

## Security & Terrorism

*(Disclaimer: The comments given in this paper are the personal views of the author, and are not to be construed as being the official position of IPSC, nor of any of its officers, because IPSC is simply not in the business of commenting on such topics, nor does IPSC issue travel warnings.)*

If events over the last few years have taught us anything, it's that no place on our planet is immune to random acts of violence, or deviously planned acts of terrorism.

We've witnessed aircraft used as missiles in New York & Washington, fertilizers used to cause death and destruction in Oklahoma City and Bali, and mass transit railway systems targeted in Tokyo, Madrid, London and Bombay.

And the frightening question is not "Will there be more such incidents?", but "When and where will terrorists strike next?", a question which is impossible to answer, despite an massively increased amount of global surveillance, intelligence and cooperation.

So, let's cut to the chase. Am I at risk if I travel to Bali? The answer is "Yes".

Now if, after conducting your own research, and considering Travel Warnings issued by your Government and various other sources, you decide that the risks of travelling to Bali are too great, then **don't go**. It doesn't get any simpler!

Nobody is going to guarantee your safety in Bali, or anywhere else for that matter, so you need to make your own decision as an informed adult, and nobody is going to think less of you should you ultimately decide to stay home.

However, for what it's worth, here's my decision: My life is not going to be dictated by terrorists. I'll be vigilant, I'll be constantly aware of my surroundings, I'll be street-smart, and I'm certainly not going to look for trouble but, on the other hand, I refuse to simply stay home, hoping the bad guys won't find me.

The way I see it, there's a far greater risk to my life travelling in a car. So, if I'm willing to take a chance participating in what is arguably the most dangerous activity on Earth, I think the risk of me falling victim to an act of terrorism is far lower.

Of course if I happen to be at the wrong place, at the wrong time, when something nasty happens, so be it but, hey, at least I'll go out while being somewhere, doing something I love with a passion.

Vince Pinto  
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