

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

Also Known As:

- Al Mansooreen¹²
- Al Mansoorian³⁴
- Army of Madinah⁵
- Army of the Pure⁶⁷
- Army of the Pure and Righteous⁸⁹
- Army of the Righteous^{10 11}
- Deccan Mujahideen¹²
- Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF)¹³
- Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq¹⁴
- Islamic Jammat ud Dawa¹⁵
- Jamaat ud-Dawa^{16 17}

- Lashkar e-Tayyiba^{18 19}
- Lashkar-e-Toiba^{20 21}
- Lashkar-i-Taiba^{22 23}
- LT²⁴
- Movement for the Safeguarding of the First Center of $\mathsf{Prayer}^{^{25}}$
- Paasban-e-Ahle-Hadis^{26 27}
- Paasban-e-Kashmir^{28 29}
- Paasban-i-Ahle-Hadith^{30 31}
- Pasban-e-Ahle-Hadith^{32 33}
- Pasban-e-Kashmir^{34 35}
- Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Qibla Awal³⁶

Executive Summary:

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), meaning "Army of the Pure," is a violent Islamist group based in <u>Pakistan</u> [1].³⁷ Since its formation in the 1990s, LeT has carried out numerous attacks against military and civilian targets in <u>India</u> [2], particularly within the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.³⁸ The group received significant international attention for its alleged involvement in

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the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which claimed the lives of 166 individuals and injured more than 300 others.³⁹

LeT finds its roots in the Pakistani Islamist group Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI), which was founded in 1989 by

<u>Abdullah Azzam</u> [3], <u>Osama bin Laden</u> [4]'s religious mentor.⁴⁰ In the early 1990s, MDI militants—who had fought alongside the <u>Taliban</u> [5] at the end of the Soviet-Afghan War—shifted the focus of their operations to Jammu and Kashmir and

established LeT.⁴¹ 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."⁴² LeT has targeted Indian security forces, political leaders, and other state symbols in *fidayeen* attacks, direct assaults carried out by two-tofour 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.⁴³

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 2002.⁴⁴ However, members of LeT quickly reappeared as part of a new entity known as 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.⁴⁵

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.⁴⁶ 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 2017.⁴⁷

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 <u>al-Qaeda</u> [6] members in Pakistan, as well as fighters and weapons to the Afghan front.⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹

Doctrine:

LeT adheres to the Ahl-e-Hadith faith, a South Asian version of Salafism.⁵⁰ 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."⁵¹

In addition, LeT advocates the supremacy of the *ummah* (the global Muslim community) over any democratic or secular nation-state.⁵² Accordingly, LeT also seeks to liberate Muslim-majority countries, particularly those that surround Pakistan, that are under the dominion of non-Islamist governments.⁵³

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.⁵⁴ LeT does not support jihad in Pakistan on the basis that, because the country's national religion is Islam, it has "professed Faith."⁵⁵ Rather, the group focuses on promoting its interpretation of Ahl-e-Hadith in Pakistan through *dawa*



(Islamic missionary work).⁵⁶ Unlike other Islamist groups operating in Pakistan, LeT believes that proselytizing is as strategically important as violent jihad in achieving its goals.⁵⁷

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.⁵⁸ 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."59

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).⁶⁰ LeT's emir, <u>Hafiz Muhammad Saeed</u> [7], is also believed to be behind the Milli Muslim League Pakistani political party, which was established in August 2017.⁶¹

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.⁶²

LeT generates revenue through the group's "legitimate" businesses, which include fish farms, agricultural tracts, and mobile clinics.⁶³ 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."⁶⁴

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.⁶⁵ 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 2006.⁶⁶

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.⁶⁷ 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.⁶⁸

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.⁶⁹ New recruits are also reportedly brought into the organization through familial and friendship ties with current LeT members.⁷⁰



LeT is able to reach a broader audience through the group's website and through an online magazine called "Wyeth."⁷¹ 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).⁷²

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.⁷³ 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.⁷⁴ The second phase is called Daura-e-Suffa and provides religious training.⁷⁵ The third phase, Daura-e-Khasa, provides specialty training in guerilla warfare.⁷⁶ Other specialized training covers maritime operations, espionage, and sabotage.⁷⁷

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⁴ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

⁵ "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <u>http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let</u> [8].

- ¹¹ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- ¹² "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let [8].
- ¹³ "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let [8].
- ¹⁴ "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let [8].

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²⁷ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

² Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181. ³ Carlos

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⁷ Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181. ⁸ Carlos

⁹ Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181. ¹⁰ Carlos

¹⁵ "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <u>http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let</u> [8].

¹⁶ Carlos

¹⁷ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

¹⁹ 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, <u>http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/lashkar-e-taiba-army-pure-aka-lashkar-e-tayyiba-lashkar-e-toiba-lashkar-e-taiba/p17882</u> [9].

²¹ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

²³ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

²⁴ "Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LT)," National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed July 3, 2015, http://www.nctc.gov/site/groups/let.html [10].

²⁵ "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let [8].



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²⁹ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
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³¹Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

³² Carlos

³³ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

³⁴ Carlos

³⁵ Ortiz, Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

³⁶ "Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT)," Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let [8].

³⁷ "Lashkar-e Taiba," American Foreign Policy Council's World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba [11].

³⁸ "Lashkar-e-Taiba," South Asian Terrorism Portal, accessed December 4, 2018, <u>http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba.htm</u> [12].

³⁹ Stephen Tankel, "Ten Years After Mumbai, The Group Responsible Is Deadlier Than Ever," War on the Rocks, November 26, 2018, <u>https://warontherocks.com/2018/11/ten-years-after-mumbai-the-group-responsible-is-deadlier-than-ever/[13]; Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, "Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008," Encyclopaedia Britannica, November 19, 2018, <u>https://www.britannica.com/event/Mumbai-terrorist-attacks-of-2008</u>[14].</u>

⁴⁰ "Lashkar-e Taiba," American Foreign Policy Council's World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <u>http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [11]; 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, <u>http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/05/AR2008120501582.html</u> [15].

⁴¹ 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 [16].

⁴² 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, <u>http://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Refuting-Jihadism.pdf</u> [17].

⁴³ "Lashkar-e Taiba," American Foreign Policy Council's World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba [11].

⁴⁴ Stephen Tankel, "Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects," New America Foundation, April 2011, <u>https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [18]; Ashley J. Tellis, "The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, <u>http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf</u> [19].

⁴⁵ Stephen Tankel, "Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects," New America Foundation, April 2011, <u>https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [18]; Stephen Tankel, "Ten Years After Mumbai, The Group Responsible Is Deadlier Than Ever," War on the Rocks, November 26, 2018, <u>https://www.newamerica.org/0018/11/ten users often number in the group responsible is deadling then user/[12]</u>

https://warontherocks.com/2018/11/ten-years-after-mumbai-the-group-responsible-is-deadlier-than-ever/ [13].

⁴⁶ Stephen Tankel, "Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects," New America Foundation, April 2011, <u>https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [18].

⁴⁷ 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 [20].

⁴⁸ Stephen Tankel, "Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects," New America Foundation, April 2011, <u>https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [18]; Stephen Tankel, "Lankshar-e-Taiba: From 9/11 to Mumbai," The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence, April/May 2009, <u>http://ps.au.dk/fileadmin/site_files/filer_statskundskab/subsites/cir/pdf-filer/Tankel_01.pdf</u> [21].

⁴⁹ Ashley J. Tellis, "The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 5-6, March 2012, <u>http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf</u> [19].

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⁵³ "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 [12].

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⁵⁵ "Lashkar-e-Taiba: Past Operations and Future Prospects," New America Foundation, April 2011, https://www.newamerica.org/documents/891/lashkar-e-taiba [18].

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⁶³ Geoffrey Kambere et al., "The Financing of Lashkar-e-Taiba," *Combating Terrorism Exchange* 1, no. 1 (2011), <u>https://globalecco.org/ctx-v1n1/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [26].

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⁶⁷ Don Rassler et al., "The Fighters of Lashkar-e-Taiba: Recruitment, Training, Deployment and Death," Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, April 2013, <u>https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2014/07/Fighters-of-LeT_Final.pdf</u> [27].

⁶⁸ Sebastian Rotella, "A Terror Group That Recruits From Pakistan's 'Best and Brightest,'" Atlantic, April 4,

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⁶⁹ Don Rassler et al., "The Fighters of Lashkar-e-Taiba: Recruitment, Training, Deployment and Death," Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, April 2013, <u>https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2014/07/Fighters-of-LeT_Final.pdf</u> [27].

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⁷¹ 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-TbXeaW5jh15GYqsRNikj dL.html [29].

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⁷⁴ Stephen Tankel, "Storming the World Stage," *Storming the World Stage: The Story of Lashkar-e-Taiba*, (Columbia University Press, 2011), pp. 2017-221, accessed November 30, 2018 via https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/storming-world-stage-story-lashkar-e-taiba [31].

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Key Leaders



Hafiz Muhammad Saeed Founder and emir



Rahman-ur-Dakhil Deputy Supreme Commander



Abdul Hassan Central Division Commander



Kari Saif-Ul-Rahman

North Division Commander

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Nazir Ahmad Chaudhry Director of Public Relations

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



Muhammad Hussein Gill Chief financial officer





History:

• 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, tory-TbXeaW5jh15GYgs stantimes.c 018-will-be-tough-for-security-force RNikjdL.html [29]

- February 2018: 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 fonations 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, <u>https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/out-on-bail-lakhvi-raising-funds/articleshow/64102389.cms</u> [33].
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- September 14, 2015:LeT is one of two militant groups suspected to be behind the murders of three youths whose ٠ 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 [36].
- 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/.

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- 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, <u>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/23/indian-consulate-attacked-in-afghanistan [44];</u> "Amendments to the Terrorist Designations of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba," U.S. Department of State, June 25, 2014, <u>https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/266553.htm</u> [45].
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- 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.
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- 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 [51].
- December 2010: 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.

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- September 2009: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, <u>http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/2world/asia/22pstan.html</u> [52]; Salman Masood, "Terror Suspect Cleared Again In Pakistan," *New York Times*, October 12, 2009, <u>http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/13/world/asia/13lahore.html</u> [53].
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- **June 6, 2006:**A U.S. court convicts Asif Ali Chandia of attempting to provide material support to LeT. Chandia is the 11th individual convicted for his involvement in the "Virginia jihad network." Chandia, 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 [64].
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- September 24, 2002:LeT is allegedly responsible for raiding the Akshardam Temple in Gujarat, killing 33 and injuring 70.

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- 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.
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- 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 [66]; Jayshree Bajoria, "Lashkar-ehkaretaiba.html [66]; 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 [9].

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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 [71].
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Violent history:

- July 12, 1999: LeT executes its first suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir.⁷⁸
- 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.⁷⁹
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leads to a search for Abu Qasim, the alleged "mastermind" behind the attack.99



⁷⁸ "The Evolution of a Pakistani Militant Network," Stratfor Security Weekly, September 15, 2011, <u>https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110914-evolution-pakistans-militant-networks</u> [71].

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Designations:

Designations by U.S. Government:

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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.“Amendments to the Terrorist Designation of Lashkar e-Tayyiba,” U.S. Department of State, April 2, 2018, https://www.state.... [90]

Designations by Foreign Governments/Orgainzations:

 Strong>European Union
October 9, 2014: The European Union added “Abd Al-Rahman Muhammad Mustafa Al-Qaduli" to the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee's list."Notice for the attention of Ahmed Abdullah Saleh Al-Khazmari Al-Zahrani, Azzam Abdullah Zureik Al-Maulid Al-Subhi, Anders Cameroon Ostensvig Dale, Ibrahim Suleiman Hamad Al-Hablain, Seifallah Ben Hassine, 'Abd Al-Rahman Bin 'Umayr Al-Nu'aymi, 'Abd Al-Rahman Khalaf 'Ubayd Juday' Al-'Anizi, Anas Hasan Khattab, Maysar Ali Musa Abdallah Al-Juburi, Shafi Sultan Mohammed Al-Ajmi, 'Abd Al-Rahman Muhammad Mustafa Al-Qaduli, Emilie Koniq, Kevin Guiavarch, Oumar Diaby, Ansar Al-Shari'a in Tunisia (ASS-T) and Abdallah Azzam Brigades (AAB) which were added to the list referred to in Articles 2, 3 and 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with the Al-Qaida network, by virtue of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1058/2014, &rdguo; EUR-Lex, September 10, 2014, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014XC1009 [92](02)">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014XC1009 [92](02).



Pakistan
January 12, 2002: Pakistan banned Lashkar–e-Taiba as a terrorist group.Ashley J. Tellis, “The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, <a

href="<u>http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf</u>"><u>http://carnegieendowm...</u> [93] /> 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.“SC permits Hafiz Saeed’s Jamaat-ud-Dawa to run charity operations,” Geo News, September 12, 2018, <a

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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.“Rewards for Justice - Lashkare-Tayyiba Leaders Reward Offers," U.S. Department of State, April 3, 2012, http://www.state.go... [97]



Associations:

Ties to Other Designated Entities:



Al-Oaeda [6] 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.¹⁰¹ After 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, LeT provided safe haven to al-Oaeda militants, including senior AO member Abu Zubaydah, who was eventually captured by the Pakistani government in 2002.¹⁰² LeT has also reportedly provided training to al-Oaeda militants and individuals inspired by al-Qaeda, including attempted American Airlines "shoe bomber" <u>Richard Reid</u> [98] and 2005 London subway bombers <u>Mohammad Sidique Khan</u> [99] and Shehzad Tanweer [100].¹⁰³ In addition, LeT member David Headley reportedly conspired with AQ operative Ilyas Kashmiri in 2009 to plan attacks on a Danish newspapers and other targets in Copenhagen.¹⁰⁴

Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan LeT is reportedly well-networked with Islamist groups in Central Asia, such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.¹⁰⁷



Taliban [5]

In the 1980s, LeT's predecessor, Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI), fought alongside the Taliban in the Soviet-Afghan War.¹⁰⁵ After 9/11, LeT provided safe haven to jihadists from the Afghan Taliban in Pakistan.¹⁰⁶

Islamist Groups in South Asia LeT has coordinated attacks with local Islamist groups in India and Sri Lanka.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰¹ 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), <u>http://docs.house.gov/meetings/HM/HM05/20130612/100964/HHRG-113-HM05-Wstate-BlankJ-20130612.pdf</u> [101].

¹⁰² 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 [102].

¹⁰³ "Lashkar-e Taiba," American Foreign Policy Council's World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <u>http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba</u> [11].

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¹⁰⁷ Ashley J. Tellis, "The Menace That Is Lashkar-e-Taiba," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2012, http://carnegieendowment.org/files/LeT_menace.pdf [19].

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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.¹⁰⁹

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.¹¹⁰ 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, 2002.¹¹¹

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.¹¹²

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-terms 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.¹¹³

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.¹¹⁴

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'."¹¹⁵

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'."¹¹⁶

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."¹¹⁷

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.¹¹⁸ India has criticized the international community and Pakistan for failing to take LeT seriously and curb the group's militant activities.¹¹⁹

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.¹²⁰

¹⁰⁹ 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 [103].

¹¹⁰ "Mumbai Massacre: Background Information," PBS, accessed May 5, 2015,

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/mumbai-massacre-background-information/502/ [104].

¹¹¹ 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 [105].

¹¹² "Mumbai Attack Suspect Lakhvi Released On Bail in Pakistan," BBC News, April 10, 2015, <u>http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32250763</u> [106].

¹¹³ Basharat Peer, "Declan Walsh, Expelled," New Yorker, May 13, 2013, http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/declan-walsh-expelled [107].

¹¹⁴ 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 [40].

¹¹⁵ "Media Freedom...For Militants," Pakistan Media Watch, accessed May 5, 2015, http://pakistanmediawatch.com/2014/04/02/media-freedom-for-militants/ [108].

¹¹⁶ "Media Freedom...For Militants," Pakistan Media Watch, accessed May 5, 2015, http://pakistanmediawatch.com/2014/04/02/media-freedom-for-militants/ [108].

¹¹⁷ "Lashkar-e-Taiba Founder Decries 'Ridiculous' US Bounty," BBC News, April 4, 2012, <u>http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-17607779</u> [109].

¹¹⁸ 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 [110].

¹¹⁹ 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.ht ml#ixzz3ZIVWJJDu [111].

¹²⁰Tom Rogan, "A new crisis is brewing between two nuclear-armed neighbors," Reuters, April 14, 2015, <u>http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/04/14/a-new-crisis-is-brewing-between-two-nuclear-armed-neighbors/</u> [112]; Amit Agnihotri, "Lakhvi Release: India Lodges Strong Protest With Pakistan," India Today, April 11, 2015, <u>http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/lakhvi-released-pakistan-court-india-protest-pakistan-mumbai-attacks/1/429594.html</u> [113].



Rhetoric:



Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 6, 2012 [114]

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."¹²¹



<u>Abdullah Ghaznawi, LeT spokesperson, June 2018 [115]</u>

Quoted in an interview published in LeT's Wyeth Magazine

[115]



Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, April 6, 2012 [116]

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."¹²³

"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."122

Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, April 4, 2012 [117]

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."¹²⁴



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 2012 [118]

"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." 125

[118]



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 2012 [119]

"There are many parties in Pakistan, but America has only sent a message to Jamaat-ud-Dawa, because we do jihad. They [the United States] are even scared of my name."¹²⁶

[119]



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 2012 [120]

"[Muslims] Come to us. We will teach you the meaning of jihad... The time to fight has come." $^{\prime\prime127}$

Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, April 2012 [121]

"Osama bin Laden was a great person who awakened the Muslim world... Martyrdoms are not losses, but are a matter of pride for Muslims."¹²⁸

[117]







[121]



<u>Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, 2012 [122]</u>

"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."¹²⁹



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, 2012 [123]

"America should leave Pakistan and Afghanistan peacefully. Then, we will not come to you with guns but will instead invite you to Islam."¹³⁰

[123]



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, 2008 [124]

"There cannot be any peace while India remains intact. Cut them, cut them so much that they kneel before you and ask for mercy." 131

[124]



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, 2005 [125]

"[Pakistan] should not solicit help [for the victims of the 2005 earthquake] from Israel. It is the question of Muslim honor and self-respect. The Jews can never be our friends. This is stated by Allah."¹³²



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, 2001 [126]

"...our struggle will continue even if Kashmir is liberated. We still have to take revenge for East Pakistan."¹³³

[126]



[127]



"...jihad is not about Kashmir only...about fifteen years ago, people might have found it ridiculous if someone told them about the disintegration of the USSR. Today, I announce the break-up of India, Insha-Allah. We will not rest until the whole [of] India is dissolved into Pakistan."¹³⁴



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, 1998 [128]

"...many Muslim organizations are preaching and working on the missionary level inside and outside Pakistan . . . but they have given up the path of jihad altogether. The need for

jihad has always existed and the present conditions demand it more than ever."¹³⁵

[128]





Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Date Unknown [129]

"Osama bin Laden was a great person who awakened the Muslim world..... Martyrdoms are not losses, but are a matter of pride for Muslims," Saeed proclaimed.¹³⁶

[129]



"Our struggle with the Jews is always there."

[130]



Muhammad Hafiz Saeed, LeT founder and leader, date unknown [131]

"[LeT plan is to] plant the flag of Islam in Washington, Tel Aviv and New Delhi."¹³⁸

¹²¹ 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 [132].

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