

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	419
Land:	Pakistan
Kilde:	US Department of State
Titel:	Country Report on Terrorism 2017 - Foreign Terrorist Organizations: Lashkar i Jhangvi
Udgivet:	19. september 2018
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	4. januar 2019

Document #1445085

USDOS – US Department of State

Country Report on Terrorism 2017 - Chapter 5 - Lashkar i Jhangvi

aka Army of Jhangvi; Lashkar e Jhangvi; Lashkar-i-Jhangvi

Description: Designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on January 30, 2003, Lashkar I Jhangvi (LJ) is the terrorist offshoot of the Sunni Deobandi sectarian group Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan. LJ carries out anti-Shia and other sectarian attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan banned the group in August 2001 as part of an effort to rein in sectarian violence, causing many LJ members to seek refuge in Afghanistan with the Taliban, with whom the group had existing ties. After the collapse of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, LJ members became active in aiding other terrorists and have provided safe houses, false identities, and protection in Pakistani cities. LJ works closely with Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan. LJ chief Asif Chotu was killed along with three other LJ militants in January 2017 in a police operation in Pakistan.

Activities: LJ specializes in armed attacks and bombings and has admitted to numerous killings of Shia religious and community leaders in Pakistan. In January 1999, the group attempted to assassinate Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab Province. Media reports linked LJ to attacks on Christian targets in Pakistan, including a March 2002 grenade assault on the Protestant International Church in Islamabad that killed two U.S. citizens.

In January 2014, at least 24 people were killed and 40 others wounded in a bus bombing by LJ targeting Shia pilgrims. LJ also claimed responsibility for the December 2015 suicide bombing that targeted a market in the predominantly Shia town of Parachinar, Pakistan that killed at least 23 people and wounded 50. In November 2016, two individuals suspected of belonging to LJ were arrested by police in Pakistan for their alleged involvement in 25 cases of targeted killings, which included the murder of Pakistani singer Amjad Sabri as well as army and police personnel.

Strength: Membership of the group is assessed to be in the low hundreds.

Location/Area of Operation: This group is primarily based in Pakistan's Punjab province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Karachi, and Balochistan.

Funding and External Aid: Funding comes from wealthy donors in Pakistan as well as the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia. The group engages in criminal activity, including extortion, to fund its activities.

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of Lashkar i Jhangvi (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2017)



Country:

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Source:

USDOS – US Department of State [\(/en/source/11558.html\)](/en/source/11558.html)

Original link:

<https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2017/282850.htm> (<https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2017/282850.htm>)

Document type:

Periodical Report

Language:

English

Published:

19 September 2018

Document ID:

1445085 (former ID [367399 \(/en/document/367399\)](/en/document/367399))

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ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

