

Major Terrorist Groups

Aryan Brotherhood:

“For the Aryan Brotherhood, murder is a way to make a social statement. If blacks attack whites, we send a message.” John Greschner, ex-Aryan Brotherhood member

The Aryan Brotherhood was founded in 1964 in the San Quentin State Prison in California with beliefs rooted in white supremacy, nazism, and hate against anybody who is not white. The movie “Blood In Blood Out” makes it seem like the phrase in the title originates with the Mexican Mafia in prison but the phrase is actually the motto for the Aryan Brotherhood. The motto is the requirement to get in and out of the brotherhood, one must attack or kill someone to get in, and to get out they have to die.



Aryan Brotherhood member and his nazi tattoos

The group is based on white supremacy but they have a truce with the prison gang La eMe whom they trade drugs with and ally against black prison gangs. They aren't necessarily in it for white pride but rather survival and profit because they engage in drug and arms trafficking in and outside the prison system. The drug of choice for most aryan brotherhood users, cooks, and dealers is methamphetamine and large scale drug busts have been conducted by the government against them

Al Qaeda:

“We believe that the biggest thieves in the world and the terrorists are the Americans. The only way for us to fend off these assaults is to use similar means” - Osama bin Laden

In 1988, Osama bin Laden, a man who was born to a rich family in Saudi Arabia, founded the Islamic Sunni terrorist organization many have come to know as “Al Qaeda”. He started off funding the Mujahideen in Afghanistan during the Afghan-Soviet conflict (1979-1988) and when the Soviets withdrew he was able to set up training camps and bases in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan. One of the first attacks the

organization conducted was during 1992 in Aden, Yemen, two separate bombs were set off targeting American soldiers but the soldiers were gone by the time the bombs detonated resulting in just 2 people dying, an Austrian tourist and a citizen of Yemen. One year after the attacks an Al Qaeda affiliate from Kuwait, Ramzi Yousef, carried out a car bombing on the World Trade Center in New York City which was aimed at toppling the building but instead it killed 6 people and injured over 1,000. Although bin Laden never claimed responsibility for the attacks, Yousef was trained in al-Qaeda camps.



Osama bin Laden and Zawahiri

For the next 8 years, bombings were carried out in Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Tanzania, and the USS Cole resulting in nearly 250 deaths with almost all of the deaths consisting of Americans and two Indians. The attacks were aimed at US soldiers and US diplomats in training grounds and US embassies. On September 11, 2001 the biggest terrorist attack in the history of the World happened on American soil. 19 men from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Lebanon, and Egypt hijacked 4 passenger airplanes, armed with boxcutters and crashed them into the Twin Towers that they previously attacked, the Pentagon, and attempted to crash the 4th airplane into D.C. but multiple brave American passengers took control back from the hijackers and crash landed into a field in Pennsylvania killing everyone on board but avoiding further tragedy. Excluding the hijackers, 2977 people died in the attacks and the Twin Towers were toppled leading to even further structural damage in surrounding area.

The main orchestrators of the attack Khalid Shaikh Mohammed (Uncle of Ramzi Yousef), Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin Attash, and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al-Hawsaw are set to go to pre-trial with the US in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is the main conspirator of the 9/11 attacks and he has admitted that while bin Laden felt it was good enough to fly the aircraft into the ground, Khalid was adamant about flying them into the buildings.

After the 9/11 attacks al Qaeda continued to carry out many attacks around the world including Spain, Saudi Arabia, United States, Jordan, India, Afghanistan, and England, continuing their goal of inflicting terror on the western world and their supporters. In 2011, U.S. and Pakistani troops raided Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan where he was killed on sight with a rifle. After his death, his right hand man Zawahiri became the leader of al-Qaeda up until 2022 when he was killed by a US drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan and was replaced with Sayf al Adl, an Egyptian that fought Soviets alongside the Mujahideen in Afghanistan during the 1980's. While al-Qaeda has not conducted attacks recently, they are still perceived as a threat.

ISIS

"...By Allah, we will take revenge! By Allah, we will take revenge! Even if it takes a while, we will take revenge, and every amount of harm against the Ummah (Muslim identity) will be responded to with multitudes more against the perpetrator." - Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) or ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and Levantine) has been around since the early 2000s and is an offshoot of Zawahiri's al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) but stayed in the shadows for many years committing attacks here and there up until 2014 when ISIS launched an attack on Mosul and Tikrit Iraq and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi established the ISIS caliphate which spanned from Aleppo, Syria to Diyala, Iraq and changed the name of the organization to IS (Islamic State). IS carried out attacks similar to al-Qaeda but more than al-Qaeda ever did. Thousands of people have died at the hands of IS in numerous countries like Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, UK, France, Pakistan, and Finland just to name a few because the list is extensive. IS took advantage of the internet to spread propaganda and released high quality videos with stories in the background as they executed prisoners typically by beheading. One of the most infamous beheadings was of American journalist James Foley who was captured by IS in Syria in 2012 and executed on camera in 2014.

The power of the Islamic State ran out rather quickly and went from controlling over 40% of Iraq and Syria to now not having any control over territories. The US fought hard alongside the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) and in 2019 the caliphate was dismantled and al-Baghdad committed suicide via bomb while fleeing US troops. IS is still a terrorist group that conspires against the west although thousands of members are in prison. They still carry out attacks and in 2024 were responsible for over 100 attacks in Iraq and Syria. Just recently in June, an IS affiliated attacker suicide bombed a church, killing 25, and injuring 63. The threat of IS is still prominent but as of now they

have no control over territories or an established caliphate as camps focus on rehabilitating children and preventing escape as when people escape they are sent to Jihadist training camps by IS members.

While many are hopeful for the future of Syria, others speculate that [the Islamic State](#) could come back to power with the current power vacuum that has been formed since the dictator [Bashar al-Assad was overthrown](#) in November, 2024.

Cartels:

“The way to be able to buy food to survive is to grow poppy and marijuana.” - El Chapo (Founder of the Sinaloa Cartel)

Some of the most recent groups to be designated as terrorist organizations by the United States government have been [drug cartels](#) south of the Mexican-American border. Cartel de Sinaloa, Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación, Cártel del Noreste, La Nueva Familia Michoacana, Carteles Unidos, Tren de Aragua, Cartel del Golfo, and Mara Salvatrucha Trece (MS-13). Trump designated the groups as terrorist organizations on February 20, 2025 as a way to further his plan to take down the drug trade.

The biggest current drug cartel in the world is the Sinaloa Cartel, which was officially established by [Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman](#) and [Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada Garcia](#). They revolutionized the drug trade and are responsible for a large amount of the drugs that go through the Mexican border and into America everyday. The organization has continued to show their commitment by bribing police and government officials and by killing anyone who steps in their way or poses a threat to their money or security. Similarly to ISIS, Cartels have inflicted terror into people across the world by posting videos to the internet of their enemies brutal executions typically via ruthless torture or beheading. El Chapo is currently in the most secure prison in America, ADX Florence where people like the Boston Bomber, Oklahoma City Bomber, and 9/11 coordinators have resided over the years.

The Sinaloa Cartel has proven their dominance over the law by the numerous attacks they have committed against police and military as well as bribing government officials and police officers. Their most infamous clash with Mexican authorities was in the streets of Culiacan in 2019 when the Mexican military and police arrested Ovidio Guzman the son of [El Chapo](#) and the Sinaloa Cartel fought back resulting in the release of Ovidio. The United States came in shortly after the battle, captured Ovidio, and

extradited him back to America on drug conspiracy and leading criminal enterprise [charges](#).

I won't be going any further into these organizations as I wrote an article in April about the War on Drugs and I spoke to members of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Viv Ansanm:

"I'm not a thief. I'm not involved in kidnapping. I'm not a rapist. I'm just carrying out a social fight," - Jimmy Cherizier (Leader of Viv Ansanm)

When translated from Haitian Creole to English, Viv Ansanm means live together which is what founder Jimmy Cherizier decided would be best for the gang leaders of the majority of the Haitian gangs to make an alliance. It was created as a way for gangs to stop focusing on taking territories but rather working together to control their territories united with hopes of increasing operations and profit.

Haiti is among one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world and over 80% of the country is controlled by gangs. The earthquake in 2010 ramped up gang activity as it destabilized a majority of the country, displaced 1/3 of Haiti's population, created a power vacuum, and destroyed the prisons that were holding many of the country's gang members. The situation has made it so harsh for travelers that many content creators who go have to pay off gang members in Port au Prince for protection or else they might be attacked, kidnapped, killed, or robbed. A famous YouTuber named Arab last year traveled to Haiti and was kidnapped by a rival gang member while on his way to meet with Jimmy Cherizier. Fortunately, he made it back to the United States after dealing with the gang's demands for money.

I have another article that will be published soon about the situation in Haiti and why it has become so bad. I have been able to ask a few questions to a U.S. national who lived and did work in Haiti before the earthquake who was able to describe the images she saw on the streets of Port Au Prince.