

Lashkar-e-Taiba

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 Mansoorien¹
- Al Mansoorian²
- Army of Madinah³
- Army of the Pure⁴
- Army of the Pure and Righteous⁵
- Army of the Righteous⁶
- Deccan Mujahideen⁷
- Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF)⁸
- Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq⁹
- Islamic Jammāt ud Dawa¹⁰
- Jamaat ud-Dawa¹¹

Executive Summary:

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), meaning “Army of the Pure,” is a violent Islamist group based in [Pakistan](#).²³ Since its formation in the 1990s, LeT has

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carried out numerous attacks against military and civilian targets in India, particularly within the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.²⁴ 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.²⁵

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.²⁶ 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.²⁷ 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."²⁸ 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.²⁹

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 2002.³⁰ 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.³¹

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.³² 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 2017.³³

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.³⁴ 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.³⁵

Doctrine:

LeT adheres to the *Ahl-e-Hadith* faith, a South Asian version of Salafism.³⁶ 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."³⁷

In addition, LeT advocates the supremacy of the *ummah* (the global Muslim community) over any democratic or secular nation-state.³⁸ Accordingly, LeT also seeks to liberate Muslim-majority countries, particularly those that surround Pakistan, that are under the dominion of non-Islamist governments.³⁹

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.⁴⁰ LeT does not support jihad in Pakistan on the basis that, because the country's national religion is Islam, it has "professed Faith."⁴¹ Rather, the group focuses on promoting its interpretation of *Ahl-e-Hadith* in Pakistan through *dawa* (Islamic missionary work).⁴² Unlike other Islamist groups operating in Pakistan, LeT believes that proselytizing is as strategically important as violent jihad in achieving its goals.⁴³

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

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established a department for the construction of mosques and madrassas, a department of education, and wings for doctors, teachers, and farmers, among other divisions.⁴⁴ 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.”⁴⁵

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).⁴⁶ LeT’s emir, [Hafiz Muhammad Saeed](#), is also believed to be behind the Milli Muslim League Pakistani political party, which was established in August 2017.⁴⁷

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.⁴⁸

LeT generates revenue through the group’s “legitimate” businesses, which include fish farms, agricultural tracts, and mobile clinics.⁴⁹ 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.”⁵⁰

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.⁵¹ 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 2006.⁵²

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.⁵³ 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.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵ New recruits are also reportedly brought into the organization through familial and friendship ties with current LeT members.⁵⁶

LeT is able to reach a broader audience through the group’s website and through an online magazine called “Wyeth.”⁵⁷ 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).⁵⁸

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.⁵⁹ 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.⁶⁰ The second phase is called Daura-e-Suffa and provides religious training.⁶¹ The third phase, Daura-e-Khasa, provides specialty training in guerilla warfare.⁶² Other specialized training covers maritime operations, espionage, and sabotage.⁶³

¹ Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

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

³ “Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT),” Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let>.

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

⁵ Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.

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- 6 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- 7 “Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT),” Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let>.
- 8 “Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT),” Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC), accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/lashkar-e-taiba-let>.
- 9 “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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- 12 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-i-taiba/p17882>.
- 13 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- 14 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- 15 “Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LT),” National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed July 3, 2015, <http://www.nctc.gov/site/groups/let.html>.
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- 18 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- 19 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- 20 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
- 21 Carlos Ortiz, *Private Armed Forces and Global Security: A Guide to the Issues* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 181.
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- 23 “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” American Foreign Policy Council’s World Almanac of Islamism, April 11, 2018, <http://almanac.afpc.org/lashkar-e-taiba>.
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Key Leaders



Hafiz Muhammad Saeed
Founder and emir



Yahya 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

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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, <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, 2008:** Pakistan bans Jamaat-ud-Dawa and the Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation 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-idUSKBN0F10WT20140626>.
- **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.
- **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.

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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, <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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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; "Pakistan Releases 'Top Militant,'" BBC News, June 2, 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8078356.stm.
- **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/>

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: "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 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>.
- **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.
- **October 29, 2005:** Three coordinated LeT bombings in New Delhi kill 63 and injure more than 200.
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- **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.
- **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.
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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.

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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>.
- 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.
- 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.
- - : 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.
- - : 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:

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- **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.⁸⁶

⁶⁴ "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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⁶⁶ Praveen Swami, "A growing toll," *Frontline* 16, 24 (November 1999), <https://frontline.thehindu.com/static/html/fl1624/16240390.htm>.

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- 70 “Lashkar-e-Taiba,” Anti-Defamation League, accessed May 22, 2015, <http://archive.adl.org/terrorism/symbols/lashkaretaiba.html>.
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Lashkar-e-Taiba

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.⁸⁷

December 26, 2001: The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated “Lashkar-e-Taiba” as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.⁸⁸

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.⁸⁹

November 24, 2010: The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated “Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation” (FIF) as an alias of LeT.⁹⁰

April 2, 2018: The U.S. Department of State designated Milli Muslim League (MML) and Tehreek-e-Azadi-e Kashmir (TAK) as aliases of LeT.⁹¹

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.⁹²

Pakistan

January 12, 2002: Pakistan banned Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terrorist group.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, 2018.⁹⁴

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 1267.⁹⁵

December 10, 2008: The U.N. Security Council added “Hafiz Muhammad Saeed” to its al-Qaeda sanctions list under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267.⁹⁶

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Lashkar-e-Taiba

Associations:

Ties to Other Designated Entities:

Al-Qaeda

Taliban

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.⁹⁷ 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 2002.⁹⁸ 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.⁹⁹ 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.¹⁰⁰

In the 1980s, LeT’s predecessor, Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI), fought alongside the Taliban in the Soviet-Afghan War.¹⁰¹ After 9/11, LeT provided safe haven to jihadists from the Afghan Taliban in Pakistan.¹⁰²

Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

Islamist Groups in South Asia

LeT is reportedly well-networked with Islamist groups in Central Asia, such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.¹⁰³

LeT has coordinated attacks with local Islamist groups in India and Sri Lanka.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁷ *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>.

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Lashkar-e-Taiba

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.¹⁰⁵

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.¹⁰⁶ 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, 2002.¹⁰⁷

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.¹⁰⁸

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.¹⁰⁹

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.¹¹⁰

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’.”¹¹¹

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’.”¹¹²

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.”¹¹³

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.¹¹⁴ India has criticized the international community and Pakistan for failing to take LeT seriously and curb the group’s militant activities.¹¹⁵

Lashkar-e-Taiba

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.¹¹⁶

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Lashkar-e-Taiba

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.”¹¹⁷

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.”¹¹⁸

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.”¹¹⁹

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.”¹²⁰

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.”¹²¹

¹¹⁷ 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.

¹¹⁸ 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>.

¹¹⁹ 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.

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¹²¹ 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.