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

See Unprivileged belligerent; War on terror; Combatants; Civilians; Detention; Internment; Terrorism and terrorists;

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

USA, Jawad v. Gates [27]

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YOO John C. & HO James C., “The Status of Terrorists”, in *Virginia Journal of International Law*
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