



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



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Letter Found at Minor Blast Site near Israel Embassy

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AI-QAEDA ISSUES TERRORIST THREAT AGAINST US, ISRAEL

SEEKS TO TARGET PROMINENT FIGURES LIKE ELON MUSK, BILL GATES



AQAP has released videos on bypassing security checks at airports. — File pic

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a known al-Qaeda affiliate, has recently issued terrorist threats against the United States and Israel, calling on targeted attacks against iconic locations, airlines, and prominent figures amid the holiday season and the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The terrorist affiliate has also released instructional and detailed videos on constructing bombs, bypassing security checks at airports, and videos depicting exploding planes.

In several videos posted online, the terror affiliate has threatened prominent tourist attractions such as Times Square or public transportation hubs like the New York City Subway.

Furthermore, British, American, and French airlines, as well as Jewish and Western targets, have been singled out in the videos released. Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and Ben Bernanke (former chairman of the Federal Reserve) have been some notable high-profile public figures threatened by AQAP.

These terror tactics are part of al-Qaeda's 'open-source Jihad' against Jewish and Western targets. Federal authorities, including the TSA, are on high alert. In an email sent to Fox News, TSA explained, 'Foreign terrorist organizations routinely highlight transportation modes during the holidays. TSA is operating at a high level of security and constant state of vigilance...' – [Fox News](#), [NewsNation](#)

NIA COURT SENTENCES 2 AL-QAEDA RADICALS



ABDUL ALEEM MONDAL

On 27 December 2023, National Investigation Agency's Special Court in Bengaluru sentenced Abdul Aleem Mondal (West Bengal) and Akthar Hussain Laskar (Assam), two 'highly radicalised' associates of the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) to seven years in jail.

Moreover, Laskar was fined Rs. 41,000, and Mondal was fined Rs. 51,000.

The charges against these convicts include a conspiracy to send the youth to Afghanistan to undergo training in carrying out terrorist activities and to wage Jihad against a certain Indian community as part of the group's anti-India agenda.

Laskar and Mondal had been radicalised and recruited by foreign AQIS handlers. – [India Today](#)

4 KILLED IN BLAST AT PHILIPPINES CHURCH



ISIS claimed responsibility for the blast. — NBC

On 3 December 2023, a deadly bomb, made from a mortar round, ripped through a Catholic Mass in Marawi (Philippines).

It killed at least four people and wounded anywhere between 44 and 50 worshippers present inside Mindanao State University's gymnasium.

Marawi, situated south of the country, had been besieged by ISIS terrorists for several months in 2017. The terrorist outfit in its Telegram channel claimed responsibility for the attack.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr condemned 'the senseless and most heinous acts perpetrated by foreign terrorists.'

Moreover, the police and military stepped up security measures in the country. —

[Reuters](#), [NPR](#)

ISIS MODULE SPREAD OUT ACROSS COUNTRY BUSTED

NIA ARRESTS ENGINEERS, EXPLOSIVE EXPERTS HAVING ISI LINKS



NIA officials holding ISIS module operatives in custody. — Organiser

A 'groundbreaking' report has unveiled a profoundly intricate web of numerous ISIS modules, part of a clandestine network spread throughout India.

As per the details of the investigative report, Shahnawaz Alam, who was arrested in October 2023, was part of the Pune module and had ties with Saquib Nachan, the mastermind behind ISIS' Maharashtra module. Nachan was subsequently arrested on 9 December 2023.

In connection with the Pune module case, Shamil Nachan, Saquib's son, had earlier been arrested in August 2023.

Before Alam's October arrest, he had briefly been arrested in July before becoming a fugitive. Amid this period, he sought refuge with another ISIS terrorist and a man with ties to anti-Hindu riots in the capital, Mohammad Arshad Warsi, and relocated to New Delhi.

His relocation had been facilitated after he teamed up with a man named Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf.

These three individuals had been arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) before they could carry out a terrorist attack.

As per further investigations launched by NIA, a local contact, who remains at large, facilitated the procurement of logistics, finances, and weapons for Alam, Ashraf, and Warsi.

Finally, the report disclosed a nexus between ISIS, a fugitive terrorist, Farahtullah Ghorri, and ISI, aimed at conducting terrorist attacks in the NCR. — [Organiser](#)

43 VANDALS LINKED TO ATTACKS ON INDIAN MISSIONS IDENTIFIED

NIA UNCOVERS KHALISTANI CONSPIRACIES AGAINST DIPLOMATS ABROAD



Pro-Khalistan supporters involved in violent protest and vandalism at the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, 2023. — File pics

Around 43 individuals sympathetic to the Khalistan separatist cause and reportedly involved in violence at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on 2 July 2023 and at the Indian High Commission in London on 19 March 2023, have been identified by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The investigations involved over 50 searches and raids in 2023 to uncover the conspiracy hatched against Indian diplomatic presence abroad. The perpetrators were involved in criminal activities like damage to public property, vandalism, criminal trespass, attempts to cause hurt to Indian officials, and damage to the Consulate building through arson.

According to an agency spokesperson, ‘The attacks involved criminal trespass, vandalism, damage to public property, and attempts to cause hurt to Indian officials and damage the Consulate building through acts of arson.

NIA has used several innovative methods of investigation, including crowd sourcing of information while investigating the larger conspiracy of attacks on Indian Missions, which resulted in identification of 43 suspects. The NIA has stepped up its investigation in these cases in recent months and examined more than 80 persons in India suspected to be part of the conspiracy of the attacks.’

With over 94 per cent conviction rate for 2023, NIA boasts some remarkable achievements such as carrying out arrests upon successful cases of deportation and extradition of Khalistani supporters, including Manpreet Singh alias Peeta, Ammy, Amrik Singh, Mandeep Singh, and Vikram Brar. – [Business Standard](#), [The Indian Express](#), [WION News](#)

INDIA DECLARES CANADA-BASED GANGSTER LAKHBIR SINGH TERRORIST



LAKHBIR SINGH

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh Landa as a terrorist.

According to an official release by the MHA, 34-year-old Lakhbir Singh Landa comes from Harike in Tarn Taran district of Punjab. Currently living in Edmonton, Canada, he is a member of Babbar Khalsa International. According to the MHA, Babbar Khalsa International is listed as a terrorist organisation.

The MHA release states he is involved in a terror attack on the building of Punjab's State Intelligence Headquarters at Mohali and is also involved in the supply of IEDs, arms, sophisticated weapons and explosives from Pakistan. — ANI

DELHI POLICE FILES F.I.R. AFTER BLAST NEAR ISRAEL EMBASSY

On 26 December 2023, a letter that was wrapped in a flag and addressed to Naor Gilon, Israel's Ambassador to India, was recovered from a spot near the Israeli embassy where a low-intensity blast had gone off. Without divulging the letter's content in entirety, those familiar with the matter explained that it mainly referred to Israel's actions in Palestine. The letter has been sent to experts for detailed forensic examination.

Previously, two similarly notable incidents have occurred in connection with Israeli diplomatic presence in New Delhi. On 13 February 2012, a sticky bomb was placed on an embassy car that injured an official and driver present inside. In another instance, on 29 January 2021, a low-intensity blast had occurred outside the embassy, damaging three vehicles nearby. – *Hindustan Times*

26/11 Mastermind Sajid Mir Poisoned

Sajid Mir, the mastermind behind the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai and a Lashkar-e-Taiba commander, has reportedly been poisoned and is on ventilator support.

It was after immense pressure, including the potential imposition of penalties by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), was applied to Pakistan that it found Mir guilty of terror financing, sentenced him to eight years in prison, and fined Rs. 4.2 lakhs. The announcement was made in June 2022, right before a FATF meeting. – [Deccan Herald](#)

QUAD Counter-Terror Meeting Held

The US Department of State hosted Indian, Australian, and Japanese representatives from 19 to 21 December 2023 for the QUAD Counter-Terrorism Working Group Meeting held in Honolulu.

The key aim behind this interaction was enhancing efforts in areas such as information sharing to counter terrorism in the Indo-Pacific region. Detailed exercises and presentations focusing on this issue were conducted. – [Organiser](#)

Rising threat of terror in Europe

On 5 December 2023, Ylva Johansson, European Union's Home Affairs Commissioner, warned that the bloc's member states confront a 'huge risk of terrorist attacks' during the holiday season as an outcome of the latest phase of the Gazan war.

She referred to a knifing attack in Paris where three casualties occurred at the hands of an ISIS supporter who decried the conditions of Muslims, mainly in Palestinian territories. – [DW](#)

Terrorist Shoot Down Cop in Kashmir Mosque

On 24 December 2023, Mohammad Shafi Mir, a 72-year-old retired Senior Superintendent of Police, was fatally shot by terrorists while leading the morning prayers inside the mosque in the Gantmulla locality (Baramulla District). Some relatives claim he was shot four times, after which he was taken to the hospital. He later succumbed to the injuries.

Parties across the political divide expressed their condolences to the bereaved family and condemned the terrorist attack. – [The Hindu](#)

LeT Terrorist Killed by Unknown Assailants

On 3 December 2023, Hanzla Adnan, a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist, was killed by unknown gunmen in Karachi. Four bullets were found on his body. Adnan is believed to have been close to the terrorist group's Chief, Hafiz Saeed.

Adnan was also the mastermind of the attack on a Border Security Force convoy in Udampur in 2015. During the 2015 attack, 2 soldiers were martyred while 13 were wounded. – [India Today](#)

Terror on Jetski!

On 10 December 2023, Cuba announced that it had thwarted a terrorist attack after a man's arrival on the island using a jetski.

He was allegedly armed with weapons and ammunition.

The terror plot was devised in Florida.

The investigation, while still underway, has tied the failed attack, as per state media, to La Nueva Nacion Cuban en Armas and Nueva Nacion Cubana, groups that have been deemed terrorist entities by Cuba. – [NDTV](#)