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USDOS – US Department of State (Author)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent

Aka al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent; Qaedat al-Jihad in the Indian Subcontinent.

Description: Al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) was designated as an FTO on July 1, 2016. Established in 2014, AQIS focuses on terrorist activity in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. In 2019, Asim Umar, the former head of AQIS, was killed in a joint U.S.-Afghan military operation. Its current leader is Osama Mehmood.

Activities: In 2014, AQIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a naval dockyard in Karachi, Pakistan, in which militants attempted a hijacking of a Pakistani Navy frigate to attack nearby U.S. warships. AQIS also claimed attacks against human rights activists and secular writers in Bangladesh, including U.S. citizen Avijit Roy, Embassy Dhaka local employee Xulhaz Mannan, and Bangladeshi nationals Oyasiqur Rahman Babu, Ahmed Rajib Haideer, and A.K.M. Shafiul Islam. In 2017, AQAP called on AQIS to launch attacks on Burmese authorities because of Burma's policies toward Rohingya Muslims.

In 2020, India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 10 alleged al Qa'ida-affiliated operatives from Kerala and West Bengal. In 2021, NIA arrested five alleged AQIS operatives in Lucknow on charges of conspiring to conduct a terrorist attack in Uttar Pradesh. Also in 2021, AQIS released two propaganda videos specifically targeting audiences in India and Kashmir.

In June, AQIS threatened to conduct suicide bombings in several Indian cities.

Strength: AQIS is estimated to have between 200 and 400 members.

Location/Area of Operations: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.

Funding and External Aid: AQIS likely receives funding from al-Qa'ida senior leadership and engages in general criminal activity, kidnapping, and extortion.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101661 Chapter

30 November 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

Afghanistan

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Afghanistan](#)
(Periodical Report, English)

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Bangladesh

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Bangladesh](#)
(Periodical Report, English)

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India

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - India](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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Pakistan

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Pakistan](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of Al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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