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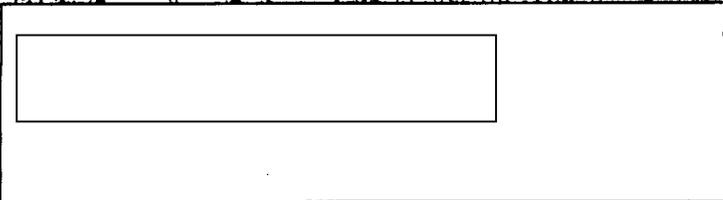
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TERRORISM

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January 1999

Terrorism Review

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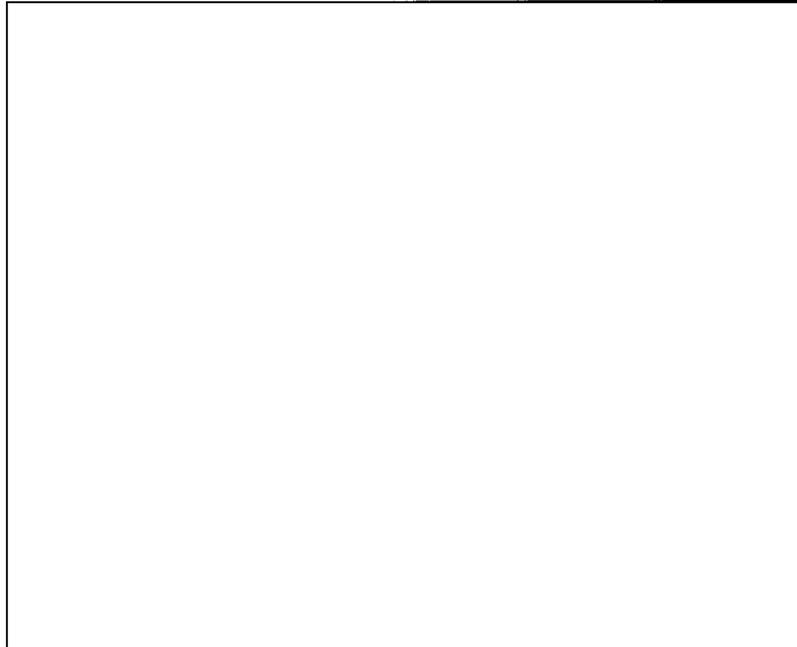
Page

Articles

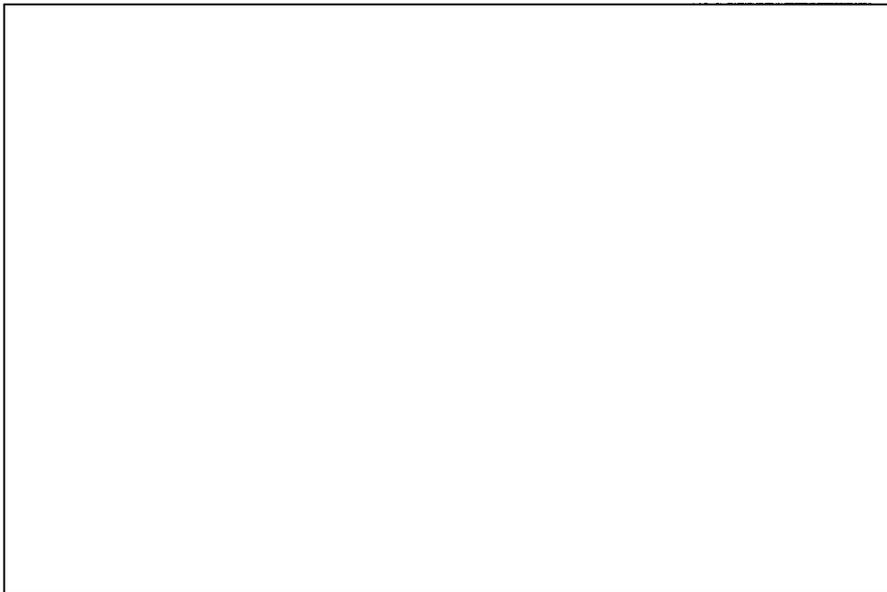
Libya Maintains Ties to International Terrorist Activity

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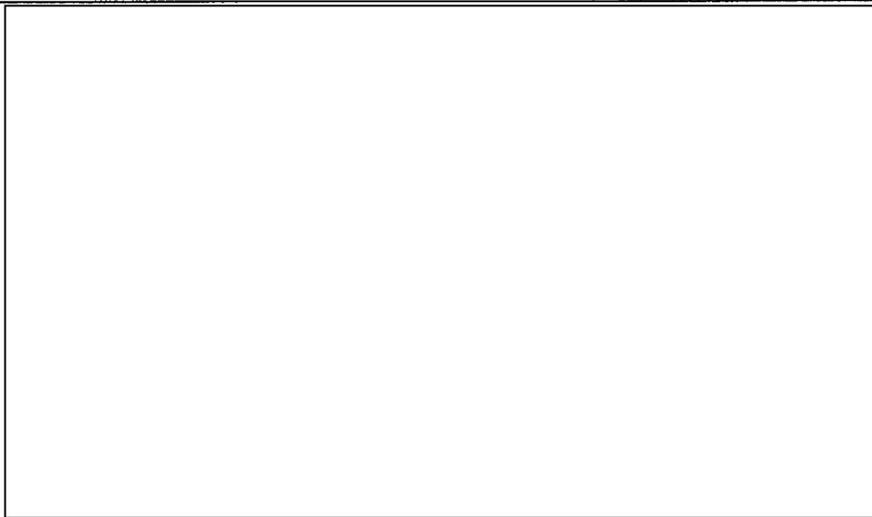
Libya continues to maintain the infrastructure and state institutions to support terrorism, despite its efforts to appear to be distancing itself from international terrorism to gain reprieve from the UN sanctions imposed in 1992. The External Security Organization, which is Libya's primary intelligence body and is linked to dissident abductions and assassinations, continued its active monitoring of Libyan dissidents worldwide. Libya still maintains ties to Palestinian rejectionists and other radical groups. In addition, Libya continues to refuse to cooperate with investigations into past terrorist acts—some dating back more than a decade. On the positive side, we have seen no indication in the past several years that Libya has been involved directly in terrorism against the West.



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Highlights



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Key Dates and Events

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Emerging Terrorist Threat

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Information available as of 22 January 1999 was used in this Review.

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Libya Maintains Ties to International Terrorist Activity

Libya continues to maintain the infrastructure and state institutions to support terrorism, despite its efforts to appear to be distancing itself from international terrorism to gain reprieve from the UN sanctions imposed in 1992. The External Security Organization, which is Libya's primary intelligence body and is linked to dissident abductions and assassinations, continued its active monitoring of Libyan dissidents worldwide. Libya still maintains ties to Palestinian rejectionists and other radical groups. In addition, Libya continues to refuse to cooperate with investigations into past terrorist acts—some dating back more than a decade. On the positive side, we have seen no indication in the past several years that Libya has been directly involved in terrorism against the West.



Terrorism Infrastructure Remains Active

Despite moves by the Libyan Government to reduce its terrorism profile, significant elements of Libya's terrorism infrastructure remain in place. Most notable are the state institutions that have provided cover for terrorist activity in the past. In June 1992, Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi publicly promised to close the World Anti-Imperialism Center (Mathaba) and the World Islamic Call Society (WICS)—both used as cover organizations for past terrorist activities—but their offices remain open and are increasingly active.

- The Mathaba, an organization created to provide covert support to various rebels and "liberation" movements, continues to disseminate pro-Libyan and anti-Western propaganda and forge ties to foreign opposition groups and sympathetic foreign governments.

[Redacted]

- The WICS functions primarily as a conduit for financial and other support to Islamic groups and institutions abroad, and various reports suggest that

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the name of Allah most Gracious, most Merciful

Islamic Call Society Web Site.

Libya is using the organization to increase Libyan influence in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[Redacted]

The External Security Organization (ESO) is Libya's preeminent overseas intelligence organization and continues to monitor actively Libyan dissidents, [Redacted] Shortly after the two Libyan suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103

were indicted in November 1991, Qadhafi promised to reform the ESO, which has been responsible for the surveillance, abduction, and assassination of Libyan dissidents abroad. We believe that given the importance as well as the potential international repercussions associated with anti-dissident operations, Qadhafi probably is informed of—and continues to demand—such activities.



- In November 1995 'Ali Mehmed Abu Zaid, a Libyan dissident and vocal opponent of Qadhafi, was murdered in London by unidentified assailants. No compelling evidence was found to implicate Libya in the attack. One month after the incident, however, a senior Libyan diplomat with close ties to the ESO and who had previously threatened dissidents was expelled from the United Kingdom [redacted]

- The ESO was involved in the abduction in December 1993 in Cairo and subsequent execution of a former Libyan foreign minister who defected in the 1970s and was a vocal opponent of the regime. [redacted]

Libyan Support for Extremists [redacted]

The Libyan Government continues to provide training, safehaven, and financial and logistical support to Palestinian rejectionists.¹ Qadhafi remains vehemently opposed to the Middle East peace process (MEPP) and publicly has condemned the Wye accord, saying that terrorism would continue until Israel leaves the occupied territories [redacted]

Qadhafi has continued to give financial support to groups that oppose the MEPP [redacted] He also has endorsed publicly the terrorist activities of various

¹ Libya served as the main sponsor for the Abu Nidal organization (ANO) from 1987 until recently. [redacted]

groups, to include the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

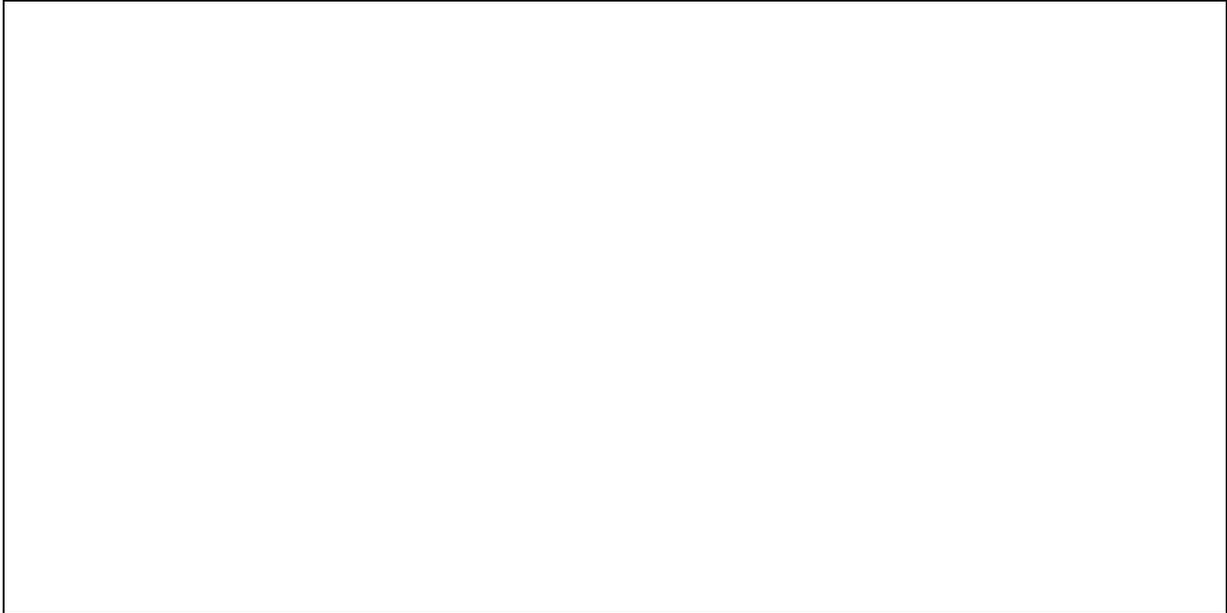
- Although some information indicates Libya is working to shut down the ANO's offices and training facilities [redacted] ANO members in Libya received paramilitary training including assassination techniques and methods for boobytrapping vehicles.

- Qadhafi publicly has endorsed HAMAS and PIJ attacks in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip and has promised to provide financial backing for these groups. [redacted]



Libya also supports extremist groups outside the Middle East.

- The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a Philippine Muslim terrorist organization and separatist group, receives funds, arms, and other assistance from Libya. [redacted]



• Qadhafi also is funding the Philippines-based Moro Islamic Liberation Organization (MILO)² [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Although this group has no direct links

to terrorist activity, its membership has expressed admiration for Palestinian groups such as HAMAS and the terrorist activities it engages in.



² The Moro Islamic Liberation Organization is an organization distinct from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. [redacted]

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authorities have agreed to try the Libyans in absentia and recently informed the United States that the trial will begin in March 1999.

- Qadhafi has not followed through on his promise to support the German investigation of the 1986 bombing of La Belle discotheque in Berlin, which killed two US servicemen and wounded more than 200. He continues to shelter several former Libyan officials who allegedly participated in that attack.

Avoiding Accountability for Terrorist Acts

Tripoli does not cooperate fully with authorities investigating bombings that implicate Libya. Ten years after the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, for example, Qadhafi continues to provide refuge to the two Libyan suspects and has not affirmed he will allow them to be tried in the Netherlands as the United States and the United Kingdom have proposed.

This article is Secret

- Libya has cooperated somewhat with the French investigation into the bombing in 1989 of UTA Flight 772, but Qadhafi has not turned over the six Libyan suspects to French authorities. One suspect is Abdallah al-Sanusi, a high-ranking Libyan intelligence official and Qadhafi's brother-in-law. French

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