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Landinformationsenheten

Fråga-svar

Irak. Jaysh al-Quds (Jerusalem Army)

Fråga

Information efterfrågas om den militära organisationen Jaysh al-Quds (Jerusalem Army), som var verksam i Irak under slutet av Saddam-epoken.

Hur många medlemmar fanns det? Uppdrag? Rekryteringsmetoder?

Förekom tvångsrekrytering?

Finns uppgifter om att medlemmarna t.ex. utförde tortyr eller andra grova övergrepp?

Svar

Jaysh al-Quds (engelska: Jerusalem Army¹) var ett slags folkpolis i Irak, inrättad 2000-2001 i samband med inledningen av den andra intifadan på de palestinska områdena.

Olika siffror på antalet medlemmar i Jaysh al-Quds förekommer, men klart är att det handlade om hundratusentals personer. Avsikten var inte att använda organisationen i strid, kvaliteten var för låg, utan det handlade snarare om ett storskaligt propagandaprojekt. Enligt irakiska regimen var syftet att stödja palestiniernas kamp mot Israel, därav namnet.

Ingen information har efter sökning i olika databaser hittats om att vanliga medlemmar i Jaysh al-Quds skulle ha utfört systematiska övergrepp mot civilbefolkningen, se dock nedan vad UNHCR skriver om högre officerare.

¹ *Jaysh* betyder armé. *al-Quds* ("helig") är det arabiska namnet på Jerusalem.

Sammanställning av information från olika källor:

Landinfo (2002) har gjort en sammanställning av Jaysh al-Quds med information om organisationens historia, uppgifter, rekrytering och tjänstgöringstid för medlemmar.

Generelt

Jaysh al-Quds (Jerusalems Frigjøringshær) er en militær enhet som ikke er knyttet til den ordinære irakiske hæren. Enheten består offisielt av seks millioner soldater, et tall som anses som høyst usikkert. Jaysh al-Quds bygger videre på den gamle folkehæren Jaysh al-Shaab, som ble nedlagt etter Gulf-krigen i 1991. Pga. at mannskapsunderlaget er det samme er det etter all sannsynlighet snakk om et navnebytte. Kilden til opplysningene i dette notatet er Norges ambassade i Bagdad. Opplysningene er gitt i januar og februar 2002.

Oppgaver

På grunnlag av sammensetningen av mannskapene kan Jaysh al-Quds karakteriseres som en reservehær. Hæren kan neppe betegnes som operativ.

Rekruttering

Mannskapsgrunnet er stort sett reservesoldater eller vernepliktige som har avsluttet pliktig militærtjeneste. Rekrutteringen til forløperen Jaysh al-Shaab foregikk ved tvang. Det samme synes å gjelde for Jaysh al-Quds. Det tvangsmessige består i at enheten i navnet består av frivillige, mens rekrutteringen i praksis gjennomføres i form av innkalling fra myndighetene.

Tjenesteforhold

Tjenestetiden anslås til å være på et halvt år. Innkalling kan skje når som helst. I den grad det blir gitt tjenestegodtgjørelse, vil denne være svært beskjeden.

Sannolikt hade organisationen starkt begränsad stridsduglighet, uppger Global Security (2011).

The civilian Ba'athist Party-based popular militias (believed 1 million-strong before the Gulf War) have reportedly been disbanded, as have the 100,000-strong "pro-regime" Kurdish militias. Following the renewed Israeli-Palestinian violence in late 2000, Iraq created the Al Quds (Jerusalem) Volunteer Army in early 2001 to ostensibly liberate Palestine and Jerusalem and defeat the Zionists (Israelis). Iraq reported that this force is made up of 7 million Iraqis divided into 21 divisions. However, it is more likely that this force was propaganda designed to show Iraqi support for the Palestinian cause, has fewer personnel, and is an ineffective fighting force.

Enligt Human Rights Watch (2003) förekom ofta tvångsrekrytering av shiamuslimer och kurder.

In February 2001, President Saddam Hussein announced the formation of a new paramilitary force, the Jaysh al-Quds [Jerusalem Army], with the aim to “liberate” Jerusalem. Iraqi males of military age, particularly Shi’a and Kurds, were often forced to “volunteer” for service in the Jaysh al-Quds.

Home Office och Danish Immigration Service (2002) har inhämtat information under en utredningsresa:

3.3.1 Al Quds/Jerusalem Army

According to international sources in Amman “Jaysh al-Tahrir al-Quds” (Jerusalem Army) was founded in the year 2000. Both men and women can join the Jerusalem Army. The Iraqi president founded the army in October-November 2000 at the beginning of the Second Palestinian Intifada. It is a propaganda tool and it’s alleged mission is to take back the “lost Holy Land”, Palestine and in particular, Jerusalem. According to an Embassy in Amman al Quds is a political force, which exist just for show. Recruits are paid for joining but have to wait a long time for their salary. They are also given housing. Allegedly there are 1-2 million volunteers.

3.3.2 Recruitment

According to international sources in Amman al Quds is a political/armed militia force. Recruitment began as voluntary but in time changed to be involuntary. According to an Embassy in Amman it is possible for the recruitee to buy his way out. However the amount payable will be dependant upon his connections with the recruiting office. For example it can vary from 100,000 Iraqi dinars up to 2 million Iraqi dinars. Members are recruited from the general population. According to International sources in Amman there is no clear information regarding the recruitment system or punishment and penalties for evasion or desertion.

3.3.3 Tasks

Allegedly the army was established in order to liberate “the Holy Land” - Palestine and Jerusalem.

3.3.4 Evasion and Desertion

According to an Embassy in Amman if a recruitee refuses to join he may run the risk of being fired from his job, losing his food ration or may lose his permission to build a house. Potential persecution depends on the person who is in charge. (s. 10-11)

Home Office (2005) skriver, med hänvisning till rapportering från Nederländernas utrikesministerium, om rekryteringen av medlemmar.

Ursprungligen hette organisationen Volunteer Forces of Jerusalem Day, även om frivilligheten var en sanning med modifikation.

Al Quds

Initially this army unit was known as the „Volunteer Forces of Jerusalem Day“. This army, was, according to the Ba‘ath authorities, supposed to be made up of volunteers, and was used for the liberation of the Palestinian areas. It was used in particular for propaganda purposes and had little military power. The name of the army was changed in February 2001 to „Jerusalem Liberation Army/Al Quds Army“. Although the term „voluntary“ no longer featured in the name, the authorities still considered it to be a volunteer army, which is why no formal legislation had been issued making it an offence to refuse to serve in the army. Officially no charges were brought against people who refused to join. This would have run counter to the alleged voluntary nature of the army. Nothing was recorded in Iraqi criminal law about the „Jerusalem Liberation Army“. [71a] (p75)

Although a volunteer army in principle, in practice it appeared that people were urgently sought to enlist. In general, „volunteers“ (men aged from approximately 18 to 50) were being recruited during house calls by representatives of the Ba‘ath party. Men who refused to join (and were unable to bribe the recruitment officer) might have been punished, although the lack of legislation meant that the punishment was not clearly defined. It could have included food ration restrictions, problems at work, or forced termination of studies. Those who refused also found themselves registered as disloyal to the Ba‘ath government in the security service files. This could possibly have led to (serious) problems for the relevant „volunteer“ and the members of his family at a later stage. As a result few probably refused. If you were already recorded as being disloyal, prior to the recruitment (because you came from a „tainted“ family, for example), refusal to serve in the „Jerusalem Liberation Army“ could have been considered a political act. Detention and maltreatment could have then be used. This was a rare category, however. [71a] (p75-76)

It was relatively simple to bribe the relevant recruitment officer. You were then released from the „obligation“ to put yourself forward as a „volunteer“. Apparently Iraqis living abroad could have bought themselves free for USD 1,000 (€ 988). They would have had to pay this sum at the Iraqi embassy in the country where they were living and once they had paid, they were issued with a written declaration which could have been presented to the (military) authorities should they have entered Iraq. They were then no longer called up for Al Quds. Although the above amount was high in Iraqi terms, settlement has shown that the Iraqi authorities were accommodating towards people who did not want to serve as volunteers in this army. [71a] (p76) (s. 124-5)

Enligt International Federation for Human Rights (2002) fungerade Jaysh al-Quds som ett sätt att kontrollera befolkningen och dess lojalitet med regimen.

The recent "Jerusalem Liberation Army" (Jaysh Tahrir Al Quds), founded during the second Intifada in Palestine and commanded by General Ayad Al Rawi, mobilises and maintains the entire population in arms and serves as a means of control and surveillance. Every day, usually between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., all the provinces must organize training for the people (men, women, young and old), in rotation, in squares, stadiums and other public places. Although no Iraqi "volunteers" have been sent to "liberate Jerusalem", the training is a new way to control the population. Those who refuse to comply lose their ration cards (introduced by the government since the sanctions) and are thus identified as not fully supporting the regime. This army includes special forces deployed in areas considered sensitive by the regime. These are currently based in Kurdish regions in the North. (s. 8)

UNHCR (2005) uppger att många högre officerare i olika paramilitära grupper, som t.ex. Jaysh al-Quds, deltog i Anfal-kampanjerna 1998, då irakisk militär genomförde attacker mot landsbygden i de kurdiska områdena, och även när det shiamuslimska upproret i södra Irak slogs ned 1991.

47. Many senior ranking cadres within the Ba'ath Party built a career through dual membership in the Ba'ath Party and the Special Republican Guards, as chiefs of loyal tribes, as members of the intelligence and security forces, and so forth. These individuals were generally assigned various tasks as senior officials of the Ba'ath Party at the levels of governorates, districts, sub-districts, cities and communes. Many were also implicated in policing activities with the army and security forces, the search for army deserters, and recruitment for paramilitary armed groups such as Jaish Al-Quds (The Jerusalem Army), the Fedayeen Saddam (Saddam, s. „Men of Sacrifice,") and the Ashbal Saddam (Saddam, s. Lion Cubs). Middle and senior level officers in these services were appointed only after a thorough screening by the senior leadership. Saddam Hussein's son Qusay was directly responsible for these services. Many senior officials of the above-mentioned entities were in the armed forces during the period when campaigns against segments of the Iraqi population were planned and executed. These include the „Anfal“ campaign which took place in Northern Iraq during the 1980s, the suppression of the 1991 and 1999 uprisings in Southern Iraq and the persecution of political opponents. While many may describe themselves as having simply worked in logistics or communications, association with groups such as the Fedayeen Saddam, the People's Army (Al-Jaish al Sh'abi), the Ba'ath militia or the Jaish Al-Quds clearly implies knowing of and condoning their activities. (s. 14-15)

En artikel i *Le Monde Diplomatique* (2002) handlar om rekryteringen. Jaysh al-Quds beskrivs som en mycket stor folkmilis, dock aldrig avsedd att sättas in i strid. I stället var det en propagandauppvisning av stora mått. Regimen använde både morot och piska för att rekrytera; se exempel i artikeln.

Konsulterade databaser och söktjänster

Lifos

Ecoi.net

Refworld (UNHCR)

Google

Dow Jones Factiva

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.

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