

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

**Chair's Briefing to the Security Council
27 November 2013**

Statement delivered on behalf of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

1. On behalf of the Chairs of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), on counter-terrorism, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, I have the honour to brief the Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their respective expert groups.
2. On 18 November, the Chairs of these three Committees joined the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1718 (2006), 1737 (2006) and 1988 (2011) and the President of the Financial Action Task Force in an open briefing for Member States on the respective roles of the Security Council and the FATF in combating the financing of terrorism and proliferation. The meeting aimed to increase awareness amongst Member States of the measures imposed by the Council and the related recommendations and guidance developed by the FATF, and the assistance that the Council sanctions committees and their experts groups, and the FATF, can provide Member States.
3. Further to this open briefing, the three Committees through their expert groups have continued their practice of sharing relevant information and meeting, where appropriate, in order to discuss common issues, coordinate actions and exchange points of view on particular issues. The three expert groups participate actively in the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and have continued their close cooperation in particular on issues related to combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation.
4. All three expert groups coordinate their outreach activities and country visits on a regular basis. Where appropriate, they consult each other when planning country visits or similar trips in order to allow participation of experts of the other groups in a particular visit or allow the other groups to communicate specific needs for information from the countries to be visited. The three expert groups continue to explore further strengthening of current coordination and cooperation.

Statement delivered on behalf of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee

I. Introduction

5. A major lesson from 2012-13 is that Al-Qaida and its affiliates have already evolved in several regions. No longer is the threat anchored primarily in a global Al-Qaida organisation, but revolves around a range of increasingly heterogeneous franchises that are themselves continually evolving, with the recruitment of younger fighters and increased mobility across borders. Al-Qaida has effectively adapted to local conflicts and mobilised local affiliates that, despite differences, support the broader Al-Qaida ideology.

6. Some States that have not yet been the victims of terrorism face many of the same risk factors as countries that have. As the Monitoring Team found in its 14th report, terrorist propaganda on the Internet continues to grow in sophistication and reach, and is contributing to the problem of self-radicalization. This in turn inspires acts of expressive terrorist violence committed by individuals or small groups, such as the recent attacks in Boston, London and Paris. Asymmetric tactics and complex, simultaneous multi-strike attacks used by small but highly mobile Al-Qaida units draw strength from a close understanding of regional weaknesses, such as vast and porous borders.

7. In today's briefing I will focus on three principal areas of work of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, as it continues to monitor the implementation of Security Council resolution 2083 (2012):

- i. Effectively addressing the evolving threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates, with a particular focus on the work of the Committee to address recent threats to peace, stability and security in Mali and the Sahel region including through engagement with States in the region;
- ii. Ensuring the regime's application remains relevant and effective; and,
- iii. Ensuring the sanctions regime has fair and clear procedures.

8. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed in hard copy today and made available on the Committee's website.¹

II. Effectively addressing the evolving threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates

9. In its 14th Report, the Monitoring Team highlighted the Sahel and the Middle East as the two most visible arenas for Al-Qaida affiliate activity during 2013, and this is reflected in the Committee's activities for this period.

10. I reported in May that the Committee had held a special meeting on threats to Mali stemming from the activities of Al-Qaida affiliates in the region, including AQIM, MUJAO and Ansar Eddine, held on 9 April 2013, which highlighted the need for

¹ <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/chairmanbriefings.shtml>

continued monitoring of the role of Al-Qaida affiliates in Mali and the Sahel, with a more central role for capacity-building efforts in the counter-terrorism realm. This had followed Committee action earlier in the year to list Ansar Eddine and its founder and leader Iyad Ag Ghali, as well as the leadership of the already listed MUJAO and AQIM (respectively Hamada Ould Mohamed Elkhairy and Abderrahmane Ould El Amar).

11. Although the French-led Operation Serval dislodged AQIM, Ansar Eddine and MUJAO from the main towns in northern Mali, restoring governmental authority and significantly degrading these groups, pockets of resistance remain and the risk of attacks by Al-Qaida affiliates across the Sahel persists. Operation Serval also demonstrated the high level of the training and equipment of terrorist groups in the region and the close link between organized crime and terrorism, highlighting the need to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation, both within and between the Maghreb and the Sahel.

12. Similarly, the Monitoring Team's 14th Report also describes operational contacts between terrorist entities in eastern Libya and Al-Qaida affiliates in the Sahel, the Maghreb, the Middle East and South Asia and the presence of training camps in Libya to which many foreign fighters travel before heading elsewhere to fight. The Committee has responded through the listing of both Muhammad Jamal Abd-Al Rahim Ahmad Al-Kashif and his Muhammad Jamal Network (MJN), responsible for establishing terrorist training camps in Egypt and Libya, and reportedly involved in the attack on the United States Mission in Benghazi, Libya, on 11 September 2012.

13. In response to these ongoing and evolving threats, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee has invited Member States of the Sahel and Maghreb regions to a special meeting to discuss the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates, to consider ways in which the sanctions regime could support affected States, and to discuss how best these measures may be integrated into national and regional responses to the Al-Qaida threat.

14. This special meeting, held pursuant to paragraph 62 of resolution 2083 (2012), represents an important innovation in Committee engagement with States from regions on the front lines. For the Al-Qaida sanctions regime to constitute a useful tool in efforts to counter the destabilising activities of Al-Qaida affiliates in these regions, it must be placed in the hands of affected countries and regional groups. This will ensure the sanctions list accurately reflects the dynamic nature of the threat, as well as enhance the implementation of the measures on the ground.

15. Meanwhile, the continuing civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic has seen the emergence of a strong Al-Qaida presence drawing from Al-Qaida in Iraq under the name Jabhat al-Nusra, attracting hundreds of recruits from outside the Syrian Arab Republic. The Committee has responded through the listing in May of Jabhat al-Nusrah as an alias of al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI), as well as its leader Abu Mohammed Al-Jawlani in July.

III. Ensuring the regime's application remains relevant and effective

16. The Committee has also continued in its efforts ensure that the regime's application remains relevant and effective. It has recently concluded its consideration of the recommendations contained in the fourteenth report of the Analytical Support and

Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1526 (2004). In its report, the Team made 19 recommendations primarily focused on advancing a more effective, evidence-based United Nations targeted sanctions regime and improving the implementation and effectiveness of the Sanctions measures.

17. Notably, based on the Monitoring Team's recommendation, the Committee has requested the Team to provide an annual confidential briefing to the Committee of how the List reflects the current threat picture, in recognition that the sanctions will have most impact if the individuals and entities targeted by the regime are those currently involved in influential roles in, or supporting, Al-Qaida and its affiliates. In addition, so as to preserve the element of surprise with new listings, and prevent asset flight, the Committee encourages Member States to make every effort to reduce delays between the Committee's notification on new listings and the domestic implementation of the measures. Finally, the Committee has asked the Team to engage with Member States to better understand the impediments to full compliance with the measures and to present their findings to the Committee.

18. The Committee has continued to review the entries on the Al-Qaida Sanctions list, focusing particular attention on entries that lack identifiers necessary to ensure effective implementation of the sanctions measures, entries corresponding to reportedly deceased individuals and to entities that are reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist, and entries that have not been reviewed in three or more years. The responsiveness of Member States remains crucial for the successful implementation of these reviews, and in this connection I should like to take this opportunity to particularly thank those Member States who have actively participated in these review processes by providing detailed and updated information. The Committee has bolstered the way that it interacts with Member States in the context of these reviews, aiming to encourage greater, and more precise, information sharing on listed individuals and entities, and to increase the attentiveness of the Committee to Member State views and concerns.

IV. Ensuring the sanctions regime has fair and clear procedures.

19. Since the last briefing to the Council, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee has continued to operationalise the procedural enhancements of resolution 2083 (2012), supporting the Committee's mandate to clearly and effectively respond to the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. In November the Committee considered a request from a listed individual for an exemption to the travel ban. This request was the first of its kind to be received through the Focal Point mechanism established in resolution 1730 (2006). The Security Council expanded the mandate of the Focal Point to receive exemption requests in paragraph 8 of resolution 2083 (2012), and this development affords listed individuals and entities broader access to Committee procedures.

20. In 2013, several listed individuals were informed of the identity of the State that suggested their name for designation. This disclosure was streamlined in paragraph 12 of resolution 2083 (2012), which reverses the presumption that a State proposing an individual or entity for listing wishes to have its status as a designating State kept confidential. This development – together with the provision of reasons for the

Committee's decision in Ombudsperson cases – means that listed individuals and entities are afforded greater scope to understand their designation.

21. The Office of the Ombudsperson continues to play an integral role in guaranteeing that the Committee's procedures are clear and the list dynamically reflects the current threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. The Office of the Ombudsperson has a significant, ever-increasing caseload. Since the last briefing to the Council in May, the Committee has de-listed 5 names following its consideration of reports submitted by the Ombudsperson. There are currently 15 open petitions received through the Office of the Ombudsperson at various stages of consideration.

22. Going forward, the Committee will continue to pay heed to due process principles in the context of the Security Council, to ensure that its procedures are clear, and that the regime adheres to fundamental principles of fairness.

V. Concluding observations

23. In the last six months, the Committee has remained actively engaged on the situation in Mali, the Sahel, the Maghreb and the Middle East, given the common threat from Al-Qaida affiliates in these regions. The second special meeting of the Committee will stress the complementarity between the UN's broader Sahel strategy and the Al-Qaida sanctions regime measures, particularly on the issues of countering terrorism and creating a security environment conducive to economic and social development.

24. Ensuring the Al-Qaida sanctions regime remains an effective tool to address the continued threat from Al-Qaida and its affiliates is a shared undertaking, in which the participation of all Member States is crucial. Member States on the front lines are in a unique position to assess the nature of the Al-Qaida threat in their regions as well as the main challenges to implementation of the measures, and they are therefore strongly encouraged to share their views with the Committee.

**** END OF ORAL BRIEFING ****

Annex I. Activities of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

25. *The Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1540 Committee Expert Group as envisaged in paragraph 56 of resolution 2083 (2012). This has been done through sharing forward planning, coordinating on travel and engaging in joint activities where appropriate. With CTED there continues to be a strong shared agenda on improving UN coherence in counter-terrorism activities, in particular when engaging with Member States and other relevant partners. With the 1540 Committee Group of Experts the focus has been on deepening analytical cooperation on the nature of the threat, and the two teams held a joint workshop on this in October 2013.*

List Entries, Narrative Summaries, Reviews, Special thematic meetings

26. *The Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (the Team) continues to work on improving implementation of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. The Team submitted its Programme of Work in February 2013 for the Committee's review and approval, detailing its activities from February to December 2013.*

27. *The Team's work continued to contribute towards the regime's implementation, transparency and fairness with a range of stakeholders. With the Committee Secretariat, the Team continued to discuss measures to standardize the format of United Nations sanctions lists. With designating States, the Team continued to enhance its coordination in preparing list entries and narrative summaries of reasons for listing and proposed amendments. With the assistance of the Team, the Committee continues to make accessible on its website narrative summaries of reasons for listing for all entries on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List (the List).*

28. *To keep the List up-to-date as possible, on 23 July 2013, the Team provided advice to the Committee on the ongoing review of names on the List that have not been reviewed in three or more years ("triennial review") as per paragraph 42 of resolution 2083 (2012). In addition, pursuant to paragraph 40 of resolution 2083 (2012), the Team submitted information on those individuals who it has reason to believe might be deceased ("Deceased Person's review").*

29. *On 3 September 2013, the Team submitted for the Committee's consideration, an updated list of entities on the List that are reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist, as required by paragraph 41 of resolution 2083 (2012). As per the Chair's proposal on 30 July 2013, the Team continued to work closely with both designating States and the States of location and/or incorporation of the entities.*

Reports

30. *In accordance with resolution 2083 (2012), on 28 June 2013, the Team submitted to the Committee its fourteenth report. The recommendations in the report were discussed during the informal consultations of the Committee held on 30 July 2013.*

Ombudsperson

31. *As mandated in paragraph (b) of Annex I of resolution 2083 (2012), which directed the Team to support the Ombudsperson, the Team has continued to provide the*

Ombudsperson with all information available concerning individuals or entities that have submitted a delisting request through the Ombudsperson. The Team continued to offer analysis of such information and assistance to the Ombudsperson.

Outreach

32. *The Team continued to encourage Member States' active participation in maintaining and updating the List to ensure that it reflects the current nature of the threat while facilitating a dialogue between Member States and the Committee. Since May 2013, the Team has made eight country visits to Member States and participated in a joint country visit with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED).*

33. *In line with paragraph 56 of the resolutions 2083 (2012), the Team continued to cooperate with the CTED, the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations like INTERPOL, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and the Middle-East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF). Further, the Team continued to promote cooperation by identifying synergies, coordinating travel and attendance at international meetings, collaborating in outreach to international and regional organizations, and sharing information. As per paragraph 55 of the resolutions 2083 (2012), the Team remained closely engaged with other parts of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with regard to Member States' requests for assistance with capacity building for enhancing implementation of the sanctions measures.*

34. *The Team participated in a two-day regional workshop for the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region organized by CTED, the MENAFATF and the Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing Unit of Jordan. The workshop brought together experts from 13 countries in the MENA region to discuss, inter alia, the implementation of Security Council resolutions including the Al-Qaida sanctions regimes.*

35. *The Team also attended the inaugural Sub-Saharan Africa Public-Private Sector Dialogue (Dialogue)- launched in Namibia to help support the development and implementation of robust regimes to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in the ESAAMLG region. The Dialogue provided a platform which brought together private sector practitioners from the ESAAMLG region, some of the Finance Ministers from the region, and international partners.*

36. *The Team supported the roll-out of the joint INTERPOL-UN Special Notices for those listed on the Al-Qaida sanctions list, and by now Special Notices have been created for nearly all listed entities and individuals. The Team also attended the INTERPOL General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia in October 2013.*

Annex II. Joint Activities of the Monitoring Team, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1540 Committee Expert Group

Outreach and country visits

37. *Since the last joint briefing, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts have continued with, and increased the practice of, coordinating their outreach activities and country visits. Where appropriate, they consult each other when planning country visits or similar trips in order to allow participation of experts of the other groups in a particular visit or allow the other groups to communicate specific needs for information from the countries to be visited.*

38. *The 1540 Committee Group of Experts participated with CTED in the Counter-Terrorism Committee's (CTC) visits to Guyana and Suriname from 4 to 11 October 2013. Furthermore, in preparations for the visits to Japan from 21 to 24 May, Belarus from 16 to 18 October, Ukraine from 21 to 23 October, Mauritania from 3 to 7 November, and Ireland from 2 to 6 December, CTED consulted the expert groups of both Committees, including on their participation in the visits. In the event that they did not participate, they were invited to convey queries to the local authorities during the visits. Upon return, the relevant expert groups were provided with the responses to the inquiries, or with relevant information that was made available to the delegation during the visit. An example of the latter was a presentation made by Belarus during the CTC's visit on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which was later provided to the 1540 Committee Group of Experts.*

39. *Both the Monitoring Team and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts were invited to a meeting between CTED and a delegation from Egypt in July as part of a study tour organized by the Government of the United States, and gave presentations on their respective mandates and latest activities. A similar event with a delegation from Jordan on 8 November was also attended by the Monitoring Team at the invitation of CTED.*

Cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations

40. *The three expert groups participate actively in the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its working groups which continue to provide a platform for enhanced cooperation for the expert groups and over 30 United Nations organizations, agencies and programmes concerned with various aspects of counter-terrorism. They also contributed to the new CTITF Matrix of UN Counter-terrorism Projects and Activities.*

41. *The three expert groups have continued their close cooperation on issues related combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation. For example, CTED liaised with the expert group of each Committee to facilitate their participation in the regional workshop jointly organized with the Secretariat of Middle-East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) on "The effective implementation of UNSC Resolutions and the relevant UN Conventions and international*

standards on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation” in Jordan, on 2 and 3 October 2013, and the 1267 Monitoring Team subsequently attended. In addition, an expert from the 1267 Monitoring Team participated in the workshop on freezing of assets organized jointly by CTED with the Eurasian Group on Combatting Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) and the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) on 10 and 11 November 2013. On 18 November 2013, the Chairs of the three Committees, together with the Chairs of the Security Council Committees established by resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1737 (2006), held a joint open briefing of the Chairs of the Security Council Committees engaged in countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation and the President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on their respective roles. On the same day, the expert groups met with the FATF President and the FATF Secretariat to discuss their future cooperation in the context of implementation of the relevant FATF recommendations, among other things.

Exchange of information

42. The three expert groups have continued to share relevant information on a regular basis. For example, CTED continued to share its monthly reports and mission reports with experts of the other two Committees. Additionally, both CTED and the Monitoring Team have implemented mechanisms to make information easily available to their respective teams, where appropriate. The 1540 Committee Group of Experts has continued to prepare information notes on the Committee’s outreach events and post them on the Committee’s website for the purpose of transparency and information sharing. The three groups have shared their respective working calendars of events and other relevant information.

43. The three expert groups continue to hold joint meetings where appropriate in order to discuss common issues, coordinate actions and exchange information on particular issues.

44. For example, the 1540 Committee Group of Experts and the 1267 Monitoring Team experts have started to hold regular informal exchanges about new challenges, such as the implications for their respective mandates of the developments in science and technology relating to chemical biological radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons in relation to non-state actors including terrorists.

45. In addition, the CTC continued to extend invitations to the other two expert groups when arranging thematic briefings by visiting officials from intergovernmental organisations, for example on occasion of briefings by World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)/Organisation of American States (OAS), the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the World Customs Organisation (WCO) or the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE.

Future additional steps

46. *The work of the three Committees, when considered together, continues to present opportunities for further synergies and potential multiplier effect for the delivery of results. As outlined above, cooperation functions well at the working level and has been further increased.*

47. *The Committees and its expert groups continue also to explore further strengthening of current coordination and cooperation mechanisms while maintaining respect for the independence of the respective experts and their mandates.*

48. *In this regard, CTED and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts are considering establishing enhanced and innovative joint interaction on a number of issues, including on late or non-submitting States in providing reports under the relevant Security Council resolutions, the possible use, where appropriate, of shared regionally-based focal points, and/or in the area of border management.*

49. *Further information concerning the activities and mandates of the three Committees and their expert groups may be found on their respective websites: <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/>, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/> and <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>*