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Governmental (Re-)Actions and Functioning of the Political System in Times of Terroristic Threat – Israel 1978-2005

Primarily concerned with events in Israel, especially in the southern part of Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and the Westbank during the period from 1978 to the end of the era of Ariel Sharon in 2005, the main focus of this analysis is to investigate whether there is any kind of interdependency between the intensity of terroristic attacks (especially suicide bombings) and governmental (re-)actions. Consequentially, the relevant political actors are the Israeli State, the Shiite Hizb-Allah as well as the Sunni Hamas.

The introductory first part of this thesis shall focus on defining the meaning of the main expressions: 1) what is meant by Israeli national security, 2) what different kinds of terrorism exist in the Middle East? 3) Which constitutional particularities are to be found in Israel?

Furthermore, the intentions of the Israeli State, the motivations of the Hizb-Allah/Hamas and their special characteristics will be scrutinised. This last aspect concentrates in particular on the subdivision of suicide bombers in a) psychologically, b) sociologically, c) religiously and d) politically motivated actors. This is according to Dr. Shlomo Shpiro from the Begin Sadat Centre in Ramat Gan, who also suggests a categorisation in four types: a) religious or b) national fanatics, c) ripped off or d) revenge-taking assassins.

A further part consists of an analysis of historical and political sources (normative documents = laws + "contracts" between the conflict parties). It will try to establish a connection between the (re-)actions of the Israeli government and the intensity of suicide bombing attacks. Some hints like the construction of the 600km long wall along with a decrease of terroristic attacks seem to indicate a general interdependency.