

Profile: Imam Hussein Scout Association

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Brief Analysis

Part of a series: [Militia Spotlight: Profiles \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/militia-spotlight-profiles\)](#)

or see Part 1: [How to Use Militia Spotlight: Profiles \(/policy-analysis/how-use-militia-spotlight-profiles\)](#)

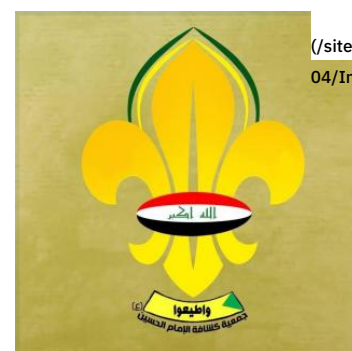
The Imam Hussein Scout Association is Kataib Hezbollah's youth organization and an affiliate of Lebanese Hezbollah's Kishaf al-Imam al-Mahdi youth movement.

Name: Jamiyat Kashafat al-Imam al-Hussein (JKIH) (Imam Hussein Scout Association), not to be confused with the eponymous organization run by the Imam Hussein Shrine in Iraq.

Type of movement: Youth organization. Nonkinetic cultural and social operations.

History and objectives:

- JKIH was established in 2012 as [\(/node/16641\) Kataib Hezbollah's \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-kataib-hezbollah\)](#) (KH) youth organization. Since then, it has mostly been led by [Abu Talib al-Saeedi \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDpaaRbpahg&ab_channel=ScoutAssociationImamHussein\)](#), a senior KH official [\(https://bit.ly/3dYssQg\)](#).
- In 2012, JKIH signed a [memorandum of agreement \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dhOd-bpynQ&ab_channel=ScoutAssociationImamHussein\)](#) with Kishaf al-Imam Mahdi (KIM), a Lebanese youth organization widely known to be run by Lebanese Hezbollah. Newspaper reports [\(https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8008733/Scout-movement-Lebanon-youth-wing-Hezbollah.html\)](#) indicate that "young recruits to the Al-Mahdi Scouts are groomed from the ages of four to become supporters and fighters for Hezbollah"
- The memorandum included training camps run by KIM. These camps took place in Lebanon in the first three years. For the fourth camp (2015), a group of experienced KIM trainers came to the Iraqi city of Karbala to [train 90 JKIH members \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyMG_axN8v8&ab_channel=ScoutAssociationImamHussein\)](#) on leadership skills. The objective of these camps was to "transfer the experience of KIM to the leaders of JKIH," according to one KIM coach. So far, JKIH has held 14 camps, most recently in Karbala in February 2020.
- JKIH's activities include:
 - Providing ideological lessons to indoctrinate its members in political Islam.
 - Propagating political Islam among Iraqi youths.
 - Sports activities for youths.
 - Providing aid to the poor.
 - Social activities, such as cleaning schools, planting trees, etc.
 - Providing services for Shia pilgrims during pilgrimage seasons.



Imam Hussein Scout Association logo

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- JKIH was an organization in its own right until November 2020, when it became a suborganization of Tajamo Shabab al-Sharia (TSS, [Sharia Youth Gathering \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-sharia-youth-gathering-0\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-sharia-youth-gathering-0)). The TSS spokesperson (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhvrkJwZVAo&ab_channel=%D8%AA%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%A9) refers to JKIH as a TSS department, as do [social media pages run by TSS \(https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=156877786333658&id=105690818119022\)](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=156877786333658&id=105690818119022).

Chain of command:

- The preponderance of the evidence indicates that JKIH is controlled by KH. This is based on the fact that a senior KH leader headed JKIH. [Al-Etejah TV \(/node/16939\)](https://www.al-etejah.com), whose website domain [was seized \(https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-seizes-domain-names-used-foreign-terrorist-organization\)](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-seizes-domain-names-used-foreign-terrorist-organization) by the United States in September 2020 for being “unlawfully utilized by Kataib Hezbollah,” also [refers \(https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1170056059713184\)](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1170056059713184) to this scout association as “JKIH of KH.” Also, [participants \(https://www.facebook.com/Albasera313/videos/1170056059713184\)](https://www.facebook.com/Albasera313/videos/1170056059713184) of conferences held by JKIH often thank KH for holding the events. Additionally, analysis of numerous videos shows that members of JKIH [carry \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc87uu-bFF4&ab_channel=ScoutAssociationImamHussein\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc87uu-bFF4&ab_channel=ScoutAssociationImamHussein) KH flags and banners.

Affiliate relationships:

- Kishaf al-Imam Mahdi (KIM), the Lebanese Hezbollah youth arm.
- [Tajamo Shabab al-Sharia \(TSS, Sharia Youth Gathering\) \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-sharia-youth-gathering-0\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-sharia-youth-gathering-0), an umbrella movement built around JKIH.

Subordinate elements:

- A few branches of JKIH have their own social media channels on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Most of these accounts are inactive.



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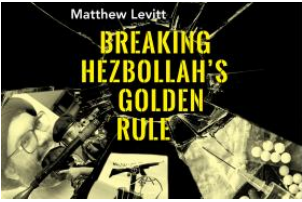


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