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Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH)

Aka: AAH; Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq min al-Iraq; Asaib al Haq; Asa'ib Ahl al-Haqq; League of the Righteous; Khazali Network; Khazali Special Group; Qazali Network; the People of the Cave; Khazali Special Groups Network; al-Tayar al-Risali; the Missionary Current.

Description: Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) was designated as an FTO on January 10, 2020. Led by Qays and Laith al-Khazali, AAH is an Iran-backed, militant organization that remains ideologically aligned with Iran and loyal to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The group seeks to promote Iran's political and religious influence in Iraq, maintain Shia control over Iraq, and expel any remaining western military forces from the country.

Activities: Since its creation in 2006, AAH has claimed responsibility for more than 6,000 attacks against U.S. and Defeat-ISIS Coalition forces. The group has carried out highly sophisticated operations, including mortar attacks on an American base, the downing of a British helicopter, and an attack on the Karbala Provincial Headquarters that resulted in the capture and murder of five U.S. soldiers.

In 2019, two individuals assessed to be AAH members were arrested in connection to rockets fired at the Camp Taji military training complex, where U.S. personnel provide divisional training. Also in 2019, AAH members opened fire on a group of protestors trying to set fire to the group's office in Nasiriya, killing at least six. AAH continued to be active in 2022, including through indirect fire attacks on U.S. facilities in Iraq, typically using front names or proxy groups.

Strength: AAH membership is estimated at 10,000.

Location/Area of Operation: Iraq, Syria.

Funding and External Aid: AAH receives funding, logistical support, training, and weapons from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) and Hizballah. AAH also receives funding through illicit activities such as kidnapping for ransom, smuggling, and "taxing"/extortion of economic activities in areas where the group is dominant.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101679 Chapter

30 November 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

Syrian Arab Republic

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 2 - Syria](#) (Periodical Report, English)

en

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Iraq

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Iraq](#) (Periodical Report, English)

en

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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