

TERRORISM DEFINITIONS

From Dictionary.com

“The use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.”

Terrorism. (2017). In Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/terrorism>

From the U.S. Department of State

“The term ‘terrorism’ means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents[.]”

U.S. Department of State. (2005). Chapter 1: Legislative requirements and key terms. Country Reports on Terrorism. Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2005/>

League of Nations Convention, 1937

“ . . . 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” (p. 6).

League of Nations. (1937). Convention for the prevention and punishment of terrorism. Retrieved from <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/11579/>

Code of Federal Regulations

“Terrorism includes the unlawful use of force or 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.”

28 C.F.R. § 0.85 (2017).

Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism

“Any act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that occurs in the advancement of an individual or collective criminal agenda and seeking to sow panic among people, causing fear by harming them or placing their lives, liberty, or security in danger, or seeking to cause damage to the environment or to public or private installations or property or to occupying or seizing them or seeking to jeopardize national resources” (p. 2).

League of Arab States. (2000). The Arab Convention for the suppression of terrorism (United Nations English translation service, Trans.). Retrieved from <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3de5e4984.pdf> (Original work published 1998).

Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism

“ . . . premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.”

Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. (2003). Patterns of global terrorism. Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2002/html/19977.htm>

From Webster.com

“the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion”

Terrorism. (2017). In Merriam-Webster's dictionary. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terrorism>

Council of the European Union

“. . . offences under national law, which, given their nature or context, may seriously damage a country or an international organization where committed with the aim of:

- seriously intimidating a population, or
- unduly compelling a government or international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act, or
- seriously destabilizing or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organization . . .” (Article 1, Section 1)

Council of the European Union. (2002). Council framework decision of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism. EUR-Lex: Access to European Law. Retrieved from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32002F0475>

USA Patriot Act (definition of domestic terrorism)

Activities that involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the U.S. or any state that appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping and that occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the U.S.

ACLU. (n.d.). How the USA Patriot Act redefines “domestic terrorism.” Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/other/how-usa-patriot-act-redefines-domestic-terrorism>