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40% of Guyanese worried about terrorism

Posted By [Stabroek staff](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 5:14 am In [Local News](#) | [34 Comments](#)

-USAID-funded survey

Terrorism has recently emerged as another key security issue to Guyanese, with an estimated 40% saying they have concerns.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded and published the brief report "Citizen Fears of Terrorism in the Americas," which was informed by the 2010 Americas Barometer survey. The survey pointed to around 40% of locals who said they are worried.

For the year, Guyanese Abdul Kadir and Guyana-born US citizen Russell Defreitas went to trial and were convicted for their involvement in the JFK terror plot. In addition, the US named Guyanese Adnan el-Shukrijumah as the head of al-Qaeda operations; he was once spotted in Guyana.

Colombia and Peru, two countries that have suffered from numerous terrorist attacks, are found in the top tier of the list of countries, with mean levels of worry of 67.3% and 63.0%, respectively. The levels of worry are strikingly low in Jamaica, Argentina, and especially Uruguay, according to the survey.

The United States secured a placement in the middle of the scale, which the report said makes sense in light of the fact that economic decline vied for the public's attention in 2010, while the public's concern about terrorism likely had been dulled by nearly nine years of repeated terror alerts typically followed by little to no sign of terrorist activity.

Based on the survey, 29.6% of respondents in 25 countries in the Americas indicated an issue related to security when asked about the most serious problem facing the country. The survey showed that worry about the threat of violent attacks by extremist individuals and groups is relatively high in many countries in the Americas, which the researchers found to be consistent with a reality in which both international and domestic terrorism is becoming more lethal, sophisticated, and brazen.

But the analysis showed that, in statistical terms, countries in which the rule of law is strong are those in which citizens are less worried about terrorism.

The researchers opined that it could be that such environments are less likely to breed extremists, either because efficient, well-executed, professional security policies act to prevent the growth of terrorist activity, or because such features and a general respect for individuals' legal rights stymies attempts by extremists to convert others to their cause.

Alternatively, they submitted that the rule of law variable may simply proxy for the general state of security in the country, leaving individuals feeling more secure with respect to terrorism, but likely also to other types of crime, in contexts where the rule of law is judged to be comparatively high. "Regardless of which interpretation, or whether a mixture of these interpretations, is most accurate, the results at least suggest the utility of a strong rule of law for promoting feelings of security, in this case with respect to concern about terrorist attacks," the report said.

In short, the ability of a state to maintain well functioning courts and security forces that ensure rights and oversee a relatively peaceful citizenry is key to promoting perceptions of protection from the threat of terrorism, the report added.

The report continued that non-military targets, typically for political purposes, has had a greater presence in some countries in the Americas, such as Colombia and Peru, but terrorist acts have been recorded elsewhere in recent years including Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador. But even in countries that have not experienced significant terrorist

attacks, many citizens expressed concerns about terrorism so that, on average, "worry about terrorism in the Americas is relatively high," the report stated.

The authors of the study are Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, Vanderbilt University Daniel Montalvo, Vanderbilt University Jennifer L. Merolla, Claremont Graduate University The Insights Series is co-edited by Professors Mitchell A.

Seligson and Elizabeth Zechmeister with administrative, technical, and intellectual support from the LAPOP group at Vanderbilt University.

Funding for the AmericasBarometer has mainly come from the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID).

Important additional support has come from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Vanderbilt University.

34 Comments To "40% of Guyanese worried about terrorism"

#1 Comment By [canux](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 5:59 am

It would be interesting to find out how this survey was designed. 40% is probably the percentage of Guyanese who has heard of terrorism!

#2 Comment By [Kassem](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 7:01 am

Not in the least surprised at the findings.
Only those who are fully protected by tax payers paid security sees nothing wrong in the society and any criticism is regarded as unpatriotic and politically motivated

#3 Comment By [SandHurst First](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 7:07 am

Absolute nonsense....80% of Guyanese are more concerned about where and when their next meal will be coming from and how they are going to party the little money they have left...This is not the Gaza Strip, Afghanistan, Pakistan nor Iraq so there is no concern about terrorism here....just how we will make it to the next day.

#4 Comment By [tiger dog](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 7:18 am

I wonder where these jokers come up with the numbers. In Guyana people are scared of being robbed by bandits. I'm sure this is not what they are talking about...

#5 Comment By [OBSERVER](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 7:49 am

There is terrorism at many levels. A passenger in a mini bus traveling in a reckless way on any of our roads at 60mph with blaring junk music, is, in a way, a victim of terrorism. A family awakened at 3.00a.m. in the sanctity of their homes by bandits brandishing guns or rogue cops on a similar exercise, are also, in a way, victims of terrorism.

#6 Comment By [Dr.Evil {{PPPC+ PNC + AFC = Junk In De Trunk }}](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 8:23 am

its more like 90% of Guyanese worried about being terrorized by their very own local terrorists....those in authority cant see this???

#7 Comment By [amen-ra](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 8:29 am

Lol, you got me cracking up here tiger.

#8 Comment By [COLLIN](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:07 am

Sandhurst boy you get me laughing here, they concern about they meal and the next party money, Ask Ne-yo and Movado back for them thousand they gone back home with

FELLOW BLOGGERS I WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO READ FREDDIE KISSION ARTICLE YESTERDAY ABOUT WHO REALLY PAY FOR SOME OF THE BIG SHOW IN GUYANA, SOMETHING I ALWAYS WONDER.

#9 Comment By [NeNe {Say It Ain't So!}](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:21 am

Not surprising!!! These 40% are afraid of the homegrown terrorists who steal and kill innocent folks everyday. They needed to have explained the meaning of terrorism before conducting the survey. How absurd!!!

#10 Comment By [dull boy](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:27 am

YOU SURE IS TERRORISM OR brain damage?

#11 Comment By [malaika06](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:37 am

Terrorism? Fuh real? and by whose definition? Reluctantly, I have to agree with Sandhurst First blog.

#12 Comment By [Serpico](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:45 am

These days terrorism is a politically charged word used to evoke emotional and irrational backlash. Check the present controversy about the building of a Muslim Community Centre that includes a place for paryer, not a Mosque 2 blocks from the 9/11 site.

Given the Guyana's justice system, 40% is a generous score for Guyana, based on the below analysis.

"Alternatively, they submitted that the rule of law variable may simply proxy for the general state of security in the country, leaving individuals feeling more secure with respect to terrorism, but likely also to other types of crime, in contexts where the rule of law is judged to be comparatively high" Given this

#13 Comment By [tiger dog](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:14 am

Observer we are not talking about thievs here, they are talking about terrorism as something like 911.
most Guyanese never heard of 911 much less being scared..

#14 Comment By [SKYY](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:15 am

Therefore Guyana is a terrorist country.

#15 Comment By [tiger dog](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:34 am

I guess these people spoke to all the opposition members!!!!

#16 Comment By [solman](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:37 am

I think the United states is more concerned that terrorism has reached new borders and that extremist Ideas may infiltrate normal Muslims. Guyana can be the new hunting grounds for terrorists recruits. Kadir is just bout a sample. However, for the fanatics, his example is an excellent warning.

#17 Comment By [Vincent](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:42 am

Canux, It could be accurate but it depends on how people define the word "terrorism". If they interpret it to be islamists fundamentalist against the US then I think it would be lower than 40 % If their interpretation includes Cobra, Fineman, Blackie and Roger Kahn as terrorists then that 40 % would be accurate.

#18 Comment By [Sandy Andy](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:43 am

Hahahahaha...who were the persons surveyed? Maybe its the 40% who are scared of being caught as terrorists.

#19 Comment By [BORAPORK \[Telling It Like It Is \]b](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 10:59 am

Is someone going to fly a plane into the Benab? Give me a break. I bet the 40% vote P.P./C. and approve a third term for the cussout man.

#20 Comment By [ghetto youth](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 11:29 am

USAID,
Why did not you all use the money and help soem poor families here affected by no housing, high food prices, high electricity and water bills, V.A.T. which has and still is stifling the poor, and use soem for humanatarian aid to the less fortunate here?
That was money wasted to conduct a survey that we already know.
Why did you all not do a survey and find out what people think of this present ppp administration and corruption they r involved in?
Alternatively, gave the money to poor families to make a better life.

#21 Comment By [John Smith](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 11:38 am

What terrorism? If you mean people are being terrorized by bandits, sure, but not people walking around with bombs and machine guns, waiting for the unsuspecting. I am certainly not in that 40%.

#22 Comment By [John Smith](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 11:51 am

TD, my sentiments, exactly. The US got hold of a few old men who had an airbrain scheme or a senior moment to blow up JFK fuel tanks, whis is bad,and should be condemned. Then there is this Sukramuj-whatever (Sister, what is the guy's name?) fancy name guy, running around with a Guyanese passport and that established 40% of us worried? We are worried about bandits, VAT, corruption and drug pushers.

#23 Comment By [guyamerican](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 11:56 am

dull boy , you are name and nature LOL.

#24 Comment By [amen-ra](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 12:08 pm

Guyanese are more worried about terrorist within than from any outside threat.

#25 Comment By [SNfan](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 1:45 pm

Look nuh, is 40% of us ready to migrate from this hellhole and now we have to contend with this terrorism stigma. thanks again for nutten jagdeo and why these polling people don't write trhe full facts

#26 Comment By [csingh](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 4:34 pm

I am not in that 40%. This survey is bogus and serves no purpose except to export America's paranoia and Islamophobia.

#27 Comment By [MXQBH\(Darwin was right\)](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 5:57 pm

The 400 % figure was taken from a small sample and then generalized for the entire population. In the absence of any knowledge of the sampling method, this report is just a page-filler and to get the blah-blah-blahgs going.

#28 Comment By [AP](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 6:05 pm

Terrorism...my foot! Just another propaganda crap. Guyanese more concerned about migrating to the land milk and honey. Except for Freddie of course. Other than that it is about protecting their hard earned assets and lives from criminals.

#29 Comment By [Quibian](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 6:51 pm

why y'all "americans" complaining? is y'all govt agency that made that report, as usual. some of you here swallowing it too. just shows anything the us says y'all believe.

#30 Comment By [Dr.Evil {{PPPC+PNC + AFC = Junk In De Trunk }}](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 8:39 pm

ehehehehe
dem friken rerrorists and yet dem ah run go Merika...
ehehehehehehehehehhee

#31 Comment By [gtbeat](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 8:39 pm

Colin you being feeble minded is no reason to endorse Freddie Kissoon, this article is idle conjecture and speculation at best.

#32 Comment By [C A.Griffith](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 8:56 pm

Observer writes:

There is terrorism at many levels.

A passenger in a mini bus traveling in a reckless way on any of our roads at 60mph with blaring junk music, is, in a way, a victim of terrorism.

Apart from the junk music,if you were to present this statement to fellow mudheads like Maurice Cyrus,Bunny Elphage,Roy Chabrol,Eric Vieira,Johnny Tyrell and Errol & Edison Ten-Pow they would consider this a THRILL like one experiences on Blue Berry Hill !

If you paid for the ticket,enjoy the ride,quit your belly-aching and OBSERVE the happenings .

#33 Comment By [Ian Jones](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:55 pm

I think the terrorists they are referring to are the lazy cowards robbing hardworking people.In my opinion all handguns,machine guns etc. should be banned in Guyana.With the exception of the G.D.F, Police Force and security guards absolutely no one should be allowed to carry a gun.Not even a homeowner or a businessman.If a soldier,policeman or security guard loses his weapon he should be deemed unfit to carry out his duties.Listen,tough times require tough measures.Guyana needs to completely overhaul the judicial system and rewrite the criminal laws in this country to reflect the total lack of respect for human life by the lazy cowards who are terrorizing and killing innocent,hardworking people.Forget about a Marriott Hotel.How about re-training and doubling the size of the Police Force.Reward them with bonuses for doing a good job and throw the book at them for being corrupt.

#34 Comment By [OBSERVER](#) On August 26, 2010 @ 9:59 pm

I was just trying to look at "terrorism" from yet another angle. Many Guyanese living at home are very much aware of 9/11. What many Guyanese both at home and abroad do not know, is that TWENTY THREE Guyanese lost their lives at the WTC and ONE at the Pentagon, making Guyana the hardest hit country per capata. Those 24 Guyanese victims of 9/11 had relatives and friends in Guyana.

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