

## Algeria's Experience and its Role in Establishing a Global System to Criminalize Ransom Payments to Terrorists: A Security and Legal Approach between Reality and Challenges

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### Abstract:

The discussion about terrorism is a global conversation that has deeply affected the policies of governments and nations, instilling fear in the hearts of populations due to the negative effects it has caused, including loss of life, displacement of families from their homes, and the destruction of state systems and economies. Terrorism has taken various forms and methods, ranging from initial entrenchment as bloodthirsty gangs or the establishment of separatist movements without specific ideologies, to its current evolution into organized entities resembling states in their own right.

These terrorist organizations have engaged in various forms of intimidation and violence, primarily encompassing acts such as murder, torture, abduction, and detention. This prompted the international community to pay special attention to these crimes, including terrorism financing, but overlooked the relationship between these crimes and the act of ransom payment—a crucial source of funding for terrorist activities.

Algeria, being one of the prominent victims of this security equation, particularly in the 1990s, took regional and international action. The Algerian government urged the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution criminalizing ransom payments to terrorists, as a complement to the measures outlined in Counter-Terrorism Resolution 1373. This move was a response to the recommendations of Security Council Resolution 1904/2009 and Resolution 2133/2014.

However, the raised issue primarily revolves around the security and legal approach to combating terrorism, especially concerning ransom payments. Despite Algeria's efforts mentioned earlier, it faces a conflicting reality where

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some countries justify yielding to ransom payments, arguing that the right to the hostage's life is a human right protected by international agreements and declarations, non-negotiable under any circumstances. This practice, in reality, strengthens terrorist groups, enabling them to pose a more significant and widespread threat to human rights.

In light of all the above, our study will primarily focus on elucidating the meaning of ransom as a significant source of terrorism financing, examining Algeria's role in criminalizing ransom payments, and finally, addressing the issue of ransom payments in international practice.

**Keywords:** Terrorism; Ransom Payments; Financing; Human Rights; International Practice.

## INTRODUCTION

Algeria has consistently refused to pay ransom, aiming to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring the resources and capabilities to continue their activities. It stands out as the first country to endorse the African Convention on Combating Terrorism. Algeria, having learned significantly from its experience combating terrorism during the Black Decade, has transitioned from merely receiving blows to a phase of proactively preventing and protecting against these attacks. This preventive phase relies heavily on drying up the sources of terrorism financing, with ransom being one of the key sources that terrorist groups receive in exchange for hostages.

Algeria has advocated for the issuance of a binding international resolution criminalizing ransom payments to terrorist groups. Terrorists reap substantial financial gains from ransoms, enabling their expansion and proliferation. However, Algerian efforts face numerous obstacles, as some countries still exhibit a willingness to pay substantial sums and make significant concessions to secure the release of their kidnapped citizens. Despite the justifications and methods employed by these countries in conveying the demands of the

kidnappers, the result consistently strengthens terrorist groups, enhancing their influence and expanding their activities.

This leads us to pose the following question:

- What is Algeria's role in preventing ransom payments as a source of terrorism financing?

To address the main issue, we propose the following hypothesis:

- International practices hinder Algerian efforts to effectively cut off one of the most significant sources of terrorism financing by criminalizing ransom payments.

To answer this question, we have divided the study into three main axes:

- **The first axis:** Conceptualizing ransom as a source of terrorism financing.
- **The second axis:** Algeria's efforts to criminalize ransom payments to terrorists.
- **The third axis:** The reality of ransom payments in Algeria and North Africa.
- **The first axis:** The Concept of Ransom as a Source of Terrorism Financing

**The first axis: Conceptualizing ransom as a source of terrorism financing.**

The international community has shown significant interest in the issue of hostage-taking and terrorism financing. However, it has often overlooked the connection between them, primarily represented by ransom payments. These payments have become the largest and most critical source of funding for terrorist activities today. This realization prompted Algeria to take global and regional action, advocating for a resolution criminalizing ransom payments to terrorists as a complement to counter-terrorism measures.

With this foundation, we will endeavor through this axis to delineate the concept of ransom (secondly) within the context of what is meant by terrorism financing (firstly). Subsequently, we will highlight Algeria's efforts and role in criminalizing ransom payments to terrorists.

### **First: The Concept of Terrorism Financing**

Terrorism financing constitutes a dual crime: a crime of funding and a crime of terrorism. Consequently, it is considered one of the most dangerous newly emerged crimes and a manifestation of sophisticated criminal activities. The international community has responded to this threat by combating and criminalizing it through international agreements, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in 1999. This convention aimed to criminalize the financing of terrorism, prompting numerous countries to align their legislation with international agreements. Algeria, too, evolved its legislation to criminalize and combat the financing of terrorism.

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in 1999 stipulates that: "A person commits an offense within the meaning of this Convention if that person by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and willfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used, or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, for the purpose of:

The 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism defines the crime as any person using any means, directly or indirectly, and lawfully, with the intention to provide or collect funds, knowing that they will be used wholly or partly to commit:

- An act that constitutes a crime within the scope of one of the treaties listed in the annex and defined in that treaty.

- Any other act aimed at causing the death or injury of civilians or any other person when that person is not taking part in hostilities in a situation of armed conflict when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate the population or compel a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.<sup>†</sup>

Furthermore, Algerian legislator has defined terrorism financing in conjunction with criminalizing it in the early 1990s, a period marked by a powerful wave of violence resulting in unprecedented acts of sabotage and crime in Algerian society. The Algerian legislature responded to these challenges by enacting laws criminalizing terrorism financing, with Article 87 of the Algerian Penal Code being the first text explicitly addressing terrorism financing.<sup>‡</sup>

Subsequently, Legislative Decree No. 92-03 was issued on September 30, addressing the fight against sabotage and terrorism. Additionally, Laws No. 06-23 and No. 14-01 were enacted. The latter explicitly defines terrorism financing, stating that any act targeting state security, national unity, territorial integrity, stability of institutions, and their normal functioning through actions related to financing terrorism or terrorist organizations is considered a terrorist act.<sup>§</sup>

The law further clarifies these acts and actions deemed a form of financing through an amendment to the Penal Code under Law No. 16-02 dated June 16, 2016. It explicitly considers terrorism financing as any provision or collection of funds with the aim of financing

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<sup>†</sup> Refer to the first paragraph of Article 2 of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism for the year 1999.

<sup>‡</sup> Article 87 repeated 04 of Order No. 95-11 dated February 25, 1995: "Shall be punished by temporary imprisonment for a period of five (5) to ten (10) years and a fine ranging from 100,000 DZD to 500,000 DZD, anyone who praises the acts mentioned in Article 87 repeated above, or encourages or finances them by any means."

<sup>§</sup> Article 87 repeated 11 of the Penal Code amended by Law No. 14-01 dated February 4, 2014.

individuals' travel to another country, specifically referring to financing terrorist groups. The law emphasizes intentional financing of these terrorist acts and subjects it to punishment in the first paragraph of Article 87 repeated 11.\*\*

From the above, we can define terrorism financing as any financial support, in various forms, provided to individuals or organizations supporting terrorism or planning terrorist operations. This financing may come from legitimate sources, such as charitable organizations, or illegitimate sources like the trade of damaged goods or drug trafficking.††

The sources that terrorist organizations rely on to fund their operations vary, including both legitimate and illegitimate sources such as money laundering, organized crime, drugs, external support, and kidnapping and ransom payments.‡‡

## **Second: The Concept of Ransom as a Source of Terrorism Financing**

Ransom generally refers to the release of hostages in exchange for money, exchanging them for other hostages, or providing services or actions benefiting the kidnappers. Ransom can involve monetary payments, exchanges between prisoners on both sides, or even actions or services performed by the prisoners themselves. Ransom can also include specific benefits, whether scientific, industrial, economic, or

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\*\* Mohamed Ben Nasser, Mourad Qerbiz, "Combatting the Crime of Terrorism Financing in Algerian Legislation," *Journal of Humanities Sciences*, Mentouri Brothers University Constantine 1, Algeria, Volume 31, Issue 01, June 2020, p. 94.

†† Mohammed El-Sayed Arafat, "Drying Up the Sources of Terrorism Financing," Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2009, First Edition, p. 22.

‡‡ Ransom Payment: It is one of the sources relied upon by terrorist groups, especially in the Sahel and desert regions, due to the financial resources it provides through ransom payments obtained for the release of hostages, as well as the propaganda it generates.

other, provided by the state or the entity to which the hostages belong, serving the interests of the kidnappers.<sup>§§</sup>

Paying ransom is one of the significant sources relied upon by terrorist groups, especially in the Sahel and desert regions, due to the financial resources it generates through ransom payments and the propaganda it provides. While ransom is considered one of the primary funding sources for terrorism, countries have varied positions regarding accepting or rejecting ransom payments, with both supporters and opponents.

Some argue that the issue of rescuing hostages surpasses any other considerations due to its humanitarian nature before being a material concern. After rescuing hostages, efforts can focus on capturing the criminals and bringing them to justice. Britain and most European countries, including France, have adopted this stance. France, for instance, endorsed a national law project in July 2010 allowing financial ransom payments for the release of hostages in danger.

The law, avoiding the use of the term "ransom," grants the French state the right to request the reimbursement of all expenses incurred for saving individuals abroad in danger. In this context, international media reported information about France paying a ransom, specifying a considerable amount in millions of dollars to Al-Qaeda in exchange for the release of French hostage Pierre Camatte in February 2010, who was later revealed to be working for French intelligence.

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<sup>§§</sup> Harzi El-Saeed, "The Role of Algeria in Establishing a System Criminalizing Ransom Payments as a Complementary Mechanism to Security Council Resolution 1373," *Al-Fikr Journal*, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Mohamed Khider University, Biskra, Fourteenth Issue, p. 354.

However, this project faced widespread international, regional, and domestic objections and disapproval because permitting ransom payments is considered a means of financing terrorist groups and an incentive for them to continue their activities, especially in regions where obtaining ransom is facilitated.<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Many other countries have prohibited ransom payments to hostage-takers outright, even though some argue that such bans are rarely adhered to. This is evident in various political situations, such as the kidnapping of diplomats.

The Algerian position, however, is nearly unique in embodying this perspective by adopting, in all cases of kidnapping that occurred within the Algerian territory, the approach of confrontation and raiding, ruling out any attempts at negotiation or concession to terrorists. This stands true even when the victims are Algerian diplomats, as seen in the case in Mali. Despite the mediation of some international parties, with Qatar at the forefront, to find alternatives for Algeria in paying ransom to the kidnappers, Algeria insisted on its rejection, even if it led to the loss of its diplomats.

This refusal to pay ransom was reiterated in the hostage incident at the gas facility in Ain Amenas, based on Algeria's second initiative. Algeria views paying ransom to terrorists as encouragement for them to repeat such crimes. Therefore, Algeria's stance is rooted in the security and safety of property and individuals and is not subject to compromise. Addressing the security challenges faced by African countries requires greater cooperation from the regional and major nations, adapting expert training programs accordingly.

Additionally, Algeria considers exchanging the freedom of hostages for internationally wanted terrorists as a behavior contrary to international laws on counterterrorism.<sup>†††</sup> Britain has supported this stance during the bilateral meeting for Algerian-British cooperation in

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Harzi El-Saeed, *Ibid*, p355

<sup>†††</sup> Abbas Shafaa, "The Phenomenon of Terrorism Between International Law and Religious Perspective," Ph.D. thesis, University of El-Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2011, p. 346.

counterterrorism and security measures.<sup>†††</sup> The United States, through its Deputy Defense Minister, also expressed support, affirming that Washington backs Algeria's refusal to pay ransom to terrorist groups in exchange for releasing hostages. He stated that the U.S. also supports Algeria's efforts to issue a list of names penalizing countries proven to have paid ransom to terrorist groups, and the U.S. administration is working to persuade countries to adopt Algeria's stance against ransom payments.

**The second axis: Algeria's efforts to criminalize ransom payments to terrorists.**

Algeria has unequivocally rejected paying ransom to terrorists, deeming it a criminal act aimed at preventing terrorist groups from acquiring the resources and capabilities to continue their activities. As the first country to adopt the African Anti-Terrorism Convention, Algeria leveraged its experience in combating terrorism, particularly during the Black Decade, and engaged internationally to share this experience.

Algeria has transitioned from being reactive to preemptive, moving from absorbing blows to preventing and protecting itself from these strikes. This prevention phase primarily focuses on drying up the sources of terrorism financing, with ransom payments being a significant source. Algeria called for the issuance of a binding international resolution criminalizing ransom payments to terrorist groups, as terrorists reap substantial profits from such payments, enabling them to expand and proliferate.

On this basis, Algeria, through the United Nations and the Security Council, consistently warned of the serious threat to international security posed by the phenomenon of hostage-taking by

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<sup>†††</sup> Abbas Shafaa, *Ibid*, p. 343.

terrorist groups and the subsequent ransom demands. Algeria urged precautionary measures against countries that fail to respect their commitments, especially since terrorist groups, through these criminal operations, have amassed billions of dollars to fund and develop their terrorist activities.<sup>§§§</sup>

 **Firstly, on the international level:**

Algeria has actively worked to encourage the international community to criminalize ransom payments to terrorist groups in exchange for the release of hostages. In this endeavor, Algeria sought a comprehensive response from the United Nations.

**1. Within the United Nations framework:**

Algeria proposed to the United Nations Security Council the criminalization of ransom payments as a means of financing terrorism. This proposal aimed to practically compel nations to block the path for criminal groups and contribute to enhancing international efforts against terrorism. Algeria argued that instead of paying ransom, funding should be directed towards development to help dry up the sources of terrorism, especially in the Sahel region.

The United Nations Security Council approved Resolution 1904, which included the criminalization of ransom payments to terrorist groups. This resolution came after Algeria's request and following the African Union's adoption of a similar list. The resolution urged member states not to finance or support terrorist activities, expressing concern about the rising cases of kidnappings linked to ransom demands or political concessions. The General Assembly of

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<sup>§§§</sup> Al-Khadim Omar Al-Dahmi, "The Ability of Agencies Concerned with Combating Terrorism to Confront Organized Terrorist Groups in Light of the Security Reality and Political Factors," Symposium on the Concept of Terrorism Between Security Reality and Political Factors, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Saudi Arabia, December 5-7, 2011, p. 27.

the United Nations also condemned all terrorist acts, addressing the financial aspect by urging member states not to finance, encourage, or support terrorism. \*\*\*\*

## **2. Within the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF):**

The Global Counterterrorism Forum is a coordinating forum focused on practical measures to drive the international community's efforts against terrorism. Established on September 22, 2011, it comprises 29 countries from various regions worldwide, in addition to the European Union. The Coordinating Committee of the Forum is co-chaired by the United States and Turkey. The Forum operates through five working groups, with Algeria co-chairing, alongside Germany, the Capacity Building Committee for West Africa.

The Forum's mission involves identifying national and international needs in the field of counterterrorism. The fifth ministerial meeting, held in New York in September 2014, provided Algeria with an opportunity to reaffirm its stance against ransom payments. During this session, topics such as violent extremism, the situation in the Sahel region and Africa, terrorism financing, and mechanisms to enhance international efforts to dry up funding sources, especially through drug trafficking and ransom payments, were discussed.

This meeting allowed Algeria to confirm its commitment and determination to combat terrorism within the framework of international legitimacy and the global counterterrorism strategy endorsed by the United Nations in 2006

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United Nations Security Council, Resolution No. 1904/2009 of 2-3-2009.

 **Secondly, at the African level:**

Algeria has intensified regional efforts to counter terrorist activities. It hosted several regional meetings to develop a unified regional strategy against terrorism and exerted significant efforts to criminalize ransom payments. Algeria aims to coordinate regional efforts, urging countries to shoulder their responsibilities and uphold their commitments in the fight against terrorism and organized crime. This involves fostering cooperation between countries, strengthening solidarity, and maintaining good neighborly relations to pursue and eliminate terrorist groups.

**1. At the Arab level:**

Algeria has placed great importance on regional cooperation to combat terrorism. It ratified the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism in April 1998. The convention was adopted by Arab countries in adherence to the religious and ethical principles of Islamic law, which reject violence and terrorism. It also aligns with the principles of the United Nations, the Arab League, and other international charters.

Additionally, Algeria is committed to the Treaty of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism, signed in July 1999. This treaty shares similarities in its structure and content with the Arab Convention for Combating Terrorism.<sup>††††</sup>

**2- At the African level:**

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<sup>††††</sup> Presidential Decree No. 98-413 dated 18 Sha'ban 1419 AH (December 7, 1998) approving the Arab Convention for Combating Terrorism signed in Cairo on 25 Dhu al-Hijjah 1418 AH (April 22, 1998), Official Gazette of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, No. 93, December 13, 1998.

In the context of the 35th summit held in Algiers, Algeria seized the opportunity to discuss the phenomenon of terrorism. It successfully convinced African countries to collaborate in combating this phenomenon, considering it an issue that African nations cannot ignore. Algeria drafted a treaty to combat this phenomenon, which was unanimously approved by the African ministers of justice. The agreement was named the Organization of African Unity Convention on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, consisting of 23 articles<sup>++++</sup>, with a focus on countering terrorism, considering anyone who funds or encourages terrorism as involved in terrorist activities.

As part of Algeria's efforts to achieve African cooperation against this phenomenon, it sought channels for exchanging information on the movements of terrorist groups and their sources of funding. It directed its efforts towards establishing the African Center for Studies and Research on Terrorism in October 2004 within its borders. This center facilitated monitoring the phenomenon at the African and even international levels by organizing conferences in various regions of the African continent. It engaged with parties outside the African framework, such as the European Union, to exchange experiences and information, supporting capabilities, and fostering regional and international cooperation against terrorism. The center has missions in 18 African countries to identify weaknesses leading to the spread of kidnappings in exchange for ransom.<sup>§§§§</sup>

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<sup>++++</sup> Presidential Decree No. 2000-79 dated 04 Muharram 1421 AH (April 9, 2000) approving the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted during the 35th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization held in Algiers from July 12 to 14, 1999, Official Gazette of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, No. 30, May 28, 2000.

<sup>§§§§</sup> Mohammed Dardour, Hussein Bouguerra, "Criminalizing Ransom Payments: Between Algerian Efforts and International Practices," *Journal of Legal and Political Studies*, Volume 07, April 2022, p. 344-345.

## **The Third Axis: The Reality of Ransom Payments in Algeria and North Africa**

The significant amount of money paid to pirates as ransom poses a serious threat that could be used to fund terrorism, especially in regions linked to piracy like Somalia. The Algerian Ministry of Interior acknowledged the presence of terrorist groups in the Somali region closely associated with Somali pirates<sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup>, providing a reasonable basis to suspect that ransom money or shared property could be used for terrorist purposes. This would constitute a crime under the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2000, specifically Articles 15-18.

Experts emphasize that these organizations have the capability to conduct kidnapping operations both inside and outside Algeria, aiming to collect ransom money or facilitate the exchange of radical Islamist prisoners. Hostages are often held in remote areas near the Algerian-Malian borders, where mobile training camps are established. These areas are easily accessible from the Sahel region, allowing for the movement of individuals and supplies. Responding to the heightened counterterrorism efforts by North African governments, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has expanded its operations recently in countries such as Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and others.<sup>††††</sup>

One of the most significant reasons and sufficient measures taken so far to combat international terrorism financing, which forced terrorist groups, especially those affiliated with Al-Qaeda, to resort to alternative methods, including smuggling, drug and weapons trafficking, and employing them for criminal activities, such as

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<sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup> Intervention by Kamal Rizk Bara, Advisor to the President of the Algerian Republic, New York, International Peace Institute and the Working Group on the Implementation of Counter-Terrorism by the Swiss Mission to the United Nations and the Cooperation Center for Global Counter-Terrorism, September 7, 2010

<sup>††††</sup> According to a report issued in 2011 by the National Security Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

kidnapping foreigners for ransom. This practice has become an extremely profitable way to fund terrorist groups operating under the banner of Al-Qaeda.

As a result, various instruments, strategies, and proposals have been adopted, including in the case of Algeria, to criminalize ransom payments and empower governments to combat terrorism financing. However, the achievements so far remain very modest. Therefore, a reconsideration of addressing the challenges and adapting strategies to new circumstances is necessary. These strategies require genuine cooperation in various fields.

The sole focus to prevent future terrorist acts involves limiting the available resources for terrorist groups through effective financial control, including monitoring ransom payments. Such measures can prevent some attacks, halt the transfer of even small amounts of money, and reduce the potential impact of attacks that cannot be prevented.

Terrorist groups require funds for planning, recruitment, purchases, preparation, delivery, communication, persuasion, propaganda, incitement, and secure infrastructure. Additionally, combating terrorism financing can provide assistance in how to execute terrorist attacks, as well as help identify and apprehend members and supporters of these organizations. In short, financial controls and monitoring can offer preventive and deterrent solutions, reducing the pillars of terrorism and limiting its funding. This constitutes a crucial part of the comprehensive battle against terrorism.

Despite the increasing efforts of international organizations and countries in the field of combating terrorism financing, including innovative and sufficient strategies, terrorist organizations still easily adapt to new financing techniques and sources. Financing occurs from various sources and in multiple ways, varying from one country or region to another and from one group to another.

Due to the continuous response from the international community, especially United Nations Security Council resolutions authorizing economic sanctions used to persuade sponsoring countries to cease supporting terrorism, international sponsorship of terrorism has significantly diminished. With the decline in this international sponsorship, terrorists increasingly rely on private financing, which comes in two categories: legitimate funds and illegitimate funds. The primary second source of financing comes from a large and diverse range of criminal activities, such as smuggling, fraud, theft, extortion, ransom demands, identity theft, money laundering, and smuggling.

Recent efforts to prevent and combat terrorism follow existing African initiatives, including those related to ransom payments to terrorist groups, establishing a model law, and appointing a special representative for cooperation in the field of counterterrorism.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Since the early 1990s, Algeria has faced numerous threats, particularly those resulting from the activities of rebel movements in northern Mali and Niger. This compelled Algeria to take diplomatic and military actions to prevent any foreign and international intervention on its southern borders, creating new tension zones. Consequently, Algeria had to work towards finding solutions in this region to avert any threat to national security, especially terrorism, as reflected in various calls, including the criminalization of ransom payments.

Combating kidnapping for ransom poses significant practical challenges and ethical dilemmas. However, particularly the practical challenges are not insurmountable. As for the ethical aspect, balancing the commitment to securing the freedom and safety of hostages is the most challenging to resolve. This is because releasing hostages means relinquishing control over the captives for future actions by the

kidnappers. Thus, it is imperative to deprive kidnappers and terrorists of all financial means related to planning, developing, and executing deadly attacks. Adopting and implementing a no-ransom policy, with consensus and developing the necessary capabilities to enforce it, becomes crucial.

And ransom payment remains a real and serious societal menace, contributing to the assistance of these criminals in avoiding detection. Paying ransoms significantly enhances their ability to engage in such acts in the future.

Within this framework, Algeria's security diplomatic activity has witnessed a notable dynamism due to regional and international shifts in neighboring regions. The concept of security has evolved beyond the classical understanding to encompass economic and social dimensions. This is exemplified in the threats within the Sahel region, characterized by organized crimes, arms proliferation, and kidnappings for ransom. The continuous alertness emphasizes that paying ransoms for hostages is a crime under international law, leading to a worsening of the crisis. It is considered a surrender to illegitimate acts. Algeria's proposal to criminalize ransom payments is a pioneering step in the history of counterterrorism.

The recognition of Algeria's initiative regarding the criminalization of ransom payments and the conveyance of this appeal to the international community, particularly its acceptance by the United Nations Security Council and several major countries, marks a significant milestone. This proposal is globally endorsed as a step towards the creation of a comprehensive international treaty to prevent terrorism financing through intentional or unintentional ransom payments.