GLOBAL RESPONSES AND RECURSES TO TERRORISM

EDIETH Y. WU

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper is intended to create a global dialog about terrorism, its roots and its recent escalation. Recent factors that have led to greater awareness and commitment to address terrorism are the pivotal reasons inspiring a broader discussion of the issue. As jurists, we are in positions that allow us to elucidate on matters that affect not only our domestic concerns but international concerns as well. Through intellectual debate we can and must effectuate change. This paper is an attempt to accomplish these goals. First, a historical brief of terrorism and a snapshot of its possible causes are highlighted. Next, the various approaches to combat terrorism are developed, including recent changes in U.S. legislation to ad hoc tribunals; and the recently adopted International Criminal Court. The U.S. approach is reviewed and critiqued in contrast to other nations’ approaches, from its declared War on Terrorism, its use of domestic laws and other measures to military tribunals, adjustments in U.S. foreign policy and international criticism of U.S. foreign policy. Finally, the paper concludes with the hypothesis that various approaches, beyond the traditional approaches, must be undertaken because terrorism not only threatens world security, but also, exemplifies what groups of dissidents can do when hope fades and rebellion or violence is the only perceived recourse.

* Interim Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. The author wishes to thank God, Carrie Sowers, her former research assistant, Anya Anga, Jo Alridge, her secretary, her sisters Suzanne Crockett and Mary Salazar, the TMSL staff and a special thanks to former Associate Dean Dannye Hollye.