

Release: Immediate

World-Check's Organised Crime Research Unit profiles narcotics group months ahead of OFAC sanction

London, 17 June 2009: On the 29th of May the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) named the Haji Juma Khan organisation as a Specially Designated Narcotics (SDN) entity, thereby freezing the group's assets and prohibiting U.S. persons from engaging in transactions with them. The network, operating in Pakistan and Afghanistan, is a suspected narcotics trafficking organisation with alleged links to the Taliban.

World-Check's specialist Organised Crime Research Unit (OCRU) profiled the Haji Juma Khan organisation and its leaders in October 2008, seven months before this sanction was issued. Afghanistan is the current primary contributor to the world heroin market – producing more than 90% of the opium that is used to make heroin. OCRU researchers had previously identified Afghanistan and Pakistan as a priority region for narcotics sanction actions and had since then allocated additional dedicated research assets to that area.

"Our ability to consistently alert clients to the risks posed by groups and individuals before they are designated by official sanction issuing bodies, confirms the effectiveness of the early warning risk intelligence we provide" said Daniel Peak, Chief Executive Officer of World-Check. "Key to this success is our specialist in-house understanding of potential areas of regulatory and reputational risk."

OCRU has developed a unique system that accurately identifies emerging regulatory risks aimed at providing intelligence to our clients well ahead of formal government sanction programs.

"Our risk identification system is unrivaled in its effectiveness as an early warning system, as demonstrated by this example" said BC Tan, Head of World-Check's Organised Crime Research Unit. "Since the Unit's establishment we have presented the most up-to-date profiles of crime networks and syndicates worldwide, by providing objective and risk relevant intelligence for global business operations and compliance units."

About World-Check

Trusted by more than 3,000 institutions in 162 countries, including over 90% of the world's largest banks, World-Check offers an end-to-end solution for assessing, managing and remediating financial, regulatory and reputational risks.

World-Check's global database of heightened risk individuals and entities, Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) reports, passport verification and country risk assessment tools provide the means to address the full spectrum of risk across all markets and industries.

Represented across five continents, World-Check's international research team monitors emerging risks in more than 40 languages, covering over 240 countries and territories worldwide.

For more information visit <http://www.world-check.com/>

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