

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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Statement

By

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United Nations**

Before

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resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996**

(Measures to eliminate international terrorism)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to you and other members of the Bureau for all the efforts you have put into facilitating the negotiations on the agenda items of the Ad Hoc Committee, in particular the draft Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran associates itself with the statement made by distinguished delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the OIC Group and the one made by my own delegation on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation would like to make a few additional observations in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Unfortunately terrorism continues to endanger the life and security of many people across the world and affect the every day life of many more. It is indeed a multifaceted transnational problem which requires a global response. And that's what the international community has been trying to achieve for 5 decades now, including through developing 13 International legal instruments and a good number of regional documents to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of terrorist crimes. Another track has also been followed by some to eliminate terrorists by resorting to extensive use of armed force which has eventually claimed the lives of thousands of innocent civilians, as well. The result seems to be far from satisfactory, though, and the sad news of acts of terrorism continues to feature almost our daily life. It is a proven fact today that unlawful use of force and occupation of other countries prepares ground for vicious cycle of violence and terrorism. The situation in our neighboring countries is very telling.

The old question still remained to be addressed, then; why does terrorism continue to take hold despite the fact that each and every State and community firmly denounce it and make every effort to counter it? A wide range of factors and causes could be identified as contributing to this disturbing situation. However, one can not but immediately notice the fact that unfortunately terrorism has long been manipulated by some as a political leverage against others; they have not hesitated to sit and work with terrorists whenever they saw it as beneficial to their narrowly defined geopolitical interests. Such sinister functionalist approach toward terrorism which is, almost inevitably, ensued by double standard in dealing with terrorist groups or terrorist acts, provide sufficient room for terrorist groups to maneuver and survive. This has been the approach taken by certain countries vis a vis a notorious terrorist group which for long perpetrated atrocious terrorist acts against Iranian citizens and killed and injured tens of thousands of innocent people.

Mr. Chairman,

Just very recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran's security forces managed to capture Abdulmalek Rigi, a terrorist thug and leader of a terrorist group with evident foreign links who masterminded a string of terrorist acts in southeast of my country which killed and injured more than 700 people. His terrorist group was responsible for a terrorist attack on a bus in the south-eastern city of Zahedan on 14 February 2007, and for the terrorist attack that occurred in the border city of Pishin on 18 October 2009, among others. The Security Council condemned both attacks and underlined the need to bring to justice their perpetrators, organizers and sponsors.

There is undeniable evidence, including Rigi's own confessions, that he enjoyed extensive support from certain countries which have military presence in our neighboring countries, particularly from the United States. The arrest of this terrorist element gave us a bitter sweet feeling; the Iranian nation rejoiced that he would finally be held responsible for his cruel acts. However it was shocking to find that he was so generously supported by some powers which claim to be the advocates of counter-terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

As we have said, time and again, eliminating terrorism requires the political will of all States manifested by avoiding double standard and organized under the auspices of the United Nations and in full conformity with the United Nations Charter and international law, international human rights and humanitarian law. The rule of law and respect for human rights and humanitarian law should be our guiding principles in fighting terrorism. In other words, fighting terrorism should not be carried out at the expense of the principles of the United Nations' Charter, particularly the sanctity of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country which has suffered from terrorism from the early days of its glorious revolution till now, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns all acts of terrorism, wherever and by whosoever committed. It is our principled position that resorting to indiscriminate violence and terrorist acts, whether by terrorist groups or by State military forces, and killing and maiming innocent peoples and generating terror and intimidation among civilians could not be justified in any manner.

Distinguished delegates,

If we take terrorism in its literal meaning as generally understood, that is "unlawful threat or use of indiscriminate force against civilian targets to intimidate the public or a government for political purposes, i.e., power-related objectives", is there any act of terrorism more abhorrent and more horrifying than threatening a whole nation with weapons of mass destruction? Isn't it a clear manifestation of large-scale State terrorism to publicly and shamelessly threaten a sovereign State, which is a member of the United Nations and a party to the NPT, with nuclear bombs? Can the U.S. new nuclear strategy which authorizes the use of nuclear bomb against other countries, including Iran, be named other than "State terrorism", in its truest sense? This policy of nuclear blackmail and terror which runs counter to international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and significantly undermines the trust of nations in the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, must be denounced by the international community and all peace-loving nations.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that a consensual definition of terrorism should strengthen international cooperation against terrorism and end any ambiguity concerning this term. Such definition has to be objective and include all forms of terrorist acts, including those terrorist acts and extrajudicial killings perpetrated by States' military, sometimes disguised as targeted killings. It has also to make a clear distinction between heinous acts of terrorism and legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for restoring their fundamental right of self determination.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches high importance to the ongoing process of negotiation of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and commends all initiatives geared toward reaching consensus on the pending issues. My delegation recognizes the efforts taken by the Bureau of the *Ad Hoc Committee*

established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, particularly by its Chairman and the Coordinator, to that end. We are committed to remain actively engaged with a view to arriving at consensual solutions for the key outstanding issues. This should be done without compromising or affecting the established norms and principles of international humanitarian law concerning the legality and legitimacy of people's struggle against foreign occupation, aggression, colonialism and alien domination to achieve self-determination. The new Convention should also criminalize acts of terrorism committed by State, including by its military forces. In fact 'all measures of intimidation or of terrorism [by military forces, during a conflict] are prohibited' under article 33 of the 4th Geneva Convention. This could be a basis for criminalizing such acts of States during peacetime, as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Ill-intended attempts to tarnish any religion, culture or nation by linking them with terrorism must be rejected. Such ill-advised and simplistic approach to terrorism, would only lead to distrust, hatred and division among nations as well as giving a leeway to terrorists. We welcome all initiatives that seek to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and true teachings of Islam which rejects aggression, prohibit killing of innocent people and value peace, compassion and tolerance.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reiterating the importance of countering drug trafficking as an essential element of a successful campaign against terrorism, given the fact that drug-trafficking is used as a financial resource for some terrorist groups in our surrounding area. For decades Iran has been at the forefront of a costly war against transnational drug traffickers. The indispensable role played by my country in fighting drug trafficking has, over and over, been recognized by the international community.

We are deeply concerned over the fact that the cultivation and production of opium has been soaring in Afghanistan from 2001 when the country was invaded. This issue raises serious questions and needs to be addressed accordingly.

We stand ready as ever to cooperate with other countries, especially with the neighboring countries and with the relevant United Nations bodies to prevent and counter terrorism.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.