



3.2.2. Lashkar-e Taiba (LeT)

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is an Islamic Salafist militant group established in 1986³⁴⁴ as an armed wing of the Sunni Islamist organisation Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad.³⁴⁵ While seeking exclusive Pakistani control over the Kashmir region,³⁴⁶ it is known to harbour more wide-reaching hostility towards India,³⁴⁷ striving to establish Islamic rule across the Indian subcontinent.³⁴⁸ It has collaborated with other Kashmiri-oriented³⁴⁹ groups such as Jaish-e Mohammed (JeM) and Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HuM) and supported al-Qaeda.³⁵⁰ At the same time, the group has refrained from attacks inside Pakistan and condemned anti-state militancy in the country, at times even providing assistance in neutralising militants.³⁵¹ While Pakistan's ISI had strong institutional, albeit covert, ties with LeT in the past, there has been less clarity as to the current extent of state support for the group.³⁵² There was even some controversy during the reference period as to whether the group was active³⁵³ or defunct.³⁵⁴ Sources estimated that the group had 'several thousand'³⁵⁵ up to 5 000 members.³⁵⁶ The group's headquarters are reportedly located in the city of Muridke in Pakistan's Punjab province.³⁵⁷ Disputed allegations held that LeT played a role in a major deadly attack in Pahalgam (Jammu and Kashmir) in April 2025 that was initially claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), a group possibly identical with LeT.³⁵⁸ Following the Pahalgam attack, India launched missile strikes against the alleged LeT headquarters.³⁵⁹

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