

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COUNTER TERRORISM COMMITTEE
KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM AND HOSTAGE TAKING
COMMITTED BY
AL-QAIDA AND ASSOCIATES**

ECOSOC Chamber

United Nations Headquarters

24 November 2014

UN Al-Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Magnitude of the threat
- Modus operandi
- Response to the Threat



Background

- Not a new terrorist tactic for generating revenue and to make political demands
- Al-Qaida and its affiliates have made kidnapping a core Al-Qaida tactic for generating revenue
- Audio recording in October 2012 revealed Al-Zawahiri inciting militants worldwide to kidnap westerners
- A letter between the leaders of AQAP and AQIM in 2012 urged kidnapping and called the tactic a “profitable trade and a precious treasure”



Magnitude of the threat (1)

- Listed groups among the AQ network that resort to kidnapping for ransom include Abu Sayyaf Group, AQIM, AQAP, Boko Haram, Ansaru, ISIL, ANF, TTP and Al-Shabaab (not listed under the AQ sanctions regime)
- An estimated USD 120 million in ransom payments was paid to terrorist groups between 2004 and 2012



Magnitude of the threat (2)

- AQAP received USD 20 million between 2011 and 2013
- AQIM received USD 75 million over the past 4 years
- Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab have collected millions of dollars over the past years
- ISIL has received between USD 35 million and 45 million in the past year
- Abu Sayyaf Group has collected about USD 1.5 million



Modus operandi

- Kidnapping by terrorist groups directly or outsourced to criminal organizations
- Targets include tourists, employees of multinational corporations, journalists, humanitarian relief workers, local civilians
- Ransom payments paid by and collected through intermediaries
- Ransom payments are mostly cash transactions
- Funds used to buy weapons, explosives, for logistics and to run training camps



Response to the Threat

UNSCR 1904 (2009) confirmed that the financial sanctions also apply to the payment of ransoms to individuals, groups, undertakings or entities on the then Consolidated List

UNSCR 1989 (2011) and 2083 (2012) confirmed that the financial sanctions apply to the payment of ransoms to parties listed on the AQ Sanctions List

UNSCR 2161 (2014) confirmed further that the financial sanctions apply to parties listed on the AQ Sanctions List regardless of how or by whom the ransom is paid



Conclusion

- Kidnapping for ransom as a tactic continues to grow
- Implementation challenges persist
- Monitoring Team will continue its engagement with Member States to encourage implementation



Thank You

