

## **TERRORISM: A BIG THREAT TO HUMANITY**

**Moitreyee Borah**

M.A in Political Science (Gauhati University) NET, SLET

moitreyeeborah1995@gmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century terrorism has become a major worldwide problem. The September 11 incident of the world commonly known as 9/11, were four coordinated suicide attacks carried out by Al-Qaeda against the United States on Tuesday, September in 2001. And another attack which took place on 7 July, 2005 in London which is commonly known as 7/7 attack. These two attacks are the ugliest manifestation of terrorism. Once the Barack Obama, the former president of USA said that no religion is answerable for terrorism only the person who are involve in those violent activities are responsible. This article intends to discuss about terrorism and its features, factors responsible for the emergence of terrorism, and some suggestion in order to prevent terrorism.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Terrorism is the structured system of intimidation. It is broadly defined as a brutal behavior which is plan to generate fear in the people for political purpose. It is a practice whereby a organized group or party wants to achieve its purpose and objectives mainly through forcefully. This conception terrorism refers to the practices adopted by the opponents of the state. For example we may refer to the terrorist groups like Palestine Liberal Organization (PLO) that was a notable terrorist groups functioning since 1960s and early 1970s under the leadership of Yasser Arafat. Reference could also be made to that of Al-Qaeda who was mainly responsible for the terrorist attack in United states.

Apart from these there are some terrorist operation which are prevalent in the state like Israel, Iraq etc. It may be mentioned here that Iraq under Saddam Hussein, Afghanistan under Talibans were known for adopting terrorist practices. Even after number of years of independence, India witnesses a number of terrorist practices on its land, like the Islamic terrorist groups in Punjab, Assam, and other northeastern states and also many groups in southern states. Since the independence, India is continuously facing number of violence because of terrorism and number of laws connected to terrorism exist in India. Such as NSA, AFSPA, UAPA etc and all these acts have the same motive to reduce the activities of terrorist in India. Along with India many other countries who are facing violence from terrorism also implemented number of laws, signed treaties in order to control the atrocities of terrorism. But with the existence of number of laws and with the continuous battle there were a number of terrorist attacks because of which number of people had died. And these violent groups are becoming threat in the life of the people. They are rising a threat to people's life, development, progress, etc

## **FEATURES OF TERRORISM**

1. Against State- Terrorism is mostly organized against a state. The terrorist groups organized their activities against a State. For example- we may refer to the attack of terrorist groups namely Al-Qaeda against the state of United states of America. Similarly, the London bombings of 2005 was organized by the terrorist against the Great Britain. Regarding the activities of Khalistani and the Kashmiri militants it could also be stated that these militant groups have also aim their activities against the States. It can be said that one of the features of terrorism is that they are always against state. But this feature is not applicable in case of State terrorism where a state adopts terrorist policies.

2. Political Purpose- The terrorist groups always work for political purpose. when the Palestine Liberation organization (PLO) was formed as terrorist group, its main objective was to establish an independent state for the palestinians. Their fight was against Israel and in 1972 Munich Olympics, a number of Israeli athletes were killed by the PLO terrorist. Regarding the Khalistanis terrorist it could be stated that their main aim is to establish their own independent state namely khalistan in the existing territory of Punjab which is an integral part of India. The Kashmiri militants are also guided by the political objective of integrating Kashmir with Pakistan. Thus the terrorist groups are always motivated by a political purpose.

3. Adoption of Technique Intimidation- The terrorist groups adopt the techniques of intimidation and creating fear among the people. This is generally done by killings of people irrespective of men, women and child that generate fear and panic amongst the people. Reference could be made to that of the Al-Qaeda attack in world trade centre which created extreme level of panic amongst the Americans. The intimidation was such that even the American president George W. Bush had to leave the White House and took shelter in some unidentified place. It shows that the terrorist group adopts the technique of intimidation to create fear and panic amongst the common people.

4. Glorification and use of violence- Terrorism glorify violence. We may refer to a number of terrorist groups all over the world like Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Talibans, Lashkar-e-Taiba, LTTE etc that use violence against their targets. With the help of violence they able to generate fear amongst people which in turn they would be able to achieve their targets.

5. Ideological Commitment- The terrorist groups try to justify their activities on ideological ground. For example- The PLO had its ideological commitment towards the formation of a homeland for palestinian people. The Islamic fundamentalist group like the Al-Qaeda and ISIS are ideologically committed towards the formation of homeland towards the Sikh namely Khalistan.

Accordingly it could be seen that terrorism has a distinct conceptual entity and is marked by a number of features.

## **FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EMERGENCE OF TERRORISM**

There are number of factors responsible for the growth of terrorism. Some of them are discussed below-

1. Religious Fundamentalism- Religious Fundamentalism one of the factor responsible for the growth of terrorism. This type of terrorism is also known as post modern terrorism. In this kind of terrorism, the terrorist groups are formed on the basis of fundamentalist religious considerations. For example- We may refer to the terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, Talibans, Laskar-e-Toiba, ISIS etc. These groups have launched what they called as Jihad against their enemy i.e USA. They have identified USA as the enemy who is responsible for creating an order of clash of civilization. Reference could also be made to that of the Sikh terrorist groups that operated from the premise of the Golden Temple in the late 70s and 80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

2. Political Factor- political factors are primarily responsible for the growth of terrorism. In this connection we may refer to the formation of PLO which demanded a separate homeland for the Palestinian. Reference could also made to that of the formation of LTTE in Sri Lanka. The LTTE had demanded a separate homeland i.e Eelam for the Tamils. The formation of LTTE and PLO shows the importance of political factors for the emergence of Terrorism.

3. Economic Factor- The economic factor is also responsible for the growth of Terrorism. In fact economic factor could be identified with that of every terrorist movement. For example, when PLO was formed people were living in utter economic crisis which was caused by absence of homeland. Similarly the Tamils in Sri Lanka were living in poverty which also forced them to think in terms of a separate homeland for them.

4. Protection of Cultural Identity- The fear of losing cultural identity is also responsible for the growth of terrorism. In thus Connection we may refer to the khalistani terrorist who were concerned about the cultural identity of the sikh people and demanded a separate homeland to protect their own culture and tradition. The Anandpur Sahib Resolution of the Akali Dal on the issue of National self determination also indicate the concern for cultural identity of the Sikh people.

5. Immediate cause- While it is true that terrorism as an organized movement although manifested in the formation of the PLO, the Al-Qaeda attack in the World Trade Centre in the New York accelerated the terrorist activities all over the World. It was Osama Bin Laden who provided the leadership to the Islamic fundamentalist forces all over the world who adopted the terrorist methodology and use the global network to spread terrorist activities within a few years of the September 2002 attack. Terrorist activities were growing in a number of countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, USA etc.

## **SUGGESTIONS TO PREVENT TERRORISM**

1. Public-police cooperation- For having a superior intelligence input, there should have a good public-police cooperation. Apart from these the fear element in the minds of public for the police and as well as inquiry agency should be eliminated. It will help in the reduction of terrorist activities.

2. Strengthen the education level- A knowledgeable society carries a virtuous approach, whereas an educated individual can differentiate between right and wrong. A Wrong person can be segregated by an educated person and can put him in a right path. So education plays an important role in the elimination of social, national and international evils because an educated person will always do good for his country. So there should be strengthened in the education level in order to remove evils from the society.

3. Patriotism- A person with rooted patriotism feeling can never contribute in anti national activity. The feeling of nationalism among the citizens of a country always plays an important in development of a country

4. Maintaining good relation with the neighboring countries- strengthening good relation with neighboring countries also helps to eliminate the problem of terrorism.

5. Increased awareness level- An aware citizen also plays an significant role in repressing the anti- national activity. He can keep the society free from wrong person. He can also spread awareness amongst the citizen about the issues.

## CONCLUSION

The main motive of terrorism is the destruction of life and property of human life. For the prevention of terrorism several laws, treaties have signed by number of countries including India. In some countries terrorism is under control and in some countries terrorism is yet to be controlled. Still in some countries terrorism is creating chaos in people's life and the activities of terrorism should be controlled as soon as possible. In spite of number of treaties, laws the factors like employment, awareness among the citizen, patriotism, maintaining good relations with neighboring countries, enhancement in education level etc are some factors which will also help in the prevention of terrorism in the country.

## REFERENCES

1. Deka parag, "Contemporary political Issues and Ideologies", kalyani publications, Rajinder Nagar, Ludhiana-141008
2. Anand Hrisabh, "Terrorism :A Threat to Global Peace and Stability", International Journal of Law Management and Humanities".
3. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/securing-our-future-decade-counter-terrorism-strategies>
4. Newspaper, Journals and number of Articles related to the topic.