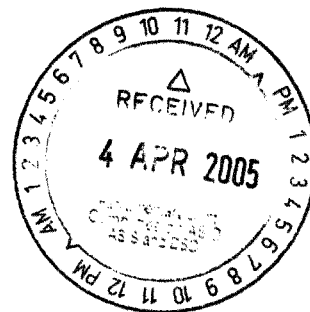




ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP



05/2090

Submission No:.....21.....
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Secretary:.....

23 MAR 2005

The Hon David Jull MP
Committee Chairman
Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS & DSD
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Jull

I am writing to advise you that a regulation is scheduled to be considered by the Federal Executive Council on 7 April 2005 specifying Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ) as a terrorist organisation for the purposes of section 102.1 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (the Criminal Code). Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ) (Also known as: Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangvie, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangwi, Lashkar-i-Jhangwi, Jhangvi Army, Lashkar-e Jhangvi, Lashkar Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhanvi, Lashkar-i-Jangvi, Lashkar e Jhangvi, Lashkar Jangvi, Laskar e Jahangvi) was specified as a terrorist organisation under the *Criminal Code Regulations 2002* with effect from 11 April 2003.

The regulation listing LeJ will cease to have effect on the second anniversary of the day on which it took effect, pursuant to subsection 102.1(3) of the Criminal Code.

The regulation will be made on the basis that I continue to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that LeJ is an organisation directly or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not the act has occurred or will occur).

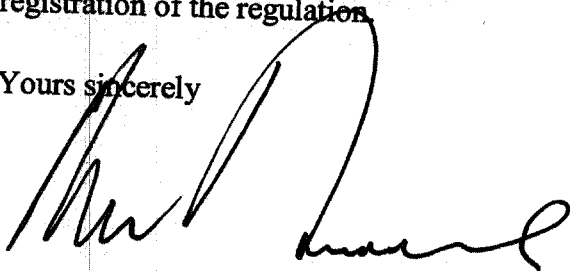
I made the decision to re-list LeJ following careful consideration of unclassified intelligence information provided by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) in relation to the organisation, as well as legal advice provided to me by the Australian Government Solicitor.

Section 102.1A of the Criminal Code provides that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD may review the regulation as soon as possible after it has been made, and report the Committee's comments and recommendations to each House of the Parliament before the end of the applicable disallowance period for that House.

To assist the Committee, should it decide to review the regulation, I enclose a copy of the Statement of Reasons provided by ASIO in relation to LeJ, upon which my decision to re-list

the organisation as a terrorist organisation was based. Additional information detailing the procedure followed for the purposes of re-listing LeJ will be provided to you upon the registration of the regulation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Ruddock', written in a cursive style.

Philip Ruddock

Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ)

(Also known as: Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangvie, Laskar-e-Jhangvi, Lashkare Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangwi, Lashkar-i-Jhangwi, Jhangvi Army, Lashkar-e Jhangvi, Lashkar Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhanvi, Lashkar-i-Jangvi, Lashkar e Jhangvi, Lashkar Jangvi, Laskar e Jahangvi).

The following information is based on publicly available details about Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ). These details have been corroborated by material from intelligence investigations into the activities of the LeJ and official reporting. ASIO assesses that the details set out below are accurate and reliable.

The LeJ has been proscribed as a terrorist organisation in Australia, and by the United Nations and the governments of the United States, Canada and Pakistan.

Background

Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ) is a Sunni Islamic terrorist group based in Pakistan. The group was formed in 1996 as a more militant splinter group of the radical sectarian organisation, the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) and follows the Deobandi tradition of Sunni Islam. Under the leadership of Riaz Basra, the LeJ quickly distinguished itself as the most violent sectarian force in Pakistan.

LeJ is based primarily in the Punjab and Balochistan regions of Pakistan, and the port city of Karachi. It is responsible for numerous targeted killings and massacres. The group has targeted for assassination, not only opposing Shi'a activists, but prominent Shi'a officials, professionals and businessmen. It has assassinated Iranian nationals in Pakistan and was involved, along with the JeM, in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl in January 2002. It has also instigated attacks, including small-arms attacks and suicide bombings, on Shi'a mosques and processions, and Christian churches resulting in the random killing of hundreds of people.

Members of the LeJ also maintained a presence in Afghanistan until they were forced into the tribal areas of Pakistan following the fall of the Taliban.

Objectives

The LeJ's ultimate objective is the establishment of a truly Islamic – as they would define it – theocratic state in Pakistan, through the use of violence. Part of a broader Sunni extremist movement, LeJ's membership harbour an intense hatred of all foreign, or non-Islamic influences. The group is also fervently anti-Shia and aim to have them declared a non-Muslim minority.

Leadership and membership

Muhammad Ajmal (aka Akram Lahori) is reportedly the present leader of the LeJ. Ajmal succeeded Riaz Basra following Basra's death in May, 2002 as a result of a shootout with Pakistani police. Ajmal is himself in custody following his arrest in June 2002 for his

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alleged involvement in 38 cases of sectarian killings. It is not clear if Ajmal continues to head the group while in detention.

LeJ is estimated to have 300 active members. Pakistani government security crackdowns since late-2001 have had some success, but the group continues to recruit new members to replace those arrested or killed in such encounters. Over half of Pakistan's madrassas (religious schools) are Deobandi run and they provide a fertile pool of manpower susceptible to LeJ recruitment. The LeJ maintains a multi-cellular structure, made up of loosely co-ordinated regional sub-units further divided into several small cells that operate independently of one another.

The present status of LeJ training facilities is not known. LeJ training camps in Afghanistan were destroyed by the United States and their training facilities in Pakistan have been disrupted by local police. Being part of a broader Deobandi movement, however, the LeJ can rely on the assistance of other militant Deobandi groups including its parent the SSP, the Jamiat ul-Ansar (JuA - also known as Harakat ul-Mujahideen or HuM), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), and Harakat ul-Jihad al-Islami (HuJI).

The LeJ also receives assistance from the sectarian political organisation Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI). It receives financial support from middle-class urban Sunnis keen to challenge the influence of the Shi'a landed elite. The LeJ has an extremely close relationship with the Taliban and confirmed links with al-Qa'ida. Pakistani government investigations confirmed al-Qa'ida had provided LeJ with training, including the skills necessary for undertaking suicide bomb attacks.

Terrorist activities

The LeJ has been involved in a number of terrorist attacks, including targeted assassinations, small-arms attacks and suicide bombings against, Shia, Christian, Western and government targets.

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

- 4 July 2003: suicide bombing of a mosque in Quetta in which 53 Shi'as were killed;
- March 2004: attack on a Shi'a procession in Quetta which killed 46 people;
- 7 May 2004: suicide bombing of the Haderi mosque in Karachi in which 23 Shi'a were killed;
- 3 June 2004: suicide bombing of the Ali Raza Shi'a mosque in Karachi which killed 21 persons;
- June 2004: murder of 12 Shi'ite police cadets in Balochistan;
- 11 September 2004: murder of a Shi'ite university teacher in Baluchistan; and

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Attachment D

- 25 December 2004: murder of two Pakistani aid workers during an attack on the office of the Aga Khan Foundation in Chitral.

Conclusion

ASIO assesses that the LeJ 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 and official reporting.

In the course of pursuing its objective of overthrowing the Pakistan Government and replacing it with a theocratic Sunni-Islamic state the LeJ is known to have engaged in actions that:

- are aimed at advancing the LeJ's political and religious causes;
- are intended to, or do, cause serious damage to property, the death of persons or endangerment of life.
- done with the intention of coercing or influencing by intimidation the governments and people of numerous countries; and
- are intended to cause, or have caused, serious risk to the safety of sections of the public in Pakistan and other persons visiting areas in which it operates.

In view of the above information, the LeJ is assessed to be directly or indirectly 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 Pakistan. The actions or threatened actions which the LeJ are assessed to be involved in would, if successfully completed, cause serious physical harm and death to persons and serious damage to property.

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