

Irak (26)

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**UNITED NATIONS
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FACSIMILE MESSAGE

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Subject: Your request for information regarding IMIK in Iraq

Reference is made to your fax regarding the above mentioned issue. Please be informed that we have received an interim reply from our Headquarters in Geneva which we are able to share with you.

The IMIK is rooted in the "Al-Ekhwan-e Muslimin" (Muslim Brothers) group and it had difficulties to turn the party from a "community" form into a party form. However, they found quite a strong social base in Kurdistan. The Movement was led by Mala Osman Abdulaziz for quite a long time. Later, his brother Mala Ali Abdulaziz, who had been heading the politbureau was elected as the leader of the party in 1998. Mala Osman moved to Arbil where he lived under the protection and support of the KDP. The movement has a lot of big reputation leaders, such as Ali Bapir, Mala Fateh Krekar, Sheikh Mohammed Barzanji.

The IMIK has been controlling Halepcha and around and is quite affective in Pishdar region. Those regions are quite rural and feudalistic. The life conditions has not improved since 1988, the Anfal Operations.

When the IMIK reached to a specific strength, it was divided and two groups started to perform separate activities: Al-Nahda and Hamas. The first one was a political organisation which was overt and the other was a secret organisation

which performed some terrorist activities, such as bombing 2 locations in Solaimaniyeh. The leaders and some members of Hamas were killed and the group got lost in time. Later AL-Nahda reunited with the IMIK.

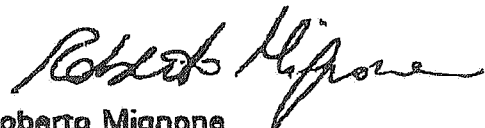
The relations of the IMIK with the PUK and the KDP are quite good. The IMIK had two ministers in the KDP cabinet until they participated in the PUK cabinet. Upon that the KDP asked them to resign from their positions in late 1997. However, this did not ruin their relations. However, one specific incident around Haj Omran which led the death of one peshmerga led the KDP to take some precautions. The KDP is not tolerant for the military activities of the IMIK in its region. However, there is no restriction for their political activities. They are not agents of persecution in the KDP controlled areas in our opinion.

The relations with the PUK has been quite good since 1995, although the PUK strengthened its position against the IMIK after the Aug. 1996 Operation (because the KDP forces which entered in Solaimaniye first had come from Halepche region). However, they stabilised their relations. They have seats in the cabinet and have their offices in the PUK-controlled areas. The IMIK has a limited number of militia in the PUK-controlled areas but they are for protection of offices. The IMIK is not tolerated but cannot be 100% controlled either. There are some extremists who could be risk for those who are outspoken and attacking Islam.

The IMIK relations with the leftist groups such as Workers' Communist party of Iraq (WCPI) and Independent Women Organisation (IWO) have never been good. However, the ruling parties in N. Iraq have taken some precautions to prevent an open dispute between the leftist groups and the IMIK. Therefore their discussions only happens on their media facilities.

We regret the very long delay in responding to you, but hope that the above information can be of use to you.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto Mignone
Regional Protection Officer