
TERRORIST ATTACKS ON TOURIST PLACES

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Abstract: The main object of this paper refers to the endangering of tourism, tourist places and tourists by the violent activities performed by the terrorists. Such dangerous conditions, in the paper, are expressed through the analysis of some of the known terrorist attacks which were committed against tourists in last years. For that purpose, scientific thoughts, theories, experts opinions and views on the importance and need for security in tourism, together with the causes, factors and the most severe forms of threats, will be analyzed in this paper. Special emphasis will be given on explanations why the tourists and the tourist places are selected very often as the target by the terrorists.

Terrorism has severe consequences on a tourist destination. Depending on the type of attack and the destinations response, the effects will be either relatively short term or last for years. Murdering innocent visitors on holiday, the softest of targets, which causes fear, worry and insecurity, is certainly an aggressive and brutally effective strategy. It guarantees huge media coverage in the home countries of the victims, destination where the attack took place and the whole region as well. The media appear to play a huge role in amplifying the negativity brought about by an attack - producing more fear and further reducing tourism rates by damaging a destinations image of safety. In essence, this means that the media are therefore helping terrorists achieve their goals.

Terrorism at tourist places undermines the positive dynamic of tourism - generally a well-being which helps people of different countries and cultures understand each other better. It causes maximum economic, social and political damage as tourists, intimidated by the threat, caused by the terrorist attack, stay away. Terrorists know this very well, so that's why they seem increasingly focused on exploiting it. But history tells us that while they can certainly cause immense outrage and terrible individual suffering, they won't defeat people's desire to go out, to travel and see the world.

Finally, the authors will make an overview of the preventive and repressive measures to identify and detect planning of terrorist attacks of the tourist places and also the investigations that are conducted by the law enforcement agencies for finding the perpetrators of these violent acts. The paper should try to describe the influence and effects of the terrorists' attacks on the safety, tourism industry, decision making processes, country and the whole society and to propose wide measures and recommendations to the state security bodies and officials which should help in the successful fight and suppression of these kinds of negative phenomena.

Keywords: terrorism, tourism, analysis, terrorist attacks, tourist places.

1. INTRODUCTION

Terrorism always aims to inspire the kind of fear that will get people to change their behavior. Terrorists continue to call for attacks in social media, publications and other public messages against interests of the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany and their partners in the global war against terrorism. Terrorists have called for attacks on civilians, as well as the interests of military, police and security services. This represents a continuation of threats by extremist groups aimed at encouraging attacks in western countries and against western interests elsewhere. These calls are intended to motivate sympathizers to attack Western interests, often in unsophisticated but lethal ways. Throughout 2015, militants aligned with terrorist groups in the Middle East have used social media to call for attacks against local and western interests in a large number of countries, including in Southeast Asia.¹³⁸

¹³⁸ More of this in: Tunisia terror attack, How dangerous is your holiday? Safe alternative travel destinations for Brits this summer, 03.07.2015, downloaded from <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/travel-news-cheap-uk-holidays-luxury-breaks-more-daily-star/451454/Tunisia-terror-attack-safe-holiday-destinations-British-tourists> [retrieved 20.12.2017]

Terrorism is violence aimed at achieving political or ideological objectives. Attacks can be centrally directed from a structured organization or network or by individuals acting without any direct external control (i.e. the so called 'lone wolf'). Recent events in the United States, Denmark, France, Canada, Tunisia and Australia highlight the risks posed by individuals motivated by the current situation in Syria and Iraq. Attacks could be carried out by locals or citizens of other countries, including holders of Western passports. A large number of foreigners are currently fighting in Syria and Iraq.

There is a continuing and long-standing threat of terrorist attack across the world. ISIL and other terrorist groups take as a target for their terrorist attacks countries partners of USA as a leading country in the fight against global terrorism. This threat extends worldwide.¹³⁹

A number of terrorist organizations have demonstrated the intent and capability to attack Western interests. Since the 2001 attacks in the US, terrorists have launched major attacks in Bali, Jakarta, Madrid, London, New Delhi, Jakarta, Kampala, Nairobi, Abuja, Volgograd, Moscow, Egypt, and Tunisia that killed and injured a number of foreigners. Additionally, in the period since the 2001 new militant groups have emerged in parts of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East which have caused a major deterioration in the security environment across these regions. At the same time, terrorist safe havens have emerged in Mali, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria/Iraq and Yemen. This affords a wider range of groups the opportunity to plan more sophisticated attacks.

It should be noted that terrorist groups are usually organized in a similar way as military organizations. Many terrorist groups, especially those who are led or supported by foreign governments are highly disciplined, and tasks are organized and carried out in a clean, functional and authoritative manner. Terrorist organizations adopt various forms of violence in order to achieve publicity and lead to the intimidation to which they have directed their activities to achieve their political goals. Current activities include arson bombs, bombing of working facilities or residences, conducting sabotage. Also, terrorists use other applicable methods, such as assassinations, murders, kidnappings, selling drugs or weapons to provide cash and perform other activities for destruction of objects. Terrorism, as a concept which means rule by intimidation or violence, is one of the worst forms of crime. The application of funds for threat or intimidation of individuals or groups, terrorists seek to achieve any material benefit or to achieve a political goal. In order to successfully respond to threats and dangers posed by terrorism, and to take precautionary and safety measures, it is necessary to discover, find and destroy terrorists and their organizations before they can commit violence.¹⁴⁰

The rapid growth of the world wide tourism industry has been attributed to a number of factors, among which are strong economic growth, increase in disposable income and leisure time, easing of travel restrictions, successful tourist promotion, and recognition by governments. Tourism is an uncertain industry insofar as its evolution remains very sensitive to hasty changes in the tourism environment. The phenomenon of politics and economics has a great influence on tourism and its development. Tourism¹⁴¹ is now one of the largest industries in the world with many countries relying on it as their major, if not main source of GDP. The importance of traveler safety and the destinations image of safety and security makes the tourism industry highly vulnerable and volatile. Consequently, the insecurity that tourists feel just by leaving their country is unwontedly magnified when a terrorist attack occurs and the overindulgence of media attention creates world-wide fear. The ability of terrorists to tactically plan their attacks has lead to tourist destinations being one of their prime targets. Terrorism and tourism have become inextricably linked. An attack on a destination with international tourists increases the publicity as more nationalities are involved. The effect that an attack creates, the fear and terror that is produced through the media reports and the result this has on tourism income rates is mega and can severely damage economies. This tactic is perfect for terrorists whose aim is to weaken governments.

¹³⁹ Garfit, L., E., *The Link Between Terrorism and The Media: Is Tourism Affected?*, *Tourism student's virtual conference, Hosts, workers and guests: servicing and accessing tourism, University of Lincoln*, <http://www.travel-conference.co.uk/commentries.php?paper=160#.VkDNJ9KrSt8>

¹⁴⁰ Dimovski, Z., Ilijevski, I., Babanoski, K. (2011) *Inteligence as a key link in the fight against terrorism. International scientific conference: Security in the post conflict (Western) Balkans: Transition and challenges faced by the Republic of Macedonia (Security Studies and the Science of Security)*, Ohrid, 27-28.05.2011. Skopje: Faculty of security – Skopje

¹⁴¹ Fletcher, R., *How does terrorism affect tourism and what part does the media play in fuelling terrorism?*, *Tourism student's virtual conference, Hosts, workers and guests: servicing and accessing tourism, University of Lincoln*, <http://www.travel-conference.co.uk/commentries.php?paper=161#.VkDMu9KrSt8>

Today when the world through the United States and its allies, is heavily involved in anti-terrorist struggle and when the consequences are devastating terrorism, security, stability and peace in Europe, this directly influences the security of the Balkans. To stop this evil, Europe must cut off all channels of terrorism leading to the Balkans and all the channels and networks that lead to terrorism in the Balkans. The fight against terrorism must be taken at global, regional and national level and to take concrete measures and activities with a high degree of efficiency in order to eliminate the consequences and offset.

2. TARGETS FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS IN TOURISM

The tourism industry is highly vulnerable to natural (i.e., hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, torrential rains) and human-caused disasters – whether social or political (i.e., riots, insurgency, terrorism, crime, political upheaval, war, regional tensions)¹⁴². Regardless of their nature, disasters create difficult, often tragic, situations for the afflicted area and its residents. Over the years, media coverage of disasters has conveyed the resulting loss of life, human suffering, public and private property damage, and economic and social disruption. The ensuing negative publicity often characterizes the period after a disaster occurrence that lasts until full recovery is achieved and pre-disaster conditions resume. For a tourist destination, this period can represent a tourism crisis, which can threaten the normal operation and conduct of tourism-related businesses; damage a tourist destination's overall reputation for safety, attractiveness, and comfort by negatively affecting visitors perceptions of that destination; and, in turn, cause a downturn in the local travel and tourism economy, and interrupt the continuity of business operations for the local travel and tourism industry, by the reduction in tourist arrivals and expenditures. Although the repercussions of a tourism crisis are likely to damage all destinations, the period of recovery can vary for each.¹⁴³

The risk perception of terrorism¹⁴⁴ may cause travel anxiety towards a destination. Different levels of risk perception together with other internal factors may determine a tourist's motivation to travel, their awareness of destination alternatives, the level of concern given to safety and terrorism threat, the extent of their information search, evaluation of alternatives, and therefore their destination choice. Attitude is one of the main determinants of tourist buying behaviors. An individual with negative attitudes toward a destination due to a terrorist incident may exhibit high levels of concern for safety, and this is likely to result in a negative outcome for the travel decision. External factors related to terrorism, such as media reports about a terrorist incident or treats, tourism authorized advisories, the recovery campaign and so on, have an influence on tourists' perceptions of the affected destinations, their attitude towards travel and their image of the destinations. Where there were formerly attacks or hijacking which affected individual tourists, we are now seeing a disturbing trend where terrorism is directed against tourists and tourist destinations.

Terrorists may target:

- **local government interests:** including symbols, offices and infrastructure associated with national or local governments, public transport, military and security forces bases;
- **identifiably Western interests:** including embassies, airlines, foreign oil and gas infrastructure, premises of multinational companies (including employee residential compounds) and international schools;
- **places of mass gathering:** including public buildings and infrastructure such as shopping malls, hotels, markets, public transport terminals, airports, tourist sites and public areas;
- **gatherings of Westerners:** including hotels, restaurants, nightclubs and other entertainment infrastructure catering to foreign clientele;
- **places of worship:** including mosques, churches, temples and synagogues of all faiths, as well as religious ceremonies and processions.

Heightened risk of terrorist attack exists in a number of European countries¹⁴⁵ due to the conflict in Syria and Iraq. In the past decade, major terrorist attacks have occurred in a number of European cities, such as Glasgow,

¹⁴² Sonmez, S., Apostolopoulos, Y., Tarlow, P., Tourism in Crisis: Managing the Effects of Terrorism, *Journal of Travel Research*, 38(1), 1999, pp. 13-18

¹⁴³ Henderson, C. J. (2003) Terrorism and Tourism, *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing*, Vol. 15 (1), pp. 41-58.

¹⁴⁴ Baker, D. (2014) The Effects of Terrorism on the Travel and Tourism Industry. *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*, vol. 2 (1), article 9, p. 64

¹⁴⁵ www.express.co.uk/news/world/588731/Islamic-State-attacks-Egyptian-resorts-popular-UK-travellers

London, Madrid, and Moscow, Oslo and Volgograd. Targets have included public transport and transport hubs as well as public places frequented by foreigners. European security services are taking robust measures in response to the current threat. The attacks on the offices of Charlie Hebdo and on Jewish interests in Paris in January 2015 and shootings in Copenhagen in February 2015 underscore the possibility of attacks by individuals and small groups.

Spain and France – Many intelligence agencies report there is currently a high threat from terrorism in Spain. Attacks could be indiscriminate including in places visited by foreigners. The Spanish authorities are taking measures to protect visitors but all should be vigilant and follow the instructions of the local authorities. In light of the attack which took place on June 26 at Saint Quentin Fallavier near Lyon, even France is now also classed as highly at risk from terrorism.

Turkey - There is a high threat from terrorism which shares a border with war-torn Syria and Iraq, where death cult Islamic State are waging war. Attacks could be indiscriminate and could affect places visited by foreigners. There have been warnings that foreigners on Turkey's beaches could be at risk.

Israel and Lebanon - There are heightened tensions in Israel, brought about by rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and Israeli airstrikes on Gaza increase the risk of retaliatory terrorist attacks in Israel. As a result, the FCO advises against all travel to Gaza, the Sheba'a Farms and Ghajjar along the border with Lebanon (the Blue Line) and east of Route 98 along the Syrian border. The FCO advises against all but essential travel to all other parts of Israel within 5 km of the Israeli/Lebanese border. There are currently no-go zones in Lebanon, particularly along the borders of Syria and Israel and along the part of the capital Beirut.

3. FAMOUS ATTACKS THAT TARGETED TOURISTS

In the following paragraph will be listed some terrorist attacks to the tourist places¹⁴⁶.

It's 30 years since both the Palestinian Liberation Front hijack of the Achille Lauro cruise liner, and the suicide grenade and gun attacks by the Abu Nidal group which killed 16 people at Rome and Vienna airports. In Cairo, in 1993, a bomb near the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square killed four tourists. Two years after that, in 1995, a group of tourists was kidnapped in Kashmir – many of them are still missing, presumed killed.

62 people, mostly tourists were killed at the Egyptian archaeological site Luxor in 1997; attack widely blamed on Islamist group, Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya (although in 2013 the group denied its involvement).

202 people were killed and 209 injured in 2002 bombing attack on nightclubs on the Indonesian island Bali; various members of Islamist group Jemaah Islamiyah were convicted and executed for the crime.

88 people were killed in an attack on the Egyptian resort Sharm el-Sheikh in 2005 by a group affiliated with al-Qaeda.

ETA planted bombs on Spanish beaches in 2002 and 2008, and there was an explosion in the Turkish resort of Kemer in 2011.

Terrorists continue to plan and conduct attacks in Egypt. Since 2013, attacks have mainly targeted the security forces, their facilities and other government buildings. There have been threats to western nationals, institutions, and businesses posted on websites and social media. Foreigners could be targeted in tourist resorts or other places. Attacks could be indiscriminate and may occur without prior warning. There is a threat of kidnapping, particularly in remote desert areas. On 22 July 2015, a foreign national was kidnapped in the western desert. He was murdered in August 2015. A terrorist group has claimed responsibility for his murder.

Today, enhanced security measures are in place to protect the Sharm el Sheikh and Hurghada resort areas. Security forces are situated at the international airports, at check points around the perimeter of the towns and throughout the Governorates. Routine security checks are being performed on entry into the airport and the police are carrying out vehicle checks in the towns.

On 31 October 2015, a flight from Sharm el Sheikh to St Petersburg crashed in North Sinai. Egyptian and Russian authorities are conducting an investigation in line with international regulations.

There is a significant possibility that the crash was caused by an explosive device.

¹⁴⁶ Parkinson, J., Heyden, T. (2015) How terrorist attacks affect tourism, BBC News Magazine, 29.06.2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33310217> and Pizam, A. and Smith, G. (2000) Tourism and Terrorism: A Quantitative Analysis of Major Terrorist Acts and their Impact on Tourism Destinations, Tourism Economics, Vol. 16 (2), pp. 123-138.

4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

A terrorist attack affects the economic field, society environment, tourism industry and the political sphere which have to rebuild an environment of peace and security¹⁴⁷. Attacks, which are terrorists or not as we can just saw before have a direct repercussion upon hotels booking and the tourism sector in general. These events can harm to a destination and terrify potential tourists. However this fear depends on types of bombing or attacks, reason of attack and reaction of the country concerned. When an attack impact a touristic destination, if this destination is not located in a risky zone then it won't stay blocked and tourists will coming back after a decrease period and a certain length of time. During this kind of events people needs to be put into perspective in order to not go too far in a panic and generalized these events.

Because of the seriousness and harmfulness of the terrorist attacks, tourists need more specific safety information than locals do. Since visitors are usually unfamiliar with the geography and other aspects of their destination, it can be difficult to find information that's relevant to them and that they can make sense of. An example is when authorities are asking people to stay away from certain areas, and a tourist has no context for the directive. Thus tourist organizations need to fill in these gaps and help visitors understand these messages using landmark-filled maps and other methods. This will go a long way toward making a tourist feel safe, less likely to leave and more likely to stick to a planned trip.¹⁴⁸

Travelers should be aware that significant dates, anniversaries, religious festivals and political events (such as elections) are considered symbolic by terrorists and have been used in the past to mount attacks. Terrorists have also conducted attacks in response to broader international political or social developments, such as the release of films and cartoons considered to be offensive.¹⁴⁹

Cities outside of Europe¹⁵⁰ are beginning to take anti-terrorism precautions and install concrete barriers to protect their pedestrians. Already, concrete barricades can be spotted in New York City's Times Square, while an Australia news site reports that concrete blocks are popping up in Sydney and Melbourne. As unattractive as rows of concrete blocks at some of the world's most stunning attractions can be, they may work to thwart future vehicular terrorism attacks at main tourist areas.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Tourism is extremely sensitive to terrorism attacks. Terrorists want to control countries political and economical situation, by targeting highly populated tourism areas and destinations, terrorists are able to do this. The media attention from terrorist attacks involving tourists for example, 9/11 in New York and Washington and the Bali Bombings gains more media coverage for the terrorists. They're views and reasoning's for terrorism is heard and witness by the public. When a terrorist attack happens in a tourist destination, it can affect that destination both short and long haul. However in the case of ETA in Spain, the media coverage their terrorist attacks have gained from the European media has been played down, therefore the public have been less informed. Spain's tourism has not been as effected as other countries which have received more media coverage when terrorist attacks have happened, even though ETA have admitted to purposely attacking tourist areas in Spain.

Everyone must be a smart traveller. As advices Smarttraveler web site¹⁵¹ in Australia before heading overseas everyone should:

- organise comprehensive travel insurance and check what circumstances and activities are not covered by your policy

¹⁴⁷ Lemarechal, C., Mang, E., Maniere, E., Ramic, A. (2015) The terrorist attacks a problem for the tourism industry in France, 29.02.2015 http://www.tourmag.com/The-terrorist-attacks-a-problem-for-the-tourism-industry-in-France_a71934.html

¹⁴⁸ Pennington-Gray, L. (2016) Terrorism and tourism: what cities should do to prepare for an attack, 14.06.2016, <http://theconversation.com/terrorism-and-tourism-what-cities-should-do-to-prepare-for-an-attack-60975>

¹⁴⁹ Dunkley (2005) cited in Dale, C and Robinson, N (2011) Dark Tourism. In Robinson, P, Heitmann, S and Dieke, P.U.C (ed.) Research Themes for Tourism. Oxford :CAB International

¹⁵⁰ Vargas, N. (2017) How Popular Tourist Destinations Are Responding to the Threat of Terrorism, 22.08.2017, <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/italy/articles/how-popular-tourist-destinations-are-responding-to-the-threat-of-terrorism/>

¹⁵¹ https://smartraveller.gov.au/bulletins/terrorist_threat

- register his/hers travel and contact details, so the security institutions can contact him/her in an emergency

To reduce your exposure you should:

- do research on your proposed destination before you book, such as by regularly checking the country travel advice;
- ensure your itinerary does not include any areas where the travel advisory advises against travel which also include border areas or other locations within an otherwise low-risk country
- you should consider if you need to be travelling to areas assessed as “Reconsider your need to travel” or if you persist, take additional precautions
- be aware that if the travel advice level changes after you have booked, but before you have departed, you may be able to make a claim on your travel insurance policy;
- monitor the news in the country and region to identify any issues that might affect your safety, including knowing about symbolic days or political events to avoid;
- be vigilant in public areas and places that attract foreigners and Westerners, such as embassies, hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs and identifiably Western interests
- avoid areas with poor security;
- identify emergency exits and have an action plan in the event of a security threat;
- have a telephone and emergency contact information with you at all times;
- in high threat locations consider obtaining professional security advice and ensure that you adhere to strict security procedures, which may include:
 - avoiding routines that make you an easy target – vary the time and route of your regular journeys;
 - considering ways of minimising your profile;
 - undertaking formal risk assessments.

It is said that the impact of terrorism on tourism can occur up to three months post terrorist attack and can last for up to six to nine months (Fletcher). However, this only appears to relate to one-off attacks. The ability of the country to re-vamp its image by increasing security and essentially making tourists feel safe again, has a large effect on the speed of recovery of a tourist destination. Overcoming negative media attention is vital and can be successful if the correct marketing campaigns are in place. The Madrid train bombings are a very good example of a swift restoration that lead to an increase in tourism, however, the Bahli bombings found it extremely difficult to get past the negative media attention.

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- [17] <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/egypt>
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