![START - NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM]
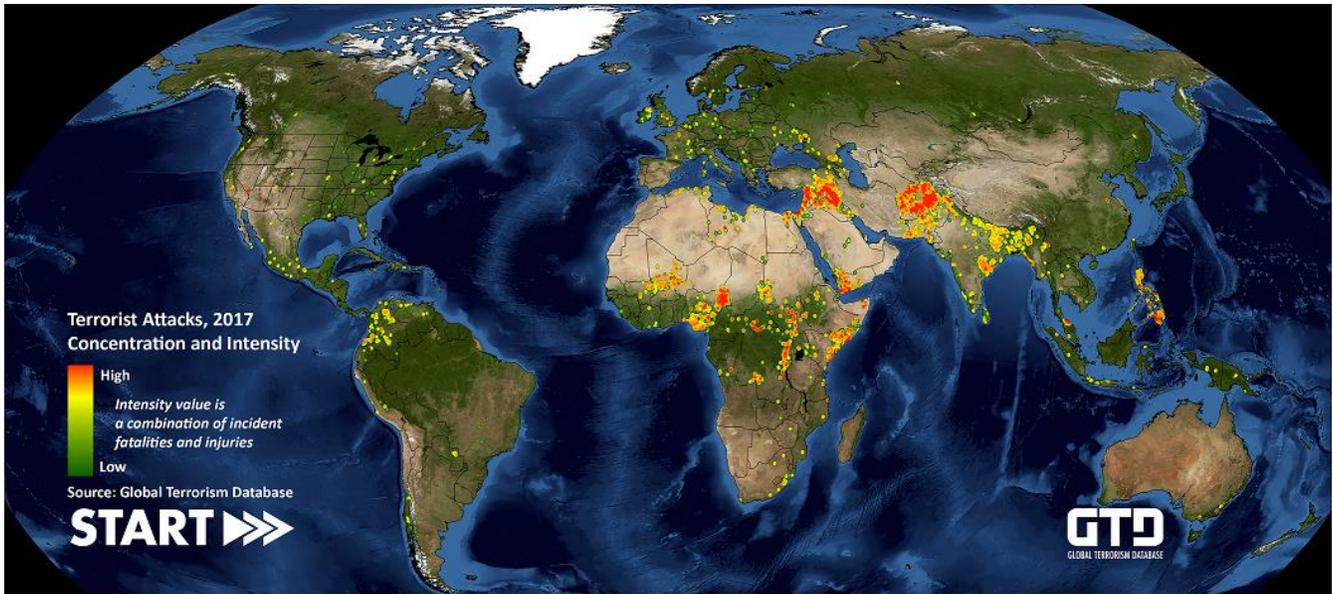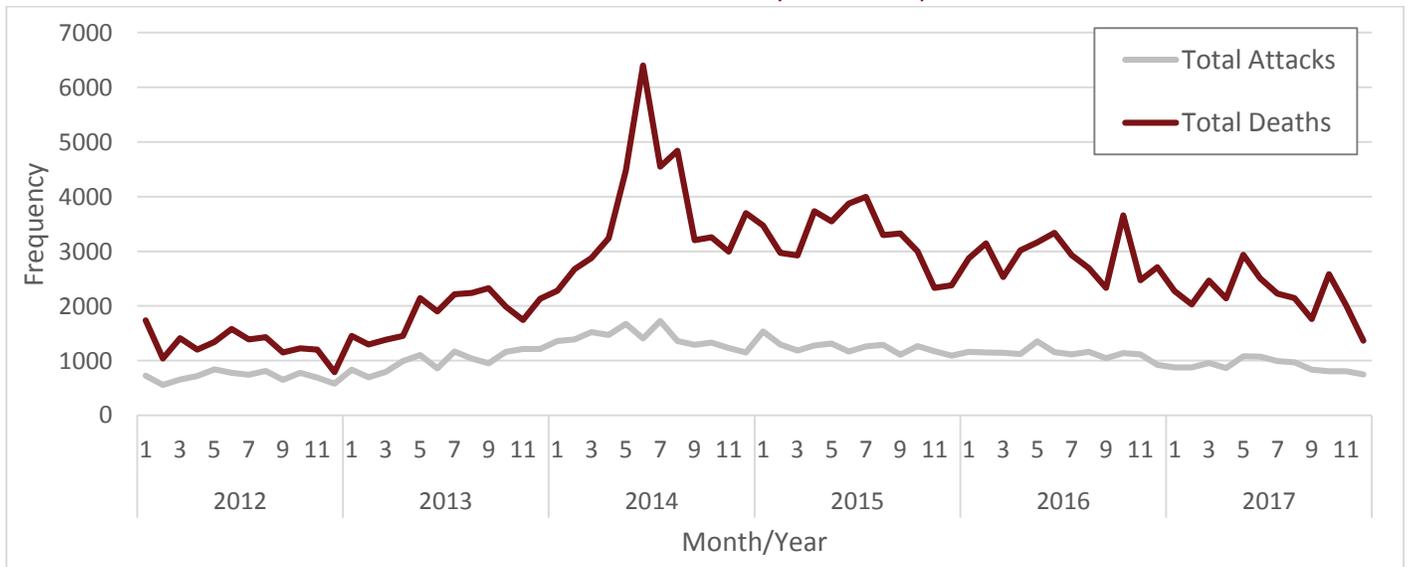
Global Terrorism in 2017

OVERVIEW

- In 2017, there were 10,900 terrorist attacks around the world, which killed more than 26,400 people, including 8,075 perpetrators and 18,488 victims. The patterns described here provide a very general overview. We encourage readers to explore the Global Terrorism Database and consider contextual information for a comprehensive assessment.
- 2017 marks the third consecutive year of declining numbers of terrorist attacks and deaths worldwide, since terrorist violence peaked in 2014 at nearly 17,000 attacks and more than 45,000 total deaths.
- The deadliest terrorist attack in 2017 took place in October, in Mogadishu, Somalia. Assailants detonated explosives in a truck near the Safari Hotel. More than 580 people were killed, and more than 300 others were injured.
- Terrorist violence remains extraordinarily high compared to historical trends. In the decade prior to the September 11th attacks, the frequency and lethality of terrorist violence each year was less than one-third of what took place in 2017.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AND TOTAL DEATHS, BY MONTH, 2012 - 2017

LOCATION

- Terrorist violence remained heavily concentrated in certain locations and coincided with other types of political violence. More than half of all attacks took place in four countries: Iraq (23%), Afghanistan (13%), India (9%), and Pakistan (7%). More than half of all deaths took place in three countries: Iraq (24%), Afghanistan (23%), and Syria (8%).

TERRORIST ATTACKS AND TOTAL DEATHS IN 2017, BY REGION

Region	Total Attacks	% of Total	% Change from 2016	Total Deaths	% of Total	% Change from 2016
Middle East & North Africa	3780	35%	-38%	10819	41%	-44%
South Asia	3430	31%	-6%	7664	29%	-2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	1970	18%	-5%	6712	25%	1%
Southeast Asia	1020	9%	-5%	811	3%	27%
Western Europe	291	3%	7%	83	0%	-65%
South America	172	2%	8%	101	0%	16%
Eastern Europe	110	1%	-18%	101	0%	-10%
North America	97	1%	29%	124	0%	70%
Australasia & Oceania	12	0%	20%	4	0%	
Central Asia	7	0%	-59%	6	0%	-71%
East Asia	7	0%	-13%	16	0%	-50%
Central America & Caribbean	4	0%	33%	4	0%	-56%
Worldwide Total	**10900**	**100%**	**-20%**	**26445**	**100%**	**-24%**

- Several locations experienced especially large decreases in terrorist violence between 2016 and 2017. These include:
  - Turkey, where the number of terrorist attacks decreased 67% and the number of total deaths decreased 78%.
  - Yemen, where the number of terrorist attacks decreased 57% and the number of total deaths decreased 50%.
  - Saudi Arabia, where the number of terrorist attacks decreased 56% and the number of total deaths decreased 81%.
  - Libya, where the number of terrorist attacks decreased 55% and the number of total deaths decreased 81%.
- Several locations experienced especially large increases in terrorist violence between 2016 and 2017. These include:
  - Nepal, where the number of terrorist attacks increased 474%, though these attacks were rarely lethal.
  - Cameroon, where the number of terrorist attacks increased 68%, though the number of total deaths decreased 15%.
  - Myanmar (Burma), where the number of terrorist attacks increased 55% and the number of total deaths increased 199%.
  - Kenya, where the number of terrorist attacks increased 49% and the number of total deaths increased 75%.
- In the United States, there were 65 terrorist attacks in 2017, compared to 64 in 2016. However, terrorist attacks in the United States killed 91 victims in 2017, a 49% increase compared to the number of victim deaths in 2016.
- There were 17 lethal terrorist attacks in the United States in 2017, compared to six in 2016.
  - The deadliest attack in the United States took place in October, in Las Vegas, where an anti-government extremist shot and killed 58 people attending a music festival, and wounded more than 850 others.
  - Also in October, an assailant inspired by the Islamic State drove a rental truck into people on a bike path for approximately one mile in New York City. The attack killed eight people, including several tourists, and injured at least 12 others.
  - Other lethal attacks in the United States took place in California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, and Virginia, and attackers were motivated by a variety of ideological goals.

PERPETRATORS

- Information on the perpetrator of the attack was reported for 60% of all attacks worldwide in 2017. In 100 attacks, the individual perpetrator or perpetrators were identified, but they were not known to be affiliated with a particular organization. This marks an increase in the number of attacks carried out by unaffiliated individuals, compared to 76 such attacks in 2016. The overall lethality and average lethality of attacks carried out by unaffiliated individuals decreased in 2017, when these attacks resulted in 173 deaths, compared to 218 in 2016.
- In 2017, 369 groups and organizations carried out terrorist attacks worldwide. This was consistent with the pattern in 2016, when 370 groups and organizations were identified as perpetrators of terrorist attacks. The perpetrator groups responsible for the most attacks in 2017 are shown in the table below.

Twenty Most Active Perpetrator Groups, 2017

Perpetrator Group	Attacks	% Change from 2016	Total Deaths	% Change from 2016
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)	1321	-10%	7120	-40%
Taliban	907	-15%	4925	-3%
Al-Shabaab	573	1%	1894	20%
New People's Army (NPA)	363	111%	200	102%
Boko Haram	337	35%	1577	6%
Communist Party of India - Maoist (CPI-Maoist)/Maoists	317	-12%	223	15%
Khorasan Province of the Islamic State	197	77%	1302	56%
Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)	159	-58%	190	-75%
Houthi extremists (Ansar Allah)	158	-56%	443	-50%
Sinai Province of the Islamic State	117	-20%	636	87%
Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	106	-7%	500	14%
Fulani extremists	79	-51%	344	-59%
Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM)	73	33%	53	66%
Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM)	70	-	1	-
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)	65	-11%	72	3%
Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN)	62	130%	15	67%
National Liberation Army of Colombia (ELN)	61	-27%	47	31%
Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist (CPN-Maoist-Chand)	61	177%	2	-
Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM)	59	-	161	-
Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)	49	188%	47	88%

GLOBAL TERRORISM DATABASE

The data presented here are drawn from START's Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and reports from news media. The GTD contains information on more than 180,000 terrorist attacks that occurred around the world since 1970. For more information about the GTD, visit www.start.umd.edu/gtd.

START ▶▶

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