International Terrorism
Second Grade Students
International Relations Department
Second Lecture
Definition of Terrorism
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Key Words:

- innocent victims
- 2. premeditatedly
- 3. military perspective
- 4. Violent
- motivated
- 6. Permission
- 7. obtaining
- war crimes
- 9. Threat

(The governments make definitions fit their own needs)

The concept of terrorism is one of the broadest terms in the social sciences. It is not easy to define, the problem of defining the term terrorism is because it depends on the view of the person who is defining it.

Walter Enders and Todd Sandler (political perspective), identifies terrorism as using of violence and threat premeditatedly by individuals or even groups to obtain political or social objectivizes through intimidation of the large innocent victims.

In addition, terrorism from a military perspective can define as a form of fighting which shows certain characteristics of war, the both using violent and both are motivated by political purposes but many forms of military violence may be justified not like terrorism.

The United Nations defined terrorism as follows:

The act of destruction and damage of civilian and government property by individuals or groups working independently, without getting permission from any country for obtaining their political objectives. The United Nations definition also considers all war crimes as terrorist acts.

Ami Pedahzur and Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler had examined 73 definitions of terrorism from 55 articles they come to the conclusion that terrorism is a politically motivated tactic which uses violence and threat against innocent people

"The calculated use of violence or the threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological." (U.S. Department of Defense)

Common Elements for Terrorism:

- 1. use of violence.
- 2. Political objectives
- 3. Targeting non-component civilian