

General Qasem Soleimani, a Great Man against Terrorism

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Ayatollah Khamenei: "Martyr Solaymani was a stellar example of those educated and nurtured in Islam and school of Imam Khomeini (RA).

He spent his entire life engaging in jihad in the path of God."

General Qasem Soleimani was born in the Iranian city of Rabor on March 11, 1957. Born in a poor farming family, he had to move to the neighboring city at the age of 13 to repay his father's debt. In 1979, Soleimani joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces, founded after the Islamic Revolution of Iran on April 22, 1979.

In less than a decade after joining IRGC, he was sent to fight Iran's war against the invading Iraqi army outside the border areas and was soon appointed the chief of the Irani brigade chosen for the mission.

After the Iraqi government fell in 2003, Soleimani was selected as the Quds Force chief.

Known as shadow commander for his indirect war against the US, he was on the US hit list for long. The Zionist Regime and Saudi Arabia were also allegedly working to eliminate Soleimani for his sacred services in Syria and Lebanon.

Qasem Soleimani began his military career in the beginning of the Iran–Iraq War of the ۱۹۸۰s, during which he commanded the ۴۱st Division. He was later involved in extraterritorial operations, providing military assistance to anti-Saddam Shia and Kurdish groups in Iraq, and later Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian territories. In 2012, Soleimani helped bolster the Syrian government, a key Iranian ally, during the Syrian Civil War, particularly in its operations against ISIS and its offshoots. Soleimani also assisted in the command of combined Iraqi government and Shia militia forces that advanced against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Syria (ISIS) in 2014–2015.

Early Life

Qasem Soleimani was born in the village of Qanat-e Malek, Kerman Province, to an impoverished peasant family. In his youth, he moved to the city of Kerman and worked as a construction worker to help repay a debt his father owed. In 1975, he began working as a contractor for the Kerman Water Organization. When not at work, he spent his time lifting weights in local gyms and attending the sermons of a traveling preacher, Hojjat Kamyab, a protégé of Imam Khomeini (RA).

Military Career

General Soleimani joined the Revolutionary war Guard (IRGC) in 1979 following the Iranian Revolution, which saw the Muhammad Reza Pahlavi fall and Imam Khomeini (RA) take power. Reportedly, his training was minimal, but he advanced rapidly. Early in his career as a guardsman, he was stationed in northwestern Iran, and participated in the suppression of a Kurdish separatist uprising in West Azerbaijan Province. On 22 September 1980, when Saddam Hussein launched an invasion of Iran, setting off the Imposed War (1980–1988), General Soleimani joined the battlefield serving as the leader of a military company, consisting of men from Kerman whom he personally assembled and trained. He quickly earned a reputation for bravery, and rose through the ranks because of his role in the successful operations in retaking the lands Iraq had occupied, eventually becoming the commander of the 41st Sarallah Division while still in his 20s, participating in most major operations. He was mostly stationed at the southern front. He was seriously injured in Operation Tariq-ol-Qods. In a 1990 interview, he mentioned Operation Fath-ol-Mobin as “the best” operation he participated in and “very memorable”, due to its difficulties yet positive outcome. He was also engaged in leading and organizing irregular warfare missions deep inside Iraq carried out by the Ramadan Headquarters. It was at this point that General Soleimani established relations with Kurdish Iraqi leaders and the Shia Badr Organization, both of which were opposed to Iraq’s Saddam Hussein.

After the war, during the 1990s, he was an IRGC commander in Kerman Province. In this region, which is relatively close to Afghanistan, Afghan-grown opium travels to Turkey and on to Europe. General Soleimani’s military experience helped him earn a reputation as a successful fighter against drug trafficking.

During eight-years of sacred defense war with Iraq he was the commander of IRGC divisions Nasr-5 and Imam Reza -21, respectively.

In his early 20's, he joined IRGC and served in different divisions and left behind invaluable memorials with his comrades and finally became commander of Nasr-5 division to prove his capability and qualifications as a vigilant commander.

He always remained committed to the principles of the Islamic Revolution and spared no efforts to materialize the aspiration of the revolution.

The devoted commander also played significant role in many military operations and brought triumphs to Iranian side.

In one of his interviews he said the US and Zionist Regime are much weaker to compete with Iran's military might which backs oppressed Palestinians and people in Gaza.

War on ISIS in Iraq

General Qasem Soleimani was in the Iraqi city of Amirli, to work with the Iraqi forces to push back militants from ISIS. According to the Los Angeles Times, which reported that Amerli was the first town to successfully withstand an ISIS invasion, it was secured thanks to “an unusual partnership of Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers, Iranian-backed Shiite militias”.

It is said that when the city of Mosul fell, the rapid reaction of Iran, rather than American bombing, was what prevented a more widespread collapse. General Qasem Soleimani also seems to have been instrumental in planning the operation to relieve Amirli in Saladin Governorate, where ISIS had laid siege to an important city. In fact the Quds force operatives under General Soleimani’s command seem to have been deeply involved with not only the Iraqi army and Shi’ite militias but also the Kurdish in the battle of Amirli, not only providing liaisons for intelligence sharing but also the supply of arms and munitions in addition to “providing expertise”. In the operation to liberate Jurf Al Sakhar, he was reportedly “present on the battlefield”. Some Shia militia commanders described General Soleimani as “fearless”—one pointing out that the Iranian general never wears a flak jacket, even on the front lines. Hadi al-Amiri, the former Iraqi minister of transportation and the head of the Badr Organization [an official Iraqi political party whose military wing is one of the largest armed forces in the country] highlighted the pivotal role of General Qasem Soleimani in defending Iraq’s Kurdistan Region against the ISIS terrorist group, maintaining that if it were not for Iran,

Heidar al-Ebadi's government would have been a government-in-exile right now and he added there would be no Iraq if Gen. Soleimani hadn't helped us.

Martyrdom

General Qasem Soleimani, who was killed by a US airstrike ordered by Donald Trump at Baghdad International Airport on Friday January 3, 2020, was hailed as a hero in Iran. He was a brave, charismatic and beloved commander for his troops.

Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, once called him a "living martyr of the revolution."

One of Iran's most powerful men, General Soleimani cut a highly controversial figure. He was head of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, an elite unit that handles Iran's overseas operations.

Having started his front line military career in the Iran-Iraq war during the early 1980s, Soleimani rose to prominence to become an indispensable figure in Iran, playing an instrumental role in spreading its influence in the Middle East.

Over a year back, Soleimani even warned US President Donald Trump of escalating war with Iran. Calling Trump a gambler, Soleimani said Iran was closer to the US in places it might not know.

"You will start the war but we will end it," he had threatened.