



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



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# PAKISTAN-BASED TERRORIST GROUPS JOIN TALIBAN WAR

7,200 LeT FIGHTERS HAVE REPORTEDLY COLLABORATED WITH TALIBAN



In recent weeks, Taliban has gained substantial ground in Afghanistan, in the light of US withdrawal from the war-torn country. Amidst the ongoing tussle to gain control of the key provinces from the Afghan army, international community is alarmed by the growing integration between the Pakistani terrorists Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and the Taliban. This cooperation is in direct violation of the 2020 peace deal signed between the United States and the Taliban. Taliban had pledged to sever ties with other terrorist organizations, including Al Qaeda, in return for the US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan.

According to reports, fighters from other Pakistan-based terrorist groups such as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Jamaat-ul-Arhar, Lashkar-e-Islam and al-Badr are seen fighting alongside the Taliban, in East Afghanistan. An estimate of 7,200 LeT fighters are said to have collaborated with the Taliban recently. It is reported that LeT members are being hired as advisers, commanders and administrators by the Taliban in several areas and recruitments are also taking place, while the training is being conducted in LeT camps in Hyderabad, Pakistan. The military chief of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, is reportedly working closely with LeT and JeM commanders. These reports are in line with the June report by the UN Security Council's analytical support and sanctions monitoring team, which said that there were no signs of the Taliban cutting ties with Al-Qaeda. It also stated that Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) "operates under the Taliban umbrella" from the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand and Nimruz. While another report in 2020 claimed that 6,500 Pakistani terrorists were operating in Afghanistan. However, Taliban spokesman Sohail Shaheen has denied these reports and said that the soil of Afghanistan will not be used against any country. - [Hindustan Times](#), [Zee News](#)

## MASOOD AZHAR NEPHEW WITH LINKS TO BLAST IN PULWAMA GUNNED DOWN



ISMAIL ALVI ALIAS LAMBU

The nephew of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar, Mohammed Ismail Alvi, alias Lambu, who was suspected to be behind Pulwama attack, was gunned down during a very close coordinated operation by the Victor Force of the Indian Army in Tral.

A total of 19 terrorists were accused to be involved in the Pulwama blast, with Ismail being the seventh neutralised by the Indian Armed Forces. Mohammed Ismail had infiltrated into India in January 2017 and was an IED expert and currently the main JeM commander in Kashmir, according to the intelligence agencies. – [Hindustan Times India Today](#),

## FRANCO-AMERICAN ROADMAP TO FIGHT JIHADISM IN AFRICA DRAWN



French Defence Minister  
Florence Parly

Following a bilateral meeting held on 9 July 2021 at the Pentagon, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his counterpart, French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly, signed a Franco-American roadmap for increased cooperation in special operations.

This comes in the light of both the nations are recently seen putting effort to counter non-state threats like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, and therefore seek to build momentum for international efforts in this area. France has been seen cutting its counter-terror operations in Africa's Sahel region, while the US troop's movement out of Afghanistan is in full swing. Increased cooperation is expected in the Africa's Sahel region, in addition to the European military Takuba task force. — [Wion](#), [Ecofin Agency](#)

# AL-QAEDA ISSUES THREAT TO FRANCE ON CARTOONS

NEW LAWS ON ONLINE SURVEILLANCE, AGAINST RADICAL IDEAS PASSED



A shrine set up after the November 2015 attack at Bataclan theatre in Paris. – AFP

Al-Qaeda has reportedly released a video, which makes several references to French President Emmanuel Macron and Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin by name — which has prompted a call for vigilance in France before the beginning of a trial on the November 2015 Paris attacks.

The Interior Ministry has instructed district prefectures to “maintain vigilance at a high level throughout the summer” following the video message of the official media wing of Al-Qaeda named As-Sahab which has threatened “high risk of acts against France” by radicalised individuals. Although the pace of recovery has started picking up after the Covid-19 pandemic, the threat of terrorism continues to loom large as it is feared that the threat might have aggravated during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, French legislators have passed two bills which the government says will strengthen its ability to fight terrorism and Islamist extremism. One of the new laws allows security services of France to avail more tools to carry out surveillance of suspected terrorists online. The other law give French security agencies to combat extremist ideas at every level of French society. It toughens conditions for home-schooling, allows stricter rules for associations seeking state subsidies, and gives authorities more powers to close places of worship that promote hateful or violent ideas.

Some human rights activists have criticised the new laws by claiming they curtail civil liberties and extend police powers to a worrying degree. They contend that the laws are too broad and vague and run the risk of being misapplied. — [The New York Times](#), [The Local France](#)

# BRICS FINALISES PLAN TO FIGHT TERRORISM, RADICALISATION

Plan Key Deliverable under India's Chairship: MEA



Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa at virtual BRICS summit. — ANI

BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG), which was held virtually on 28-29 July 2021, finalised the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan. The meeting saw the participation from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the member states of the BRICS grouping. It was the sixth meeting and it was announced that the Action Plan will help bring “results-oriented cooperation” among the member states to combat terrorism, radicalisation and terror financing. The action plan is scheduled to be adopted later at a meeting of the national security advisors, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement. India assumed the rotating chairship of BRICS in January 2021 and MEA described BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan as one of the key deliverables during India's chairship. Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism, MEA, chaired the meeting.

The Action Plan formulated in June 2021 is the result of adoption of BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2020 by BRICS leaders. The MEA stated in its press release, “During the Working Group meeting while condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed, the BRICS countries also exchanged views on terrorism threat assessment at national, regional and global level.” The key areas of cooperation amongst the member states will be in preventing and combating terrorism, radicalisation, terror financing, misuse of the internet by terrorists, curbing the travel of terrorists, border controls, protecting soft targets, information-sharing, capacity-building, and international and regional cooperation. — [Ministry of External Affairs](#), [Hindustan Times](#)

## CHINA, RUSSIA TO CONDUCT JOINT DRILLS TO COMBAT TERRORISM



File photo of Russian and Chinese soldiers in military drill. -Xinhua

As the US troops exit Afghanistan, China and Russia have become aware of the security situation on their peripheries. Chinese Defence Minister spokesman announced on 29 July 2021 that China and Russia will hold joint military drills in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in China in early August. The purpose of this exercise remains vague but the spokesman mentioned that it is to develop a strategic partnership with Russia and to fight terrorism and maintain peace and stability in the region. About 10,000 military personnel will take part in this drill and will work on joint reconnaissance, early warning, electronic warfare, and strike capabilities. — [Newsweek](#), [National Interest](#)

## New Zealand agrees to repatriate 'jihadi bride'

Under international pressure, New Zealand has agreed to repatriate a suspected member of the terrorist group ISIS, who grew up in Australia and was detained by Turkish authorities in February as she tried to illegally cross the border from Syria with her two young children.

Identified as Suhayra Aden, the woman had travelled from Australia to join ISIS and marry so-called male jihadis about seven years ago. According to officials, Aden's family had moved to Australia from New Zealand when she was 6, making her a dual citizen, and she departed for Syria in 2014 on an Australian passport. But Australia revoked her citizenship and cancelled her passport, which sparked a diplomatic row and left New Zealand to deal with her predicament. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on 26 July, "They are not Turkey's responsibility, and with Australia refusing to accept the family, that makes them ours." Ardern added "great care" is being taken to minimize the security risks in returning the woman and her young children to New Zealand. — *The Washington Post*, *New Zealand Herald*

### 30 killed in Baghdad Market Bombing

A roadside bomb blast in a Baghdad suburb, killed at least 30 people and injured dozens of others at a crowded market, according to Iraqi medical officials.

The attack took place on 19 July in the Wahailat market in Sadr City, according to an Iraqi military statement. The attacks took place a day before the festival of Eid Al Adha, when the market was busy with shoppers and it is reported that piles of merchandise lay scattered on the ground after the explosion. Although no group claimed responsibility, authorities suspect they were carried out by ISIS. — [The Hindu](#)

### Al-Qaeda module busted in Lucknow

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is likely to take over the probe into an alleged al-Qaeda linked terror module unearthed by UP Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Lucknow after arrest of five people on July 11 and 13, senior state police officials said here. It is reported the busted module has links with different states as well as international links through which they received funds to carry out terror activities in the country. — [The Hindustan Times](#)

### US Govt asks Court to Extradite Rana to India

The Biden administration has urged a federal court in Los Angeles to extradite Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India, as Indian security agencies want to investigate about his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. Rana was arrested in Los Angeles on June 10, 2020 on an extradition request by India — [PTI](#)

### NIA Raids 15 J&K Terror Sites

On 31 July, 2021, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested a suspected Lashkar-e-Mustafa (LeM) member and conducted search operations in 15 places in Jammu and Kashmir, in connection with its probe into Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) plans to carry out terrorist activities around the state.

The LeM is reportedly an offshoot of the terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad, and its chief Hidayatullah Malik was arrested in Jammu's Kunjwani area on 6 February, 2021. The searches which led to the discovery of several digital equipment carrying a lot of jihadist material, were conducted at places in Shopian, Anantnag and Jammu districts. — [The Indian Express](#)

### Interpol issues red notice against Hafiz Saeed

The Interpol has issued a fresh red notice against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed, for spearheading anti-India activities from across the border, people familiar with the matter said.

This is the second red notice since 2009 against the UN-designated terrorist, currently lodged in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat prison. — [Hindustan Times](#)

### UK Bans Neo-Nazi Group under Terror Laws

An American neo-Nazi group, led from Russia has been banned after being declared as a terrorist organisation, UK Home Secretary has said.

Named The Base, it is the fifth extreme right-wing group to be proscribed in the UK under anti-terrorism laws.

Last year, BBC programme Panorama exposed the organisation's recruitments efforts in the UK. — [BBC](#)