

Diritti umani, giustizia e memoria

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Human Rights, Justice, and Memory

Abstract: For more than a decade critical attention has focused on the importance of ensuring respect for human rights in anti-terrorism policies. But this should not obscure the fact that strategies based on terror are antithetical to human rights. Human rights tend to the respect of human dignity, understood as the recognition of each person's capacity to 'render her reasons', to engage in dialogue with the community of which she is part. And despite the difficulty of defining 'terrorism', there is widespread agreement that terrorism aims at forcing a change in the policies of private and public actors: the use of terror as a political strategy tends, therefore, to silence opposition, not to engage in dialogue. The capacity to engage in dialogue, which the exercise of human rights simultaneously requires and engenders, in turn depends on both memory and justice.

Keywords: Human rights, Terrorism, Justice, Dignity.

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