

2024-01

Muted Terrorism When a state becomes a terrorist: functionary and vigilante terrorism and its consequences

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School of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

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January, 2024



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**Dissertation which was submitted for obtaining an MSc degree in
International Relations, Strategy and Security at Neapolis
University**

Genevieve Manos

January, 2024

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Dissertation Title: Muted terrorism

When a state becomes a terrorist: functionary and vigilante terrorism and its consequences.

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The Declarant

Genevieve Manos

Table of Contents

Abstract	1
Chapter 1	2
Introduction	2
1.1 Research problem presentation	3
1.2 Reasons for pursuing the research topic	3
1.3 Research questions presentation	4
1.4 Purpose and Objectives	4
1.5 Methodology	5
1.6 Impact of the study	6
1.7 Preview of the chapters	6
Chapter 2	8
2.1 Panoptic delineation of terrorism	8
2.2 How and why a state opts for vigilante terrorists	10
2.3 Vigilante terrorism and its dimensions	11
2.4 Decomposing vigilante groups	12
2.5 Anatomy of vigilante terrorism	13
2.6 The intricacy of balancing interests with lawfulness	14
2.7 Democratic states and vigilante terrorism	15
2.8 Boundaries and sensory awareness	16
2.9 State-sponsored suffering	17
2.10 Vigilante terrorism as a counterterrorism method	18
2.11 The extralegal nature of vigilantism	19
2.12 Ethics	20
Case studies	22
2.13 Case study of the United Self-Defense Forces (AUC, Colombia)	22
2.14 Case study of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF, Northern Ireland)	27
2.15 Case study of the Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberación (GAL, Spain)	31
Chapter 3	35
3.1 Results and consequences	35
3.3 Conceptual model	37
3.4 Conclusions	39
Bibliographic references	40

Abstract

Being considerably familiarized with the typology of terrorism that targets a state, this research paper delves into terrorism on behalf of the state (functionary terrorism). In particular, the focus point is on democratic states which face the issue of terrorism and resort to vigilante terrorists. By examining three distinct case studies - the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), the Ulster Volunteer Force of Northern Ireland (UVF), and the Anti Terrorist Liberation Groups of Spain (GAL) - the paper identifies the factors that drive democratic states towards this contentious practice and scrutinizes its ethical and legal implications. Employing a qualitative methodology, the study conducts a systematic literature review and thematically organizes data to effectively present, analyze, and evaluate vigilante terrorism. The incisive findings highlight the negative consequences of vigilante terrorism, such as human rights violations, escalation of violence, and the undermining of the rule of law. Robust counterterrorism strategies that prioritize ethical considerations, respect human rights, and uphold transparency and accountability are proposed. Ultimately, the paper underscores the exigency for democratic states to eschew vigilante terrorism, as its inherent ethical compromises and retaliatory cycle contradict the cornerstone values of democracy.

Keywords: vigilante terrorism, democratic states, counterterrorism, extralegal violence, ethical and legal implications