

TERRORISM IN SPORT

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Abstract

Terrorism has been described variously as both a tactic and strategy; a crime and a holy duty; a justified reaction to oppression and inexcusable abomination. Terrorism is focus different kind of area to achieve their targets. Sport event is one of area, which is terrorism attract. Many of the attacks have been labeled acts of terrorism. Olympic Games with the number of terrorist attacks and casualties for the same time period previous year. These include the 1972 Munich attack, the 1996 Atlanta attack and two attacks during the 2008 Beijing Games. Not only the Olympics and but also the World Cup have occasionally been targets for terrorists because of their prominence on the international stage. Terrorist attempt to get pay attention of all around the worlds and they try to achieve their targets through the sport events. Comparing the past, can identify incensement of terrorist attack in sports.

Introduction

Terrorism is the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives (Justice, n.d.). In this article review terrorist attacks that have taken place during the Olympic Games in the host country, as well as those indirectly related to the Olympic Games and similar major sporting events like world cup match and marathon. Bearing in mind that the heightened profile of these events might increase the likelihood of a terrorist attack while the heightened security and surveillance might decrease the likelihood of an attack, this article discuss general patterns of terrorism in Olympic host countries at the time of the games.

Terrorism

Terrorism is not new and though it has been used since the early times of recorded history, it can be a relatively hard to define terrorism. Terrorism has been

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described variously as both a tactic and strategy; a crime and a holy duty; a justified reaction to oppression and inexcusable abomination. Obviously, a lot depends on whose point of view is being represented. Terrorism has often been an effective tactic for the weaker side in a conflict. As an asymmetric form of conflict, it confers coercive power with many of the advantages of military force at a fraction of the cost. Due to the secretive nature and small size of terrorist organization, they often offer opponent no clear organization to defend against or to deter.

The United States, Department of Defense defines terrorism as “the calculated use of violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate government or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political religious or ideological”. Within this definition, there are three key elements- violence, fear and intimidation and each element produces terror in its victims (Anon., n.d.).

Terrorism is focus different kind of area to achieve their targets. Sport event is one of area, which is terrorism attract. Sporting events around the world have a long history as targets for violence. Many of the attacks have been labeled acts of terrorism.

Patterns of terrorism in 20 Olympic host countries

To better understand general patterns of terrorism in Olympic host countries, we use the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) to compare the number of terrorist attacks and casualties that happened in the host country during the Olympic Games with the number of terrorist attacks and casualties for the same time period previous year. Because preparation for the Games and international attention begins long before the official start of the Games, the time periods we evaluate begin six months before opening ceremonies and end on the day of closing ceremonies. We do not assume that all attacks taking place during the “Olympic” time period are explicitly linked to the Olympics, however one could hypothesize that the same mechanisms that may increase or decrease the likelihood of a terrorist attack in the host city during the Olympics also impact patterns of terrorism at other locations in the country, among all types of perpetrators, and in advance of the Games themselves.

Overall, the locations of the Olympic Games are quite safe with respect to terrorism. In five Olympic venues there were no terrorist attacks reported in the GTD during the Olympics, six months prior to the Olympics, or during the same time period the previous year. These locations include Japan 1972, Canada 1976, Soviet Union 1980, Yugoslavia 1984 and Australia 2000. Additionally, in South Korea and Canada in 1988, Japan in 1998, Greece in 2004 and Canada 2010, there were no fatal attacks recorded during any of the time periods we examined.

The location with the greatest number of attacks during the actual Olympic Games is China 2008, with seven. The location with the greatest number of fatalities during the Olympic Games is West Germany 1972 with 16 and the most injuries took place in the United States in 1996 with 110. The Olympic host country that experienced the most attacks during both the Olympic period and the comparison period was Spain 1992.

Although the numbers of attacks in these locations are generally low, four locations experienced terrorist attacks during the Olympic period, but not during the comparison period the year before (Austria 1976, South Korea 1988, Italy 2006 and China 2008). Two others -- Canada in 1988 and Canada in 2010 -- experienced attacks during the comparison period the prior year but not during the Olympic period.

Of the 15 countries that experienced any attacks during the time periods we analyzed, nine had a higher number of attacks during the Olympic period than the comparison period. Of these nine cases, six took place in 1992 or earlier. Six venues had a lower number of attacks during the Olympic period. All six cases in which there were fewer attacks at the time of the Olympics than the year prior took place since 1988. Note, however, that these findings are generally consistent with temporal patterns in terrorism worldwide, which increase from the 1970s through the early 1990s, decrease in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, and increase in the mid-2000s.

Due to the fact that fatal attacks in Olympic locations are rare and fatality statistics are heavily influenced by atypical events such as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the 2001 attacks on September 11 in the United States, no clear pattern emerges regarding the relative lethality of attacks that take place in the context of the Olympics. In three locations the total number of fatalities during the Olympic period

was lower than the comparison period the previous year. In six locations, the total number of fatalities during the Olympic period was higher than the comparison period.

Olympics-related attacks

Since 1970 there have been a number of attacks directly and indirectly related to the Olympic Games and other major sporting events. These include attacks that occurred during the competition as well as attacks on officials, athletes, tourists, venues and crowds of viewers.

Fatal attacks during the Olympics

There have been lethal attacks in three host cities during the Olympic Games. These include the 1972 Munich attack, the 1996 Atlanta attack and two attacks during the 2008 Beijing Games. The perpetrators of these attacks represent a variety of ideological influences. Combined, they resulted in the deaths of 16 victims and six perpetrators. More than 100 people were wounded (Directorate, 2013).

1. 1972 Munich Olympics

The Olympics have never experienced a darker day. Two worst act of terrorism ever perpetrated at a sport events is the one carried at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich by Palestinian terrorist organization Black September (Levy, 2015). They took the Israeli national team hostage, eventually killing 11 athletes and coaches and one West German police officer. On September 5, 197, eight Palestinian militants invaded Olympic village, killed two members of the Israeli team and kidnapped nine others, according to several accounts (Lee, 2015).

As the world watched in horror, ABC broadcaster JIM McKay broke the news: “My father used to say our greatest hopes and our worst fears are seldom realized. They are all gone”. For the first time in modern Olympic history, competition was suspended for a memorial service held in the Olympic stadium attended by 80,000 spectators and 3,000 athletes (Levy, 2015).

2. 1996 Atlanta Olympics

Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park was designed as the "town square" of the 1996 Olympics. On July 27, thousands of spectators gathered for a public concert. Unbeknownst to them, Eric Rudolph — a former explosives expert for the United States Army — had planted a knapsack containing three bombs underneath a bench (Lee, 2015). The explosion killed one person and wounded more than 100 others. A cameraman also died of a heart attack while running to cover the event (Directorate, 2013).

The devastation could have been a whole lot worse had it not been for the actions of security guard Richard Jewell. He discovered the bomb just before detonation and managed to clear people from the area. Sadly, the hero was initially labeled as a suspect by the FBI and the media, but he was later completely exonerated. The real perpetrator was a former U.S. Army explosives expert named Eric Rudolph. He believed that “the conception and purpose of the so-called Olympic movement is to promote the values of global socialism,” so he decided to take matters into his own deranged hands (Levy, 2015).

3. 2008 Beijing Olympics

On Aug. 9, 2008 a knife-wielding assailant killed an American businessman and injured his wife and their tour guide. The couple's daughter, a former Olympic volleyball player, was with them at the time of the attack and was unharmed. Their son-in-law was the coach of the US men's volleyball team. The attack occurred at the Drum Tower, an ancient landmark in Beijing located three miles from the main Olympic stadium. The perpetrator, Tang Yongming, committed suicide following the attack by jumping from the second floor of the tower. The motive for the attack is unclear and reports speculate that the perpetrator was mentally ill. Tang had no criminal record or known ties to terrorist organizations.

On Aug. 13, 2008 a bomb detonated at a building in the Qinhuangdao economic and technological development zone near Beijing. Two people were killed by

the explosion. Little additional information about the event is available, and the perpetrator is unknown. Chinese authorities indicate that the explosion was related to production activities (Directorate, 2013).

World Cup related attacks

Several lethal terrorist attacks have taken place in the context of other high profile sporting events. In particular, in 1994 four World Cup viewers were killed and 15 were injured in a grenade attack in Djibouti. The same year, the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) claimed responsibility for a shooting at a pub in Northern Ireland that killed six and wounded five World Cup viewers.

Even more deadly attacks on World Cup viewers occurred in Africa in 2010. Two al-Shabaab suicide bombers detonated explosives in crowds of people viewing the World Cup on outdoor screens in Kampala, Uganda. In the combined attacks, at least 75 people were killed and more than 70 were injured. The same year, several attacks against World Cup viewers in Afgoye and Mogadishu, Somalia killed at least two people, while others were taken hostage at gunpoint. The group Hizbul al Islam assumed responsibility for the attacks in Somalia, claiming that by gathering to watch the World Cup the victims had violated Islamic law (Directorate, 2013).

Marathon related attacks

The Olympics and the World Cup have occasionally been targets for terrorists because of their prominence on the international stage. But attacks on marathons are even less common than attacks on sporting events in general. According to START, counting Monday's attack in Boston there have been seven terrorist attacks on marathons. Only one was more lethal than the Boston bombing. Here's a summary:

1. Sri Lanka, 2008:

On April 6, 2008, the world witnessed a bombing at a marathon far more deadly than the one witnessed in Boston on Monday, April 15, 2013. At the start of the Sri Lankan New Year Marathon, a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber detonated an explosive device that killed 15 people (Levy, 2015). The attack was a successful assassination attempt on the Sri Lankan minister of highway and road development, Jeyaraj Fernandopulle (Serwer, 2015).

2. Ireland, 1998, 2003, and 2005:

There were three attacks associated with the Belfast Marathon between 1998 and 2005, in which local authorities suspected the Irish Republican Army or its radical offshoot, the Real IRA, were responsible. In 1998 the IRA was suspected of firing mortars at a local police station, prior to the marathon, which was "disrupted" as a result, but the mortars did not explode. In 2003, there was a bomb placed in a van prior to the marathon, but the van owner called the police who defused it. In 2005, a pipe bomb was placed along the marathon route that was again disabled by police (Serwer, 2015).

3. Pakistan, 2006:

Two incidents violent protests in response to a marathon in Lahore, by groups opposed to the fact that men and women were both allowed to participate. There were arson attacks and two police officers and two civilians were injured.

4. Bahrain, 1994:

One of the incidents an attack on marathon runners along the al-Budayyi' Highway. The motive as "unknown," but speculates that the attackers may have been motivated by the dress of the runners, some of whom were women, or the route's proximity to the "remains" of a former mosque (Serwer, 2015).

Conclusion

Terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. The strategy of terrorists is to commit acts of violence that draws the attention of the local populace, the government, and the world to their cause. The terrorists plan their attack to obtain the greatest publicity, choosing targets that symbolize what they oppose. The effectiveness of the terrorist act lies not in the act itself, but in the public's or government's reaction to the act. For example, in 1972 at the Munich Olympics, the Black September Organization killed 11 Israelis. Like that, terrorist attack focus many kind of sport events, Olympic Games as well as other major sport events. They try to achieve their purpose through this kind of sports events. Comparing the past, can identify incensement of terrorist attack in sports.

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