

SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE PURSUANT
TO RESOLUTIONS 1267 (1999) AND 1989 (2011)
CONCERNING AL-QAIDA AND ASSOCIATED
INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Chair's Briefing to the Security Council
29 May 2015

1. Since Ambassador Gary Quinlan of Australia briefed in November, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee has continued to devote special focus to the issue of foreign terrorist fighters, as mandated by paragraph 21 of resolution 2178 of 2014. The threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters is serious and can affect all States and societies. The response to this threat to international peace and security needs to be comprehensive and coordinated, and employ a range of tools. The Al-Qaida regime's targeted sanctions are an important part of the toolbox.
2. The Security Council has established a framework through its resolution 2178 to address foreign terrorist fighters and their networks. This exists alongside Council resolutions on the threat to international peace and security posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (or ISIL), also known as Da'esh, and the Al-Nusra Front. Resolution 2178 sets out a number of obligations and measures for Member States. Two of these obligations in particular intersect with the work of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. First, Member States are called upon to prevent movement of foreign terrorist fighters across their borders. Second, Member States shall prevent the recruiting, facilitating or equipping of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality, to carry out or prepare for terrorist acts or training, and the financing of such activities.
3. The measures imposed upon individuals and entities designated by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee are threefold: an assets freeze, a travel ban, and an arms embargo. In addition, any individual or entity that provides financial or material support to those designated, including the provision of arms or recruits, is eligible to be added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List.
4. The Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee has approved several designations this year aimed at the foreign terrorist fighters threat. In February, the Committee designated *Tarkhan Tayumurazovich Batirashvili*, and noted that he led approximately 1,000 foreign terrorist fighters for ISIL. In March, the Committee designated *Hilal Ahmar Society Indonesia* and three of its leaders based upon their recruiting, funding and facilitating travel of foreign terrorist fighters to the Syrian Arab Republic. In April, *Ali Ben Taher Ben Faleh Ouni Harzi*, a member of Ansar al-Shari'a in Tunisia, was designated partly due to his efforts to recruit foreign terrorist fighters. Further ISIL-related designations are expected in the near future. As with all designations, INTERPOL-UN Special Notices have been issued. Cooperation between the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and INTERPOL is key to improving implementation of the sanctions measures. This is particularly for foreign terrorist fighters, given the need for timely information sharing about cross-border movement.

5. On 26 May, the report from the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, which supports the work of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, was published on foreign terrorist fighters, pursuant to resolution 2178.

6. A headline conclusion from the report is there are now more than 25,000 foreign terrorist fighters, from over 100 countries. Many of them have travelled to fight for terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida especially ISIL, and the main movement has been into Syria and Iraq. The report addressed three main areas concerning foreign terrorist fighters. First, the *analysis of the threat*, including the scale, predictions for growth, and ancillary risks. Second, the *trends*, including demographics, recruitment and financing. Third, the *challenges*, including information sharing and border control.

7. As directed in resolution 2178, the Monitoring Team made a number of detailed recommendations on the basis of which the Committee has now taken decisions, and will be following up and facilitating including with the Security Council and Member States. This will be reflected in a position paper from the Committee.

8. The Monitoring Team concluded that there are three essential elements in the international response to foreign terrorist fighters. First, Member States should share actionable information on potential and known foreign terrorist fighters, such as Advanced Passenger Information (or API), and material from national watch lists. Second, at the national level Member States should build capacity to disrupt foreign terrorist fighter networks. This capacity can be enhanced through legislative frameworks and national strategies which allow governments to act quickly and nimbly. Third, the Monitoring Team considers countering violent extremism (or CVE) at every stage of an individual's involvement to be at the heart of any successful policy response. Member States need to develop CVE strategies that aim to prevent, assess, and re-integrate foreign terrorist fighters into society.

9. In resolution 2178, the Security Council called on Member States to propose foreign terrorist fighters, and those who facilitate or finance their activities, for designation on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List. Some progress has been made since September last year, but there is more work to be done. I take this opportunity to recall that any Member State may propose an individual or entity for inclusion on the List. The Monitoring Team can advise any Member State considering proposing designations, and the Team takes part in regular outreach and training. I encourage any Member State considering designation proposals to make early contact with the Team and Chair of the Committee.

10. To encourage proposals for listings, on 24 April 2015 the then Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Ambassador Jim McLay of New Zealand, organised an open briefing for all Member States on the Committee's work. This briefing provided an informal opportunity for interested Member States to interact with the Committee and its work, through the Chair and the Monitoring Team Coordinator. A variety of issues were discussed, including the procedure for adding names to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List. I intend to continue to hold such open briefings periodically throughout my Chairmanship.

11. We need intelligently targeted and well-implemented sanctions as part of our toolbox to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and the harm they cause to Member States, their societies and peoples.