

Cyberterrorism: A classified threat or an orphan idea?

Abstract: From its conception, the notion of cyberterrorism has inherited the indefinable-concept problem from its forefather, terrorism. While not a particularly impeding problem in the past, cyberterrorism, along with the adjacent concepts of cybercrime, cyberwarfare and informational warfare (IW), have now come at the forefront of issues to be resolved in relation to the wider notion of terrorism. The research question of this paper is: **What are the existing legal frameworks around cyberterrorism and how could they be improved further to achieve better protection of civilians against terrorist acts?** This research thus evaluates the administrative, legal and jurisdictional approaches in response to cyberterrorism, via document and content analysis, and how the concept is defined, and even penalised in them. The faults and omissions of the above are examined, and improvements of both the administrative and legal frameworks are presented. It is found that the inability to adequately define cyberterrorism has, in many ways pointlessly, led to the ensuing gaps in legislation to counter it. Other problems include its complicated nature, the lack of legal framework penalising computer crimes, and others. It is concluded that via a tighter legal framework, the tremendous danger that cyberterrorism poses to every citizen can be effectively combated.