

**Briefing by Ambassador Peter Wittig,
Chairman of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)
concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and
Associated Individuals and Entities,
to the Security Council on 16 May 2011**

I. Introduction

[1] Mr. President, I have had the honour to assume the chairmanship of the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee in January 2011. In today's briefing, I would like to give an overview of the Committee's activities and achievements since the last briefing in November 2010, and in addition I would like to offer comments on the future work of this Committee from the Chairman's point of view. *A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed as hard copy today and made accessible on the Committee's website¹.*

II. Activities and Achievements

[2] Mr. President, at the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting (Austria) and his team, for his excellent work in steering the Committee in 2009 and 2010. Under the able Austrian chairmanship the Committee concluded successfully the first comprehensive review of the Consolidated List. *Based on the results of this review, the Monitoring Team prepared amendments and additional narrative summaries of reasons for listing.*

[3] Today, I am pleased to report that the Committee, building on these efforts, has approved the most comprehensive set of updates to the Consolidated List and the largest group of narrative summaries of reasons for listing in its history. Specifically, the Committee has just agreed to 78 list amendments and to make publicly available almost 200 additional summaries of reasons for listing. *The Secretariat will be working hard to get these updates and amendments out on the website in a timely manner. In particular, the additional narrative summaries will further facilitate the implementation of the sanctions. They mark an important step to close an information gap and further enhance fair and clear procedures. However, this Council has clearly flagged in resolution 1904 (2009) that further efforts to this end are required.*

¹ <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/chairmanbriefings.shtml>

[4] First, the Council directed the Committee to continue to conduct reviews on a regular basis, and the Committee, supported by the relevant Member States, the Monitoring Team and the Secretariat is working hard to deliver.

The review of 48 individuals reported to be deceased pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1904 (2009) is currently underway. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Member States for their cooperation and their efforts in submitting to the Committee any relevant information in the context of this review. *The Committee is currently in the process of reviewing the new information it has received and assessing the appropriateness of the continued listing of these individuals.* The Committee aims to conclude this review by the end of May before conducting other reviews as requested by the Council in resolution 1904 (2009), *i.e. the review of list entries that lack identifiers for effective implementation of the sanctions (para. 31) and the review of names on the Consolidated List which have not been reviewed in three or more years (para. 32).* In addition, the Committee decided to review listed entities that are reported to have ceased to exist and agreed on a paper outlining the modalities of this specialized review.

[5] Secondly, with resolution 1904 (2009), this Council established the Office of the Ombudsperson. *Judge Kimberly Prost was appointed by the Secretary-General on 3 June 2010.* As of today the Ombudsperson, Judge Kimberly Prost, has received 10 requests for delisting. The Ombudsperson submitted her first Comprehensive Report on a specific delisting request to the Committee in February 2011, and two further Comprehensive Reports on two additional delisting cases in April 2011. The Committee is currently considering these delisting requests and has been discussing with the Ombudsperson her observations, including the methodology and standards applied in her reviews of the requests. The Committee will conclude its considerations according to resolution 1904 (2009) and the relevant guidelines. The Committee views the assistance of the Ombudsperson as valuable and helpful for reaching well-founded decisions. The Committee *strives to achieve maximum transparency regarding its decisions on de-listing requests presented through the office of the Ombudsperson, and it is currently considering options in this regard as recommended by the Monitoring Team in its 11th report,*

[6] Thirdly, resolution 1904 (2009) encourages all members of the Committee to provide reasons for objecting to delisting requests, *whether submitted through the Ombudsperson or through Member States or review processes.* As Chair, I am insisting that all Committee members do so in a timely manner. In this connection, I am pleased to note that the Committee has been able to reach a consensus on the way and the form in which reasons for the Committee's decision could be communicated to relevant stakeholders on a case-by-case basis.

III. Facts and Figures

[7] The Consolidated List currently has 488 entries: 258 Al-Qaida individuals, 138 Taliban individuals and 92 Al-Qaida entities. Since the last Chairman's briefing to the Security Council, the Committee has added the names of 6 individuals to the List. Over the same period, it has removed 6 individuals from the List and amended 37 entries based on additional information gathered.

[8] The Committee has made a concerted effort, with the help of the Monitoring Team, to expedite the process of making accessible on its website the narrative summaries of reasons for listing that were hitherto unavailable. To this end, the Committee has approved the posting of 70 narrative summaries related to listed individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida at the end of March. Furthermore, the Committee has recently approved the remaining 125 narrative summaries related to listed individuals associated with the Taliban. These will be made available on the website of the Committee in the near future. Currently there are narrative summaries for 257 Al-Qaida individuals, 88 Al-Qaida entities and 12 Taliban individuals available on the Committee's website.

[9] Since the last briefing by my predecessor to the Security Council in November 2010, the Monitoring Team has made 10 trips to Member States. Visits to Member States by the Monitoring Team plays a useful role in the Committee's cooperation and interaction with Member States. These visits promote a dialogue with States and facilitate the provision to the Committee of additional information for the Consolidated List and on the implementation of the sanctions measures, as well as on their effectiveness. The Monitoring Team also organized its 9th regional meeting for the heads and deputy heads of intelligence and security services from Algeria, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Tunisia in April. These meetings continue to provide the Committee, through the Team's participation, with useful feedback and information as to what is happening on the ground and the changes in the threat from Al-Qaida and its associates, and the practical difficulties of implementation.

[10] The Monitoring Team continues to participate in many international seminars and provided briefings on international terrorism to a wide variety of audiences. All this has increased understanding of the sanctions regime and advanced its objectives. The Monitoring Team also continues to work with regional and sub-regional organizations, often in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Terrorism Prevention Branch, as well as with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) experts and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts. The details of the areas of cooperation between the three expert groups have been elaborated in the joint statement by my colleague, the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee or 1373

Committee. I am pleased to note that a growing new area of cooperation between the Monitoring Team and the CTED experts is that they have been making presentations on each other's behalf, which I hope, will expand.

[11] The Committee continues to co-operate with other international and technical organizations. In April 2011, it has reached signed a new agreement with INTERPOL on revised procedures for this co-operation within the framework of the October 2009 Supplementary Arrangement between the United Nations and INTERPOL in relation to United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committees. The procedures take into account the lessons learned since the issuance of the first Special Notices in 2005 and they will guide the Committee's future interactions with INTERPOL regarding: the exchange of information; the issuance and maintenance of Special Notices; and direct access to INTERPOL's police information system.

[12] The Monitoring Team also remains an active member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, co-chairing its working group on terrorist use of the Internet which successfully held the first international conference on Using the Internet to counter the appeal of terrorism in Riyadh in January this year and playing a role in its working groups on countering the financing of terrorism and on the protection of human rights while combating terrorism, as well as conceiving and promoting several other projects within the context of the Global Strategy.