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## Surviving Terrorism in Israel

### **Introduction**

Survival is the act of keeping alive despite facing harsh or difficult conditions. Survival means persevering difficult occurrences or situations in order to preserve one's life. In order to survive a person must put up or overcome the hostile condition through inspired ways. Terror attacks are a regular occurrence in Israel. The terror attacks are instigated by the ideological differences between Israel and her neighbors. The religious differences between Israel, a majority Jewish country, and the majority Muslim countries in the Middle East is another key factor. Since the inception of Israel in 1948, over 2400 people have been killed in terror attacks and many more have been wounded (Berger). Therefore, learning to survive the terror attacks is crucial for every Jew in Israel. The paper will examine the ways of surviving and difficulties faced by Jews in surviving the rampant terrorism in Israel.

### **Ways of Coping with Terrorism in Israel**

The first way of surviving terrorism is by moving to areas that have a lower occurrence of terror attacks. Terrorism and bomb attacks are prevalent all over the country (Kirschenbaum, pp.6-7). However, some areas have a higher prevalence of attacks than other areas (Romanov, Zussman and Zussman, pp.185). Areas close to the Gaza Strip and West Bank record the highest number of

terror attacks and rocket fire in a year (Romanov, Zussman and Zussman, pp.185). Living in these regions poses a great risk to the life of an Israeli because of the recurrence of attacks. Therefore, people have learned to avoid settling in these areas. People who already live there have been transferring to more peaceful regions. Any activities in these areas should be carried out under heavy security presence. This survival tactic has enabled many Israelis to overcome the threat of terror and live more peaceful lives (Romanov, Zussman and Zussman, pp.185-186).

Another way to survive in the terrorism-ridden country is by being prepared. All Jews in Israel live under the threat of a possible terrorist attack. Therefore, it is vital to have the preparedness to deal with such situations (Kirschenbaum, pp.4-5). The first terror preparedness technique is to learn first aid skills. First aid skills are important in order to help oneself in case of a bomb attack or to help the people who have been wounded by the attack. First aid skills are readily taught by various health care institutions around Israel which also provide people with first aid kits. Health care facilities also provide prescription medication to help in easing pain or other symptoms after a terrorist attack. Another preparedness plan is to always have a way to communicate with relevant security authorities and relatives in case of an attack. A reliable communication channel will enable an individual to get quick medical attention in case of a bomb attack.

In order to survive terrorist attacks, a Jew should always have adequate water and food supplies. These resources are vital in case a terrorist attack happens and medical agents or security forces are unable to access the affected area. People are advised to keep non-perishable food supplies to increase their chances of surviving longer (Kirschenbaum, pp.6-7). It is important to have fire extinguishing equipment in the household. Fire extinguishers help in neutralizing any threats of fire or keeping the threat at bay while seeking a way out of the premises. Another way

to survive is to always have knowledge about all the exits available in any building. Such knowledge is important in case a bomb attack happens and immediate evacuation from the building is necessary. It is also important that one gets to learn various emergency evacuation techniques in order to help other people affected by the terrorist attack. Remaining calm and composed helps people to avoid panicking and aggravating the situation.

Another way to cope with the terrorism and bomb attacks is to have updated knowledge on the events happening in Israel and in the regions bordering Israel (Waxman). Information can be gathered from the internet, magazines, television and the radio. Such information is necessary to help a person to be prepared in case of an impending terror threat. When driving, especially in regions outside urban areas, one is obliged to have knowledge of the area in the event of an attack (Kershner). When travelling, it is also necessary to carry a first aid kit and emergency medical supplies. Informing the relevant security authorities before travelling into danger zones is crucial. In this way, one will be able to obtain protection during their activities. Israeli citizens are also necessitated to contact security officers when they detect suspicious activities or packages in the neighborhood in order to neutralize terror threats before they happen (Dorell). Having the contacts of the nearest police facility is important in keeping the region safe for all residents.

Israel citizens have learned to cope with terrorism by building structures that can withstand bomb attacks. Buildings are constructed with heavy and strong materials in order to safeguard the residents from explosions. Roofing materials are also made from tough materials to prevent collapsing. Households also have secure rooms that can safeguard the people from the bomb explosions and fire. Public facilities are built in the same way, are required to have emergency tool kits and to clearly label exits. Israelis form closely knit and cooperative communities in order to know all the people living in the region and to expel terrorists (Cole and Harnden). Such

communities also enable residents to know the whereabouts of each person and to help one another in case of a terror attack. The community helps the vulnerable in society such as children, the disabled, and old people during bomb attacks. After bomb attacks, community members work together to rebuild the destroyed facilities and to take care of the wounded (Cole and Harnden).

## **Conclusion**

Survival means persevering difficult occurrences or situations in order to preserve one's life. Terrorism is prevalent in Israel because of the ideological and religious differences between the country and its neighbors. People have migrated from areas prone to terrorist attacks. Israelis cope with terrorism by implementing preparedness measures such as having first aid kits, fire extinguishers, water supplies, non-perishable food and communication means. Having adequate information is necessary to avoid bomb attacks. Israelis construct strong structures that can withstand explosions or other threats. Communities have learned to cooperate among themselves and with security forces to neutralize terror threats and to help each other during attacks.

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