

Research Briefing

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# Proscribed terrorist organisations



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## Summary

The Government can proscribe organisations that it considers engage in or promote terrorism. When an organisation is proscribed, it becomes a criminal offence to belong to it or to support it.

This briefing describes the recent history and present status of proscribed organisations under the [Terrorism Act 2000](#).

## Proscription under the Terrorism Act 2000

Prior to the 2000 Act, proscription was exclusively concerned with terrorism connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland. Under the 2000 Act, proscription was extended to include organisations concerned with both domestic and international terrorism.

The Home Secretary may proscribe an organisation if they believe it is “concerned in terrorism”. If the Home Secretary believes that an organisation meets this statutory test, they must then decide whether to proscribe the organisation. In doing so, they must take into account various policy considerations.

## Consequences of proscription

The 2000 Act sets out a number of proscription offences. These include:

- belonging to or inviting support for a proscribed organisation
- arranging or assisting with the arrangement of a meeting that supports a proscribed organisation
- addressing such a meeting
- wearing clothing or displaying articles in public which arouse suspicion of membership or support of a proscribed organisation.

The maximum penalty for these offences (except wearing clothing or displaying images) is 10 years’ imprisonment and/or a fine.

The Government can also impose financial sanctions on proscribed organisations.

## Current proscribed organisations

As of March 2024 there were 80 international terrorist groups proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 and 14 organisations in Northern Ireland proscribed under previous legislation. The most recent proscription orders concerned Hamas, the Wagner Group and Hizb ut Tahrir.

In November 2021 the Home Secretary announced that the Government had laid [an instrument to proscribe Hamas in its entirety](#); previously, the only the military wing of Hamas had been proscribed (since 2001).

In September 2023 the Government laid an [instrument to proscribe the Wagner Group](#), a private military organisation which has acted as a proxy for the Russian state. The Government considers it to be involved in committing acts of terrorism, including in relation to its involvement in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In January 2024 the Government [proscribed Hizb ut-Tahrir](#), a Sunni Islamist political organisation with the long-term goal of unifying Muslims worldwide and establishing a Caliphate under Shari'a law. The Government assesses that it is currently concerned in terrorism, and that articles were posted on its website celebrating and praising the 7 October 2023 attack by Hamas.

The annex to this paper includes a current list of proscribed organisations and a description of their activities.

## Criticisms of the proscription regime

Proscription has been characterised as a powerful deterrent, a way of tackling lower-level support for terrorism, and a signal of rejection by society. But questions have also been raised as to its utility in combating terrorism and its compatibility with the rule of law.

The former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Lord David Anderson KC, repeatedly recommended the introduction of time limits for proscription orders, as have his successors, Max Hill KC and the current IPTL, Jonathan Hall KC.

However, the Government has so far declined to follow these recommendations and currently de-proscription is done by way of application only. As a consequence, groups that no longer meet the statutory requirements for proscription continue to be proscribed; [Lord Anderson described this as “an affront to the rule of law”](#).

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# 1 What is a proscribed organisation?

Under the [Terrorism Act 2000](#), the Home Secretary can proscribe an organisation if they believe it is “concerned in terrorism”. For the purposes of the Act, this means that the organisation:

- commits or participates in acts of terrorism
- prepares for terrorism
- promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism), or
- is otherwise concerned in terrorism.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.1 How is terrorism defined?

“Terrorism”, as defined in [section 1](#) the 2000 Act, means the use or threat of action which:

- involves serious violence against a person
- involves serious damage to property
- endangers a person’s life (other than that of the person committing the act)
- creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or section of the public, or
- is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system.

The use or threat of such action must be designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public or a section of the public and be undertaken for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Section 3\(4\) and 3\(5\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>2</sup> [Section 1](#) Terrorism Act 2000

## 1.2 What is an organisation?

[Section 121](#) of the 2000 Act defines an “organisation” as any association or combination of persons.<sup>3</sup>

As noted by Professor Clive Walker, this definition is wide enough to include informal or unofficial associations of people, such as affinity groups, “anarchistic disorganisations”, diffuse networks such as Al-Qa’ida and self-generating combinations.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.3 What policy factors are considered?

If the Secretary of State believes that an organisation is “concerned in terrorism”, they have a discretion to decide whether to proscribe the organisation. In doing so, they will take into account a number of factors, including:

- the nature and scale of an organisation’s activities
- the specific threat that it poses to the UK
- the specific threat that it poses to British nationals overseas
- the extent of the organisation’s presence in the UK
- the need to support other members of the international community in the fight against terrorism.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [Section 121](#), Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>4</sup> C Walker, Blackstone’s Guide to the Anti-Terrorism Legislation, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, OUP 2014, p40

<sup>5</sup> As announced by the Secretary of State in 2001, see Explanatory Memorandum to the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment Order\) 2023](#), para 7.2.

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## 2 Proscription before the Terrorism Act 2000

Proscription has existed in UK law in one form or another since 1887. Since the Birmingham bombings by the IRA in 1974 it has been a permanent feature of the Government's approach to countering terrorism.<sup>6</sup>

Participation in organisations concerned in Irish terrorism was proscribed long before the 2000 Act.<sup>7</sup> Immediately before it came into force, the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 and the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1996 contained a number of criminal offences relating to membership of, or support for, proscribed organisations.

### 2.1 Proscribed organisations in the UK and Northern Ireland under precursor legislation

Organisations could be proscribed in the UK as a whole under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989 if they were concerned in, or promoted or encouraged, terrorism connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland.

The following organisations were proscribed in the UK as a whole under Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act:

- Irish Republican Army
- Irish National Liberation Army.

Organisations could be proscribed in Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act 1996 if they were concerned in terrorism or in promoting or encouraging it. In practice, proscription under the 1996 Act was only applied to organisations connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland.

The following organisations were proscribed in Northern Ireland:

- The Irish Republican Army
- Cumann na mBan

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<sup>6</sup> Rasiah, N. 'Reviewing Proscription under the Terrorism Act 2000', *Judicial Review*, 2008, 187

<sup>7</sup> Walker, C., *Blackstone's Guide to the Anti-Terrorism Legislation*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., OUP 2014, p39

- Fianna na hEireann
- The Red Hand Commando
- Saor Eire
- The Ulster Freedom Fighters
- The Ulster Volunteer Force
- The Irish National Liberation Army
- The Irish People's Liberation Organisation
- The Ulster Defence Association
- The Loyalist Volunteer Force
- The Continuity Army Council
- The Orange Volunteers
- The Red Hand Defenders

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## 3 Proscription under the Terrorism Act 2000

### 3.1 The original list of proscribed organisations

The [Terrorism Act 2000](#) came into force on 19 February 2001. Part II of the Act merged the two separate lists of organisations proscribed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989 and Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act 1996 into a single list. It also established a proscription regime that applies across the whole of the UK, rather than having a separate list of proscribed organisations in Northern Ireland.

It also extended the scope of proscription by making it possible for organisations concerned with international or domestic terrorism to be proscribed, as well as those concerned with terrorism connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland.

Under the 2000 Act, an organisation is proscribed if it is listed in [Schedule 2](#) of the Act, or if it operates under the same name as an organisation listed in that Schedule.

### 3.2 Adding and removing organisations to the proscribed list

[Section 3](#) of the 2000 Act enables the Secretary of State to make orders adding or removing organisations from the list in [Schedule 2](#) or amending the Schedule in some other way.

These orders are subject to the [affirmative procedure](#) and therefore require the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The debates on such orders can only result in the orders being approved or not approved. The orders themselves cannot be amended during the debates on them.

### 3.3 Grounds for proscription

Under [section 3\(4\)](#) of the 2000 Act, the Secretary of State may only exercise the power to add an organisation to the list of proscribed organisations under

Schedule 2 if they believe that it is “concerned in terrorism”. As defined in section 3(5) of the 2000 Act, an organisation is concerned in terrorism if it:

- commits or participates in acts of terrorism
- prepares for terrorism
- promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism), or
- is otherwise concerned in terrorism.<sup>8</sup>

[Section 21](#) of the Terrorism Act 2006 widened the grounds of proscription<sup>9</sup> to include the “unlawful glorification” of the commission or preparation of terrorism, whether in the past, the future, or in general.<sup>10</sup> This also includes activities which are carried out in a manner that associates the organisation with any statements containing glorification.

A “statement” includes communication without words consisting of sounds or images or both.<sup>11</sup> “Glorification” is defined as “any form of praise or celebration”.<sup>12</sup> Such glorification is unlawful if someone might reasonably infer that the commission or preparation of terrorism being glorified is either:

- Conduct that should be emulated in existing circumstances, or
- Conduct that is illustrative of a type of conduct that should be so emulated.<sup>13</sup>

## 3.4

## Aliases

[Section 22](#) of the Terrorism Act 2006 also inserted new provisions into section 3 of the 2000 Act enabling the Secretary of State to make orders specifying alternative names when an organisation listed in [Schedule 2](#) to the 2000 Act is operating under a different name.

While orders adding or removing organisations from the list in Schedule 2 are subject to the affirmative procedure and must be approved by both Houses of Parliament, those made under the new provisions relating to changes to the name of a proscribed organisation are subject to the [negative procedure](#), and therefore become law automatically unless either the Commons or the Lords rejects it.

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<sup>8</sup> [Section 3\(4\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000, as amended by the Terrorism Act 2006 and the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008

<sup>9</sup> Inserting new subsections (5A), (5B), and (5C) into section 3 of the 2000 Act

<sup>10</sup> [Section 21](#) Terrorism Act 2006

<sup>11</sup> [Section 3\(5C\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>12</sup> [Section 3\(5C\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>13</sup> [Section 3\(5B\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

## 3.5

## Proscription offences and sanctions

## Offences

Under the 2000 Act, it is a criminal offence to:<sup>14</sup>

- belong, or profess to belong, to a proscribed organisation in the UK or overseas (note that this offence has extra-territorial effect).<sup>15</sup>
- invite support for a proscribed organisation (and the support is not, or is not restricted to the provision of money or other property).<sup>16</sup>
- express an opinion or belief that is supportive of a proscribed organisation, being reckless as to whether doing so will encourage someone to support it.<sup>17</sup>
- arrange, manage or assist in arranging or managing a meeting in the knowledge that the meeting is to support or further the activities of a proscribed organisation, or is to be addressed by a person who belongs or professes to belong to a proscribed organisation.<sup>18</sup>
- address a meeting if the purpose of the address is to encourage support for, or further the activities of, a proscribed organisation.<sup>19</sup>
- wear clothing or carry or display articles in public in such a way or in such circumstances as arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of the proscribed organisation.<sup>20</sup>
- publish an image of clothing or an article in a way that arouses reasonable suspicion that the person doing so is a member of a proscribed organisation.<sup>21</sup>

It is only an offence to arrange or manage a private meeting if this is done with knowledge that the meeting will be addressed by a person who belongs to a proscribed organisation.

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<sup>14</sup> The scope of certain proscription offences (under sections 12 and 13 of the 2000 Act) was expanded by the [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019](#), which also extended extra-territorial jurisdiction to those offences.

<sup>15</sup> [Section 11](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>16</sup> [Section 12\(1\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>17</sup> Section 12(1A) Terrorism Act 2000, as amended by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019

<sup>18</sup> [Section 12\(2\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>19</sup> [Section 12\(3\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>20</sup> [Section 13](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>21</sup> Section 13 (1A) Terrorism Act 2000, as amended by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019

A meeting is private if the public are not admitted.<sup>22</sup> [Section 12\(4\)](#) of the 2000 Act provides for a defence if a person can prove they had no reasonable cause to believe that the address would support a proscribed organisation or further its activities.<sup>23</sup>

## Sanctions and penalties

Proscription means that the financial assets of the organisation become terrorist property and the Government can freeze them (prevent them from being used) or seize them (take possession of them).<sup>24</sup>

The penalties for most of the proscription offences are a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment and/or a fine. The maximum penalty for the offences of wearing, displaying or publishing images of articles or clothing associated with a proscribed organisation is six months' imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding £5000.<sup>25</sup>

## 3.6 How proscription relates to other executive powers

Once a proscription (or name change) order has been made, the Proscription Review Group Secretariat informs other partners, including the Special Cases Unit (which deals with immigration disruptions), members of the Asset Freeze Working Group, the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit, and certain foreign governments.<sup>26</sup>

## 3.7 The current list of proscribed organisations

The Government has made numerous additions to the original list of proscribed organisations by introducing orders under section 3 of the 2000 Act. A [Home Office memorandum](#) (last updated January 2024) sets out the full list of proscribed organisations that have been added to the original list, together with an overview of the organisations and information relevant to their proscription.

There are currently 80 organisations proscribed under the 2000 Act, plus 14 organisations in Northern Ireland that were proscribed under previous

<sup>22</sup> [Section 12\(5\)\(b\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>23</sup> [Section 12\(4\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000. The [Explanatory Note](#) states that this section is intended to permit the arranging of genuinely benign meetings.

<sup>24</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment Order\) 2011](#), para 7.3

<sup>25</sup> [Sections 11\(3\) and 12\(6\)](#) Terrorism Act 2000

<sup>26</sup> David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2015](#) (PDF), December 2016, p29, para 5.11

legislation.<sup>27</sup> In December 2016, [National Action](#) became the first extreme right-wing group to be proscribed as a terrorist organisation. The current list is included in chronological order in the annex to this paper.

## Recent additions

### Hezbollah

In February 2019, the Government laid an order to extend proscription of the military wing of Hezbollah, an armed political group formed during Lebanon's civil war in 1982, to the entire organisation.<sup>28</sup>

The Government had previously distinguished between the political and military wings of the organisation. During a debate on the proscription of Hezbollah in the House of Commons in January 2018, the Government took the position that it would be difficult to separate Hezbollah from the state of Lebanon because it was represented in the Lebanese Parliament and Government.<sup>29</sup>

When the then Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, announced that Hezbollah would be proscribed in its entirety in 2019, he explained that “we are no longer able to distinguish between their already banned military wing and the political party”. The [press release](#) further stated “Decisions about proscribing or extending the proscription of a particular organisation are taken after extensive consideration and in light of a full assessment of available information”.

The explanatory memorandum to the proscription order says that the decision was based in part on the fact that Hezbollah itself has publicly denied a distinction between its military and political wings. It further notes that the US, Canada, Netherlands, Israel, Gulf Co-operation Council and Bahrain designate the group in its entirety as a terrorist organisation.<sup>30</sup>

During the debate on the motion to approve the order, the Home Secretary explained its intended effect:

... this order will make membership of any part of Hezbollah a criminal offence in the UK. it will give police the power to tackle those who fly its gun-emblazoned flag on our streets, inflaming community tensions. It will give us more power to disrupt the activity of an organisation who are committed to armed combat, who violently oppose the Israeli people, who destabilise a fragile middle east, who helped to prolong the brutal Syrian conflict, and whose attacks have reached into Europe.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Press release, [Hizballah to be banned alongside other terrorist organisations](#), 25 February 2019

<sup>28</sup> [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019](#)

<sup>29</sup> [HC Deb 25 January 2018 cc478-514](#)

<sup>30</sup> Explanatory memorandum to the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019](#), paras 7.5-7.6

<sup>31</sup> [HC Deb, 26 February 2019, cc281-282](#)

The Opposition did not oppose the order, but questioned whether it would make it difficult to maintain normal diplomatic relations with Lebanon or to work with the Government on humanitarian issues, as had previously been asserted.<sup>32</sup>

### White supremacist organisations

In 2020 and 2021 four organisations were proscribed which share a white supremacist ideology: Sonnenkrieg Division; Feuerkrieg Division; Atomwaffen Division (also known as National Socialist Order); and, The Base.<sup>33</sup>

### Hamas

In November 2021, the Government laid an order to proscribe Hamas, a political and military organisation primarily based in Gaza, in its entirety.<sup>34</sup> The order substituted the existing listing for part of the organisation - “Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades” - for “Harakat al Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas)”.

The explanatory memorandum states that the distinction between the different parts of the organisation was based on the fact that it was possible to distinguish the military wing from the political wing, and that only the military wing was engaged in terrorism. The Government now believes that this distinction is artificial, and that “Hamas is a complex but single terrorist organisation”.<sup>35</sup>

The explanatory memorandum sets out the following examples to underpin its assessment that Hamas commits, participates in, and prepares for acts of terrorism:

- Hamas has used indiscriminate rocket or mortar attacks, and raids against Israeli targets. During the May 2021 conflict, over 4000 rockets were fired indiscriminately into Israel. Civilians, including two Israeli children, were killed as a result.
- Palestinian militant groups, including Hamas, frequently use incendiary balloons to launch attacks from Gaza into southern Israel. There was a spate of incendiary balloon attacks from Gaza during June and July 2021, causing fires in communities in southern Israel that resulted in serious damage to property.
- The Government assesses that Hamas prepares for acts of terrorism. One incident of preparatory activity is that Hamas recently launched summer camps in Gaza which focus on training groups, including minors, to fight. This is evidence of Hamas being responsible for running terrorist training camps in the region. In a press statement, Hamas described the aim of

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<sup>32</sup> As above, cc290-291

<sup>33</sup> [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2020](#); [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2020](#); [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#); [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2021](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Order 2021](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Explanatory memorandum](#), 7.2

these camps as to “ignite the embers of Jihad in the liberation generation, cultivate Islamic values and prepare the expected victory army to liberate Palestine.”<sup>36</sup>

The Government also assesses that Hamas promotes and encourages terrorism.

### Wagner Group

In September 2023 the Government laid an instrument to proscribe the Wagner Group, described as a Russian Private Military Company that has acted as a proxy military force on behalf of the Russian state.<sup>37</sup> Since being founded in 2014, it has operated in pursuit of Russia’s foreign policy objectives, as well as those of other governments that have contracted its services, including in Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa.

The explanatory memorandum states that the Government’s view that it commits and participates in terrorism is based on its use of serious violence against Ukrainian Armed Forces, and against citizens to advance Russia’s political cause.<sup>38</sup>

### Hizb ut Tahrir

In January 2024 the Government laid an instrument to proscribe Hizb ut-Tahrir. It described it as a Sunni Islamist political organisation with a footprint in at least 32 countries and a long-term goal to unify Muslims and establish a caliphate under Sharia law. It has a UK branch, Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain, which is part of a coherent international organisation, according to the Government’s assessment.<sup>39</sup>

The explanatory memorandum states the Government’s view that Hizb ut-Tahrir promotes and encourages terrorism. It notes that a number of articles were posted on its website celebrating and praising Hamas’s 7 October 2023 attack on Israel. These messages cannot be decoupled from previous expressions of antisemitic ideology and constitute the promotion and encouragement of terrorism, according to the Government’s assessment.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> [Explanatory memorandum](#), 7.3-7.5

<sup>37</sup> [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations \(Amendment\) Order 2023](#)

<sup>38</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2023](#) (PDF), para 7.4

<sup>39</sup> [Explanatory memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2024](#) (PDF), para 7.4

<sup>40</sup> As above, para 7.6

## Recent debate about proscription of other organisations

### Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

There have been ongoing calls for the proscription of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in recent years from across Parliament.

The IRGC is an Iranian state military and intelligence service, introduced following the 1979 revolution as a counterweight to Iran’s regular armed forces. Its external arm is proscribed by the US as a terrorist organisation.<sup>41</sup>

In the United Kingdom, the IRGC have also been linked to kidnap and assassination plots. In February 2023, UK counter-terrorism police said there had been 15 such plots by Iran since 2020. These included threats to journalists and attempts to collect intelligence on UK-based individuals linked to Iran or Israel.<sup>42</sup>

The Shadow Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, has said Labour would support proscription, “either by using existing terrorism legislation or by creating a new process of proscription for hostile state actors”.<sup>43</sup>

The Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Alicia Kearns, has said the group should be proscribed.<sup>44</sup> However, in January 2024 she warned “Iran will see it as an act of war [...] [and] we will likely have to close our embassy”.<sup>45</sup> Iran’s Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, has previously said labelling the IRGC as a terrorist organisation would be interpreted by Iran as a “serious escalation”.<sup>46</sup>

The former Defence Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, and former Home Office Minister, Robert Jenrick, have argued the IRGC should be proscribed.<sup>47</sup>

The SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, Brendon O’Hara, and the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Sir Ed Davey, have also backed proscription.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> As set out in the [US State Department on country report](#) on terrorism by Iran, the IRGC’s Qod’s Force (its external arm), designated a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States in 2019, is Iran’s “primary mechanism for cultivating and supporting terrorist activity abroad”, including in Syria and Iraq. In December 2023, the UK and US also [announced new sanctions](#) in response to the IRGC Qod Force’s support for Hamas in Gaza.

<sup>42</sup> [Hostile-state threat probes grown fourfold—police](#), BBC News, 16 February 2023; HC Deb, [20 February 2023](#), c50

<sup>43</sup> HC Deb, [31 January 2023](#), c186

<sup>44</sup> [HC Deb 16 October 2023, c29](#)

<sup>45</sup> HC Deb, [24 January 2024](#), c361

<sup>46</sup> [‘Terrorist’ designation for Iran’s IRGC would harm EU security](#), Al-Jazeera, 23 January 2023

<sup>47</sup> HC Deb, [16 October 2023](#), c37, [Britain must proscribe Iran’s IRGC \[...\]](#), The Telegraph, 20 January 2024

<sup>48</sup> HC Deb, [6 July 2023](#), c1001; HC Deb, [16 October 2023](#), c28

Previously, in 2020, the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee had argued proscribing the IRGC was “a logical extension of the existing restrictions placed” on IRGC members.<sup>49</sup>

In January 2023, the Commons also debated, and agreed to, a motion on Iran which included a request for the Government to proscribe the IRGC.<sup>50</sup> In April 2023 and November 2023 a cross-party group of MPs and members of the House of Lords also wrote to the Government urging proscription.<sup>51</sup>

The US decided to designate the IRGC a foreign terrorist group in 2019. Analysis for the Washington Institute, an American think tank focused US foreign policy in the Middle East, notes that the practical effects of the decision were limited given that wider sanctions had already been applied. But it also argued the decision sent, and continues to send, an important message to Iran about its actions both abroad and at home.<sup>52</sup>

Research for the Tony Blair Institute think tank in 2023 argues that the group meets the [criteria for proscription](#) under the Terrorism Act 2000 and that proscribing the IRGC would “send a clear message” that Iranian activity in the UK “will not be tolerated”.<sup>53</sup>

In January 2023 Jonathan Hall KC, the government’s Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, advised that proscribing the IRGC, a state entity of Iran, under the Terrorism Act would be “at the risk of upsetting the settled meaning of terrorism in domestic law” which had, to date, excluded the armed forces of nation-states.<sup>54</sup>

He reiterated this position in September, arguing that “proscription is saying that these groups shouldn’t exist at all [...] no one is saying that Iran should not have a security department, we just need to change its behaviour”.<sup>55</sup>

In September 2023, the UK’s Commissioner for Countering Extremism, Robin Simcox, said it was in the “national interest” to proscribe the IRGC as it supports proscribed groups around the world, and that it was “unsustainable” for it to remain legal for the IRGC to be hosted in UK institutions.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Foreign Affairs Committee, [No prosperity without justice: The UK’s relationship with Iran](#), 2020, para 50

<sup>50</sup> HC Deb, [12 January 2023](#), c772

<sup>51</sup> [More than 100 MPs sign letter to Rishi Sunak backing Iranian activist’s hunger strike \[...\]](#), The Standard, 19 April 2023; [Pressure mounts on Sunak to proscribe Iran’s revolutionary guard as terrorists](#), The Telegraph, 11 November 2023

<sup>52</sup> Washington Institute, [What will IRGC designation actually do?](#), 8 April 2019 and [Don’t drop Iran’s revolutionary guards from FTO list](#), 21 March 2022

<sup>53</sup> Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, [Making the case for the UK to proscribe Iran’s IRGC](#), 17 January 2023

<sup>54</sup> Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, [IRGC](#), 11 January 2023

<sup>55</sup> [Iran guards ‘shouldn’t be treated as a terror group’](#), The Times, 20 September 2023

<sup>56</sup> RUSI, [Countering extremist threats in the UK: An address by Robin Simcox](#), 19 October 2023

More recently, in response to a question from Jim Shannon (DUP), Security Minister Tom Tugendhat said that the Government does not routinely comment on whether an organisation is being considered for proscription, but that it “has long been clear about our concerns over the malign activity” of the IRGC. He also pointed to new powers to disrupt hostile state activity that came into effect in December 2023 under the National Security Act.<sup>57</sup>

Layla Moran (Lib Dem) suggested in a debate on the situation in the Red Sea that “Iran has been using Lloyds and Santander accounts to evade sanctions” and that the US had accused “front companies of funding the IRGC with hundreds of millions of dollars and working with Russian intelligence to raise money for Iranian proxies. She suggested that as a result, “money laundered [in London] is being used against our own troops by the Houthis” and that this showed that the IRGC should be proscribed.

The Secretary of State, Grant Shapps, said that the Government does not routinely comment on proscription, and that the IRGC had been sanctioned.<sup>58</sup>

### Houthi

The Houthis are a Yemeni armed group, who in 2014 seized control of Yemen’s capital, Sana’a, marking the [beginning of a multi-sided conflict in Yemen](#). The Houthis are in conflict with the internationally recognised Government of Yemen, which has been backed militarily by a Saudi-led coalition since 2015. The Houthis now control much of northern Yemen and the majority of its population.<sup>59</sup>

In response to the recent Houthi attacks, on 17 January the US announced [it will designate the Houthis as a specially designated global terrorist group](#).

In a debate on the situation in the Red Sea, Rehman Chishti (Con) noted that the Government had classified the actions of the Houthi as terrorist and said that they pose a significant threat to British interests. He referred to a number of other non-state actors that are currently proscribed, and questioned the Government’s approach by contrast with that of the US.

Grant Shapps explained that the US takes a different approach to proscription, and that the UK had sanctioned some high-profile individuals. He said that it was necessary to get the balance right between ensuring food aid can reach Yemen, and full proscription.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> [UIN 11332, 30 January 2024](#)

<sup>58</sup> [HC Deb 5 February 2024](#), c27

<sup>59</sup> For further detail see Commons Library Briefing [UK and international response to Houthis in the Red Sea 2024](#), 1 March 2024

<sup>60</sup> [HC Deb 5 February 2024](#), c33

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## 4 Appeals against proscription

### 4.1 How can an organisation be de-proscribed?

[Sections 4 to 6 of the Terrorism Act 2000](#) set out how organisations can be de-proscribed and how to appeal against a refusal. The procedure is as follows:

- The Home Secretary will consider de-proscription only when an organisation applies for it.
- The organisation (or any person affected by a proscription) can submit a signed, written application to the Home Secretary requesting that they consider whether a specified organisation should be removed from the list of proscribed organisations.
- The application must set out the grounds on which it is made.<sup>61</sup>
- The Home Secretary must determine the application within 90 days of receiving it.
- If the Home Secretary refuses to de-proscribe an organisation, the applicant can appeal to the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission.
- The commission will allow an appeal if it considers that the decision to refuse de-proscription was flawed, applying judicial review principles.
- Either party can seek leave to appeal the commission's decision at the Court of Appeal.
- If the Home Secretary agrees to de-proscribe the organisation or the appeal is allowed, the Home Secretary will lay a draft order before Parliament removing the organisation from the list of proscribed organisations. The Order is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure so must be agreed by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> The precise requirements are contained in the [Proscribed Organisations \(Applications for Deproscription etc\) Regulations 2006](#) (SI 2006/2299). Note that [Section 10](#) of the Terrorism Act 2000 provides that evidence submitted in relation to a deproscription application is not admissible in proceedings against an individual for an offence under that Act.

<sup>62</sup> [Sections 4 – 6](#) Terrorism Act 2000.

## 4.2

# Which organisations have been de-proscribed?

To date, four organisations have been de-proscribed.<sup>63</sup>

- Mujaheddin e Khalq (MeK), also known as the Peoples' Mujaheddin of Iran (PMOI), was removed from the list of proscribed groups in June 2008 following judgments of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission and the Court of Appeal.
- International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) was removed from the list of proscribed groups in March 2016 following an application.
- Hezb-e Islami was removed in December 2017 following an application.
- Libyan Islamic Fighting Group was removed in November 2019 following an application.

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<sup>63</sup> [Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations](#), Home Office, 19 January 2024

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## 5 Analysis: Purposes and effects of proscription

### 5.1 What is the purpose of proscribing organisations?

During the debate over the 2000 Act, then Home Office minister, Charles Clarke, set out three principal reasons as to why proscription is important:

1. It is a powerful deterrent to people to engage in terrorist activity.
2. Related offences are a way of tackling some of the lower-level support for terrorist organisations.
3. Proscription acts as a powerful signal of rejection by Government, and by society as a whole, of organisations' claims to legitimacy.<sup>64</sup>

### 5.2 Does proscription work to reduce terrorism?

Lord Anderson KC, a former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, has noted that the proscription of a group is a “trigger for membership, support and uniform offences” under the 2000 Act.<sup>65</sup> He points to the fact that prosecutors find these offences useful because “it is easier to present a case to a jury when there is a link to a named, proscribed organisation than it is to prove a link to terrorism from first principles”.<sup>66</sup>

The Home Office notes proscription can support other activity to disrupt terrorism including “the use of immigration powers such as exclusion, prosecution for other offences, encouraging removal of on-line material, messaging and EU asset freezes”.<sup>67</sup>

However, Professor Clive Walker has argued that historically proscription has been of limited use in stopping terrorism:

Proscription has been of marginal utility in combating political violence, to which the survival of the IRA over most of a century bears ample testimony.

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<sup>64</sup> [HC Deb, Standing Committee D, c56](#), 18 January 2000

<sup>65</sup> David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2015](#), December 2016, p29, para 5.7

<sup>66</sup> As above.

<sup>67</sup> Home Office, [Proscribed Terrorist Organisations](#), p3

Paramilitary organisations cannot be abolished by legislative fiat, and proscription actually increases the difficulties of infiltration and monitoring so as to achieve the criminalisation of those members engaged in violence [...] There are also objections in principle. There should be concern about the deployment of special offences when ordinary offences would suffice (they include the possession of weapons or conspiracy to carry out attacks [...] or even more specialist offences (such as those concerning paramilitary displays).<sup>68</sup>

## 5.3

### Reviews and recommendations of proscription rules

Clayton and Tomlinson's *The Law of Human Rights* notes a 2003 judgment found that proscription was not incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights:

The most stringent restrictions on the right of association have been the proscription, on the grounds of national security, or membership of or participation in the activities of certain proscribed organisations [...]

In *O'Driscoll v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2003] ACD 35 it was held that provided the organisation was properly proscribed, [the associated offences were] not incompatible with Convention rights [European Convention on Human Rights].<sup>69</sup>

However, the continued proscription of groups that do not satisfy the statutory requirement has been described by Lord Anderson KC as contrary to the rule of law.<sup>70</sup> The Home Office itself accepted in 2016 that at least 14 proscribed organisations no longer met the statutory test.<sup>71</sup>

Not only does this affect those within the proscribed organisation, but it can also adversely affect innocent UK residents with the same affiliations as those members of the proscribed group. It may also be detrimental for humanitarian organisations whose activities are hindered by the proscription of organisations with which they wish to engage.<sup>72</sup>

### Recommendations of Lord Anderson

Consequently, Lord Anderson made a number of recommendations regarding proscription in his successive reports as independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, including:

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<sup>68</sup> C Walker, *Blackstone's Guide to the Anti-Terror Legislation*, Oxford, 2002, p 64

<sup>69</sup> Clayton and Tomlinson, *The Law of Human Rights*, Second Edition, Oxford, 2009, p1573

<sup>70</sup> David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2015](#), December 2016, p29, para 5.13

<sup>71</sup> As above, para 5.15

<sup>72</sup> David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2011](#), June 2012, paras 4.41–4.47; David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2013](#), July 2014, paras 9.25–9.33

- The five criteria applied by the Home Secretary should be altered to take into consideration:
  - whether the threat posed by the organisation is specific and active.
  - not just the extent of the organisation’s presence in the UK, but also its cohesion and capabilities.<sup>73</sup>
- The Government should consider moving to a two-stage statutory test for proscription in line with the test for other counter-terrorism measures, such as Terrorism Prevention Investigation Measures and asset freezing.<sup>74</sup>
- The Government should consider requiring the Home Secretary to decide whether an organisation should be proscribed based on the balance of probabilities, rather than reasonable belief; this would be a stricter legal test.<sup>75</sup>
- Proscription orders should lapse after a period of time and should be renewed only if there is sufficient evidence.
- Alternatively, the statutory test ought to be altered in line with the test for asset-freezing and Terrorism Prevention Investigation Measures. This would allow continued proscription of organisations no longer “concerned in terrorism” but where the Secretary of State considers it necessary to protect the public.<sup>76</sup> An organisation could be proscribed where the Secretary of State considers that:
  - it is or has been concerned in terrorism; and
  - proscription is necessary for purposes connected with the protection of the public from the threat of terrorism.<sup>77</sup>

The Home Office has, to date, declined to accept these recommendations.<sup>78</sup>

In its response to his 2015 report, the Home Office noted Lord Anderson’s concerns regarding de-proscription, but defended the status quo:

I consider it appropriate to continue to take a cautious approach when considering removing groups from the list of proscribed organisations. Notwithstanding this, it remains the case that any person affected by an organisation’s proscription can submit an application to me for the

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<sup>73</sup> David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2011](#), June 2012

<sup>74</sup> As above, pp55-56

<sup>75</sup> As above, pp55-56

<sup>76</sup> David Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2015](#), December 2016, p30, para 5.14

<sup>77</sup> David Anderson QC, [Report on the Operation in 2011 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and of Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006](#), June 2012, paras 12.7-12.12. See section 4 of the Report for full details.

<sup>78</sup> [The Government’s Response to the Annual Report on the Operation of the Terrorism Acts in 2014 by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation](#), October 2016,

deproscription of that organisation in accordance with the Terrorism Act 2000.<sup>79</sup>

Lord Anderson set out a number of further recommendations in his 2016 report, including that:

- Applications for de-proscription should be promptly handled, and statutory time limits respected.
- De-proscription must follow automatically, without regard for discretionary factors, if the statutory test (“is concerned in terrorism”) is not met.
- When an application for de-proscription is refused by the Secretary of State, the fullest possible reasons should be given so that the organisation in question can properly assess the prospects of appeal.
- Persons should not be put to the expense and uncertainty of resorting to the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission unless the Government is prepared to defend its judgement and has the evidence confidently to do so.<sup>80</sup>

The Government rejected these recommendations. The then Home Secretary Amber Rudd stated that she was “not prepared to make changes [to the regime] at this stage” and that she was “unconvinced that regular review of past proscription decisions would in practice prevent any injustice”.<sup>81</sup>

## Recommendations of Max Hill KC

In his first report as independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Max Hill KC invited Professor Clive Walker to contribute a chapter on the use of executive measures, including proscription. Professor Walker noted a number of controversial issues in relation to the use of proscription:

- Prevalence: there has been a considerable growth in the use of these orders, but this is not replicated in de-proscription.
- Application: controversy arises from the selection of foreign groups primarily “to support other members of the international community in the global fight against terrorism”. Many bans relate to obscure groups with no base or discernible activity in the UK.

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<sup>79</sup> As above, p3

<sup>80</sup> D. Anderson QC, [Terrorism Acts in 2015](#), December 2016, p31, para 5.18

<sup>81</sup> [The Government response to the annual report on the Operation of the Terrorism Acts in 2015 by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation](#), July 2017, Cm9489, page 5

- Legitimacy: executive measures can “grievously impinge on substantive rights”. Due process is therefore of particular importance to community acceptability.<sup>82</sup>

Professor Walker further noted that review of proscription orders by the Proscription Working Group in the Home Office ended in 2014, making it unclear in what sense meaningful review is maintained.

He suggested that the Proscribed Organisation Appeal Commission process contained weaknesses in terms of procedural fairness, but that the Human Rights Act 1998 has encouraged more assertive judicialisation of national security, which was reflected in the instances of de-proscription to date.

Professor Walker suggested that fair and effective review of proscription was desirable for reasons of policy and principle. The rule of law demands that sufficient review is maintained to ensure that a proscription order continues to be justified as lawful. There are also political advantages in assisting in transitional justice processes that could lead to political inclusion and peace, he suggested.

Professor Walker concluded by endorsing Lord Anderson’s previous recommendations, stating “Stronger oversight of proscription by executive, legislature, and judiciary is now required”.<sup>83</sup>

The current IRTL, Jonathan Hall KC has also recommended that proscription orders should be time limited, lapsing automatically after three years unless positively renewed, as they do in Australia.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Walker, C., [Executive Legal Measures and Terrorism: Proscription and Financial Sanctions](#), Annex 2 to the Annual Report on the Operation of the Terrorism Acts in 2016, January 2018, para 1.4

<sup>83</sup> As above, para 2.9

<sup>84</sup> Jonathan Hall QC, [The Terrorism Acts in 2019](#), IRTL, March 2021, para 3.21

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## 6

# Annex: Proscribed organisations

## Additions in March 2001

The additions were made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2001, SI 2001/1261](#), which took effect on 29 March 2001.

A Home Office press release set out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>85</sup> Extracts are reproduced below.

### Al-Qa'ida

**Aims:** Its aims are the expulsion of Western forces from Saudi Arabia, the destruction of Israel and the end of Western influence in the Muslim world.

**History:** A network or loose organisation of individuals based in Afghanistan and formed after the Soviet-Afghan war. It is inspired and led by Usama Bin Laden.

**Attacks:** In August 1996 the group issued a fatwa to the effect that efforts should be pooled worldwide to kill US nationals (sometimes known as global Jihad). In February 1998, Al-Qa'ida, with other terrorist groups under the title 'World Islamic Front', declared that Muslims should kill Americans and their allies, civilian and military, anywhere in the world. On 7 August 1998 bomb attacks aimed at the US Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam killed over 200 people and injured around 4000 others. Seventeen people have been charged in the United States with offences relating to the bombings, some of whom are alleged to be members of Al-Qa'ida. Information linking the group to other incidents is less certain but Al-Qa'ida has been associated with the killing of 19 US marines in Somalia in 1993 and the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York as well as attacks in the Middle East.

**Representation/Activities in the UK:** The group has not made any attacks in the UK. Some individuals from the UK have trained with Al-Qa'ida in camps in Afghanistan but there is no overt representation in the UK. Khalid Al Fawwaz, alleged to be a member of Al-Qa'ida, is currently in custody in the UK pending determination of an extradition request by the US concerning his alleged involvement in the East Africa bombings in 1998.

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<sup>85</sup> Home Office press notice, *Draft order of organisations to be proscribed under the new Terrorism Act 2000 published today*, 28 February 2001

## Egyptian Islamic Jihad

**Aims:** The main aim of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ) is to overthrow the Egyptian Government and replace it with an Islamic state. However, since September 1998, the leadership of the group has also allied itself to the 'global Jihad' ideology expounded by Usama Bin Laden and has threatened Western interests.

**History:** The EIJ was established in 1973, by individuals who believed in the use of violence in order to achieve their aims of overthrowing the Egyptian Government.

**Attacks:** The EIJ has mounted a number of high profile terrorist attacks in the last twenty years including the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981. The group was also reported to be responsible for the assassination of the Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament in 1990 and for the car bomb attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad in 1995, which caused 15 deaths. In addition members of the EIJ were involved in the bombing of the US Embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi in August 1998.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** While the UK has not been directly targeted to date, UK interests have suffered collateral damage from EIJ attacks. The British High Commission residential compound, adjacent to the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, suffered extensive collateral damage as a result of the 1995 car bomb attack. The EIJ alliance with Usama Bin Laden indicates that British interests, along with other Western interests, are likely to be targeted in the future.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** The EIJ has members in the UK though there is no overt representation. Two senior members of the group are currently in custody in the UK pending determination of an extradition request by the US concerning their alleged involvement in the East Africa bombings.

## Al-Gama'at al-Islamiya

**Aims:** The main aim of al-Gama'at al-Islamiya (GI) is through all means, including the use of violence, to overthrow the Egyptian Government and replace it with an Islamic state. Some members also want the removal of Western influence from the Arab world.

**History:** The GI was established in the early 1980s when it split from the EIJ. Since then, it has focused its campaign of insurgency inside Egypt, carrying out countless attacks against Egyptian government and military targets, and since 1992 against tourists. In March 1999 the GI declared a ceasefire. So far they have adhered to it but there are factions within the group who have publicly advocated a return to violence.

**Attacks:** The GI has carried out numerous attacks against Egyptian government and military targets, including the 1989 attempted assassination of the Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr. From 1992, it has also actively targeted tourist interests in Egypt, in an attempt to discredit the government

and damage the economy. Attacks have included the massacre in Luxor on 17 November 1997. Six assailants attacked tourists, killing 62 people; 58 were tourists, 6 of whom were Britons.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: The GI has not directly targeted British interests. However, its campaign in Egypt has resulted in the deaths of British citizens and threatened collateral damage. While the group is not formally allied with Usama Bin Laden, close links remain and a number within the group favour his policy of directly targeting Western interests.

Representation/activities in the UK: The GI has members in the UK but no overt representation and there is no evidence of current terrorist planning by the group in the UK.

## **Armed Islamic Group (Groupe Islamique Armee) (GIA)**

Aims: The aim of the GIA is to create an Islamic state in Algeria using all necessary means, including violence.

History: Since its emergence in 1992, the GIA has been responsible for a large number of the civilian deaths by terrorist action in Algeria. In September 1998, the leader of the GIA issued a communique which condoned killing women and children. Since then, many supporters of this group in the UK have switched their allegiance from the GIA to the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC - see following).

Attacks: The first GIA attack in Europe took place in 1994, when members of the GIA hijacked an Air France aircraft. In 1995 there was an upsurge in GIA activity within Europe which included a number of bomb attacks in Paris, specifically targeting the Metro. Whilst these were the last attacks to be claimed by the GIA, in May 1998 a small explosive device which had similarities to those used in the 1995 attacks was discovered in Paris.

Representation/activities in the UK: The GIA has had members in the UK although some have now joined the GSPC. The group has no overt representation here. Its UK members have provided logistical support for GIA members in Algeria. These activities have included collecting funds and procuring chemicals used in making explosives.

## **Salafist Group for Call and Combat (Groupe Salafiste pour la Predication et le Combat) (GSPC)**

Aims: To create an Islamic state in Algeria using all necessary means, including violence.

History: (See also GIA) In September 1998, the leader of the GIA issued a communique which condoned killing women and children. Since then, many Algerian extremists in the UK have switched their allegiance from the GIA to the GSPC. The group was also known as the Hassan Hattab (HH) faction of the GIA.

**Attacks:** In March 1998, several individuals assessed to have been members the GSPC were arrested in Brussels. The Belgian authorities believed that these individuals were planning an attack against the World Cup Football Tournament in France. In July 2000, the GSPC issued a communique which warned French authorities against abusing prisoners sympathetic to the group.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** The GSPC has members in the UK but no overt representation. Its UK members have provided logistical support for members of the group in Algeria.

## **International Sikh Youth Federation [De-proscribed March 2016]**

**Aims:** The International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) is an organisation committed to the creation of an independent state of Khalistan for Sikhs within India.

**History:** The ISYF was established in the 1980s, and its terrorist activities have continued since then.

**Attacks:** ISYF attacks have included assassinations, bombings and kidnappings, mainly directed against Indian officials and Indian interests. The Special Immigration Appeals Committee (SIAC) found in July 2000 that two ISYF members (MUKHTIAR and PARAMJIT Singh), were a threat to UK national security (although for other reasons they declined to confirm deportation orders against them).

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** ISYF and its associated factions have never targeted Western interests. There remains a threat of collateral damage from attacks against Indian officials visiting the UK.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** ISYF support is spread across the UK and provides a base for fundraising. As the case of MUKHTIAR and PARAMJIT Singh demonstrated, there is also evidence that UK based extremists involve themselves in terrorist support activity.

## **Babbar Khalsa**

**Aims:** Babbar Khalsa (BK) is a Sikh movement which aims to establish an independent Khalistan within the Punjab region of India.

**History:** BK was established in 1978 and numerous terrorist attacks have since been attributed to the group.

**Attacks:** Avowed attacks include the murder of Beant Singh, the Chief Minister of the Punjab, in 1995. Two BK members have recently been arrested in Canada for the bombing of Air India flight 182 in 1985 which killed 329 people. A UK based member of BK (Balbir Singh BAINS) was also arrested in India in 1999 on terrorist charges.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: BK has never targeted Western interests. There remains however a collateral threat, particularly from attacks against Indian officials visiting the UK.

Representation/activities in the UK: BK has had representation in the UK since the 1980s. BK uses the UK as a base for fundraising, recruitment and co-ordination of activists in the Indian sub continent. Some members have been willing to travel to India to participate in terrorist attacks.

## Harakat Mujahideen

Aims: Harakat Mujahideen (HM), previously known as Harakat Ul Ansar (HuA), seeks independence for Indian administered Kashmir. The HM leadership was also a signatory to Usama Bin Laden's 1998 fatwa, which called for world wide attacks against US and Western interests.

History: HuA was established in 1993 and has since carried out a number of terrorist attacks against Indian and Western interests.

Attacks: HM/HuA is believed to be responsible for the kidnapping of Western tourists in Delhi and Kashmir in 1994 and 1995. British nationals were amongst those missing and their whereabouts remain unknown. HM has also claimed responsibility for a number of bombing campaigns within India. Media reports indicate that HM was responsible for the hijack of an Indian Airlines flight, in December 1999, which led to the release of several militants by the Indian government to secure the release of the passengers.

Representation/activities in the UK: HM has supporters in several areas of the UK.

## Jaish e Mohammed

Aims: Jaish e Mohammed (JeM) seeks the 'liberation' of Kashmir from Indian control as well as the 'destruction' of America and India. JeM has a stated objective of unifying the various Kashmiri militant groups.

History: JeM was established in 2000 by Masud Azhar who remains its leader. The group was formed following Azhar's release from prison in India in response to demands by the hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight in December 1999.

Attacks: JeM carried out a number of terrorist attacks against Indian interests during 2000. It claimed responsibility for a grenade attack in May against Indian government buildings in Kashmir.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: The group has not as yet attacked UK or Western interests.

Representation/activities in the UK: There are indications that JeM is gaining support among militant Kashmiri separatists and that it has a number of supporters in the UK.

## Lashkar e Tayyaba

**Aims:** Lashkar e Tayyaba (LT) seeks independence for Kashmir and the creation of an Islamic state using violent means.

**History:** LT has a long history of mounting attacks against the Indian Security Forces in Kashmir. These attacks include the use of suicide squads. An LT leader declared a 'Jihad' against American interests in 1998 following the US air strikes on Afghanistan.

**Attacks:** LT has been blamed for the massacre of 35 Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir in March 2000. More recently it launched attacks on Srinagar airport and the Red Fort New Delhi. Several people were killed in these attacks.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** An LT leader recently made a public declaration that he wished to expand the conflict with India beyond Kashmir.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** LT in the UK is mainly represented by Markaz Dawa al Irshad, its political wing.

## Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

**Aims:** The LTTE is a terrorist group fighting for a separate Tamil state in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

**History:** The LTTE has been fighting since 1983. More than 60,000 people on all sides have been killed in the conflict.

**Attacks:** The LTTE has mounted both a military assault and a terrorist campaign, the latter mainly in Colombo. Attacks are mostly targeted against Sri Lankan military and leading politicians using suicide bombers. Attempts to assassinate the Sri Lankan President in late 1999 and early 2000 were attributed to the LTTE by the media and the Sri Lankan authorities.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** The LTTE has never targeted Western interests directly, though Westerners have been injured as a result of LTTE attacks in Sri Lanka. The LTTE's only attack outside Sri Lanka was the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 in response to India's military support for Sri Lanka.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** The LTTE's International Secretariat is based in the UK, and is responsible for the group's press releases. The UK is also a source of funds for the LTTE.

## Hizballah External Security Organisation [Substituted in 2008 by “The military wing of Hizballah” including the Hizballah External Security Organisation]

**Aims:** Hizballah is committed to armed resistance to the state of Israel itself and aims to liberate all Palestinian territories and Jerusalem from Israeli

occupation. It maintains a terrorist wing, the External Security Organisation (ESO), to help it achieve this.

**History:** Hizballah was formed in 1982 to resist the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. In the last 18 years it has grown from a simple militia to a wide-ranging organisation providing welfare to Lebanese Shia Muslims and having political representation in the Lebanese Assembly. Hizballah has distinct military and terrorist wings. The military wing has engaged the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in guerrilla warfare in south Lebanon.

**Attacks:** The terrorist wing, the ESO (also known as Islamic Jihad) has been responsible for car bombing, hijacking and kidnapping Western and Israeli/Jewish targets in Israel, Western Europe and South America.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** Between 1983 and 1984 ESO targeted Western interests, bombing the US Embassy, Beirut (78 killed); the US Marine Barracks, Beirut (241 killed); the French Army Barracks, Beirut (56 killed); the US Embassy, Kuwait; and the US Embassy Annex, Beirut (23 killed). In 1992 and 1994 ESO targeted Israeli interests, bombing the Israeli Embassy, Buenos Aires (29 killed) and the AMIA Building, Buenos Aires (over 100 killed). Between 1984 and 1988 ESO hijacked four aircraft resulting in the deaths of three people. Between 1985 and 1989 ESO held captive citizens from the US, France and the UK, including John McCarthy, Brian Keenan, Terry Waite and Jackie Mann. ESO is believed to have been instrumental in the kidnapping in December 2000 of the Israeli businessman Elhanan Tanenbaum and of Israeli soldiers from the Shaba farms region of Southern Lebanon/Syria.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** There is a small, overt Hizballah presence in the UK with extensive links to Hizballah's Foreign Relations Department (FRD), which is distinct from the ESO. There is some indication of occasional ESO activity in the UK.

## Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades

**Aims:** Hamas aims to end Israeli occupation of Palestine and establish an Islamic state.

**History:** Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, emerged during the second Intifada during the early 1980s. It was founded by Sheik Ahmad Yassin, who became the Hamas spiritual leader in the mid 1980s. Hamas is a cohesive organisation split into two wings. The internal leadership is based in Gaza and the West Bank: the Political Bureau, or external leadership, which was formerly based in Jordan, now conducts its activities largely from Damascus. The Hamas terrorist apparatus is separate from the overt organisation which operates a large welfare infrastructure in the Middle East, running charitable, health and educational projects. The terrorist apparatus operates under the name the Izz al-Din al-Qassem (IDQ) Brigades.

**Attacks:** The first Hamas IDQ terrorist attacks were undertaken in 1988 and included the kidnapping, stabbing and shooting of Israeli civilians and

military personnel. Hamas terrorist activity continued at this level until 1994. In February of that year, a Jewish settler in the Occupied Territories killed 29 Palestinians in the Mosque of Abraham in Hebron. This became known as the Hebron massacre and heralded an increase in violence by Hamas IDQ. Between 1994 and 1996, Hamas IDQ undertook a number of indiscriminate suicide bomb attacks on Israeli public transport and shopping centres. Hamas IDQ terrorist attacks have decreased since the late 1990s. However, the organisation remains in existence and has the capability to resume terrorist activities.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: Hamas IDQ has not directly attacked UK or Western interests.

Representation/activities in the UK: Hamas IDQ has not operated outside Israel and the Occupied Territories and has no overt representation in the UK. Hamas's political wing is represented by charitable organisations which raise and remit funds for welfare purposes.

## **Palestinian Islamic Jihad - Shaqaqi**

Aims: Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is a Shi'a group which aims to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and create an Islamic state similar to that in Iran. It opposes the existence of the state of Israel, the Middle East Peace Process and the Palestinian Authority.

History: PIJ is a loose coalition of Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist groups formed in the 1970s as a resistance movement following the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. It operates within Israel and the Occupied Territories and has fought the Israelis in South Lebanon. Its leadership is based in Damascus. It has close relations with Hizballah and weaker ties with Hamas.

Attacks: PIJ has carried out suicide bombings against Israeli targets in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel. These include a suicide bomb attack at a bus stop in Netanya, Israel, in January 1995, and a car bomb attack in West Jerusalem in 1998. 21 people were killed in the first attack and 20 wounded in the second. In November 2000 PIJ claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack in Jerusalem in which 2 Israelis died and 10 were injured. Since the end of September 2000 PIJ activity has increased with a number of attacks against Israeli forces.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: PIJ has not acted outside the Middle East and has not targeted UK or Western interests. However, PIJ has threatened to target the US embassy and its personnel if it moves from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Representation/activities in the UK: There is no overt PIJ presence in the UK. There are some individuals in the UK who may maintain links with the group.

## Abu Nidal Organisation

**Aims:** The principal aim of the Abu Nidal Organisation (ANO) is the destruction of the state of Israel. It is also hostile to "reactionary" Arab regimes and states supporting Israel.

**History:** Fatah - The Revolutionary Council was formed in Iraq in 1974 as a break-away faction of Fatah. It took its popular name, the Abu Nidal Organisation, from the nom de guerre of its founder, Sabri al-Banna.<sup>64F68F<sup>86</sup></sup> It has opposed all efforts at political reconciliation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and attacked other Palestinian organisations and Arab states which have moderated their opposition to Israel. ANO moved its headquarters to Syria in 1983 and then to Libya in 1987. The Libyan regime effectively ceased sponsorship of ANO in the late 1990s, all ANO personnel were expelled and offices and training facilities were shut. In recent years, though the organisation has not forsworn violence, it has been seriously weakened by internal factionalism and the ill health of al-Banna.

**Attacks:** ANO mounted an intensive terrorist campaign between 1974 and 1988 against Israeli and Jewish targets in Europe and the Middle East, "reactionary" Arab regimes, other Palestinian groups, and nations holding ANO operatives in prison. The attacks were ferocious and indiscriminate, and included attacks on airports and public gathering places, aircraft hijacking, bombings, assassinations and kidnaps. Since 1974, ANO has claimed responsibility for over 90 attacks in 20 countries which have killed or injured almost 900 people.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** Many ANO attacks have been on UK or Western interests including:

- 1974    Egypt    Hijack of BA VC10
- 1982    London Attempted assassination of Israeli Ambassador
- 1984    Amman        Assassination of British Cultural Attache
- 1984    Beirut    Kidnap of British journalist Jonathan Wright
- 1984    Bombay        Assassination of British deputy High Commissioner
- 1985    Beirut    Kidnap of British journalist Alec Collett
- 1985    Madrid Fatal bomb attack on British Airways office
- 1985    Rome    Fatal attack at airport
- 1988    Khartoum    Fatal attack on hotel and British club

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<sup>86</sup> Abu Nidal was shot dead in August 2002: there has been considerable speculation in the media as to whether he was murdered or committed suicide.

Representation/activities in the UK: Various members of the Palestinian community in the UK have historical allegiance to the ANO but there are no known active members in the UK. Two ANO prisoners are serving terms of imprisonment in the UK.

## Islamic Army of Aden

Aims: The Islamic Army of Aden's (IAA) aims are the overthrow of the current Yemeni government and the establishment of an Islamic State following Sharia Law.

History: Some press reporting indicates that the Islamic Army of Aden (IAA) was formed in 1992 (although other reports suggest that it did not take its current form until 1996). During the civil war of 1994, the group fought on the side of the current Yemeni government to overthrow the Yemeni Socialist Party. Later the group opposed the regime and was involved in skirmishes with security forces in the Abyan area in the south west of Yemen.

Attacks: On 23 December 1998, six extremists - including five UK nationals - were arrested by the Yemeni authorities. The Yemenis claimed that the group had links to the IAA and were planning to attack a number of Western targets in the Yemen. On 28 December 1998, six western tourists were taken hostage by a group of armed IAA activists. The IAA then demanded the release of a number of terrorists in Yemeni jails, including the six who had recently been arrested. In an operation to free the hostages by the Yemeni authorities, four of the hostages were killed - three British and one Australian. Three terrorists were also killed and others were captured.

Representation/Activities in the UK: The IAA has no known direct presence in the UK, although a number of individuals have expressed support for the organisation.

## Mujaheddin e Khalq (or PMOI) [De-proscribed June 2008]

Aims: The Mujaheddin e Khalq (MeK) is an Iranian dissident organisation based in Iraq. It claims to be seeking the establishment of a democratic, socialist, Islamic republic in Iran.

History: The MeK fought alongside the supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini to overthrow the Shah of Iran, but after the revolution it broke away from Khomeini and became the main opposition to the regime. It was exiled in 1981, moving to Iraq where it now maintains a standing army of several thousand fighters, supported and armed by the Iraqi regime. The MeK also has offices abroad which raise money, produce and distribute propaganda material, and stage demonstrations.

Attacks: The MeK undertakes cross-border attacks into Iran, including terrorist attacks. It has assassinated senior Iranian officials and launched mortar attacks against government buildings in Teheran and elsewhere. In

June 2000 the Iranian government claimed to have foiled an MeK plot to assassinate the former Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: The MeK has not attacked UK or Western interests.

Representation/activities in the UK: There is no acknowledged MeK presence in the UK, although its publication MOJAHED is in circulation here. The National Council for Resistance in Iran undertakes fund-raising in support of the MeK, demonstrates, and produces and distributes anti-regime propaganda in support of MeK objectives. (NB The MeK/PMOI was removed from the list of proscribed organisations in June 2008 – see above).

## **Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan) (PKK)**

Aims: The PKK is primarily a separatist movement which has sought an independent Kurdish state in south east Turkey.

History: The PKK was formed in 1978 by Abdullah Ocalan. Although active from 1978 it was not until the formation of the group's military wing in 1984 that it became a significant terrorist threat. In February 1999 the PKK's founder and leader Abdullah Ocalan was captured by Turkish security forces in Kenya. During his subsequent trial in Turkey, in June 1999, Ocalan announced a PKK ceasefire and also that the group intended to seek a peaceful resolution to its aspirations. However, although the group is not believed to have undertaken any offensive action since the ceasefire began on 29 August 1999, previous PKK ceasefires have broken down.

Attacks: Since 1984 the PKK has been engaged predominately in a guerrilla campaign in south east Turkey which has resulted in a death toll on all sides estimated to be in excess of 33,000 people.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: In the early 1990s the PKK attempted to bring increased pressure on the Turkish government by undertaking a terrorist campaign aimed at Western interests and investment in south east Turkey. This campaign initially led to the kidnapping of a number of western tourists, including several British citizens. In 1993/94 the PKK abandoned its kidnapping campaign and began to target Western investment in south east Turkey. As part of this campaign a Shell Oil refinery was attacked. Also in 1993/94 the PKK began an urban bombing campaign aimed at Turkey's tourist resorts and for the first time undertook attacks outside south east Turkey. This campaign resulted in the death of a number of foreign tourists, including a British citizen. Although the PKK appeared to have abandoned this campaign in 1995 it continued annually, until 1999, to threaten attacks against Turkey's tourist resorts.

Representation/activities in the UK: The PKK does not have any overt representation in the UK but operates covertly and has some support among the Kurdish community.

## **Revolutionary Peoples' Liberation Party - Front (Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi - Cephesi) (DHKP-C)**

**Aims:** DHKP-C aims to establish a Marxist Leninist regime in Turkey by means of armed revolutionary struggle

**History:** DHKP-C was formed in 1993 following a split in the Marxist Leninist terrorist group Dev Sol (or Revolutionary Left). DHKP-C is indistinguishable from its predecessor Dev Sol in leadership, ideology, objectives and methods of operation.

**Attacks:** Since 1994 DHKP-C's terrorist activity in Turkey has been sporadic and it has not been able to operate with the same frequency and success as its predecessor Dev Sol. Despite this, DHKP-C has continued to undertake attacks against Turkish police and security forces targets, and in conjunction with these has also undertaken a number of high profile attacks, including the murder of the former Turkish Minister of Justice in April 1994 and the murder of a prominent Turkish businessman in January 1996.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** As with its predecessor Dev Sol, DHKP-C espouses an "anti-imperialist" stance particularly focused against the US and NATO. In the early 1990s, in direct response to the Gulf War, Dev Sol attacked American and British citizens and interests in Turkey, killing Andrew Blake, a British citizen working for a commercial company in Istanbul, on 19 August 1991. In June 1999, two DHKP-C terrorists were killed by Turkish security forces as they attempted to carry out a rocket attack on the US Consulate in Istanbul.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** DHKP-C has an office in London which is engaged in overt political activity.

## **Basque Homeland and Liberty (Euskadi ta Askatasuna) (ETA)**

**Aims:** ETA seeks the creation of an independent state comprising the Basque regions of both Spain and France.

**History:** ETA was established in 1959 by a group of students who supported Basque separatism. ETA's first victim was a police chief, killed in June 1968, and its terrorist campaign has continued since then. ETA has engaged in peace talks a number of times since the early 1990s, and maintained a 14 month ceasefire until November 1999. Since then the group has engaged in an intense campaign of bombing and shooting directed mainly at political and security force targets.

**Attacks:** ETA has killed over 800 people and carried out about 1600 terrorist attacks since it was formed. Over half of its victims have been members of the Spanish Armed Forces, Security Forces and the Basque Autonomous Police. The attacks have been carried out mainly in the Basque provinces including Navarra and in Madrid, Barcelona and Andalusia.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: ETA has rarely carried out attacks outside Spain, and has never directly attacked UK interests. In the early 1980s it kidnapped and killed two Spanish policemen and a dissident in France, and in 1992 small-scale bomb attacks were carried out against Spanish commercial and state interests in Italy and Germany. There have been a few attacks on French commercial interests in the past, but no recent attacks outside Spain or against any foreign targets. The main risk to UK interests is posed by collateral damage.

Representation/activities in the UK: ETA has no overt representation in the UK, although there may be a small number of sympathisers here. There are, however, long standing links between ETA and Irish republican terrorist groups.

## 17 November Revolutionary Organisation (N17)

Aims: N17 is a terrorist organisation which aims to highlight and protest at what it deems to be imperialist and corrupt actions, using violence.

History: N17 was formed in 1974 to oppose the Greek military Junta and its stance was initially anti-Junta and anti-US, which it blamed for supporting the Junta. Its first victim was an American diplomat, Richard Welch, who was assassinated on 23 December 1975.

Attacks: N17 has killed 25 people in over 80 attacks in the last 25 years. The group uses three methods of attack: close-quarter assassinations, rocket attacks, and improvised explosive devices. Its close-quarter assassinations have claimed 19 lives. Almost two-thirds of N17's attacks have been against domestic Greek targets but they have also included the murder of a British, 4 US and 2 Turkish diplomats. All N17 attacks have taken place on the Greek mainland in and around Athens.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: N17's first attack on UK interests was during the Gulf War in the early 1990s and attacks resumed in response to the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999. In June 2000, N17 murdered Brigadier Stephen Saunders, the British Defence Attache in Athens. The group has also carried out numerous small scale attacks in Greece on the interests of EU and NATO members. These included a rocket attack on HMS Ark Royal while it was docked in Piraeus in 1994.

Representation/activities in the UK: There is no indication that N17 has any representation in the UK.

## Additions in 2002

The additions were made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2002, SI 2002/2724](#), which took effect on 1 November 2002.

A Home Office press release set out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>87</sup> Extracts are reproduced below.

## Jeemah Islamiyah (JI)

**Aim:** JI's aim is the creation of a unified Islamic state in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Southern Philippines.

**History:** Jeemah Islamiyah (JI) is the name of an Islamist extremist group which is based in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Southern Philippines. JI is estimated to have approximately 200 members. Many of its members have been arrested in Singapore and Malaysia and we judge that the remaining members may have migrated to Indonesia. The top tier of JI leadership comprises two individuals. JI's spiritual leader, Abu Bakar BAA'ASYIR, is based in Indonesia and also leads the Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia, an umbrella organisation for various Islamic groups. JI's operational leader is Riduan Bin ISOMUDDIN alias HAMBALI, who has links with AL Qaida. HAMBALI is wanted by the authorities in Indonesia and Malaysia, and his current whereabouts are unknown.

**Attacks:** In December 2001 thirteen JI members were arrested in Singapore. They had been planning attacks against several targets in Singapore including the British Council and High Commission and the US, Israeli, and Australian embassies. They planned to attack these targets with vehicle borne incendiary devices. JI is known to have links to Al Qaida. For JI, there is a note included in Schedule 2 to differentiate between this group and a political organisation with the same name which originated in Pakistan. Section 3(2) of the Terrorism Act ensures that only the group to which the note refers to is proscribed and not, as is otherwise the case, to other organisations operating under the same name.

## Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)

**Aims:** The precise aims of the ASG are unclear, but its objectives appear to include the establishment of an autonomous Islamic state in Mindanao.

**History:** Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is an Islamist extremist group which is based in the Southern Philippine island of Mindanao. The ASG was formed in 1991 by Abdurajak JANJALANI from the most radical elements of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Estimates of its numbers of members have ranged from 80 to 1200.

**Attacks:** The group has committed a number of kidnappings: 21 people of different nationalities were kidnapped from a tourist resort in eastern Malaysia on 23 April 2000; on 28 August 2000, an American citizen was kidnapped by ASG and held captive for eight months; and on 27 May 2001, the ASG conducted an armed raid on a holiday resort taking twenty people

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<sup>87</sup> Home Office press notice, *Draft order to outlaw four additional terror organisations published today*, 28 October 2002

hostage and killing two of the American hostages during their captivity. The ASG has killed hostages when ransoms have not been paid. The ASG is known to have links to Al Qaida.

## Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)

**Aims:** The primary aim of the IMU is to establish an Islamic state in the model of the Taleban in Uzbekistan. However, the IMU is reported to also seek to establish a broader state over the entire Turkestan area.

**History:** The IMU was formed in 1998 out of a more general political Islamic resistance to the post-Soviet rule in Uzbekistan. Tahir YULDASHEV and Juma NAMANGANI were its leaders from the beginning. NAMANGANI, who was the military leader, is believed to have been killed in Afghanistan whilst fighting coalition forces. The political leader YULDASHEV survived the campaign. Prior to the fall of the Taleban, the IMU was based in Afghanistan and was closely affiliated with Al Qaida and the Taleban.

**Attacks:** In attacks in February 1999, the IMU launched a sophisticated bombing campaign in Tashkent, directed against the Uzbekistan regime. The close ties to Al Qaida and the Taleban meant that they often followed Al Qaida's and the Taleban's agenda rather than their own. Most of their energies were spent fighting the Northern Alliance rather than the Uzbek government. Usama Bin Laden (UBL) is widely reported to have given money and training to the IMU on the understanding that they followed his agenda in Central Asia.

## Asbat Al-Ansar ('League of Partisans' or 'Band of Helpers')

**Aliases:** The Abu Muhjin group/faction, Jama'at Nour

**Aims:** The group aims to enforce its extremist interpretation of Islamic law within Lebanon, and increasingly further afield.

**History:** Formed in 1985, Asbat Al-Ansar is a Sunni Muslim terrorist organisation, based primarily in the Lebanese Palestinian refugee camp, Ain Al Hilweh. Recently, leaders of the group have forged links with UBL. Asbat Al-Ansar now subscribes to UBL's aims and objectives. Financial support from UBL has allowed significant development in the group's capability, which increasingly seeks to carry out attacks against western interests.

**Attacks:** Terrorist action by Asbat Al-Ansar has so far been limited to small-scale bombings and assassinations, always within Lebanon. In August 1995, the leader of Asbat Al-Ansar was sentenced to death in absentia for the assassination of the leader of Al Ashbashi (the Ethiopian Organisation). Asbat Al-Ansar is believed to have been responsible for the murder of four Sidon judges in 1999. In January 2000, in their most significant attack, an Asbat Al-Ansar gunman attacked the Russian embassy in Beirut with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. A bombing attack in August 2002 against the

home of a senior Lebanese prison guard is also reported to be the work of Asbat Al-Ansar. However, the group rarely claims responsibility for attacks. Alignment with Al Qaida and its international agenda has not yet led to a large scale Asbat Al-Ansar attack.

## Additions in 2005

The additions were made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2005, SI 2005/2892](#), which took effect on 14 October 2005.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Order set out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>88</sup> Extracts are reproduced below:

### **Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) [De-proscribed in 2019]**

**Aims:** The LIFG seeks the replacement of the current Libyan regime with a hard-line Islamic state. The group is also part of the wider global Islamist extremist movement, as inspired by Al Qaida.

**History:** The LIFG was formed in the early 1990s in Afghanistan, and formally announced its existence in 1995. The group relocated to Libya where it sought to overthrow Mu'ammār QADHAFI. At this time the LIFG mounted several operations inside Libya including a 1996 attempt to assassinate QADHAFI, but these failed to topple the regime. Following a Libyan government security campaign against LIFG in the mid to late 1990s, the group abandoned Libya and continued its activities in exile.

**Attacks:** The LIFG's key operational period within Libya was 1995-6. The group's involvement with the global jihadist network implicates it, primarily indirectly, in further attacks in more recent years.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** Such attacks would be consistent with the group's Al Qaida-inspired agenda. The group is reported to pose an increasing threat to the West.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** Some members live in the UK.

### **Groupe Islamique Combattant Marocain (GICM)**

**Aims:** The GICM's traditional primary objective has been the installation of a governing system of the caliphate to replace the governing Moroccan monarchy. The group also has an Al Qaida-inspired global extremist agenda.

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<sup>88</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2005](#)

**History:** The GICM emerged clearly in the mid to late 1990s but originated in Afghanistan earlier. Its presence in Morocco was likely undermined by the wide-ranging arrests following the May 2003 Casablanca suicide bombings. The group is reported to have a presence in a number of European countries.

**Attacks:** It is unclear to what extent the GICM were involved in the Casablanca bombings, still less the March 2004 Madrid train bombings, both of which have been attributed to the group in parts of the media.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** As above regarding alleged involvement in the Casablanca and Madrid bombings. Attacks against the West are within the group's remit but it is not clear whether they retain the necessary capability.

## **Ansar Al Islam**

Ansar Al Islam (AI) is a radical Sunni Salafi group, formed in 2001 in northeast Iraq around Halabja. The group is anti-Western, opposes the influence of the US in Iraqi Kurdistan and the relationship of the KDP and PUK to Washington. The group is believed to comprise a mixture of Iraqis and non-Iraqi elements, mainly Arabs and Kurds. The group is believed to operate a facilitation network in Iran. There has been some reporting to suggest that AI has extended facilitation networks into Europe: it is likely these are support actions in Iraq.

AI has been involved in operations against Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I), Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Kurdish security apparatus. The group is highly mobile and resilient, fighting in small units and undertaking assassinations of key figures. The group has links to Al Qaida (AQ) and the PUK had claimed that AQ has provided funds to the group.

AI remains closely associated with the insurgency and terrorism occurring in Iraq. The group had little difficulty in purchasing weapons or munitions and there is evidence to suggest that a facilitation network operates in Iran.

## **Al Ittihad Al Islamia (AIAI)**

**Aims:** The main aims of AIAI are to establish a radical Sunni Islamic state in Somalia, and to regain the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, which is populated by ethnic Somalis, as Somali territory via an insurgent campaign. However, some militant elements within AIAI are also suspected of having aligned themselves with the 'global jihad' ideology of Al Qaida (AQ), and to have operated in support of AQ in the East Africa region.

**History:** AIAI was formed between 1991-2 as an Islamist force, militarily and politically, following the collapse of the Siad Barre regime in Somalia. AIAI gained territory in Somalia through military operations, but the organisation's strongholds were fractured by the Ethiopian bombardment of Somalia in 1996-7. It is believed that the organisation lives on in several political and military manifestations, most notably in the existence of armed factions.

These factions are believed to maintain training camps in Somalia that may be used to train operatives in terrorist tactics.

Attacks: AIAI have been implicated in several attacks against Ethiopian targets inside Ethiopia.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: Militants aligned to AIAI are believed to have been involved in a series of attacks against Western non-governmental organisation employees operating in northern Somalia between 2003-4. These incidents included the murder of two British teachers and an Italian nun, and an attack against a German aid worker that resulted in the death of a Kenyan colleague. The victims may have been singled out because of their ethnicity or nationalities. Elements within AIAI are also suspected of having acted in support of previous AQ attacks against Western/Israeli targets in East Africa.

Representation/activities in the UK: There is no overt AIAI representation in the UK.

## **Islamic Jihad Union - formerly known as Islamic Jihad Group**

Aims: IJU's primary strategic goal is the elimination of the current Uzbek regime. Unlike most Islamist groups, the IJU accepts that replacing the Karimov regime with an Islamic caliphate is unrealistic. Rather, the IJU would expect that following the removal of Karimov, elections would occur in which Islamic-democratic political candidates would pursue goals shared by the IJU leadership.

History: The IJU was formed in March 2002 by former members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The group was both founded by, and remains led by ethnic Uzbeks and Uzbek nationals but membership includes other Central Asian ethnicity and nationals.

Attacks: On 28 March 2004 an accidental explosion occurred at a terrorist safehouse in Bukhara, Uzbekistan killing nine IJU associates involved in the construction of portable improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Over the following three days a series of shootouts and suicide bombings were carried out in Tashkent and Bukhara, Uzbekistan leaving approximately 25 dead and 35 wounded.

Attacks on UK or Western Interests: A Kazakhstan-based IJU cell mounted operations on 30 July 2004 against the US and Israeli Embassies and the State Prosecutor's Office in Tashkent in which three suicide operatives detonated IEDs carried in briefcases killing at least three.

Representation/activities in the UK: The extent of IJU presence in the UK is unknown. However, we assess that there is little or no active presence in the UK and there are no indications of IJU using the UK as a fundraising or recruitment base.

## **Ansar Al Sunna (AS) (“Devotees of the Sunna”)**

Associated names: Jaish Ansar al Sunna

Ansar al Sunnah

Jaish Ansar al Sunnah

Ansar al Islam (AI)

**Aims:** AS is a fundamentalist Sunni Islamist extremist group based in Central Iraq and what was the Kurdish Autonomous Zone (KAZ) of Northern Iraq. The group aims to expel all foreign influences from Iraq and create a fundamentalist Islamic state. AS is consequently fighting a Jihad (holy war) against the occupying forces in Iraq. In this respect, AS’ ideology closely resembles that of the Takfiri sect of Sunni Islam. Significant elements of the group are believed to have aligned themselves with the 'global jihad' ideology of Al Qaida.

**History:** AS evolved from Ansar Al Islam (AI). AI was created in late 2001 from a group of 'Arab Afghan' veterans who established a presence in an isolated area of northeast Iraq adjacent to the Iranian border and outside of government control. In early October 2003, senior AI figures announced the creation of AS.

**Attacks:** AS has been responsible for, and claimed, a wide range of attacks on Multi-National Forces - Iraq (MNF-I), Iraqi and Kurdish targets. Particularly notable attacks include: 1 February 2004: suicide attacks against the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) headquarters in Irbil 22 December 2004: suicide bomb attack on the MNF-I base in Mosul, Forward Operating Base (FOB) Marez which killed 22 people, 18 of them US personnel, and represented, at the time, the biggest loss of American life in a single attack since Multi-National Forces (MNF-I) entered Iraq in 2003 11 May 2005: a suicide operative detonated his vest in a queue of police recruits in Irbil. AS claimed the attack which killed over 60 recruits.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** There is no overt AS representation in the UK although individuals here have links to the movement in Iraq.

## **Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG)**

**Aims:** HIG desires the creation of a fundamentalist Islamic State in Afghanistan and is anti-Western. HIG is opposed to the current Afghan government led by President Karzai and the presence of ISAF/Coalition forces in Afghanistan. Gulbuddin HEKMATYAR is, in particular, very anti-American.

**History:** Hezb-e Islami (Party of Islam), a fundamentalist faction of the Afghan mujahideen, was formed in 1975 by Gulbuddin HekmatyAR while he was in Pakistan. The initial intention of the group was to counter “modernist trends and leftists” in Afghanistan. In 1979, Mulavi Younas KHALIS split with HEKMATYAR and formed his own Hezb-e Islami faction, known as Hezb-e

Islami KHALIS (HIK). The Hezb-e Islami faction led by HEKMATAR is Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG).

Attacks: While HIG have never publicly claimed responsibility for attacks and it is difficult to attribute specific attacks in Afghanistan, since the fall of the Taliban, there are indications that HIG has conducted guerrilla/terrorist attacks against Western and Afghan targets.

Representation/Activities in the UK: HIG is believed to have some UK-based supporters but the group has no official representation here.

## **Harakat-ul-Mujahideen/Alami (HuM/A) and Jundallah**

Aims: Rejection of democracy of even the most Islamic-oriented style, and to establish a caliphate based on Sharia law, in addition to achieving accession of all Kashmir to Pakistan.

History: HuM/A was formed in 2002 and is a splinter group of Harakat-ul Mujahideen (HuM) HuM is focused on Kashmir whereas HuM/A has a broader anti-Western and anti-MUSHARRAF agenda rather than a Kashmir focus. Jundallah first appeared in reporting in 2004.

Attacks: HuM/A is reportedly capable of attacking various targets including Pakistani VIPs, Pakistani official, military and police, Western official and Western non-official targets. Jundallah targets the Western presence in Karachi and security/police officials in the city. There is considerable overlap between attacks claimed by Jundallah and those claimed by HuM/A and they may in fact be the same group. Jundallah arrests in mid-2004 may have disrupted the group and diminished their capability to mount attacks.

Attacks on UK or Western interests: HuM/A and Jundallah pose a threat to Western, including British, interests in Pakistan. HuM/A and Jundallah have been implicated in attacking Western targets.

Representation/activities in the UK: HuM/A is believed to have some UK-based supporters but the group has no official representation here.

## **Sipah-e Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) Aka Millat-e Islami Pakistan (MIP) and Splinter group: Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ)**

Aims: The aim of both SSP and LeJ is to transform Pakistan, by violent means, into a Sunni state under the total control of Sharia law. Another objective of SSP and LeJ is to have all Shia declared Kafirs and to participate in the destruction of other religions, notably Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism.

History: SSP was founded in the early 1980s mainly in reaction to the 1979 Shia theocratic revolution in Iran and subsequent Shia proselytising to Muslims elsewhere. SSP has operated as a political party in the past but as it is banned by the Government of Pakistan (GoP) it can no longer operate

politically. LeJ was formed in 1996 by a breakaway group of radical sectarian extremists of SSP.

**Attacks:** Given the close links between SSP and LeJ it is almost impossible to differentiate one group from the other when determining responsibility for an attack. Though predominantly an anti-Shia organisation, SSP/LeJ is also prepared to target Hindus, Christians and Jews. SSP/LeJ have been responsible for a string of attacks on Shia targets, police officers, religious leaders, diplomats, Christians, priests and worshippers.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** Given that SSP and LeJ are hostile to Westerners, we assess that these groups are capable of turning their attention from sectarian attacks towards targeting Western interests. LeJ have been implicated in attacking Western targets.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** Both SSP and LeJ are believed to have some UK-based supporters but neither group has any official representation here.

## **Khuddam ul-Islam (Kul) and Splinter group: Jamaat ul-Furquan (JuF)**

**Aims:** To unite Indian administered Kashmir with Pakistan. To establish a radical Islamist state in Pakistan. The “destruction” of India and the US. To recruit new jihadis. The release of imprisoned Kashmiri militants.

**History:** Following its proscription by Pakistan in 2001, Jaish-e Mohammed (JeM) changed its name to Tehrik ul-Furqan (TuF) but the group continued to be referred to as JeM. In 2003, TuF split into two factions. The rump of it became Khuddam ul-Islam (Kul), and a splinter group formed calling itself Jamaat ul-Furquan (JuF). Kul and JuF are often referred to as JeM.

**Attacks:** The groups have concentrated in targeting the Indian military and civilians.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** Both Kul and JuF pose a major terrorist threat to India, Pakistani and Western targets. The groups are well known for their anti-Western ideology and they represent a threat to Western, including British, interests in Pakistan. They have been implicated in attacking Western targets.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** Both Kul and JuF are believed to have some UK-based supporters but neither group has any official representation here.

## **Harakat-ul-Jihad-ul-Islami (HUJI)**

**Aims:** to achieve accession of all Kashmir to Pakistan by violent means and to spread terror throughout India.

**History:** HUJI was originally formed in order to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan. Two Pakistan-based Deobandi religious bodies – the Jamaat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam (JuI) and the Tabligh-i-Jamaat (TiJ) – set up HUJI in 1980. HUJI and Harakat-ul Mujahideen (HuM) operated together as Harakat-ul Ansar (HuA) between 1993 and 1997. HuA reverted back to HuM after they were proscribed in 1997.

**Attacks:** HUJI has targeted Indian security positions in Kashmir and conducted operations in India proper.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** HUJI (when it was HuA) conducted kidnappings of foreigners, including Westerners (some Britons), some of whom were murdered. HUJI is well known for its anti-Western ideology and they represent a threat to Western, including British, interests in Pakistan. HUJI have been implicated in attacking Western targets.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** HUJI is believed to have some UK-based supporters but the group has no official representation here.

## Harakat-ul-Jihad-ul-Islami (Bangladesh) (HUJI-B)

**Aims:** The main aim of HUJI-B is the creation of an Islamic regime in Bangladesh modelled on the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

**History:** HUJI-B was reportedly formed in 1992 as a separate organisation to its Pakistan-based parent organisation Harakat-ul-Jihad-Al-Islami (HUJI) by Bangladeshis who had fought with mujahiden against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

**Attacks:** HUJI is suspected of being involved in a series of violent incidents directed at the Hindu minorities and moderate Bangladeshi Muslims after the present government came to power in October 2001. It targets progressive intellectuals and secular politicians who ideologically challenge the path of the radical Islamists. It also criticises NGO activity as un-Islamic because these organisations are involved in spreading Western ideas of women empowerment and social transformation.

**Attacks on UK or Western interests:** HUJI-B has the potential to target Western, including British, interests.

**Representation/activities in the UK:** HUJI-B is believed to have some UK-based supporters but the group has no official representation here.

## Additions in 2006

The additions were made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2006, SI 2006/2016](#), which took effect on 26 July 2006.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Order set out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>89</sup> Extracts are reproduced below.

## **Al-Ghurabaa & The Saved Sect (AG and SS)**

AG and SS are believed to be splinter groups of Al-Muhajiroon. Al-Muhajiroon was formed in 1996 by Omar Bakri Mouhammad with the aim of creating a world-wide Islamic state and encouraging Muslims to support the Mujahidin who undertake violent jihad. After dissolving Al-Muhajiroon in October 2004, Bakri left for the Lebanon and was excluded from returning from the UK.

### **Al-Ghurabaa (AG)**

The AG website is registered at the same address and shares the same contact number as that used by Al-Muhajiroon. The internet is AG's key medium and is used as a means of mobilising support as well as disseminating its ideas. AG courts publicity and makes deliberately provocative and controversial statements expressing extremist views. It is considered that material produced and disseminated by AG falls within section 21 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

### **The Saved Sect (SS)**

The SS website disseminates extremist material which it is considered falls within section 21 of the Terrorism Act 2006. It is believed that SS and AG websites are working in tandem to disseminate an Islamist message under the umbrella of Ahl Us-Sunnah Wal-Jammaa'ah described as a sect within Islam.

## **Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA)**

The BLA are comprised of tribal groups based in the Baluchistan area of Eastern Pakistan. The overall aim for the group is an independent nation encompassing the Baluch dominated areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. The group has claimed responsibility for, or are the prime suspects in, a number of terrorist attacks dating back to at least 2004. These include the murder of Chinese engineers working on the Sindh/Baluchistan border (February 06), nine bombings at railway stations during 2005, a powerful bomb in Karachi (November 05), "bicycle bombings" in Lahore (September 05), the murder of Pakistani soldiers (August 05) and an attack on Chinese workers near the Gwadar port facility (May 04). Reporting indicates that the BLA continues to plan attacks and has tried to conduct fund raising in the UK.

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<sup>89</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2006](#)

## Teyrebaz Azadiye Kurdistan (TAK)

TAK has claimed a series of attacks in Istanbul and tourist resorts dating from summer 2004. These include a bomb attack in Mersin (Feb 06), a bomb attack on an internet cafe in Istanbul (Feb 06) and a car bomb in an Istanbul suburb (July 05). TAK are also suspected to have carried out a minibus bombing in July 2005 that killed 5 people including 1 British and 1 Irish national. In a statement in late June 2005, the group announced a broadening of its operations to include industrial, commercial and tourist sites, warning tourists that they would no longer be safe in Turkey.

## Additions in 2007

The additions were made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2007, SI 2007/2184](#), which took effect on 25 July 2007.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Order set out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>90</sup> Extracts are reproduced below.

### Jammat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh

First came to prominence on 20 May 2002 when eight of its members were arrested in possession of petrol bombs. The group has claimed responsibility for numerous fatal bomb attacks across Bangladesh in recent years, including suicide bomb attacks in 2005.

### Tehrik Nefaz-e Shari'at Muhammadi

Regularly attacks Coalition and Afghan government forces in Afghanistan and provides direct support to Al Qaida and the Taliban. One faction of the group claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on an army training compound on 8 November 2006 in Dargai, Pakistan, in which 42 soldiers were killed.

## Addition and removal in 2008

The removal was made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2008, SI 2008/1645](#), which took effect on 24 June 2008. The Order removed the People's Mujahiddin of Iran (otherwise known as the Mujahiddin e Khalq (MEK)) from the list of proscribed organisations.

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<sup>90</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2007](#)

The addition was made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2008, SI 2008/1931](#), which took effect on 18 July 2008.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Order set out background information on the organisation to be proscribed.<sup>91</sup>

### **Military wing of Hizballah, including the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it (including the Hizballah External Security Organisation)” in substitution for the existing entry “Hizballah External Security Organisation”**

Hizballah is actively involved in terrorist related activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, the provision of training and logistical and financial support to terrorist groups in Iraq and Palestine. The military wing of Hizballah is involved in supporting Shia insurgent groups in Iraq to carry out attacks, including against Coalition forces. In particular it has carried out training and support for Jaish Al-Mahdi (JAM), including in the use of explosively formed projectiles. The military wing of Hizballah has also provided support for Palestinian terrorist organisations such as the Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

## **Addition in 2010**

The addition was made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2010, SI 2010/611](#), which took effect on 5 March 2010.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Order set out background information on the organisation to be proscribed.<sup>92</sup>

### **Al Shabaab**

Al Shabaab has waged a violent campaign against the Somali Transition Federal Government and African Union peacekeeping troops in Somalia since the beginning of 2007. A feature of their campaign has been the adoption of terrorist tactics such as suicide operations, close quarter assassinations and road-side bombings. On 2 February 2010, members of AS announced their intention to combine the jihad in the Horn of Africa with the global jihad led

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<sup>91</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2008](#)

<sup>92</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2010](#)

by AQ. It has also openly expressed a desire to attack targets in Kenya, where a number of British interests are present.

## Addition in 2011

The addition was made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2011, SI 2011/108](#), which took effect on 21 January 2011.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Order set out background information on the organisation to be proscribed.<sup>93</sup>

### Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan

Has carried out a high number of mass casualty attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan since 2007. The group have announced various objectives and demands, such as the enforcement of sharia, resistance against the Pakistani army and the removal of NATO forces from Afghanistan. While the majority of attacks are against Pakistani military and government targets, the group is also known to target and claim responsibility for attacks on Western interests. The organisation has also been involved in attacks in the West, such as the attempted Times Square car-bomb attack in May 2010. It has recently been designated by the US and is also proscribed by Pakistan.

## Addition in July 2012

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2012, SI 2012/1771](#), which took effect on 6 July 2012, added the following organisation to the list:

### Indian Mujahideen

A terrorist organisation that has carried out a number of indiscriminate mass casualty attacks in India since 2007. They use violence to achieve their stated objectives of establishing an Islamic state in India and implementing Sharia law. The organisation has generally targeted civilian targets -such as markets with the intention of maximising casualties. The organisation has also attacked Hindu places of worship and areas popular with Western tourists. The organisation has also publicly stated its intention to target British and American tourists.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2011](#)

<sup>94</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2012](#)

## Addition in November 2012

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2012, SI 2012/2937](#), which took effect on 23 November 2012 added the following organisations to the list.

### **Ansarul Muslimina Fi Biladis Sudan (Vanguard for the protection of Muslims in Black Africa) (Ansaru)**

Ansaru is an Islamist terrorist organisation, based in Nigeria, which reportedly emerged in January 2012. The organisation is motivated by an anti-Nigerian Government and anti-Western agenda and is broadly aligned with Al Qa'ida. The organisation is believed to be responsible for the murder, in March 2012, of British national Christopher McManus and his Italian co-worker Franco Lamolinara.

## Additions in July 2013

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2013, SI 2013/1746](#), which took effect on 12 July 2013, added the following organisations to the list.

### **Jama'atu Ahli Sunna Lidda Awati Wal Jihad (Boko Haram)**

Jama'atu Ahli Sunna Lidda Awati Wal Jihad (known as Boko Haram) is a prolific terrorist organisation, based in Nigeria that aims to overthrow the Nigerian Government by carrying out indiscriminate, mass casualty attacks. They have targeted all sections of Nigerian society – Muslims, Christians, rich, poor, civilians and members of the security forces alike – as well as members of the international community. For example, an attack near Abuja on Christmas Day 2011 that killed at least 26, and an attack on a bus station in Kano City in March 2013 that killed over 60, were both attributed to the organisation. The organisation has also sought to attack Western targets in Nigeria. In August 2011, the organisation claimed responsibility for a suicide attack against the UN building in Abuja that killed 26. They have targeted westerners for kidnapping in the last few years.

### **Minbar Ansar Deen (MAD) (Ansar Al Sharia UK)**

Minbar Ansar Deen (MAD), also known as Ansar al-Sharia UK, is a Salafist group based in the UK that promotes and encourages terrorism. MAD distributes content through its online forum which promotes terrorism by encouraging individuals to travel overseas to engage in extremist activity,

specifically fighting. The group is not related to Ansar al-Sharia groups in other countries.

## Addition in December 2013

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2013, SI 2013/3172](#), which took effect on 13 December 2013, added the following organisations to the list.

### **Imarat Kavkaz (IK) (the Caucasus Emirate)**

Imarat Kavkaz (IK), or the Caucasus Emirate seeks a Sharia based Caliphate across the North Caucasus. It regularly uses terrorist tactics and has carried out attacks against Russian state and civilian targets. The organisation claimed responsibility for the January 2011 suicide attack on Domodedovo airport in Moscow, that killed 35 including one British national, and a suicide attack on the Moscow Metro in March 2010 that killed 39. Since then there has been continued activity by Imarat Kavkaz, including renewed threats over summer 2013 of activity in Russia, including against sporting events. The organisation is currently designated by the US and also by the UN under the Al Qa'ida sanctions regime.

## Additions in April 2014

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2014, SI 2013/927](#), which took effect on 4 April 2014, added the following organisations to the list.

### **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (ABM)**

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (ABM) which is also known as Ansar Jerusalem, is an Al Qa'ida inspired militant Islamist group based in the northern Sinai region of Egypt. The group is said to recruit within Egypt and abroad. The group aims to create an Egyptian state ruled by Sharia law.

ABM is assessed to be responsible for a number of attacks on security forces in Egypt since 2011. The attacks appear to have increased since the overthrow of the Morsi government in July 2013. The group's reach goes beyond the Sinai, with the group claiming responsibility for a number of attacks in Cairo and cross-border attacks against Israel. ABM has undertaken attacks using vehicle borne improvised explosive devices and surface-to-air missiles. Examples of attacks that the group has claimed responsibility for include:

1. In September 2013 on the Egyptian Interior Minister in which a UK national was seriously injured;

2. The attack on a police compound in Mansoura on 24 December 2013, killing at least 16 people, including 14 police officers;
3. The attack on an Egyptian police helicopter in the northern Sinai on 25 January 2014;
4. The assassination of General Mohammed Saeed, an official in the Interior Ministry, on 28 January 2014; and
5. An attack on a tourist bus in which three South Koreans and their Egyptian driver died on 16 January 2014.

## Al Murabitun

Al Murabitun resulted from a merger of two Al Qa'ida in the Maghreb (AQM) splinter groups that are active in Mali and Algeria, the Movement for the Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) and Mokhtar Belmokhtar's group, the Al Mulathamine Battalion which included the commando element 'Those Who Sign in Blood'. The merger was announced in a public statement in August 2013. The group aspires to unite Muslims from "the Nile to the Atlantic" and has affirmed its loyalty to al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri and the emir of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Omar. Al Murabitun's first statement threatened France and its allies in the region and called upon Muslims to target French interests everywhere.

Belmokhtar has announced that he will not continue to lead the group to allow a new generation of jihadist leaders to come to the fore. Reports indicate that the new commander has fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in the 2000s.

Although the group has not claimed responsibility for any terrorist attacks since the merger, both precursor groups participated in a number of terrorist attacks and kidnapping for ransom in the past 13 months. Belmokhtar's group was responsible for the attack against the In Amenas gas facility in January 2013 that resulted in the death of over thirty people including Britons and Americans. In May 2013 the two groups targeted a military barracks in Agadez, Niger and a uranium mine in Arlit which supplies French nuclear reactors. The suicide attack in Agadez resulted in the deaths of at least twenty people. Shortly after the attacks, Belmokhtar indicated that they had been carried out as a form of revenge for the death of Abdelhamid Abou Zeid, an AQ-M commander who was killed by French forces in northern Mali earlier in 2013.

Despite previously separating themselves from Al Qa'ida in the Maghreb, citing leadership issues and the desire to expand their control, both precursor groups continued to cooperate and fight alongside AQM fighters in Mali and other regions of West Africa. This activity has continued since the merger.

The Sahel region continues to see high threats of kidnap and terrorist attacks, which were further heightened following the French military intervention in

Mali. Hostages are currently held in the Sahel and surrounding regions, which, includes Algeria, Cameroon, Libya and Nigeria.

The Canadians designated Belmokhtar's group in November 2013 and the US designated it in December 2013, specifying Al Murabitun as an alias.

## **Ansar Al Sharia-Tunisia (AAS-T)**

Ansar Al Sharia-Tunisia (AAS-T) is a radical Islamist group founded in April 2011. The group aims to establish Sharia law in Tunisia and eliminate Western influence. Between 5,000 and 10,000 individuals may be attracted to rallies organised by the movement. The group is ideologically aligned to Al Qa'ida (AQ) and has links to AQ affiliated groups. It is reported that the group announced its loyalty to Al Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQ-M) in September 2013.

AAS-T's leader, Seif Allah Ibn Hussein also known as Abu Ayadh al-Tunis, is a former AQ veteran combatant in Afghanistan. He is in hiding following issue of a warrant for his arrest in relation to the allegation that he incited the attack on the US Embassy in Tunis that killed four people in September 2012.

Salafists believed to have links with AAS-T are assessed to be responsible for the attacks in October 2011 on a television station and, in June 2012, an attack on an art exhibit. AAS-T is assessed to be responsible for the attacks on the US Embassy and American school in Tunis in September 2012. The Tunisian government believe AAS-T was responsible for the assassination of two National Coalition Assembly members; Chokri Belaid in February 2013 and Mohamed Brahmi in July 2013.

Additionally, elements of the group are believed to have been involved in the attempted suicide attack, in October 2013, at a hotel in a tourist resort in Sousse where a significant number of British tourists were staying. More than 400,000 British tourists visited Tunisia last year.

The Tunisian government listed AAS-T as a terrorist group in 2013 and the US did so in January 2014.<sup>95</sup>

## **Additions in June 2014**

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2014, SI 2013/1624](#), which took effect on 20 June 2014, added the following organisations to the list of proscribed organisations:

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<sup>95</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2014](#)

## **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham) (Dawat al Islamiya fi Iraq wa al Sham (DAISh))**

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is an armed Sunni Islamist terrorist group active in Iraq and Syria. The group was established just prior to the commencement of coalition operations in Iraq, and pledged allegiance to Al Qa'ida in 2004. The group adheres to a global jihadist ideology, following an extreme interpretation of Islam, which is anti-Western and promotes sectarian violence.

In October 2006, the group began using the name 'Dawlat al-'Iraq al-Islamiyya' or Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) in a largely unsuccessful attempt to unify various Sunni Jihadist factions. In April 2013, the group changed its name to the 'Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant' to reflect its involvement in the Syrian civil war. The group is also commonly referred to as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Dawlat al Islamiya fi Iraq wa al Sham (DAISh) and the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham.

In April 2014, ISIL claimed responsibility for a series of blasts targeting a Shia election rally in Baghdad. These attacks are reported to have killed at least 31 people. Thousands of Iraqi civilians lost their lives to sectarian violence in 2013, and attacks carried out by ISIL will have accounted for a large proportion of these deaths.

ISIL has reportedly detained dozens of foreign journalists and aid workers. In September 2013, members of the group kidnapped and killed the commander of Ahrar ash-Sham after he intervened to protect members of a Malaysian Islamic charity.

In January 2014, ISIL captured the Al-Anbar cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, and is engaged in ongoing fighting with the Iraqi security forces. The group also claimed responsibility for car bomb attack that killed four people and wounded dozens in the southern Beirut suburb of Haret Hreik. Just last week the group used violence to take control of the Iraqi city of Mosul prompting many thousands of people to leave their homes.

ISIL has a strong presence in northern and eastern Syria where it has instituted strict Sharia law in the towns under its control. The group is responsible for numerous attacks and a vast amount of deaths. The group is believed to attract a number of foreign fighters, including Westerners, to the region, and has maintained control of various towns on the Syrian/Turkish border. This allows the group to control who crosses, and its presence there has interfered with the free flow of humanitarian aid.

ISIL was previously proscribed as part of Al Qa'ida (AQ). However on 2 February 2014, AQ senior leadership issued a statement officially severing ties with ISIL, which prompted consideration of the case to proscribe ISIL in its own right. Reports suggest that the group was not dependent on AQ core for

resources or direction, its disenfranchisement from AQ will not impact the group's aims, influence, how it operates or its activities.

ISIL is designated as a terrorist group by both Canada and Australia and as an alias of AQ by the US, New Zealand and the UN.

## **Turkiye Halk Kurtulus Partisi-Cephesi (THKP-C)**

THKP-C is also known as the Peoples' Liberation Party/Front of Turkey, THKP-C Acilciler and the Hasty Ones. THKP-C is a Turkish left wing organisation formed in 1994 after Dev Sol splintered. The group grew out of the Turkish extreme left Revolutionary Youth Movements which formed in the 1960s and 70s. 7.11 THKP-C is a pro-Assad militia group fighting in Syria and has developed increased capability since the Syrian insurgency.

THKP-C is assessed to have been involved in an attack in Reyhanli (Turkey) in May 2013, killing over 50 people and injuring over 100.

The leader of the group, Mihrac Ural, holds Syrian citizenship and was born in the southern province of Hatay where the organisation has always been most prominent. Ural has formed a number of other groups under the THKP-C umbrella including 'Mukavament Suriye' (Syrian Resistance), which is reported to have been responsible for the recent Baniyas Massacre killing at least 145 people.

The group has links to other terrorist groups in the region, including DHKP-C.

## **Kateeba al-Kawthar (KaK)**

Also known as 'Ajnad al-sham' and 'Junud ar-Rahman al Muhajireen', describes itself as a group of mujahideen from more than 20 countries seeking a 'just' Islamic nation.

KaK is an armed terrorist group fighting to establish an Islamic state in Syria. The group is aligned to the most extreme groups operating in Syria and has links to Al Qa'ida.

Abu Musab (also known as Rabah Tahari), a Western Mujaadid commander is the group's leader. Musab posts updates and addresses his followers via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. KaK is believed to attract a number of Western foreign fighters and has released YouTube footage encouraging travel to Syria and asking Muslims to support the fighters.

## **Abdallah Azzam Brigades including the Ziyad al-Jarrah Battalions**

An Islamist militant group aligned with Al Qa'ida and the global jihad movement, currently fighting in Syria and Lebanon. The group, which began operating in Pakistan in 2009, was founded by Saudi Saleh Al-Qaraawi. The Lebanese branch uses the name the Ziyad al- Jarrah Battalions, and is named

after Lebanese 9/11 hijacker Ziyad al Jarrah who participated in the hijacking and crash of United Flight 93.

AAB has increased its operational pace since the onset of the Syrian insurgency, claiming responsibility for a rocket attack launched from Lebanon into northern Israel in August 2013. On 19 November 2013, the Brigade claimed responsibility for a double suicide bombing outside the Iranian embassy in Beirut, which killed at least 22 people and wounded over 140.

On 19 February 2014, the group's recently established media wing, the Al-Awzaey Media Foundation, announced on Twitter and YouTube that the group claimed responsibility for the two suicide bombings near the Iranian cultural centre in Beirut killing 11 and wounding 130, in revenge for actions by Iran and Hizballah in Lebanon and Syria.

The group has threatened to launch further terrorist attacks and has demanded that the Lebanese Government free imprisoned jihadists. It has also threatened attacks on Western targets in the Middle East.

Senior leaders of the group Al-Qaraawi and Majid al-Majid were on Saudi Arabia's 2009 most wanted terrorist list and the US's 2011 terrorist list. Al-Qaraawi was arrested and detained in Saudi Arabia and Majid al-Majid died in Lebanese custody in January 2014. In addition the group was listed as a terrorist group by the US in May 2012.

## **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC)**

A left wing nationalist Palestinian militant organisation formed in 1968. The group's aim is the destruction of Israel and is opposed to any negotiation with Israel and believes solely in a military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is based in Syria and was involved in the Palestine insurgency during the 70s and 80s. It was the first Palestinian group to use suicide squads. The group has used barometric bombs to blow up aircraft and has sent parcel bombs.

From its outset the group has been a Syrian proxy. Since the late 80s the group has been largely inactive and during the 1990s, the PFLP-GC limited its activities to training and equipping other terrorist groups, such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. However PFLP-GC has been fighting in the Syrian war, including in Yarmouk Refugee Camp in July 2013. The group also issued statements in support of the Syrian government, Hizballah, and Iran.

The group has been designated as a terrorist group by the USA, Canada Israel and the European Union. The group is also subject to a domestic asset freeze. The group is not the same as Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

## Additions in November 2014

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No.3\) Order 2014/3189 \(No.3\)](#), which took effect on 28 November 2014,<sup>96</sup> added a number of organisations to the list of proscribed organisations in Schedule 2, as detailed in the [Explanatory Memorandum to the Order](#) :<sup>97</sup>

### **Ansar al-Sharia-Benghazi (Partisans of Islamic Law)**

AAS-B is a Sunni Islamist militia group that has an anti-Western rhetoric and advocates the implementation of strict Sharia law. AAS-B came into being in 2011, after the fall of the Gaddafi regime. The group was led by Mohammed Ali al-Zahawi and Ahmed Abu Khattalah is an AAS-B senior leader.

AAS-B is involved in terrorist attacks against civilian targets, frequent assassinations, and attempted assassinations of security officials and political actors in eastern Libya. On 11 September, 2012 members of AAS-B took part in the attack against the U.S. Special Mission and Annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing the US ambassador and three other Americans. In September 2012, Mohammed Ali al-Zahawi, in an interview openly stated his support for Al Qa'ida's strategy but denied any links to the organisation. He also confirmed AAS-B had demolished and desecrated Sufi shrines in Benghazi, which the group regard as idolatrous.

AAS-B used its online presence to denounce the 2013 capture and removal from Libya of al Qa'ida operative Abu Anas al-Libi, by American military forces. In August 2013, Ahmed Abu Khattala, a senior leader of the group, was charged with playing a significant role in last year's attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi.

AAS-B continues to pose a threat to Libya and Western interests and is alleged to have links to proscribed organisation Ansar al-Sharia-Tunisia and Al Qa'ida.

The US designated AAS-B as a terrorist organisation in January 2014 and the UN listed AAS-B on 19 November.

### **Ajnad Misr (Soldiers of Egypt)**

The group is a jihadist group based in Egypt and is believed to be a splinter group of Ansar Bayt al Maqdis (ABM), which was proscribed on 4 April. Ajnad Misr has stated that it seeks to protect Egyptian Muslims and avenge alleged abuse against them by the Egyptian security services.

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<sup>96</sup> [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No.3\) Order 2014/3189 \(No.3\)](#).

<sup>97</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No.3\) Order 2014/3189 \(No.3\)](#)

Ajnad Misr is believed to have been active since 20 November 2013, when it attacked an Egyptian checkpoint. It announced its establishment on 23 January 2014 and has claimed responsibility a number of attacks on Egyptian security forces in a military campaign. The claims were made in three communiqués posted on its Facebook and Twitter accounts on 23 January, 24 January, and 31 January. On the jihadi forum al-Fida', Ansar Bayt al Maqdis, referred to Ajnad Misr in a communiqué issued on January 28, expressing support for the group and identifying it as being responsible for two attacks in Greater Cairo in January. Ajnad Misr has claimed responsibility for the bombing at Cairo University on 2 April that resulted in the death of a policeman and injuries to three others.

## Jaysh al Khalifatu Islamiya (Army of the Islamic Caliphate) (Majahideen of the Caucasus and the Levant)

JKI is an Islamist jihadist group, consisting predominately of Chechen fighters. JKI is an opposition group active in Syria.

JKI splintered from Jaysh al-Muhajireen Wal Ansar (JAMWA) in 2013. At that point a number of members went with Umar Shishani (aka Umar the Chechen) to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and, the rest of the group stayed distinct and renamed itself Majahideen of the Caucasus and the Levant (MCL) and more recently renamed itself JKI.

Before his death in 2014, JKI was led by Seyfullah Shishani, who had pledged allegiance to the leader of the Al Nusrah Front, Mohammed Al-Jawlani. JKI has assisted ANF and ISIL in conducting attacks.

In February 2014, a British individual linked to the group, carried out a suicide attack on a prison in Aleppo, resulting in prisoner escapes.

## Additions in January 2015

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2015/55](#), which took effect on 23 January 2015,<sup>98</sup> added the following organisations to the list of proscribed organisations in Schedule 2, as detailed in the [Explanatory Memorandum to the Order](#).<sup>99</sup>

## Jund al-Aqsa (Soldiers of Al-Aqsa)

Jund al-Aqsa (JAA) translates as Soldiers of al-Aqsa and is a splinter group of the Al Nusrah Front (ANF). JAA has been active in Syria against the Syrian

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<sup>98</sup> [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2015/55](#)

<sup>99</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2015/55](#)

Government since September 2013 and is primarily operating in Idlib and Hama. JAA is a battalion that includes a native Syrian contingent as well as foreign fighters of a variety of nationalities. 7.5 JAA is believed to be responsible for the attack on 9 February 2014 in Maan village killing 40 people including 21 civilians. JAA and Ahrar al-Sham are reported to have uploaded YouTube footage of their joint offensive against the village, although neither group has claimed responsibility. 7.6 During July 2014, JAA supported the Islamic Front in an operation to seize Hama military airport. ANF released a document summarising its operations in August 2014, which included details of an attack that targeted a resort hotel conducted in collaboration with JAA.

## Jund al Khalifah-Algeria (Soldiers of the Caliphate in Algeria)

JaK-A is an Islamist militant group believed to be made up of members of dormant Al Qa'ida (AQ) cells. JaK-A announced its allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) in a communiqué released on 13 September 2014. The leader of the group, Abdelmalek Gouri, also known as Khaled Abu Suleiman, said he had broken away from AQ because the AQ branch had “deviated from the true path”.

In April 2014, JaK-A claimed responsibility for an ambush on a convoy that resulted in the death of eleven members of the Algerian army. On 24 September 2014, the group beheaded a mountaineering guide, Hervé Gourdel, a French national. Gourdel's abduction was announced on the same day that a spokesman for ISIL warned that ISIL would target Americans and other Western citizens, especially the French, after French jets joined the US in carrying out strikes in Iraq on ISIL targets.

## Additions in March 2015

[The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2015/959](#), which took effect on 27 March 2015,<sup>100</sup> added the following organisations to the list of proscribed organisations in Schedule 2, as detailed in the [Explanatory Memorandum to the Order](#).<sup>101</sup>

## Jamaat ul-Ahrar (JuA)

JuA is a militant Islamist group that split away from Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in August 2014. JuA aims to establish an Islamic caliphate in Pakistan and aspires to extend global jihad into the Indian subcontinent.

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<sup>100</sup> [The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2015/959](#)

<sup>101</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2015/959](#)

The group have claimed responsibility for a number of recent attacks, including on 21 November 2014, a grenade attack on the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in Orangi Town area of Karachi that killed three members of the Sindh Assembly and injured 50 workers; on 7 November 2014, twin bombings targeting peace committee volunteers in Chinari village of Safi Tehsil in the Mohmand Agency killed at least six people. JuA's spokesman, Ehsanullah Ehsan, claimed responsibility and vowed to continue attacking tribal peace committees; and on 2 November 2014, the suicide bomber attack on the Pakistan side of Wagah border crossing, shortly after the famous flag-lowering ceremony had concluded, that killed over 60 people. In September 2014, Ehsanullah Ehsan released a statement criticising the British Government for arresting Al Muhajiroun (ALM) associates and made a threat, stating that "your future security depends upon how nicely you treat the Muslims in Britain".

In March 2015 the group claimed responsibility for fatal attacks on Christian sites in Lahore.

## The Haqqani Network (HQN)

The Haqqani Network (HQN) is an Islamist, nationalist group seeking to establish sharia law and control territory in Afghanistan. It is ideologically aligned with the Taliban, and aims to eradicate Western influence, disrupt the Western military and political efforts in Afghanistan. The group is demanding that US and Coalition Forces withdraw from Afghanistan. The group is led by Jalaluddin Haqqani and his son, Sirajuddin.

HQN has links with a number of terrorist groups in the region including proscribed Central Asian group Islamic Jihad Union (IJU). HQN also have long established links with Al Qa'ida (AQ) that were strengthened after the removal of the Taliban by the US when AQ leader Osama bin Laden was probably sheltered by Jalaluddin in North Waziristan (NWA).

HQN continues to play an active and influential role in the Afghan insurgency in the East of the country and is seeking to expand its influence in to other areas of Afghanistan. While it can be difficult to identify specific HQN responsibility for attacks, given the Taliban practice of claiming attacks on behalf of the insurgency as a whole, the group believed to have been responsible for the recent attack against the British Embassy vehicle in November 2014 which killed six people including a UK national and an Afghan member of UK Embassy staff and injuring more than 30 people.

It is likely that HQN will continue to view Kabul as a key target location due to the concentration of UK and Western interests in the capital.

HQN has been banned as a terrorist group by the USA since September 2012, Canada since May 2013 and the UN since November 2012.

## Removal in March 2016

[The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2016/391](#), which took effect on 18 March 2016,<sup>102</sup> amended Schedule 2 to the Act by removing “International Sikh Youth Federation” from the list of proscribed organisations in Schedule 2.

The [Explanatory Memorandum to the Order](#) sets out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>103</sup>

An application was made to the Secretary of State for the de-proscription of the International Sikh Youth Federation. The Secretary of State has now decided that there is insufficient information to conclude that the group remains concerned in terrorism. Accordingly, this instrument removes the International Sikh Youth Federation from the list in Schedule 2 to the Act.

## Additions in July 2016

Additions were made by way of [The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2016/770](#), which took effect on 15 July 2016.<sup>104</sup>

The [Explanatory Memorandum to the Order](#) sets out background information on the organisations to be proscribed.<sup>105</sup>

### **Global Islamic Media Front (including GIMF Bangla Team (Ansarullah BanglaTeam) (Ansar-alIslam))**

GIMF is an Islamist extremist propaganda organisation associated with Al Qa’ida (AQ) and other extremist groups around the world. Its activities include propagating a jihadist ideology, producing and disseminating training manuals to guide terror attacks and publishing jihadi news casts. GIMF releases products in a number of languages including Arabic, Urdu, Bengali, English, German and French.

On 31 December 2015, the GIMF announced the merger of ABT into its ranks, renaming it GIMF Bangla Team. Prior to the merger, using the names ABT and Ansar-al Islam, the group claimed responsibility for the prominent murders and attacks of secular bloggers from 2013 to 2015: including Bangladeshi-American Avijit Roy; Niladri Chatterji Niloy; Ahmed Rajib Haider; Asif

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<sup>102</sup> [The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2016/391](#)

<sup>103</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2016/391](#)

<sup>104</sup> [The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2016/770](#)

<sup>105</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2016/770](#)

Mohiuddin; Oyasiqur Rahman; Ananta Bijoy; Das and AKM Shafiul Islam. The group have been linked to a number of hit lists of bloggers, writers and activists around the world (including nine individuals based in Britain, seven in Germany and two in America, one in Canada and one in Sweden) in 2015.

On 7 January 2016 GIMF Bangla Team published an infographic chronicling attacks carried out against “blasphemers in Bangladesh” from January 2013 to October 2015. The graphic contained names and locations of 13 attacks, eight of which were celebrated as successful assassinations. Bangladesh banned ABT in May 2015.

## **Mujahedeen Indonesia Timur (East Indonesia Mujahedeen)**

MIT is Indonesia's most active terrorist group based in the mountainous jungle of Poso, in Central Sulawesi. Its leader, Abu Warda also known as Santoso, is one of Indonesia's most wanted terrorist. The group's modus operandi is to attack the police and the army which includes the use of explosives (including the use of IEDs), and shootings. MIT have been responsible for deaths of more than a dozen police officers in Poso in the last three years. They have also used kidnappings and beheadings of Christian farmers in Poso to dissuade the local populace from assisting the police.

MIT pledged its allegiance to Daesh in July 2014 and are assessed to have links to other Daesh affiliated terrorist groups in the region. MIT has claimed responsibility for a number of recent attacks and has threatened attacks on targets across the country including the capital (specifically the Jakarta police headquarters and the presidential palace in a video uploaded on 22 November 2015).

In September 2015 MIT was banned as a terrorist group by the USA and the UN.

## **Turkestan Islamic Party (East Turkestan Islamic Party) (East Turkestan Islamic Movement) (East Turkestan Jihadist Movement) (Hizb al-Islami al-Turkistani)**

Turkestan Islamic Party (“TIP”, also known as “East Turkestan Islamic Party”, “East Turkestan Islamic Movement”, “East Turkestan Jihadist Movement” and “Hizb al-Islami al-Turkistani”) is an Islamic terrorist and separatist organisation founded in 1989 by Uighur militants in western China. It aims to establish an independent caliphate in the Uighur state of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of Northwestern China and to name it East Turkestan. TIP is based in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan, and operates in China, Central and South Asia and Syria. The group has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks in China, the latest of these being in April 2014. TIP has links to a number of terrorist groups including AQ.

In November 2015, TIP released the 18th issue of its magazine ‘Islamic Turkestan’ through GIMF, detailing TIP’s jihad against the Chinese authorities. Video footage from September 2015 shows TIP hosting training camps in areas controlled by the Pakistani Taliban in North Waziristan.

More recently TIP has maintained an active and visible presence in the Syrian war and has published a number of video clips of its activities. Examples of this from March to April 2016 include:

6. TIP claiming a joint attack with Jund al Aqsa in Sahl al Ghab and published a video of a suicide bomb attack in April 2016
7. a video published in March 2016 which promotes the victories of TIP in Syria and calls for Muslims to join jihad; and
8. a video slide show published in April 2016 which shows fighters and children in training.

TIP has been banned as a terrorist group by Australia, the USA, the UN, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, United Arab Emirates, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## Jamaah Anshorut Daulah

Jamaah Anshorut Daulah (“JAD”) was established in March 2015 following the merger of several Indonesian extremist and terrorist groups aligned to Daesh. JAD has extensive links to Daesh and actively recruits fighters in Syria. The group is led by the imprisoned extremist cleric Aman Abdurrahman and has close ties to other terrorist groups including Daesh. Its membership includes several former members of Jamaah Islamiyah (“JI”). JI were responsible for the 2002 and 2005 Bali attacks. JAD was responsible for the attack near Sarinah Mall in Jakarta in January 2016, which was claimed by Daesh and resulted in the deaths of seven people (including the five attackers) and 20 people (including five police officers) being injured.

## Additions in December 2016

The addition was made by way of [The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Order 2016/1238](#), which took effect on 16 December 2016.<sup>106</sup>

The [Explanatory Memorandum to the Order](#) sets out background information on the organisation to be proscribed.<sup>107</sup> An extract is reproduced below.

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<sup>106</sup> [The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Order 2016/1238](#)

<sup>107</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Order 2016/1238](#)

## National Action

National Action is a racist neo-Nazi group that was established in 2013. It has a number of branches across the UK, which conduct provocative street demonstrations and stunts aimed at intimidating local communities. Its activities and propaganda materials are particularly aimed at recruiting young people.

The group is virulently racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic. Its ideology promotes the idea that Britain will inevitably see a violent ‘race war’, which the group claims it will be an active part of. The group rejects democracy, is hostile to the British state and seeks to divide society by implicitly endorsing violence against ethnic minorities and perceived ‘race traitors’

National Action’s online propaganda material, disseminated via social media, frequently features extremely violent imagery and language. It condones and glorifies those who have used extreme violence for political or ideological ends. This includes tweets posted by the group in 2016, in connection with the murder of Jo Cox (which the prosecutor described as a terrorist act), stating “Only 649 MPs to go” and a photo of Thomas Mair with the caption “don’t let this man’s sacrifice go in vain” and “Jo Cox would have filled Yorkshire with more subhumans!”, as well as an image condoning and celebrating the terrorist attack on the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and another depicting a police officer’s throat being slit. The images can reasonably be taken as inferring that these acts should be emulated and therefore amount to the unlawful glorification of terrorism.

## Additions and removal in December 2017

The addition was made by way of the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2017/1325](#), which took effect on 22 December 2017.

The following organisations were added to the list. An explanation of their activities and the need for proscription was provided by the [explanatory memorandum](#).

### Al-Ashtar Brigades

The al-Ashtar Brigades is a Shia militant extremist organisation that aims to overthrow the Bahraini al-Khalifa ruling family. The group has promoted violent activity against the Bahraini Government, as well as the British, American and Saudi Arabian Governments on social media, and has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks in Bahrain.

## Al-Mukhtar Brigades

The al-Mukhtar Brigades is also a Shia militant organisation that targets the al-Khalifa ruling family, as well as the Bahrain security forces and Saudi Arabia.

## Hasam

Hasam is an extremist group using violent tactics against the Egyptian security forces and regime. The group have claimed responsibility for a number of attacks and assassination attempts in Egypt.

## Liwa al-Thawra

Liwa al-Thawra is also an extremist group using violent tactics against the Egyptian regime, which has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks in Egypt.

## Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (De-proscription)

This order also had the effect of de-proscribing Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin, following an application.

## Name changes in February 2019

The [Proscribed Organisations \(Name Change\) Order 2019](#) specified a number of names to be treated as aliases for two organisations that were already proscribed. This came into force on 26 February 2019.

## The Revolutionary Peoples' Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C)

- Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi-Cephesi) (DHKP-C)
- Revolutionary People's Liberation Front (Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Cephesi) (DHKC)
- Revolutionary People's Liberation Party (Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi) (DHKP)
- Revolutionary People's Liberation Front/Armed Propaganda Units (Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Cephesi/Silahli Propaganda Birlikleri) (DHKC/SPB)

## ISIS

- Jaysh Khalid Bin Walid (JKbW) (JKW);
- Jaysh Khalid bin al-Walid (KBW), and
- Khalid ibn-Walid Army (KBWA).

## Additions in March 2019

The Government also laid the [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019](#) proscribing three new organisations.

### Hizballah

The existing proscription of the military wing of Hizballah was extended to the entire organisation. The military wing was originally proscribed in 2001. Hizballah's aims and activities are described above.

### Jammat Nusrat al-Islam Wal-Muslimin

JNIM was established in March 2017 as a federation of Al Qaida aligned groups in Mali. It aims to eradicate state and Western presence from the areas in which the groups operate and to institute governance in accordance with a strict Salafist interpretation of Sharia law. attacks on Western interests in the region are one means by which JNIM seeks to achieve its goals.

### Ansaroul Islam

Ansaroul Islam announced its existence in December 2016. It aims to establish dominance over the historic Fulani kingdom of Djelgoodji in northern Burkina Faso and central Mali and implement Salafi Sharia.

## Additions in 2020

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2020](#) made a name change with respect to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to reflect the recognition of aliases. It substituted the existing reference for Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkeren Kurdistanî) (PKK) including Teyrebazene Azadiye Kurdistan (TAK) and Hezen Parastina Gel (HPG).

It also made an addition, as detailed in the [explanatory memorandum](#).

## Sonnenkrieg Division

Sonnenkrieg Division is a white supremacist group, formed in March 2018 as a splinter group of System Resistance Network (an alias of the proscribed group National Action). Members of the group were convicted of encouraging terrorism and possession of documents useful to a terrorist in June 2019. The group has encouraged and glorified acts of terrorism via its posts and images: e.g. an image depicting Prince Harry being shot as part of their campaign against ‘race traitors’ following his marriage to Meghan Markle; and home-made propaganda using Nazi imagery calling for attacks on minorities.

## Feuerkrieg Division

[The Terrorism Act \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(no. 2\) Order 2020](#) made a further addition, as detailed in the [explanatory memorandum](#).

Feuerkrieg Division (FKD) is a white supremacist group founded in late 2018 that has an international footprint, with members across North America and Europe. The group celebrates the concepts promoted in a collection of essays which advocate the use of violence and mass murder in pursuit of an apocalyptic race war.

- In mid-2019 the group reportedly called for the deaths of a European Parliament politician and YouTube’s chief executive officer.
- FKD’s members have been arrested on terrorism charges both in the UK and overseas. In 2019, US authorities charged several individuals with a variety of offences, including weapons charges, plotting to bomb a synagogue and attack members of the LGBTQ community, plotting to bomb a major news network, and distributing information related to explosives and weapons of mass destruction.
- In September 2019, UK police apprehended a 16-year-old on suspicion of the commission, preparation, and instigation of acts of terrorism. As a result, the group distributed among its members a list of police buildings and an image of the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, with a gun to his head and the words “Race Traitor” across his eyes, urging members to carry out attacks in retaliation for the arrest of one of its followers.
- In October 2019, a 21-year-old appeared in court in London charged with terror offences relating to his purported support for FKD. He allegedly encouraged the mass murder of members of the Jewish and LGBTQ communities.
- FKD members have condoned and glorified acts of terrorism. This includes the Charleston church shooting; the Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh; the Oklahoma City bombing; and the Christchurch shooting.

## Additions in 2021

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#) made the following addition, as detailed in the [explanatory memorandum](#).

### **Atomwaffen Division (AWD), including National Socialist Order (NSO)**

AWD is a predominately US-based white supremacist group that was active between 2015 to 2020. AWD celebrates a collection of essays which advocate the use of violence in order to bring about a fascist, white ethno-state by initiating the collapse of modern society by means of a ‘race war’. This ideology has become known as ‘accelerationism’.

AWD’s online propaganda has encouraged and promoted terrorist acts and this content likely remains influential among accelerationist terrorist groups. AWD has inspired, at least in part, several loosely affiliated franchise groups abroad, including Feuerkrieg Division.

In March 2020, AWD claimed that it had disbanded following pressure from US law enforcement agencies. In July 2020, National Socialist Order (NSO) announced itself online as AWD’s ‘successor’. The Home Secretary believes that AWD is almost certainly now operating under the name NSO in the United States.

NSO adheres to the same ideology and has similar accelerationist aims as it did when it was called AWD. Under the name NSO, the organisation has publicly dedicated itself to bringing about ‘white power’ governments ‘by any means necessary’ and it is the Home Secretary’s belief that it is almost certain that ‘any means necessary’ is intended to be understood as endorsing violence.

### **The Base**

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(no. 2\) Order 2021](#) added a further organisation to Schedule 2, as detailed in the [explanatory memorandum](#).

The Base is a predominantly US-based militant white supremacist group, formed in 2018. The Base draws influence from a collection of essays which advocate for the use of violence to initiate the collapse of modern society through a ‘race war’ and the subsequent creation of a white ethno-state. This ideology is known as ‘accelerationism’.

The Base has links with other internationally-based National Socialist groups and individuals and seeks to provide terrorist training, guidance and networking.

The Base almost certainly prepares for terrorism. While it outwardly seeks to promote itself as a “self-defence and survivalist” group and refutes any claims of its involvement in terrorist activity, the training it provides is highly likely paramilitary in nature and preparatory for offensive action. This training would almost certainly enhance both the intent and capability of trainees to conduct terrorist acts. Members of The Base have engaged in weapons and explosives training.

The Base has also almost certainly promoted or encouraged acts of terrorism and elements of its membership will almost certainly continue to do so. In late 2017, the group’s founder released a series of videos covering topics such as “lone wolf” activity, leaderless resistance and advocating guerrilla warfare.

## Hamas

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Order 2021](#) added Hamas in its entirety to Schedule 2, as detailed in the [explanatory memorandum](#).

Hamas is a militant Islamist movement, established in 1987 after the first Palestinian intifada. Its main aims are “to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation, the establishment of an Islamic state under sharia law, and the destruction of Israel (although Hamas no longer demands the destruction of Israel in its Covenant)”.<sup>108</sup>

## Additions in 2023

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2023](#) added the Wagner Group to Schedule 2.

## Wagner Group

Wagner Group is a Russian private military company which has acted as a proxy military force on behalf of the Russian state, and in pursuit of the objectives of Government’s that have contracted its services.

The Wagner group has used serious violence against Ukrainian Armed Forces and civilians, having deployed forces in support of the Russian military following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> [EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE TERRORISM ACT 2000 \(PROSCRIBED ORGANISATIONS\) \(AMENDMENT\) \(NO.3\) ORDER 2021 \(PDF\)](#), 7.2

<sup>109</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2023 \(PDF\)](#), para 7.4

It has carried out acts preparatory to terrorism to advance a political cause and intimidate opponents in Ukraine, and has been implicated in serious acts of violence and damage to property in certain African states.<sup>110</sup>

## Additions in 2024

The [Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2024](#) added Hizb ut-Tahrir to Schedule 2, as detailed in the explanatory memorandum.

### Hizb ut-Tahrir

Hizb ut-Tahrir is a Sunni Islamist political organisation with a footprint in at least 32 countries, with a long term goal to unify Muslims and establish a Caliphate under Shari'a law. It has a UK branch, Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain, which is part of a coherent international organisation, according to the Government's assessment.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> As above, paras 7-6-7.7

<sup>111</sup> [Explanatory memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) Order 2024](#) (PDF), para 7.4

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