



Terrorism

Definition

There are over one hundred legal definitions of terrorism¹ and little international agreement on how to interpret the term. To be comprehensive: terrorism is “the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.”²

“Groups that are designated as terrorist organizations by states and international organizations are not monolithic. They are not shaped by the tactics that they employ but by their objectives, culture, operating environment and ideology”³.

Key insights

Terror attacks will mainly impact the most fragile areas, deepening or prolonging insecurity

Changes by 2030

➤ Increase in terror attacks and level of fatality

The death toll from terrorism has significantly increased from 5,000 victims in 2005 to 32,000 victims in 2014. There has been an even greater acceleration since 2008, as terrorism related deaths have increased by 286%⁴. The year 2014 was the most violent, both worldwide and in countries experiencing protracted conflicts such as Iraq (9,929), Afghanistan and Pakistan (6200), Syria (1698) and Nigeria (7512)⁵. This is mostly due to the rise of new forms of terrorism, relying on new non-state actors such as ISIS – mostly operating in the Middle East, in Syria and Iraq or Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region. The use of terror tactics to advance political or religious agendas is

¹ Hoffman, Bruce (2006) *Inside terrorism*, 2 ed., Columbia University Press, New York. Chapter 1

² Oxford Dictionary, [Terrorism](#), retrieved on November 5, 2019

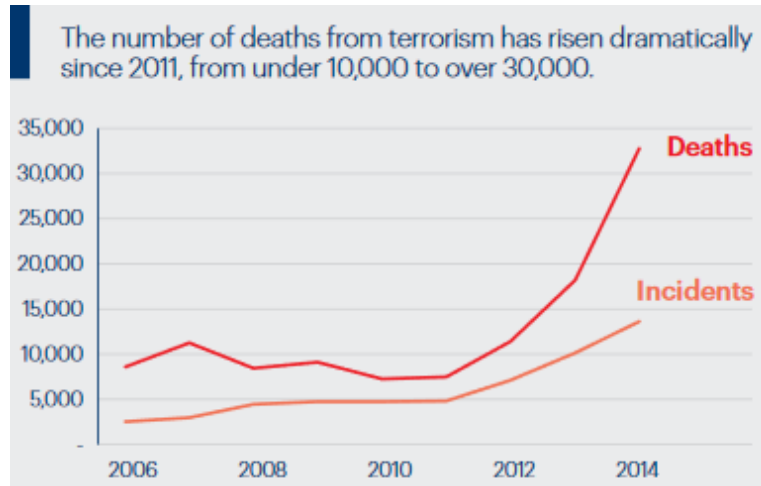
³ IRIS (2016), *Counter-terrorism Report*

⁴ Institute for Economics and Peace (2016), [Global Peace Index 2016](#), pg 118

⁵ Institute for Economics and Peace (2015), [Global Terrorism Index 2015](#), pg 111



likely to continue to be a modality of conflict over the period of the outlook with a concentration of attacks in fragile areas of the Middle East and parts of sub-Saharan Africa and an increasing number of events in industrialized countries⁶.



Source: Global Terrorism Database

➤ Concentration of the attacks

Most of the attacks between 1975 and 2015 happened in three areas: Asia, the Middle East and the African Lake Chad region. From 2000-2015, 40% of all terror attacks worldwide occurred in Iraq, Nigeria and Afghanistan⁷. The Middle East is the most impacted area with 1,490 attacks taking the lives of 20,193 people while the death toll in Africa reached 3,445 from 187 attacks⁸. Terrorist tactics are increasingly part of conflict strategy, especially in zones of fragility. Civilians are the most impacted by terrorist attacks both directly (as victims) and indirectly through the socio-economic ramifications of prolonged increased insecurity. Terrorism has significant impacts on local economic and political stability. Attacks both deter foreign investors from being actively involved countries and reduce the State's abilities to perform its core functions, thus damaging governments' legitimacy and stability. Terrorism has been one of the first causes of drops in tourism in Tunisia, Turkey and even in Europe⁹ which has long-

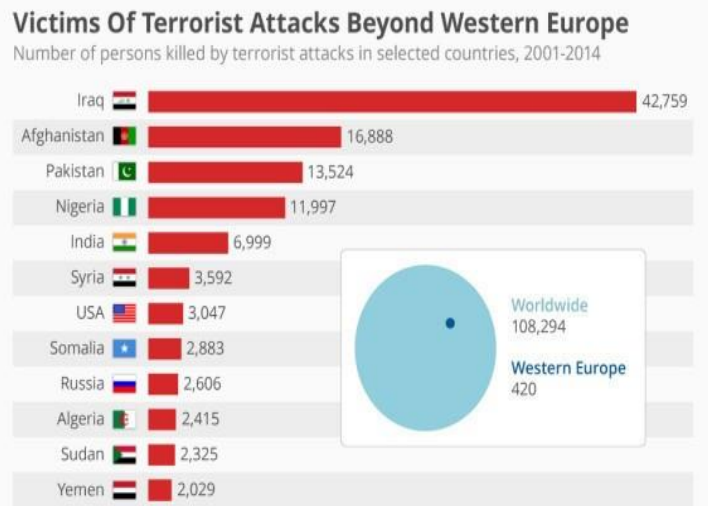
⁶ World Economic Forum, [Is terrorism on the rise? Here's what the data tells us](#), retrieved on November 5, 2019

⁷ Institute for Economics and Peace, [Global Terrorism Index 2015](#)

⁸ Cordesman, A.H, Markusen, M (2016), [The Uncertain Trends in the Metrics of Terrorism](#), Center for Strategic International Studies, Burke chair in strategy, pg 353

⁹ World Travel & Tourism Council, [Global tourism resilient to terrorism](#), retrieved on November 5, 2019

term consequences for the economies relying on those industries. The resolution of conflicts seems harder to achieve in countries impacted by recurrent terrorism attacks as non-state actors' degree of dispersion, influence on internal politics and ability of to disrupt formal processes and the local economy make the negotiation processes more complex¹⁰. Terrorist attacks will continue to be a driver of State instability, with the potential to prolong already protracted conflicts.



Source: Global Terrorism Database

➤ **The rise in anti-terror laws will impact the humanitarian sector**

The amount of legislation related to terrorist activities dramatically increased after the September 11 attacks in 2001. This increase had significant consequences, including the creation of an expanded web of conventions, laws and institutions resulting in a complex system. Though not directly targeted by the majority of counterterror legislation, the counterterrorism architecture has had a significant impact on the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver principled humanitarian aid¹¹.

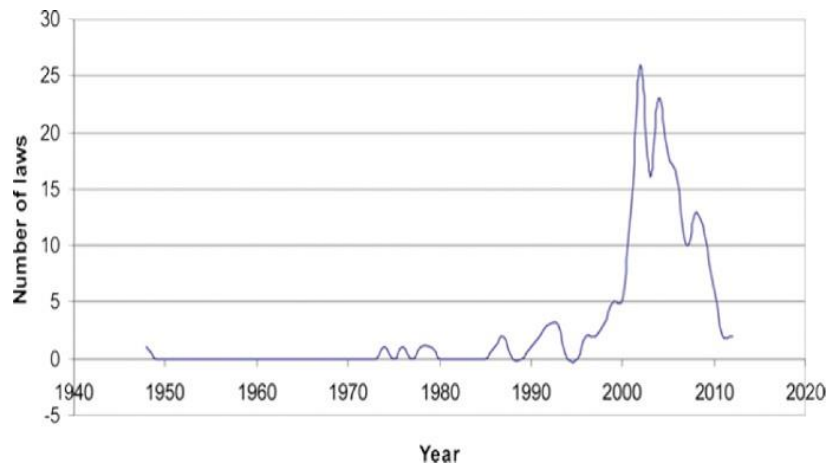
Legislation has also increased difficulties in raising funds to finance their humanitarian action, especially for Islamic NGOs and those without the resources to assure compliance¹².

Counterterrorism legislation could worsen accessibility to populations in need. Some states could be tempted to use anti-terror laws for political gain to target opposition groups, expel aid workers or restrict where or how humanitarian organizations can program.

¹⁰ International Red Cross Committee, [Engaging non-state armed actors in state and peace-building: options and strategies](#), September 2011

¹¹ UNOCHA and NRC (2013) [Study of the Impact of Donor Counter-Terrorism Measures on Principled Humanitarian Action](#), Concept Note – HAS Side Event, 17 July 2013

¹² Mackintosh, Kate and Duplat, Patrick (July 2013) [Study of the Impact of Donor Counter-Terrorism Measures on Principled Humanitarian Action](#), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



Trends in Terrorism Legislation. Source: Elena Pokalova (2015) Legislative Responses to Terrorism: What Drives States to Adopt New Counterterrorism Legislation? *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 27:3, 474-496, pg. 477

Uncertainties

➤ Attacks on aid workers forcing a change in operating modalities

In 1997, 39 aid workers were killed, 28 kidnapped and 6 wounded, figures that rose to 131, 130, and 144 respectively in 2018¹³. In response to this increasingly perilous context, many humanitarian organizations have been forced to change their modus operandi: *“The 2013 spike in casualties and subsequent decline have related causes. Escalating conflicts in South Sudan and Syria, as well as ongoing violence in Afghanistan, drove the surge. In all these contexts, attacks declined by over a third in 2014. This was due mainly to reduced or reconfigured operational presence in these countries, with fewer aid workers deployed to field locations deemed insecure.”*¹⁴ This contributes to the aforementioned paradox of aid not going to populations with the most need. The continued terrorist activities in areas with high-levels of humanitarian need could force further reductions in access or a change in the types of interventions that are explored.

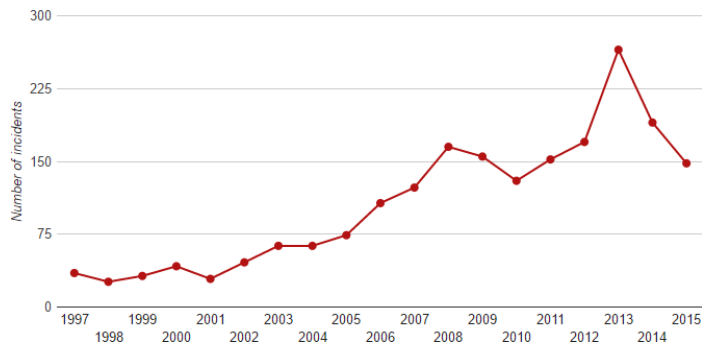
¹³ The Aid Workers Security Database, [Number of victims by incident type](#) (1997-2018)

¹⁴ Aid Worker Security Database (2015) [Aid Worker Security Report 2015 – Figures at a glance](#)



➤ **Impact of terror attacks in industrialized countries on foreign policy and international aid**

The rise of terrorism in developed countries could affect the provision of official development assistance and public philanthropy. Developed countries are major donors and as a result, fluctuations in the level of aid provided could be significant. However, experts disagree on the impact of terrorism on development assistance as it relies on many



Total Incidents (1997-2015). Data verified up to: December 31, 2015

Source: The Aid Worker Security Database

other factors such as economic and political risk and historical relations between donor and recipient countries¹⁵. Regarding how terrorism impacts on philanthropy, experts underline that contrary trends can be observed where some individuals or companies holding back charitable activities while others will increase their participation due to “charity and empathy with the victims”¹⁶. Terrorism and the fear it induces can escalate “nationalism and patriotism” sentiments¹⁷ and could result in donors giving aid to a limited group of NGOs. This results in a highly uncertain environment for both FDI and individual giving.

¹⁵ Wagner, D. (2006), [The Impact of Terrorism on Foreign Direct Investment](#), IRMI, February 2006

¹⁶ Berrebi, C. and Yonah, H (2016), [Terrorism and philanthropy: the effect of terror attacks on the scope of giving by individuals and households](#), Public choice, December 2016, Volume 169, Issue 3, pp 171–194

¹⁷ Berrebi, C. and Yonah, H (2016), [Terrorism and philanthropy: the effect of terror attacks on the scope of giving by individuals and households](#), Public choice, December 2016, Volume 169, Issue 3, pp 171–194