

The Security And Political Impacts Of Disbanding The Iraqi Armed Forces After 2003-War

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received: January 27, 2021 Accepted: April 11, 2021 Keywords : Iraqi Armed Forces, 2003-War, Coalition Provisional Authority, ISIS DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4679635	<i>The Coalition Provisional Authority formally issued the Order Number two in the 23rd of May, 2003, to disband the Iraqi armed forces, and dissolve the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. The order of disbanding came after the Iraqi armed forces had already been disintegrated when it had been defeated in the war and the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The emergence of the insurgency groups that had begun to fight the United States troops and targeted civilians starting sectarian crisis led the Coalition administration to establish Iraqi national forces to take charge of the counterinsurgency. In the 8th of August, 2003, Paul Bremer, the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority of Iraq, Issued a decision, Order Number 22, of establishing new Iraqi armed forces. The Study has concluded that the processes of disbanding the Iraqi Army has left Iraq with no experienced army that could defend the people of Iraq. This, in turn, led to the emergence of several armed militias who serve political and regional interests causing a lot of death and destruction for Iraq for several years. Armed militias took advantage of the political chaos in Iraq and the lack of experience in the Iraqi Armed Forces to be vital players in the political life and the future of Iraq.</i>

Introduction

After the invasion of Iraq, the Coalition Provisional Authority formally issued the Order Number two in the 23rd of May, 2003, to disband the Iraqi armed forces, and dissolve the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. According to this Order, the Ministry of Media, Ministry of Security Affairs, Iraqi Intelligence Service, the Office of the National Security, the Directorate of General Security, the Special Security Forces, all military unites, Saddam Hussein's Guards, other armed groups, such as the Republican Guards, the Republican Special Guards, the Directorate of the Military Intelligence, Quds Army, the Emergency Forces, all military organization, and all military and paramilitary groups such as Ba'ath party's armed groups are dissolved .

The order of disbanding came after the Iraqi armed forces had already been disintegrated when it had been defeated in the war and the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The defeat of the Iraqi armed forces had disintegrated the Iraqi armed forces as the Iraqi soldiers and officers escaped and left their fields taking off their uniforms, and went home to be safe. Because of the absence of security and armed forces from the cities, the weapons of the army with most of the equipment had been stolen by the civilians.

The United States and the new Iraqi political and security leaders had targeted the former officers of the Iraqi armed forces. The American forces targeted the high ranks officers in order to investigate them to find the place of Saddam Hussein and arrest him, and for other security purposes. The Iraqi new leaders who had been opponents of the Saddam regime targeted the former officers of the armed forces and the security forces in order to revenge or as they claimed, to make justice, on one side, and to prevent any potential threat to the new democratic regime on the other side.

The Iraqi Leaders and Disbanding the Iraqi Army

The majority of the Iraqi new leaders had been the opponents of Saddam Hussein and his regime since he had been Vice President of Iraq in 1960s until his overthrown in 2003. They believed that the Iraqi Armed forces had been the main tool of Saddam Hussein dictatorship. They suffered from what they used to call "Saddam Hussein armed forces". Therefore, when they became in power, they called for the De-Baathification of the institutions of Iraq on one side, and clearing the armed forces and the security forces from the men who were loyal to Saddam Hussein.

According to that perspective, they did not trust the former Iraqi senior military officers. Moreover, they claimed that they had been generally Saddam Hussein's men, and if they continued presenting and serving in the new Iraqi armed forces, it would be dangerous and a threat to their new regime. They believed that the Iraqi former armed forces would not allow to create a democratic regime, in other words, they would not allow to leave power to the Shia nor Kurdish to take part in process of ruling Iraq. Therefore, they started with making a list of some leaders of the former armed forces, in order to exit them from the political or security institutions of