

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

HOANG TUAN TU

**IMPROVING THE LAW ON ANTI-TERRORISM
IN VIETNAM**

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

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Supervisors: 1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Truong Ho Hai



2. Dr. Chu Thi Thuy Hang



Reviewer 1:.....

Reviewer 2:.....

Reviewer 3:

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INTRODUCTION

1. The necessity of the topic

In the context of increasingly complex and unpredictable global developments, countries are now facing not only traditional security threats but also a growing number of non-traditional security challenges, with terrorism emerging as one of the most prominent issues. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in the United States and various subsequent incidents across the globe, the international community has come to recognize that anti-terrorism is no longer the responsibility of individual nations alone, but a global obligation that requires close cooperation and coordination at multiple levels.

Recently, terrorist activities have remained volatile and severe, as evidenced by incidents such as the bombing in Iran on January 3, 2024 that killed over 100 people; the mass shooting in Russia on March 22, 2024 resulting in at least 40 deaths and over 100 injuries; and the attack in Oman on July 15, 2024 which left 9 people dead. In addition to conventional methods such as bombings and shootings, terrorist organizations have increasingly exploited advancements in science and technology—such as artificial intelligence, unmanned aerial vehicles, social media platforms, and encrypted messaging apps—to recruit members and carry out attacks. These shifts in tactics and tools have made anti-terrorism efforts more unpredictable, requiring states to enhance cooperation through both bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

In Vietnam, several overseas reactionary organizations such as “Viet Tan”, “Dynasty of Vietnam”, “Provisional National Government of Vietnam”, and “Montagnards for Justice” have continuously engaged in terrorist activities aimed at undermining the State. A notable example is the terrorist attack on June 11, 2023 in Ea Tieu and Ea Ktur communes, Cu Kuin district, Dak Lak province, orchestrated by the

“Montagnard Support Group International (MSGI)”, which caused serious loss of life and property—highlighting the increasing danger and sophistication of contemporary terrorism.

In response, the Communist Party and the State of Vietnam have consistently identified the task of safeguarding national security, social order, and public safety as a fundamental and ongoing priority. The 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam emphasized the need to “maintain a peaceful environment, political stability, national security, and human security,” while also warning that “non-traditional security threats are becoming increasingly diverse and complex, significantly impacting... and posing unprecedented challenges to sustainable development.” Terrorism, in this context, is one of the most pressing threats directly affecting national security and social stability. Therefore, implementing effective and comprehensive anti-terrorism measures—including the improvement of the legal framework—is a critical requirement.

At the international legal level, Vietnam has acceded to 14 multilateral treaties and 45 bilateral agreements related to anti-terrorism. These commitments have been domesticated through the promulgation and amendment of various legal documents, most notably the 2013 Law on anti-terrorism, which serves as a specialized legal instrument regulating anti-terrorism activities within the country.

However, the current legal system still reveals various shortcomings. Domestic legislation has yet to fully incorporate all international treaties to which Vietnam is a party. There remains a lack of consistency between the Law on anti-terrorism and other relevant legal instruments. Provisions regarding cyberterrorism, high-tech terrorism, and terrorist financing remain incomplete. Certain regulations are outdated, overlapping, or unclear in terms of jurisdiction among relevant authorities; penalties are insufficiently stringent; and coordination mechanisms remain ineffective, all of which contribute to heightened latent risks.

Moreover, in the context of deep international integration, Vietnam is both a beneficiary of globalization and a potential target for terrorist infiltration via open borders and advanced technology. This reality underscores the urgent need to improve the legal framework on anti-terrorism to ensure both effective state governance and international cooperation, while protecting national security in the new era.

In addition, there is currently a lack of in-depth and comprehensive research on the improvement of Vietnam's anti-terrorism legal framework. Most existing studies approach the issue from the perspective of national security, defense, or criminal law, without thoroughly analyzing the theoretical and practical foundations or proposing a concrete system of legal solutions.

Based on the above analysis, the study of the topic "Improving the law on anti-terrorism in Vietnam" is not only of profound theoretical significance but also of urgent practical importance in the current context.

2. Objectives and tasks of the research

2.1. Research objectives

The overall objective of this thesis is to establish a scientific rationale as a foundation for contributing to the improvement of the legal framework for Anti-terrorism in Vietnam, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of Anti-terrorism efforts in practice.

2.2. Research tasks

- To systematize the theoretical foundations of law and the improvement of law in the field of Anti-terrorism. Accordingly, the thesis focuses on analyzing and clarifying the following issues: the concept, content, and role of the law on anti-terrorism; criteria for assessing the level of legal completeness; and the conditions necessary for ensuring effective legal reform in this area.

- To examine international legal instruments and the anti-

terrorism laws of selected countries, drawing lessons and experiences applicable to Vietnam.

- To analyze and evaluate the formation, development, and current status of Vietnam's legal framework on anti-terrorism from 1945 to 2024. In this regard, the thesis focuses on assessing the level of legal development based on specific criteria, identifying strengths and weaknesses as well as underlying causes, and using this analysis as the basis for proposing legal reform solutions in the near future.

- To study and forecast trends in terrorism and the factors influencing the improvement of anti-terrorism legislation in the coming time.

- To establish viewpoints and propose solutions for further improving the legal framework for anti-terrorism in Vietnam.

3. Subject and scope of the research

3.1. Research subject

The subject of the thesis is the legal framework and theoretical as well as practical issues relating to the improvement of laws on anti-terrorism in Vietnam.

3.2. Scope of the research

In terms of the content: The thesis analyzes the theoretical foundations and practical aspects of improving Vietnam's legal framework on anti-terrorism. It focuses on analyzing and evaluating the legal provisions on anti-terrorism in Vietnam since 1946, with particular emphasis on the period from 2013 (when the Law on anti-terrorism was promulgated) to 2024.

In terms of the space: The thesis primarily analyzes and evaluates Vietnam's legal provisions on anti-terrorism, relevant international treaties to which Vietnam is a party, as well as the anti-terrorism laws of selected countries, namely the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom, and Singapore.

In terms of time: The thesis examines the formation and development of the legal framework on anti-terrorism in Vietnam from 1945 to 2024, focusing particularly on the assessment of the current legal framework from October 1, 2013 (the effective date of the 2013 Law on anti-terrorism) to 2024, and proposing legislative improvement solutions for the years ahead.

4. Methodology and research methods

4.1. Methodology

The thesis applies the methodological foundations of dialectical materialism and historical materialism in examining issues related to the research topic.

4.2. Research methods

The thesis employs a combination of specific research methods, including: analytical and synthetic methods, comparative legal analysis, historical-logical method, systematic approach, forecasting method, and expert consultation method.

5. New contributions of the thesis

The scientific contributions of this thesis are as follows:

(1) The thesis establishes a fundamental theoretical framework for improving the legal system on anti-terrorism in Vietnam;

(2) It analyzes the practical implementation of international law and the anti-terrorism legislation of several countries, drawing lessons for Vietnam;

(3) It evaluates the current state of the legal framework on anti-terrorism in Vietnam, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and the underlying causes of existing limitations;

(4) The thesis proposes viewpoints and solutions for further improvement of anti-terrorism laws in Vietnam in the coming period.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the thesis

6.1. Theoretical significance of the thesis

The research results of this thesis will contribute to enriching the theoretical discourse on improving the legal framework for anti-terrorism, including: the concept, characteristics, content, and role of legal improvement; the criteria for evaluating the completeness of the legal framework; and the factors influencing the improvement of anti-terrorism law.

6.2. Practical significance of the thesis

The findings of the thesis bear important practical implications, including:

- Contributing to the review and comprehensive evaluation of the current legal framework and the process of its development, along with forecasting domestic and international terrorism trends, thereby facilitating the improvement of Vietnam's legal system on anti-terrorism;
- Serving as a scientific basis for the Party and the State in formulating policies and strategies aimed at strengthening the legal framework on anti-terrorism in Vietnam today;
- Providing a reference source for research in the field of national security and public order in general, and anti-terrorism law in particular; enriching the academic resources used for teaching and research in legal theory and legal history at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and other academic and research institutions in Vietnam.

7. Structure of the thesis

Apart from the Introduction, Conclusion, List of References, and Appendices, the thesis consists of four chapters, namely:

Chapter 1: Literature review of the researches related to the thesis topic

Chapter 2: Theoretical background of improving the law on anti-terrorism in Vietnam

Chapter 3: The current status of legal framework for anti-terrorism in Vietnam

Chapter 4: Terrorism forecast and viewpoints, solutions for improving the law on anti-terrorism in Vietnam

Chapter 1

LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE RESEARCHES RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1.1. Studies on the theory of legal improvement

Legal improvement has been a widely discussed topic in both domestic and international legal scholarship. In Vietnam, several studies have analyzed theoretical and practical aspects of law-making. For example, Dao Tri Uc and Truong Thi Hong Ha (2018) emphasized that the legal system is a holistic structure comprising legal texts, practice, and legal consciousness. Nguyen Minh Doan and Nguyen Minh Duc (2019) highlighted the importance of impact assessment, social feedback, and legislative responsibility. Vo Khanh Vinh (2022) proposed a strategic vision for legal development toward 2030 with a 2045 outlook, addressing both public and private law. In the field of national security, Tran Vi Dan (2016) studied the legal system for protecting national security and proposed solutions to enhance legislative effectiveness.

Internationally, legal reform has been approached from a global perspective. The book *Reforming Legal Systems* (2021) analyzes legal reforms both domestically and internationally through mechanisms and international law reform organizations. *Global Perspectives on Reforming the Criminal Justice System* (2021) examines criminal justice reforms across Europe and North America, emphasizing the role of international organizations and human rights. Pomaza-Ponomarenko et al. (2023) discuss political, social, and economic factors influencing legal reform. Recently, Asif H. Qureshi (2024), in *Law Reforms Around the World*, analyzes

legal reforms in civil law and common law systems, focusing on the role of national and international institutions in coordinating reforms. These studies provide valuable theoretical and practical foundations for research on improving the legal system in Vietnam.

1.2. Studies on terrorism and anti-terrorism

Domestic research on terrorism has mainly focused on clarifying the concepts, nature, and causes of terrorism, which is generally understood as organized violence aimed at achieving political objectives. Some studies have concentrated on specific types of terrorism—chemical, biological, radiological, or those targeting civil aviation—offering preventive and responsive strategies. Additionally, numerous theses and research projects have assessed the current situation and proposed solutions to enhance state management, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and improve anti-terrorism legislation.

Internationally, terrorism is approached from various angles, with emphasis on its violent nature, political motivations, and psychological impacts. Many studies assess the state of terrorism in different regions, including the *Global Terrorism Index* (IEP) and analyses of terrorism in the United States and China. Scholars have advocated for a balance between security and human rights, media regulation, legal reform, and enhanced international cooperation in anti-terrorism efforts.

1.3. Studies related to law and legal reform on anti-terrorism

In response to the rise of terrorism, many countries—including Vietnam—have focused on improving anti-terrorism legislation. Domestically, significant works include a monograph by Nguyen Ngoc Anh (2011), which systematizes theoretical foundations and proposes legislative solutions. Researchers such as Pham Van Loi, Pham Van Uong, Le Thai Son, Do Khac Huong, and Vu Dinh Chu have assessed

Vietnam's legal framework, analyzed its compatibility with international law, and made concrete reform proposals. Other articles have examined specific criminal provisions on terrorism in the Penal Code, suggesting amendments to align with international standards.

On the international front, studies by scholars such as Ana Maria Salinas De Frias, Maria O'Neill, Cian C. Murphy, and Clive Walker have analyzed international, regional (EU, ASEAN), and national (UK) anti-terrorism legal frameworks, highlighting legal and policy issues as well as the relationship between security and human rights. These studies offer theoretical insights and legislative experiences for Vietnam to consider in improving its own legal framework on anti-terrorism.

1.4. The problems that the thesis further study

The thesis clarifies key concepts such as terrorism; anti-terrorism; law and legal reform in anti-terrorism; identifies the characteristics, content, and role of anti-terrorism law; analyzes criteria for assessing the degree of legal improvement; and examines influencing factors. It also studies relevant international experiences as reference points for Vietnam.

The thesis provides an overview of the historical formation and development of Vietnam's anti-terrorism legal framework from 1945 to the present; analyzes and evaluates the current legal framework and enforcement practices through specific assessment criteria; and identifies strengths, limitations, and their underlying causes.

It also forecasts terrorism trends in the near future and proposes policy directions and specific solutions for improving Vietnam's legal system on anti-terrorism.

1.5. Hypothesis and research questions

1.5.1. Hypothesis

In recent years, the legal system on anti-terrorism has significantly contributed to protecting national security, public

order, and social safety in Vietnam. However, the rapidly changing global situation and the multi-faceted impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution have made terrorism more unpredictable and increasingly dangerous. These developments impose new and urgent demands on Vietnam's anti-terrorism efforts, particularly the need to improve the legal framework to meet emerging security and public order requirements. Moreover, Vietnam's current anti-terrorism legislation remains incomplete, with many provisions not yet aligned with international standards. Thus, legal reform in this field is essential to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of anti-terrorism activities, ensuring national security, social order, and a stable, peaceful environment for regional development.

1.5.2. Research questions

Based on the literature review and hypothesis, the following research questions are identified:

1. To what extent can the current Vietnamese legal system effectively address anti-terrorism challenges? What legal issues require supplementation or amendment?
2. What international commitments has Vietnam made in the field of anti-terrorism? To what extent have these commitments been domesticated, and what are the remaining limitations?
3. Are the legal models on anti-terrorism in countries such as Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and Singapore suitable for Vietnam to learn from? What international and foreign legislative experiences can Vietnam adopt to improve its anti-terrorism legal framework?
4. What provisions does Vietnam's legal system have in place to respond to high-tech terrorism? What legal challenges need to be addressed to keep pace with emerging forms of terrorism such as cyberterrorism, biological weapons, the use of artificial intelligence, unmanned aerial vehicles, and virtual currencies in terrorist financing?

Summary of chapter 1

Chapter 1 has provided an overview and analysis of relevant domestic and international studies, drawing several general conclusions:

First, while terrorism has been studied from various perspectives—security, politics, and law—no research has yet conducted a comprehensive and systematic analysis of improving Vietnam’s anti-terrorism legal framework from the perspective of legal theory and history. This underscores the urgent need for both theoretical and practical research in this field.

Second, the thesis identifies scientific gaps and formulates a hypothesis and guiding research questions. It focuses on three core issues: (1) Clarifying the theoretical foundations of legal improvement in anti-terrorism, including concepts, characteristics, roles, assessment criteria, influencing factors, and international experiences; (2) Assessing the current legal framework in Vietnam using specific criteria, and identifying strengths, limitations, and their causes; (3) Forecasting terrorism trends and proposing viewpoints, legislative orientations, and practical legal reform solutions aligned with national security and rule-of-law objectives.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF IMPROVING THE LAW ON ANTI-TERRORISM IN VIETNAM

2.1. Relevant concepts

2.1.1. Terrorism

Terrorism refers to the acts of individuals or organizations, driven by specific political, religious, or ethnic motives, who use or threaten to use violence and other forms of coercion to infringe upon fundamental human rights and legitimate national interests. The objective of such acts is to create social instability, instill fear among the public, or compel governments to yield to their demands.

2.1.2. Anti-terrorism

Anti-terrorism encompasses the activities of state agencies, organizations, individuals, and the entire society—led primarily by the People's Public Security Forces and the People's Army—with the aim of preventing, detecting, combating, and suppressing all forms of terrorism. These efforts seek to minimize the damage caused by terrorism, punish terrorist offenders, and contribute to safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political stability, and the protection of human rights and civil liberties.

2.2. Definition, characteristics, role, and content of Anti-terrorism law

2.2.1. Definition of anti-terrorism law

anti-terrorism law is the system of legal principles and norms promulgated by competent state authorities to regulate relationships arising in anti-terrorism activities. This legal framework contributes to ensuring national security, maintaining social order and safety, and protecting human rights and civil liberties.

2.2.2. Characteristics of anti-terrorism law

First, anti-terrorism law bears the distinct characteristics of national security and public order legislation.

Second, it regulates relationships arising from anti-terrorism activities.

Third, it is primarily codified in legal normative documents spanning various fields.

Fourth, many provisions in Vietnam's anti-terrorism law are consistent with international treaties to which Vietnam is a party.

2.2.3. Role of anti-terrorism law

- It serves as a vehicle for institutionalizing the Party's policies on national security and public order, particularly in anti-terrorism.

- It establishes, reinforces, and maintains state authority in the field of anti-terrorism.

- It functions as an effective tool for state governance in preventing and combating terrorism.

- It plays a crucial role in fostering and expanding international cooperation on anti-terrorism.

- It contributes to the protection of human rights and civil liberties.

2.2.4. Content of anti-terrorism law

The legal framework for anti-terrorism in Vietnam includes five main groups of legal provisions:

- (1) General provisions on anti-terrorism;

- (2) Legal provisions on terrorism prevention;

- (3) Legal provisions on combating terrorism;

- (4) Legal provisions on international cooperation in anti-terrorism;

- (5) Legal provisions on organization and coordination in anti-terrorism efforts.

2.3. Concept and criteria for assessing the improvement of anti-terrorism law

2.3.1. Concept of legal improvement in anti-terrorism

Improving anti-terrorism law refers to enhancing the legal system governing anti-terrorism to ensure comprehensiveness, coherence, consistency, appropriateness, feasibility, transparency, and sound legislative technique. The objective is to effectively prevent, detect, and combat terrorism and potential terrorist threats, thereby contributing to national

security, public order, and the protection of human rights and civil liberties.

2.3.2. Criteria for assessing the legal improvement of anti-terrorism law in Vietnam

The degree of legal improvement in Vietnam's anti-terrorism framework is assessed based on five criteria:

- (1) Comprehensiveness;
- (2) Consistency and coherence;
- (3) Appropriateness and feasibility;
- (4) Transparency and openness;
- (5) Quality of legislative technique.

2.4. Factors influencing the improvement of anti-terrorism law in Vietnam

The improvement of Vietnam's anti-terrorism legal framework is influenced by various factors, including political, socio-economic, legal, international, scientific-technological, historical, and cultural elements.

2.5. International and foreign legal frameworks on anti-terrorism: Reference value for Vietnam

2.5.1. International and foreign anti-terrorism legal frameworks

The thesis examines international anti-terrorism law and the national legal systems of countries such as Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and Singapore. From this analysis, it derives valuable lessons for Vietnam in its legal reform process.

2.5.2. Reference value for Vietnam

First, Vietnam should focus on developing and improving its anti-terrorism legal framework to meet domestic, regional, and global demands.

Second, competent state agencies should study international treaties on anti-terrorism that Vietnam has not yet joined and advise Party and State leaders on accession or ratification.

Third, Vietnam should enhance its domestic legal system in this area by:

(1) Developing a national strategy on anti-terrorism;

(2) Improving specialized legislation governing anti-terrorism;

(3) Amending and supplementing relevant laws in specific fields to support anti-terrorism, including criminal law and procedure, immigration, weapons and explosives management, anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, radioactive and nuclear material control, and cybersecurity.

Fourth, greater attention should be paid to ethnic and religious affairs.

Fifth, Vietnam should strengthen international cooperation in anti-terrorism.

Sixth, Vietnam should improve institutional arrangements, organizational structures, and the functional mandates of agencies responsible for anti-terrorism.

Summary of chapter 2

Chapter 2 has established the theoretical foundation for assessing the current legal framework and proposing solutions to improve anti-terrorism law in Vietnam. The author has clarified key concepts such as “terrorism,” “anti-terrorism,” “anti-terrorism law,” and “legal improvement in anti-terrorism,” and analyzed the role and structure of anti-terrorism law, consisting of five core components: general provisions, prevention, suppression, international cooperation, and institutional coordination.

This chapter also outlines criteria for evaluating legal improvement, including comprehensiveness, consistency,

relevance, feasibility, transparency, and legislative quality. It identifies key influencing factors—political, legal, international, cultural-social, and technological—and extracts valuable lessons from the anti-terrorism legal frameworks of Russia, China, the UK, and Singapore to inform Vietnam’s domestic legal reform efforts.

Chapter 3

THE CURRENT STATUS OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ANTI-TERRORISM IN VIETNAM

3.1. Development of Vietnam’s anti-terrorism legal system before 2013

Between 1946 and 2013, Vietnam's legal framework on anti-terrorism was gradually established and developed through specific historical periods. This development can be classified into four distinct phases: 1946–1959, 1959–1980, 1980–1992, and 1992–2013.

3.2. Assessment of the legal framework for anti-terrorism in Vietnam since 2013

3.2.1. The anti-terrorism legal framework in Vietnam since 2013

Since 2013, Vietnam’s legal framework on anti-terrorism has been progressively improved and consolidated. The 2013 Constitution reaffirmed the role of the armed forces in national security and emphasized the protection of human rights, while recognizing the necessity to limit rights in exceptional cases to safeguard security. The 2013 Law on anti-terrorism marked a significant milestone, providing comprehensive regulation of anti-terrorism activities, later detailed through government decrees and ministerial circulars.

The Penal Code 2015 (amended in 2017) clearly defines terrorism-related crimes and introduces criminal liability for commercial legal entities. The Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on Mutual Legal Assistance lay the foundation for international cooperation in criminal justice. In addition, a wide

range of laws governing residency, immigration, weapons and explosives control, cybersecurity, and transport security (aviation, maritime, and land) were enacted to manage terrorism threats from various dimensions. These legal instruments have formed a solid legal basis for anti-terrorism efforts in the context of international integration and evolving security challenges.

3.2.2. Achievements of the anti-terrorism legal system in Vietnam

First, the legal system has become increasingly comprehensive:

- It covers all critical areas of anti-terrorism, addressing essential legal issues in a holistic manner.
- Detailed legal documents guiding the implementation of the Law on anti-terrorism have been promulgated.
- Both substantive and procedural laws have been integrated to enhance the effectiveness of legal enforcement.

Second, there is increased consistency and coherence within the legal framework:

- The system complies with constitutional principles and embodies the constitutional spirit of national defense and security.
- A dedicated law on anti-terrorism (2013 Law) serves as a specialized foundation.
- It is consistent with laws on national defense, public order, and social safety.

Third, the legal framework has become more practical and feasible:

- It aligns with the Party and State's orientations on national security in the new context.
- It meets the practical demands of anti-terrorism enforcement.

- It is compatible with Vietnam's international obligations and treaty commitments.

Fourth, legislative techniques have been increasingly standardized:

- The drafting and promulgation of normative legal documents follow the lawful procedures, ensuring transparency.

- These legal documents adhere to high legislative standards with logical, systematic structures.

- The legal language is clear, precise, and accessible, with specific and detailed provisions.

3.2.3. Contributing factors to the achievements

The progress in improving Vietnam's anti-terrorism legal framework can be attributed to the following factors:

- (1) Consistent leadership and direction from the Party and the State;

- (2) The growing professional capacity of legal drafters in this field;

- (3) Enhanced legislative techniques;

- (4) Improved monitoring, inspection, and evaluation of law enforcement practices.

3.2.4. Limitations of the current anti-terrorism legal system

First, some critical issues remain unregulated:

- The 2013 Law on anti-terrorism has notable omissions and lacks comprehensiveness.

- Provisions in the Penal Code regarding terrorism and crimes against the state remain incomplete.

- Legal regulation of terrorism-related asset handling and terrorist financing is insufficient.

Second, inconsistencies and overlaps persist:

- The 2013 Law on anti-terrorism is not fully aligned with the current Constitution and related laws.

- Penal Code provisions are inconsistent with the 2013 Law.

- A lack of detail in related legislation leads to implementation challenges.

- Decree No. 07/2014/ND-CP has inadequacies in both compatibility and applicability.

- There is no consistent definition of “assets,” complicating anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing enforcement.

- The division of responsibilities for preventing CBRN terrorism in aviation security is unclear and uncoordinated.

Third, practical enforcement of some provisions faces difficulties:

- Regulations on the national anti-terrorism Steering Committee do not fully meet practical needs.

- Legal provisions related to public security and specific sectors remain inadequate.

- International cooperation in criminal procedure is limited and not aligned with practical requirements.

- **Fourth**, there are deficiencies in the application of legislative techniques during the law-making process.

3.2.5. Causes of Limitations

The shortcomings in Vietnam’s anti-terrorism legal system stem from:

- (1) The rapid pace of international integration and treaty accession has outpaced domestic legal incorporation;

- (2) Globalization and technological advancement have introduced new forms and tactics of terrorism, setting new international standards;

(3) Inadequate institutional conditions for legislative development in this field;

(4) The formalistic nature of legal review and implementation monitoring processes.

Summary of chapter 3

Since 1945, Vietnam has emphasized the establishment of a legal system to safeguard national security and public order, including anti-terrorism. Over multiple historical phases, the legal system has evolved to meet modern security demands. The enactment of the 2013 Law on anti-terrorism marked a major step forward, with the legal framework increasingly comprehensive, coherent, practical, and technically sound. These achievements result from Party leadership, professional expertise, and improved oversight mechanisms.

Nevertheless, limitations persist, such as inconsistencies, legal overlaps, and regulatory inadequacies. These stem from rapid global integration, institutional restructuring, and insufficient attention to legislative capacity and legal review. A clear understanding of these causes is essential for proposing effective legal reforms in Vietnam's anti-terrorism framework in the coming period.

Chapter 4

TERRORISM FORECAST AND VIEWPOINTS, SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE LAW ON ANTI- TERRORISM IN VIETNAM

4.1. Terrorism forecast

The global and regional landscape is witnessing increasingly complex developments such as political, ethnic, and religious conflicts, economic crises, and rapid advancements in technology—all contributing to a heightened risk of terrorism. Forecasts are based on factors including terrorist organizations' strategies and operations; political and social instability in hotspots such as the Middle East, the Sahel, and Ukraine; the effectiveness of international anti-terrorism

cooperation; the consequences of economic downturns and social inequality; and the exploitation of emerging technologies such as AI, drones, and cryptocurrency.

Extremist Islamic terrorist networks are adapting to new conditions and evolving their methods. Their presence is expected to rise sharply in parts of Asia, the Sahel region of Africa, and other areas experiencing religious and ethnic tensions and unstable political regimes. Right-wing extremism is also on the rise, posing increasing security threats, especially in Western nations. Terrorist groups are intensifying their use of scientific and technological advancements to facilitate attacks. Moreover, terrorism financing and money laundering activities are becoming more sophisticated and widespread.

Vietnam could become a safe haven or transit point for international terrorists in the near future. Reactionary organizations among the overseas Vietnamese community may seek to conduct terrorist activities against the State through various means. Additional risks may arise from Vietnamese citizens working or residing abroad, who could be influenced or exploited. Terrorist groups are also expected to take full advantage of advanced technologies for attacks and financing purposes.

4.2. Viewpoints for improving Vietnam's legal framework on anti-terrorism

To effectively improve Vietnam's legal system on anti-terrorism, several guiding principles must be upheld:

- The legal reforms must institutionalize the Party's orientations on building and perfecting a socialist rule-of-law state in the new era.

- They must reflect the Party's strategy on safeguarding national security and combating terrorism amid new threats.

- The legal framework must ensure constitutionality, coherence, comprehensiveness, and respond to practical requirements.

- It must conform to international law and treaties to which Vietnam is a party.

- It must strike a balance between national security and the protection of human and civil rights.

4.3. Solutions for improving the law on anti-terrorism in Vietnam

4.3.1. Group of solutions for improving substantive legal provisions on anti-terrorism

- Amend and supplement the Law on anti-terrorism.

- Improve the criminal law provisions related to terrorism prevention and suppression.

- Refine regulations guiding the implementation of the Law on anti-terrorism.

- Revise related legal provisions in other areas to enhance coherence and effectiveness.

- Continue to sign and accede to international anti-terrorism treaties and incorporate their provisions into domestic law.

4.3.2. Group of solutions for enhancing the quality of legal normative documents on anti-terrorism

- Strengthen the effectiveness of drafting and promulgating legal documents by competent authorities.

- Promote the review of implementation practices and legal evaluations; develop theoretical and scientific research on anti-terrorism law.

- Formulate a national strategy for improving legal regulations on national security and public safety, including anti-terrorism law.

- Enhance international legal learning; prioritize the systematization of relevant legal documents; and improve monitoring and enforcement of anti-terrorism laws.

Summary of chapter 4

Based on the analyses in Chapter 4, the thesis draws three main conclusions. First, terrorism is expected to grow more complex globally and domestically, with increased use of advanced technologies by terrorist organizations. Ongoing international conflicts create conditions conducive to terrorism, necessitating a proactive, predictive legal framework. Second, the author proposes a set of guiding principles for improving anti-terrorism law, emphasizing the need to institutionalize Party policy, ensure constitutional consistency, legal feasibility, and compliance with international standards, while balancing security and human rights. Third, the thesis offers two key solution groups: (1) improving the substance of current laws, such as revising the Law on anti-terrorism, criminal provisions, and related regulations; (2) enhancing legislative quality through better law-making processes, theoretical development, comparative legal learning, and improved oversight of law enforcement.

CONCLUSION

Based on the overview of research status, theoretical and practical issues discussed above, this thesis draws several conclusions:

First, both theoretical and practical considerations demand an improvement of the legal framework on anti-terrorism in Vietnam, especially in the context of increasingly complex and unpredictable developments at the global, regional, and domestic levels.

Second, establishing a solid theoretical foundation is essential for assessing the current legal system on anti-terrorism in Vietnam. A key focus should be identifying the core contents of anti-terrorism legislation in Vietnam and defining criteria for evaluating its comprehensiveness and level of development.

Third, despite certain achievements, the legal framework on anti-terrorism in Vietnam still presents notable shortcomings. The biggest limitation lies in the Law on anti-

terrorism (2013) and its guiding documents, which remain incomplete and lack comprehensiveness, coherence, and consistency.

Fourth, in order to improve the legal system on anti-terrorism effectively, it is necessary to implement two sets of measures in a coordinated manner:

- (1) Improve specific legal provisions on anti-terrorism;
- (2) Enhance the quality of legal normative document drafting and promulgation related to anti-terrorism./.

**LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS OF THE AUTHOR
RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC**

1. Hoang Tuan Tu (2023), *New Points in the 2022 Law on Anti-Money Laundering Regarding anti-terrorism*, State Management Review, Issue No. 330 (July 2023), Hanoi.

2. Hoang Tuan Tu (2024), *Improving Provisions in the 2015 Penal Code (amended and supplemented in 2017) on the Crime of Terrorism Against the People's Government and the Crime of Terrorism*, Journal of Procuracy Science, Issue No. 04 (76), Hanoi.

3. Hoang Tuan Tu, Truong Ho Hai (2024), *Assessment of Certain Provisions in the 2013 Law on anti-terrorism and Related Proposals and Recommendations*, Journal of Procuracy Science, Issue No. 03 (75), Hanoi.