

Beat: Politics

## 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 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Mohammed Rajab Al Faour

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