

Armed Militias in Iraq

Challenges and Solutions

Iraq, 19.11.2024, 19:33 Time

USPA NEWS - The dissolution of armed militias in Iraq is not a simple process that can be achieved with a single decision or signature.

Militias are not merely armed groups; they are ideological and doctrinal entities supported by countries with strategic interests. Therefore, dismantling these forces cannot be achieved through military confrontation alone; it requires comprehensive planning and programs to reintegrate their members into society.

Main Challenges:

1. Ideological and Political Connections:

The smallest member of a militia has grown up in an environment that fosters ideological and doctrinal rigidity. Convincing them to abandon their weapons requires providing clear guarantees of a dignified life and a stable future.

2. External Interference:

Militias are supported by regional and international powers with strategic interests in Iraq. Any attempt to dismantle them without addressing this support will face significant obstacles, both domestically and internationally.

3. Economic and Social Gaps:

Without ensuring livelihood alternatives and stable lives for militia members, they might turn into organized criminals, drug traffickers, or displaced individuals.

The Scientific Approach: DDR Program

Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) is the most effective global model for addressing such cases. This program aims to:

1. Disarm: Systematically collect weapons from militias.

2. Demobilize: Transition fighters into civilian life through employment and educational programs.

3. Reintegrate: Transform rigid ideological beliefs into moderate and civil thinking.

Mechanisms for Implementation:

1. Negotiating with Leaders:

- Initiate dialogue with militia leaders and religious authorities to persuade them of the importance of disarmament and ensure a safe future for their members.
- Involve supporting countries in negotiations to reach mutual solutions.

2. Institutional Collaboration:

- Involve ministries such as Planning, Labor, Housing, Education, and Health.
- Engage international NGOs and organizations to ensure transparency and effectiveness.

3. Providing Economic Alternatives:

- Create job opportunities and vocational training programs.
- Improve economic infrastructure to provide a stable environment.

4. Securing Internal and External Stability:

- Strengthen the army to ensure security.
- Build balanced external relations to reduce regional interference.

5. Reforming Religious and Educational Discourse:

- Separate religion from politics to minimize exploitation of faith for political purposes.

- Enhance educational curricula to promote civil thinking and reject extremism.

Factors for Success:

1. A Strong and Independent Army:
 - The army acts as a safety valve to prevent chaos after dismantling militias.
2. A Robust Economy:
 - Improving economic conditions encourages former fighters to return to civilian life.
3. Balanced Policies:
 - Maintain good relations with neighboring countries and global powers.
 - Draft a social contract ensuring equality among all citizens.
4. Community Awareness:
 - Raise awareness through families, schools, and media to create a supportive environment for change.

Conclusion:

Dismantling armed militias in Iraq is not just about disarming weapons or emptying camps; it is a comprehensive process of rebuilding individuals and society. Success in this project will contribute to a stable, unified, and strong Iraq, setting a model for resolving armed conflicts in the region.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-25059/armed-militias-in-iraq.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Mohammed Rajab Al Faour

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619