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"The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism"

**ABSTRACT:**

Terrorist groups aspiring to weapons of mass effect capabilities are facing a range of practical and strategic constraints. Conventional means are thus likely to remain the weaponry of choice for most terrorists. However, as the world will experience new acts of terror, the provable and strong interest in nuclear weapons by some terrorist groups does not allow us to ignore the risk of nuclear terrorism.

Differing requirements with regards to yield, reliability, safety, and delivery could potentially make the manufacturing of terrorist nuclear devices less challenging than the production of traditional state (military) nuclear weapons. Crude nuclear terrorist weapon production is, moreover, likely to be assisted by the increasing availability of essential knowledge and relevant declassified information.

Due to the less sophisticated "standards" of possible crude terrorist nuclear devices, technical barriers should not be regarded sufficient to prevent future large-scale nuclear terrorist violence. Avoiding such acts of terrorist can best be done by denying terrorist access to highly enriched uranium or plutonium, the essential ingredients of any nuclear device.

Morten Bremer Maerli: ["The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism"](#)