

TERRORISM WILL NOT SURVIVE IN THE REALM OF NEW ZEALAND

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ABSTRACT

This work posits that the New Zealand attack, which was actually a terrorist activity as defined, that for an activity to be justified as a terrorist act it must be targeted at a political purpose to reach a large and certain population by inflicting injury or bodily harm at targets. However, this study is to submit that terrorism will not survive in an economy like that of New Zealand, as the nation does not have history of armed conflict, more so, there is an existing regulated political structure and a well-managed public governance. Therefore, existing and secondary data in form of tables and illustrations from reports of Global Terrorism Index, GTI 2015 and 2018 are used to juxtapose the topic and submission, that terrorism will not have a place in the realm of New Zealand. The country does not fall in the category or League of Nations to be infested with terrorism. As much as there were direct costs from the attack in form of loss of lives, the indirect cost will not have any significant impact on the economy of the nation or translate to an ongoing operation of terrorists or terrorism in its globally renowned peaceful realm.

KEYWORDS: Terrorism infested countries, Impact of terrorism on infected economies, Terrorism infliction on developing nations, Effect of terrorism-infection on economies, Implication of terrorism infestation on economic growth and stability.

1. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE ATTACK

In the light of the terrorist event in New Zealand that took fifty lives and another fifty injured, it is actually saddening that such could happen in a known environment for peace and tranquility. It was said that the last of such occurrence was in 1990 in Aramoana town of Dunedin in the south Island, when a man named David Gray, took to fire arms after an argument with a neighbour and took lives of innocent people in a shooting spree, but ever since then nothing of such has happened until 15th of March, 2019 when the news rent the air and a gory video emerged of a shooter who stormed a worship place and was seen killing, shooting sporadically at worshippers in a particular mosque in Christchurch, the largest city in the Canterbury region in the realm of New Zealand. Looking at the video looks contrived, planned or portrays a long well-mapped intention and act, as most terrorist events are, as the supposed shooter, discovered to be an Australian who goes by the name Brenton Tarrant, had a well-placed head camera recording him while he engaged in the nefarious act. According to newsnow, an online news platform of Television New Zealand, TVNZ, it stated that the mosques shootings are the deadliest in the history of New Zealand, saying the Aramoana massacre of 1990 left only 13 people dead. This work is to pinpoint from existing studies, researches and literature that the New Zealand attack, an act of terrorism will not see the light of the day or survive in the realm of New Zealand.

2. CAUSES OF TERRORISM

There are lots of existing works and many academic scholars have postulated theories cum assumptions about terrorism and terrorist-infested nations, but Enders and Sandler (2008 and 2009), in their numerous works and studies have posited more of theories which so far have had solid background from what can be seen in terrorism inflicted nations as empirical facts. The duo are terrorism research specialists who have conducted various studies and researches in the field of terrorism with the intention to x-ray the implications, costs and effects of the menace on nations plagued. They further stated that most countries infested with terrorism are countries with history of poor political structure, non-transparency in their polity and

with history of or ongoing conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, Enders and Sandler (2008). This is the condition prevalent in the numerous terrorism-infected countries like Nigeria, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Syria. More so, it was published in GTI 2015 that 90% of terrorism-induced deaths and fatalities happened in just the five countries mentioned above, however, most of the countries have experienced terrorism-intensive killings due to history of instability in their polity and poor economic structures. Same as reports and findings from the latest Global Terrorism index, GTI 2018, the five countries mentioned above still remain the most affected by terrorism recording more than 1,000 death casualties in various terrorism events between 2016 and 2017. Although it is stated in GTI 2018 published in June of the year, that deaths from terrorism declined by 44% in 2017 but the act still remains widespread, postulated by European Foundation Centre as more of the development were recorded largely in Europe while other regions are still worse as seen in most affected countries stated above. Journal of Peace and Research in its publication of 2013, titled '*Causality between terrorism and economic growth*' by Daniel Meierrieks & Thomas Gries (2013), posits categorically from study of the adverse impacts of terrorism, that most African and Arabic countries infested by terrorism were aftermath of the cold war and are all countries typical of irregular political structure, improper public management, administration, and attendance of instability or chaotic society.

3. POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH ATTACK ON NEW ZEALAND

More importantly, the attack is not expected to affect the economy of New Zealand as postulated by Blomberg et al (2004), which says an economy would be affected after a terrorist event in the light of its existing capacity, which means a stable economy in the event of terrorism-infliction will only experience an immediate shock and significant direct costs for a short time which will not last, but rather an insignificant continuous or indirect costs. However, Enders and Sandler (1996) posits that the cost of terrorism on an economy is a function of how large, steady and formidable an economy is before the attack, which stipulates that an economy like that of New Zealand would bounce back in few days after the attack without much impact on the economy, even on volatile sectors like the tourism, transportation and trade. Eric Olson and Enders Walter (2012), in their paper titled, "*Measuring the Economic Cost of Terrorism*" submitted in the Handbook of Oxford of the Economics of Peace and Conflict, enunciates various direct and indirect costs attributed to terrorism, and they went further to posit that the general growth rate of a country can be reduced by terrorism, while its effects and costs are converged in few important sectors like tourism, transportation, FDI and financial markets as they tend to be affected by the operation of terrorism or terrorists.

4. RATIONALE THAT TERRORISM WILL NOT SUFFICE IN NEW ZEALAND

As touching the various rationale that support the fact that New Zealand will ensure terrorism does not suffice in its borders, firstly, the said country, New Zealand is a nation state that does not support terrorism and this can be seen in the fact that it was part of the group of nations to declare Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria as a terrorist group despite the long-plea and sentiment by the Nigerian government to the international community not to declare the nation or the group as a terrorist organization, below is an illustration of a table extracted from Wikipedia showing New Zealand as the first nation to tag Boko Haram activities in Nigeria as that of a terrorist organization.

Table 1: Showing countries and dates of declaring Boko Haram as a terrorist group

Country/Organization	Date Boko Haram was declared Terror Group
New Zealand	2012, August 20 th
United Kingdom	2013, July 10 th
United States of America	2013, November 14 th
Canada	2013, December 24 th
United Nations	2014, May 22 nd
Australia	2014, June 26 th
United Arab Emirates	2014, November 15 th

Source: Wikipedia (Boko Haram; under International responses)

From the above table, it indicates that the nation was the first in August 20th, 2012 to designate Boko Haram as a terror group which shows it is a country with zero-tolerance for terrorism and its dangerous activities. Presently, the country is reviewing its gun-ownership policy which is generating a widespread local debate and attracting international attention

mainly for the purpose of tightening its fire-arm policy and ensuring security of lives of its numerous citizens and cross-culturally diversified societies. More importantly, New Zealand is in the league of developed nations, same applies to its regional cum continental neighboring counterpart, Australia, which they share common economic pattern. The realm of New Zealand is characterized as an economy with stable economic structure and attendant peace even in its several independent territories surrounding the highly ranked economically performing nation, therefore, it does not fall in the category of nations to be adversely affected or plagued by terrorism.

5. TERRORISM WILL NOT SEE THE LIGHT OF THE DAY IN NEW ZEALAD

Sequel to this, it is supported by the work of Blomberg et al (2004), which juxtapose that the implication of terrorism is significant in developing nations but not in the advanced OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) economies, unlike other terrorism-infested nations where several events have marred the economies. Global Terrorism Index, GTI 2015 found out that Iraq, over the period of 2005 to 2014 lost about U\$159 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP, PPP) for the stated period due to terrorism infestation present in its border making the economy not to run on its full potential or earn national income at full-capacity as an oil-producing country, just like the paradigm of Nigeria, an oil-rich economy which was said to lose over U\$6.1 billion in the year 2010 in FDI, Foreign direct investment due to Boko Haram insurgency. Another germane premises is that New Zealand has never made the ranks of nations with fatalities from terrorist operations as seen in the figures below.

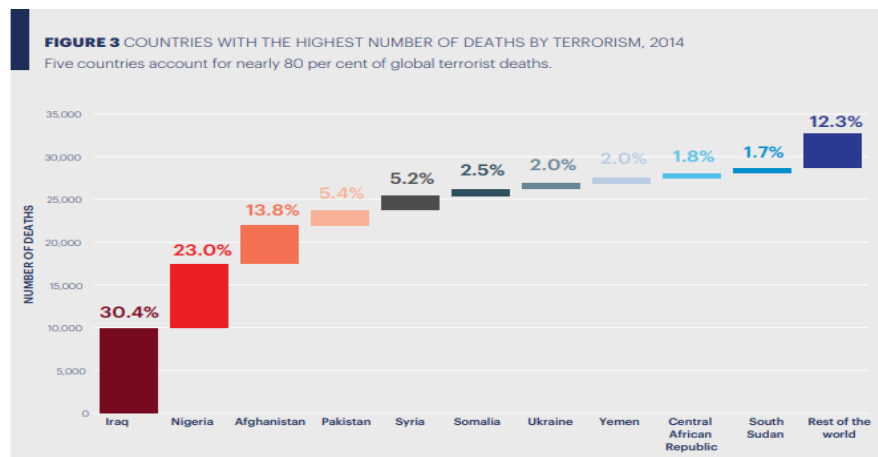


Figure1: Showing countries with the highest fatalities from terrorism.
(Source: [Global Terrorism Index, GTI 2015](#) page 16)

TABLE 1 TEN CITIES WITH HIGHEST FATALITY RATE FROM TERRORISM, 2014

CITY	COUNTRY	DEATHS FROM TERRORISM	POPULATION	RATE PER 100,000
Baghdad	Iraq	2,454	5,673,000	43
Malduguri	Nigeria	431	1,112,000	39
Mosul	Iraq	510	1,740,000	29
Peshawar	Pakistan	304	1,219,000	25
Donetsk	Ukraine	102	1,025,000	10
Kabul	Afghanistan	206	3,044,000	7
Kano	Nigeria	184	3,626,000	5
Odessa	Ukraine	46	1,002,000	5
Karachi	Pakistan	374	11,624,000	3
Kaduna	Nigeria	46	1,582,000	3

Figure 2: Showing top ten cities in countries with the highest fatalities from terrorism in 2014 concentrated in just five countries.
(Source: [Global Terrorism Index, GTI 2015](#) page 32)

The above are figures from Global Terrorism Index from their 2015 study of terrorism-inflicted nations indicating cities and countries with highest number of fatalities, incidents, particularly deaths arising from terrorism in 2014, and below are illustrations from year 2000 when terrorism actually gained widespread momentum worldwide with an upsurge in fatalities in the year 2013 and the highest ever deaths recorded from terrorism globally in 2014. It can be seen that New Zealand or any nation from the pacific region is not found in the lists which juxtapose the fact that the country does not have history of terrorism. More so, GTI Global terrorism index which conducts many studies on terrorism related events worldwide has a database for most terrorism happenings and infliction in every nation infested by terrorism. Their studies are conducted by IEP, Institute of Economics and Peace and with a detailed publication every two years but annual evaluation and ranking of terrorism infliction worldwide in terms of costs, fatalities and effects by countries infected. Consequent upon this, in all their studies, evaluations and rankings, the realm of New Zealand has never been featured, as seen in the figure 4 below indicating the number of times a country has fallen in the group of top ten nations inflicted by act of terrorism spanning years 2000 to 2014.

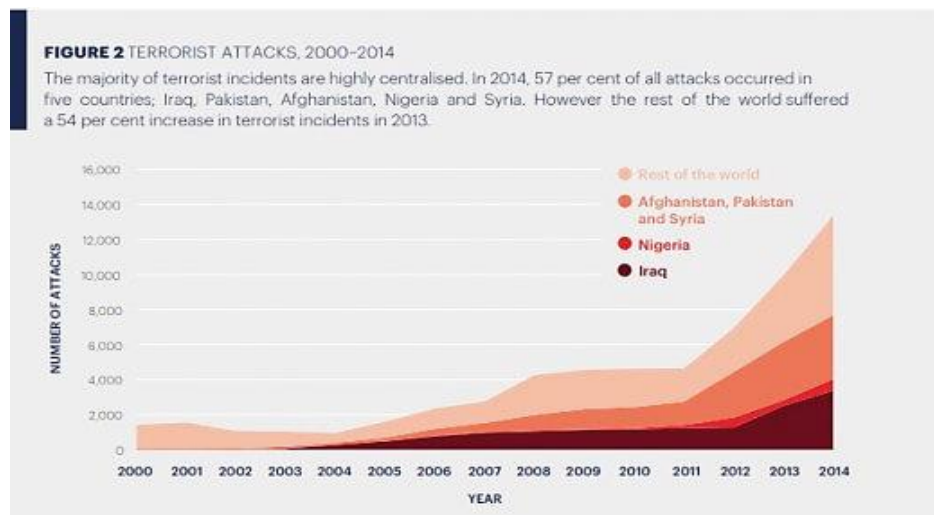


Figure 3: Showing that 57% of all incidents happened in five countries with the highest attacks from terrorism spanning the period 2000 to 2014.

(Source: [Global Terrorism Index, GTI 2015](#) page 15)

TABLE 1 NUMBER OF YEARS A COUNTRY HAS BEEN RANKED IN THE TEN COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY TERRORISM, 2000-2014

Many of the same countries have suffered from terrorism over an extended period. Angola was in the worst ten for two years, whereas India has featured 14 times. Afghanistan and Pakistan have featured 13 times.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Burundi	Angola	DRC	Nepal	Colombia	Nigeria		Somalia	Algeria				Iraq	Afghanistan	India
CAR	Chad	Israel	Uganda	Sudan	Philippines			Russia				Pakistan		
China	Indonesia	Syria		Yemen	Sri Lanka									
Egypt					Thailand									
Guinea														
Kenya														
South Sudan														
Spain														
Ukraine														
United States														

Figure 4: showing number of years a country has been featured among top ten countries most affected by terrorism.

(Source: [Global Terrorism Index, GTI 2015](#) page 15)

Consequently, the picture above highlights countries which were ranked as ten most terrorism-inflicted nations from 2000 to 2014, particularly enunciating the number of times terrorist-plagued nations have featured in the ranking. India has the highest followed by Afghanistan and Pakistan spanning the period evaluated. Few countries from Europe and America

made the list while most are from Middle East, Asia and the Africa region, none from the south pacific which indicates a region with attendant peace.

6. CONCLUSION

Sequel to all the rationale and premises stated above with justifications from existing literature, images, figures and table examined in this work, it can be seen, summed up and summarized that the nation, New Zealand is actually a no-ground for terrorism activities or operations. Although, as much as there were direct and indirect costs from the attacks on lives and the economy aftermath the attack respectively. Nevertheless, conclusion can be drawn from existing works, reports, studies and researches which is that New Zealand does not fall into the category of countries that would be infested with terrorism. Therefore, the conclusion is that terrorism has or cannot come to stay in the realm of New Zealand.

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