Identifying Al-Qaeda's Donors and Fundraisers: A Status Report

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Key Findings (U)

Wealthy individuals in the Arabian Peninsula and grassroots supporters from around the world are critical funding sources for al-Qaeda.
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Donors Use of Fundraisers and Facilitators

Donors generally channel money intended for terrorist-related activities through middlemen—including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), mosques, fundraisers, and businessmen—rather than giving the funds directly to Bin Laden or other senior al-Qa'ida members. This practice hides the donors' role and allows them to deny knowing funds went to terrorists.

This assessment was prepared by the DCI Counterterrorist Center's Office of Terrorism Analysis. Comments and queries are welcome.
Charity: The Third Pillar of Islam (U)

Charity is one of the principal duties of all Muslims as stated in the Quran. Alms-giving is divided into the obligatory (zakat) and the voluntary (sadaqa), but the distinction is not always maintained. Zakat is a religiously mandated charitable obligation on all Muslims.

- Sadaqa, unlike Zakat, is a voluntary donation made to anyone at any time of the year in any amount. In Arabic, Sadaqa means "charity."

Devout Muslims give their contributions directly to Islamic organizations and needy individuals or, in some countries, to a government-run fund, which organizes the collection and distribution of charitable donations.

Mosques and Islamic cultural centers with radical members sent donations to extremist groups.

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Other Facilitators. Donors also use fundraisers and facilitators—merchants and businessmen—to route money to terrorist groups.