GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2020 BRIEFING
MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM
Institute for Economics & Peace
2020 GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX BRIEFING
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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOST IMPACTED</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>8.682</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>7.778</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>7.645</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>LEAST IMPACTED</th>
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<tr>
<td>=135</td>
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<td>Turkmenistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>=135</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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Terrorism in the West peaked in the 1970s.

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.

Download the full report, including detailed charts, methods and country profiles at VisionOfHumanity.org.
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.

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

Deaths from terrorism, 2002–2019

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

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

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

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. Click on a country to see the levels of peacefulness. 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.

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