

Suicide Terrorism in Israel and the United States

Thesis

In my view, both Israel and the United States have met with some success in tailoring a specific model both in counterterrorism law and in the law-enforcement arena to address the nature of suicide threats they face locally.

Defining Terrorism and Suicide Terrorism

- Terrorism is defined in 22 U.S.C. §2656f (d) (2) as violence which is premeditated and politically motivated against noncombatant targets and committed by subnational groups or clandestine agents.
- There are three prongs in order to determine if an attack constitutes suicide terrorism, (1) a willingness to kill; (2) a willingness to die; and (3) the terrorist must die during or soon after the attack.

Suicide Terrorism in Israel

- In 2002, Israel experienced 60 suicide terrorist attacks
 - In the West Bank suicide terrorism attacks declined after implementation of preventative arrests, increased police presence, and no longer providing Palestinian terrorists sanctuary
 - In Gaza, Palestinians were still granted sanctuary status and suicide terrorism increased between 2002-2004
- Targeted Killings
 - Public Committee Against Torture in Israel v. Government of Israel, the court held that terrorists are civilians who may be attacked only while “taking a direct part in hostilities.”
 - In the article, “What Happened to Suicide Bombings in Israel? Insights from a Terror Stock Model,” Edward Kaplan are ineffective
 - However Daniel Byman argues in his article, “Curious Victor: Explaining Israel’s Suppression of the Second Intifada,” that targeted killings are effective long term

Suicide Terrorism and the United States

- Since 9/11 there have been several foiled attacks
 - The Lackawanna Six was arrested and charged under material support law, 18 U.S.C. §2339B
- Department of Homeland Security and management systems
 - In her article, “Homeland Security: Approaches to Management Results,” Sharon Caudle lists 7 different approach management models, I argue that the scenario-based planning model is the best
- Finally the use of the military abroad has been important in preventing suicide terrorist attacks domestically:
 - The legality of military force against is less clear when the force is to be used against terrorist actors in a state, however if the state consents and the force is only aimed at terrorist targets then the force is lawful.
 - President Bush used force as a preventative military action the 2002 National Security Strategy of the United States encouraged the use-of-force in self-defense
 - While President Obama used force by using drones in it’s approach to targeted killings

Recommendations

- I recommend that Israel continue to use both preventative arrests and targeted killing to fight Palestinian suicide terrorist
- I recommend that the United States continue to use both domestic efforts, material support law and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the United States military to fight terrorists and prevent future suicide attacks