

Iraqi militias at war: attack claims and media networks

Attack claims, claimed targets and the media
networks of Iran-aligned Iraqi armed groups

28 February to 8 April 2026

961,704 posts examined

216 Telegram channels

6 claim publishers

October 2026



Who is behind Iraq's wartime attack claims?

Six Telegram publishers, the militia media networks that carried them, and the places they said they struck.

The war between the United States, Israel and Iran began on 28 February 2026. Iran-aligned Iraqi militias joined the fighting and issued hundreds of attack claims. Six Telegram channels published the claims examined here: two under the Islamic Resistance in Iraq (IRI) name and four under separate names.

Iraq Monitor examined 961,704 posts from 216 monitored Telegram channels between 28 February and 8 April 2026, including 867 posts from those six publishing channels. We traced how the claims circulated, assessed which established militias likely stood behind each name, and mapped the targets they named.

What the evidence shows

IRI's two channels often published identical statements, but Kataib Hezbollah (KH) and Harakat al-Nujaba media outlets usually forwarded different copies. The separate names had distinct media links: Saraya Awliya al-Dam to Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS), and Jaysh al-Ghadab and Ashab al-Kahf to Nujaba. On balance, Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid is likely an Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) facade: the AAH-aligned Huruf Sumerian News repeatedly carried its material, including a new statement on 29 September.

How the claim names fit together

Iraq Monitor assesses that some separate claim names represent operational cells directly trained and funded by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force (IRGC-QF), while embedded in established Iraqi militia systems. In this model, Nujaba or KSS provide infrastructure and share operational supervision with the Quds Force, which delegates some responsibilities to them. Separate cell identities can therefore persist alongside the collective IRI umbrella. This is an assessment of the organisational relationship, distinct from the media affiliations established by the Telegram analysis.

The six channels used to claim attacks

Reference label	Arabic channel name	Telegram handle	War posts
IRI — Military Media	الإعلام الحربي	@elamharbi	83
IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq	المقاومة الاسلامية في العراق	@elamalmoqawama	82
Saraya Awliya al-Dam	سرايا اولياء الدم	@awlialdm	175
Jaysh al-Ghadab	جيش الغضب	@jaysh_alghadab	206
Ashab al-Kahf	أصحاب الكهف	@aishab_alkahf	229
Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid	رجال البأس الشديد	@extremedistress	92

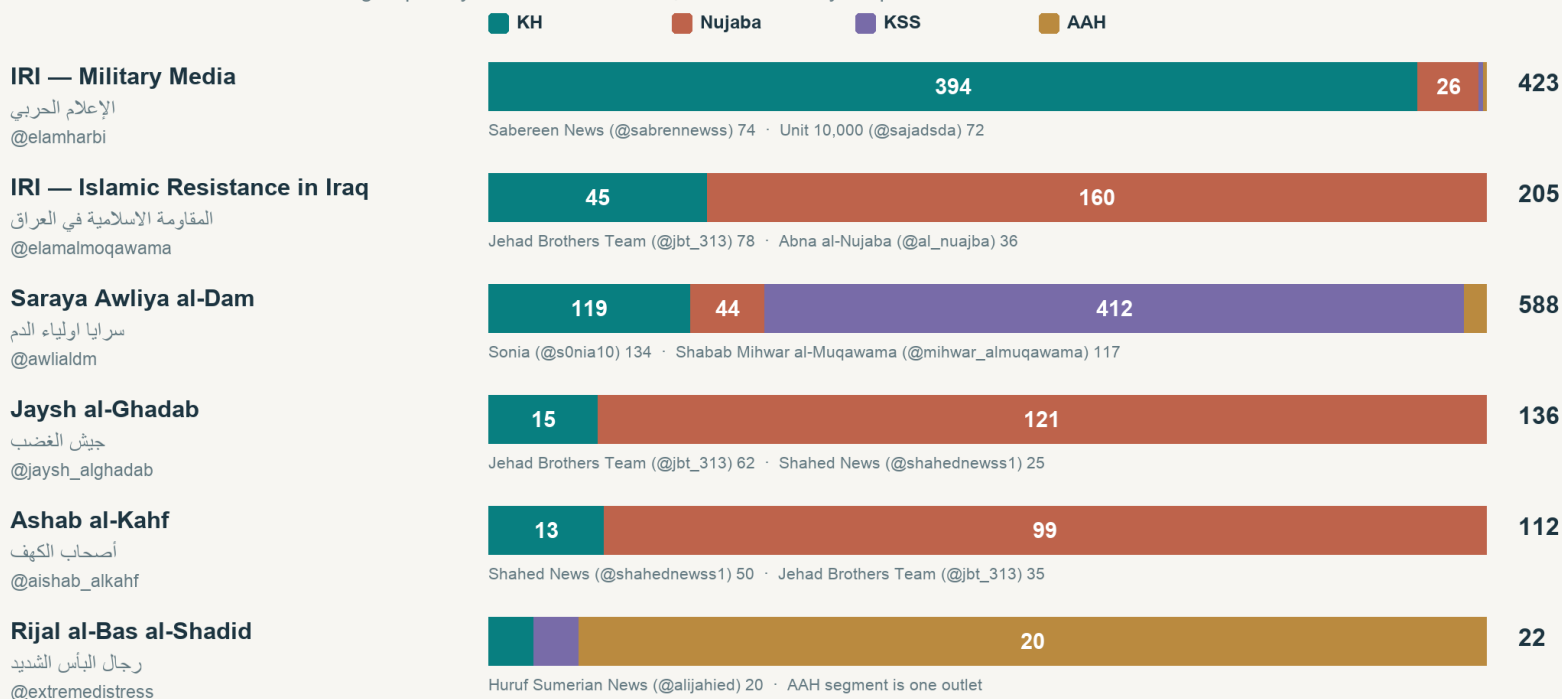
Which real militia can the messages point to?

Six claim channels, their assessed militia affiliations and the supporting evidence

CHANNEL	ASSESSED MILITIA AFFILIATION	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
IRI — Military Media الإعلام الحربي	Kataib Hezbollah (KH) Media affiliation	KH outlets used this channel for 114 of 126 forwards of statements shared by both IRI channels.
IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq المقاومة الإسلامية في العراق	Harakat al-Nujaba Media affiliation	Nujaba outlets used this channel for 42 of 46 forwards of the same shared IRI statements.
Saraya Awliya al-Dam سرايا أولياء الدم	Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS) Strong media evidence	KSS outlets copied 31 of 33 selected texts. CTC Sentinel also identifies the group as KSS-operated.
Jaysh al-Ghadab جيش الغضب	Harakat al-Nujaba Probable affiliation	Nujaba outlets copied 32 of 34 selected texts; 29 remained after excluding the busiest outlet.
Ashab al-Kahf أصحاب الكهف	Harakat al-Nujaba Supported media affiliation	Nujaba outlets copied 22 of 26 selected texts; 17 remained after excluding the busiest outlet.
Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid رجال البأس الشديد	Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) Likely facade	AAH-aligned Huruf Sumerian News copied 20 of 31 selected texts and forwarded the September statement.

Six publishers, different militia media routes

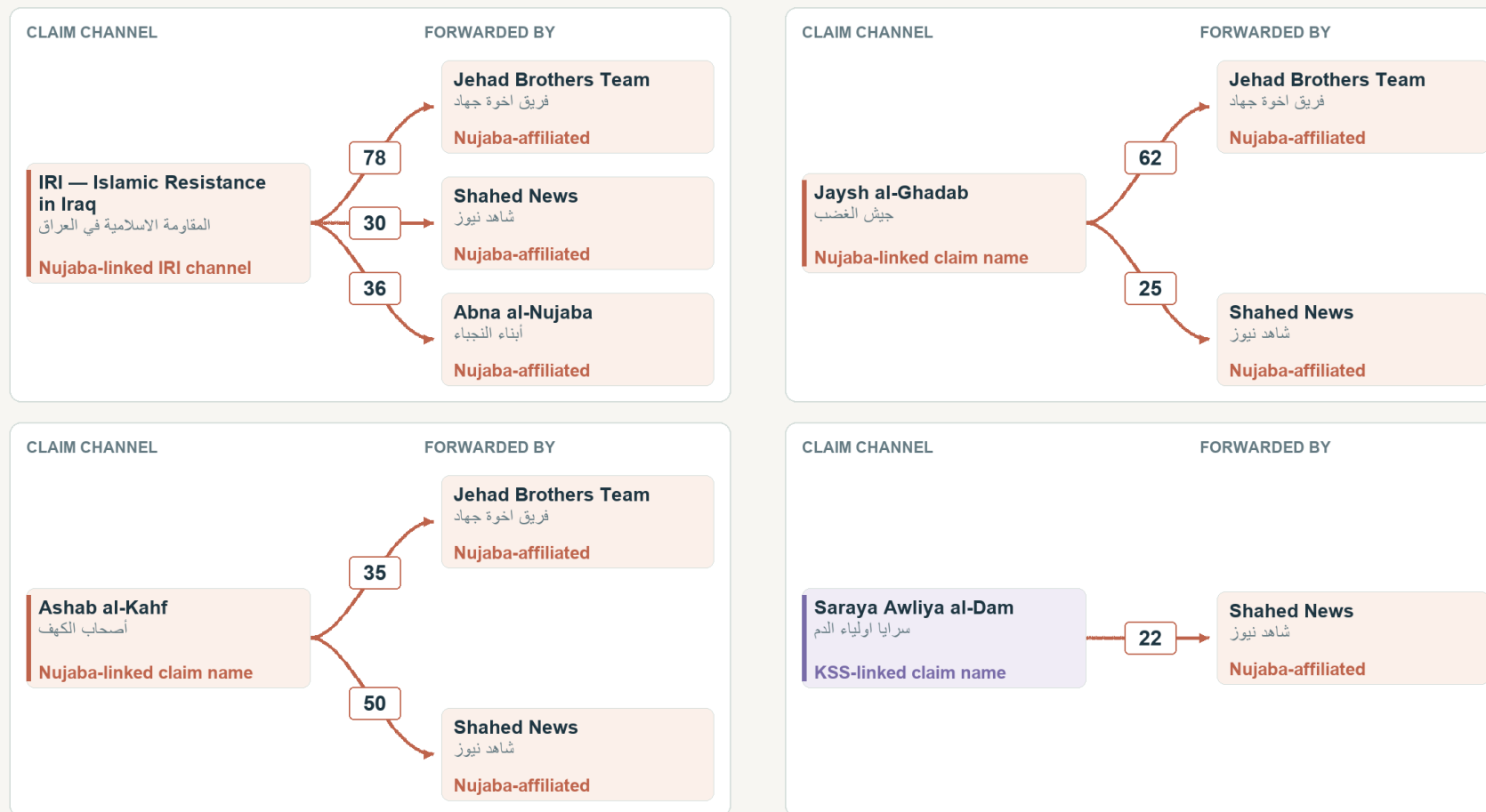
Who forwarded the claims? Outlets grouped by their militia affiliation, as assessed by Iraq Monitor.



Numbers count forwards; colours show each militia's share.

The Telegram links behind the claim names

Nujaba-affiliated accounts forwarded several claim channels

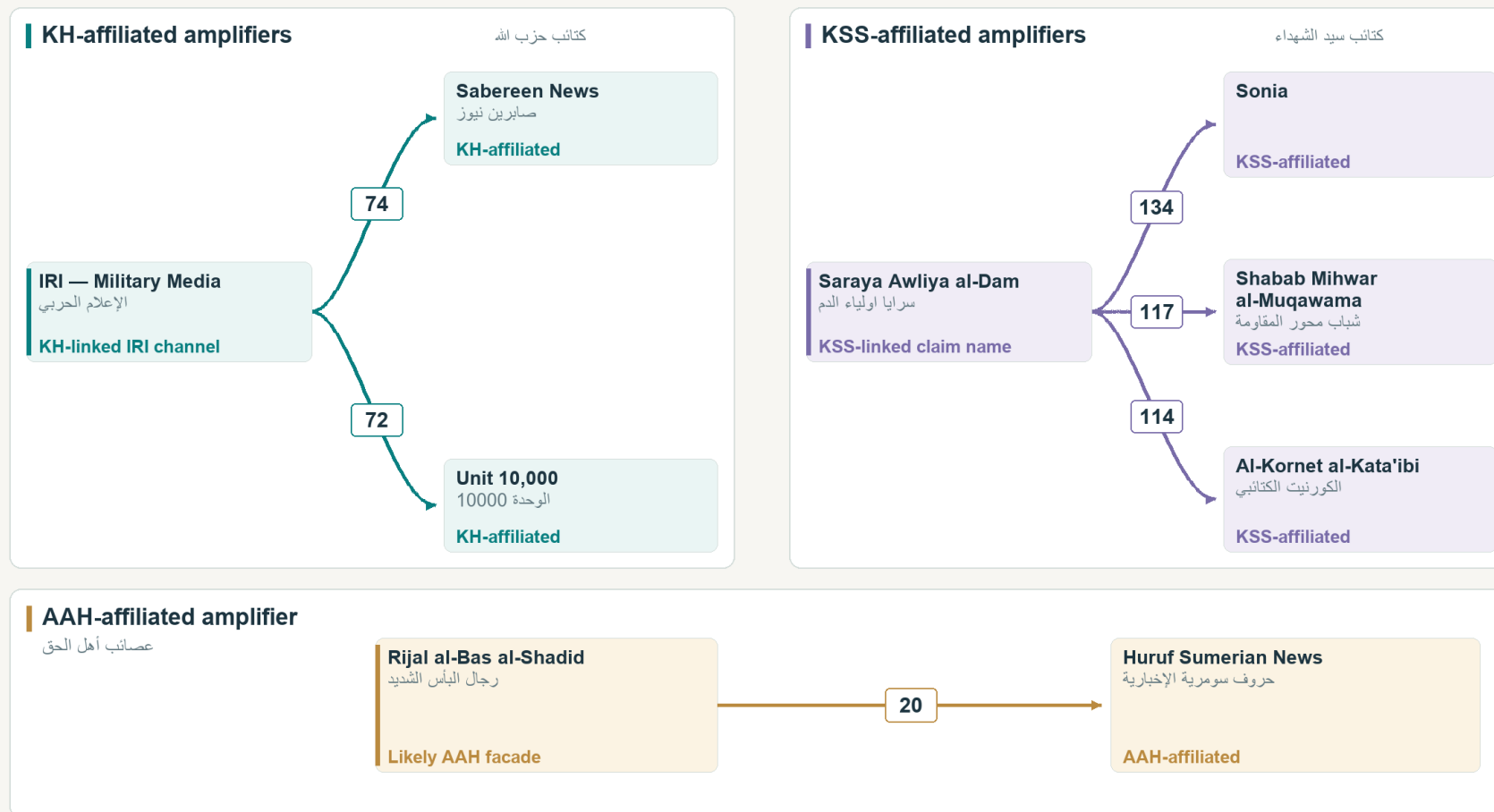


Numbers count direct forwards. Account affiliations assessed by Iraq Monitor.

Named-account links with at least 20 forwards shown. The preceding bar chart includes all recorded forwards.

The Telegram links behind the claim names

KH KSS and AAH affiliated accounts and the claim channels they carried



Numbers count direct forwards. Account affiliations assessed by Iraq Monitor.

Named-account links with at least 20 forwards shown. The preceding bar chart includes all recorded forwards.

Do the militia links depend on one outlet?

Statements copied by each militia's accounts, with and without the account that copied the most

Saraya Awliya al-Dam

سرايا اولياء الدم

33 statements examined

KSS

affiliated accounts

31 of 33 statements
copied by KSS accounts

10 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

Nujaba

affiliated accounts

23 of 33 statements
copied by Nujaba accounts

20 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

KH

affiliated accounts

29 of 33 statements
copied by KH accounts

25 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

AAH

affiliated accounts

10 of 33 statements
copied by AAH accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

Jaysh al-Ghadab

جيش الغضب

34 statements examined

0 of 34 statements
copied by KSS accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

32 of 34 statements
copied by Nujaba accounts

29 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

21 of 34 statements
copied by KH accounts

9 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

11 of 34 statements
copied by AAH accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

Ashab al-Kahf

أصحاب الكهف

26 statements examined

Accounts tied only to this name excluded

7 of 26 statements
copied by KSS accounts

1 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

22 of 26 statements
copied by Nujaba accounts

17 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

14 of 26 statements
copied by KH accounts

8 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

2 of 26 statements
copied by AAH accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid

رجال البأس الشديد

31 statements examined

0 of 31 statements
copied by KSS accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

3 of 31 statements
copied by Nujaba accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

5 of 31 statements
copied by KH accounts

2 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

20 of 31 statements
copied by AAH accounts

0 still copied by others
after excluding the top account

WHAT THE SECOND COUNT SHOWS

For each comparison, exclude the account that copied the most statements; count those still copied by other accounts.

Numbers count statements, not attacks.

Jaysh al-Ghadab's Nujaba link persists without the most prolific amplifier. RBS's wartime AAH link depends on Huruf Sumerian News alone, making that affiliation assessment less secure.

One IRI message, two militia media routes

Identical statements, different choices by KH- and Nujaba-associated outlets

KH and Nujaba outlets favoured different IRI channels.

24 statements were shared by both channels.

13 seconds

Median delay

Between a statement appearing on IRI — Military Media and the identical text appearing on IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq. Military Media published first in all 24 cases.

IRI — Military Media

الإعلام الحربي
@elamharbi

IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq

المقاومة الإسلامية في العراق
@elamalmoqawama

WHICH CHANNEL DID KH AND NUJABA OUTLETS FORWARD?

Recorded forwards of the 24 statements shared by both channels

Numbers count forwards, not statements.

Kataib Hezbollah outlets

114

12

Harakat al-Nujaba outlets

4

42

NUJABA OUTLETS BEGAN FORWARDING BOTH CHANNELS

All recorded forwards from either IRI channel by Nujaba-affiliated outlets

28 February–17 March

85

0

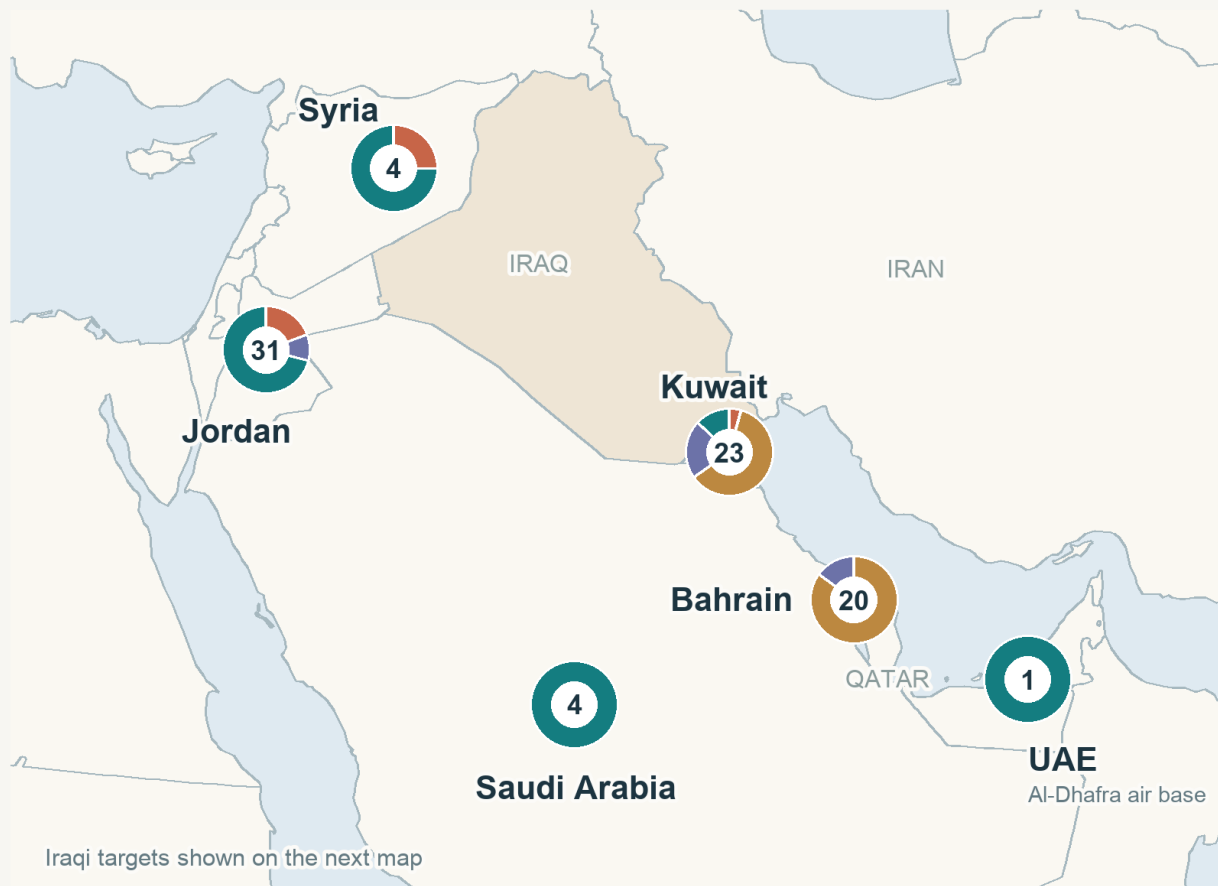
18 March–8 April

26

75

Claimed targets outside Iraq

Claim-name colours, with assessed militia affiliations in the legend



CLAIM NAME AND AFFILIATION

- Saraya Awliya al-Dam**
سرايا اولياء الدم
KSS-linked
Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada
- Jaysh al-Ghadab**
جيش الغضب
Nujaba-linked
Harakat al-Nujaba
- Ashab al-Kahf**
أصحاب الكهف
Nujaba-linked
Harakat al-Nujaba
- Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid**
رجال البأس الشديد
Likely AAH facade
Asaib Ahl al-Haq
- IRI — both channels**
المقاومة الاسلامية في العراق
الإعلام الحربي
KH / Nujaba-linked channels
Kataib Hezbollah · Harakat al-Nujaba

HOW TO READ THE CIRCLES

Number: posts naming that place
Colour: share of those posts

Counts are claim posts, not separate attacks. A post can name more than one place.

Includes wartime claims published later; UAE: attack dated 20 March, caption published 11 April.

Claimed targets in Iraq

Claim-name colours, with assessed militia affiliations in the legend



CLAIM NAME AND AFFILIATION

- Saraya Awliya al-Dam**
سرَايا اَوْلِيَاء الدَم
KSS-linked
Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada
- Jaysh al-Ghadab**
جَيْش الغَضَب
Nujaba-linked
Harakat al-Nujaba
- Ashab al-Kahf**
أَصْحَاب الكَهْف
Nujaba-linked
Harakat al-Nujaba
- Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid**
رِجَال البَاس الشَّدِيد
Likely AAH facade
Asaib Ahl al-Haq
- IRI — both channels**
المقاومة الإسلامية في العراق
الإعلام الحربي
KH / Nujaba-linked channels
Kataib Hezbollah · Harakat al-Nujaba

HOW TO READ THE CIRCLES

Number: posts naming that place
Colour: share of those posts

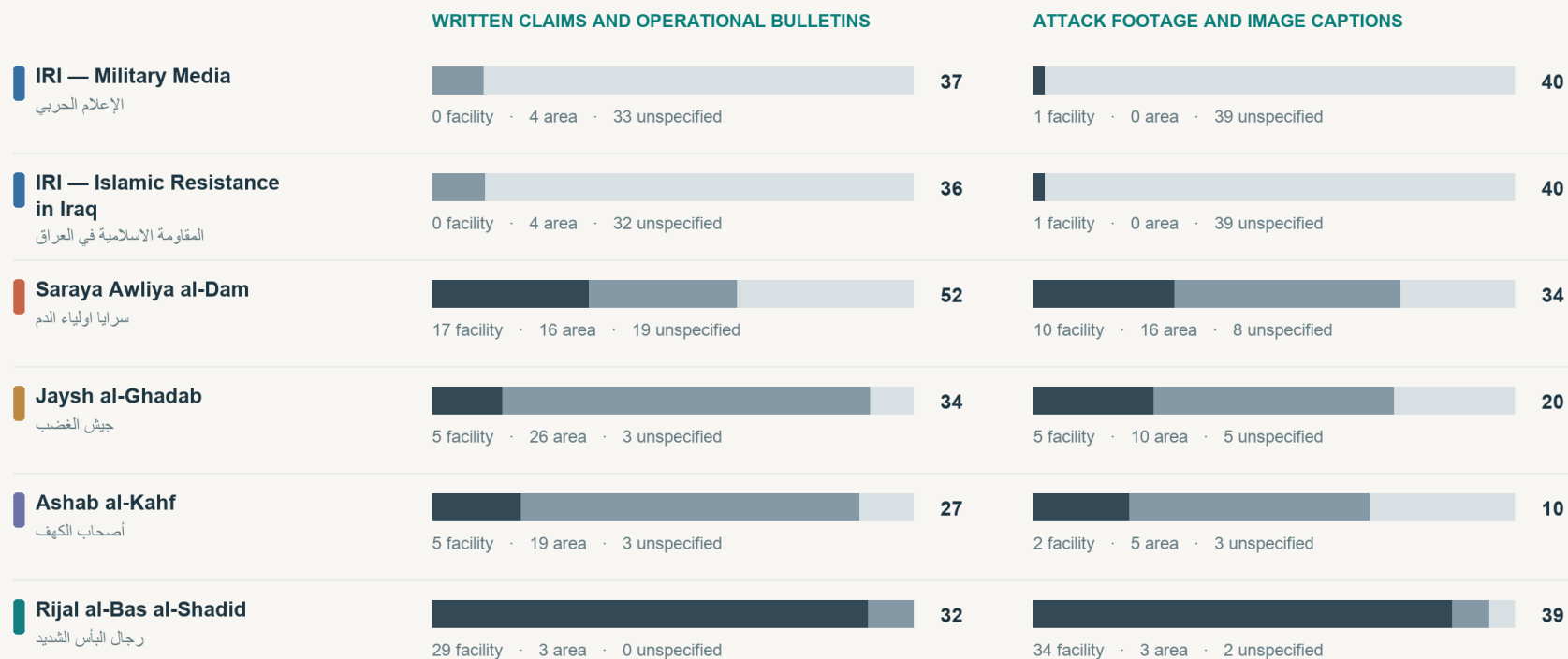
Counts are claim posts, not separate attacks. A post can name more than one place.

All six channels reviewed. Mirrored IRI posts count once. Dates and source links are retained in the ledger.

How precisely did the six channels name targets?

Target details in readable claim texts; generic “Iraq and the region” wording is classed as unspecified

■ Named facility ■ Country, city or area ■ No specific location



Location naming also changed during the war

SAD identified locations in all 26 earlier attack captions, then none of its 8 captions from 29 March.

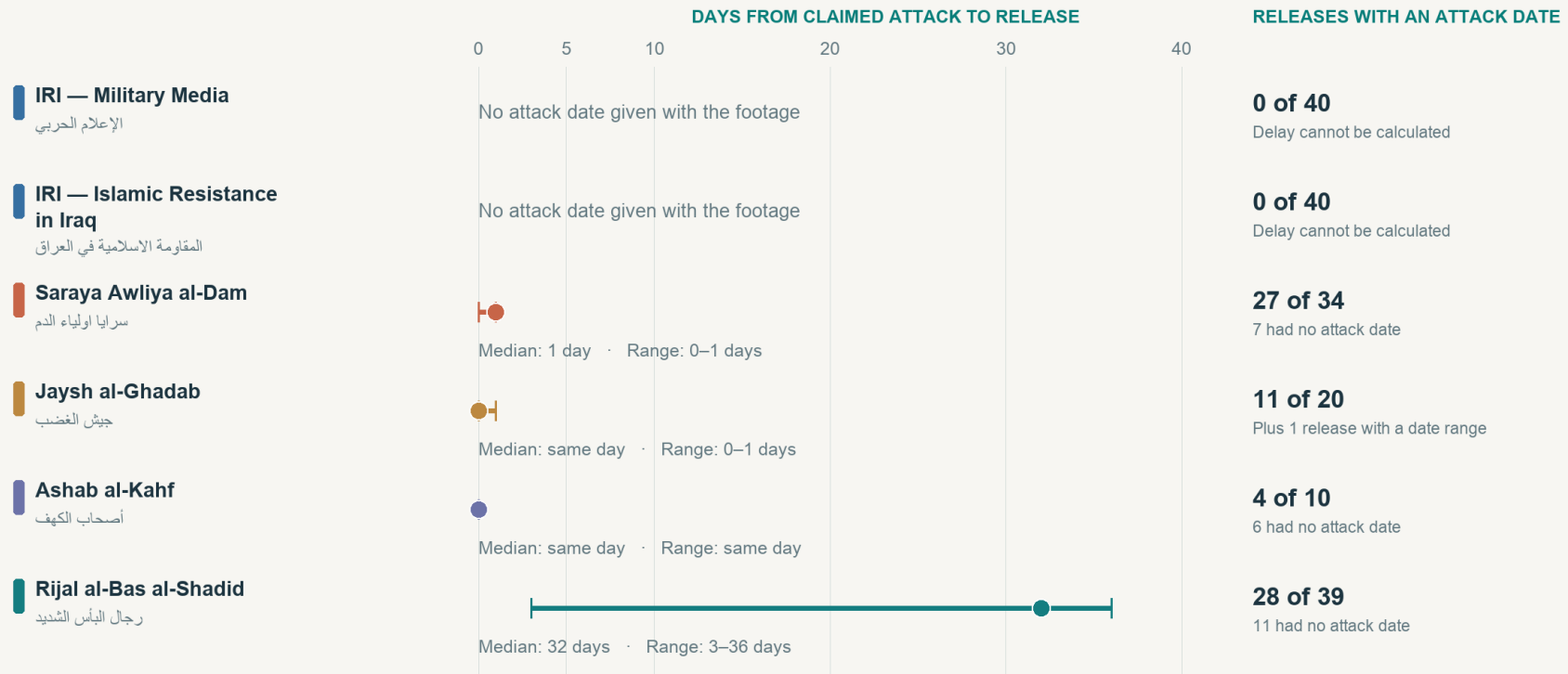
Jaysh al-Ghadab identified locations in all 15 earlier captions, then none of its 5 captions from 30 March.

Totals count claim posts. All 867 wartime source posts reviewed, plus 25 later RBS captions included with the maps.

Delays in publishing attack footage

Footage release dates compared with claimed attack dates, not the first attack announcements

Where attack dates were given, SAD and Jaysh al-Ghadab released footage within a day; RBS mostly weeks later.



Line = shortest to longest delay in releasing footage · Dot = median delay

Jaysh al-Ghadab's compilation covers 22–25 March and was posted on 26 March: a 1–4 day interval.

Totals include undated footage and one undated Ashab al-Kahf attack image.

Who amplified the two IRI channels first?

Each number counts posts an account forwarded before any other monitored account

IRI — Military Media

الإعلام الحربي
@elamharbi

71 of 73 text posts

had a matching source-labelled forward

4 seconds

Median time until the first recorded forward

POSTS THIS ACCOUNT FORWARDED FIRST

Sabereen News

صابرين نيوز
KH-affiliated



Al-Sharogiya News

الشروكية نيوز
KH-affiliated



Unit 10,000

الوحدة 10000
KH-affiliated



Other or joint first forwards: 7

IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq

المقاومة الإسلامية في العراق
@elamalmoqawama

71 of 72 text posts

had a matching source-labelled forward

25 seconds

Median time until the first recorded forward

POSTS THIS ACCOUNT FORWARDED FIRST

Jehad Brothers Team

فريق اخوة جهاد
Nujaba-affiliated



Al-Mahwar News

أخبار المحور
Broader Iraqi Axis association



Shahed News

شاهد نيوز
Nujaba-affiliated



Other or joint first forwards: 22

For example, 55 means Sabereen News was first to forward 55 different Military Media posts.

Telegram's forward-source label distinguishes the channels when their wording is identical.

Text posts of at least 80 characters after cleaning; matching copies within 48 hours. Simultaneous firsts count jointly.

Who carried each separate name first?

Each number counts selected posts an account copied or forwarded before any other monitored account

Saraya Awliya al-Dam

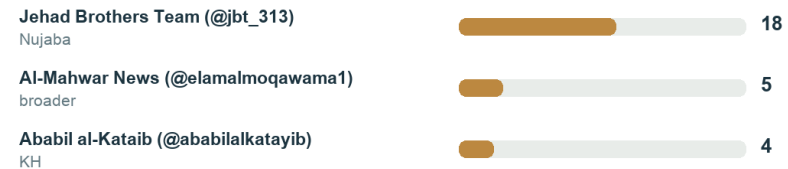
33 of 33 texts have a matching relay · median first match 0.22 min



Other first relays: 11

Jaysh al-Ghadab

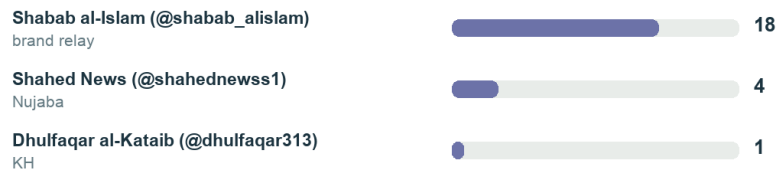
33 of 34 texts have a matching relay · median first match 0.28 min



Other first relays: 6

Ashab al-Kahf

25 of 26 texts have a matching relay · median first match 0.17 min



Other first relays: 2

Rijal al-Bas al-Shadiid

24 of 31 texts have a matching relay · median first match 0.75 min



Other first relays: 5

A first observed relay is a publication clue. It does not identify administrators, commanders or attackers.

The first matching post within the monitored Iraqi Axis accounts gives another clue about distribution. Saraya Awliya al-Dam most often appears first at KSS-associated outlets; Jaysh al-Ghadab at a Nujaba-associated outlet. Ashab al-Kahf's frequent first relay is associated with the brand itself, so it is not independent Nujaba evidence. These are first observed matches within the monitored set, not necessarily the first relay anywhere.

Method and audit trail

Coverage and selection

The archive contains 1,120,835 posts from 220 channels, dated 20 February–15 April 2026. Network searches use all 961,704 wartime posts from 216 channels, dated 28 February–8 April; the comparisons concern Iraqi Axis of Resistance accounts. All 867 wartime posts from the six claim channels were reviewed, plus 25 later Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid posts through 13 April. Publication days use Iraq local time.

Account affiliations and evidence checks

Iraq Monitor's roster supplies outlet affiliations, supported by reviews of faction-specific content and repeated redistribution. The forwarding comparison includes 29 outlets classified as owned by or affiliated with KH, Nujaba, KSS or AAH. Militia affiliation tests exclude accounts linked only to a claim name. Removing each militia group's busiest matching account shows whether other outlets sustain the link. Published organisational research informs the Quds Force assessment; forwarding counts do not measure those relationships.

Direct forwards and copied statements

Direct forwards count recipient posts whose Telegram records identify the original channel. Copied-statement coverage counts selected source statements reproduced by at least one outlet: 33 Saraya Awliya al-Dam, 34 Jaysh al-Ghadab, 26 Ashab al-Kahf and 31 Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid texts. These 124 readable written claims and bulletins exclude the cumulative attack-total post. Matching requires the entire text, after standardising spelling and removing links and punctuation, within 48 hours before or after publication. Repeated wording is paired with the nearest source timestamp; paraphrases are excluded.

Shared IRI statements and first amplifiers

The IRI comparison identifies 24 identical texts published by both channels. Recorded forward origins distinguish the copies; timestamps establish publication delays. First-amplifier charts identify the earliest match within 48 hours after publication, using 73 readable IRI — Military Media texts, 72 IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq texts, and the four other channels' 124 texts. Simultaneous first IRI forwards are retained jointly. These charts count source posts; forwarding bars count recipient posts.

Claimed locations and target naming

The maps include 209 posts naming locations. Identical IRI copies count once; posts naming several places appear at each place. Circles count posts, not unique attacks. Facilities are placed by locality; broad areas remain broad. Target-naming charts compare 401 readable written claims and attack-media captions, including those without specific locations. Advance notices, reconnaissance and campaign graphics are excluded. Posts without readable text remain in the review record.

Footage publication

Footage delays compare publication days with attack dates explicitly stated in captions, not the first announcement. Undated captions remain in release totals but not delay calculations; date ranges are reported separately. Later footage of wartime attacks is included, including the UAE claim dated 20 March and published on 11 April.

References and evidence records

Organisational context

CTC Sentinel's studies inform the discussion of claim names, militia relationships and Quds Force arrangements. Telegram findings and the broader organisational assessment are distinguished in the report.

CTC Sentinel publications

[Standing With Iran The Integrated Combat Performance of Iraqi Militias During Operation Epic Fury — June 2026](#)

[Discordance in the Iran Threat Network in Iraq — October 2021](#)

Telegram source examples

These links identify individual evidence records. The chart totals come from the full ledgers, rather than these examples alone.

Paired IRI statements

[IRI — Military Media | الإعلام الحربي | @elamharbi/274](#)

[IRI — Islamic Resistance in Iraq | المقاومة الاسلامية في العراق | @elamalmoqawama/1553](#)

Militia-associated accounts carrying claim posts

[Sabereen News | صابرين نيوز | @sabrennewss/182223](#)

[Jehad Brothers Team | فريق اخوة جهاد | @jbt_313/70021](#)

[Jehad Brothers Team | فريق اخوة جهاد | @jbt_313/73449](#)

[Huruf Sumerian News | حروف سومرية الإخبارية | @alijahied/119619](#)

Later Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid check — 29 September 2026, outside the wartime counts

[Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid | رجال البأس الشديد | @extremedistress/1002](#)

[Huruf Sumerian News | حروف سومرية الإخبارية | @alijahied/151697](#)

[Huruf Sumerian News | حروف سومرية الإخبارية | @alijahied/151698](#)

Retained evidence records

The research files include the source-post review, direct-forward ledger, complete-text matches, first-amplifier records, location ledger and publication-date audit. They retain both included and excluded source posts and distinguish original posts from their copies. The appendix provides the account directory used to read the charts.

Appendix Channel directory

This directory pairs the chart labels with Telegram display names and handles. Display names were checked on 30 September 2026 and may differ from wartime names; use the handle to identify the account. Sonia uses a Latin-script display name.

English chart label	Telegram display title	Handle
Sabereen News	صابرين نيوز - Sabereen news	@sabrennewss
Unit 10,000	الوحدة 10000	@sajadsda
Jehad Brothers Team	فريق اخوة جهاد - Jehad Brothers Team	@jbt_313
Abna al-Nujaba	أبناء النجباء	@al_nuajba
Sonia	Sonia	@s0nia10
Shabab Mihwar al-Muqawama	شباب محور المقاومة	@mihwar_almuqawama
Al-Kornet al-Kata'ibi	الكورنيت الكتائبي	@altaifaalmansoor
Al-Mahwar News	أخبار المحور - AlMahwar News	@elamalmoqawama1
Ababil al-Kataib	أبائيل الكتائب Ababil alkatayib	@ababilalkatayib
Shabab al-Islam	شباب الإسلام	@shabab_alislam
Shahed News	شاهد نيوز - Shahed News	@shahednewss1
Dhulfaqr al-Kataib	ذوالفقار الكتائب - DHULFAAQR313	@dhulfaqr313
Huruf Sumerian News	حروف سومرية الإخبارية	@alijahied
Ansar al-Qayim	أنصار القائم	@ansaralqayim313
Al-Sharogiya News	الشروكية نيوز	@alsharoqianews