

Terrorism

Canada has long taken a strong stand, consistent with international standards of human rights, in the fight against terrorism. It has developed policies and laws based on the premise that terrorism must be prevented, that all perpetrators of terrorist acts must be brought to swift justice, and that there must be no sanctuary or support for terrorists.

Canada is convinced that combatting terrorism requires international co-operation and co-ordination. Canada has worked with its G-7 partners for almost two decades in countering terrorism, and has signed all 11 — and is in the process of ratifying the last two — of the international conventions to target specific aspects of terrorism. These conventions involve countering such crimes as hijacking, theft of nuclear material and hostage taking.

At the Halifax Summit, Canada agreed to host a ministerial meeting on terrorism. This meeting was held in Ottawa in December 1995 with participants from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and from the Presidency of the European Union.

Guidelines for Action

Ministers approved the Ottawa Declaration, which contained the following guidelines for action against international terrorism:

- joining existing international treaties on terrorism by the year 2000;
- promoting mutual legal assistance and extradition;
- strengthening the sharing of intelligence and information on terrorism;
- pursuing measures to prevent terrorist use of nuclear, chemical and biological materials;
- urging all states to refuse to make substantive concessions to hostage takers and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- inhibiting the movement of terrorists and enhancing measures to prevent the falsification of documents;
- strengthening protection of aviation, maritime and other transportation systems against terrorism;
- countering terrorist attacks against public facilities and infrastructures;
- depriving terrorists of funds; and
- increasing counter-terrorism training and assistance.

In line with the Ottawa Declaration, Canada is undertaking a number of domestic actions. These include the full use of recently enacted immigration procedures directed specifically against terrorists; the ongoing assessment of