

DATABASE VARIABLES

I. GTD ID and Date

GTD ID

(eventid)

Numeric Variable

Incidents from the GTD follow a 12-digit Event ID system.

- First 8 numbers – date recorded “yyyymmdd”.
- Last 4 numbers – sequential case number for the given day (0001, 0002 etc). This is “0001” unless there is more than one case occurring on the same date.

For example, an incident in the GTD occurring on 25 July 1993 would be numbered as “199307250001”. An additional GTD case recorded for the same day would be “199307250002”. The next GTD case recorded for that day would be “199307250003”, etc.

In rare cases, corrections to the date of a GTD attack are made. In order to maintain stable Event ID numbers, date changes are not reflected in the Event ID.

Year

(iyear)

Numeric Variable

This field contains the year in which the incident occurred. In the case of incident(s) occurring over an extended period, the field will record the year when the incident was initiated.

Month

(imonth)

Numeric Variable

This field contains the number of the month in which the incident occurred. In the case of incident(s) occurring over an extended period, the field will record the month when the incident was initiated.

For attacks that took place between 1970 and 2011, if the exact month of the event is unknown, this is recorded as “0.” For attacks that took place after 2011, if the exact month of the event is unknown, this is recorded as the midpoint of the range of possible dates reported in source materials and the full range is recorded in the Approximate Date (*approxdate*) field below.

Day

(iday)

Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric day of the month on which the incident occurred. In the case of incident(s) occurring over an extended period, the field will record the day when the incident was initiated.

For attacks that took place between 1970 and 2011, if the exact day of the event is unknown, this is recorded as "0." For attacks that took place after 2011, if the exact day of the event is unknown, this is recorded as the midpoint of the range of possible dates reported in source materials and the full range is recorded in the Approximate Date (*approxdate*) field below.

Approximate Date

(approxdate)

Text Variable

Whenever the exact date of the incident is not known or remains unclear, this field is used to record the approximate date of the incident.

- If the *day* of the incident is not known, then the value for "Day" is "0". For example, if an incident occurred in June 1978 and the exact day is not known, then the value for the "Day" field is "0" and the value for the "Approximate Date" field is "June 1978".
- If the month is not known, then the value for the "Month" field is "0". For example, if an incident occurred in the first half of 1978, and the values for the day and the month are not known, then the value for the "Day" and "Month" fields will both be "0" and the value for the "Approximate Date" field is "first half of 1978."

Extended Incident?

(extended)

Categorical Variable

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 = "Yes" | The duration of an incident extended more than 24 hours. |
| 0 = "No" | The duration of an incident extended less than 24 hours. |

Date of Extended Incident Resolution

(resolution)

Numeric Date Variable

This field only applies if "Extended Incident?" is "Yes" and records the date in which the incident was resolved (hostages released by perpetrators; hostages killed; successful rescue, etc.)

II. Incident Information

Incident Summary

(summary)

Text Variable

A brief narrative summary of the incident, noting the "when, where, who, what, how, and why."

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Inclusion Criteria

(crit1, crit2, crit3)

Categorical Variables

These variables record which of the inclusion criteria (in addition to the necessary criteria) are met. This allows users to filter out those incidents whose inclusion was based on a criterion which they believe does not constitute terrorism proper. Note that for each of the criteria variables a case is coded as "1" if source information indicates that the criterion is met and "0" if source information indicates that the criterion is not met or that there is no indication that it is met.

Criterion 1: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS, OR SOCIAL GOAL (*CRIT1*)

The violent act must be aimed at attaining a political, economic, religious, or social goal. This criterion is not satisfied in those cases where the perpetrator(s) acted out of a pure profit motive or from an idiosyncratic personal motive unconnected with broader societal change.

1 = "Yes"

The incident meets Criterion 1.

0 = "No"

The incident does not meet Criterion 1 or there is no indication that the incident meets Criterion 1.

Criterion 2: INTENTION TO COERCE, INTIMIDATE OR PUBLICIZE TO LARGER AUDIENCE(S) (*CRIT2*)

To satisfy this criterion there must be evidence of an intention to coerce, intimidate, or convey some other message to a larger audience (or audiences)

than the immediate victims. Such evidence can include (but is not limited to) the following: pre- or post-attack statements by the perpetrator(s), past behavior by the perpetrators, or the particular nature of the target/victim, weapon, or attack type.

- 1 = "Yes" The incident meets Criterion 2.
0 = "No" The incident does not meet Criterion 2 or no indication.

Criterion 3: OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (*CRIT3*)

The action is outside the context of legitimate warfare activities, insofar as it targets non-combatants (i.e. the act must be outside the parameters permitted by international humanitarian law as reflected in the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and elsewhere).

- 1 = "Yes" The incident meets Criterion 3.
0 = "No" The incident does not meet Criterion 3.

Doubt Terrorism Proper?

(*doubtterr*)

Categorical Variable

In certain cases there may be some uncertainty whether an incident meets all of the criteria for inclusion. In these ambiguous cases, where there is a strong possibility, but not certainty, that an incident represents an act of terrorism, the incident is included in GTD and is coded as "Yes" for this variable.

- 1 = "Yes" There is doubt as to whether the incident is an act of terrorism.
0 = "No" There is essentially no doubt as to whether the incident is an act of terrorism.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997. If this variable was not included in the data collection process at the time the case was coded, "-9" is recorded in the database.

Alternative Designation

(*alternative; alternative_txt*)

Categorical Variable

This variable applies to only those cases coded as "Yes" for "Doubt Terrorism Proper?" (above). This variable identifies the most likely categorization of the incident other than terrorism.

- 1= Insurgency/Guerilla Action
- 2= Other Crime Type
- 3= Inter/Intra-Group Conflict
- 4= Lack of Intentionality
- 5= State Actors (systematically coded post-2012)

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Part of Multiple Incident

(multiple)

Categorical Variable

In those cases where several attacks are connected, but where the various actions do not constitute a single incident (either the time of occurrence of incidents or their locations are discontinuous – see Single Incident Determination section above), then “Yes” is selected to denote that the particular attack was part of a “multiple” incident.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 = "Yes" | The attack is part of a multiple incident. |
| 0 = "No" | The attack is not part of a multiple incident. |

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Related Incidents

(related)

Text Variable

When an attack is part of a coordinated, multi-part incident the GTD IDs of the related incidents are listed here, separated by commas.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

III. Incident Location

Country

(country; country_txt)

Categorical Variable

This field identifies the *country* or *location* where the incident occurred. Separatist regions, such as Kashmir, Chechnya, South Ossetia, Transnistria, or Republic of Cabinda, are coded as part of the “home” country.

In the case where the country in which an incident occurred cannot be identified, it is coded as "Unknown."

Note that the geo-political boundaries of many countries have changed over time. In a number of cases, countries that represented the location of terrorist attacks no longer exist; examples include West Germany, the USSR and Yugoslavia. In these cases the country name for the year the event occurred is recorded. As an example, a 1989 attack in Bonn would be recorded as taking place in West Germany (FRG). An identical attack in 1991 would be recorded as taking place in Germany.

Thus, the following change dates apply:

BREAKUP OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

Czech Republic – independence: 1 January 1993

Slovakia – independence: 1 January 1993

BREAKUP OF UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (USSR):

Russian Federation – independence: 24 August 1991

Armenia – independence: 21 September 1991

Azerbaijan – independence: 30 August 1991

Belarus – independence: 25 August 1991

Estonia – independence: 17 September 1991

Georgia – independence: 9 April 1991

Kazakhstan – independence: 16 December 1991

Kyrgyzstan – independence: 31 August 1991

Latvia – independence: 21 August 1991

Lithuania – independence: 17 September 1991

Moldova – independence: 27 August 1991

Tajikistan – independence: 9 September 1991

Turkmenistan – independence: 27 October 1991

Ukraine – independence: 24 August 1991

Uzbekistan – independence: 1 September 1991

USSR terminates: 26 December 1991 – 5 January 1992

BREAKUP OF YUGOSLAVIA:

Bosnia and Herzegovina – independence: 11 April 1992

Croatia – independence: 25 June 1991

Kosovo – UNMIK established: 10 June 1999

Macedonia – independence: 8 September 1991

Yugoslavia becomes Serbia-Montenegro: 4 February 2003

Montenegro – independence: 3 June 2006

Serbia – independence: 3 June 2006

Slovenia – independence: 25 June 1991

BREAKUP OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

Czech Republic – independence: 1 January 1993

Slovakia – independence: 1 January 1993

OTHER:

Eritrea – independence: 24 May 1993

Germany – unification: 3 October 1990

Country (Location) Codes

(Note: These codes are also used for the target/victim nationality fields. Entries marked with an asterisk (*) only appear as target/victim descriptors in the GTD.)

4 = Afghanistan

5 = Albania

6 = Algeria

7 = Andorra

8 = Angola

10 = Antigua and Barbuda

11 = Argentina

12 = Armenia

14 = Australia

15 = Austria

16 = Azerbaijan

17 = Bahamas

18 = Bahrain

19 = Bangladesh

20 = Barbados

21 = Belgium

22 = Belize

23 = Benin

24 = Bermuda*	73 = Gambia	120 = Malawi
25 = Bhutan	74 = Georgia	121 = Malaysia
26 = Bolivia	75 = Germany	122 = Maldives
28 = Bosnia-Herzegovina	76 = Ghana	123 = Mali
29 = Botswana	78 = Greece	124 = Malta
30 = Brazil	79 = Greenland*	125 = Man, Isle of*
31 = Brunei	80 = Grenada	126 = Marshall Islands*
32 = Bulgaria	81 = Guadeloupe	127 = Martinique
33 = Burkina Faso	83 = Guatemala	128 = Mauritania
34 = Burundi	84 = Guinea	129 = Mauritius
35 = Belarus	85 = Guinea-Bissau	130 = Mexico
36 = Cambodia	86 = Guyana	132 = Moldova
37 = Cameroon	87 = Haiti	134 = Mongolia*
38 = Canada	88 = Honduras	136 = Morocco
41 = Central African Republic	89 = Hong Kong	137 = Mozambique
42 = Chad	90 = Hungary	138 = Myanmar
43 = Chile	91 = Iceland	139 = Namibia
44 = China	92 = India	141 = Nepal
45 = Colombia	93 = Indonesia	142 = Netherlands
46 = Comoros	94 = Iran	143 = New Caledonia
47 = Republic of the Congo	95 = Iraq	144 = New Zealand
49 = Costa Rica	96 = Ireland	145 = Nicaragua
50 = Croatia	97 = Israel	146 = Niger
51 = Cuba	98 = Italy	147 = Nigeria
53 = Cyprus	99 = Ivory Coast	149 = North Korea
54 = Czech Republic	100 = Jamaica	151 = Norway
55 = Denmark	101 = Japan	152 = Oman*
56 = Djibouti	102 = Jordan	153 = Pakistan
57 = Dominica	103 = Kazakhstan	155 = West Bank and Gaza Strip
58 = Dominican Republic	104 = Kenya	156 = Panama
59 = Ecuador	106 = Kuwait	157 = Papua New Guinea
60 = Egypt	107 = Kyrgyzstan	158 = Paraguay
61 = El Salvador	108 = Laos	159 = Peru
62 = Equatorial Guinea	109 = Latvia	160 = Philippines
63 = Eritrea	110 = Lebanon	161 = Poland
64 = Estonia	111 = Lesotho	162 = Portugal
65 = Ethiopia	112 = Liberia	163 = Puerto Rico*
66 = Falkland Islands	113 = Libya	164 = Qatar
67 = Fiji	114 = Liechtenstein*	166 = Romania
68 = Finland	115 = Lithuania	167 = Russia
69 = France	116 = Luxembourg	168 = Rwanda
70 = French Guiana	117 = Macau	169 = Saba (Netherlands Antilles)*
71 = French Polynesia	118 = Macedonia	
72 = Gabon	119 = Madagascar	

173 = Saudi Arabia	205 = Thailand	236 = Czechoslovakia
174 = Senegal	206 = Tonga*	238 = Corsica*
175 = Serbia-Montenegro	207 = Trinidad and Tobago	334 = Asian*
176 = Seychelles	208 = Tunisia	347 = East Timor
177 = Sierra Leone	209 = Turkey	349 = Western Sahara
178 = Singapore	210 = Turkmenistan	351 = Commonwealth of
179 = Slovak Republic	212 = Tuvalu*	Independent States*
180 = Slovenia	213 = Uganda	359 = Soviet Union
181 = Solomon Islands	214 = Ukraine	362 = West Germany (FRG)
182 = Somalia	215 = United Arab Emirates	377 = North Yemen
183 = South Africa	216 = Great Britain*	403 = Rhodesia
184 = South Korea	217 = United States	406 = South Yemen
185 = Spain	218 = Uruguay	422 = International
186 = Sri Lanka	219 = Uzbekistan	428 = South Vietnam
189 = St. Kitts and Nevis	220 = Vanuatu	499 = East Germany (GDR)
190 = St. Lucia	221 = Vatican City	520 = Sinhalese*
192 = St. Martin*	222 = Venezuela	532 = New Hebrides
195 = Sudan	223 = Vietnam	603 = United Kingdom
196 = Suriname	225 = Virgin Islands (U.S.)*	604 = Zaire
197 = Swaziland	226 = Wallis and Futuna	605 = People's Republic of the
198 = Sweden	228 = Yemen	Congo
199 = Switzerland	229 = Democratic Republic of	999 = Multinational*
200 = Syria	the Congo	1001 = Serbia
201 = Taiwan	230 = Zambia	1002 = Montenegro
202 = Tajikistan	231 = Zimbabwe	1003 = Kosovo
203 = Tanzania	233 = Northern Ireland*	1004 = South Sudan
204 = Togo	235 = Yugoslavia	

Region

(region; region_txt)

Categorical Variable

This field identifies the region in which the incident occurred. The regions are divided into the following 12 categories, and dependent on the country coded for the case:

1 = North America

Canada, Mexico, United States

2 = Central America & Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti,

Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago

3 = South America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

4 = East Asia

China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

5 = Southeast Asia

Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, South Vietnam, Thailand, Vietnam

6 = South Asia

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

7 = Central Asia

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

8 = Western Europe

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Vatican City, West Germany (FRG)

9 = Eastern Europe

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, East Germany (GDR), Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Soviet Union, Ukraine, Yugoslavia

10 = Middle East & North Africa

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, North Yemen, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Yemen, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Western Sahara, Yemen

11 = Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, People's Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Rhodesia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

12 = Australasia & Oceania

Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, New Zealand, Papua
New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna

Province / Administrative Region /State

(*provstate*)

Text Variable

This variable records the name (at the time of event) of the 1st order subnational administrative region in which the event occurs.

City

(*city*)

Text Variable

This field contains the name of the city, village, or town in which the incident occurred. If the city, village, or town for an incident is unknown, then this field contains the smallest administrative area below *provstate* which can be found for the incident (e.g., district).

Vicinity

(*vicinity*)

Categorical Variable

1 = "Yes"

The incident occurred in the immediate vicinity of the city in question.

0 = "No"

The incident in the city itself.

Location Details

(location)

Text Variable

This field is used to specify additional information about the location of the incident.

Latitude

(*latitude*)

Numeric Variable

This field records the latitude (based on WGS1984 standards) of the *city* in which the event occurred.

Longitude

(longitude)

Numeric Variable

This field records the longitude (based on WGS1984 standards) of the *city* in which the event occurred.

Geocoding Specificity

(specificity)

Categorical Variable

This field identifies the geospatial resolution of the latitude and longitude fields. The most specific resolution uniformly available throughout the dataset is the center of the city, village, or town in which the attack occurred. Coordinates with greater resolution, while possible, are not systematically included in the database.

- 1 = event occurred in city/village/town and lat/long is for that location
- 2 = event occurred in city/village/town and no lat/long could be found, so coordinates are for centroid of smallest subnational administrative region identified
- 3 = event did not occur in city/village/town, so coordinates are for centroid of smallest subnational administrative region identified
- 4 = no 2nd order or smaller region could be identified, so coordinates are for center of 1st order administrative region
- 5 = no 1st order administrative region could be identified for the location of the attack, so latitude and longitude are unknown

IV. Attack Information

Attack Type

(attacktype1; attacktype1_txt)

Categorical Variable

This field captures the general method of attack and often reflects the broad class of tactics used. It consists of nine categories, which are defined below. Up to three attack types can be recorded for each incident. Typically, only one attack type is recorded for each incident unless the attack is comprised of a sequence of events.

When multiple attack types may apply, the most appropriate value is determined based on the hierarchy below. For example, if an assassination is carried out through the use of an explosive, the Attack Type is coded as Assassination, not Bombing/Explosion. If an attack involves a sequence of events, then the first, the

second, and the third attack types are coded in the order of the hierarchy below rather than the order in which they occurred.

Attack Type Hierarchy:

- Assassination
- Hijacking
- Kidnapping
- Barricade Incident
- Bombing/Explosion
- Armed Assault
- Unarmed Assault
- Facility/Infrastructure Attack
- Unknown

1 = ASSASSINATION

An act whose primary objective is to kill one or more specific, prominent individuals. Usually carried out on persons of some note, such as high-ranking military officers, government officials, celebrities, etc. Not to include attacks on non-specific members of a targeted group. The killing of a police officer would be an armed assault unless there is reason to believe the attackers singled out a particularly prominent officer for assassination.

2 = ARMED ASSAULT

An attack whose primary objective is to cause physical harm or death directly to human beings by use of a firearm, incendiary, or sharp instrument (knife, etc.). Not to include attacks involving the use of fists, rocks, sticks, or other handheld (less-than-lethal) weapons. Also includes attacks involving certain classes of explosive devices *in addition to* firearms, incendiaries, or sharp instruments. The explosive device subcategories that are included in this classification are grenades, projectiles, and unknown or other explosive devices that are thrown.

3 = BOMBING/EXPLOSION

An attack where the primary effects are caused by an energetically unstable material undergoing rapid decomposition and releasing a pressure wave that causes physical damage to the surrounding environment. Can include either high or low explosives (including a dirty bomb) but does not include a nuclear explosive device that releases energy from fission and/or fusion, or an incendiary device where decomposition takes place at a much slower rate. If an attack involves certain classes of explosive devices along with firearms, incendiaries, or sharp objects, then the attack is coded as an armed assault only. The explosive device subcategories that are included in this classification are grenades, projectiles, and unknown or other explosive

devices that are thrown in which the bombers are also using firearms or incendiary devices.

4 = HIJACKING

An act whose primary objective is to take control of a vehicle such as an aircraft, boat, bus, etc. for the purpose of diverting it to an unprogrammed destination, force the release of prisoners, or some other political objective. Obtaining payment of a ransom should not be the sole purpose of a Hijacking, but can be one element of the incident so long as additional objectives have also been stated. Hijackings are distinct from Hostage Taking because the target is a vehicle, regardless of whether there are people/passengers in the vehicle.

5 = HOSTAGE TAKING (BARRICADE INCIDENT)

An act whose primary objective is to take control of hostages for the purpose of achieving a political objective through concessions or through disruption of normal operations. Such attacks are distinguished from kidnapping since the incident occurs and usually plays out at the target location with little or no intention to hold the hostages for an extended period in a separate clandestine location.

6 = HOSTAGE TAKING (KIDNAPPING)

An act whose primary objective is to take control of hostages for the purpose of achieving a political objective through concessions or through disruption of normal operations. Kidnappings are distinguished from Barricade Incidents (above) in that they involve moving and holding the hostages in another location.

7 = FACILITY / INFRASTRUCTURE ATTACK

An act, excluding the use of an explosive, whose primary objective is to cause damage to a non-human target, such as a building, monument, train, pipeline, etc. Such attacks include arson and various forms of sabotage (e.g., sabotaging a train track is a facility/infrastructure attack, even if passengers are killed). Facility/infrastructure attacks can include acts which aim to harm an installation, yet also cause harm to people incidentally (e.g. an arson attack primarily aimed at damaging a building, but causes injuries or fatalities).

8 = UNARMED ASSAULT

An attack whose primary objective is to cause physical harm or death directly to human beings by any means other than explosive, firearm, incendiary, or sharp instrument (knife, etc.). Attacks involving chemical, biological or radiological weapons are considered unarmed assaults.

9 = UNKNOWN

The attack type cannot be determined from the available information.

Second Attack Type

(attacktype2; attacktype2_txt)

Categorical Variable

This variable utilizes the hierarchy and attack type definitions listed above.

Third Attack Type

(attacktype3; attacktype3_txt)

Categorical Variable

This variable utilizes the hierarchy and attack type definitions listed above

Successful Attack

(success)

Categorical Variable

Success of a terrorist strike is defined according to the tangible effects of the attack. Success is *not* judged in terms of the larger goals of the perpetrators. For example, a bomb that exploded in a building would be counted as a success even if it did not succeed in bringing the building down or inducing government repression.

The definition of a successful attack depends on the type of attack. Essentially, the key question is whether or not the attack type took place. If a case has multiple attack types, it is successful if any of the attack types are successful, with the exception of assassinations, which are only successful if the intended target is killed.

1 = "Yes"

The incident was successful.

0 = "No"

The incident was not successful.

ASSASSINATION

In order for an assassination to be successful, the target of the assassination must be killed. For example, even if an attack kills numerous people but not the target, it is an unsuccessful assassination.

ARMED ASSAULT

An armed assault is determined to be successful if the assault takes place and if a target is hit (including people and/or property). Unsuccessful armed assaults are those in which the perpetrators attack and do not hit the target. An armed assault is also unsuccessful if the perpetrators are apprehended on their way to commit the

assault. To make this determination, however, there must be information to indicate that an actual assault was imminent.

BOMBING/EXPLOSION

A bombing is successful if the bomb or explosive device detonates. Bombings are considered unsuccessful if they do not detonate. The success or failure of the bombing is not based on whether it hit the intended target.

HIJACKING

A hijacking is successful if the hijackers assume control of the vehicle at any point, whereas a hijacking is unsuccessful if the hijackers fail to assume control of the vehicle. The success or failure of the hijacking is not based on whether the vehicle reached the intended destination of the hijackers.

HOSTAGE TAKING (BARRICADE INCIDENT)

A barricade incident is successful if the hostage takers assume control of the individuals at any point, whereas a barricade incident is unsuccessful if the hostage takers fail to assume control of the individuals.

HOSTAGE TAKING (KIDNAPPING)

A kidnapping is successful if the kidnappers assume control of the individuals at any point, whereas a kidnapping is unsuccessful if the kidnappers fail to assume control of the individuals.

FACILITY / INFRASTRUCTURE ATTACK

A facility attack is determined to be successful if the facility is damaged. If the facility has not been damaged, then the attack is unsuccessful.

UNARMED ASSAULT

An unarmed assault is determined to be successful there is a victim that who has been injured. Unarmed assaults that are unsuccessful are those in which the perpetrators do not injure anyone. An unarmed assault is also unsuccessful if the perpetrators are apprehended when on their way to commit the assault. To make this determination, however, there must be information to indicate that an assault was imminent.

Suicide Attack

(suicide)

Categorical Variable

This variable is coded "Yes" in those cases where there is evidence that the perpetrator did not intend to escape from the attack alive.

1 = "Yes"

The incident was a suicide attack.

0 = "No"

There is no indication that the incident was a suicide attack.

V. Weapon Information

Information on up to four types and sub-types of the weapons used in an attack are recorded for each case, in addition to any information on specific weapon details reported.

Weapon Type

(weaptype1; weaptype1_txt)

Categorical Variable

Up to four weapon types are recorded for each incident. This field records the general type of weapon used in the incident. It consists of the following categories:

1 = Biological

A weapon whose components are produced from pathogenic microorganisms or toxic substances of biological origins.

2 = Chemical

A weapon produced from toxic chemicals that is contained in a delivery system and dispersed as a liquid, vapor, or aerosol. This category includes chemical weapons delivered via explosive device.

3 = Radiological

A weapon whose components are produced from radioactive materials that emit ionizing radiation and can take many forms.

4 = Nuclear

A weapon which draws its explosive force from fission, fusion, or a combination of these methods.

5 = Firearms

A weapon which is capable of firing a projectile using an explosive charge as a propellant.

6 = Explosives

A weapon composed of energetically unstable material undergoing rapid decomposition and releasing a pressure wave that causes physical damage to the surrounding environment. Note that chemical weapons delivered via explosive are classified as "Chemical" with weapon subtype "Explosives."

7 = Fake Weapons

A weapon that was claimed by the perpetrator at the time of the incident to be real but was discovered after-the-fact to be non-existent or incapable of producing the desired effects.

8 = Incendiary

A weapon that is capable of catching fire, causing fire, or burning readily and produces intensely hot fire when exploded.

9 = Melee

A weapon—targeting people rather than property—that does not involve a projectile in which the user and target are in contact with it simultaneously.

10 = Vehicle

An automobile that is used in an incident that does not incorporate the use of explosives such as a car bomb or truck bomb.

11 = Sabotage Equipment

A weapon that is used in the demolition or destruction of property (e.g., removing bolts from a train tracks).

12 = Other

A weapon that has been identified but does not fit into one of the above categories.

13 = Unknown

The weapon type cannot be determined from the available information.

Weapon Sub-type

(weapsubtype1; weapsubtype1_txt)

Categorical Variable

This field records a more specific value for most of the Weapon Types identified immediately above.

The corresponding weapon sub-types for each primary weapon type are as follows:

Biological

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Chemical

1 = Poisoning

30 = Explosive

Radiological

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Nuclear

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Firearms

2 = Automatic or Semi-Automatic Rifle

3 = Handgun

4 = Rifle/Shotgun (non-automatic)

5 = Unknown Gun Type

6 = Other Gun Type

Explosives

7 = Grenade (not RPGs)

8 = Landmine

9 = Mail Bomb (letter, package, parcel)

10 = Pressure Trigger

11 = Projectile (e.g., rockets, mortars, RPGs, missiles)

12 = Remote Device (trigger, control, detonate)

13 = Suicide (carried bodily by human being)

14 = Time Fuse

15 = Vehicle

16 = Unknown Explosive Type

17 = Other Explosive Type

28 = Dynamite/TNT

29 = Sticky Bomb

31 = Pipe Bomb

Fake Weapons

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Incendiary

18 = Arson/Fire

19 = Molotov Cocktail/Petrol Bomb

20 = Gasoline or Alcohol

Melee

21 = Blunt Object

22 = Hands, Feet, Fists

23 = Knife or Other Sharp Object

24 = Rope or Other Strangling Device

26 = Suffocation

27 = Unknown Weapon Type

Vehicle

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Sabotage Equipment

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Other

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Unknown

[no corresponding weapon sub-types]

Second Weapon Type

(weaptype2; weaptype2_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Weapon Type” field.

Second Weapon Sub-Type

(weapsubtype2; weapsubtype2_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Weapon Sub-Type” field.

Third Weapon Type

(weaptype3; weaptype3_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Weapon Type” field.

Third Weapon Sub-Type

(weapsubtype3; weapsubtype3_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Weapon Sub-Type” field.

Fourth Weapon Type

(weaptype4; weaptype4_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Weapon Type” field.

Fourth Weapon Sub-Type

(*weapsubtype4; weapsubtype4_txt*)
Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Weapon Sub-Type” field.

Weapon Details

(*weapdetail*)
Text Variable

This field notes any pertinent information on the type of weapon(s) used in the incident. Such notes could include the novel use or means of concealing a weapon, specific weapon models, interesting details of the weapons’ origins, etc.

VI. Target/Victim Information

Information on up to three targets/victims is recorded for each incident. The target/victim information fields coded for each of the three targets include type, name of entity, specific target/victim, and nationality of the target/victim. The field contains information on both intended targets and incidental bystanders, and therefore, intentionality should be carefully considered.

Target/Victim Type
(*targtype1; targtype1_txt*)
Categorical Variable

The target/victim type field captures the general type of target/victim. When a victim is attacked specifically *because of his or her relationship* to a particular person, such as a prominent figure, the target type reflects that motive. For example, if a family member of a government official is attacked because of his or her relationship to that individual, the type of target is “government.” This variable consists of the following 22 categories:

1 = BUSINESS

Businesses are defined as individuals or organizations engaged in commercial or mercantile activity as a means of livelihood. Any attack on a business or private citizens patronizing a business such as a restaurant, gas station, music store, bar, café, etc.

This includes attacks carried out against corporate offices or employees of firms like mining companies, or oil corporations. Furthermore, includes attacks conducted on business people or corporate officers. Included in this value as well are hospitals and chambers of commerce and cooperatives.

Does not include attacks carried out in public or quasi-public areas such as “business district or commercial area”, or generic business-related individuals such as “businessmen” (these attacks are captured under “Private Citizens and Property”, see below.) Also does not include attacks against generic business-related individuals such as “businessmen.” Unless the victims were targeted because of their specific business affiliation, these attacks belong in “Private Citizens and Property.”

2 = GOVERNMENT (GENERAL)

Any attack on a government building; government member, former members, including members of political parties in official capacities, their convoys, or events sponsored by political parties; political movements; or a government sponsored institution where the attack is expressly carried out to harm the government.

This value includes attacks on judges, public attorneys (e.g., prosecutors), courts and court systems, politicians, royalty, head of state, government employees (unless police or military), election-related attacks, or intelligence agencies and spies.

This value does not include attacks on political candidates for office or members of political parties that do not hold an elected office (these attacks are captured in “Private Citizens and Property”).

3 = POLICE

This value includes attacks on members of the police force or police installations; this includes police boxes, patrols headquarters, academies, cars, checkpoints, etc. Includes attacks against jails or prison facilities, or jail or prison staff or guards.

4 = MILITARY

Includes attacks against military units, patrols, barracks, convoys, jeeps, and aircraft. Also includes attacks on recruiting sites, and soldiers engaged in internal policing functions such as at checkpoints and in anti-narcotics activities. This category also includes peacekeeping units that conduct military operations (e.g., AMISOM)

Excludes attacks against non-state militias and guerrillas, these types of attacks are coded as “Terrorist/Non-state Militias” see below.

5 = ABORTION RELATED

Attacks on abortion clinics, employees, patrons, or security personnel stationed at clinics.

6 = AIRPORTS & AIRCRAFT

An attack that was carried out either against an aircraft or against an airport. Attacks against airline employees while on board are also included in this value.

Includes attacks conducted against airport business offices and executives. Military aircraft are not included.

7 = GOVERNMENT (DIPLOMATIC)

Attacks carried out against foreign missions, including embassies, consulates, etc.

This value includes cultural centers that have diplomatic functions, and attacks against diplomatic staff and their families (when the relationship is relevant to the motive of the attack) and property. The United Nations is a diplomatic target.

8 = EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Attacks against schools, teachers, or guards protecting school sites. Includes attacks against university professors, teaching staff and school buses. Moreover, includes attacks against religious schools in this value.

As noted below in the “Private Citizens and Property” value, the GTD has several attacks against students. If attacks involving students are not expressly against a school, university or other educational institution or are carried out in an educational setting, they are coded as private citizens and property.

Excludes attacks against military schools (attacks on military schools are coded as “Military,” see below).

9 = FOOD OR WATER SUPPLY

Attacks on food or water supplies or reserves are included in this value. This generally includes attacks aimed at the infrastructure related to food and water for human consumption.

10 = JOURNALISTS & MEDIA

Includes, attacks on reporters, news assistants, photographers, publishers, as well as attacks on media headquarters and offices.

Attacks on transmission facilities such as antennae or transmission towers, or broadcast infrastructure are coded as “Telecommunications,” see below.

11 = MARITIME (INCLUDES PORTS AND MARITIME FACILITIES)

Includes civilian maritime: attacks against fishing ships, oil tankers, ferries, yachts, etc. (Attacks on fishermen are coded as “Private Citizens and Property,” see below).

12 = NGO

Includes attacks on offices and employees of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs here include large multinational non-governmental organizations

such as the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders, as well as domestic organizations.

Does not include labor unions, social clubs, student groups, and other non-NGO (such cases are coded as “Private Citizens and Property”, see below).

13= OTHER

This value includes acts of terrorism committed against targets which do not fit into other categories. Some examples include ambulances, firefighters, and international demilitarized zones.

14= PRIVATE CITIZENS & PROPERTY

This value includes attacks on individuals, the public in general or attacks in public areas including markets, commercial streets, busy intersections and pedestrian malls.

Also includes ambiguous cases where the target/victim was a named individual, or where the target/victim of an attack could be identified by name, age, occupation, gender or nationality. This value also includes ceremonial events, such as weddings and funerals.

The GTD contains a number of attacks against students. If these attacks are not expressly against a school, university or other educational institution or are not carried out in an educational setting, these attacks are coded using this value. Also, includes incidents involving political supporters as private citizens and property, provided that these supporters are not part of a government-sponsored event. Finally, this value includes police informers.

Does not include attacks causing civilian casualties in businesses such as restaurants, cafes or movie theaters (these categories are coded as “Business” see above).

15 = RELIGIOUS FIGURES/INSTITUTIONS

This value includes attacks on religious leaders, (Imams, priests, bishops, etc.), religious institutions (mosques, churches), religious places or objects (shrines, relics, etc.). This value also includes attacks on organizations that are affiliated with religious entities that are not NGOs, businesses or schools.

Attacks on religious pilgrims are considered “Private Citizens and Property;” attacks on missionaries are considered religious figures.

16 = TELECOMMUNICATION

This includes attacks on facilities and infrastructure for the transmission of information. More specifically this value includes things like cell phone towers, telephone booths, television transmitters, radio, and microwave towers.

17 = TERRORISTS/NON-STATE MILITIAS

Terrorists or members of identified terrorist groups within the GTD are included in this value. Membership is broadly defined and includes informants for terrorist groups, but excludes former or surrendered terrorists.

This value also includes cases involving the targeting of militias and guerillas.

18 = TOURISTS

This value includes the targeting of tour buses, tourists, or “tours.” Tourists are persons who travel primarily for the purposes of leisure or amusement. Government tourist offices are included in this value.

The attack must clearly target tourists, not just an assault on a business or transportation system used by tourists. Travel agencies are coded as business targets.

19 = TRANSPORTATION (OTHER THAN AVIATION)

Attacks on public transportation systems are included in this value. This can include efforts to assault public buses, minibuses, trains, metro/subways, highways (if the highway itself is the target of the attack), bridges, roads, etc.

The GTD contains a number of attacks on generic terms such as “cars” or “vehicles.” These attacks are assumed to be against “Private Citizens and Property” unless shown to be against public transportation systems. In this regard, buses are assumed to be public transportation unless otherwise noted.

20 = UNKNOWN

The target type cannot be determined from the available information.

21 = UTILITIES

This value pertains to facilities for the transmission or generation of energy. For example, power lines, oil pipelines, electrical transformers, high tension lines, gas and electric substations, are all included in this value. This value also includes lampposts or street lights.

Attacks on officers, employees or facilities of utility companies excluding the type of facilities above are coded as business.

22 = VIOLENT POLITICAL PARTIES

This value pertains to entities that are both political parties (and thus, coded as “government” in this coding scheme) *and* terrorists. It is operationally defined as groups that engage in electoral politics and appear as “Perpetrators” in the GTD.

Target/Victim Subtype

(*targsubtype1*; *targsubtype1_txt*)

Categorical Variable

The target subtype variable captures the more specific target category and provides the next level of designation for each target type. If a target subtype is not applicable this variable is left blank.

The subtypes for each target type are as follows:

Business

- 1 = Gas/Oil/Electric
- 2 = Restaurant/Bar/Café
- 3 = Bank/Commerce
- 4 = Multinational Corporation
- 5 = Industrial/Textiles/Factory
- 6 = Medical/Pharmaceutical
- 7 = Retail/Grocery/Bakery (including cell phone shops and generic shops)
- 8 = Hotel/Resort
- 9 = Farm/Ranch
- 10 = Mining
- 11 = Entertainment/Cultural/Stadium/Casino
- 12 = Construction
- 13 = Private Security Company/Firm
- 112 = Legal Services

Government (General)

- 14 = Judges/Attorneys/Courts
- 15 = Politician or Political Party Movement/Meeting/Rally
- 16 = Royalty
- 17 = Head of State
- 18 = Government Personnel (excluding police, military)
- 19 = Election-related
- 20 = Intelligence
- 21 = Government Buildings/Facility/Office

Police

- 22 = Police Buildings (Headquarters/Stations/School)

23 = Police Patrol (including vehicles and convoys)
24 = Police Checkpoint
25 = Police Security Forces/Officers
26 = Prison/Jail

Military

27 = Military Barracks/Base/Headquarters/Checkpoint
28 = Military Recruiting Station/Academy
29 = Military Unit/Patrol/Convoy
30 = Military Weaponry
31 = Military Aircraft
32 = Military Maritime
33 = Non-combatant Personnel
34 = Military Personnel (soldiers, troops, officers, forces)
35 = Military Transportation/Vehicle (excluding convoys)
36 = Military Checkpoint
37 = North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Related
39 = Paramilitary

Abortion Related

40 = Clinics
41 = Personnel

Airports & Aircraft

42 = Aircraft (not at an airport)
43 = Airline Officer/Personnel
44 = Airport

Government (Diplomatic)

45 = Diplomatic Personnel (outside of embassy, consulate)
46 = Embassy/Consulate
47 = International Organization (peacekeeper, aid agency, compound)

Educational Institution

48 = Teacher/Professor/Instructor
49 = School/University/Educational Building
50 = Other Personnel

Food and Water Supply

51 = Food Supply
52 = Water Supply

Journalists & Media

53 = Newspaper Journalist/Staff/Facility

54 = Radio Journalist/Staff/Facility
55 = Television Journalist/Staff/Facility
56 = Other (including online news agencies)

Maritime

57 = Civilian Maritime
58 = Commercial Maritime
59 = Oil Tanker
60 = Port

NGO

61 = Domestic NGO
62 = International NGO

Other

63 = Ambulance
64 = Fire Fighter/Truck
66 = Demilitarized Zone (including Green Zone)

Private Citizens & Property

65 = Refugee (including Camps/IDP/Asylum Seekers)
67 = Unnamed Civilian/Unspecified
68 = Named Civilian
69 = Religion Identified
70 = Student
71 = Race/Ethnicity Identified
72 = Farmer
73 = Vehicles/Transportation
74 = Marketplace/Plaza/Square
75 = Village/City/Town/Suburb
76 = House/Apartment/Residence
77 = Laborer (General)/Occupation Identified
78 = Procession/Gathering (funeral, wedding, birthday, religious)
79 = Public Areas (e.g., Public garden, parking lot, garage, beach, public buildings, camps)
80 = Memorial/Cemetery/Monument
81 = Museum/Cultural Center/Cultural House
82 = Labor Union Related
83 = Protester
84 = Political Party Member/Rally
113 = Alleged Informant

Religious Figures/Institutions

85 = Religious Figure

86 = Place of Worship
87 = Affiliated Institution

Telecommunication

88 = Radio
89 = Television
90 = Telephone/Telegraph
91 = Internet Infrastructure
92 = Multiple Telecommunication Targets

Terrorist/Non-State Militia

93 = Terrorist Organization
94 = Non-State Militia

Tourists

95 = Tourism Travel Agency
96 = Tour Bus/Bus/Van/Vehicle
97 = Tourist
98 = Other Facility

Transportation

99 = Bus (excluding tourist)
100 = Train/Train Tracks/ Trolley
101 = Bus Station/Stop
102 = Subway
103 = Bridge/Car Tunnel
104 = Highway/Road/Toll/Traffic Signal
105 = Taxi/Rickshaw

Unknown

[No corresponding target subtypes]

Utilities

106 = Gas
107 = Electricity
108 = Oil

Violent Political Parties

109 = Party Official/Candidate/Other Personnel
110 = Party Office/Facility
111 = Rally

Name of Entity

(corp1)

Text Variable

This is the name of the corporate entity or government agency that was targeted. If the element targeted is unspecified, “Unknown” is listed. If no specific entity was targeted, “Not Applicable” is recorded.

Specific Target/Victim

(target1)

Text Variable

This is the specific person, building, installation, etc., that was targeted and/or victimized and is a part of the entity named above. (For example, if the U.S. Embassy in Country X was attacked the “Name of Entity” would be “United States Department of State” and the “Specific Target/Victim” would be “United States Embassy”). If names of victims are known, they are listed here preceded by the specific type of target (e.g., civilians, soldiers, officers).

Nationality of Target/Victim

(natlty1; natlty1_txt)

Categorical Variable

This is the nationality of the target that was attacked, and is not necessarily the same as the country in which the incident occurred, although in most cases it is. For hijacking incidents, the nationality of the plane is recorded and not that of the passengers. For numeric nationality codes, please see the country codes in Section III.

Second Target/Victim Type

(targtype2; targtype2_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Target/Victim Type” field.

Second Target/Victim Subtype

(targsubtype2; targsubtype2_txt)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Target/Victim Subtype” field.

Name of Second Entity

(corp2)

Text Variable

Conventions follow “Name of Entity” field.

Second Specific Target/Victim

(*target2*)

Text Variable

Conventions follow “Specific Target/Victim” field.

Nationality of Second Target/Victim

(*natlty2; natlty2_txt*)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Nationality of Target” field. For numeric nationality codes, please see the country codes in Section III.

Third Target/Victim Type

(*targtype3; targtype3_txt*)

Categorical Variable

Third Target/Victim Subtype

(*targsubtype3; targsubtype3_txt*)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Target/Victim Subtype” field.

Name of Third Entity

(*corp3*)

Text Variable

Conventions follow “Name of Entity” field.

Third Specific Target/Victim

(*target3*)

Text Variable

Conventions follow “Specific Target/Victim” field.

Nationality of Third Target/Victim

(*natlty3; natlty3_txt*)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Nationality of Target/Victim” field. For numeric nationality codes, please see the country codes in Section III.

VII. Perpetrator Information

Information on up to three perpetrators is recorded for each incident. This includes the perpetrator group name and the perpetrator group sub-name, as well as details about any claims of responsibility for the attack. Note that the perpetrator attributions recorded for each attack reflect what is reported in open-source media accounts, which does not necessarily indicate a legal finding of culpability.

Perpetrator Group Name

(gname)

Text Variable

This field contains the name of the group that carried out the attack. In order to ensure consistency in the usage of group names for the database, the GTD database uses a standardized list of group names that have been established by project staff to serve as a reference for all subsequent entries.

In the event that the name of a formal perpetrator group or organization is not reported in source materials, this field may contain relevant information about the generic identity of the perpetrator(s) (e.g., “Protestant Extremists”). Note that these categories do not represent discrete entities. They are not exhaustive or mutually exclusive (e.g., “student radicals” and “left-wing militants” may describe the same people). They also do not characterize the behavior of an entire population or ideological movement. For many attacks, generic identifiers are the only information available about the perpetrators. Because of this they are included in the database to provide context; however, analysis of generic identifiers should be interpreted with caution.

If no information about the perpetrator group is available, this field is coded as “Unknown.”

Perpetrator Sub-Group Name

(gsubname)

Text Variable

This field contains any additional qualifiers or details about the name of the group that carried out the attack. This includes but is not limited to the name of the specific faction when available.

Second Perpetrator Group Name

(gname2)

Text Variable

This field is used to record the name of the second perpetrator when responsibility for the attack is attributed to more than one perpetrator. Conventions follow “Perpetrator Group” field.

Note that multiple perpetrator group attributions do not necessarily indicate that perpetrator groups collaborated to execute an attack. This could represent competing attributions, competing claims of responsibility, competing accusations, or a combination of these. Note the Perpetrator Group Unconfirmed (*guncertain*) variable below.

Second Perpetrator Sub-Group Name

(*gsubname2*)

Text Variable

This field is used to record additional qualifiers or details about the second perpetrator group name when responsibility for the attack is attributed to more than one perpetrator. Conventions follow “Perpetrator Sub-Group Name” field.

Third Perpetrator Group Name

(*gname3*)

Text Variable

This field is used to record the name of the third perpetrator when responsibility for the attack is attributed to more than two perpetrators. Conventions follow “Perpetrator Group” field.

Note that multiple perpetrator group attributions do not necessarily indicate that perpetrator groups collaborated to execute an attack. This could represent competing attributions, competing claims of responsibility, competing accusations, or a combination of these. Note the Perpetrator Group Unconfirmed (*guncertain*) variable below.

Third Perpetrator Sub-Group Name

(*gsubname3*)

Text Variable

This field is used to record additional qualifiers of details about the third perpetrator group name when responsibility for the attack is attributed to more than two perpetrators. Conventions follow “Perpetrator Sub-Group Name” field.

First Perpetrator Group Suspected/Unconfirmed?

(*guncertain1*)

Categorical Variable

This variable indicates whether or not the information reported by sources about the Perpetrator Group Name(s) is based on speculation or dubious claims of responsibility.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 = "Yes" | The perpetrator attribution(s) for the incident are suspected. |
| 0 = "No" | The perpetrator attribution(s) for the incident are not suspected. |

Second Perpetrator Group Suspected/Unconfirmed?

(guncertain2)

Categorical Variable

This variable indicates whether or not the information reported by sources about the Perpetrator Group Name(s) is based on speculation or dubious claims of responsibility.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 = "Yes" | The perpetrator attribution(s) for the incident are suspected. |
| 0 = "No" | The perpetrator attribution(s) for the incident are not suspected. |

Conventions follow "First Perpetrator Group Suspected/Unconfirmed?"

Third Perpetrator Group Suspected/Unconfirmed?

(guncertain3)

Categorical Variable

This variable indicates whether or not the information reported by sources about the Perpetrator Group Name(s) is based on speculation or dubious claims of responsibility.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 = "Yes" | The perpetrator attribution(s) for the incident are suspected. |
| 0 = "No" | The perpetrator attribution(s) for the incident are not suspected. |

Conventions follow "First Perpetrator Group Suspected/Unconfirmed?"

Unaffiliated Individual(s)

(individual)

Categorical Variable

This variable indicates whether or not the attack was carried out by an individual or several individuals not known to be affiliated with a group or organization. This

information should be interpreted with caution, because it is likely that assailants who might be characterized as “unaffiliated individuals” are frequently unidentified.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 = "Yes" | The perpetrator(s) were identified by name (or specific unnamed minors) and not known to be affiliated with a group or organization. |
| 0 = "No" | The perpetrator(s) were not identified as unaffiliated individuals (i.e. the perpetrators were either not identified by name, or were known to be affiliated with a group or organization). |

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Number of Perpetrators

(nperps)

Numeric Variable

This field indicates the total number of terrorists participating in the incident. (In the instance of multiple perpetrator groups participating in one case, the total number of perpetrators, across groups, is recorded). There are often discrepancies in information on this value.

Where several independent credible sources report different numbers of attackers, the value of this variable reflects the number given by the majority of sources, unless there is reason to do otherwise. Where there is no majority figure among independent sources, the database records the lowest proffered perpetrator figure, unless there is clear reason to do otherwise. In cases where the number of perpetrators is stated vaguely, for example “...at least 11 attackers”, then the lowest possible number is recorded, in this example, “11.” “-99” or “Unknown” appears when the number of perpetrators is not reported.

Number of Perpetrators Captured

(nperpcap)

Numeric Variable

This field records the number of perpetrators taken into custody. “-99” or “Unknown” appears when there is evidence of captured, but the number is not reported.

Divergent reports on the number of perpetrators captured are dealt with in same manner used for the Number of Perpetrators variable described above.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Claim of Responsibility?

(claimed)

Categorical Variable

This field is used to indicate whether a group or person(s) claimed responsibility for the attack. If marked "Yes", it indicates that a person or a group did in fact claim responsibility. When there are multiple perpetrator groups involved, this field refers to the First Perpetrator Group (separate fields for the Second and Third groups follow below).

1 = "Yes"

A group or person claimed responsibility for the attack.

0 = "No"

No claim of responsibility was made.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Mode for Claim of Responsibility

(claimmode; claimmode_txt)

Categorical Variable

This records one of 10 modes used by claimants to claim responsibility and might be useful to verify authenticity, track trends in behavior, etc. If greater detail exists (for instance, a particularly novel or strange mode is used) this information is captured in the "Additional Notes" field.

Mode Values:

1 = Letter

6 = Video

2 = Call (post-incident)

7 = Posted to website, blog, social media

3 = Call (pre-incident)

8 = Personal claim

4 = E-mail

9 = Other

5 = Note left at scene

10 = Unknown

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Competing Claims of Responsibility?

(compclaim)

Categorical Variable

This field is used to indicate whether more than one group claimed separate responsibility for the attack. If marked "Yes", it indicates that the groups entered in

conjunction with the case each claimed responsibility for the attack (i.e., they did not work together, but each independently tried to claim credit for the attack).

1 = "Yes"	There are competing claims of responsibility for the attack.
0 = "No"	There are not competing claims of responsibility for the attack.
-9= "Unknown [NULL]	No indication of competing claims. Not applicable (e.g., Perpetrator is unknown; only one perpetrator reported; or no claim of responsibility reported)

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Second Group Claim of Responsibility?

(claim2)

Categorical Variable

1 = "Yes"	A group or person claimed responsibility for the attack.
0 = "No"	No claim of responsibility was made.

Conventions follow the "Claim of Responsibility" field.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available for incidents occurring after 1997.

Mode for Second Group Claim of Responsibility

(claimmode2)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow the "Mode for Claim of Responsibility" field.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available for incidents occurring after 1997.

Third Group Claim of Responsibility?

(claim3)

Categorical Variable

1 = "Yes"	A group or person claimed responsibility for the attack.
0 = "No"	No claim of responsibility was made.

Conventions follow the "Claim of Responsibility" field.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Mode for Third Group Claim of Responsibility

(claimmode3)

Categorical Variable

Conventions follow “Mode for Claim of Responsibility” field.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Motive

(motive)

Text Variable

When reports explicitly mention a specific motive for the attack, this motive is recorded in the “Motive” field. This field may also include general information about the political, social, or economic climate at the time of the attack if considered relevant to the motivation underlying the incident.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

VIII. Casualties and Consequences

Total Number of Fatalities

(nkill)

Numeric Variable

This field stores the number of total confirmed fatalities for the incident. The number includes all victims *and* attackers who died as a direct result of the incident.

Where there is evidence of fatalities, but a figure is not reported or it is too vague to be of use, this field remains blank. If information is missing regarding the number of victims killed in an attack, but perpetrator fatalities are known, this value will reflect only the number of perpetrators who died as a result of the incident. Likewise, if information on the number of perpetrators killed in an attack is missing, but victim fatalities are known, this field will only report the number of victims killed in the incident.

Where several independent sources report different numbers of casualties, the database will usually reflect the number given by the most recent source. However,

the most recent source will not be used if the source itself is of questionable validity or if the source bases its casualty numbers on claims made by a perpetrator group. When there are several “most recent” sources published around the same time, or there are concerns about the validity of a recent source, the majority figure will be used. Where there is no majority figure among independent sources, the database will record the lowest proffered fatality figure, unless that figure comes from a source of questionable validity or there is another compelling reason to do otherwise. Conflicting reports of fatalities will be noted in the “Additional Notes” field.

Note: Preservation of Statistical Accuracy

When several cases are linked together, sources sometimes provide a cumulative fatality total for all of the events rather than fatality figures for each incident. In such cases, the preservation of statistical accuracy is achieved by distributing fatalities across the linked incidents. It will be noted in the “Additional Notes” field whenever cumulative totals are divided across multiple events. This method for preserving statistical accuracy is also used for calculating the values for the following fields when individual event totals are unknown: “Number of U.S. Fatalities,” “Number of Perpetrator Fatalities,” “Total Number of Injured,” “Number of U.S. Injured,” and “Number of Perpetrators Injured.”

Number of US Fatalities

(nkillus)

Numeric Variable

This field records the number of U.S. citizens who died as a result of the incident, and follows the conventions of “Total Number of Fatalities” described above. Thus, this field records the number of U.S. victims *and* U.S. perpetrators who died as a result of the attack. The value for this field is not limited to U.S. citizens killed on U.S. soil, but also includes U.S. citizens who died in incidents occurring outside of the U.S.

Number of Perpetrator Fatalities

(nkillter)

Numeric Variable

Limited to only perpetrator fatalities, this field follows the conventions of the “Total Number of Fatalities” field described above.

Total Number of Injured

(nwound)

Numeric Variable

This field records the number of confirmed non-fatal injuries to both perpetrators and victims. It follows the conventions of the “Total Number of Fatalities” field described above.

Number of U.S. Injured

(nwoundus)

Numeric Variable

This field records the number of confirmed non-fatal injuries to U.S. citizens, both perpetrators and victims. It follows the conventions of the “Number of U.S. Fatalities” field described above.

Number of Perpetrators Injured

(nwoundte)

Numeric Variable

Conventions follow the “Number of Perpetrator Fatalities” field described above.

Property Damage

(property)

Categorical Variable

“Yes” appears if there is evidence of property damage from the incident.

1 = "Yes"

The incident resulted in property damage.

0 = "No"

The incident did not result in property damage.

-9 = "Unknown"

It is unknown if the incident resulted in property damage.

Extent of Property Damage

(propextent; propextent_txt)

Categorical Variable

If “Property Damage?” is “Yes,” then one of the following four categories describes the extent of the property damage:

1 = Catastrophic (likely ≥ \$1 billion)

2 = Major (likely ≥ \$1 million but < \$1 billion)

3 = Minor (likely < \$1 million)

4 = Unknown

Value of Property Damage (in USD)

(propvalue)

Numeric Variable

If "Property Damage?" is "Yes," then the exact U.S. dollar amount (at the time of the incident) of total damages is listed. Where applicable, property values reported in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars before being entered into the GTD. If no dollar figure is reported, the field is left blank. That is, a blank field here does *not* indicate that there was no property damage but, rather, that no precise estimate of the value was available. The value of damages only includes direct economic effects of the incident (i.e. cost of buildings, etc.) and not indirect economic costs (longer term effects on the company, industry, tourism, etc.).

Protocols for recording inconsistent numbers, etc., listed above are followed (see, for example, "Number of Perpetrators").

Property Damage Comments

(propcomment)

Text Variable

If "Property Damage?" is "Yes," then non-monetary or imprecise measures of damage may be described in this field. This field is also used to list specific details about the property that was damaged in an attack, such as the type of vehicle that was destroyed, the areas or parts of a building that were damaged, or the types of assets that were stolen.

Hostages or Kidnapping Victims

(ishostkid)

Categorical Variable

This field records whether or not the victims were taken hostage (i.e. held against their will) or kidnapped (i.e. held against their will and taken to another location) during an incident.

1 = "Yes"

The victims were taken hostage or kidnapped.

0 = "No"

The victims were not taken hostage or kidnapped.

-9 = "Unknown"

It is unknown if the victims were taken hostage or kidnapped.

Total Number of Hostages/ Kidnapping Victims

(nhostkid)

Numeric Variable

This field records the total number of hostages or kidnapping victims. For successful hijackings, this value will reflect the total number of crew members and passengers aboard the vehicle at the time of the incident.

As with other fields, where several independent sources report different numbers of hostages, the GTD reflects the number given by the most recent source, unless there is reason to do otherwise. When there are several most recent sources available, or there are question about the validity of a recent source, the GTD will report the majority figure from a group of independent sources. Where there is no majority figure among independent sources, the database will record the lowest proffered hostage figure, unless there is clear reason to do otherwise.

In cases where the number of hostages or kidnapping victims is stated vaguely, for example, "...at least 11 hostages", then the lowest possible number will be recorded, in this example "11." If the number of hostages is unknown or unidentified, this field records "-99" (unknown).

Number of U.S. Hostages/ Kidnapping Victims

(nhostkidus)

Numeric Variable

This field reports the number of U.S. citizens that were taken hostage or kidnapped in the incident. Conventions follow the "Total Number of Hostages/ Kidnapping Victims" field described above.

Hours of Kidnapping / Hostage Incident

(nhours)

Numeric Variable

If the "Attack Type" is "Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)," "Hostage Taking (Barricade Incident)," or a successful "Hijacking," then the duration of the incident is recorded *either* in this field *or* in the next field depending on whether the incident lasted a matter of hours or days. If neither hours nor days are known, both fields are coded as "-99" (unknown).

If the incident lasted for less than 24 hours, this field records the approximate number of hours.

If the incident lasted for more than 24 hours (i.e., at least one day), then the approximate number of days is recorded in the next field.

Days of Kidnapping / Hostage Incident

(ndays)

Numeric Variable

If the "Attack Type" is "Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)," "Hostage Taking (Barricade Incident)," or (successful) "Hijacking" and if the duration of the kidnapping / hostage incident last for more than 24 hours, this field records the duration of the incident in

days. If information on hours and days is provided, the figure is rounded to the nearest day.

Country That Kidnappers/Hijackers Diverted To

(divert)

Text Variable

If the "Attack Type" is "Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)" or "Hijacking" then this field will list the country that hijackers diverted a vehicle to, or the country that the kidnap victims were moved to and held. If hijackers did not divert a vehicle to another country, this field is blank. If a vehicle was diverted to multiple countries, this field will record the first country that the vehicle was diverted to, and the others will be listed in the "Additional Notes" field.

Country of Kidnapping/Hijacking Resolution

(kidhijcountry)

Text Variable

If the "Attack Type" is "Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)" or "Hijacking" then this field lists the country in which the incident was resolved or ended. If the incident was not resolved in another country, this field is blank. If a vehicle was diverted to more than one country, this field will record the last country that it was diverted to, and the others will be listed in the "Additional Notes" field.

Ransom Demanded

(ransom)

Categorical Variable

1 = "Yes"	The incident involved a demand of monetary ransom.
0 = "No"	The incident did not involve a demand of monetary ransom.
-9 = "Unknown"	It is unknown if the incident involved a demand of monetary ransom.
[NULL]	Not applicable

Total Ransom Amount Demanded

(ransomamt)

Numeric Variable

If a ransom was demanded, then the amount (in U.S. dollars) is listed in this field. If a ransom was demanded but the monetary figure is unknown, then this field will report "-99" (unknown). If there are conflicting reports on the amount of ransom demanded, the majority figure from independent sources will be used. If no majority exists, the lowest proffered figure will be used, unless that figure comes from a

source of questionable validity or there is another compelling reason to do otherwise.

Ransom Amount Demanded from U.S. Sources

(ransomamtus)

Numeric Variable

If a ransom was demanded from U.S. sources, then the amount (in U.S. dollars) is listed in this field. If a ransom was demanded from U.S. sources but the monetary figure is unknown, then this field will report “-99” (unknown). If there are conflicting reports on the amount of ransom demanded from a U.S. source, the majority figure from independent sources will be used. If no majority exists, the lowest proffered figure will be used, unless there is a reason to do otherwise.

Total Ransom Amount Paid

(ransompaid)

Numeric Variable

If a ransom amount was paid, then the amount (in U.S. dollars) is listed in this field. If a ransom was paid but the monetary figure was unspecified, then this field will report “-99” (unknown). A value of “-99” will also be reported for any case where it is suspected that a ransom was paid, but it has not been confirmed. If there are conflicting reports on the amount of ransom paid, the majority figure from independent sources will be used. If no majority exists, the lowest proffered figure will be used, unless that figure comes from a source of questionable validity or there is another compelling reason to do otherwise.

Ransom Amount Paid By U.S. Sources

(ransompaidus)

Numeric Variable

If a ransom amount was paid by U.S. sources, then this figure is listed in U.S. dollars. If a ransom was paid by U.S. sources but the monetary figure was unspecified, then this field will report “-99” (unknown). If there are conflicting reports on the amount of ransom paid by a U.S. source, the majority figure from independent sources will be used. If no majority exists, the lowest proffered figure will be used, unless that figure comes from a source of questionable validity or there is another compelling reason to do otherwise.

Ransom Notes

(ransomnote)

Text Variable

This field is used to record any specific details relating to a ransom that are not captured in the other fields. This includes any information about non-money demands made by perpetrators, as well as information on conflicting reports of how much money was demanded and/or paid.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Kidnapping/Hostage Outcome
(*hostkidoutcome; hostkidoutcome_txt*)
Categorical Variable

This field captures the eventual fate of hostages and kidnap victims. If the “Attack Type” is “Hostage Taking (Kidnapping),” “Hostage Taking (Barricade Incident),” or a successful “Hijacking,” then this field applies. The seven values for this field are:

- 1 = Attempted Rescue
- 2 = Hostage(s) released by perpetrators
- 3 = Hostage(s) escaped (not during rescue attempt)
- 4 = Hostage(s) killed (not during rescue attempt)
- 5 = Successful Rescue
- 6 = Combination
- 7 = Unknown

Number Released/Escaped/Rescued
(*nreleased*)
Numeric Variable

If the “Attack Type” is “Hostage Taking (Kidnapping),” “Hostage Taking (Barricade Incident),” or a successful “Hijacking,” then this field will apply. This field records the number of hostages who survived the incident.

As with the total number of kidnapping victims, where several independent sources report different numbers of hostages, the database will reflect the number given by the most recent source, unless there is reason to do otherwise. If there are several most recent sources available, the majority number from a group of independent sources will be used, unless there is reason to do otherwise. Where there is no majority figure among independent sources, the database will record the lowest proffered hostage released/escaped/rescued figure, unless there is clear reason to do otherwise.

In cases where the number of hostages released/escaped/rescued is stated vaguely, for example “...at least 11 hostages were released”, then the lowest possible

number will be recorded, in this example “11.” If the fate of the hostages is unknown, this field will record “-99.”

IX. Additional Information and Sources

Additional Notes

(addnotes)

Text Variable

This field is used to capture additional relevant details about the attack. It may include any of the following information:

- Additional information that could not be captured in any of the above fields, such as details about hostage conditions or additional countries hijacked vehicles were diverted to.
- Supplemental important information not specific to the particular attack, such as multiple attacks in the same area or by the same perpetrator.
- Uncertainties about the data (such as differing reports of casualty numbers, aggregated casualty numbers split across multiple incidents, or uncertainty about perpetrators responsible).
- Unusual factors, such as a shift in tactics, the reappearance of an organization, the emergence of a new organization, an attack carried out on a historical date, or an escalation of a violent campaign.
- The fate (legal, health, or otherwise) of either victims or perpetrators where this is mentioned in GTD source documents.
- In addition, the instructions for several fields listed above have specific indications for placing additional information in the “Additional Notes” field, as needed:
 - *Specific Target/Victim*
If the Target/Victim is multiple victims (e.g., in a kidnapping or assassination), up to three names are recorded in the “Specific Target/Victim” field, with remaining names recorded in the “Additional Notes” field.
 - *Perpetrator Individual(s)’ Name(s)*
Names of individuals identified as planners, bomb-makers, etc., who are indirectly involved in an attack, may recorded in the “Additional Notes” field.
 - *Mode for Claim of Responsibility*

If greater detail is needed than provided for the “Mode for Claim of Responsibility” field (for instance, a particularly novel or strange mode is used) this information may be captured in the “Additional Notes” field.

– *Kidnapping/Hostage Outcome*

If greater detail is available than the Kidnapping/Hostage Outcome field allows, then further details about the fate of hostages/kidnapped may be recorded in the “Additional Notes” field.

- Notes if an attack has been marked as “doubt terrorism proper” and provides explanation of reasons (excluding cases where Alternative Designation = Insurgency).

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

International- Logistical

(INT_LOG)

Categorical Variable

This variable is based on a comparison between the nationality of the perpetrator group and the location of the attack. It indicates whether a perpetrator group crossed a border to carry out an attack. Typically the border is a national border, however in cases where perpetrator groups represent non-contiguous contested territory (e.g., Puerto Rico, Corsica, Northern Ireland) or a secure border (e.g., West Bank and Gaza Strip) the nationality of the perpetrator group is coded as the contested territory and attacks against the parent country are coded as logistically international.

1 = "Yes"

The attack was logistically international; the nationality of the perpetrator group differs from the location of the attack. If the perpetrator group is multinational, the attack is logistically international if *all* of the group’s nationalities differ from the location of the attack.

0 = "No"

The attack was logistically domestic; the nationality of the perpetrator group is the same as the location of the attack. If the perpetrator group is multinational, the attack is logistically domestic if *any* of the group’s nationalities is the same as the location of the attack.

-9 = "Unknown"

It is unknown if the attack was logistically international or domestic; the nationality of the perpetrator group is unknown.

Note: The nationality of the perpetrator group is not included in the GTD, but was collected as an auxiliary variable for the purpose of coding the international/domestic variables. It is not available for distribution.

Also, perpetrator nationality is only identified for groups or organizations, not for individual perpetrators. For cases where the perpetrator group is unidentified, or the attack was carried out by unaffiliated individuals, the nationality of the perpetrator group is unknown.

International- Ideological

(INT_IDEO)

Categorical Variable

This variable is based on a comparison between the nationality of the perpetrator group and the nationality of the target(s)/victim(s). It indicates whether a perpetrator group attacked a target of a different nationality. Unlike the *logistically international* variable, in cases where perpetrator groups represent non-contiguous contested territory (e.g., Puerto Rico, Corsica, Northern Ireland) or a secure border (e.g., West Bank and Gaza Strip) the nationality of the perpetrator group is coded as the parent country and attacks against the parent country are coded as ideologically domestic.

1 = "Yes"	The attack was ideologically international; the nationality of the perpetrator group differs from the nationality of the target(s)/victim(s). If the perpetrator group or target is multinational, the attack is ideologically international.
0 = "No"	The attack was ideologically domestic; any and all nationalities of the perpetrator group are the same as the nationalities of the target(s)/victim(s).
-9 = "Unknown"	It is unknown if the attack was logistically international or domestic; the nationality of the perpetrator group or the nationality of the target/victim is unknown.

Note: The nationality of the perpetrator group is not included in the GTD, but was collected as an auxiliary variable for the purpose of coding the international/domestic variables. It is not available for distribution.

Also, perpetrator nationality is only identified for groups or organizations, not for individual perpetrators. For cases where the perpetrator group is unidentified, or the attack was carried out by unaffiliated individuals, the nationality of the perpetrator group is unknown.

International- Miscellaneous

(INT_MISC)

Categorical Variable

This variable is based on a comparison between the location of the attack and the nationality of the target(s)/victim(s). It indicates whether a perpetrator group attacked a target of a different nationality. Unlike the *logistically international* and *ideologically international* variables, it does not require information about the nationality of the perpetrator group. If an attack is international on this dimension, it is necessarily also either *logistically international* or *ideologically international*, but it is not clear which one. If an attack is domestic on this dimension, it may also be *logistically international* or *ideologically international*, or domestic on all dimensions.

1 = "Yes"	The attack was miscellaneous international; the location of the attack differs from the nationality of the target(s)/victim(s).
0 = "No"	The attack was miscellaneous domestic; the location of the attack is the same as the nationalities of the target(s)/victim(s).
-9 = "Unknown"	It is unknown if the attack was miscellaneous international or domestic; the nationality of target/victim is unknown.

International- Any of the above

(INT_ANY)

Categorical Variable

1 = "Yes"	The attack was international on <i>any</i> of the dimensions described above (logistically, ideologically, miscellaneous)
0 = "No"	The attack was domestic on <i>all</i> of the dimensions described above (logistically, ideologically, miscellaneous);
-9 = "Unknown"	It is unknown if the attack was international or domestic; the value for one or more dimensions is unknown.

First Source Citation

(scite1)

Text Variable

This field cites the first source that was used to compile information on the specific incident.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Second Source Citation

(scite2)

Text Variable

This field cites the second source that was used to compile information on the specific incident.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Third Source Citation

(scite3)

Text Variable

This field cites the third source that was used to compile information on the specific incident.

Note: This field is presently only systematically available with incidents occurring after 1997.

Data Collection

(dbsource)

Text Variable

This field identifies the original data collection effort in which each event was recorded. Each value corresponds to a different data collection project or group. The three largest (PGIS, CETIS, and ISVG) correspond to the original collection efforts for GTD1, GTD2, and GTD3, respectively. The additional values correspond to retrospective data collection efforts undertaken by START as part of larger research projects at the center. The originating source in those projects was used to identify cases that were not in the GTD but could be identified in other reputable media sources. These cases were then researched, sourced, and added to the GTD.