

# POSSIBLE THREAT OF TERRORISM ON TOURIST DESTINATIONS

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**Abstract:** *This paper presents a hypothetical case of possible dangerous terrorist attacks on summer touristic destinations. It is quite realistic to think that members of these terroristic organizations always plan to do some misdeeds all over the world. In that sense, they are led by the fact that previously touristic centers were targets of terrorist attacks (summer resort Mumbai in India and others); it is not impossible for something like this to happen again and on any other touristic destination. Further, we herewith indicate the importance of preventive and of engaging qualified security managers that could prevent and stop such criminogenic activities; their goal is safe stay of tourists.*

**Keywords:** *Tourism, terrorism, danger, prevention, security.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is certainly not the product of today. Early humans moved mostly in uncontrolled manner (migrations), primarily driven by the instinct of self-preservation; over time, these migration had become somewhat better planned. In fact, evolution in this case left its mark. After trivial needs for food (hunting, fishing, collecting fruits ...) and tribal movements in this regard, there followed: nomadic movement, family bonding, exploration, conquest, technological advances, cultural needs, adventure, all the way to the classic tourism with the aim of taking a rest or entertainment, and tourism industry. Therefore, today, tourism means going on holiday; recreation; tour of significant historical, cultural sites; attractive destinations; meeting the needs of our adventurous spirit, etc.

For a tourist offer to be complete and adequate, especially in today's conditions of globalization and the so-called new global threats (terrorism,<sup>1</sup> the big crime, global warming, environmental pollution, large-scale migration, etc.) it is necessary to keep in mind that safety is a very important segment indeed, and it is tied to contemporary trends in tourism in addition to the planned differentiation of characteristics and motives of the very tourist site (economic, cultural, political, social, religious and dr.karakteristike) by suppliers of

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<sup>1</sup> Terrorism (lat. *terror*-horror, fear), Vujaklija, M., Lexicon of foreign words and expressions, Prosveta, Belgrade, 1996/97, p 883

tourism products. In particular, safe arrival and safe stay and departure from a tourist destination are of vital importance.<sup>2</sup>

In this sense, terrorism is currently one of the leading global challenges, that means the global risks and threats which long ago became a nightmare of all actors of the international community and ordinary people around the globe.

Within the international community, scholars who seriously deal with the problem of modern terrorism, treat this concept or phenomenon differently. These differences are in some cases almost diametrically opposed. Something that is by one country or a group of countries considered to be a terrorist act, by other countries is, for example, perceived as a form of legal or permitted struggle for some of their rights.

Taking into account various different, administrative definitions of terrorism, as well as the idea of professor Gaćinović of comparative analysis “on the way” to arrive at valid, complete and scientifically based definitions in order to find a more comprehensive approach to this dilemma, it is evident that the following definition has shaped itself: “Terrorism is organized use of violence (or the threat of violence) by the politically motivated perpetrators, who are determined to impose their will on authorities and citizens through fear, anxiety, defeatism and panic.”<sup>3</sup>

## 2. ATTRACTIVE DESTINATIONS AS AN EXAMPLE

The current situation in the world, in the context of global turmoil (various wars and crises) and threats, further burdened by so-called new security challenges, prof. Smilja Avramov explains with the following sentence: “Bellum omnium contra omnes”, which, according to many security analysts, led to the “Westernization” in the sphere of human relations and on a larger scale, too (globally) so that we have witnessed a number of terrorist attacks on tourist destinations.

“In light of new global security threats (big crime, terrorism, money laundering, prostitution, trafficking, etc.), tourism as an economic sector, or a tourist destinations for that matter are not excepted, that is, they are not immune to possible adverse developments in tourism facilities or in the environment. Security<sup>4</sup> as one of the postulates of tourism and relaxing holiday destinations given to tourists, especially in recent times, has become an indispensable factor in this branch. Specifically, all tourist destinations can be targets of various criminal structures, terrorist organizations (tourist town of Kuta on the Indonesian island of Bali in October 2005, and the Indian tourist city Mumbai, in November 2008. On that occasion, around 200 people were killed - author’s note). There have been random accidents too (the sinking of the ship on the Volga river in July 2011). So, tourism is a challenge.”<sup>5</sup>

2 In tourism destination means a site, location, region, group of regions, countries (and even a group of countries and the continent) as a destination for tourist travel. The development of the concept of a tourist destination has its origin in the holiday town, where most of the authors point out its most important attributes: attractive force, the intensity of visits, and the exercise of certain expenditure and on that basis the existence of the local population. “- Vujović, S.,” The material basis of tourism “Beograd, 2008, p. 13.

3 Gaćinović, R., “Terorizam”, Draslar, Beograd, 2005, str.26.

4 Safety - Removal of all activities that threaten a person, public order, objects or space. Different operators and authorities are engaged in activities to protect certain values and goods, and each of them applies specific methods and measures (legislative activity, policy measures, repressive measures, etc.) - Obren Đorđević, Lexicon of security, Partisan book, Belgrade, 1986, p 25

5 Vuckovic, J., Research paper: “Modern trends in tourism and security,” VI international conference “Tourism and rural development”, Trebinje, 07.8.2011, pp 4

In the riot of intricate, global export-import operations, as expected, a significant role is played by corporation, which is logical because of the enormous capital that they possess and because of their intentions for continued investment in the “third” countries and their constant struggle for increasing the profit.

If we abstract the fact that all those transactions, in which corporations also participate with their capital, resources and management, are legal and legally justified, it must be noted that, in these conditions of business at various problematic areas burdened by mortgages of specific political and economic, and even religious turmoil there is a real danger of the avalanche of illegal activities by criminal groups from this area, such as: theft, racketeering, kidnapping and blackmail, etc., and elsewhere, threats from terrorist activities aimed at undermining economic system of the parent state of the corporation.

### 3. POSSIBLE TARGETS AND PREVENTION

In connection with the above considerations and the factual presence of parts of terrorist networks almost in every corner of the globe, as well as opportunities that anyone can engage in terrorism (available to everyone), there is evidence of latent danger of which tourist destinations can not be spared, particularly tourist centers on the seashore.

Knowing that terrorists want to commit such violent acts that produce fear in those who see it, we wish to point out the possible risk selection, by terrorists tourist destinations on the coast as a target, because of traffic density at the coast by tourists, as estimated by the terrorists is an “easy prey” for the execution of their misdeeds, but for a longer period it would cause fear, anxiety and outrage broad masses of the people and attract significant media attention, which, ultimately, is one of the main goals of terrorists. Specifically, they want to draw attention to themselves and their murderous activities, thinking that in this way they would achieve their unrealistic demands.

Seashore with all accompanying hotel complexes and their accommodation capacities that are available, without any discrimination, for any benevolent guest (eg. recently a significant increase of tourists from India, Brazil, China, Africa has been registered at the tourist destinations of the Adriatic coast); tourist camps, where there is evidence of “loose” procedures when registering campers, so it is not uncommon that in a single unit two people are registred but really several of them camp there; local streets as places where, trendy, young people gather, coming at outdoor concerts or night entertainment with loud technomusic - all this represents a significant risk, which can significantly affect the “lightness” in the approach and execution of terrorist acts in tourist destinations if security is taken lightly or insufficiently.

Cruisers, or, as they are called, floating cities, which accept up to five thousand passengers, with fifteen decks, with numerous aqua parks, spa centers, fitness clubs, discotheques, “icy” halls, theaters with the capacity for a thousand guests, rooms for children’s entertainment, numerous restaurants whose offerings are virtually all the world’s “quisines”, improvised area where they demonstrate “blow” the glass, classrooms for foreign languages, etc. – objectively, all these areas are, from the perspective of the planners of terrorist activities, “acceptable” targets of any such murderous activities. We can only assume the chaos caused by terrorist action on a cruise ship, in terms of filled capacity on the high seas, for example during lunch or “night out”, with unusual panic that would actually multiply an already complex situation.

For ports, docks and marinas, due to their location and the nature of jobs that are being carried out, it is realistic to expect in the area that the cadastral belonging to a given port, dock or marina, attempts to perform various criminal activities (smuggling all kinds of goods, weapons, narcotics, precious metals, etc.) and thus acts of terrorism. For example, in the case of a terrorist attack in Dubrovnik port, although, according to many valid indicators Croatia is referred to as a safe tourist destination, there is a danger of causing major environmental disasters from endangering the flora and fauna (especially stocks) in the wider environment, and for a prolonged period of time. Bearing in mind that such activities would be a serious disruptive factor for the tourist season on the Dubrovnik Riviera, as well as proximity to hydro "Dubrovnik I" in Plat (about 15 km east of Dubrovnik), the threat of terrorism in this area should not be ignored nor taken lightly and should be one of the "points" in reports of security in this area.

Norbert Wiener says: "To live well means to be well informed." The meaning of that sentence, which has the force of axioms, is that prevention is more important than sanctions. It is quite logical, because preventive action also means obtaining the necessary information about the possible intentions of criminal structures and / or terrorist groups, given the possible commission of crimes. Therefore, if security managers, engaged in tourist destinations, come into possession of valid information of this type, which are classified as high risk potential danger, it is certainly possible to take the necessary measures and actions in order to neutralize this kind of danger. Of course, bearing in mind that there is no absolutely safe tourist destination, this means that security managers operate on the following basis:

- Be sure to inform the owners or top management superior to security manager,
- Immediately notify the authorities, state security structures of the given information,
- Permanent activity to check the acquired knowledge,
- If necessary, tracking suspects if they are located in the area "covered" by security manager,
- Inform guards of the increased security measures,
- Additional checks of alarm system and video surveillance and fire extinguishers,
- If so estimated, it is necessary to evacuate guests (tourists) from a possibly endangered locations, and similar such activities.
- and tourists (guests), in planning and satisfying their travel needs, must take care of the following:
  - Make a copy of all personal documents (passport, etc.).
  - If a tourist underakes any medical treatment it is necessary to bring medical certificate / report,
  - Sympathize with the local laws and customs,
  - Follow the instructions of their (licensed) guide,
  - Become familiar with the potential risks and dangers (problematic characteristic of the group-dressed, rude behavior, noise, etc.),
  - Hygiene when purchasing and consumption of food and other items (check expiration data, use only bottled water, avoid mushrooms, etc.).
  - Avoid wearing expensive jewelry while walking, going to the beach, ski slopes, etc.,
  - Avoid non-inhabited cities and the periphery,
  - Customize dress code (there is no bad weather / circumstances but only poor clothing).

The integral and indispensable part of prevention, as well as the process and the imperative postulate safe stay of guests at tourist destinations, is the security manager with his team and related services (guard, FTO, etc.) that are within its competence and work according to his instructions. Security manager must be broadly educated with respectable knowledge of the science of safety. Often the best option if the manager had previously been an active member of the state security services, who knows the problems of the arrival of the information, selecting the acquired information, internal and external, who had the opportunity to organize a network of associates and professionally leads in terms of arrival in the possession of usable information, with the ultimate aim of the administration of preventive action in the field of cutting the attempted commission of terrorist and / or other criminal activities, the destinations on the operational "cover" and are within its jurisdiction.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The goal of tourism and of its market offer, like in other industries, is to earn profit; it is imperative to keep in mind that a satisfied customer is the best promoter of quality of tourism products, that is, a satisfied guest is the best advertisement.

For a guest to be satisfied with the tourist package and to come back to a particular destination and advertise this destination, security must imperatively be at the highest level, on top of all the offerings (for example, in seacoast resorts it means exclusive beach, the possibility of practicing diving, water skiing, tennis courts, mini golf, exercise in gyms, spas, tennis courts, football and basketball, etc.).

Today, therefore, in the current situation, from the standpoint of the global security, new security threats are blatantly evident (organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, trafficking in human organs).

Those security threats, of course, can not be considered in isolation, i.e. it should not be argued that tourist destinations are immune to this threat for they are not, as evidenced by, unfortunately, numerous accidents of this kind. This is supported by the factual availability of tourism, almost to everyone, which in turn correlates with the apparent availability of terrorism virtually to everyone (Andres Breivik, etc.).

Security managers at each hotel, airport, camping, etc. are faced with permanent task to- in cooperation with local government security structures - do their part of the job (prevention), so as to reduce the risk and prevent situations in which tourists, instead of planned vacations where they relax, face hell that more often than not ends tragically. Security managers must minimize the probability for these accident to happen.

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