

Distinguishing between a hacktivist and a cyberterrorist can be somewhat subjective, as the lines between the two can be blurry. However, using hacktivists to launch large-scale disruptive or destructive cyber attacks could escalate tensions and potentially be regarded as an act of aggression. The applicability of existing laws and norms, such as the United Nations Charter or international treaties, can provide guidance on determining whether the use of hacktivists qualifies as an act of war.

**Targets and Methods:** Hacktivists typically target organizations or individuals they perceive as unjust or as obstacles to their cause. Their tactics often involve website defacements, data breaches, or Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks to disrupt services temporarily. Their methods may include launching large-scale cyber attacks, such as major infrastructure disruptions or coordinated malware campaigns. If a country sponsors or supports cyberterrorist activities, it would likely be seen as an act of aggression and could lead to significant consequences, including military retaliation or diplomatic measures. Cyberterrorists, by definition, engage in activities that aim to cause harm, loss of life, or widespread fear. 2.3.2.3.