

TAJIKISTAN
Last Updated: 10 October 2016

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T523	UTO	1992	1992	1998
T1864	People's Democratic Army		1992	1992
T2326	Movement for Peace of Tajikistan	1997	1998	1998
T1991	Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami (HT)		1953	2006
T28	Al-Qaeda		1992	2012
T231	IMU	2010	1997	2011
T643	Movement For Islamic Revival In Tajikistan (Mirt)			
T642	Islamic Renaissance Party Of Tajikistan (Irp)			
T641	Democratic Party Of Tajikistan (Dpt)			
T9048	RIZBON SADIROV GROUP			
T9049	FORCES OF MULLO ABDULLO	2000		

I. UTO

Min. Group Date: 1992
 Max. Group Date: 1992
 Onset: 1992

Aliases: United Tajik Opposition (UTO), United Tajik Opposition

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Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

In 1991, Tajikistan gained its independence from the Soviet Union. However, soon after, groups that had formerly been left out of the political process during the Soviets' rule began to push for more involvement in the new country. Fighting began following a series of protests and violent clashes in Dushanbe between government forces and demonstrators following the election of Nabiyeu. The UTO frequently fought with the government, as the fighting peaked in 1992 and 1993. 20,000 people died by the end of 1993.

In 2001, Karin Yuldashev, who was Rakhmonov's foreign policy advisor, was shot down by UTO members in Dushanbe. This was the UTO's only official terrorist act, but it had often aggressively intimidated its enemies.

Geography

The UTO was active in fighting in Dushanbe and to the east of the city. The group also fought around Rasht, Pamirs, Sughd, Garm, and Tajikobod.

Organizational Structure

The Islamic Renaissance Party, the Democratic Party, and the Renaissance Movement together became known as the United Tajik Opposition, or the UTO. The UTO was first mainly political, and it opposed Emomali Rakhmonov, who was a former Soviet official possessing a pro-Russian government stance. The group was led by Said Abdulloh Nuri, and it funded itself through drug transactions and external support. Additionally, the UTO used the income from exporting drugs from Afghanistan through Tajikistan to buy weapons in Afghanistan. Tajik authorities were able to eliminate former UTO commanders accused of involvement in drug trafficking or militancy.

External Ties

The UTO received assistance from Hekmatiar's Pushtuns in Afghanistan and had an external base in Afghanistan. It spread Islamic political ideas and aided Uzbek opposition groups. Its base was in Afghanistan. President Rakhmonov fired Economics Minister Davlat Usmon in 2003; Usmon was a member of the UTO and had fought against the government in the civil war.

Group Outcome

After a number of ceasefires in the subsequent three years, this number decreased. On September 11, 1997, UTO leader Sayid Abdulloh Nuri returned to Dushanbe from his 5-year exile. Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov and Nuri signed the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord on June 27, 1997. Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Gerd Merrem, was present. The agreement essentially stated that the UTO would have 30% of the government seats and that its troops would be a part of the Tajik army.

On November 6, 1998, the Tajik government started a counter-offensive that the UTO joined, and it had reclaimed control of the Khujand province within four days. Then, on December 25, 1998, Nuri called for all UTO members to return to Tajikistan, and he closed all transnational bases. Three days later, he pledged that the UTO would disband itself in early 1999. He stated on August 3, 1999 that all fighters had been fully integrated into the Tajik army.

The UTO is no longer an active organization but Rakhmonov's government still faces problems with Islamist forces. On November 6, 1999, Rakhmonov ran for the presidency unopposed and the UTO angrily left the peace talks, protesting the fact that they were excluded from the voting, as they had been unable to meet the registration deadline. Former UTO supporters continue to pose a threat. Two Uzbeks (Takhir Yuldashev and Juma Namangani) joined the UTO, but fled to Afghanistan after the UTO was defeated

(the two went to Central Asia in 1998 to create the IMU). A group of gunmen led by radical Islamists/UTO field commanders in the civil war (Abdullo Rahimov, Mirzokhuja Ahmadov, and Alovuddin Davlatov), shot and killed 26 Tajik officers, wounding 20 others. They ambushed a military convoy in the Rasht valley district near the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. In 2009, former UTO commander and former Minister of Emergency Mirzo Ziyoyev was killed by his own men in a shooting in Tavildara.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: Any additional aliases you may have encountered

Group Formation: 1992

Group End (Outcome): 1999 (disband, peace agreement)

Group Status:	Inactive (Anonymous - University of Maryland)
Goal:	Started as political, opposed to Rakhmonov; but, foundation was formed by Islamic fundamentalists (such as Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan and Movement for Islamic Revival in Tajikistan) (Anonymous - University of Maryland)
Ideology:	Unknown, but Islamic political ideals? (Berdal & Ucko)
Founding Date:	May 6, 1992; November 1994 (Anonymous - University of Maryland)
Ethnic Group:	Unknown
Location/Base	Afghanistan, Tajikistan
Transnational?	Formerly transnational (Pike)
(Alleged) External Support:	Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan (Demir); Afghanistan's Hekmatiar's Pushtuns and possibly from Uzbek groups (Cunningham, Gleditsch, & Salehyan)
Group Ties	Tajik army (Berdal & Ucko)
Leadership:	Sayed Abdulloh Nuri (1992-1997, during the civil war); former UTO military commander & Tajikistan's minister of emergency situations was Mirzo Ziyoyev (Pike)
Group Wing:	Islamic political ideals (Berdal & Ucko); leftist, religious (Anonymous - University of Maryland)
State Response:	Uzbekistan gave great deal of assistance to help Tajik government fight UTO (Berdal & Ucko)
Supporter Composition:	Unknown

II. People's Democratic Army

Min. Group Date: 1992

Max. Group Date: 1992

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

On November 19, 1992, Tajik radio announced the formation of the People’s Democratic Army in and around the capital of Dushanbe (Manila Standard 1992).

Geography

The group was a local militia active around Dushanbe.

Organizational Structure

The group appears to be a local militia organized under Islamic mullahs tasked with defending Dushanbe (Christian Science Monitor 1992). No other information could be found about the group’s goal, organizational structure, ideology, or ties to other entities.

External Ties

No other information could be found about the group’s goal, organizational structure, ideology, or ties to other entities.

Group Outcome

On November 26, commanders of the PDA announced they signed a peace agreement with Kulyab armed groups (Center for Strategic Assessments and Forecasts 2012).

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: PDA

Group Formation: 1992

Group End (Outcome): 1992 (peace agreement)

III. Movement for Peace in Tajikistan

Min. Group Date: 1998

Max. Group Date: 1998

Onset: 1997

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

Colonel Mahmud Khudoberdiyev threatened to overthrow Rakhmonov's government. On August 9, 1997, Khudoberdiyev, who commanded the Tajik Army's First Brigade, tried to enter Dushanbe during the factional fighting in the city. In an attempt to stop the UTO from returning to Tajikistan, he turned against the government's troops, calling himself the commander of southern and central Tajikistan in July. Around that time, Khudoberdiyev was in control of the Turzunzade aluminum smelting factory, which was the country's primary source of foreign currency. After former Interior Minister Yakub Salimov had retreated towards Turzunzade, Khudoberdiyev's control of the factory was in danger and he thus advanced towards the capital. Khudoberdiyev moved to the Fakhrabad mountain pass near Dushanbe and fought the government troops on August 10. He had to retreat, and his rebels were moved by the government troops. His army was defeated and he and 50 of his supporters had fled to the mountains bordering Uzbekistan.

Geography

The group was active near Dushanbe, Fakhrabad mountain pass, Kurgan-Tyube, Hujand, Tursunzode, and Pakhator.

Organizational Structure

The MPT was led by Khudoberdiyev and primarily composed of ex-fighters from the Tajik Civil War. The group had at least 700 supporters.

External Ties

There is no evidence of external support for the MPT.

Group Outcome

In 1998, Khudoberdiyev and about 700 of his rebels entered Hujand in northern Tajikistan; however, government troops outnumbered the rebels and thus recaptured the city.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: Movement for Peace of Tajikistan, Forces of Khudoberdiyev, MPT

Group Formation: 1997

Group End (Outcome): 1998 (destroyed)

Group Status:	Inactive
Goal:	Overthrow Rakhmonov govt; take control of Turzunzade (Djavadi)
Ideology:	Unknown
Founding Date:	June 17, 1997
Ethnic Group:	Unknown
Location/Base	Kurgan-Tyube (Keesings Worldwide*); new base established in Pakhtakor collective farm near Tajik-Uzbek border (Anonymous - NY Times)
Transnational?	No
(Alleged) External Support:	Unknown
Group Ties	None
Leadership:	Colonel Mahmud Khudoberdiyev (Keesings Worldwide*)
Group Wing:	Unknown, but anti-government (Djavadi)
State Response:	Government troops defeated rebels (Anonymous - NY Times)
Supporter Composition:	Rebels/ex-fighters

IV. Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami (HT)

Min. Group Date: 1953

Max. Group Date: 2006

Onset: NA

Aliases: Hizb Al-Tahrir Al-Islami (HT), Hezb-E Tahrir, Hizb Al-Tahrir Al-Islami, Hizb Ut-Tahrir, Hizb Ut-Tahrir Al-Islami

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<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/13/why-ban-hizb-ut-tahrir-theyre-not-isis-theyre-isis-whipping-boys>

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

HT was created in 1953 in Jerusalem by Taqiuddin al Nabhani, an appeals court judge. The group has been active since the Soviet Union was dismantled. Nabhani, the group's leader, began spreading the word until his force was present in numerous countries.

While Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami (HT) had many goals, its primary goal is to unite the world's Islamic community into one caliphate. It seeks to spread the Islamic message and bring Muslims back to the pure Islamic lifestyle; it essentially aims to establish an Islamic caliphate in Central Asia. It wants to destroy the existing regime and recreate this caliphate under conditions similar to those in the 7th century Islam. It claims that its methods were nonviolent and only political.

HT's initial plan was to first change society into Islamic cultural practice so that these ideals would become the norm. HT is against imperialists who did not believe in its ideals. Following are its three steps to creating the ultimate Islamic state:

1. Educate Muslims about the Islamic mission
2. Muslims spread these ideas to people in the government, military, etc.
3. Supporters will destroy nonreligious governments.
 - a. Then, the ultimate Islamic leader will take over full control.

Geography

The group operates out of the Fergana Valley, Khojand, Sughd, Hissar Valley, and southern Tajikistan. It mainly appears to gain support in rural areas.

Organizational Structure

The group was initially founded by Taqiuddin al Nabhani, an appeals court judge in Jerusalem in 1953 (Pike 2015). It had clear leadership roles and structure within the party (The Guardian 2016). The group operated in cells underground, a strategy which was modeled after the Bolsheviks.

HT has thus far not conducted any terrorist attacks, but is said to still believe in the power of a jihad. The US is also monitoring HT. Some believe that HT funds numerous terrorist operations. In 1999, it was blamed for multiple bombings in Tashkent in Uzbekistan; however, the attack was probably conducted merely in HT's name. The group is primarily composed of Uzbeks, but has many supporters in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Xinjiang Province (Pike 2015). It has had an increasing number of ethnic Tajiks as well. It is estimated to presently have 1000-4000 supporters in Tajikistan. They primarily recruit by spreading leaflets printed in Tajik, Russian, and Uzbek around the cities to broaden their base of support.

External Ties

There is no evidence of external support for HT.

Group Outcome

Tajikistan's approach has been to crack down on the group and arrest members, but this does not appear to have had any substantial effect.

Leaders in Iraq, Syria, and Libya have killed many HT members, and Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia have imprisoned many more. Hundreds of members were jailed in Azerbaijan and Central Asian countries. However, the number of arrests decreased after HT went underground.

In June 2003, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) took 121 illegal immigrants into custody and believed they were related to HT. Alisher Musayev (Kyrgyzstan) and Akram

Jalolov (Tajikistan) were two of the 121 arrested; the FSB found weaponry such as explosives and grenades on their persons. FSB stated that HT has a series of cells throughout Russia. Many individuals were later arrested and accused of recruiting people for ISIL. HT was banned in February 2003 by the Russian Supreme Court - it was added to a list of 14 other terrorist organizations. HT was also banned in January 2003 in Germany for anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli beliefs.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1953 (unknown when move to Tajikistan)

Group End (Outcome): 2016 (active)

Group Status:	Active, underground (GlobalSecurity.org; TRAC)
Goal:	Create Islamic caliphate in Central Asia; integrate pure Islamic law; bring about Islamic way of life; relay Islamic da'wah (invitation) message to world; bring Muslims back to Islamic lifestyle; main goal is to unite whole Islamic community into one caliphate; destroy existing regime and recreate caliphate under conditions like those in 7th century Islam (GlobalSecurity.org)
Ideology:	Nonviolent; Islam (GlobalSecurity.org)
Founding Date:	June 13, 2005. Proposed change: 1953 (GlobalSecurity.org); 1995 (TRAC)
Ethnic Group:	Uzbeks (GlobalSecurity.org)
Location/Base	Western Europe (GlobalSecurity.org)
Transnational?	Yes, in over 20 countries (GlobalSecurity.org)
(Alleged) External Support:	Unknown
Group Ties	Unknown
Leadership:	Taqiuddin al Nabhani, an appeals court judge in Jerusalem in 1953 (GlobalSecurity.org); has clear leadership roles and structure within party (Anonymous - The Guardian)
Group Wing:	Islamic, religious-political (GlobalSecurity.org)
State Response:	Iraq/Syria/Libya killed many members; Jordan/Syria/Iraq/Egypt/Libya/Tunisia imprisoned many; hundreds jailed in Azerbaijan/Central Asian countries (GlobalSecurity.org)
Supporter Composition:	Uzbeks, but has many supporters in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Xinjiang Province (GlobalSecurity.org)

V. Al-Qaeda

Min. Group Date: 1989

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: Al-Qa'ida, Al Qaeda, Al Qaida, Al-Qa`Ida, Al-Qaeda, Qaidat Al-Jihad, Qa'idat Al-Jihad, The Base

Part 1. Bibliography

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

This section is where you would include information about the group's founding date, its initial goals, ideology, and date when it first came to attention as a violent group.

Geography

This section is where you would include information about the group's operational environment including the names of areas where they operate from, the name of any external sanctuaries, the name of any cities, towns, or neighborhoods where they conduct attacks. You may also provide a generic descriptor if you cannot identify specifically where, but know what the geographic composition of the area was.

Organizational Structure

This section is where you would include information about the group's organizational structure including its leadership, membership, source of funding, and different wings.

External Ties

This section is where you would include information about the group's ties to other actors including both other armed groups as well as other countries. This includes information about external support, alliances, and splinters.

Group Outcome

This section is where you would include information about the state's response to the group, if any, and how this affects the group. You will also identify whether the group is still active, when it stopped using violence, and what happened to the group to cause it to stop using violence.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: Any additional aliases you may have encountered

Group Formation: A new proposed formation date if different than above

Group End (Outcome): A new proposed end date with the reason for ending in parentheses

VI. IMU

Min. Group Date: 1997

Max. Group Date: 2011

Onset: 1999

Aliases: Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Islamic Party of Turkestan, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)

Part 1. Bibliography

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- "Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)," NAGS. <http://nonstatearmedgroups.ku.edu.tr/profile.php?id=199>

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

Juma Namangani and Tahir Yuldashev, who remained in power until their deaths in 2001 and 2009 respectively, formed the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) in 1998. The group's original goal was to overthrow the Karimov regime in Uzbekistan and establish an Islamic caliphate in the Ferghana Valley, though over time that goal seems to have shifted to be more about establishing an Islamic state in general. The IMU's ideology remains Salafi. Some notable attacks include when in 1999 IMU fighters "captured several hostages... and expressed their demands from the Uzbek government," (Yakin 2005, 76) as well as a number of highly successful guerrilla attacks in 2000 near Tashkent.

Geography

The group was active in Ferghana Valley, Tashkent, Namangan, and parts of Tajikistan.

The group's base of operations has changed over the years: though Adolat was based in Namangan, Uzbekistan, the IMU originally operated out of the Tavildara district of Tajikistan, which it then used to establish a base in Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom forced the group to go into hiding in South Waziristan, Pakistan until 2009, where it seems to have remained. Though its goal is (or was) Uzbekistan-focused, because of Uzbek security most attacks have been in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Organizational Structure

As mentioned earlier, Namangani and Yuldashev ruled the group together from 1998 to Namangani's death in 2001, with Namangani as the military leader and Yuldashev as the ideological one. After Yuldashev's death in 2009, leadership of the group allegedly passed to Usman Odil, who had died in 2012 and left the group without a clear leader. The group is organized into cells. It started as a political movement (aka Adolat) but became militarized after the Tajik civil war and repression from the government of Uzbekistan. The group does not seem to have a political wing, though Yuldashev had directly undermined Karimov more than once in the 1990's. The IMU's supporters were originally mostly ethnic Uzbeks, notably unemployed young men, but have now diversified to include Afghans and Turks, though the group continues to be mostly male.

External Ties

Though some allege that the group is supported by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Afghanistan, they offer little evidence. Others allege that they are allied with the Taliban and al-Qaeda, both with significant evidence to back it up. The type of aid they may get from those two groups remains somewhat unclear, though it seems that both groups allow IMU fighters to hide in territory they control. The IMU has a number of splinters, notably the IJU and (possibly) JIG.

Group Outcome

As of 2012, the group was still active, attacking the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi in 2014. The state has responded to the IMU in a number of ways: Uzbekistan has mounted air strikes, arrested fighters, blamed the IMU for terrorist incidents (like the March 2004 suicide bombings) as well as mined its borders with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan though they started the process of de-mining them in 2004. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, US airstrikes have devastated many of their ranks, forcing the organization to regroup.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: Any additional aliases you may have encountered

Group Formation: 1998

Group End (Outcome): 2014 (Active)

<https://iwpr.net/global-voices/few-tears-shed-tajik-bin-laden>

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/4de4920e2.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/tajikistan-civil-war-peace-20th-anniversary-rahmon-nuri/28579612.html>

Rizvon sadirov

https://www.iuj.ac.jp/mlic/EIU/Profile/Kyrgyz_Republic/1997_Main_report.pdf

https://books.google.com/books?id=OPsQQr0IEjC&pg=PA63&lpg=PA63&dq=Rizvan+Sadirov&source=bl&ots=QH1rQ88CgQ&sig=ACfU3U07IYPFIlRhS_cCMDPqcfZR-c2YOA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiqT-S4iMfIAhWlJzQIHSD9CmAQ6AEwAnoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=Rizvan%20Sadirov&f=false

<https://books.google.com/books?id=VpYapXgiuHwC&pg=PA67&lpg=PA67&dq=rizvan+sadirov+warlord&source=bl&ots=SIH5EkBQ1t&sig=ACfU3U1minqNbVXSfDHkNlv0Pqmj-QTA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjMgNfbiMfIAhWTGjQIHfrnDdgQ6AEwAHoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=rizvan%20sadirov%20warlord&f=false>

Splinter of IRP?

Islamic Renaissance Party

<https://hrwf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2016-Islamic-Renaissance-Party-of-Tajikistan.pdf>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/24711009>

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/centralasia/tajik-political-parties.htm>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=mC9RsiYy8m8C&pg=PA242&lpg=PA242&dq=mirt+tajikistan&source=bl&ots=wPdloCW80C&sig=ACfU3U1h7NElqS6fyqOh1k1aTLQznyX5Rg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjMgNfbiMfIAhX1CjQIHfYJ5Af4Q6AEwBXoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=mirt%20tajikistan&f=false>

MIRT was umbrella of which IRP was primary group

Participant in Tajik Civil war; no evidence of violence since

Democratic Party of Tajikistan

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2012/09/10/background-on-people-s-democratic-party-of-tajikistan-pub-49327>