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Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Kata'ib Hizballah

Aka Hizballah Brigades; Hizballah Brigades in Iraq; Hizballah Brigades-Iraq; Kata'ib Hezbollah; Khata'ib Hezbollah; Khata'ib Hizballah; Khattab Hezbollah; Hizballah Brigades-Iraq of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq; Islamic Resistance in Iraq; Kata'ib Hizballah Fi al-Iraq; Katibat Abu Fathel al-A'abas; Katibat Zayd Ebin Ali; Katibut Karbalah.

Description: Kata'ib Hizballah (KH) was designated as an FTO on July 2, 2009. Formed in 2006 as an anti-western Shia group, the group conducted attacks against U.S., Iraqi, and Defeat-ISIS Coalition targets in Iraq and threatened the lives of Iraqi politicians and civilians supporting the legitimate political process in Iraq. KH is notable for its extensive use of media operations and propaganda, such as filming and releasing videos of attacks. KH has ideological ties to and receives support from Iran.

Activities: KH has claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks since 2007, including IED attacks, rocket-propelled grenade attacks, and sniper operations. In 2007, KH gained notoriety for its attacks against U.S. and Defeat-ISIS Coalition forces in Iraq. In 2011, five U.S. soldiers were killed in Baghdad when KH assailants fired multiple rockets at a U.S. military base, Camp Victory.

In 2019, KH members stormed the Bahraini Embassy in Baghdad in protest of Bahrain's hosting the United States' Israeli-Palestinian peace conference. KH also was reportedly involved in sniper operations against Iraqi protestors in 2019. In December, KH was blamed for a rocket attack on K-1 Air Base in Kirkuk that killed one U.S. citizen. On December 31, KH members broke into the U.S. Embassy Baghdad compound and participated in a violent attack against the facility, setting fires inside,

which destroyed security checkpoints and reception rooms. In 2020, KH reportedly launched rockets at Camp Taji, an American-controlled military base near Baghdad, killing two Americans and one British soldier, and wounding 14 others. In 2021, KH was suspected of a March rocket attack on Ain al-Asad Air Base, which hosts U.S. soldiers.

In 2022, KH remained active in Iraq and Syria, typically using front names or proxy groups to obfuscate its involvement in attacks. In August, KH was suspected of launching two Iranian-manufactured unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) toward the U.S. base at al-Tanf, Syria. The UAVs reportedly were launched from a KH-controlled area in Iraq.

Strength: KH is estimated to have as many as 10,000 fighters.

Location/Area of Operation: Iraq and Syria.

Funding and External Aid: KH depends heavily on support from Iran.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101676 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

[ID 2101564](#)

ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Kata'ib Hizballah (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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