Current international law contains no definition of terrorism.
The term comprises various acts and kinds of behaviour ranging from what everyone
certainly regards as illegal to what some regard as illegal and others as legal. From the
point of view of international humanitarian law, terrorism is only covered when committed
within the framework or as part of an armed conflict [1]. It does not apply to attacks against
combatants [2] and military objectives [3] provided that the acts of violence it entails are
perpetrated by combatants [2] or members of armed groups [4] and that the means used are
lawful.
Conversely, attacks on the civilian population [5] and civilian objects [6], by whatever means
and for whatever reasons, are prohibited.
Between the extremes of legitimate acts of war against combatants [2] and military objectives
[3], and the prohibition of acts of terrorism against the civilian population [5] and civilian
objects [6], there is a wide range of controversial action.

See War on Terror [7];
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- **ICRC**, International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts in 2011 [12]

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- **ICRC**, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts [13]
- **United Kingdom and Australia**, Applicability of Protocol I [Reservation (d)], [14]
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