

DOS

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

NO OBJECTION TO FULL  
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CONCURRENCE

The Islamic Jihad

EO 13526 3.5(c) CIA

We do not believe that Islamic Jihad is a distinct organization with identifiable leaders. The term Islamic Jihad (Islamic Holy War) more likely is an umbrella name used by a number of Iranian-dominated Shia extremist groups in Lebanon, at least some of which we know by other names. The term Islamic Jihad has also been used by several Muslim extremist groups operating outside Lebanon.

There is no evidence indicating close cooperation among the various groups throughout the Middle East that use the term Islamic Jihad. We cannot discount the possibility, however, that some of these Muslim fundamentalist groups are in contact with each other. Many of them individually receive guidance and support from elements within the fundamentalist government of Iran.

In Lebanon

OSD 3.3(b)(1)+3.5(c) (CIA 3.3(b)(1)+3.5(c))

The term Islamic Jihad has surfaced most often in Lebanon, where it has been identified with the following groups:

- The Hizballah. The term Hizballah--which means Party of God--is often used interchangeably with Islamic Jihad. We believe Hizballah is another umbrella name that refers specifically to the radical Shia movement in Lebanon.
- Islamic Amal is a Shia extremist group that seceded from Nabih Barri's Amal organization in the summer of 1982. It is headed by Husayn Musawi.
- The Husayni Suicide Commandos is a loosely organized subgroup of Islamic Amal. Its membership probably consists largely of extremist Shias recruited for specific terrorist missions.
- The Council of Lebanon is a five-member committee of senior Lebanese and Iranian Shias, mostly clerics, which was established in 1982 at the behest of Tehran to coordinate the religious, political, military, and terrorist activities of radical Lebanese Shia groups. It probably does not, however, fully control the activities of the groups nominally under its control.

DIA

25 September 1984

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[REDACTED]

- The Hizb al-Dawa (Islamic Call Party) of Lebanon is the Lebanese counterpart of the Iranian-sponsored Dawa Parties of Iraq and various other Persian Gulf countries. It is headed by the charismatic fundamentalist Shia cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. [REDACTED]
- The Muslim Students Union is a religious and political organization associated with or subordinate to the Dawa Party. It is involved mainly in indoctrination and proselytizing and probably does not have regular fighters. [REDACTED]
- The Jundallah (Soldiers of God) is believed to be the military wing of the Dawa Party. [REDACTED]

These extremist Shia groups have two principal objectives:

- To force the United States and Israel out of Lebanon; and
- To create conditions conducive to the establishment in Lebanon of an Islamic state. [REDACTED]

Relatively few individuals belong to these organizations--perhaps fewer than 1,000--but they can operate effectively because they have the sympathy of a significant segment of the Shia population. The continuing radicalization of the Shia community will facilitate the extremist groups' attempts to recruit volunteers and carry out terrorist operations. [REDACTED]

Iranian and Syrian Roles

Iran began to develop close relations with Lebanese Shia groups soon after the Israeli invasion in June 1982. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the past, Iranian assets in Lebanon operated with at least Syrian sufferance and probably with more active cooperation at times. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(CIA 3.3(b)(1)+3.5(c)  
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[REDACTED]

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Outside Lebanon

Individuals claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad have also claimed responsibility for several attacks outside Lebanon that were, in fact, conducted by distinct, non-Lebanese groups. They include:

- The car bombing of the US Embassy in Kuwait in 1983; and
- The assassination of a Saudi official in Spain last month.

Anonymous callers representing the Islamic Jihad also claimed responsibility for planting mines in the Red Sea. We believe, however, that Libya was responsible for the minings. [REDACTED]

A group in Bangladesh operates domestically under the name Islamic Jihad Organization and reportedly has links to Iran, but is not believed to be part of the Islamic Jihad which has claimed credit for attacks in Lebanon. [REDACTED]

Outlook

The radical Muslim factions that use Islamic Jihad as a cover are determined to eliminate the US presence in Lebanon and eventually throughout the Middle East. They are not deterred by the threat of death; a basic precept of their ideology is that martyrdom gains the individual entrance into paradise. [REDACTED]

Attacks by extremist Shias against US interests in the Middle East--particularly Lebanon--will continue. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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