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Speech to U.N. General Assembly on Terrorism in Middle East

Cardinal Parolin

The U.N.'s framework provides the "only viable way" of dealing with the global nature of modern terrorism, "which knows no borders," the Vatican's secretary of state told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 29. "This reality requires a renewed United Nations that undertakes to foster and preserve peace," said Cardinal Pietro Parolin, emphasizing that recent terrorist activity is "criminal behavior that is not envisaged by the juridical configuration of the United Nations Charter." He stressed that this policing role should be taken up by the U.N. Security Council since there is

"The challenges that these new forms of terrorism pose should not make us succumb to exaggerated views and cultural extrapolations."

no "juridical norm that justifies unilateral policing actions beyond one's own borders." New forms of terrorism engage in military actions on a vast scale and are "not able to be contained by any one state," the cardinal said in his address. He said terrorist activities in northern Iraq and in some parts of Syria are part of a "new phenomenon" threatening all states by "vowing to dissolve them and replace them with a pseudoreligious world government." Cardinal Parolin noted that after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many people oversimplified what happened by blaming the attack on a "clash of civilizations," which he said ignored the "long-standing and profound experiences of good relations between cultures, ethnic groups and religions." He also said the "attempts to find so-called legal remedies to counter and prevent the surge of this new form of terrorism" have at times favored "unilateral solutions" over those "grounded in international law." The cardinal spoke in English; his speech follows.

mr. President, in extending to you the Holy See's congratulations on your election to the presidency of the 69th session of the General Assembly, I wish to convey the cordial greetings of His Holiness Pope Francis to you and to all the participating delegations. He assures you of his closeness and prayers for the work of this session of the General Assembly, with the hope that it will be carried out in an atmosphere of pro-

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October 9, 2014
Volume 44
Number 19

