



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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UNSC DELHI DECLARATION TAKES ON DIGITAL TERROR

DOCUMENT COMMITS TO FIGHTING DRONES, SOCIAL MEDIA, ONLINE FINANCING



Members of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee holding copies of the Delhi Declaration. — Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)

India hosted representatives from 15 United Nations Security Council member states from 28 to 29 October 2022 for a “Special Meeting of the Counterterrorism Committee” in Mumbai and New Delhi.

This meeting was primarily focused on how terrorists exploit and abuse evolving technologies – unmanned aerial systems, including drones; communication and information technologies, including social media – to advance their nefarious objectives and participate in terror financing.

The members also reiterated their commitment to combatting terrorism with more effectiveness, underlining how it is one of the gravest threats to global peace and security.

During the final day of the meeting, the member states unanimously adopted the “Delhi Declaration,” a set of non-binding principles to continue the fight against terrorism on an international scale. David Scharia, Chief of the Branch at the United Nations Security Council’s Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), hailed this achievement.

He said, “The Delhi declaration lays out the foundation for the way ahead. It speaks about the importance of human rights, public-private partnership, civil society engagement, and how we are going to work together on this challenge. It also invites the CTED (the Secretariat for the Committee) to develop a set of guiding principles, which will result from intensive thinking with all the partners. – [UN News](#), [The Indian Express](#), [IndiaTV](#)

INDIA GIVES AID TO UN TO FIGHT GLOBAL TERRORISM



EAM S. Jaishankar addresses United Nations CTC meeting — NDTV

On 29 October 2022, India’s External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, pledged US\$500,000 on behalf of the country to the United Nations’ (U.N.) Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and bolster the international organisation’s fight against transnational terrorism.

In his keynote address, he highlighted how terrorists have weaponised social media forums and internet services to disseminate propaganda and conspiracy theories and radicalise individuals. He also underscored how terrorists keep a close eye on the movements of UN peacekeeping and other security forces stationed in Africa using drones, thereby making them vulnerable. – [Voice of America](#)

US AIRSTRIKE TAKES OUT AL-SHABAAB TERRORIST



ABDULLAHI NADIR

On 1 October 2022, Abdullahi Nadir, deemed “one of the most important members of al-Shabaab,” was eliminated by the Americans using an airstrike. He is believed to have been in line to assume charge of the al-Qaeda affiliate after Ahmed Diriye’s demise and reportedly was one of its co-founders. Until Nadir’s death, the United States of America had placed a bounty amounting to US\$3 million on his head. His official title was al-Shabaab’s “Chief Prosecutor.”

Somalia’s Ministry of Information put out an official statement after this strike – “His death is a thorn removed from the Somali nation, and the Somali people will be relieved from his misguidance and horrific attacks.” – [Reuters](#),

TWIN CAR BOMBINGS IN SOMALIA KILL OVER 100

INDIA CONDEMNS BLASTS NEAR EDUCATION MINISTRY IN MOGADISHU



— Representative Picture

On 29 October 2022, Somalia’s capital, Mogadishu, was rocked by twin car bomb blasts that occurred within minutes at the K-5 or the Sobe junction, a busy intersection near the Ministry of Education. In between those attacks, gunfire also ensued. These deadly attacks have killed at least 100 and wounded 300, and the total number of fatalities is expected to surge. While the first blast had been targeted at the ministry’s premises, the second occurred as ambulances began arriving at the scene. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has blamed al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda affiliate, for the loss of lives and devastation caused. While decrying the attacks, he appealed to the international community to provide Somalia with medical aid since the country lacks the capacity to send the survivors abroad to receive treatment.

Somali Momo, a pro-jihadist website, has supported his claims about al-Shabaab being culpable for the havoc caused, and the terrorist organisation has assumed responsibility for the same through its radio station, Andalus. In 2017, a truck bombing had occurred in the same area, killing at least 500 individuals. It was also attributed to al-Shabaab.

While expressing his profound grief about the large-scale loss of life, including of elderly, women, and children, after visiting the site of the attacks, the President made it clear to the world that his country would defeat this “radical group.” Upon receiving the news about these acts of terrorism, countries worldwide, including India, and organisations like the United Nations, condemned what had occurred. – [BBC News](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [The National News](#), [DW](#)

ISIS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR IRAN MOSQUE ATTACK

TERRORIST OPENS FIRE AT SHAH CHERAGH SHRINE IN SHIRAZ: 20 KILLED



Worshippers through the Shah Cheragh shrine in the Iranian city of Shiraz. — File Picture

Iran's Shah-e-Cherag Shrine, located in the city of Shiraz, was attacked by a gunman on 26 October 2022. ISIS claimed responsibility for this act of terrorism. Although some earlier reports claimed that while 13 people had lost their lives and 40 had suffered injuries, the state media corrected these assertions. As per the official statements, 15 people had died, while 19 were wounded in the attack that occurred during the evening prayers. The attacker was in his 30's and has been neutralised. The Raisi administration has vowed that the state will take decisive action against the perpetrators. According to Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Iranian Foreign Minister, "this crime made the sinister intentions of the promoters of terror and violence in Iran completely clear. There is reliable information that the enemies have drawn up a multi-layered project to made Iran insecure."

Furthermore, President Ibrahim Raisi has asserted that the anti-government protests, rallying against the death of Mahsa Amini on 16 September 2022, a 22-year-old, who was arrested for reportedly violating the dress code prescribed for Iranian women. He states, "The intention of the enemy is to disrupt the country's progress, and then these riots pave the ground for terrorist attacks." In the same breath, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps members have called on the protestors to step down and cease their activities, as some, like its chief, General Hossein Salami referred to the protests as "ominous sedition."

– [The Hindu](#), [The Guardian](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#)

COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBING ISIS



On 18 October 2022, Lafarge, the French conglomerate, and its now-defunct subsidiary, Lafarge Cement Syria, pled guilty to paying ISIS bribes worth around \$5.92 million between August 2013 to October 2014 in a federal court in Brooklyn. The executives reportedly did so to protect its staff and to keep the company's operations running after the war's outbreak. The subsidiary purchased the raw materials from ISIS-backed suppliers. As per the United States Department of Justice, this allowed the subsidiary company to accumulate revenue worth approximately \$70.3 million during that period.

The federal court ordered Lafarge to pay the U.S. administration \$778 million in forfeitures and fines. – [OCCRP](#), [U.S. D.O.J.](#), [BBC News](#), [TRT World](#)

CHINA BLOCKS UN MOVE TO LIST HAFIZ TALHA SAEED ‘TERRORIST’

On 18 and 19 October 2022, China blocked the United Nations proposal, jointly introduced by India and the United States of America, to designate Hafiz Saeed’s son, Talha Saeed, and LeT’s front organisation, Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation’s deputy chief, Shahid Mehmood as terrorist under the 1267 al-Qaeda’s Sanctions Committee regime. This is the fifth attempt on China’s part, within a span of four months, to prevent the designation of Pakistan-based terrorists under the abovementioned regime.

Some of the other terrorists who have not made it onto the list due to China constantly thwarting any attempts to do so include 26/11 handler Sajid Mir, LeT’s deputy Chief Abdul Rahman Makki, and JeM’s deputy Rauf Asghar. New Delhi has termed such efforts on Beijing’s part as “politically motivated” and representative of “doublespeak and double standards.” – [The Hindu](#), [The Economic Times](#)

Two Charged in J&K with “Narrative Terrorism”

On 14 October 2022, Jammu and Kashmir’s (J&K) Investigation Agency filed a chargesheet against Abdul Aala Fazili and Peerzaada Fahad Shah for perpetrating “narrative terrorism.” These individuals are accused of participating in terrorist activities by creating incorrect narratives to radicalise the youth and instigate unrest in J&K. They did so through Fazili’s publication in the *Kashmirwala*, a digital magazine, of which Shah was the editor. Fazili had also organised protests to radicalise the students of the University of Kashmir. – [Greater Kashmir](#)

Jihadist Forces Kill Hundreds in Mali

Islamic State terrorists displaced thousands of Malians and killed at least a few hundred during October 2022 as they made deeper inroads into the country’s eastern region. Mali has been in the crosshairs of an Islamist insurgency since 2012 after the rebellion launched by Tuareg separatists in the northern region was appropriated by Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS). Recently, reports have emerged about widespread fighting between the separatists and ISGS in Menaka, home to a camp previously occupied by French forces. – [Reuters](#)

51 Percent Increase in Pak terror Attacks

Between 15 August 2021 and 14 August 2022, a year since the Afghan Taliban came back to power in Afghanistan, its neighbouring Pakistan experienced a 51 per cent surge in terrorist attacks. At least 719 individuals were wounded, while 433 died across 250 attacks. In contrast, 294 people lost their lives, and 598 suffered injuries due to 294 attacks the country witnessed between August 2020 to 14 August 2021. This data was unveiled by the Pak institute of peace studies, a think tank based in Islamabad. – [DAWN](#)

Pakistan Taken off FATF Grey List

On 21 October 2022, FATF announced its decision to remove Pakistan from its “grey list.” Mr. Arindam Bagchi, the Indian MEA spokesperson, responded that the enhanced FATF scrutiny compelled Pakistan to take “some actions against well-known terrorists.” Furthermore, he added that “it is in global interest that the world remains clear that Pakistan must continue to take credible, verifiable, irreversible, and sustained action against terrorism and terrorist financing emanating from territories under its control.”

– [The Indian Express](#)

Taliban passports to 3000 terrorists: Tajikistan

Ramazon Rahimov, the Tajik Minister of Interior, stated at the two-day International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists Conference that the interim Afghan government has issued passports to 3,000 individuals who are members of terrorist groups. He asserted that all stakeholders must remain focused on the problems facing Afghanistan. During the event, Mr. Rahimov also emphasised that Afghanistan’s current situation affirms the dangers posed by the Taliban-led government. – [Afghan International](#)

White Supremacist kills two in Bratislava

On 12 October 2022, a white supremacist killed two people and injured one in Bratislava, Slovakia, after he opened fire outside a LGBTQ+ bar. The following morning, he committed suicide. The attacker held antisemitic, accelerationist, white supremacist, and anti-LGBTQ+ beliefs. – [The Slovak Spectator](#), [ADL](#)