
2. THE THREAT

Before any reasonable security precautions can be taken, the risk must be assessed. Terrorism basically involves criminal-type acts such as bombings or kidnappings which are committed for political motives, often against innocent non-combatants.

Explosive bombings are the most common method employed by terrorist incidents in all areas of the world. Other types of terrorist acts are more common in some regions than others. Kidnapping is the second most common method used in Latin America but follows incendiary bombings and armed attack in Western Europe and the Middle East. Western Europe has seen more terrorist assassinations than any other area in the past.

Terrorists may act alone or in small groups. They may support a variety of extreme causes at either end of the political spectrum. Some are extreme nationalists or separatists. Others seek the overthrow of a particular government.

Terrorist targets often include innocent bystanders. Both government and private establishments associated with the terrorists' main target can be attacked. But in most cases, the terrorist seeks a target which will either attract attention to the terrorist cause, force

a government to change its policies, or produce arms or funds for the terrorist cause.

Ask yourself some questions:

- Would the local authorities have problems preventing bombings or kidnappings?
- Do violence-prone groups exist where you are?
- Would an attack against you receive wide media coverage?

If one or more answers are "yes", you may need to improve your security precautions in the office, en route and in the home.

3. GENERAL SAFETY MEASURES

Security should be discussed with the family not to frighten anyone, but simply to inform. Discuss what should be done in the event you or a family member is kidnapped. Keep your family affairs (i.e., insurance policies, vital documents, etc.) in order. Keep your passports, visas, and immunization records current and in a secure place.

Telephones can help you - or the terrorist. Maintain a current list of emergency numbers beside each telephone. Recognize that your