

Pakistan preparing terrorist database

Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed.AFPARIF ALI

Apart from introducing specific legislation to permanently ban Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Pakistani government is also preparing a consolidated database of known terrorists and terrorist organisations.

The database, which would be accessible to the country's financial institutions and law enforcement agencies, will help the regime to tackle money laundering and terror financing.

Islamabad had declared the JuD banned in February and taken control of its assets, including schools and health centres. However, Saeed was not detained.

Damage control

Dawn reported on Sunday that the government's move to prepare a draft Bill that would amend the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997 is part of its damage control campaign after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) placed the country on its money laundering and terror financing grey list in February.

Ahead of the FATF meeting in Paris, President Mamnoon Hussain had promulgated an ordinance in February amending the ATA to include entities listed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as proscribed groups.

Amendments were made to the ATA's Section 11-B, which sets out parameters for proscription of groups; and Section 11-EE, which describes the grounds for the listing of individuals. In both sections, Sub-Section 'aa' was added.

According to the sub-section, organisations and individuals "listed under the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948 (XIV of 1948), or" will be included in the First Schedule (for organisations) and Fourth Schedule (for individuals), respectively.

Freezing, seizure rules

The *Dawn* report on Sunday said that the government would also work on the ATA's freezing and seizure rules and ensure that Anti-Terrorism Amendment Ordinance 2018 is enacted through the Parliament, according to the draft action plan.

Saeed, who has been declared a global terrorist by the UN, has challenged the JuD ban in Islamabad High Court and Lahore High Court. He claims that these steps were taken under pressure from the U.S. and India.

Saeed was under detention for about nine months last year but released by Lahore High Court after the government failed to bring specific charges.

The JuD is believed to be a front organisation of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which was responsible for the Mumbai attacks of 2008.

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