Profile: Al-Ahd Satellite Television

by Hamdi Malik (/experts/hamdi-malik)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Hamdi Malik is an Associate Fellow with the Washington Institute, specializing in Shia militias. He earned his doctorate at the school of social, political and global studies, Keele University. He is a co-founder of the Militia Spotlight platform, which offers in-depth analysis of developments related to the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria. He is the coauthor of the Institute’s 2020 study “Honored, Not Contained: The Future of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces.”

Brief Analysis

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

A closer look at the "resistance" television channel owned and operated by U.S.-designated terrorist movement Asaib Ahl al-Haq.

**Name:** Qanat al-Ahd al-Fadhaiyah (al-Ahd 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-Ahd Satellite TV channel was launched in December 2008 as a media wing for Asaib Ahl al-Haq (/node/16715) (AAH).
- Al-Ahd’s General Manager is Sanad al-Hamdani.
- Al-Ahd’s headquarters are based in Baghdad’s Karradah district.
- Al-Ahd TV’s website domain was seized (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/iranian-website-seizures-avoiding-blanket-approach) by the U.S. Department of Justice on June 22, 2021 due to its affiliation with Iran’s Islamic Radio and Television Union (IRTVU) which was itself designated (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/understanding-irans-vast-media-network-arab-countries) by the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control on October 22, 2020 for “attempting to influence elections in the United States.”

**Chain of command:**

- Controlled by Asaib Ahl al-Haq.
- Part of Muassasat al-Ahd lil Elam wa al-Thaqafa wa al-Fonun (Al-Ahd organization for media, culture, and arts).
Affiliate relationships:

- Member of the [Islamic Radio and Television Union](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/understanding-iran's-vast-media-network-arab-countries).
- Founding member of the [Iraqi Radio and Television Union](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-iraqi-radio-and-television-union).
- Media Dome (MD), a media organization affiliated with AAH's media office.

Subordinate elements:

- Al-Ahd 2 Satellite TV channel, which was shut down in February 2019, probably due to financial constraints.
- Al-Ahd TV has Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, Tiktok accounts. Its YouTube channel has been deactivated.
- After Al-Ahd TV website domain was seized by the United States, the channel managed to acquire an .iq domain. This website is currently functioning.

PART OF A SERIES

Militia Spotlight: Profiles ([policy-analysis/series/militia-spotlight-profiles])

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