

ALMONITOR Principal Shiite militias in Iraq

GROUP	HISTORY	LEADER	POLITICAL INFLUENCE
 <p>Badr Organization</p>	<p>Formed in early 1980s in Iran by military defectors</p> <p>Ex-military wing of Islamic Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution</p> <p>Did not oppose US occupation in 2003</p> <p>Split from council in 2012</p>	 <p>Hadi al-Amiri</p> <p>Transportation Minister, 2010-2014</p> <p>Member of parliament</p>	<p>22 (out of 328) seats in parliament; part of former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition</p> <p>Badr member Muhammad al-Ghabban served as Interior Minister until July 8, 2016</p>
 <p>Sadrist militias</p>	<p>Formed in 2014</p> <p>Reformation of Mahdi Army, which fought US in 2003-2007</p>	 <p>Muqtada al-Sadr</p> <p>Firebrand son of revered Shia cleric</p> <p>Called for jihad against US coalition forces in 2004</p> <p>Once close to Iran, now more nationalist</p>	<p>34 (out of 328) seats in parliament under Ahrar bloc label</p>
 <p>Hezbollah Brigades</p>	<p>Founded in 2003</p> <p>Ramped up attacks on US forces in 2007-2008, uploading videos on the internet</p> <p>Designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the State Department in 2009</p>	 <p>Jamal al-Ibrahimi aka Abu Mahdi al Muhandis</p> <p>Deputy chairman of all PMU forces</p> <p>Designated as a threat to Iraqi stability by Treasury Department in 2009</p>	
 <p>League of the Righteous</p>	<p>Founded in 2006 as an offshoot of the Mahdi Army</p> <p>Converted into political / social service organization in 2011</p> <p>Resumed military activities after IS victories in 2014</p>	 <p>Qais al-Khazali</p> <p>Former leader of Mahdi Army paramilitary "special groups" in 2006-2007</p> <p>Detained by US, 2007 – 2010</p>	<p>Allied with ex-PM Nouri al-Maliki in 2014 legislative elections under Al-Sadiqoun slate (Party leader: Adnan Fihan Moussa Cheri)</p> <p>Occupies one seat (out of 328) in parliament (representing Baghdad district).</p>
 <p>Ashura Brigades</p>	<p>Formed in 2014 after Ayatollah al-Sistani's call to jihad against IS</p> <p>Military wing of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (previously SCIRI)</p>	 <p>Ammar al-Hakim</p> <p>Member of a prominent family of clerics</p>	<p>SCIRI founded in 1982 in exile in Iran</p> <p>29 (out of 328) seats in parliament under Al-Muwatin (Citizen Alliance) label</p> <p>Closest to Iran of Iraq's three main Shiite political parties</p>
 <p>Al-Najuba Movement</p>	<p>Formed in 2013 after Iranian leader Ali Khamenei's call to assist Bashar al-Assad in Syria</p> <p>League of the Righteous splinter group</p> <p>Followers of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei</p>	 <p>Akram al-Kaabi</p> <p>Former military commander in Mahdi Army before starting own group</p>	
 <p>Movement for Jihad and Development</p>	<p>Founded in 2008</p> <p>Closely aligned with Ammar al-Hakim's Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq</p>	 <p>Hassan al-Sari</p> <p>Member of parliament</p>	<p>Hassan al-Sari is a member of parliament (Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq slate)</p>
 <p>Khorasan Brigades</p>	<p>Founded in late 2013 to fight in Syria</p> <p>Organized with help of slain IRGC Commander Gen. Hamid Taghavi</p>	 <p>Ali al-Yasiri</p> <p>Former military commander in Mahdi Army before starting own group</p>	<p>Military wing of Islamic Taleea Party</p> <p>Part of former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition</p>
 <p>Mukhtar Army</p>	<p>Formed in 2013</p> <p>Claimed responsibility for Oct. 2015 attack on Iranian dissident group MEK camp near Baghdad</p>	 <p>Wathiq al-Battat</p> <p>Killed near Baghdad in 2014</p>	
 <p>Al-Risali Brigades</p>	<p>Formed after Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani's 2014 call to Jihad</p>	 <p>Adnan al-Shahmani</p> <p>Leader of Tayyar al-Rasuli party</p>	<p>Adnan al-Shahmani is a member of parliament</p> <p>Elected under former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition; recently formed splinter "Loyalty to the Resistance" bloc</p>
 <p>Imam Ali Brigades</p>	<p>Armed wing of the newly created Harakat al-Iraq al-Islamiya (Movement of the Islamic Iraq)</p>	 <p>Shebli al-Zaidi</p> <p>Former Mahdi Army commander</p>	

Sources: Congressional Research Service; Jamestown Foundation; Washington Institute for Near East Policy

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