

*Lashkar-e-Taiba*

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**Name:** Lashkar-e-Taiba

**Type of Organization:**

- Insurgent
- non-state actor
- religious
- terrorist
- transnational
- violent

**Ideologies and Affiliations:**

- Islamist
- jihadist
- Salafist
- Sunni
- takfiri

**Place of Origin:**

Pakistan

**Year of Origin:**

1990

**Founder(s):**

Hafiz Muhammad Saeed

**Places of Operation:**

Pakistan, India, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh

**Overview**

*Executive Summary:*

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), meaning “Army of the Pure,” is a violent Islamist group based in [Pakistan](#).<sup>1</sup> Since its formation in the 1990s, LeT has carried out numerous attacks against military and civilian targets in [India](#), particularly within the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>2</sup> The group received significant international attention for its alleged involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which claimed the lives of 166 individuals and injured more than 300 others.<sup>3</sup>

LeT finds its roots in the Pakistani Islamist group Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI), which was founded in 1989 by [Abdullah Azzam](#), [Osama bin Laden](#)’s religious mentor.<sup>4</sup> In the early 1990s, MDI militants—who had fought alongside the [Taliban](#) at the end of the Soviet-Afghan War—shifted the focus of their operations to Jammu and Kashmir and established LeT.<sup>5</sup> According to a LeT pamphlet, the group’s activities in Jammu and Kashmir are part of a broader goal to re-establish Islamic rule in India and other historically “Muslim lands”: “all of India [...] were part of the Muslim empire that was lost because Muslims gave up jihad.... it is our duty to get these back from the unbelievers.”<sup>6</sup> LeT has targeted Indian security forces, political leaders, and other state symbols in *fidayeen* attacks, direct assaults carried out by two-to-four well-armed militants. The group has also carried out a number of massacres targeting Hindus, Sikhs, and other ethnic and religious minorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

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After receiving serious pressure from the U.S. government to crack down on jihadist groups operating within its borders in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Pakistan officially banned LeT in January 2002.<sup>8</sup> However, members of LeT quickly reappeared as part of a new entity known as

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Jamaa-ul-Dawa (JuD). Due to a perception that the group could be of continuing use to Pakistan, which has long disputed India's control over Jammu and Kashmir, LeT has reportedly been given ongoing clandestine support by elements of the Pakistani military and intelligence services.<sup>9</sup>

JuD and other above-ground LeT-front organizations provide extensive social welfare, medical, and educational services in Pakistan. Through such activities, LeT has expanded its support base in Pakistan and raised funds for its paramilitary operations.<sup>10</sup> LeT is also reportedly attempting to progress its goals in Jammu and Kashmir through Pakistan's political system. The group is believed to be behind the Milli Muslim League Pakistani political party, which was established in August 2017.<sup>11</sup>

Although Jammu and Kashmir remains the primary operational focus of LeT, the group has become increasingly involved in the global jihadist movement. In the years following the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, LeT reportedly provided refuge and training to [al-Qaeda](#) members in Pakistan, as well as fighters and weapons to the Afghan front.<sup>12</sup> The group has also allegedly formed sleeper cells to carry out or aid terrorism in Australia, Europe, and possibly the United States and has ties to other terrorist groups in Central and Southeast Asia.<sup>13</sup>

### *Doctrine:*

LeT adheres to the Ahl-e-Hadith faith, a South Asian version of Salafism.<sup>14</sup> Like al-Qaeda and other Salafist groups, LeT seeks to re-claim what it considers to be "Muslim lands." According to the LeT publication *Why Are We Waging Jihad?*, "Muslims ruled Andalusia (Spain) for 800 years but they were finished to the last man. Christians now rule (Spain) and we must wrest it back from them. All of India [...] were part of the Muslim empire that was lost because Muslims gave up jihad. Palestine is occupied by the Jews. The Holy Qibla-e-Awwal (First Center of Prayer) in Jerusalem is under Jewish control. Several countries such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Cyprus, Sicily, Ethiopia, Russian Turkistan and Chinese Turkistan... were Muslim lands and it is our duty to get these back from unbelievers."<sup>15</sup>

In addition, LeT advocates the supremacy of the *ummah* (the global Muslim community) over any democratic or secular nation-state.<sup>16</sup> Accordingly, LeT also seeks to liberate Muslim-majority countries, particularly those that surround Pakistan, that are under the dominion of non-Islamist governments.<sup>17</sup>

Although LeT is becoming increasingly involved with the global jihadist movement and has reportedly vowed to plant the "flag of Islam" in "Washington, Tel Aviv and New Delhi," the group's primary focus is on the Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>18</sup> LeT does not support jihad in Pakistan on the basis that, because the country's national religion is Islam, it has "professed Faith."<sup>19</sup> Rather, the group focuses on promoting its interpretation of Ahl-e-Hadith in Pakistan through *dawa* (Islamic missionary work).<sup>20</sup> Unlike other Islamist groups operating in Pakistan, LeT believes that proselytizing is as strategically important as violent jihad in achieving its goals.<sup>21</sup>

### *Organizational Structure:*

LeT has developed a robust infrastructure within Pakistan. By 2000, the group had reportedly established more than 70 district offices and departments overseeing the group's finances, *dawa* activities, media and propaganda, social welfare, and external affairs. The group had also established a department for the construction of mosques and madrassas, a department of education, and wings for doctors, teachers, and farmers, among other divisions.<sup>22</sup> According to the Southeast Asia Terrorism Portal, LeT civil operations on a national scale include "16 Islamic institutions, 135 secondary schools, an ambulance service, mobile clinics, blood banks, and several seminaries across Pakistan."<sup>23</sup>

Since LeT was banned in Pakistan in 2002, the group's domestic activities have been coordinated by numerous LeT-front organizations, including Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq (IKK), and the Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF).<sup>24</sup> LeT's emir, [Hafiz Muhammad Saeed](#), is also believed to be behind the Milli Muslim League Pakistani political party, which was established in August 2017.<sup>25</sup>

### *Financing:*

Through providing social welfare, educational, and medical services within Pakistan, LeT has expanded its support base within Pakistan. LeT funds such activities via donation boxes placed in shops throughout the country. In addition, LeT collects *ushr*, an Islamic land tax that requires farmers to donate 10 percent of their crops or income to charity.<sup>26</sup>

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LeT generates revenue through the group’s “legitimate” businesses, which include fish farms, agricultural tracts, and mobile clinics.<sup>27</sup> LeT also raises funds through charging tuition fees for its schools and through selling jihadist material and other goods. A former LeT member revealed in an interview that sometimes LeT-affiliated merchants will ask buyers to pay an additional 5 to 10 Pakistani rupees “for the jihad.”<sup>28</sup>

LeT has also utilized its international connections to solicit funds. The group has reportedly received donations from members of the Pakistani diaspora in Europe and the Persian Gulf and from clerics and other Saudi-based individuals who support the global jihadist movement.<sup>29</sup> Through JuD, IKK, and other LeT-front organizations, the group has also collected donations abroad for disaster relief and other humanitarian purposes within Pakistan. The group has been known to divert money donated for charitable causes to fund its militant activities. Most notably, LeT is believed to have funneled money collected to support victims of a devastating 2005 earthquake in Pakistan to the individuals behind a failed plot to blow up a transatlantic flight in 2006.<sup>30</sup>

### *Recruitment:*

Findings from a study conducted by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point indicate that the majority of LeT recruits are young, Pakistani males with higher than average levels of secular education.<sup>31</sup> LeT has attracted new recruits through fostering an anti-corruption image. This is significant in Pakistan, where corruption is endemic throughout the country’s civil and political structures. For other recruits, LeT’s mission to alleviate Muslim suffering gives them a sense of purpose that they would not otherwise have.<sup>32</sup>

LeT recruits heavily in Pakistan’s Punjab province, particularly within the districts of Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Lahore, where the group spreads its message in mosques and madrassas.<sup>33</sup> New recruits are also reportedly brought into the organization through familial and friendship ties with current LeT members.<sup>34</sup>

LeT is able to reach a broader audience through the group’s website and through an online magazine called “Wyeth.”<sup>35</sup> The group also has a number of print publications, including *Al-Dawa* (a monthly journal), *Gazwa* (an Urdu weekly), and the *Voice of Islam* (an English monthly).<sup>36</sup>

### *Training:*

A study by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point—which used biographical information about LeT members published between 1994 and 2007—found that 47 percent of LeT members had been trained in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, and 28 percent had been trained in Afghanistan.<sup>37</sup> Most LeT fighters undergo a three-phase training program. During the first phase, called Daura-e-Aama, recruits develop running, climbing, and other basic skills.<sup>38</sup> The second phase is called Daura-e-Suffa and provides religious training.<sup>39</sup> The third phase, Daura-e-Khasa, provides specialty training in guerilla warfare.<sup>40</sup> Other specialized training covers maritime operations, espionage, and sabotage.<sup>41</sup>

### *Also Known As:*

- Al Mansoorien<sup>42</sup>
- Al Mansoorian<sup>43</sup>
- Army of Madinah<sup>44</sup>
- Army of the Pure<sup>45</sup>
- Army of the Pure and Righteous<sup>46</sup>
- Army of the Righteous<sup>47</sup>
- Deccan Mujahideen<sup>48</sup>
- Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF)<sup>49</sup>
- Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq<sup>50</sup>
- Islamic Jammāt ud Dawa<sup>51</sup>
- Jamaat ud-Dawa<sup>52</sup>
- Lashkar e-Tayyiba<sup>53</sup>
- Lashkar-e-Toiba<sup>54</sup>
- Lashkar-i-Taiba<sup>55</sup>
- LT<sup>56</sup>
- Movement for the Safeguarding of the First Center of Prayer<sup>57</sup>
- Paasban-e-Ahle-Hadis<sup>58</sup>
- Paasban-e-Kashmir<sup>59</sup>
- Paasban-i-Ahle-Hadith<sup>60</sup>
- Pasban-e-Ahle-Hadith<sup>61</sup>
- Pasban-e-Kashmir<sup>62</sup>
- Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Qibla Awal<sup>63</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” American Foreign Policy Council’s World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>2</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed December 4, 2018, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Ten Years After Mumbai, The Group Responsible Is Deadlier Than Ever,” War on the Rocks, November 26, 2018, <https://warontherocks.com/2018/11/ten-years-after-mumbai-the-group-responsible-is-deadlier-than-ever/>; Shanthie Mariet D’Souza, “Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008,”

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Encyclopaedia Britannica, November 19, 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Mumbai-terrorist-attacks-of-2008>.

<sup>4</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” American Foreign Policy Council’s World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba>; Jayshree Bajoria, “Profile: Lashkar-e-Taiba (Army of the Pure) (a.k.a. Lashkar e-Tayyiba, Lashkar e-Toiba; Lashkar-i-Taiba),” *Washington Post*, December 5, 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/05/AR2008120501582.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Animesh Roul, “Jamaat-ud Daawa: Into the Mainstream,” *CTC Sentinel*, 8, 4 (April 2015): p. 23, <https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2015/04/CTCSentinel-Vol8Issue48.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Cited in Rashad Ali and Hannah Stuart, “A Guide to Refuting Jihadism: Critiquing radical Islamist claims to theological authenticity,” Henry Jackson Society, January 2014, p. 26, <http://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Refuting-Jihadism.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” American Foreign Policy Council’s World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>8</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>; Ashley J. Tellis, “The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT\\_menace.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>; Stephen Tankel, “Ten Years After Mumbai, The Group Responsible Is Deadlier Than Ever,” *War on the Rocks*, November 26, 2018, <https://warontherocks.com/2018/11/ten-years-after-mumbai-the-group-responsible-is-deadlier-than-ever/>.

<sup>10</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>11</sup> Madeeha Anwar, “US Designates Pakistani Party Milli Muslim League as ‘Terrorists,’” *Voice of America*, April 3, 2018, <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-designates-pakistan-party-milli-muslim-league-terrorists/4331538.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>; Stephen Tankel, “Lankshar-e-Taiba: From 9/11 to Mumbai,” *The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence*, April/May 2009, [http://ps.au.dk/fileadmin/site\\_files/filer\\_statskundskab/subsites/cir/pdf-filer/Tankel\\_01.pdf](http://ps.au.dk/fileadmin/site_files/filer_statskundskab/subsites/cir/pdf-filer/Tankel_01.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Ashley J. Tellis, “The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 5-6, March 2012, [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT\\_menace.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> Jasmin Lorch, “Trajectories of Political Salafism: Insights from the Ahle Hadith Movement in Pakistan and Bangladesh,” *Middle East Institute*, October 30, 2018, <https://www.mei.edu/publications/trajectories-political-salafism-insights-ahle-hadith-movement-pakistan-and-bangladesh>.

<sup>15</sup> Cited in Rashad Ali and Hannah Stuart, “A Guide to Refuting Jihadism: Critiquing radical Islamist claims to theological authenticity,” Henry Jackson Society, January 2014, p. 26, <http://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Refuting-Jihadism.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>17</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed December 7, 2018, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm).

<sup>18</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed December 4, 2018, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm); Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>19</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>20</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>; Stephen Tankel, “Ten Years After Mumbai, The Group Responsible Is Deadlier Than Ever,” *War on the Rocks*, November 26, 2018, <https://warontherocks.com/2018/11/ten-years-after-mumbai-the-group-responsible-is-deadlier-than-ever/>.

<sup>21</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” *World Almanac of Islamism*, October 2, 2013, last modified October 2, 2013, <http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>22</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>23</sup> “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed December 4, 2018, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm).

<sup>24</sup> Ashley J. Tellis, “The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT\\_menace.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf); Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>; “Addition of Aliases Jamaat-Ud-Dawa and Idara Khidmat-E-Khalq to the Specially Designated Global Terrorist Designation of Lashkar-E-Tayyiba,” U.S. Department of State, April 28, 2006, <http://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/65401.htm>; “Secretary of State’s Terrorist Designation of Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation,” U.S. Department of State, November 24, 2010, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/266648.htm>.

<sup>25</sup> Madeeha Anwar, “US Designates Pakistani Party Milli Muslim League as ‘Terrorists,’” *Voice of America*, April 3, 2018, <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-designates-pakistan-party-milli-muslim-league-terrorists/4331538.html>.

<sup>26</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>; Syed Manzar Abbas Zaidi, “Profiling the Lashkar-e-Taiba,” *South Asian Survey* 16, no. 2 (2009): 331, <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.841.1472&rep=rep1&type=pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> Geoffrey Kambere et al., “The Financing of Lashkar-e-Taiba,” *Combating Terrorism Exchange* 1, no. 1 (2011), <https://globalecco.org/ctx-v1n1/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>28</sup> Syed Manzar Abbas Zaidi, “Profiling the Lashkar-e-Taiba,” *South Asian Survey* 16, no. 2 (2009): 331, <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.841.1472&rep=rep1&type=pdf>; Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>29</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>30</sup> Stephen Tankel, “Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects,” New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>31</sup> Don Rassler et al., “The Fighters of Lashkar-e-Taiba: Recruitment, Training, Deployment and Death,” *Combating Terrorism Center at West Point*, April 2013, [https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2014/07/Fighters-of-LeT\\_Final.pdf](https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2014/07/Fighters-of-LeT_Final.pdf).

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- <sup>32</sup> Sebastian Rotella, "A Terror Group That Recruits From Pakistan's 'Best and Brightest,'" *Atlantic*, April 4, 2013, <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/04/a-terror-group-that-recruits-from-pakistans-best-and-brightest/274682/>.
- <sup>33</sup> Don Rassler et al., "The Fighters of Lashkar-e-Taiba: Recruitment, Training, Deployment and Death," Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, April 2013, [https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2014/07/Fighters-of-LeT\\_Final.pdf](https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2014/07/Fighters-of-LeT_Final.pdf).
- <sup>34</sup> Stephen Tankel, "Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects," New America Foundation, April 2011, <https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba>.
- <sup>35</sup> Rajesh Ahuja, "LeT launches online magazine, says 2018 will be tough for security forces," *Hindustan Times*, June 23, 2018, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/let-launches-online-magazine-says-2018-will-be-tough-for-security-forces/story-TbXeaW5jh15GYqsRNikjdL.html>.
- <sup>36</sup> "Lashkar-e-Taiba," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed December 4, 2018, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_taiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_taiba.htm).
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- <sup>38</sup> Stephen Tankel, "Storming the World Stage," *Storming the World Stage: The Story of Lashkar-e-Taiba*, (Columbia University Press, 2011), pp. 207-221, accessed November 30, 2018 via <https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/storming-world-stage-story-lashkar-e-taiba>.
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- <sup>42</sup> Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- <sup>43</sup> Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- <sup>44</sup> "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let>.
- <sup>45</sup> Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
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- <sup>57</sup> "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let>.
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- <sup>60</sup> Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- <sup>61</sup> Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- <sup>62</sup> Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- <sup>63</sup> "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let>.

**Key Leaders**



**Hafiz Muhammad Saeed**  
Founder and emir



**Abdul Rehman Makki**  
Deputy emir



**Yahiya Mujahid**  
Spokesman



**Sajid Mir**  
Commander of Overseas  
Operations



**Zaki-Ur-Rehman Lakhvi**  
Supreme Commander of Kashmir  
and operational commander of LeT



**Rahman-ur-Dakhil**  
Deputy Supreme Commander



**Abdullah Shehzad**  
Chief Operations Commander,  
Valley



**Nazir Ahmad Chaudhry**  
Director of Public Relations



**Muhammad Hussein Gill**  
Chief financial officer



**Abdul Hassan**  
Central Division Commander



**Kari Saif-Ul-Rahman**  
North Division Commander

## History:

- **January 19, 2023:** After the U.N. added LeT deputy Abdul Rehman Makki to its sanctions list a few days earlier, Makki releases a video from the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore denying any links with al-Qaeda or the Islamic State. Source: "LeT's Abdul Rehman Makki releases video: 'Never met Osama Bin Laden,'" Hindustan Times, January 24, 2023, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/never-met-osama-bin-laden-let-s-abdul-rehman-makki-releases-video-101674173278318.html>.
- **January 16, 2023:** The U.N. Security Council adds LeT deputy emir Abdul Rehman Makki to its sanctions list. Makki has served as the head of LET's foreign relations department and member of the shura, LeT's governing body. Makki was designated as a Specially Designated National (SDN) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on November 4, 2010, given his role in raising funds for LeT operations and for serving a principal role in LeT's foreign operations. Sources: "Security Council ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Adds One Entry to Its Sanctions List," United Nations, January 16, 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15177.doc.htm>; "Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki," Rewards for Justice, <https://rewardsforjustice.net/rewards/hafiz-abdul-rahman-makki/>.
- **January 5, 2023:** The Indian government bans The Resistance Front (TRF) as it is reportedly a proxy group of LeT. TRF was allegedly formed in 2019 and recruited young people online in an attempt to get them involved in terrorist activities. According to India's Home Ministry, TRF is also involved in the cross-border smuggling of arms and drugs, and multiple cases have been registered against TRF members who plotted to kill security forces and civilians. Source: Jitendra Bahadur Singh, "Govt bans terror group The Resistance Front with links to Pakistan," *India Today* (Noida), January 5, 2023, <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/govt-bans-the-resistance-force-a-proxy-of-pakistan-based-terror-group-lashkaretaiba-2317949-2023-01-05>.
- **April 10, 2022:** The Indian government designates Hafiz Talha Saeed, the son of LeT founder Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, as an individual terrorist under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Saeed is reportedly a senior leader of LeT and heads the cleric wing of the terror group. According to the government's press release, Talha has also been involved in the recruitment, fund collection, and planning and execution of LeT attacks in India and Afghanistan. Saeed has reportedly also visited centers across Pakistan where he has advocated for jihad against India, Israel, and the United States. Source: "India designates Hafiz Saeed's son Talha Saeed as individual terrorist," Hindustan Times, April 10, 2022, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-designates-hafiz-saeed-s-son-talha-saeed-as-individual-terrorist-101649476801490.html>.
- **April 7, 2022:** An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan sentences Hafiz Saeed to an additional 31 years imprisonment for two cases related to terrorism financing. The two criminal complaints were filed in 2019 under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997. However, given that Saeed is currently incarcerated—or possibly under protective custody at his home in Lahore—and that his two previous sentences from 2020 are running concurrently, it is uncertain how much jail time Saeed will definitively serve. Sources: Mubasher Bukhari, "Pakistani court jails Islamist Hafiz Saeed for an extra 31 years," Reuters, April 9, 2022, [https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistani-court-finds-hafiz-saeed-guilty-two-more-charges-terrorism-financing-2022-04-08/?utm\\_](https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistani-court-finds-hafiz-saeed-guilty-two-more-charges-terrorism-financing-2022-04-08/?utm_); Sukrut Khandekar, "Pakistan court sentences Islamist terrorist Hafiz Saeed to 31 years imprisonment," Jurist, April 10, 2022, <https://www.jurist.org/news/2022/04/pakistan-court-sentences-islamist-terrorist-hafiz-saeed-to-31-years-imprisonment/#>.
- **January 15, 2022:** Jammu and Kashmir police arrest six LeT associates in Sopore and Bandipora, northern Kashmir. According to preliminary investigations, the suspects were providing logistical and other material support in the form of mobile phones and SIM card to the terror group. Source: "J&K Police busts massive terror module, 6 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist associates arrested from Sopore and Bandipora," Times Now News, January 15, 2022, <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/kashmir-police-busts-massive-terror-module-6-lashkar-e-taiba-terrorist-associates-arrested-from-sopore-and-bandipora/849785>.
- **November 17, 2021 - December 2, 2021:** On November 17, LeT militants hurled a grenade at security forces in Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir. The attack injures two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) members and injures one civilian. On December 2, Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir raid a LeT cell in Baramulla district and arrest three terrorists involved in the November attack. Security forces claimed the arrested carried out the attack as they were given instructions across the border to create an atmosphere of fear and chaos in the region. Sources: "J&K: 2 CRPF jawans, 1 civilian injured as terrorists hurl grenade at security forces in Baramulla," India TV, November 17, 2021, <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/baramulla-grenade-attack-jammu-and-kashmir-terrorist-attack-security-forces-crpf-jawan-civilian-injured-745455>; "3 Terror Associates Involved In Grenade Attack Arrested In Kashmir," NDTV, December 2, 2021, <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/3-terror-associates-involved-in-grenade-attack-arrested-in-kashmir-2634822>.
- **February 13, 2021:** Jammu and Kashmir police arrest an LeT militant in Samba, Jammu. The suspect allegedly was involved in the 2020 killing of three Baratiya Janata Party workers and one policeman in Kashmir. According to police, the suspect had received terrorist training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in 2004 and had brought over five other terrorists with him to India. Source: "Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist involved in killing of 3 BJP workers arrested from Jammu," Orissa Post, February 13, 2021, <https://www.orissapost.com/lashkar-e-taiba-terrorist-involved-in-killing-of-3-bjp-workers-arrested-from-jammu/>.
- On January 2, Pakistani police arrest LeT senior leader Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi on charges of terrorism financing in Punjab, Pakistan. According to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), the U.N.-designated Lakhvi had been running a medical dispensary to collect and disburse funds for militant activities. Lakhvi, who is the chief of operations of the terror group, has been accused of being involved in militant activity in other countries including Chechnya, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. On January 8, the anti-terrorism court of Pakistan sentences Lakhvi to five years in jail for terrorism financing. Sources: Mubasher Bukhari, "Pakistan sentences Lakhvi to five years for terrorism financing," Reuters, January 8, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-court-idUSKBN29D16j>; Mubasher Bukhari, "Pakistan arrests alleged militant group leader Zaki ur Rehman Lakhvi on terrorism financing charge," Reuters, January 2, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/article/pakistan-arrest-mumbai-idUSKBN2970C0>.
- **February 12, 2020 - November 19, 2020:** On February 12, the Lahore High Court convict Saeed on terrorism-related charges. He is sentenced to two prison terms of five and a half years, which will run concurrently, and a \$194 fine (30,000 rupees). Saeed is found guilty of having links with terrorist groups—specifically JuD. He is sentenced to an additional ten years in prison on two charges of terrorism financing on November 19, 2020. The sentences—five years each—will run concurrently with the previous sentences handed down in February of 2020. Sources: Salman Masood, "Accused Mastermind of Mumbai Attack Convicted of Links to Terrorism," *New York Times*, February 12, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/12/world/asia/hafiz-saeed-mumbai-convicted.html>; "U.S. Praises Pakistan For Jailing Of Militant Accused Of Mumbai Attacks," Radio Free Europe, February 13, 2020, <https://www.rferl.org/a/us-praises-pakistan-jailing-mumbai-attack-militant/30431754.html>; Asad Hashim, "Pakistan court convicts Mumbai 'mastermind' in terrorism case," Al Jazeera, February 12, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/pakistan-jails-mumbai-attacks-suspect-hafiz-saeed-lawyer-200212103850045.html>; Mubasher Bukhari, "Hafiz Saeed found guilty on two more charges of terrorism financing," Reuters, November 19, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/pakistan-court-militancy-financing-idINKBN27Z1SZ>.

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- **December 11, 2019:** A Pakistani court indicts LeT founder Hafiz Muhammad Saeed on terrorism financing charges for his association with Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD)—an organization which the U.N. has placed on a terrorist blacklist of groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban but has also been implicated by the Indian government for financing LeT attacks.  
Sources: Neil MacFarquhar, “India Wants Pakistani Group Added to U.N.’s Terrorism List,” *New York Times*, December 9, 2008, [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/10/world/10nations.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/10/world/10nations.html?_r=0); “Recruitment by Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jamaat-ud-Dawa,” United States Department of Justice, December 11, 2018, <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1135841/download>.; “Seventeenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2161 (2014) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities,” United Nations Security Council, June 16, 2015, [https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/N1509325\\_EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/N1509325_EN.pdf); Asad Hashim, “Pakistan’s Hafiz Saeed indicted on ‘terror financing,’” Al Jazeera, December 11, 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/pakistan-hafiz-saeed-indicted-terror-financing-191211080238184.html>.
- **June 23, 2018:** LeT launches the first edition of its online magazine “Wyeth” which focuses on the group’s activities in Jammu and Kashmir.  
Source: Rajesh Ahuja, “LeT launches online magazine, says 2018 will be tough for security forces,” *Hindustan Times*, June 23, 2018, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/let-launches-online-magazine-says-2018-will-be-tough-for-security-forces/story-TbXeaW5jh15GYqsRNikjdL.html>.
- Media sources report that top LeT commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, who had remained under the radar since his release from prison in April 2015, has resurfaced in Punjab.  
Lakhvi is believed to be collecting donations from local wheat farmers in an effort to raise funds for terrorist activities. Source: Bharti Jain, “Out on bail, 26/11 Mumbai attacks mastermind Zaki-ur Rehman Lakhvi raising funds,” *Times of India*, May 10, 2018, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/out-on-bail-lakhvi-raising-funds/articleshow/64102389.cms>.
- **January 1, 2018:** Pakistan bans Jamaat-ud-Dawa and the Falah-i-Insaniat Foundatoin from collecting donations.  
The ban is later lifted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on September 12, 2018. Sources: “Pakistan bans Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa from collecting donations,” *India Today*, January 1, 2018, <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/pakistan-bans-hafiz-saeed-led-jamaat-ud-dawa-falah-i-insaniat-foundation-from-collecting-donations-1120186-2018-01-01>; “SC permits Hafiz Saeed’s Jamaat-ud-Dawa to run charity operations,” *Geo News*, September 12, 2018, <https://www.geo.tv/latest/210949-sc-permits-hafiz-saeeds-jamaat-ud-dawa-to-run-charity-operations>.
- LeT leader Hafiz Muhammad Saeed reportedly establishes the Milli Muslim League Pakistani political party.  
Source: Madeeha Anwar, “US Designates Pakistani Party Milli Muslim League as ‘Terrorists,’” *Voice of America*, April 3, 2018, <https://www.voanews.com/a-us-designates-pakistan-party-milli-muslim-league-terrorists/4331538.html>.
- **October 29, 2015:** Abu Qasim, the alleged “mastermind” of the August 2015 attack on an Indian military convoy in Jammu and Kashmir, is killed by Indian forces.  
Source: Toufiq Rashid, Rahul Singh, “Lashkar’s Abu Qasim, mastermind of Udhampur attack, killed in Kashmir,” *Hindustan Times (New Delhi)*, December 29, 2015, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/udhampur-attack-mastermind-abu-qasim-killed-in-kashmir-army/story-bU1rPVTTc9kAnKOOvhm5EM.html>.
- **September 14, 2015:** LeT is one of two militant groups suspected to be behind the murders of three youths whose bodies are found in Jammu and Kashmir.  
The murders are believed to be part of the ongoing rivalry between militant groups in the disputed Kashmir region between India and Pakistan. Source: Fayaz Wani, “Bullet-Riddled Bodies of 3 Youth Found in Kashmir,” *New Indian Express (Delhi)*, September 15, 2015, <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Bullet-riddled-Bodies-of-3-Youth-Found-in-Kashmir/2015/09/15/article3028483.ece>.
- **August 5, 2015:** Two LeT militants attack an Indian military convoy in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, killing two Indian soldiers.  
One of the LeT militants, Mohammad Naved, is captured by nearby villagers and subsequently interrogated by Indian officials. Naved confirms that he is from Pakistan and was trained by LeT there. The incident leads to a search for Abu Qasim, the alleged “mastermind” behind the attack. Sources: “Pak Terrorist Naved Claims he ‘Didn’t Know’ His Partner: Sources,” *NDTV*, August 6, 2015, <http://www.ndtv.com/cheat-sheet/pak-terrorist-naved-claims-he-didnt-know-his-partner-sources-1204605>.; Mir Ehsan, “Top Lashkar Commander Abu Qasim, who plotted Udhampur attack shot,” *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, December 25, 2015, <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/top-let-commander-and-udhampur-attack-mastermind-abu-qasim-killed-in-encounter/>.
- LeT is reportedly active at the Bangladesh-Burma border crossing, recruiting Rohingya youths from refugee camps.  
After a series of Buddhist riots targeting the Rohingya Muslims in 2012, LeT leader Hafiz Muhammad Saeed urged LeT members to recruit the Rohingya Muslims for revenge missions. Source: Pakistan’s Lashkar-e-Taiba recruiting Rohingyas from border camps for terror training,” *BDNews24*, July 28, 2015, <http://bdnews24.com/neighbours/2015/07/28/pakistans-lashkar-e-taiba-recruiting-rohingyas-from-border-camps-for-terror-training>.
- **April 10, 2015:** A Pakistani high court releases seven men believed to be involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, including top LeT commander Zaki-Ur-Rehman Lakhvi.  
Tensions increase between Pakistan and India as a result of the decision. Sources: Alleged mastermind of Mumbai attacks released on bail, *Al Jazeera America*, April 10, 2015, <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/4/10/alleged-mastermind-of-mumbai-attacks-released-on-bail.html>; Salman Masood and Declan Walsh, “Pakistani Militant Leader Tied to 2008 Mumbai Attacks Is Freed on Bail,” *New York Times*, April 10, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/11/world/asia/pakistan-militant-leader-mumbai-attacks-released-on-bail.html?ref=topics>.
- **January 29, 2015:** JuD expands its social services to include ambulance services in Karachi.  
Source: Saba Imtiaz and Declan Walsh, “In Pakistan, a Charity Project Points to Official Tolerance of Militants,” *New York Times*, January 28, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/29/world/in-pakistan-a-charity-project-points-to-official-tolerance-of-militants.html>.
- **June 26, 2014:** The United States sanctions two senior members of LeT and designates Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) as an LeT charitable front.  
Source: Mehreen Zahra-Malik, “U.S. Says Pakistani ‘Charity’ Front for Banned Militants,” *Reuters*, June 26, 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/26/us-pakistan-militants-idUSKBN0FIOWT20140626>.
- **December 30, 2014:** Police arrest top LeT commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi in Islamabad for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks after he was released on bail two days earlier by the Islamabad High Court.  
Source: Salman Masood, “Suspect in 2008 Mumbai Attacks Is Held in Pakistan on New Charge,” *New York Times*, December 31, 2015, [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/31/world/asia/zaki-ur-rehman-lakhvi-mumbai-pakistan-arrested.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/31/world/asia/zaki-ur-rehman-lakhvi-mumbai-pakistan-arrested.html?_r=0).



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- **December 22, 2014:** The *The New York Times* reports that the United States and the United Kingdom failed to prevent the 2008 Mumbai attacks due to insufficient intelligence sharing.  
Source: James Glanz, Sebastian Rotella, and David E. Sanger, "In 2008 Mumbai Attacks, Piles of Spy Data, but an Uncompleted Puzzle," *New York Times*, December 21, 2014, [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/22/world/asia/in-2008-mumbai-attacks-piles-of-spy-data-but-an-uncompleted-puzzle.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/22/world/asia/in-2008-mumbai-attacks-piles-of-spy-data-but-an-uncompleted-puzzle.html?_r=0).
- **May 23, 2014:** Two gunmen open fire on the Indian Consulate in Herat, Afghanistan.  
The attack is linked to LeT. Sources: "Indian consulate attacked in Afghanistan," *Guardian*, May 23, 2014, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/23/indian-consulate-attacked-in-afghanistan>; "Amendments to the Terrorist Designations of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba," U.S. Department of State, June 25, 2014, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/266553.htm>.
- **March 10, 2014:** Indian counter-insurgency forces kill a divisional commander of LeT, Abu Huraira, in Jammu and Kashmir.  
Source: "Incidents and Statements involving Lashkar-e-Taiba : 2013," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed January 28, 2016, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba\\_lt2013.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba_lt2013.htm).
- **May 23, 2013:** Indian forces kill LeT commander Hilal Maulvi in the Jammu and Kashmir city of Srinagar.  
Source: "Incidents and Statements involving Lashkar-e-Taiba : 2013," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed January 28, 2016, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba\\_lt2013.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba_lt2013.htm).
- **April 18, 2013:** Two LeT militants attack a village in Jammu and Kashmir. Indian forces kill one of the militants, Shabir Ahmad Sheikh, also known as "Sufiyan."  
Source: "Incidents and Statements involving Lashkar-e-Taiba : 2013," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed January 28, 2016, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba\\_lt2013.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba_lt2013.htm).
- **February 7, 2013:** The United States offers a \$10 million reward for help in the conviction of Hafiz Muhammad Saeed.  
Source: "US Puts \$10m Bounty on Lashkar-e-Taiba's Hafiz Saeed," BBC News, April 3, 2012, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-17594018>.
- **January 18, 2013:** A U.S. court sentences Tahawwur Rana, a businessman in Chicago, to 14 years in prison for providing material support to overseas terrorist groups, including LeT.  
Source: "Tahawwur Rana Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Supporting Pakistani Terror Group and Terror Plot in Denmark," U.S. Department of Justice, January 17, 2013, <http://www.fbi.gov/chicago/press-releases/2013/tahawwur-rana-sentenced-to-14-years-in-prison-for-supporting-pakistani-terror-group-and-terror-plot-in-denmark>.
- **December 1, 2012:** Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) raids the Islamist compound of Beit-ul-Muhajadeen and arrests top LeT commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, among others.  
Source: Sebastian Rotella, "Four Disturbing Questions about the Mumbai Terror Attack," ProPublica, February 22, 2013, <http://www.propublica.org/article/four-disturbing-questions-about-the-mumbai-terror-attack>.
- **May 27, 2011:** LeT attacks a home in Kupwara, India, killing two.  
Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2011," U.S. Department of State, July 31, 2012, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2011/195553.htm>.
- American David Headley pleads guilty for his involvement in the Mumbai attacks perpetrated by LeT.  
Source: "Chicago Resident David Coleman Headley Pleads Guilty to Role in India and Denmark Terrorism Conspiracies," U.S. Department of Justice, March 18, 2010, <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/chicago-resident-david-coleman-headley-pleads-guilty-role-india-and-denmark-terrorism>.
- **February 13, 2010:** LeT kills nine in the bombing of a German bakery in Pune, India.  
Source: Kukil Bora, "Major Terrorist Attacks in India Over the Last 20 Years: A Timeline," *International Business Times*, December 13 2014, <http://www.ibtimes.com/major-terrorist-attacks-india-over-last-20-years-timeline-1752731>.
- Wikileaks releases classified State Department cables in which U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stated that Saeed and Lakhvi "continue[d] to run" LeT "despite being detained [via house arrest] for their role" in the Mumbai attacks.  
Source: "US Puts \$10m Bounty on Lashkar-e-Taiba's Hafiz Saeed," BBC News, April 3, 2012, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-17594018>.
- The Pakistani government places Saeed under house arrest.  
Saeed was charged a week before the arrest with violating hate speech laws under a Pakistani anti-terrorism statute. Other news sources speculated that the house arrest came after international pressure to investigate Saeed's role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Sources: Waqar Gillani and Sabrina Tavernise, "Pakistan Places Mumbai Suspect Under House Arrest," *New York Times*, September 21, 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/22/world/asia/22pstan.html>; Salman Masood, "Terror Suspect Cleared Again In Pakistan," *New York Times*, October 12, 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/13/world/asia/13lahore.html>.
- Interpol issues a red notice (an international notice that a particular person is wanted by the organization) against Saeed, along with top LeT commander Zaki ur Rehman Lakhvi, in response to India's requests for his extradition.  
Sources: James Riach, "Interpol issues red notices for former Fifa officials wanted by US," *Guardian* (London), June 3, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jun/03/interpol-red-notices-fifa-jack-warner-nicolas-leoz>; Surya Gangadharan, "Interpol notice against Saeed adds to Pak worries," IBN News, August 27, 2009, <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/interpol-notice-against-saeed-adds-to-pak-worries/100041-3.html>.
- **July 6, 2009:** The Pakistani government appeals the Lahore High Court's June 2009 decision to release Saeed from house arrest, stating that "Hafiz Saeed at liberty is a security threat" to the country.  
Source: Associated Press, "Pakistan: Appeal of Ruling that Granted Militant Freedom," *New York Times*, July 6, 2009, [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/07/world/asia/07briefs-Pstan.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/07/world/asia/07briefs-Pstan.html?_r=0).
- **December 11, 2008:** Saeed is placed under house arrest after the United Nations declares JuD to be a LeT front.  
The Lahore High Court releases Saeed in June 2009, stating that his detention is unconstitutional. India quickly expresses disappointment with the decision. Sources: M Ilyas Khan, "Profile: Hafiz Mohammad Saeed," BBC News, June 2, 2009, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/6067694.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6067694.stm); "Pakistan Releases 'Top Militant,'" BBC News, June 2, 2009, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8078356.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8078356.stm).

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- **November 26, 2008 - November 29, 2008:** LeT kills more than 160 individuals and injures approximately 300 others in a series of attacks in Mumbai.  
The attacks target a railway station, a popular restaurant, a hospital, two hotels, and a Jewish center. Sources: Bruce Riedel, "Modeled on Mumbai? Why the 2008 India attack is the best way to understand Paris," Brookings, November 14, 2015, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2015/11/14/modeled-on-mumbai-why-the-2008-india-attack-is-the-best-way-to-understand-paris/>; "Mumbai Terror Attacks Fast Facts," CNN, November 12, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2013/09/18/world/asia/mumbai-terror-attacks/index.html>.
- **August 25, 2007:** LeT attacks an amusement park in Hyderabad, India, killing at least 40 individuals.  
Source: "Timeline: Major Militant Attacks in India," Reuters, July 14, 2011, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/07/14/us-timeline-india-idUSTRE76C4G620110714>.
- **August 9, 2006:** The provincial government of Punjab puts Saeed under house arrest for his possible connection to the July train attacks in Mumbai.  
On August 28, 2006, Saeed is released under a Lahore High Court order but is arrested again later that day by the provincial government. On October 17, 2006, the Lahore High Court releases Saeed, stating his prolonged detention without a trial is illegal. Sources: "Hafiz Saeed's Profile," *Hindustan Times*(New Delhi), June 2, 2009, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/hafiz-saeed-s-profile/article1-417093.aspx>; "World Briefing | Asia: Pakistan: Court Frees Islamist Leader," *New York Times*, October 18, 2006, <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D0CE0DE1F30F93BA25753C1A9609C8B63&fta=y>.
- **June 6, 2006:** A U.S. court convicts Asif Ali Chaudhary of attempting to provide material support to LeT.  
Chaudhary is the 11th individual convicted for his involvement in the "Virginia jihad network." Chaudhary, along with other members of the network, traveled to Pakistan in hopes of participating in terrorist attacks. Source: Jerry Markon, "Final Defendant Guilty in 'Va. Jihad,'" *Washington Post*, June 7, 2006, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/06/AR2006060601142.html>.
- **July 11, 2006:** LeT works with local Indian Islamist organization Lashkar-e-Qahhar to bomb multiple commuter trains in Mumbai, killing more than 209 and injuring 714.  
Source: V.S. Subrahmanian et al., *Indian Mujahideen: Computational Analysis and Public Policy* (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2013), 91.
- **March 7, 2006:** LeT attacks a Hindu temple and a train station in Varanasi, India, killing 21 and injuring 62 others.  
Source: Ashley J. Tellis, "The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT\\_menace.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf).
- **October 29, 2005:** Three coordinated LeT bombings in New Delhi kill 63 and injure more than 200.  
Source: Justin Huggler, "Delhi 'bombing mastermind' is Kashmiri militant, say police," *Independent* (London), November 14, 2005, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/delhi-bombing-mastermind-is-kashmiri-militant-say-police-515168.html>.
- **October 28, 2005:** LeT attacks the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bangalore, killing one.  
Source: "Lashkar-e-Taiba," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed April 13, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm).
- **August 25, 2003:** LeT attacks the Gateway of India and Zaveri Bazaar in Mumbai with the help of local Indian Islamist group the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), killing 52 and wounding more than 200.  
Source: V.S. Subrahmanian et al., *Indian Mujahideen: Computational Analysis and Public Policy* (Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2013), 91.
- **September 24, 2002:** LeT is allegedly responsible for raiding the Akshardam Temple in Gujarat, killing 33 and injuring 70.  
Source: "Lashkar-e-Taiba," Anti-Defamation League, accessed May 22, 2015, <http://archive.adl.org/terrorism/symbols/lashkaretaiba.html>.
- **May 15, 2002:** Saeed is placed under house arrest in connection with the ongoing investigation into his involvement in the Indian parliament attack in December 2001.  
Source: "Hafiz Saeed's Profile," *Hindustan Times* (New Delhi), June 2, 2009, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/hafiz-saeed-s-profile/article1-417093.aspx>.
- **May 14, 2002:** LeT allegedly attacks an Indian army base in Kaluchak, killing 30.  
Source: Kanti Bajpai, *Nuclear Proliferation in South Asia: Crisis Behaviour and the Bomb* (New York: Routledge, 2008), 163.
- **December 21, 2001:** Pakistan detains Saeed as part of an investigation into an attack on the Indian parliament (Lok Sabha) a week earlier. Saeed remains in police custody until March 31, 2002. Source: "Hafiz Saeed's Profile," *Hindustan Times* (New Delhi), June 2, 2009, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/hafiz-saeed-s-profile/article1-417093.aspx>.
- **December 13, 2001:** Gunmen attack India's parliament in New Delhi in coordination with the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed.  
Nine are killed and 18 are injured. India responds by sending 700,000 troops to its border with Pakistan. Sources: "Lashkar-e-Taiba," Anti-Defamation League, accessed May 22, 2015, <http://archive.adl.org/terrorism/symbols/lashkaretaiba.html>; Jayshree Bajoria, "Lashkar-e-Taiba (Army of the Pure) (aka Lashkar e-Tayyiba, Lashkar e-Toiba; Lashkar-i-Taiba)," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified January 14, 2010, <http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/lashkar-e-taiba-army-pure-aka-lashkar-e-tayyiba-lashkar-e-toiba-lashkar-taiba/p17882>.
- **January 17, 2001:** LeT attacks the Srinagar airport in Jammu and Kashmir, killing five Indians.  
Sources: Significant Terrorist Incidents, 1961-2003: A Brief Chronology, Department of State Archives, accessed July 7, 2015, <http://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/5902.htm>; "Lashkar-e-Taiba (Army of the Pure) (aka Lashkar e-Tayyiba, Lashkar e-Toiba; Lashkar-i-Taiba)," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified January 14, 2010, <http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/lashkar-e-taiba-army-pure-aka-lashkar-e-tayyiba-lashkar-e-toiba-lashkar-taiba/p17882>.
- **December 22, 2000:** LeT attacks Delhi's Red Fort, an Indian army barracks, killing three.  
Sources: Jayshree Bajoria, "Lashkar-e-Taiba (Army of the Pure) (aka Lashkar e-Tayyiba, Lashkar e-Toiba; Lashkar-i-Taiba)," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified January 14, 2010, <http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/lashkar-e-taiba-army-pure-aka-lashkar-e-tayyiba-lashkar-e-toiba-lashkar-taiba/p17882>; "Lashkar-e-Taiba," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed April 13, [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist\\_outfits/lashkar\\_e\\_toiba.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm).

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- **March 20, 2000:** A few hours before U.S. President Bill Clinton is expected to arrive in India, gunmen kill 35 Sikhs in Chattisinghpura, a village in Jammu and Kashmir.  
LeT is suspected to be responsible for the massacre. Source: Barry Bearak, "A Kashmiri Mystery," *New York Times*, December 31, 2000, <https://www.nytimes.com/2000/12/31/magazine/a-kashmiri-mystery.html>.
  - **November 3, 1999:** At least three LeT gunmen kill eight Indian army personnel at a cantonment in Srinagar, the largest city in Jammu and Kashmir.  
Source: Praveen Swami, "A growing toll," *Frontline* 16, 24 (November 1999), <https://frontline.thehindu.com/static/html/fl1624/16240390.htm>.
  - **July 31, 1999:** LeT carries out multiple suicide attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, including ones targeting Indian security forces at the border. The number of Indian soldiers killed is unknown. Source: Navnita Chadha Beher, *Demystifying Kashmir* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2006), 159.
  - **July 12, 1999:** LeT executes its first suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir.  
Source: "The Evolution of a Pakistani Militant Network," *Stratfor Security Weekly*, September 15, 2011, <https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110914-evolution-pakistans-militant-networks>.
  - **June 16, 1994:** Saeed speaks at various Islamic centers in the United States, including in Houston, Chicago, and Boston.  
Source: Declan Walsh, "Pakistani Militant, Price on Head, Lives in Open," *New York Times*, February 7, 2013, [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/07/world/asia/lashkar-e-taiba-founder-takes-less-militant-tone-in-pakistan.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/07/world/asia/lashkar-e-taiba-founder-takes-less-militant-tone-in-pakistan.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0).
  - **June 12, 1990:** Saeed officially establishes LeT.  
Source: Tim Craig and Annie Gowen, "Pakistani military chief signs death warrants for six 'hard-core terrorists,'" *Washington Post*, December 18, 2014, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-judge-grants-bail-to-alleged-mastermind-of-2008-mumbai-terror-attack/2014/12/18/c644366a-86b0-11e4-9534-f79a23c40e6c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-judge-grants-bail-to-alleged-mastermind-of-2008-mumbai-terror-attack/2014/12/18/c644366a-86b0-11e4-9534-f79a23c40e6c_story.html).
  - **June 9, 1987 - June 11, 1989:** Saeed studies in Saudi Arabia, where he meets Saudi clerics and is inspired to join jihadist fighters in Afghanistan.  
Source: Richard Leiby, "Pakistani Brothers Reflect Their Country's Contradictions," *Washington Post*, October 28, 2012, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistani-brothers-reflect-their-countrys-contradictions/2012/10/28/f29af3ea-1c52-11e2-8817-41b9a7aaabc7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistani-brothers-reflect-their-countrys-contradictions/2012/10/28/f29af3ea-1c52-11e2-8817-41b9a7aaabc7_story.html).
  - **May 30, 1977 - June 1, 1979:** Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq appoints Hafiz Muhammad Saeed to the Council on Islamic Ideology, which advises the Pakistani parliament whether a law is permissible under Islam.  
Sources: Praveen Swami, "Pakistan and the Lashkar's Jihad in India," *Hindu* (Chennai), December 9, 2008, <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/pakistan-and-the-lashkars-jihad-in-india/article1447211.ece>; Council on Islamic Ideology homepage, accessed July 7, 2015, <http://cii.gov.pk/>.

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**Violent history:**

- **April 4, 2022:** Two LeT militants ambush Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troops in Srinagar, Kashmir. There were no reports of casualties. A week later on April 10, both militants are shot dead by the CRPF.<sup>64</sup>
- **September 14, 2015:** LeT is one of two militant groups suspected to be behind the murders of three youths whose bodies are found in Jammu and Kashmir. The murders are believed to be part of the ongoing rivalry between militant groups in the disputed Kashmir region between India and Pakistan.<sup>65</sup>
- **August 5, 2015:** Two LeT militants attack an Indian military convoy in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, killing two Indian soldiers. One of the LeT militants, Mohammad Naved, is captured by nearby villagers and subsequently interrogated by Indian officials. Naved confirms that he is from Pakistan and was trained by LeT there. The incident leads to a search for Abu Qasim, the alleged “mastermind” behind the attack.<sup>66</sup>
- **May 23, 2014:** Two gunmen open fire on the Indian Consulate in Herat, Afghanistan. The attack is linked to LeT.<sup>67</sup>
- **April 18, 2013:** Two LeT militants attack a village in Jammu and Kashmir. Indian forces kill one of the militants, Shabir Ahmad Sheikh, also known as “Sufiyan.”<sup>68</sup>
- **May 27, 2011:** LeT attacks a home in Kupwara, India, killing two.<sup>69</sup>
- **February 13, 2010:** LeT kills nine in the bombing of a German bakery in Pune, India.<sup>70</sup>
- **November 26–29, 2008:** LeT kills more than 160 individuals and injures approximately 300 others in a series of attacks in Mumbai. The attacks target a railway station, a popular restaurant, a hospital, two hotels, and a Jewish center.<sup>71</sup>
- **August 25, 2007:** LeT attacks an amusement park in Hyderabad, India, killing at least 40 individuals.<sup>72</sup>
- **July 11, 2006:** LeT works with local Indian Islamist organization, Lashkar-e-Qahhar, to bomb multiple commuter trains in Mumbai, killing more than 209 people and injuring 714.<sup>73</sup>
- **March 7, 2006:** LeT attacks a Hindu temple and a train station in Varanasi, India, killing 21 and injuring 62 others.<sup>74</sup>
- **October 29, 2005:** Three coordinated LeT bombings in New Delhi kill 63 and injure more than 200.<sup>75</sup>
- **October 28, 2005:** LeT attacks the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bangalore, killing one.<sup>76</sup>
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- **September 24, 2002:** LeT is allegedly responsible for raiding the Akshardam Temple in Gujarat, killing 33 and injuring 70.<sup>78</sup>
- **May 14, 2002:** LeT allegedly attacks an Indian army base in Kaluchak, killing 30.<sup>79</sup>
- **December 13, 2001:** Gunmen attack India’s parliament in New Delhi in coordination with the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed. Nine are killed and 18 are injured.<sup>80</sup> India responds by sending 700,000 troops to its border with Pakistan.<sup>81</sup>
- **January 17, 2001:** LeT attacks the Srinagar airport in Jammu and Kashmir, killing five Indians.<sup>82</sup>
- **December 22, 2000:** LeT attacks Delhi’s Red Fort, an Indian army barracks, killing three.<sup>83</sup>
- **March 20, 2000:** A few hours before Bill Clinton is expected to arrive in India, gunmen kill 35 Sikhs in Chattisinghpura, a village in Jammu and Kashmir. LeT is suspected to be responsible for the massacre.<sup>84</sup>
- **November 3, 1999:** At least three LeT gunmen kill eight Indian army personnel at a cantonment in Srinagar, the largest city in Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>85</sup>
- **July 31, 1999:** LeT carries out multiple suicide attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, including ones targeting Indian security forces at the border. The number of Indian soldiers killed is unknown.<sup>86</sup>
- **July 12, 1999:** LeT executes its first suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> “2 terrorists, linked to attack on CRPF troops, shot dead in Srinagar,” Hindustan Times, April 10, 2022, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/terrorist-linked-to-attack-on-crpf-troops-killed-in-srinagar-101649574646395.html>.

<sup>65</sup> Fayaz Wani, “Bullet-Riddled Bodies of 3 Youth Found in Kashmir,” *New Indian Express* (Delhi), September 15, 2015, <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Bullet-riddled-Bodies-of-3-Youth-Found-in-Kashmir/2015/09/15/article3028483.ece>.

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- 74 “Mumbai bombs: ‘Pencil timers found,’” CNN, July 12, 2006, <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/asiapcf/07/12/mumbai/blasts/>; “Lashkar-e-Tayyiba,” The Mackenzie Institute, January 15, 2016, <http://mackenzieinstitute.com/lashkar-e-tayyiba-lt/>.
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- 87 “The Evolution of a Pakistani Militant Network,” *Stratfor Security Weekly*, September 15, 2011, <https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110914-evolution-pakistans-militant-networks>.

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**Designations:**

*Designations by U.S. Government:*

- **December 20, 2001:** The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated “Hafiz Muhammad Saeed” as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.<sup>88</sup>
- **December 26, 2001:** The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated “Lashkar-e-Taiba” as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.<sup>89</sup>
- **April 28, 2006:** The U.S. Department of State designated “Jamaat-ud-Dawa” (JuD) and “Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq” (IKK) as aliases for LeT on the Foreign Terrorist Organization list.<sup>90</sup>
- **November 4, 2010:** The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki as a Specially Designated National.<sup>91</sup>
- **November 24, 2010:** The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated “Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation” (FIF) as an alias of LeT.<sup>92</sup>
- **April 2, 2018:** The U.S. Department of State designated Milli Muslim League (MML) and Tehreek-e-Azadi-e Kashmir (TAJK) as aliases of LeT.<sup>93</sup>

*Designations by Foreign Governments/Organizations:*

- **European Union**  
October 9, 2014: The European Union added “Abd Al-Rahman Muhammad Mustafa Al-Qaduli” to the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee’s list.<sup>94</sup>
- **Pakistan**  
January 12, 2002: Pakistan banned Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terrorist group.<sup>95</sup>  
January 1, 2018: Pakistan banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa and the Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation from collecting donations. The ban was later lifted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on September 12, 2018.<sup>96</sup>
- **United Nations**  
May 2005: The U.N. Security Council listed “Lashkar-e-Taiba” as a “Banned Foreign Terrorist Organization” under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267.<sup>97</sup>  
  
December 10, 2008: The U.N. Security Council added “Hafiz Muhammad Saeed” to its al-Qaeda sanctions list under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267.<sup>98</sup>  
  
January 16, 2023: The U.N. Security Council added “Abdul Rehman Makki” to its ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> “Addition of Aliases Jamaat-Ud-Dawa and Idara Khidmat-E-Khalq to the Specially Designated Global Terrorist Designation of Lashkar-E-Tayyiba,” U.S. Department of State, April 28, 2006, <http://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/65401.htm>.

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<sup>92</sup> “Secretary of State’s Terrorist Designation of Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation,” U.S. Department of State, November 24, 2010, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/266648.htm>.

<sup>93</sup> “Amendments to the Terrorist Designation of Lashkar e-Tayyiba,” U.S. Department of State, April 2, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/04/280125.htm>.

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**COUNTER  
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- <sup>98</sup> “Rewards for Justice - Lashkar-e-Tayyiba Leaders Reward Offers,” U.S. Department of State, April 3, 2012, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/04/187342.htm>.
- <sup>99</sup> “Security Council ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Adds One Entry to Its Sanctions List,” United Nations, January 16, 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15177.doc.htm>.

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**Associations:**

*Ties to Other Designated Entities:*

- [Al-Qaeda](#)

LeT has had long-standing relationships with al-Qaeda members since the 1980s. In August 1998, LeT fighters were killed when training camps run by Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan were hit by U.S. cruise missiles.<sup>100</sup> After 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, LeT provided safe haven to al-Qaeda militants, including senior AQ member Abu Zubaydah, who was eventually captured by the Pakistani government in 2002.<sup>101</sup> LeT has also reportedly provided training to al-Qaeda militants and individuals inspired by al-Qaeda, including attempted American Airlines “shoe bomber” [Richard Reid](#) and 2005 London subway bombers [Mohammad Sidique Khan](#) and [Shehzad Tanweer](#).<sup>102</sup> In addition, LeT member David Headley reportedly conspired with AQ operative Ilyas Kashmiri in 2009 to plan attacks on a Danish newspaper and other targets in Copenhagen.<sup>103</sup>

- [Taliban](#)

In the 1980s, LeT’s predecessor, Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI), fought alongside the Taliban in the Soviet-Afghan War.<sup>104</sup> After 9/11, LeT provided safe haven to jihadists from the Afghan Taliban in Pakistan.<sup>105</sup>

- **Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan**

LeT is reportedly well-networked with Islamist groups in Central Asia, such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.<sup>106</sup>

- **Islamist Groups in South Asia**

LeT has coordinated attacks with local Islamist groups in India and Sri Lanka.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> *Protecting the Homeland against Mumbai-Style Attacks and the Threat from Lashkar-e-Taiba, Before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Jonah Blank, Senior Political Analyst, RAND Corporation), <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/HM/HM05/20130612/100964/HHRG-113-HM05-Wstate-BlankJ-20130612.pdf>.

<sup>101</sup> Gerry J. Gilmore, “Rumsfeld Confirms Capture of Senior Al Qaeda Leader,” Department of Defense News, April 2, 2002, <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=44203>.

<sup>102</sup> “Lashkar-e Taiba,” American Foreign Policy Council’s World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba>.

<sup>103</sup> *Protecting the Homeland against Mumbai-Style Attacks and the Threat from Lashkar-e-Taiba, Before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence*, 113th Cong. [3] (2013) (statement of Jonah Blank, Senior Political Analyst, RAND Corporation), <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/HM/HM05/20130612/100964/HHRG-113-HM05-Wstate-BlankJ-20130612.pdf>.

<sup>104</sup> Animesh Roul, “Jamaat-ud Daawa: Into the Mainstream,” *CTC Sentinel*, 8, 4 (April 2015): p. 23, <https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2015/04/CTCSentinel-Vol8Issue48.pdf>.

<sup>105</sup> *Protecting the Homeland against Mumbai-Style Attacks and the Threat from Lashkar-e-Taiba, Before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence*, 113th Cong. [2] (2013) (statement of Jonah Blank, Senior Political Analyst, RAND Corporation), <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/HM/HM05/20130612/100964/HHRG-113-HM05-Wstate-BlankJ-20130612.pdf>.

<sup>106</sup> Ashley J. Tellis, “The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT\\_menace.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf).

<sup>107</sup> Ashley J. Tellis, “The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT\\_menace.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf).



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### **Media Coverage:**

#### *Western Media*

The *New York Times* first reported on LeT in December 2000, after the group attacked the 17th century Mughal fort (also known as the Red Fort), a major tourist attraction in India. In claiming responsibility for the attack, LeT cited the ongoing “guerrilla war” in Jamu and Kashmir, and further threatened it would continue targeting Indian assets until India disbands from the region.<sup>108</sup>

LeT grabbed Western media attention again in November 2008, when the group executed a series of simultaneous attacks throughout Mumbai, India, over the course of three days, resulting in the murder of more than 166 people.<sup>109</sup> Out of ten LeT perpetrators, only Ajmal Kasab survived. He was later tried in India and sentenced to death. Kasab was executed on November 21, 2002.<sup>110</sup>

Today, ISIS’s violence in Iraq and Syria diverts mainstream Western media attention away from Islamist militant activity in India and Pakistan. LeT gets little Western media attention, except for the occasional headline highlighting the Pakistani government’s unwillingness or inability to rein the group in. The group also grabs headlines in relation to its continued freedom of movement despite extensive evidence that LeT was behind the Mumbai attacks. For example, in April 2015, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi—one of LeT’s top leaders and the suspected mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks—was released from a Pakistani jail on bail.<sup>111</sup>

Western media outlets sporadically provide in-depth profiles of or interviews with the group’s leadership, which can provide greater insight into LeT’s ideology and long-term goals in Pakistan and beyond. *New York Times* journalist Declan Walsh, for example, has reported extensively in the region and on the group, including conducting interviews with LeT leader Hafiz Muhammad Saeed.<sup>112</sup>

LeT may begin to get more attention in the coming years as its influence in Pakistan continues to grow. As *Foreign Policy* magazine highlighted recently, despite being banned in 2002, LeT has expanded its ambitions for an Islamic state beyond Pakistan, grown its membership, and expanded its outreach through social services in Pakistan. In January of 2015, for example, the militant group began providing ambulance services in Pakistan’s port city of Karachi.<sup>113</sup>

#### *Pakistani Media Reporting of Lashkar-e-Taiba*

Pakistani media outlets have been accused of allowing Islamists, including militant groups, air time to advertise their message. Activist group Pakistan Media Watch reported on April 2, 2014, that:

“Any pretense of media freedom was washed away by the ink in [journalist] Kamal Siddiqi’s pen when he wrote to instruct *Express Tribune* [a prominent Pakistani newspaper] reporters to write ‘nothing against any militant organization and its allies like the Jamaat-e-Islami, religious parties and the Tehrik-e-Insaf’.”<sup>114</sup>

Regarding Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, the article continues, “A perfect example of this is the decision by *The News* (Jang Group) to publish an extensive pro-Taliban interview with jihadi leader Hafiz Saeed. The Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief excused militant violence inside Pakistan by blaming ‘foreign enemies’ and claiming that ‘Those who are destroying peace in Pakistan are directly or indirectly working on the [sic] foreign agenda’.”<sup>115</sup>

The BBC quoted Saeed in a press conference he gave after the U.S. announced a \$10 million bounty on him, stating, “I am here, I am visible...I will be in Lahore tomorrow. America can contact me whenever it wants to.”<sup>116</sup>

#### *Indian Media Reporting of Lashkar-e-Taiba*

The Indian media has been much more aggressive than Pakistan in covering LeT, which is perhaps unsurprising given that India is LeT’s primary target. From broadcast media to op-eds in major Indian newspapers, the Indian government has pushed for more action against Pakistani militant groups like LeT.<sup>117</sup> India has criticized the international community and Pakistan for failing to take LeT seriously and curb the group’s militant activities.<sup>118</sup>

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Since the April 2015 release of one of LeT's top leaders, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi, both Western and Indian media have anticipated increased tension in Pakistan-India relations.<sup>119</sup>

- <sup>108</sup> Barry Bearak, "Gunmen Kill 3 at Garrison in New Delhi's Center," *New York Times*, December 23, 2000, <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/12/23/world/gunmen-kill-3-at-garrison-in-new-delhi-s-center.html>.
- <sup>109</sup> "Mumbai Massacre: Background Information," PBS, accessed May 5, 2015, <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/mumbai-massacre-background-information/502/>.
- <sup>110</sup> Surabhi Malik, "Ajmal Kasab Hanged at Pune's Yerwada Jail This Morning," NDTV, November 21, 2012, <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/ajmal-kasab-hanged-at-punes-yerwada-jail-this-morning-505125>.
- <sup>111</sup> "Mumbai Attack Suspect Lakhvi Released On Bail in Pakistan," BBC News, April 10, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32250763>.
- <sup>112</sup> Basharat Peer, "Declan Walsh, Expelled," *New Yorker*, May 13, 2013, <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/declan-walsh-expelled>.
- <sup>113</sup> Saba Imtiaz and Declan Walsh, "In Pakistan, a Charity Project Points to Official Tolerance of Militants," *New York Times*, January 28, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/29/world/in-pakistan-a-charity-project-points-to-official-tolerance-of-militants.html>.
- <sup>114</sup> "Media Freedom...For Militants," Pakistan Media Watch, accessed May 5, 2015, <http://pakistanmediawatch.com/2014/04/02/media-freedom-for-militants/>.
- <sup>115</sup> "Media Freedom...For Militants," Pakistan Media Watch, accessed May 5, 2015, <http://pakistanmediawatch.com/2014/04/02/media-freedom-for-militants/>.
- <sup>116</sup> "Lashkar-e-Taiba Founder Decries 'Ridiculous' US Bounty," BBC News, April 4, 2012, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-17607779>.
- <sup>117</sup> Suhasini Haider, "Ignoring the 'Other Osama'," *Hindu* (Chennai), January 28, 2015, <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/ignoring-the-other-osama/article6827966.ece>.
- <sup>118</sup> Gaurav C. Sawant, "India furious as UN calls Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Saeed 'Sahib' and fails to counter terrorism," *Daily Mail* (London), December 20, 2014, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2881985/India-furious-calls-Lashkar-e-Taiba-founder-Saeed-Sahib-fails-counter-terrorism.html#ixzz3ZIVWJJDu>.
- <sup>119</sup> Tom Rogan, "A new crisis is brewing between two nuclear-armed neighbors," Reuters, April 14, 2015, <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/04/14/a-new-crisis-is-brewing-between-two-nuclear-armed-neighbors/>; Amit Agnihotri, "Lakhvi Release: India Lodges Strong Protest With Pakistan," *India Today*, April 11, 2015, <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/lakhvi-released-pakistan-court-india-protest-pakistan-mumbai-attacks/1/429594.html>.
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**Rhetoric:**

*Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 6, 2012*

*Preaching the Friday sermon at Jamia Markaz al-Qadsia mosque:*

“[Muslims] Come to us. We will teach you the meaning of jihad.... The time to fight has come.”<sup>120</sup>

*Abdullah Ghaznawi, LeT spokesperson, June 2018*

*Quoted in an interview published in LeT's Wyeth Magazine*

“Year 2018 would be tough for [the] Indian Army.... Our freedom struggle is heading towards conclusion. India has already lost the war and is breathing its last.”<sup>121</sup>

*Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, April 6, 2012*

*Preaching the Friday sermon at Jamia Markaz al-Qadsia mosque:*

“This is the same jihad which caused the USSR to break [in Afghanistan] and now America is failing because of it. Analysts and journalists don't realize why America is failing, the only reason is jihad.”<sup>122</sup>

*Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, April 4, 2012*

*In a news conference*

“I want to tell America we will continue our peaceful struggle,” said Saeed. “Life and death is in the hands of God, not in the hands of America. Life and death is in the hands of God, not in the hands of America.”<sup>123</sup>

*Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 2012*

“I want to tell America we will continue our peaceful struggle. Life and death is in the hands of God, not in the hands of America.”<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> Bill Roggio, “‘We Do Jihad,’ Says Lashkar-e-Taiba Emir Hafiz Saeed,” *Long War Journal*, April 7, 2012, [http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/04/we\\_do\\_jihad\\_lashkar.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/04/we_do_jihad_lashkar.php).

<sup>121</sup> Bharti Jain, “Out on bail, 26/11 Mumbai attacks mastermind Zaki-ur Rehman Lakhvi raising funds,” *Times of India*, May 10, 2018, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/out-on-bail-lakhvi-raising-funds/articleshow/64102389.cms>.

<sup>122</sup> Bill Roggio, “‘We do jihad,’ says Lashkar-e-Taiba emir Hafiz Saeed,” *The Long War Journal*, April 7th, 2012, [http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/04/we\\_do\\_jihad\\_lashkar.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/04/we_do_jihad_lashkar.php).

<sup>123</sup> Sebastian Abbot, Munir Ahmed, “Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, Pakistani Militant Leader, Mocks U.S. Bounty,” Associated Press, April 4, 2012, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/04/hafiz-mohammed-saeed-mocks-bounty\\_n\\_1402389.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/04/hafiz-mohammed-saeed-mocks-bounty_n_1402389.html).

<sup>124</sup> Sebastian Abbot and Munir Ahmed, “Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, Pakistani Militant Leader, Mocks U.S. Bounty,” Associated Press, April 4, 2012, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/04/hafiz-mohammed-saeed-mocks-bounty\\_n\\_1402389.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/04/hafiz-mohammed-saeed-mocks-bounty_n_1402389.html).