

Chair's Briefing to the Security Council 16 June 2015

In our last joint Council briefing in May 2014, the prior Chair of the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Ambassador Gary Quinlan, raised the evolving nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. This included the group's localisation and globalisation, and its new generation of leadership. Since then we have seen a dramatic evolution of the threat, with rapid territorial gains and brutal tactics by ISIL also known as Da'esh and, to a lesser extent, the Al-Nusrah Front. This is further intensified by the presence of foreign terrorist fighters and the growing influence of Al-Qaida associates in Libya.

In today's briefing, I will briefly outline how the threat from Al-Qaida and affiliates has evolved over the past year, the Committee's response, how Member States can engage with the Committee, and the Committee's upcoming work.

Over the past year we have witnessed a marked increase in ISIL's use of digital media to promote its messages – both to shock and intimidate and also to recruit others to its cause. Despite the role of digital media, direct social contact still remains a key factor in recruitment.

The human cost of Al-Qaida and ISIL related attacks is immense and tragic – not only in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, but also in parts of Nigeria, Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan and Somalia and further afield. Many attacks are on innocent civilians and even on places of religious worship, such as the recent deaths of 25 people at Friday prayers in a mosque in Saudi Arabia. While the people of Syria and Iraq are most at risk, no State is immune from the threat of terrorism.

In response to the evolving threat from Al-Qaida and affiliates, the Council has adopted various resolutions expanding the work of the Committee and Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, for example, in relation to oil and financing.¹ In addition to its regular reporting, the Monitoring Team has submitted reports to the Committee on ISIL and ANF and on foreign terrorist fighters. The Monitoring Team is also due to submit a report to the Committee on the implementation of resolution 2199 regarding ISIL and oil interdictions by 12 July and report on and the threat in Libya by 27 September. The Monitoring Team's workload continues to increase, presenting a challenge for its resourcing. We commend the Team for its dedication and quality of work.

The growing terror threat has led to an increase in designations of individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida. From June 2013 to May 2014, six individuals and entities were

¹ 2161 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2214 (2015), 2220 (2015)).

designated. Over the same period from 2014 to 2015, 41 individuals and entities were designated. Over half of the listings were foreign terrorist fighter-related. There has also been an increase in the use of the assets freeze exemptions by Member States, with five granted from June 2014 to May 2015 as opposed to one in the same period for 2013 to 2014.

We welcome further designations by Member States. I would emphasise that listings should be strategic, targeted and implementable. We want the sanctions to have a practical effect, and focus on targeting individuals and entities who can be disrupted. The Monitoring team can assist Member States with preparing listing and exemption requests.

The sanctions list is a living document that needs to be kept up-to-date, relevant, and fair and transparent. There are three main ways the Committee does this:

1. First, through the triennial review which considers if listings, especially those not reviewed for three years, are still relevant and implementable. The Committee is in the process of finalizing the 2014 triennial review. I thank the Member States who provided information as part of the review, as it has proven challenging to obtain responses from all Member States that designated the individuals and entities. We urge *all* Member States to engage with the Committee on the 2015 triennial review, which we will be undertaking shortly.
2. Second, are the delisting requests submitted to the independent Office of the Ombudsperson by designated individuals and entities. The Ombudsperson plays an integral role in promoting that the Committee's procedures are fair and transparent and ensuring the list dynamically reflects the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. The Ombudsperson continues to have a significant caseload and role. Since the last briefing to the Council in May 2014, six individuals and entities have been delisted and three retained following the Committee's consideration of reports submitted by the Ombudsperson. There are currently 10 petitions received through the Ombudsperson at various stages of consideration.
3. Third, the Monitoring Team regularly updates the list based on information provided by Member States. We encourage Member States to keep the Team informed.

For sanctions to be effective they need to be clear, targeted and implementable. Several initiatives have been taken in this regard. Earlier this year, the Chair produced a procedural note clarifying the reporting requirements of resolution 2199 adopted this February to stem the financing of terrorists from the illicit oil trade. The resolution has made a major contribution to consolidating international efforts to counter the threat posed by ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front. However, the level of reporting has so far been insufficient. Therefore, the Committee urges Member States to submit as soon as possible their reports under paragraph 29 of the resolution and continuously

report under its paragraph 12. We also look forward to the Monitoring Team's assessment, in cooperation with other UN counterterrorism bodies, of the measures' impact and proposals to improve their implementation. The Monitoring Team also produced three "explanation of terms" papers on the sanctions measures in February this year. These are available on the Committee's website.

Work is also being done to standardise the format of all UN sanctions lists and update the Committee's website so it is more user-friendly. The Committee is mandated, with the Monitoring Team's assistance, to consider issues of possible non-compliance with sanctions measures and has received complaints from Member States. The Chair provided an open briefing to interested Member States on 24 April, which included discussions on the implementation issues. I encourage Member States to share any queries and concerns with the Committee and Monitoring Team. We stand ready to assist.

As for the Committee's future activities, the Monitoring Team will be presenting reports on Libya and the impact of resolution 2199. The Committee is currently discussing the recommendations of the 17th report of the Monitoring Team and we hope to have these agreed shortly. I also plan to continue to hold regular open briefings on the work of the Committee for all interested Member States.

I take this opportunity to note there will be a 'changing of the guard' in the roles of the Ombudsperson and Monitoring Team especially the Coordinator. Both are crucial to the Committee's work and the ability of the regime to respond effectively, fairly and transparently to the evolving threat posed by Al-Qaida and affiliates. I would like to thank the Ombudsperson, Kimberly Prost, and the Monitoring Team including its Coordinator, Alexander Evans, for their tireless efforts and wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

To conclude, Mr President, I want to reemphasise that the 1267 Sanctions Committee relies on cooperation from Member States, so that Al-Qaida and its affiliates are designated, sanctions are implemented, and the tragic toll of terrorism is prevented.