

2012-12-04

Fråga-svar

Arab Liberation Front

Fråga

Information efterfrågas om Arab Liberation Front (Jabhet Al-Tahrir Al-'Arabiyah).

När grundades organisationen?

Vilka är dess mål? Vilka medel används för att nå dessa mål?

Vilken kapacitet/aktivitetsgrad har ALF idag?

Svar

Arab Liberation Front (ALF) grundades 1969 av det irakiska Baathpartiet och stod (till år 2003) inom Saddamregimens inflytelsesfär. Under Saddamregimens tid var ALF den mest betydande palestinska organisationen bland de då c:a 30-40 000 palestinerna i Irak. ALF har inte varit involverat i några militära attacker mot Israel sedan 1990-talet och tros egentligen inte längre besitta något som kan betecknas som militär kapacitet. Gruppen är i praktiken av marginell betydelse även på de palestinska områdena, där delar av organisationen övergått i Palestinian Arab Front (PAF). ALF har dock fortfarande representationskontor i Betlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Jenin och Tulkarm.

Arab Liberation Front har behållit sitt medlemskap i PLO även om man motsatte sig Oslo-avtalet 1993 som slöts mellan PLO och Israel. Gruppens tydliga pro-irakiska profil (under Saddam-tiden) och dess ringa storlek har bidragit till att inflytandet varit tämligen begränsat. Ca 300 medlemmar deltog på Iraks sida under Kuwait-invasionen 1990. (Encyclopedia of the Palestinians 2005)

The Arab Liberation Front (ALF) was established in 1969 by the Iraqi wing of the pan-Arab nationalist Ba'ath Party to counter al-Sa'iqa, the group sponsored by the rival Syrian wing of the party. The ALF counted Zayd Haydar and the Jordanian Munif al-Razzaz among its

early leaders. Other leaders have included Abd al-Rahim Ahmad and Mahmud Isma'il. Most recently, Rakkad Salim led the ALF, from Ramallah, in the Palestinian Authority (PA) until his capture by Israeli forces in October 2002.

The ALF has maintained membership in the governing bodies of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), although it also joined the Iraqi-backed Rejection Front in 1974 and opposed the PLO-Israeli peace process that culminated in the 1993 Oslo agreements. Despite this opposition, the ALF eventually established an office in Ramallah, in the PA.

The ALF's clear deference to Iraqi interests and its small size have limited its influence among Palestinians. During the Gulf crisis of 1990–91, ALF militants provided assistance to Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait. The ALF sent 300 of its forces to help the Iraqis—staffing checkpoints, for instance—an action that served in no small way to alienate Kuwaitis from the large Palestinian population living there, even though most Palestinians did not openly support the Iraqi occupation. After Kuwait's liberation, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled. (s. 51-52)

Gruppen utmärkte sig genom att förmedla stöd från Irak till palestinska familjer där någon medlem hade dödats av israelisk militär. Anhöriga till självmordsbombare fick också gåvor. Den militära grenen heter Khaled bin Al Walid Brigades. (Khaleej Times 2002)

The Arab Liberation Front distributes Iraqi aid to the families of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers and also gives Iraqi handouts to relatives of suicide bombers who blow themselves up in Israel. The group called the arrest "an ugly crime by the Zionist occupation," in a statement.

It pointed out that Salem was a member of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament-in-exile, and warned Israel not to harm him. The Arab Liberation Front's armed wing, the Khaled bin Al Walid Brigades, threatened "to strike the Zionists hard wherever they are found," the faction said in a statement.

U.S. Department of State klassade 2004 ALF som en terrorgrupp.

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).

[...]

Saddam paid the families of Palestinian suicide bombers to encourage Palestinian terrorism, channeling \$25,000 since March through the ALF alone to families of suicide bombers in Gaza and the West Bank. Public testimonials by Palestinian civilians and officials and cancelled checks captured by Israel in the West Bank verify the transfer of a considerable amount of Iraqi money.

Idag finns organisationen inte längre med på USA:s lista över terrorgrupper. (U.S. Department of State 2012) Inte heller EU har med ALF på sin ”terrorlista”. (Council of the European Union 2011)

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs skriver att medlemmar i ALF 2007 var inblandade i en skottlossning på Gazaremsan.

5 May: An exchange of gunfire that lasted for ten minutes took place between Arab Liberation Front members and local family members in Nuseirat Camp. The motive behind the incident is unknown. No injuries were reported. (s. 3)

Center for Strategic and International Studies (2006) bedömer att ALF har ca 500 medlemmar. Organisationens status enligt CSIS: ”dormant”. (s. 47)

Dow Jones International News/AP (2003): ALF förnekade inblandning i ett attentat mot en amerikansk konvoj i Gaza. Tre personer dödades vid bombdådet.

The Arab Liberation Front, a small Iraqi-backed faction, Monday denied a report that it might have been behind last week's attack on a U.S. diplomatic convoy in the Gaza Strip.

Three American security guards were killed in the attack and a fourth was wounded.

The major Palestinian militant groups have denied involvement in the bombing. Time magazine reported after the attack that there is suspicion in Palestinian political circles that the attack may have been related to the situation in Iraq.

"We don't have any connection to this attack, and we deny this report by Time magazine," said Ibrahim Zaaneen, a spokesman for the Arab Liberation Front.

BBC Monitoring (1993) rapporterar att medlemmar av ALF dömdes till döden av en kuwaitisk säkerhetsdomstol för att ha deltagit i Iraks invasion av Kuwait 1990. ALF varnade för vedergällning om straffen verkställdes.

The state security court today issued death sentences against 10 members of the so-called the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] accused of supporting and assisting Iraq during its invasion of Kuwait. The court also sentenced the eleventh suspect to an effective four years' imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

The state security prosecution had accused the 11 Jordanian nationals of assisting the Iraqi forces during their occupation of Kuwait, by enlisting in the ranks of the military wing of the Arab Liberation Front and working with the Iraqi forces to eliminate the Kuwaiti resistance, in addition to bearing arms and taking money from a hostile quarter to harm the national interests of the country.

[...]

The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has warned the rulers imposed on Kuwait against the consequences of carrying out the crime of executing 10 of the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in Kuwait.

Associated Press (AP) rapporterade 1990 att ALF hotade med hämndaktioner mot amerikanska intressen om USA skulle utsätta Irak för någon form av aggression.

Palestinian groups are increasingly threatening retaliation for any harm that comes to Iraq, especially at the hands of the United States.

[...]

The Arab Liberation Front, based in Baghdad, said in a statement Thursday it "will respond decisively and

immediately with powerful strikes if Iraqi civilian aircraft are endangered by the United States."

"All American interests in the Arab world and in the world at large will not be far from the hands of the revolutionaries who will prove that the whole universe could be a battlefield so that the Americans will know what kind of foe they face," the statement said.

It was published in Baghdad's al-Thawra daily, the newspaper of the Iraq's ruling Baath Socialist Party.

The Arab Liberation Front, which has a few hundred men, has not been very active since it and other PLO factions were forced to evacuate Beirut in 1982 during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It is led by Abdul-Rahim Ahmed, a member of the PLO's executive committee.

Enligt Council of the European Union (2002) var ALF-sympatisörer inblandade i ett attentat mot en flygplats i Paris 1975.

Arab Liberation Front

The ALF was set up in 1969 on the initiative of the Iraqi Baath party. It was later seen as the counterpart of the pro-Syrian Al-Saiqa group. Its founder was Dr Abd al-Wahhab Kayyaleh, who was murdered in 1981. ALF supporters were involved in terrorist attacks such as that on Paris airport in 1975. Abd Rahim Ahmad was the leader until his death in 1991.

The ALF is a left-wing militant movement under the direct command of the Iraqi army. Syria views the ALF as a very significant opponent in view of its ties with Iraq. ALF members run the risk of arrest by the Syrian secret services. In Lebanon the ALF is an entirely secret movement and, to all appearances, leads only a marginal existence. (s. 44)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada har sammanställt information om ALF: *Current status of Jabhat al-Tahrir al-'Arabiyya (Arab Liberation Front); treatment of current/former members/supporters by the Jordanian authorities*, 2005-02-04

http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/103539/200119_en.html

(Hämtad 2012-11-30)

Konsulterade källor

Sökning har gjorts i följande databaser och söktjänster:

Lifos
Ecoi.net¹
Refworld²
Dow Jones Factiva³
Google
AP News Archive

Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda 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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¹ <http://www.ecoi.net/about>

² <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain>

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⁴ “English news and information about the United Arab Emirates from the Khaleej Times newspaper. Country of origin: United Arab Emirates”. Beskrivningen hämtad från Dow Jones Factiva.