



## ḤAMZA B. ĀDARAK

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**ḤAMZA B. ĀDARAK** or Atrak or ‘Abd-Allāh Abu Ḳozayma, Kharijite rebel in Sistān and Khorasan during early ‘Abbasid times. He was of *dehqān* (q.v.) stock from southern Afghanistan, to the east of Bost, where there was a long tradition of Kharijite, anti-government activity. His rebellion began in the countryside of Sistān in 179/795-96 or possibly in the following two years, and was directed not only against the official representatives of the ‘Abbasids but also against rival Kharijite sects. He assumed the title of “Commander of the Faithful,” and in 182/798 defeated caliphal forces under the governor of Khorasan, ‘Ali b. ‘Isā b. Māhān (q.v.). Although unable to capture such bastions of Sunni orthodoxy and caliphal power as the cities of Zarang, Herat and Nishapur, Ḥamza’s partisans sacked the town of Bayhaq and terrorized the countryside, deliberately killing tax collectors, thus impeding the flow of revenue from the east to Baghdad. Ḥamza’s movement thus had clear social as well as religious dimensions and gave vent to the resentment felt against exploitation by the ‘Abbasid governors. It was Kharijite depredations which made [Hārūn al-Rašīd](#) resolve to march against Ḥamza in 193/808, and we possess the texts of an exchange of letters, the caliph’s ultimatum to Ḥamza and the latter’s defiant and contemptuous reply (*Tārik-e Sistān*, pp. 162-68, tr. Gold, pp. 128-34; G. Scarcia, “Lo scambio di lettere tra Hārūn al-Rašīd e Hamza al-Ḥāriḡi secondo il «Ta’riḡ-i Sistān»,” *AIUON*, N.S. 14, 1964, pp. 623-45).

Hārūn died the next year without achieving any success against the rebels, and Ḥamza’s activities continued for a further twenty years or so until his death in Jomādā II 213/August-September 828; he had been the leading figure



of the Kharijites of the East for thirty years.

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