

Section 2 Counter-Terrorism

1 Terrorism Occurrence and Challenges

(1) Major Terrorist Incidents related to Japan and Police Efforts

○ Japanese Red Army

The Japanese Red Army has been engaged in terrorist attacks, such as the occupation of diplomatic establishments abroad and hijackings. On the surface, it refrained from armed struggle after the Dhaka incident (1977), but in the 1980s it was reactivated sparking a series of terrorist attacks.

○ The "Yodo-go" Hijacking Group

In March 1970, nine members of the Red Army Faction, including the late Takamaro Tamiya, hijacked Japan Airlines flight 351 from Tokyo to Fukuoka, commonly known as "Yodo-go," and took refuge in North Korea. Furthermore, in 2002, the ex-wife of a "Yodo-go" hijacker testified that the group was deeply involved in the abduction of Japanese citizens.

○ Suspected Cases of Abduction by North Korea

The police have determined that North Korea has abducted a total of 19 victims in 13 cases, where the victims are Japanese nationals in 12 cases (17 victims) with the remaining case being the abduction from Japan of a brother and sister of Korean descent (two victims).

In addition to these cases, the police have been conducting thorough investigations in cooperation with relevant organizations in cases where the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out.

○ Terrorist Attacks by Domestic Groups

• The series of indiscriminate terror attacks using bombs by extreme leftist groups

Extreme leftist groups have used bombs and explosives in a number of terrorist incidents since the first use of homemade bombs in 1969, killing and injuring many citizens.

• Gunshot terror attacks by rightist groups

Rightist groups have openly asserted on the "National Self-Defense Theory" and the "Theory of Coup Dynamics and Outcomes," saying "It is inevitable to use force in order to save national and ethnic crises." The rightists have taken advantage of the words and deeds of politicians and the media reporting to cause a terrorist incident using a handgun.

• Indiscriminate mass murder case using toxic gas by Aum Shinrikyo

Aum Shinrikyo was established as a religious group and later became a terrorist group. It caused many atrocious incidents, including the "Matsumoto sarin attack" (1994), which is the first criminal case in the world using sarin gas as a chemical weapon, and the "sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway" (1995) with 13 people killed and more than 5,800 injured, it's cruelty unprecedented in international crime history, which shocked both Japan and abroad.

○ Major Terrorist Attacks in Which Japanese Nationals Fell Victims Overseas in the Past (Before 2008)

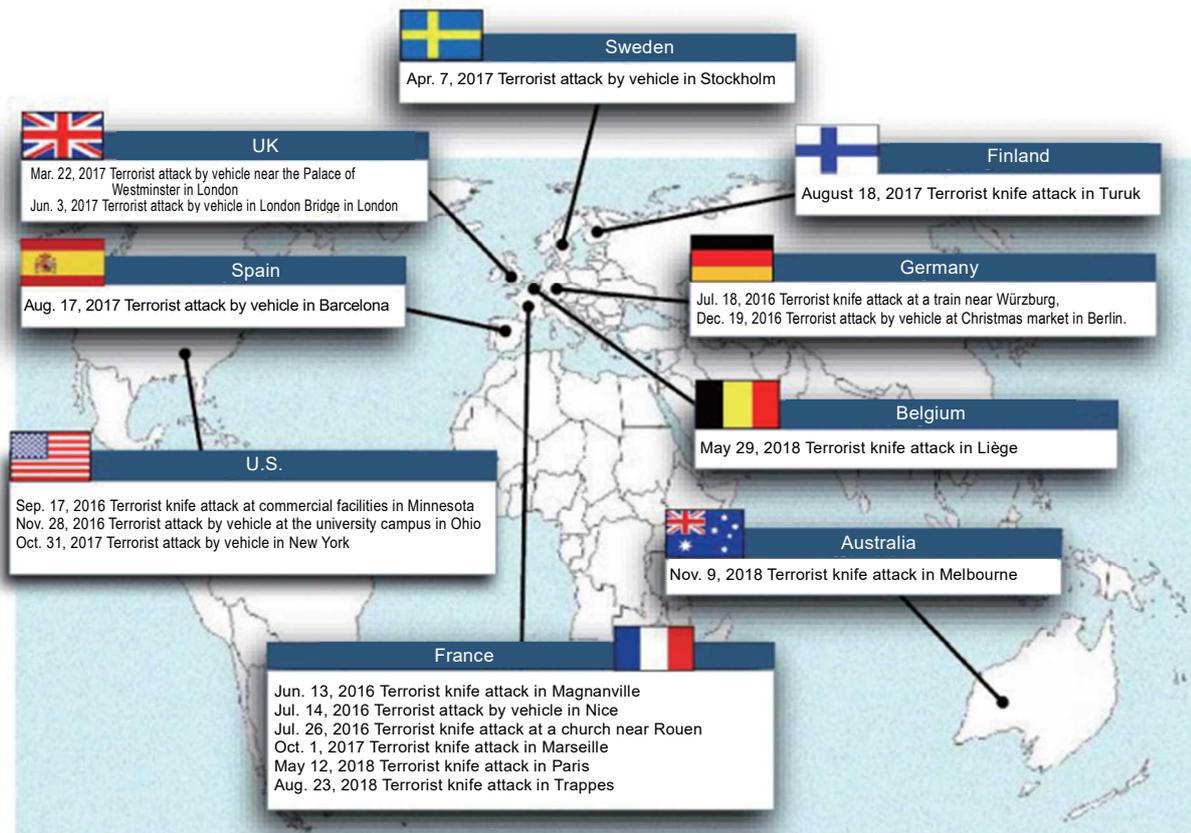
Date	Country with Terror Attack	Terror Attack Name
Dec. 17, 1996 - April 22, 1997	Peru	Japanese embassy hostage crisis
Nov. 17, 1997	Egypt	Luxor massacre: killing of tourists
Sept. 11, 2001	U.S.	September 11 attacks
Oct. 12, 2002	Indonesia	2002 Bali bombings
Nov. 29, 2003	Iraq	Murder of a Foreign Ministry officials in Iraq
May 27, 2004	Iraq	Murder of a Japanese journalist in Iraq
Oct. 26 - 30, 2004	Iraq	Murder of a Japanese hostage in Iraq
May 8, 2005	Iraq	Abduction of a Japanese national in Iraq
Oct. 1, 2005	Indonesia	Series of terrorist attacks in Bali, Indonesia
Aug. 26, 2008	Afghanistan	Kidnapping and murder of Japanese in Afghanistan
Nov. 26, 2008	India	Series of terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India

(2) Rise of Islamic Extremists and the Recent Terrorism Situation

In terms of international terrorism situation, the Al-Qaeda (AQ) and its related organizations are calling for attacks against the United States and its allies, while ISIL is calling for attacks to be carried out around the world.

In addition, ISIL is actively using the Internet to call on its supporters. For example, through statements and infographics, they are calling for attacks by knives and vehicles, when bombs and firearms are unavailable. In fact, terrorist attacks using knives and vehicles have occurred in Western countries.

Major Terrorist Incidents Involving Knives and Vehicles That Have Occurred in Western Countries in Recent Years



Note: Includes those that no criminal declaration by ISIL, etc. has been declared.

In addition, terrorist attacks against Japanese nationals in Algeria (2013), serial bombings in Sri Lanka (2019), and other incidents have occurred in recent years. Japanese nationals and interests including related facilities have become targets of terrorism.

Furthermore, a number of following homegrown terrorist incidents are occurring: persons born or raised in non-Islamic countries, such as Western countries, have become radicalized under the influence of Internet propaganda by ISIL, AQ, etc., and these Islamic extremists have committed attacks targeting the interests of countries they reside or the facilities of such countries. Japan is not an exception. ICPO suspect illegally entered Japan. This indicates that the network of Islamic extremist groups, which are loosely connected to one another through extremism, is also spreading to our country.

In light of these circumstances, it can be said that the threat of terrorism against our country continues.

(3) Characteristics and Issues in the Recent Terrorism Situation

The recent terrorism situation has been characterized by the presence of foreign terrorist fighters. More than 30,000 persons are believed to have traveled to Iraq and Syria from more than 100 countries. It is reported that during 2018, the number of foreign terrorist fighters moving from Iraq and Syria to Afghanistan increased. We should keep an eye on the future trends of foreign terrorist fighters.

On the other hand, many recent terrorist attacks in Western countries were conducted by individuals who have no travel history to conflict-affected regions such as Iraq and Syria. They seem to have been influenced by propaganda by terrorist organizations or incidents carried out by Islamic extremists in the past and become more radical. ISIL is calling for attacks to be carried out in the area of the person lives, and some of the homegrown terrorists who responded to such calls are believed to have become radicalized and conducted terrorism in such a short time. Therefore, it is necessary to promptly detect and prevent such threats.

Furthermore, in recent years, it has become noticeable that in terrorist attacks, easily obtainable weapons such as knives and vehicles are used. Since knives and vehicles are less regulated and easier to obtain than bombs and firearms, it is an issue how to detect the move of terrorists and prevent the attacks in the preparation stage. In addition, it is necessary to properly grasp the science and technology that can be abused by terrorists such as forged identification cards, 3D printers, small drones, explosive materials, and information and communications technology, and those who abuse them.

It is necessary for the police to take all possible measures to prevent terrorist attacks, by strengthening cooperation with relevant organizations, as well as information-gathering and analysis.

(4) Threats in Cyberspace

With the Internet firmly established as an indispensable social infrastructure for citizens' lives and socioeconomic activities, there are concerns about cyber terrorism, an electronic attack paralyzing social functions in Japan.

2 Police Counter-Terrorism

Terrorism, if allowed to occur, will bring about many casualties. Therefore, the key to countering terrorism is to prevent it from happening. Should a terror attack occur, it is necessary to minimize damages and arrest the terrorists quickly. The police are promoting counter-terrorism from both sides of prevention and response.

(1) Reinforcement of Vigilance and Security System



Vigilance of important facilities



Vigilance of nuclear power stations

Overview of Riot Police Unit

Riot Police Unit

Permanent units that maintain an emergency response system by means of collective security power

Specialized Squads

Anti-Firearms Squad, Counter-NBC Terrorism Squad, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squad, Nuclear Special Guard Unit, Water Rescue Squad, Rescue Squad, etc.

Regional Riot Police Unit

In normal times, while working in patrol, criminal investigation, or traffic sections, security training is also conducted in a form similar to that of the Riot Police Unit. This unit is designed to conduct security operations widely across prefectures.

Secondary Riot Police Units

Units designated by police officers working at police station, etc. to supplement Riot Police Unit and conduct security operations



Training for Special Assault Team (SAT)



Training for Anti-Firearms Squad



Training for Counter-NBC Terrorism Squad



Training for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squad



Situation of crowd control around Shibuya Station where a lot of people gathered for Halloween



Vigilance and security at an event site

(2) Strengthening of Information Gathering and Analysis

In order to prevent terrorism, it is necessary to collect wide range of information and analyze it accurately. In the police, the Foreign Affairs Intelligence Dept. of the NPA Security Bureau closely link itself with foreign security intelligence agencies even more, and the police use the results of their comprehensive analysis to take various measures including protection for critical facilities.

In order to promote counter measures to international terrorism, there is a limit on efforts by Japan alone, and coordination and cooperation with other countries around the world are essential. Therefore, the NPA is actively attending international conferences on various counter-terrorism measures.

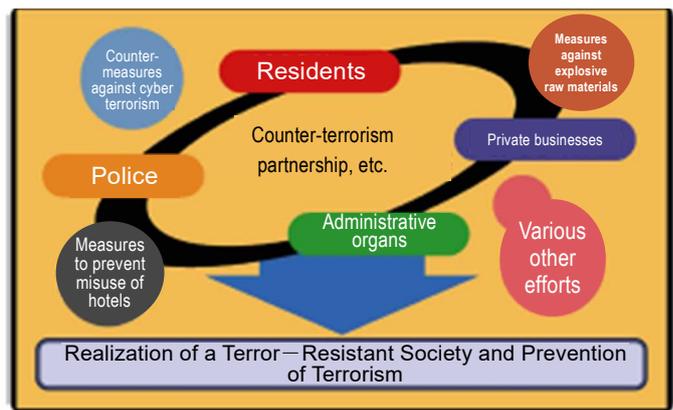
(3) Promotion of Cooperation with Relevant Organizations

In order to prevent terrorists from entering Japan, the police are promoting border control measures using the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) in cooperation with relevant organizations such as the Immigration Service Agency of Japan and Japan Customs.

In addition to exchanging information closely with the Ministry of Defense and the SDF under normal circumstances, the police are conducting joint exercises with the Japan Grand Self-Defense Force under the assumption that illegal acts by armed agents have occurred.

Furthermore, in order to prevent terrorism, it is not enough for the police to take measures alone. It is more desirable to promote counter-terrorism in close cooperation with relevant organizations, private businesses, residents, etc. For this reason, the police are participating in various public-private cooperation frameworks for counter-terrorism.

Outline of Counter-Terrorism Taken by the Government and Private Sector



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(4) Countermeasures against Cyber Terrorism

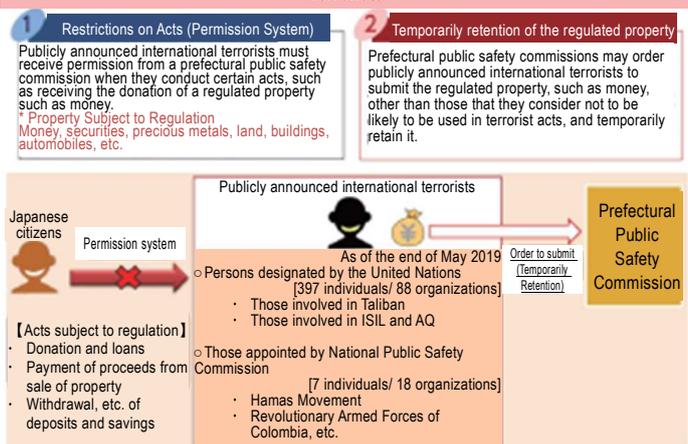
In order to prevent damage from cyber-attacks, the police have established Council for Countermeasure against Cyber Terrorism in every prefecture, which is composed of Prefectural Police Headquarters and critical infrastructure operators. In addition, information on cyber-attack threats and information security is provided by individual visits through the framework of each Council. Furthermore, joint trainings are conducted to prepare for the occurrence of cyber-attacks, and demonstrations of cyber-attacks and simulations of incident responses are conducted to improve emergency response capabilities.

Additionally, the police regularly request enterprises to report incident occurrence to the police. Moreover, when it is recognized that a cyber-attack targeting enterprises in Japan is being called for, etc., reminders are promptly given to target enterprises to prevent damage.

(5) Counter-Terrorism Financing

Japan regulates the provision of terrorist funds under the Act on Punishment of the Financing of Terrorism. In addition, based on the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, specified enterprises are required to confirm the identification of customers, etc. at the time of transaction and to report suspicious transactions, etc. Furthermore, based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and the Act on International Terrorist Asset-Freezing, as of the end of May 2019, Japan publicly announced to freeze assets of international terrorists (404 individuals and 106 organizations).

Overview of the Act on International Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regulations on Domestic Transactions Related to Publicly Announced International Terrorists



(6) Countermeasures against Drones

In order to appropriately enforce the Drone Act and thus to prevent terrorist attacks using drones, the police are making efforts to detect suspicious persons by conducting vigilance in the vicinity of the designated facilities under the Act and are promoting measures such as asking managers of premises with rooftops and open spaces which can be used for unlawful flights to lock up the entries. The police exercise vigilance over the airspace and make efforts for early detection. If the police find unlawful drone flights, they shall prevent and mitigate threats using adequate drone effector technologies.

The police continue to improve their counter-drone capabilities through training and investment in new equipment and technologies.



Imperial protection for the ceremonies of the imperial succession



Counterterrorism training in public-private partnerships

(7) Promotion of Security Measures in Large-Scale Events

In 2019, large-scale events such as ceremonies of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the Emperor, the G20 Osaka Summit, and the Rugby World Cup Japan 2019 were held. Then, in 2020, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held, and the police will take all possible measures to ensure security for each event.