

# Security at home

Both terrorists and ordinary criminals consider the home a tempting target. The same measures will deter both. A number of common-sense counter-measures cost little or nothing. For example, family members or servants should never admit strangers without proper identification. A peep-hole in a door where visitors can be observed prior to entry is recommended. Never leave garage doors unlocked. Watch-dogs are usually better than poorly trained local static security guards. Both may sleep on the job, but the dog sleeps more lightly, doesn't drink and is less susceptible to bribes. One animal inside and one outside are even better. Think twice before being photographed or interviewed in your home. Avoid set social routines such as a tennis game at the same time and place weekly. Terrorists size up victims in advance. Be alert to near-by workers whose road or utility repairs appear slower than usual.

Have a security or background check of all servants. Do not discuss sensitive information, such as detailed travel plans or business dealings, within hearing of servants. Instruct servants and members of the household to refuse information to strangers enquiring about your activities or whereabouts, and to accept no packages or other items unless they are certain of the source.

Security should be discussed with the family but do not frighten, simply 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. Make all necessary emergency financial arrangements for dependents and designate an individual or office to contact in the event these plans must be implemented.

In many places children should be escorted to and from school. Instruct school authorities that under no circumstances are they to be picked up by persons other than family members or specifically authorized people. Do not permit unaccompanied children to use taxis and public transportation.

Telephones can help you — or the terrorist. Maintain a current list of emergency numbers beside each telephone. Recognize that your telephone will possibly be tapped by potential kidnappers. Be most discreet on the telephone in discussing information concerning travel. Do not hand out business or home telephone numbers indiscriminately. Locate a neighbour's or public telephone near your home and advise your servants and family of its location for emergency use.

Avoid crowds and civil disturbances. Stay away from areas in which you have no business and avoid disputes with local citizens. If others initiate troublesome incidents, leave the scene as quickly as possible and report the matter to the appropriate authority.

In high-risk areas, if possible, request a frequent police patrol