

### **Is force a useful security tool when combating terrorism?**

Terrorism has played havoc with the lives and property of the people. It has been the most talked about topic in the last decade or so. Ever since the September 11, 2001 event unfolded, a new dawn of terror reigned upon this world. The aftereffects of this event were heinous so to speak, since these more or less shackled the free world and the peace avenues within it started to shrink for all the wrong reasons. It is a fact that the world powers have played their vital part at combating terrorism in one way or the other but they have been largely unsuccessful at creating a much needed difference – a difference which will eventually stabilize the whole world when it comes to facing the threats which terrorism poses on an out and out basis. It is a fact that force is being used in order to tackle the pressures that have come to the fore ever since terrorism started to make headlines. The allied forces – United States, United Kingdom and bodies like United Nations and NATO have played their significant roles at deploying force within the terror-hit areas. Also surveillance has been increased across the globe in order to thwart any terrorist act that might take place. The worst possible explanation of terrorism that takes place within the different regions of the world is that it can happen anytime and at any place. The terrorists do not believe in world peace and a social order to exist within this world. Thus it is appropriate to combat the terror wings with force in order to bring these terrorists to justice. The lives of the ordinary citizens must not be put under any form of risk and hence it is important to understand that whatever force mechanisms are being used in the time and age of today, are eventually going to draw long term results in the coming times. *This paper explains the significance of using force within the security mechanisms that are deployed to tackle the terrorism subjects all over the world.*

Force has long been used as a deterrent in the wake of combating terrorism. This is because the governments of different countries in the world find it feasible to deploy force so that they could secure the lives of the people, have peace prevail within the varied societies of the world, and essentially keep away the terror regimes in every manner possible. Terrorism has come out as a sinful measure all over the world. It is condemned in nearly all countries of the world in a very vehement fashion. The importance of combating terrorism is made apparent by the fact that huge budgets are allocated for meeting the security challenges that the different countries of the world face. Research studies have suggested that terrorism remains the world's most sought after issues that need to be brought under a proper order. People are literally sick and tired of the constant terror attacks that are taking all over the world. There have been modifications in the way these terrorist activities have changed over a period of time. Earlier there used to be bomb attacks, then there were aircrafts used for bombing the buildings and army base camps and now the suicide attacks within different nations of the world seems to be the buzzword. The terrorists think that they can blow themselves up in a very easy way and thus harm the cause of the people at large through these suicide missions<sup>1</sup>. The terror seems to be immense and the people have demonstrated against all such acts on a far and wide basis. However force seems to be the only option for the world's superpowers. They need to use it in a way that the civilians do not get affected by such forceful measures and regimes. Once again this is easier said than done. The reason for the same lies in the fact that the usage of force could mean that even the innocent citizens would be affected by it in one way or the other. There is absolutely no mechanism as of now which could ensure that force will only be limited to the domains of the military forces alone. The innocent citizens get affected by them in a similar capacity, which is appalling to state the least. The world's top governing bodies are planning

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<sup>1</sup> Lutz, J.M. & Lutz, B. 2008, *Global Terrorism*. Routledge, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

new and improved surgical strikes within the most difficult terrains of the world. These regions are suspected for the terrorist camps, which teach, nurture and hide these aspiring attackers. They are being given cover by the most sought after terrorists in the world – the Taliban and the Al Qaeda seem to be on the hit list for the last 10 years or so. The use of force against these terror units is understandable since the whole world seems to be on a war footing and has negative impressions for Taliban and the Al Qaeda. There is proof available that suggests how much rampage these terrorist organizations have created for a long period of time now. The world's top governing bodies are doing their utmost to address these issues and there is little doubt that success will eventually be achieved within the relevant quarters. The usage of force along with societal reforms is important. The manner in which force is used needs to be balanced because this could easily mean a lot of casualties within the different regions of the world. As far as the people are concerned, there is consensus amongst them that the allied forces are doing their best to solve the anomalies that exist within the peace missions across the world. Each one of the earth's inmates wants to see peace and sanity and the terrorists must be brought to justice. No one is given the luxury to kill people at his own free will. There needs to be proper litigation with regards to these terrorist organizations which are spreading hate culture across the globe. This indeed will solve quite a few problems nonetheless. Americans have a very important role at maintaining peace and stability within the world's different regions. The role of allies is also very significant since they must facilitate the working domains in the war against terror.

Within the political scenarios of the world, terrorism has haunted the people more than anything else. The countries that have achieved economic stability have often usurped the rights of the small nations. Even though globalization has largely helped in meshing the big and the small countries side by side, the fact remains in the premise that the big nations have more or

less destructed the reigns of the smaller ones on a regular basis. For example, America has been the superpower nation of the world due to its economic ranks, military might and cultural upheaval for quite a while now. It has attacked Iraq and then Afghanistan in order to achieve its own goals and objectives. It did not allow any other nation to attack these two countries; however it did so with might and political backing. This does not mean that America is the sole ruler of this world. What this means is the fact that America has attained a position which no other country has, in this world. It calls all the shots, takes decisions which are of long term standing, and overrules the policies and steps of the United Nations, etc. This is not in line with the most basic of human rights policies that are talked about in the world. America, due to its political might and position, has played a very negative role at instigating the terror groups. No one has given America the power to become the super forcing unit of the world. The use of force by America is at times seen as very attacking and offensive in the sheer sense of the word. America needs to cut down on its offensive ways. The change in American administration and with the swearing in of Barack Obama has meant that America can change its policies with regards to sovereignty of the different nations of the world, more so the smaller ones. The third world countries can also take a sigh of relief since they know that a minority Black American has come into power that can essentially change the course of the lives of the people within the underdeveloped areas of the world. However this is just the beginning of the Obama administration and much goodness could be expected out of his decision-making abilities and policies. One can see that the world will change and for the better in the times to come. The manner in which force is made use of, within the Obama reign is significant to understand – and more so for comprehending what Obama and his decision-making unit wants to have for the sake of the people all over the world. The role of America is indeed very quintessential and there is

absolutely denying this fact whatsoever. The manner in which force will be made use of by America will eventually suggest how things will shape up within the coming times<sup>2</sup>. One can expect quite a number of good things in the future because Obama has promised for a positive change for the entire human populace of this world. Similarly the international politics of present times must join hands with the Obama administration to root out terrorism so that the world could be seen as a peace loving area – where each one of the human beings has a right to enjoy and be a part of the nature’s varied activities and manifestations.

The use of force could have long-lasting impressions on the minds of the people as well. They could interpret that this force was used to displace them whereas the role of using force was to restore normalcy within their respective areas. The mistake that could arise in such scenarios takes place due to the meaningless and at times wrong disposition in terms of the interpretation of the people. However they cannot be blamed for the lack of guidance since these people know very little about the state of affairs their country has plunged into. The role of military and the terror groups is something that must be diagnosed in order to solve quite a fair share of the problem itself. However this requires tact and planning on the part of the government. The government is the state machinery and thus its role is of immense significance within the related settings of terrorism and how to avoid the very same in a limited capacity. The resource utilization mechanisms are also important whereas the government will discern that it has limited availability of warfare and ammunition and thus it needs to have a clear cut and decisive approach when it decides to tackle the terror groups. One of the significant things that could be done under the forceful regimes is to cut down on the hate literature that is being spread far and wide. This hate literature works like jungle fire and shakes the people in a very negative

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<sup>2</sup> Crocker, C. & Hampson, F.O. & Aall, P. (eds.) 2007, *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. United States Institute of Peace Press

way. They interpret the message that is being conveyed to them and due to their illiterate ways; they do not quite understand the true meaning of having a peaceful society for their own selves. For the state to understand its due role, it is of paramount importance to avoid the dissemination of this hate literature. It can also cut down on the loud propagation of content through public avenues of free speech and the like so that people are not led into doing something which is uncalled for. The government's role is quintessential within the related scheme of things and there is absolutely no denying this very fact at all. The role of terrorist outfits is accomplished when they see that the people around them have started to understand their dictum. It is important that these people are given the other side of the picture as well otherwise they will merely give into the claims made by the elders of their areas, who seem to be bogged down by the pressure of these terror groups and organizations<sup>3</sup>. The government must enact certain policies and take measures which teach people to choose between the good and the bad. Education works to their best advantage and this indeed could be seen as a very promising step in the times to come, as far as the areas that are terror-struck, are concerned. The government must make sure that its writ is formed within such susceptible areas. This will eventually reap rich rewards because people will be more open to the claims that are made by the government as well, and not just the terror outfits working within the region's domains. People can expect harmony within their ranks if force comes out as the winner at the end. This will ensure that their government did what was expected of it in the long run scheme of things.

The usage of force as a security tool has different implications for the different regions of the world. It is also important as to how the terror groups and regimes interpret the usage of force upon their own selves. Some of these terrorist organizations might just forbid their working basis but most of them usually do not give up. They believe in achieving their set tasks, objectives and

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<sup>3</sup> Collins, A. (ed.) 2007, *Contemporary Security Studies*. Oxford University Press

goals without caring about anything at all. The least they care about is the usage of force upon them. Thus force could work against the objectives that the governments have set for their own selves but this, in no way gives them the right to choose no force as a tool. Force must always be used in order to have the writ of the government of the land restored under all times and under all situations. There must not be any confusion on this subject whatsoever. This will eventually work towards building a sense of understanding and comprehension with regards to the general public who are usually afraid of these terror groups – creating avenues of destruction and making all wrong moves every now and then. There are other security tools like dialogue, the use of negotiation amongst the community elders, and so on, but then again these aspects do not guarantee success within the related regimes of terror. The terrorists need to know from day one that they will be dealt with force and that there is absolutely no middle ground for them once they decide to go all out within their heinous terror activities. It is the responsibility of the government to take care of its own people and not using force for shelving one party or the other is a very sinful measure<sup>4</sup>. The government must be answerable for the same in front of its people and there is absolutely no second opinion available in the wake of the very same. Force alone could work as the most preferable security tool when the terrorist activities are on the rise and when there are no stopping links for such crimes that are taking place within any society of the world. Force would warrant that the people will understand the hard line chosen by the government in order to keep away the extremist forces within the state as well as discern the exact mechanism under which the government will tackle the terror regimes within the land. The use of force is mandatory on the part of the government and more so with the sophisticated arms and ammunitions that are present within these terrorist units across the globe. It is important to understand the gravity of the situation at hand and address the same with all might and action at

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<sup>4</sup> Baylis, J. et al. (eds.) 2007, *Strategy in the Contemporary World*. Oxford University Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

government's end. Success will only be attained within the relevant ranks of terror and terrorist activities once the security regimes understand the dictum of death and destruction that is caused through these heinous and barbarian acts. There cannot be any substitute for human life and any country would vouch for having a forceful perspective in the line of achieving its goals and targets.

In the end, it would be fitting to state here that force comes out as the sole option for the security regimes to incorporate within the defensive and at times offensive actions undertaken by any country. This reaps quick and instant results, as well as gives the terrorist groups the idea that all is not so smooth within their heinous thinking mindsets. The use of might and force would ensure that the terrorists remain under the spotlight but then again, in the time and age of today, this has become an important consideration. The world after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States has become a wholly new region. The terrorist activities have increased and so has the terror in the minds of the people<sup>5</sup>. They feel unsafe no matter where they go. It would be in the best interest of the different countries' governments to have beefed up security regimes and for that force could be seen as the number one option that is available for them. In all fairness, force is a very important security tool and the reasons for the same have already been mentioned during the length of this essay. The need of the hour is to inculcate the values of trust and safety within these security undertakings so that the people could comprehend what they would be expecting of these terror outfits as well as the forces which are present with them to defend them under all circumstances and situations. All said and done, the need for having proper incorporation of force within a country's security mechanisms has gained quite a lot of importance and this will continue to be the case in the coming times as well. The reasons

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<sup>5</sup> Williams, P. (ed.) 2008, *Security Studies: An Introduction*. Routledge

for the same are based on a host of issues – all of which seem to center on the premise of creating terror within any society of the world.

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