Iraqi Militias Show Off Iranian Anti-Air Missile

by Michael Knights (/experts/michael-knights)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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The missile in question was an **Iranian-made “358” surface-to-air system** (https://twitter.com/arawnsley/status/145128295499515398) that a missile had been found by the 52nd Brigade of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in the vicinity of the Tuz Khormatu military airfield, in a hamlet called Albu Sabah. That missile was “directed at” the airfield. This could be a laughably clumsy attempt at disinformation: consider, one of the PMF units closest to Iran’s Qods Force announces that it found an Iranian-made missile pointing at an Iraqi army and PMF camp. Alternately, the *muqawama* (resistance) may be trying to lay the groundwork for denying that they are responsible for any future uses of 358 missiles, since a 358 was allegedly “directed at” them from Albu Sabah.

In Militia Spotlight’s view, the “outing” of the 358 in Tuz Khormatu is probably a coded communication of anti-air threats in the future. Iraq’s Qods Force announces that it found an Iranian-made missile pointing at an Iraqi army and PMF camp. Alternately, the *muqawama* (resistance) may be trying to lay the groundwork for denying that they are responsible for any future uses of 358 missiles, since a 358 was allegedly “directed at” them from Albu Sabah.

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including claimed or actual attacks against ISR aircraft hangars and airborne assets or threats against election observers and diplomats. (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/muqawamas-post-elections-threats-against-unami-and-uae)

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Mohamed Moslihar Qandil
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