

## Chair's Briefing to the Security Council 16 June 2015

In our last joint Council briefing in May 2014, the prior Chair of the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Ambassador Gary Quinlan, raised the evolving nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. This included the group's localisation and globalisation, and its new generation of leadership. Since then we have seen a dramatic evolution of the threat, with rapid territorial gains and brutal tactics by ISIL also known as Da'esh, to a lesser extent, the Al-Nusrah Front. This is further intensified by the presence of foreign terrorist fighters and the growing influence of Al-Qaida associates in Libya.

In today's briefing, I will briefly outline how the threat from Al-Qaida and affiliates has evolved over the past year, the Committee's response, Member States can engage with the Committee, and the Committee's upcoming work.

Over the past year we have witnessed a marked increase in ISIL's use of digital media to promote its messages – both to shock and intimidate and also to recruit others to its cause. Despite the role of digital media, direct social contact still remains a key factor in recruitment.

The human cost of Al-Qaida and ISIL related attacks is immense and tragic, not only in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, but also in parts of Nigeria, Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan and Somalia and further afield. Many attacks are on innocents and even on places of religious worship, such as the recent deaths of 25 people at Friday prayers in a mosque in Saudi Arabia. While the people of Syria and Iraq are most at risk, no State is immune from the threat of terrorism.

In response to the evolving threat from Al-Qaida and affiliates, the Council has adopted various resolutions expanding the work of the Committee and Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, for example, in relation to oil and financing. In addition to its regular reporting, the Monitoring Team has submitted reports to the Committee on ISIL and ANF and on foreign terrorist fighters. The Monitoring Team is also due to submit a report to the Committee on the implementation of resolution 2199 regarding ISIL oil interdictions by 12 July and report on the threat in Libya by 27 September. The Monitoring Team's workload continues to increase, presenting a challenge for its sourcing. We commend the Team's dedication and quality of work.

The growing terror threat has led to an increase in designations of individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida. From June 2011 to May 2014, six individuals and entities were

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<sup>1</sup> 2161 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2214 (2015), 2220 (2015)).

designated. Over the same period from 2014 to

report under its paragraph 2. We also look forward to the Monitoring Team's assessment, in cooperation with other UN counterterrorism bodies, of the measures' impact and proposals to improve their implementation. The Monitoring Team also produced three "Explanation of terms" papers on the sanctions measures in February of this year. These are available on the Committee's website.

Work is also being done to standardise the format of all UN sanctions lists and update the Committee's website so it is more user-friendly. The Committee is mandated, with the Monitoring Team's assistance, to consider