

## Definitions of Terrorism

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THERE IS NO SINGLE, **UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED**,  
DEFINITION OF **T E R R O R I S M**.

Countries define the term according to their own beliefs  
and to support their own national interests.

**SO IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK.**

According to Webster's University Dictionary, terrorism is:

“the systematic use of violence, terror, and intimidation to  
achieve an end”

According to the FBI, terrorism is defined as:

“the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or  
property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian  
population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or  
social objectives” [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

According to the UN, terrorism is defined as:

“any action...that is intended to cause death or serious bodily  
harm to civilians or noncombatants, when the purpose of such an  
act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to  
compel a Government or an international organization to do or  
abstain from doing any act.” From Dworkin, Anthony. Terrorism in Gutman, Rieff and  
Dworkin, Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know 2.0. London, W.W. Norton, 2007: 396-399.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**