Frequently Asked Questions on International Law Aspects of Countering Terrorism

This publication is designed to provide a brief overview of the broader international legal framework developed to counter terrorism. It provides a quick insight into the general principles of international law as well as the basic elements of international criminal law, humanitarian law, refugee law and human rights law in the context of the fight against terrorism. It is available to all United Nations Member States in all six UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish).

The publication is divided into five sections:

- Basics of international law
- International criminal law, including international cooperation in criminal law matters
- International law on the use of force and international humanitarian law
- International refugee law
- International human rights law

Each section examines the relevance of a specific field of law to counter-terrorism, sets out the main sources of the law and relevant international bodies before explaining briefly how the law works in practice. The format of the publication provides short answers to many of the questions about international law frequently asked during UNODC/TPB training workshops and other technical assistance activities. This publication should be seen as a springboard to more in-depth analyses of the issues which can be found in a number of other tools and publications produced by UNODC.