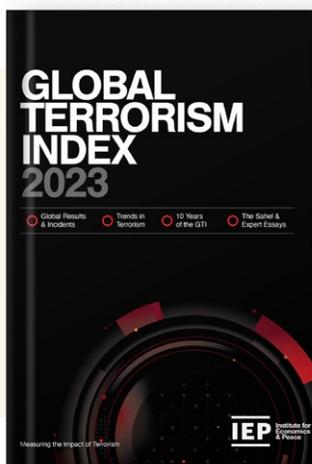




IMCTC CONGRATULATES MEMBER COUNTRIES' DELEGATES AND PERSONNEL



On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, IMCTC received the Delegates of its member countries and own personnel in a congratulatory ceremony marking the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr. IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, delivered a speech in which he greeted all on this happy occasion, praying to Allah to accept their good deeds, while stressing the importance of redoubling the efforts to achieve IMCTC's strategy, objectives, and concluded his remarks by commending everybody's hard work.



Global Terrorism Index 2023

The annual Global Terrorism Index (GTI) was first issued in January 2007 by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), documenting over 66,000 terrorist acts throughout history. It is the most comprehensive resource for global terrorism trends. The tenth edition of GTI 2023 provides a comprehensive overview of the main terrorism patterns and trends around the world over the past decade. It analyzes the relevant crucial aspects, such as the socio-economic conditions, how terrorism changes over time, the geopolitical motives, and the ideological goals and strategies of terrorist groups. In this context, we provide a detailed overview of GTI 2023 issued on March 14, 2023, addressing in four parts the number of terrorist attacks and the resulting deaths, (continued P. 4).

Senegal's Delegate Celebrates its Independence Day



Senegal's delegate to IMCTC, Col. Abdullah Angolin, on Tuesday April 4, 2023, organized a ceremony to commemorate Senegal's 63rd Independence Day. The ceremony was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, and by IMCTC member countries' delegates and personnel. In his remarks, Col. Angolin extended his thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and to the Crown Prince, HRH, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and to HRH, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, who established this Coalition. (continued P. 2).



Senegal's Delegate Celebrates its Independence Day

Senegal's delegate to IMCTC, Col. Abdullah Angolin, on Tuesday April 4, 2023, organized a ceremony to commemorate Senegal's 63rd Independence Day. The ceremony was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, and by IMCTC member countries' delegates and personnel. In his remarks, Col. Angolin extended his thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and to the Crown Prince, HRH, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and to HRH, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, who established this Coalition.

He praised the commitment of IMCTC Secretary-General to achieve IMCTC's goals, his attention to enhance the work environment, develop a program that allows IMCTC Delegates to combine work and joy. He also commended Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi's efforts to get the Royal approval for the performance of hajj as part of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Guests Program. Col. Angolin thanked all IMCTC personnel for their constant support.

Col. Angolin went on to say that on this occasion, we remember the sacrifices of our ancestors to build the Republic, and for that end, they preferred to die than live in shame. Thus, they deserve to be celebrated as role models for the younger generations.

Since its independence 63 years ago, Senegal has continuously invested its capabilities to promote peace around the world, which is also the third pillar of its foreign policy. This is why Senegal joins all peace-seeking institutions around the world.

Nationally, mindful of the turbulent environment and emerging threats, Senegal established, among others, the Center for

Defense and Security Studies (CHEDS), which was established to address Senegal's needs for practical, theoretical, and operational knowledge and experience in strategic security issues, particularly regarding the protection of people, assets, foreign policy, science, technology, and socio-economic aspects. Accordingly, it has become necessary to boost the capacities of the Armed Forces (in terms of equipment, training, rehabilitation) and emphasize the cooperation with other countries, particularly in the field of intelligence.

As for anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing, Senegal – together with the member states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) – approved a legal and regulatory framework to fight these two major threats in response to the main challenges and in line with the international recommendations in this regard. This framework reinforces the measures for protecting the safety and integrity of the financial system of UEMOA set forth in the legal provisions that govern banking and financial operations. It also aims to maintain public order and peace in the region.

Eventually, Senegal will never waver to counter terrorism. It is committed to join the international community in setting the necessary mechanisms and measures for the consolidation of peace and security wherever needed.

Col. Angolin emphasized that terrorism is unacceptable in all forms and that the path the IMCTC takes to counter terrorism is clear and shall enable us to defeat this global scourge.

He also thanked the personnel of the Department of International Cooperation for their continued support and cooperation, expressing



his gratitude to the attending delegates of IMCTC member countries for their cooperation and commitment.

A short documentary was then displayed, reviewing the past and present of Senegal.

■ Overview of the Republic of Senegal

Senegal, officially known as the Republic of Senegal is located in the western part of Africa, and is an important African country. The country was named after the Senegal River that marks its northern border. Dakar, the capital of Senegal, is famous for the Dakar Rally of motorcycles that is regularly held there since 1977.

System of government, economy, and location

Senegal is a presidential republic having a strong economy based on mining, agriculture, tourism, and fishery. In 2016, Senegal's GDP reached \$39.72 billion.

Senegal is situated in West Africa, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean coast from the West. Its border extends for 2,684 km, shared with five countries: Mauritania to the north, Mali to the west, Guinea to the southeast, and Guinea-Bissau to the south, while it is bordered by The Gambia from the north, east and west, the latter overlooking the Atlantic Ocean from the west. The country's coordinates are (longitude 14° 0' W and latitude 14° 0' N). Senegal covers an area of 196,722 km², and is thus the 88th largest country in the world, with a coastline of 531 km. Most Senegalese land consists of sandy plains. However, Senegal overlooks the Atlantic Ocean from the west. Senegal encompasses the westernmost point of Africa, Cape Verde Peninsula, where Dakar is located. The peninsula consists of small plateaus of volcanic rocks and holds the port of Dakar, one of the most well-known African ports.

Senegal's climate

Senegal has a relatively moderate climate where rain falls from July to October— heavily in Casamance at a range of 150–180 cm

annually. The annual average rainfall decreases gradually as we head north until it becomes less than 50 cm near the Senegal River. Meanwhile, temperature degrees vary across Senegal. The annual average for coastal cities reaches 22° and increases in inland cities to 29°.

The average annual rainfall amounts to 360 mm. The Sudano-Sahelian climate is typically the climate of the southern areas of Senegal, which is characterized by humidity, high temperatures, high rainfall rates, and tree-harvesting without irrigation.

Senegal's population

2016 census show that the population of Senegal totaled 14,320,055, making Senegal's the 73rd largest population in the world, with a population growth rate of 2.42%. Senegal's largest city, Dakar, has a population growth rate of 3.52% according to 2015 statistics.

Official language and religion

French is the most widely spoken language in Senegal beside 4 other indigenous languages (Wolof, Pulaar, Jola-Fonyi, and Mandjak) spoken by 38.7% of the population. There are other ethnicities and races in Senegal (26.5% of the population are Pulaar, 15% Serer, 4.2% Mandjak, 2.3% Soninke, and 9.3% other, according to 2011 statistics). The majority of the population, 95.4%, are Muslims, mostly Sufis. 4.2% are Christians and 0.4% pagans.

References:

Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Saudi Embassy in Senegal (mofa.gov.sa)

worlddata

Climate details in Senegal (worlddata.info)

<https://www.britannica.com/>

Senegal - History | Britannica

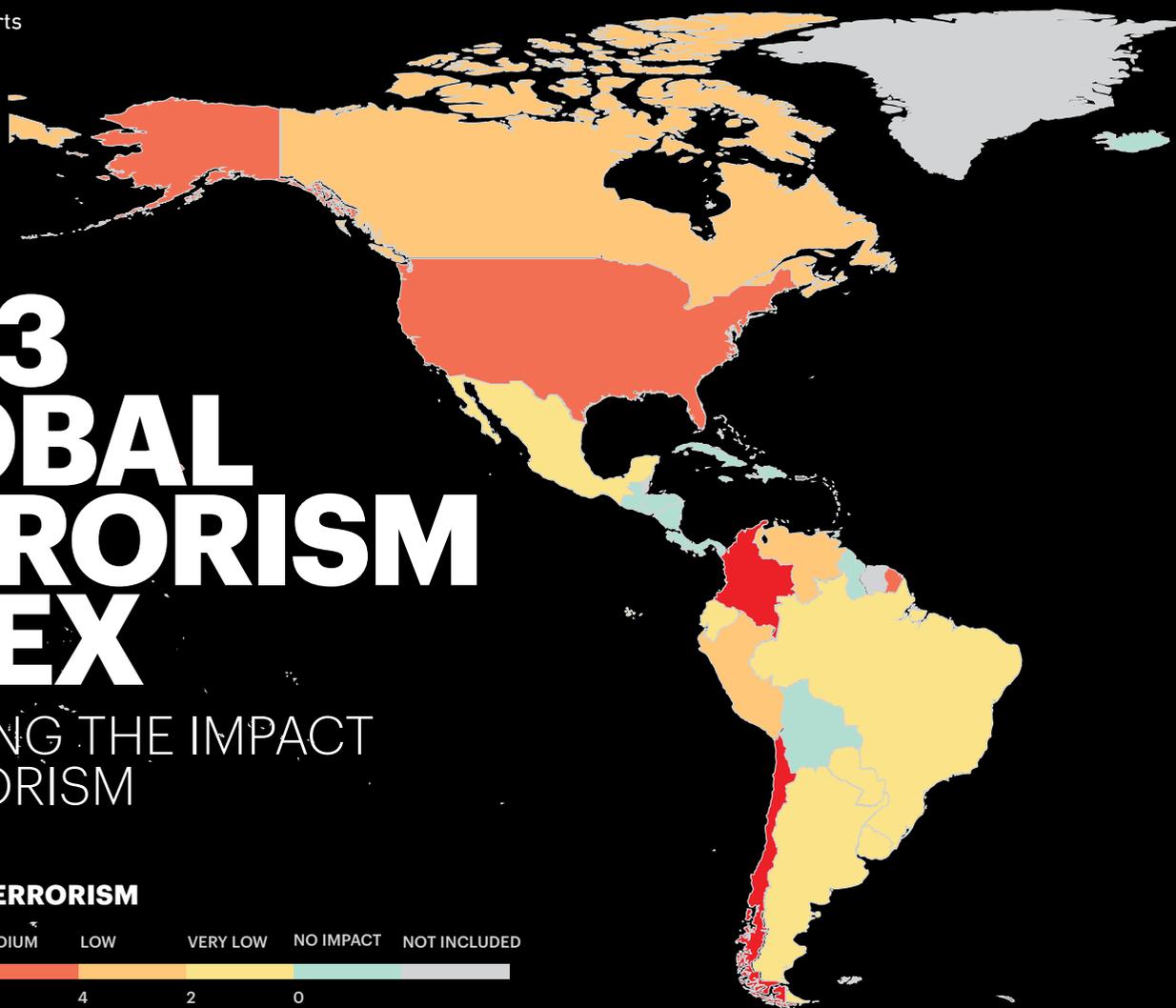
dakar.com

Official website of the Dakar Rally

2023 GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM

THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM



The annual Global Terrorism Index (GTI) was first issued in January 2007 by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), documenting over 66,000 terrorist acts throughout history. It is the most comprehensive resource for global terrorism trends. The tenth edition of GTI 2023 provides a comprehensive overview of the main terrorism patterns and trends around the world over the past decade. It analyzes the relevant crucial aspects, such as the socio-economic conditions, how terrorism changes over time, the geopolitical motives, and the ideological goals and strategies of terrorist groups. In this context, we provide a detailed overview of GTI 2023 issued on March 14, 2023, addressing in four parts the number of terrorist attacks and the resulting deaths, terrorist trends and patterns, the most vicious terrorist groups, and a list of the ten countries that were most affected by terrorism in 2022. GTI 2023 studies and analyzes 163 countries (99.7% of the world population).

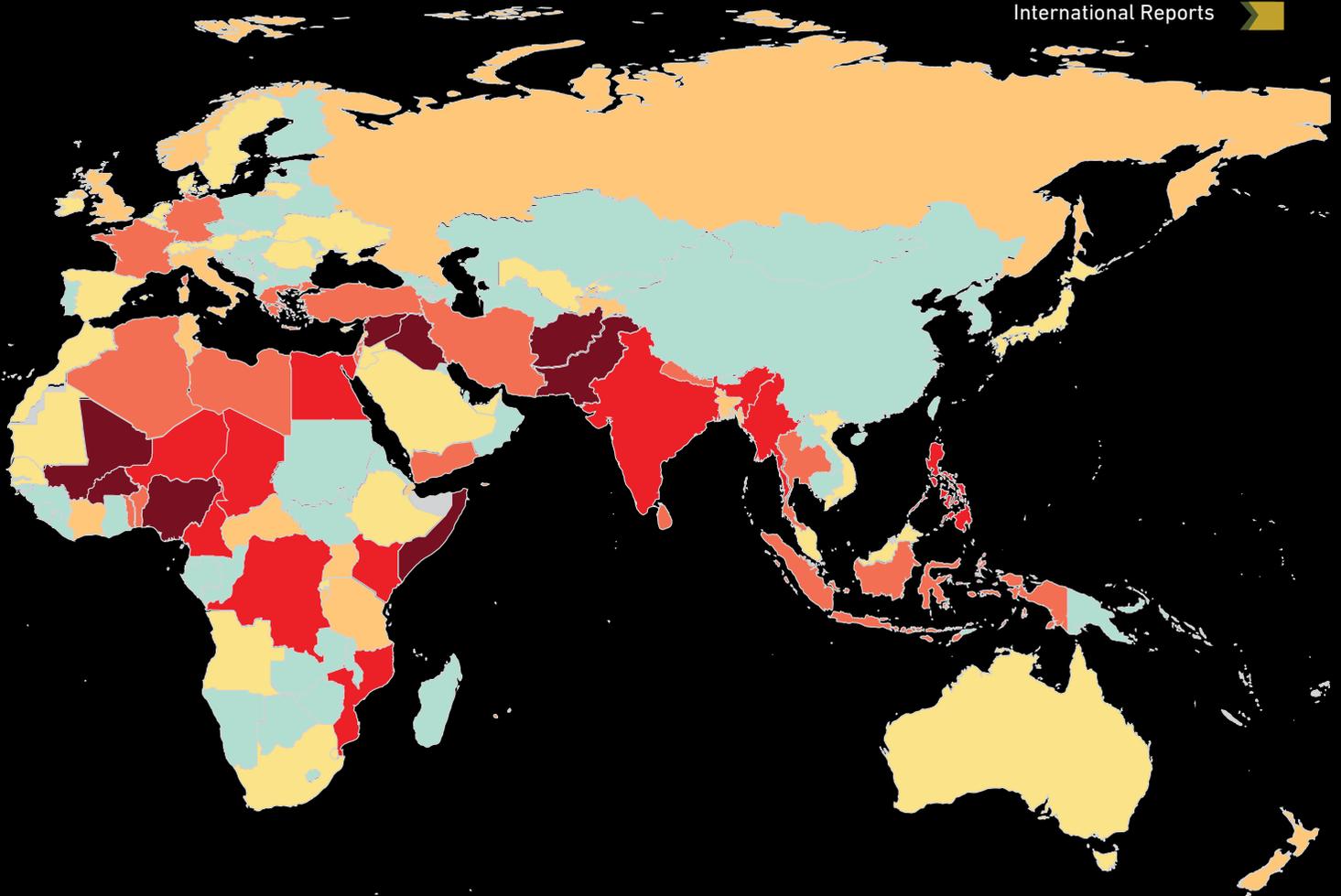
The report utilizes Dragonfly’s Terrorism Tracker data, where December 31, 2022 was set as the deadline for issuing GTI 2023 report. The report is based on the definition of terrorism as “the systematic threat or use of violence by non-state actors in favor of, or against, the existing power to convey a political, religious, or ideological message to a large number of victims by striking fear to achieve their goals”.

■ A Summary of Terrorist Operations in 2022 According to GTI

The report concluded that the total deaths resulting from terrorist

attacks dropped in 2022 by 9% at a rate of 6701 deaths after it had remained constant over the previous four years. This represents a 38% decline since the peak in 2015 when the index recorded 10881 deaths. Meanwhile, the number of victims dropped from 5463 in 2021 to 3955 in 2022. The report attributed this fall of an estimated 866 victims to what happened in Afghanistan after Taliban had taken power. Conversely, its neighboring Pakistan witnessed a significant upsurge, which will be explained in detail later. Remarkably, Tunisia did not record any deaths resulting from terrorism for the first time since 2012. GTI also recorded a great improvement in the severity of conflict in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq. Despite the fall in the number of terrorist attacks in Syria by 34%, the number of victims of these attacks dropped by only 10%, mostly by terrorist Daesh that still poses a huge threat in Syria.

Daesh remains the deadliest terrorist organization worldwide for the eighth consecutive year, scoring the highest number of attacks and resulting deaths in 2022. However, terrorism deaths attributed to Daesh and its affiliates—Daesh Khorasan (ISIS-K), Daesh Sinai Province (ISIS-S), and Daesh West Africa Province (ISWAP)—have fallen by 16%. Nevertheless, the number of victims of terrorist operations attributed to unidentified perpetrators in countries where ISWAP operates actively increased 17 times since 2017, amounting to 1,766 deaths. Given the data, it is likely that there are several terrorist operations unclaimed by ISIS in West Asia. If most deaths resulting from terrorist operations carried out



by unidentified perpetrators are attributed to Daesh, then 18 countries would have fallen victims to unclaimed terrorist attacks.

After the huge fall in the number of terrorist operations in 2015–2019, some countries still suffer greatly from terrorism on their land and the resulting deaths, fatalities, and material losses. Over the past three years, it has been observed that the number of deaths remains constant, where 43 countries in 2020 and 42 in 2022 suffered from terrorist attacks. This marks a fall from the peak reached in 2015 of 56 terrorism-plagued countries. Terrorism-ridden countries experience a rise and fall in deaths resulting from terrorism. In 2022, 25 countries recorded a fall in deaths, while 24 others recorded a rise, particularly Niger, Myanmar, and Iraq.

According to GTI 2023, the deadliest terrorist attacks were in 2022, killing an average of 1.7 people per attack compared to 1.3 per attack in 2021. This is the first rise in deaths rate resulting from terrorist operations in five years.

Violent conflicts remain the major driver of terrorism, where over 88% of terrorist attacks and 98% of the resulting deaths in 2022 were in conflict-ridden countries. The ten most inflicted countries by terrorism in 2022 suffer from armed conflicts. Moreover, terrorist attacks in countries experiencing armed conflict are seven times more vicious than in peaceful countries.

The African Sahel Region and Sub-Saharan Africa have become hotbeds of terrorism, recording a large number of deaths from

terrorism in 2022 compared to South Asia and the MENA region combined. Deaths in the Sahel Region accounted for 43% of the global total of terrorism deaths in 2022 compared to only 1% in 2007. It is particularly concerning that both Burkina Faso and Mali recorded 73% of all deaths from terrorism in the Sahel Region and 52% of those in the Sub-Saharan Africa in 2022. Both countries recorded substantial increases in terrorism, with deaths in Burkina Faso increasing by 50% to 1,135 and in Mali by 56% to 944. Attacks in these countries are also becoming more deadly, with the number of people killed per attack increasing by 48% compared to 2021. Most attacks in these countries are attributed to unknown perpetrators though both Daesh and JNIM operate in these countries. Notably, terrorism in Burkina Faso has also spread to neighboring countries, with Togo and Benin recording their worst GTI scores on record. The increase in terrorism in the Sahel Region has been dramatic, rising by over 2,000% in the last 15 years. This increase was due to the political situation in the region, with six coup attempts, of which four were successful. This is in addition to other underlying complex drivers, including poor water utilization, lack of food, ethnic polarization, strong population growth, external interventions, geopolitical competition, pastoral conflict, the growth of takfirist ideology, and weak governments. Most of the terrorist activity occurs across border areas where government control is weakest. Significantly, 58% of 830 million people around the world suffering from food insecurity live in the 20 countries most inflicted by terrorism. Just note that the Sahel countries in-

clude 10 semi-arid countries in northwest Central Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guyana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

North America -USA and Canada- had the largest regional improvement in the score, where it is the only region where no countries recorded any terrorist operations.

Whereas Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the largest increase in terrorism deaths, rising by 8%, where 60% of all terrorism deaths globally occurred. Four of the ten countries with the largest deteriorations in GTI score are located in Sub-Saharan Africa: Togo, Djibouti, Central African Republic, and Benin.

The **MENA region** recorded only 791 deaths in 2022, a fall of 32% and the lowest number in the region since 2013. Attacks almost halved in the last year, from 1,331 in 2021 to 695 in 2022. The region has dropped from 57% of global terrorism deaths in 2016 to just 12% in 2022. There has also been a substantial drop in suicide bombings in MENA region. In 2016, suicide bombings resulted in 1,947 deaths, while in 2022, the MENA region recorded only six suicide bombings that killed eight people.

South Asia remains the region with the worst average GTI score in 2022. The region recorded 1,354 deaths from terrorism in 2022, a decrease of 30% compared to 2021. **Afghanistan and Pakistan** remain amongst the ten countries most affected by terrorism in 2022. Although Taliban had taken power, terrorist operations dropped by 75% and deaths by 58%. Afghanistan ranked first in GTI for the fourth year in a row as the most afflicted country by terrorism where both ISKP and the emerging National Resistance Front (NRF) pose a serious threat. Deaths in Pakistan rose significantly to 643 in 2022, a 120% increase from 292 deaths in 2021 and nine times higher than 2021 terrorism deaths. The Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) was responsible for a third of these deaths, making it the fastest growing terrorist group in the world.

In the **West**, the number of attacks continues to fall, with successive falls each year since 2017. 40 attacks were recorded in 2022, a decrease of 27% compared to the 55 attacks in 2021. However, the number of deaths more than doubled, from 9 deaths in 2021 to 19 in 2022. This was the first increase in terrorism deaths in the West since 2019. Attacks in the US remained low, with only 8 attacks recorded in 2022. None were attributed to any known terrorist group. The UK recorded only four attacks and no deaths this year, the first year since 2014 that no deaths have been recorded.

■ Results

- Deaths from terrorism fell to 6,701 in 2022, accounting for 9% decrease from the prior year.
- Attacks decreased by 28% to 3,955, largely due to a fall in the intensity of conflict in the Middle East and Afghanistan.
- Terrorist attacks have become more deadly, killing on average 26% more people per attack. The death rate rose to 1.7 people per attack in 2022, compared to 1.3 deaths per attack in 2021.

This is the first increase in the lethality rate in five years.

- Terrorism deaths fell by 866 in Afghanistan in 2022, a 58% improvement. This was after the Taliban took power in 2021 and ceased to be labeled as a terrorist organization.
- The BLA in Pakistan is the fastest growing terrorist organization and was responsible for 233 deaths in 2022.
- Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the largest increase in terrorism deaths in 2022, while South Asia and MENA recorded the largest fall.
- Afghanistan remained the country with the highest impact from terrorism for the fourth year, followed by Burkina Faso and Somalia.
- The Sahel Region is the most impacted area of the world, representing 43% of global terrorism deaths, recording 7% more deaths than the prior year.
- Four of the ten most impacted countries by terrorism in 2022 were in the Sahel Region. Burkina Faso and Mali recorded substantial increases in terrorism deaths.
- Burkina Faso had the largest increase in terrorism deaths, increasing from 759 deaths in 2021 to 1,135 in 2022, followed by Pakistan where terrorism deaths increased from 292 in 2021 to 643 in 2022.
- ISIS and its affiliates remained the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2022 despite the decline of deaths attributed to the group and its affiliates by 16%, from 2,194 to 1,833 deaths. However, its lethality rate per attack increased from 2.5 in 2021 to 2.9 in 2022.
- In 2022, the country most affected by ISIS terrorist attacks was Iraq, recording 183 attacks attributed to the group, a decrease from 344 attacks in 2021.
- In 2022, the number of countries suffering from terrorism deaths remained roughly the same, with 25 countries recording reductions, while 24 countries recorded increases.
- Of the 3,955 terrorist attacks recorded in 2022, 33% were not attributed to a group.
- In 2022, over 88% of terrorist attacks, and 98% of deaths, occurred in conflict-ridden and unstable zones.
- In 2022, Canada did not face any terrorist attack or record any deaths for the first time since 2013.

■ Analysis

By examining the GTI 2023 report and previous ones, it is observed that the center of terrorism has shifted rapidly towards countries affected by political instability, conflicts, and ecological degradation, especially in the Sahel Region. 8 out of 10 countries recorded the worst scores on GTI due to food and water scarcity. Burkina Faso is an example of such shift, with an increase of 50% deaths from terrorism amounting to 1,135 and an average of deaths per attack of 8%, marking the highest rate of deaths from terrorism.

In 2022, terrorism killed 6,701 people, which is 38% less than its peak reached in 2015. However, the lethality rate kept growing. ISIS, the deadliest group, marked a 12% increase with an average of 2.9 deaths per attack. Meanwhile, 32% of deaths were attributed to Al-Shabaab terrorist group with an average of 2.5 deaths per attack, marking the highest score since 2017. This highlights that the lethality of the two groups is on the rise, followed by terrorist BLA and JNIM. ISIS remained the deadliest terrorist group globally for the eighth consecutive year. Meanwhile, the BLA operating in Pakistan has become the fastest growing terrorist group in the world with a ninefold increase in terrorism deaths to 233 deaths in 2022.

The Sahel Region recorded 7% more deaths, which is higher than South Asia and MENA region combined. It is the most impacted area of the world, representing 43% of global terrorism deaths.

Although the number of deaths from terrorism has declined, terrorism remains a major global threat. Terrorist attacks were more lethal in 2022, killing on average 1.7 people per attack, compared to 1.3 deaths per attack in 2021. This is the first increase in deaths rate in five years.

The conflict in Ukraine has been drawing global attention and consuming world resources. Thus, it is important to keep the global war on terrorism going and on top of the political agenda. With its evolving nature, the international community's response must continue to be upgraded. This is not the time of complacency, and losing focus shall lead to a rising terrorism threat in the future. Counterterrorism is one of the few domains where superpowers have a common goal.

It is evident that the war in Ukraine has shifted military resources, leading to an increased instability, in the Sahel Region too, where Russia and France reduced their military presence. Contrary to the overall trend in the MENA region, Syria in particular, Daesh activity is on the rise, resulting in 42% more deaths from terrorism compared to 2021. The turbulence in the region shall lead to a growing instability like what happened in areas where Daesh operates actively. Deaths from Daesh' terrorism in Syria increased in 2022 to 344 deaths.

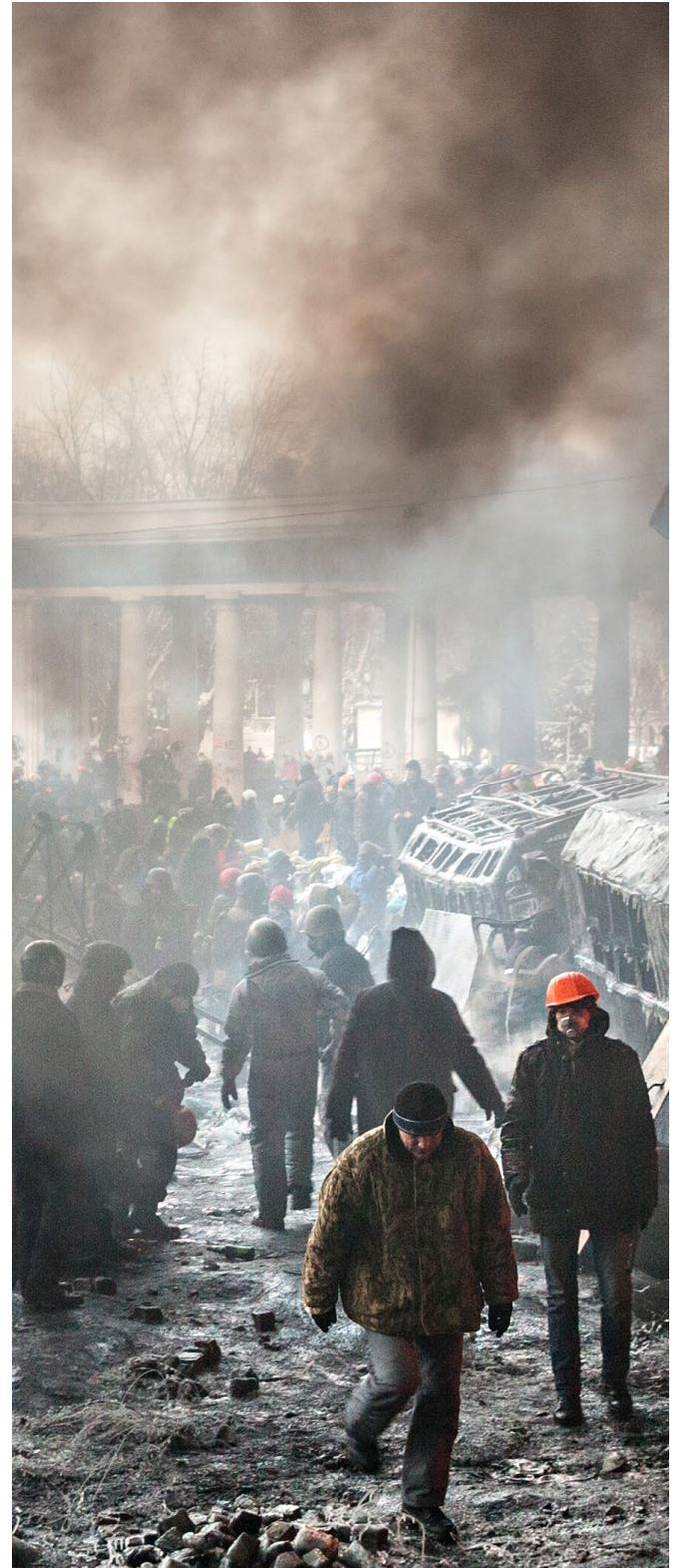
Violent conflicts and wars are major drivers of terrorism, where 88% of total terrorist attacks and 98% of the resulting deaths take place in conflict-ridden countries.

Many countries currently face severe ecological changes. These ecological issues are more likely to exist in conflict settings, multiplying these issues. 27 countries face catastrophic ecological threats, while also having the lowest levels of societal resilience. These countries are clustered in three regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, MENA region, and South Asia. These regions are also the most impacted by terrorism.

Regarding the most used tactics in terrorist attacks, the report indicated that there was a slight rise in 2022 in the number of suicide bombings, with 60 incidents resulting in 358 deaths, compared to 51 suicide bombings that caused 409 fatalities in

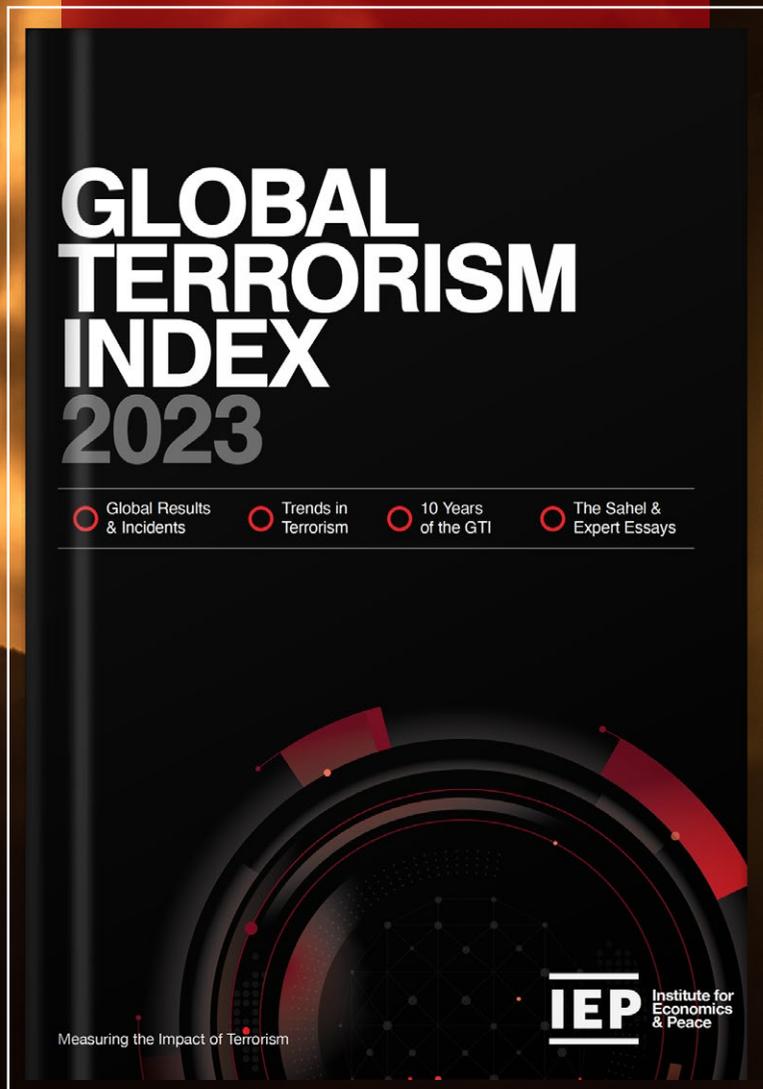
the previous year. However, the frequency of sui-cide bombings has been decreasing since its peak in 2017, when 339 attacks occurred. Armed at-tacks were the second most prevalent type of attack, with an average of 2.2 fatalities per attack. In 2022, over 88% of terrorist attacks occurred in conflict zones.

Ideologically motivated terrorism continues to be the most common type of terrorism in the West, with religiously-motivated terrorism declining by 95% since its peak in 2016. All the 14 ideologically-motivated deaths can be attributed to far-right terrorism.





IMCTC Member Countries on GTI 2023



By analyzing the GTI 2023 report, seven IMCTC member countries are among the ten most terrorism-affected countries: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mali, Pakistan, Republic of Nigeria, and Niger. Meanwhile, 11 IMCTC member countries remained safe and recorded no terrorist attacks in 2022, including Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Gambia. The remaining member countries witnessed terrorist attacks that have insignificant impact on these countries and their security.

Inflicted countries according to GTI 2023:

Serials No.	Country	Score out of 10	Ranking on GTI 2023
1.	Afghanistan	8.822	1
2.	Burkina Faso	8.564	2
3.	Somalia	8.463	3
4.	Mali	8.412	4
5.	Pakistan	8.160	6
6.	Nigeria	8.065	8
7.	Niger	7.616	10
8.	Cameroon	7.347	11
9.	Egypt	6.632	16
10.	Chad	6.168	19
11.	Kenya	6.163	20
12.	Yemen	5.616	22
13.	Turkey	5.600	23
14.	Togo	4.915	27
15.	Benin	4.840	28
16.	Libya	4.730	32
17.	Palestine	4.611	33
18.	Tunisia	3.989	40
19.	Bangladesh	3.827	43
20.	Djibouti	3.800	44
21.	Côte d'Ivoire	3.747	47
22.	Uganda	3.599	48
23.	Lebanon	3.400	52
24.	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	2.387	63
25.	Jordan	2.033	68
26.	Malaysia	1.357	75
27.	United Arab Emirates	1.241	76
28.	Senegal	1.108	77
29.	Bahrain	0.826	79
30.	Morocco	0.757	83
31.	Mauritania	0.291	87
32.	Gabon	0.000	93
33.	Ghana	0.000	93

Serials No.	Country	Score out of 10	Ranking on GTI 2023
34.	Guinea-Bissau	0.000	93
35.	Guinea	0.000	93
36.	Kuwait	0.000	93
37.	Oman	0.000	93
38.	Qatar	0.000	93
39.	Sierra Leone	0.000	93
40.	Sudan	0.000	93
41.	The Gambia	0.000	93

* 2023 Report did include the Union of Comoros

We conclude from the report regarding IMCTC member countries that there is a crucial need to counter terrorism around the world by:

Activating counterterrorism agenda: It is necessary to reactivate the global counterterrorism agenda by reinforcing unity and curtailing the use of the right of veto by the five UN Security Council member states when it comes to the identification and punishment of terrorists all over the world.

Adopting a global definition of terrorism: There is a dire need to adopt a globally unified definition of terrorism for all members of UN General Assembly (UNGA) to integrate it in their own criminal laws and prohibit terrorist groups, prosecute terrorists under special laws, and consider transnational terrorism as a crime punishable by law all over the world.

Control terrorism-financing operations (CTF): There is a need for stronger laws obliging banks to take strong action on dealing with clients and report suspicious transactions to prevent money leakage to terrorists.

Finally, the quick development of drones has rapidly changed the nature of conflicts. They have turned into a new war-technology trend in terrorist attacks by such groups as ISIS, Boko Haram, and Houthis. The latest reports show that 65 non-state actors are presently capable of deploying military drones which can fly up to 1,500 km. The use of such drones by the Houthis' to attack Aramco in 2019 demonstrates the power of this technology as they were launched from a distance of 800 km in Yemen. The current deficiency of countermeasures means that drones will be frequency used.

References

- <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GTI-2023-web-1-1.pdf>
- <https://marsad.ecss.com.eg/76171/>
- <https://marsad.ecss.com.eg/76123/>
- <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/global-terrorism-index-2023-key-findings-in-5-charts/>
- <https://www.drishtiiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/global-terrorism-index-2023>

Innovation: A Powerful Tool for a Safer World

Dr. Tasneem Aljehani



The international community faces a major challenge in enhancing the security and countering terrorism. For this reason, the use of technology and innovation to achieve these goals. Innovation is a powerful tool that can be used to make the world a safer place by investing in innovation developments. We can help prevent future terrorist attacks and build a safer future for all. It plays an increasingly important role in counterterrorism. New technologies are constantly evolving and can help governments and law enforcement agencies in preventing, detecting and responding to terrorist attacks.

Many transformative technologies, systems and applications can be utilized in counterterrorism domain. The most important and promising of these technologies are **the following**:

Artificial intelligence and machine learning technology: Artificial intelligence and machine learning can be used to analyze data and detect suspicious activities on the Internet. They could also be used to analyze attack patterns and monitor suspicious activity, where emotional artificial intelligence and use of algorithms and analysis can play an important role in understanding terrorist behavior and terrorist planning processes and strategies. This requires a careful analysis of all available data and information, including intelligence data, public information, social media content to reveal terrorists' motives, emotions, analyze changes in terrorist behavior, identify the methods terrorists use for recruitment and influencing the public. Emotional artificial intelligence can also be used to analyze, identify the patterns of terrorist activity in terrorist networks or groups, analyze the relationship between extremists, their supporting public, and identify the payments that enable some individuals to engage in terrorist acts. Therefore, if used well and on a large scale, it may help eliminate terrorism, realize security and stability all over the world.

Travel data analysis technology and biometric systems: Travel data analysis can be used to identify people who may be associated with terrorists or their helpers. Face-recognition software and biometric scanners are often involved. These technologies can be used to better monitor and track potential risks, as biometric systems possess several advantages over traditional identity verification systems: They are more accurate because they rely on concrete and unique characteristics of each person and facilitate identity verification faster than traditional systems. Prints of finger, face, iris and voice can also be used to identify individuals' identities across airports, security areas, government and businesses buildings.

■ **Payment systems and virtual assets technology:**

In its resolution No 2462 of 2019, the UN Security Council called on all countries to enhance the traceability, transparency of financial transactions in line with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This could be achieved through the obligations of all these countries to anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing) and identification of systems, technologies that are effective in the process of monitoring and risk assessment for virtual assets service providers.

Monitoring technology and radar signal technologies: Radar technologies can be used to monitor large areas, check land borders and occurrence of any terrorist acts. The monitoring includes the use of drones, face recognition applications, biometric scanners, biometric

devices and systems. These technologies help to better monitor and track potential risks.

Monitoring and analysis technology: Data monitoring and analysis techniques can be used to identify and track the flow of funds, resources to terrorist organizations; and can be used to protect vital infrastructure from cyberattacks that could be used to facilitate terrorist attacks.

Electronic games technology: The electronic games industry has become one of the fastest growing sectors of digital media. Terrorist groups have used these games to promote hate speech, terrorist content, attract and recruit young people. Therefore, it is imperative to be innovative in the use of electronic games to encourage critical thinking, build resilience vis-à-vis misinformation, terrorist narratives and complement this with a holistic educational approach.

Cybersecurity technology: Modern technologies can be used to secure cyber infrastructure, improve the electronic security of organizations, and prevent unauthorized access.

All of the above are mere samples of the many ways in which innovation is used to counter terrorism. Technology is still evolving, and more innovative solutions are likely to be developed in the future, but it must also be borne in mind that creativity and innovation are a double-edged sword that can also be used by terrorists as well, as terrorists are constantly on the lookout for how to exploit technology to carry out their attacks. Terrorists also rely on innovation and creativity in their various methods to intimidate communities and achieve their goals. Therefore, it is imperative that governments and law enforcement agencies be ahead of the game and develop new technologies to counter terrorist threats.

Terrorist uses in light of technological advances:

- Use of social media as platforms for exchanging ideas, training as well as increasing group affiliation and interdependence among members of terrorist cells.
- Use of encryption and protection techniques to avoid detection of their goals and movements before they carry them out.
- Use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyze big data and develop effective methods for carrying out terrorist operations.
- Use of modern industrial weapons that provide greater control, flexibility of movement, hiding and increase chances of their presence and effectiveness.
- Exploitation of genetic engineering techniques, development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, which creates a global threat.
- Concealment of terrorist targets by spreading false news and misleading information in various ways to make sure that their real goal remains hidden.

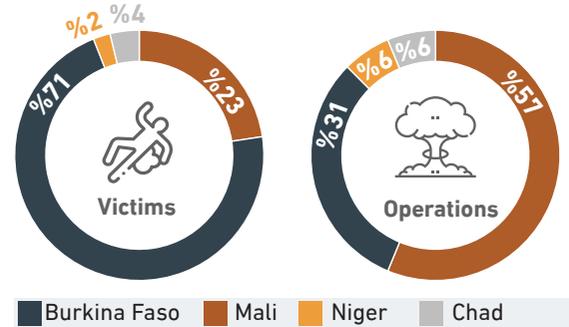
We conclude that innovation can provide effective solutions for security, counterterrorism using technology and modern technological advances. However, the availability of these new solutions requires a rigorous international cooperation and collective action by governments, international organizations, civil society, and businesses to overcome the global security challenges.

Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries, April 2023



In April, the G5 Sahel countries witnessed a drop of 6% in terms of the number of terrorist operations, and a rise in the number of death and injuries by 01% compared to March 2023.

Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Mar. 2023	Apr. 2023	Mar. 2023	Apr. 2023
Mali	6	9	5	102
Burkina Faso	10	5	81	322
Niger	0	1	0	10
Chad	0	1	0	17
Mauritania	1	0	4	0
Total	17	16	90	451



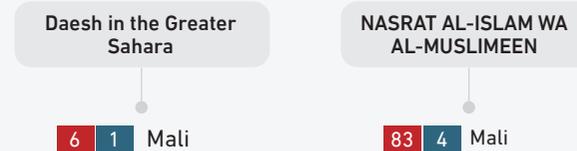
Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Civilians	Military Sector	Government Buildings	Security Sector	Government Officials	Non-governmental Organizations
Burkina Faso	180 2	142 3	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Mali	11 2	5 2	74 1	5 1	4 1	3 2
Chad	17 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Niger	0 0	10 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method

Abduction	0 1	4 1	Mali
Ambush	8 1	10 1	Niger
Explosion	22 5	3 3	Mali
Armed Attack	60 9	322 5	Burkina Faso
		95 5	Mali
		17 1	Chad

Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



Key Political and Security Developments

Burkina Faso: A statement from the Presidency of Burkina Faso declared a decree for “general mobilization” against the terrorist attacks that the country is facing. The decree aims at creating a legal framework for all the actions to be taken against the situation witnessed by Burkina Faso.

Mali: The German government is planning to pull out troops of the German army from Mali. The German Minister for Development Affairs plans to expand her Ministry’s activities in the Sahel Region. She emphasized that the country would remain involved in the Sahel Region.

Niger: The town of Assamakka, northern Niger, hosts thousands

of immigrants who have been deported from Algeria. They live in precarious conditions, especially that the absorptive capacity of Niger’s facilities is extremely low.

Chad: Chad’s government ordered the German Ambassador to leave the country for “discourteous behavior” and “failure to respect diplomatic practice”. A source in the German Foreign Ministry said the reasons were not clear.

Mauritania: As he appeared before the Special Criminal Court for corruption crimes, former Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz denied all charges leveled against him, especially those of corruption, money laundering, and abuse of authority.

The Secretary-General Presents IMCTC's Decoration to the Delegates of the Republic of Maldives and the Delegate of the State of Libya



On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General presented IMCTC's Decoration to the Delegates of the Republic of the Maldives, Col. Mohammed Mukhtar, Maj. Mohammed Samer, and CM Sgt. Miftah Hussein.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, April 30, 2023, the Secretary-General presented IMCTC's Decoration to the Delegate of the State of Libya, Brig. Gen. Dr. Mustafa Ibrahim Ali Al-Suisi. The decoration award ceremony took place at the end of the Delegates' assignments at IMCTC and in recognition of the efforts they made during their assignment at the Coalition. IMCTC's Decoration is awarded in accordance with the Orders of HRH, Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council.

It is worth noting IMCTC's Decoration is awarded to all IMCTC member states' Delegates at the end of their assignments at IMCTC along with the Decoration's document as a certified certificate.



IMCTC Congratulates IMCTC Member Countries on their National Days

IMCTC extended its congratulations to both the Republic of Sierra Leone on its 62nd Independence Day and to the Republic of Togo on its 63rd Independence Day that both fall on April 27, 2023. Countries and peoples usually celebrate their national occasions since such events significantly boost the sense of belonging to the homeland; reinforce the concepts of unity, fraternity, tolerance and peace among societies.