

# FACT SHEET

## Extremist Signs and Symbols - Islamist

**Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)** also known as **Dawlat al-'Iraq al-Islamiyya**, **Islamic State of Iraq (ISI)**, **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)** and **Dawlat al Islamiya fi Iraq wa al Sham (DAISh)** and the **Islamic State in Iraq and Sham** (right) is a brutal Sunni Islamist terrorist group active in Iraq and Syria. The group adheres to a global jihadist ideology which is anti-Western and promotes sectarian violence. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK. ISIL's flag features a handwritten, rougher version of the 'shadada' or Islamic declaration of faith. The white seal is meant to resemble the official seal of the Prophet Muhammad.



**Al Qaeda (AQ)** (left) was inspired and led by Usama Bin Laden. Its aims are the expulsion of Western forces from Saudi Arabia, the destruction of Israel and the end of Western influence in the Muslim world. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.

**The Saved Sect or Saviour Sect** (otherwise known as **Islam4UK**, **Islamic Path**, **London School of Sharia**, **Muslims Against Crusades** and **Al Muhajiroun**) (right) is an Islamist group which seeks to establish an Islamic Caliphate ruled by Shariah law. It first emerged in the UK in 1996 led by Omar Bakri Muhammed. It is based and operates within the UK. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation within the UK.



The flag of Hamas (right) features the shadada on a green background. Hamas is a Sunni Islamist group which seeks to end Israeli occupation in Palestine and establish an Islamic State. It is listed as a proscribed organisation by the UK government.



NB: (It is important to note that many flags linked to the Muslim faith often bear the 'shahada' or Islamic declaration of faith ("There is no god but God, Muhammad is the messenger of God"). This includes for example the national flag of Saudi Arabia (left). **The presence or absence of this slogan does not determine whether the group it represents is extremist.** Green is often used as a background because it is believed that green was Muhammad's favourite colour.



## ISIS FLAG

The flag of Islamic State is flown by an Islamist militant.



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