Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1983

September 1984
There are a wide variety of definitions used by experts to describe the phenomenon of terrorism, but no single one has gained universal acceptance. For purposes of recording and coding data on terrorist incidents, we have adhered to definitions that represent a middle ground within the broad range of expert opinion, both foreign and domestic.

Terrorism is premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine state agents.

International terrorism is terrorism involving citizens or territory of more than one country.
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Year in Review</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Note on Our Statistics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Terror: The Pattern of Violence Continues</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accent on Lethality</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyjackings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target USA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats and Hoaxes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impact of Terrorism on US Interests</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Patterns</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East Terrorism Spillover</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Asia/Pacific</td>
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</table>

## Appendixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Chronology of Significant Terrorist Events in 1983</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>International Terror Incidents, 1983</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1983 we recorded 500 international terrorist incidents in 73 nations. Although Western Europe continued to be the premier venue for international terrorism, the number of attacks carried out there declined from 1982. The number of incidents perpetrated in the Middle East, however, more than doubled. Some 205 of the international events recorded were directed against the United States.
Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1983

Introduction

The Year in Review

The United States and its allies around the world enjoyed no respite from international terrorist violence in 1983. The year set new records both in total terrorist casualties (1,925) and in the number of US victims (387). The high-casualty levels were attributable not to an increase in the number of significant international terrorist incidents—which, in fact, remained at the 500 level of recent years—but to the deadly effectiveness of terrorists responsible for just a few major attacks. A number of groups, apparently frustrated by the inaccessibility of high-level targets, resorted to high-casualty strikes against lower level targets—frequently with the complicity of sympathetic states. The bombings in Beirut of the US Embassy in April and the headquarters of the US and French Multinational Forces in October together accounted for almost 30 percent of total international terrorist casualties and 95 percent of US victims. The loss of US lives from terrorist violence in Lebanon (267) was greater than that suffered by US citizens throughout the world during the entire preceding 15 years.

As a result of the carnage caused by the Beirut bombings and the more than doubling of terrorist incidents in the region, the Middle East dominated the global terrorism picture in 1983. The region accounted for nearly 60 percent of terrorist casualties worldwide although continuing to rank third (after Western Europe and Latin America) in the actual number of individual terrorist incidents. Terrorist activity in the Middle East—notably that apparently sponsored by Iran in Lebanon—caused the greatest damage not only in lives and property, but also in terms of political stability.

In Western Europe, the picture was quite different. Although the region retained its position in 1983 as the premier venue in terms of the number of terrorist incidents, the actual number of incidents was off substantially from the previous year. This was due in large measure to the counterterrorist successes scored by police and security services in countries like West Germany and Italy. But, as the year closed, numerous indications suggested that Europe was still confronting a substantial indigenous terrorist problem.

A Note on Our Statistics

Our tallies of terrorist incidents are not comprehensive, and, in some regards, represent only the tip of the iceberg with regard to terrorist violence. Last year we recorded some 500 international terrorist incidents (marginally more than in 1982) in 73 nations. This probably represents, however, only a tiny fraction of all terrorist incidents that occurred worldwide: our data on indigenous terrorism—that which involves citizens and territories of a single nation—are spotty at best, and we probably underrecord the terrorism that occurs in the Soviet Bloc, Asia, and Africa. Thus, even though we include references to indigenous terrorism in our discussions of regional trends, we make no claim to completeness. In large measure, our data are derived from incident reports provided by host governments or by the international news media. Both reflect a bias toward inclusion of events that affect US and other
Casualties Resulting From International Terrorist Incidents, 1979-83

Total wounded: 4,349
Total killed: 2,093

Casualties. Events in 1983 presaged what may be the beginning of a more deadly trend—high-casualty strikes against lower level targets. We noted 1,925 casualties (652 killed and 1,273 injured) resulting from 116 international terrorist incidents, the highest casualty figure we have recorded since we began keeping records in 1968. Almost half of the terrorist casualties suffered in 1983 were linked in a broad sense to state involvement in terrorism.

International Terror: The Pattern of Violence Continues

International terrorism accounts for much less than 10 percent and probably less than 1 percent of all the terrorism around the world each year. For the past five years, we have recorded about 500 international incidents annually, but, although

\[ \text{Note on new indexing criteria. The statistics presented in this publication reflect new coding criteria that became effective 1 January 1983. Nonterrorist hijackings, threats and hoaxes, arms smuggling, conspiracies, and events where the victim was a suspected terrorist—which were included routinely in statistics for previous years—have been excluded from the counts. The “other” category now comprises incidents of sabotage, vandalism, theft, extortion, and harassment or intimidation. Terrorist assassinations are now indexed according to the method used—armed attack, bombing, and so forth. A new “intent” variable allows for identification of assassinations and failed attempts and distinguishes them from executions and other forms of murder—something that was not possible under the old system.} \]
Comparison of Worldwide and Middle East Terrorist Incidents, 1983

Number of incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Worldwide</th>
<th>Middle East</th>
<th>Lebanon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Comparison of Worldwide and Middle East Casualties Resulting From Terrorist Incidents, 1983

Number of victims

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<th>Lebanon</th>
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</thead>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>Apr</td>
<td>250</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>250</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>350</td>
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<td>Jul</td>
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<td>450</td>
<td>400</td>
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<td>Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lethality in the Middle East.** In 1983 we recorded 114 terrorist events in the Middle East, 49 of which resulted in 1,130 casualties (540 killed and 590 injured). Of the 65 incidents that took place in Lebanon, 26 accounted for 872 casualties (410 killed and 462 injured), including 371 US and 218 French victims.
the level remained about the same, the lethality of terrorism in 1983 increased significantly.

Accent on Lethality
Terrorists employed high-casualty violence more freely in 1983 than they had in prior years, and the attacks by many groups were marked by a lack of discrimination as to the target. Diplomats, official personnel traveling abroad, and unlucky bystanders increasingly became victims.

Vehicle bombs, imprecise weapons usually associated with an intent to produce numerous casualties, became an apparent weapon of choice in 1983; they seemed to be favored especially by some Shia terrorists in Lebanon. Our records show 50 such attacks in 1983. More than 30 of them took place in the Middle East (most frequently in Lebanon), where a number of groups have come to realize the effectiveness of this tactic—that is, the difficulty of protecting facilities or individuals against them and the attention they attract because of the large number of casualties they often inflict.

A chronology of some of the more spectacular attacks in 1983 illustrates the growing violence of terrorist attacks:


- 11 July. Machinegun and dynamite attack on the governing Popular Action Party headquarters during a party meeting in Lima, by Peruvian Sendero Luminoso. Three dead, approximately 30 injured. (Some party members had already left the premises and not all of the bombs planted exploded, probably reducing substantially the number of casualties.)

- 15 July. Bombing of the Turkish Airlines counter at Orly Airport in Paris. ASALA claimed credit. Six dead, more than 60 injured.


- 9 October. North Korean agents bomb group of high-ranking South Korean officials visiting Rangoon, in unsuccessful effort to assassinate President Chun. Twenty-one dead, 48 injured.

- 23 October. Vehicle bombings of headquarters facilities of US and French Multinational Forces in Beirut. Islamic Jihad claimed credit. Initial casualty figures were 296 killed, 64 injured; some of the injured subsequently died.

- 12 December. Vehicle bombings of US, French, and Kuwaiti Government installations in Kuwait. Five dead, 28 injured. Those arrested belonged to the Iraqi al-Dawa although credit was claimed by Islamic Jihad.

- 16 December. Vehicle bomb exploded outside Harrods department store in London, Provisional Irish Republican Army responsible. Five dead, 91 injured.

The three most vicious of these attacks—the 18 April attack on the US Embassy and the 23 October assaults on the Marine barracks and on a French military post—clearly underscored the magnitude of the terrorist threat confronting the United States and the Western alliance. These incidents accounted for 557 casualties— including 95 percent of US casualties worldwide.
International Terrorist Incidents by Category of Victim and Installation, 1983

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diplomatic</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other government</td>
<td>5.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Types of Victims. Diplomatic and other government facilities and personnel accounted for almost half of all international victims in 1983 as some states continued to sponsor terrorist attacks against official representatives of adversary countries. Our data also suggest that terrorists, seeking high-impact strikes, are becoming more willing to attack a large number of low-level victims rather than high-level targets too well protected to reach. Consequently, unlike previous years, military victims composed the second-highest target category due to the particularly lethal attacks against the US and French Multinational Forces in Lebanon.

Skyjackings

Though once a favorite terrorist tactic, skyjackings have declined in number since 1972, largely as a result of better airport security measures and the impact of the Bonn Declaration of the Summit Seven nations, which provides for multilateral sanctions against nations harboring skyjackers. Our statistics on international terrorist incidents include skyjackings only when they are demonstrably terrorist in nature—that is, when they are politically motivated and are either the work of clandestine state agents or are intended to have a violent, demonstrational effect on a target audience other than just the crew and passengers of the plane. Skyjackings, however, are frequently no more than criminal acts, often the work of persons who are mentally deranged, intent on extortion, or simply seeking rapid transportation across national boundaries that would be otherwise closed to them. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) keeps track of all illegal seizures of aircraft, irrespective of the motive of the perpetrator. In 1983, according to our records and those of the FAA, 38 skyjackings occurred. Of these, about 15 percent appear to have been directly related to terrorism. Many of the others resembled terrorist incidents, at least superficially, and might have been stimulated by successful aircraft takeovers by terrorists.
Table 1
International Terrorist Incidents, 1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North America</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Western Europe</th>
<th>USSR/ Eastern Europe</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>Middle East</th>
<th>Asia/Pacific</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barricade-hostage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombing</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed attack</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hijacking</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>Arson</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: International terrorists employed a narrow range of methods for their operations—mainly bombings, armed attacks, and arson. Bombings were the most common type of terrorist attack, accounting for 52 percent of the incidents recorded in 1983. Bombings require little in the way of financial and personnel assets and frequently are headline grabbers that involve minimal risk and little chance of detection by security forces. Vehicle bombings have become especially popular—50 incidents as compared with 19 in 1982—particularly in the Middle East.

* Includes three assassination incidents.
* Includes 36 assassination incidents.

**Target USA**

US personnel and facilities abroad continue to be particularly attractive targets for international terrorists, particularly those self-styled Marxist revolutionaries who tend to view this country as the premier symbol of the status quo. The United States often high-profile position exacerbates the situation:

- The United States maintains a sizable and frequently visible presence abroad, and US targets are accessible in most of the countries where terrorists are active.
- US support of governments that terrorist groups are trying to destabilize or overthrow and of policies terrorists oppose automatically puts Americans in the enemy's camp.

Although the number of terrorist incidents (205) recorded against US interests was marginally below last year's 211, more US citizens were killed in international terrorist incidents in 1983 (271—more than 40 percent of the total worldwide) than in the entire preceding 15 years; an additional 116 Americans were injured. This dramatic rise in casualty rates for US citizens reflects the exposure of US noncombatants in a war zone where security was very weak. Although US personnel abroad will continue to be high-priority targets in coming years, the effectiveness of an enhanced security posture overseas will help determine whether 1983 was an anomaly or the hallmark of a new trend in US casualty levels.


Table 2
International Terrorist Incidents Against
US Citizens and Property, 1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North America</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Western Europe</th>
<th>USSR/Eastern Europe</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>Middle East</th>
<th>Asia/Pacific</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>205</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barricade-hostage</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed attack a</td>
<td>8 (2)</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
<td>7 (2)</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24 (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hijacking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Assassination incidents are in parentheses.

Table 3
International Terrorist Incidents
Against US Citizens and Property,
1979-83

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barricade-hostage</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombing</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>445</td>
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<tr>
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<td>33</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hijack</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lebanon was the setting for the most lethal terrorist violence directed against the United States in 1983. The presence of the foreign peacekeeping troops in Lebanon, the anti-Americanism that permeated the region, and the ready availability of individuals willing to die for their religious and secular ideals contributed to the deadliness of those incidents. Some seven attacks there resulted in 267 dead and 104 injured—95 percent of US casualties worldwide. Most of those casualties resulted from two of the bloodiest vehicle bombings in 1983—the 18 April attack on the US Embassy and the 23 October assault on the Marine headquarters, both carried out by pro-Iranian Shiite radicals in Beirut operating under the name Islamic Jihad.
International Terrorist Attacks Against US Citizens and Property, 1983

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Number of incidents</th>
<th>Total incidents: 205</th>
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### By Type of Target

<table>
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### By Type of Event

<table>
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<tr>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Bar Graph" /></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Armed attack</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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### By Region

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<td>Asia/Pacific</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bar Graph" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bar Graph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bar Graph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bar Graph" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More anti-US incidents occurred in Western Europe (about 46 percent of the total) than in any other region, but the actual number of events (95) declined from the previous year's level (131). US military personnel and facilities were the principal targets (40 attacks) overall, followed by business and diplomatic personnel and facilities. On 15 November, US Navy Capt. George Tsantes, assigned to the Joint US Military Assistance Group in Greece, became the only US victim in Western Europe of a successful assassination attempt; the 17 November Revolutionary Organization claimed credit. In Western Europe US economic interests were attacked almost as often as military. Business firms located in the Spanish Basque region and West Germany were victimized the most often. The Basque terrorist group Iraulitzia claimed credit for most of the incidents in Spain, but no group claimed responsibility for the incidents in West Germany.

In Latin America, where nearly 30 percent of the anti-US incidents took place, attacks against US diplomatic and other government persons and property (32) accounted for over half of the total (60). The murder of Navy Lt. Comdr. Albert A. Schaufelberger, III, a senior military adviser in El Salvador, was the most violent incident in the region. A terrorist element of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front claimed responsibility.

**Threats and Hoaxes**

Protecting US citizens from terrorist attacks is seriously complicated by the proliferation of threats that regularly flow to authorities overseas. Often a threat comes as a tip from an anonymous source, who may or may not identify a putative perpetrator of the terrorist attack that he claims is imminent. In other cases, the threat may be more explicit—usually a call or letter—purportedly signed by a terrorist group. Most threats turn out to be false alarms, sometimes hoaxes by pranksters, or, on rare occasions, terrorist groups seeking to divert the authorities from their real targets. The only threats we count as terrorist incidents in our database are those that: (1) are explicit; (2) can be directly sourced to a credible terrorist organization; and (3) involve some form of violent expression (for example, destruction of property or personal injury other than that threatened) in their making.

Despite the fact that most threats do not come from either terrorists or those associated with terrorism, they tend to “clog the system” by forcing police and security officials to take them seriously and direct resources to investigate them and to safeguard the supposed targets. At the same time, the multiplication of threats—particularly as often occurs after terrorists have executed a successful attack, such as the US Embassy bombing in Beirut—enhances the power and reputation of terrorist groups in the eyes of the public.

According to our records, some 170 explicit threats—that is, expressed warnings that did not culminate in actual incidents—were made against US persons and property by foreign agents or groups last year—about the same as the number in 1982 and more than double the 1981 figure. Though an increase in the number of threats does not mean that terrorism itself is increasing, it does make the job of combating terrorism much harder.
Table 4
Explicit Threats Against US Citizens and Property, 1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Impact of Terrorism on US Interests

The direct impact of terrorism on US interests is easily discernible and widely publicized: over the past 15 years, terrorists have killed or injured nearly a thousand Americans and caused many millions of dollars in damage to US public and private property around the world. To comprehend the total impact of terrorism, however, one must think in terms of the broader interests of the United States and most other civilized nations.

In Western Europe, for example, such key US interests as the continued viability of the NATO Alliance are vulnerable to terrorist efforts to weaken Alliance links. Several West European terrorist groups have expressed solidarity with opponents of the Alliance and have contemplated ways in which they might try to radicalize antinuclear activists. Opposition of this kind clearly affects US interests although neither US personnel nor property has been directly attacked.

Terrorist attacks against a US ally can adversely affect that country’s bilateral relations. For example, attacks by Armenian terrorists against Turkish diplomats have prompted Turkish Government officials to charge that even friendly countries like the United States do not provide enough protection for Turkish people and installations. Sometimes, terrorism impedes other countries from adopting policies favored by the United States. In the Middle East, attacks by Palestinian terrorists on Israeli targets contribute to further polarization and reinforce the arguments of the more intransigent sectors of Israeli society, which in turn have created their own terrorist groups. Attacks by Palestinian terrorists—whether on their own initiative or as agents of radical Arab governments—on moderate Arab officials have the explicit goal of chilling support for a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian problem. Similarly, Iran’s use of terrorism to promote Islamic fundamentalist revolutions throughout the Middle East is inimical to US policies and profoundly threatens Western interests—even when no Americans are dying.

Although terrorists on the left of the political spectrum sometimes extract heavy costs from their host governments and directly threaten US equities in those countries, the activities of rightwing terrorists—such as the death squads in Central America—can extract an equally heavy toll. Such groups, in fact, play into the hands of leftwing extremists by contributing to further political destabilization. The countries directly affected experience turmoil that can spill over into relations with the United States and seriously threaten US interests and objectives.
Regional Patterns

Middle East
Terrorism commanded center stage in the Middle East during 1983, much of it either directly or indirectly linked to the political chaos that prevailed in Lebanon and to the ongoing war between Iran and Iraq. Iran and Syria played a fundamental role in encouraging, supporting, and sometimes directing terrorist attacks to further their own political goals and such national interests as isolating Iraq, spreading Shia Islam, and impeding moderate Arab negotiations with Israel—goals that run counter to US objectives. These nations not only provided training and material assistance to surrogate terrorist groups, but also used their own assets to conduct terrorist operations against opponents and adversary states. By instigating, supporting, or permitting most of the violence that occurred in the region, these two nations intensified the threat to US interests even in those incidents where Americans were not the targets. Moreover, they did not confine their involvement to incidents in the Middle East, but, also directly or indirectly, as patron state supporters of such groups as Abu Nidal, staged attacks in Western Europe and South Asia.

Most instances of state-supported terrorism occurred in Lebanon. There, radical Lebanese Shias, using the nom de guerre Islamic Jihad, operated with Iranian support and encouragement from Syrian-controlled territory. They were responsible for the suicide bombing attacks against the US Embassy and the headquarters of the US and French contingents of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Beirut, which resulted in unprecedentedly high numbers of casualties (557), as well as for numerous
other sniping or grenade attacks against French and US interests. Terrorism in Lebanon was not confined to the Beirut area or to Western victims: UN officials were assailed and Israeli civilians were harassed by bombings and snipings in southern Lebanon. Hundreds of bombings, shoot-ings, and kidnapings of civilians throughout the country accompanied the civil war among Muslim, Christian, and Druze factions.

Iranian patronage was a major factor in terrorism elsewhere in the Middle East during 1983. In Kuwait, members of the Dawa (Islamic Call) Party, most of whom had received training and direction from Tehran, successfully carried out six bombings on 12 December, including one blast that severely damaged the US Embassy. Iran also trained Shia dissidents from most of the Arab nations in the Persian Gulf region in terrorist tactics, and Iranian-backed Shias carried out several bombings against Iraqi interests.

Israeli-Palestinian issues drove the activities of some Middle Eastern terrorist organizations. Of all the Palestinian groups, the radical Abu Nidal Group, formerly known as the Black June Organization, posed the most serious threat to US interests. This PLO group did not confine its operations to the Middle East but also carried out attacks against PLO and Arab officials as well as Jewish and Israeli targets wherever accessible. In April 1983 the group claimed credit, in a telephone call from its Damascus office, for the assassination of a pro-Israeli PLO leader in Portugal. In the fall, the Abu Nidal Group began an assassination campaign against Jordanian diplomats to pressure the government to release imprisoned group members and to abandon efforts to join the PLO in opening negotiations with Israel on the Palestinian homeland question.

Until the fall of 1983, the Abu Nidal Group had offices in both Iraq and Syria. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn declared publicly in 1983 that Iraq had expelled Abu Nidal and his Iraqi-based followers, and that he would no longer support the group. Abu Nidal shifted operations to Damascus and increasingly served Syrian interests by ensuring that the moderate PLO leadership not undertake independent action that could conflict with Syrian political goals.

Palestinian groups belonging to the PLO continued to adhere to Chairman Yasir Arafat’s 1974 ban on terrorism outside of Israel and the occupied territories. Although they conducted a few attacks in Israel, the PLO threat decreased in 1983 because of bitter infighting among pro- and anti-Arafat factions. A growing coalition of anti-Arafat PLO groups emerged, and some of those groups staged attacks against Israel late in the year. Numerous claims for credit followed each incident, indicating that these groups were vying for increased stature. A direct result of these attacks has been an upsurge in retaliatory strikes by Jewish extremists against Arab civilians.

Libyan leader Mu’ammar Qadhafi has used terrorism as an instrument of state policy whenever expedient since he came to power in 1969. Pressure from Western Europe and the 1982 US embargo on trade with Libya in oil and high-technology items, as well as his own desire to secure the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity, dissuaded Qadhafi from resorting to terrorism during much of 1983. He did continue to support African insurgents, however, particularly in Chad and Sudan, and was implicated in a plot to overthrow Sudanese President Nimeiri. But no significant acts of international terrorism were linked to Tripoli. Qadhafi’s campaign to attain diplomatic respectability
had little success, however, and in the fall of 1983 his low-keyed stance began to shift. Qadhafi declared publicly that dissident exiles would be dealt with harshly if they did not return to Libya, and later events would demonstrate that this was not an idle threat.

Other Middle Eastern sources of terrorism were more quiescent in 1983 than in previous years. The Government of South Yemen stopped fomenting terrorist attacks against neighboring North Yemen and in general reduced its support for international terrorists.

**Middle East Terrorism Spillover**

The threat from Middle Eastern perpetrators of terrorism extends far beyond the region itself. During 1983, Iran, Syria, and several Middle Eastern terrorist groups carried their struggle into Western Europe and South Asia.

Syrian campaigns against the pro-Arafat Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Government of Jordan, which has pursued relatively moderate policies in the Middle East, were reflected in at least seven attacks perpetrated by members of the ruthless Abu Nidal Group, operating in some instances under the name Arab Revolutionary Brigades:

- In April, the assassination at the International Conference of Socialists in Portugal of PLO observer Issam Sartawi, who had advocated dialogue with Israel; in retaliation, some Sartawi followers bombed the Syrian Consulate and a Libyan school in Athens in May.
- In October, the wounding of the Jordanian Ambassadors to India and to the Vatican.
- In November, the gunning down of employees of the Jordanian Embassy in Athens.
- In December, three bombings in Turkey—in Izmir against US and French interests, in Istanbul against the PLO, and in Ankara against Iraq.

French activities in the Middle East prompted reprisal attacks elsewhere. For example, bombing attacks against five French offices in Karachi, Pakistan, in February were probably directed by Iran in retaliation for French arms sales to Iraq. French Multinational Force activities in Lebanon also prompted retributive attacks against targets in France. In December the Carlos Apparat, operating under the name Armed Arab Struggle, was responsible for two bombing campaigns in Marseilles that killed eight people and injured 91, in revenge for French air raids in Basalabakk, Lebanon, in November.

**Western Europe**

Western Europe continued to be the most active area for international terrorism, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the events tallied. West European terrorism continued to be primarily anarchistic or separatist, but in many instances was conducted in opposition to US and NATO policies. The number and intensity of terrorist incidents declined in several West European countries, most notably West Germany and Italy, as a result of successful counterterrorist operations in 1982. However, several countries, like Spain and France, continued to experience domestic terrorism problems arising from the activities of separatist or transnational groups.

In West Germany, terrorist activity—including attacks against US military personnel and facilities—declined in 1983. INF deployment took place as scheduled and, despite some predictions of a "hot autumn," there was little violence and no apparent terrorist involvement in the anti-INF campaign. We noted a new emphasis on targeting German armaments industries and computer firms, and less emphasis on US military installations than in recent
years. The Revolutionary Cells committed most of the terrorist attacks, but they were less active than in previous years. The Red Army Faction (RAF), crippled by German counterterrorist operations in late 1982, gave no evidence of resurgence in 1983, and the RAF supporters were less active than in previous years. Rightwing terrorist organizations suffered setbacks during the year. Most members of the Kexel-Hepp group—rightwing terrorists responsible for violent attacks on the American military community in 1982—were arrested in February, although Hepp remains at large. In December, the West German Government banned the radical rightwing organization Action Front of National Socialists (ANS), the major neo-Nazi organization in the country.

Terrorist activity in Italy declined considerably in 1983 in comparison with previous years. The continuation of a string of Italian counterterrorist successes that began in 1982 resulted in numerous arrests of Red Brigades and other terrorist group members and supporters in 1983. Although there were no major attacks against US citizens or property, US and NATO facilities suffered a number of harassment attacks. By the end of the year, however, there were indications that some terrorists might be reorganizing or forming splinter groups.

In Greece during 1983, indigenous leftwing groups engaged in bombings, assassinations, and threats against a variety of foreign and domestic targets. In mid-November, US Navy Capt. George Tsantes, assigned to the Joint US Military Assistance Group in Greece (JUSMAGG), was assassinated. In its message to the Greek press, the 17 November Revolutionary Organization denounced the JUSMAGG and other US military facilities and intelligence services in Greece as "an occupation, terrorist force," and claimed to have killed Tsantes to protest Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou's failure not only to close US bases but also to bring change to Greece.

France was the site of numerous terrorist attacks conducted by a variety of terrorist groups. Armenian terrorists, continuing their bombing campaign against Turkish targets, killed six people and injured 60 in an attack on the Turkish Airlines counter at Paris's Orly Airport. Four different groups, all protesting various French and US policies, claimed credit for the September bombing that destroyed the US pavilion at the Marseilles International Trade Fair. Both the domestic Action Directe terrorist group and the shadowy Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, which in the past targeted US interests, were credited with terrorist attacks in France. In December, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez—also known as Carlos—struck at French interests with bomb attacks on a high-speed train and a railway station that claimed five lives. Ethnic emigre groups—Turks and Latin Americans, for example—remained active, claiming responsibility for bombings carried out to protest events in their respective countries. The Antiterrorist Liberation Group (GAL) claimed responsibility for the retaliatory killings of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) members in France. Separatist groups were responsible for more than 550 bombings in Corsica, as well as several in the French Antilles.

In Spain, Basque separatist groups—ETA and its splinters—directed terrorist attacks principally against Spanish Government officials and facilities as part of their campaign to obtain autonomy. One radical Basque group Iraultza, however, carried out a number of small-scale bombing attacks against US firms in the Basque region, protesting US involvement in Latin America.
Terrorism in Northern Ireland—predominantly bombings and shootings aimed at British security forces—continued sporadically during 1983. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) suffered a severe setback with the conviction of 140 members based on testimony of repentant terrorists. Intimidation campaigns by both PIRA and its Marxist offshoot, the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) failed to convince informers to repudiate their testimony. In September, however, 19 hardcore PIRA members escaped from Maze prison, probably contributing to the group's resurgence at the end of the year. The assassination of Protestant politician Edgar Graham and the Christmas bombing campaign in London indicated the PIRA had not suffered any permanent diminution of its capabilities as a result of informer testimony. On the other hand, INLA was outlawed in the Republic of Ireland—closing a legal loophole that had permitted INLA terrorists to flee to the Republic after committing terrorist attacks in Northern Ireland.

Armenian terrorism continued to focus on Turkish targets in Western Europe. The leftist Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) machine-gunned a covered bazaar in Istanbul in June and in July bombed the Turkish Airlines counter at Orly Airport in Paris. Some ASALA members, however, opposed the shift to indiscriminate attacks and formed a new splinter group, the ASALA Revolutionary Movement. The other major Armenian group, the rightist Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG), also was active in Western Europe. Among its attacks was the assassination of a Turkish Embassy official in Belgium in July. In the same month Armenian terrorists, using the name Armenian Revolutionary Army, attempted a takeover of the Turkish Embassy in Lisbon. After midyear, Armenian terrorists ceased their attacks, probably in an attempt to avoid harming the interests of captured Armenian terrorists.
who had been put on trial in July. Recent counterterrorist successes against Armenian terrorist groups have been limited to successful prosecution of captured terrorists in four trials.

**Latin America**

Social, economic, and political turmoil—exacerbated by a number of regional concerns—continued to form the backdrop for international and domestic terrorism in 1983, particularly in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. In South America, only three countries—Colombia, Peru, and Chile—experienced significant terrorist or insurgency problems.

In **Guatemala**, four major guerrilla groups—all members of a pro-Cuban umbrella organization—continued terrorist attacks against the Guatemalan Government, economic infrastructure, and the military during 1983. US personnel, installations, and businesses also were targeted. The Guatemalan security services realized some successes against a number of the smaller groups and put some of the larger insurgent groups on the defensive; nevertheless, the insurgents retained the ability to carry out high-impact operations.

In **Honduras**, where a number of Marxist groups were working to overthrow the democratically elected government, terrorist activity abated somewhat as a result of the Honduran security services' counterterrorist successes. In the spring, Honduran security forces captured Efrain Duarte Salgado, leader of the country's most violent guerrilla group, the Popular Revolutionary Forces—Lorenzo Zelaya (FPR). Subsequent arrests of many of the group's members rendered the organization ineffective. Despite counterterrorist successes, however, Honduran security forces have been unable to root out the terrorist infrastructure completely, as evidenced by a number of low-level bombing attacks against a variety of targets claimed by the leftist Cinchoneros in San Pedro Sula.

In **El Salvador**, the prolonged internal conflict was accompanied by terrorist attacks by both leftist and rightist forces against a variety of targets. US interests were not spared: a terrorist element of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) claimed credit for the murder of US Navy Lt. Comdr. Albert A. Schaufelberger, III, on 25 May and, in subsequent communiques, the FMLN threatened other US military personnel in El Salvador. Rightwing extremists involved in death squad activity directed against those advocating reform contributed significantly to the political turmoil.

**Nicaragua** promoted terrorism in Central America to further its primary objectives of preserving its revolutionary gains and destabilizing non-Marxist governments in the region. For example, Managua provided arms, ammunition, training, and safehaven, as well as propaganda and financial support, to revolutionary groups such as the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador and the Popular Revolutionary Forces in Honduras, for whom terrorism is one element in their arsenals.

During 1983 **Cuba** continued to assist terrorist/insurgent organizations and other destabilizing elements in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and the United States. Its support has included training, funding, documentation, and guidance, as well as communications, propaganda, and logistic support. In addition, Cuba has actively promoted contact and cooperation among sometimes disparate or antagonistic groups. At present, Cuba's prime area of interest is Central America, where it provides support to the Sandinistas and a number of other leftwing anti-American groups.
Kidnapped victim, Jaime Betancur, and some of his captors.

Colombia's high crime rate was augmented by the activities of four major insurgent groups that engaged in kidnapings, assassinations, bombings, and armed confrontations with the local police and military. Of the two largest groups—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the 19th of April Movement (M-19)—the FARC was the most active in 1983; it kidnapped (and released after ransoms were paid) three US citizens. Actions by the M-19 declined somewhat in number and violence following the death of the group's charismatic leader, Jaime Bateman, in an April 1983 plane crash. A third group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), gained notoriety in November for the kidnaping of Colombian President Betancur's brother; he was released unharmed in early December.

In Peru, the Maoist guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) conducted an escalating campaign of rural and urban violence, principally directed against non-military targets. Violent attacks such as bombings against public utilities, government ministries, and various businesses, as well as assassinations of local officials and suspected informants, were regular occurrences in the south-central mountain provinces in 1983 and became increasingly frequent in Lima. Suspected Sendero Luminoso members also attacked US-Peruvian cultural centers and the US Embassy in 1983.

In the latter half of 1983, urban terrorist violence in Chile escalated. Bombings were carried out against public utilities, and an assassination campaign was directed against the national police. Most of the attacks were unclaimed, but members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) terrorist group and elements of the Chilean Communist and Socialist Parties were suspected. Attacks against US interests included bombings of cultural centers and a bank.
**Soviet and East European Activities**

The Soviet Union and its allies have provided training, arms, and other direct and indirect support to a variety of national insurgent and separatist groups. Many of these groups commit international terrorist attacks as part of their program of revolutionary violence. Moreover, some of the individuals trained and equipped by the Soviets make their way into strictly terrorist groups that have little revolutionary history or potential.

Moscow continues to maintain close relations with and furnish aid to governments and organizations that directly support terrorist groups. In the Middle East, for example, the Soviets and their East European allies sell large quantities of arms to Libya and Syria and support Palestinian groups that have conducted terrorist operations. In Latin America, the Soviet Union and Cuba appear to be pursuing a long-term coordinated campaign to establish sympathetic Latin American regimes. Part of their strategy involves nurturing organizations and groups that use terrorism in support of their efforts to undermine existing regimes. In other parts of the world, especially Africa, the Soviets have supported guerrilla movements and national liberation organizations that at times engage in terrorism.

According to press reports, Bulgaria and other East European countries sell large amounts of Soviet-style military equipment to private arms dealers and brokers, who in turn are free to resell these items. Some of this material is eventually acquired by groups that commit terrorist acts.

**Africa**

Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa was confined to those countries where the political opposition had both a support structure and a military capability but was too weak to obtain power through elections or by attempting a direct coup. Frequently, such groups maintained exile support bases that enabled them to operate more effectively. For example:

- The African National Congress (ANC), the oldest insurgent group in Africa, has for some time employed a range of terrorist tactics against the South African Government to garner black support and to remind the white regime and the international community that the ANC is a force to be reckoned with. ANC attacks traditionally were carefully planned to avoid civilian casualties. On 20 May 1983, however, ANC members—possibly acting without authorization—detonated a car bomb outside the headquarters of the South African defense forces in Pretoria, killing 18 and wounding 217, mainly passing civilians.

- In Sudan in 1983, there were a number of serious terrorist incidents. In June, five humanitarian workers—including two Americans—were seized at Boma; the Sudanese Army rescued them. In November, two oil company contract employees were kidnapped by southern guerrillas. Their driver was killed, but the employees were later released. Also in November, seven Frenchmen and two Pakistanis working on the Jonglei Canal project were kidnapped by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army; they were released unharmed a few days later.
Aftermath of North Korean Government terrorist bombings in Rangoon, Burma.

In other African nations—such as Chad, Ethiopia, Namibia, and Angola—insurgents and separatists resorted to terrorist tactics in their ongoing civil and guerrilla warfare campaigns.

Asia/Pacific

The most vicious terrorist attack in Asia in 1983 was the 9 October bombing in Burma that claimed the lives of 21 South Korean and Burmese citizens and injured 48. The Rangoon atrocity, perpetrated by the North Korean Government, was the only global incident in 1983 in which the victims were high-level government leaders. The premature detonation of the bomb spared the life of its target, South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan. That attack was the first instance in which the North Koreans themselves carried out an attempt on the life of a South Korean leader outside South Korea.

In a few other Asian nations, several ethnic and political opposition groups utilized terrorist tactics in their bid for national and international recognition:

- In Burma, the ethnic insurgent Karen National Union for the first time engaged in aircraft hijacking (April) and kidnapping of foreigners (October).
• In **India**, Sikh agitation for an independent Punjab was responsible for several terrorist attacks, and government retaliation resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries.

• In **Sri Lanka**, Tamil separatists seeking greater autonomy from the Sinhalese majority community in the south turned increasingly to terrorism to press their demands for the creation of a separate Tamil state of Eelam. During the second quarter of 1983 Tamil terrorists were responsible for a number of violent incidents, including bombings, killings, assassinations, and the torching of a train. In July they ambushed and killed 13 Sri Lankan soldiers. This incident provoked the Sinhalese to retaliate against the Tamils in attacks that caused 400 deaths and millions of dollars in property damage. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister's promise to try to negotiate a political settlement restrained Tamil activity during the remainder of the year.

• In **Pakistan** the Al-Zulfiqar organization, which was formed in 1979 for the express purpose of killing President Zia and others viewed as responsible for the death of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, attempted few attacks in 1983; a hit squad did target the US Consul General, but no attack occurred.

• In **Japan**, three leftist groups—the Chukaku-ha (Nucleus Faction), Senki-Shuryuha (the Mainstream Battle Flag Faction), and the Kakurokyo (Revolutionary Workers Association) —claimed responsibility for fewer than 10 incidents, most of which were directed against US military installations and Tokyo's Narita Airport.
Appendix A

Chronology of Significant Terrorist Events in 1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>A bomb leveled the Security Headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) located in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, killing at least 53 persons; the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon From Foreigners (FLLF) claimed responsibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>The Palestine Research Center, site of an office of the PLO, was the target of a vehicle bombing that killed 10 and wounded 40; FLLF claimed credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Warehouses belonging to the French-owned Michelin Tire Company were destroyed in an arson attack perpetrated by the Basque Anticapitalist Autonomous Commandos; damage was estimated at $8 million.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>West Germany</td>
<td>In Duesseldorf, a fire extinguisher bomb exploded in a building owned by a US subsidiary, causing $400,000 damage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Kenneth Bishop, US geologist with Texaco, was kidnapped in Bogota and held captive for five weeks; the Revolutionary Organization of the People claimed credit for the incident.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Turkish Ambassador Galip Balkar was assassinated in Belgrade, and several bystanders were killed or wounded in the ensuing chase after the attackers. One suspect was captured at the scene and a second was later arrested trying to flee the country. Both men were found guilty by a Yugoslav court and sentenced to 20 years in prison.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>In Madrid, ETA (Basque Fatherland and Liberty) terrorists kidnapped a wealthy Spanish businessman; a large ransom was paid for his release.</td>
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</table>
8 April  Colombia
Catherine Wood Kirby, a US citizen who had been living in Colombia for 10 years, was kidnaped from her ranch in central Colombia by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC); she was released in late October after ransom was paid.

10 April  Portugal
An observer from the PLO to the International Conference of Socialists was assassinated by a gunman from the Abu Nidal Group.

18 April  Lebanon
A suicide vehicle bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut left 57 dead and 120 injured; Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

28 April  Colombia/Panama
Colombian M-19 leader Jaime Bateman was killed in a plane crash in Panama.

1 May  Honduras
Honduran authorities arrested Efrain Duarte, leader of the terrorist group Popular Revolutionary Forces–Lorenzo Zelaya, an organization responsible for a number of anti-US incidents during 1981-82.

5 May  South Korea/People's Republic of China
Six people seeking political asylum carried out the first successful hijacking of a domestic Chinese flight; the hijackers wounded two crewmembers before surrendering to South Korean authorities.

20 May  South Africa
The African National Congress claimed credit for a vehicle bomb explosion during Pretoria's rush hour that killed 18 and injured 217.

25 May  El Salvador
Navy Lt. Comdr. Albert A. Schaufelberger, III, a senior military adviser, was assassinated by a terrorist element of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

16 June  Turkey
In an incident that signaled a shift to indiscriminate, random attacks in Turkey, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) killed two and injured 23 in a grenade and machinegun attack at an Istanbul bazaar.
11 July

**Peru**
Sendero Luminoso terrorists assaulted the governing Popular Action Party headquarters with machineguns and dynamite during a party meeting in Lima, leaving three dead and about 30 wounded.

14 July

**Belgium**
The Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide claimed credit for the assassination of a Turkish administrative attache in Brussels.

15 July

**France**
In Toulouse, the offices of two firms involved in building a nuclear reactor in southwestern France were severely damaged by explosions.

In Paris, the ASALA claimed credit for the bombing of the Turkish Airlines counter at Orly Airport that killed six and injured more than 60.

21 July

**Lebanon**
Dr. David Dodge, president of the American University in Beirut who was kidnaped on 19 July 1982, was released through Syrian intervention.

23 July

**Sri Lanka**
The killing of 13 Sri Lankan Army personnel in a Tamil Tiger ambush touched off widespread communal violence between Sinhalese and Tamils that left at least 400 dead, 100,000 homeless, and property damage estimated in the millions.

26 July

**Italy**
In Turin, the three-month trial of 61 Red Brigades members ended with the defendants found guilty of 10 murders, 17 attempted murders, and a series of bombings.

Toni Negri, a prominent member of the Red Brigades was elected to the Italian parliament; Negri, who was in prison at the time, was released on grounds of parliamentary immunity.

27 July

**Portugal**
Five members of the Armenian Revolutionary Army (probably an ad hoc name) attacked the Turkish Embassy and Ambassador's residence; several hostages were held for three hours before an accidental explosion destroyed the building and killed the terrorists.
7 August  
**Lebanon**
The FLLF claimed credit for a vehicle bomb attack in a crowded market in the Syrian-controlled town of Baalabakk that killed 33 people and wounded 133.

15 August  
**Colombia**
Russell Stendal, US cattle rancher, was kidnaped in Cano Jabon by members of the FARC; he was released on 2 January 1984 after a sizable ransom had been paid.

27 August  
**Austria**
Arabic-speaking hijackers, possibly Lebanese, diverted an Air France flight en route to Paris to a number of European and Middle Eastern cities before landing in Tehran. The hijackers demanded a change in France's military and political support for Chad, Lebanon, and Iraq and the release of a number of Lebanese prisoners in French prisons.

8 September  
**Costa Rica**
A member of the Military Wing of Spain's ETA (ETA/M) was arrested in San Jose and charged with plotting to assassinate—with the possible help of Nicaragua—anti-Sandinista leader Eden Pastora.

23 September  
**United Arab Emirates**
An Omani Gulf aircraft en route from Karachi to Abu Dhabi was downed by an onboard bomb; 111 crewmembers and passengers, including one American, were killed.

25 September  
**Northern Ireland**
Thirty-eight Irish terrorists escaped from Belfast's maximum security Maze prison.

9 October  
**Burma**
North Korean Government terrorists were responsible for a bombing at the Martyrs Mausoleum in Rangoon that claimed the lives of 21 South Korean and Burmese citizens and injured 48. This was the only 1983 incident in which the victims were high-level government leaders, although the premature detonation of the bomb spared the life of its target, South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan.

18 October  
**Burma**
The Karen National Union kidnaped a French engineer (working on a French aid project) and his wife; they were released on 25 November. This was the first time that the KNU attacked foreigners.
23 October **Lebanon**
Massive vehicle bombs destroyed the headquarters of the US Marine contingent and damaged a French military post in Beirut, killing 296 US Marines and French soldiers and wounding another 84.

12 November **Spain**
In Bermeo, ETA/M claimed responsibility for killing a Spanish naval officer; he was the 37th victim of a terrorist assassination in Spain in 1983.

15 November **Greece**
The 17 November Revolutionary Organization assassinated Navy Capt. George Tsantes, assigned to the Joint US Military Assistance Group in Greece.

16 November **France**
In Paris, Frederic Oriach, the leader of the leftist group Direct Action, was sentenced to five years in prison for his involvement in criminal gang activities.

17 November **Colombia**
A bomb exploded in the administration building of Medellin University, causing more than $200,000 in damage.

22 November **Colombia**
President Betancur’s brother Jaime Betancur was kidnapped by individuals claiming to be members of the National Liberation Army (ELN); he was released unharmed on 7 December.

26 November **Italy**
In one of Italy’s largest guerrilla trials, more than 100 leftwing terrorists and their supporters were sentenced in Milan for their involvement in an urban guerrilla campaign that terrorized Italy during the 1970s.

2 December **Spain**
Eight US facilities located in the Spanish Basque country were the target of bomb attacks, believed to be the work of the Basque separatist group Iraultza, in protest against US involvement in Central America.

4 December **West Germany**
Four individuals broke into a US Army camp near Mutlangen and used sledgehammers to damage a Pershing II transporter. Mutlangen was widely believed to be the site for the first INF deployment.
6 December

Israel
PLO or PLO rebels bombed a civilian bus in Jerusalem, killing four and wounding 46.

8 December

Northern Ireland
In Belfast two Provisional Irish Republican Army guerrillas shot and killed Edgar Graham, the legal and security spokesman for the Official Unionists—the province’s largest party representing the Protestant majority.

12 December

Kuwait
A suicide vehicle bomb attack severely damaged the US Embassy; timed explosives also targeted the French Embassy, the Kuwait Airport, a residential complex, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water, and Shuaybah industrial complex.

16 December

Peru
Peruvian police arrested Antonio Diaz, a key lieutenant in the Sendero Luminoso (SL). This marked the first time since the SL began its armed campaign in the spring of 1980 that Peruvian security forces captured a ranking terrorist leader.

United Kingdom
In London, the Provisional Irish Republican Army detonated a large vehicle bomb behind Harrods department store, killing five people, including one American, and wounding 91 others.

21 December

Lebanon
A large truck bomb exploded outside the French Multinational Force headquarters, killing at least one French soldier and nine Lebanese civilians and wounding more than 125 others.

26 December

Peru
Unknown individuals, presumed to be Sendero Luminoso terrorists, tossed five dynamite sticks over a wall into the Chinese Embassy compound in commemoration of Mao Zedong’s birthday; this was the third straight year for such attacks.