

**Attachment D****Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT)**

**(Also known as: Lashkar-e-Toiba, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Army of the Pure and Righteous, Paasban-e-Kashmir, Paasban-i-Ahle-Hadith, Jamaat-ud-Dawa)**

The following information is based on publicly available details about Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), which is the military wing of Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI). LeT is also known as Paasban-e-Kashmir and Paasban-i-Ahle-Hadith. These details have been corroborated by material from intelligence investigations into the activities of LeT. ASIO assesses that the details set out below are accurate and reliable.

LeT has been listed as a terrorist organisation by the UN, UK, US, Canada and the EU.

***Background***

LeT is the military wing of Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI). The MDI is a Pakistan based Sunni (Wahabbi) Islamic fundamentalist organisation centred on Muridke, near Lahore, and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan. The MDI was formed in 1987 by Abdullah Azam Saeed (who was killed in 1989), and Zafar Iqbal. Saeed and Iqbal formed LeT as the military wing of the MDI in 1989. After the MDI was banned in India in 2001 and in Pakistan in 2002 it changed its name to Jamaat-ud-Dawa, although this nomenclature is rarely used.

LeT is one of the three largest and best-trained separatist groups operating in Indian-administered Kashmir and is closely associated with a number of militant Islamic groups active in the India/Pakistan region, including Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), with whom it was implicated in an attack on the Indian Parliament building in 2001. LeT is led by an Amir with regional commanders being responsible for 'military' districts. It is a highly secretive organisation that often seeks to conceal the identities of its senior members.

LeT operates primarily within Kashmir and India's Jammu region although it has also been implicated in attacks and planned attacks elsewhere in India, including New Delhi. It has used suicide squads to target Indian security forces and police stations.

Funding for LeT is derived from the Pakistani diaspora, particularly in the Persian Gulf and the United Kingdom, through a network of front organisations and charities. Islamic NGOs also provide funding to LeT.

***Objectives***

LeT aims to liberate Muslims within the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir and to create an Islamic state, incorporating Pakistan and Kashmir together with other predominantly Muslim areas in north and south India. The Amir of LeT, Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, has called for jihad to create an Islamic state in Pakistan and for jihad to be waged against 'un-Islamic' states, citing Chechnya and Afghanistan as models for an international jihad.

**Attachment D*****Leadership and membership***

Hafiz Mohammed Saeed was a founding member of MDI and later became the leader of LeT. He announced his resignation in December 2001 after the Pakistani Government froze LeT assets in Pakistan. Maulana Wahid Kashmiri was appointed as the new LeT commander, but there is considerable scepticism as to the impact of his 'resignation' and Saeed is still assessed to be the Amir of LeT.

LeT's exact membership is not known; however, it has several hundred members in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir and in Indian-administered southern Kashmir. Most LeT members are recruited through madrassas in Pakistan and tend to be Pakistanis and Afghans rather than Kashmiris. LeT runs training camps, some of which are mobile camps, within Pakistan and in Pakistan-controlled areas of Kashmir, and it had trained in Afghanistan until late 2001. LeT trained the Australian, David Hicks, who was captured in Afghanistan allegedly fighting for the Taliban in December 2001.

LeT maintains links with Islamic extremist groups in the Middle East and Chechnya, and cooperates with al-Qa'ida and other Islamic terrorist groups both in training and in undertaking operations.

***Terrorist activities***

LeT has been responsible for a series of bombings and shootings, including suicide attacks, kidnappings and other attacks against non-Muslim civilians, Indian security forces and Indian Government installations in Kashmir and elsewhere. The LeT routinely conducts attacks on Indian security forces, and LeT members are often arrested by Indian security forces attempting to infiltrate into Indian-administered Kashmir in order to undertake terrorist activities.

Senior members of LeT have advocated the group develop an operational interest beyond its principal theatre of operation in Kashmir and India. In April 2004, an LeT operational commander was captured by British forces in Iraq. In 2003, two alleged members of an LeT cell in Australia were arrested and charged with planning terrorist activities.

LeT has coordinated attacks and other joint activities with a number of other Kashmiri separatist and Islamic extremist groups, including al-Qa'ida and Jaish-e-Mohammed, both of which are listed as terrorist organisations by the Australian Government.

Recent terrorist attacks for which responsibility has been claimed by, or reliably attributed to, the LeT, have included:

- March 2005: a planned suicide attack on a military academy and software companies in Bangalore was interdicted by India police who arrested two LeT and killed a further three in subsequent raids.
- 3 November 2004: LeT members attacked a mosque in the Pulwama District of Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the death of five people
- 17 October 2004: LeT members attacked Indian security forces in the Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the death of five people

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- August 2004: a planned bomb attack on a Hindu temple in Secunderabad was interdicted by police, who arrested eight LeT members.
- 25 June 2004: the LeT killed a railway worker abducted several days earlier from the Pulwama District of Jammu and Kashmir
- 10 June 2004: LeT members kill four civilians in an attack in Udampur district of Jammu and Kashmir

**Conclusion**

ASIO assesses that the LeT is continuing to prepare, plan and foster the commission of acts involving threats to human life and serious damage to property. This assessment is corroborated by information provided by reliable and credible intelligence sources.

In the course of pursuing its objective of creating an Islamic state covering Pakistan and Kashmir, the LeT is known to have engaged in actions that:

- are aimed at advancing the LeT's political and religious causes;
- are intended to cause, or have caused, serious damage to property, the death of persons or endangerment of life; and
- are intended to cause, or have caused, serious risk to the safety of sections of the public in India and other persons visiting areas in which it operates.

In view of the above information, the LeT is assessed to be preparing, planning, and fostering the conduct of terrorist acts. Such acts include actions which are to be done and threats of actions which are to be made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause and with the intention of coercing, or influencing by intimidation the Government and people of India. The actions or threatened actions which the LeT are assessed to be involved in would, if successfully completed, cause serious physical harm and death to persons and serious damage to property.