

## Options in Brief

### Option 1: Lead an Assault on Terrorism

The United States cannot tolerate acts of terrorism, those who perpetrate them, or countries that harbor terrorists. To protect U.S. security at home and U.S. interests abroad, the United States must be willing to use whatever means are necessary, including military force, drone attacks, targeted killings, and coercive interrogation to gain information about terrorist plots. It is the U.S. government's responsibility and duty to protect the U.S. public and make the world safe from terrorists. The war on terrorism is a worldwide struggle and the United States must move forward with a worldwide offensive against it until all who threaten peace and security are destroyed. Nothing less than U.S. freedom is at stake.

### Option 2: Collaborate to Fight Terrorism

Terrorism is a global problem. Since 2001, other countries have also suffered terribly from terrorist attacks. Today, U.S. security and the security of the rest of the world depend upon the ability of countries to work together to address this continuing threat. The long-term effort necessary to wipe out terrorism worldwide requires cooperation with other countries and respect for the rule of law. The United States must back away from unilateral action and help strengthen the effectiveness of the international community on security matters. The United States should offer its military, intelligence, and economic support to a UN-led effort to eradicate terrorist cells wherever they are found.

### Option 3: Defend the Homeland

Since 2001, high-profile U.S. foreign policy programs have only bred resentment against the United States and created more terrorists who are intent on doing harm. It is time to change the focus of U.S. efforts against terrorism from overseas to the United States. By spending less abroad, the United States can devote more to the protection of the homeland. The time has come to lower the U.S. foreign policy profile, build up U.S. national defenses, and deal with the newly emerging threat of homegrown terrorism. Finally, while civil liberties are important, the U.S. public must recognize that it is living in a new world. The government must be allowed to take whatever steps are necessary to protect U.S. security.

### Option 4: Address the Root Causes of Terrorism

If the United States is going to end the cycle of violence, it must accept that long-standing U.S. policies towards the Islamic world have contributed to the rise of violent extremism. To focus only on those who perpetrate terrorist acts is to treat the symptom rather than the disease. The United States should support the people of the Middle East in their quest for democracy. It must join with the world's wealthier countries and devote more attention and resources to aid programs that address the underlying causes of terrorism—poverty, injustice, political powerlessness, hatred, and lack of human rights. The United States also must examine its policies around the world to see that they are not inflaming long-standing local and regional conflicts, fueling discontent, and creating a breeding ground for violent anti-American sentiment.