

Weekly Intelligence Brief

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Tensions Rise Between India and Pakistan Over G20 Meeting Location in Kashmir

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Pakistan condemned India's decision to host a G20 meeting in the contested region of Kashmir.

India, the current president of the G20, released the full calendar of events leading up to the leaders' summit this coming September. The calendar included an event in Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar in the coming months. On 11 APR 2023, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry released a statement in response, stating, "India's irresponsible move is the latest in a series of self-serving measures to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir." Pakistan has also stated that these actions taken by India are in violation of United Nations Security

Council resolutions and international law.

Jammu and Kashmir is the only Muslim-majority territory of India and has been a prominent cause of the conflict between India and Pakistan. Both nations claim that the regions of Jammu and Kashmir are their territory, and two of the three wars fought between the two nations have been over these regions. India believes the Pakistani government is inciting insurrection in the region, and Pakistan states that India is committing human rights violations in the territory. Both nations deny the accusations being made by the other.

We can state with high confidence that it is highly likely that should the G20 meetings remain in Kashmir it will lead to heightened tensions between Pakistan

and India. We can also state with moderate confidence that tensions could rise between Pakistan and any nation that recognizes Jammu and Kashmir as Indian territory.



Diplomacy Causes Tensions to Continue to Rise Between the United States, Taiwan, and China

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On 02 AUG 2022, then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei, Taiwan to meet with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen. Following this visit, the People's Republic of China (PRC) responded with unprecedented military drills, trade embargoes, and diplomatic freeze. On 05 APR 2023, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen met with United States Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy in Los Angeles, California, United States. Chinese President Xi Jinping warned both government officials that their meeting would incur unwanted response by the PRC.

Amid a closed airspace north of Taiwan through 16 APR 2023 to 18 APR 2023,

on 17 APR 2023, Taiwan's Defense Ministry spotted 18 Chinese military aircraft and four naval vessels around Taiwan in less than a 24-hour period. These accounts followed normal 'routine' transit through the Taiwan Strait by the USS Milius, a United States Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer. This destroyer conducts routine transit through waters "where high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law."

It is unclear as to what the PRC's, and President Xi's response will be, but it is with high confidence that increased military activities and diplomatic freezes will likely continue, and tensions will grow between the PRC, Taiwan, and the United States.



Leader of Terrorist Organization in Syria Designated as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist

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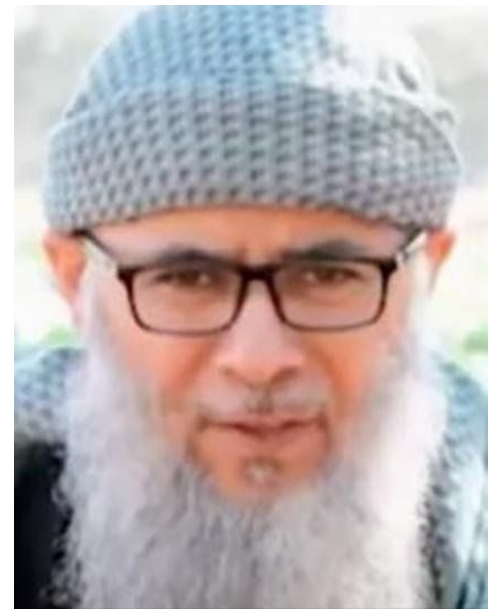
On 11 APR 2023, the United States Department of State designated Sami Mahmud Mohammed al Uraydi as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. al-Uraydi is the leader of the group, Hurras al-Din (HaD), which has been al-Qa'ida's formal presence in Syria since 2018.

The group follows al-Qa'ida's ideology and encourages attacks against the west with the goal of expelling foreign influence from Muslim lands. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence assesses that the group is still a threat "despite its weakened state following successive personnel losses

since 2019 that have removed many of the group's veteran leaders."

The Department of State is offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information on the identification or location of al-Uraydi. The United States has also blocked all property and interests in property of al-Uraydi that are subject to United States jurisdiction.

We can assess with high confidence that this designation will lead to increased efforts by the United States to locate al-Uraydi. At this time, it is unclear if this designation will result in any changes in Hurras al-Din operations.



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