



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



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**US SUPREME COURT PAVES WAY FOR EXTRADITION OF 26/11 MUMBAI
ATTACKS SUSPECT TAHAWWUR RANA TO INDIA**

DEADLY ISIS-INSPIRED NEW YEAR'S DAY ATTACK IN NEW ORLEANS

SOUTHPORT MURDERS EXPOSE GAPS IN UK'S COUNTER-EXTREMISM SYSTEM

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US Supreme Court Paves Way for Extradition of 26/11 Mumbai Attacks Suspect Tahawwur Rana to India

On 25 January 2025, the United States Supreme Court cleared the path for Tahawwur Rana's (a key suspect in the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai) extradition to India. Rana, an associate of David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators behind the 26/11 attacks, has been accused of providing Headley with access to his immigration consultancy to carry out reconnaissance and surveillance.

Furthermore, as per reports, Headley had revealed that he had travelled to India five times between 2007 and 2008, using a five-year visa that Rana had helped him obtain, and conducted reces for the Mumbai attacks.

As per sources, Rana and his wife had stayed in the Taj Hotel (one of the targeted sites by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists) in the lead up to the Mumbai terror attacks. A security official affiliated with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has pointed

out that “Rana’s extradition looks imminent now. Once extradited, he will face trial for several offences, including criminal conspiracy, waging war against the Government of India, forgery and murder.”

BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi hailed the announcement concerning Rana’s extradition, pointing out that “In 2008, the horrific Mumbai terror attack took place, and now, the US Supreme Court has decided to extradite its accused, Tahawwur Rana, to India. This is undoubtedly a matter of satisfaction for every Indian. Particularly for those who lost their lives and for the families of those who sacrificed their lives in the attacks, this is a matter of great satisfaction. This was made possible due to the strong willpower of the Modi government in fighting against terrorism.” - [*Hindustan Times, Telegraph India*](#)

Deadly ISIS-Inspired New Year's Day Attack in New Orleans

In New Orleans (United States), a military veteran, targeted visitors who had made their way to

Bourbon Street for New Year's Day using his pickup truck. Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a US citizen from Houston, carried out a deadly truck attack in New Orleans' French Quarter, killing 14 people and injuring 30 others.

The FBI discovered that Jabbar had visited the city twice before, recording videos of the area with hands-free glasses.

In addition to his travels within the US, Jabbar had also travelled internationally to Cairo, Egypt, and Ontario, Canada, earlier in 2023, though it remains unclear if these trips were linked to the attack. Before the assault, Jabbar publicly pledged allegiance to ISIS in online videos, and investigators found an ISIS flag, weapons, and a potential bomb in his truck.

This attack, one of the deadliest ISIS-inspired assaults on US soil in years, underscores the ongoing concerns about terrorism and extremism.

Federal officials are investigating whether Jabbar's international travel played a role in his radicalisation, and the FBI is continuing to track his movements and connections.

In recent years, extremism in the military has been a growing concern of some lawmakers and members of the public. A 2023 report commissioned by the Defense Department found no elevated presence of violent extremism among active duty troops, but noted that extremism did seem to be elevated among veterans.

As per the abovementioned report, "For the veterans' community in particular, loss of military identity appears to have a strong association with difficult adjustments to civilian life that can in turn contribute to negative behaviours." – [*The New York Times*](#), [*Hindustan Times*](#)

Southport Murders Expose Gaps in UK's Counter-Extremism System

Axel Rudakuban's (who has been found guilty of killing three children at a Taylor Swift themed dance class in Southport in July 2024) actions have been described by the British PM Sir Keir Starmer as an indication that "Terrorism has changed."

He described the Southport murders as part of a "new and dangerous threat" to Britain.

The murders highlight the shift from organised extremist groups to lone attackers inspired by extreme violence.

Rudakubana had been referred three times to the UK's anti-extremism programme, Prevent, but was never flagged for further intervention.

The investigation revealed his disturbing behaviour, including

possessing an al-Qaeda training manual and producing ricin.

Despite being monitored by authorities for years due to violent tendencies, Rudakubana was not treated as a terrorism threat.

Rudakubana's ease in purchasing a knife online despite a criminal history highlights serious gaps in the system.

The case has prompted the government to initiate a public inquiry to assess the failings of the counter-extremism system.

It has also prompted the officials to explore whether Prevent needs to be reformed to address rising youth violence and extremism not tied to specific ideologies. – [BBC News](#)

J&K Police Seize Crores in Properties from Pakistan-Based Terrorist Commanders in Kishtwar Crackdown

The J&K Police's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) has taken significant action by attaching properties worth crores of rupees belonging to 11 Pakistan-based commanders of terrorist organizations in Kishtwar district. This move is part of ongoing efforts to dismantle terrorist networks. The properties were seized following an investigation into a criminal conspiracy case, with charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Furthermore, the SIU is working to attach properties of an additional 18 absconding terrorists who have been identified, continuing its focused drive against terrorism. – [The Times of India](#)

Trump Re-Designates Yemen's Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation

US President Donald Trump has re-designated Yemen's Houthi rebels as a "Foreign Terrorist Organisation" (FTO), citing their attacks on Red Sea shipping and Israel, which are connected to the Gaza conflict. This designation targets the Houthis for threatening American civilians and regional security, as well as disrupting global maritime trade. Former US President Joe Biden had lifted the Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) designation in 2021, citing the need to mitigate one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Rashad al-Alimi, who chairs Yemen's internationally-recognised presidential council, thanked Trump for the designation, which he said was "key to accountability and a step toward peace and stability in Yemen and the region". – [BBC News](#)

Pakistan's Security Forces Kill 30 Terrorists in a Counter-Terrorism Sweep in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Pakistani security forces killed 30 terrorists in three separate counter-terrorism operations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. As per the ISPR statement released, "weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against the security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians." President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have praised efforts of the security forces. The operations come amid a surge in violent attacks since the Afghan Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, particularly affecting the border provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The year 2024 turned out to be the deadliest for Pakistan's civil and military security forces in a decade with at least 685 fatalities and 444 terror attacks, according to "CRSS Annual Security Report 2024" issued by Centre for Security and Strategic Studies. – [Geo TV](#)