

# 2022 Terrorism Situation



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

## Global Situation

- Throughout the year, the global terrorism situation remained heightened and complex. International terrorist groups, such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaeda and their affiliates, continued posing significant threat globally, with explosives, firearms and blazed weapons being the most preferred weapons in staging attacks. Beyond the conflict zones, a number of fatal attacks featuring deadly weapons were reported in Western countries, including Belgium and Norway.
- Individuals motivated by other ideologies had drawn no less attention than religious extremism. Far-right extremism proved its threat to global security by spreading to places previously free of terrorist activities. In September 2022, a terrorist plot linked to far-right groups targeting the likes of parliament and police with semi-automatic weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition was foiled in Iceland.
- In light of the recurring threat of self-radicalisation, “lone-wolf” attacks inspired by different motives continued to take place with prominent political figures being a common target of attack. In July, Shinzo Abe, the former Japanese Prime Minister, was shot to death at a political campaign event.
- In addition, the threat against Chinese overseas interest cannot be ignored. Last year, the Pakistani militant group Balochistan Liberation Army has repeatedly targeted Chinese investment projects and citizens for attacks, including a suicide bombing that took place at University of Karachi, Pakistan in April, killing three Chinese teaching staff.

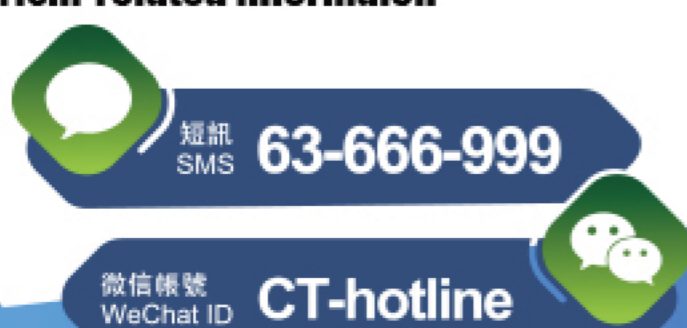
## Local Situation

- In Hong Kong, a small number of local radicals retained the capability to acquire or manufacture deadly weapons with a view to mounting attacks at an opportune time.
- In May 2022, a local extremist was arrested for attempting to make explosives at home and inciting violence against a judge and police officers on a social media platform. Amongst the seized items were a large amount of chemicals, including explosive precursors and bomb-making paraphernalia. Two similar cases occurred in September with seizure of explosives, chemicals, 3D-printed gun parts and other offensive weapons.
- In October, the police foiled the terrorist plots of two local extremist syndicates who planned to bomb local infrastructures and set fire to government test centres to cause mass casualties.
- Consistent with the global trend, individual local netizens seized opportunities to incite violence online. In November, a chemistry teacher was arrested for circulating instructions on how to produce hydrogen sulphide, a highly toxic and flammable gas, on the Internet.

## Conclusion

- At present, the overall terrorist threat level of Hong Kong remains **"MODERATE"**, meaning that there is the possibility of an attack but there is no specific intelligence suggesting Hong Kong is likely to be a target.
- Whilst the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) will work proactively to step up counter terrorism efforts among its member departments and with different stakeholders, support and participation from the public are equally important and indispensable in building a safe community.
- With a view to encouraging the public to provide information on terrorism or violence related activities, ICTU launched the “Counter-terrorism Reporting Hotline 63-666-999” in June 2022. Members of public who provide reliable terrorism-related information to Police, regardless of the means for reporting, will stand a chance of getting a reward.

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