

# Tourism Law and Crime Prevention Measures in the Tourism Industry

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Tourism law and crime prevention in countries, as well as the creation of a safe environment and location for tourists, along with adequate awareness and education in this regard, are of significant importance. The present research employs a library-based method and follows a descriptive-analytical approach. Preventive measures, including proactive, social, and situational strategies, can be implemented by tourists, hoteliers, transportation providers, and law enforcement authorities. Crime prevention aligns with social and cultural measures aimed at securing society and addressing the causes and factors contributing to criminal behavior. In crimes against tourists, adopting and implementing preventive measures designed to limit or eliminate opportunities and suitable conditions for committing offenses serves as a foundation for reducing the likelihood of criminal occurrences. Ultimately, crime prevention and the protection of tourists require comprehensive cooperation among governments, international organizations, private entities, and non-governmental organizations. Such cooperation can encompass information exchange, education, strengthening security infrastructure, and raising public awareness to establish a safe environment for tourists. Terrorist attacks have a significant negative impact on the demand for tourism and travel.

**Keywords:** *Tourism law, tourist, crime, preventive measures, tourism industry.*

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## 1. Introduction

The tourism industry in any country contributes to its economic prosperity and has a direct relationship with security. If tourists do not feel safe in the host country, the tourism industry in that country will experience a decline. For this reason, governments take measures to ensure the security of tourists.

The tourism industry is one of the key drivers of the global economy, contributing to employment generation, cultural exchange between ethnic groups, and international relations. However, it faces significant challenges related to security, crime, and criminal

activities targeting tourists, which can negatively impact its sustainability and growth. The participation of various organizations, ranging from governmental institutions to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector stakeholders, and international agencies, plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges. In the modern world, security is considered one of the most fundamental principles in the formulation of tourism development policies. Social security and tourism are interconnected concepts that influence both domestic and international relations. There is a defined relationship between tourism, stability, development, and security, based on the hypothesis that any



occurrence of insecurity, disorder, crime, or violence at various levels imposes significant harm on this sector. From an economic perspective, it should be noted that in recent years, the tourism industry has ranked third among the world's leading economic sectors, following oil and automotive manufacturing, and is projected to become the largest industry and economic activity globally. The diverse aspects and complexities of the tourism industry, depending on geographical regions, provide specific opportunities for security and management planning.

### 1.1. *Tourist Rights*

Foreign tourists fall under international law from two perspectives. First, they are considered foreigners and, under general international law and bilateral agreements, are entitled to certain rights and privileges. In this regard, their status as foreigners is subject to domestic regulations of private international law, which in turn adhere to the international commitments of each state. Second, as "tourists," they are granted specific benefits. Although distinguishing between these two perspectives can sometimes be challenging, many governments have established consular privileges or visa exemptions through bilateral treaties. Such benefits and rights apply only among member states of the respective treaty and within the scope and objectives of the relevant agreement; therefore, they cannot be considered as a general right for all tourists.

In addition to fundamental rights such as security and freedom, there are also rights specific to the tourism process that facilitate tourism and ensure that tourists fully benefit from their travels. The right to access necessary information, particularly concerning tourist sites and routes, is among these rights, as stipulated in Paragraph 1, Article 6 of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. According to the latter part of Paragraph 1, Article 6 of the Global Code, host governments must ensure that the conditions outlined in contracts proposed by public and private tourism organizations to their clients are valid and clear in terms of the type and quality of services promised, as well as in regard to compensation for unilateral contract termination. Violation of these conditions entails liability and compensation.

Under Paragraph 1, Article 8 of the Global Code, tourists must be allowed access to temporary transit and

accommodation facilities, as well as cultural and tourist sites, without being subjected to additional regulations or discriminatory treatment. According to Paragraph 2, Article 8 of the Global Code, tourists must have access to all available domestic and international communication means. Moreover, as stated in the latter part of Paragraph 2, tourists should be able to contact local administrative, legal, and healthcare authorities promptly and easily to receive necessary services (Maqami, 2019).

Additionally, they should be able to establish communication with the consular representatives of their home country in accordance with applicable political treaties. Paragraph 4, Article 8 of the Global Code stipulates that administrative formalities related to border crossings and customs procedures, based on domestic laws or international agreements, including health and customs regulations, should be adjusted to the extent possible to maximize freedom of travel and international tourism accessibility.

According to Paragraph 5, Article 8 of the Global Code, tourists should have access to convertible currencies needed for their travels to the extent that their home country's economic conditions allow. Paragraph 5, Article 6 of the Global Code emphasizes that governments have both the right and the duty to inform their citizens about potential risks and dangers they may encounter while traveling abroad, especially in times of crisis. However, they must disseminate such information objectively and without exaggeration to avoid harming the tourism industry of host countries and the interests of their domestic tour operators (Maqami, 2019).

Therefore, international law, as the legal framework governing the conduct of international actors, obliges states to adhere to specific legal standards when dealing with individuals, including both nationals and tourists. These standards include the right to security, freedom, and well-being in the visited country.

### 1.2. *Impact and Consequences*

Crime against tourists can have extensive and lasting effects, not only on victims and their families but also on countries, societies, economies, and the tourism industry as a whole. Some of these consequences are outlined below.

### 1.3. Human Consequences

**Casualties and injuries:** Terrorist attacks can result in the death or injury of tourists and even local residents, leading to devastating impacts on families who lose loved ones and face subsequent hardships.

**Psychological effects:** Victims and eyewitnesses of such incidents may experience psychological disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Rezaei, 2021).

### 1.4. Economic Consequences

1. **Decline in tourism:** Terrorist attacks targeting tourists can lead to a significant reduction in tourist arrivals, as people avoid traveling to unsafe destinations. Concerns over personal safety deter travel, causing a decline in national tourism revenue.
2. **Financial losses for businesses:** Tourism-related businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, tour operators, and airlines, may suffer from reduced income and even face bankruptcy.
3. **Increased security costs:** Governments and businesses may be compelled to allocate additional resources for enhancing internal security and protective measures.

### 1.5. Social Consequences

1. **Changes in societal behavior:** Terrorist attacks can alter social attitudes, increasing public fear and insecurity.
2. **Rise in racism and discrimination:** Such attacks on tourists may fuel anti-immigrant and anti-minority sentiments within societies.

### 1.6. Political Consequences

1. **Strengthening security measures:** Following terrorist attacks, governments will inevitably implement stricter security policies and introduce new regulations for better security management, which may lead to public dissatisfaction.
2. **Impact on foreign policies:** Terrorist attacks can influence the foreign policies of states, altering international relations, especially when extremist and terrorist groups operate from within a country. Such nations may face

diplomatic repercussions (Izadi, 2023). Consequently, all countries strive to eliminate terrorist groups and combat extremism within their borders.

### 1.7. Cultural Consequences

1. **Impact on local culture:** Since terrorist attacks disrupt a country's stability, especially when they target the tourism industry, they can alter local cultural interactions and the way residents engage with tourists.
2. **Reduction in cultural exchange:** A decline in tourist visits can hinder cultural exchange and mutual understanding among nations.

### 1.8. Long-Term Consequences

1. **Changes in a country's global image:** Countries frequently targeted by terrorist attacks may develop a negative international reputation.
2. **Impact on sustainable development:** A decrease in tourism and foreign investment can negatively affect a country's sustainable development and economic growth.

Terrorist attacks against tourists not only have immediate human consequences but also bring profound and long-term implications for societies, economies, and cultures. These consequences can persist for years, requiring sustained efforts to restore security and stability in affected communities (Ghaderi, 2013).

Thus, hosting international conferences emphasizing the role of security in countries and collaborating with international and regional organizations can help mitigate the impact of terrorism on tourism demand, which consequently affects national economies. Establishing dedicated tourism police units to enhance security in tourist areas can positively shape the perception of tourists, reinforcing tourism as a key driver of economic and political growth.

## 2. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

The World Tourism Organization, affiliated with the United Nations, was established in 1925 with the founding of the International Union of Official Tourism Organizations in The Hague. In 1976, the UN-affiliated

World Tourism Organization became the executing agency for the United Nations Development Program. In 1977, a formal cooperation agreement was signed between the organization and the United States. In October 2003, the World Tourism Organization became one of the United Nations' specialized agencies, reaffirming its leading role in international tourism.

To accurately define the World Tourism Organization and its objectives and functions, it is essential to first examine its nature. This organization is a developmental body within the United Nations, operating under the leadership of the Secretary-General. The World Tourism Organization strives to advance the tourism industry, particularly in less developed and underdeveloped societies, by offering attractive policies and recommendations for sustainable tourism development. A key aspect to consider is that the World Tourism Organization evolved from a non-governmental organization into an intergovernmental international organization. Specifically, in 1965, the "International Union of Official Tourism Organizations" decided to initiate cooperation with the United Nations. After holding several meetings, the Executive Council of the Union ultimately decided at the Toronto Conference (Canada) to establish a special committee to examine the transformation of the Union. Following the necessary studies, an international conference was held in 1969 in Sofia (Bulgaria) with the participation of government representatives. From September 17 to 28, 1970, the "International Union of Official Tourism Organizations" convened an extraordinary General Assembly, which resulted in the approval of the statute of the World Tourism Organization. Based on the approved statute, the Union was transformed into a new organization (Ziaei Beigdeli, 2010).

The primary objective of this organization is to contribute to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity, and global respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. To achieve this goal, the organization places particular emphasis on the interests of developing countries regarding tourism (A. R. Mahmoudi, 2020)s.

The World Tourism Organization is involved in numerous activities. Its main responsibility is to transfer fundamental tourism principles to developing countries while considering the economic benefits of tourism development and sustainable policies that do not harm

local cultures. Additionally, the organization conducts significant activities related to tourism statistics, market research, and academic studies. Research is one of the most crucial contributions of this organization to the tourism sector, along with human resource development through standardized education and talent assessment. Furthermore, the organization organizes seminars and distance-learning courses tailored to this field (Badrafshan, 2017).

Each year, the World Tourism Organization announces slogans to promote tourism, including: "Tourism and Quality of Life" (1981), "Information, Communication, and Education as the Driving Force of Tourism Development" (1991), "Tourism to Connect Continents" (1992), "Tourism Development and Environmental Protection Towards a Sustainable Balance" (1993), "One Billion Tourists, One Billion Opportunities" (2015), "Tourism for All: Promoting Universal Accessibility" (2016), "Sustainable Tourism as a Tool for Development" (2017), "Tourism and Digital Transformation" (2018), and "Tourism and Rural Development" (2020). Notably, in 2001, Iran hosted the annual World Tourism Day summit under the slogan "Tourism as a Tool for Peace and Dialogue Among Civilizations" (Ghaeni, 2021).

### 2.1. *Responsibilities and Participation of the World Tourism Organization*

The major programs of the World Tourism Organization include strengthening the role of tourism as a vital factor in global trade, emphasizing the cultural and social impacts of tourism on nations, protecting the interests and rights of tourists and tourism organizations, and maintaining constant oversight on environmental conservation and improvements in living standards. Additionally, its general programs include cooperation for development, statistical and market research, communication and documentation, education, environmental planning, and policy formulation (Ghaeni, 2021).

As an international organization and a specialized agency of the United Nations, the World Tourism Organization is the most recognized international entity dedicated to the development and promotion of travel and tourism. It plays a crucial role in shaping policies for this industry and is responsible for advancing the boundaries of knowledge and the tourism sector worldwide. It serves as a hub for discussions among

countries regarding policies, scientific research, tourism-related technologies, and knowledge exchange in the tourism industry.

Thus, the World Tourism Organization can be regarded as a unique entity within the United Nations, responsible for the proper management of the tourism industry. By promoting destinations and raising awareness among tourists, the organization plays a significant role in generating economic benefits for countries.

Article 3 of the World Tourism Organization's statute outlines its objectives under two main pillars. According to this article, the organization's primary goal is to encourage and expand tourism to contribute to economic development, international understanding, peace, well-being, and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination based on race, gender, language, or religion. The organization adopts necessary measures to achieve this goal, with special attention to the interests of developing countries in the field of tourism.

Additionally, under its statute, the organization is committed to maintaining effective cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to fulfill its primary role in tourism. In this regard, the organization participates as a contributing and executive entity in cooperation and partnership initiatives within the framework of the United Nations Development Program (Ghaeni, 2021).

It should be noted that one of the organization's mandated programs is to achieve the "Millennium Development Goals," which were agreed upon at the United Nations in 2000. These goals include poverty eradication, universal primary education, gender equality and women's empowerment, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and fostering global partnerships for development (Mikhaeil, 2004). These studies have had a significant and influential impact on the global tourism sector. As a result of the organization's research, international standards for measuring the economic impact of tourism and forecasting its future development trends are made accessible to the global public.

## 2.2. *Crime Prevention Methods*

Crime prevention, or delinquency prevention, has been defined by criminologists in both broad and narrow senses (general and specific). In the general sense, prevention includes all measures and actions aimed at preventing crime. Under this definition, both punitive (reactive) and non-punitive (proactive) actions fall within the scope of crime prevention.

In the specific sense, crime prevention encompasses a set of non-punitive (proactive) measures aimed at combating delinquency by reducing or eliminating criminogenic factors and influencing pre-criminal situations. This approach seeks to impact individuals' personalities and circumstances before the commission of a crime using proactive mechanisms.

This proactive preventive approach (specific prevention) was first seriously introduced by Enrico Ferri, one of the founders of the positivist school, and was distinguished from purely reactive (punitive) preventive measures (Takht-Ravan, 2024).

Various classifications exist regarding crime and crime prevention. A broad classification divides prevention into three categories: social prevention, situational prevention, and policing prevention.

## 2.3. *Social Prevention*

Two perspectives, both theoretical and practical, have been emphasized in this regard. These two approaches are categorized as structural or architectural approaches and recreational approaches within the framework of "leisure time." The structural and environmental approach focuses on urban planning, including the construction of streets, neighborhoods, and new urban developments, incorporating security considerations to prevent crime. The architectural and environmental approach aims to eliminate blind spots in building designs that may facilitate criminal activities. Therefore, urban planning, including the construction of cities, residential blocks, and towers, should be informed by criminological and sociological studies (Sharifi, 2015, p. 2).

## 2.4. *Situational Prevention*

This type of prevention seeks to limit or eliminate crime opportunities, conditions, and circumstances that

facilitate crime. It is particularly applicable to intentional crimes, such as theft or homicides involving prior relationships between the perpetrator and the victim (conflict-related murders) (Sharifi, 2015, p. 3).

Situational prevention requires investment in crime deterrence by increasing the costs and risks associated with committing crimes, which has always been a concern for many offenders. This approach shifts the focus from the perpetrator to the environment. Situational prevention, which prioritizes reducing crime opportunities, is supported by theories related to routine activities and lifestyle approaches.

### 2.5. Policing Prevention

Traditionally, police interventions occur after a crime has been committed. However, administrative police and non-enforcement police units are expected to take proactive measures based on social and cultural conditions to prevent crime and deviance before they occur. Public participation plays a significant role in enhancing police efficiency in preventive measures.

In all countries, the primary duties of the police include maintaining order, ensuring public and individual security, detecting crimes, and preventing their occurrence. The police (law enforcement agencies) are the main law enforcement force in most countries. Since tourists often face more challenges than local residents and are at greater risk of crime, threats, and dangers, they require special attention and additional protection (Sharifi, 2015).

Given the prevalence of crimes against tourists and their specific vulnerabilities, special protective measures for them are even more necessary. In response to the recommendation of the World Tourism Organization advocating for the establishment of a tourism police force in each country or city, some countries have created specialized police units with distinct responsibilities and carefully selected personnel.

Tourism police units have been established in many member states of the World Tourism Organization, including Egypt, Greece, Cyprus, Syria, Mexico, Florida (USA), Italy, Spain, Ireland, Slovenia, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Hawaii, South Africa, and others (Sharifi, 2015, p. 13).

Theoretical frameworks explaining crimes against tourists emphasize situational and opportunity factors. Therefore, preventive strategies against crimes targeting

tourists should focus on eliminating opportunities and intervening in pre-crime conditions. This aligns with situational crime prevention and environmental social prevention theories. It is crucial to recognize that criminals and terrorists target tourists based on opportunity and situational factors. Thus, preventive actions should focus on eliminating these opportunities before crimes occur.

### 2.6. Cooperation and Coordination Among Relevant Institutions

Enhancing cooperation and communication among law enforcement agencies, tourism departments, various organizations, and private sector stakeholders in the tourism industry, such as hotel operators and travel agency managers, leads to more effective security measures for tourists. Additionally, media and advertising agencies should prevent the spread of negative public sentiments against tourism and avoid framing tourists as "legitimate and acceptable victims" (Sadoughi, 2019).

If a society or its structures explicitly or implicitly endorse or remain silent about anti-tourism activities, victimization of tourists becomes easier and more widespread. Ultimately, controlling tourism-related crimes and ensuring tourist safety—both essential for industry growth—require collective and coordinated actions.

#### 2.6.1. Police Measures

Building trust between police and tourists in a destination requires not only practical measures but also the creation of a security-oriented mindset among tourists. This mindset is achieved through police culture, which fosters security and trust. Police culture consists of actions, regulations, values, and operational principles that are applied consistently across various policing situations (Ziaei Beigdeli, 2010).

Thus, police culture can be a determining factor in gaining the trust of tourists. Studies on destination selection by tourists indicate that many travelers assess the work culture of security forces (police and law enforcement) and their reliability, as well as the crime rates in the destination, before making travel decisions (Abbaspour, 2022).

As a result, new types of administrative and judicial police forces with specialized tasks have been created alongside traditional law enforcement, such as riot police and judicial police. One of the most recent examples is tourism police. In some countries, special departments and divisions have been established, based on World Tourism Organization recommendations, to protect and support tourists. These tourism police forces are more effective than local police in communicating with tourists in their native language or an international language, handling cases involving tourists, and ultimately enhancing the long-term reputation of tourism (Sharifi, 2015).

Additionally, police patrol efficiency in high-crime tourist areas, especially at night, should be improved and expanded. Guidelines should be developed to enhance these efforts, and incentives should be provided to police officers to ensure better engagement in tourism-related crime prevention.

#### 2.6.2. *Tourism Authorities*

Tourism officials, as the primary custodians of the industry, should provide tourists with educational brochures, guidance, and advisory materials to inform them of potential risks and threats. Regular security and safety training should also be offered to tourism industry workers.

The purpose of these brochures and guides is to increase tourists' awareness of locations that may pose risks or threats. These materials should offer necessary warnings, highlight the general locations of unsafe areas, and outline precautionary measures. Additionally, such information should include details about high-crime zones around tourism establishments and public tourist areas, as well as other essential safety information.

For example, in Thailand, authorities have installed posters warning tourists about fraud and scams related to jewelry and valuable goods. These posters advise tourists to keep their valuables hidden and secure. In the Caribbean and other destinations, tourists are encouraged to dress modestly outside designated swimming areas to avoid provoking local sensitivities or causing conflicts (Mousavi, 2018). Tourists are also advised on price gouging and are recommended to buy from trusted and officially approved vendors who display government-issued price tags.

#### 2.6.3. *The Role of Public Awareness and Education*

Educating the public and local communities about the benefits of tourism as a means of promoting peace and dialogue among civilizations is essential. This can be achieved through the installation of signs symbolizing local hospitality toward tourists, as well as through efforts in mass media, schools, and universities. Such initiatives in densely populated tourist destinations can serve as both immediate and long-term effective measures (Mousavi, 2018). This approach enhances social control and informal community-based surveillance, which, alongside other strategies, is one of the most effective preventive measures. Long-term strategies include programs to engage the public and short-term measures such as allocating a percentage of tourism-generated revenue to local communities or offering loans to improve tourism services. These efforts not only reduce hostility toward the tourism industry but also encourage greater community participation and oversight, thereby reducing opportunities for potential offenders to commit crimes.

#### 2.6.4. *Tourist Precautionary Measures*

Tourists can play a crucial role in ensuring a safe and enjoyable travel experience alongside tourism managers and institutions. Visitors can enhance their security by following these guidelines:

1. Using a map to plan their route in advance and opting for well-traveled paths whenever possible.
2. Traveling with a companion in the evening, avoiding poorly lit or dark areas, and refraining from leaving their accommodations at night.
3. Removing valuables from their vehicle before leaving, even for a short period.
4. Locking windows and doors when leaving their accommodation and keeping valuables out of sight.
5. Being particularly cautious when walking in dark parking areas.
6. Storing hotel room keys securely when leaving for leisure activities, such as swimming, or entrusting them to hotel reception staff.
7. Paying close attention to the recommendations of law enforcement officers, tour managers, or

other responsible individuals and following their instructions.

8. Traveling with reputable and officially licensed tour operators.
9. Respecting local customs, traditions, and regulations and avoiding public criticism of local culture and traditions, as such behavior could contribute to victimization by creating opportunities for crime (Mahdavi, 2021).

#### 2.6.5. *Hotels and Tour Guides*

One of the most effective preventive measures is for tour leaders and guides to wear police-style uniforms (without weapons) and patrol areas where large numbers of tourists gather during the day. The visible presence of uniformed personnel serves as a deterrent to criminal activity. These individuals are often employees of government tourism departments.

Hotel staff and security personnel can provide informal surveillance and protection, reducing the likelihood of crimes against tourists. They can distribute safety messages to newly arrived guests or post them in visible locations, such as hotel rooms, restaurants, and accommodations. These notices may include safety tips such as securing room doors and windows, locking unattended vehicles, carrying minimal cash, and storing valuables in concealed locations (Mahdavi, 2021).

Additionally, hotel staff, taxi drivers, vendors, and other locals who frequently interact with tourists serve as valuable sources of safety advice. These individuals can remind guests of security precautions or implement protective measures themselves to reduce tourist victimization.

#### 2.6.6. *Crime Prevention in Hotels*

Crimes targeting tourists in hotels and lodging facilities are often characterized by their speed and efficiency. This rapid execution is facilitated by two factors:

- a) Access to detailed architectural plans of the buildings.
- b) Physical agility, which is further enabled by the design of the building (Mostafaei, 2019).

Therefore, access to architectural plans and building layouts should be restricted and not made public during or after construction. There have been numerous cases where access to such plans has played a critical role in planning deadly criminal attacks. Moreover, after a crime

or terrorist attack, perpetrators can escape quickly, whereas residents may suffer greater harm due to a lack of safe exits.

#### 2.6.7. *Crime Prevention in Transportation Systems*

Transportation systems encompass air travel, automobiles, buses, railways, and taxi services. Security concerns related to each mode of transport are discussed below:

##### **Airports and Airlines:**

Security negligence at airports can lead to violent incidents such as hijackings, hostage situations, bomb threats, and other acts of terrorism. Such incidents receive widespread media coverage and often result in the cancellation of many planned trips to the affected country.

Transportation authorities, related companies, and international aviation organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), have established comprehensive security protocols for aircraft, passengers, luggage, and airports. To prevent such incidents in tourist destinations, close cooperation among tourists, transport authorities, and security personnel is essential to ensure that airline services operate under the highest security standards. Committees dedicated to security issues play a crucial role in approving aircraft safety measures, screening passengers and cargo, and ensuring safe storage and flight operations (A. Mahmoudi, 2020).

Air transport-related crimes are governed by international conventions, including the Warsaw Convention, the Tokyo Convention, the Hague Convention, and the Montreal Convention, along with their supplementary protocols.

##### **Automobile Travel:**

Many tourists travel by personal or rental cars. Security concerns for road travel include accidents, mechanical failures, and theft. Addressing the needs of victims in such situations requires enhanced roadside telephone access, emergency rescue personnel, medical and first aid teams, mechanics, improved communication facilities, and staff capable of speaking tourists' languages.

Traffic signs and information boards are essential for managing tourist traffic, as visitors may be unfamiliar with their destination and could encounter difficulties

navigating their routes. In tourist-heavy areas, adequate information kiosks, rest stops, scenic viewpoints, and signs highlighting natural and historical landmarks should be installed. These measures contribute to safer and more enjoyable travel experiences (Molayi, 2019).

A natural approach for tourism authorities to enhance vehicle security is to collaborate with national automobile clubs, which often represent the "International Touring Alliance" and the "International Automobile Federation."

#### **Bus Travel:**

A significant portion of tourism, particularly domestic travel, is conducted via buses (Izadi, 2023).

Bus passengers often include retirees, elderly individuals, and schoolchildren, who may be less capable of self-rescue in case of accidents. Given these concerns, tourism authorities must collaborate with relevant officials, terminal administrators, and passenger transport companies to develop security standards. For example, bus operators and manufacturers can work together to design and implement safer buses.

In Europe, the Council of Europe has established regulations for international passenger transport by bus. These regulations address rest periods, technical vehicle aspects, road safety measures, and other relevant issues. Bus drivers must undergo rigorous examinations and meet high skill standards before receiving their licenses, as they are responsible for the safety and well-being of many passengers. In many countries, drivers are now required to undergo medical examinations, participate in training programs, and comply with stringent licensing requirements.

#### **Rail Travel:**

Security concerns at railway stations and terminals generally involve petty theft, pickpocketing, drug trafficking, begging, vagrancy, and other minor offenses (Hosseini, 2020).

Railway station administrators and local tourism officials must work closely together to ensure that these environments remain clean, secure, and free from potential offenders. Increased attention to station security can lead to a reduction in crime within these locations. The key issues related to passenger security are addressed in the International Convention on Rail Transport (adopted on May 9, 1980), which was later amended by the 1990 Protocol.

In tourist areas, some individuals may exploit opportunities to commit crimes against visitors. Tourists often carry substantial amounts of cash, jewelry, and valuables such as cameras, making them attractive targets for thieves, who can easily sell stolen items.

Ultimately, through education, policing efforts, support from local communities, and coordination with tourism organizations, such incidents can be prevented (Mirzaei, 2021).

Therefore, by adhering to safety measures, educating tourists in advance, and fostering cooperation among relevant agencies and organizations, authorities can fulfill their duties in implementing effective crime prevention strategies.

### **3. Conclusion**

As discussed, combating terrorism in tourism requires a comprehensive and multilateral approach that encompasses security, social, economic, and cultural measures. Throughout history, criminals have engaged in attacks and crimes for personal gain, and the most effective way to counter them is to prevent their access to opportunities for committing such acts.

To enhance security in tourism and prevent crimes, international organizations must collaborate with other institutions, facilitating the exchange of information and experiences among countries to identify and mitigate terrorist threats. Cooperation with international organizations such as the World Tourism Organization, international aviation and flight security organizations, INTERPOL, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and UNESCO is crucial in these efforts.

Tourism stakeholders must take all necessary precautions to prevent crimes against tourists and their property. They should also make every effort to ensure that tourism police have the financial and logistical resources required to carry out their duties effectively. Through training, collaboration, and support for tourism officials, tourism police can fulfill their mission of crime prevention and crime reduction more effectively.

Another effective measure to address the increase in crime in tourist areas is to involve individuals who work near these sites as the "eyes and ears" of the police (community surveillance). Local shopkeepers, security guards, caretakers, vendors, and other street workers should be encouraged to report suspicious activities to

law enforcement before crimes occur. In some tourist destinations, beachfront hotels alert one another to theft incidents occurring along the shore. Additionally, police involvement in coordinating efforts to identify perpetrators plays a crucial role in crime prevention. Publicizing the fact that local residents and vendors cooperate with law enforcement has a strong deterrent effect, significantly increasing the perceived influence of the police on potential offenders.

Thus, security and tourism are interdependent elements that function within a reciprocal relationship, directly influencing one another. Increasing police patrols and enhancing the presence of law enforcement in tourist areas can serve as an effective tool in preventing crimes against tourists. This security presence may involve specialized tourism police, regular law enforcement, or private security personnel stationed in hotels and tourist accommodations.

Ultimately, crime prevention and the protection of tourists require extensive cooperation among governments, international organizations, private entities, and non-governmental organizations. This collaboration should include the exchange of intelligence, educational programs, infrastructure enhancements, and public awareness initiatives to create a safe environment for tourists.

Terrorist attacks have a significant negative impact on tourism demand. A country experiencing high rates of crime against tourists and frequent terrorist incidents will inevitably witness a decline in international tourist arrivals. Destinations that offer psychological and physical security to visitors become more desirable and are prioritized by travelers when choosing their destinations.

#### Authors' Contributions

Authors contributed equally to this article.

#### Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

#### Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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#### Ethical Considerations

In this research, ethical standards including obtaining informed consent, ensuring privacy and confidentiality were observed.

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