

Iraqi Militia Leader Labels President Trump an "Idiot," Threatens U.S. Forces

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Brief Analysis

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

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U.S.-designated terrorist Akram Kaabi is projecting a sense of impunity and demonstrating little fear of the United States or its leader.

In a speech delivered January 21, Akram Kaabi, leader of the Iran-backed militia [Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-harakat-hezbollah-al-nujaba\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-harakat-hezbollah-al-nujaba) (HaN), addressed the recent suspension of attacks by [the Islamic Resistance in Iraq \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-islamic-resistance-iraq\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/profile-islamic-resistance-iraq) and reaffirmed his group's stance against the presence of U.S. forces there, referring to President Donald Trump as an "idiot."



Figure 1: Kaabi warns the U.S. military that attacks will be renewed if it fails to withdraw from Iraq, January 21, 2025.

Kaabi threatened to resume attacks against U.S. forces if they delay the withdrawal process, which envisions an American departure from al-Asad Air Base by this September: “Our information confirms that the American occupier, which agreed with the Iraqi government on a withdrawal schedule, completely evacuated its forces from Harir [Air Base] last year and partially withdrew from [al-Asad Air Base]...After the events in Syria, they have begun stalling at [al-Asad]. This has serious implications. Therefore, we warn the United States Army that reneging on the withdrawal will result in the resumption of our operations, which will be more intense than before” (Figure 1).

Kaabi then launched a direct tirade against President Trump: “As for the agents and conspirators who emerged against us with their lies and

exaggerations in Iraq after the events in Syria, waging a media war based on deception, misinformation, and falsification at the behest of the Zionists, and rejoicing over Trump and his arrival, we say to them: Trump, the idiot, may frighten you, but he does not frighten us and holds no value in our eyes” (Figure 2). He added, “In fact, we say to you and to him that the shoe of the smallest Iraqi

mujahia [fighter] is worth more than Trump's head and his entire past and current government” (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Kaabi declares, "The shoe of the smallest Iraqi *mujahid* is worth more than Trump's head," January 21, 2025.

Kaabi went on to issue a direct challenge to Trump: “If Trump or anyone else wants to test us again, our forces are ready. Any breach or evasion of their agreement with the government to withdraw occupying forces will make them see hell above them and beneath their feet” (Figure 4).

He further declared, “Our operations against the occupier will be like a blazing fire. If they return, we will

withdrawal, then no one will have an excuse against us, and we will no longer accept pressure from any party.”

Three days prior to Kaabi’s speech, Ali al-Asadi, head of HaN’s political bureau, delivered similar remarks against Trump on Alsumaria TV, albeit in less aggressive language: “We are not afraid of Trump. The whole world may be scared, but not the



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muqawama [resistance]. He is welcome [to test us]; the battlefield is between us.” Asadi then downplayed Trump’s ability to contain the militias: “Trump is a man of economy, and he is confused by the internal economic situation in America...Today’s Trump is not the same Trump from four years ago or so...It is impossible for Trump to impose sanctions on Iraq” (Figure 5). ❖



Figure 2: Kaabi calls President Trump an "idiot," January 21, 2025.

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