

Terrorism Situation 2024



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

Global Situation



Explosives and Firearms

Against the background of geopolitical tensions and drastic changes in international situations, the global terrorism situation remained complex and heightened. Terrorist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and their affiliates continued to stage attacks with weapons such as explosives and firearms. In March 2024, a number of ISIL attackers stormed a concert hall in Moscow, Russia causing at least 144 deaths and over 500 injuries. It was one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in recent years.

The threat posed by far-right extremism and other extremist ideologies was on the rise, with “misogyny extremism” raising serious concerns. In April 2024, an Australian male stabbed five women and one male security guard to death at a mall in Sydney, Australia. It was revealed that the attacker mainly targeted women due to his failure to find a girlfriend. Several countries are reviewing to list “misogyny” as a form of extremism in order to develop more effective counter terrorism strategies.



Other Extremist Ideologies



Instability in the Middle East

In addition, the background of instability in the Middle East and escalating geopolitical friction might provide a fertile ground for terrorist groups to develop and expand their power, posing new challenges for the global security landscape.

With the increasing investment from the Mainland along the “Belt and Road” initiative, there were ongoing attacks against overseas Chinese nationals and interests. Meanwhile, some prominent terrorist groups also kept disseminating propaganda against the Mainland to incite anti-Chinese sentiment. In October 2024, Balochistan Liberation Army, a Pakistani militant group, staged a car bomb attack against a Chinese investment project near the airport in Karachi, resulting in four deaths and 17 injuries, including the killing of two Chinese nationals and the wounding of another.



Attacks Against Overseas Chinese Interests

Local Situation



Covert and Clandestine Manner

A small number of local radicals continued to act in a covert and clandestine manner and took to a variety of channels to spread extremist ideologies. Recent cases involving explosives and weapons also suggested that they retained the intent and capability to stage attacks and acquire lethal weapons.

Meanwhile, the threats of self-radicalisation and “lone-wolf” attacks persist. Several indiscriminate violent attacks occurred around the world last year. Most of the attackers used simple weapons and selected random targets for their attacks in order to avenge personal grievances against the society. With wide media coverage, it might incite copycat attacks by local radicals with similar grievance, increasing the difficulty in prevention.



“Lone-wolf” Attacks

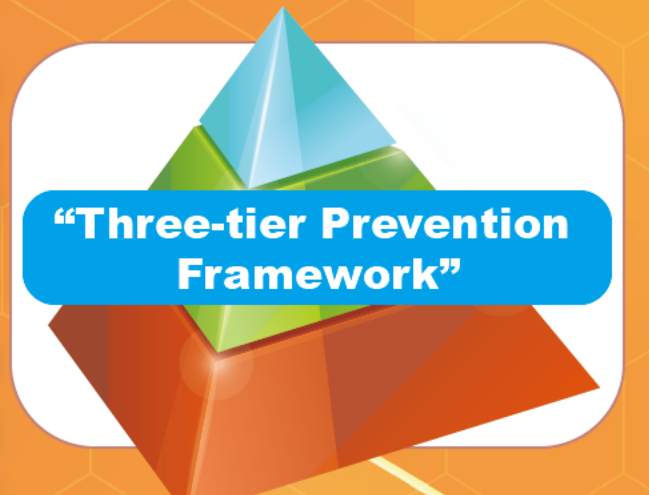
Conclusion



“Moderate”

In sum, 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 that Hong Kong is likely to be a target.

The Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) will coordinate its member departments and community stakeholders to enhance collaboration in counter terrorism and support the implementation of the “Three-tier Prevention Framework” announced in the Policy Address 2024. ICTU will also explore innovative platforms to strengthen public education for different sectors of society with a view to achieving the “Whole-of-Community” approach in counter terrorism.



“Three-tier Prevention Framework”