

INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUPS

Terrorism is a tactic used by many organizations to achieve their political goals; the U.S. Department of State specifically designates multiple groups as foreign terrorist organizations. These groups, however, are varied in goals, interests, and capacity for violence. We have highlighted six major organizations that have attacked U.S. interests and citizens in order to provide context to the challenges that America faces today.



	Al Qaeda	Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS)	Hezbollah	Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT)	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)	Ansar al-Islam (Fmr. Ansar al-Sunnah)
Location	Pakistan	Gaza Strip	Lebanon	Pakistan	Colombia	Iraq
Founded	1988	1987	1982	Early 1990s	1964	2001
Leaders	Osama bin Laden (deceased); Ayman al-Zawahiri	Khaled Meshaal	Hassan Nasrallah	Hafeez Mohammed Saeed	Rodrigo Londoño aka "Timochenko"	Abu Abdallah al-Shafi'i (captured)
Goals	Overthrow Muslim rulers they deem apostates in order to establish an Islamic caliphate across the Muslim world.	Overthrow Israel and establish a Palestinian Islamic State.	Advocates Shia power inside Lebanon and Israel's destruction.	Expel India from Kashmir and establish Islamic rule over the Indian subcontinent.	Theoretically establish a Marxist state in Colombia.	Establish a fundamentalist Islamic state in Iraq.
Attacked the U.S. ?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Attacked U.S. Citizens or Interests Abroad?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Significant Terrorist Operations	September 11, 2001 Washington D.C. and New York City suicide bombings; 2000 USS Cole suicide bombing; 1998 attacks on the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.	Multiple suicide attacks against Israeli civilian targets; ongoing rocket attacks on Israel.	1983 U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon suicide bombing; 1983 U.S. Embassy in Beirut suicide bombing; 1985 TWA flight 847 hijacking.	2008 coordinated suicide attacks against multiple civilian targets in Mumbai, India.	2003 assassination of Antioquia (Colombia) Governor; many kidnappings and murders of prominent Colombian personalities; multiple kidnappings of U.S. citizens.	2004 Forward Operating Base Marez (Mosul, Iraq) suicide attack. Numerous attacks on Iraqi civilians as well as on Coalition troops.