

**Who Is a Rebel?
Typology and Rebel
Groups in the Contem-
porary Middle East**

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Table 1. Rebel groups operating in the Middle East between 1946 and 2015

Group Name	Operating Years	Main State Actor/ Adversary	Religion	Governance Functions	Human Rights Abuses (* denotes the U.S. State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organization List)
Taliban	1994-Present	Coalition forces	Sunni Muslim	Ruled 1996-2001	Child soldiering; suicide bombings; killings; indiscriminate attacks; rape
Jamiat-i-Islami	1978-Present	Afghan & Coalition forces	Sunni Muslim	Member in Parliament (ruled 1992-1996)	Child soldiering; killings; indiscriminate attacks; rape
Hezb-i-Islami	1978-Present	Afghan & Coalition forces	Sunni Muslim	Cabinet positions	Child soldiering; suicide bombings; killings
Hezb-i-Wahdat	1989-Present	Afghan & Coalition forces	Shia Muslim	Political party	Child soldiering; killings; rape; kidnappings; torture
Hizb-i-Islami-yi Afghanistan - Khalis faction	1979-1989	Afghan & Coalition forces	Sunni Muslim	Political party	Summary executions; killings; use of anti-personnel mines; attacks on civilians
Junbish-i-Milli-yi Islami	1992-Present	Afghan & Coalition forces	Secular	Member in Parliament	Killings; rape; kidnappings; shellings
KDPI: Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran	1966-Present	Iran	Majority are Sunni Muslims	Political party	Bombings; killings

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PJAK: Party for Free Life in Kurdistan	2004-Present	Iran	Sunni Muslim	Political party	Killings; casualties
Jundallah	2003-Present	Iran	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Killings; civilian attacks*
PUK: Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	1975-Present	Iraq	Sunni Muslim	Kurdistan Regional Gov't member	Killings; civilian deaths
Ansar Al-Islam	2001-Present	Iraq	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Killings; civilian attacks; suicide bombings; rocket attacks*
Al-Mahdi Army	2003-2013 (reformed as Peace Brigades June 2014)	Iraq; Coalition forces; IS Terror group	Shia Muslim	Political wing member in parliament	Child soldiering; killings; kidnappings; rape; indiscriminate violence
Hamas: Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine	1987-Present	Israel	Sunni Muslim	Governing body of Gaza Strip	Child soldiering; suicide bombings; killings; indiscriminate attacks*

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Fatah	1959-1967 (Joined PLO), 1967-1994 (PNA establishment)	Israel	Sunni Muslim	Main party of PNA	Child soldiering; killings; bombings; kidnappings; civilian attacks
PIJ: Palestinian Islamic Jihad	1970's-Present	Israel	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; suicide and car bombings; civilian attacks*
PFLP: Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine	1967-Present	Israel	Secular	Parliament Member	Child soldiering; suicide bombings; plane hijackings; civilian murders*
AMB (al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade)	2002-Present	Israel	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; civilian attacks; bombings*
PNA: Palestinian National Authority	1994-Present	Israel	Sunni Muslim	Palestinian Official Government	Child soldiering; executions; torture; use of excessive force against civilians
Hizbullah	1982-Present	Israel	Shia Muslim	Member in Parliament	Child soldiering; suicide bombings; kidnappings; civilian attacks*
Lebanese Army- General Aoun forces	1989-1990	Lebanese forces, Syria	Maronite Christians	Not significant	Not enough reliable information

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PDRY: People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	1967-1990; 1990-1994	North Yemen	Sunni Muslim	Unified Yemen State since 1990	Indiscriminate attacks; indiscriminate fire; killings; missile attacks
Lebanese Forces (Samir Gaegea)	1989-1990	Lebanese forces; Syria	Maronite Christians	Not significant	Not enough reliable information
ISIS	2004-Present	Syria & Iraq gov'ts; Coalition forces	Sunni Muslim	Local in areas under control	Child soldiering; rape; ethnic cleansing; slavery*
UIFSA (The Northern Alliance)	1992-2001	Taliban	Muslims (Sunni & Shia)	Members in Government since 2001	Child soldiering; rape; mass killings of minorities; indiscriminate attacks
DHKP/C: Revolutionary People's Liberation Army (Devrimci sol)	1978-Present	Turkey	Secular	Not significant	Suicide bombings; indiscriminate attacks; killings*
MKP: Maoist Communist Party of Turkey and North Kurdistan	1987-Present	Turkey	Secular	Not significant	Violence; promoting violence

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Al-Qaeda	1988-Present	Western Forces	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; killings; kidnappings; suicide bombings; civilian attacks*
AQAP: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula	2009-Present	Yemen	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; killings; kidnappings; suicide bombings; civilian attacks*
Houthis	2004-Present	Yemen Gov't & Saudis	Shia Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; killings; forced displacement; torture
AQIM: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb	2007-present	Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Mali	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; killings; kidnappings; suicide bombings; civilian attacks*
Exile and Redemption	1991	Algeria	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Killings; kidnappings; sexual violence
FIS (Islamic Salvation Front)	1992-1997	Algeria	Sunni Muslim	No-elected, but banned by the gov't	Child soldiering; killings; attacks on military personnel; sexual violence
Armed Islamic Group (GIA)	1993-2003	Algeria	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Child soldiering; civilian massacres; bombings; sexual violence; civilian attacks

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Al-jamā'ā al-islāmīya (IG)	1992-1998	Egypt	Sunni Muslim	Not significant	Killings; bombings; indiscriminate attacks*
Muslim Brotherhood	1928-present	Egypt	Sunni Muslim	Yes—political party and members have held office	Killings; torture; deprivation of rights

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Table 2. Summary of Rebel Typology

		<i>Key Audiences</i>		
		Domestic/local	International	Government
<i>Tactics</i>	Mainly political	"Ruler" rebel	"Diplomat" rebel	"Exile" rebel
	Mainly economic	"Warlord" rebel		
	Terrorism	"Terrorist" rebel	ME "Terrorist" rebel	