

Organization Data Sheet: Jamaat al Muslimeen

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- The Jamaat al Muslimeen (JaM) is a radical Sunni Islamist organization located in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago that seeks to marry Islam and black power doctrines.
- The organization has traditionally been comprised of Afro-Trinidadian Muslims influenced by the Black Power movement of the 1970s.¹
 - Afro-Trinidadian Muslim converts in Trinidad represent only a tiny fraction of the larger Muslim minority community, which is dominated by East Indians.²
- The organization gained notoriety in July 1990 when Imam Yasin Abu Bakr – the organization's leader – led members in an attempted coup d'état against the elected Government of Trinidad and Tobago.³
 - The group surrendered after an amnesty was negotiated, and is presently active as a political party with parliamentary representation.
- JaM discourages acts of violence by Muslims in the United States, but does support a number of ideological tenets linked to violent radicalism (while also claiming that Muslims convicted of terrorism are little more than victims of government persecution).⁴
- JaM's primary function is Da`wah – or the preaching of Islam – and supporting Muslims imprisoned in the United States (which includes a number of convicted terrorists).
 - JaM carries out its Da`wah function through personal appearances by group leaders at mosques and conferences around the United States, as well as through an online newsletter called *New Trend Magazine*, which has been published weekly since the 1970s.⁵
- Despite Jamaat's radical stance, no connections are known to exist with international terrorist organizations. Instead, the group thrives by intimidating rival gangs and public officials – including the current prime minister, and members of the state security apparatus.⁶
- In 2007 it was reported that the four individuals behind the foiled plot to attack the John F. Kennedy International Airport had at one point passed through JaM.⁷
- Despite the group's recent charges – and track record of political militancy and violence in Trinidad and Tobago – there is no evidence to suggest that JAM has ever attempted an attack the United States.
 - However, JaM has been known to maintain a presence outside Trinidad and Tobago in order to facilitate its criminal activities.
- There has yet to be any evidence confirmed that links JaM to al-Qaeda or other international terrorist organizations.⁸
- Through Bakr, the JaM has cemented relations with Muammar al-Qaddafi, Hugo Chavez, and the Sudanese government.⁹

B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

a. In general

- Narcotics and arms smuggling, contracted murder, extortion, kidnapping, and money laundering¹⁰

b. Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in

- Drug smuggling: heroin from Afghanistan to the United States.¹¹

C. Scope and Size

a. Estimated size of network and membership

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roughly 1,000 members¹²
<p>b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headquarters: No.1 Mucurapo Road, Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) • Baltimore, Maryland.¹³ • The organization also has representatives in Tennessee, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.¹⁴
<p>D. Leader Characteristics</p>
<p>a. Who is/are the leader(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yasin Abu Bakr – primary leader of the organization since 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bakr continues to astound citizens of Trinidad and Tobago with his ability to elude prosecution and lengthy prison terms (murder and gun charges)
<p>b. Leadership timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kala Aki Bua – second in command • Kaukab Siddique – the dominant editorial voice of <i>New Trend Magazine</i>¹⁵
<p>c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>E. Organizational Structure</p>
<p>a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>b. Membership – is there formal or informal membership in the organization or network? What role do informal or nonmembers play in trafficking and other criminal activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralized: the group has demonstrated its ability to operate without Bakr (multiple arrests over the last 10 years)
<p>F. Resources</p>
<p>a. Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Islamic Call Society - established in London, Ontario as a front by Muammar al-Qaddafi to funnel money to terrorists all over the world. • According to a recent printing of <i>The Ottawa Citizen</i>, a payment of \$170,814.20 was made to JaM – and an additional \$10,000 to Bakr.¹⁶
<p>b. Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>c. Logistical</p>
<p>i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>ii. Key routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>d. Transportation</p>
<p>i. Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>ii. Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>iii. Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>iv. Intermodal container</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.

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All research conducted according to the project manual.

G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities	
a.	Corruption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local newspapers in Trinidad and Tobago report that JaM has developed relations with each of the major political parties – including elected officials¹⁷
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
c.	Deception
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflictual: G-unit gang (Jamaica)
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reportedly linked with all three political parties in Trinidad and Tobago
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite rumors emerging in the early 2000s, the JaM does not maintain any alliances with other terrorist organizations.
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunni Islamist group
J. Technical Sophistication	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low
K. Penchant for Innovation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Trend Magazine – weekly publication distributed by the group (Baltimore, MD)
L. Activities in United States	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug trafficking
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities; logistical activities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug trafficking: heroin from Afghanistan to the United States through Trinidad and Tobago.¹⁸
c.	Linkages with US groups
	i. Market/transaction links
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	ii. Stable supplier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	iii. Franchise arrangement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	iv. HQ and Branch office
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badi Ali – Imam of the Islamic Center of the Triad in Greensboro, N.C. Abdulalim Shabazz – mathematics professor at Grambling State University in Louisiana Abu Talib – activist in Brooklyn, N.Y. Kaukab Siddique – assistant professor of English at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania¹⁹
M. Evaluations	
a.	Strengths
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a whole, the JaM – including its splinter groups: Wajihatul Islamiyyah, Jamaat al-Murabiteen, and Jamaat al-Islami al-Karibi – has seemingly operated under the radar for the last two decades.

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

- Specifically, the group's leader – Yasin Abu Bakr – and his ability to avoid sentencing for murder and trafficking charges.
- Alignment with Muammar al-Qaddafi and Hugo Chavez but the extent of this remains uncertain.

b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities

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c. Additional insights

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Other Notes

- Recently, former senior JaM member, Jamal Shabazz, revealed that all three major political parties – the People's National Movement, the United National Congress, and the Congress of the People – used the sect for political gain.²⁰

¹ Zambelis, Chris. "Jamaat al-Muslimeen: The Growth and Decline of Islamist Militancy in Trinidad and Tobago," *The Jamestown Foundation, Terrorism Monitor* Volume: 7 Issue: 23, July 30, 2009. http://www.jamestown.org/singlet/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=35344.

² Ibid.

³ Lacey, Marc. "Trinidad Group Denies Link to New York Bomb Plot," *The New York Times*, June 10, 2007. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/10/world/americas/10trinidad.html>.

⁴ Berger, J.M. "Baltimore's Jamaat al- Muslimeen: Promoting a Radical but Disciplined Message on Jihad," *CTC Sentinel*, February 2011. Vol 4 . ISSUE 2. http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CBwQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ctc.usma.edu%2Fposts%2Fbaltimore%25E2%2580%2599s-jamaat-al-muslimeen-promoting-a-radical-but-disciplined-message-on-jihad&ei=TIDZTde6Oca1tge_loDpDg&usg=AFQjCNff2EKMVKof_I OFHsUDJuEfxUgFaQ&sig2=Bp4-kPTJ9IBYzy3v-ohi-g.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Townsend, Dorn. "No Other Life: Gangs, Guns, and Governance in Trinidad and Tobago," *Small Arms Survey*, December 2009. <http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCEQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.smallarmssurvey.org%2Ffileadmin%2Fdocs%2FF-Working-papers%2FSAS-WP8-Gangs-Guns-Governance-Trinidad-Tobago-2009.pdf&ei=WnjaTfunA4rJgQeAn-1X&usg=AFQjCNGgXTYJnlKw8io8aCy2GiX9VHc4-w&sig2=ktPpQkc5U54nWIDYMoRVpG>.

⁷ "Fourth man arrested in JFK terror plot," *MSNBC*, June 5, 2007. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19051482/ns/us-news-security/t/fourth-man-arrested-jfk-terror-plot/>.

⁸ Zambelis, "Spotlight on Trinidad and Tobago."

⁹ Zambelis, "Jamaat al-Muslimeen."

¹⁰ Zambelis, "Spotlight on Trinidad and Tobago."

¹¹ Ferrand, Nicole. "Islamic terrorism in Latin America," *Center for Security Policy, The Americas Report*, March 12, 2009. <http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/p17937.xml>.

¹² Lacey, "Trinidad Group Denies Link."

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Accused Bomb Plotter's Mosque Tied to Radical Group," *IPT News*, December 16, 2010. <http://www.investigativaproject.org/2412/accused-bomb-plotter-mosque-tied-to-radical-group>.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Canadian gov't closes charity that sent Libyan funds to Muslimeen and its leader in T&T," *The Ottawa Citizen*, May 7, 2011. <http://usapoptoday.info/canadian-govt-closes-charity-that-sent-libyan-funds-to-muslimeen-and-its-leader-in-tt.html>.

¹⁷ Loutoo, Jada. "Shabazz: All governments used the Muslimeen," *Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday*, May 5, 2011. <http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,140017.html>.

¹⁸ Ferrand, "Islamic terrorism in Latin America."

¹⁹ “Accused Bomb Plotter’s Mosque Tied to Radical Group.”

²⁰ Loutoo, “Shabazz: All governments used the Muslimeen.”