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## Home Sweet Home: Is It Safe?

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# HOME SWEET HOME: IS IT SAFE?

*Sarah Honkala*

Home sweet home—is there still such a place, and is it safe? After September 11, 2001, home doesn't feel like a safe, sweet place. It could be that in the last few years our world has become a more dangerous, and fearful place to live, or it could simply mean everyone living in the world has received a greater awareness of the dangerous, and fearful events that take place.

The good old television set faithfully broadcasts the latest news to Americans day and night. These news reports are filled with depressing, and terrifying messages. It is amazing that Americans can listen to a news report and still leave their homes. The access we have to information on the war of terror is amazingly broad. Years ago citizens would not have paid as much attention to the information received about terrorist activities. Terror activities were foreign to Americans, because they all took place on foreign soil. Even as the pictures flashed on the TV screen, it was so far away that it wasn't real. September 11<sup>th</sup> brought all of this closer to home and made it real.

Now Americans are very aware of terrorist attacks and activities. The leaders of our countries are leading campaigns against terrorist acts. News reporters are reporting stories of terrorists living among us. The focus of our country has shifted to show the balance between safety and fear tipping towards fear. News reports point out vulnerable areas that could be potential terrorist targets. We now have a system in place to show just how threatened we are everyday. September 11<sup>th</sup> has forced our government to share with us information that would have been reserved for only high-ranking intelligence officials before.

The world has not become a more treacherous place to live. Americans have just become more aware of a terror threat that has always been there. In a world where the latest news can be found on TV, computers, magazines, or newspapers, we perceive the information on terror threats differently when we know that America is not immune to terror attacks. The safety of our homes probably isn't any different then before September 11, 2003. But each American's awareness has changed. The awareness that each of us holds on terrorist acts makes it hard to feel safe anywhere in the world, even in our own—home, sweet, homes.