



TARBUTMUN 2022

Counter-Terrorism Committee

CTC

Topic A: The Afghanistan Security Crisis due to the Taliban Government

Topic B: Governments Financing Terrorism

Participating Countries

- Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**/ Islamic Emirate of **Afghanistan**
- **Canada**
- People's Republic of **China**
- Republic of **Cuba**
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea (**North Korea**)
- Republic of **France**
- Federal Republic of **Germany**
- Republic of **India**
- Islamic Republic of **Iran**
- State of **Israel**
- Republic of **Italy**
- **Japan**
- United Mexican States (**Mexico**)
- Republic of the Union of **Myanmar**
- Federal Republic of **Nigeria**
- Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**
- State of **Qatar**
- Russian Federation
- Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia**
- Federal Republic of **Somalia**
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Republic of **Turkey**
- **United Kingdom** of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- Republic of **Yemen**



Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to TarbutMUN 2022, and to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

We are living in a time of crisis, a time where kids are learning to hate before learning to love, a time in which a kid's first toy would be a gun. This is the world we live in, innocent people are dying, and governments are staying silent. We are in a war against terrorism, and it is worst than ever. It is everywhere, and it is affecting everyone. Conflicts are surrounding us, and it is time to stand up and do something about it.

In this committee, you will be able to learn and discuss these topics. You will be able to understand the conflicts surrounding us and the ones affecting the world. MUN is not only about understanding topics; it is about discussing, it is about making a change, and it is about creating a better world. We fully trust that you have the abilities to do so. We know that you will be able to propose viable solutions that will have a positive impact on today's society.

We hope to bring you the best experience in TarbutMUN 2022, we really hope that you can learn from the debate and be passionate about it. We are very excited, and we know that it is going to be a very enriching experience.

Thank you and good luck!

Your chairs,

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Counter-Terrorism Committee

The Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council was created by resolution 1373 on September 28th, 2001. The United Nations had been fighting against terrorism since its creation, but after the 9/11 attack, The United States proposed on the Security Council, to establish a committee specially dedicated to topics regarding terrorism. It was unanimously adopted, so by resolution 1373, the Counter-Terrorism Committee or the CTC was officially created.

In 2004, the Executive Directorate of the CTC was created (CTED), with the purpose of helping the CTC achieve its goals. The CTED has made more than 160 visits to 100 UN Members since its creation. The CTED creates these visits “in order to effectively counter the emerging threats of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters” (UN.org, 2021)

The CTC has 15 official members, the corresponding ones from the security council. The permanent ones are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The current chair of the counter-terrorism committee is Mr. Tarek Ladeb. He was the representative of Tunisia on the Security Council for the period of 2020-2021, he was also the Director of Arab and Islamic Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia from 2015 to 2019. He has a Master’s Degree in Translation and a Degree in International Law and Diplomacy.

It is important to know that a UN panel, on March 17, 2005, described terrorism as any act "intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act." (UN.org, 2021)



¹ UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee briefing heightens aviation security momentum. (2021). Retrieved 1 November 2021, from <https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ES/UN-Security-Council-Counter-Terrorism-Committee-briefing-heightens-aviation-security-momentum.aspx>

Topic A: The Afghanistan Security Crisis due to the Taliban Government

Background

The Taliban's [conflict](#) with the western world goes back to the attacks of September 11, 2001, when the [Taliban government](#) refused to hand over [Al-Qaeda](#) leader Osama Bin Laden. After the denial, the United States government invaded Afghanistan. Following the invasion, the Taliban lost control of the country and quickly relocated to southern Afghanistan, which is across the border with Pakistan. They started a rebellion against the western-backed government in Kabul, the Afghan national security forces, and coalitions from international troops.

After the U.S. led coalition ended its mission to fight [terrorism](#) in Afghanistan in 2014, the [A.N.D.S.F](#) (Afghan National Defense and Security Forces), was in charge of the country's security. However, they still faced significant challenges holding on to their territory and defending urban areas and population centers. The Taliban however, still continued attacks on rural districts, as well as suicide bombings in major cities. After most of these events, the war remained in a stalemate for nearly six years, despite the increase of U.S. troops in 2017. This expansion had the objective to shift the current military strategy that the U.S. was leading in the country, which previously consisted in fighting the Taliban directly, but this time, they chose to target Taliban revenue sources, which mainly consisted of airstrikes against drug labs, and opium production sites.

The Taliban continued to seek and gain territory in Afghanistan, mainly targeting provincial capitals. In May 2018, these contests resulted in the brief seizing of the capital of the Farah province, and the capital of the Ghazni province. The Taliban held control of both these cities until August 2018, when a coalition between U.S. and Afghan troops regained control of both of these. However, these disputes have taken a major toll on the A.N.D.S.F., which reported major casualties from the takings of both cities.

By February 2020, after an entire year of direct negotiations between the U.S. government and the Taliban, both sides signed a peace agreement, which set a timeline for U.S. troops to withdraw from Afghanistan. Under the agreement, the U.S. made a compromise, to reduce their number of troops in the country to 8,500 within 135 days, and a full withdrawal in 14 months. In return, the Taliban promised to prevent terrorist organizations from using their territory and to begin negotiations with the Afghan government. However, despite being able to reach a peace agreement, no official cease-fire was set, and after a quick reduction of violence, the Taliban resumed their attacks on the A.N.D.S.F., as well as civilians, and the negotiations set to take place between both sides, were delayed for multiple months after agreeing to begin in March 2020. Violence in Afghanistan continued throughout 2020 and 2021. As the United States increased airstrikes and raids targeting Taliban positions, while the Taliban continued to attack both the Afghan government and A.N.D.S.F. positions, securing small territorial gains.

Throughout these conflicts, civilian casualties in Afghanistan have stayed in high numbers during the past few years. In 2018, the United Nations documented what was then a record high of 10,993 civilian casualties, and although the number slightly declined in 2019, it still surpassed 10,000, making it the sixth year in a row, incrementing the total number of civilian casualties documented by the UN since 2009, to 100,000. Despite another decrease in 2020, the first few months of 2021 broke the record of civilian casualties once again, as the Taliban decided to increase their military offensive, due to the withdrawal of international troops.

In addition to the Taliban presence and constant offensive, Afghanistan faces another problem. The presence of the Islamic State in Khorasan has expanded its position in several eastern provinces, attacking Kabul, and targeting civilians with suicide attacks.

International assistance in Afghanistan is a situation that causes a lot of uncertainty, and that has taken a toll on the Afghan economy. The U.S. and allies had pledged to continue supporting Afghanistan in 2020, but the Taliban takeover imposes

significant difficulties in achieving this. If the west were to definitely stop giving aid to Afghanistan, it would cause a complete collapse on Afghanistan's already deteriorating economy.

The United States of America has repeatedly shown an active interest in attempting to preserve the many political, human rights, and security gains that had been achieved in Afghanistan since 2001. But the Taliban takeover threatens to once again, turn Afghanistan into a state-controlled by terrorism, as the group is believed to maintain ties with Al-Qaeda. Also, the takeover threatens to set back the progress made on the security of women and girls in the country. The increasing internal instability, a mass exodus of refugees, and a growing humanitarian crisis could be the cause of regional ramifications, as neighboring countries respond to the crisis. In addition, Pakistan, India, Iran, and Russia, are very likely to start competing for influence in Kabul, with the use of subnational actors.

Conflict

In April 2021, United States's President, Joe Biden, informed the public that by the month of September 2021, all remaining U.S. military forces would have left Afghanistan. The Taliban, who despite ongoing peace negotiations with the Afghan government, had continued to capture and conquer territory across the entire country, decided to increase attacks against The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (A.N.D.S.F.) bases and posts, rapidly beginning to seize control of more and more territory.

In May 2021, the United States accelerated the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan, and by the month of July, nearly 95% of the retreat had been completed, leaving only a small amount of 650 troops to protect the U.S. embassy in Kabul. In summer 2021, The Taliban continued its offensive, by threatening government-controlled urban areas and seizing many border crossings. By early August, they had begun direct assaults on multiple urban areas, among these, was Kandahar in the south and Herat in the west.

On August 6, 2021, The Taliban captured the capital of the southern Nimruz province, which would become the first provincial capital to fall under their control. And after that, many provincial capitals began to fall in succession, and just within a few days, the Taliban had captured more than 10 other capitals, amongst these were Mazar-i-Sharif in the north and Jalalabad in the east, which meant that the Taliban had now controlled cities in every part of the country. Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, remained as the only urban area still controlled by the government.

On August 15, 2021, Taliban fighters entered the capital, which caused the previous Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, to flee the country, which at the same time, caused the Afghan government to collapse in its entirety. Later that day, The Taliban announced that they had entered the presidential palace, taken full control of the city, and were beginning to establish checkpoints to maintain security and stability.

Both the collapse of the A.N.D.S.F. and the speed of the Taliban's territorial gain worked as a factor of surprise to the U.S. officials and allies, and reportedly, also to the Taliban itself. After these events, the Biden administration authorized the deployment of 6,000 extra troops, to help assist the evacuation of U.S. and allied personnel at the embassy, as well as thousands of Afghans who had collaborated with the U.S. The speed of the Afghan government collapse threatens to cause a mass refugee crisis, with thousands of people trying to flee from Afghanistan, making an already existing humanitarian crisis even worse than it already was.

Present Situation

Since the Taliban took over on August 15, 2021, they have created their own government. They created rules, a new flag, and a completely new regime. On September 11, they hung the Taliban Flag on the presidential palace, to demonstrate the start of their new government.

In the first conference, the Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said, "Our sisters, our men have the same rights." Yet the history of the Taliban says otherwise, from their previous regime, from 1996 to 2001, women were mostly denied the opportunity to study, to work, and in some cases, to even leave their home. In September 2021, the Taliban's education minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani said, "Coeducation is in conflict with the principles of Islam and, on the other hand, it is in conflict with national values and is against the customs and traditions of Afghans," he said they will create a complete "Islamic system." They have already banned women in sports, and during a woman's protest, Taliban officials did not allow them to protest, so it became violent, and at least one woman was beaten. "As for women, they can have their basic rights as per Islamic rules," Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban's Political Office said.

Sahraa Karimi, a famous Afghan filmmaker, wrote a public letter in which she said the Taliban are banning "art", and that the Taliban have "tortured and murdered one of our beloved comedians." The Taliban also murdered Dawa Khan Menapal, the previous Afghan media official, saying he was being "punished for his deeds." She commented, "This war is not a civil war, this is an imposed war, and it is the result of the US deal with the Taliban."

"The UN has stated, "Afghanistan is on course to witness its highest ever number of documented civilian casualties in a single year since records began." About 250,000 Afghans have been forced to flee their homes since the end of May, 80% of whom are children, according to the UN report."²

² (www.dw.com), D. (2021). 'The Taliban will ban all art': An Afghan female filmmaker's plea | DW | 17.08.2021. Retrieved 4 November 2021, from <https://www.dw.com/en/the-taliban-will-ban-all-art-an-afghan-female-filmmakers-plea/a-58877655>

On August 23rd, Waheedullah Hashimi, senior Taliban commander said: “There will be no democratic system at all because it does not have any base in our country.” “We will not discuss what type of political system we should apply in Afghanistan because it is clear. It is [Sharia law](#) and that is it.” He also added that the entertainment industry is considered *un-Islamic*.

For some context on the Taliban government, Sarajuddin Haqqani, now serving as the interior minister of Afghanistan, is in the FBI’s most wanted criminals, with a reward of 10 million dollars, he is wanted for multiple presumed terrorist attacks.

Josep Borrell, The European Union foreign policy chief said that they are suspending their aid to Afghanistan, and for the Taliban to access the 1.2 billion euros un development fund, they will have to respect the Security Council resolutions.

“On September 20, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres received a letter signed by Muttaqi³, saying that President Ghani was “ousted” and that countries across the world “no longer recognize him as president”.⁴ (Al Jazeera, 2021)

On September 27th, Ghulam Isaczai, the representative of Afghanistan in the UN’s General Assembly during Ghani’s government, was supposed to address the UN regarding the Afghanistan situation when his name was removed from the list of speakers. Monica Grayley, a spokesperson from the UN said, “We have received information that the Member State Afghanistan withdrew its participation in the General Debate which was scheduled for today.”

Afghanistan is now the “Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan” and there is a new flag that is

³ Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi

⁴Afghanistan envoy withdraws from UN General Assembly debate. (2021). Retrieved 4 November 2021, from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/27/no-one-from-afghanistan-will-address-world-leaders-at>



The tensions between the Taliban and [I.S.K.P.](#) (The Islamic State Khorasan Province) are growing, on August 26, I.S.K.P took responsibility for a bombing in Kabul's airport that ended in the death of more than 180 people, among several other attacks. Taliban claimed to have killed Ziya ul-Haq, the former I.S.K.P leader. Wesley Morgan, a journalist who knows a lot about the US-Afghanistan war said that for the Taliban to gain international recognition, they need to eliminate I.S.K.P.

Most Important Countries

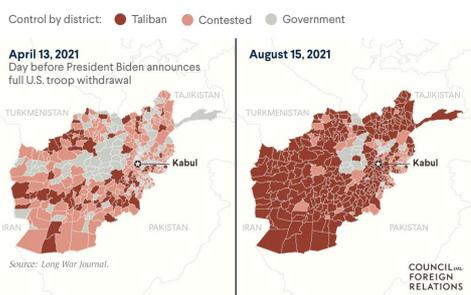
Afghanistan:

- The Afghans are currently suffering a huge economic and financial situation. Afghanistan requires the aid of a dedicated, modern, and advanced government that is able to keep this country on foot. The Taliban have taken over Afghanistan, but they do not promise what the country needs in a truthful government, just yet. Afghanistan preserves its diversity and social status. The expansion of Taliban forces impacted terrorism in a very aggressive manner. Currently, the Afghanistan government is Taliban, the new official name is the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

United States of America:

- The United States holds an important role by withdrawing US-led forces from Afghanistan. Questions will be raised about the importance and especially the impact of this morally challenging change. America provides aid all around the world, and this idea should be impacted by the current situation in the country of Afghanistan with the new Taliban movement. What this committee needs to ask itself is: did the United States make a correct decision regarding the withdrawal of their troops? Is the crucial situation currently in Afghanistan thanks to the US? How is the United States responsible for this extreme situation?

Taliban Took Over as U.S. Pulled Troops



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⁵ Who are the Taliban?. (2021). Retrieved 1 November 2021, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11451718>

Pakistan:

- The Pakistani government has denied that it provides any support to the military Taliban regarding its operations in Afghanistan. Pakistan belongs to the list of countries showing efforts to sustain and manipulate the ongoing fighting. In 2001, Human Rights Watch reported that at least 30 trucks a day crossed the border with Afghanistan. These reports showed that the trucks carried artillery shells, tank rounds, and grenades. Considering that these deliveries are a violation of U.N. sanctions, the question is: is Pakistan still supporting and still financing the Taliban movement in Afghanistan? Pakistan's border with Afghanistan has facilitated the transportation of men and shipment materials.

Russia:

- Russian minister Sergei Lavrov said that "forming a really inclusive government fully reflects the interests of not only all ethnic groups but all political forces of the country." This is extremely necessary to find peace in Afghanistan. Russia had worked for previous years to achieve contacts with the Taliban, even though it was designated a terrorist organization in 2003. Knowing that the Taliban is a recognized terrorist organization, Russia never took it off the list. The Russian government states that any contact with this organization is punishable under Russian law, but a contradiction exists about the relationship since the Foreign Ministry believes that Russian exchanges with the Taliban are crucial to help stabilize Afghanistan.

China:

- Beijing was a rival of the idea of the US departing from Afghanistan. On the other hand, an expert in Shanghai said, "China needs to develop relations with this neighbor. The Taliban has become a political force that can't be ignored." For the past years, China's engagement in Afghanistan was carefully watched by the U.S. and other countries. Considering that *before* the Taliban fighters engaged Kabul, the group's leaders were laying diplomatic

work with Beijing. During these meetings, the Taliban assured the Chinese officials that they would not allow their troops to use Afghan territory as a base to attack China.

European Union:

- Despite the current situation, The European Union continues to send “life-saving” assistance to Afghanistan. The EU has funded humanitarian operations in Afghanistan since 1994 and is still funding them. The EU stated that the only option is to talk to Afghanistan’s new rulers, the Taliban. This proposal is meant to create a diplomatic presence in Afghanistan. "Maybe it's a pure oxymoron to talk about human rights, but this is what we have to ask them," EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell said. Borrell said that he expects migrations to the EU to increase if the Taliban allow Afghans to leave.

Past UN Actions

This committee started with the nine eleven 2001 attacks, with the security council committee concluding the situation by creating the CTC (Counter-Terrorism Committee).

Regarding the Afghanistan current situation, people have been displaced out of their homes, and some of them are having the urge to leave the country due to the Taliban takeover. Out of thousands of people, 550,000 have been displaced from their homes, leaving the UN in charge of those people. Some humanitarian U.N partners like the International Monetary Fund, along with the U.N, have launched a \$1.3 billion appeal for the country this past year for Afghanistan's current economic situation. The issue is that since the Taliban took over Kabul, it's unlikely for them to touch any of that money.

On September 17th, 2021, the U.N decided to extend its "[UNAMA](#)" (United Nations Agreement Mission in Afghanistan) until March 17th, 2022, due to the removal of the U.S.A.'s troops this past August. This resolution asks the different international and Afghan parties to be part of this UNAMA, so people in Afghanistan can be safe and have a place they can call home. This isn't the first time the world has seen a UNAMA type resolution, another one is Iraq's UNAMI.

On August 30, the security council passed resolution 2593, in which it did not mention any elements and sentences for a peace-keeping operation in Afghanistan by the U.N peacekeeping military personnel, properly known as the *Blue Helmets*.

Unsurprisingly, the Taliban wanted to govern for a long time, they asked for a spot as a government in the U.N, however, the U.N. realized their intentions, and they haven't accepted them yet. The U.N is a group created to establish order and peace among the countries that are part of the organization, even though the Taliban considers itself as a government, the U.N still has doubts about its terrorist past.

“It is urgent that we act efficiently and effectively to speed up and scale up our delivery in Afghanistan before winter cuts off a large part of the country, with millions of people – including farmers, women, young children, and the elderly – going hungry in the freezing winter,” said FAO Director-general QU Dongyu. “It is a matter of life or death.”⁶ It is important for the world to help this country quickly before something else happens, this isn't a situation that could be left for tomorrow.

⁶Afghanistan on 'countdown to catastrophe' without urgent humanitarian relief. (2021). Retrieved 4 November 2021, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103932>

Keywords

Terrorism: According to the UN, Terrorism is described as an act "intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act."⁷ (UN.org, 2021)

Taliban: The Taliban is a conservative, religious and political group that emerged in northern Pakistan in the mid-1990s when the Soviet Union removed its troops from Afghanistan. Its membership consisted in having students trained in Islamic Religious Schools called "madrasahs," established for the 1980 Afghan refugees in northern Afghanistan, this group is mainly known for the occurrence with Osama Bin Laden on September 11, 2001, in New York.

Conflict: Serious disagreement and exchange of opposite ideas between two different groups

Government: The system or official group used to control and manage a country.

Al-Qaeda: Islamic organization founded by Osama Bin Laden in 1988 in Pakistan. Its most known terrorist attack was the 11 of September of 2001 when 19 Al Qaeda kidnappers took over 4 commercial airlines planes making them crash, this incident killed almost 3,000 people.

A.N.D.S.F: The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, they are the internal military in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

U.N.A.M.A: United Nations Agreement Mission in Afghanistan. Proposal for every Afghan political party to make a type of pact due to the removal of troops by the U.S.A.

⁷Security Council. (2021). Retrieved 4 November 2021, from <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/search/node/terrorism>

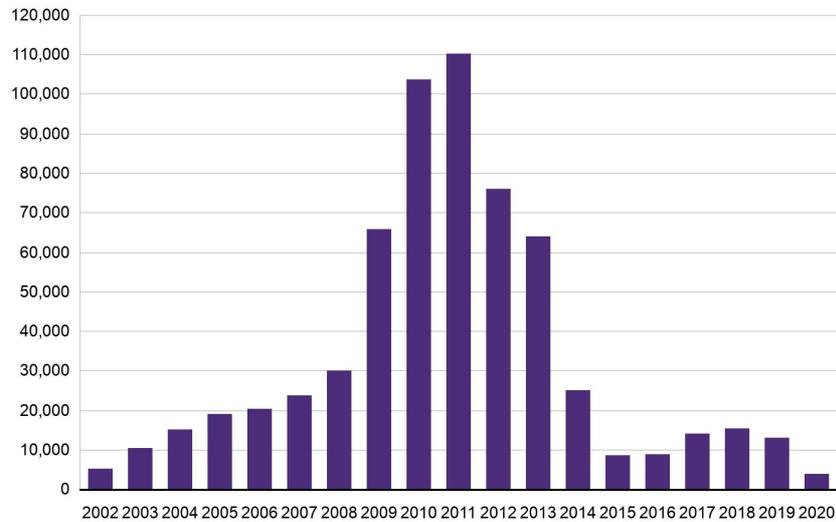
I.S.K.P: Islamic State Khorasan Province: The affiliation of the Islamic's, the I.S.K.P is the most violent and dangerous militant group among the groups in Afghanistan, the people who join this group are the ones that Afghan or Pakistani Jihadists, it is especially followed by former members of the Taliban who did not see the Taliban as extremist as it could be.

Sharia Law: It is an Islamic legal system pulled out from the Koran, where religious scholars may guide answers through a particular topic. Sharia in Arab means, "the clean, well-trodden path of water." Sharia law's particular purpose is to help and advocate Muslims to live their life according to their god's path.

Further Reading

US troop levels in Afghanistan

2002 - 2020



2020 figure as of December

Source: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), Congressional Research Service



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49192495?piano-modal>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQCpVUCWruU&ab_channel=NBCNews

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atUQb_8WsiE&ab_channel=VICENews

Taliban leadership structure



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11451718>

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Topic B: Governments Financing Terrorism

Background

Governmental financing of [terrorist](#) organizations is one of the most important issues to tackle within the objective of winning the war against terror. But understanding where, and how this problem began, is a more difficult objective, and at the same time, essential to avoid committing the same mistakes in the future.

One of the best places to start comprehending this problem, is once again, going back to Osama Bin Laden, and to the allegations made against the United States government, which claim that the [C.I.A](#) (Central Intelligence Agency), had ties with Al-Qaeda. This supposedly happened in 1979, following the Soviet invasion of

Afghanistan; the allegations claim that the C.I.A, following the invasion, provided several hundred million dollars a year to the Afghan Mujahideen insurgents (members of guerrillas) fighting the invasion, being Osama Bin Laden, the most influential and recognized among these.

It is believed that Osama Bin Laden, was able to create, train, and finance Al-Qaeda, due to The U.S. aid given to the Mujahideen during the Afghan invasion. However, the American government, to this day, still denies these accusations by claiming that the aid was given to the Pakistani and Afghan governments, and not to the insurgency and that there never was any sort of contact between the C.I.A and the Mujahideen. Yet the money ended in Mujahideen's hands.

In 1982, the government's financing situation continued. This was the year following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; during the Lebanese civil war, a militia, under the name of Hezbollah, was created. Hezbollah is currently considered to be one of the most influential and dangerous terrorist organizations by many western countries, among these the US, UK, and Israel. While others, such as Iran, Russia, and China, do not list Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. In its origin, it was created with the objective of driving Israeli forces out of Lebanon and establishing a [Shia](#) Muslim republic. This is one of the most important points to keep in mind when addressing this situation. The Islamic religion has 2 main branches, the first one being the [sunnies](#), which according to the council of foreign relations, make around 85% of the Muslim population in the world, while the other branch, the Shia Muslims, only make the remaining 15% of the Muslim population. And almost every Shia Muslim lives in Iran, which is the only major Shia power in the Middle East.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has stated on multiple occasions that the state of Israel should be wiped out from the face of the earth, for example, in 2005, a conference was held in Tehran, Iran's capital, this conference, was titled "The World Without Zionism" in this conference, Iran's former president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stated that the State of Israel should be "wiped off the map." This kind of behavior by Iranian officials has led the western world to suspect that Iran might have provided logistical, financial, and military support to Hezbollah. And Hezbollah itself has

confirmed this to be true. It is widely suspicioned, among the western powers, that the Islamic Republic of Iran, currently, still gives financial, logistical, and military support to several proxy organizations, such as Hezbollah and Hamas, with the objective of fighting the state of Israel in an indirect way. However, it's very important to note that these accusations are still denied by the Iranian government.⁸

Despite all of the evidence suggesting Iran's funding of terrorist organizations, it is also important to look at the other side of the situation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the biggest rival of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this includes politically, military, and most importantly, ideologically. Given that Saudi Arabia is the most powerful Sunni Muslim country, the branch of Islam that opposes the one imposed by the Iranian government, and also the one that has many extremist organizations who practice it, among these we can find ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

According to a 2007 report released by the U.S. Department of State, Saudi donors, have over the past 25 years provided major funding to extremist and terrorist organizations. These suspicions were, of course, triggered by the 9/11 attacks, however, the final report released by the bipartisan national commission on terrorist attacks upon the United States indicates that no evidence was able to link neither the Saudi government as an institution or individual senior Saudi officials funding terrorism.

However, this report also shows that Saudi Arabia was a place where Al-Qaeda drew money directly from individuals, and through charities.

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The Guardian. 2021. *Israel should be wiped off the map, says Iran's president*. [online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/oct/27/israel.iran>

Conflict

Since various events mentioned in the previous text, the situation concerning governmental financing of terrorist organizations has had considerable changes in the past few years. Many of the organizations that imposed the biggest dangers to society's peace and security have lost their power and influence, and many others have recovered it, making them once again a major threat. Understanding this conflict today requires us to fully understand the political paradigm concerning these organizations and their objectives, and how their very existence poses a threat to many countries around the world and threatens to change tides in multiple political disputes.

Currently, there are only a few major terrorist organizations that are suspected to be directly financed by governments, among these, we can find Hezbollah and Hamas. Both of these organizations were founded with the objective of boycotting and sabotaging The State of Israel, according to the organizations themselves. Hezbollah, currently has a major presence in Lebanon, while Hamas, is currently situated in the Gaza strip. Both these organizations are suspected to receive financial, military, and logistical help from The Islamic Republic of Iran. Even though Iran still denies this, Hezbollah has confirmed it, this happened in early February 2012, by Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, ⁹which makes the western world doubt the Iranian government. Because of these issues, Iran is currently considered to be the major sponsor of terrorism worldwide by the western world.

In 2013, the Obama administration ordered the [CIA](#) a mission to train armed Syrian opposition forces and do so with guns provided by the US; its purpose was to help them with Assad's government situation. Most of the information regarding the CIA mission is classified, but we know that according to The New York Times, the CIA successfully trained more than a thousand soldiers and that the mission was

⁹ Bassam, L. (2021). Hezbollah says gets support, not orders, from Iran. Retrieved 19 November 2021, from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-hezbollah-idUSTRE81629H20120207>

functioning until the Russian military forced them to retreat. According to BBC News, “only four or five of the program’s trainees had actually returned to the battle.”¹⁰

An Al Jazeera investigation proved that the weapons that The U.S. sent to Syria were being stolen by Jordanian intelligence operatives and sold on the black market. In 2015, the Amman shooting happened; it was a shooting where a police officer killed four people. An FBI investigation realized that the weapon used by the police officer was the same one that was stolen from the Syrian armed forces. So, at some point, the weapons that the United States sent, were sold on the black market and used as an act of terrorism.

¹⁰PolitiFact - Obama never ordered CIA to train members of ISIS. (2021). Retrieved 21 November 2021, from <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/feb/27/blog-posting/obama-never-ordered-cia-train-members-isis/>

Present Situation

Countries around the world are involved with both legal and illegal financial movements regarding terrorism. A set of government rules called “Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT),” is currently applying regulations and practices to the combating and prevention of terrorist funding and money laundering. This set of practices tracks down the source and origin of the terrorist funds. Terrorist organizations get funded mostly in areas such as weaponry, intelligence, and soldier training.

The process of financing terror can come from different legal sources such as legitimate business, government funding, and religious organization. On the other hand, the funding can come from illegal sources such as drug trafficking, kidnapping, and corruption inside the government. The United Nations hosts the team, Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime, and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML). This team implements work on CFT and maintains the necessary resources on the topic. It is believed that many governments around the world, encourage the financing of terrorism for their own actions and goods. Criminals and terrorists have found new ways of getting financed and easier channels to launder money. Currently, terrorist transactions are very difficult to trace, financiers are using untraceable strategies in order to maintain a low profile, some of these including cryptocurrency and illegal cash transactions. There have been cases where customer-to-customer websites have been used for terrorist financing purposes. It's important to know that terrorist organizations are currently being financed by untraceable sources as well as identified ones.

Most Important Countries

United States of America:

- The United States of America has always maintained a straight opinion and sensitivity about this topic. The financing of international terrorism is a serious matter that should be cautiously monitored by superpowers such as the US. Although the US has always provided aid and financial support to countries in need, doubts have been raised about USA's involvement in terrorism and its financing. The US has also been prepared to send any type of support to address this conflict inside the countries involved. To conclude, the US signed an agreement with the European Union that allows the transfer of financial data with the purpose of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program (TFTP). The agreement was signed in August 2020.

Iran:

- In a recent hearing, Secretary of State Antony Blinken established his view of Iran as the largest state sponsor of terrorism. This is something worth looking into, the financing of terrorism in Iran is a topic of discussion for the well-being of the Middle East and the world. Iran's financing has been highlighted in clients from Hezbollah to Hamas. Hezbollah has accepted that Iran funds them, the Iranian government still denies it.

Russia:

- Russia is currently trying to identify the illegal financing activity and considers these investigations to be of the highest priority. Russia continues to establish the idea of a country held by understanding the security and stability of the financial sector of terrorism by using tools provided by Russia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing system. Indeed, the Russian Federation is taking several actions to combat money laundering inside the financing of illegal financial terms of terrorism.

Saudi Arabia:

- The United States has branded Saudi Arabia as the “epicenter” of al-Qaeda’s funding. According to a report submitted to the U.N., Al-Qaeda received between \$300 to \$500 million from 1992 to 2002. This report says that al-Qaeda acquired the money by “abusing this pillar of Islam and taking advantage of the Saudi regulatory vacuum¹¹.” As we can see, Saudi Arabia is believed to be a big weapon for the financing of terrorism.

Syria:

- Syria is a member of the organization Egmont Group which is aiming to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. This indicates the urge that this organization, amongst all of its members, of eradicating and addressing these problems in a responsible and peaceful way. Syria entered the Egmont Group in 2007 with one simple goal; being responsible for the financing of terrorism and combating money laundering. It is believed that the United States has been involved with Syria's financing and weapon management which was applied in terror.

¹¹ <https://www.wionews.com/world/epicenter-of-al-qaeda-financing-how-saudi-arabias-terror-policy-backfired-343023>

Past UN Actions

The terrorism prevention branch (TPB) is a necessary branch made in 2003 by the U.N. It was created to make stronger and more trustful the security of the world. The TPB is key to the U.N., it delivers legal and technical assistance to the countries that are part of the U.N. This branch prevents terrorism and promotes legal instruments against it. The TPB goes together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

[NGOs](#) are often used in cases of financing terrorism. According to INTERPOL, any crime that ends in a profit can be a case of financing terrorism, which means that any country in any continent has terrorism around them, even though the probability of a terrorist attack in their countries is very low. This is something we have to face, we can't leave this topic behind because if not, countries will be losing money thanks to terrorism. The majority of the money is meant to be given to the countries' population, but it ends up being given to terrorism. Terrorism is not necessarily shown in terrorist attacks, it can be expressed in many forms, some terrorist events can be fraud, kidnapping for ransom, fraud of nonprofit organizations, etc.

NGOs are companies with no money profit that are mostly used to fight against social issues that are currently happening in the world. The problems surge when the money donated to the NGOs, does not really go to that cause, it goes to the terrorists, which this act is formerly known as money fraud, grabbing money that is not theirs and inverting it in other things.

The U.N. has been helping by creating different branches to prevent this issue, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The FATF fights against money laundering, which is very related to terrorism because, in both concepts, the money is hidden from authorities. The difference is that in money laundering, most of the money comes from some sort of criminal activity, but in financing terrorism, it does not matter where the money comes from.

Another association created to prevent money laundering is The Egmont Group, which is often used to combat money fraud and money laundering cases. It has a

network of 159 (FIU's) financial intelligence units around the whole world. The FIUs are used to confidentially provide help to the world against the money laundering topic.

Keywords

- **CIA:** It's the government organization created by the United States to recollect secret information from different countries, its name is Central Intelligence Agency.
- **Money Laundering:** The crime of processing money that comes from illicit forms into a real business, or hiding it in other banks to evade the fact that the money was stolen or came from illicit sources.
- **Terrorism:** According to the UN, Terrorism is described as an act "intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act." (UN.org, 2021)¹²

Terrorism is the actions that some groups do to innocent people to intimidate another group, sometimes the actions are made to intimidate governments.
- **NGOs:** A Non-Governmental Organization, is typically a voluntary group not involved with the government, that usually creates a social mission to try to achieve a change in a problem.
- **Sunni:** It is a branch of Islam. According to Sunni followers, it is the mainstream and traditional branch of Islam, they distinguish from the minority of the Islam followers, Shia.
- **Shia:** Branch of Islam mostly followed in Iran, the Shia rejects and neglects the first three Sunni caliphs.
- **Egmont Group:** The Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units is a group created to improve communications and make sharing information safer. Their

¹²Security Council. (2021). Retrieved 4 November 2021, from <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/search/node/terrorism>

purpose is to give countries fighting against financing terrorism and money laundering better support.

Further Reading

<https://www.cfr.org/event/tackling-terrorist-financing-0>

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUsMhe8sdXU&ab_channel=UNOfficeofCounter-Terrorism

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