

Background Information for the Media 'Al-Qaïda'

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Al-Qaida embodies the ideology of jihadist Salafism, i.e. the violent extremist variant of Sunni Salafism. Its paramount maxim is global jihad, which is interpreted to mean war in the name of Islam. Within the context of Jihadism, Al-Qaida stands for terrorist attacks that are executed with extreme brutality and which aim to kill the largest possible number of people. The goal of this policy of violence supported by Jihadists is to establish a Salafist society, i.e. the so-called Caliphate based upon the principles of Sharia, i.e. the totality of the laws which must be observed and obeyed in an Islamic society, initially within the entire Islamic region and then throughout the whole world. The new terrorist organisation founded under the leadership of Mullah Krekar defines itself by means of its strategy governed by these objectives, and thereby expressly positions itself as the successor organisation of Ansar al Islam, which was formerly headed by Mullah Krekar.

Al-Qaida itself as well as the covert and successor groupings of Al-Qaida as well as organisations and groups which support the leadership, objectives and means of Al-Qaida or which act on its behalf, also including Ansar al Islam, have been banned in Switzerland pursuant to the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly since November 2001 (SR 122, Ordinance of 23 December 2011, status 1 January 2012 and Declaration of the Federal Council of 18 May 2011, BBl 2011 4495).

Ansar al Islam was declared to be a terrorist organisation by the EU in 2002 (Ordinance [EC] No. 881/2002 of the Council of 27 May 2002). On 20 February 2003 the UN Security Council included AAI in its list of terrorist organisations. The AAI is listed in Appendix 2 of the Ordinance concerning Measures against Persons and Organisations Associated with Osama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida grouping or the Taliban of 2 October 2000 (SR 946.203, p. 104, status 4 August 2012).

Mullah Krekar has been living to date in Norway. His request for asylum submitted in Norway was rejected. With the Judgement of 26 March 2012 of Oslo District Court, Mullah Krekar was sentenced to a period of imprisonment of five years on the grounds of repeated serious threats, partially on the grounds of threatening to kill. The judgement has not yet become res judicata. In this judgement Oslo District Court stated that Krekar was a “*known Jihadist*” and that like other Jihadists “*he was of the opinion that the most vital task of Muslims was to drive unbelievers out of their territories through armed conflict.*” The court stated that Krekar not only maintained extensive contacts with European Jihadists, but was also able to draw upon

the authority he enjoyed because of the fact that he had met Jihadists such as Osama bin Laden and Abdullah Azzan [correct: Azzam] in person. In this conjunction the court specifically drew attention to the fact that on 10 June 2010 Krekar stated during the course of a press conference that he was *“nothing in comparison to bin Laden, because the latter is everything”* and that on this same occasion Krekar described bin Laden as follows: *“an honourable man, a believer, heroic, courageous, a Moslem, successful... He is our man, bin Laden, more courageous than the others, honourable and pure.”*

In this conjunction the court furthermore declared that at the aforementioned press conference Krekar had in particular expressly stated his approval of and had glorified suicide attacks, whereby he had called for attacks to be continued inter alia in Iraq and against American interests as well as against American personnel. The court also examined Krekar's track-record as a leader of the terrorist organisation Ansar al Islam, and in this conjunction declared that this organisation had *“published more videos of suicide attacks, road bombs, kidnappings and decapitations than any other Jihad organisation, apart from Al-Qaida.”* In the view of Oslo District Court in this judgement, Krekar's background and his abilities meant that he was a person who was able *“to exercise considerable influence over his followers and supporters.”* Mullah Krekar is listed in Appendix 2 to the Ordinance concerning Measures against Persons and Organisations Linked to Osama bin Laden, the Grouping Al-Qaida or the Taliban of 2 October 2000, p. 48 (status 4 August 2012, SR 946.203). Mullah Krekar is also listed in the Council Ordinance (EC) No. 881/2002 of 27 May 2002, Appendix 1.