**Definitions of Terrorism Expert Groups**

**Instructions:** In your group, read your definition of terrorism. Then, work together to breakdown any unclear aspects, and determine the key points. Once your group has a solid understanding of your definition, you will apply it to two real-world examples. For each of the given events, you will need to read the introductory article, summarize the key facts, and then determine if it would be considered terrorism according to your group's definition.

* **When and where is your definition of terrorism from?**
* **What are the most important points of your definition?**

**Event #1: Occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**

* **Summary of Key Facts:**
* **According to your definition, should this be considered an act of terrorism? Why or why not?**

**Event #2: Germanwings Flight 9525 Crash**

* **Summary of Key Facts:**
* **According to your definition, should this be considered an act of terrorism? Why or why not?**

**“What We Know about the Standoff in Oregon” by Liam Stack**

***The New York Times* (January 6, 2016)**

An armed antigovernment group occupied a small building at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon on Saturday night in opposition to what it described as tyrannical federal management of rural public land. The group seized control of the building after a protest in a nearby town in support of two local ranchers facing more prison time for arson, but the group’s goals appear larger than solidarity with a local family. The occupation of government property is the latest armed flash point in a long-running struggle over federal control of public land in rural areas of the American West. Here is what we know about the situation in Oregon, the armed group inside the building and its members’ beliefs and demands.

An armed group hostile toward the federal government left a protest in Burns, Ore., and took control of an empty building in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, roughly 30 miles away. The building is a stone cottage that houses the offices of the refuge, which is operated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The protest was held in support of two local ranchers, Steven Hammond and Dwight Hammond; however a lawyer for the family told The Associated Press that the armed group did not speak for them, and the ranchers both reported to a federal prison in California on Monday.

Dwight Hammond, 73, and his son Steven Hammond, 46, admitted to lighting fires in 2001 and 2006, and said it had been to protect their property from wildfires and invasive plants. According to The Oregonian, in September 2001, the Hammonds started a fire that burned about 140 acres of public land, rendering the area unfit for production for two seasons. This was not their first time damaging public land: Two years earlier, Steven burned a fire that traveled into the territory of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management...The Hammonds were convicted of arson in 2012. They both served time in prison and paid around $400,000 to the federal government, but were ordered to report back to prison after a federal judged determined that their sentences had been too short under federal law. Their punishment comes under a 1996 law intended to punish domestic terrorists with a mandatory minimum sentence of five years. According to a lawyer for the Hammonds, they do not welcome the protesters’ help.

The armed group is led by Ammon Bundy...The group claimed on Saturday that more than 100 people were participating, but reporters on the scene that night said the number appeared to be closer to a dozen. In an interview with The Oregonian on Saturday, Ammon Bundy said the occupiers would consider using violence if law enforcement attempted to remove them from the building. At a news conference later that day, however, he said, “We pose no threat to anybody.” There has been no shortage of antigovernment rhetoric from the group since the occupation began, but it has not issued a list of demands. The occupiers have no plans to leave the building, Mr. Bundy said, and they do not appear interested in negotiating with the government for its return. Mr. Bundy urged supporters to join him in Oregon and said anyone who did could live in the occupied building with the rest of the group. He said the group seized the cottage to defend “the people” against oppressive and unconstitutional federal land management.

Law enforcement officials have taken a deeply critical view of the group’s beliefs. In a forceful statement issued Sunday, the Oregon State Police accused the protesters of an “attempt to overthrow the county and federal government in hopes to spark a movement across the United States.” But law enforcement presence in the area appeared to be minimal, and no effort was made to keep the occupiers from coming and going as they pleased.

Harney County is a rural area dominated by sheep and cattle ranching and the timber industry, and many residents sympathize with the occupiers’ underlying complaints about federal land management. There has been criticism of the takeover, however, and some residents said they saw the occupiers as armed trouble-makers from outside the community. “The battle was brought to us,” said Dan Nichols, a county commissioner who is also a neighbor of the Hammond family. “This county isn’t supportive of what’s being done here at all.” The Hammonds have sought to distance themselves from the actions of Mr. Bundy and his supporters.

**“Alps plane crash: What happened?”**

***BBC News* (May 6 2015)**

The co-pilot of a Germanwings flight that crashed into the French Alps may have practised a rapid descent only hours before he sent the plane plunging into the mountainside "intentionally", according to French investigators. Evidence from the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) showed Andreas Lubitz had repeatedly changed the setting of the altitude controls during the plane's flight from Duesseldorf to Barcelona earlier, but as the plane was on autopilot its planned descent was not affected.

Later the same day Lubitz was alone in the cockpit during the flight from Barcelona back to Duesseldorf when he initiated the plane's dive. He refused to allow the captain back through the cockpit door or respond to air traffic control. Speculation over the reasons for his actions has centred around the co-pilot's mental wellbeing. The German A320 Airbus flight 4U 9525 from Barcelona to Duesseldorf came down in a remote mountain valley in France on Tuesday 24 March, killing all 150 people on board…

On 26 March, French investigators said information from the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) - found at the crash zone revealed that co-pilot Andreas Lubitz had taken over the controls of the plane and sent it into a dive intentionally. The captain, named by German media as Patrick Sonderheimer, had left to go to the toilet, leaving Mr Lubitz in sole control. At this point, the co-pilot activated the plane's descent. It was Mr Lubitz's "intention to destroy this plane," Marseille prosecutor Brice Robin said. The cockpit voice recorder, discovered at the crash site, has given investigators details of the last 30 minutes of the flight.

For the first 20 minutes, the two pilots talked normally, prosecutors said, then the captain is heard asking the co-pilot to take over. The sound of a chair being pushed back can be heard followed by a door being closed. Then, during the final minutes of the flight's descent, pounding can be heard on the door and muffled voices as the captain tried desperately to get back into the cockpit. Alarms also sounded, warning the pilots to "pull up"...

There has been speculation that the co-pilot's actions were a result of mental health problems. Investigators found anti-depressants at his house along with evidence of treatment by various doctors, including a torn-up sick note for the day he flew the plane. There have also been a number of newspaper reports he had faced problems with his eyesight - possibly a detached retina - which could have affected his ability to carry on working as a pilot. The interim report by French accident investigation agency BEA confirmed Lubitz had been treated for depression in April 2009 and subsequently his pilot's licence was issued on condition he undertook certain regular medical checks…

"I can't speculate on what was happening inside his head - all I can say is that he changed this button to the minimum setting of 100ft and he did it several times," BEA director Remy Jouty told Reuters news agency...Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, 27, joined Germanwings in September 2013, directly after training, and had flown 630 hours.

EASA - the European Aviation Safety Agency - has since issued new guidelines requiring two authorised staff to remain in the cockpit at all times. Germanwings officials said victims included 72 German nationals, among them 16 school students. The Spanish authorities say there were 51 Spaniards. Other victims were from Australia, Argentina, Britain, Iran, Venezuela, the US, the Netherlands, Colombia, Mexico, Japan, Denmark and Israel.