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]
U.S., Lethal Operations against Al-Qa’ida Leaders [24]

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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