

Protection of human rights by regional organizations in countering terrorism

The challenges posed by terrorism require coordinated international efforts to address them while, at same time, require considering the respect of human rights in its all forms. Therefore, regional, and international organizations play a crucial role in promoting, protecting human rights and fundamental liberties in the context of countering terrorism, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and resolution in line with the general international law, counter-terrorism law, human rights law, refugee law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law.

The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) has made tremendous efforts in this regard where its strategy anchored on initiatives and programs focused on countering terrorism while at the same time considering human rights. Meanwhile, IMCTC strategy well aligned with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288), representing a unique global approach to strengthen national, regional and international counter terrorism efforts.

IMCTC strategy agreed on a strategic and operational collective approach to counter terrorism.

These practical steps include a wide range of measures that include states' capacity-building to counter terrorist threats as

well as better coordination of International Organizations and Member States in countering terrorism while protecting human rights.

The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC)

IMCTC Establishment:

- IMCTC was established on December 15, 2015, where the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took the initiative to establish it.
- IMCTC currently comprises 42 member countries and seeks to counter terrorism in all its forms, shapes, and manifestations. Its membership is likely to increase overtime.
- IMCTC is the first international military coalition led by an Islamic country.

IMCTC's Role in Protecting Human Rights:

- **Coordination among Countries:** IMCTC provides a platform for member countries to coordinate and exchange best practices in countering terrorism, all while protecting human rights.
- **Capacity Building:** IMCTC provides capacity-building programs to counterterrorism while safeguarding human

rights, through the provision of training and technical support.

- **Setting Standards for Civilian Protection:** IMCTC establishes stringent standards for protecting civilian lives, as demonstrated through its strategy and initiatives that cover ideology, communications, and military domains, while emphasizing the importance of respecting human rights.
- **Countering Terrorism Financing:** IMCTC contributes to countering terrorism financing, thus preventing terrorist groups from obtaining the financial resources to carry out their terrorist attacks.
- **Strengthening International Collaboration:** IMCTC seeks to strengthen international cooperation in countering terrorism by encouraging sharing information and expertise among member states.
- **Promoting a Culture of Moderation and Tolerance:** IMCTC fosters a culture of tolerance and moderation and counters radical ideologies that lead to terrorism through its ideology and communications initiatives.

Examples of IMCTC's Efforts in the Field of Human Rights:

- **Training:** IMCTC provides training courses on human rights for member states' delegates in collaboration with the Standing Committee of International Humanitarian Law by hosting a group of international experts these courses include sessions with international experts in the international humanitarian law. For instance, a symposium was held with the participation of all accredited delegates and IMCTC staff to raise awareness about the importance of respecting human rights in accordance with international humanitarian law, counter-terrorism law, human rights law, refugee law, and international criminal law.
- **Support of Human Rights Enhancement Programs:** IMCTC provides financial and technical support for programs aimed at enhancing human rights in member states through its initiatives.
- **Collaboration with International Organizations:** IMCTC cooperates and collaborates with international organizations concerned with human rights. This involves ongoing communication, cooperation, as well as visits with the Human Rights Commission to explore partnership opportunities with entities such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office of Counterterrorism, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 2023, A partnership was established with the International Humanitarian Law Committee.

Conclusion:

The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition seeks to invest all available capabilities in order to achieve its strategic directions. These Capabilities and practical steps include a wide range of measures that include activating the four Domains of its work on which it is based (Ideology, media, counter financing terrorism, and military), with the aim of spreading the sublime principles and tolerant values of Islam such as tolerance, mercy, and moderation through Confronting terrorist ideas and theories, Employing the media and its means to refute terrorist propaganda, and develop a common communications narrative that educate the public opinion about the dangers of terrorism and counter terrorist propaganda. Take effective measures that strengthen prevention, detection and curbing of terrorism financing. , as well as Coordinate military and relief support to member countries to enable them to defeat armed terrorist groups Which lead to enhance and confirm the role of the coalition as a model in protecting human rights by fighting the scourge of terrorism and alleviate the suffering of local communities.