

# IRANIAN-BACKED SHI'ITE MILITANT GROUPS

**CORE IDEOLOGY** The Shi'ites believe Islam's only legitimate leaders are a chain of twelve divinely appointed Imams (spiritual and religious leaders). The first divinely appointed Imam was the fourth Caliph, 'Ali Bin Abi Talib. Shi'ites believe that the last Imam in the chain (the twelfth Imam) disappeared in the 9th Century. He is therefore known as the Disappearing Imam. Shi'ites believe he is the Mahdi (messiah) and that he will come back and redeem humanity through a process in which most of humankind will die. The survivors will enjoy eternal justice, peace, and prosperity. Shi'ites are hostile to Western civilization and its values. They object to all political ideologies – Atheism, Communism, Democracy, Socialism, etc. Shi'ites are hostile to Sunnis. Shi'ites view Jews as impure. Shi'ite militias vow to eliminate the state of Israel.

**IRANIAN AGENT OR PROXY** To further Iran's agenda, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards (IRG) and its elite unit, the al-Quds Force, support and nurture a network of Shi'ite and Sunni agents and proxies by providing them with military know-how, money, training, and weapons.

**Agent** An existing entity that can help the Iranian regime further its goals. An agent's policy often prioritizes Iranian interests. However, an agent can often implement a policy that does not prioritize Iran's interests. An example of a Sunni Iranian agent is the Palestinian Sunni militant Islamic movement Hamas.

**Proxy** If there is no existing Shi'ite or Sunni entity Iran can co-opt to help the regime further its goals, Iran creates one to act as a proxy. A proxy works and acts in close cooperation and coordination with the IRG and the al-Quds Force. Proxies almost always prioritize Iran's needs and interests. An example of a proxy is the Lebanese Hezbollah.

GROUPS	AREA OF OPERATION	PROXY / AGENT	POLITICAL PARTY	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
HARAKAT AL-NUJABA	IRAQ / SYRIA	PROXY	YES	
HARAKAT AS-SABIREEN NASRAN LI-FILASTIN	GAZA	PROXY	NO	Consists of *Palestinians in Gaza who converted to Shi'ism. It is a minor militia.
ANSAR ALLAH	YEMEN	AGENT	YES	
'ASAIB AHL AL-HAQ (AAH)	IRAQ / SYRIA	PROXY	YES	
AL-BADR MILITIA	IRAQ	PROXY / AGENT	YES	
AL-FATEMIYOUN	SYRIA	PROXY	NO	Consists of Shi'ite Afghans recruited in Afghanistan or Iran.
HEZBOLLAH	AFRICA, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH AMERICA	PROXY	YES	
IMAM 'ALI BRIGADES	IRAQ / SYRIA	PROXY	YES	
KATAIB HEZBOLLAH	IRAQ / SYRIA	PROXY	YES	
LIWA ABU AL-FADHAL AL-ABBAS	IRAQ / SYRIA	PROXY	YES	
LIWA ZAINEBIYOUN	SYRIA	PROXY	NO	Consists of Shi'ite Pakistanis recruited in Pakistan.

\*Most Palestinians, like most Muslims, are Sunni