

# INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: AGENDA PROPAGANDA UNITED STATES AND ITS VIEWS BY ISLAM

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## *Abstract*

*The study of terrorism, particularly international terrorism more prominent after the September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. Now even the agenda almost every international meeting is always related or associated with terrorism issues. Not infrequently, this raises the presumption that the agenda of terrorism is closely associated with the propaganda agenda of the United States, because the United State currently taking part in many international issues. As a comparison from another perspective, when terrorism many associated with Islamic movements, it is important also to see, how to actually study the terrorism in the eyes of Islam.*

**Keyword:** terorisme, terorisme internasional Amerika Serikat, Islam

## INTRDUCTION

From several schools of thought in international relations, pluralism believes that transnational relations should be the focus of studies of international relations studies, because non-state actors play an important role in contemporary international relations. Agenda deemed relevant include, independence and the role of multinational companies in international relations, terrorism and international regimes. Transnational relations are generally carried out by transnational organizational actors. It is called a transnational organization because its membership, purpose, and scope of activities cross national boundaries. Transnational organizations have members who come from and have the ability to act more than a country. Academic study of terrorism always faces difficulties in finding a universal definition of terrorism. This problem well expressed in the phrase "one person's terrorist being another's freedom fighter". This makes the study of terrorism a unique study, which relies on the views of several parties who consider that the study of terrorism is very tendentious in nature. Corner one particular party. The study of terrorism is not a new phenomenon. It has existed since the existence of human society. The feeling of terror is one of the weaknesses of human instincts, and terrorism is a means and means of achieving goals by exploiting that weakness. Forms of terror can take the form of murder, ill-treatment, bombing, blasting, arson, intimidation,

hostage taking, piracy and so on. All of that can cause feelings of fear, panic, horror, worry and uncertainty.

## **Terrorism**

Terrorism is the use of violence to cause fear, in an effort to achieve a goal (especially political goals). Terrorists are people who use violence to cause fear (usually for political purposes). Terror is an arbitrary, cruel, cruel act, in an effort to create fear, horror by someone or group. Terrorism itself has a very long history. The Zealots-Sicarri, a Jewish terrorist group, fought against the Roman empire in Judea by killing ordinary citizens during the day in the middle of the city of Jerusalem which caused a great panic. Terrorism is now believed to have a history of links with the French Revolution, where the term "terror" was first used in 1795 specifically referring to the terror policy carried out by Robespierre to maintain the young French Republican government. The government of the Jacobins in the French Revolution who proudly called themselves "Terrorists".

Their acts of terror developed into a system of exploiting human fear / physical horror with the intention of creating feelings of helplessness or provoking retaliation that could spark a favorable situation for terrorist groups (riots, social chaos, rebellion and revolution) . - the term "terrorist group" means each group that practices - or has a subgroup that practices - international terrorism. Terror and terrorism have developed in ideological battles, religious movements, independence struggles, rebellions, guerrillas, and even by the government as a means and means of enforcing its power. It has also transcended national boundaries, known as international terrorism. At first, many opinions considered terrorism as a temporary phenomenon that would disappear by itself. And the culprit is considered crazy, insane or criminal. The phenomenon is considered to disappear with the increase of civilization and see the fact that terrorism has never and will not succeed in achieving its goals or solving problems. But the reality shows that terrorism continues, even growing and expanding. The perpetrators of terror in temporary cases are apparently not the work of insane men. They know their goals and objectives, be careful in their planning, and are solid in their implementation. They are human beings who have certain and rational methods

Some of the main features of terrorism, namely, (a) exploitation of human fear / horror; (b) the use or threat of the use of physical force; (c) element of surprise and surprise; (d) have goals and objectives. On the basis of these characteristics, terrorism is defined as acts of politically motivated violence that are planned beforehand, which are carried out against non-combat targets (noncombatant) by secret or subnational agents, which are usually intended to influence certain groups

In order to achieve its objectives, terrorism can have the following purposes:

1. Obtain certain concessions, such as ransom, release of prisoners, dissemination of messages, and so on.
2. Gaining broad publicity. Terrorists want to draw broad attention to the goals and aspirations of their struggle and recognition of their existence as parties to be reckoned with. Because terrorist groups are usually small, so to achieve this purpose, acts of terror must be quite dramatic and appalling.
3. Causing widespread chaos, demoralization and the collapse of the social fabric. This is the main goal of revolutionaries, nihilists or anarchists.
4. provoke acts of retaliation and / or counter terror from the government in such a way as to create a situation that benefits terrorists, and may eventually overthrow the government.
5. Imposing compliance and obedience. This is usually done by fascist, dictatorial or totalitarian governments. people in opposition or dissent, disappeared because they were "taken" by midnight, tortured to get "confessions", thrown and locked up in concentration camps and so on. Acts like this also exist within terrorist groups themselves, carried out against their members to ensure obedience and loyalty.
6. Punish those who are considered guilty, or who are seen as symbols of something inappropriate, such as opponents of the struggle of terrorists, cooperating with enemies, giving information to the government, lifestyles that conflict with their opinions and so on.

All actions are taken to force the will, convince the opponent of the seriousness of the goal of the struggle and get general attention.

Whereas regarding political terrorism according to Wilkinson has the following characteristics: (1) constitutes forced intimidation; (2) using systematic killing and destruction as a means for a particular purpose; (3) the victim is not a goal, but a means to create a nerve war, namely "kill one person to frighten a thousand people"; (4) terrorism targets are chosen, working in secret, but the aim is publicity; (5) the action message is quite clear, although the perpetrators do not always express themselves personally; (6) the principals are mostly motivated by fairly strong ideals, for example "Fight for religion and humanity.

### **International Terrorism**

Since the end of the second world war, the world has not known the word "peace". Various upheaval lasted. The superpower confrontation that expanded into the East-West conflict and dragged several third world countries into it, the North-

South conflict, the struggle for independence, racial upheaval, regional conflicts that "attracted" third party interference, domestic upheaval in many third world countries, made unstable and turbulent world. The instability of the world and the frustration of many developing countries in the struggle for rights that are considered fundamental and legitimate, open opportunities for the emergence and spread of international terrorism. The phenomenon of international terrorism itself, is a relatively new phenomenon, that is, after the second world war, and has increased since the beginning of the 1970s. International terrorism is terrorism involving citizens or regions of more than one country (Arismunandar, 1994: 88). Or it can also be interpreted as an act of violence carried out outside the provisions / regulations of international diplomacy and war. As a target selected certain people or inanimate objects, for example diplomats, officials, large businessmen, airplanes, ships and so on. Terrorists are motivated by a desire to influence society and international opinion on the aspirations of their struggle. According to the scale of the action and its organization, Wilkinson distinguishes between national terrorism on the one hand and international and transnational on the other.

Intranational terrorism -	The network of organizations and actions is limited by state territories certain
Intranational terrorism -	(1) directed towards foreigners and foreign assets; (2) organized by governments or organizations that are more than one country; (3) aims to influence foreign government policies
Intranational terrorism -	A global network that prepares a global revolution for a new world order (part of international terrorism which is become radical)

According to Hasnan Habib (1988), International Terrorism can develop due to the help of parties third, whether official or not. The assistance can include:

1. Training, given at the place of assistance, in a third country or in a country that helps.

2. Lethal assistance (causing death), such as weapons, bullets, bombs, explosives, etc., is given directly or through an intermediary state / organization.
3. Non-Lethal assistance, such as supplies, transportation equipment or services, communication, health, finance, legal assistance, asylum, important documents (maps, intelligence, information) and so on.
4. Propaganda, both open and direct, disseminating and defending the goals of the struggle of those who are assisted, or closed, through various organizations / front groups / organizations.
5. Disinformation, disseminating false or provocative information that discredits the opposing party being helped.

In relation to globalization, terrorist groups benefit indirectly. First, globalization is expanding access to these various groups across national borders. Secondly, terrorist groups also have wider access to funding, both legal such as through various business groups and non-profit institutions and illegal business groups. In addition, contemporary terrorist groups on various occasions stated that their mission was to face the power of the United States which, according to this group, had a negative impact and threatened the identity of the group. In this connection, it is interesting to study the findings of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) that the region that has the lowest human development index has a tendency to be close to terrorist groups. The main reason is that citizens in this region feel they do not benefit from the prosperity promised by the globalization process and access to freedom. The result is the widespread antipathy in the United States which is perceived as the main engine of the globalization process

### **Terrorism as an agenda for US foreign policy**

After the events of September 11, 2001, there were several important documents from the United States that indicated a new agenda for the US foreign policy. On September 17, 2002, one year after the events of September 11, 2001, the White House issued an important 31-page document, The National Security Strategy of the United States of America (Foreign Affairs, September-October 2002), which contained the United States wanting to become a world police and will act unilaterally in the face of terrorist threats and weapons of mass destruction, if other countries are not willing to be invited to participate. The United States will also use its military power to regulate the global order. The new United States grand strategy launched since the end of the Cold War has seven elements. Five of the seven elements are:

- First, maintain the unipolar world, and must prevent the emergence of new competitors in Europe and Asia.

- Second, terrorism is a new threat.
- Third, replace the Cold War deterrence concept. At present, prevention, sovereignty, and balance of power must go together. Because the current threat is not a superpower, but a transnational terrorist network.
- Fourth, re-defining the meaning of sovereignty. Because terrorist groups cannot be denied. The United States must be prepared to intervene everywhere, at any time acting first to destroy the threat.
- Fifth, the United States needs to play a direct and free role to eliminate threats. George W Bush himself has stated, the September 11, 2001 attacks had forced America

The union issued a new concept of national security, known as preemptive strike. So, the September 11 incident was deliberately designed to be the justification for the birth of the new foreign policy of the United States; Preemptive Strike doctrine.

### **War Against Terrorism, War of Ideology**

There are indications that the fight against terrorism on the US foreign political agenda is an ideological war. This is as expressed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense of the United States, Paul Wolfowitz, who stated that "At this time, we are fighting the terror-war that we will win. The bigger war that we face is a war of thought. "Obviously a challenge, but we must also win." (Bridging the Dangerous Gap between the West and the Muslim World, U.S. Defense: 2002). In addition, Donald Rumsfeld, United States Secretary of Defense, has also stated in relation to the presence of US troops in Iraq that " If US troops leave Iraq soon, Iraq will become a haven for terrorists and the basis of the spread of the Islamic superpower that will threatening the world ... Iraq will become the basis of a new Khilafah state that will extend to the Middle East ... (Washingtonpost.com, 5 December 2005). As well as the President of the United States, George W Bush, on October 6, 2005 said that by equating the current war against terrorism with the war against communism. For him, the ideology of the murder of radical Islam is the biggest challenge of our new century.

### **The Islamic View of Terrorism**

Terrorism, which in Arabic is *al irhab*, is *mashdar* which is *musytaq* (word fragment) from *fi'il arhaba*, which means 'creating fear' (*akhaafa*) or 'making horror / fright' (*fazza'a*). in the word of Allah SWT: "... (which with that preparation) you fear the enemy of Allah and your enemy ..." (TQS Al Anfaal: 60). But the meaning of this

language has been transferred to the new terminological meaning (term). The US Intelligence Service and the British Intelligence Service in a seminar held to discuss the meaning of "terrorism" in 1979 agreed that "terrorism" is the use of violence to oppose civil interests in order to realize political targets. (Zallum, 1998: 7).

From the global review of the various discussions relating to terrorism, it seems clear that the discussion was apparently not exhaustive and subject to the political orientation of the countries that made it. For example, we see America considers the murder of Indira Gandhi as an act of terrorism, while the assassination of King Faisal and President Kennedy is not considered an act of terrorism. Another example, America initially labeled the bombing of the Federal Investigation Office building in Oklahoma as an act of terrorism. But when it was proven that the perpetrators of the bombings were among the American militias themselves, the bombings which were initially considered acts of terrorism, were then only considered as mere "criminal acts". Therefore, there is hardly a single Islamic movement that exists today, except to be prepared to be labeled a terrorist. Likewise, this stamp was inevitable even by Islamic movements and parties which did not use violence to achieve their targets.

Giving a negative stamp in the form of terrorists or other stamps such as fundamentalist against Islamic movements because of the wrong view of these movements. One of the concepts in Islam that is often disputed is the concept of jihad. As Azyumardi Azra said, jihad is often, even always, identified with terrorism, especially among Western observers (Azra, 1994: 76). This is because the inherent image is that each Muslim army has invaded various regions and forced non-Muslims to convert to Islam. The stamp given by Western countries that Islam is terrorism and that Muslims are terrorists, is actually a tendentious predicate. The predicate is not in accordance with the facts and also not according to what God wants from the teachings of Islam. Allah SWT said: "And we have not sent you (Muhammad), but to (be) a mercy to the worlds." (Al Anbiyaa TQS: 107) Allah SWT also said: "And We send down to you Al Kitab (Al Qur`an) to explain all things and guidance and mercy and good news for Muslims." (TQS An Nahl: 89).

This blessing will actually be realized with the application of Islamic laws. There is no difference between prayer and jihad, between prayer and deterrence of the enemy, between zakat and cutting off the hands of thieves, between helping people who are persecuted and putting people to death who violate the honor of the Muslims. It makes no difference, because they are all sharia laws', which must be applied by individual Muslims or by state institutions, each according to the facts and in due time

## CONCLUSION

The politics of 'terror' carried out by the West, especially the United States, in the Muslim World is not new. Long before the September 11, 2001 tragedy, the West and the United States had put a lot of pressure on Islam and Muslims. Western and US 'terrorism' is usually not only realized by military intervention, but also politically / legally, thinking, and even imaging / propaganda. After the 11 September 2001 tragedy, Western and US 'terror' increasingly gained the right momentum and were seen as legitimate. After the incident, some of the "terror" waged by the West and the United States, particularly to the Islamic World, were as follows:

First, military 'terror'. Military 'terror' is carried out by: (1) Placing tens of thousands of troops in various countries, especially in Islamic countries. Along with the attack on Afghanistan, (2) conducting military cooperation and anti-terrorism training with a number of countries. (3) Conducting direct military interventions such as the United States in Afghanistan or the Philippines; including arresting and torturing a number of people and arresting people suspected of being perpetrators of terrorism.

Second, political / legal 'terror'. This terror was carried out among others by: (1) Militarily threatening countries which were seen by the United States to protect terrorism or those who were not serious in fighting terrorists. This is what has been repeatedly addressed to a number of Muslim countries, including Indonesia. (2) Pressuring each country to enact the Anti-Terrorism Law in which many completely ignore the human rights of people suspected of being terrorists to lead to the emergence of state terrorism. (3) Provoking Muslim countries about the existence of 'sleep cells of terrorism' in their respective countries.

Third, 'terror' thinking. This is done among others by throwing various distortive thoughts about religion (read: Islam) by seeing that Islam is a religion of peace (with a distorted understanding) that rejects all forms of violence. The Islam he wants is also a 'benign' and 'friendly' Islam. The goal is that any form of violence - including jihad - is seen as not part of Islam.

Fourth, 'terror' imaging / propaganda. The latter for example is done by: (1) Throwing bad stigma - such as 'terrorists', 'fundamentalists', 'hardliners', 'axis of evil', etc. - to Islam and Muslims. (2) Doing opinion engineering to create a sinister picture of the group Islam.



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