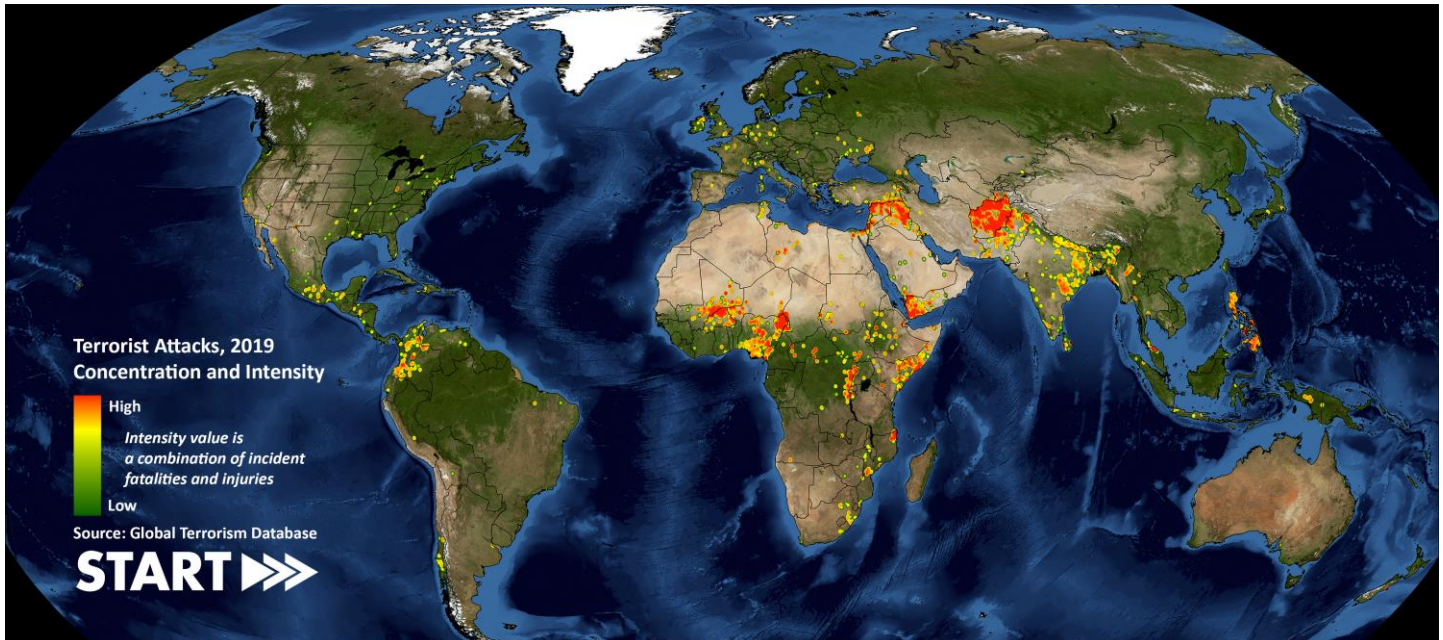# Global Terrorism Overview: Terrorism in 2019

- Increasing terrorist violence in Afghanistan sustained amid peace talks
- Islamic State's decline in Iraq and expanding global impact
- Deadly increases in racially and ethnically motivated terrorism

**Terrorist Attacks, 2019
Concentration and Intensity**

High

*Intensity value is
a combination of incident
fatalities and injuries*

Low
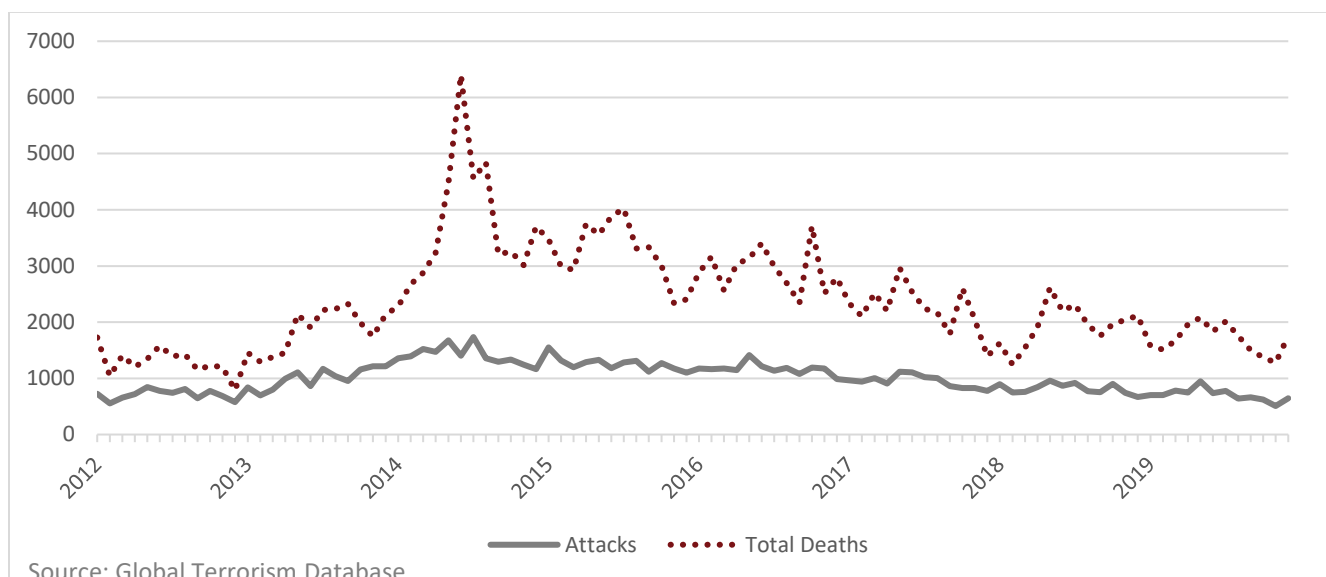
Source: Global Terrorism Database

OVERVIEW

In 2019, there were nearly 8,500 terrorist attacks around the world, which killed more than 20,300 people, including 5,460 perpetrators and 14,840 victims. The patterns described here provide a general overview. We encourage readers to explore the Global Terrorism Database™ and consider contextual information for a comprehensive assessment.[1]

- 2019 was the fifth consecutive year of declining global terrorism since terrorist violence peaked in 2014 at nearly 17,000 attacks and more than 44,000 total deaths. The total number of terrorist attacks worldwide decreased 50% between 2014 and 2019, and the total number of deaths decreased 54%. Regional trends varied substantially.

- While the Taliban engaged in peace talks with the United States, Afghanistan experienced 21% of all terrorist attacks worldwide in 2019, and 41% of all people killed in terrorist attacks (including assailants) in 2019 were killed in Afghanistan.[2]

    - The number of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan increased 2% between 2018 and 2019.

    - The total number of deaths due to terrorism in Afghanistan decreased 16%; however, this change was largely a result of the 32% decline in the number of assailants killed during attacks, which is typically especially high in Afghanistan (38% of all deaths in 2019). The number of victims killed in terrorist attacks in Afghanistan declined 2% and the number of victims killed in attacks carried out by the Taliban *increased* 9% between 2018 and 2019, essentially sustaining the escalation that has taken place in Afghanistan in recent years.

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[1] Please see the Methodological Note at the end of this report for important information about the potential impact of changes in access to translated source materials.
[2] Maizland, L. (2020, March 2). U.S.-Taliban Peace Deal: What to Know. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Retrieved from https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-taliban-peace-deal-agreement-afghanistan-war

TERRORIST ATTACKS AND TOTAL DEATHS WORLDWIDE, BY MONTH, 2012 – 2019

Source: Global Terrorism Database

- Global statistical trends continued to be heavily impacted by patterns of terrorism in Iraq, which suffered more terrorist attacks than any other country each year from 2013 to 2017. The number of terrorist attacks in Iraq decreased 53% between 2018 and 2019 and the number of people killed in terrorist attacks decreased 44%. However, monthly trends in Iraq in 2019 indicate that terrorist violence persists, and the rate of decline may be slowing.

- In particular, from the declaration of the caliphate in June 2014 to the liberation of Mosul in July 2017, Islamic State carried out more than 100 terrorist attacks in Iraq and killed more than 500 victims each month, on average. The group's violence in Iraq subsequently decreased dramatically and continued to decline throughout 2019, but remained deadly. More than 350 Islamic State attacks in Iraq killed more than 500 victims and 70 perpetrators in 2019, and Islamic State caused hundreds of additional casualties in Syria and other locations.[3]

- While Islamic State violence declined in Iraq, the group's influence continued to expand geographically. Attacks carried out by Islamic State "core" operatives, affiliated organizations, or unaffiliated individuals who indicated allegiance to the group took place in 31 countries in 2019, compared to 35 in 2018. However, three new countries—Mozambique, the Netherlands, and Sri Lanka—experienced Islamic State-related attacks in 2019, bringing the total number of countries that have ever experienced Islamic State-related terrorist attacks to 57.

- Several important trends emerged in African countries in 2019, including in Nigeria, where terrorist violence overall decreased due to a reduction in attacks by Fulani extremists, but terrorist violence carried out by Boko Haram increased. Boko Haram also increased terrorist activity in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. In addition, Mali saw a 16% decrease in attacks in 2019, but a 41% increase in total deaths due to multiple (6) mass casualty terrorist attacks in which more than 30 people were killed, compared to zero such attacks in previous years.

- The number of terrorist attacks in Western Europe declined 6% from 2018 (203 attacks) to 2019 (191 attacks), continuing a pattern of decline since 2015. The number of casualties of terrorist attacks in Western Europe, which has also declined dramatically since 2015 and 2016, remained stable in 2019 with 18 victims killed and approximately 100 victims injured.

- Mass casualty terrorist attacks remained relatively rare in Western Europe in 2019. Out of 191 terrorist attacks, there were nine attacks in which at least four people were injured or killed.[4]

    - These mass casualty attacks took place in France (3), the United Kingdom (2), Finland (1), Germany (1), Italy (1), and the Netherlands (1).

    - Five of the mass casualty attacks in Western Europe involved knives or bladed weapons, two involved firearms (although they were not discharged in one attack), two involved vehicles as contact weapons, one involved

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[3] Consistent with START's practice of including in the GTD only those attacks that have been reported by at least one high-validity source, these statistics represent those incidents that were reported by independent news outlets. These data provide conservative estimates of terrorism in locations where unbiased media coverage is limited, such as Syria and Yemen.

[4] Note that two of the nine mass casualty attacks in Western Europe were marked as "doubt terrorism proper" in the GTD, meaning there is conflicting information about whether the definitional criteria were satisfied.

explosives, one involved incendiary weapons, and one was an unarmed assault in which four people were injured.

- In 2019, there were 64 terrorist attacks, killing 51 people in the United States. Terrorism in the United States continued to be characterized by diverse, sometimes complex, and often ambiguous ideological influences, typically without clear ties to formal, named organizations.

  – Perpetrators of the 10 lethal terrorist attacks in the United States in 2019 included white supremacists/nationalists, anti-Semitic extremists linked to the Black Hebrew Israelite movement, an al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula operative, and a conspiracy theory extremist.[5]

  – However, the vast majority of terrorist attacks in the United States in 2019 were non-lethal (84%, excluding perpetrator deaths), and these attacks were also motivated by diverse ideological influences, including anti-fascist, anti-government, anti-LGBT, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, anti-white, left-wing, pro-choice, and white supremacist/nationalist extremism.

- Between 2015 and 2019, 286 people were killed in terrorist attacks in the United States (excluding assailants). Nearly all of the victims (95%) were killed in attacks involving firearms. Firearms were used in 27% of terrorist attacks in the United States during this time period.

- Exceptionally deadly attacks targeting Hispanic Americans in the United States and Muslims in New Zealand in 2019 marked a sharp increase in the lethality of "racially and ethnically motivated terrorist attacks" (REMT), many of which were motivated by white supremacy, xenophobia, and anti-immigrant beliefs. At least 86 people were killed in such attacks in Australasia, North America, and Western Europe in 2019, compared to 52 in 2018.

- The deadliest terrorist attacks in 2019 took place on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka. More than 250 people were killed and at least 500 others were injured when eight assailants carried out suicide bombings at seven different crowded locations, including hotels and churches. A pipe bomb was defused at an eighth location. Sri Lankan authorities indicated that National Thowheeth Jama'ath and Jammiyathul Millathu Ibrahim operatives were responsible for the attacks. However, Islamic State reportedly posted a video purportedly showing the assailants pledge allegiance to the group, and reports indicate that one or more of the assailants trained with Islamic State.[6]

KEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Terrorist violence remained heavily concentrated in certain locations and coincided with other types of political violence. More than half of all attacks took place in five countries: Afghanistan (21%), Yemen (9%), Iraq (8%), India (7%), and Nigeria (6%). As in 2018, half of all deaths due to terrorist attacks in 2019 took place in two countries: Afghanistan (41%), and Nigeria (8%).

TERRORIST ATTACKS AND TOTAL DEATHS, COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN 150 ATTACKS, 2019

Country	Total Attacks	% of Total	% Change from 2018	Total Killed*	% of Total	% Change from 2018
Afghanistan	1804	21%	2%	8249	41%	-16%
Yemen	771	9%	55%	1219	6%	8%
Iraq	642	8%	-53%	798	4%	-44%
India	623	7%	-30%	311	2%	-25%
Nigeria	507	6%	-22%	1718	8%	-33%
Philippines	464	5%	-23%	396	2%	-10%
Pakistan	362	4%	-25%	416	2%	-40%
Somalia	360	4%	-32%	860	4%	-25%
Syria	292	3%	25%	1102	5%	-29%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	250	3%	53%	642	3%	-35%
Colombia	228	3%	11%	134	1%	2%
Nepal	200	2%	102%	7	0%	--
Burkina Faso	159	2%	127%	797	4%	587%
Worldwide Total	**8473**	**100%**	**-14%**	**20309**	**100%**	**-13%**

*Includes perpetrator deaths
Source: Global Terrorism Database

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[5] Note that three of the ten lethal attacks in the United States were marked as "doubt terrorism proper" in the GTD, meaning there is conflicting information about whether the definitional criteria were satisfied.

[6] Mandhana, N., Taylor, R., and Shah, S. (2019, April 29). Sri Lanka Bomber Trained in Syria with Islamic State. *Wall Street Journal.* Retrieved from https://www.wsj.com/articles/sri-lanka-attacks-show-isiss-reach-even-after-defeat-11556561912

- Several locations experienced especially large decreases in terrorist violence between 2018 and 2019. These include:
    - Libya, where the number of terrorist attacks continued to decline dramatically from a peak of 729 in 2014 when multiple Islamic State affiliates emerged to 70 in 2019. Likewise, the total number of deaths that resulted from terrorist attacks declined from 694 to 90 during the same time period.
    - Iraq, which previously experienced thousands of terrorist attacks annually. In 2019, the number of attacks further declined by 53% to 642 and the total number of deaths by 44% to 798. Although Iraq remains among the countries most heavily impacted by terrorism, the threat has evolved since the fall of the Islamic State caliphate.
    - Pakistan, where the number of terrorist attacks peaked at more than 2,200 in 2013 (2,800 people were killed that year), continued to see dramatic reductions in terrorist violence. There were 362 attacks in Pakistan in 2019, a 25% reduction from 2018, and 416 people (including 38 assailants) were killed in 2019, 40% fewer than in 2018.
- Several locations experienced especially large increases in terrorist violence between 2018 and 2019. These include:
    - Yemen, where terrorist violence in the context of a devastating war increased 55% with respect to the number of attacks (771 in 2019) and 54% with respect to victim deaths (903 in 2019). Despite the drastic increase in victim deaths, total deaths increased by 9% in Yemen as a result of the number of perpetrator deaths in Yemen declining 41% between 2018 and 2019.
    - Nepal experienced 200 attacks in 2019; however, nearly all of them (98%) were non-lethal and not intended to cause physical injuries. This 102% increase in attacks was largely the result of a campaign targeting communications infrastructure by the Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist (CPN-Maoist-Chand), who set fire to dozens of telecommunication towers, primarily in February, July, and August.
    - Burkina Faso, where terrorist violence has been steadily increasing since 2015, saw a 127% increase in the number of terrorist attacks in 2019 and a 587% increase in the total number of deaths in 2019. This sharp increase in lethality was largely due to an increase in the number of attacks in which 10 or more people were killed, from two in 2018 to 25 in 2019. At least nine of these exceptionally lethal attacks were carried out by Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) or Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS).
    - Cameroon, where violence erupted after Anglophone separatists declared independence in 2017.[7] Although the number of attacks in Cameroon (which had more than doubled in 2018) decreased by 38% in 2019, the number of victims killed in terrorist attacks increased 28% between 2018 and 2019, from 167 deaths to 214.

PERPETRATORS

Information on the perpetrator of the attack was reported for 66% of all attacks worldwide in 2019. In 59 attacks, the individual perpetrator or perpetrators were identified, but they were not known to be affiliated with a particular group or organization. This represents a decline in the number of attacks carried out by unaffiliated individuals, which peaked at 102 in 2017. The lethality of attacks carried out by unaffiliated individuals also decreased, from more than 200 victims killed in 2016 to 98 in 2019.

PERPETRATOR GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE THAN 100 TERRORIST ATTACKS, 2019

Perpetrator Group	Total Attacks	Change from 2018	Total Killed*	Change from 2018
Taliban	1375	9%	7531	-11%
Houthi extremists (Ansar Allah)	579	55%	983	11%
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)	461	-37%	1252	-44%
Boko Haram	348	43%	1954	47%
Al-Shabaab	330	-33%	864	-25%
Maoists/Communist Party of India - Maoist (CPI-Maoist)	238	-11%	146	-23%
New People's Army (NPA)	192	-32%	155	-18%
Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist (CPN-Maoist-Chand)	134	148%	7	--
Fulani extremists	118	-61%	426	-64%

*Includes perpetrator deaths
Source: Global Terrorism Database

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[7] Inside Cameroon's 100-year old Anglophone conflict. (2019, October 1). *Agence France Presse.* Retrieved from https://www.africanews.com/2019/10/01/inside-cameroon-s-100-year-old-anglophone-conflict/

- In 2019, 265 groups and organizations carried out terrorist attacks worldwide. This number has been steadily declining in recent years since it peaked at 377 groups and organizations identified as perpetrators of terrorist attacks in 2016. The perpetrator groups responsible for the most attacks in 2019 are shown in the table above.

- The Taliban in Afghanistan was responsible for more terrorist attacks in 2019 than any other group by a wide margin, and those attacks resulted in more deaths than the next ten deadliest perpetrator groups combined. Between 2018 and 2019, the number of terrorist attacks carried out by the Taliban increased 9% and the total number of deaths decreased 11%. However, it is important to note that attacks carried out by the Taliban often involve many perpetrator deaths. In 2019 the number of perpetrator deaths in Taliban attacks decreased 31% and the number of victim deaths increased 9%.

- Aside from the Taliban, several of the perpetrator groups that increased terrorist violence in 2019 included Houthi extremists in Yemen (55% increase in attacks; 11% increase in total deaths; 54% increase in victim deaths), Boko Haram (43% increase in attacks; 47% increase in total deaths; 37% increase in victim deaths); and the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist – Chand (148% increase in total attacks; seven people were killed in 2019 including one perpetrator, up from zero in 2018).

- Islamic State and certain affiliated groups were among those whose terrorist violence continued to decrease in 2019. These include Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (attacks decreased 37% and deaths decreased 44%) and Islamic State-Khorasan Province (attacks decreased 52% and deaths decreased 68%). However, this network of organizations remained very deadly and their attacks resulted in thousands of casualties in locations around the world. Attacks by Islamic State operatives in Iraq and Syria killed more than 1,000 victims in 2019. The group also claimed responsibility for deadly attacks in Lebanon, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Tunisia.

- Boko Haram increased terrorist violence in 2019, not only in Nigeria, but also in neighboring countries Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Specifically, attacks attributed to Boko Haram resulted in 241 total deaths in Cameroon (up from 76 in 2018), 189 in Chad (up from 106 in 2018), and 315 in Niger (up from 50 in 2018). In addition, Boko Haram (Barnawi faction, Islamic State West Africa Province) claimed responsibility for an attack in Burkina Faso in 2019, in which assailants killed 24 soldiers.

- In 2019 there was a sharp increase in the lethality of terrorist attacks that were racially or ethnically motivated (REMT). This increase was largely a result of exceptionally deadly attacks targeting Hispanic Americans in the United States and Muslims in New Zealand. The table below illustrates recent patterns in REMT attacks, many of which were motivated by white supremacy, xenophobia, and anti-immigrant beliefs, and which took place in 23 different countries between 2015 and 2019.

TRENDS OVER TIME IN RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY MOTIVATED ATTACKS, 2015 – 2019

Year	Total Attacks	Total Killed	Perpetrators Killed	Total Injured	Perpetrators Injured
2015	34	26	2	22	0
2016	42	18	2	64	1
2017	84	16	1	51	1
2018	33	54	2	79	4
2019	54	89	3	146	2
Total	247	203	10	362	8

Source: Global Terrorism Database

- In recent years, perpetrators of terrorism in the United States have been very loosely organized, rarely affiliated with a formal organization, and motivated by a diverse array of ideologies. These ideologies often overlap, to the point that it can be difficult to classify the identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators in a straightforward way. The table below lists the identity of perpetrator "groups" that were active in the United States between 2015 and 2019. Note that many of these attributions are generic identifiers, not meant to exhaustively capture all ideological characteristics of the assailant(s), but typically based on the ideological influences most relevant to the specific attack in question.

PERPETRATOR GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE UNITED STATES, 2015 – 2019

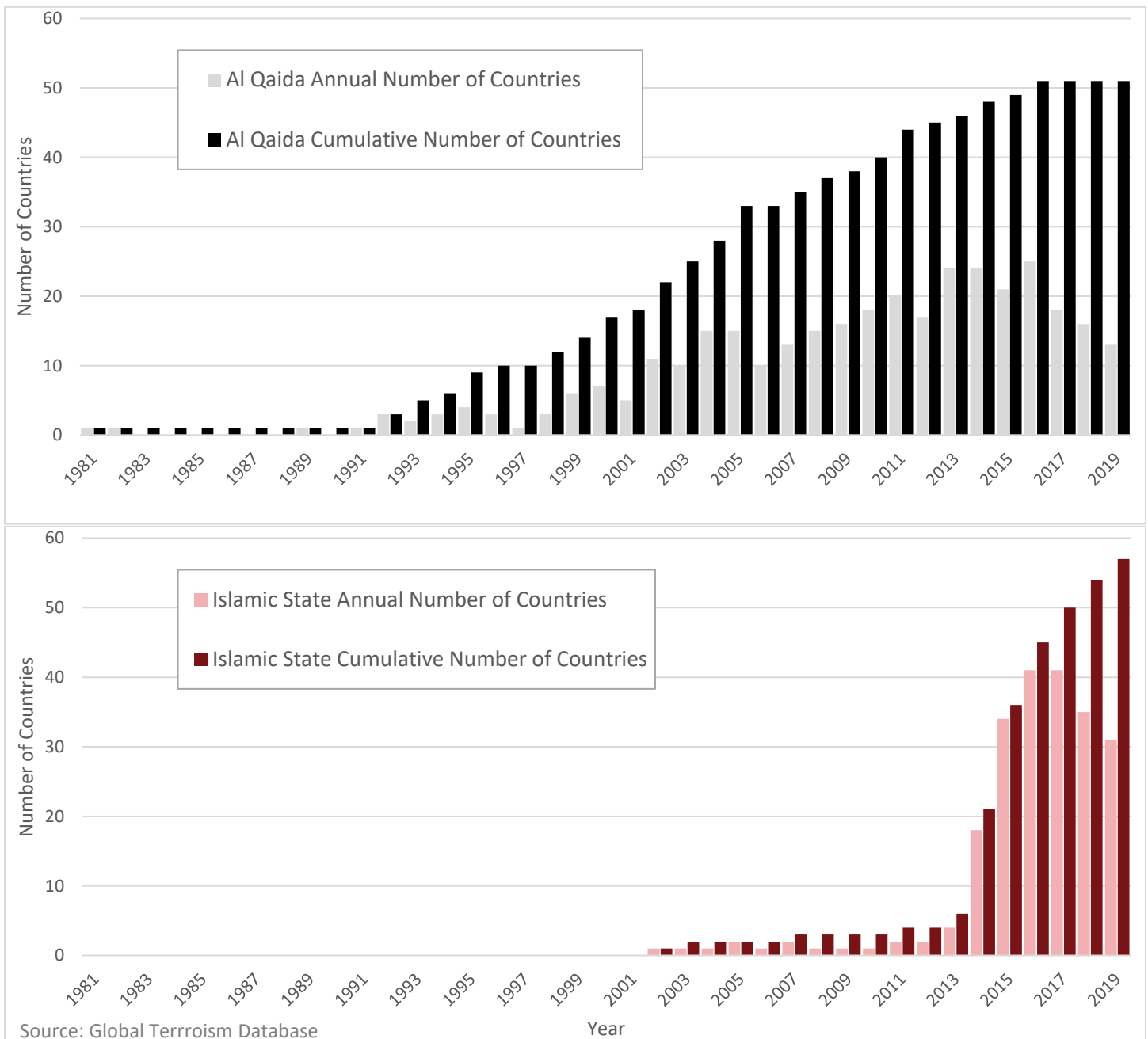| Perpetrator Group Name	Total Attacks	Total Killed	Perpetrators Killed
Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)	1	4	1
Anarchists	1	0	0
Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	1	0	0
Anti-Abortion extremists	7	3	0
Anti-Arab extremists	1	0	0
Anti-Fascist extremists	1	1	1
Anti-Government extremists	7	64	3
Anti-Immigrant extremists	1	0	0
Anti-LGBT extremists	6	0	0
Anti-Muslim extremists	32	5	0
Anti-Police extremists	7	11	3
Anti-Republican extremists	2	1	1
Anti-Semitic extremists	16	17	2
Anti-Sikh extremists	1	0	0
Anti-Trump extremists	4	0	0
Anti-White extremists	12	10	1
Black Hebrew Israelites	3	0	0
Citizens for Constitutional Freedom	1	0	0
Conspiracy theory extremists	3	1	0
Court Reform extremists	1	0	0
Environmentalists	3	0	0
Incel extremists	2	13	2
Jihadi-inspired extremists	23	86	8
Ku Klux Klan	3	0	0
Left-wing extremists	1	0	0
Male supremacists	3	0	0
Muslim extremists	4	7	2
Neo-Nazi extremists	4	12	1
Pro-choice extremists	2	0	0
Pro-LGBT Rights extremists	1	0	0
Pro-Trump extremists	16	0	0
Right-wing extremists	2	0	0
Shield Wall Network (SWN)	1	0	0
Sovereign Citizen	1	0	0
United Constitutional Patriots	1	0	0
Unknown	99	17	3
White Rabbit Three Percent Illinois Patriot Freedom Fighters Militia	2	0	0
White supremacists/nationalists	34	64	2
Total	**310**	**316**	**30**

Source: Global Terrorism Database

- When considering perpetrator group patterns, it is important to note how groups and organizations evolve over time, often breaking into factions and splinters, sharing members, changing names and aliases, locations and personnel, and forming mergers, alliances, and "franchises." As a result, groups are a problematic unit of analysis that can lead to shortsighted inferences. Combining perpetrator organizations, groups, and individuals with shared goals into "movements" helps capture

broader, long-term patterns of perpetrator activity. For example, GTD researchers organized the perpetrators associated with the Islamic State movement and al Qaida movement for the purpose of comparison.[8]

- The graph below indicates the number of countries each year that experienced a terrorist attack carried out by a group or individual affiliated with the broader al Qaida movement (in gray) or Islamic State movement (in red), as well as the cumulative number of countries each movement has impacted. The fact that Islamic State evolved from al Qaida in Iraq partly explains their more rapid expansion, but we also note that the number of countries impacted by Islamic State-related terrorism continued to expand beyond the dissolution of the caliphate.

- As violence perpetrated by Islamic State operatives decreased in Iraq, the broader movement continued to expand geographically. Attacks carried out by Islamic State predecessors, "core" operatives, affiliated organizations, or unaffiliated individuals who indicated allegiance to Islamic State took place in 31 countries in 2019, bringing the total number of countries that have ever experienced Islamic State-related terrorist attacks to 57.

GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF AL QAIDA- AND ISLAMIC STATE-RELATED TERRORISM, 1981 – 2019
(INCLUDES PREDECESSORS, "CORE," AFFILIATED GROUPS, AND INSPIRED INDIVIDUALS)

Source: Global Terrroism Database

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[8] Miller, E. (2016, August). Patterns of Islamic State-Related Terrorism. *START Background Report*. Retrieved from https://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_IslamicStateTerrorismPatterns_BackgroundReport_Aug2016.pdf

Understanding the importance of including multi-lingual sources in the data collection process, the GTD team typically supplements the English-language content in the LexisNexis Metabase news feed with content from Open Source Enterprise (OSE). Although the GTD research team does include analysts with non-English language skills, at this time the team does not have resources to translate content at scale or conduct artificial intelligence processing on non-English language source documents. OSE—a U.S. government media aggregation and translation service originally established in 1941—was formerly known as Open Source Center, World News Connection, and the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. This product has been used in the GTD data collection effort for decades and, although it is impossible to know what percentage of GTD records would not exist without OSE sources, approximately 15-25% of all records in the GTD leverage information from OSE or its predecessors in some way. Despite the fact that the translated content on the OSE platform was "open source" content curated from publicly available news feeds around the world, access to OSE was not available to the general public. The GTD team accessed the OSE platform at no cost by virtue of sponsored research agreements with U.S. government agencies.

On June 3, 2019 the GTD team learned that the OSE platform would be decommissioned on June 28. The GTD team later learned that the open source media translation effort and the content itself were apparently not decommissioned, but that the platform (now known as Open Source Data Layer and Services (OSDLS)) would no longer be available to those who are not U.S. government employees with Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System (JWICS) credentials. According to an OSE customer service representative, the reason for this shift, which was clearly detrimental to open source research efforts, was to improve the security of access to the platform as it was moved to cloud servers.

GTD staff worked with U.S. government and private sector partners to attempt to understand the implications of this decision for the research team's access to the critical translated content needed to promote comprehensiveness and consistency in the GTD collection process. Ultimately, efforts to make decisionmakers aware of the impact of this change and/or identify a pathway to accessing the content on OSDLS were not successful in reversing or mitigating the policy change.

Concurrently, the team began exploring contingency plans, the most promising of which by far was purchasing subscription access to BBC Monitoring. BBC Monitoring is a media aggregation and translation platform with which the GTD team has long been familiar. In fact, for many decades, BBC Monitoring worked in close partnership with OSE, and the GTD research team has had access to the BBC Monitoring content that was included in the OSE platform and LexisNexis Academic. Although BBC Monitoring is the only resource remotely comparable to OSE, little information is available about the scope of unique or overlapping translated content across the two platforms. In December 2019 the GTD team gained subscription access to the BBC Monitoring platform and began to incorporate this content into the data collection workflow.

The team has since completed the backlog of triaging for the 2019 BBC Monitoring source documents and reviewed the data with the aim of providing an assessment of the likely impact that the loss of OSE and replacement with BBC Monitoring had on the resulting data. The initial data on the total count of source documents provided by BBC Monitoring by month in 2019, compared to the same month in 2018, are instructive.

KEY METRICS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL MEDIA AGGREGATION/TRANSLATION PLATFORM

	2018 (Open Source Enterprise)	2019 (BBC Monitoring)
Filtered Source Articles (keyword filters, excluding duplicates)	67,916	8,129
Potentially Relevant Articles (machine learning model results)	37,002	4,330

The table above indicates that the total amount of content accessed through the BBC Monitoring subscription in 2019 was much smaller than the total amount of content accessed through the OSE platform in 2018. This difference is evident for the source articles that match the GTD's initial keyword filters, and for the source articles that are classified as potentially relevant by the machine learning model (candidates for triaging). Although the decrease in supplemental content is stark, this information is not sufficient to illustrate the degree and nature of its impact. Which source documents were ultimately used to support GTD records? Which source documents from OSE were still accessible in either BBC Monitoring or LexisNexis Metabase? How do these deficits differ by language or location? How frequently might particular events still be recorded in the database even if certain sources or source articles were lost? Ultimately, although BBC Monitoring presents the best opportunity to supplement source documents following the loss of OSE content, concerns about the consistency and comprehensiveness of data without OSE content remain.

Likewise, the table below shows the number of cases either added to the GTD or updated with new information based on the triaging of the BBC Monitoring content. Although OSE was decommissioned in early July, the GTD research team triaged BBC

Monitoring source articles for the entirety of 2019. Although the greatest impact of the supplemental BBC Monitoring content occurred in July through December 2019 (after OSE was decommissioned), a few records were added or updated in the GTD for the January – June time period as well.

<div align="center">

CONTRIBUTION OF BBC MONITORING CONTENT TO GTD RECORDS, BY MONTH, 2019

	Records Newly Created Based on BBCM Source Documents	Records Newly Created *or* Updated Based on BBCM Source Documents
January	8	13
February	5	9
March	11	19
April	3	15
May	16	23
June	17	27
July	79	147
August	100	189
September	120	194
October	101	147
November	61	109
December	109	169

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We have completed an initial review of the 2019 data with the intention of identifying any specific locations that may be particularly impacted by this change in access to translations of non-English source documents. Although there do not appear to be any countries where data trends clearly coincide with the shift from OSE content to BBCM content, that does not rule out the possibility that this change suppressed otherwise increasing trends or exacerbated already decreasing trends in certain locations. In general, we urge analysts to interpret trends over time with caution due to ongoing fluctuations in the availability of source documents. Based on our familiarity with the source documents formerly provided by OSE, the research team urges analysts to pay particular attention to the potential impacts on trends in Somalia and Yemen. Additional analysis of regional trends, trends in types of attacks, or trends in supporting sources may provide greater insight.

Readers familiar with the U.S. State Department's *Country Reports on Terrorism* may recall that START provided the "Statistical Annex" for that report each year from 2012 through 2017. For consistency with the definition of terrorism established in the U.S. Code, we used a restricted application of the GTD's inclusion criteria for the analysis in the Statistical Annex.

Despite a productive partnership with our colleagues at the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, in 2018 the State Department did not award START a contract to continue providing data and analysis for the Statistical Annex. We recognize that any data or analysis the Statistical Annex includes for 2018 and 2019 is not consistent or comparable with previous years' data and analysis produced by START. To support analytical continuity, we have re-produced several key tables using the restricted Statistical Annex version of the GTD. Specifically, the following tables exclude any attacks that do not meet all three GTD inclusion criteria, and any attacks that were classified as "doubt terrorism proper" by GTD analysts.

Table 1: Terrorist attacks and casualties worldwide by month, 2019

Month	Total Attacks*	Total Deaths*	Total Injured*	Kidnapped/ Hostages
January	540	1284	1388	486
February	568	1108	917	700
March	636	1123	1269	503
April	582	1268	1625	489
May	740	1366	1238	358
June	599	1386	1047	387
July	625	1444	1938	225
August	497	1020	1181	281
September	542	1104	1266	207
October	509	983	912	458
November	393	716	814	164
December	491	1020	947	406
Total	**6722**	**13822**	**14542**	**4664**

*Includes perpetrators
Source: Global Terrorism Database (Statistical Annex Dataset)

Table 2: Ten countries with the most terrorist attacks, 2019

Country	Total Attacks		Total Deaths*		Deaths per Attack*		Total Injured*		Injured per Attack		Kidnapped/ Hostages	
	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Afghanistan	1422	1443	5725	7379	4.14	5.47	6221	6514	4.63	5.12	592	1362
Yemen	561	336	555	425	1.29	1.57	762	421	1.87	1.70	539	423
India	558	750	277	352	0.50	0.48	439	541	0.81	0.75	178	247
Iraq	495	1131	564	1054	1.18	0.97	1029	1727	2.18	1.62	74	203
Nigeria	411	565	1245	2043	3.47	3.96	419	772	1.44	2.02	390	445
Philippines	348	424	284	297	0.85	0.71	393	343	1.19	0.83	76	55
Pakistan	279	369	300	543	1.10	1.50	654	1132	2.39	3.16	43	23
Somalia	239	286	569	646	2.67	2.55	765	638	3.81	2.63	457	238
Democratic Republic of the Congo	213	135	559	410	3.70	3.60	103	145	0.80	1.49	542	379
Syria	211	155	517	918	2.57	7.17	979	887	5.13	7.58	126	866
Worldwide	**6722**	**7752**	**13822**	**16359**	**2.21**	**2.26**	**14542**	**16141**	**2.43**	**2.36**	**4664**	**6527**

*Includes perpetrators
Source: Global Terrorism Database (Statistical Annex Dataset)

Table 3: Five perpetrator groups with the most attacks worldwide, 2019

Perpetrator Group	Total Attacks 2019	2018	Total Deaths* 2019	2018	Total Injured* 2019	2018	Kidnapped/ Hostages 2019	2018
Taliban	1034	987	5094	6214	4984	4064	550	1285
Houthi extremists (Ansar Allah)	446	277	436	258	609	260	394	410
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**	343	560	954	1601	1319	1423	41	970
Boko Haram	245	171	1069	732	378	589	304	376
Maoists/Communist Party of India - Maoist (CPI-Maoist)	226	247	136	175	87	154	94	135

* Includes perpetrators
** Excludes attacks attributed to branches of ISIS or ISIS-inspired individuals
Source: Global Terrorism Database (Statistical Annex Dataset)

Table 4: Targets of terrorist attacks worldwide, 2018-2019

Target Type	Number of Targets 2019	2018
Private Citizens & Property	2987	3259
Police	1359	1624
Government (General)	875	988
Business	486	611
Military	400	391
Religious Figures/Institutions	203	257
Educational Institution	164	189
Terrorists/Non-State Militia	279	186
Transportation	140	143
Utilities	72	140
Journalists & Media	121	110
Government (Diplomatic)	71	92
Violent Political Party	59	86
NGO	51	47
Telecommunication	81	40
Airports & Aircraft	31	21
Maritime	18	21
Food or Water Supply	11	14
Other	14	14
Tourists	12	13
Abortion Related	0	1
Unknown	345	545
Total	**7779**	**8792**

Source: Global Terrorism Database (Statistical Annex Dataset)

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the author and should not be interpreted as representing the official views or policies of the United States Government or any other funding agency.

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The data presented here are drawn from START's Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and reports from news media. The GTD contains information on more than 190,000 terrorist attacks that occurred around the world since 1970. For more information about the GTD, visit www.start.umd.edu/gtd.

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