

State Sponsors of Terrorism

In December 1979, the U.S. Department of State began to designate governments that “have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism,” as state sponsors of terrorism. Designation is formally made by the State Department’s Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. Designated states are subject to sanctions, including a ban on U.S. arms sales, controls on dual-use items, a prohibition on economic assistance, a requirement that the U.S. oppose loans by international financial institutions, the denial of tax credits to U.S. citizens for income earned in the designated country, and denial of duty-free treatment of exports to the U.S. Designation also requires a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control for U.S. citizens engaging in financial transactions in a designated country. The Department of Defense is also prohibited from entering into contracts for more than \$100,000 with a company controlled by a designated state.

Authority for the list is grounded in the *Export Administration Act*, the *Arms Export Control Act*, and Section 620 of the *Foreign Assistance Act*. With the expiration of the *Export Administration Act* in January 2007, authority has also been grounded in the *International Emergency Economic Powers Act*.

States currently on the State Department’s list of state sponsors of terrorism:

Syria (December 1979)
Cuba (March 1982)
Iran (January 1984)
Sudan (August 1993)

North Korea, Iraq, Libya, and South Yemen have been removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.