

Al-Qa'ida

(Also known as: The Base, Al-Qaida, Al-Qaeda, Qa'idat al-Jihad, Maktab al-Khidamat, International Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders, Al-Jabhah al-Islamiyyah al-'Alamiyyah li-Qital al-Yahud wal-Salibiyyin, The Group for the Preservation of Holy Sites, Islamic Army of the Liberation of the Holy Places, Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Shrines, Usama Bin Laden Network, Usama Bin Laden Organisation, Islamic Salvation Foundation, International Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders, International Islamic Front Against Jews and Christians)

The following information is based on publicly available details about al-Qa'ida and its senior leadership. These details have been corroborated by material from intelligence investigations into the activities of al-Qa'ida. ASIO assesses that the details set out below are accurate and reliable.

Al-Qa'ida is listed in the United Nation's 1267 Committee's consolidated list and as a proscribed terrorist organisation by the governments of Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US. Al-Qa'ida is listed by the European Union for the purposes of its anti-terrorism measures.

Current status of al-Qa'ida

Al-Qa'ida is a Sunni Islamic extremist organisation whose core leadership is centred in the border regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 1988, al-Qa'ida emerged from the Maktab al-Khidamat, a recruitment and fundraising network for the Afghan resistance to the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. The impetus for establishing al-Qa'ida was to retain a common purpose for Islamic extremists following the end of the conflict with the Soviets. Usama bin Laden co-founded al-Qa'ida with Dr Abdullah Azzam and gained full control after the assassination of Azzam in 1989.

During the late 1990s, al-Qa'ida was transformed from providing a unifying function for extremist elements into a global network of cells and affiliated groups. In 1998, key figures of five terrorist groups, including Usama bin Laden, issued a declaration under the banner of the 'World Islamic Front' announcing a jihad against 'Jews' and 'Crusaders', stating the US and its allies should be expelled from the Middle East. Since the US intervention in Afghanistan, following the 11 September 2001 attacks, al-Qa'ida has lost its primary base for training, planning and preparing for terrorist operations. Al-Qa'ida has sought alternative venues in which to train and regroup and members continue to gain combat experience in the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite sanctions against al-Qa'ida's extensive financial networks, al-Qa'ida continues to find means of raising and transferring money including through donations and criminal activity, and via couriers.

Al-Qa'ida maintains core support networks and operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and continues to conduct attacks in Afghanistan. Al-Qa'ida also provides international

inspiration and influence, demonstrated by the decisions of the Salafist Group for Call and Combat in Algeria and the Jamaat Tawhid wa'al-Jihad group in Iraq to merge with the extremist organisation. Now known as al-Qa'ida in the lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI) respectively, both groups accept strategic direction and at times receive further funding from al-Qa'ida. Moreover, al-Qa'ida leadership relies on its franchise organisations, like AQIM and AQI, to plan and execute attacks.

Al-Qa'ida provides encouragement and inspiration to affiliated and aligned groups around the world. Such groups include but are not limited to: Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Armed Islamic Group, Abu Sayyaf Group, Jamiat ul-Ansar, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Islamic Army of Aden, Asbat al Ansar, Jemaah Islamiyah, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Lashkar-e Jhangvi, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Ansar al-Islam.

Reporting indicates al-Qa'ida has encouraged, inspired and assisted like-minded individuals as seen in the 7 July 2005 attacks on the London transport system. While there was no evidence of al-Qa'ida command and control over these attacks, there were indications of al-Qa'ida involvement in training and influencing those involved. Two of the perpetrators of the attacks, Mohammed Siddique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer, had travelled to Pakistan and, according to a statement by al-Qa'ida's deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, had been trained by al-Qa'ida operatives.

Senior al-Qa'ida leaders continue to make public statements promoting al-Qa'ida's ideology, supporting attacks undertaken by other groups and advocating violent jihad against the West. Since 2004, a number of statements have been made by Usama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri calling for attacks against the US and its allies, including Australia.

Objectives

Al-Qa'ida seeks to remove governments in Muslim countries that it deems are 'un-Islamic' in order to establish an Islamic Caliphate. The US and its allies are believed to represent the greatest obstacle to this objective, given their perceived support for these governments.

Leadership and membership

Usama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri continue to lead al-Qa'ida. The exact size of the organisation is unknown, however, estimates suggest that it consists of approximately several thousand fighters. Originally, al-Qa'ida recruited veterans of the Soviet-Afghan conflict of 1979-89 and from campaigns involving these veterans in such places as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Mindanao, Chechnya, Lebanon, Algeria and Egypt. More recent recruits include fighters who have gained experience in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Terrorist activities

Al-Qa'ida has been involved in a number of terrorist attacks including; suicide attacks; hijackings; attacks using improvised explosive devices (IEDs); vehicle-borne IEDs and; maritime IEDs. Al-Qa'ida has also assisted and financially supported terrorist acts by affiliated groups.

Terrorist attacks for which responsibility or involvement has been claimed by, or reliably attributed to, al-Qa'ida have included:

- 7 August 1998: Bombed the US Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam which killed over 200 people;
- 2 October 2000: Used a maritime IED to attack the USS Cole off the coast of Yemen which killed 17 people;
- 11 September 2001: Coordinated attacks involving hijacked passenger jets crashing into the World Trade Center buildings in New York, the Pentagon in Washington and a fourth in a field in Pennsylvania which killed approximately 3000 people;
- 11 April 2002: Bombed a synagogue on the Tunisian island of Djerba which killed 20 people;
- 12 October 2002: Assisted in funding attacks on night clubs and the US Consulate in Bali which killed 202 people, including 88 Australians;
- 28 November 2002: Conducted attacks in Mombasa, Kenya, involving the car bombing of a hotel and firing of two surface-air-missiles at an Israeli airliner taking off from Mombasa airport;
- 15 November 2003: Assisted in planning and preparing car bomb attacks on two synagogues in Istanbul which killed 20 people;
- 20 November 2003: Assisted in planning and preparing car bomb attacks on the HSBC Bank headquarters and the British Consulate in Istanbul which killed 30 people;
- 7 July 2005: Assisted in training those involved in IED attacks on London's transport system which killed 56 people, including one Australian.

Senior members of Al-Qa'ida have made numerous statements advocating the conduct of terrorist attacks against the US and countries perceived to have allied themselves with the US and Israel. The February 1998 statement issued under the banner of the 'World Islamic Front' decreed that civilians in these countries were legitimate targets for terrorist attack.

Recent statements claimed by or reliably attributed to al-Qa'ida reiterate this theme by highlighting and advocating the conduct of terrorism. The following excerpts of recent speeches by Usama bin-Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri demonstrate this:

- The 19 January 2006 statement by Usama bin-Laden stated, in part, *"You have occupied our land, defiled our honour, violated our dignity, shed our blood, ransacked our money, demolished our houses, rendered us homeless, and tampered with our security. We will treat you in the same way"* and *"The evidence of this is the bombings you have seen in the capitals of the most important European*

countries of this aggressive coalition. As for the delay in carrying out similar operations in America, this was not due to failure to breach your security measures. Operations are under preparation, and you will see them on your own ground once they are finished, God willing”.

- The 24 April 2006 statement by Usama bin-Laden stated “...*the Umma has reached a consensus that he who offends or degrades the messenger would be killed. Such offence is regarded as kufr (infidelity). We ask Allah to give his blessings to whoever decried the behaviour of the infidels who have offended the prophet in every part of the world, and blessings to those who have died in the process, while we vow to Allah to avenge for those whose blood have been spilled”.*
- The 10 July 2007 audio message by Zawahiri states, “*We must respond to that attack. We must surround America with terror. We would not let the one who made us lose our safety feel safe. Whenever the Americans go to one of the Muslim countries, their central goal was to exercise all different kinds of attack.”*
- The 14 December 2007 audio message from al-Qa’ida deputy leader, Dr Ayman al-Zawahiri stated, “*I bear you witness to our promise to Allah that we ourselves will not abandon our weapons and will never stop our Jihad and will never abandon our belief and will not abandon Andalusia, Sebta, Melilla, Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus, Jerusalem, Haifa, Um Rashrash, Baghdad, Kabul, and Kashmir and Grozny even if they have many conferences in Oslo or Annapolis, and one thousand conferences in London and Salah Al-Din. Do not let the eyes of the cowardly sleep.”*
- The 19 March 2008 audio message from Usama bin Laden stated “*Although our tragedy in your killing of our women and children is a very great one, it paled when you went overboard in your unbelief and freed yourselves of the etiquettes of dispute and fighting and went to the extent of publishing these insulting drawings. This is the greater and more serious tragedy, and reckoning for it will be more severe. ... In closing, I tell you: if there is no check on the freedom of your words, then let your hearts be open to the freedom of our actions.”*
- The 20 March 2008 audio statement from Usama bin Laden addressed to the worldwide Islamic community said, “*Palestine has been suffering [greatly] for roughly a century at the hands of the Christians and Jews, and both opponents did not take it from us through negotiations and dialogue, but through iron and fire, and it is this way to bring it back; for iron [can meet] iron, and Allah showed us the way to destroy the hardness of infidels: <Qu’ranic verse>. With incitement and fighting, the hardness of the infidels is destroyed. ... liberation from these evil manacles is a necessity, [as is] surrendering and worshiping only Allah ... Only then, will the person be liberated, and then he can seek the liberation of his Ummah, Palestine, and Al-Aqsa [Jerusalem], and will see the doors opened to the roads of liberty and dignity, to the fields of men and confrontation, the fields of killing and death for the cause of Allah, as in Afghanistan, Waziristan, the Islamic Maghreb, Somalia, Kashmir, Chechnya, and the most important and greatest that hurts the enemy, Baghdad, the House of the Caliphate, and those around it.”*
- On 2 April 2008, al-Qa’ida’s media arm, as-Sahab, posted to jihadist internet forums an audio file of Ayman al-Zawahiri responding to questions from forum participants. Al-Zawahiri referred to Australia when responding to a question

criticising al-Qa'ida for killing Muslims in Muslim lands and not conducting attacks in Israel. Zawahiri responded citing attacks against the US and its allies, including Australia, in various locations and that these countries supported Israel.

Conclusion

The Criminal Code provides that for an organisation to be listed as a terrorist organisation, the Attorney-General must be satisfied that the organisation:

- (a) is directly or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not a terrorist act has occurred or will occur); or
- (b) advocates the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not a terrorist act has occurred or will occur).

ASIO assesses that al-Qa'ida is continuing to prepare, plan and foster the commission of acts involving threats to human life and serious damage to property. ASIO also assesses that al-Qa'ida advocates the doing of terrorist acts. This assessment is corroborated by information provided by reliable and credible intelligence sources.

In the course of pursuing its objective of creating an Islamic Caliphate, al-Qa'ida is known to have engaged in or advocated actions that are:

- aimed at advancing al-Qa'ida's political and religious causes.
- intended to, or do, cause serious damage to property, the death of persons or endangerment of life.
- intended to cause, or have caused, serious risk to the safety of sections of the public globally.

In view of the above information, al-Qa'ida is assessed to be directly or indirectly preparing, planning, and fostering the conduct of, and advocating, 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 of governments and people globally. The actions or threatened actions which al-Qa'ida is assessed to be involved in would, if successfully completed, cause serious physical harm and death to persons and serious damage to property.

Jemaah Islamiyah (JI)

(Also known as: Jema'ah Islamiyah, Jemaah Islamiya, Jemaah Islamiyyah, Jemaah Islamiah, Jamaah Islamiyah, Jama'ah Islamiyah, Jeemah Islamiyah, Jemaa Islamiya, Jema'a Islamiya, Jemaa Islamiyah, Jema'a Islamiyya, Jemaa Islamiyya, Jemaa Islamiyyah, Jema'ah Islamiyyah, Al-Jama'ah Al-Islamiyah)

The following information is based on publicly available details about Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). These details have been corroborated by material from intelligence investigations into the activities of JI. ASIO assesses the details set out below are accurate and reliable. JI is listed in the United Nation's 1267 Committee's consolidated list and as a proscribed terrorist organisation by the governments of Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US.

Current Status of Jemaah Islamiyah

JI is a clandestine organisation that subscribes to a salafist jihadist interpretation of Islam, closely associated with terrorist groups such as al-Qa'ida (AQ). Salafi jihadis seek to revive a pure form of Islam, free of modernist influence, by targeting the enemies of Islam through violent local and international jihad.

The clandestine nature of JI is prompted by a need to conceal the illegal activities of its cadres from authorities, such as operational planning and periodic military instruction, as well as contribute to JI's internal security and long-term survival.

Founded in Malaysia on 1 January 1993 by Indonesian Islamic clerics Abdullah Sungkar and Abu Bakar Ba'asyir, JI evolved from the long established Indonesian Islamic insurgent movement, Darul Islam (DI).

DI, founded in 1948, engaged in an armed rebellion to establish an Islamic state in Indonesia, until an amnesty was achieved in 1962. Past and present incarnations of DI continue to provide pools of recruits and support networks for JI activity.

With terrorist attacks and armed combat an important part of JI ideology the group has been responsible for pursuing local and global jihad. As well as contributing to the violence in conflict zones such as Maluku and Poso, JI has conducted numerous attacks targeting foreign interests. These include attacks against the Philippines' ambassador in Jakarta in 2000 and against sectarian targets across Indonesia during 2000/2001 Christmas and New Year period.

JI's first successful anti-Western attack was the Bali bombings in October 2002, which killed 202 people, including 88 Australians. This was followed by the 2003 JW Marriot Hotel bombing and the 2004 bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. The 2005 Bali bombing, which killed four Australians, was JI's most recent successful attack aimed specifically against Western interests.

Regional authorities continue to conduct significant disruption operations against JI. These include Malaysia's arrest of Agus Idru and Abu Husna in January 2008, and Indonesia's succession of security force operations since August 2006. In particular, the arrests of members of JI military leader Abu Dujana's network around Central Java, in March 2007, resulted in the discovery of significant amounts of explosive materiel, firearms, ammunition and pipe bombs. These investigations led to the eventual arrest of JI emir Zarkasih and military commander Abu Dujana in June 2007. Nevertheless, JI is likely to have other yet undiscovered caches of explosive materiel for future use.

While remnants of JI regional links likely persist, disruption by regional authorities has resulted in JI having to scale down its previous organisational structure from four *Mantiqi* territorial areas of responsibility, previously encompassing parts of South-East Asia and Australia, to essentially only *Mantiqi II* covering Indonesia. JI has also adopted a centralised functional structure that covers religious outreach, education, logistics and military affairs.

However, the organisation is far from defunct and JI remains resilient and committed to a long term strategy to establish an Islamic state. JI continues to recruit covertly from its network of *pesantren* (Islamic boarding schools), religious study groups and personal contacts. JI funds its activities through donations from its members, criminal activity and affiliated business activity.

Given JI is intent on conducting armed jihad, weapons and training are critical. JI sources weapons and explosive materiel through theft, the black market or corrupt security officials, which are concealed in numerous caches. JI members continue to conduct limited training in Indonesia and the southern Philippines.

JI remains an independent organisation making its own operational decisions. However, active networking by senior JI hierarchy in the past has facilitated links to local and international extremist groups. Within Indonesia these groups include Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia (Indonesian Mujahidin Council - MMI), Mujahidin KOMPAK (Komite Aksi Penanggulangan Akibat Krisis, Crisis Management/Prevention Committee), the Islamic Defenders Front (Front Pembala Islam - FPI), and the Sulawesi based Laskar Jundullah. JI shares a common ideology with AQ and many of these two organisations' members shared the experience of training or fighting in Pakistan and Afghanistan during the late 1980's and early 1990's. Within the South-East Asian region, JI continues to maintain active links with sub groups of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) – particularly through JI operatives Dulmatin and Umar Patek - and elements of the Moro Independence Liberation Force (MILF) who still provide refuge to JI personnel despite ongoing peace negotiations with the Philippines Government.

Whilst JI leaders appear tactically opposed to anti-Western attacks, at the present time, the organisation remains anti-Western in orientation, committed to violent jihad as a means of achieving its objectives and is willing to conduct attacks against local sectarian targets.

Objectives

The “General Guide for the Struggle of Al-Jama’ah Al-Islamiyah” (PUPJI), JI’s charter and operating manual, outlines the religious principles and administrative aspects underlining JI’s primary objective of establishing, through armed struggle, an Islamic state in Indonesia and a regional Islamic caliphate.

Leadership and membership

JI has no publicly acknowledged leader, but has a well-ordered succession plan, especially in the case of the arrest of the incumbent Emir. Following the June 2007 arrests, investigations revealed that Zarkasih had assumed the role of emergency JI emir in 2004, following the arrest of Abu Rusdan, who had assumed the position following the arrest of Abu Bakar Ba’asyir. Zarkasih was the JI emir until his arrest in 2007, since which time no new Emir has been publicly identified.

JI’s membership is not publicly known and is estimated to be anywhere from less than one thousand to several thousand members, mostly concentrated in Java but also spread throughout Indonesia, and neighbouring countries.

Jemaah Islamiyah’s engagement in terrorist activities

Since re-listing by Australia in August 2006, JI (JI) has not succeeded in conducting any anti-Western attacks in South-East Asia. However, within Indonesia, JI has engaged in sectarian terrorist activities such as assassinations and bombings, principally in Poso, Central Sulawesi until disrupted by Indonesian authorities in January 2007.

In March 2007, JI operatives, linked to JI’s military commander Abu Dujana aka Ainul Bahri, were arrested in Central Java attempting to move weapons between secret caches. These arrests subsequently led to the discovery of significant amounts of explosive and chemical precursors concealed in a number of secret caches. Indonesian authorities were forced to move against the cell over concerns they were plotting to assassinate the rector of the Christian Satya Wacana University in Central Java.

While fugitive in the Philippines, JI operatives have taken the opportunity to facilitate attacks with local extremist groups against Philippine interests on the island of Mindanao. Multiple bombings with a JI signature were conducted on 10 October 2006 and 10 January 2007.

Despite the cumulative effects of disruption by regional authorities, the information and materiel seized during the arrests of JI leaders since 2006, demonstrates JI retains the capability and intent to use violence towards establishing an Islamic state in Indonesia.

Conclusion

The Criminal Code provides that for an organisation to be listed as a terrorist organisation, the Attorney-General must be satisfied that:

- (a) the organisation is directly or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not a terrorist act has occurred or will occur); or
- (b) the organisation advocates the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not a terrorist act has occurred or will occur).

On the basis of the above information, ASIO assesses that JI 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 reliable and credible intelligence sources.

In the course of pursuing its objective of creating an Islamic state under Sharia (Islamic law) in Indonesia and a pan-Islamic caliphate in South East Asia, JI is known to have engaged in actions that are:

- aimed at advancing JI's political and religious causes; and
- intended to, or do, cause serious damage to property, the death of persons or endangerment to life.
- intended to cause, or have caused, serious risk to the safety of sections of the public in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Australia and other persons visiting areas in which it operates.

In view of the above information, JI 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 of the Government and people of Indonesia which they consider apostate. The actions or threatened actions which JI are assessed to be involved in would, if successfully completed, cause serious physical harm and death to persons and serious damage to property.

This assessment is corroborated by information provided by reliable and credible intelligence sources

Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

**Also known as: Tanzim al-Qa'ida fi bilad al-Maghreb al-Islamiya;
Al-Qa'ida Organisation in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb;
Al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb;
the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC); Le Groupe Salafiste Pour La
Predication et le Combat; Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat)**

The following information is based on publicly available details about al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb. These details have been corroborated by material from intelligence investigations into the activities of the al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb. ASIO assesses that the details set out below are accurate and reliable.

AQIM is listed on the United Nations 1267 Committee's consolidated list as an entity associated with al-Qa'ida. AQIM has been listed as a terrorist organisation by the US, Canada and the UK still list the group as the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC).

Current status of al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is a Sunni Islamic extremist group formerly known as the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC).

- On 11 September 2006, al-Qa'ida deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced the merger between the GSPC and al-Qa'ida.
- On 14 September 2006, the GSPC emir, Abu Musab Abdul Wadud, released a statement to its official website and Jihadist forums, announcing the groups joining with al-Qa'ida and pledging alliance with Usama bin Laden.
- On 26 January 2007, the GSPC Emir, Abdelmalik Droukdal, announced the group had changed its name to al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

AQIM, then the GSPC, formed in 1998 as a splinter group of the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) to protest against the indiscriminate killing of civilians carried out by the GIA. The GSPC renounced attacks against civilians but was nevertheless implicated in attacks resulting in civilian deaths.

The GSPC quickly became Algeria's largest and most dangerous terrorist group, and by 2000, the external networks of the GIA across Europe and North Africa had been taken over by the GSPC. In June 2004, the GSPC released statements claiming its jihad in Algeria was part of the international jihad led by Usama bin Laden, and declared war on all foreigners and foreign interests in Algeria.

The culmination of this increasingly pro-al-Qa'ida stance was the group's merger with al-Qa'ida, and its subsequent name change. This was articulated in the 2006 statement by the GSPC emir when he noted that the group had joined al-Qa'ida. Although GSPC (now AQIM) has joined al-Qa'ida, it is able to operate separately from the parent organisation. After the merger in 2006, AQIM has released several media statements specifically

targeting Western interests, and the group conducted the first of several attacks against Western targets in Algeria in December 2006. AQIM's most significant attack on Western interests in Algeria was the 11 December 2007 suicide bombing attack on the UN Office in Algiers, which killed 17 people. This constituted the worst attack on the UN since the bombing of the its Headquarters in Iraq in 2003.

In addition to Western interests, AQIM also targets Algerian military, police and government interests. Common tactics used by AQIM include kidnapping, ambush, attacks using false roadblocks, raids on military, police, and government convoys, armed assault, roadside bombs, and vehicle borne suicide bombings. As a method of attack, suicide bombings have only been used by AQIM since the merger and subsequent name change in 2007.

AQIM has also planned and conducted attacks on foreign interests outside Algeria, most recently including an attack on French tourists in Mauritania, and an attack on the Israeli embassy in Nouackchott, Mauritania. AQIM cells, members of the group, and persons otherwise linked to the group, have been disrupted or arrested in Europe, Canada, the UK, and the US, and have been linked to attacks on the G8 summit in Genoa in 2001, and a plan to produce and use ricin gas in an attack in London 2005.

AQIM continues to recruit new members, and undertakes training of individuals from nearby African nations with a view to returning them to their home countries to carry out attacks. AQIM support cells have been discovered and dismantled in Spain, Italy, Morocco, Mauritania, and Mali, and it maintained training camps in northern Mali.

AQIM's primary source of funding comes from its involvement in criminal activity. It engages in kidnapping for ransom; muggings; narcotics trafficking in Southern Algeria/Northern Mali; smuggling; protection rackets; and money laundering. AQIM receives financial support from al-Qa'ida. Individual cells in Europe also provided support through small scale funding.

In February 2005, AQIM (then GSPC) leader Abdelmalik Droukdal first stated the group's absolute rejection of an offer of amnesty under the Algerian Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation - a government initiative designed to end the insurgency. The provisions of the Amnesty expired on 31 August 2007 and AQIM continues to reject any offer of reconciliation. In September 2007, AQIM made statements calling on Algerians to boycott local elections.

Objectives

AQIM is a Sunni Islamic extremist group whose stated goal is to overthrow the Algerian Government and replace it with an Islamic government, which would rule Algeria under Sharia law. Since its merger with al-Qa'ida, AQIM has also adopted the global jihad ideology and has called for the freeing of the Maghreb from Spanish and French influence, and for the regaining of the lost Islamic regions of southern Spain, known as Al andalus.

AQIM has also stated its support for the Palestinians, and called on Muslims across North Africa to target Jewish and Christian interests to pressure the Algerian government to break its ties with Israel.

Leadership and membership

AQIM is currently led by Abdelmalek Droukdal (aka Abu Musab Abdel Wadoud). Other central figures of the group include Salah Gasmî, the head of the AQIM's Media Committee; Yahia Djouadi (aka Abou Amar), the commander of AQIM's Southern Zone; and regional smuggler and arms trafficker, and senior AQIM member, Mokhtar Belmokhtar.

Membership of AQIM is difficult to estimate. It has been reported to be as high as 5000 and as low as 500 members. Recent media reporting indicates there are at least 400 AQIM members in the forests and mountain regions of the Boumerdes Province, Algeria. The UN states membership of the group to be approximately 700 across Algeria and northern Mali.

AQIM engagement in terrorist activities

AQIM issues a regular publication called the "Series of the Swords' Shadows". In this publication, the group claims responsibility for attacks it has committed. In June 2007, the group released a statement claiming responsibility for 18 separate attacks. Attacks for which responsibility or involvement has been claimed by or, reliably attributed to AQIM have included:

- 10 December 06 – a roadside bomb attack which killed one Algerian and injured four Britons, an American, and a Canadian;
- 03 March 07 – a roadside bomb attack targeting Russian gas workers, south-west of Algiers which killed three Algerians and one Russian;
- 11 April 07 – two suicide car bomb attacks targeted the Algerian Prime Minister's office, and a police station, which killed 33 people and injured over 200;
- 26 August 07 – a roadside bomb attack targeting an Algerian police patrol on the outskirts of Algiers, which injured two police officers and three civilians;
- 29 August 07 – a bomb placed between two railway tracks, targeting a freight train near Algiers which caused it to derail, and injured three people;
- 06 September 07 - a suicide bomber killed 11 people shortly before a scheduled visit by the Algerian President in the town of Batna, Algeria;
- 08 September 2007 – a suicide truck bomb attack on a naval military barracks in the port of Dellys which killed over 30 people;
- 11 September 07 – an explosive device was fired at an apartment complex in Batna, Algeria, which injured two children;
- 13 September 07 – authorities defused a bomb intended to explode in a crowd celebrating the first day of Ramadan in Chemora;

- 14 September 07 – three people were killed and five wounded when a bomb exploded outside a police building east of Algiers;
- 21 September 2007 – a suicide car bomb attack targeted a bus carrying foreigners east of Algiers, injuring nine;
- 24 September 07 – an ambush near Stah, Algeria which killed three municipal guards in Stah;
- 25 September 07 – a roadside bomb in Les Issers, killed two police officers;
- 27 September 07 – a bomb attack in Sidi Ali Bounab, in Boumedes Province, killed two soldiers;
- 09 October 07 – two roadside bombs targeting an army convoy in Boumerdes, Algeria, killed three military personnel;
- 08 November 07 – an RPG attack on an aircraft, at Djanet airport in southern Algeria;
- 10 December 07 – a bomb attack targeted Russian gas workers near Algiers, no injuries were recorded;
- 11 December 2007 – two suicide attacks targeting Algerian and UN establishments in Algiers which killed at least 60 people;
- 24 December 2007 – an attack on French tourists in Mauritania, which killed four and wounded five;
- 03 January 08 – a suicide truck bomb attack in Naciria, Algeria, killed four people and injured 20;
- 01 February 2008 – a firearm and grenade attack on the Israeli Embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania, injuring at least three people;
- 22 February 2008 – two Austrian tourists were kidnapped in Tunisia.

Conclusion

The Criminal Code provides that for an organisation to be listed as a terrorist organisation, the Attorney-General must be satisfied that the organisation:

- (a) is directly or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not a terrorist act has occurred or will occur); or
- (b) the organisation advocates the doing of a terrorist act (whether or not a terrorist act has occurred or will occur).

On the basis of the above information, ASIO assesses that Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is directly preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of terrorist acts. It is submitted that the acts attributable to Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb are terrorist acts as they:

- (i) are done with the intention of advancing a political cause, namely, the removal of the current regime and the installation of an Islamic regime in Algeria.

- (ii) are intended to coerce or influence by intimidation the government of a foreign country, namely Algeria, and/or intimidate a section of the Algerian public; and
- (iii) constitute acts which cause serious physical harm to persons, including death, as well as serious damage to property.

This assessment is corroborated by information provided by reliable and credible intelligence sources.