Kataib Hezbollah is the premier militia in Iraq, operating under Iran's direct command and fielding a wide range of cells responsible for kinetic, media, and social operations, some bankrolled by the Iraqi state.
**Name**: Kataib Hezbollah (KH) (Battalions of the Party of God).

**Type of movement**: Tier 1 fasail (armed group). Kinetic military operations (domestic and foreign). Social and political wings. Parent organization. De facto branch of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF).

**History and objectives:**
- Coalesced from "special groups" operated by the IRGC-QF in 2005-2007.
- Listed by the United States as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group in 2009 for attacking U.S. forces and destabilizing Iraq.
- Strongest individual faction in Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), with control over key departments (chief of staff, security, intelligence, missiles, anti-armor).

**Chain of command:**
- *Iran.* Clear and convincing evidence shows that KH is subordinate to and partly financed by the IRGC-QF. Credible evidence shows that KH carries out specific actions under the IRGC-QF's instructions, direction, or control. The preponderance of the evidence shows that Iran provides KH with financial assistance, military assistance, and intelligence sharing, as well as help in selecting, supporting, and supervising its leadership.
- *Internal leadership.* KH is nominally governed by a Shura Council of 5-7 members, including an external “overseer” from the IRGC-QF or Lebanese Hezbollah. Multiple personal and financial powerbases exist within KH, partly aligning with different Shura Council members.
- *Partly financed by the Iraqi state.* KH operates the state-funded 45th, 46th, and 47th Brigades of the PMF. Chain of command nominally runs through the KH-dominated Popular Mobilization Commission in the Prime Minister's Office, then up to the prime minister. In practice, KH's PMF brigades frequently disobey the government chain of command while legally remaining organs of the Iraqi state.

**Affiliate relationships:**
- Rivalry with Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Badr, and other resistance factions over profile and recruitment, giving way to coordination when such factions are all threatened.
- Most important member of the Iraqi Resistance Coordination Committee (al-Haya al-Tansiqiya lil-Muqawama al-Iraqiya, or Tansiqiya for short).

**Subordinate elements:**
- 45th, 46th, and 47th Brigades of the PMF, an Iraqi state organ.
- KH Special Operations.
- The KH Baghdad Media Cell.
- Media wings:
  - Kaf (various platforms), Kyan kF, Unit 10,000, Qeyam.Post, Almukhber, Shabakat al-Ilam al-Muqawama.
  - Al-Etejah TV.
- Facade groups:
Cultural and social wings:

RECOMMENDED

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Anna Borschchevskaya

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Oct 29, 2021
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