



跨部門反恐專責組  
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit

## Safe Community Newsletter



Winter 2022  
Issue #4

Terrorist Threat  
Festive Seasons

# Terrorist Threat Against Festive Seasons

Overseas experiences indicate that terrorists have a track record of targeting festive activities with symbolic significance or mass participation to maximise casualties, capture media attention and create fear amongst the public.

In the run-up to and during the holidays, citizens should remain vigilant and take precautions against terrorist or violent attacks, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

## Why are Festive Seasons Prone to Attacks?

### Symbolic Reason

The symbolism of attacks on special festive seasons, specific targets or individuals may attract various followers of extremist ideologies.

### Vulnerable to Attack

Festive events are often held at soft targets with low security and attended by large crowds who are often distracted by celebration activities and not on alert for danger.

### Spreading Extremist Ideologies

Terrorist groups have from time to time encouraged their followers to carry out attacks at festive seasons to target large crowds and soft targets. Online propaganda or past attacks may inspire extremists to take action.



# Overseas Cases

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## France



In July 2016, a 19-tonne cargo truck was deliberately driven into crowds of people celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, resulting in 86 deaths and 458 injuries.

## Turkey



In January 2017, a gunman opened fire at a nightclub in Istanbul, killing 39 people and injuring 79 others, who were celebrating New Year's Day.

## Sri Lanka



In April 2019, a group of Islamist suicide bombers attacked a number of churches and hotels in Colombo on Easter Sunday, resulting in 269 deaths and at least 500 injuries.

## The US



In November 2021, a man plowed a vehicle into the annual Christmas parade in Wisconsin, resulting in 6 deaths and 62 injuries.



## Terrorist Threat Level

The current Terrorist Threat Level of Hong Kong is

**“Moderate”**

which means that there is the possibility of an attack but there is no specific intelligence suggesting that Hong Kong is likely to be a target.

## Emergency Response

However, we should always stay alert. In the event of a terrorist incident, you should apply the advisory of

**“Run, Hide, Report”** to stay safe.

For more info, please scan the QR code below :



## How You Can Help

Combatting terrorism effectively not only relies on the efforts of law enforcement agencies, but also requires the support and participation of the general public. There have been overseas cases in which civilians identified and reported suspicious circumstances in daily lives and eventually stopped terrorist attacks from taking place.

Any piece of information could be important and has a real impact on preventing and combatting terrorist activities. Members of the public should remain vigilant and report promptly upon detecting anything suspicious.



網上舉報  
E-report

[ictu.gov.hk](http://ictu.gov.hk)

舉報非緊急懷疑涉恐涉暴消息：

短訊  
SMS

**63-666-999**

微信帳號  
WeChat ID

**CT-hotline**

如屬緊急  
In an emergency

**999**



## Can you “SPOT” them?

ICTU has started a new round of promotional campaign! Our CT messages of “Run, Hide, Report” and “Spot and Report” would be carried around in Hong Kong by different public transport and displayed on billboards. Come “SPOT” them!

