



## Repeating the Terrorist Attack in Shahcheragh, Iran, 2023: Endless Repetitions ...!!!

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### Dear Editor

Terrorism is the illegal use of power and violence against individuals or society to intimidate or force governments (1). The occurrence of such incidents is not far from expected as these incidents have been increasing in recent decades in Iran (2). On Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 19:30, a terrorist attack was carried out by two terrorists in Shahcheragh shrine (one of the holy and religious places in Shiraz city) in Iran. The terrorist entered the courtyard from one of the main doors and started shooting with a gun. During this incident, 2 persons were killed and 7 individuals were injured. A few minutes later, the armed person was arrested by the police and the second person ran away. The terrorist group of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) took responsibility for this terrorist attack by declaring a statement. This review was written with the aim of investigating why lessons were not learned from previous incidents, especially the Shahcheragh terrorist incident that happened in 2022, and this incident was repeated again.

### *Possible Causes of Recent Terrorist Attack and Suggested Strategies*

The causes of these terrorist incidents can be

examined from two perspectives: first, the goals of terrorist groups, including the support of organizations and beneficiaries with sinister goals, the pressure of certain groups on the government to act in a specific field, political and religious conflicts, and, secondly, the program and readiness of the responsive systems, which include downplaying the events which happened previously, lack of planning and lessons learned from previous incidents, non-scientific policies based on emotional decisions, weakness and inconsistency of the responsive systems, and inadequate risk perception of the authorities. Although terrorist incidents are often unpredictable, the risks and consequences of them can be reduced by planning and improving preparedness. Regarding the first perspective which is related to the sinister goals of terrorist groups, the role of security-political systems that have complex tactical dimensions is highlighted. From the second perspective, which is related to the readiness of responsive systems, strategies such as scenario-based planning, sensitization of authorities, continuous training and exercises, analysis of real incidents and compilation of action plans, strengthening of security systems and all-dimensional modernization of response systems

are suggested, which can play a significant role in the prevention and management of terrorist incidents.

### Conclusion

Although most terrorist incidents cannot be predicted, they can be prevented to some extent by strengthening security systems, improving the level of preparedness, and minimizing the risks caused by these incidents. Strategies such as planning, continuous training and exercises, integration and coordination of the involved organizations, and the use of experiences and lessons learned in exercises and real incidents are effective measures in response to terrorist incidents.

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