Quwat al-Imam al-Rida is a Syrian Shiite militia that recruits heavily from the province of Homs, near the Lebanese border, where Syria's small Shiite community has historically lived.¹

Founded in 2013 and named for the eighth Shiite imam, al-Rida is modeled on Lebanese Hezbollah, which has trained and advised the unit with the help of Iran's Revolutionary Guard.²

It is largely focused on Homs, where it has fought alongside the Assad regime and Hezbollah forces.³ It has also fought in East Ghouta, Aleppo, Palmyra, Idlib, Daraa, and al-Bukamal.⁴

According to a pro-Hezbollah outlet, Quwat al-Imam al-Rida is the “main nucleus of Hezbollah in Syria,” and recruits both Sunnis and Shiites from Homs, Aleppo, Daraa, and the Damascus countryside. In addition, the article says “their eyes are on fighting Israel in the Golan.”

Like most Iranian-backed militia, Quwat al-Imam al-Rida presents Israel as its ultimate enemy, even though the group is currently preoccupied with defending the regime of Bashar al-Assad.⁵

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