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**icct** International Centre for  
Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

**ASSER** INSTITUTE  
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Centre for International & European Law

# Advanced Summer Programme on Countering Terrorism: *Legal Challenges and Dilemmas*

24 - 28 August 2015  
The Hague

Organised by the T.M.C. Asser Instituut &  
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

[www.asser.nl/summerprogrammes](http://www.asser.nl/summerprogrammes)

# Countering Terrorism: Legal Challenges and Dilemmas

The Sydney hostage situation in December 2014, immediately followed by the attack of the Taliban on a school in Peshawar leaving 145 people dead, among whom 132 children, the attacks in Paris in January 2015, leading to the biggest manifestation in French history, the widespread killings perpetrated – at the same time of the Paris shootings – in Baga, Nigeria, by Boko Haram. Looking further back in 2014, the rise of Islamic State, the attacks by Al-Shabaab in Kenya, and the attacks in Canada all illustrate that terrorism is back on the agenda as never before.

These events have led to a further strengthening of the (legal) framework of counter-terrorism measures – ranging from rethinking the introduction of an EU-wide Passenger Names Record (PNR), to revoking citizenships, from intelligence sharing to restricting the use of internet for recruitment purposes.

Policymakers, practitioners and scholars are frantically looking for effective ways in dealing with this phenomenon. The danger of showing muscles and resorting to hard repressive security measures, as was done post 9/11, lures. Indeed, Obama himself stated on 21 May 2009: “Guantánamo became a symbol that helped al-Qaida recruit terrorists to its cause. Indeed, the existence of Guantánamo likely created more terrorists around the world than it ever detained.”

*“The summer programme had a good mixture of practice oriented and academic presentation. It also covered both legal and policy issues related to counter-terrorism”.*

*Participant 2014*



Photo: Reuters/Afolabi Sotunde

Participants and lecturers will search together for and discuss long-term, effective, international rule of law based strategies and measures in countering today's terrorism, during this Summer Programme which is celebrating its fifth edition in 2015.

The focus will be on the legal dimension. Therefore, topics that will be discussed include the scope and limitations of armed conflict while countering terrorism, the interplay between international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as the use of drones and targeted killings more generally.

Also the role of the intelligence community, the police and prosecutors in counter-terrorism, on both the domestic level and the level of the international tribunals, will be addressed. Considerable attention will also be paid to the legal measures in countering the foreign (terrorist) fighters phenomenon, with which a growing number of states is struggling and which will likely remain with us for the years to come. Both the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague are at the forefront of doing research and organising projects on these matters, and are ideally equipped to mobilise the best speakers on these topics. In short, the two institutions will ensure that the participants are provided with the legal background underlying pertinent questions that counter-terrorism professionals regularly face.

# Programme

The objective of this unique Summer Programme is to provide participants with an overview of the topics outlined above, exploring the theoretical and more practical questions of the legality of many counter-terrorism strategies and measures. The programme aims to provoke critical thinking about such issues as:

- Defining Terrorism under International and Domestic Laws;
- The War Paradigm vs the Law Enforcement Paradigm;
- The Role of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law in Countering Terrorism;
- Targeted Killings and the Use of Drones in Countering Terrorism: Legal, Moral, Technical and Efficiency Issues;
- The Role of Intelligence and the Police in Countering Terrorism;
- The Protection and Use of Witnesses in Terrorism Cases;
- Trying Terrorists at the Domestic and International Level;
- Legal Aspects in countering the foreign (terrorist) fighter phenomenon.



The programme will be delivered by a team of international and national leading experts working in the field of counter-terrorism. Previous speakers in the programme included **Prof. Dr. Richard English** (University of St Andrews), **Dr. Guido Acquaviva** (Special Tribunal for Lebanon), **Mr. Maajid Nawaz** (Quilliam Foundation), **Mr. Alexander van Dam** (Dutch Senior Public Prosecutor) and **Mr. Richard Barrett** (former coordinator of the UN al Qaeda/Taliban Monitoring Team).

# Study Visits

Each year, study trips are organised to one or two prominent institutions in The Hague, such as:

## Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)

The STL was established in 2009 by the UN Security Council to prosecute the people accused of carrying out the attack of 14 February 2005 which killed 22 people, including the former prime minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri, and injured many others. It is the first international tribunal of its kind to deal with terrorism as a distinct crime. During the visit the participants will gain deeper insights into the structure and role of the STL and learn about the specific challenges this international tribunal faces when trying terrorists.

## Eurojust

Eurojust's mission is to support and strengthen coordination and cooperation between national authorities in the fight against serious cross-border crime affecting the European Union, including terrorism. After the Madrid terrorist attacks in 2004, Eurojust established a Counter-Terrorism team, a centre of expertise at the judicial level in the field of counter-terrorism.

# Target Audience

The programme is tailored towards policymakers from the international, national and local level working on counter-terrorism issues, as well as other counter-terrorism professionals working at think-and-do tanks, international organisations, universities and the criminal justice sector, who want to expand their knowledge of the underlying legal tenets and dilemmas in countering terrorism. It should be noted that a legal background for this course is desirable but not required.

*“Interacting with people from various religious, social, ethnic and geographical backgrounds is indeed a very important aspect of the training. It has actually given me the opportunity to interact and share information and strategies with people who engage in similar activity as me”.*

## Participant 2014



Photo: T.M.C. Asser Instituut



Photo: U.S. Department of State Official Blog

# Organisers

## T.M.C. Asser Instituut

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague is a distinctive, inter-university research institute specialised in International and European law and a leading and authoritative provider of executive education to students and professionals operating in the judicial sector.

The Institute initiates, develops and provides education (tailor-made programmes and summer programmes) to students and professionals working in the judicial sector.

Each programme has a high degree of flexibility and competence, taking advantage of our academic integration and our extensive network of excellent and renowned speakers and teaching staff.

Working with partners from complementary fields we are successful in creating truly unique and highly relevant programmes on a variety of subjects and levels for a diverse range of participants including among others students, judges, prosecutors, legislators, civil servants, diplomats and lawyers.

Located in the heart of the international justice community, within walking distance of such international organisations as the ICTY, the OPCW, and the Peace Palace (which houses the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration), the T.M.C. Asser Instituut is the perfect host for organising Summer Programmes in international law.

[www.asser.nl](http://www.asser.nl)

## The International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT)

ICCT is an independent think tank and knowledge hub that focuses on information creation, collation and dissemination pertaining to the preventative and international legal aspects of counter-terrorism.

ICCT's work focuses on themes at the intersection of preventing and countering violent extremism and human rights and rule of law related aspects of counter-terrorism. As such, the centre works on, for instance, de- and counter-radicalisation, the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders, the promotion of civil society actors and victims' voices in countering violent extremism, preventing and countering incitement to terrorism, and effective rule of law based approaches in terrorism court cases.

ICCT connects academics, policymakers, civil society actors and practitioners from different fields by providing a platform for productive collaboration, practical analysis, and exchange of experiences and expertise, with the ultimate aim of identifying innovative, effective, and comprehensive approaches to preventing and countering terrorism.

[www.icct.nl](http://www.icct.nl)

# Practical Information

## Date

24 - 28 August 2015

## Fee

€ 1695

This fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, water/tea/coffee and lunch during working days, a reception and an opening dinner.

The fee does not cover (international) travel costs, domestic travel to and from airports etc., (hotel) accommodation, insurance or other expenses. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague.

## Registration

You can register by completing the online application form at: [www.asser.nl/counteringterrorism](http://www.asser.nl/counteringterrorism)

**The deadline for registration has been extended. You can register up to two weeks before the start of the Summer Programme.**

*Please read the Registration Information & Conditions carefully before registration.*

## Contact

For more information or questions please contact [educationtraining@asser.nl](mailto:educationtraining@asser.nl)

***"This course was not only engaging intellectually (which, I had expected), it also provided me with practical ideas and tools that I can apply back in my home country".***

## Participant 2014



# Registration Information & Conditions

## Enrollment

1. You may register via the website by submitting the completed online registration form at [www.asser.nl/counteringterrorism](http://www.asser.nl/counteringterrorism).
2. Each participant should use a separate form.
3. The deadline for registration has been extended. You can register up to two weeks before the start of the Summer Programme.
4. Upon receipt of the completed online registration form, a confirmation letter and payment details will be sent to you by email.
5. Your registration is complete once the online registration form has been submitted and the payment has been received.
6. The registration form constitutes a legally binding agreement. By submitting the completed registration form the registrant declares to be in accordance with the requirements and provisions described therein.
7. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held responsible for the non-arrival of registration information. If you have not received confirmation of your registration within 7 working days of submitting, please contact [educationtraining@asser.nl](mailto:educationtraining@asser.nl).
8. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut reserves the right to withhold registration.

## Fees and Payment Conditions

1. Fees for the week-long summer programme are € 1695.
2. The fee includes lectures, study materials, study visits, refreshments and lunch during working days, a reception and an opening dinner.
3. The full payment must be made within 10 days after receipt of the confirmation e-mail. You will only be secured of a place at the Summer Programme once the T.M.C. Asser Instituut has received your payment in full.
4. Participants are responsible for the cost of all international travel, accommodation, evening meals (approximately €30 per day), and if applicable, any visa charges and medical insurance. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut can provide prospective participants with a list of suitable hotels in The Hague (€70-120 per day).

## Cancellation Policy

1. Cancellations will only be accepted when your request for cancellation is submitted by e-mail to [educationtraining@asser.nl](mailto:educationtraining@asser.nl).
2. If you cancel less than four weeks prior to the starting date of the Summer Programme, no refund of the course fee will be given.
3. If you cancel within the allotted time (at least 4 weeks before the starting date of the course), a processing fee of €200,- will be charged. The remaining sum will be refunded.
4. The T.M.C Asser Instituut reserves the right to cancel the Summer Programme. In the event that such action is necessary, registrants will be informed at least four weeks in advance of the starting date of the programme.
5. In the event that the T.M.C. Asser Instituut cancels the Summer Programme, the full sum paid will be reimbursed.

## Visa

1. If you require a visa to visit the Netherlands, you are strongly advised to apply for your visa at least eight weeks prior to your departure to the Netherlands. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut does not arrange visas but will assist visa applicants where appropriate.

## Liability

1. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut cannot be held liable for personal injuries or for loss and/or damage to the personal belongings of participants either during or as a result of their participation in the programme.



Photo: U.S. Air Force photo/Lt Col Leslie Pratt



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