

## Terrorism and Muslims

1. You're more likely to be killed by brain-eating parasites, texting while driving, toddlers, lightning, furniture, falling out of bed, alcoholism, food poisoning, choking on food, prescription medication, a financial crash, obesity, medical errors or "autoerotic asphyxiation" than by terrorists.<sup>1</sup>
2. Figures from RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents<sup>2</sup> demonstrate a far lower number of terrorist instances across Western Europe over the last two decades in comparison to other areas of the world, particularly in countries which contain largely Muslim populations and/or are situated in the Middle East.<sup>3</sup>
3. Despite the media coverage suggesting that a large proportion of terrorist attacks are inspired by Islamism, Europol figures show that less than 2% of all terrorist attacks were 'religiously motivated'.<sup>4</sup>
4. In reality, separatist organisations are responsible for the large majority of terrorist attacks across EU countries.<sup>5</sup> For example, 55% and 79% of terrorist attacks in 2013 and 2012 respectively were perpetrated by ethno-nationalist or separatist individuals or groups.<sup>6</sup>
5. Despite the low frequency of Islamist militant attacks, fears around them are continually stoked by politicians, law enforcement officials, and even the media which tends to highlight religiously-motivated attacks over political or environmental ones.
6. An American terrorist suspect is over nine times more likely to be a non-Muslim than a Muslim.<sup>7</sup>
7. According to FBI data, Islamist extremists were responsible for just 6% of terrorist attacks between 1980 and 2005—falling behind Latino groups, Extreme left-wing groups, and Jewish extremists.
8. You are more likely to be struck by lightning in your lifetime than a Muslim is likely to commit a terrorist attack during that same timespan.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "You're 55 Times More Likely to be Killed by a Police Officer than a Terrorist," Washington's Blog, accessed April 12, 2017, <http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2015/03/youre-55-times-likely-killed-police-officer-terrorist.html>.

<sup>2</sup> "RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents," RAND Corporation, accessed March 6, 2017, <http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents.html>.

<sup>3</sup> "Terrorism," Our World In Data, accessed March 6, 2017, <https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism/>.

<sup>4</sup> "Less Than 2 Percent Of Terrorist Attacks In The E.U. Are Religiously Motivated," ThinkProgress, January 08, 2015, <https://thinkprogress.org/less-than-2-percent-of-terrorist-attacks-in-the-e-u-are-religiously-motivated-cec7d8ebedf6#.vqfloh7s>.

<sup>5</sup> "European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2016," Europol, November 01, 2016, , <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-te-sat-2016>.

<sup>6</sup> "Less Than 2 Percent Of Terrorist Attacks In The E.U. Are Religiously Motivated," ThinkProgress.

<sup>7</sup> Omar Alnatour, "Muslims Are Not Terrorists: A Factual Look at Terrorism and Islam," The Huffington Post, December 09, 2015, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/omar-alnatour/muslims-are-not-terrorist\\_b\\_8718000.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/omar-alnatour/muslims-are-not-terrorist_b_8718000.html).

<sup>8</sup> ibid.