The Local Geography of Global Terrorism

The phrase War on Terror suggests a battle against an adversary with a certain global uniformity. It is true that one of the features of contemporary terrorism is precisely the degree to which it tactically exploits the possibilities of globalization; everything from using cell phones and the internet to coordinate operations, to exploiting media to sway opinion, to using mundane transportation technologies as weapons. However, it is also true that there are quite local conditions for terrorism. Likewise, groups that use terrorism are quite diverse in their aims and tactics, and in their geography. Some of them are, for example, quite local in orientation.

Your assignment is to explore a bit about one of the following examples, depending on your last name.

1. the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka (A-I)
2. ETA in Spain (J-R)
3. Jemaah Islamiya in Indonesia (S-Z)

In a two-page paper, please summarize the geopolitical issues related to your group. Consider these questions:

- What is the goal of your group?
- How does it view the state that controls the territory in which it resides?
- Does your group seem to have a more local, or a more global orientation? If so, how?

Make sure you draw on an effective combination of sources for your argument, and cite them (using APA style). I strongly suggest you try to gather information that shows the perspectives of your group, rather than only just outside opinions (from, say, news sources). For example, the Tamil Tigers have their own website. They do not characterize their tactics as terrorism.