

## **A Market Based “Terror Index”**

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As part of an ongoing discussion in Russia about how to analyze terrorism, specialists have examined a paper prepared by the British World Market research Center on the topic of a "Terror index in the countries of the world". The authors of this paper came to the conclusion that the countries that are most likely to suffer from terrorist attacks in the coming year are Columbia, Israel, Pakistan and the USA.

Great Britain occupies the tenth position. According to the authors of this research, UK is likely to become a target because of its cooperation with Washington. The countries that hadn't supported the war with Iraq can feel more or less safe (for example, France occupies 23rd position, Germany - 41). The first ten countries on the list are traditionally unstable countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Indonesia, Sri-Lanka and others.



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According to the World Market Research Center report, North Korea is determined to be the least likely place to experience a terrorist threat. The authors think that North Korea's "immunity to terrorism" is a result "the repressive nature of the regime", a condition that makes it almost impossible for terrorist movements to develop". Russia is the 16th on their list.

World Market spokesman Darno Tebern says that the number of terror acts will grow in Chechnya as the region draws closer to the presidential elections. The ability of terrorists in Chechnya to hide from Russian military forces raises doubts the quality of the antiterrorist measures in Russia. Tebern suggests that terrorist acts will take place not only in Chechnya and but also in other regions of Northern Cacausus".

Tebern believes that that terrorist attacks are likely to increase in Middle Asia. Tajikistan holds the 22nd place, Kyrgyztan - 27th and the others are close behind. Political instability will probably cause more terrorist acts in Georgia, which is 26<sup>th</sup> on the list. Azerbaijan, another common hot spot, ranks 59<sup>th</sup>.

As criteria for this evaluation, the World Market Research Center identified (1) terrorists' motivation and (2) the state's ability to

prevent terrorist attacks as the key factors in assessing each nation's vulnerability. Each factor was analyzed in its correspondence to what the Center describes as an "importance measure". While many experts doubt the practical utility of this research and argue that the authors reliance on marketing analysis and statistics is not valid in terrorism research, the model does represent an interesting and unique approach.