

When the Tansiqiya Speaks in AAH's Absence

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Brief Analysis

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

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

The May 20 Gaza protest in Baghdad saw the Tansiqiya speak in the notable absence of any Asaib Ahl al-Haq members, and the event was conspicuously ignored by AAH channels.

Militia Spotlight has previously covered the internal dynamics within the Iraqi Resistance Coordination Committee (al-Haya al-Tansiqiya lil-Muqawama al-Iraqiya, or Tansiqiya for short). In February, we [noted \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/harakat-al-nujaba-identifies-iraqi-resistance-coordination-committee\)](#) Harakat al-Nujaba's (HaN) admission that it is a member of the committee, and the committee's [role \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/their-own-words-senior-leaders-admit-membership-tansiqiya\)](#) in attacks against coalition forces. Now, evidence suggests Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) has been (at least temporarily) excluded from some Tansiqiya activities, perhaps symptomatic of broader divisions between militia leaders and their objectives.

The Tansiqiya has always appeared to be—at best—a very loose confederation of three major Iraqi militias, Kataib Hezbollah (KH), AAH, and HaN. The grouping emerged on October 10, 2020, when the (then anonymous) committee issued a statement to announce a conditional truce and to give “the foreign forces a conditional opportunity...to prepare a limited and specific timetable” for withdrawing their troops from Iraq. Since then, parent militias have begun to claim membership in the Tansiqiya, implicating themselves in the coordination body and demonstrating their control over rocket and bombing cells. Leaders like AAH's Qais al-Khazali have sought to demonstrate their prominence within (or leadership of) the committee. As a result, it is difficult to understand AAH's exclusion from a major Tansiqiya event last week as anything other than a deliberate snub by rival groups.

Protest Buildup

On May 18, various *muqawama* platforms including KH's official media wing Kaf (Figure 1), posted an invitation for a protest in support of Palestinian factions fighting in Gaza. The protest was to occur on May 20 in Baghdad. The invitation read: "Under the slogan of al-Aqsa, the symbol of our resistance, the Islamic resistance of Kataib Hezbollah and Harakat al-Nujaba invite you to protest in solidarity with blessed al-Aqsa, Noble Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people resisting and defending the holy places. This [will be] a message of support from the Iraqi people in rejection of all forms of occupation and all normalization." The message was signed by the "Joint Preparatory Committee."

Another version of the invitation (which made no mention of KH or HaN) also [circulated \(https://t.me/jbt313/3828\)](#) on militia propaganda channels (Figure 2). It read: “Under the slogan of al-Aqsa, the symbol of our resistance, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq is holding a protest in solidarity with the great Palestinian people on Thursday 20/5/2021 at 5pm...the Islamic resistance invites you all to [participate].”



Figure 1: Invitation for a protest in support of Palestinian factions posted on KH's Kaf, May 19, 2021



Figure 2: A different version of the invitation for the protest posted on HaN-affiliated Brothers of Electronic Jihad

Propaganda accounts associated with KH primarily shared the first invitation (which marked the protest as led by KH and HaN), while accounts more generally aligned with HaN appeared to prefer the version which referred to the "Islamic Resistance." (As noted in [previous \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/harakat-al-nujaba-identifies-iraqi-resistance-coordination-committee\)](#) Militia Spotlight posts, it is possible HaN prefers to avoid the media attention.)

Unusually, AAH-affiliated accounts largely ignored the advertising for the event, and no mention of AAH involvement was made at any point.

Day of the Protest

The protest went ahead as planned at 17:00 hours Baghdad time on May 20. At the event, a [statement \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?](#)



Figure 3: HaN's al-Nujaba TV called the event a "protest of the Tansiqiya," May 20, 2021

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