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Terrorism Review (U)

1 December 1988

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Spain

*NO
RESPONSIVE*

Turkey

Saudi Diplomat Assassinated

Riyadh is concerned that the assassination of a Saudi diplomat in Ankara on 25 October may be the opening round in a Shi'a terrorist campaign targeting Saudi officials and facilities. Two pro-Iranian Shi'a groups claimed responsibility for the attack: the Islamic Jihad of the Hijaz and the Islamic Jihad Ansar-i Husayn Kurdistan Unit. Turkish and Saudi authorities have neither uncovered the identity of the assassin, nor have they confirmed his affiliation. They suspect, however, that the attack was in retaliation for the execution in September in Saudi Arabia of four Saudi Shi'a saboteurs. The four were convicted of placing bombs in Saudi oil facilities in early and mid-1987. A group calling itself Hizballah of the Hijaz claimed responsibility for the bombings: immediately after the executions, the same group issued communiques in Beirut and Tehran threatening reprisals against Saudi officials. ~~(S/NF)~~

We suspect that the groups claiming responsibility for the assassination use a number of names interchangeably, including "Hizballah of the Hijaz" and "Islamic Jihad of the Hijaz." No evidence has appeared, however, that Hizballah of the Hijaz is a functioning organization inside Saudi Arabia. The group has surfaced only in connection with claims or threats made in support of Saudi Shi'a dissidents or Iranian pressure on Saudi Arabia. ~~(S/NF)~~

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