

The U.S. State Department list of terrorist groups

Under the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which was passed in the wake of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the U.S. State Department is required to produce a list every two years of organizations to be designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. FTOs are subject to a wide range of sanctions. Here is the list of 28 FTOs issued on Nov. 8:

Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)
Armed Islamic Group (GIA)
Aum Shinrikyo
Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)

Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement)
Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)
Hizballah (Party of God)
Gama'a al-Islamiyya (Islamic Group, IG)
Japanese Red Army (JRA)
al-Jihad
Kach
Kahane Chai
Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK, MKO, NCR, and many others)
National Liberation Army (ELN)

Palestine Islamic Jihad-Shaqqi Faction (PIJ)
Palestine Liberation Front-Abu Abbas Faction (PLF)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)
al-Qa'ida
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17 November)
Revolutionary People's Liberation Army/Front (DHKP/C)
Revolutionary People's Struggle (ELA)
Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso, SL)
Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA)

The broadcasts documented that Al Muhajiroun, the "political wing" of bin Laden's International Islamic Front, functions freely in the London suburb of Lee Valley, occupying two rooms in the local computer center. Officially, they work under the cover of an Internet company named Info-2000.

Both NTV and ORT showed Al Muhajiroun's boss, Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, threatening Russia's leadership with "severe consequences" if Russia does not cease the military operation in Chechnya. "The Russian military should not feel safe anywhere in the world," he said.

Omar Bakri boasted that his organization was assisted by retired British military officers. He admitted that some mercenaries who receive "theoretical education" in Lee Valley, later complete their training at bin Laden's bases in Afghanistan.

NTV also featured another bin Laden ally in Britain, Acem Chudri, head of Association of Islamic Lawyers, which also protects the Chechen "liberation movement."

The same day that these exposés aired on Russian television, Russia's embassy in Britain filed a protest against Britain's involvement in harboring Wahhabite terrorists.

In its Nov. 19 coverage of the Istanbul summit of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, ORT television exposed another British link to the ongoing destabilization in Chechnya. The report mentioned that the guests of the summit included several representatives of the Grozny regime. "They looked especially proud, as they were joined by Haji-Saleh Brand, a British national who converted to Islam and took a Muslim name."

In concluding its coverage of the Russian government's delivery of a diplomatic *démarche* to the British over the London attack on the Russian television journalists, *Kommersant* commented that "the U.S. State Department has not included any of the aforementioned organizations in the list of international terrorist networks published in October. The reason is simple: These organizations are not considered dangerous for the interests of the United States. However, in the 1980s, the Americans treated Osama bin Laden in the same way."

Not quite accurate

While, as *EIR* documented in last week's issue, the U.S. State Department has generally balked at any action against Britain for its harboring of international terrorists, the *Kommersant* story did not get it right.

The Oct. 8, 1999 official semi-annual list of groups designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations by the U.S. government, did include the groups that showed up for the London session. Following an Executive Order by President Clinton issued in the wake of the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in August 1998, the State Department added the Osama bin Laden-linked al-Qa'ida (International Islamic Front) organization to the list of sanctioned terrorist groups.

However, Ambassador Michael A. Sheehan, the State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism, at the Oct. 8 press conference where the list of 28 groups was released, was careful not to fall into the trap of attributing all of the ostensi-