The term “unlawful combatant” is used to refer to an individual who belongs to an armed group [1], in a context where either the individual or the group do not fulfil the conditions for combatant status [2]. The term was employed by the administration of President George W. Bush of the United States in its ‘global war on terror [3]’ to describe persons who are, in its view, neither combatants [4] nor civilians [5] but belong to a third category of persons who can be attacked at any time and can be detained indefinitely [6] without trial. It is also sometimes used as a synonym for “unprivileged belligerent [7]”.

See Unprivileged belligerent [7]; War on terror [3]; Combatants [4]; Civilians [5]; Detention [8]; Internment [6]; Terrorism and terrorists [9];

OUTLINE

Chapter 2, III. 1. e) The global war on terror ? [10]

Chapter 5, VII. 5. Terrorism, the "war on terror", and in particular the status of "unlawful combatants" [11]
United States, Closure of Guantanamo Detention Facilities [12]

United States, Treatment and Interrogation in Detention [13]

CASES

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts (Part B.) [14]

Israel, The Targeted Killings Case (Paras. 24-40) [15]

Israel, Detention of Unlawful Combatants [16]

United States, Status and Treatment of Detainees Held in Guantanamo Naval Base [17]

United States, President’s Military Order [18]

United States, Hamdan v. Rumsfeld [19]

United States, Military Commissions [20]

United States, Habeas Corpus for Guantanamo Detainees [21]

United States, The Obama Administration’s Internment Standards [22]

General Assembly, The use of drones in counter-terrorism operations [23]
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United States, Jurisprudence Related to the Bombing of the U.S.S. Cole [25]

USA, Guantánamo, End of "Active Hostilities" in Afghanistan [26]

USA, Jawad v. Gates [27]

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