

HMDC Presents... TERRORISM: Review Quiz

HMDC Presents... Review Quiz: Special Session on Terrorism: State Sovereignty and Intervention

We take this quiz after we finish reading the research report, not before. When we are done, we check our answers in the Answer Key at the end. Then we go back and reread every report section named next to a question we missed, because those are the places our understanding still needs work.

PART 1: THE TOPIC

1. A UN Development Programme study looked at 2,196 people in eight African countries, more than 1,000 of them former members of extremist groups. Of the people who named a "tipping point" before joining, what did most of them name?

- A. Religious teaching from a group leader
- B. An offer of money or a job from the group
- C. A government action, such as the killing or arrest of a family member or friend
- D. Propaganda they saw online

2. A RAND Corporation study looked at 268 terrorist groups that ended between 1968 and 2006. Which way of ending was the LEAST common?

- A. Joining a political process
- B. Being broken up by police and intelligence agencies
- C. Winning and reaching their goals
- D. Being ended by military force

3. In 2025, more than 76 percent of terrorist attacks happened within 100 kilometres of an international border. What does the report say this shows?

- A. Terrorist groups avoid crowded cities and only attack farms.
- B. Terrorist groups attack on one side of a border and hide on the other side.
- C. Border guards are the main target of most terrorist groups.
- D. Attacks near borders have been falling steadily since 2007.

4. Under the "unwilling or unable" approach, a state attacked by a terrorist group may strike that group inside another country without permission. Which of these is a disadvantage of this approach, according to the report?

- A. It cannot be used unless all five permanent members of the Security Council agree.
- B. The attacking state decides for itself that its neighbour is "unwilling or unable," which invites abuse.
- C. It requires the host government to send a written invitation first.
- D. It can only be carried out by UN peacekeepers.

5. In Mozambique, the government invited troops from the Southern African Development Community and Rwanda. What does this case teach us about intervention by invitation?

- A. Invited troops greatly reduced insurgent numbers, but new attacks showed that military gains are fragile without longer-term plans.
- B. Invited troops fully defeated the insurgency, so no attacks have happened since.
- C. The troops entered without Mozambique's consent, which caused a dispute at the UN.
- D. The mission was paid for entirely by UN assessed contributions, so it never had money problems.

6. One solution is for the Security Council to authorise collective action under Chapter VII. Which of these is a disadvantage of this solution?

- A. It is the least clearly legal route under the UN Charter.
- B. It places the whole burden on one state.
- C. Any one of the five permanent members can block action with a veto.
- D. It gives the action no international legitimacy.

PART 2: THE UNITED NATIONS

1. What did Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) do?

- A. It created the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.
- B. It allowed UN assessed contributions to pay for up to 75 percent of African Union-led peace operations.
- C. It ended the UN mission in Mali.
- D. It called on states to take "all necessary measures" against ISIL in Syria and Iraq.

2. Which resolution, adopted in 2001, requires all states to criminalise terrorist financing and created the Counter-Terrorism Committee?

- A. Resolution 1267
- B. Resolution 2178
- C. Resolution 2249
- D. Resolution 1373

3. Resolution 2690 (2023) ended the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Why did the mission end?

- A. Mali's transitional government asked the mission to leave.
- B. Terrorist attacks in Mali had stopped completely.
- C. The African Union replaced it with a new mission.
- D. The UN ran out of money to pay for it.

4. The General Assembly adopted the ninth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on July 1, 2026. What made this review different from earlier ones?

- A. It created a single agreed definition of terrorism.
- B. It was rejected by most member states.
- C. It was the first review that needed a recorded vote instead of being adopted without a vote.
- D. It removed all references to human rights.

5. Which statement about the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) is correct?

- A. It was created by the Security Council in 2001 and is fully paid for by the UN regular budget.
 - B. It was created by the General Assembly in 2017, and most of its money comes from voluntary contributions.
 - C. It was created in 2005 to send UN troops against terrorist groups.
 - D. It was created by the African Union in 2002 and has 15 members.
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PART 3: INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. The Global Coalition Against Daesh, formed in 2014, has 90 partners. Why does the report call it the clearest test case for the sovereignty debate?

- A. It operated in Iraq with the government's consent but in Syria without the government's consent.
- B. It was created and commanded by the UN Security Council.
- C. It used only police and never used military force.
- D. It operated only in Africa, where most attacks now happen.

2. Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger formed the Alliance of Sahel States, and in January 2025 they formally left ECOWAS. What gap does this create?

- A. ECOWAS can no longer meet because it has no members left.
- B. The three states lost their seats at the United Nations.
- C. Any plan that relies only on ECOWAS will not reach the three states most affected by terrorism.
- D. The three states can no longer receive any outside help.

3. How does the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) push countries to act against terrorist money?

- A. It sends troops to seize terrorist bank accounts.
- B. It freezes assets through the Security Council's sanctions list.
- C. It pays countries a reward for each terrorist arrested.
- D. It assesses countries and can place those that repeatedly fail on a grey list or black list, using reputation and economic cost rather than force.

4. There are 19 international counter-terrorism treaties. What is the main gap the report points out?

- A. None of the treaties covers aircraft hijacking or hostage-taking.
 - B. Each treaty covers one type of act, and states have never agreed on one comprehensive treaty.
 - C. The treaties allow any state to send troops into another to arrest suspects.
 - D. All 19 treaties were written after 2020, so they are untested.
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THINK LIKE A DELEGATE

These questions have no single correct answer. We write a few sentences for each, using facts from the report to support our position.

1. We represent a member of the African Group. Another delegate proposes that any state attacked by a terrorist group may strike across a border whenever it decides its neighbour is "unwilling or unable" to act. Do we support this proposal? Why or why not?

2. Pakistan says the Taliban government in Afghanistan shelters the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) and has carried out strikes inside Afghanistan. What should the committee recommend to reduce this conflict?

3. A delegate argues that the fastest way to defeat terrorist groups is simply more military force. How would we respond?

ANSWER KEY

PART 1: THE TOPIC

1. **C.** Of those who named a tipping point, 71 percent named a government action, while only 17 percent named religion (Part 1A, United Nations Development Programme, February 7, 2023).
2. **D.** Only 7 percent of the groups were ended by military force, the smallest share of the four ways (Part 1F, RAND Corporation, June 30, 2008).
3. **B.** The report says groups use borders as shields, attacking on one side and hiding on the other, and attacks near borders rose from just under 60 percent in 2007 (Part 1A, Vision of Humanity, March 19, 2026).
4. **B.** The attacking state judges its neighbour by itself, which invites abuse; this approach does not depend on the veto or on consent (Part 1C, introduction).
5. **A.** Insurgent numbers fell from about 3,000 to as few as 300, but new attacks displaced almost 113,000 people after December 2023 (Part 1D, International Crisis Group, May 8, 2024).
6. **C.** Any of the five permanent members can block action with a veto; the report lists clear legality, shared burden and legitimacy as advantages, not disadvantages (Part 1B, introduction).

PART 2: THE UNITED NATIONS

1. **B.** Resolution 2719 lets the Council consider using UN assessed contributions for African-led operations, capped at 75 percent of each budget (Part 2A, Table of UN Resolutions and Instruments; Part 1E).
2. **D.** Resolution 1373 (2001) requires states to criminalise terrorist financing and acts and created the Counter-Terrorism Committee; 1267 created the sanctions committee in 1999 (Part 2A, Table of UN Resolutions and Instruments).
3. **A.** The mission ended after Mali's transitional government requested it, which shows that UN peacekeeping depends on host consent (Part 2E, United Nations Press SC/15341, June 30, 2023).
4. **C.** It passed by a recorded vote of 140 to 3 with 1 abstention, the first review not adopted without a vote (Part 2C, United Nations Press GA/12767, July 1, 2026).
5. **B.** UNOCT was created on June 15, 2017 by General Assembly resolution 71/291, and less than 20 percent of its budget comes from the UN regular budget (Part 2C, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism).

PART 3: INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. **A.** The coalition acted in Iraq with consent but in Syria without the Syrian government's consent (Part 3B, Global Coalition Against Daesh).
2. **C.** Regional cooperation in West Africa has split, so a plan built only on ECOWAS misses the three most affected states (Part 3B, Council on Foreign Relations, July 29, 2026).
3. **D.** The FATF sets standards, assesses countries and uses the grey list and black list, relying on reputation and economic cost rather than force (Part 3C, Financial Action Task Force).
4. **B.** Each treaty targets one type of act, such as hijacking or bombings, and there is still no comprehensive treaty (Part 3A, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism).

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE: WHAT A STRONG ANSWER INCLUDES

1. A strong answer takes a clear position and supports it with report evidence. It may note that the African Group calls sovereignty a "non-derogable" duty (Part 1E), cite the International Court of Justice ruling against Uganda's self-defence claim in Congo (Part 2B), and point out that only about thirteen states accept the doctrine (Part 1C). It also recognises the real threat, since most attacks happen near borders (Part 1A), and offers a desirable alternative, such as African-led missions funded under Resolution 2719 with host consent (Part 1E).
2. A strong answer weighs both sides. It may cite the UN Monitoring Team finding that the Taliban continued to support the TTP (Part 1C), and the UN count of at least 143 deaths from the March 2026 strike near Kabul (Part 1C). It then recommends tools that help without more strikes, such as coordinated mediation by Qatar, Türkiye and others, written Taliban guarantees backed by verification (Part 3E), and Resolution 2593's demand that Afghan territory not be used to attack other countries (Part 2E).
3. A strong answer explains why force alone can cause harm. It may cite RAND's finding that only 7 percent of groups were ended by military force (Part 1F), UNDP's finding that a government action was the most common "tipping point" named by recruits who reported one (Part 1A), the UN directorate's warning that "security measures alone" will not work (Part 1F), and the millions of deaths linked to post-9/11 wars (Part 1A). It then proposes pairing any military action with policing, prevention and programmes that help fighters leave, noting the 16-dollar return for every dollar invested in peacebuilding (Part 1F).