

Revealed: How Iran tried to set up terror cells in Central Africa

From the [new report](#).

For any Iranian commander wishing to recruit a new asset and extend Tehran's reach into Africa, Djidah appeared a strong candidate. In the rebel-riven badlands of the Sahel, he had made a name for himself as a shrewd operator who could fix meetings with feared warlords.

He met a Central African official called Michel Djotodia who, following a stint studying in the Soviet Union, was serving as CAR's consul in the neighbouring Sudanese region of Darfur, then stricken by a catastrophic genocide.

The pair grew close as Djidah helped Djotodia cultivate alliances with violent Chadian and Sudanese militias, including one rebel leader who later furnished Colonel Gaddafi's regime with mercenary fighters. . . in 2008, Djotodia would return to Christian-majority CAR, eventually drawing on his network of militants to create a mainly Muslim coalition of rebels known as the "Seleka".

In 2013, he and his forces seized power in a bloody coup, fulfilling his long-held ambition of becoming CAR's first Muslim ruler. He appointed Djidah – now a sworn ally and confidante – to the position of presidential adviser, according to former cabinet ministers and other sources.

Djidah claimed that Djotodia had instructed him to collaborate with Iran and says Djotodia had first met with Quds Force officials on Kish Island in April 2016 – allegations backed by the UN's diplomatic sources.

Djotodia denies meeting with Quds Force members and participating in Tehran's plot. . . Djotodia's lawyer told the Sunday Telegraph that the UN had found no corroboration that Djotodia accepted financial support from the Quds force. . . Djidah's current location is unknown.