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Fatah al-Islam Designated as a terrorist organization

Daily Press Briefing
Sean McCormack, Spokesman
Washington, DC
August 13, 2007

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LEBANON

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12:39 p.m. EDT

MR. MCCORMACK: Good afternoon, everybody. Don't have anything to start off with, off the top, so we can get into your questions.

...

QUESTION: Fatah.

MR. MCCORMACK: Fatah al-Islam. This is one of those issues where -- just in the case where they might have some assets within the reach of the U.S. Government in the United States, then you take these actions. It's also beyond that practical step as an important statement that this is a terrorist organization. There is a slight difference between this designation and the designation as a foreign terrorist organization. They come under different executive orders. But the practical effect is that it labels this group as a terrorist -- as a type of terrorist organization --

QUESTION: Can I --

MR. MCCORMACK: -- under U.S. Government law and regulation.

Yeah.

QUESTION: Is there any more on this? Because I just wanted to go back to South Asia for a second.

QUESTION: Just one, Sean. I'm just curious; the Secretary signed order on Thursday and an announcement was made today whether any reason for this delay in the announcement.

MR. MCCORMACK: Nothing in particular, other than just that sometimes, it takes some time from putting pen to paper to it getting out in public, but no.

Yeah.

...

MR. MCCORMACK: Okay. Right.

(The briefing was concluded at 12:53 p.m.)

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Reference:

Media Note
Office of the Spokesman
Washington, DC
August 13, 2007

Designation of Fatah al-Islam under Executive Order 13224

As part of ongoing U.S. efforts against terrorism, on August 9, Secretary Rice designated Fatah al-Islam as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist pursuant to section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended. The Secretary took this action in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury. This designation cuts off Fatah al-Islam from the U.S. financial system. As a result of this designation, all property, and interests in property which Fatah al-Islam has in the U.S., or which enters the U.S. or comes under the control of U.S. persons, are blocked. This designation will be published in the Federal Register shortly.

Fatah al-Islam, an offshoot of the Syria-backed secular Palestinian terrorist group Fatah al-Intifada, has been led by Shakir al-Absi, a well-known Palestinian-Jordanian militant who was sentenced to death in absentia in Jordan for his involvement in the 2002 murder of U.S. diplomat Laurence Foley. Moreover, Fatah al-Islam initiated the recent hostilities in the Nahr al-Barid Palestinian refugee camp near Tripoli, Lebanon, with an unprovoked attack on Lebanese security forces in May, and used civilian refugees as human shields during the fighting. Over 130 Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers and civilians have lost their lives in the conflict at Nahr al-Barid. This terrorist group threatens the safety and security of the Lebanese people and the region.

The United States condemns the recent violence perpetrated by Fatah al-Islam in the Nahr al-Barid Palestinian refugee camp and supports the Government of Lebanon and its security forces in their efforts to promote stability and rule of law throughout the country.

The United States calls on governments across the world to take action to isolate these terrorist organizations, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their members' movement across international borders.

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