

# Press Release



**South African  
Institute of  
Race Relations**

*South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation*

**For immediate release**

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## **Terror threat to the soccer World Cup?**

**The South African Institute of Race Relations has warned in an article on its website that there may indeed be terror threats to the soccer World Cup.**

The Institute's deputy CEO, Frans Cronje, said that, "The terror risk facing South Africa's World Cup does not originate from small and isolated rebel and political groups" and that, "South Africa's security forces have proven themselves to be very adept at securing major events from petty crimes or other amateur security threats."

The Institute however warned that, "The terror threat facing the tournament in South Africa is altogether more serious. It revolves around the possibility that an Al Qaeda aligned movement may use the tournament as a platform upon which to launch a massive strike against a Western target in South Africa."

It also warned that, "All the circumstances that would make a terror attack possible and attractive to Al Qaeda converge very neatly around the World Cup in South Africa."

The Institute also stated that, "It is also the Institute's view that the risks commonly associated with South Africa's World Cup, including crime, a shortage of accommodation, and weak transport infrastructure will not adversely affect the tournament. Planning around the tournament appears to have been very effective as demonstrated by the now complete stadiums. In almost every respect the factors that South Africa can control in arranging the World Cup appear to be well under control. But international terrorism is not something over which we have the capacity to exercise much control. In addition one of the most effective assets that any terrorist group can possess is to convince its next target that they are no longer at risk."

Read the whole article under the headline **How vulnerable is South Africa's soccer World Cup to a major terrorist attack?** on [www.sairr.org.za](http://www.sairr.org.za)