

## TERRORISM

### Read the text and then answer the questions below.

Islamic terrorism is a global phenomenon. The Islamic countries of the Middle East, Far East and North Africa are the most affected by terrorist attacks. Islamic terrorists have also struck European countries, especially France, the UK, Belgium and Germany. The latest attacks targeted the United Kingdom, especially its capital, London. The most shocking attack happened in Manchester during the concert of the American pop star Ariana Grande as it killed and injured children, including very young teens. It was a suicide attack, that is, the bomber blew himself up together with his victims.

As the word says, terrorism wants to create fear by attacking the civilian population in places where many people congregate. The weapons used in terrorist attacks vary from bombs to knives.

In numerous attacks terrorists have even driven vans and trucks into the crowd, killing many people.

This terrorism is called Islamic terrorism because the perpetrators are Muslim fundamentalists, that is, people who believe to fight in the name of their religion and who are prepared to sacrifice their lives for this cause. They are often suicide bombers, who blow themselves up along with their victims.

### DID YOU KNOW?

➤ The word kamikaze used in the mass media is wrong when referring to suicide attacks inspired by Islamic fundamentalism. The most appropriate term to describe the suicide bombers is shahid which means martyr.

In the final months of the World War II, the kamikaze, meaning divine wind in Japanese, were, by contrast, young Japanese pilots who crashed their fighter planes, loaded with explosives and fuel, into US ships (the battle of Okinawa, April 1945). Their actions caused many casualties and extended a war that was already lost.

➤ In world public opinion the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York, on September 11th 2001, was the most shocking one for the manner in which it was carried out and the number of victims. The attackers hijacked planes that they then crashed into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. They killed almost 3,000 people and injured more than 6,000 others.

➤ The main Islamic terrorist organizations are Al-Qaeda, Isis or IS (Islamic State) and Boko Haram.

Al-Qaeda is the organization that was responsible for the attack on the Twin Towers in New York and many other attacks around the world; it practices terrorism globally against pro-Western and Arab countries and against other infidel countries. Osama Bin Laden, a billionaire from the Royal family of Saudi Arabia, was the leader of this organization until 2011.

➤ ISIS (also named IS or Daesh), unlike Al-Qaeda, is an organization that has tried to establish a territory on the border between Iraq and Syria, declaring itself Islamic State.

The terrorist group wants to conquer all the territories that once belonged to the Caliphate, which dissolved in 1924. In recent years it has strongly influenced young people from other Arab countries and European countries, too, encouraging them to fight among the ranks of its army. It has claimed responsibility for nearly all the terrorist attacks that have occurred in Europe and around the world.

## ACTIVITIES

**Choose the right letter.**

Where is terrorism particularly active?

- a. In European countries
- b. In Asia
- c. In the Middle East, the Far East and North Africa
- d. In France and the UK 2.

Why is the Manchester terror attack considered a shocking event?

- a. Because it happened in an Ariana Grande concert and a lot of children and young teens were killed and injured
- b. Because it was a suicide attack
- c. Because of the high number of victims

What is a suicide attack?

- a. It is an attack in which the bomber causes a terrorist explosion
- b. It is an attack in which the bomber carries out his deadly attack
- c. It is an attack in which the bomber blows himself up, dying with his victims
- d. It is an attack in which the suicide terrorist throws a bomb

What type of weapons are used by terrorists?

- a. Knives and stones
- b. Bombs and arrows
- c. From bombs to knives
- d. Only guns

Why have terrorists used vans and trucks in many attacks?

- a. To knock down and kill people
- b. To frighten people
- c. To scare people away
- d. To threaten people

Who are the Islamic terrorists?

- a. Muslim fundamentalists
- b. Islamic imams
- c. Muslim muezzins
- d. Islamic theologians

What does shahid mean?

- a. Muslim
- b. Islam
- c. Martyr
- d. Ulama

When did kamikaze pilots crash their aircraft into American ships?

- a. In World War II
- b. In World War I
- c. In 2011
- d. In 1945

How many people died in the Twin Towers attack on September 11th, 2001?

- a. 6,000 people
- b. More than 6,000 people
- c. 3,000 people
- d. Almost 3,000 people

Which of the following terrorist groups carried out suicide attacks on targets in the USA?

- a. Boko Haram
- b. Al-Qaeda
- c. ISIS
- d. Daesh