

# **THE QUESTION OF THE INCLUSION OF TERRORISM UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

## **SUMMARY**

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Throughout the last decade terrorism has been a constant protagonist in both the media and in political debate. Key questions such as how to prevent it and respond to it generally remain unanswered. Amongst the confusion and challenges lies the responsibility of the international community to develop a means of prosecuting those responsible for this crime. The ambition here is therefore to focus on the current legal response to terrorism and its future.

Discussion shall centre firstly on the inception of the International Criminal Court in the 1990's, which notably omitted terrorism from its jurisdiction. The reasons behind this decision shall be assessed as well as the inefficiencies of the current international conventions currently dealing with terrorism and the problems found in their domestic implementation.

Focus shall then turn to the 'new' status of terrorism as a predominantly international crime and the necessity of a consistent international response. It will be shown that this could be accomplished through the inclusion of terrorism within the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction.

Throughout this study, the difficulty posed by the lack of a coherent definition of terrorism- irrespective of the legal response – will be illustrated.