

US State Department labels Egyptian Ansar bayt al-Maqdis terrorists

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The U.S. State Department announced today that it has designated Ansar bayt al-Maqdis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

The Office of the Spokesperson released a press release on the State Department website, saying that the Egyptian extremist group has been responsible for a number of attacks on Egyptians, tourists, and Israeli targets.

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis was created in 2011, following the Revolution. According to the State Department, "ABM" shares "some aspects of AQ (Al-Qaeda) ideology" but is a separate entity and retains a local focus.

ABM has attacked tourists, southern Israeli areas, Egyptian military personnel, government officials and civilians. ABM's most recent attack was on a tour bus in the Sinai Peninsula in February of 2014. The bombing killed the Egyptian driver and three South Korean tourists.