

2012-01-26

Landinformationsenheten

Fråga-svar

Irak. Saddam's Lion Cubs (Saddams lejonungar; Ashbal Saddam)

Fråga

Information efterfrågas om organisationen Saddam's Lion Cubs (Saddams lejonungar; Ashbal Saddam) som var verksam i Irak fram till Saddam-regimens fall 2003.

Hur var organisationen organiserad? Vilket var dess uppdrag? Vem blev medlem? Rekryteringsmetoder?

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

Svar

Ingen information har efter sökning i olika databaser (se lista nedan) hittats om att vanliga medlemmar i Saddam's Lion Cubs skulle ha utfört systematiska övergrepp, se dock nedan vad UNHCR skriver om högre officerare i organisationen.

International Federation for Human Rights FIDH (2002) har gjort en sammanställning om Saddam's Lion Cubs. Bl.a. uppges att skolbarn rekryteras till organisationen när de är i sexårsåldern och är medlemmar fram till det att de fyller sexton; sedan flyttas de över till Fedayeen Saddam. (s. 26) I Lifos finns ett dokument som handlar om den organisationen där det framgår att medlemmarna kan ha begått olika brott mot mänskligheten. (Migrationsverket 2011)

UNHCR (2005) uppger att många högre befattningshavare i olika paramilitära grupper, som t.ex. Saddam's Lion Cubs, deltog i Anfalkampanjerna på 1980-talet, då irakisk militär genomförde operationer på landsbygden i de kurdiska områdena, och även när de shiamuslimska

upproren i södra Irak slogs ned 1991 och 1999. De har också, skriver UNHCR, deltagit i förföljelse av politiska motståndare.

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)

U.S. Department of State (2003):

During the year [2002], the regime held 3-week training courses in weapons use, hand-to-hand fighting, rappelling from helicopters, and infantry tactics for children between 10 and 15 years of age. Camps for these "Saddam Cubs" operated throughout the country. Senior military officers who supervised the course noted that the children held up under the "physical and psychological strain" of training that lasted for as long as 14 hours each day. Sources in the opposition reported that the army found it difficult to recruit enough children to fill all of the vacancies in the program. Families reportedly were threatened with the loss of their food ration cards if they refused to enroll their children in the course. The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq reported in October 1999 that authorities were denying food ration cards to families that failed to send their young sons to Saddam Cubs compulsory weapons-training camps (see Section 1.f.). Similarly, authorities reportedly withheld school examination results to students unless they registered in the Fedayeen Saddam organization (see Section 1.f.).

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (2004) uppger att det inte finns några bevis för att medlemmarna i Saddam's Lion Cubs deltog i strider.

There was extensive military training of children under the Ba'ath party government in power until March 2003. The Ashbal Saddam (Saddam Lion Cubs), formed after the 1991 Gulf War, recruited children aged 10 to 15 years old who attended three-week training courses in use of weapons, hand-to-hand fighting and infantry tactics. There were an estimated 8,000 members in Baghdad alone.⁹ There was no evidence that these children participated in hostilities.

Home Office och Danish Immigration Service (2002) har inhämtat information under en utredningsresa. I likhet med FIDH:s rapportering uppges att utbildningen i Saddam's Lion Cubs är en förberedelse för senare engagemang i Fedayeen Saddam.

3.2.5 Ashbal Saddam (Saddams Cubs)

According to an Embassy in Amman the Ashbal Saddam was established by a resolution from the Revolutionary Command Council. According to the said resolution the age of the members is between twelve and fifteen years. Later on the maximum age was raised to seventeen years. Since 1994 thousands of teenagers have undergone military training in summer-camps in Iraq. The training is performed for a few weeks and is the first military training of boys between twelve and seventeen. The training is also considered as a preparation for future of volunteers to the Fedayeen Saddam.

Chicago Tribune (2003) skriver bl.a. om rekrytering och hur barnen behandlades. Bland annat uppges att instruktörerna ofta kom från organisationen Fedayeen Saddam.

Iraqi teachers forced by Hussein's military and intelligence officials to enroll youths knew they were being mentally abused and sometimes physically harmed.

"We have to be ashamed that we allowed children to go through that," said Zayneb Waleed Babab, who taught at an orphanage where youths were recruited. "But we had no choice, only to go along."

[...]

They were mostly disenfranchised children from poor neighborhoods or sons of Baath Party members recruited by teachers during the school year. They were lured by the promise of soccer, a one-time payment of about \$1.50, track suits and free meals. They also were guaranteed better grades.

[...]

The instructors were mostly Fedayeen fighters in their early 20s who recently completed advanced military training.

"They were sometimes hard on us," said Fareed, who recalls being slapped several times by instructors.

Konsulterade databaser och söktjänster:

Lifos

Ecoi

Refworld

Dow Jones Factiva

Google

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

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