Human Rights Abusers Set up PMF Department of Human Rights

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Ameer al-Kaabi is an Iragi analyst with a decade of experience examining the country's security and political events. He specializes in intra-Shia political affairs and the activities of Iran-backed militias.



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Brief Analysis

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

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

Human rights abuser Falah Al-Fayyadh has established the PMF Department of Human Rights under the stewardship of human rights abuser Abu Muntadher al-Husseini.

 $n\ June\ 26, 2023, the\ Popular\ Mobilization\ Forces\ (PMF)\ Department\ of\ Human\ Rights\ was\ established\ by\ PMF\ chairman\ and\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ Forces\ (PMF)\ Department\ of\ Human\ Rights\ was\ established\ by\ PMF\ chairman\ and\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ Forces\ (PMF)\ Department\ of\ Human\ Rights\ was\ established\ by\ PMF\ chairman\ and\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ Forces\ (PMF)\ Department\ of\ Human\ Rights\ Was\ established\ by\ PMF\ chairman\ and\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ Forces\ (PMF)\ Department\ of\ Human\ Rights\ Was\ established\ by\ PMF\ chairman\ And\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ PMF\ chairman\ And\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ PMF\ chairman\ And\ U.S.-the Popular\ Mobilization\ PMF\ chairman\ And\ U.S.-the PMF\ chairman\ An$ designated human rights abuser Falah al-Fayyadh. As $\underline{\textbf{Amnesty International}}$

 ${\bf protesters\text{-}skulls/)} \ {\bf and} \ {\bf \underline{Human}} \ {\bf \underline{Rights}} \ {\bf \underline{Watch}} \ ({\bf \underline{https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/11/29/sleep-law/violence-against-protesters-and-law-violence-against-protester-agains$ unaccountable-perpetrators-iraq) documented, over 500 protestors were killed, thousands wounded, and hundreds illegally detained and abused. Fayyadh supported the policy (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/leveraging-us-sanctions-faleh-alfayyad) that led to militia snipers using live ammunition on civilians, and to the firing of tear gas canisters directly into the heads of protestors, which created the most iconic and gruesome imagery of the 2019 demonstrations.

The PMF Department of Human Rights will be part of the office of PMF Secretary General Abu Muntadher al-Husseini (birth name Tahseen Abid Mutar al-Abboudi), a former PMF chief of operations who aided Fayyadh in the murder, torture and abduction of Iraqi $\underline{protestors\ in\ 2019\ (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/exposing-and-sanctioning-human-rights-violations-iraqi-numan-rights-numan-$

militias) (Figure 1). The PMF Department of Human Rights will be led by Hussein Chaloob Hardan (Figure 2), the head of PMF's al-Huda Foundation for Strategic Studies and an advisor to Falah al-Fayyadh



Pigure 2: Hussein Chaloob f

On April 25, 2024, Abu Muntadher al-Husseini held a workshop with the UNICEF. The PMF posted on their X account, "The workshop, (/sites/default/files/2024-held at the headquarters of the Popular Mobilization Forces in Baghdad, titled "Children's Rights According to International Principles," 9/Hussaip%20Chalob%2C%20head%20of%20human%20rights%20department-focused on the role of the Popular Mobilization Forces in safeguarding general human rights, children's rights, and the principles it has

adopted in promoting these humanitarian concepts." The PMF Media Directorate's account on X tagged UNICEF in its Arabic account, but UNICEF didn't react to or repost news about the seminar.

From May 20-22, 2024, the Human Rights Department held a workshop with the UN Development Program (UNDP) and Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights at the Central Security Directorate of the PMF, an organization closely connected to protestor killings as well as terrorist operations through its founder, the U.S.-designated terrorist and human rights abuser Abu Zainab al-Lami (https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm847) (birth name Hussein Falah al-Lami).



Figure 3: UNAMI meeting with Soleir

splay%20of%20Solemani%20and%20Abu%20Mahdi%20by%20UNAMI%20

(/sites/defa

09/Abu%20

Muntadher al-Husseini after their involvement in attacking

On September 2-5, 2024, the United National Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) held another human rights workshop at the PMF headquarters, attended by Abu Muntadher al-Husseini, Hussein Chaloob, and Mahdi Hassan Mohammed (Head of Training at the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights). The session was undertaken under the pictures of U.S.-designated terrorists Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis (Figure 3), both of whom were identified as architects of the 2019 murder, torture and abduction of Iraqi protestors (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/exposing-and-sanctioning-human-rights-violations-iraqi-militias). UNAMI posted about this activity.

While the goal of international human rights training is to guide errant security forces towards better behaviour, it is unusual to allow widely-recognized human rights abusers to lead the sessions and to benefit from the cleansing effect on their public image. Though it is positive that the PMF is recognizing that it has a gruesome track record of human rights abuses, no one has been held accountable for the deaths or disappearances of over 500 persons in 2019. These investigative and punitive steps should be undertaken *first*, before international organizations stumble into traps laid by human rights abusers to whitewash their crimes. •

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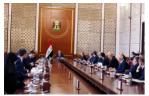
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