

International Legislation for Counter-Terrorism and Its Impact on the Achievement of Human Security

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Abstract:

This study aims to examine international counter-terrorism legislation and its impact on the realization of human security, focusing on the inherent tension between effective security measures and the protection of fundamental rights. Employing a qualitative analytical methodology, the research explores relevant international treaties, Security Council resolutions, and United Nations strategies to assess how these legal frameworks balance counter-terrorism imperatives with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights.

The findings reveal that while international legislation has significantly enhanced states' capacities to combat terrorism and protect civilians, challenges persist regarding inconsistent implementation, ambiguous definitions of terrorism, and the exploitation of security measures to curtail freedoms. The study concludes that achieving human security requires strengthening monitoring mechanisms, unifying the definition of terrorism, and integrating human rights safeguards within all counter-terrorism efforts to ensure a sustainable balance between security and fundamental liberties.

Keywords : International Counter-Terrorism Legislation, Human Security, International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights, Rule of Law.

Introduction:

The phenomenon of terrorism undoubtedly represents one of the gravest

challenges afflicting the international community in our contemporary era, and this is not only due to the destruction and severe damage it wreaks upon international peace and security, but also because of the deep scars it leaves on the fabric of individuals' daily lives—violating their rights and eroding their sense of safety. Consequently, it has become imperative for states and international institutions to unite their efforts within a robust legislative framework that enhances coordination and unifies visions in the pursuit of counter-terrorism, aiming to achieve a comprehensive human security that extends beyond merely deterring terrorist operations to encompass the protection of fundamental rights and the reinforcement of peace and societal stability. Amidst confronting this monumental challenge, no single state can any longer tackle the threat of terrorism alone; rather, international cooperation and integration in establishing the legislative and legal frameworks that regulate counter-terrorism efforts have become an inescapable necessity, in a manner that ensures the desired security without compromising the fundamental human rights that constitute the very essence of human dignity.

International legislation aimed at countering terrorism has long featured a wide array of treaties and agreements issued by the United Nations and regional organizations; by

their very nature, these instruments seek to bolster states' commitments to confronting the sources of terrorism, whether through prosecuting terrorists, drying up their funding sources, or preventing the use of national territories as launchpads for terrorist acts. Simultaneously, this legislation does not overlook the importance of respecting human rights while implementing counter-terrorism measures, for any transgression or violation of these rights may not only threaten human security but could also fuel cycles of violence, further complicate security situations, and cultivate a fertile environment for the spread of extremism and terrorism itself. It is for this reason that modern international legal frameworks strive to achieve a difficult equation, predicated on balancing the imperative to resolutely combat terrorism with the guarantee of preserving human rights, thereby ensuring the protection of human dignity and freedoms even within the context of potentially stringent and restrictive security measures.

Given the foregoing, the study of international counter-terrorism legislation and its impact on the achievement of human security necessitates a profound understanding that goes beyond merely examining the texts of international laws and mechanisms of international cooperation; it requires, further, an analysis of the major challenges posed by the practical application of these legislations within contexts governed by security imperatives on the one hand and the requirements of respecting human rights on the other, in addition to the overarching pursuit of comprehensive and sustainable security. Yet, despite their significance, these legislations face a host of structural and practical challenges, foremost among them the difficulty of achieving a balance between the security stringency required to combat terrorism and the protection of human rights,

coupled with the ambiguity and lack of clarity surrounding the international definition of terrorism—a situation that hinders international coordination and creates legal loopholes that terrorist groups may exploit. From this, the core problematic governing this subject is defined: the necessity of striking a delicate balance between ensuring the security of states and societies from terrorist threats and strictly adhering to the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights. Indeed, the excessive or unregulated implementation of certain security measures can lead to severe negative repercussions on human security, manifested in obstructing humanitarian aid delivery to those affected by armed conflict, imposing unjustified restrictions on individual freedoms, or even eroding trust in national and international institutions.

Intertwined within this context is also the commitment of states to exercise their sovereignty and prevent the harboring of terrorist groups, alongside the imperative to provide comprehensive legal protection and preserve the dignity of individuals and communities. This interplay gives rise to interconnected executive, legal, and ethical challenges, underscoring the reality that addressing terrorism cannot be confined to narrow security-centric solutions alone. Accordingly, tackling this sensitive issue necessitates the adoption of a balanced and holistic approach—one predicated on incorporating clear humanitarian exceptions within security measures, strengthening international cooperation founded on full respect for international law, and developing transparent, accountable mechanisms capable of ensuring the protection of human security alongside the effective fight against terrorism. Following this premise, the study's central problem revolves around the fundamental question: How can international counter-

terrorism legislation achieve the desired equilibrium between enforcing security and protecting fundamental human rights, while avoiding the negative consequences that may arise from their application in conflict and violence-ridden contexts, in a manner that does not compromise human security nor undermine the foundations of justice?

First Axis: The Conceptual Framework of Terrorism and Human Security

Counter-terrorism efforts through international legislation should have, as their ultimate goal, the realization of human security in its comprehensive and integrated sense. They must not be allowed to devolve into tools for oppression or the violation of rights and freedoms; rather, they must remain governed by the principle of preventing security measures from infringing upon human dignity and fundamental liberties. The delicate balance between countering terrorism and protecting human security constitutes not merely a methodological choice but lies at the very heart of modern international efforts in this field, serving as the true benchmark for the success of any security policy.

1. The Concept of Terrorism and Its Types

Terrorism is among the concepts that have sparked extensive debate on both intellectual and legal levels, particularly concerning the possibility of establishing a single, agreed-upon definition across all entities of the international community. This difficulty is exacerbated by current international dynamics, which have rendered the phenomenon exceptionally fluid and

¹ Ould El-Seddik Miloud, *Combating Terrorism: Between the Problem of Concept and Divergence of Criteria*, Academic Book Center, Amman, 2016, p. 70.

² Al-Sayed Mohamed Al-Zaabi, "The Problematics of Defining International Terrorism," *University of*

complex; this reality has led to the absence of a unified legal reference point that definitively and comprehensively delineates the terrorist act. Terrorism is thus not merely a precisely defined legal term, but rather a concept heavily imbued with political character, marked by flexibility and continuous evolution. It is worth noting that the first legislation to define the phenomenon of terrorism was enacted in the United States in 1948, defining it as "any activity involving a violent act that endangers human life and constitutes a violation of the criminal laws of any state, and aims to spread coercion and terror among the civilian population or to influence state policy through assassination and kidnapping".¹ Terrorism is also defined politically as "the use of force or threat of violence by non-state actors to achieve political influence by instilling terror and fear in society".²

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, for its part, defines terrorism as "any act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act".³ Consequently, it can be asserted that terrorism represents any act of violence or threat thereof, whatever its motives or purposes, executed within the framework of an individual or collective criminal enterprise, aimed at spreading fear among people or

Sharjah Journal for Legal, Economic and Social Sciences, Issue 19, Volume 1, 2022, p. 4.

³ International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, December 9, 1999, Article 2-1.

terrorizing them by causing harm, or endangering their lives, liberty, or security.¹ At its core, terrorism is the organized use of violence or the threat thereof to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives, typically targeting civilians or non-combatants to instill fear and influence policies and governments. In this vein, UN Security Council Resolution 1566 affirms that terrorism includes criminal acts committed against civilians to spread terror or impose will upon governments.

Therefore, the elements of a comprehensive legal definition for counter-terrorism require identifying acts deemed terrorist based on their nature and context. Such a definition should encompass the use or threat of violence against civilians or vital facilities to induce terror or compel a government or international organization to act or refrain from acting. It must also include crimes that significantly undermine public security, such as attacks on life and physical integrity, kidnapping, destruction of infrastructure, use of dangerous weapons or hazardous materials, and acts that impede essential services. Moreover, the definition should clearly distinguish between terrorist acts and lawful acts of armed conflict, excluding military operations conducted by regular forces during conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law. It simultaneously must emphasize the legal necessity of prosecuting perpetrators of these crimes within the framework of the rule of law, ensuring respect for human rights during enforcement procedures, and should

¹ Muayad Abdul Sada Radi, "Terrorism: Theoretical Concepts," *Iraqi University Journal of Education for Humanities*, Issue 32, p. 3.

² Fares Mohamed Al-Ammarat, *Human Security in the Context of Globalization*, Dar Al-Khalij for Publishing, Amman, First Edition, 2020, pp. 47-48.

encompass a broad framework for international cooperation among states to combat terrorism effectively.²

2. Definition of Human Security and Its Importance in Counter-Terrorism

Some define human security as a comprehensive concept that transcends the mere absence of violence to encompass human rights, good governance, access to education and healthcare, the security of each individual, economic growth, and conflict prevention; it pertains less to states and nations than it does to individuals, serving as a measure of the freedom and safety that a person enjoys. It is concerned with the security of individuals and their protection from all threats related to drugs, terrorism, disease, and poverty, seeking to liberate people from severe and widespread threats to their existence.³ Human security is considered one of the fundamental dimensions of national security, as its concept focuses on the individual, meaning that any security policy must aim fundamentally to achieve the security of the individual alongside the security of the state and society. This essentially includes safeguarding human dignity and fulfilling the moral and material needs of human beings.³

Human security, in this sense, is a concept centered on protecting individuals from threats that imperil their lives and dignity, providing them freedom from fear and freedom from want simultaneously; it includes protecting people from poverty, violence, disease, deprivation, and environmental pollution, in addition to political and social

³ Layla Ali, *Cultural Penetration and Identity Dissipation*, Anglo-Egyptian Library, Egypt, 2012, p. 97.

stability. Its domains are numerous, encompassing economic security, food security, health security, personal security, community security, and political security—reflecting a fundamental shift from an exclusive security focus on the state to ensuring the protection of individuals and communities with the aim of achieving sustainable development and peace.¹

The importance of human security emerges as a comprehensive framework that allows for balancing the imperatives of counter-terrorism with the achievement of holistic human development, for human security is not limited only to physical protection from terrorism but expands to include the realization of fundamental freedoms such as freedom from fear and want, and the ability to live with dignity. Consequently, it is imperative to integrate the principles of human security into governmental policies to mitigate the negative impacts of counter-terrorism on human rights and development, affirming that this concept, as a holistic framework, aims to balance counter-terrorism with the achievement of comprehensive human development, emphasizing that it does not solely entail protecting physical life but also encompasses core human values.²

Human security, according to this conceptualization, is based on risk prevention rather than relying solely on security or military solutions, underscoring the importance of sustainable development and community participation in enhancing security. The fundamental relationship between human security and counter-terrorism

lies in the fact that efforts to confront terrorism must focus on comprehensively protecting individuals and communities from terrorist threats, not merely safeguarding the state or the existing political system. This framework requires that counter-terrorism policies be compatible with respect for human rights and should not exacerbate the conditions that drive extremism and violence, such as poverty, deprivation, and political and social marginalization. Therefore, human security is considered a comprehensive framework for achieving equilibrium between security, counter-terrorism, and sustainable development, thereby contributing to the establishment of genuine social and political stability that reinforces peace and protects human dignity.

Second Axis: The International Legal Framework for Counter-Terrorism and Its Impact on the Achievement of Human Security

Counter-terrorism within international law is no longer confined to a narrow security dimension; rather, it has come to aim at enhancing human security by protecting human rights and ensuring a balance between safeguarding individuals and achieving international peace and security. Consequently, counter-terrorism efforts must be directed toward realizing human security in its comprehensive sense, with full respect for rights and freedoms, and must not permit security measures to infringe upon human dignity and fundamental liberties. The equilibrium between countering terrorism and protecting human security constitutes the very

¹ Adel Abdul Hamza Thujail, "Human Security: A Study in Concepts," *Journal of Political Science*, Baghdad, Issue 51, 2019, p. 327.

² Faridja Abderrahman and Bahri Taroub, "Human Security as a Framework for Combating Terrorism

to Achieve Comprehensive Development," *Algerian Journal of Human Security*, Volume 5, Issue 1, 2020, pp. 58-75.

core of modern international efforts in this field. This endeavor represents the comprehensive set of legal, political, and security measures adopted by states and international organizations to prevent and effectively confront terrorist acts. These operations include implementing measures to prevent the financing of terrorism, dismantling terrorist networks, apprehending and prosecuting terrorists, and simultaneously protecting civilians and human rights. In accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) and Security Council resolutions such as Resolution 1373 (2001), counter-terrorism aims to strengthen the rule of law, develop international cooperation for terrorism prevention, while maintaining strict adherence to international humanitarian law and human rights. It also encompasses the security, intelligence, and judicial measures seeking to entrench national and international security and stability, preserving a delicate balance between imposing security and protecting fundamental freedoms.

1. The International Legal Foundations for Counter-Terrorism

The efforts of the international community to prevent terrorism and punish its perpetrators constitute an integral part of the counter-terrorism process in all its facets; these are endeavors undertaken at both the global and regional levels at an accelerating pace. Since 1970, the international community, led by the United Nations, has been implementing a comprehensive program aimed at preventing terrorism, detecting it, criminalizing its financing, as well as encouraging international cooperation in preventing and suppressing

terrorist crimes.¹ This has included the establishment of multi-level cooperation mechanisms under the aegis of the United Nations through the Counter-Terrorism Committee, alongside a set of international conventions obligating states to prevent terrorist financing, exchange information, and enhance global security. The Security Council has also adopted binding resolutions requiring states to take legal and security measures while upholding human rights. At the regional and bilateral levels, security and intelligence cooperation has been strengthened, in addition to the pivotal role of international non-governmental organizations in countering extremism and terrorist recruitment, especially through social media platforms. These efforts have focused significantly on cutting off funding for terrorist groups and diminishing their financial influence, alongside parallel endeavors at the humanitarian level to ensure that counter-terrorism does not adversely affect humanitarian work and civilian protection. This has been pursued by developing tools and mechanisms that coordinate between states and humanitarian organizations, collectively embodying an integrated international response to confront terrorist threats while maintaining a constant balance between security and safety requirements on one hand and respect for international law and human rights on the other.

Terrorist financing operations are considered among the most prominent acts threatening and disrupting international peace and security, given their proliferation and the expansion of their networks at all local, regional, and global levels, which has endowed

¹ Jasim Mohamed Jasim Al-Shankali, *Combating the Financing of Terrorism in International Law and National Legislation*, Dar Kitab, 2020, p. 1991.

them with the character of cross-border crimes. The expanding danger of these crimes and the diverse sources of financing for their perpetrators have prompted the international community to seek effective means to confront them. These means have varied, encompassing the enactment of national laws to combat terrorism and its financing, as well as through regional and international cooperation via the conclusion of charters, treaties, and multilateral agreements at all levels of legislative, judicial, and financial regulatory cooperation.¹ The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999 aims to prevent the financing of terrorist acts by criminalizing the provision or collection of funds for any person or entity with the intention of using them to commit terrorist acts.² The Convention emphasizes the necessity for states to cooperate in detecting, freezing, and seizing assets linked to terrorism, exchanging information, and providing mutual legal assistance among states parties. It also stresses the importance of preventing the use of territories and financial institutions for terrorist financing and ensuring that such acts are not justified by political or ideological motives, thereby reinforcing effective international cooperation to combat terrorist financing with the goal of protecting international peace and security and preventing terrorist crimes in all their forms.

On another front, the Treaty of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on

¹ Mohamed Shallal Al-Ani – Ali Imran Al-Ketbi, "States' Obligation to Implement Security Council Resolutions Related to Sanctions on Terrorist Financing," *University of Sharjah Journal of Legal Sciences*, Volume 22, Issue 2, 2025, p. 241.

² International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted by the United

Combating International Terrorism highlighted the necessity of strengthening cooperation among member states to prevent and combat international terrorism through criminalizing terrorist acts, exchanging intelligence information, and providing mutual legal assistance, while exempting national liberation struggles and resistance against occupation according to the Organization's perspective.³ The Convention encouraged the exchange of information regarding the activities of terrorist groups, their leaders, and financing sources, cooperation in investigations and the apprehension of fugitives, and the exchange of expertise and studies. The role of the Security Council in counter-terrorism has also been prominent since the early 1990s; it dealt with urgent situations arising from various terrorist incidents by adopting a preventive approach based on condemning certain terrorist crimes such as hostage-taking. The Security Council, through its binding resolutions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, is considered the cornerstone in counter-terrorism; it has issued mandatory resolutions to freeze terrorist assets, impose travel bans, enforce arms embargoes, and enhance border controls. It also manages specialized committees to assess compliance through state reports and field visits, thereby

Nations General Assembly by resolution A/RES/54/109 on December 9, 1999.

³ Treaty of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Combating International Terrorism, adopted on 22 Ramadan 1419 AH corresponding to January 1, 1999, in Doha, Qatar.

strengthening global cooperation despite implementation challenges in some states.¹

Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly has played a primary preventive and legislative role in counter-terrorism through the adoption of 19 sectoral conventions, most notably the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy via Resolution 60/288 (2006). This strategy is built on four fundamental pillars: addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, prevention and capacity-building, international cooperation, and respect for human rights. The Strategy also adopted a comprehensive framework calling upon states to prevent terrorists from accessing weapons of mass destruction, enhance controls over financing and borders, and support development to reduce extremism, with coordination facilitated through the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.² The General Assembly has issued resolutions to prevent terrorist financing through charitable organizations, as well as resolutions supporting cooperation with INTERPOL in combating cross-border crime (Resolution 73/11, 2018), in addition to supporting victims of terrorism and protecting cultural heritage. It has expressed grave concern over the increasing and expanding number of terrorist incidents in many regions of the world, affirming the duty to intensify efforts and enhance capabilities to prevent and combat terrorist operations more effectively.

2. The Impact of International Legislation on the Achievement of Human Security

International conventions play a pivotal role in countering terrorism by providing a binding legal framework that criminalizes

specific terrorist acts, enhances international cooperation in information sharing and investigations, and prevents terrorist financing and fighter recruitment. These conventions indirectly bolster human security by protecting individuals from fear and violence, preventing terrorist proliferation, addressing its root causes such as poverty and extremism, and ensuring the protection of civilians and humanitarian work during conflicts, thereby supporting stability and development. They also obligate states to respect human rights during implementation. For this reason, achieving balance between security and human rights is not merely desirable but an absolute necessity, as states must implement counter-terrorism measures in accordance with international humanitarian law by ensuring the protection of individuals' rights, avoiding arbitrary arrest and torture, and preventing the targeting of civilians during security operations.³

International counter-terrorism legislation has significantly impacted the realization of human security, yet simultaneously it has imposed particular challenges related to maintaining a delicate balance between the requirements of counter-terrorism and the protection of fundamental rights. These legislations have helped enhance states' capacities to prevent the activities of terrorist groups and secure civilians' lives from violence and chaos, contributing to improved security and stability in targeted societies. However, the intensive or unregulated application of counter-terrorism measures in some states has led to grave human rights violations, such as arbitrary detention,

¹ Naseeb Najeeb, *International Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Prosecuting Perpetrators of International Terrorist Crimes*, Academic Book Center, 2020, p. 110.

² Jasim Mohamed Jasim Al-Shankali, *op. cit.*, p. 1979.

³ Adnan Bouzan, *International Humanitarian Law*, p. 989.

restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, and the imposition of disproportionate sanctions that have weakened civil society institutions and fundamental freedoms—thereby threatening levels of human security, particularly in regions affected by crises and conflicts. Specialized studies indicate that emphasizing respect for international humanitarian law and human rights within counter-terrorism procedures is not merely an option but an urgent necessity to maintain an effective balance between protecting security and individual freedoms, especially amidst the complexities imposed by armed conflicts and cross-border terrorist acts. The human security approach represents a methodological shift in how a sense of safety is achieved, through recognizing human rights and empowering individuals to benefit from them. This approach necessitates focusing on the individual rather than the state in every security strategy, by placing humans at the center of concern in counter-terrorism policies. The United Nations Charter enshrines this direction by emphasizing the protection and promotion of individual rights.¹ Accordingly, international legislation plays a fundamental role in protecting civilians and human rights during counter-terrorism operations by imposing strict rules under international humanitarian law (such as the Geneva Conventions of 1949) and international human rights law, which prohibit indiscriminate attacks, discrimination between combatants and civilians, arbitrary detention, and torture, while affirming the necessity of humane treatment for civilians if they fall into enemy hands. Security Council resolutions and the 2006 UN Global Strategy obligate states to integrate human rights into counter-terrorism

¹ Ould El-Seddik Miloud, *Combating Terrorism: Between the Problem of Concept and Divergence*

measures, including preventing unlawful killings, mass surveillance, and criminalizing freedom of expression for unjustified security reasons. Nevertheless, improper application in regions such as the Middle East and North Africa has led to severe violations, including lack of fair trials, arbitrary detention, and suppression of civil society, thereby undermining any genuine efforts to achieve sustainable peace.

The role of international legislation in achieving human security is clearly demonstrated through efforts to mitigate the risks of violence and terrorism and to enhance political and social stability. This has helped regulate the conduct of conflicting parties, provide protection for victims, and consequently support sustainable development while reducing risks threatening the lives of individuals and communities. However, the implementation of these legislations faces several challenges at the international level, most notably the evident tension between the principle of respecting state sovereignty and non-interference in its internal affairs on one hand, and the urgent need to undertake human security protection measures in cases of conflict or cross-border terrorism on the other. Moreover, weak monitoring and compliance mechanisms, the lack of a unified definition of terrorism, and significant disparities in national capacities all hinder effective implementation. Additionally, some states' exploitation of counter-terrorism measures as a pretext to suppress freedoms and violate human rights leads to a loss of trust among local and international communities and limits the effectiveness of security policies. Addressing these challenges necessitates strengthening international cooperation,

of Criteria in Application, Academic Book Center, Amman, First Edition, 2018, p. 140.

developing effective accountability mechanisms, and supporting national capacity-building to ensure a precise balance between security requirements and human rights protection, with a focus on the human security approach that considers human needs and integrates them with development and peace objectives.

Conclusion:

International counter-terrorism legislation has formed a vital legal framework for enhancing human security by providing effective protection for civilians, guaranteeing their fundamental rights, and supporting political and social stability and sustainable development. These legislations, alongside Security Council resolutions and international treaties, have contributed to expanding the scope of international cooperation to confront terrorism, thereby helping to reduce the impact of this phenomenon on targeted societies. However, these legislations face several challenges during the implementation phase, including disparities in states' commitment, difficulties in international coordination, and the use of counter-terrorism measures by some states as a pretext to suppress freedoms and human rights. Hence, the importance of strengthening international monitoring and accountability mechanisms, supporting national capacities, and developing a unified definition of terrorism consistent with the principles of international law and human rights emerges.

In conclusion, achieving human security amidst the terrorist challenge requires a delicate balance between security imperatives and rights protection, grounded in effective international cooperation and comprehensive strategies that simultaneously consider legal, humanitarian, and political dimensions. To enhance the effectiveness of international counter-terrorism legislation while ensuring

respect for human rights, the study recommends the following:

- Strengthening the international legal framework by unifying the definition of terrorism and developing national legislation to align with international conventions, with a focus on respecting the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights, and ensuring that texts are not misinterpreted to justify violations.

- Reinforcing international monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure that signatory states comply with legislation and do not exploit it to restrict freedoms or suppress opposition, by activating the role of the International Counter-Terrorism Committee and granting it more effective supervisory powers.

- Enhancing international cooperation in intelligence sharing and coordinating security efforts with strict commitment to protecting civilians and their rights, in addition to incorporating clear humanitarian exceptions into sanctions regimes to prevent their negative impact on humanitarian work and aid access.

- Necessitating that the United Nations and states work to strengthen partnership with non-governmental organizations to monitor counter-terrorism measures and ensure they are not misused against activists or opponents, as warned by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, while providing legal protection for human rights defenders.

- Supporting national and regional human rights institutions to enhance their role in monitoring the implementation of counter-terrorism measures, protecting victims' rights, and ensuring accountability for officials responsible for any violations committed during security or judicial operations.

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