

The New York Times

Freakonomics

The New York Times

August 31, 2010, 3:30 pm

Bad Economy = Deadlier Terrorists

By **FREAKONOMICS**

Here's yet [more evidence](#) that a good economy is good news all around. In a new working paper, **Efraim Benmelech**, **Claude Berrebi** and **Esteban F. Klor** have [analyzed data](#) (abstract [here](#)) on Palestinian suicide terrorists between 2000 and 2006 and found that “[h]igh levels of unemployment enable terror organizations to recruit more educated, mature and experienced suicide terrorists who in turn attack more important Israeli targets.” Interestingly, “poverty and economic conditions are not correlated with the quantity of terror.”

• Copyright 2011 The New York Times Company | [Privacy Policy](#) | [NYTimes.com](#) 620 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10018