START Bulletin

Summer 2010

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland.

START uses state-of-the-art theories, methods, and data from the social and behavioral sciences to improve understanding of the origins, dynamics, and social and psychological impacts of terrorism. For more information on START, please visit http://www.start.umd.edu/.

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START ▶▶

START Highlights

START Highlights showcase recent accomplishments of START researchers and students.

Summer 2010

one ▶ This year, Erica Chenoweth was awarded the Carol A. Baker Memorial Prize for excellence in junior faculty teaching and research from Wesleyan University. The Carol A. Baker Memorial Prize is awarded on a yearly basis to encourage and recognize teaching and research within the College of Social Sciences.

two ▶ In August, Susan Fahey, a recipient of a Terrorism Research Award and a new faculty member at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, received funding from DHS to attend the DHS Science & Technology Directorate (S&T)/UK Home Office, Office of Security and Counter Terrorism Greenfield Aviation Security Workshop at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. The workshop sought input from 30 young researchers from a range of science and engineering disciplines to envision the future of aviation security.

three ▶ This Fall, Emmanuel Karagiannis will spend his sabbatical at Princeton University as a Stanley J. Seeger Visiting Research Fellow. The Seeger Fellowship, through the Program in Hellenic Studies, is for scholars from Greece and other countries to pursue independent research projects at Princeton.

four ▶ START has scheduled the Fall START Seminar with DHS Under Secretary for Science & Technology, Dr. Tara O'Toole. Dr. O'Toole will be addressing the role that academic research can play in homeland security at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts (Kogod Theater) on September 16, 2010 from 10:30 – 11:30 am. The event is free of charge and open to the public. RSVP to infostart@start.umd.edu.

five ▶ START is delighted to announce the recent addition of two new members to our headquarters staff. Sarah Fishering serves as Education Coordinator and Beya Reynolds serves as Office Assistant. If you haven't already had contact with them, they can be reached at sfishering@start.umd.edu and rreynolds@start.umd.edu.
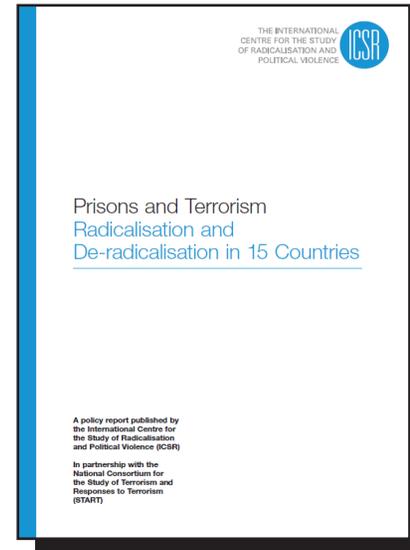
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Prisons and Terrorism: Radicalisation and De-radicalisation in 15 Countries

Prisons and Terrorism
Radicalisation and
De-radicalisation in 15 Countries

A policy report published by
the International Centre for
the Study of Radicalisation
and Political Violence (ICSR)

In partnership with the
National Consortium for
the Study of Terrorism and
Responses to Terrorism
(START)

At the recent Peace and Security Summit in New York, ICSR launched its latest report, *Prisons and Terrorism: Radicalisation and De-radicalisation in 15 Countries*. Sixteen of the world's leading experts contributed to the report, which was funded by the governments of Australia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, and carried out in partnership with the START. The project supporting the report was sponsored in part by START and the University of Maryland.

> Based on a survey of prison policies in 15 countries, the report offers the most comprehensive study to date of the role prisons can play in radicalizing people – and in reforming them.

The report identifies trade-offs and dilemmas but also principles and best practices that will help governments and policymakers spot new ideas and avoid costly and counterproductive mistakes.

Among the key findings and recommendations are:

- Terrorists are not 'ordinary' offenders. They often use their time in prison to mobilize outside support, radicalise other prisoners, and – when given the opportunity – will attempt to recreate operational command structures.

- The current emphasis on security and containment leads to missed opportunities to promote reform. Prison services should be more ambitious in promoting positive influences inside prison, and develop more innovative approaches to facilitate extremists' transition back into mainstream society.

- Over-crowding and under-staffing amplify the conditions that lend themselves to radicalization. Badly run prisons make the detection of radicalization difficult, and they also create the physical and ideological space in which extremist recruiters can operate at free will.

- Individual de-radicalization and disengagement programs – such as the ones in Saudi-Arabia, Singapore, Indonesia, and other countries – can make a difference. Their positive and outward-looking approach should serve as an inspiration for governments and policymakers everywhere.

- Even in the best circumstances, however, such programs complement rather than replace other instruments in the fight against terrorism. They work best when the political momentum is no longer with the terrorists or insurgents.

In the words of ICSR's Director, Dr Peter Neumann, 'Prisons are not just a threat – they can play a positive role in tackling problems of radicalization and terrorism in society as a whole. Many of the examples in the report demonstrate how.'

START Website Redesigned

Over the past year, START has been redesigning our website to make it more user- and media-friendly.

This is just a glimpse of some of the changes and new features:

START in a Flash
To highlight the most recent updates for START, we have created a section to highlight these graphically. You will be able to click through these rotating images and use the images to take you to the sections of the START site that you are the most interested in.

START Media Guide
We will be featuring a new media guide that allows members of the media to search among START Researchers to find the experts most relevant to their topic of interest.

START Announcements & Events
We have separated our events and announcements to make it easier to find the current news about

START as well as upcoming events and materials from previous events.

START Education & Product Spotlights
We have incorporated feature sections on the new site, to make it easier to find the products that START has developed through their research as well as the most notable updates in education.
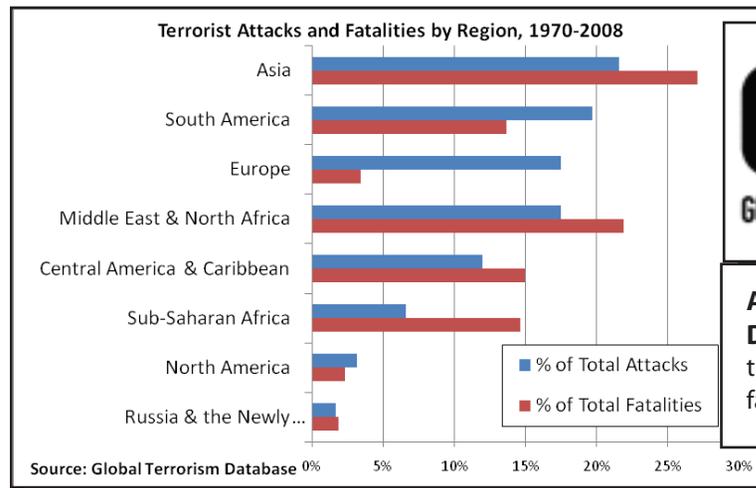
****Coming Soon - START Mutimedia Feature****
As updates to the new site continue, the Director's Letter will be replaced with a multimedia section,

making all of our photos, video, and powerpoint presentations available to you through one portal.

The new START website will be available to the public beginning September 1, 2010 in beta form. During the beta period, the current site will remain accessible through the revised site.

The new site will be available at the current URL: http://www.start.umd.edu/start/.

GTD Updated Through 2008

Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities by Region, 1970-2008

Source: Global Terrorism Database

Access to the Global Terrorism Database The GTD is available to the public through an online interface: www.start.umd.edu/gtd/.

START has released an update to its Global Terrorism Database (GTD), a comprehensive open-source database including information on terrorist attacks around the world between 1970 and 2008. The GTD includes systematically collected data on both domestic and international terrorist incidents. The expanded data released in May 2010 include new information through December 2008 and additional new cases from supplemental data collection projects, including high-profile assassinations and terrorism in the United States. In 2008 for the first time, primary GTD data collection was carried out by the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups at New Haven University (http://isvg.org/).

The 2008 Data

- Includes over 2,500 bombings, 1,100 armed assaults, 200 assassinations, 300 facility/infrastructure attacks, and 300 kidnappings.

- The most common type of target is Private Citizens and Property (31%), followed by Government (15%), Business (9%), and Police (9%).

- 50 new terrorist organizations were added to the data.

The GTD now includes data on over 87,000 terrorist attacks worldwide between 1970 and 2008:

- Over 2,200 attacks occurred in the United States.

- The database includes attacks that were carried out as well as those that were attempted but not successful.

- Includes over 38,000 bombings, 21,000 armed assaults, 13,000 assassinations, 6,000 facility/infrastructure attacks, 4,000 kidnappings, and 700 hostage taking incidents.

- The attacks in the GTD are attributed to over 2,100 terrorist groups.

Improvements and added functionality to the GTD search interface and search results include:

- Searches and graphing of activity of multiple perpetrator groups

- Searches and graphing of activity in multiple countries

- Restrict search results based on whether the attack was a suicide attack

- Restrict search results based on whether the attack was successful

- Browse cases by date of attack

- Incident page includes indication of uncertainty where the identity of the terrorist group is unclear.

- Incident page includes any available details about the name of the perpetrator group to which the attack is attributed, including faction name where available.

The full dataset can be downloaded through the "Contact" section of the website. The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 2008 (with annual updates planned for the future). Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as international terrorist attacks and now includes more than 87,000 cases. For each GTD incident, information is available on the date and location of the incident, the weapons used and nature of the target, the number of casualties, and—when identifiable—the group or individual responsible.

Recent START Publications

Articles & Book Reviews

Asal, Victor H., and R. Karl Rethemeyer, Ian Anderson, Allyson Stein, Jeffrey Rizzo. "The Softest of Targets: A Study on Terrorist Target Selection." *Journal of Applied Security Research* 4.3 (2009).

Asal, Victor H., and R. Karl Rethemeyer. "Dilettantes, Ideologues and the Weak: Terrorists Who Don't Kill." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25.3 (2008).

Asal, Victor H., and R. Karl Rethemeyer. "The Nature of the Beast: Terrorist: The Organizational and Network Characteristics of Organizational Lethality." *Journal of Politics* 70.2 (2008).

Fitzgerald, James , and Anthony F. Lemieux. "Across the Divide: Reflections of a Collaborative Class on Terrorism." *Enhance Learning in the Social Sciences* 2.3 (2010).

Hafez, Mohammed M. "The Alchemy of Martyrdom: Jihadi Salafism and Debates over Suicide Bombings in the Muslim World." *Asian Journal of Social Sciences* 38 (2010).

Kruglanski, Arie W., and Michele J. Gelfand, Rohan Gunaratna. "Detainee Deradicalization: A Challenge for Psychological Science." *Association for Psychological Science Observer* 23.1 (2009).

LaFree, Gary , and Gary Ackerman. "The Empirical Study of Terrorism: Social and Legal Research." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 5.1 (2009).

LaFree, Gary , and Nancy Morris, Laura Dugan. "Cross-National Patterns of Terrorism: Comparing Trajectories for Total, Attributed and Fatal Attacks, 1970-2006." *British Journal of Criminology* 50.4 (2010).

LaFree, Gary, Sue-Ming Yang, and Martha Crenshaw. "Trajectories of Terrorism: Attack Patterns of Foreign Groups that have Targeted the United States, 1970 to 2004." *Criminology and Public Policy* 8.1 (2009).

LaFree, Gary . "Criminology's Third War: Special Issue on Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism." *Criminology and Public Policy* 5.1 (2009).

LaFree, Gary . "The Global Terrorism Database: Accomplishments and Challenges." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 4 (2010).

Maoz, Ifat , and Gili Frreedman, Clark McCauley. "Fled or Expelled: Representation of Israeli-Arab Conflict in U.S. History Books." *Peace and Conflict* 16.1 (2010).

Nickels, Benjamin P. "Book Review: Anneli Botha, Terrorism in the Maghreb: The Transnationalisation of Domestic Terrorism." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 4.2 (2010).

Schoch-Spana, Monica. "Meeting Report - Resilient American Communities: Progress in Practice and Policy." *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism* 8.1 (2010).

Tucker, Phebe , and Haekyung Jeon-Slaughter, Betty Pfefferbaum, Qaiser Khan, Nathan Davis. "Emotional and Biological Stress Measures in Katrina Survivors Relocated to Oklahoma." *American Journal of Disaster Medicine* 5.2 (2010).

Book Chapters

Arias, Enrique D. "Understanding Criminal Networks, Political Order, and Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean." In *Ungoverned Spaces: Alternatives to State Authority in an Era of Softened Sovereignty*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010.

Asal, Victor H., and R. Karl Rethemeyer. "Islamist Use and Pursuit of CBRN Terrorism". In *Jihadists & Weapons of Mass Destruction*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press / Taylor & Francis, Ltd., 2009.

LaFree, Gary , and Sue-Ming Yang, Martha Crenshaw. "International Cooperation, Not Unilateral Policies May be the Best Counterterrorism Strategy." In *Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice Policy*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2009.

LaFree, Gary , and Laura Dugan. "Research on Terrorism and Countering Terrorism." In *Crime and Justice: A Review of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

LaFree, Gary , and Laura Dugan. "Tracking Global Terrorism, 1970-2004." In *To Protect and to Serve: Police and Policing in an Age of Terrorism*. New York: Springer, 2009.

Leuprecht, Christian , and Todd Hataley, Sophia Moskalenko, Clark McCauley. "Narratives and Counter-narratives for Global Jihad: Opinion versus Action." In *Countering Violent Extremist Narratives*. Breda, The Netherlands: National Coordinator for Counterterrorism, 2010.

Nickels, Benjamin P. "Terror, Trauma, and Text: Writing Counterrevolution in Colonial Algeria." In *Culture as Text, Text as Culture*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010.

Books

Arias, Enrique D., and Daniel Goldstein. *Violence Democracies in Latin America*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press. 2010.

Crenshaw, Martha, ed. *The Consequences of Counterterrorism*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. 2010.