

# GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2020 BRIEFING

MEASURING THE IMPACT  
OF TERRORISM

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## MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM

In the 2020 Global Terrorism Index, deaths from terrorism fell for the fifth consecutive year, after peaking in 2014. The total number of deaths fell by 15.5 per cent to 13,826. The fall in deaths was mirrored by a reduction in the impact of terrorism, with 103 countries recording an improvement on their GTI score, compared to 35 that recorded a deterioration.

## 2020 Key Findings

- Deaths from terrorism fell for the fifth consecutive year in 2019 to 13,826 deaths, representing a 15 per cent decrease from the prior year.
- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Russia and Eurasia, South America and South Asia regions all recorded falls in deaths from terrorism of at least 20 per cent.
- Although terrorism has fallen in most regions, it has become more widespread in others. Seven of the ten countries with the largest increase in terrorism were in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Burkina Faso had the largest increase in terrorism, where deaths increased by 590 per cent to 593. This was followed by Sri Lanka where terrorism deaths increased from one in 2018 to 266 in 2019.
- Afghanistan remains the country with the highest impact from terrorism. However, terrorism deaths in the country declined in 2019 for the first time in three years.

**1** FOR MORE OF SECTION 1: RESULTS, SEE THE 2020 REPORT

## Five most & least impacted countries

In the 2020 Global Terrorism Index, the impact of terrorism improved for 103 countries compared to 35 that deteriorated over the last year. However, the overall impact of terrorism was still higher in 79 countries when compared to five years ago.

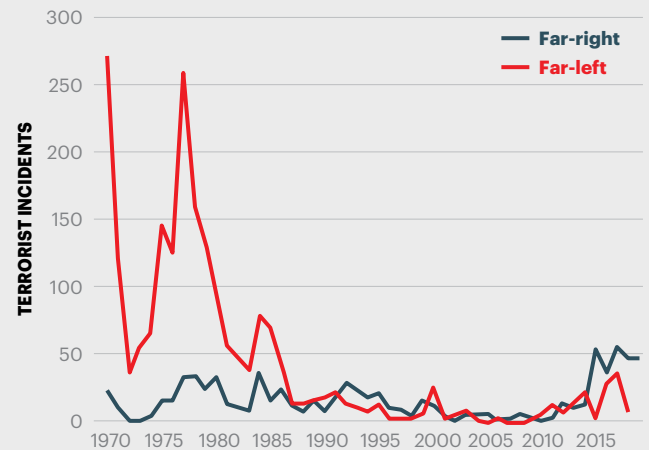
MOST IMPACTED	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1 ● Afghanistan	9.592	↔
2 ● Iraq	8.682	↔
3 ● Nigeria	8.314	↔
4 ● Syria	7.778	↔
5 ● Somalia	7.645	↑ 1

LEAST IMPACTED	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
=135 ● The Gambia	0.000	↔
=135 ● Timor-Leste	0.000	↔
=135 ● Togo	0.000	↔
=135 ● Turkmenistan	0.000	↔
=135 ● United Arab Emirates	0.000	↓ 34

**1** FOR MORE OF SECTION 1: RESULTS, SEE THE 2020 REPORT

## Far-right and far-left terrorist incidents in the West, 1970–2019

Terrorism in the West peaked in the 1970s.

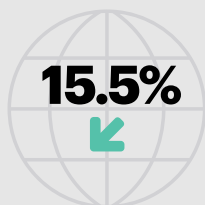


Source: START GTD, IEP calculations

**4** FOR MORE OF SECTION 4: THE SHIFTING LANDSCAPE OF TERRORISM, SEE THE 2020 REPORT

## 2019 Overview

GLOBAL DEATHS FROM TERRORISM, 2019



Deaths from terrorism have decreased by 15.5% in 2019 to 13,826 globally.

MOST IMPACTED COUNTRY

**22.4%** ↓

The largest fall in the impact of terrorism occurred in Afghanistan, which recorded 1,654 fewer deaths from terrorism in 2018, a 22.4 per cent decrease from the prior year.



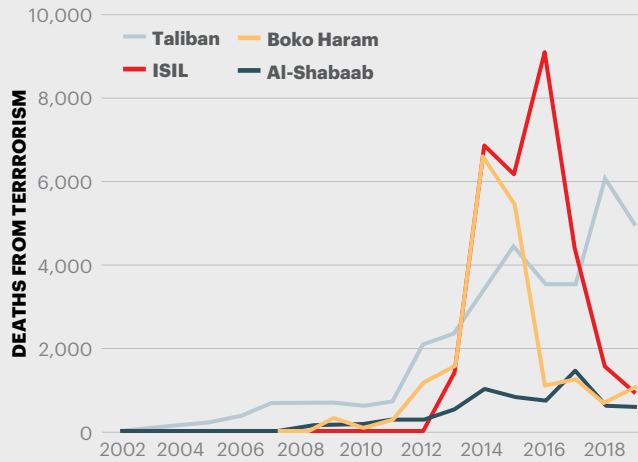
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM

**44.9%** ↑

North America had the largest regional percentage increase in its economic impact, increasing by 44.9 per cent from the previous year, owing largely to an increase in far-right terrorism.

## Four deadliest terrorist groups in 2019 (2002–2019)

The Taliban were the deadliest terrorist group for the second consecutive year.

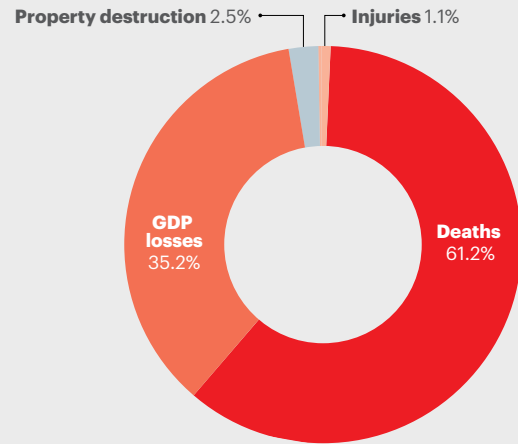


Source: START GTD, IEP calculations

**1** FOR MORE OF SECTION 1: RESULTS, SEE THE 2020 REPORT

## Breakdown of the economic impact of terrorism, 2019

Deaths account for just over 61 per cent of the economic impact of terrorism.

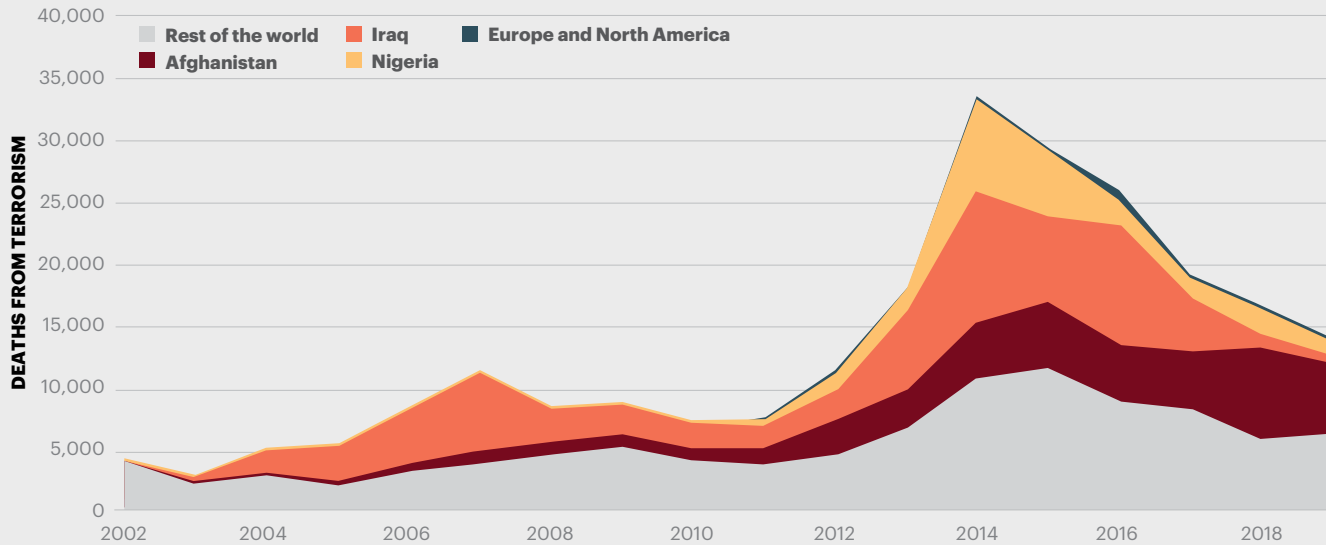


Source: IEP

**2** FOR MORE OF SECTION 2: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM, SEE THE 2020 REPORT

## Deaths from terrorism, 2002–2019

Total deaths have decreased 59 per cent from their peak in 2014.



Source: START GTD, IEP calculations

**3** FOR MORE OF SECTION 3: TRENDS IN TERRORISM, SEE THE 2020 REPORT

### FAR-RIGHT TERRORISM

# 49

Far-right terrorism has increased substantially in the West. There was one recorded far-right terrorist attack in 2010, this had increased to 49 in 2019.



### THE SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

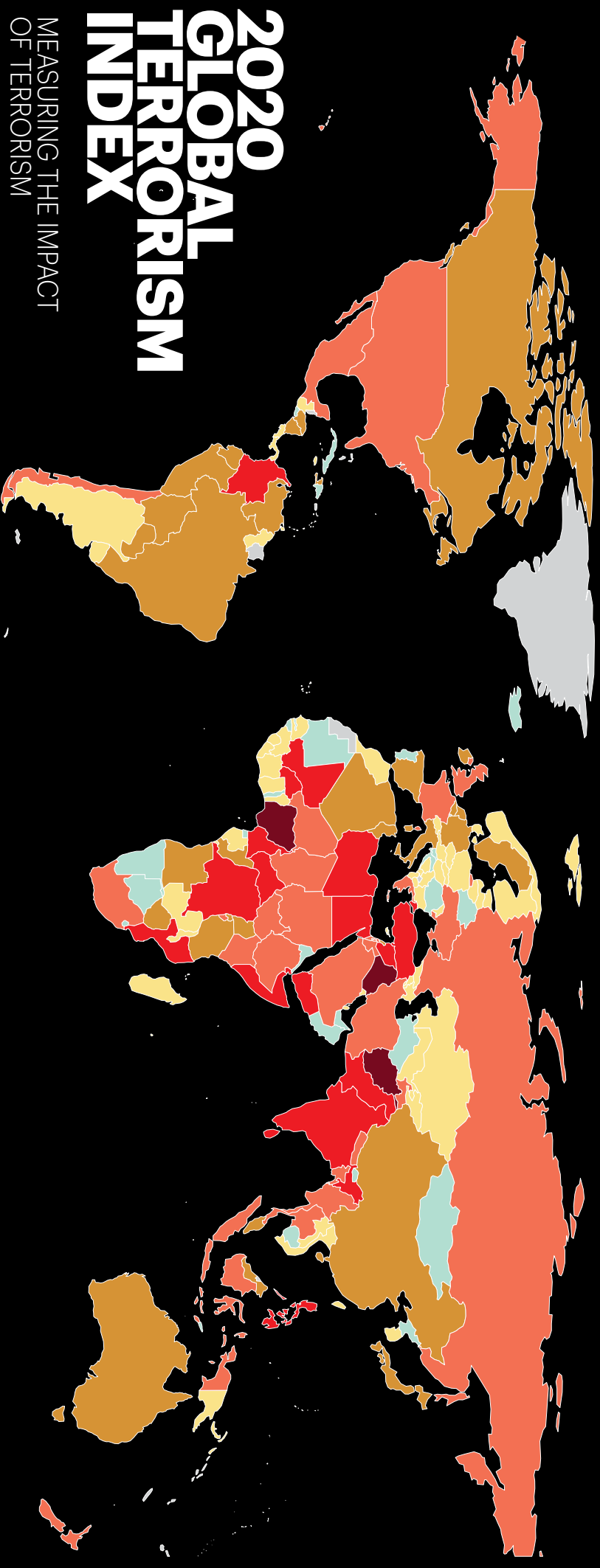
In the West, ISIL directed or inspired at least 78 terror attacks between 2014 and 2019, resulting in 471 fatalities. However, there was only one attack recorded in the West in 2019.

### THE SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

# 41%

Forty-one per cent of total ISIL-related deaths in 2019 occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting the shift in ISIL-related attacks away from the Middle East.





The Global Terrorism Index, produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), ranks 163 countries (99.7% of the world's population) according to 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators of peace.

See the full list of rankings and explore the data on the interactive map at [visionofhumanity.org](http://visionofhumanity.org). Click on a country to see the levels of peacefulness, compare two or more countries and use the timeline to see the changes in levels of peacefulness since 2002.

The GTI is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney with offices in New York, The Hague, Mexico City, Brussels and Harare. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



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