



Committee on Drugs and Crime

Establishing unified counter-terrorism procedures in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks on UN member states

Introduction

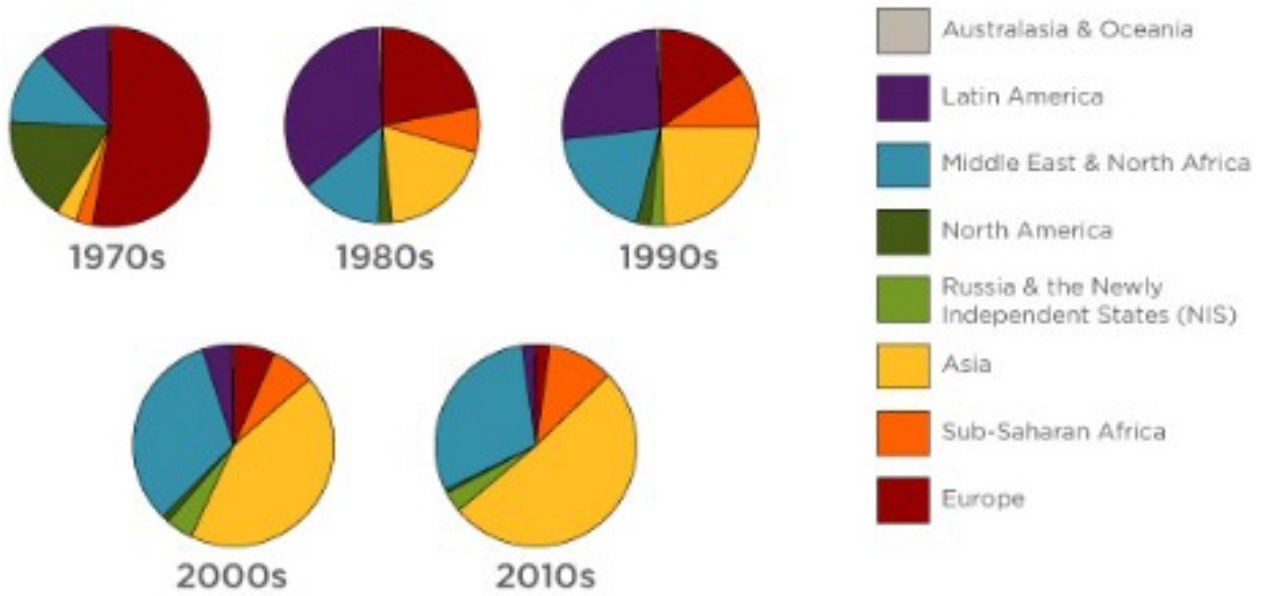
Terrorism continues to pose a major threat to international peace and security and undermines the core values of the United Nations. In addition to the devastating human cost of terrorism, in terms of lives lost or permanently altered, terrorist acts aim to destabilize governments and undermine economic and social development. Addressing this threat is that much more difficult given the complex and constantly evolving nature of terrorist activity. Its motivations, financing, methods of attack and choice of target are constantly changing. Terrorist acts often defy national borders; one act of terrorism can involve activities and actors from numerous countries. Given this complexity, strong coordination and cooperation within national governments and between states and organizations at the regional and international level is essential to effectively combat terrorism, to share best practices and lessons learned and to assist with the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases.

Legal framework

In response to this threat, gradually over five decades of work, the international community has developed a common universal legal framework against terrorism. This framework is comprised of the 19 universal legal instruments against terrorism along with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The implementation of these conventions, protocols and resolutions is informed by the guidance provided by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy along with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was the the first (and so far as well last) unified counter-terrorism plan adopted by Member States on 8 September 2006.

The strategy, in the form of a resolution and an annexed Plan of Action, was a instrument that was supposed to enhance the national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. It was the first time that all Member States have agreed to a common strategic approach to fight terrorism, not only sending a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestations but also resolving to take practical steps individually and collectively to prevent and combat it. Those practical steps included a wide array of measures ranging from strengthening state capacity to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating United Nations system's counter-terrorism activities.

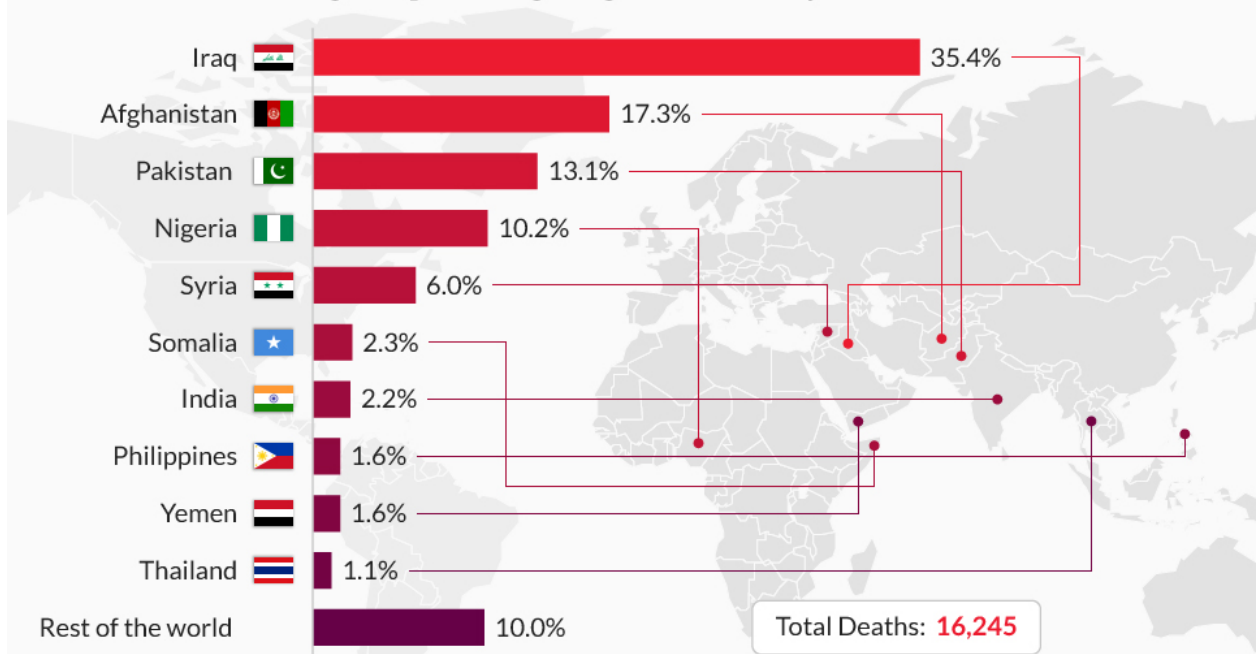
Terrorist attacks by decade, 1970-2012



Source: Global Terrorism Database

80% of 2013's terrorism deaths took place in 5 countries

Countries with the highest percentage of global deaths by terrorism in 2013



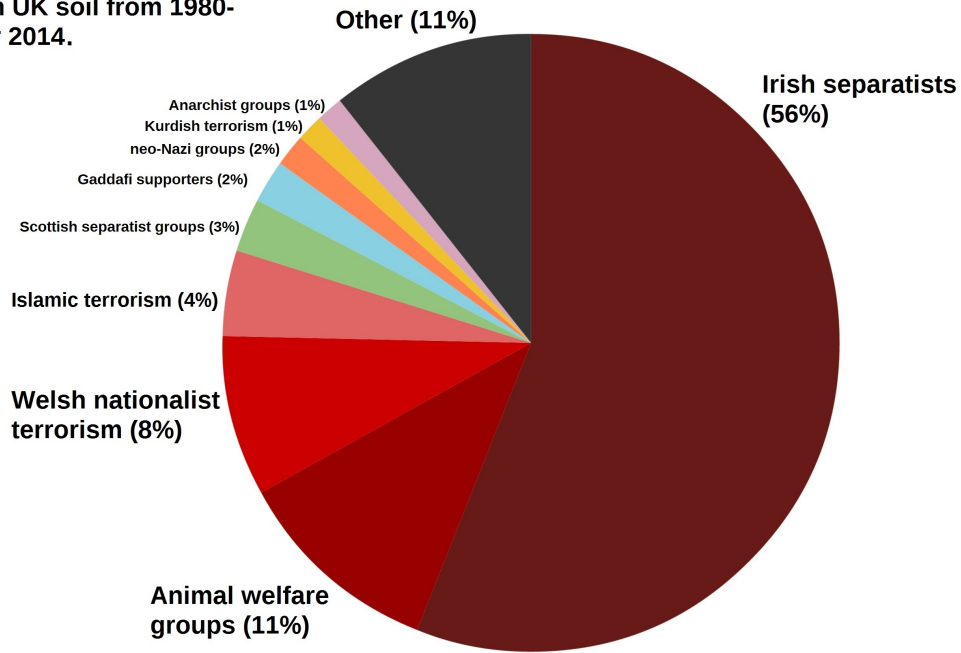
@StatistaCharts Source: Global Terrorism Index



from The INDEPENDENT

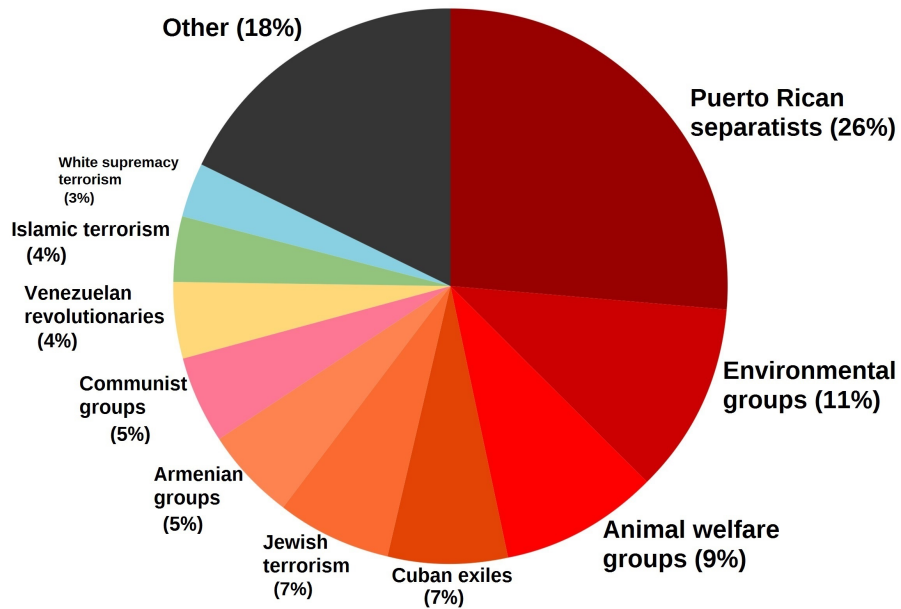


The perpetrators of each terrorist incident on UK soil from 1980-September 2014.



Source: GTD

The perpetrators of each terrorist incident on U.S. soil from 1980-September 2014.



Sources: FBI data, Wikipedia database

Sources and links:

- The whole resolution is available here: <http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/strategy-counter-terrorism.shtml>
- 19 universal legal instruments against terrorism: <http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/instruments.shtml>