different vocabularies. Prosecution/war.



# TERRORISM

- 🌐 (4) Legal problems – drafting the definition can create its own problems, specific or general
- 🌐 (5) Political Expediency - Some countries say that they should be able to label whole countries as terrorist, while others will never agree on a definition unless states are specifically excluded.
- 🌐 So, do we need a definition or not?

# TERRORISM



**No:**

- **Seen the problems, ever achievable? Worth the trouble?**



**Yes:**

- **Facilitates international cooperation**
- **Facilitates judicial measures such as extradition of suspects**
- **Lack of definition may increase the risk of abuse**
- **Need among researchers, academics.**

# Exploring the Nature of Terrorism

- 🌐 A political phenomenon, clandestine
- 🌐 A tactic which is part of an overall strategy, that is, *a plan of action to achieve a long term aim*
- 🌐 But, different groups have different aims. What are they?

# Aims of Terrorist Groups

- 🌐 Regime change – Sadat, 1981
- 🌐 Territorial control – get back ‘historical homeland’
- 🌐 Policy change – convince govt by using violence eg., Animal Liberation Front
- 🌐 Status Quo – Ku Klux Klan
- 🌐 Social control – influence people at grass roots eg., anti-abortion

# Strategies of Terrorist Groups

 If they are the aims of terrorist groups, how do they try to achieve them? What strategies do they use to try to achieve their goals?

1. Provocation
2. Attrition
3. Spoiling
4. Outbidding
5. Intimidation

# Aspects of Terrorism

- 🌐 Terrorism is a tactic drawing attention to emotional and divisive issues
- 🌐 Terrorism is propaganda not by words, but by deeds.
- 🌐 Terrorism uses violence as a form of political communication between gangs and countries. In other words, it is a communication strategy conveying the cost of non-compliance.

# Terrorism – Issues We Need To Understand

- 🌐 Why does terrorism exist? Is there a cause or causes for terrorism?
- 🌐 Factors closely associated with terrorism are –
- 🌐 Social hostility, lack of intergroup cohesion, sense of grievance. Govt sponsored violence extra judicial killings, arbitrary imprisonment
- 🌐 High levels of violent crime, countries involved in ongoing conflict or political terror
- 🌐 Lack of respect for human rights and for international organisations. Policies targetting religious freedoms, group grievances and political instability

# Factors That Do Not Affect Terrorism

- 🌐 What are the factors NOT statistically associated with terrorism?
- 🌐 Level of poverty (but other socio-economic factors like youth unemployment, drug crime, faith in democracy DO correlate).
- 🌐 Education levels
- 🌐 Life expectancy



# Radicalisation

Four basic components –

1. Grievance
2. Ideology
3. Mobilisation
4. Cognitive opening

# How Do Terrorist Gangs End?

- 🌐 How and why do terrorist groups end?
  1. Actions of police and intelligence services
  2. Actions of military forces
  3. Some terrorists join the political process
  4. Some terrorist groups are victorious
  5. Some terrorist groups splinter from within