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State-sponsored terrorism



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Not to be confused with [State terrorism](#).

State-sponsored terrorism is a term used to describe **terrorism** sponsored by **nation-states**. As with terrorism, the precise definition, and the identification of particular examples, are subjects of heated political dispute. In general *state-sponsored terrorism* is associated with **paramilitary**. It is also frequently used in conjunction with **state terrorism**, which is (an accusation of) terrorism committed by **governments**.

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By country

Afghanistan

Afghanistan **KHAD** is one of two secret service agencies believed to have possibly conducted terrorist bombing in Pakistan North-west during the early 1980s;^[1] then by late 1980s U.S state department blamed WAD (a **KGB** created Afghan secret intelligence agency) for terrorist bombing Pakistani cities.^{[2][3]} Furthermore Afghanistan security agencies supported the terrorist organization called Al zulfiqar since 1970's-1990's ;the terrorist group that conducted hijacking in March 1981 of a Pakistan

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International Airlines plane from Karachi to Kabul.

France

During the [Algerian war](#), numerous French government officials partook in terrorism, such as [pied-noirs](#) like [Raoul Salan](#) and the [OAS](#).

The [Sinking of the Rainbow Warrior](#) took place in [New Zealand's Auckland Harbour](#) on July 10, 1985. It was an attack carried out by French DGSE Agents Captain [Dominique Prieur](#) and Commander [Alain Mafart](#) aimed at sinking the flagship craft of the [Greenpeace](#) Organization to stop her from interfering in French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. The attack resulted in the death of Greenpeace photographer Fernando Pereira and led to a huge uproar over the first ever attack on New Zealand sovereignty. [France](#) initially denied any involvement, and even joined in condemnation of it as a terrorist act. In July 1986, a United Nations-sponsored mediation between New Zealand and France resulted in the transfer of the two prisoners to the French Polynesian island of Hao, to serve three years instead, as well as an apology and a NZD 13 million payment from France to New Zealand.

France have also conducted numerous raids in the Sahel and North Africa during the [War on Terror](#) against [Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb](#), often in collaboration with at least Mali, Niger, Algeria, or Morocco.

India

Pakistan has accused [India's counter-intelligence](#) unit, the [Research & Analysis Wing \(RAW\)](#) of supporting [insurgent](#) groups in [Pakistan](#), but so far it has remained an allegation only.^[5] It was also been accused of training and arming the [Sri Lankan Tamil](#) group, [LTTE](#), during the 1970s before it withdrew its support when the LTTE increased its activities in the 1980s.^{[6][7]}

Iran

Main article: [Iran and state terrorism](#)

The governments of the [United States](#), the [United Kingdom](#), [Israel](#), and [Yemen](#) have accused the [Ahmadinejad administration](#) of sponsoring terrorism either in their, or against their, respective countries. Britain and the United States have also accused Iran of backing [Shia](#) militias in [Iraq](#), which have at times attacked [Coalition](#) troops, Iraqi Sunni militias and civilians, and Anglo-American-supported Iraqi government forces.

[United States President George W. Bush](#) has called Iran the "world's primary state sponsor of terror."^{[8][9][10]} Iran sponsors [Hezbollah](#), [Hamas](#), [Palestinian Islamic Jihad](#) and the [al-Mahdi army](#), groups that Iran doesn't view as terrorist.

Republic of Ireland

See also: [Arms Crisis](#) and [Smithwick Tribunal](#)

In 1970 the [Arms Trial](#) resulted in two cabinet ministers from the [Republic of Ireland](#) government – [Charles Haughey](#) and [Neil Blaney](#) – being sacked for attempting to illegally import arms for the [Irish Republican Army](#) in Northern Ireland.

In 2001 the [Northern Ireland Assembly](#) passed a motion calling on the Northern Ireland secretary to take up with the [Government of the Republic of Ireland](#) allegations that some members of the [Garda Síochána](#) colluded with the [IRA](#) over a number of murders.^[11] As of 2010, the [Smithwick Tribunal](#) is an investigation that is currently taking place investigating allegations of collusion between the [police in the Republic of Ireland](#) and the [Provisional IRA](#) into the murders of two Northern Irish police officers.

List of organizations

Charities accused of ties to terrorism
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v · d · e

In June 2010 Northern Ireland Unionist politician [David Simpson](#) called for a full investigation to "investigate the alleged role of the Irish state in funding, arming, training and sheltering hundreds of IRA members during [the Troubles](#)".^[12]

Libya

After the military overthrow of [King Idris](#) in 1969 the [Libyan Arab Republic](#) (later the [Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya](#)), to the bewilderment of some^[*who?*] the new government supported (with weapon supplies, training camps located within Libya and monetary finances) an array of armed [paramilitary](#) groups both [left](#) and [right wing](#). Leftist and [socialist](#) groups included the [Provisional Irish Republican Army](#), the [Basque Fatherland and Liberty](#), the [Umkhonto We Sizwe](#), the [Polisario Front](#), the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) and the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), while others were on the [Far Right](#) such as the [Moro National Liberation Front](#).

In 2006 Libya was removed from the [United States](#) list of terrorist supporting nations after it had ended all of its support for armed groups and the development of [weapons of mass destruction](#).^[13]

Out of the armed groups Libya used to support the Provisional IRA, Umkhonto we Sizwe and the Moro National Liberation Front have completely abandoned terrorist tactics or political violence.^[*citation needed*]

Morocco

In 2010, the [Armed Forces of Morocco](#) conducted a raid in the [Western Sahara](#) resulting in the deaths of 4 and more than 70 injuries. The Gdaim Izik camp housed 12,000 Saharawi refugees, and was started a month before the raid. The raid also came just before talks between Morocco and the [Polisario Front](#).^[14]

Pakistan

Main article: [Pakistan and state terrorism](#)

[Pakistan](#) has been accused by [India](#), [Afghanistan](#), the United States,^{[15][16]} the [United Kingdom](#),^[17] of involvement in [terrorism in Kashmir](#) and Afghanistan.^[18] [Poland](#) has also alleged that terrorists have "friends in Pakistani government structures".^[19] In July 2009, current [President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari](#) admitted that the [Pakistani government](#) had "created and nurtured" terrorist groups to achieve its short-term foreign policy goals.^[20] According to a analysis published by [Saban Center for Middle East Policy](#) at [Brookings Institution](#) in 2008 Pakistan was the worlds 'most active' state sponsor of terrorism including aiding groups which were considered a direct threat to USA.^[21]

The [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front](#) (JKLF) has stated that it was training more than 3,000 militants from various nationalities.^{[22][23]} According to some reports published by the [Council of Foreign Relations](#), the Pakistan military and the ISI have provided covert support to terrorist groups active in [Kashmir](#), including the [al-Qaeda](#) affiliate [Jaish-e-Mohammed](#)".^{[24][25]} Pakistan has denied any involvement in terrorist activities in [Kashmir](#), arguing that it only provides political and moral support to the [secessionist](#) groups who wish to escape Indian rule. Many Kashmiri militant groups also maintain their headquarters in [Pakistan-administered Kashmir](#), which is cited as further proof by the [Indian government](#). Many of the terrorist organisations are banned by the UN, but continue to operate under different names.^[26] The [United Nations Organization](#) has publicly increased pressure on Pakistan on its inability to control its Afghanistan border and not restricting the activities of [Taliban](#) leaders who have been designated by the UN as terrorists.^{[27][28]} Experts believe that the ISI has also been involved in training and supplying [Chechnyan](#) militants.^[29]

Many consider that Pakistan has been playing both sides in the US "[War on Terror](#)".^{[30][31]} [Ahmed Rashid](#), a noted Pakistani journalist, has accused Pakistan's ISI of providing help to the Taliban.^[32] Author [Ted Galen Carpenter](#) echoed that statement, stating that Pakistan "...assisted rebel forces in

Kashmir even though those groups have committed terrorist acts against civilians"^[33] Author [Gordon Thomas](#) stated that whilst aiding in the capture of al-Qaeda members, Pakistan "still sponsored terrorist groups in the disputed state of Kashmir, funding, training and arming them in their war on attrition against India."^[34] Journalist [Stephen Schwartz](#) notes that several militant and criminal groups are "backed by senior officers in the Pakistani army, the country's ISI intelligence establishment and other armed bodies of the state."^[35] According to one author, [Daniel Byman](#), "Pakistan is probably today's most active sponsor of terrorism."^[36]

The Inter-Services Intelligence has often been accused of playing a role in major [terrorist attacks](#) across the world including the [September 11, 2001 attacks](#) in the United States,^{[37][38]} [terrorism in Kashmir](#),^{[39][40][41]} [Mumbai Train Bombings](#),^[42] [London Bombings](#),^[43] [Indian Parliament Attack](#),^[44] [Varnasi bombings](#),^[45] [Hyderabad bombings](#)^{[46][47]} and [Mumbai terror attacks](#).^{[48][49]} The ISI is also accused of supporting Taliban forces^[50] and recruiting and training [mujahideen](#)^{[50][51]} to fight in Afghanistan^{[52][53]} and Kashmir.^[53] Based on communication intercepts US intelligence agencies concluded Pakistan's ISI was behind the [attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul](#) on July 7, 2008, a charge that the governments of India and Afghanistan had laid previously.^[54] Afghan President [Hamid Karzai](#), who has constantly reiterated allegations that militants operating training camps in Pakistan have used it as a launch platform to attack targets in Afghanistan, urged western military allies to target extremist hideouts in neighbouring Pakistan.^[55] When the United States, during the [Clinton administration](#), targeted al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan with [cruise missiles](#), [Slate](#) reported that two officers of the ISI were killed.^[56]

Pakistan is accused of sheltering and training the Taliban in operations "which include soliciting funding for the Taliban, bankrolling Taliban operations, providing diplomatic support as the Taliban's virtual emissaries abroad, arranging training for Taliban fighters, recruiting skilled and unskilled manpower to serve in Taliban armies, planning and directing offensives, providing and facilitating shipments of ammunition and fuel, and on several occasions apparently directly providing combat support," as reported by [Human Rights Watch](#).^[57]

Soviet Union

Main article: [Russia and state terrorism](#)

After the 1953 death of [Joseph Stalin](#) and subsequent [destalinization](#), according to defector [Ion Mihai Pacepa](#), the KGB continued its policy of supporting a number of terrorist organizations. KGB General Aleksandr Sakharovsky said that "In today's world, when nuclear arms have made military force obsolete, terrorism should become our main weapon."^[58] He also claimed that "[Airplane hijacking](#) is my own invention".^[58] In 1969 alone 82 planes were hijacked worldwide by the KGB-financed [PLO](#).^[58]

Lt. General Ion Mihai Pacepa also described operation "SIG" ("[Zionist Governments](#)") that was devised in 1972, to turn the whole [Islamic world](#) against [Israel](#) and the [United States](#).^[58] According to him, KGB chairman [Yury Andropov](#) explained him that "a billion adversaries could inflict far greater damage on America than could a few millions. We needed to instill a [Nazi](#)-style hatred for the [Jews](#) throughout the Islamic world, and to turn this weapon of the emotions into a terrorist bloodbath against Israel and its main supporter, the United States." Andropov also told him that "the Islamic world was a waiting [petri dish](#) in which we could nurture a virulent strain of America-hatred, grown from the bacterium of [Marxist-Leninist](#) thought."^[58]

According to Pacepa, the following organizations were assisted, at one period or another, by the KGB: [Palestine Liberation Organization](#), [National Liberation Army of Bolivia](#) (created in 1964 with help from [Ernesto Che Guevara](#)); the [National Liberation Army of Colombia](#) (created in 1965 with help from [Fidel Castro](#)), [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#) in 1969, and the [Secret Army for Liberation of Armenia](#) in 1975.^[59]

Soviet Union **KGB** is one of two (**KHAD**) secret service agencies believed to have possibly conducted terrorist bombing in Pakistan North-west during the early 1980s.^[1] The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine** was also claimed to have received support from the Soviet Union.^[60]

United Kingdom

The **United Kingdom** (UK) has been accused of supporting **Loyalist** paramilitary groups, both within the UK and also in cross-border operations into the **Republic of Ireland**,^[61] namely the **Ulster Volunteer Force** (UVF) and **Ulster Defence Association** (UDA). These groups support the territory of **Northern Ireland** remaining part of the UK. The UK is accused of providing intelligence material, **training**, **firearms**, **explosives** and lists of people that the security forces wanted to have killed.^[62] The UK security services have been accused of involvement in the **Dublin and Monaghan Bombings** by the UVF on 17 May 1974 which killed 33 and wounded nearly 300 civilians.^[63]

On the 17 April 2003, **Sir John Stevens** published his **third inquiry** into collusion between the British Army and the **Royal Ulster Constabulary** (RUC) with Loyalist paramilitaries. It stated that there had been collusion in the murder of **Pat Finucane** by Loyalists.^[61]

A former RUC officer, John Weir, has admitted to colluding with Loyalist terrorists in the 1970s in activities that led to the death of ten **Catholics** and that his superiors had knowledge of 76 more killings carried out by the UVF in the same time period.^[64] He also alleges that members of the **SAS** killed Loyalists who may have planned to expose the collusion.^[64]

The UK has also been accused by Iran of supporting Arab separatist terrorism in the southern city of **Ahwaz** in 2006.^[65]

United States

*Main article: **United States and state terrorism***

The **United States** was accused of being a state sponsor of **terrorism** by **Ricardo Alarcón**, president of Cuba's **National Assembly of People's Power** because of delays in the trial of alleged terrorist **Luis Posada Carriles**.^[66]

See also

- State terrorism**
- Asymmetric warfare**
- False flag**
- State Sponsors of Terrorism** (according to the **United States Department of State**)

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External links

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- State Sponsors of Terrorism ↗, US Department of State, accessed 10-2006.

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