

SPOKESPERSONS FOR TERROR

The following individuals serve as formal representatives for sanction-designated terrorist organizations. As spokespersons for terror, these individuals endorse, amplify, and seek to justify the violent acts carried out by their terror organizations. Their various messaging campaigns translate into their abilities to lure new recruits and incite individuals to violence.

AL-QAEDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

[Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula \(AQAP\)](#) is reportedly the most dangerous of al-Qaeda's affiliates. The Yemeni-based terror group is represented by its chief spokesperson, [Ibrahim al-Qosi](#).

Ibrahim al-Qosi, a Sudanese national, is a former Guantanamo detainee who returned to terrorism and became a leader of [AQAP](#). In July 2010, al-Qosi pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and material support to terrorism. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison, but was released after two years and was repatriated to Sudan in 2012. Al-Qosi was featured in an AQAP propaganda video in January 2018.

For more on al-Qosi, see CEP's [Ibrahim al-Qosi](#) report.



HAMAS

[Hamis](#), the Palestian terror group, has separate spokespersons working for its political and military wings, the Islamic Resistance Movement and Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, respectively. They include:



Sami Abu Zuhri is a spokesperson for [Hamis](#)'s political wing. In this role, he frequently applauds and praises violent terror attacks in Israel. Following a March 2016 attack, Zuhri said that, "Hamis congratulates the three heroic operations this evening, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Jaffa, and...the martyrs that have ascended through these operations." Zuhri has been accused of sexually harassing female journalists in the Gaza Strip in 2007 and 2014, respectively.

For more on Zuhri, see CEP's [Sami Abu Zuhri](#) report.

Abu Obeida is the spokesperson for [Hamis](#)'s military wing, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. In April 2016, Obeida acknowledged that the terror group was holding four Israelis: two kidnapped Israeli citizens from the Gaza Strip and the bodies of two Israeli soldiers. Obeida appears masked when speaking in public on behalf of the terrorist group and his real name has not been disclosed.



COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

PROPAGANDISTS, RECRUITERS, AND SPOKESPERSONS



Taher el-Nounou is a spokesman and media coordinator for the [Hamas](#) government in the Gaza Strip and is responsible for launching the 2015 hashtag campaign #AskHamas. Nounou said that the campaign was “aimed at rejecting the labeling of the Palestinian resistance as ‘terrorists,’” and specifically targeted Western and EU audiences in the hopes of pushing the European Union to remove Hamas from its list of terrorist organizations. In 2017, Nounou promoted the idea that Hamas moderated when it released an updated charter that removed specific anti-Semitic language but continued to embrace violence.

HEZBOLLAH

[Hezbollah](#)’s Secretary General [Hassan Nasrallah](#) has frequently provided commentary on the terror group’s political and paramilitary activities. Anonymous spokespersons have also provided commentary associated with the group’s activities.

Hassan Nasrallah has been the secretary general (leader) of Hezbollah since 1992. Although Nasrallah does not hold political office in Lebanon, terrorism expert Walid Phares asserted, “[Nasrallah is] seen as a messianic figure, much higher than any official in Lebanon.” According to the Council on Foreign Relations, Nasrallah has shaped Hezbollah into the dominant political power in Lebanon and is the “driving force” behind the group’s military operations.



ISIS

[ISIS](#) dispatches representatives to propagandize on the group’s behalf on video. Among the group’s leaders was ISIS’s former spokesperson, [Abu Mohammed al-Adnani](#).



Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, born Taha Sobhi Fahla, publicly proclaimed an Islamic caliphate on ISIS’s behalf in June 2014, and named [Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi](#) as its *caliph* (leader). According to the U.S. State Department, al-Adnani was “one of the first foreign fighters to oppose Coalition forces in Iraq.” Though al-Adnani was killed in a U.S. airstrike on August 30, 2016. *For more on al-Adnani, see CEP’s [Abu Mohammed al-Adnani](#) report.*

KATA’IB HEZBOLLAH

Kata’ib Hezbollah (KH) is a U.S.-designated anti-American Shiite militia fighting ISIS in Iraq with ancillary operations in Syria. During the U.S.-led war in Iraq that began in 2003, KH earned a reputation for planting deadly roadside bombs to attack U.S. and coalition forces.

PROPAGANDISTS, RECRUITERS, AND SPOKESPERSONS

Jaafar al-Husseini is the spokesperson for U.S.-designated Iraqi terror group [Kata'ib Hezbollah](#). In recent years, al-Husseini has released numerous violent, anti-American statements on behalf of the terrorist group, including in December 2015, when he stated that Kata'ib Hezbollah “will chase and fight any American force deployed in Iraq” and that an American force “will become a primary target for our group. We fought them before and we are ready to resume fighting.”



LASHKAR-E-TAIBA

[Lashkar-e-Taiba](#) (LeT) is one of Pakistan’s largest militant Islamist organizations. The group has instigated terrorist attacks in Kashmir and collaborated with other militant groups, such as the Taliban and al-Qaeda. It is believed to be the only Islamist militant group in Pakistan to have expanded since 9/11. LeT is sanction-designated by the United States, the United Nations, and others.



Abdullah Ghaznavi is the spokesperson for Pakistani-based terrorist organization [Lashkar-e-Taiba](#) (LeT). In his capacity as LeT spokesperson, Ghaznavi has provided comments to international news agencies and outlets, including the Associated Press.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

The [Muslim Brotherhood](#) has been designated as a terrorist organization in Bahrain, Egypt, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates. The group nonetheless has affiliates and spokespersons in countries around the world. The Brotherhood’s lead spokesperson is Talaat Fahmi.

Talaat Fahmi is the media spokesperson for the Muslim Brotherhood. In this capacity, Fahmi has released numerous statements on behalf of the Brotherhood, including referring to the Egyptian government in June 2016 as “Zionists’ henchmen.”



For more on Fahmi, see CEP’s [Talaat Fahmi](#) report.

NUSRA FRONT

The [Nusra Front](#) is an internationally sanctioned terrorist group and the second-strongest insurgent group in Syria after ISIS.



Abu Muhammad al-Golani is the leader of the Nusra Front, now operating as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. For years al-Golani pledged loyalty to al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. Al-Golani has sat for interviews with international news agencies and outlets, including Al Jazeera.

For more on al-Golani, see CEP’s [Abu Muhammad al-Golani](#) report.