MIDDLE EAST FORUM DATASET USER GUIDE

Shia Militia Events

Dated, geolocated events involving 16 Iran-aligned militias and claim banners, in three categories (attacks and clashes; money and logistics; US counteractions), each with its source record.

8,112 rows, 16 fields. Download: https://products.meforum.org/datasets/militia-events/militia-events.csv

What It Covers

One row per event (one attack, clash, designation, indictment or other dated action).

- Events run from 1989-01-01 to 2026-10-01.
- Rows from the UCDP Candidate Events Dataset (2026) are preliminary; UCDP may revise or drop them before its annual GED release.
- Rows naming the Sanaa authorities in UCDP coding are listed under Ansar Allah (Houthis); that attribution is MEF's reading of UCDP coding, stated in each row's summary.
- Coordinates are as precise as the geo_precision field states; town-level points mark the town center.
- UCDP GED and Candidate rows are CC BY 4.0 (Uppsala Conflict Data Program); cite "UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset" version 26.1 or "UCDP Candidate Events Dataset" (preliminary) when using them. US government records are public domain.

How to Cite

Middle East Forum, Shia Militia Events (dataset), Shia Militia Tracker, accessed October 13, 2026, https://products.meforum.org/datasets/militia-events/

How Often It Updates

Rebuilt with the Shia Militia Tracker on its daily refresh; UCDP rows change when UCDP issues a new GED or Candidate release. Generated October 13, 2026.

Codebook

Field	Type	Definition	Allowed Values	Source
event_id	integer	Stable row identifier within this dataset.	0 to 8111	MEF
date	date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Date of the event. Where the source gives no event date, the date of the record.	1989-01-01 to 2026-10-01	Source record
type	text	Top-level event category.	Attacks and clashes; Counteractions; Money and logistics	MEF classification
subtype	text	Event subcategory.	23 values, for example Attack on US forces, State FTO designation, UCDP non-state armed conflict	MEF classification
groups	text list (semicolon separated)	Militias or claim banners the source record names.	15 values: Ansar Allah (Houthis); Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq; Harakat Ansar Allah al-Awfiya; Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba; Iran-aligned militias in Iraq, group not named; Islamic Resistance in Iraq (claim banner);	Source record

Field	Type	Definition	Allowed Values	Source
			Kata'ib Hezbollah; Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada; Kata'ib al-Imam Ali; Lebanese Hezbollah; Liwa Fatemiyoun; Liwa Zainabiyoun; Saraya al-Ashtar; Saraya al-Mukhtar; al-Mahdi Army (Jaysh al-Mahdi)	
`place`	text	Place as named or geocoded.	Text	Source record, Natural Earth
`country`	text	Country of the place.	Country name	Source record
`latitude`	decimal degrees	Latitude of the plotted point (WGS 84).	-34.6033 to 58.2494	UCDP or MEF geocode
`longitude`	decimal degrees	Longitude of the plotted point (WGS 84).	-119.291 to 171.194	UCDP or MEF geocode
`geo_precision`	text	How precise the point is.	For example UCDP: exact location; town or city	UCDP or MEF
`summary`	text	One-sentence description of the event in MEF wording.	Text	MEF, from the source record
`source`	text	Name of the source record series.	31 values, for example UCDP GED 26.1, CENTCOM, Federal Register citations	Source record
`source_url`	URL	Link to the source record or release file.	http or https URL	Source record
`source_title`	text	Title of the source document when it has one.	Text or blank	Source record
`ucdp_id`	integer	UCDP event identifier for UCDP rows.	9 to 642206, or blank	UCDP
`date_note`	text	Note when the date or location needed a reading of the source.	Text or blank	MEF

Corrections

Report an error to info@meforum.org with the row identifier.