



U.S. Treasury
Office of Public Affairs

FACT SHEET

Designation of 10 Individuals Tied to an al Qaida Cell in Italy

Italian law enforcement agencies have conducted several terrorist related investigations in order to expose terrorist cells linked with al Qaida and operating in Italy. The Italian law enforcement agencies have determined the following ten individuals are members of an organization operating in Italy and involved in criminal activities tied to al Qaida, in particular through a relationship with the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). The Italians have indicated that these individuals provided the GIA with material and financial means for terrorist activities in Algeria and abroad.

The Italian authorities have determined that all ten individuals were part of a cell headed by Djamel Lounici, a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under U.S. law and an individual on the UN Security Council's consolidated list). All ten of these individuals have been convicted by the Tribunale di Napoli. Their crimes include the following:

- Taking part in a terrorist organization based in Italy that is dependent on designated terrorist groups such as the GIA and the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC) (GSPC is a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under U.S. law and is on the UN Security Council's consolidated list).
- Providing weapons to the GIA to carry out terrorist plans in Algeria and abroad.
- Helping illegal immigrants, who directly took part in the terrorist organization's illegal activities, to enter Italy and using them to transmit instructions to terrorist groups operating in other European Countries (France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland and Albania).
- Detaining arms, war weapons and forging documents. Some of these individuals were operating as key contact points to provide North-African illegal immigrants with forged documents and assisting in locating technical-logistical materials.

Individuals

1.	DERAMCHI, Othman aka YOUSSEF, Abou (POB: Algeria)
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2.	AIDER, Farid, aka ACHOUR, Ali (POB:Algeria)
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| 3. | BENDEBKA, L'Hadi, aka ABD AL HADI aka HADI (POB: Algeria) |
| 4. | AHMED NACER, Yacine, aka YACINE DI ANNABA (POB: Algeria) |
| 5. | KIFANE, Abderrahmane (POB: Morocco) |
| 6. | EL HEIT, Ali, aka KAMEL, Mohamed, aka ALI DI ROMA (POB: Algeria) |
| 7. | ABD AL HAFIZ, Abd al Wahab, aka FERJANI MOULOUD, aka MOURAD, aka RABAH DI ROMA (POB: Algeria) |
| 8. | HADDAD, Fethi Ben Assen (POB: Tunisia) |
| 9. | ABBES, Moustafa (POB: Algeria) |
| 10. | ABBES, Youcef, aka GIUSEPPE (POB: Algeria) |