

Abstract

In recent decades we can watch heated debates on the legal and moral permissibility of State-sponsored targeted killings involving representatives from Governments, academic circles, military and police forces, intelligence services, human rights groups, humanitarian institutions, intergovernmental organizations and the mass media. These debates are even more intense after the killing of Osama bin Laden, leader of the terrorist group Al Qaeda, in May 2011.

The aim of the thesis is to answer to the question: Are targeted killings a permissible method of fight against terrorism? The legality of targeted killings is analyzed in term of *lex lata* international law, namely under human rights law, international humanitarian law and law of international security. The thesis is composed of six chapters.

Chapter One defines basic terminology used in the thesis. The Chapter is subdivided into two parts. Part One defines the concept of targeted killings. Part Two defines the notion of terrorism.

Chapter Two examines the legality of targeted killings in term of law of international security.

Chapter Three describes the parallel application of human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Chapter Four analyzes the legality of targeted killings under human rights law. The Chapter is subdivided into two main parts. Part one focuses on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. And part two focuses on European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom.

Chapter Five is focused on the legality of targeted killings in term of relevant principles of humanitarian law.

And Chapter Six examines the legality of killing Osama bin Laden. This chapter is based on information available in the mass media.

The conclusion summarizes in what circumstances are targeted killings permissible method of against terrorism under international law.