Rigorosum thesis is focused on the understanding of essential problems of international terrorism in context of international law. Main challenges include the adoption of universal definition of terrorism, the settlement of the legal status of terrorists and their rights and obligations mainly in relation to human rights. It is important to clarify the responsibility of the State for terrorism (State terrorism and attribution of his actions), in relation to the population, captured terrorists, and non-state actors. The latter pose several problems in reaction to terrorist crimes, such as the legality of the use of force against them including the right of self-defence or the use of drones for targeted killing. It is contentious whether it is possible to place terrorism under existing categories of international law or it constitutes a separate act which is necessary to regulate apart from valid international rules.

**Keywords:** terrorism, human rights, targeted killing, right to self-defence, use of force, State responsibility, non-state actor, 9/11 terrorist attacks