



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION

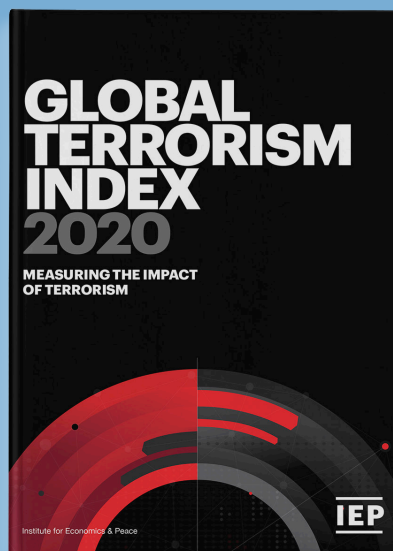


International Reports

20

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2020

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM



December 2020

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International Reports

Monthly Issue - Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition

Director General

Major General Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi

Secretary-General of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition/Acting

Editor-in-Chief

Ashour Ibrahim Aljuhani

Director of Research and Studies Center

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TAOQ تائق

E-mail: info@taoqresearch.org

Phone: +966 114890124



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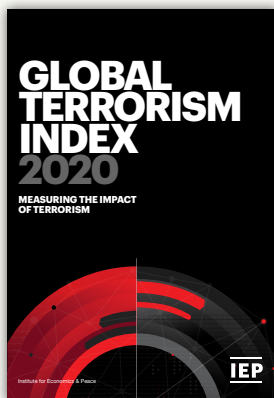
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December 2020

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2020

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM

This is the eighth edition of the Global Terrorism Index 2020 (GTI) report produced by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) in Sydney, Australia. The report provides a comprehensive summary of the trends and patterns of global terrorism in 163 countries. The report draws on the Global Terrorism Information Database (GTD) at the University of Maryland, USA. Data for the GTD is collected and collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland. The GTD contains over 170,000 terrorist incidents for the period 1970 to 2019.



GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2020
MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM
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The GTI 2020 highlights the information in three key topical foci, supported by in-depth analyses in terms of geographical and socio-economic factors, time-line, while also drawing a comparison of terrorist incidents in the previous years vis-à-vis the current year with a special focus attached to the following:

- First Theme: an overview of terrorist incidents in the world, supported by a comparison with previous years.
- Second Theme: the modus operandi of the GTI, and the factors contributory to assessing terrorism globally.
- Third Theme: the main results of using the indicator in assessing terrorism cases globally.

Taken together, the GTI report provides a comprehensive summary of global terrorism, which contributes to building a wider understanding and greater ability to analyse terrorism.

KEY RESULTS OF GTI 2020

- Deaths from terrorism fell relatively in 2019 to 13,826 deaths, representing a 15% decrease vis-à-vis 2018.
- Afghanistan remains the country most affected by terrorism, despite the fact that terrorist deaths decreased in 2019 for the first time in three years; the number of deaths between the two years (2018-2019) decreased by 1,654, which makes up a decline of 22.4%.
- Burkina Faso experienced the largest increase in deaths from terrorist accidents; deaths increased by 590% to reach 593. Sri Lanka comes in second place; terrorism deaths increased from one in 2018 to 266 in 2019.
- The Taliban remained the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2019. Nevertheless, terrorism deaths caused by the group decreased by 18% to 4,990 deaths.
- Far-right terrorism increased greatly in the West, as one far-right terrorist attack was recorded in 2010. This number increased to 49 terrorist attacks in 2019.
- 41% of all ISIS-related deaths in 2019 occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting the shift in

ISIS-related attacks away from the Middle East.

- ISIS carried out no less than 78 terrorist attacks between 2014 and 2019 in the West. Consequently, 471 people were killed, and the terrorist group carried out only one attack in the West in 2019.

Despite a fall in the number of deaths from terrorism overall, there was no change in the ten countries most impacted by terrorism. Afghanistan, Iraq and Nigeria maintained their positioned as the first, second and third most impacted countries by terrorism, respectively, for the second year in a row. However, Somalia overtook Pakistan to be the fifth most impacted country and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) overtook the Philippines to be the ninth most impacted country. This is the second time Somalia has been ranked in the five countries with the highest impact of terrorism.

Equally important, the DRC and Yemen were the only two countries amongst the ten most impacted to have recorded a deterioration in score from 2018 to 2019. Every other country in the ten most impacted improved its 2020 GTI score, with the largest improvement happening to Pakistan, followed by Syria and Nigeria.

Country	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Afghanistan	16	13	11	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	1
Iraq	29	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Nigeria	35	25	26	32	12	13	17	11	11	6	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	3
Syria	107	105	55	63	49	57	39	46	56	14	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
Somalia	43	38	42	36	30	9	6	6	6	5	7	7	6	7	7	6	6	5
Yemen	44	31	39	39	36	30	22	20	10	9	8	8	8	6	6	7	7	6
Pakistan	12	10	6	6	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	5	7
India	2	2	3	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	25	20	24	25	25	20	12	5	8	11	13	17	18	17	13	11	10	9
Philippines	13	8	10	12	14	12	8	9	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	10	9	10

TEN COUNTRIES MOST IMPACTED BY TERRORISM, RANKED BY GTI SCORE

TERRORISM DEATHS 2019

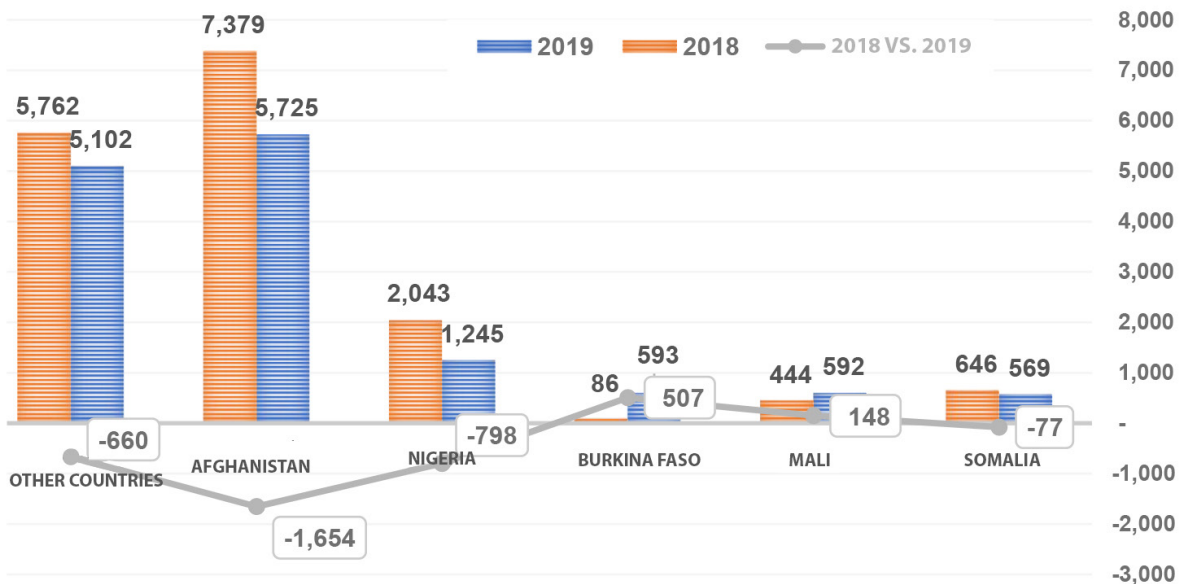
Total deaths due to terrorism decreased by 15.5% from 2018 to 2019. The following figure shows the distribution of deaths in countries that sustained the largest number of terrorism deaths in 2019 vis-à-vis 2018. Of the countries that experienced the highest levels of terrorism, only two countries, Burkina Faso and Mali, recorded an increase in the number of deaths, while the total number of deaths decreased in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Somalia. Equally important, Burkina Faso and Mali were among the five countries most affected by terrorism deaths for the first time in 2019.

The fall in deaths in Afghanistan is particularly noticeable given its recent history. Since the peak of violence in 2018, deaths have fallen by just over 22% in a year. Nigeria recorded the second largest fall in total deaths, owing largely to a 72% reduction in fatalities attributed to Fulani extremists. Despite this decrease, the number of deaths attributed to Boko Haram increased by 25% from 2018 to 2019. It is noteworthy that renewed activity by Boko Haram

in Nigeria and neighboring countries, including Cameroon, Chad and Niger, remains a substantial threat to the region.

Iraq recorded the third largest total fall in deaths, with terrorism deaths falling 46% in one year. This was the first year since 2003 that Iraq recorded less than a thousand terrorism deaths. The fall in deaths in Iraq can be attributed to the near total defeat and demise of ISIL in Iraq, which has decreased the level of internal conflict. Burkina Faso was the country with the largest total increase in terrorism deaths, where the number of people killed rose from 86 in 2018 to 593 in 2019.

Sri Lanka recorded the second largest increase in 2019; the Easter Sunday bombings accounted for the entirety of the said increase. Sri Lanka recorded the deadliest attack of 2019 when eight coordinated suicide attacks across the country targeted churches and hotels on Easter Sunday, killing 266 people and injuring at least 500. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

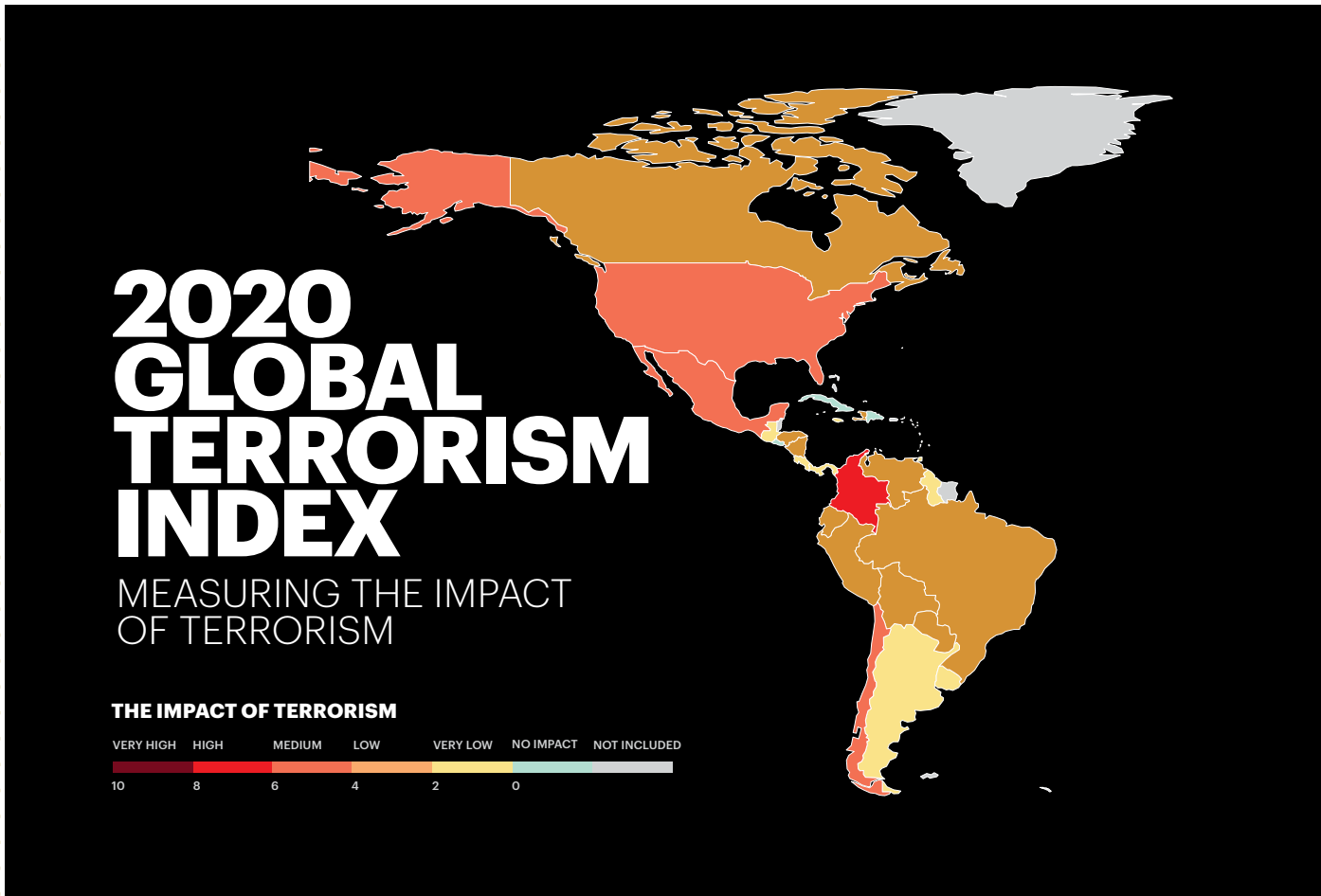


TOTAL DEATHS DUE TO TERRORIST OPERATIONS BY COUNTRY, BETWEEN 2018-2019

COUNTRY STATUS ON GTI 2020

The GTI 2020 provided the results of the country-based assessment according to the terrorist incidents in which they took place through six sections, on a measurement scale from (0) to (10), where the countries

that did not experience any terrorist incidents are placed at the (0) value, followed by the sections with the countries that experienced a rise in terrorist incidents gradually upward. The following are the key results revealed by the GTI:

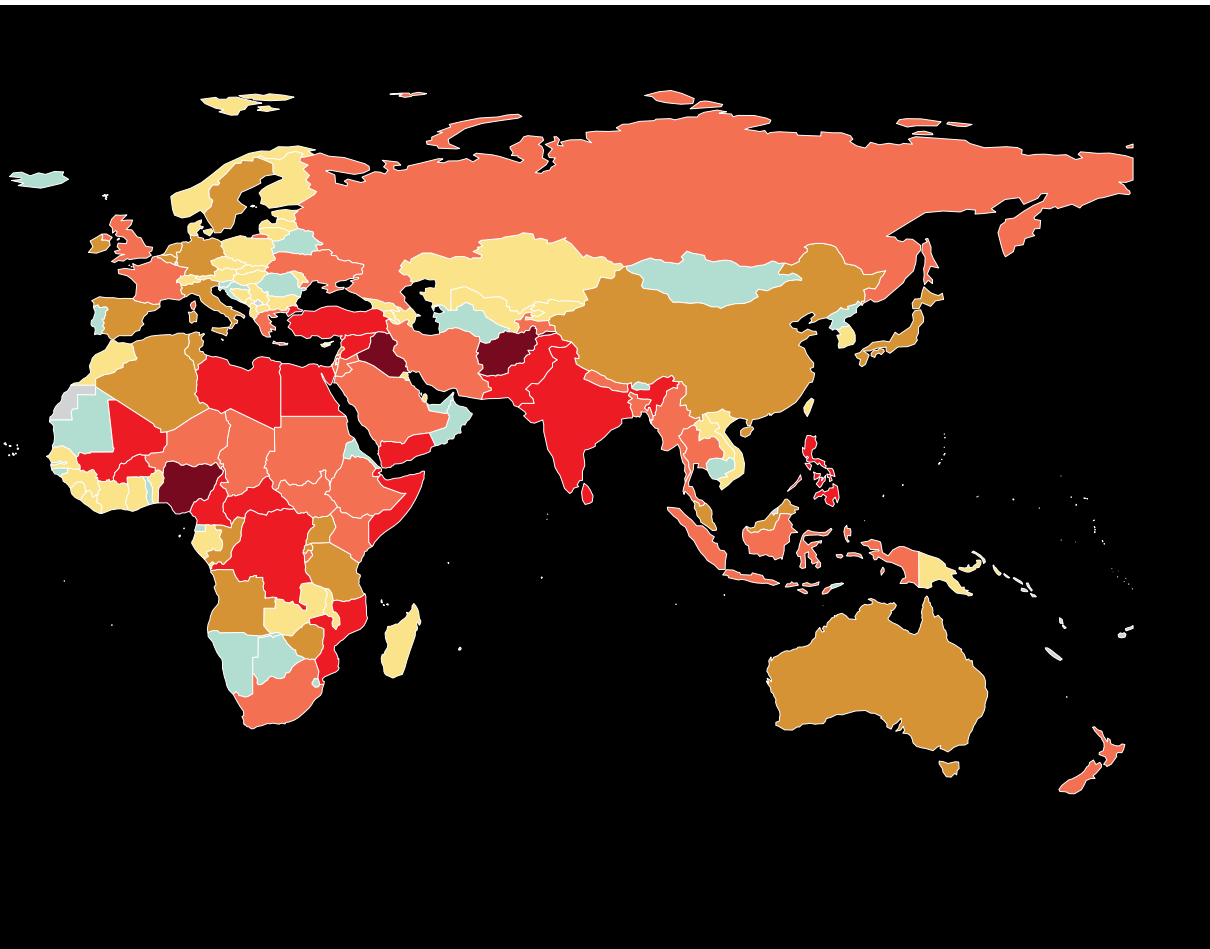


RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1	Afghanistan	9.592	↔	28	Ethiopia	5.307	↔	56	Canada	3.171	↓ 3
2	Iraq	8.682	↔	29	United States of America	5.260	↑ 2	57	Jordan	3.149	↑ 5
3	Nigeria	8.314	↔	30	United Kingdom	5.161	↓ 4	58	Tanzania	3.112	↑ 2
4	Syria	7.778	↔	31	Palestine	5.077	↑ 1	=59	Belgium	3.043	↓ 6
5	Somalia	7.645	↑ 1	32	Saudi Arabia	5.000	↓ 3	=59	Italy	3.043	↑ 3
6	Yemen	7.581	↑ 1	33	Bangladesh	4.909	↓ 3	61	Sweden	2.892	↓ 5
7	Pakistan	7.541	↓ 2	34	Chad	4.829	↑ 4	62	Ireland	2.845	↑ 7
8	India	7.353	↔	35	Burundi	4.702	↓ 2	63	Spain	2.810	↓ 4
9	Democratic Republic of the Congo	7.178	↑ 1	36	Ukraine	4.692	↓ 11	64	Bolivia	2.795	↓ 6
10	Philippines	7.099	↓ 1	37	Indonesia	4.629	↓ 2	65	Algeria	2.696	↓ 8
11	Mali	7.049	↑ 2	38	France	4.614	↓ 2	66	Netherlands	2.689	↑ 11
12	Burkina Faso	6.755	↑ 15	39	Russia	4.542	↓ 2	67	Ecuador	2.606	↑ 6
13	Cameroon	6.627	↑ 1	40	Israel	4.522	↔	=68	Brazil	2.443	↑ 6
14	Egypt	6.419	↓ 3	41	South Africa	4.358	↔	=68	Zimbabwe	2.443	↓ 1
15	Mozambique	6.400	↑ 8	42	New Zealand	4.337	↑ 79	70	Paraguay	2.414	↓ 6
16	Libya	6.250	↓ 4	43	Mexico	4.316	↑ 5	71	Bahrain	2.402	↓ 10
17	Central African Republic	6.241	↓ 2	44	Greece	4.182	↑ 2	=72	Haiti	2.355	↑ 6
18	Turkey	6.110	↓ 2	45	Tajikistan	4.180	↑ 6	=72	Nicaragua	2.355	↓ 8
19	Colombia	6.100	↔	46	Iran	4.157	↓ 7	74	Australia	2.148	↓ 2
20	Sri Lanka	6.065	↑ 35	47	Chile	4.031	↓ 2	75	Peru	2.141	↓ 8
21	Thailand	5.783	↓ 3	48	Germany	3.965	↓ 4	76	Malaysia	2.090	↓ 5
22	South Sudan	5.726	↓ 5	49	Tunisia	3.858	↑ 1	77	Republic of the Congo	2.043	↓ 7
23	Kenya	5.644	↓ 2	50	Rwanda	3.754	↑ 16	78	Honduras	2.023	↑ 20
24	Niger	5.617	↓ 2	51	Lebanon	3.661	↓ 8	79	Japan	2.014	↓ 1
25	Myanmar	5.543	↓ 1	52	Venezuela	3.658	↓ 5	80	Cote d' Ivoire	1.945	↓ 6
26	Sudan	5.401	↓ 6	53	China	3.587	↓ 11	81	Kuwait	1.795	↓ 5
27	Nepal	5.340	↑ 7	54	Angola	3.429	↓ 2	82	Ghana	1.743	↑ 4
				55	Uganda	3.278	↓ 6	83	Finland	1.721	↓ 3

COUNTRIES RANKED ACCORDING TO THE SCORES OF TERRORISM AND THE AMOUNT OF CHANGE ACCORDING TO THE GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2020

◆ **First Section:** The number of countries where there are no terrorist incidents is 29 countries out of 163 countries, making up 17.7%, across various continents, including 9 countries in Asia, 7 in Europe and 6 in Africa.

◆ **Second Section:** The number of countries with limited terrorist incidents exceeded twice the number of the First Section countries, making up 55 countries, accounting for 33.7% of the total number of



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
84	Malawi	1.635	↑ 19	112	Azerbaijan	0.296	↓ 10	=135	Cuba	0.000	↔
85	Denmark	1.484	↑ 15	113	Switzerland	0.286	↑ 3	=135	Dominican Republic	0.000	↓ 44
86	Gabon	1.43	↑ 18	114	Poland	0.239	↓ 9	=135	El Salvador	0.000	↔
87	Norway	1.297	↑ 40	=115	Jamaica	0.229	↓ 11	=135	Equatorial Guinea	0.000	↔
88	Madagascar	1.19	↓ 7	=115	Lithuania	0.229	↓ 9	=135	Eritrea	0.000	↔
89	Costa Rica	1.066	↑ 74	=115	Sierra Leone	0.229	↓ 9	=135	Guinea-Bissau	0.000	↔
90	Argentina	1.024	↓ 8	118	Liberia	0.191	↑ 7	=135	Iceland	0.000	↓ 30
91	Austria	1.016	↓ 8	119	Bulgaria	0.172	↓ 9	=135	Kosovo	0.000	↔
92	Kyrgyz Republic	0.95	↓ 8	120	Trinidad and Tobago	0.162	↑ 15	=135	Mauritania	0.000	↔
93	Kazakhstan	0.901	↓ 8	121	Zambia	0.153	↓ 9	=135	Mauritius	0.000	↔
94	Papua New Guinea	0.691	↓ 6	=122	Latvia	0.115	↓ 6	=135	Mongolia	0.000	↔
=95	Albania	0.677	↑ 13	=122	Cyprus	0.115	↓ 8	=135	Namibia	0.000	↔
=95	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.677	↓ 9	124	North Macedonia	0.105	↓ 11	=135	North Korea	0.000	↔
=97	Benin	0.663	↑ 65	125	Uruguay	0.086	↓ 5	=135	Oman	0.000	↔
=97	Guatemala	0.663	↓ 8	=126	Estonia	0.057	↓ 4	=135	Portugal	0.000	↔
99	South Korea	0.656	↑ 15	=126	Moldova	0.057	↓ 4	=135	Romania	0.000	↔
100	Georgia	0.635	↓ 11	=126	Serbia	0.057	↓ 4	=135	Singapore	0.000	↔
101	Taiwan	0.607	↓ 6	129	Lesotho	0.048	↓ 3	=135	Slovenia	0.000	↔
102	Morocco	0.565	↓ 11	130	Djibouti	0.038	↓ 19	=135	Eswatini	0.000	↔
103	Hungary	0.551	↑ 15	131	Slovakia	0.029	↓ 3	=135	The Gambia	0.000	↔
104	Armenia	0.53	↓ 11	132	Panama	0.019	↓ 1	=135	Timor-Leste	0.000	↔
105	Guyana	0.477	↑ 26	133	Qatar	0.014	↔	=135	Togo	0.000	↔
106	Laos	0.439	↓ 12	134	Uzbekistan	0.010	↑ 1	=135	Turkmenistan	0.000	↔
=107	Montenegro	0.42	↓ 11	=135	Belarus	0.000	↔	=135	United Arab Emirates	0.000	↓ 34
=107	Vietnam	0.42	↓ 11	=135	Bhutan	0.000	↓ 27				
109	Guinea	0.41	↓ 10	=135	Botswana	0.000	↔				
110	Senegal	0.391	↓ 18	=135	Cambodia	0.000	↔				
111	Czech Republic	0.315	↓ 10	=135	Croatia	0.000	↔				

countries. Europe had the largest percentage with a total of 21 countries, followed by Africa and Asia with a total of 13 and 10, respectively.

- ◆ **Third Section:** The number of countries with terrorism higher than the Second Section countries was 32 countries, accounting for 19.6%. The Third Section countries were across Africa, South and Central America, Europe and Asia, with a total of 8, 8, 7 and 6, respectively.
- ◆ **Fourth Section:** The number of countries that are at a high level of terrorism is 27 countries, making up 16.5% of the total countries, with Asia at the highest level with a total of 9 countries, followed by Africa, then Europe with a total of 8 and 6, respectively.
- ◆ **Fifth Section:** The number of countries experiencing a very high state of terrorism is 17 countries, accounting for 10.4% of the total countries. This level included 9 countries from Africa, 7 from Asia, and a country in Europe, and another from South America.
- ◆ **Sixth Section:** The number of countries experiencing the harshest cases of terrorism is 3 countries, at a rate of 1.8% of the total countries; two countries in Asia: Afghanistan, Iraq, and one country in Africa; Nigeria.

The status of countries at these levels do not show significant changes from their status last year, as most of them remained within the general average, and no level underwent a significant reduction or expansion.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region recorded a significant improvement over the past year with an improvement of 18 countries, while only Yemen recorded a deterioration in the score. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the region has made an improvement. The deaths in the MENA region represented 40% of the total global terrorism deaths since 2002. However, since the defeat and demise of ISIS, the MENA region percentage has decreased significantly; it represented only 13% of the total deaths in 2019, after South Asia and the Sahara in Africa.

In the MENA region, the largest decrease in deaths was in Iraq last year; the number of deaths from terrorism decreased by 47% in 2019, followed by Syria, with a decrease of about 44%. The main driver for this improvement was the decrease in attacks committed by ISIS, as it decreased by 49% in Iraq from 2018 to 2019. Conversely, ISIS attacks in Syria increased by 31% in 2019. However, deaths decreased

by 67%, indicating a lower death rate. ISIS attacks in Syria resulted in an average of 3.8 deaths per attack in 2019, compared to 15.1 in 2018.

Outside Iraq and Syria, ISIS-affiliated groups in Iraq and the Levant throughout the MENA region remained active in 2019, with Sinai Province responsible for 58% of the attacks in Egypt, which represents more than half of the terrorist deaths. Although Tunisia stepped up counterterrorism efforts against ISIS-linked groups, it recorded a slight increase in ISIS-linked terrorist attacks in 2019.

Bahrain, Lebanon, Algeria, Kuwait and Morocco recorded the largest improvements in score in the MENA region. In 2019, Bahrain did not record a single terrorist attack for the first time since 2009, while Bahrain recorded a total of 165 terrorist attacks since 2002, which resulted in 29 deaths.

Lebanon recorded four attacks in 2019, down from a peak of 132 in 2014. Of the four attacks, two were attributed to ISIS, while the other two attacks were attributed to unknown entities. Algeria, Kuwait, and Morocco did not record any attacks in 2019. In Algeria, this was the first year without terrorist attacks since the GTI was launched.

Yemen was the only country in the MENA region that deteriorated in 2019, recording an increase in terrorist activity in 2019, with attacks and deaths increasing by 67% and 31%, respectively.

SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

The impact of terrorism generally decreased in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2019; 22 countries recorded improvement, 12 countries recorded a decline, and 10 countries recorded no terrorist activity at all. Of the ten countries that experienced the largest decline in deaths from terrorism globally, seven were in Sub-Saharan Africa. In general, deaths from terrorism in the region remained stable at 4,635, compared to 4,523 in 2018. While this is still below the peak in 2014, it is 200% more than the previous decade. In total, fewer than 50,000 people have been killed in terrorist attacks in the region since 2002.

On the GTI, South Asia had the highest average GTI score of any region, which is a position held since the inception of the GTI in 2002. The impact of terrorism increased across the region from 2018 to 2019, due to deteriorations in score in Sri Lanka along with Nepal. However, there were improvements elsewhere across the region; Afghanistan recorded an improvement in score and a reduction in total deaths in terrorism for the first time in the past five years. The largest deterioration across the region happened to Sri Lanka,

which experienced a rise in deaths from terrorism from one in 2018, to 266 in 2019. The biggest improvement in the impact of terrorism in South Asia was realized by Pakistan, with the number of incidents dropping from 369 in 2018 to 279 in 2019.

RUSSIA AND EURASIA

The average impact of terrorism score improved in the Russia and Eurasia region; nine countries recorded improvements, while two countries made no change and only Tajikistan recorded a deterioration. By and large, the region recorded 33 terrorist attacks in 2019, which was a decrease from 57 in 2018, with 52 deaths being recorded. The number of people killed in terrorist attacks across the region fell every year for the past five years, decreasing from a peak of 710 deaths in 2014. Both Belarus and Turkmenistan received scores of zero of terrorist attacks in the past five years.

EUROPE

Across 23 of its 36 countries, Europe recorded improvements in 2019 and is the third best performing region,

following Central America and the Caribbean and Russia and Eurasia. Eight countries deteriorated last year, while five countries recorded no change in score.

Europe recorded 58 deaths from terrorism in 2019, of which 40 deaths occurred in Turkey. Turkey remains the most impacted country, although its score recorded improvement based on a significant reduction in deaths and attacks from 2015 to 2019. The United Kingdom was the second most impacted country in Europe. However, attacks fell by 17% in 2019, recording four deaths recorded in 2019, vis-à-vis two in 2018. Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded the largest improvement in score in 2019, followed by Austria and Sweden. Austria recorded no terrorist attacks in 2019, while Sweden recorded one attack and no fatalities. Remarkably, Norway, Denmark, Hungary and the Netherlands had the most severe deteriorations in 2019.

NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA

The number of deaths from terrorism rose in North America, recording 39 deaths in 2019 vis-à-vis 27 deaths in 2018. However, the total number of

Attacked by	Deaths	Country	Date
Taliban	266	Sri Lanka	21/04/19
Boko Haram	157	Mali	23/03/19
ISIS (Khorasan Branch)	129	Afghanistan	21/01/19
Al-Shabaab	101	Cameroon	09/06/19
ISIS (Khorasan Branch)	93	Afghanistan	17/08/19
Boko Haram	84	Somalia	28/12/19
Taliban	74	Afghanistan	18/10/19
Boko Haram	70	Nigeria	27/07/19
ISIS in Sub-Saharan Africa	65	Afghanistan	23/03/19
Nasrat of Islam and Muslims (JINNIM)	60	Nigeria	28/01/19
Group of anti-Muslim extremists	57	Burkina Faso	24/12/19
Taliban	53	Mali	30/09/19
ISIS	51	New Zea-land	15/03/19
Boko Haram	51	Afghanistan	30/05/19
Army of Muhammad (JEM)	50	Syria	24/01/19
Taliban	50	Cameroon	22/12/19
Taliban	41	India	14/02/19
Houthi extremist group (Ansar Allah)	41	Afghanistan	13/04/19
Taliban	40	Afghanistan	30/06/19
Boko Haram	40	Yemen	01/08/19

20 LARGEST TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE WORLD IN 2019 BY NUMBER OF FATALITIES

20 LARGEST TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE WORLD IN 2019

The GTI measures terrorist attacks in terms of severity of threat based on the number of deaths; the most severe terrorist incidents occurred in 2019. This took place in 19 countries affected by several attacks, which differed in their severity, number and number of deaths. The GTI provided deeper understanding of terrorist attacks by identifying the city that was subjected to terror, and the method of attack.

incidents fell from 71 to 58, accounting for an 18% decrease. The last six years experienced a sustained rise in terrorism across the region, with at least 30 attacks and 20 deaths recorded across the USA and Canada for every year since 2014.

South America made an improvement in the impact of terrorism across the region over the past year; nine countries improved their score, and two recorded a deterioration. Remarkably, total deaths from terrorism fell by 22%, from 150 in 2018 to 117 in 2019. However, the overall level of terrorism remains much higher than two decades ago, given the fact that nine countries increased their levels of terrorism in 2019 vis-à-vis 2002.

IMCTC COUNTRIES

IMCTC has 41 member countries. The GTI provided an assessment terrorism in 38 IMCTC member countries, accounting for 93% of the total number of the IMCTC member countries. The IMCTC member countries not assessed by the GTI Brunei Darussalam, the Maldives, and the Comoro Islands. In the subsequent sections, an overall summary of terrorism in the IMCTC member countries that have been assessed by the GTI. Drawing on the four sections of the GTI value that expresses the degree of terrorism in the target country, the following table illustrates terrorism in the IMCTC member countries assessed by the GTI, within the six sections of the GTI measurement scale.

- ◆ In the First Section of measuring terrorism, which refers to the zero level of terrorism according to the GTI, we find that 6 IMCTC member countries fall in this section, i.e., 15% of the total countries.

We find that four countries thereof fall in Africa, and two in Asia.

- ◆ In the Second Section of measuring terrorism, which refers to the limited spread of terrorism, we find that 10 IMCTC member countries are linked to this section; that is, 24% of all the IMCTC member countries, with eight countries in Africa, and two in Asia.
- ◆ In the Third Section which refers to the presence of terrorism higher than the Second Section, we find that 6 IMCTC member countries are linked to this section; that is, 15% of all IMCTC member countries, with two countries in Africa and the others fall in Asia.
- ◆ In the Fourth Section of measuring terrorism, which represents a higher degree of terrorism than the Third Section, we find that 6 IMCTC member countries of are linked to this section; that is, 15% of the total of these countries; three countries are in Africa, and the other three countries fall in Asia.
- ◆ In the Fifth Section of measuring terrorism in which the degree of terrorism is high, we find that 8 IMCTC member countries are linked to this section; i.e., 20% of the total of these countries; three countries are located in Asia, four in Africa, and one in Europe.
- ◆ In the Sixth Section of measuring terrorism, which represents the highest degree of terrorism, we find that 2 IMCTC member countries are linked to this section, making up 5% of all these countries. One of these countries fall in Africa, and the other countries fall in Asia.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IMCTC MEMBER COUNTRIES AS CATEGORIZED BY GTI 2020

10 ←	8 ←	6 ←	4 ←	2 ←	0
6	10	6	6	8	2
(%) 5	(%) 20	(%) 15	(%) 15	(%) 24	(%) 15
Afghanistan Nigeria	Pakistan Somalia Yemen Egypt Libya Mali Turkey Burkina Faso	Sudan Niger Saudi Arabia Bangladesh Palestine Chad	Uganda Tunisia Bahrain Jordan Malaysia Lebanon	Morocco Senegal Guinea Gabon Sierra Leone Djibouti Benin Côte d'Ivoire Qatar Kuwait	UAE Togo Gambia Amman Guinea-Bissau Mauritania

TERRORISM MEASURED BY THE GTI IN THE IMCTC MEMBER COUNTRIES

TERRORISM TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Many countries have reviewed their policies and taken measures in tune with the local context and with understanding the root causes of youth involvement in terrorist groups. Accordingly, many countries have used soft power, including the use of returning fighters who have successfully completed rehabilitation and reintegration programs, and a number of returning fighters volunteered to lead a vital role in countering violent extremism. Equally important, countries launched awareness programs for youth and programs to enhance skills to engage in job positions that transform their capabilities into a reality for the interest of the public good, which in turn reinforces the importance of soft approaches that address the driving factors and root causes of terrorism and combat the phenomenon from its roots, and it is noted that:

- ◆ Deaths from terrorism are now 59% less than those in 2014; the biggest fall in deaths was in Iraq, Syria and Nigeria.
- ◆ The overall fall in deaths due to terrorism reduced the number of countries suffering from deaths from terrorism; 63 countries recorded at least one death from terrorism in 2019, the lowest number since 2013.
- ◆ The impact of terrorism declined in seven of the world's nine regions in 2019.
- ◆ South Asia recorded the largest deterioration, followed by Central America and the Caribbean; yet, Central America and the Caribbean remain the region with the lowest terrorist impact, over the past 17 years.
- ◆ The MENA region recorded the largest regional improvement for the second year in a row; death rate in the MENA region decreased by 87% since 2016, reaching its lowest level since 2003.
- ◆ Recently, terrorist activity has focused on South Asia and Sub-Sahara Africa. Both regions recorded more deaths as a result of terrorist acts than in the MENA region since 2018.

As the level of terrorist activity continued to decrease in the MENA region, new terrorist threats began to crop up, most notably the spread of ISIS-affiliated groups in Sub-Sahara Africa, where 41% of the total ISIS-linked attacks occurred across the region, and far-right terrorism increased significantly in Western Europe and North America, where one far-right terrorist attack was recorded in 2010; this number increased to 49 in 2019.

The global spread of ISIS has steadily expanded, with attacks linked to the group recorded in seven regions; namely, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the MENA region, North America, Russia, Eurasia, South Asia, Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. Groups and individuals associated with ISIS outside Iraq and Syria have carried out more than 3,000 attacks in 48 countries since 2013, and the number of countries that recorded an ISIS-linked attack increased from two countries in 2013 to 27 countries in 2019.

In the West, ISIS launched at least 78 terrorist attacks between 2014 and 2019, killing 471 people. France has the largest number of ISIS-related deaths, followed by the United States and Belgium. However, there was only one attack in the West in 2019.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM IN 2019

Economy remains the most sensitive indicator for terrorist attacks, and one of the main drivers of terrorists. The GTI 2020 provides a comprehensive summary of the impact of the world economy in six main points.

- The global economic impact of terrorism in 2019 accounted for \$ 26.4 billion, which is a 25% decrease from 2018, mainly due to a decrease in deaths from terrorism in the MENA region.
- The economic impact of terrorism has decreased over the past five years; it is now 77% lower than it was in 2014.
- Afghanistan was the country with the greatest economic impact, accounting for 16.7% of GDP.
- Nine of the ten countries with the largest economic impact of terrorism suffer from ongoing conflict.



- Deaths 61,2%
- GDP losses 35,2%
- Destruction of property 2,5%
- Injuries 1,1%

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM, 2019

- Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia recorded the highest rates in terms of global economic impact, at \$ 12.5 and 5.6 billion, respectively.
- North America recorded the largest regional percentage in its economic impact, increasing by 44.9% over the previous year, largely due to the increase in far-right terrorism.

The previous figure represents the economic impact of terrorist operations:

Sri Lanka is at the forefront of countries economically affected by terrorist incidents, with an estimated impact of nearly \$ 954 million in 2019, while New Zealand came second with a value of \$ 532.7 million, and the United States came third with a value of \$ 297.1 million, and Burkina Faso came fourth with \$ 270 million.

TERRORISM AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic can provide opportunities for terrorist groups to coordinate and orchestrate their operations and their territory; governments shift their attention from counterterrorism operations to addressing a public health crisis. When the government presence is already poor or disputed, there can be an opportunity for terrorist organizations to become an alternative service provider by supporting the local population with basic services or social care.

Be it an epidemic or pandemic, the crisis also provides an audience tied down and cuffed for terrorist groups, facilitating extremism and recruitment efforts. Al-Qaeda and ISIS issued official statements regarding the pandemic, providing guidance to stop the spread of the virus, but also couched in messages targeting new recruits. Al-Qaeda suggested that non-Muslims in the West should take advantage of this era to convert to Islam, and ISIS urged its followers to actively continue global jihad, taking advantage of the tense and uneasy government and uncomfortable security forces to launch attacks.

Far-right groups saw the pandemic as an opportunity to fuel existing narratives, with a rise in racist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic or anti-immigrant hate speech.

However, the pandemic has also presented operational challenges for terrorist groups, with lockdown and travel restrictions. This makes it increasingly difficult for terrorists to move, recruit, increase revenue, or launch attacks. The measures taken to combat the virus reduced the crowds, and thus the number of potential terrorist targets. As for global groups, such as ISIS, the pandemic is likely to have an impact on carrying out large-scale and sophisticated attacks abroad; yet, terrorist groups operating locally, or lone wolves, may have less severe impact.

The increase in government deficits caused by increased public spending during the pandemic is likely to have a

negative impact on counterterrorism budgets. In general, cuts in counterterrorism budgets may impede domestic or international counterterrorism operations, particularly in the MENA region and Sub-Sahara Africa.

COVID-19 pandemic has already affected the operations carried out by the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and some members of the International Coalition announced the withdrawal of forces from Iraq, or planning their withdrawal, due to fears of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and the spread of disease among staff and personnel. COVID-19 pandemic delayed plans to bring back former affiliates to ISIS, including the many women and children who remained in Al-Hol camp in Syria.

CONCLUSION

The GTI 2020 has monitored the main global trends and patterns of terrorism over the past fifty years, with special attention to trends in the past decade. The current time is marked with the rise and fall of ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Deaths from terrorism decreased for the fifth year in a row in 2019, after peaking in 2014. The total number of deaths decreased by 15.15% to 13,826. The decrease in deaths was reflected in a decrease in the impact of terrorism, as 103 countries recorded an improvement in their scores in the GTI, compared to 35 countries that recorded a deterioration.

Afghanistan experienced the largest decrease in the impact of terrorism; yet, Afghanistan is still the country most affected by terrorism, having overtaken Iraq in 2018. Nigeria recorded the second largest decrease in deaths from terrorism in 2019.

Conflict remains the main driver of terrorism. More than 96% of deaths caused by terrorism in 2019 occurred in countries ravaged and plagued by conflict and internal disruption. The strength and influence of ISIS has retreated, as the deaths attributed to the said group decreased in 2019 to 942, compared to 1571 in the previous year. In the same vein, Burkina Faso experienced the largest increase in deaths due to terrorism, and Sri Lanka recorded the second largest increase in 2019. South Asia remains the region worst affected by terrorism in 2019, despite improvements in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

The countries of the world suffered heavy losses and a heavy financial cost due to terrorism, and the global economic impact of terrorism reached 16.4 billion US dollars in 2019; i.e., 25% less than in 2018.

COVID-19 pandemic changed the government's attention in terms of focusing on fighting the pandemic, and the financial allocations for health care, which in turn weakened many government systems, and terrorist attacks were also affected in light of COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.





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