

associated with high-income countries: Northern Ireland and Greece.<sup>51</sup> By contrast, almost a third of terrorist groups (173) are located in rich countries. Table 5.1 illustrates this breakdown in finer detail. In essence, the poorer the country, the higher a percentage of terrorist groups that reach insurgency stage. Whether this is a phenomenon of income or represents the underreporting of smaller, weaker terrorist groups is, however, difficult to determine. Table 5.1 highlights the results.

Terrorist groups involved in insurgencies tend to be larger than most terrorist groups, since size is a key prerequisite for seizing power. Here, the breakpoint seems to be 1,000 members, as Table 5.2 indicates. Larger than that and the group is more likely to be involved in an insurgency; smaller than that and it is rarely involved in an insurgency.

Terrorist groups involved in insurgencies tend to focus on mid-level goals, as Table 5.3 illustrates. They rarely seek broad goals, such as social revolution or empire. And they rarely seek narrow goals, such as the status quo or policy change. Rather, they tend to seek the overthrow of regimes or territorial change, especially secession. This suggests that there may be some negotiating room with insurgent groups. As noted earlier, the possibility of a political solution is linked to a key variable: the breadth of goals. The narrower a group's goals, the more willing a government may be to negotiate with it.

**Table 5.1**  
**Insurgent Groups and Income**

Income	Insurgents	Others	Insurgent Share (%)
High income	2	182	1
Upper middle income	9	84	10
Lower middle income	38	190	17
Low income	35	108	24

<sup>51</sup> The Basque group Basque Fatherland and Freedom (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, or ETA) is not included, because the death toll associated with its efforts fell just short of the 1,000 required for inclusion as an insurgency.