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# Fighting Suicide Bombers: What Works?



FREAKONOMICS  
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**Efraim Benmelech, Claude Berrebi** and **Esteban F. Klor** have already argued that a bad economy equals **deadlier terrorists**. Now, the three economists have turned their attention to the effects of house demolitions on terrorism. A new **working paper (ungated version)** from the trio finds that “punitive house demolitions (those targeting Palestinian suicide terrorists and terror operatives) cause an immediate, significant decrease in the number of suicide attacks.” Careful, though: the authors also find that “precautionary house demolitions (demolitions justified by the location of the house but not related to the identity or any action of the house’s owner) cause a significant *increase* in the number of suicide terror attacks.” [comments]

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TAGS: *Israel, suicide, Terrorism, violence*

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