

CRIMINAL LAW ASPECTS OF THE JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT (JASTA) IN U.S. LEGISLATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the unique legal nature of the U.S. federal law JASTA (Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act), focusing on its criminal law implications within civil litigation. While its primary objective is to enable private tort claims against foreign states, the act fundamentally redefines criminal liability standards through the doctrines of aiding and abetting terrorist acts. By analyzing recent judicial precedents from 2025 and 2026, the research explores how U.S. courts interpret the standard of „conscious and culpable participation“. Special attention is given to JASTA's conflict with the core principles of public international law, primarily the doctrine of foreign sovereign immunity, as well as the potential for reciprocal measures by other states, that could jeopardize the legal stability of international relations.

Keywords: JASTA, terrorism, sovereign immunity, criminal liability, USA, international law.