

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1262
Land:	Irak
Kilde:	US Department of State
Titel:	Country Report on Terrorism 2018 - Chapter 5 – Kata'ib Hizballah
Udgivet:	1. november 2019
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	19. december 2019

Document #2019473

USDOS – US Department of State

Country Report on Terrorism 2018 - 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: Formed in 2006 and designated as a FTO on July 2, 2009, Kata’ib Hizballah (KH) is an anti-Western Shia group with a terrorist ideology. Prior to the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011, the group conducted attacks against Iraqi, U.S., and Coalition targets in Iraq, and it 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. For example, it has filmed and released 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 Coalition Forces in Iraq. In June 2011, five U.S. soldiers were killed in Baghdad when KH assailants fired multiple rockets at U.S. military base, Camp Victory. The group remained active in 2015, fighting in Syria in support of the Assad regime, and in Iraq against ISIS. In June and July 2015, the group broadcast its recruitment contact information and an appeal for donations on a pro-Iran channel and on YouTube in an effort to recruit fighters to Syria and Iraq.

In 2016, KH continued to fight ISIS alongside the Iraqi army, but it operated outside the Iraqi government’s command-and-control structure. In 2017, the group threatened to fight “American occupiers” in Iraq, in an article published on the group’s official website. In 2018, the group issued a warning statement threatening the U.S. presence in Iraq in retaliation for a non-Coalition airstrike that hit KH members in Syria.

Strength: KH’s exact size is unknown.

Location/Area of Operation: The group is based predominately in Iraq, but it also fights alongside pro-Assad regime forces in Syria.

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

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of Kata’ib Hizballah (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2018)



Countries:

Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic

Source:

USDOS – US Department of State [\(/en/source/11558.html\)](/en/source/11558.html)

Original link (no longer valid):

~~<https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2018/#KH>~~

Document type:

Periodical Report

Language:

English

Published:

1 November 2019

Document ID:

2019473

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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.

