



News & Views

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Facts Belie Hype about “Islamic Terrorism”

This decade ended with the media hyping “Islamic terrorism,” while mass murder of Muslims goes unpunished, and in the guise of helping Muslims, their countries are exploited. Just review what’s been happening in Bosnia, Chechnya, Indonesia, Kosovo, and the Middle East.

In *Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1998*, the U.S. Department of State says, “the number of international terrorist attacks actually fell again in 1998, continuing a downward trend that began several years ago.” But media hype about terrorism, and the budget for the war against terrorism has been on an upward trend.

According to the State Department report, the “Total International Attacks by Region” are as follows:

Total International Attacks by Region

	1993	1994	1995	1997	1997	1998
Africa	6	25	10	11	11	21
Asia	37	24	16	11	21	49
Eurasia	5	11	5	24	42	14
Latin America	97	58	92	84	128	110
Middle East	100	116	45	45	37	31
North America	1	0	0	0	13	0
West Europe	185	88	272	121	52	48

Other useful statistics from the Department of State report, the “Total U.S. Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks,” are as follows:

Total U.S. Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks

	1993	1994	1995	1997	1997	1998
Dead	7	6	10	25	6	12
Wounded	1004	5	60	510	21	11

Perhaps, the more interesting statistics, as far as “Islamic terrorism” is concerned, appear in “Total Anti-U.S. Attacks,” which lists attacks by region as follows: Africa — 3, Europe — 3, West Europe — 13, Middle East — 5, and Latin America — 87.

From these statistics, it is evident that Americans have little to fear from terrorism in the U.S., and even less from “Islamic terrorism.” And, given the statistics for the Middle East and Latin America, one wonders why one doesn't hear about “Christian terrorism,” at least as often as one hears about “Islamic terrorism.”

Furthermore, according to John Mueller and Karl Mueller (“Sanctions of Mass Destruction,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 1999), “On average far fewer Americans are killed each year by terrorists than are killed by lightning, deer accidents, or peanut allergies. To call terrorism a threat to national security is scarcely plausible.” The Muellers add, “Economic sanctions may well have been a necessary cause of the deaths of more people in Iraq than have been slain by all so-called weapons of mass destruction throughout history.”

Graham E. Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, says (“Airstrikes Aren't the Endgame,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 24, 1998), “it is dangerous to divorce terrorism from politics, yet the U.S. media continue to talk about an abstract war against terrorism without mention of the issues or context that lie behind them.” ❖

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