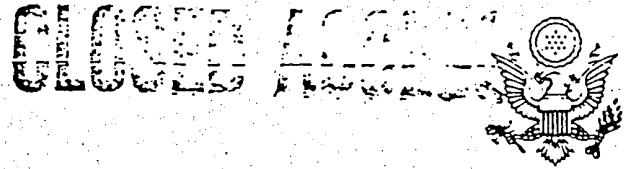


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United States Department of State



PATTERNS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM: 1990

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PATTERNS
OF GLOBAL
TERRORISM:
1990

Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1990

Introduction

The continuing decline in the number of international terrorist incidents during 1990 is encouraging. From a peak of 856 in 1988, the number of incidents decreased to 455 in 1990. Even more encouraging are the increasing counterterrorist cooperation among governments and our numerous successes in bringing the rule of law to bear on terrorists.

As part of our overall counterterrorist strategy, the United States works with other governments to identify, apprehend, and prosecute terrorists. Many terrorist trials were successfully completed in 1990, and many more cases are still in progress.

Through training provided under the Department of State's Anti-Terrorism Training Assistance Program, we have improved the ability of other governments to preempt, or to investigate and prosecute, terrorist attacks. The program has been extremely successful, and in 1990 for the first time law enforcement officials from the newly democratic East European states participated.

Another important element of our counterterrorist effort, the Rewards for Terrorism Information Program, received a significant boost in 1990. This program provides rewards for information that leads to the "prevention, frustration, or favorable resolution of terrorist acts against US persons or properties overseas." Late in 1989, Congress increased the ceiling for an individual reward to \$2 million. Rewards of more than \$500,000 have been paid under this program. In 1990, the Air Transport Association (ATA) and the Air Line Pilots' Association (ALPA) matched the reward ceiling with \$2 million to create a potential \$4 million reward for information about attacks on civil aviation.

Despite this good news, the threat of terrorism remains. Still, the progress we have made reinforces our conviction that our counterterrorist policy is working and that continued vigilance will increase the effectiveness of our efforts.

Legislative Requirements

This report is submitted in compliance with Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f (a), which requires the Department of State to provide Congress with a full and complete annual report on terrorism for those countries and groups meeting the criteria of Section (a) (1) and (2) of the Act.

As required by legislation, the report includes detailed assessments of foreign countries where significant terrorist acts occurred and countries about which Congress was notified during the preceding five years pursuant to Section 6 (j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (the so-called terrorist list countries that have repeatedly provided support for international terrorism). In addition, the report includes all relevant information about the previous year's activities of individuals, terrorist groups, or umbrella groups under which such terrorist groups fall, known to be responsible for the kidnapping or death of any American citizen during the preceding five years, and groups known to be financed by "terrorist list" countries.

Definitions

No one definition of terrorism has gained universal acceptance. For the purposes of this report, we use the definition of terrorism contained in Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f (d). That statute contains the following definitions:

- The term terrorism means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.*

*For purposes of this definition, the term noncombatant target is interpreted to include, in addition to civilians, military personnel who at the time of the incident are unarmed and/or not on duty. For example, in past reports we have listed as terrorist incidents the murders of the following military personnel: Col. James Rowe, killed in Manila in April 1989; Capt. William Nordeen, US defense attache, killed in Athens in June 1988; the two servicemen killed in the La Belle disco bombing in West Berlin in April 1986; and the four off-duty US Embassy Marine guards killed in a cafe in El Salvador in June 1985. We also consider as acts of terrorism attacks on military installations or on armed military personnel when a state of military hostilities does not exist at the site, such as bombings against US bases in Europe, the Philippines, or elsewhere.

- The term international terrorism means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country.
- The term terrorist group means any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism.

The United States Government has employed this definition of terrorism for statistical and analytical purposes since 1983.

In a number of countries, domestic terrorism, or an active insurgency, has a greater impact on the level of political violence than does international terrorism. Although not the primary purpose of this report, we have attempted to indicate those areas where this is the case.

Note

Adverse mention in this report of individual members of any political, social, ethnic, religious, or national group is not meant to imply that all members of that group are terrorists. Indeed, terrorists represent a small minority of dedicated, often fanatical, individuals in most such groups. It is that small group—and their actions—that is the subject of this report.

Ambassador Morris D. Busby
Coordinator for Counterterrorism

Foreign Political Hostages Released in 1990 and January 1991

Name/Nationality/Profession	Date/Place Kidnapped	Kidnapping Claimed by	Status
Fernand Houtekins, Belgium	November 1987 Mediterranean	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released 10 April
Jacqueline Valente, France	November 1987	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released 10 April
Sophie-Liberte Valente, France	Born in captivity	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released 10 April
Robert Polhill, United States, Beirut University College (BUC), educator	24 January 1987 West Beirut	Oppressed of the Earth; and Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine	Released 22 April
Frank Reed, United States, Director, Lebanese International School	9 September 1986 West Beirut	Ba'th Cells Organization; and Arab Revolutionary Cells	Released 30 April
Emmanuel Christian, Switzerland, Red Cross official	5 October 1989 Lebanon	No claim	Released 8 August
Elio Erriquez, Switzerland, Red Cross official	5 October 1989 Lebanon	No claim	Released 13 August
Brian Keenan, Ireland/United Kingdom, American University of Beirut (AUB), educator	11 April 1986 West Beirut	No claim	Released 24 August
Emmanuel Houtekins, Belgium	November 1987 Mediterranean	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released January 1991
Laurent Houtekins, Belgium	November 1987 Mediterranean	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released January 1991
Valire Houtekins, Belgium	November 1987 Mediterranean	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released January 1991
Godlieve Kets, Belgium	November 1987 Mediterranean	Fatah-Revolutionary Council	Released January 1991

for their involvement in the Hajj bombings of that same year. Later in 1990, Iraq threatened to attack targets within the country, Saudi interests elsewhere in the Middle East and Europe, and Saudi officials and members of the royal family.

Terrorist acts are capital crimes under Saudi law. In addition to strong statements condemning several attacks against Saudis abroad, the Foreign Ministry published a rebuttal in April of Iranian accusations against Saudi Arabia, including a list of Iran's misdeeds over the past three years and specifically pinning responsibility for the 1989 Mecca bombings on the Iranian Government.

Saudi security officials continue to cooperate with US security agencies on information exchange and training programs. In March, the Saudis took steps to identify illegal residents and to either regularize their status or deport them. This process was accelerated during the Gulf crisis. The Saudis also put additional security measures in effect during the 1990 Hajj, which passed without a terrorist incident.

Yemen

On 22 May 1990, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) united with the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) to form the Republic of Yemen (ROY).

The PDRY remained on the US Government's list of state sponsors of terrorism until unification. The new unified government was not placed on the terrorist list. However, regular discussions between the United States and Yemen, to ensure that the ROY provides no support to international terrorist groups, have continued since unification.

To address these concerns, the ROY put in place tighter procedures for issuing passports, particularly diplomatic passports, to non-Yemenis, including Palestinians. The government also stated that military training facilities would no longer be available to non-Yemenis. In the past, Palestinians were regularly issued PDRY passports and used a camp outside Aden for military training.

State-Sponsored Terrorism

State sponsorship of terrorism remains one of the most important factors in fostering international terrorism. A number of governments afford terrorists safehaven, travel documents, arms, training, and technical expertise. In addition to support for terrorist groups, some governments engage directly in terrorism as a tool of their foreign and domestic policies. Other governments, though not direct sponsors of terrorist groups, contribute to such groups' capabilities by allowing them unimpeded transit, permitting them to operate commercial enterprises, and allowing them to carry out recruitment and other support activities. Any type of government support for terrorist groups makes law enforcement efforts to counter terrorism much more difficult. Thus, the United States and its allies in the fight against terrorism have focused on raising the costs for those governments who support, tolerate, and engage in terrorism:

The United States currently lists Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, and Syria as state supporters of terrorism. This list is maintained pursuant to Section 6 (j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979. This and related US statutes impose trade and other restrictions on countries determined by the Secretary of State to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism. The list is sent annually to Congress, though countries can be

added or subtracted at any time that circumstances warrant. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was dropped from the list in 1990 after it merged with its northern neighbor to form the Republic of Yemen. Iraq was added to the list because of its renewed support for terrorist groups in 1990.

The international effort to eliminate state support for terrorism has achieved some notable results. International public opinion and cooperation among like-minded governments have generated great pressure on governments to change their behavior or, at a minimum, make significant efforts to hide their involvement in terrorism. This is reflected in the number of terrorist incidents attributable to governments on the United States list of state supporters of terrorism. The totals have declined from 176 in 1988 to 58 in 1989 and finally to 54 in 1990. While these numbers are heartening, it should be noted that the investigations into the terrorist bombings of Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988 and of UTA Flight 772 in September 1989 continue and could uncover involvement of state sponsors.

Indeed, the continuing danger posed by state sponsorship was demonstrated in 1990 by two developments. First, the 30 May abortive seaborne attack by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) on crowded Israeli beaches was made possible by Libyan Government support for the training, provision, and transportation of the PLF terrorists. While the operation was foiled without civilian casualties, the attack significantly raised tensions in the region and resulted in the termination of the US-PLO dialogue. Had the operation succeeded, it could have led to numerous casualties among bathers on the crowded Tel Aviv public beaches. Second, after Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait, the world saw Iraq assemble an impressive array of terrorist groups aimed at intimidating the international coalition opposed to the invasion.

Libya's involvement in terrorism during 1990 went beyond support for the 30 May attack on Israel. Tripoli continued to shelter and aid the notorious Abu Nidal organization (ANO), to fund other radical Palestinian groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and to support terrorist groups elsewhere in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

Iran continued its use of and support for terrorism in 1990, targeting and assassinating Iranian dissidents overseas, attacking Saudi officials and interests, continuing to support the holders of the American and other Western hostages in Lebanon, and supporting radical Palestinian groups such as the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and the PFLP-GC. Syria continued to give refuge and support to Lebanese, Palestinian, Turkish, Japanese, and Iranian terrorists while maintaining that all attacks on Israel and the occupied territories are legitimate "national liberation" efforts. North Korea continued to harbor some Japanese Red Army (JRA) terrorists and to provide some support to the New People's Army in the Philippines. Cuba continued to supply and support groups that use terrorism in El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, Honduras, and Chile, among others.

Cuba

Cuba continues to serve as a haven for regional revolutionaries and to provide military training, weapons, funds, and guidance to radical subversive groups that use terrorism. The island today remains a major training center and transit point for Latin subversives and some international groups.

El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) has been the primary beneficiary of Cuba's clandestine support network over the last several years. Havana has been the point of origin for most of the weapons used by the FMLN for insurgent and terrorist operations in El Salvador. Other Central American groups, notably in Honduras and Guatemala, have also received Cuban aid. In South America, Chilean radical leftist groups have been the favored recipients of Cuban support, but their aid may have declined since Chile's peaceful transition to civilian rule in March 1990.

Several rebel organizations have offices and members stationed in Havana. Wounded rebels are often treated in Cuban hospitals. With the demise of the pro-Cuban governments in Panama and Nicaragua, Cuba's support has become even more important to radical groups.

Iran

Iran's extensive support for terrorism continued during 1990, although the number of terrorist acts attributed to Iranian state sponsorship dropped to 10 in 1990 from 24 in 1989.

Iran has used its intelligence services extensively to facilitate and conduct terrorist attacks, particularly against regime dissidents. Intelligence officers in embassies have used the diplomatic pouch for conveyance of weapons and finances for terrorist groups. Iran continued to strengthen its relationship with Muslim extremists throughout the world, often providing them with advice and financial assistance. Over the past year, Iranian support for terrorism has included:

- Repeating the call for the death of the author of *The Satanic Verses*, Salman Rushdie.
- Assassinations of four antiregime dissidents—in Pakistan, Switzerland, Sweden, and France.
- Supporting radical Shia attacks on Saudi interests, including the assassinations of three Saudi diplomats, in retaliation for the execution of the Hajj bombers.
- Extensive support for Hizballah, the PFLP-GC, the PIJ, and other groups, including provision of arms, funding, and training.

Iranian-backed Shia groups are believed to be in control of Western hostages in Lebanon, and most observers believe that the key to releasing the hostages rests with Iran. One such group, Hizballah, is believed to hold all of the remaining American hostages. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, whose domestic political strength increased during 1990, is thought to favor a pragmatic approach to foreign policy and improved relations with the West, which would require resolution of the hostage problem. For example, *The Tehran Times*, a newspaper considered to reflect Rafsanjani's views, editorialized on 22 February that the hostages should be freed without preconditions. Two months later, US hostages Robert Poihill and Frank Reed were released. The hostage releases received some criticism from hardline elements both in Iran and within Hizballah who questioned whether Iran or the hostage holders had received any benefit for their actions in terms of a good will gesture from the West. No more US hostages were freed in 1990, and press reports indicated that Iran was seeking rewards before any further movement on the hostages was possible.

Major terrorist figures, including Ahmad Jabril of the PFLP-GC and various prominent members of Hizballah, frequently visit Iran. Iran hosted a World Conference on Palestine in Tehran in December in an effort to gain

increasing influence over Islamic affairs, in general, and over the Palestinian movement, in particular. Leaders of several radical Palestinian and Lebanese groups including Saiqa, Hamas, Hizballah, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad attended.

Iraq

Iraq was returned to the terrorist list in September 1990 because of its increased contact with, and support for, terrorist groups. After the formation of an international coalition against the invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi officials issued public statements endorsing terrorism as a legitimate tactic.

Following its invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, the Government of Iraq systematically seized the citizens of the United States and many other nations. This occurred in both Kuwait and Iraq and continued for several months. Many of the hostages were moved to strategic sites in Iraq, including armaments factories, weapons research facilities, and major military bases.

This mass act of hostage taking was condemned by nations throughout the world, and the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 664, demanding that Iraq release these hostages.

Saddam Hussein eventually released the hostages, starting with women and children. By December, all the Western hostages were freed, but many Kuwaitis remained in captivity.

Hostage taking on the scale undertaken by Iraq is unprecedented in recent history. Saddam Hussein's operation represented a cynical and futile attempt to terrorize both foreign nationals and their governments and to weaken international resolve to oppose his occupation and annexation of Kuwait.

During 1990, and particularly after 2 August, the press reported increasing movement of terrorists to Baghdad, signaling the deepening relationship between these groups and Iraq. Even before the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq provided safehaven, training, and other support to Palestinian groups with a history of terrorist actions. The Arab Liberation Front (ALF) and Abu Abbas's PLF, responsible



Saddam Hussein in a videotaped meeting with a young hostage. Reuters/CNN ©

for the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking and the terrorist attack on Israeli beaches in May, are among these groups. The ANO is also reported to have reestablished its presence in Iraq in the first half of 1990. Abu Ibrahim, leader of the now-defunct 15 May terrorist organization and famed for his skill as a bombmaker, is also reportedly based in Baghdad.

With the end of the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq reduced its support for anti-Iranian dissident groups including the Mujahidin-e-Khalq (MEK). Speculation continues regarding increased Iraqi support for the terrorist Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK) in Turkey. This is coupled with the worsening of Turkish-Iraqi relations over Turkey's enforcement of UN mandated trade sanctions after the invasion of Kuwait and disputes over water rights.

Senior Iraqi Government officials, including Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, made public statements justifying terrorism as a legitimate Iraqi response in the event of hostilities between Iraq and the multinational force deployed in the region. There were reports that Iraq planned to put these words into effect and that Iraqi officials, as well as Baghdad's Palestinian surrogates, conducted surveillance against various coalition targets.

Appendix B

Chronology of Significant Terrorist Incidents: 1990

- 13 January** **Peru**
Sendero Luminoso (SL) terrorists singled out and shot two French tourists aboard a bus traveling in the Apurimac department. Peruvian passengers were forced to pay the terrorists money but were unharmed.
- 15 January** **Peru**
Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) terrorists bombed the US Embassy in Lima, injuring three guards.
- 19 January** **The Philippines**
Members of the Moro National Liberation Front killed two Swiss Red Cross workers and wounded a third during an ambush on Mindanao.
- 1 February** **Thailand**
Three officials of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Bangkok were assassinated in two separate attacks. One official was gunned down at his home, and the other two were shot in a car outside their residences. Iranian surrogates are believed to have been responsible.
- 4 February** **Egypt**
Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorists attacked an Israeli tour bus en route from Rafah to Cairo, killing 11 persons—including nine Israeli citizens—and wounding 17 others.
- 8 February** **Peru**
An American tourist was shot and killed at an Inca fortress near Cuzco. Sendero Luminoso may have been responsible, although a criminal motive has not been ruled out.
- 19 February** **Greece**
The Revolutionary Solidarity terrorist group shot and killed a Greek psychiatrist in Athens as he was walking to his car. In a letter, the group stated he was killed because of his work at the Korydallos prison.

- 2 March**
- Panama**
An unidentified assailant tossed a grenade inside a bar frequented by Americans, killing one US serviceman and injuring 15 others. Fourteen Panamanians were also injured in the attack.
- 6 March**
- The Philippines**
An American citizen was assassinated by members of the New People's Army (NPA) for refusing to pay "revolutionary taxes" levied against his ranch.
- 30 March**
- Lebanon**
The Polish Ambassador and his Lebanese wife were shot and wounded in Beirut. A previously unknown Arab group claimed responsibility for the attack, threatening to strike again if Poland continued to assist the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.
- 31 March**
- Honduras**
Four terrorists attacked a US Air Force bus near Tegucigalpa, injuring eight persons. The Morazanist Patriotic Front claimed responsibility.
- 3 April**
- Pakistan**
A bomb concealed in a box of apples exploded in a crowded bazaar in Lahore, killing five persons and wounding 50. The Afghan secret police is believed responsible.
- 14 April**
- Chile**
Suspected members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) hurled explosive devices into the US Consular annex compound in Santiago, injuring one contract guard and damaging two vehicles.
- 24 April**
- Switzerland**
An exiled Iranian political leader was shot and killed near Geneva while driving home. Agents of the Iranian Government are believed responsible.
- 13 May**
- The Philippines**
NPA assassins shot and killed two US Air Force airmen near Clark Airbase. The killings came on the eve of the Philippines-US exploratory talks on the future of the US military bases in the Philippines.

27 May

The Netherlands

Two Australian tourists were shot and killed in Roermond by members of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA). The claim letter acknowledged the group had killed the Australians by mistake, believing them to be British soldiers.

28 May

Israel

One person was killed and nine wounded in a pipe-bomb explosion at a market in Jerusalem. Several Palestinian groups claimed responsibility.

30 May

Israel

Israeli forces aborted a seaborne attack on the beaches at Tel Aviv mounted by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF). Four PLF members were killed and 12 arrested.

2 June

Germany

A British Army artillery officer was shot and killed by three attackers in Dortmund while returning home from a social event with his wife. PIRA issued a statement in Dublin claiming responsibility.

6 June

Lebanon

A rocket was fired at the Romanian Embassy in Beirut, injuring one person. The "Revolutionary Action Organization" claimed the attack was to protest Romania's role in facilitating Jewish immigration to Israel.

10 June

Bolivia

A prominent Bolivian businessman was kidnapped in La Paz by the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission (CNPZ), which demanded payment of a ransom. In December he was shot and killed moments before local police stormed the building in which he was held.

Greece

A rocket fired from a bazooka was launched at the offices of Proctor and Gamble in Athens, causing extensive property damage but no injuries. Revolutionary Organization 17 November claimed responsibility for the attack.

13 June

The Philippines

An American Peace Corps worker was abducted from his home by NPA terrorists. No ransom was paid, and he was released unharmed on 2 August.

- 23 June** **Israel**
A pipe bomb exploded on a crowded beach at Ein Gedi, wounding two Israelis and two West Germans.
- 18 July** **Peru**
MRTA exploded a dynamite bomb at the US Binational Center in Cuzco, injuring four students.
- 27 July** **Germany**
The Red Army Faction attempted to kill Interior Ministry State Secretary Hans Neusel with a bomb attached to a guardrail on a highway exit ramp near the Interior Ministry.
- 28 July** **Israel**
A pipe bomb exploded on a beach in Tel Aviv, killing a Canadian tourist and wounding 20 others.
- 30 July** **United Kingdom**
Member of Parliament Ian Gow was killed in front of his home by a bomb planted by the Provisional Irish Republican Army.
- 28 September** **Turkey**
Gunmen assassinated the former Deputy Director of the Turkish National Intelligence Agency in Istanbul. The Dev Sol group claimed responsibility.
- 27 September** **Djibouti**
Grenades thrown from a passing car exploded in the Cafe de Paris, killing a French boy and injuring 15 other French citizens. At approximately the same time, grenades were also thrown at the Cafe L'Historil but did not explode. A previously unknown group, the Djibouti Youth Movement, claimed responsibility.
- 10 October** **Bolivia**
Members of the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission exploded a bomb and fired automatic weapons at the US Embassy Marine Guard residence in La Paz, killing one Bolivian guard and wounding another. The explosion caused major structural damage to the building.
- 12 October** **Egypt**
Local Islamic extremists killed Egypt's Assembly speaker during an assault on his motorcade in Cairo.

23 October

France

An Iranian dissident leader of the Flag of Freedom , Organization was assassinated in his Paris apartment. Agents of the Iranian Government were probably responsible.

24 October

Northern Ireland

A PIRA car bomb, driven by a civilian whose family was being held hostage, killed five soldiers and the civilian driver at a Londonderry checkpoint.

3 November

Chile

A bomb exploded in front of a restaurant in Vina del Mar, injuring eight persons, including three US sailors. The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front-Dissident Faction (FPMR/D) was probably responsible.

8 November

Peru

MRTA exploded a bomb in the park adjacent to the US Ambassador's residence and attacked his home with automatic weapons. No injuries resulted.

17 November

Chile

A bomb concealed in a softball bat exploded at the national stadium in Santiago during a softball game between the University of Chile and the American Chamber of Commerce. One Canadian was killed, and a US Embassy officer was wounded. The FPMR/D was probably responsible.

20 November

Greece

The car in which a Greek industrialist was riding narrowly missed being struck by three rockets fired at close range by the Revolutionary Organization 17 November.

10 December

Peru

Sendero Luminoso terrorists exploded a car bomb near the US Embassy in Lima. No injuries or damage resulted.

Peru

Terrorists armed with dynamite destroyed a Mobil Oil Company exploration camp in the Upper Huallaga Valley. They also used the camp's helicopters to dynamite other nearby Mobil installations. Sendero Luminoso was probably responsible.

16 December

Chile

The Lautaro Youth Movement fired automatic weapons and threw incendiary bombs at a Mormon church in Santiago. The church was destroyed, but no injuries resulted.