

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## POWELL SAYS TERROR REPORT STATISTICS NOW REVIEWED, REVISED

New figures note changes in significant, non-significant incidents

Secretary of State Colin Powell said statistics in a 2003 report on global terrorism released in April were inaccurate and the Department of State and the Terrorist Threat Incident Center (TTIC) have revised them after a two-week review.

Powell said the revised report shows that there were 208 international terrorist attacks in 2003, up slightly from the revised 205 in 2002. These numbers reflected changes in how significant and non-significant incidents are recorded, he said.

“But the numbers don’t tell the full story, the number of incidents,” Powell said during a Washington briefing. “You also have to look at the number of individuals who were killed or injured as a result of these terrorist attacks. And, as we look at those numbers, we find that the number of killed going from 2002 to 2003 has dropped on an annual basis, but the number of injured have gone up quite a bit.”

The number of people killed in terrorist incidents in 2003 were 625, fewer than the 725 reported in the previous year, the report said. In contrast, the number of people injured in terrorist attacks rose to 3,646 in 2003, from 2,013 in 2002.

“Why? In some cases, a particular instance gives rise to more casualties than another instance, and so you

can't expect a direct correlation between the number of incidents and the number of casualties. But we also found computational and accounting errors as we went through the data over the last several weeks," Powell said.

Powell also said there was no effort on the part of the State Department or TTIC to alter the statistics to make it appear the U.S. counterterrorism efforts were better or worse.

#### TERRORISTS KILLED 625 PEOPLE IN 2003, REVISED STATE REPORT SAYS

Total international terrorist attacks rose to 208 in 2003

There were 208 international terrorist attacks in 2003, up slightly from 205 attacks recorded the year before, according to revised statistics released by the U.S. Department of State June 22.

In addition, the revised report indicated that 625 people were killed last year, compared with 725 killed during 2002. The statistics are compiled by the newly created Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC) and the State Department's Office for Counterterrorism, with information from the intelligence community and from U.S. embassies and posts worldwide.

Ambassador Cofer Black, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, said that, more significantly, there were 3,646 people wounded in terrorist incidents in 2003, compared with 2,013 people wounded in 2002.

"The increase reflects the numerous indiscriminate attacks during 2003 on 'soft targets,' such as places of worship, hotels, and commercial districts, intended to produce mass casualties," the report said.

The department acknowledged on June 10 that some of its statistics (originally released in April) were inaccurate, and that, after a careful review, were revised, Secretary of State Colin Powell said during a briefing in Washington. The annual Patterns of Global Terrorism report, which is mandated by federal law and submitted to Congress, was initially released April 28.

"The numbers were off," Powell said. "We have identified how we have to do this in the future."

Powell said the initial report was not an effort to make U.S. counterterrorism efforts appear better or worse. He said that U.S. Representative Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, and his staff initially brought the errors to the attention of the department.

The corrected report indicated that 35 U.S. citizens were killed in terrorist attacks last year. Nine Americans were killed in the deadliest attack in a suicide bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 12, 2003.

According to the revised report, geographically there were 80 terrorist attacks in Asia in 2003, 67 in the Middle East, 33 in Western Europe, 20 in Latin America, six in Africa, two in Eurasia, and none in North America.

The complete Patterns of Global Terrorism report that has been revised may be found on the Internet at

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/pgtrpt/2003/>.

Following is the text of the Year in Review (Revised):

Patterns of Global Terrorism  
Released by the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism  
June 22, 2004

#### The Year in Review (Revised)

There were 208 acts of international terrorism in 2003, a slight increase from the most recently published figure of 198 attacks in 2002 [revised to 205], and a 42 percent drop from the level in 2001 of 355 attacks. A total of 625 persons were killed in the attacks of 2003, fewer than the 725 killed during 2002. A total of 3,646 persons were wounded in the attacks that occurred in 2003, a sharp increase from 2,013 persons wounded the year before. This increase reflects the numerous indiscriminate attacks during 2003 on "soft targets," such as places of worship, hotels, and commercial districts, intended to produce mass casualties.

Thirty-five U.S. citizens died in international terrorist attacks in 2003:

-- Michael Rene Pouliot was killed on 21 January in Kuwait, when a gunman fired at his vehicle that had halted at a stoplight.

-- Thomas Janis was murdered by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) terrorists on 13 February in Colombia. Mr. Janis was the pilot of a plane that crashed in the jungle. He and a Colombian service member were wounded in the crash; the terrorists shot them when they were discovered. Three U.S. citizen passengers on the plane -- Keith Stansell, Marc D. Gonsalves, and Thomas R. Howes -- were kidnapped and are still being held hostage as of June 2004 by the FARC.

-- William Hyde was killed on 4 March in Davao, Philippines, when a bomb hidden in a backpack exploded in a crowded airline terminal. Twenty other persons died, and 149 were wounded. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) denies any connection to the suspected bomber, who claimed he was a MILF member.

-- Abigail Elizabeth Little was killed on 5 March, when a suicide bomber boarded a bus in Haifa, Israel, and detonated an explosive device.

-- Rabbi Elnatan Eli Horowitz and his wife, Debra Ruth Horowitz, were killed on 7 March when a Palestinian gunman opened fire on them as they were eating dinner in the settlement of Kiryat Arba.

-- The deadliest anti-U.S. attack occurred in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 12 May, when suicide bombers in booby-trapped cars filled with explosives drove into the Vinnell, Jadewel and Al-Hamra housing compounds, killing nine U.S. citizens. Killed at the Vinnell compound were: Obaidah Yusuf Abdullah, Todd Michael Blair, Jason Eric Bentley, James Lee Carpenter II, Herman Diaz, Alex Jackson, Quincy Lee Knox, and Clifford J. Lawson. Mohammed Atef Al Kayyaly was killed at the Al-Hamra compound.

-- Alan Beer and Bertin Joseph Tita were killed on 11 June in a bus bombing near Klal Center on Jaffa Road near Jerusalem.

-- Howard Craig Goldstein was killed in a shooting attack near the West Bank settlement of Ofra on 20 June.

-- Fred Bryant, a civilian contractor, was killed on 5 August in Tikrit, Iraq, when his car ran over an improvised explosive device.

-- Three U.S. citizens were among the victims of a deadly truck bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad's Canal Hotel on 19 August. They were Arthur Helton, Richard Hooper, and Martha Teas. U.N. Special

Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello was also among the 23 fatalities.

-- Five U.S. citizens were killed in Jerusalem on 19 August, when a suicide bomber riding on a bus detonated explosives attached to his body. They were Goldy Zarkowsky, Eli Zarkowsky, Mordechai Reinitz, Yessucher Dov Reinitz, and Tehilla Nathansen. Fifteen other persons were killed and 140 [were] wounded in the attack.

-- Dr. David Applebaum and his daughter, Naava Applebaum, were killed on 9 September in a bombing at the Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem.

-- Three U.S. citizens were killed on 15 October in the Gaza Strip as their U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv motorcade was struck by a roadside bomb. They were John Branchizio, Mark T. Parson, and John Martin Linde, Jr. All three were security contractors to the U.S. Embassy.

-- Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Buehring was killed on 26 October in Baghdad during a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the Al-Rasheed Hotel. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz was staying at the hotel at the time of the attack.

-- Two U.S. citizens, William Carlson and Christopher Glenn Mueller, were killed in an ambush by armed militants in Shkin, Afghanistan, on 27 October. Both were U.S. government contract workers.

Note: As new information becomes available, revisions are made to previously published statistics. The current running total for international terrorist incidents in 2002 is 205.

#### FOUR AFRICAN PRESIDENTS SUPPORT BIOTECH, U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS

Agricultural biotech viewed as tool to end famine

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Correspondent

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso -- The presidents of four West African countries have voiced support for agricultural biotechnology and for science in general, saying science-based technologies can help end famine on their

continent, according to Pamela Bridgewater, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

In a June 21 interview the first day of an agricultural science and technology ministerial conference in Burkina Faso, Bridgewater said that the presidents of Mali, Niger, Ghana and Burkina Faso underlined to U.S. officials the importance they attach to the conference and to its focus on food security, water resource management and the uses of biotechnology to improve the overall health and well-being of their populations.

Burkina Faso is co-hosting the June 21-23 meeting with the U.S. departments of Agriculture (USDA) and State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The conference drew more than 200 participants -- primarily government officials and agricultural researchers -- from Africa, North America and Europe.

The four West African leaders believe biotechnology has the potential to increase agricultural production and improve the environment, thus improving the standard of living in their countries, Bridgewater said.

At the same time, the leaders indicated that they and their citizens want to learn more about biosecurity in order to feel confident about the safety of genetically improved crops, she said.

The presidents realize that agriculture -- the largest part of Africa's economy -- is essential to economic and human development throughout the continent, Bridgewater said.

Developing human resources also is linked to strengthening national security, Bridgewater added. Children who have no hope of a stable economic future could be more vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist and criminal groups, she said.

Discussing the role of women in agricultural development, Bridgewater said, "I have spent a lot of time in villages in Africa and have seen women eke the land for income for their families' survival." Biotechnology is one of the tools that can help them increase production and their household incomes while requiring less labor, she said.

Bridgewater said conference participants hope the meeting will launch a series of follow-up events to share information about new agricultural technologies.

"We have a real opportunity now to educate more people about the real nature of biotech crops and seeds," she said.

#### U.S. REQUESTS WTO PANEL AGAINST MEXICO OVER BEVERAGE TAXES

20 percent tax on HFCS products violates WTO obligations, U.S. says

On June 22, the United States requested that the World Trade Organization (WTO) establish a dispute settlement panel regarding Mexico's 20 percent tax on beverages and syrups made with sweeteners other than sugar, according to a press release issued by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

The United States believes that Mexico's beverage tax violates Mexico's WTO obligations because it discriminates against U.S. products such as high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), a corn-based sweetener that competes with sugar.

"Mexico's discriminatory beverage tax is the latest in a series of measures imposed to protect Mexican sugar producers from competition," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said. "Our sweetener industries have tried hard to resolve this matter. However, it is now time to go to the WTO to ensure the rights of American corn refiners are respected."

Only beverages and syrups that use HFCS and other non-cane-sugar sweeteners are subject to Mexico's tax measures, the USTR office explained, adding that the taxes have sharply restricted U.S. exports of HFCS.

Following is the text of the USTR press release, with further details:

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D.C. 20508

June 22, 2004

United States Requests WTO Panel on Against Mexico  
Over Two Discriminatory Beverage Taxes Involving  
High Fructose Corn Syrup

WASHINGTON -- United States Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick announced that the United States today in Geneva formally requested that the World Trade Organization (WTO) establish a dispute settlement panel regarding Mexico's 20-percent tax on beverages and syrups made with sweeteners other than cane sugar. The United States believes Mexico's beverage tax violates Mexico's WTO obligations because it discriminates against U.S. products such as high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), a corn-based sweetener that directly competes with sugar in many applications.

"Mexico's discriminatory beverage tax is the latest in a series of measures imposed to protect Mexican sugar producers from competition," Zoellick said. "Our sweetener industries have tried hard to resolve this matter. However, it is now time to go to the WTO to ensure the rights of American corn refiners are respected. It is not fair that American HFCS producers are being denied access to the Mexican market."

Only beverages and syrups that use HFCS and other non-cane-sugar sweeteners are subject to Mexico's tax measures. The taxes have sharply restricted U.S. exports of HFCS. Elimination of this type of discriminatory treatment is an important issue for America's corn refiners and corn growing states such as Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska.

In this regard, Zoellick thanked Senator Grassley (R-IA), the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, for his efforts to resolve this problem.

The United States made its request for the establishment of a WTO panel at today's meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Background:

In the 1990s, the U.S. corn refining industry began exporting significant quantities of HFCS to Mexico as Mexican soft drink bottlers began to substitute HFCS for sugar as a sweetener in soft drinks and other beverages. The U.S. industry also opened two facilities in Mexico to produce HFCS from imported U.S. corn.

In 1998, Mexico imposed antidumping duties on imported U.S. HFCS. The United States challenged Mexico's antidumping duties in the WTO and won that case. In late 2001, the WTO adopted the findings of a dispute settlement panel and the Appellate Body that Mexico's antidumping duties were inconsistent with the WTO

#### Antidumping Agreement.

Shortly thereafter, in January 2002, Mexico imposed a 20 percent tax on soft drinks and other beverages, as well as on syrups and other products that can be diluted to produce soft drinks and other beverages, that use any sweetener other than cane sugar. At the same time, Mexico also imposed a 20 percent tax on the services related to the distribution of beverages and syrups, including the commissioning, mediation, agency, representation, brokerage, consignment and distribution of beverages and syrups. Beverages and syrups sweetened solely with cane sugar are exempt from the taxes. Mexico's tax measures have sharply curtailed U.S. HFCS producers' access to Mexico's market for soft drinks and other beverages. As a result of these measures, U.S. HFCS exports to Mexico have been drastically reduced.

In 1997, the year before the anti-dumping duties were imposed, U.S. exports of HFCS to Mexico were 193,519 metric tons, commercial basis, worth \$63 million. In 2003, U.S. exports were 4,111 metric tons, commercial basis, and valued at \$1.5 million.

The United States and Mexico have engaged in extensive efforts to find a negotiated resolution of this and other sweeteners-related issues, including WTO consultations prior to today's request for the establishment of a panel.

Pursuant to WTO rules, Mexico may exercise its right to block establishment of a panel at today's DSB meeting. If it does, the United States will renew its request, and a panel will be established at the next DSB meeting. The panel will consider the U.S. complaint and determine whether Mexico is acting in accordance with its WTO obligations. The WTO dispute settlement process takes about 18 months, if there is an appeal.

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**Please Note:** Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage [www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch). Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."