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Thursday 29 August, 2002

Making Terror, Breaking Terror



What can be done to thwart attacks?

The term 'terrorism' is only two centuries old, but there have been terrorist acts for as long as there have been governments.

Following the horrific events of September 11th in the USA, President George Bush declared that the first war of the 21st Century would be against international terrorism.

But if one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter, how should terrorism be defined?

Nelson Mandela was often labelled a terrorist, illustrating a remark once made by the British politician Hugh Gaitskill, that all terrorists end up having drinks at London's Dorchester hotel.

Listen to Part One: Types of terrorism

Allan Little examines different types of terrorism.

From attacks on the military to indiscriminate attacks on civilians; from acts whose sole objective is to murder a specific individual to acts whose primary aim is to cause maximum fear and mayhem.

He looks at the terror tactics used by groups who say they are fighting for their homeland, waging wars of national liberation.

How should they be dealt with?

Listen to Part Two: How terror groups operate?

For many groups the methods being used are increasingly sophisticated.

Training camps; small, secretive cells of agents; encrypted Internet communication; long-term planning and complex webs of



Hunting bin Laden

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finance.

Yet the final execution of the USA hijacking saw men brandishing nothing more deadly than knives - and the will to complete their mission.

Listen to Part Three: What can be done to thwart attacks?

How can governments combat the terrorist threat? What can be done to stop people who are prepared to give up their lives for their cause?

The third and final programme examines what can be done to thwart attacks?

Will civil freedoms have to be curtailed? How can intelligence forces infiltrate extremist groups and undermine their financial operations?

Perhaps most important of all, what can be done to stop people seeking to employ terror tactics in the first place?

Making Terror, Breaking Terror was first broadcast on BBC World Service in November 2001.

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