

Forum: Historical Crisis Committee

Issue: September 11 Attacks and Post 9/11 Terrorism

Introduction

Terrorism has always been a prominent issue. Yet, as terrorist attacks throughout the twentieth century occurred mainly on a minor scale, the international community had not been active in combatting these terrorist groups. However, on the morning of September 11th, 2001, four hijacked domestic airliners belonging to the United States carried out two successful attacks against the World Trade Center towers, another at the Pentagon, and one failed attack suspected of crashing into the White House. These attacks were on a scale never witnessed before, and resulted in an immediate suspension of all flights within the U.S. mainland for the first time in U.S. history. The September 11th attacks have made terrorism an unneglectable issue, and the international community as a whole is obligated to provide a response.

Definition of Key Terms

World Trade Center

The World Trade Center was a complex of several buildings around a central plaza in New York City. The complex was built by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as a facility for businesses and government agencies involved in international trade. The World Trade Center complex was most well known for its twin towers: One World Trade Center (north tower) and Two World Trade Center (south tower). The buildings, both approximately 1,360 feet tall with 110 stories, were the world's tallest towers at the time of their completion in 1972. Both towers collapsed in the 9/11 attacks, while debris from the two towers also destroyed or damaged other buildings in and around the complex.

Logistics network

"A logistics network is a network of entities through which material and information flow, encompassing all related activities associated with the flow and transformation of goods in the respective area of the network. Those entities may include suppliers, carriers, manufacturing sites, distribution centers, retailers, information brokers up to the final customers" (Supply Chain Management: A Collaborative Performance Measurement Approach).

Terrorism

“The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims” (Oxford Dictionaries).

General Overview

Details of the 9/11 attacks

Targeted infrastructures

At 8:45 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, hijacked passenger jet American Airlines Flight 11 flying out of Boston, Massachusetts, crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan at a speed of hundreds of miles per hour, tearing a hole in the building and setting it on fire.

At 9:03 a.m. a second hijacked airliner, United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston, crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center and explodes, setting the south tower afire as well.



Caption #1: The northeast face of the south tower after impact

At 9:43 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77 is hijacked and crashes into the Pentagon building in Washington, DC - headquarters of the United States Department of Defense.



Caption #2: The Pentagon partly-collapsed due to impact and fire damage after 9/11 attack

At 10:10 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93, which was supposed to land in San Francisco International Airport, was hijacked and later crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh. U.S. officials speculate that the plane could have been headed for Camp David, the White House, or the U.S. Capitol building.

At 10:28 a.m. The World Trade Center's north tower collapsed from the top down 103 minutes after impact.

American Airlines reported that American Flight 11, a Boeing 767, had crashed with 81 passengers and 11 crew aboard. American Flight 175 had crashed with 56 passengers and nine crew members aboard. American Flight 77, a Boeing 757, had 58 passenger and six crew members aboard. Flight 93 had a total of 44 passengers on board. All 265 people on the four hijacked airplanes are presumed to be dead.

Overall, the September 11th attacks were targeted at the financial, military, and potentially the judicial buildings of the United States of America, which are all fundamental pillars representing the strength of a country. In addition, the September 11th attacks jeopardized the flight transportation network of the United States, causing the U.S. to halt air traffic nationwide for the first time in its history.

Airport Security

In the airport, one of the hijackers was first selected by a computerized prescreening system known as the Computer Assisted Passenger Prescreening System (CAPPS), which identified passengers who should be subject to special security measures. However, the hijacker was still able to bypass this extra security level.

Each of the checkpoints in the airport were equipped with a walk-through metal detector calibrated to detect items with at least the metal content of a .22-caliber handgun. If the detector was set off, then a manual hand-wand or an explosive trace detector would be used to identify the metal item which caused the alarm. Also, all the checkpoints were each running an X-ray machine that was responsible for screening carry-on belongings. All hijackers had passed through these security measures.

Airspace hijacking countermeasures

World Trade Center One was already hit by the first hijacked aircraft when the NORAD fighter jet departed from its launch site. The American federal agencies of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the North American Defense Command (NORAD) had been established to maintain the safety of U.S. airspace. Both of these agencies had in the past intercepted hijackings and possessed military aircraft. However, due to the long chain of protocol and mandatory procedures, the NORAD fighter jet was severely delayed in its interception of the September 11th attacks.

Several factors worsened the responsiveness of the two agencies. First off, the hijackers turned off the transponders on three of the four hijacked aircraft, thus preventing the center from determining the aircraft's identity and altitude. In addition, before the FAA could request military assistance from NORAD, the FAA was obligated to multiple levels of notification and approval from the highest levels of government. Other than NORAD, the FAA would also have to contact the Pentagon's National Military Command Center (NMCC) and to ask for a military escort aircraft to stalk the flight. After the NMCC obtained approval from the Office of the Secretary of Defense to provide military assistance, orders would then finally be transmitted down NORAD's command line, authorizing NORAD to send aircraft to intercept the attack.

Impact

The September 11th attacks have proved that terrorists are too powerful, too ambitious, and too dangerous to be ignored. The sigils and pride of the United States of America: Economy, Military, and Government, were all endangered in one single coordinated attack by a terrorist group. The crowds mourn for the dead in front of the burning skeletons of the World Trade Centers. The sirens wail as recovery efforts continue. History has never seen an attack on such a large-scale in the past, and the

international community has the duty to prevent another such assault from occurring in the future, in any country, against any citizen.

The attacks definitely complicate international relations, particularly relations towards Israel and Western countries. In 1993, the Al-Qaeda had launched an attack on the World Trade Centre demanding that the United States of America halt all ties towards Israel, or else the United States of America and the state of Israel would both be subject to terrorist attacks. Despite the threat, the United States of America had persisted with relations towards Israel, and may have as a consequence become a target of the September 11th attacks. In this situation, Israel's relationship to the international community is put at risk, and without the support of countries Israel could easily become a penetrable victim to terrorist organizations. Also, organizations such as the Al-Qaeda and Hezbollah have also declared anti-Western beliefs, and through the September 11th attacks have proven that they are willing to execute extreme actions against Western countries, subsequently endangering the allies and supporters of these Western nations. If the international community does not provide a solid response to the September 11th attacks and instead allows slack towards terrorism, these organizations could catastrophically threaten global peace and order.

Key terrorist organizations active

*NOTE: The timeline set for the September 11th attacks crisis is September 12th, one day after the attacks - Anything mentioned below beyond that date will not have occurred. The timeline for the other crisis are not set, so keep in mind that details after September 12th, 2001, mentioned below are for informational purposes only, to help delegates better understand the background and potential motivations of terrorist organizations, and may or may not actually occur in the alternate timeline of this committee.

Hezbollah: "Party of God"

Hezbollah, meaning "Party of God", is a militia group and political party associated with the Shia branch of Islam, and first emerged as a faction in Lebanon following the Israeli invasion in 1982. Hezbollah was formed by a group of Lebanese Shiite clerics in 1982 with the aim of driving Israel from Lebanon and establishing an Islamic state there. However, the terrorist organization obtained firearms and strengthened rapidly, and Iran stands accused by the international community in participating in state-sponsored terrorism, providing terrorist organizations, in particular Hezbollah, with financial aid, training, weapons, and political support; Syria is also assumed to be a supporter of the organization. In the 1980s, Hezbollah engaged in conflict against Israel and fought in the Lebanese Civil War from 1975-1990. In that time period, Hezbollah allegedly engaged in terrorist attacks directed predominantly against Westerners. After the Lebanese Civil War, Hezbollah continued to fight a sustained guerrilla campaign against

Israel in southern Lebanon until Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000. As a result, Hezbollah emerged as the dominant political party in post-conflict Lebanon.

Hezbollah is engaged in mostly domestic terrorism or terrorism against Israel, yet focuses attacks on Westerners within Lebanon: In 1983 and 1984, Hezbollah militants blew up the United States embassy and annex in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, killing about 80 people. In 1983, Hezbollah suicide bombers launched an attack on the U.S. Marine and French Foreign Legion headquarters in Beirut, killing about 300 soldiers. From 1984 to 1992, Hezbollah held several Americans and Europeans as hostages.

The Taliban: “Students”

Taliban, meaning “students”, is an ultraconservative political and religious faction that emerged in Afghanistan in the mid-1990s after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the region. The faction operates mostly in a domestic manner, and has not committed any known major attacks against the international community. The group consisted largely of students trained in Islamic religious schools in northern Pakistan, which is how the Taliban got their name.

In a post-conflict region, the Taliban emerged as a force for social order in 1994 in the southern Afghan province and subdued local warlords. In late 1996, the Taliban received support from Afghanistan’s southern Pashtun ethnic group, and with the assistance of these populations and other Islamic groups, soon seized Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and by 2001 maintained control over 90 percent of Afghanistan. Yet, between 1999 and 2001, only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates gave political recognition to the Taliban government, while the majority of the international community and the Afghan population itself disapproved of the Taliban’s harsh social policies and neglect of human rights.

The Taliban allowed for Afghanistan to be a haven for Islamic militants from throughout the world, in particular Osama bin Laden, leader of Al-Qaeda, who stands accused for organizing attacks against Western countries. In return for the safe haven in Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden played a key role in the Taliban’s power by providing the Taliban with a significant amount of money and soldiers. However, when the Taliban refused to turn over Osama bin Laden in October 1999, the United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on the Taliban while the government of Pakistan froze all Taliban assets in December 1999. The Taliban continued to refuse the turning over of Osama bin Laden, who at this time was using Afghanistan as a training ground for Al-Qaeda members. As a result, the United Nations imposed further sanctions on the Taliban in January 2001. However, the Taliban ordered the destruction of all statues within Afghanistan the very next month, attracting worldwide attention.

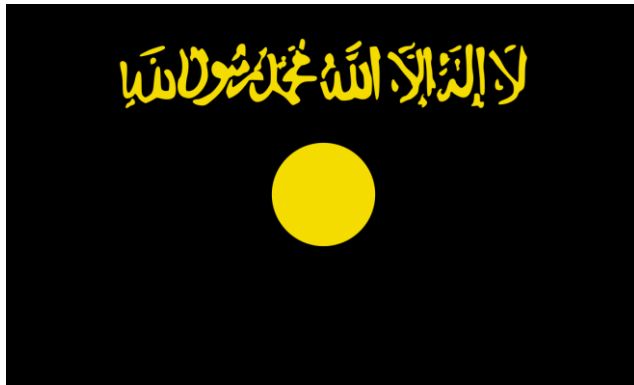
After the September 11th attacks, the Taliban was subjected to a substantial amount of international pressure. On September 22, 2001, the United Arab Emirates severed diplomatic ties with the Taliban after the Taliban refused to provide a favourable answer to the United Nations request for Bin Laden to be tried in an international court for charges linked to terrorist attacks. Likewise, on 25th September 2001, Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with the Taliban due to the Taliban's refusal to stop harbouring criminals and terrorists. On October 7, 2001, the United States and Great Britain launched air strikes against suspected Al-Qaeda members supported by the Taliban within Afghanistan. Pakistan, the sole country which remained diplomatic relations with the Taliban, supported the US air strikes and urged the Taliban to surrender bin Laden. The Taliban refused, and the US-led military campaign continued to weaken the faction. On November 9, the Northern Alliance, supported by American soldiers, recaptured Mazar-e-Sharif, the former Northern Alliance stronghold within Afghanistan that was taken by the Taliban. As the military swept through Afghanistan, the Taliban surrendered to the Northern Alliance on December 7. However, since the Taliban's collapse in 2001, surviving Taliban forces have begun to engage in insurgency in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan, including attacks against civilian populations and gaining funding through Afghanistan's opium trade.

Al-Qaeda: "the Base"

The militant Islamist organization Al-Qaeda, or "the Base" in English, was originally founded by Osama bin Laden in the 1980s as a logistical network to support Muslims fighting against the Soviet Union during the Afghan War. In fact, the name Al-Qaeda, which was taken from the Arabic word meaning "the base", referred to the training camp for the Islamic volunteers willing to join the fight against the invading Soviet forces.

When the Soviets finally withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, the organization, which had grown rapidly in strength and influence, maintained activity and established a principal goal to end the involvement and influence of the United States and other Western countries in the Middle East and to establish a global Islamic state.

In February 1998, Usama Bin Laden and a fugitive Egyptian physician arranged for an Arabic newspaper in London to publish a fatwa, an interpretation of Islamic law, which claimed that America had declared war against God and his messenger, calling for the murder of any American, anywhere on earth, as the individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it. In an interview in May 1998, Al-Qaeda leader Bin Laden expressed extreme hostility towards America, expressing that retaliation towards both civilian and military peoples might be the only way to halt American influence.



Caption #3: Un-officially recognized flag of Al-Qaeda in Iraq

Al-Qaeda had previously carried out attacks in countries allied with the United States and on US holdings. On August 7, 1998, Al-Qaeda operatives bombed the US embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Kenya, killing 224 people. On October 12, 2000, Al-Qaeda operatives detonated an explosive alongside the USS Cole as the ship refueled in Yemen, killing seventeen American service members.

Yet, the attack that was most noticeable was the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City on February 26, 1993, where a group led by Ramzi Yousef, nephew of senior Al-Qaeda member Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, tried to bring down the World Trade Center with a truck bomb detonated in the North Tower's parking garage, which meant to topple the city's tallest tower onto its twin among a cloud of cyanide gas. However, the attack failed, killing six people and wounding a thousand. In January 1995, police in Manila uncovered so-called "Project Bojinka" by Ramzi Yousef, which aimed to blow up a dozen U.S. airliners as they were flying over the Pacific.

Ramzi Yousef and his conspirators sent a letter to the New York Times after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing which stated that the attack was done in response to the American political, economical, and military support to Israel. The document called for the United States to stop all military, economical, and political aid to Israel, put a halt to all diplomatic relations with Israel, and to reside from interference with any of the Middle East countries' interior affairs. The document asserted that all functional groups in the army, with more than one hundred and fifty suicidal soldiers, will continue to execute missions against the military and civilian targets in and out of the United States, and that Israel must be faced with a similar one.

On December 4th, 1998, an item in President Clinton's Presidential Daily Briefing (PDB) was titled "Bin Laden Preparing to Hijack US Aircraft and Other Attacks". According to the PDB, a senior member of Gamaat Islamiya, al Jamaat al Islamiya, a movement considered a terrorist organization by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, Bin Laden had

been planning to hijack US aircraft. In response to the threat, the Counterterrorism and Security Group of the United States placed New York City airports under a maximum security alert, while security was boosted at East Coast airports. However, when further investigation by intelligence agencies were unable to uncover any information to support the threat, the high alert in New York airports was canceled by the end of January, 1999.

Overall, the past acts of Al-Qaeda and the suspected plans of Bin Laden in the past have caused the international community to suspect the militant Islamic organization towards being the main culprit of the September 11 attacks, despite the state of Afghanistan's denial that Bin Laden was not connected to the attacks. Among the international community, the United States in particular was hasty to point towards Al-Qaeda as U.S. officials remarked at 4 p.m. on the day of the attack that there are good indications that Saudi militant Osama bin Laden is involved in the attacks.

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT): “Army of the Pure”

Lashkar-e-Taiba, meaning “Army of the Pure” is an Islamist militant group that began in Pakistan in the late 1980s as a branch of Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad, an Islamist organization devoted to the Wahhabi sector of Sunni Islam. The organization's goal was to establish Muslim rule over the entire Indian subcontinent. Lashkar-e-Taiba was originally based in the state of Jammu and Kashmir on the Pakistan-India border, but in the early 21st century expanded deeper into India. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is part of the region of Kashmir, which India, Pakistan, and China have each laid claims on since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947. In the state, an approximate amount of two-thirds of the population adheres to Islam, while Hindus make up most of the remaining third. Yet, the territorial dispute for the region flared in the 20th century between Pakistan and India, as the prince of the Kashmir region signed an Instrument of Accession to the Indian union in October 1947. However, Pakistan considered the state to be a natural extension of Pakistan territory, and intervened militaristically with the rule of India over Kashmir. As a result of the territorial dispute, various armed groups and military tension built up within the state. Among the various armed groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba was among the most dominant groups operating in the state and was extremely pro-Pakistan regarding control of the territory. In fact, the group opposed any concessions to India at all, and later even launched several attacks targeting non-Muslim civilian populations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Most of Lashkar-e-Taiba's members were either Pakistani or Afghan, and the organization has been suspected of ties with Afghanistan's Taliban government and with Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. For instance, fighters from Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed in August 1998 when bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan were struck by U.S. cruise missiles, and a senior Al-Qaeda official was captured in a Lashkar-e-Taiba safe house in Pakistan in March 2002. In the

late 1990s, it was also suspected that Lashkar-e-Taiba received financial support from agencies of the Pakistani government, an accusation which the government subsequently denied.

In its early stages, Lashkar-e-Taiba launched multiple attacks against the large non-Muslim populations in the Jammu region beginning in 1999, often targeting seemingly safe headquarters with suicide attacks. However, in 2000 Lashkar-e-Taiba lost powerful allies as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen declared a ceasefire with India, and the Taliban government in Afghanistan was removed by U.S. led military forces in 2001. Yet, on December 13, 2001, Lashkar-e-Taiba launched a serious suicide attack on India's parliament complex in its capital, New Delhi, in conjunction with another militant group.

After the attack on the Indian parliament, the United States government froze the U.S. assets of Lashkar-e-Taiba and officially labelled it a terrorist organization. After pressurizing from the United States and the international community to assert control over militant groups and to avoid a war with India, the Pakistani government banned the group in January 2002 and arrested the organization's leader Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, who was released a few months later.

India and Pakistan declared a ceasefire accord in 2003 after a long period of conflict, and Lashkar-e-Taiba moved most of its operations to northwestern Pakistan, an area where the central government did not possess much authority over. The organization also began redirecting its previously domestic attacks within Pakistan towards India itself.

Key Countries

Saudi Arabia

Even though Saudi Arabia is officially declared to be against terrorism, Saudi Arabia's motives towards terrorism still remain unclear. Saudi Arabia has been accused of having multiple ties with terrorist organizations Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and the new JTJ formed in 1999 (Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad) including actions such as educating their recruits and funding their terrorist attacks.

Ever since the 7th century, Saudi Arabia has been a traditionally isolated Muslim state. When the modern-day Kingdom of Saudi Arabia assumed its form in 1932, Saudi Arabia was still practicing its isolated form of Sunni. However, during the 1960s, King Faysal began forming alliances with other Muslim nations (almost all Sunni), seeking to reaffirm the legitimacy of his kingship and Sunni Islam's presence in state affairs. King Faysal's successor, King Fahd, began supporting the spread of Islam, building schools and mosques "by the thousands around the

world.” Around the same time, the Salafi Movement - an ultraconservative movement aimed at restoring a “purer” form of Islam - began to gain popularity. Although this movement began in the mid-18th century, it’s suspected that King Faysal and King Fahd’s “imperialist” ambitions for Islam caused the locals to resort to Wahhabism (another name for the Salafi Movement). Fueled by the Wahhabist views, terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and ISIL adopted Wahhabism, providing a theological motive for their actions.

Eventually, Wahhabism attracted even the highest of Saudi officials and royals. The Kingdom’s Grand Mufti (religious leader) and diplomats began spreading Wahhabist rhetoric to the west. Through charities like the Muslim World League and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, Saudi Royals dedicated 10 million dollars worth of funds towards promoting Wahhabism, and some of these charities were later used to establish training camps for terrorist organizations. In Saudi Arabia, Wahhabist propaganda propelled and taught by Royals spread across the land. Amongst one of these royals was one named Osama Bin-Laden. Osama Bin-Laden later grew up to be the leader of Al-Qaeda, occasionally receiving benefits from the Saudi government. In 1993, right after the bombing of the World Trade Center, Saudi Arabia refused the US request of a full-scale investigation in Saudi Arabia and forbid US citizens to sue Saudi Arabia.

Although there have been accusations of state-sponsored terrorism in the case of 9/11, those claims have yet to be proven.

Iran

Iran and the IRGC (Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps) have been organizing and executing terrorist attacks worldwide, particularly against anti-regime dissidents. Anti-regime dissidents are people that actively challenge the authority of the regime, the authority in this case being Iran and the IRGC. It is suspected that a normal operation begins with intelligence gathering by diplomats and The Ministry of Intelligence and Security. Then the Quds Force, a section of the IRGC dedicated toward extraterritorial affairs, operates off the intelligence gained to pinpoint and execute a target. As a devotee of the ultra-conservative form of Sunni Islam, Wahhabism, Iran targets any person (most of the time with political status) that embodies any Western ideals. As of 1990 alone, there were four successful anti-regime dissident assassinations. In 1995, the number increased to seven assassinations.

Iran also frequently funds terrorist organizations, especially ones based on the Salafi Movement. Through increasing connections with local, smaller terrorist organizations in other countries, Iran has strengthened the Taliban, created minor rebellions in Pakistan, and sponsored terrorist attacks all over the world. Iran’s support for Hezbollah, the People’s Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the Palestine Islamic Jihad Movement (PIJ) has also

subsequently destabilized Lebanon and Israel. Being Iran's closest partner, Hezbollah often receives financial and military aid from Iran. The two also engage in diplomacy, to the extent of hosting a World Conference on Palestine in Tehran with Hezbollah. By 1994, the two parties created a coordinated front to reject Israel and bombed the Argentine-Israel Mutual Association (AEMA).

Additionally, Iran has held hostages twice in history, once in 1989 with US citizens for 444 days and another in Lebanon with US diplomats. Although the second case was in Lebanon, it was an operation that was operated and negotiated by Iran.

Iraq

Iraq is one of the few governments in history to publicly endorse terrorism as a legitimate military tactic. For decades already, Iraq has provided ammunition, training camps, and even bases to anti-Turkish, anti-Iranian, and Palestine terror groups. During the Gulf War, Iraq immediately held all Kuwait and Western citizens hostage, of which the Western citizens were eventually released by UNSC Resolution 664. The Kuwaitis stayed in captivity. Even after the Gulf War, Iraq continued to train terrorists in the north, with increasing movement between terrorists and Baghdad. As of 1995, there were over 100 attacks on UN envoys and an attack on the INC (Iraq National Congress) by Iraqi-trained Kurds, killing 25 people.

Diplomatic espionage is also a method of gaining intelligence to carry out terrorist attacks, one which Iraq uses.

Afghanistan

See: Taliban

US and the EU

After the end of World War I, France and the UK demanded mandates of the Ottoman Empire. At the time, the Ottoman Empire stretched from the north of Turkey to the south of Yemen, and from the east of Iraq to the west of Algeria. As the most paramount allies to winning the war, France and Britain took most of the Middle East and North Africa, most notably Syria, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. However, France and Britain split the area with a geographical sense, failing to consider the theological differences in each area. Additionally, each of the mandates gained independence at separate times, making it impossible (with the restrictions of international law ratified by their colonial rulers) to change borders. As such, minorities (e.g. Sunni in Shia dominated areas) were often persecuted, leading to the development of terrorist organizations.

During the Cold War, the USSR made multiple invasions of Middle Eastern countries. A distressed US and EU, looking to stop the spread of communism, began arming their old mandates and supply resistance armies with weapons. One such army was called the Taliban. Armed and trained by the US, after the Cold War, the Taliban assumed its current form as a terrorist organization.

While the West kept detailed records of potential attacks, “the very critical distinction between what is conceivable or possible and what is likely in terms of the threat of terrorist attack” kept the West from taking any action. Instead, they have tried to combat terrorism through the use of sanctions, and occasionally, the stationing of troops near allied borders. The only example of stationing troops yielding positive results was in the 1990s, when the US-Saudi coalition against potential Iraqi threats gathered more intelligence regard Al-Qaeda. Sanctions, on the other hand, had little to no effect at all, as money laundering easily bypassed all UN Sanctions. The terrorism prevention mechanism on both the US and EU were extremely weak, despite an increase in terrorist attacks after the fall of the USSR. While there have been a few treaties at an international level, like the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (signed in Tokyo 1963 and the Hague 1970 respectively), most participants were Western countries and did not consider onboard hijacking to be a serious threat. The failure of these actions all contributed to 9/11.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The first official UN act against terrorism can be traced back to 1972, when the repercussions of the Bloody Friday incident and Munich Massacre led to one of the deadliest years of terrorist attacks. In response, the Sixth General Assembly Committee signed A/RES/3034(XXVII), creating the *Ad Hoc* Committee on International Terrorism and including 35 member states as a part of that committee. Its main responsibility is to create anti-terrorism reports and consensus-based recommendations for the Sixth Committee, which directly ties to the development of futures anti-terrorist methods and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. From 1972 to 1996, over eight Sixth Committee Resolutions further continued, enforced, and expanded the *Ad Hoc* Committee’s mandate, the greatest of which happened when the Committee was charged with regulating Hostage Situations under A/RES/32/147. As of now, the *Ad Hoc* Committee is still fully operational and working closely with the Sixth Committee to develop a working group draft that allows member states to create a joint-response against terrorism.

In 1997, after the recommendation and limited success of establishing a working group from the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the Sixth Committee created the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism Bombings, which convened in 1998 to at define, illegalize, and establish consequences for suicide bombing. However, the conventions outlined in this convention had limited effect until 1999, when it was briefly mentioned in UNSC resolution 1214, 1193, and 1076 regarding the increasing amount of terrorism activity in Afghanistan civil war. It wasn't until UNSC resolutions 1267 and 1269 that the measures written in the Convention were effectively enforced on all participating member states, which did not result in the decrease of terrorist bombings. It is also worth noting that until then, all forms of foreign rule over colonies were considered terrorism.

Most of the UN's efforts against terrorism came right after the famous drug trade incidents in the 1970's and 1980's, when the western world was facing a huge addiction problem. The issue of money laundering was first discovered then, and in response, the GA Special Session created the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The convention led to the creation of the GPML (Global Program on Money Laundering), which in 1998, was given permission by the request of the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and the GA Special Session to expand its operations to terrorism. The year immediately after, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was created by the GPML. The treaty aimed to define, illegalize, contain, and establish consequences for the financing of terrorism, often referred to as State-sponsored terrorism. So far, the many anti-money laundering methods enacted by this treaty and the GPML has had limited effect on terrorist organizations like the Taliban or Al-Qaeda.

UN actions against terrorism

- Measures to Prevent International Terrorism which Endangers or Takes Innocent Human Lives or Jeopardizes Fundamental Freedoms, 18 December 1972 (**A/RES/3034(XXVII)**)
- Measure to Prevent International Terrorism which Endangers or Takes Innocent Human Lives or Jeopardizes Fundamental Freedoms, and Study of the Underlying Causes of those Forms of Terrorism, 16 December 1977, (**A/RES/32/147**)
- Declaration of Measure to Eliminate International Terrorism, 9 December 1994, (**A/RES/49/60**)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 12 January 1998, (**A/52/653**)
- UNSC Resolution 1214, 8 December 1998, (**S/RES/1214**)
- UNSC Resolution 1267, 15 October 1999, (**S/RES/1267**)
- UNSC Resolution 1269, 19 October 1999, (**S/RES/1269**)

Possible Solutions

Regarding 9/11

A potential logical first step is to identify the group behind the attacks. Methods such as **intergovernmental-joint investigations** are especially useful, as the collaboration of different states is essential towards the diffusion of information without violating sovereignty rights, especially with countries suspected to be participating in state-sponsored terrorism. Also, **federal-approved search warrants** could also be useful in uncovering classified files or government files in a legal manner, and by a justified source. Such an investigation could help the committee decide on what steps must then be taken. Moving on, it could be a substantial act to cut off terrorist group's financial sources by imposing pressure on state-sponsored terrorism. Such actions could include **sanctions against member states that have shown records of state-sponsored terrorism**, or in extreme cases perhaps a jointly led coalition. As a result, this may reduce the amount of direct funding the terrorists get, forcing them to earn funds through the tedious and slow process of money laundering. Thus, this could give the committee more flexibility regarding time and agency to decide on what type of operation must be conducted on the target party. Next, member states could **immediately declassify known/suspected information about 9/11**, even if those claims have the possibility of being inaccurate. Such information would help the committee decide how to best address the issue without hurting any possible civilians. In addition, a **jointly-led coalition against suspected terrorist organizations** will be able to reaffirm the UN principles of peace and security over terrorist tactics. In such a coalition, the encouragement of western and eastern partnership could potentially strengthen friendly binational and international relations. Finally, the security of states against terrorist attacks such as the September 11th attacks are also equally important. Some solutions could include **strengthening the detective technology and manual monitoring at airport checkpoints, making hijacking countermeasures by agencies more efficient, and installing override options by control towers for airplanes.**

Regarding terrorism in general

The committee could draft solutions regarding state-sponsored terrorism. Such a document can clearly set parameters for state-sponsored terrorism in the future, and help establish consequences for nations that do support state-sponsored terrorism. After that, the **committee could draft more solutions towards aviation safety**, forcing all airplanes that go over a certain nation's airspace to have a radar that cannot be turned off. This means that a rogue plane will still be able to be tracked, giving nations more agency in the occasions of hijackings. Also, terrorist organizations threaten the community in many more ways: suicide bombings, civilian-directed attacks, and coups, just to name a few. Regarding suicide bombings and civilian-directed attacks, nations could for instance **strengthen border monitoring on land and sea**, especially at check-in points for migrants. As to preventing terrorist coups such as the Taliban government in Afghanistan from occurring, the community could organize for **the**

training of local militia or dispatching of forces to countries facing such a risk. These are, of course, just a few ideas for delegates to keep in mind regarding general anti-terrorism solutions, but delegates are recommended to brainstorm potential solutions for different specific crises scenarios that could be presented to the committee.

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