

## Profile: Al-Etejah Satellite Television

by [Hamdi Malik \(/experts/hamdi-malik\)](/experts/hamdi-malik), [Crispin Smith \(/experts/crispin-smith\)](/experts/crispin-smith)

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### ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Hamdi Malik \(/experts/hamdi-malik\)](/experts/hamdi-malik)

Hamdi Malik is an associate fellow with The Washington Institute and cofounder of its Militia Spotlight platform.



[Crispin Smith \(/experts/crispin-smith\)](/experts/crispin-smith)

Crispin Smith is an associate at a Washington-based national security law group, focusing on Iraqi security, human rights, and law of armed conflict issues. He is a cofounder of the Militia Spotlight platform.



Brief Analysis

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

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## A closer look at the "resistance" television channel owned and operated by U.S.-designated terrorist movement Kataib Hezbollah.

**Name:** Qanat al-Etejah al-Fadhayah  
(al-Etejah Satellite TV Channel)

**Type of movement:** Social or media organization associated with an armed group, undertaking nonkinetic information operations (media activities and propaganda). Supporting domestic counter-U.S. operations, domestic counter-political/social moderate operations, and foreign counter-Saudi operations.

### History and objectives:

- Al-Etejah TV was launched in 2008. The Iraqi Radio and Television Union played a major role in its establishment.
- In its early years, it broadcast programming from two main studios in Beirut (Bir Hassan and Jinah) and another in Baghdad's Karradah district.

- In March 2009, U.S. forces in Baghdad arrested Hussein Hadid Shaloushi al-Saedi (then head of television for al-Etejah) and Bassem Mohammad Hasab al-Majedi (the channel's general manager).
- In February 2012, al-Etejah launched English-language programming to “address the Western audience,” according to Saedi. The project was later abandoned, possibly for budgetary reasons.
- In September 2018, al-Etejah TV was forced to shutter its Beirut office due to a financial crisis within the network. The Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” policy reduced the funds available to the Islamic Radio and Television Union



Al-Etejah TV logo

(<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/understanding-irans-vast-media-network-arab-countries>) (affiliated with Iran's Qods Force) and its local offshoot, the Iraqi Radio and Television Union. This in turn affected outlets such as al-Etejah. The Beirut office reopened later, but with skeleton staffing.

- In September 2020, the United States seized two websites belonging to al-Etejah, Aletejahtv.com and Aletejahtv.org. According to

the Justice Department, the sites were [unlawfully utilized \(https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-seizes-domain-names-used-foreign-terrorist-organization\)](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-seizes-domain-names-used-foreign-terrorist-organization) by [Kataib Hezbollah \(KH\)](#), ([/node/16641](#)) a Specially Designated National and a Foreign Terrorist Organization. U.S. law prohibits entities with these designations from obtaining or using goods or services, including website and domain services, in the United States without a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The domain names “Aletejahtv.com” and “Aletejahtv.org” are owned and operated by a U.S. company based in Scottsdale, Arizona; KH did not obtain a license from OFAC prior to using these names.

- In addition to its main studio in Baghdad, al-Etejah currently runs studios in Tehran, Beirut, Damascus, and Gaza.

#### **Chain of command:**

- Controlled by Kataib Hezbollah.
- A project of KH’s Media Office.
- Part of al-Etejah Media Organization.

#### **Affiliate relationships:**

- Member of the Islamic Radio and Television Union.
- Member of the Iraqi Radio and Television Union.

#### **Subordinate elements:**

- Al-Etejah Radio (FM), which broadcasts in Iraq and has a Facebook page.
- Al-Etejah TV website. After three al-Etejah website domains were seized by the United States, the channel managed to acquire an Iraqi .iq domain. This website is currently functioning.
- Al-Etejah has a Facebook page, Instagram account, and Telegram account. Its YouTube channels and Twitter accounts have been deactivated a few times.



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