

2012-01-19

Landinformationsenheten

Fråga-svar

Palestinska områdena. Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)

Fråga

Information efterfrågas om gruppen Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) (*Jabhat at-tahrir al-filastiniyya*). PLF har tidigare funnits med på EU:s terrorlista, men försvann därifrån 2010.

Svar

Migrationsverket (2009) uppger att PLF är politiskt engagerat, bl.a. på Västbanken.

PLF bildades redan 1959, huvudsakligen som en underrättelseorganisation i tjänst för den dåvarande syriska regimen. Har en lång historia av samgående med och splittring från olika andra organisationer, spektakulära terrorattentat mm, bl.a. kapningen av passagerarfärjan Achille Lauro 1985[...] En av PLF-fraktionerna ("Abu Abbas") finns representerad i PLO och tillhör en av de organisationer som erkänt staten Israel i och med DOP 1993 och officiellt lagt ned terrorism som metod. PLF har begränsat inflytande på de palestinska områdena, men verkar idag politiskt vid al-Fatahs sida och har representation i bl.a. Betlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Jenin, Jeriko och Tulkarm. (Generalsekreterare, Dr Wasel Abu Yousef). (s. 86)

Landinfo (2008) rapporterar om att PLF 1983 splittrades i tre olika fraktioner.

5.1.6 PLF – "Abu al-Abbas fraksjonen"

PLF (Palestinian Liberation Front), Jabhat at-tahrir al-filastiniyya, splittet fra PFLP-GC (se under) i 1976. Da det oppsto kamper mellom ulike palestinske fraksjoner i Libanon i 1983 ble PLF splittet i tre. En del under ledelse av Abu al-Abbas støttet Yasser Arafat og Al-Fatah. En annen gren under ledelse av Abdalfatah Ghanim støttet Fatah al-Intifada (se under) som var i opposisjon til Arafat. En tredje gren under ledelse av Talat Yaqub, og senere Abu Nidal al-Ashqar forsøkte å forholde seg nøytral. Fraksjonen til Abu al-Abbas har hatt kontorer i Libanon så vel som i De palestinske områdene og i Irak. Abu al-Abbas døde i amerikansk fangenskap i Irak i 1993¹. I Libanon ledes fraksjonen i dag av Nazem Yusef, men har kun marginal oppslutning. (s. 23)

[...]

5.2.7 PLF – ”Abu Nidal al-Ashqar fraksjonen”

PLF (Palestinian Liberation Front), Jabhat at-tahrir al-filastiniyya, splittet fra PFLP-GC i 1976. Da det oppsto kamper mellom ulike palestinske fraksjoner i Libanon i 1983 ble PLF splittet i tre. En del under ledelse av Abu al-Abbas (se ovenfor) støttet Yasser Arafat og Fatah. En annen gren under ledelse av Abdalfatah Ghanim støttet Fatah al-Intifada. En tredje gren under ledelse av Talat Yaqub, og senere Abu Nidal al-Ashqar forsøkte å forholde seg nøytral. Abu Nidal al-Ashqars fraksjon har hovedsete i Damaskus. I Libanon ledes fraksjonen av Mohammad Yassin. Den har liten oppslutning, men skal være representert i noen av folkekomiteene i leirene i Beirut og Nord-Libanon. (s. 25)

Även om EU har strukit PLF på sin lista över terrorklassade organisationer har U.S. Department of State (september 2011) kvar organisationen på sin lista:

Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) are foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended. FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business.

Home Office (2009) skriver om ett terrordåd utført av PLF 1985. 1993 tog organisationen offisielt avstand från terrorism i samband med sitt accepterende av Oslo-avtalet. Misstankar finns dock om att PLF stödde terroraksjoner mot Israel under delar av 1990-talet.

¹ Det var 2004 Abu al-Abbas avled i amerikansk fangenskap i Irak, inte 1993.

Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)

Other Names

PLF-Abu Abbas; Palestine Liberation Front – Abu Abbas Faction

Description

In the late 1970s the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) splintered from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and later split into pro-PLO, pro-Syrian, and pro-Libyan factions. The pro-PLO faction was led by Muhammad Zaydan (a.k.a. Abu Abbas) and was based in Baghdad prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Activities

Abbas's group was responsible for the 1985 attack on the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro and the murder of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer. In 1993, the PLF officially renounced terrorism when it acknowledged the Oslo accords, although it was suspected of supporting terrorism against Israel by other Palestinian groups into the 1990s. In April 2004, Abu Abbas died of natural causes while in U.S. custody in Iraq. Current leadership and membership of the relatively small PLF appears to be based in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories. The PLF took part in the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections but did not win a seat.

Strength

Estimates have placed membership between 50 and 500.

Location/Area of Operation

Based in Iraq from 1990 until 2003. The group currently is based in Lebanon and Syria.

External Aid

Unknown (s. 107)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2007) skriver ungefär samma sak som Home Office (se ovan) angående PLF:s utveckling avseende terroraktiviteter.

Palestine Liberation Front (Jabhat al-Tahrir al-Filistiniyyah, PLF): The PLF, also known as the Abu Abbas Faction, is a small leftist nationalist group allied with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), which seeks to destroy Israel and make Jerusalem the capital of a new Palestinian state.¹⁸⁰ Founded in 1959, the last known attack by the PLF was in 1990,¹⁸¹ although the PLF has been suspected of operating after 1993, since the group reportedly distributed Iraqi funds to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers.¹⁸² Abu Abbas (aka Muhammad Zaidan), the group's leader, reportedly died in 2004.¹⁸³

U.S. Department of State (augusti 2011) uppger däremot att PLF-fraktionen Abu Abbas så sent som 2008 tog på sig ansvaret för två attacker riktade mot israeliska mål.

Palestine Liberation Front - Abu Abbas Faction

aka PLF; PLF-Abu Abbas; Palestine Liberation Front

Description: The Palestinian Liberation Front – Abu Abbas Faction (PLF) was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on October 8, 1997. In the late 1970s, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) splintered from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and then later split into pro-PLO, pro-Syrian, and pro-Libyan factions. The pro-PLO faction was led by Muhammad Zaydan (a.k.a. Abu Abbas) and was based in Baghdad prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Activities: Abbas's group was responsible for the 1985 attack on the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro and the murder of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer. In 1993, the PLF officially renounced terrorism when it acknowledged the Oslo accords, although it was suspected of supporting terrorism against Israel by other Palestinian groups into the 1990s. In April 2004, Abu Abbas died of natural causes while in U.S. custody in Iraq. The PLF took part in the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections but did not win a seat. In 2008, as part of a prisoner exchange between Israel and Hizballah, Samir Kantar, a PLF member, and purportedly the longest serving Arab prisoner in Israeli custody, was released from an Israeli prison. After going approximately 16 years without claiming responsibility for an attack, PLF claimed responsibility for two attacks against Israeli targets on March 14, 2008, according to media reports. One attack was against an Israeli military bus in Huwarah, Israel, and the other involved a PLF "brigade" firing at an Israeli settler south of the Hebron Mountain, seriously wounding him. On March 28, 2008, shortly after the attacks, a PLF Central Committee member reaffirmed PLF's commitment to using "all possible means to restore" its previous glory and to adhering to its role in the Palestinian "struggle" and "resistance," through its military.

Strength: Estimates have placed membership between 50 and 500.

Location/Area of Operation: Based in Iraq from 1990 until 2003. Current PLF leadership and membership are based in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

External Aid: Unknown. (s. 232)

Enligt en artikel i Ma'an News (2009) har PLF:s "väpnade gren Abu al-Abbas-brigaderna" tagit på sig ansvaret för olika attentat mot israeliska mål.

The armed wing of the Palestine Liberation Front, the Abu Al-Abbas Brigades, claimed responsibility for firing a Grad rocket on Sderot and a mortar shell at Israeli tanks, as well as shooting a number of Israeli soldiers east of Khan Younis and clashed with soldiers in the south and east of Gaza.

U.S. Department of State (2004) uppger att PLF 2003 genomförde terrordåd riktade mot Israel.

Iraq was a safehaven, transit point, and operational base for groups and individuals who direct violence against the United States, Israel, and other countries. Baghdad overtly assisted two categories of Iraqi-based terrorist organizations – Iranian dissidents devoted to toppling the Iranian Government and a variety of Palestinian groups opposed to peace with Israel. The groups include the Iranian Mujahedin-e Khalq, the Abu Nidal organization (although Iraq reportedly killed its leader), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), and the Arab Liberation Front (ALF). In the past year, the PLF increased its operational activity against Israel and sent its members to Iraq for training for future terrorist attacks.

PLF förnekar uppgifter i amerikansk och israelisk media att organisationen skulle ha utfört ett attentat i Gaza, där tre personer dödades. (Al-Hayat al-Jadidah 2003)

Excerpt from report by Rumal Shahrur al-Suwayti in Nablus entitled: "Palestine Liberation Front denies responsibility for Bayt Hanun operation", published by Palestinian newspaper Al-Hayat al-Jadidah on 20 October 2003.

A prominent leader in the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has refuted accusations published by various US and Israeli news media to the effect that the group is responsible for the bombing of a US vehicle in Bayt Hanun, in which three Americans were killed. Dr Wasil Abu-Yusuf, a member of the PLF Political Bureau and the PLO Central Committee, told Al-Hayat al-Jadidah that "the accusations published by Time Magazine are false and have nothing whatsoever to do with reality". He noted that all factions and organizations without any exception have categorically announced that they have nothing to do with this operation.

Se även nedanstående sammanställning för bakgrundsinformation om PLF:

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *Syria: The Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF)*, 2000-01-25

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6ad7c24.html>

Konsulterade databaser och söktjänster

Lifos

Ecoi.net

Refworld

Dow Jones Factiva

Google

Ma'an News Agency

Haaretz

The Daily Star

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

AlArabiya.net

Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda av Migrationsverkets landinformationsenhet under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende.

Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden.

Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

Källförteckning

Al-Hayat al-Jadidah². *Palestine Liberation Front denies involvement in Gaza bombing*, 2003-10-20

Artikeln tillgänglig via Dow JonesFactiva

Home Office, *Country of Origin Information Report; Occupied Palestinian Territories*, 2009-08-06

http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1250681536_palestine-070809.pdf

(Hämtad 2012-01-18)

² En palestinsk tidning

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *Country Fact Sheet - Israel*, 2007-01-15

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(Hämtad 2012-01-18)

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<http://www.maannnews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=207873>

(Hämtad 2012-01-19)

Migrationsverket, *Landprofil – palestinska områdena*, 2009-11-11

Lifos 21882

U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Terrorism 2010*, 2011-08-18

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2011/08/170695.htm>

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U.S. Department of State, *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*, 2011-09-15

<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

Informationen hämtad 2012-01-18

U.S. Department of State, *Patterns of Global Terrorism 2003 - Iraq*, 2004-04-29

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/468107de30.html>

(Hämtad 2012-01-18)