

The Ten Commandments of Surviving Terrorism

Written by Royi "Uncle Ro" Eltink, author of "The AK47: Full Auto Conversion for Dummies" and "The Paramilitary Commando" series.



People who think you really shouldn't read this.

1. Thou shalt stay informed.
2. Thou shalt be modest and low-profile.
3. Thou shalt not stay long in crowded strategic areas.
4. Thou shalt stay alert on anything strange.
5. Thou shalt observe the surrounding traffic.
6. Thou shalt drive save.
7. Thou shalt not peek out of the window in shock and awe.
8. Thou shalt get yer arse outta ground-zero.
9. Thou shalt stop at military/police checkpoints and obey their orders.
10. Thou shalt carry an decent ID.

Remember:

- Stay **Alert** = Stay **Alive**
- **Panic** is the most dangerous **killer**
- **Ignorance** is **deadly** bliss

ad. 1. Thou shalt stay informed.

Stay informed of whatever is happening in the news. If you don't want to take risks: stay home and don't travel! If you absolutely needs to go somewhere shady, read up on it in the newspapers and perhaps flip open an history book. But make sure you know what is going on there. Thinking you wouldn't need this because it is supposed to be safe, is just plain stupid.

"I go to a western european country", every decent western-european country has faced terrorism in the past decades, be it IRA in UK, RAF in Germany, Maluku in Holland, Gang of Nijvel in Belgium, etc. etc.

"Shibuya, Tokyo is cool and peaceful", face it. The gas attack by an buddhist sect on the Tokyo underground in 1995 caused 565 wounded and 5 dead. So, read up on where you are heading to.

And if there, keep reading, read the local press, and if possible, get the hotel to translate it for you.

ad. 2. Thou shalt be modest and low-profile.

This is quite obvious. Pick modest/cheap hotels. Not only will your wallet thank you for that, but those kind of hotels like Hiltons or Continentals does function as an magnet for shady people like wealthy businessmen, politicians, arms dealers, etc. And terrorists are mostly drawn to those people like they were flies rushing to the shit.

However, hotel El-Cheapo may be safer from terrorists, it, in combination with you, may also attract other shady people like schoolboys pimping their little sisters, drugdealers or people who just can't read nametags and think your luggage is theirs. A medium hotel, not near the king-sized ones, will do then.

Staying low on profile also means not standing out in hotel El-Cheapo. Waving with money attracts the people above. Accepting the services of those people attracts law enforcement. And surviving a minor terrorist attack or surviving several years in a foreign prison, I'm not sure what I would choose. Therefore: stay low.



Doesn't this look like a lovely place to stay?

ad. 3. Thou shalt not stay too long in crowded strategic areas.

Strategic areas are recognizable by the following aspects:

- They are crowded.
- They could contain banks.
- They could also contain government offices.
- And even military headquarters.

The one thing, for example, that appeared with the Tokyo underground attacks was that it was an crowded area (imagine special personnel showing up who are hired to push people in). Crowded areas are deathly in terrorist attacks, first of all, they take large amounts of casualties. Second of all, the other half of the deaths are made up when an more dangerous alley of the terrorists strike: Panic. In 2002, 15 people died in an crowded American nightclub when one of the guests shouted: "Anthrax!".



Crowded enough for you?

Places like this attract people with not-so-good intentions. Gropers and pocketpickers are childsplay compared to an terrorist with a bomb or an plastic bag filled with nerve-gas. Everybody who knows the basics of explosives, knows that to cause an attack the size of the Madrid bombing, a mere amount of explosives the size of an pack of cigarettes is needed. In very crowded areas, like the London or Tokyo undergrounds, panic will be an deadly ally of the terrorists.

Therefore, stay not too long in these kinds of areas. And when you really need to be in an area like that for a longer time than the time to walk through it, make sure you are near an "opening" in the area, like a street or an open boulevard. So that you can drop everything you got, and start running, when the excrements embraces the fan.

ad. 4. Thou shalt stay alert on anything strange.

Everybody on this planet probably experienced this before: you see a bag or a suitcase from which the owner seems to be missing. 99.99% of the people think: "yes! This must be my lucky day, something valuable might be in there".

Well, most of the time, you are indeed lucky, you may even find clean underwear, boy, does that come in handy! But there is this once in a millionth chance that there might be something inside that could harm you and/or others. It would be a real bummer when you open the suitcase, and you learn that that is not the dirty socks you smell.

So, what to do when you encounter a bag or suitcase from which the owner went missing:

- Stay with it, to prevent people from thinking: "lucky!"
- Don't move it. More advanced bombs use a gyroscope to check whether the bag is on the move, which triggers the detonation.
- Don't touch it. Triggers can be anywhere, when you open it, or even when you touch the handles.
- Call security or law-enforcement to pick it up. Even if it is false-alarm, it is better this way, the owner will be glad that it was found unharmed.

ad. 5. Thou shalt observe the surrounding traffic.

Take in all the details of the traffic, especially on lorries, or vans that aren't supposed to be there or acting suspicious. Now, what's suspicious, you ask? Well, if someone parks a car or van somewhere strange where it isn't supposed to park, and start running from it. In that case: FOLLOW HIM! Why? Because, if he set up a bomb, he knows where it is safe. Suspicious enough? No, most terrorists do things more smoother and delicate. In Madrid, they didn't start running, no, they just walked out. The only strange (ie. Suspicious) thing about them was the fact that they wore shawls and hats while it was actually quite warm that day.

ad. 6. Thou shalt drive safe.

Besides walking, there is also driving. You have to take in not only the traffic around you, but also the passengers in the cars around you. When the traffic starts behaving weird, like cars desperate to follow you or something. Or when passengers are acting weird, like rushing to search something while constantly glaring at you.

Then you will realize it is time to make sure that there is a car between you and the suspicious car. For that and the rest, you have to rely on your driving skills.

If there's a chance for an explosion, make sure you slightly opened the windows on both sides a bit. Of course not enough that a handgrenade can be thrown in. But enough that it can catch up some of the blast from an explosion.

ad. 7. Thou shalt not peek out of the window in shock and awe.

Yeah well, it's very difficult to not run to the window and look out what's going on when one hears gunfire or explosions. Well, take this from me: **DON'T!**

Windows shatter in a blast! 32 people lost one or both eyes in the Colombo bombing. And all had gone to the window because they heard machine-gun fire outside. The only wounded who didn't lose an eye or two were those wearing glasses. Well, a pair of sunglasses, the more solid type, are not a luxury item at those times.

ad. 8. Thou shalt get yer arse outta ground-zero

When eventually the excrements has embraced the fan, and you, for some reason, end up in ground-zero, there is only one thing you should do then: **GET THE FUCK OUT!**

Yes, I know a friend of yours might be somewhere under the rubble... LEAVE HIM!

There are two major reasons for that. The first one is that you have to make way for professional rescuers and investigators. If you considered the first one not good enough, then think about this: even though it is against the Geneva Convention, some nasty groups tend to detonate a second bomb just a while after the first. So many law-enforcement shows up at the spot, this would work like a magnet to second-bombs. In the earlier mentioned Colombo bombing, two hours after the main blast, the gas cylinders exploded in the heat. They sprayed metal shrapnel and fireballs around and also glass that hadn't been blown out yet. The cold water from the hoses fractured the metal and glass and showered upon the people gathered below.

ad. 9. Thou shalt stop at military/police checkpoints and obey their orders

On those moments, law-enforcement will be as tight-assed as a spring. And nervous like a schoolboy on his way to devirgination. If you too are in a panic to get out and drive through an checkpoint, expect your car to be swiss-cheesed.

Carrying out their orders also has something to do with that shaky finger on their triggers. But it has more to do with the mere fact that they want everyone (themselves of course, too) to leave safely.

ad. 10. Thou shalt carry an decent ID

Well, this is only plain simple.. A passport will do, if you are a journalist, then you would be off better with also an **local** press accreditation. An international drivers license (issued by the AA) with an photograph, or any papers like that (passport) with an photograph is swallowed better than something without a photo.

Of course you care about that, you don't want to be looking suspicious, and (did I mentioned that law-enforcement personnel will be nervous?) everything strange or out of picture will look suspicious in the eyes of the law-enforcement.

~ The End ~

**And remember: The terrorist is always with us....
...in your minds.**

About the author...

Mr. Eltink, also known as "Uncle Ro" is an 22 year old computer programmer, and during holidays, doing community volunteer work around the world. Currently he is also available as freelancer to train security-personnel in the basics of anti-terrorism and many more. [E-mail](#) for details (I speak a fair amount of languages and make sure my teaching materials (hand-outs, prints, workbooks) are in the desired language).

Based on his experiences and training he wrote this and others in the "Uncle Ro's Extreme Survival" series.

- Gas! Build your own gasmask.
- Surviving a nuclear blast.
- Rumble in tha hood, surviving a gunfight.
- The 10 Commandments of Surviving Terrorism.

Further, he has written several other series of articles, such as:

- The Paramilitary Commando. *From basic training to door-to-door warfare.*
- The AK47: Full Auto Conversion for Dummies

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