

---

## **IRAQ'S HASHD SAYS US BEHIND AIR RAID, VOWS RETALIATION**

-

25.06.2018

---

PressTV (25 June 2018)

Iraqs Hashd al-Sha'abi says it has collected fragments of missiles used in an airstrike against its fighters last week, which proves it was a US attack.

The paramilitary group has said it lost 22 fighters following the night raid on June 17 on the Syrian village of al-Hari in Dayr al-Zawr province.

An unnamed US official, quoted by Agence France-Presse, said last Monday that Washington suspected Israel was behind the air raid but both the Syrian government and Iraqi officials have said US aircraft carried out the strike.

Hashd deputy commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis issued a warning to the US on Sunday, saying the fighters will not remain silent toward the targeting of their forces.

We tell the Americans that we as the Hashd, including all of its formations, follow the Iraqi government. We will not remain silent about this attack, Muhandis said in a statement.

Hashd, now officially part of the Iraqi defense apparatus, has demanded clarification from the US, saying such strikes have occurred repeatedly during the war against terrorism.

Muhandis said the fighters had formed a committee to further investigate the strike. He called on all political parties, the government, and the parliament to take a stance towards their sons falling martyrs.

Remaining silent on this incident, saying that 'that position is outside the Iraqi territory, hence we have nothing to do with it' is forfeiting the blood of our martyrs, Muhandis added.

The popular forces were key to a three-year-long Iraqi struggle which ousted Daesh from the Arab country.

Muhandis also said US forces maintain a presence in Sinjar, using the Iraqi border town to control eastern Syria with the help of Kurdish militants.

Hashd fighters operate in the area at the request of the Syrian government to counter Daesh terrorists and keep them away from the Iraqi borders.

...

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2018/06/25/566007/Syria-Iraq-United-States-airstrike-Hashd-Shaabi->

Bu-Kamal

---

Kaynak/Source: