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Spotting Terrorism Trends: The Global Terrorism Database

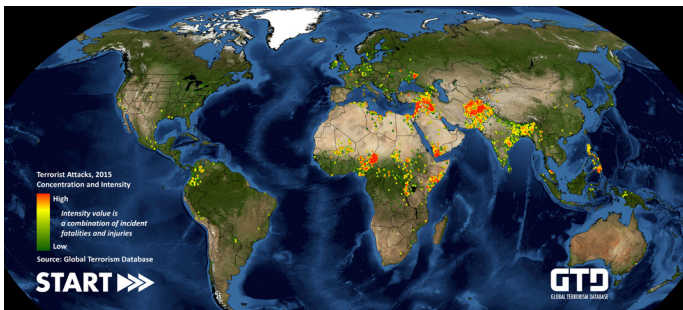
A DHS Science and Technology Center of Excellence Solution

Comprehensive Database Helps Analysts and Law Enforcement Identify Terrorism Trends

The **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)**^{*} is helping intelligence analysts, law enforcement, and policymakers understand terrorist groups' *modus operandi*, tactics, and activity level. GTD users apply this understanding to identify trends and inform strategies to counter terrorist activities.

Free, Open Source, and Accessible Online

The GTD is a free, open-source online database developed by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) Center of Excellence. The GTD provides information on more than 150,000 terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 2015 with updates planned annually. For each incident, the GTD includes information on the date of the event, target and location, type of attack, number of casualties, weapons used, and group claiming responsibility, plus more than 100 other variables. The GTD provides systematic data on domestic, international, and transnational terrorist incidents.



Graph generated by the Global Terrorism Database www.start.umd.edu/gtd

The GTD:

- Is free to use and accessible online
- Contains detailed online instructions to help users explore the GTD and conduct analyses
- Enables users to choose variables of interest to create customized charts and graphs

GTD Serves as a Valuable Resource to Many Users

The GTD is the most comprehensive unclassified database on terrorist events in the world and gets more than two million hits from users per month. On average, more than 315 people download the full data set each month; this represents a 900 percent increase in data downloads since 2009.

- Users include:
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of State
 - State Fusion Centers
 - Intelligence Community Agencies (federal, state, and local)
 - Researchers and Students
- The GTD is used to:
 - Produce the statistical annex for the Department of State's congressionally mandated report, "Country Reports on Terrorism"
 - Develop terrorism risk assessments and background reports
 - Understand terrorism trends for domestic, transnational, and international terrorist events to develop policies and counterterrorism initiatives
 - Inform news outlets and government officials about major terrorism incidents

START Partners with the Institute for Economics and Peace

START and the Institute for Economics and Peace have created the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), a report that summarizes terrorism trends through time. Using data from the GTD, the GTI systematically ranks and compares the impact of terrorism in 158 countries in terms of deaths, injuries, and property damage as well as lasting psychological effects on a population over time.

More than 2,000 news stories worldwide have featured GTI findings in more than 50 news media outlets, including *NBC News*, *Reuters*, *The Huffington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *MarketWatch*, *India Today*, *CBS MoneyWatch*, and the *Daily Bhaskar*.

^{*} Winner of the DHS Science and Technology Impact Award, 2009.