

Allmode Intelligence Section

Advisory: 058 (Morocco)

Advisory Type: Morocco terror threat level raised to **HIGH**

Date: 02/09/2015
Information Source: Allmode

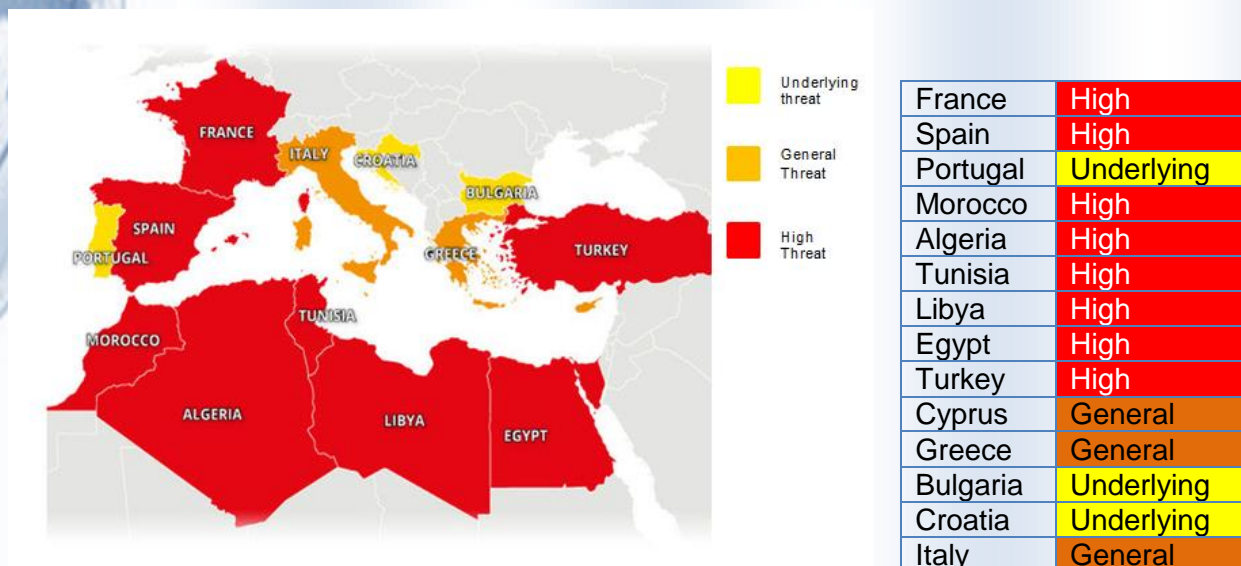
On September 1st 2015, the UK Foreign Office took the decision to raise the terror threat for Morocco to **HIGH**. This now brings Morocco into line with its neighbouring countries of Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

This decision has been taken a week after the Spanish and Moroccan police dismantled a terror cell of 14 suspects who are believed to belong to an ISIS cell based in Madrid. The cell was supposedly plotting a series of attacks in Morocco, particularly targeted at areas popular with tourists.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that, "The Moroccan authorities have warned of an increased threat and regularly report the disruption of terrorist cells in Morocco."

The FCO believes British nationals are a particular target for terrorists.

At present, the FCO have issued threat warnings for the following countries:



UK.Gov – Terror Threat for Tourist Hotspots

Seventeen people were killed and 25 injured in an explosion at a restaurant in Marrakech in April 2011.

The security forces have advised that protective security measures are in place at many Moroccan hotels and sites popular with tourists. Security measures, including security personnel, may be visible in certain areas

The Moroccan authorities have warned of an increased threat linked to the growing number of Moroccans sympathetic or belonging to international terrorist organisations operating in Syria, Iraq and Libya, and regularly report the disruption of terrorist cells.

There is considered to be a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria.

Allmode Advice:

In the light of this information, Allmode would advise that visiting British Nationals should take extra precautions and have a heightened sense of security, particularly when visiting popular tourist sites.

Other “westerners”, who (in the minds of the attackers) are likely to be conflated with British Nationals during an indiscriminate attack, or who have a similar level of threat directed against them, are also advised exercise sufficient security arrangements.

Facilities/Resorts:

Industrial Facilities and tourist resorts in North Africa have proven to be highly vulnerable and attractive targets in recent years. One only has to consider the two most high profile attacks: the Tigantourine gas plant in Algeria (80+ Dead) and the Imperial Marhaba/ Bellevue Park hotel beach shooting (38 dead) to understand that that these amenities/infrastructure are difficult to protect, and are seen as being high-profile targets due to their role as critical national infrastructure and/or economic importance for the host country. They were also selected because of the high proportion of westerners present (expat staff and tourists) and the associated worldwide media attention that this would garner.

Similar facilities and resorts exist in Morocco - it can be compellingly assumed that these structures will be the targets of future plots and attacks.

Managers, owners and operators of such assets should carefully assess or re-assess their security provision, most likely with the expert assistance of industry experts.

Vessels/Yachts:

Similarly, vessels, and especially yachts, can be presumed to be targets of such attacks for the very same reasons. The conspicuous display of wealth, the physical vulnerability and destructibility of a vessel, and the economic/political ramifications of an attack directed against a foreign (western) asset all conspire to put vessels and yachts at high risk in this area.

Prudent managers, charters and owners will be seeking expert advice, guidance and the provision of mitigation measures.

Individuals:

The threat to the individual underlies both of the above considerations. While the threat from violent crime is low, petty crime is common.

There is no history or major criminal related hostage taking, however, the threat from terrorist related kidnapping cannot justifiably be ruled out, as it is the MO of accosted Islamist/Salafist groups to engage in hostage taking for ransom and/or publicity.

The threat of becoming involved in a major terrorist attack, directed towards a tourist amenity, foreign owned commercial property, local government or security forces or merely an indiscriminate attack stands. Professional advice and assistance should be sought.

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Resort-Safe

Many companies globally are faced with operating in hostile and complex environments, as well as in seemingly safe locations. This is particularly true of the tourism, hospitality and entertainment industries. Many businesses will naturally lack the capability to manage the security provision for such facilities in-house as it is far removed from their core competencies. Allmode deploy their consultants, embedding them in the clients' operations, to not only manage the security plan and advise on risk management issues, but provide professional advice, tailoring strategies and aiming to add value throughout the task, helping clients to operate in difficult environments so they can concentrate on their core business.

Whether a self-contained unit, a shared building or community, or a dispersed network of sites, Allmode can offer security gap-analysis and remedial mitigation measures to suit any organisation, large or small. Most businesses need a professional security partner. Allmode is well placed to provide bespoke solutions for companies who require support and solutions in several critical areas:

Allmode Delivers:

- Risk Management Policy, Facility Security Plan and Emergency Contingency Plan
- Staff training, including actions in the event of a security incident.
- Ongoing intelligence reporting and dynamic risk monitoring for the organisation
- Emergency Evacuation Plan and emergency medical or security related evacuation services for staff in high risk environments.
- Provision of compliant security personnel (man-guarding), advisors, trainers and mentors.
- Project Security Consultants.
- Facility Security Assessment and Planning.
- Facility monitoring and 24 hour Crisis Management Support.
- Physical Hardening & CCTV.
- Incident and Emergency Management.
- Free Insurance Health-check
- Non-intrusive Cyber-Security Assessment and mitigation measures

Typical Project Phases:

1. **Intelligence:** In depth assessment of the business profile, site and location; assessing and quantifying threats and risks to inform further decision making.
2. **Consultation:** Liaison with the client, outlining the threats and risk levels they may face. Agree on future aims and objectives including risk appetite and practicable mitigation measures.
3. **Implementation** of agreed measures including:
 - a. Conceptual: plans, policies and procedures
 - b. Physical: man-guarding, CCTV, hardening
 - c. Human: staff and management training, awareness and mentoring to allow the client to eventually manage the minutiae of their own security provision
4. **After-Care:** An ongoing "Focal Point" for matters pertaining to security including quality control, continual improvement and responding to changes to the threat/risk level, business function or environment.

Case Study: Sousse Hotel And Resort, Tunisia: 2015

On Friday 26th June 2015 at approximately 12:00 local time, a gunman armed with an automatic assault rifle and grenades opened fire on a beach outside two hotels, the Imperial Marhaba and the Bellevue Park, killing 38 people.

UK FCO Advice: "Further terrorist attacks in Tunisia, including in tourist resorts, are possible, including by individuals who are unknown to the authorities and whose actions are inspired by terrorist groups via social media. You should be especially vigilant at this time and follow the advice of Tunisian security authorities and your tour operator." Similar attacks worldwide have occurred in the recent past, and are highly likely to occur again.

Allmode's full-spectrum, targeted and bespoke suite of risk management services could have helped mitigate this threat: safeguarding the guests, staff, assets, your reputation and bottom-line.