

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	764
Land:	Libanon
Kilde:	US Department of State
Titel:	Country Report on Terrorism 2021 - Chapter 5 - Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-CG)
Udgivet:	27. februar 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	28. april 2023

Document #2088211

USDOS – US Department of State

Country Report on Terrorism 2021 - Chapter 5 - Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)

Aka PFLP-GC

Description: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) was designated as an FTO on October 8, 1997. The PFLP-GC split from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1968, claiming it wanted to concentrate more on resistance and less on politics. Ahmad Jibril, a former captain in the Syrian Army, led the PFLP-GC until his death in 2021 and was succeeded by Talal Naji. The PFLP-GC has close ties to both Syria and Iran.

Activities: The PFLP-GC carried out dozens of attacks in Europe and the Middle East during the 1970s and 1980s. The organization was known for conducting cross-border attacks into Israel using unusual means, such as hot-air balloons and motorized hang gliders. Since the early 1990s the group has focused primarily on supporting Hizballah's attacks against Israel, training members of other Palestinian terrorist groups, and smuggling weapons. More recently the PFLP-GC has been implicated by Lebanese security officials in several rocket attacks against Israel. In 2009 the group was responsible for wounding two civilians in an armed attack in Nahariyya, Israel.

In 2012 the PFLP-GC claimed responsibility for a bus bombing in Tel Aviv that injured 29 people, although 4 Palestine Islamic Jihad and Hamas operatives later were arrested for the attack. In 2015 the PFLP-GC reportedly began fighting alongside the Assad regime in Syria, while also receiving logistical and military aid from Hizballah and Iran. Separately that year, the PFLP-GC took responsibility for rocket fire aimed at Israeli territory. In that attack, at least three rockets were fired from Lebanon into northern Israel and landed near Shlomi, a small town near the Lebanese frontier with Israel.

Although the PFLP-GC did not claim responsibility for any attacks in 2021, the group remained active in Syria.

Strength: The PFLP-GC has several hundred members.

Location/Area of Operation: Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza

Funding and External Aid: The PFLP-GC receives safe haven and logistical and military support from

Syria as well as financial support from Iran.

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2021)

Countries:

Lebanon, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic

Source:

USDOS – US Department of State

Original link:

<https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2021/#PFLP-GC>

Document type:

Periodical Report

Language:

English

Published:

27 February 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

22 March 2023

Document ID:

2088211

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ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

