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Country Report on Terrorism 2021 - Chapter 5 - Al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS)

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 Usama Mahmood.

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, U.S. Embassy 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 more attacks on Burmese authorities because of Burma's policies toward Rohingya Muslims.

In 2020, India's National Investigation Agency arrested 10 alleged al Qa'ida-affiliated operatives from Kerala and West Bengal.

In July, India's National Investigation Agency arrested five alleged AQIS operatives in Lucknow on charges of conspiring to conduct a terrorist attack in Uttar Pradesh.

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.

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of the Al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2021)

Countries:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan

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USDOS – US Department of State

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