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Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Ansar al-Shari'a in Benghazi (AAS-B)

Aka Ansar al-Sharia in Libya; Ansar al-Shariah Brigade; Ansar al-Shari'a Brigade; Katibat Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi; Ansar al-Shariah-Benghazi; al-Raya Establishment for Media Production; Ansar al-Sharia; Soldiers of the Sharia; Ansar al-Shariah; Supporters of Islamic Law

Description: Ansar al-Shari'a in Benghazi (AAS-B) was designated as an FTO on January 13, 2014. AAS-B was created after the 2011 fall of the Qadhafi regime in Libya. The group has been involved in terrorist attacks against civilian targets as well as the assassination and attempted assassination of security officials and political actors in eastern Libya.

Activities: Members of AAS-B were involved in the 2012 attacks against the U.S. Special Mission and Annex in Benghazi, Libya. Four U.S. citizens were killed in the attack: Glen Doherty, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens.

Throughout 2016, AAS-B continued its fight against the "Libyan National Army" in Benghazi, resulting in the deaths of numerous Libyan security personnel and civilians. Additionally, AAS-B controlled several terrorist training camps in Libya and trained members of other terrorist organizations operating in Iraq, Mali, and Syria.

AAS-B announced its formal dissolution in 2017 owing to suffering heavy losses, including the group's senior leadership and defections to ISIS in Libya. AAS-B did not claim responsibility for any attacks in 2022.

Strength: Precise numbers are unknown.

Location/Area of Operation: Benghazi, Libya

Funding and External Aid: AAS-B obtained funds from al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb as well as through charities, donations, and criminal activities.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101673 Chapter

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

Libya

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

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

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Ansar al-Shari'a in Benghazi (AAS-B) (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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