

# Recent FBI Statistics on Terrorism

The History of Terrorism  
as a Strategy of Political  
Insurgency

March 2011



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# 2009 Statistics issued By FBI

The report was published April 30, 2010

The National Counter Terrorism Center is the author

Below is the link, I would encourage you to review the PDF

[http://www.nctc.gov/witsbanner/docs/2009\\_report\\_on\\_terrorism.pdf](http://www.nctc.gov/witsbanner/docs/2009_report_on_terrorism.pdf)

# 2009

11,000 Terror Attacks  
83 Countries  
58,000 victims  
15,000 fatalities  
5% decline from 2008  
2<sup>nd</sup> year of decline in attacks  
and fatalities

In Afghanistan the number  
of attacks doubled  
Iraq attacks were cut in half  
Pakistan saw 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive  
year of increase  
South Asia (44%) passed the  
Near East (30%) as the  
region with most attacks  
Columbia saw increased  
attacks  
Philippines saw decreased  
attacks

# Who are the Attackers?

## Sunni Extremists

- Taliban, Al Shabaab, Al Qaeda among about 90 groups

## 150 other groups globally

- African Groups such as the Lords Resistance Army and the forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
- Ampatuan Clan Member in the Philippines

# Who are the victims?

Most Victims are Muslims, over half those killed or injured

Most were in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Pakistan – 60% of the total

Police – 14%

Military - 9%

Government Officials – 5%

50%+ were civilians

# Types of Attacks

## Most were conventional attacks

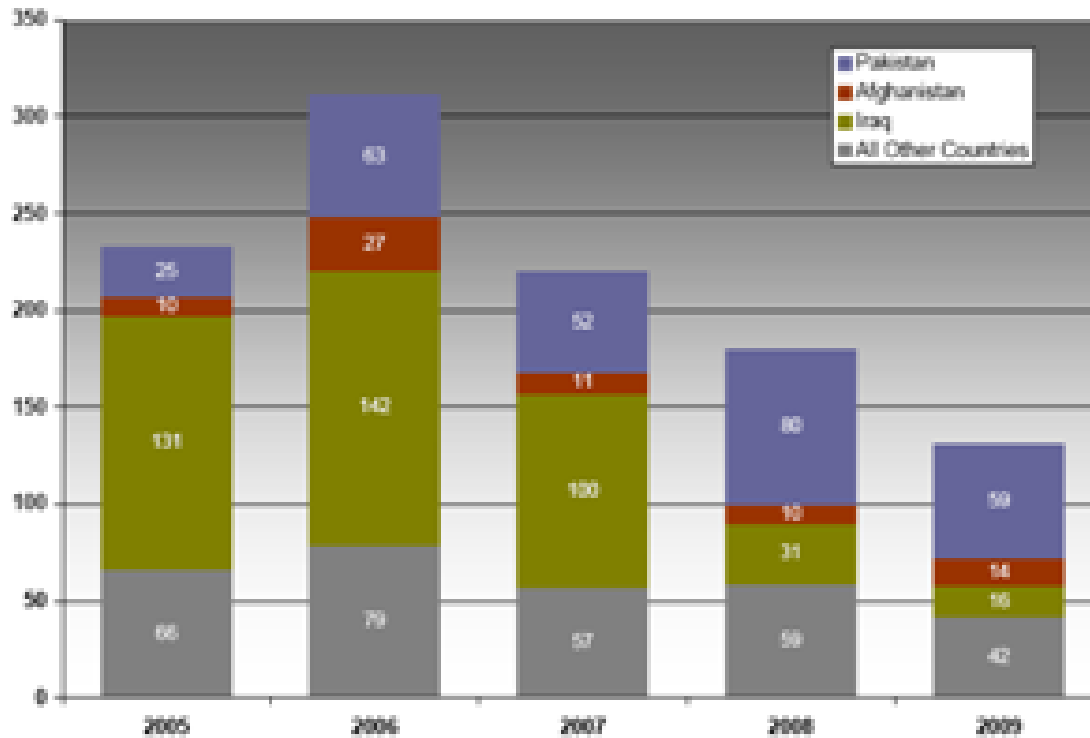
- Armed attacks
- bombings
- Kidnapping

Suicide Militia attacks following the 2008  
Mumbai example increased

Suicide attacks declined from 405 in 2008 to 299  
in 2009.

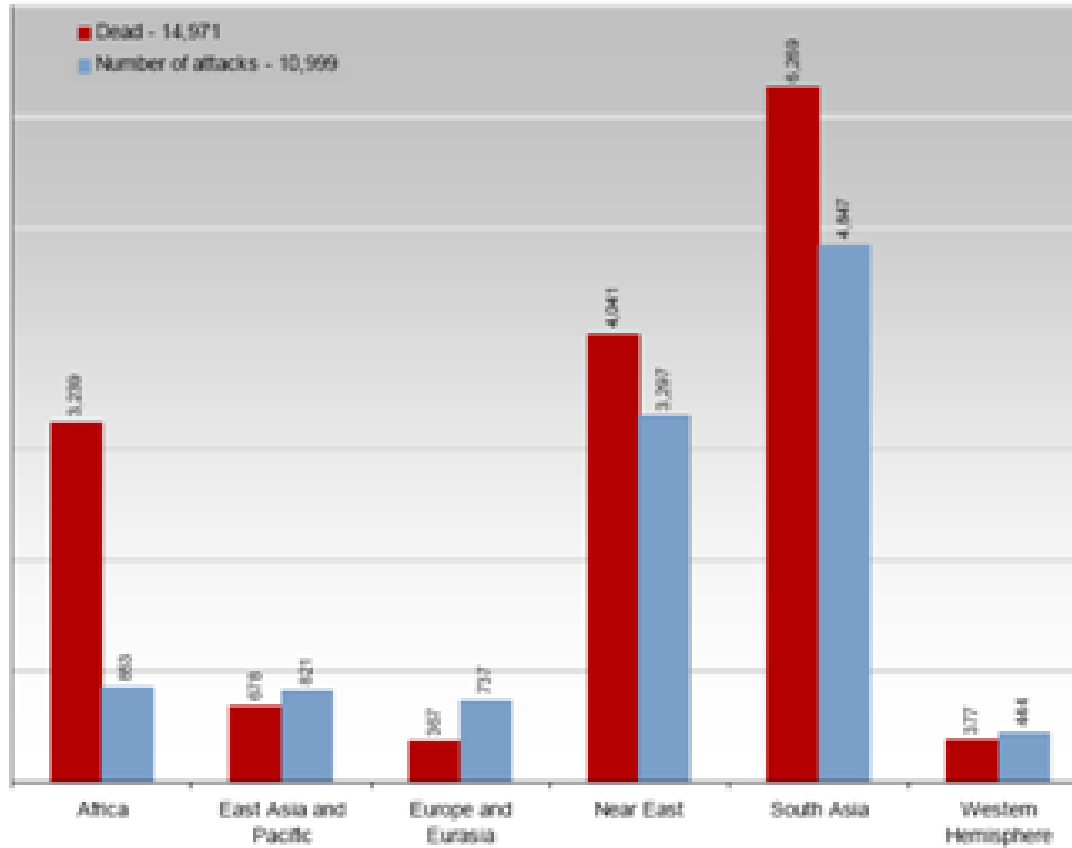
# Oil and Gas Sector

Total Attacks Against Oil and Gas Sectors: 2005-09



# Lethality

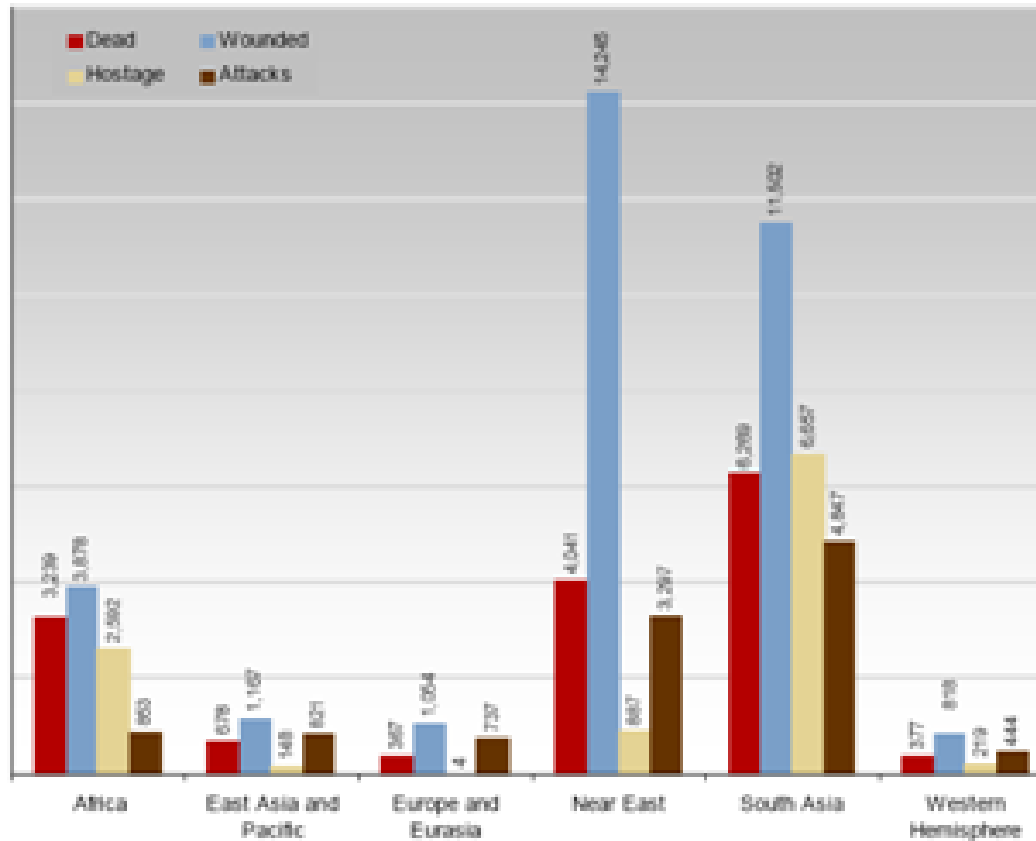
Chart 1 - Lethality - Comparison of Fatalities and Incidents by Region





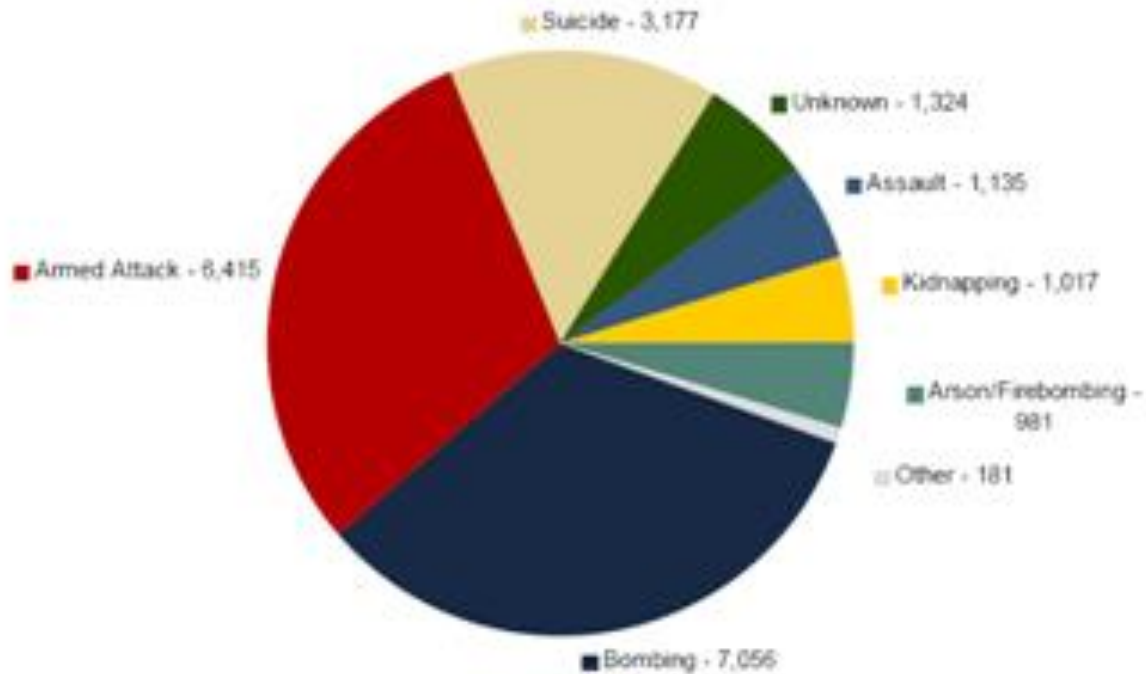
# Attacks and Victims by region

Chart 2 - Comparison of Attacks and Victims by Region



# Deaths by Methods

Chart 3 - Deaths by Method

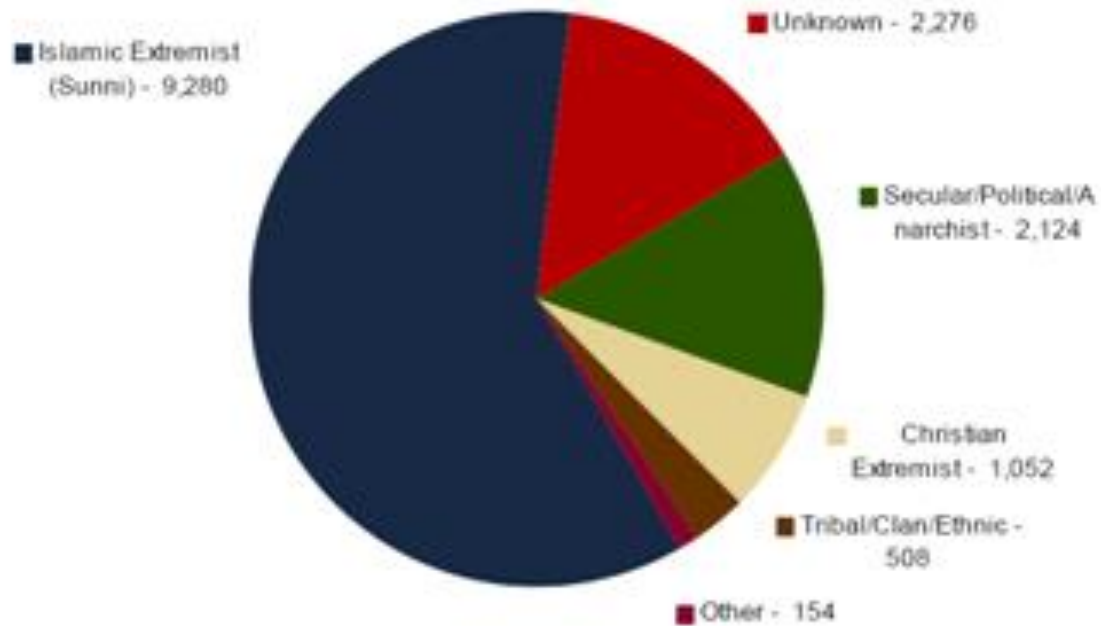


14,971 Total Deaths

There is some double counting when multiple methods are used.

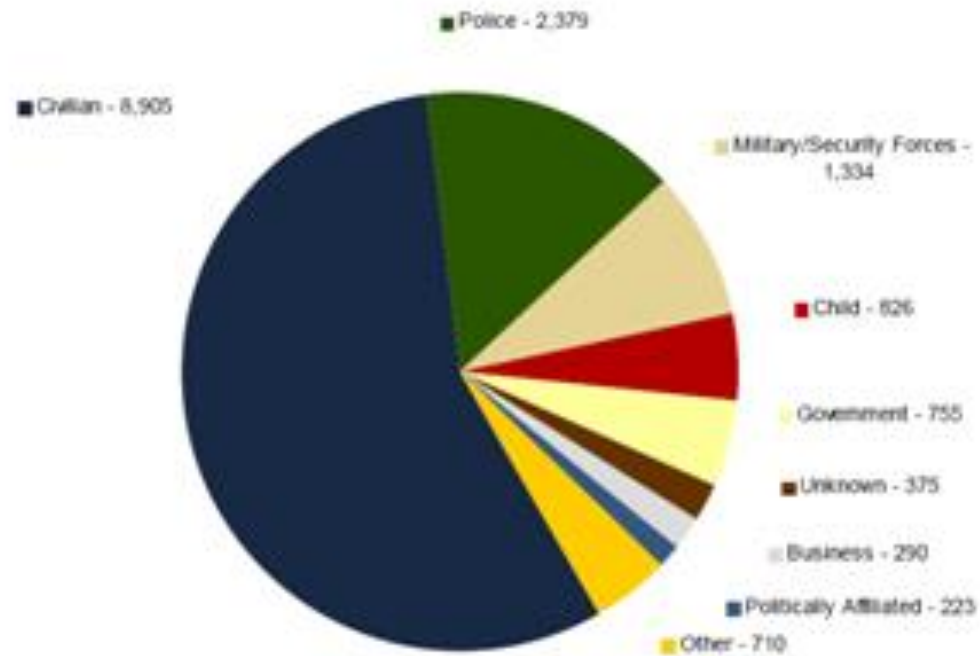
# Deaths by Perpetrators

Chart 4 - Deaths by Perpetrator Category



# Deaths by Victim Category

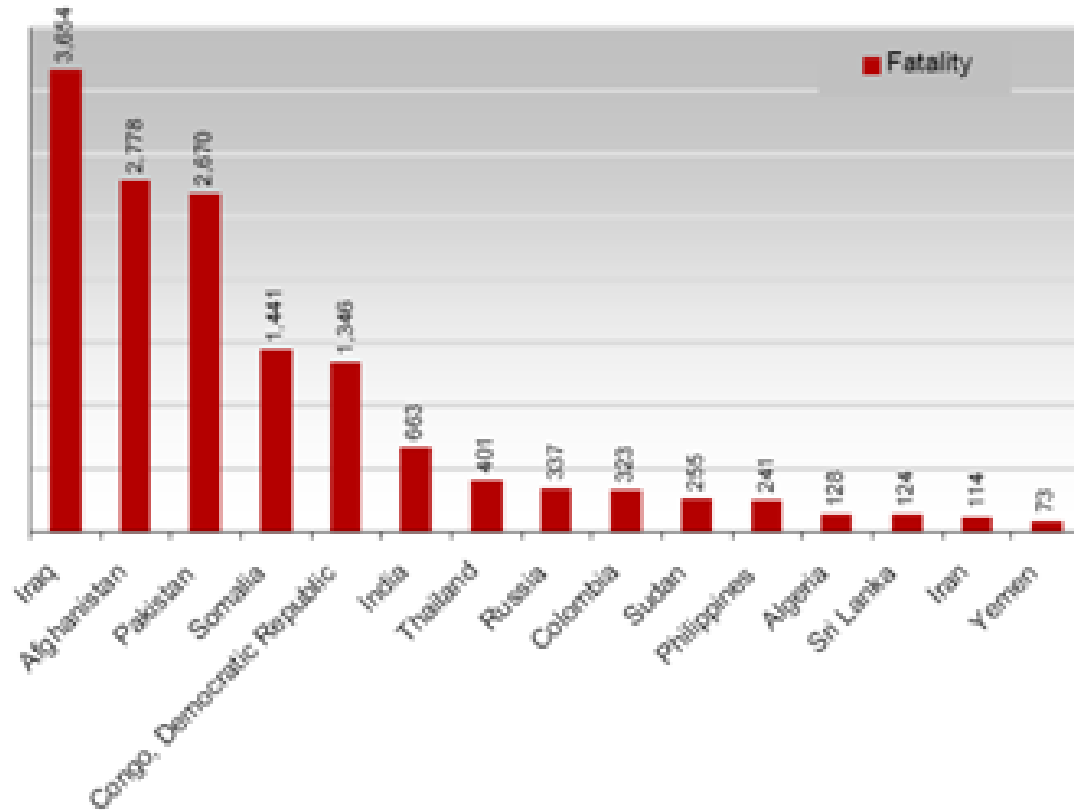
Chart 5 - Deaths by Victim Category



14,971 Total Deaths  
Children are double counted, typically as either civilians or students.

# Deaths by Country

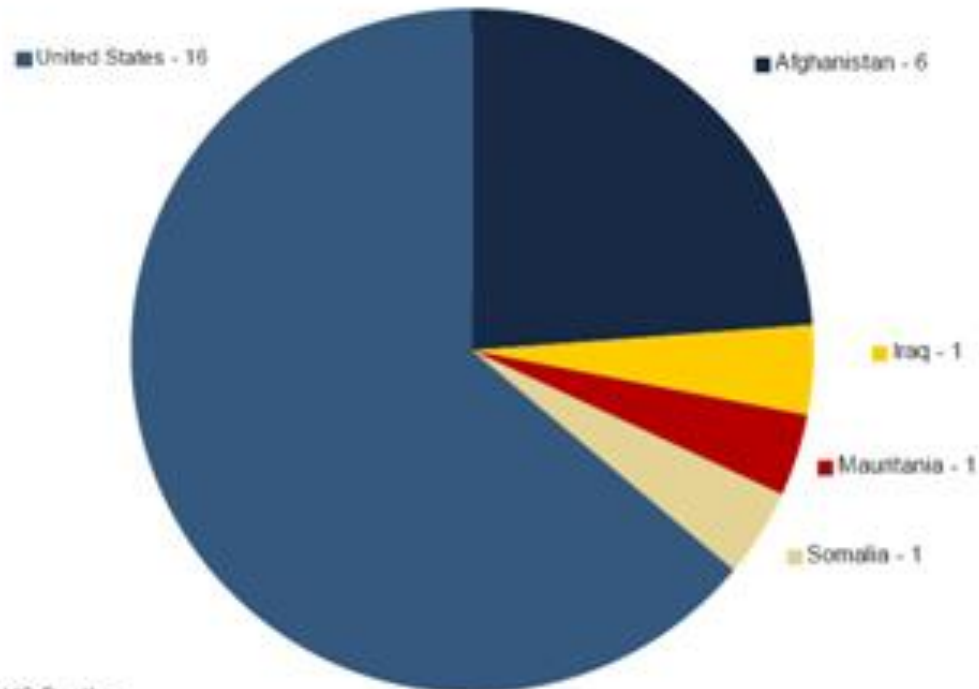
Chart 6 - Deaths by Country



# US Civilian Fatalities by Country

**Chart 7 - US Citizen Fatalities by Country**

*Numbers provided by the Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs and  
US numbers provided by the FBI*



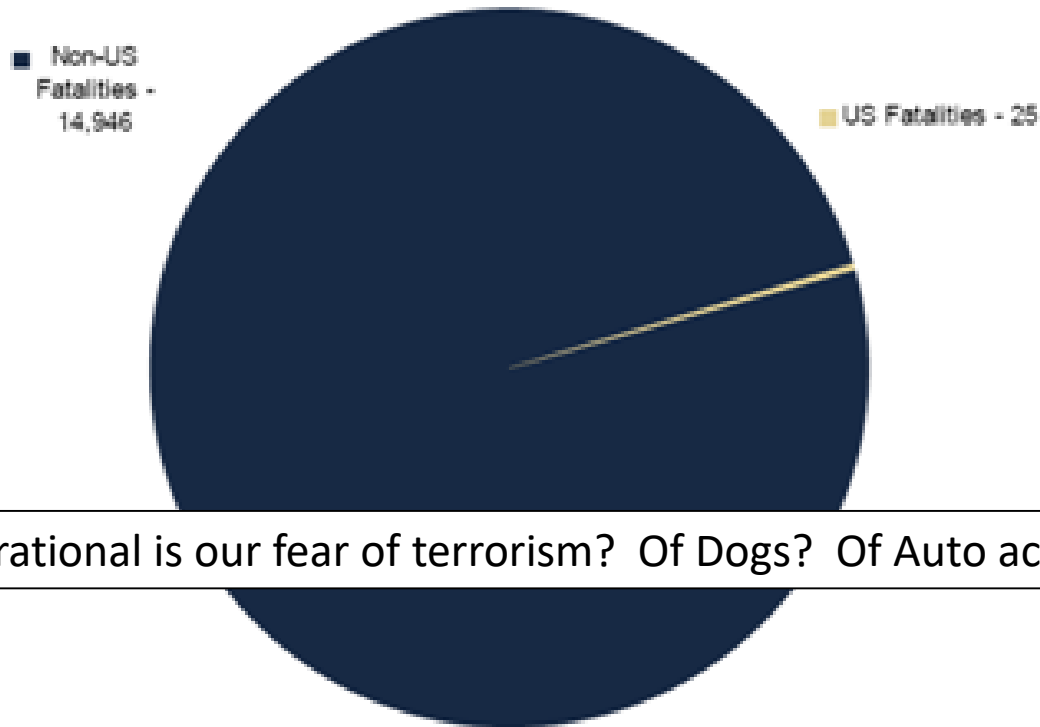
25 Total US Deaths

*Numbers provided by Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs  
US number provided by the FBI*

# US Fatalities compared to total World Fatalities

**Chart 8 - US Fatalities as a Share of Total Fatalities**

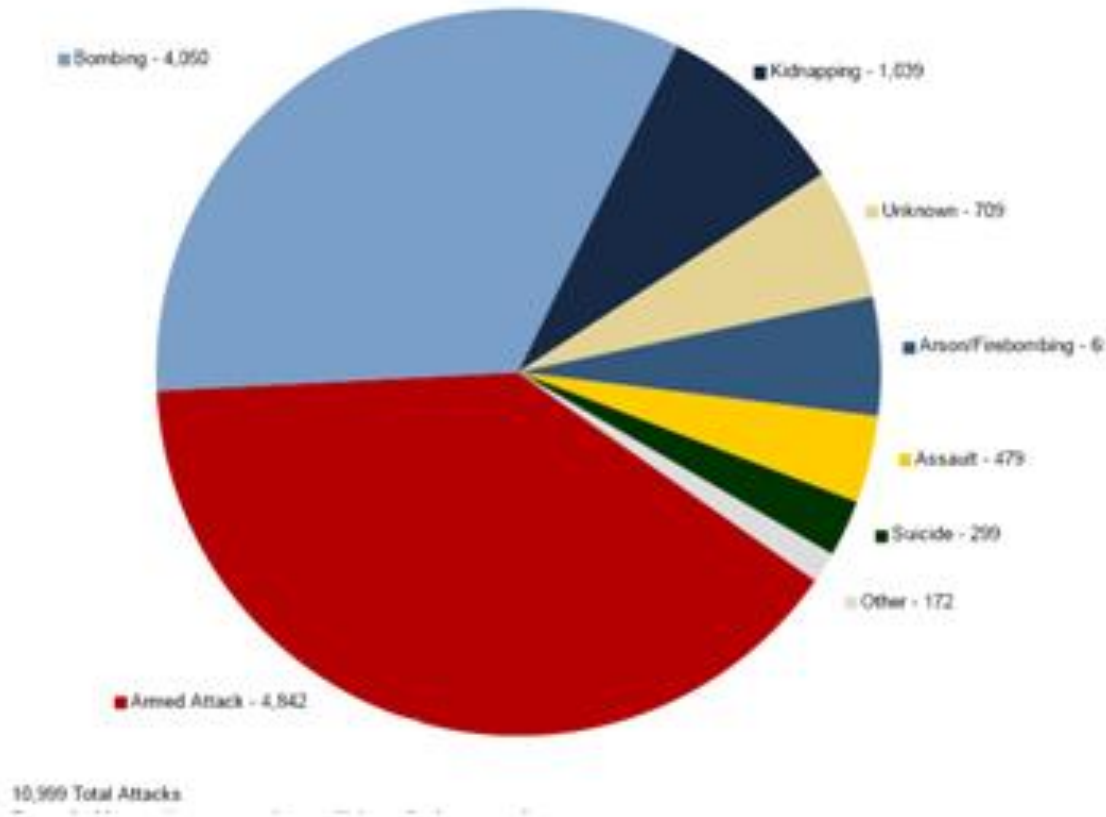
*Numbers provided by the Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs and  
US numbers provided by the FBI*



How rational is our fear of terrorism? Of Dogs? Of Auto accidents?

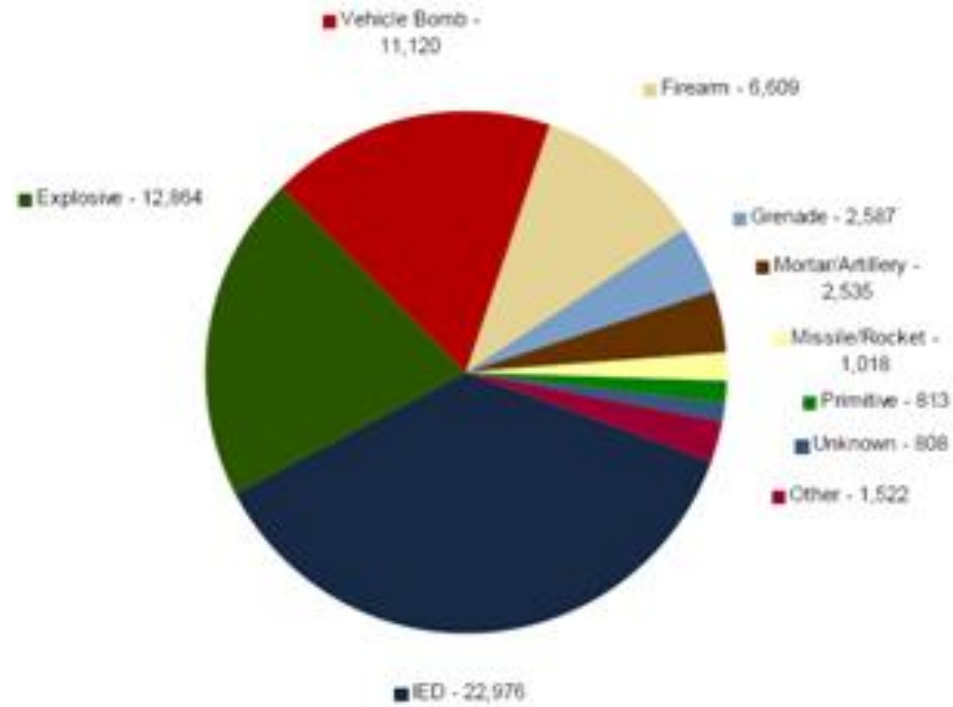
# Methods Used in Attacks

Chart 10 - Primary Methods Used in Attacks





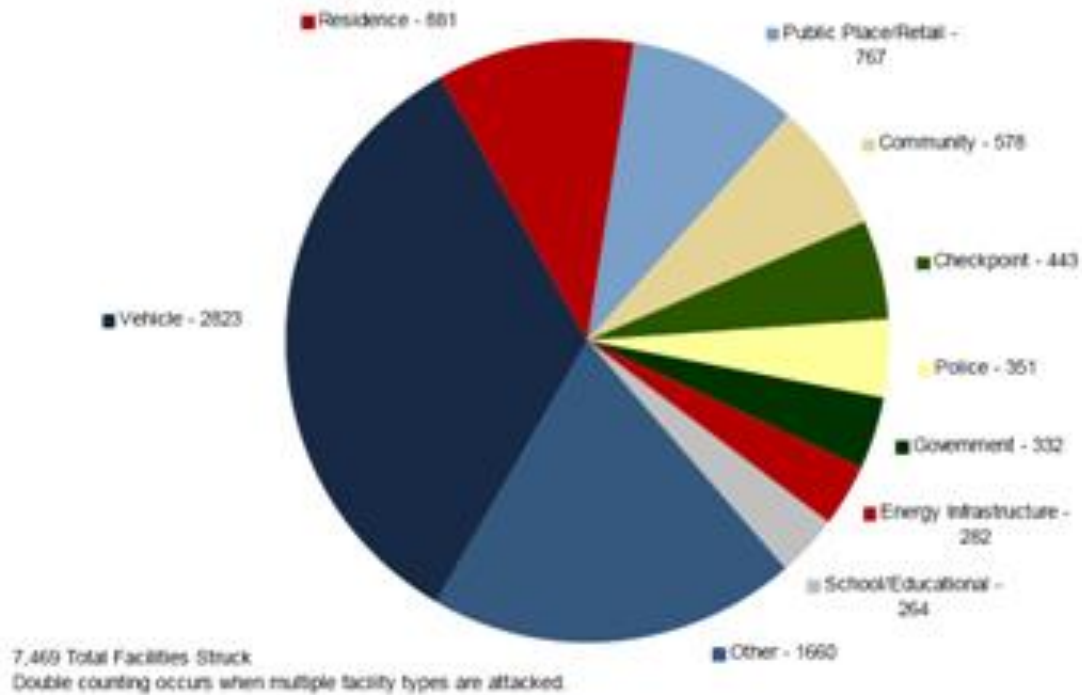
# Injuries by Weapon



32,864 Total Injuries  
Double counting occurred when multiple weapons were used.

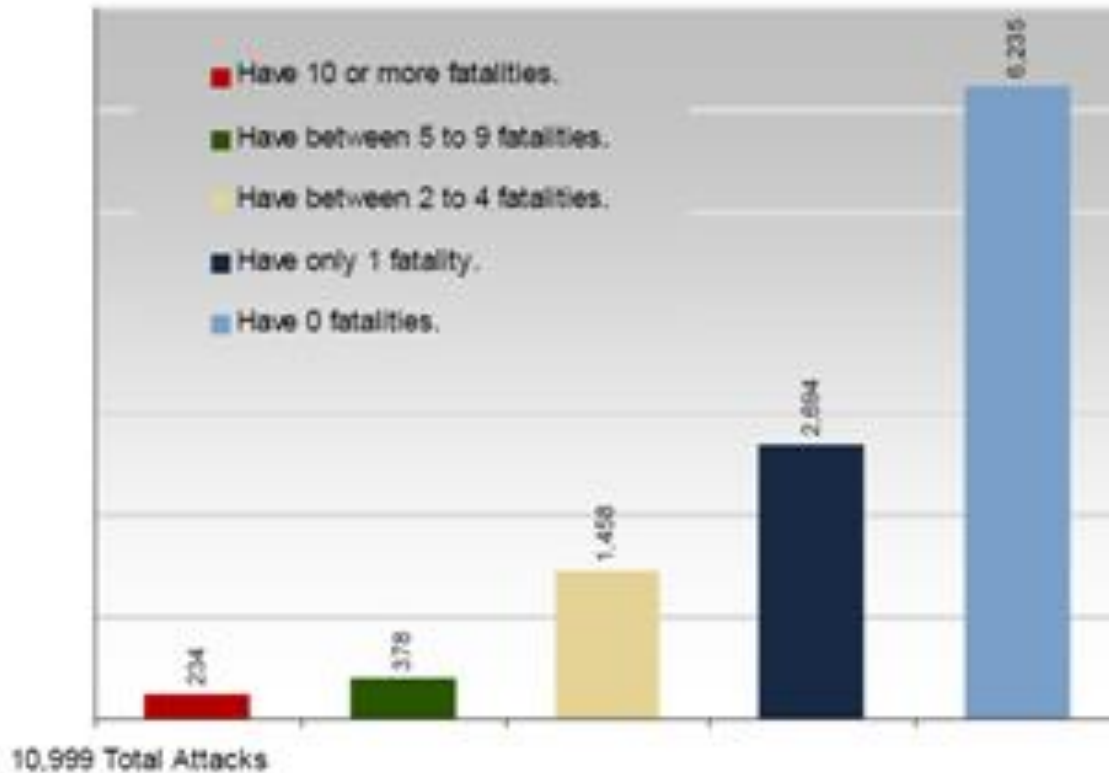
# Attack Locations

Chart 12 - All Attacks Involving Facilities by Category

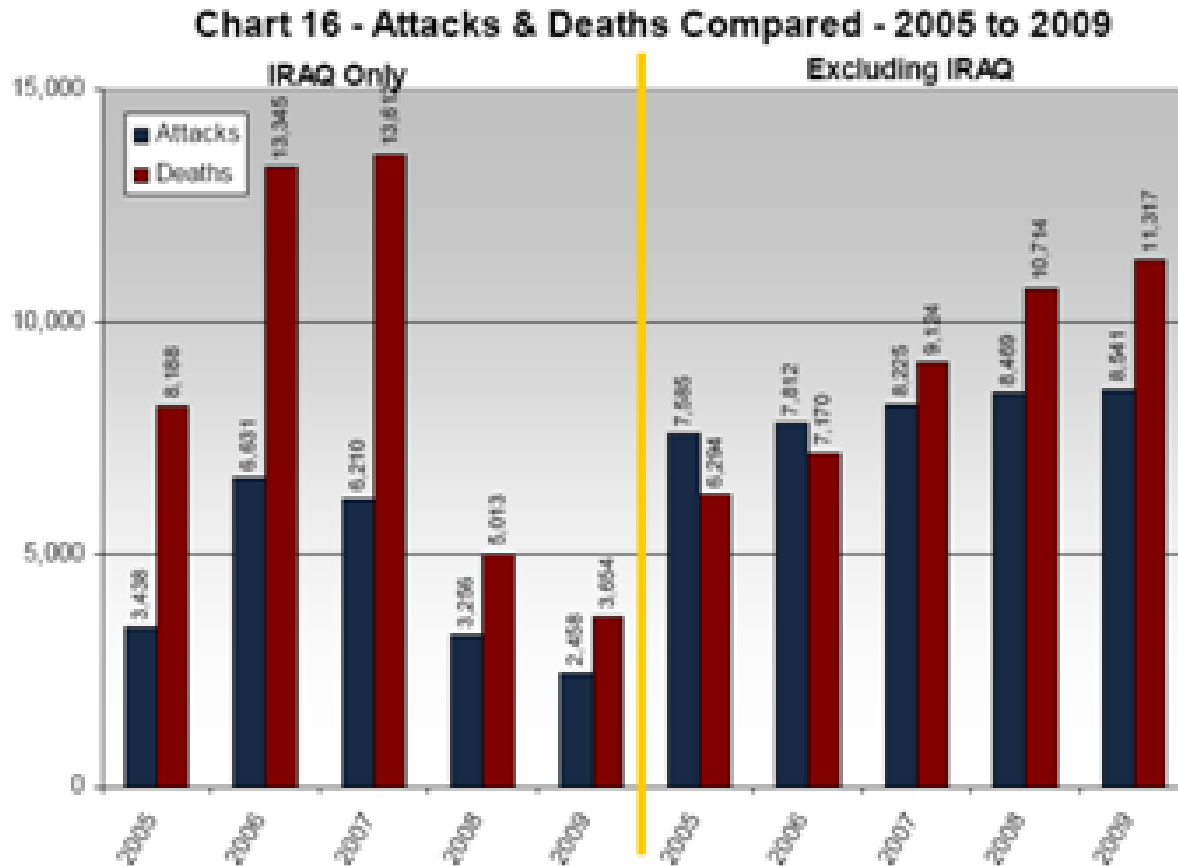


# Casualties per attack

Chart 13 - Attacks Grouped by Fatality Range

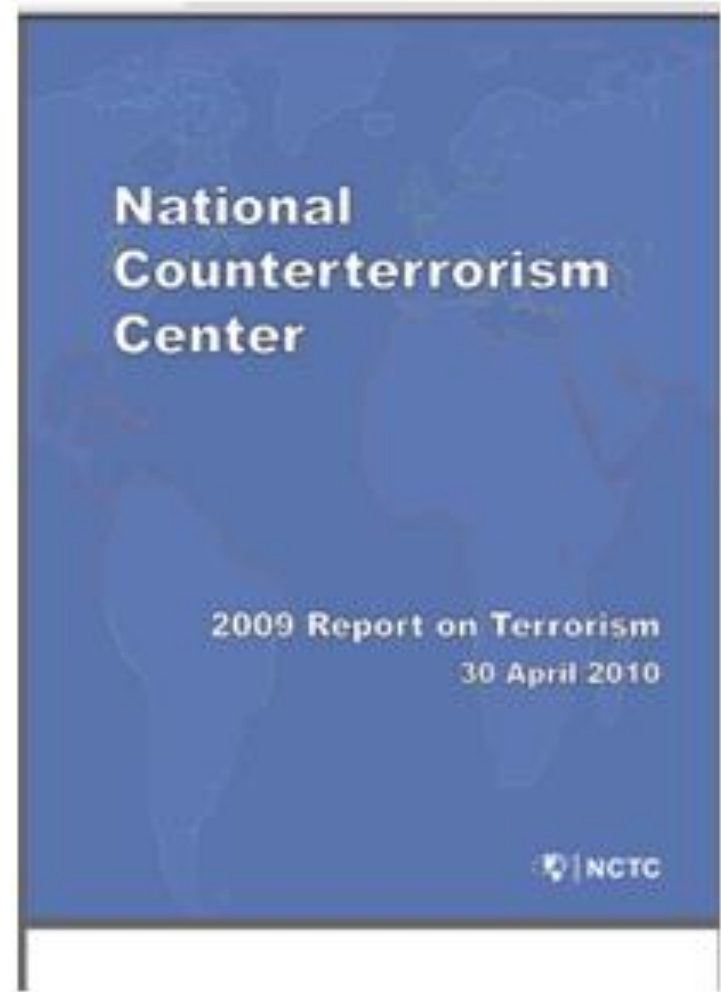


# Iraq cools off, elsewhere heats up



# Source Material for this Power Point

The PDF is on the site,  
over under the  
other materials  
column.



# Speaker Notes – Slide 1

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- The goal is to put out facts. The facts will be contrary to perception in a lot of cases. Don't worry about winning a debate, just try and jar the students into believing that facts maybe relevant for reality. You can't undo decades of stupid and the end of real journalism in just a few hours, but you might be able to get them to think facts may matter, sometimes.

# Speaker Notes – Slide 2

From the report, the purpose is stated below

## ***Developing Statistical Information***

- Consistent with its statutory mission to serve as the United States (US) government's knowledge bank on international terrorism, the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) is providing the Department of State with the statistical information required to assist it in the satisfying the requirements of Section 2656f of title 22 of the US Code (USC).
- This statute requires the State Department to include in its annual report on terrorism "to the extent practicable, complete statistical information on the number of individuals, including United States citizens and dual nationals, killed, injured, or kidnapped by each terrorist group during the preceding calendar year." NCTC keeps statistics on the annual number of incidents of "terrorism," but its ability to identify the specific group responsible for each incident resulting in death, injury or kidnapping is significantly limited by the availability of reliable open source information, particularly when attacks involve few casualties or occur in remote regions of the world. Moreover, specific details regarding victims, perpetrators, damage or other elements of the incident are frequently not fully addressed in open source reporting.
- Therefore, the statistical material in this report reflects the most comprehensive body of information available to NCTC for compiling data to satisfy the above-referenced statistical requirements and details incidents of "terrorism" that occurred in 2009 as reported in open source information.
- NCTC cautions against placing too much emphasis on the use of attack data to gauge success or failure against the forces of terrorism. Furthermore, NCTC does not believe that a simple comparison of the total number of attacks from year to year provides a meaningful measure.
- Tallying attack data necessarily involves relying on frequently incomplete and ambiguous information—information for these statistics is not derived from federal government collection programs that are created or operated specifically to obtain attack data. The quality, accuracy, and volume of open source reporting can vary greatly from country to country. As a result, determining whether an attack meets the statutory criteria for a terrorist attack is often difficult and highly subjective. This is particularly true if the attack does not involve a large number of casualties because detailed information is not typically available on these events since they often do not receive heavy media coverage. Furthermore, in the parts of the world where there is little press coverage and sparse non-governmental organization presence, terrorist attacks often go unreported.
- Attack tallies do not provide a complete picture of the magnitude or seriousness of the terrorism challenge confronting a country or region. For example, the fact that 50 percent of the attacks in the NCTC database resulted in no loss of life means tallies are only one factor for assessing the danger of terrorism globally. Moreover, different factors weigh more heavily than others in assessing the dangers posed by terrorism. For example, an attack that kills 100 civilians is likely to be considered more alarming than an attack that damages a pipeline but harms no one; however, each attack is simply tallied as one incident.
- Counting protocols are necessary and inevitably require judgment calls that may impact the results. For example, NCTC protocols dictate that events identified as simultaneous and coordinated be recorded as one attack, as are secondary attacks that targeted first responders. For instance, on the morning of August 17, 2005, there were approximately 450 small bomb attacks in Bangladesh<sup>1</sup>, and, because they were coordinated according to a central plan, NCTC counted them as a single event. Other valid counting protocols could register these attacks as 450 separate attacks.
- Analyzing attack data from year to year to identify patterns and notable deviations or trends in the data is problematic, and may not always be meaningful. The availability, quality, and depth of open source reporting vary, making it hard to isolate whether the rise or fall of a particular data element from one year to the next is related to an increase or decrease in open source reporting or to a change in actual events.



# Speaker Notes – Slide 4

## Attackers

Sunni extremists were identified with about one-half of all attacks in 2009. Almost 90 groups were associated with these attacks. According to open source reports, the Taliban claimed credit for the largest number of attacks causing the highest number of fatalities. Al-Shabaab was the second deadliest group, followed by al-Qa'ida in Iraq as the third deadliest group.

### Largest Sunni extremist attacks

- On October 25, 2009, al-Qa'ida in Iraq killed 155 people including 24 children, and wounded 720 in a double suicide VBIED attack in Baghdad, Iraq
- On December 8, 2009, al-Qa'ida in Iraq killed 127 people including 12 students, and wounded 513 others in multiple suicide VBIED attack in Baghdad, Iraq
- On October 28, 2009, Sunni extremists killed 117 people and injured 200 others in a VBIED attack in Peshawar, North-West Frontier, Pakistan
- On August 19, 2009, al-Qa'ida in Iraq killed 101 people and wounded 1,200 others in a coordinated SVBIED and VBIED attack in Baghdad, Iraq
- On May 10, 2009, Sunni extremists killed 88 people and wounded 245 others including several journalists in mortar attacks in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia
- Other notable Sunni extremist attacks
- On February 9, 2009, the Taliban killed 15 people including 11 children, and wounded 15 others in a mortar attack on a school in Darra Adam Khel, North-West Frontier, Pakistan
- On August 27, 2009, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula slightly wounded the Saudi minister of the interior for security affairs in a suicide bombing in Jiddah, Makkah, Saudi Arabia
- On November 27, 2009, Caucasus Emirate killed 39 people and wounded 95 others in an IED attack against a passenger train near Bologoye, Tverskaya Oblast', Russia
- On December 25, 2009, Omar Farouk Abdulmutallab injured one person when he allegedly detonated an IED that malfunctioned on a flight over Detroit, Michigan, United States
- Of the remaining incidents, as many as 150 groups were identified as perpetrators. The largest non-Sunni attacks include the following:
- On January 17, 2009, the Lord's Resistance Army killed approximately 400 people in assaults and incendiary attacks near Tora, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- On May 9, 2009, the Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) killed 86 people including 25 children, and wounded 24 others including one child in an assault and armed attack in Nord-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- On November 23, 2009, Ampatuan clan members killed 66 people including 34 journalists in armed attacks in Ampatuan, Maguindanao, Philippines and Datu Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao, Philippines

# Speaker Notes – Slide 5

## **Victims and Targets of Attacks**

As has been the case since 2005, substantial numbers of victims of terrorist attacks in 2009 were Muslim.

- Almost 58,000 individuals worldwide were either killed or injured by terrorist attacks in 2009. Based upon a combination of reporting and demographic analysis of the countries involved, well over 50 percent of the victims were Muslims, and most were victims of Sunni extremist attacks in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Open source reporting largely identifies victims as civilians – approximately two-thirds of almost 58,000 killed or injured. As such, the fidelity of victim types is difficult to obtain, but the fragmented reporting on it does yield some insights about the demographics of these victims.
- Police officers were a favored terrorist target, accounting for 14 percent of the total killed and wounded in 2009.
- Government officials, employees and contractors killed and wounded from terrorist attacks doubled from 2008 and accounted for five percent of the total victims.
- The press experienced its single worst day in history on November 23rd in a terrorist massacre in the Philippines that killed 34 members of the media, the largest number of reporters ever killed in a single incident.

# Speaker Notes – Slide 6

## Types of Attacks

- Most attacks in 2009 were perpetrated by terrorists applying conventional fighting methods such as armed attacks, bombings, and kidnappings. Drawing on the lessons learned from the Mumbai attack in 2008, Sunni extremist elements used suicidal militia style attacks in numerous large scale attacks in 2009. Terrorists continued their practice of coordinated attacks that included secondary attacks on first responders at attack sites; they also continued to reconfigure weapons and other materials to create improvised explosive devices, and used women and children to evade security counter-measures.
- Suicide attacks declined from 405 in 2008 to 299 in 2009. This was largely due to declining violence in Iraq. A total of 13 countries experienced suicide attacks in 2009. The country with the highest number of suicide bombings was Afghanistan with 99, followed by Pakistan with 84, and Iraq with 82.
- Attacks in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan accounted for about 60 percent of all terrorist attacks.
- Attacks by female suicide bombers declined significantly from 2008, accounting for only seven of the 299 total suicide attacks. Three of these attacks occurred in Iraq, two occurred in Sri Lanka, and two occurred in Russia.
- In Thailand, Muslim separatists used a woman and child to park VBIEDs in an effort to avoid suspicion and security procedures.

# Speaker Notes – Slide 7

## **Trend Observed in WITS Data: Attacks on Oil and Gas Sectors Decline in 2009**

- Total attacks against oil and gas targets worldwide declined by 27 percent in 2009 and have steadily declined since 2006, according to Worldwide Incidents Tracking System (WITS) data. One of the most significant declines was in Iraq where attacks were down almost 50 percent—from 31 in 2008 to 16 in 2009—possibly due to the country’s improved security situation. Excluding Iraq, attacks on the oil and gas sector in the Middle East were low, with four in 2009 versus eight in 2008. Attacks were also down 28 percent in Nigeria, where a ceasefire in the oil producing Niger Delta region temporarily halted militant attacks and thousands of militants accepted a government amnesty offer and disarmed in October 2009. Afghanistan saw a slight increase in attacks with 14 in 2009 compared to 10 in 2008, which is still relatively low for a war zone. While Pakistan saw attacks decline—59 in 2009 versus 80 in 2008—the number of attacks remained high in comparison to war zones due to the deteriorating security situation across the country that has prompted the Pakistani military to pursue operations against militants that operate there.

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