

Terrorism & the 'War on Terror'

- What is terrorism?

It is the use of terror as a *psychological* device to achieve *political* ends

- Is terrorism something new?

No, it is as old as human history

Terrorism & the 'War on Terror'

Who uses terror?

Groups large and small:

- *Powerful* groups (e.g. governments) out to consolidate their rule
- *Weak* organisations that want to overthrow or undermine a government or power structure

Terrorism & the 'War on Terror'

- Why the stress on *Islamic* terrorism?

Because:

- The West generally, and **US in particular**, believe that this terror is aimed directly against their interests
- The US, especially the Bush administration, believes there is much mileage to be gained from portraying Islamic opposition to US interests as
 - Irrational
 - fanatical
 - evil

Terrorism & the 'War on Terror'

- Why is the US so concerned about *militant Islam*?
- Possible reasons:
 - Islamic militancy threatens the survival of compliant governments in the Muslim world
 - The Muslim world accounts for the bulk of oil that is available for export on the world market
 - A number of Muslim countries are regarded as politically or strategically significant to US interests
 - To identify the enemy as militant or fanatical Islam is thought to be a useful way of dividing the world between the forces of good and evil
 - = *Politics of bifurcation*

ATTACKS ON U.S. INTERESTS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 11

April 1983

Suicide bombing outside US embassy in West Beirut, 63 killed including 17 Americans, 100 wounded including 40 Americans

Oct 1983

Suicide bomb attacks on US Marines Compound (241 killed and over 100 wounded)

Sept 1984

UN embassy building East Beirut attacked by suicide bomber leaving 8 dead and dozens wounded

June 1985

TWA airliner hijacked. 39 hostages freed after 2 weeks

Dec 1988

Lockerbie disaster, 270 killed

Feb 1993

Car bomb explosion at World Trade Center NY: 6 killed, 1,000 injured

June 1996

Car bomb destroys transport facility, Saudi Arabia, 19 killed, 515 injured

Nov 1997

Mass shooting at Luxor, 62 (mostly European & Japanese tourists) killed

Aug 1998

Car bomb attacks on 2 US embassies with a total of 5,341 casualties

Oct 2000

Suicide attack on the *USS Cole* docked in Yemen, 17 dead 30 injured.

MAJOR ATTACKS BLAMED ON AL QAEDA SINCE SEPTEMBER 11

2002

11 April

Bomb attack on synagogue in Tunisia kills 21 people, including 18 German tourists

6 October

A crew member dies after bomb attack on French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen

12 October

A bomb explodes in Bali nightclub killing 202 people, many of them Westerners

28 November

2 attacks launched against Israeli targets in Mombasa, Kenya – hotel blast kills 16

MAJOR ATTACKS BLAMED ON AL QAEDA SINCE SEPTEMBER 11

2003

16 May

Casablanca hit by series of suicide bombings that kill 41 people, including 12 attackers

12 May

At least 34 people killed in bomb attacks in Riyadh – carried out against luxury compounds housing foreign nationals and offices of US-Saudi company

8 November

Bomb attack on housing complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 17 people are killed and more than 100 injured in the blast, mostly foreign Arab workers

5 November

At least 23 people killed and more than 300 injured in two devastating attacks on synagogues in Istanbul

20 November

In coordinated attacks on British Consulate and the HSBC bank offices in Istanbul, 27 people die and more than 450 are injured

MAJOR ATTACKS BLAMED ON AL QAEDA SINCE SEPTEMBER 11

2004

- 11 March** **Devastating terror attacks in Madrid – 10 bombs explode on 4 trains in 3 stations during morning rush hour, killing 191 people and injuring at least 1,800**
- 21 April** **Suicide bomb attack in Riyadh kills four people and injures at least 148**
- 1 May** **Gunmen kill at least 5 Westerners in attacks in Saudi Arabian port city of Yanbu**
- 29 May** **Militant shooting spree and siege kill 22 in Saudi Arabia**
- 18 June** **US engineer beheaded in Saudi Arabia**
- 9 September** **bomb attack at Australian embassy in Jakarta kills at least nine people and injures more than 180 others**

Source: BBC News

Terrorist Attacks for 2003

Figures released by US State Department

Released on 29/4/04

307 people killed

1,593 people injured

35-year low

Released on 10/6/04

625 people killed

3,646 people injured

20-year high

Terrorist Attacks for 2004

- US National Counterterrorism Center reported to the State Department **625 "significant" terrorist attacks in 2004**, compared with **175 such incidents in 2003**, the highest number in two decades.
- In April 2005 State Department announced that it was breaking with tradition in withholding the normal statistical presentation on terrorist attacks from its congressionally mandated annual report.

Terrorism 2003-2006

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No of attacks	208	3,168	11,111	14,338
No of deaths	625	1,907	14,602	20,498
No of injuries	3,646	6,704	24,705	38,191

Source : REP. HENRY A. WAXMAN, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 28, 2006

<http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/Documents/20060428112209-29811.pdf>

US State Department, *Country Reports on Terrorism, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism*, April 30, 2007 <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/82739.htm>

Terrorism in Iraq

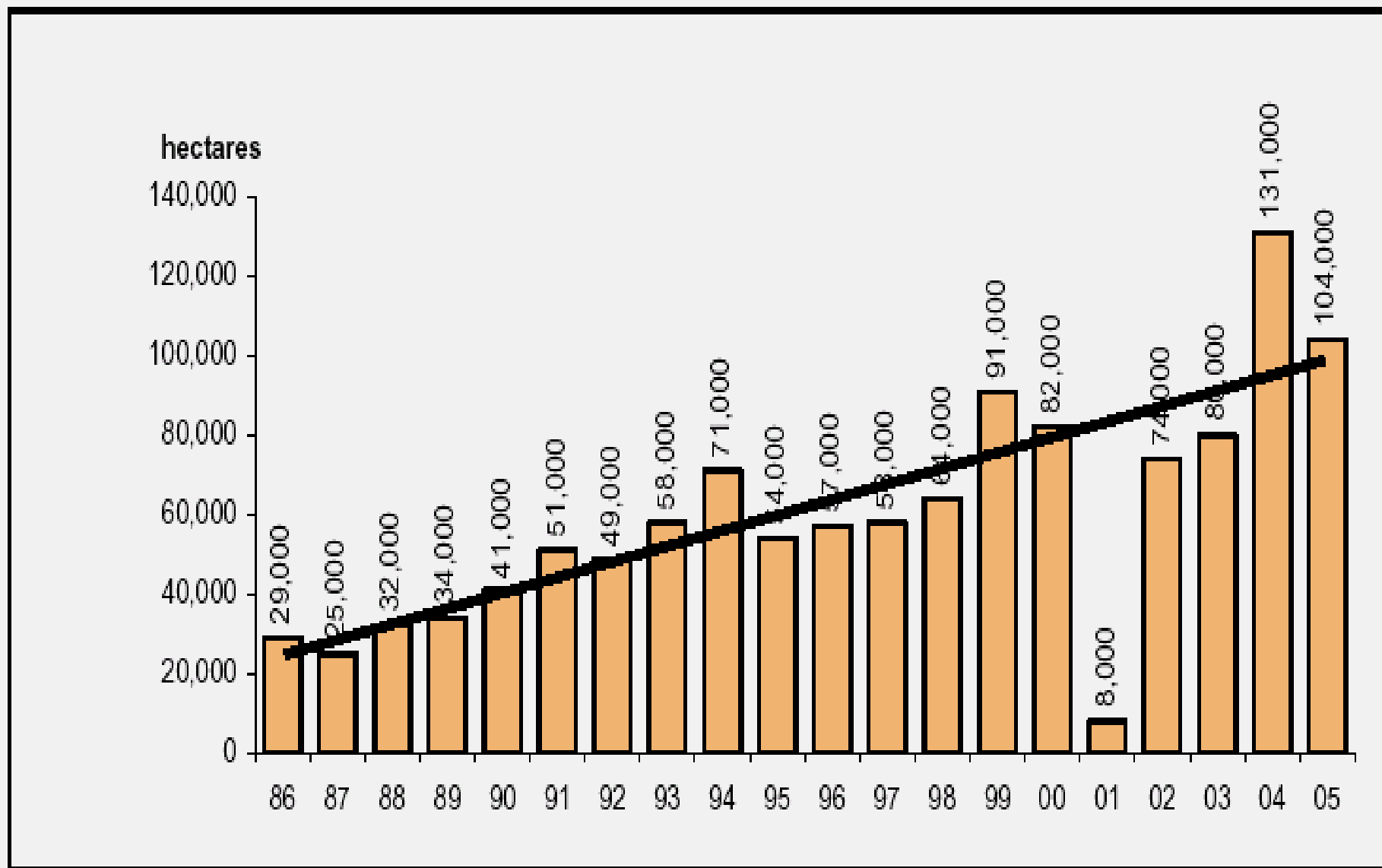
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No of attacks	3,468	6,630
No of incidents involving deaths, injuries and kidnappings	20,685	38,813

Source :US State Department, *Country Reports on Terrorism, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism*, April 30, 2007 <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/82739.htm>

Afghanistan: Serious Security and Human Rights Situation

- Serious human rights abuses and armed conflict in many areas
- The government and its international partners remained incapable of providing security to the people of Afghanistan.
- Factional commanders secured positions of public authority, acted independently of government control and remained a major source of insecurity.
- Absence of rule of law, and a barely functional criminal justice system left many victims of human rights violations, especially women, without redress.
- Over 1,000 civilians were killed in attacks by US and Coalition forces and by armed groups.
- US forces continued to carry out arbitrary arrests and indefinite detentions.
- Refugees were pressured into returning to Afghanistan, despite continuing threats to their safety.

Afghanistan opium poppy cultivation, 1986-2005 (hectares)



Source UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2005

Afghanistan: Latest Developments

- Hard-core remnants from Taliban regime & al-Qaeda have stepped up attacks against military and civilian targets
- As in Iraq, improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks have been on the rise

2002-2004: 5

2005: 11

Jan – May 2006: 16

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No of terrorist attacks	491	749
No injured, killed or kidnapped	1,540	2,943