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Sujet 1: The role of infrastructure security in the fight against tettorism

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1. **Abstract**

Terrorism is a problem affecting the majority of the world since it leads to violations of human rights. Therefore, the UN and several states try their best in finding solutions to fight against it. However the fight against terrorism involves the establishment of infrastructure security in different geographical areas, and the development of cameras and security guards in most public places, especially at airports. This is to protect people against terrorist attacks. Nevertheless, this can also have harmful effects on citizens as discrimination occurs. Indeed, they evoke discrimination based on race, color, language, origin, and religion. Moreover, the fight against terrorism has negative impacts on one of the fundamental rights, which is the quality between individuals, which violates the right to seek asylum and live in privacy.

Today, the terrorism issue affects several countries. However, the governments of these set up infrastructure and strict security measures to protect citizens. For instance, in France, after the terrorist attack in November 2015, the government has introduced a law that gives the right to visual inspections and rummage through luggage in order to control identities. In addition, they have the right to detain a person if they think he is in relation with a terrorist group for four hours straight.

Noting also that several organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) are affected by this problem and are trying their best to reduce and avoid it. The United Nations plays a significant role to fight against this threat. They created the Committee against Terrorism in 2001 and the Counter-terrorism implementation task force (CTITF) in 2005.

1. **Introduction**

Terrorism is one of the main topics discussed that causes violations of the human rights. In fact, terrorist attacks have significantly increased in the XXI century. Over the last fifteen years, terrorist attacks have increased from approximately less than 2,000 to nearly over 14000. Terrorism not only causes so many deaths, but also causes a lack of security in most countries. Therefore, it makes traveling for people much more difficult. As a result, the United Nations is trying to implement global anti-terrorism strategies. Their main goal is to focus on preventing terrorist acts through the establishment of a security infrastructure. These security measures are intended to protect the rights of individuals against terrorist attacks. However, they may also violate their rights since the enhancement of security may cause discrimination and disrespect citizens’ privacy.

1. **Definition of key words**

* Infrastructure: the basic equipment and structures (such as roads and bridges) that are needed for a country, region, or organization to function properly
* Security Infrastructure: Refers to facilities, technologies, networks and processes that are designed to prevent terrorist attacks, to limit the damage the attacks cause or react to the consequences of attacks.
* Terrorism: the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.
* Physical Security: Physical security is the protection of personnel, hardware, software, networks and data from physical actions and events that could cause serious loss or damage to an enterprise, agency or institution. This includes protection from fire, flood, natural disasters, burglary, theft, vandalism and terrorism.
* Refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
* Immigrants: a person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence.
* Network security: Network security is the protection of the access to files and directories in a computer network against hacking, misuse and unauthorized changes to the system. An example of network security is an antivirus system.

1. **Background Information**

The United Nations seeks to guarantee the fundamental human rights and the international rights of refugees by establishing good security infrastructure. Indeed, the security infrastructure started with the aim to secure and protect people from terrorist acts by the installation of cameras, bodyguards and securities, and monitors to detect weapons. Unfortunately, this exaggerated security and overprotectively breaches the fundamental human rights and especially those of the refugees.

Security infrastructure is more often found in different geographical areas, and important buildings. Legislators, those affected by the policies and the ones who apply the laws, control these. They participate in infrastructure security, without taking into consideration the respect of individuals’ rights. In fact, they evoke discrimination based on race, color, language, origin, and religion and rummaging some people more than others and preventing them from entering specific locations. In addition, the fight against terrorism has a major negative impact on the fundamental rights, which is equality. Also, it violates the right to seek asylum and to have a private life.

1. **Major countries & organizations involved**
2. **Countries:**

France:

Terror related threats have increased in France in recent months, and have consequently led tough decisions being taken to fight terrorists. The terrorist attacks in France since January 2015 began with the weekly Charlie-attack and the supermarket, until the attack on July 14, 2016 in Nice resulting in 84 deaths. Following the recent attack, President Francois Hollande has backlashed by increasing the number of operational reserve. Also, the army chief said, *“the aircraft carrier entitled Charles de Gaulle will be deployed in September off Iraq and Syria to intensify strikes".* In addition, on June 3, 2016 a law was enacted which aims to strengthen the fight against terrorism, applying new means of investigation. To enforce this law, the government will capture videos, make use of sound systems, and set the images to be backed up in a computer system. It especially gives the efficient visual inspection and searching of luggage through an identity check. In addition, they have the right to detain a person if they think it is related to a terrorist group for four hours. They can also review the use of cameras for pedestrian only forces of national police.

Germany :

Germany has faced several terrorist acts in July 2016. On July 18, an Afghan refugee, aged 17, committed a terrorist attack in Germany. The attack seriously injured four passengers of a train with a knife. This took place after the Nice attack four days between the cities of Würzburg and Treuchlingen. German police found him at a flag of the Islamic State. Moreover, on 24 July in Bavaria, another Syrian refugee committed a suicide bombing that injured 15 people. Germany then remains threatened by other attacks, which forced the nation to make decisions against fundamental human rights. Germany therefore took decisions such as increasing the number of police, to invest in technology to identify terrorists before entering the borders of the country. Thus the German minister suggested: "The Germans involved in fighting abroad for terrorist militia or have a dual nationality must consequently lose their German nationality." This has lead to discrimination against refugees, and nationality. Consequently, 820 accused of being jihadists left Germany for Syria and Iraq.

Belgium:

Belgium, like most countries, is against terrorist acts. The most remarkable event is the bombing of March 22, in the Brussels airport and Brussels metro that resulted in the death of 32 individuals and the injury of 300 individual. Belgium has decided to fight terrorism by searching houses. In addition, the government monitors individuals accused of being terrorists. This also strengthens the police border controls. They decided to make electronic bracelets for people stuck in the threat analysis service. Also, save the preachers to deprive liberty or deport those who preach hatred.

1. **Organizations:**

OSCE :

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was created in 1955. Its headquarters are in Vienna, it has 57 member states and 11 partners in cooperation. The purpose of this organization is to focus on the combat of terrorism by protecting distinct geographical areas and stabilizing conflicted regions.

INTERPOL:

An organization created in 1923, which aims to facilitate international police cooperation in providing assistance between all criminal police authorities under the laws of different countries as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its mission is to fight terrorism and crime. It has a common computer communication system to all member countries. Therefore, it is able to deliver messages quickly and to provide analysis and information. The General Assembly thus brings together delegates members of the member countries to discuss the future decisions of the organization.

Other organizations:

* United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime
* The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee
* Surveillance Committee of the application of resolution 1267 (1988)
* UN High Commissioner for refugees
* Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism- Specific work on victims of terrorism

1. **UN Intervention**

With the spread of terrorism in the Middle East and Europe, the United Nations continues to take action to provide security for individuals and strengthen their rights while fighting terrorism. Following the September 11 attacks in the United States, the Security Council established the Committee against Terrorism. The latter aimed to provide technical and financial assistance to countries in order to protect their borders and to encourage them to apply codes and safety standards against terrorist attacks. In 2005, the Secretary General established the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF); it brings together 31 United Nations agencies and has a main goal of fighting terrorism while respecting fundamental human rights. It therefore establishes guidelines that must be respected in order to fight terrorism.

The United Nations continues to implement strategies and resolutions to fight terrorism while respecting citizens' rights. A new body fighting against terrorism was created in December 2011 within the Task Force that is the United Nations Counter Terrorism Center (UNCCT). The Center has an Advisory Council, to which France belongs.

1. **Possible solutions**

1. Set cameras to secure infrastructures, but with specific laws, such as:

i. Recording for one month

ii. Use of recording only in case of attack or theft

2. Secure all infrastructures with security men to search all individuals (without any discrimination of color, religion, race, nationality, etc.)

1. **Guiding questions**

• What are the consequences of terrorism?

• What are the criteria that identify infrastructure security?

• What countries are affected by terrorism?

• What are the countries where we find discrimination present in infrastructure security?

• How does infrastructure security violate human rights?

• What kinds of discrimination affect immigrants?

• What steps should states take to protect the rights of men in the combat against terrorism?

• To what extent does the security infrastructure have a positive or negative impact?

1. **Useful Links**

* <http://www.franceonu.org/Lutte-contre-le-terrorisme-8733#Le-Conseil-de-securite>
* <http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/>
* [http://www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/fr/le-rapporteur-spécial-sur-la-promotion-et-la-protection-des-droits-de-l’homme-et-des-libertés](http://www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/fr/le-rapporteur-spécial-sur-la-promotion-et-la-protection-des-droits-de-l%27homme-et-des-libertés)
* [http:/www.ohchr.org/EN/newyork/Documents/CTITF\_Guide\_Security\_Infrastructure\_FRE\_Web.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/newyork/Documents/CTITF_Guide_Security_Infrastructure_FRE_Web.pdf)
* <http://www.levif.be/actualite/belgique/les-18-mesures-prises-par-le-gouvernement-pour-lutter-contre-le-terrorisme/article-normal-434835.html>
* <http://www.la-croix.com/Monde/Europe/Face-au-terrorisme-l-Allemagne-veut-durcir-sa-legislation-2016-08-11-1200781646>
* <http://www.vie-publique.fr/actualite/panorama/texte-discussion/projet-loi-renforcant-lutte-contre-crime-organise-terrorisme-leur-financement-ameliorant-efficacite-garanties-procedure-penale.html>

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