



FIGU Bulletin

English Edition



Excerpt from FIGU Bulletin #36 -- October 2001 (Part 2)

Reader's question:

Today (Billy's note: September 11, 2001) these terrible terrorist attacks have happened in America during which thousands of people have probably lost their lives, and other assaults may be expected. Therefore it will not stop with the destruction of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the failed destruction of Camp David. Can there really be nothing done to exterminate the world-wide growth of terrorism? Terrorism isn't really a means of solving problems and bringing about peace. What is your opinion? Could you state your view in one of your Bulletins?

Noldi Joseph/Switzerland

Reader's question:

On TV I have watched the terrorist attack in America and can hardly take it in. I am shocked. I question myself about how long it will be until something rational is done against terrorism and it is eliminated. There must be a possibility, because it cannot go on in this way and will keep getting worse. There must be an intervention by force, if no other possibility exists. Could you state your view in the next Bulletin? Thank you. Franco Mäder/Switzerland

Franco Mäder/Switzerland

Answer:

I have received identically worded or similar questions as well as proposals for measures against terrorism from various countries, and I will express my opinion: It's easy to say one can fight against terrorism with violence, but one should think about the result. As a rule violence produces violence again, and this continues incessantly and finds no end.

Wherever there is quarrelling, war, revolutions and revolts, etc., there reigns the principle that one attack is followed by another, according to the ancient words, "As you do to me, I do unto you," and "He who is sowing violence and terror will reap violence and terror!" I have already extensively stated my opinion about this topic in Shimon Nusseibeh's question regarding the terrorist acts in Israel and Palestine. However, regarding the terrorist events in America I'm ready to give some additional comments, but I will stay out of politics and will only state my own neutral viewpoint: Basically each terrorist act of any kind is opposed to all humans' and individual's rights as well as to all humanity, and this is so even if terrorism is executed by anarchic, religious, sectarian terror organizations, by private criminal and vengeful elements, etc., or by governments, military and secret services.

And a lot of states are tackling terrorist actions on governmental, military or secret service levels -- actions that scorn justice as well as humanity. Such terrorism often occurs in a form that certain countries are interfering with the domestic and foreign politics/policies of other countries, which actually isn't their business. In this form, governments are toppled and replaced by others that are compliant to those who interfered. To this end disagreeable governmental individuals are killed, massacred, blown up or bumped off in some or other way. It isn't a rare thing that trains, ships and planes are captured and brought into the power of terrorists, and are blown up or used as weapons, as the case in America has just proven. However, this is not restricted to religious-fanatical, sectarian-fanatical as well as anarchic and criminal elements only. This is also the case with governments, military and secret services that carry out identical activities, especially in regard to the interference in another state's affairs and by executing terrorist actions themselves. Such actions, however, are disguised as being "necessary" actions, or as necessary acts regarding the safety of a state, as retaliatory measures and self-defense as well as activities involving measures to bring about (so-called) peace and safety to the world or to their country and so on and so forth. However, it should be made clear that fanatical hatred and bloodthirsty feelings for revenge already exist or are being newly produced against the aggressors and those who use terror. And, therefore, counter-terrorism is promoted and supplied with fresh explosive fuel. Terrorism always stirs up new terrorism, because violence, again, begets violence.

Terrorism is always a tit-for-tat response to something that has been justly or unjustly inflicted upon the terrorist party. This could already be the case if a state is sympathizing with another state and taking its side, if it is delivering weapons and food or is helping in some other way, when the receiving state is locked in dispute with some or several others for any reason. Terrorism is programmed in advance if a state sets itself up as a kind of world police and claims the right to interfere within the quarrels of other states or stands between two rival parties and favors one and discriminates or fights against the other. Through this, hatred and craving for revenge, is stirred up, and from this results murder, manslaughter, destruction and crime that, as a rule, finds expression in suicidal fanaticism through which all borders of logic, humanity and human dignity are exceeded in the same way as is the possibility of finding a tiny left-over morsel of understanding and reason. If there is the question of what could be done against terrorism, and if it is said that it must be eradicated, then I must ask; how should something be done against it? It is correct that terrorism must be eliminated; however this cannot be achieved through sheer violence. In the first place -- and this must be said -- the guilty governments, military and secret services that also pursue terrorism must be eliminated as well. The same holds true for all the fanatics who allegedly lead a fight for peace and who want to, in extreme ways, turn their religion or sect into fundamentalist forms; namely, into the one and only world religion or world sect. To this end, all murderous actions are correct and good for them, as is also the case with those who are acting out of purely criminal or privately vengeful reasons, or from reasons that belong to governments, military or secret services. And all of this brings troubles, death, destruction, annihilation, sorrow and misery to all of humanity. Actions of all types that claim human lives and cause destruction and annihilation are of an offensive nature, and it doesn't matter whether they are executed by religions, sects, terrorist organizations, criminals, privately vengeful and jealous ones, governmental persons, military or secret societies of a governmental or privately-organized form. This will always remain -- in each and every case -- terrorism, except if such an action represents (real and true) self-defense and, therefore, a defense of life or a country.

Terror generates counter-terror, and brutal violence generates naked brutal violence again. There is the rule, therefore, that (one day) those (responsible) will be presented with the bill who are executing violence or terror, or some other criminal- or wrong-doing. Therefore, no state or person will be surprised when they are confronted with violence and terror, or when -- even from their own side -- equal violence, terrorism, or some criminal or simply some other wrong-doing begins. That is my opinion, my perception of it all and my recognition, my knowledge, my experience and my certainty.

Billy

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