

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ATTACK ON
SRI LANKAN CRICKET TEAM

LAHORE, PAKISTAN
MARCH 3, 2009

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Data Mining
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EVENT

Attack Type: Ambush using rocket-propelled grenades, AK-47 and small arms on the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team.

DATE

March 3, 2009, 8:45 am Lahore time (GMT +5)

LOCATION

Lahore, Pakistan. The attack occurred en-route to Gadaffi Stadium.

DISPOSITION

Six Pakistani police officers and two civilians were killed. Seven members of the Sri Lankan cricket team were injured. All team members were treated and released the same day.

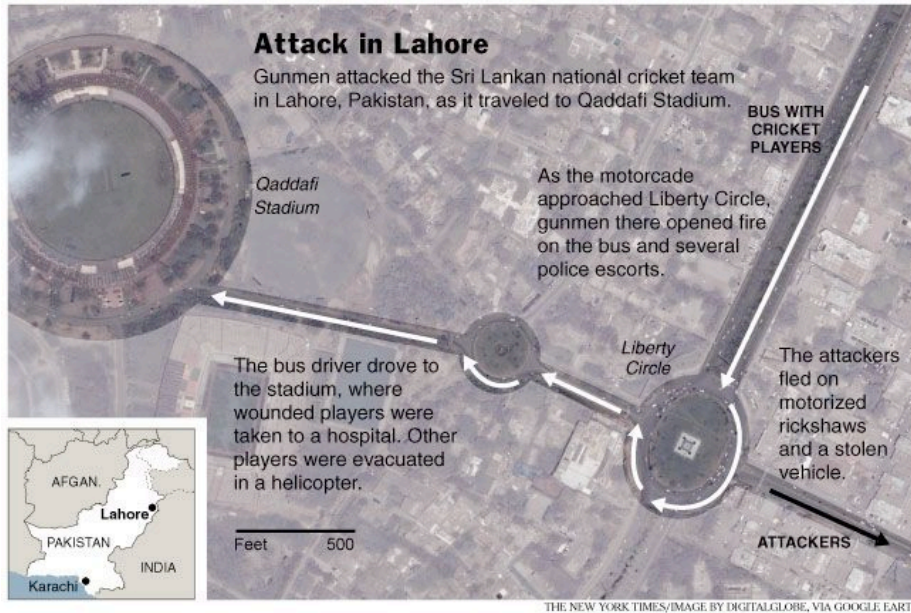
The attackers escaped unimpeded and remain at large with the exception of one suspect, identified as Talat, who has been arrested.

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS

- **Deoband Islamic Movement** - argues that the reason Islamic societies have fallen behind the West in all spheres of endeavor is because they have been seduced by the amoral and material accoutrements of Westernization, and have deviated from the original pristine teachings of the Prophet.
- **Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)** - Sunni sectarian outfit that has been alleged to be involved in terrorist violence, primarily targeted against the minority Shia community in Pakistan.

EVENT SUMMARY

Pakistan was playing host to the Sri Lankan cricket team in a scheduled series of matches. On the third day of the second test, the team was being transported to Gadaffi Stadium aboard a team bus, part of a larger convoy. Upon entering a traffic circle near Liberty Square, a group of approximately twelve armed attackers began firing on the convoy with grenade launchers and firearms.



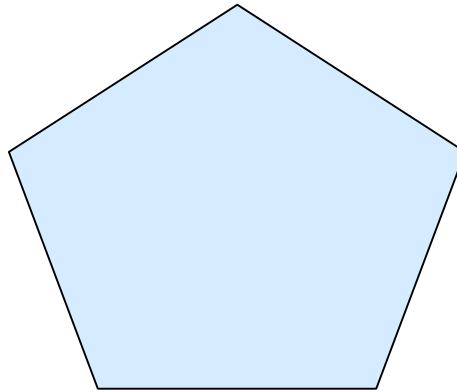
The attackers fired on the police escort, killing six officers and then fired on the team bus, reportedly aiming primarily for the tires. The team bus driver managed to get the bus moving again and drove the team safely into the stadium, saving their lives.

The attackers continued to exchange gunfire with police for approximately fifteen more minutes and then fled. A search of two cars and motorized rickshaws used by the gunmen to travel to the attack site produced a large cache of explosives, arms, food, water and medical supplies. It appears that the gunmen were prepared for a long siege, possibly even a hostage situation.



Photograph courtesy of The Mail Online, copyright EPA.

PENTAGON OF TERRORISM



TARGET / VICTIMS

The target or victim was the Sri Lankan cricket team. A secondary target was Pakistani security in that it became evident that they were unable to protect the team as promised. Six members of the Pakistani police in the convoy were killed in the ambush.

ACTORS / AGENTS

The group responsible, according to Pakistani security, is the group called Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ). The name translates to “Army of Jhangvi”. Reports indicate that a man by the name of Mohammed Aqeel is the “mastermind” behind the attack. Aqeel is reportedly an activist of LeJ.

TERRORIST SUPPORT

Wealthy benefactors from Saudi Arabia and Karachi are an important source of financing for the group. Extortion from Shiite businesses, banks and organizations provides additional funds. The group also has strong ties to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, both of which provide funding and weapons.

AUDIENCE

The World Press
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

ENEMIES

The enemies of the LeJ are the Pakistani government, the Indian government and all counter-terrorism agencies worldwide. The Pakistani security forces, the ISI, may have links to many of these militant terrorist groups.

THE FOCAL FUNNEL



ACTION BASED MINING STEPS

1. Discovery:

All relevant reports were pulled on the attack itself from reliable news agencies and available closed sources.

Based on the details of the attack, an analysis was begun of groups that were possibly responsible.

2. Identification & Characterization

This analyst monitored continuing news reports about the attack and discovered that a member of Lashkar-e-Jhandvi has been identified as the “mastermind” behind the attack.

Once the responsible group had been identified by the Pakistani government, this analyst researched the group’s:

- ideology - the group demands that strict Sharia law be imposed in Pakistan
- structure – the group consists of small independent cells
- support - wealthy benefactors and extortion
- leadership
- origins – the group is an offshoot of Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)

3. Confirmation & Authentication

The group identified as being responsible by the press (quoting Pakistani officials) concurs with this analyst's assessment based on attack details and possible motives.

Each piece of relevant information gathered was taken from a reliable news source.

Each piece of relevant information was triangulated through a minimum of two additional news sources such as the BBC, Stratfor, the Middle East Times, the TimesOnline, Economist, Country Reports on Terrorism 2007 and Global Security.

4. Clarification & Relevance

This analyst monitored continuing news reports for updates and any further information.

This analyst performed further data mining as new information became available.

This attack is current and relevant to the current state of affairs in Pakistan making its relevant temperature Hot.

LINKAGE CHART

<i>Attack Date & Target</i>	<i>Small Arms</i>	<i>Suicide Bombing</i>	<i>Hostages</i>	<i>Target: Shiite, Iranian, U.S.</i>
<i>3/3/09 Sri Lankan Cricket Team</i>	X	X	X	
<i>9/20/08 Marriot Hotel Islamabad</i>		X		X
<i>9/26/08 Unknown</i>		X	X	
<i>7/14/06 Shiite cleric</i>		X		X
<i>4/11/06 Shiite Worshipers</i>		X	X	X
<i>3/2/06 US Embassy Karachi</i>		X		X

BACKGROUND / HISTORY OF LEJ

The LeJ was created in 1996 as a radical offshoot of Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (The Army of Mohammed's Companions) (SSP) by

- Riaz Basra
- Akram Lahori
- Malik Ishaque

The SSP is a Sunni sectarian group that has been involved in both Pakistani politics and terrorist violence. They were formed in 1985 in the Pakistani Punjab province as an anti-Shia coalition. According to SATP, "Most large landlords, who are Shias, dominate both society and politics in the region". The majority population, Sunni, became disgruntled and developed strong anti-Shia ideologies as a result.

In 1996, Basra, Lahori and Ishaque broke away from the SSP because they felt that the group had strayed from the ideals of its co-founder, Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi.

The group follows the Deobandi tradition of Sunni Islam. According to Global Security.org, this tradition "argues that the reason Islamic societies have fallen behind the West in all spheres of endeavor is because they have been seduced by the amoral and material accoutrements of Westernization, and have deviated from the original pristine teachings of the Prophet" Mohammed.

The group has confirmed links to al Qaeda, according to START, and has "recently banded with two other Sunni extremist groups (Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Jaish-e-Mohammed) and together they are said to form the Pakistani wing of al Qaeda".

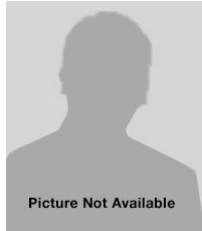
The group was banned by then Pakistani President Musharraf in August 2001.

SOME PROMINENT ATTACKS

- January, 2002: Abduction and execution of journalist Daniel Pearl.
- May 2004: Twin car-bomb attacks near the US Consulate in Karachi
- March 2006: Suicide car-bombing attack on the US Consulate in Karachi
- February 2008: Assassination of Lt-Gen Mushtq Beig, the Surgeon-General of the Pakistan Army
- December 2008: Bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad
- Over the years, the group has instigated small arm and suicide bombing attacks on numerous Shiite mosques and processions killing hundreds.

LEADERSHIP

- Riaz Basra



Status: Killed in 2002

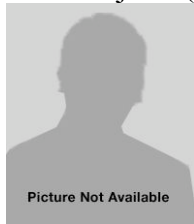
Date of Birth: 1967

Rank:

Function: Co-Founder, original leader

Chief of Khalid bin Walid unit of the Afghan Mujahideen in Afghanistan

- Muhammed Ajmal (aka Akram Lahori)



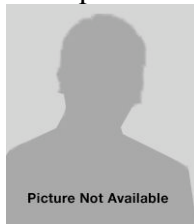
Status: In Prison since 2002

Date of Birth: Unknown

Rank: Saalar-I-Aala (Commander-in-Chief)

Function: Co-Founder, Leader

- Malik Ishaque



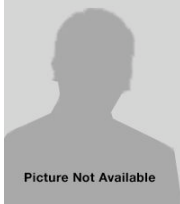
Status: In Prison

Date of Birth: Unknown

Rank: Chief

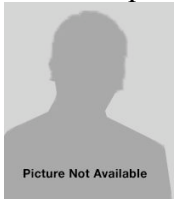
Function: Co-Founder, Chief of units in the Bhakar district

● Qari Abdul Hai (Talha)



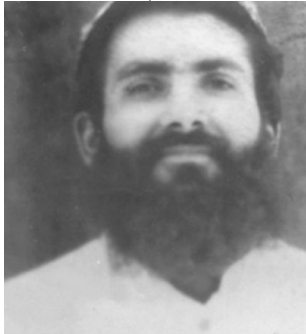
Status: Reportedly captured following the Lahore attack
Date of Birth: Unknown
Rank: Chief of Majilis-I-Shoora (Supreme Council)
Function: Basra's Lieutenant, later a splinter leader

● Mohammed Aqeel



Status: At large
Date of Birth:
Rank:
Function: "Mastermind" behind Lahore attack

● Matiur Rehman (Motee-ur-Rehman)



Status: Free (Pakistan's Most Wanted)
Date of Birth: 1977
Rank: Current Saalar-I-Aala (filled role of Akram Lahori after his arrest)
Function: Operational Commander, Expert bomb-maker

The group is extremely secretive. Definitive identities and photographs are extremely difficult to obtain.

GOAL / MISSION

The mission of the LeJ is the establishment of an Islamic state in Pakistan based on a radical interpretation of Sharia law through the use of violence.

The LeJ have admitted responsibility for many Shia massacres and targeted killings of Shia religious leaders. They have “also carried out numerous attacks against Iranian interests and Iranian nationals in Pakistan. The group claimed responsibility for killing four American oil workers in Karachi in 1997 and for carrying out an assassination attempt in 1999 on then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif” (START).

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The LeJ continues to be the most secretive, covert and ruthless Islamic militant group operating in Pakistan. The group will continue to target Shiite Muslims, non-Muslims and Westerners in the region, specifically the U.S.

We can expect another attempt at a hostage-taking in order to achieve their failed goal in this attack.

Possible areas of vulnerability to exploit:

- The group recruits heavily from Sunni Madrasses (religious schools). The ability to combat this valuable tool would severely limit recruitment of future operatives.
- Continued pressure on the Pakistani government to combat terrorist organizations would help to weaken them over time.
- Continued pressure on the Pakistani government to share ISI intelligence on terrorist organizations would be beneficial but unlikely.
- Travel to Pakistan is not advised while the country remains unstable.

NOTES

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