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INTERNATIONAL SOS

Asia & the Pacific: Recent knife attack in Kunming highlights risk of violent crime in LOW travel risk locations


OVERVIEW

 Level:


Notice

 Location:

China,Hong Kong (China SAR),Macao (China SAR)

 Category:

Violent crime

 Active:

23 Jan 2021 - 23 Feb 2021

Last Updated: 23 Jan 2021 08:30 (GMT)

The table below shows the number of impacted and potentially impacted individuals and assets at the date/time the alert was issued. The counts include individuals within the impact radius of the alert and may not reflect the total number of people in each area listed.

Please log into [Tracker](#) for the latest information or [click here](#) for an up-to-date list of affected individuals and assets in the impacted area.

EXPOSURE IN IMPACTED AREA ONLY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
China (Low Risk)	495	676	640	1131
Hong Kong (China SAR) (Low Risk)	2	2	4	11
Macao (China SAR) (Low Risk)	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	496	677	641	1133

One person was killed and another seven were injured in a knife attack at a school in Wuhua district in Kunming (Yunnan province) at around 17.00 (all times local) on 22 January. The perpetrator was shot and killed by the police at approximately 18.40 after taking a person hostage. The hostage was unharmed. Investigations are ongoing and the motive of the attack remains unclear. Nonetheless, the incident highlights the risk of violent crime in LOW travel risk locations across the country and the need to remain alert of one's surroundings at all times.

MORE DETAIL

These incidents do not indicate an increased risk of knife attacks in China. Attacks carried out by individuals involving the use of rudimentary weapons like knives or cleavers occur periodically across the country. Such attacks can happen with limited resources and preparation and are thus inherently difficult to predict and prevent. They usually take the form of stabbings, crude bombings or acts of arson and are often linked to business or personal disputes. The victims are usually passers-by rather than targeted individuals. Such attacks are typically dealt with by the authorities swiftly and usually result in limited casualties and property damage. However, attacks have been known to take place in central areas or along major roads and, in such cases, they can lead to significant casualties.

The latest incident follows a knife attack that took place near a school in Kaiyuan (Liaoning province) on 27 December 2020. Seven people were killed and seven others were injured in the attack. Earlier on 21 September, at least five people were injured in a knife attack in Panyu district in Guangzhou (Guangdong province). Two of them died from their injuries later. Four were injured in another attack on 7 September in Sangzhi county in Zhangjiajie (Hunan province). On 4 June, at least 39 people were injured in a knife attack in Wuzhou city (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region).

WHAT WE ADVISED YOUR PEOPLE


Remain alert to your surroundings at all times. If you notice any suspicious behaviour, vacate the area and inform the authorities.

If an incident occurs in your vicinity, do not approach the affected area. If it is safe to do so, move to a secure location such as your accommodation or office. Remain there until the situation stabilises.

Abide by all official directives.

Monitor our China alerts for updates.

ASSISTANCE



+1 215 942 8226

Philadelphia, USA

+44 208 762 8008

London, UK

+33 155 633 155

Paris, France

+65 6338 7800

Singapore

+971 4601 8777

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