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USDOS – US Department of State (Author)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

Aka IMU.

Description: Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) was designated as an FTO on September 25, 2000. IMU was established to overthrow the Uzbekistani government and establish an Islamic state. For most of the past decade, however, the group has recruited members from other Central Asian states and Europe. Despite its stated objective to set up an Islamic state in Uzbekistan, the group operates in northern Afghanistan, where it previously fought against international forces. Several IMU members are also suspected of having traveled to Syria to fight with terrorist groups.

IMU has had a more than decade-long relationship with al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan. Top IMU leaders integrated themselves into the Taliban's shadow government in Afghanistan's northern provinces when the Taliban battled the Afghan government. In 2015, IMU leader Usman Ghazi publicly announced the group's shift of allegiance to ISIS; it has since cooperated with Islamic State's Khorasan Province. In 2016 a faction of IMU announced its continued commitment to the Taliban and al-Qa'ida, marking a split with Ghazi and the rest of the group. Numerous IMU members, including possibly Ghazi himself, were subsequently reported to have been killed as a result of hostilities between ISIS and IMU's former Taliban allies.

Activities: In 2014, IMU claimed responsibility for an attack on Karachi's international airport that resulted in the deaths of at least 39 people. Throughout 2015, IMU actively threatened the Afghan government, primarily in the northern part of the country. In 2015 the group released a video showing IMU members beheading an individual they claimed to

be an Afghan soldier and threatened to behead Hazaras (a historically persecuted ethnic group in Afghanistan) whom they were holding hostage, in supposed retaliation for the Afghan security forces' capture of several female IMU members.

In 2016, Uzbek refugee Fazliddin Kurbanov was sentenced by a U.S. federal court to 25 years in prison for planning a bomb attack in Idaho. Kurbanov had been in online contact with members of IMU, seeking advice on how to make explosives and discussing attacking U.S. military bases. IMU did not claim responsibility for any attacks in 2022.

Strength: IMU consists of up to 500 fighters.

Location/Area of Operation: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Türkiye, and Central Asia.

Funding and External Aid: IMU receives support from a large Uzbek diaspora, terrorist organizations, and donors from Europe, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101644 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)

en

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Syrian Arab Republic

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 2 - Syria](#) (Periodical

Report, English)

en

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

Pakistan

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

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

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Türkiye

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

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

en

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye

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Austrian Red Cross
Austrian Centre for
Country of Origin and
Asylum Research and
Documentation
(ACCORD)

Wiedner Hauptstraße
32, 1041 Wien
T +43 1 589 00 583
F +43 1 589 00 589
info@ecoi.net

Contact
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F.A.Q.
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