TIMELINE OF TERROR
A CONCISE HISTORY OF HEZBOLLAH ATROCITIES
In 1982, the Israeli government conducted ‘Operation Peace for Galilee’ which had five national security goals, according to Major George Solley, a former U.S. Marine and military historian of the First Lebanon War. These were “(1) eliminate the PLO threat to Israel’s northern border; (2) destroy the PLO infrastructure in Lebanon; (3) remove Syrian military presence in the Bekaa Valley and reduce its influence in Lebanon; (4) create a stable Lebanese government; and (5) therefore strengthen Israel’s position in the West Bank.”

The Shi’ite leaders in Lebanon debated how to respond. Some favoured and advocated for a militant response and supporting an Iran-like Islamic Republic in Lebanon and formed Hezbollah (“the Party of God”), thereby abandoning the Amal Movement, which was one of the most important Shi’ite Muslim militias in Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War. Hezbollah’s formation was therefore a direct reaction to Israel’s occupation of southern Lebanon. Ideologically, the group took its inspiration from the Islamic revolution in Iran led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Indeed, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) trained, armed and funded Hezbollah upon the group’s formation, as the IRGC continues to do to this day. Syria, too, was an early patron of Hezbollah for reasons having more to do with realpolitik than ideological sympathy: Damascus wanted to maintain its own alliance with Iran, exploit a platform in Lebanon from which to attack Israel or the United States, and prop up a bulwark against the political predominance of the Amal Movement.
IDEOLOGY

Hezbollah is expressly dedicated to two goals: “Liberating” Jerusalem and what it considers to be all of Palestine including land that today constitutes the State of Israel, which it seeks to destroy; and forming an Islamic government in Lebanon using the Iranian regime as its model. This worldview was solidly theocratic and rejected superpower influence, be it from the United States or the then-Soviet Union. The Iranian-made slogan, “neither East nor West,” was happily adopted by Hezbollah as its own. Over time, however, the group came to recognize that the practical application of the Iranian system in Lebanon was implausible and cost it support. In more recent years, therefore, the Iranian model has been an aspirational one for Hezbollah and not a policy program.

Aided by Iran and Syria since its formation, Hezbollah has used training camps in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon to provide instructions on how to conduct assassinations, kidnappings, suicide bombings, and guerrilla warfare. It was heavily implicated in the June 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847 to Beirut.

Following the 1989 death of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini and the close of the Cold War, Hezbollah evolved into what historian Richard Augustus Norton has called a “Janus-faced” organisation, moving beyond a mere paramilitary terrorist militia into a full-fledged political party intent on taking through the ballot box what it could not take on the battlefield.

Due to the Lebanese people’s historical wariness of Iranian and Syrian involvement in their country’s affairs, Hezbollah was desperate to show its own independence by reducing overt terrorist activities domestically and internationally. Instead, it focused on “clandestine” activities — or terrorist attacks for which responsibility could be plausibly denied.

Nevertheless, Hezbollah failed to hold up to its publicised goal of respecting the socio-political integrity of Lebanon and protecting the country against Israeli aggression as Hezbollah started “nesting” in southern Lebanon, creating what many analysts have dubbed a “state within a state.” It further consolidated its control over the mainly Shi’ite inhabitants in that area by providing key social services such as healthcare and education. It also won widespread support in many Lebanese communities during the long struggle against Israeli’s occupation of the south, though this broader sympathy quickly faded following Israel’s withdrawal in May, 2000.

Hezbollah has remained ideologically true to its hard-line theocratic raison d’être despite its carefully cultivated image as a modernised, fully integrated political apparatus. As former Undersecretary of State Richard Armitage noted, Hezbollah is the “grade-A” of terrorist organisations.

COMMAND

Secretary-General. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah is the chief decision-maker for Hezbollah’s political and paramilitary apparatuses and his influence
is perhaps nowhere stronger than in the area of foreign policy. He is the linchpin for both Iran and Syria and a high-value terrorist target for Israel and the United States. For this reason, Nasrallah’s whereabouts in Lebanon are unknown and his public appearances exceedingly rare.

**Chief of intelligence.** Following the mysterious assassination of Imad Mughniyah in Damascus in 2008, Mohammad Rida Zahidi was appointed to this crucial role, which includes coordinating clandestine activities for Hezbollah.

**Head of security.** Wafiq Safa, a founder of Hezbollah, and a close ally of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Safa routinely briefs Nasrallah on domestic political and security-related developments.

## FUNDING

Hezbollah is mainly funded through the state actors of Iran and Syria, but it also pursues other venues for self-financing including various expatriate supporters, charity organisations and “criminal enterprises.” Iran is believed to subsidise Hezbollah annually with $200 million, while Syria is seen to provide mainly military assistance by storing the group’s heavy weapons in Syrian depots, or embedding and training Hezbollah fighters within the Syrian military during the occupation of Lebanon. Known charities that directly fund Hezbollah include Al-Aqsa International Foundation, Bonyad-e Shahid (“Martyr’s Organisation”), Al-Mabarrat Charity Association, in addition to other radical Islamic groups. The United States Treasury Department has also accused Hezbollah of using money-laundering, the international drug trade, and the diamond trade as increasingly powerful revenue streams. As a result, several Lebanese banks thought to act as fronts for Hezbollah’s illegal moneymaking have been sanctioned by the US government.

## EUROPEAN UNION ON HEZBOLLAH

The European Union refuses to place Hezbollah on its list of terrorist organisations, because doing so, it argues, would bear severe ramifications on stability in the Middle East and global security. Because Hezbollah partakes in the political process and has an active arm in the political system in Lebanon, the EU has refused to blacklist the organisation. It has further determined that there is no tangible evidence of Hezbollah’s recent engagement in terrorist activities to warrant such action.

## HEZBOLLAH TACTICS

Hezbollah does not recognise the existence of Israel and advocates its elimination, although its justification for retaining arms is that it seeks to liberate Lebanese territory still occupied by Israel. Formerly, this territory included all of southern Lebanon, the Shebaa Farms, and half of the Lebanese village of Ghajar. Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon in
2000, and from the Lebanese village of Ghajar in 2010. Therefore, the only remaining territory that Hezbollah still regards as occupied Lebanese territory is the Shebaa Farms area. The sovereignty of this area is disputed, with Israel maintaining that it is part of Syria but Lebanon and, implicitly, Syria, insisting it is Lebanese land. Although Syria went to war with Hezbollah during the War of the Camps from 1985-1986, Hezbollah is currently sponsored by Iran and Syria who supply it with weapons and financial support.

Hezbollah has primarily used four means of pressuring Israel to grant land back to Lebanon: kidnapping Israeli soldiers in cross-border raids, attacking Israel with short and long range rockets, suicide bombings, and paramilitary guerrilla warfare. All four tactics were employed when Israel occupied southern Lebanon throughout the 1980s and 1990s and then ceased with Israel’s withdrawal in 2000. The most recent escalation in guerrilla warfare coincided with the Israel-Hezbollah war of July 2006, which was triggered by Hezbollah’s cross-border raid into Israel and its kidnapping of two IDF soldiers.

Hezbollah used its missile capability, mostly Russian Katyusha rockets, to its fullest potential yet and launched 3,970-4,228 missiles at Israel (over 100 per day). This caused massive amounts of damage in Israel, estimated to be around $3.3 billion. Thirty-nine civilians were killed, mostly due to Hezbollah missiles; 118 Israeli soldiers were also killed in the ground invasion of Lebanon against Hezbollah guerrillas. The war also reportedly cost the lives of 1,109 Lebanese civilians and several hundred Hezbollah and Amal fighters, and was cut short when an Israeli attack on an apartment building in the village of Qana killed 28 Lebanese civilians, about half of them children.

Since the 2006 war ended, a few rogue missiles have been launched from Lebanon into Israel, although Hezbollah has denied responsibility. In May 2010, the group signed a military alliance pact with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran that if any of the three were attacked by Israel, the other two members would join them in war. Most recently, the United States has added Hezbollah to its sanctioned entities for its role in facilitating Assad’s crackdown on the Syrian opposition.
Hezbollah has also been involved in a relatively limited number of terrorist attacks against the United States, most notoriously the 1983 Marine suicide bombings in Beirut. Widely believed to have been carried out by Hezbollah or members linked to the group, this devastating act killed 220 Marines, 18 Navy soldiers, and 3 Army soldiers. Prior to the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington, it represented the single deadliest day for United States since the 1968 Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War.

Hezbollah has also been implicated in the suicide truck bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which killed 29 people and injured 242 on March 17th, 1992.

Two investigative reports in *Der Spiegel*, and the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* point to Hezbollah’s role in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005. It is widely believed that the United National Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which is investigating the affair, has issued confidential arrest warrants for four Hezbollah agents involved in the assassination.

As a political party, Hezbollah won 13 seats in the 2009 Lebanese parliamentary elections and is a coalition partner in the current government. It has aligned itself with other political parties that support Syria and Iran and oppose the pro-democracy March 14th alliance, which organised and led the brief Cedar Revolution in Lebanon that expelled Syria as an occupying power. (March 14th is aligned with the United States, France, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.) Hezbollah has proved adept at political power-brokerage. It has allied with former Lebanese Christian general Michel Aoun and his powerful Christian political party, the Free Patriotic Movement, to create a bloc that has substantially boosted Hezbollah’s political clout.

Hezbollah has been able to use its aligned parties to induce paralysis in the Lebanese parliament and essentially veto any government legislation which attempts to disarm the movement or take over its private telecommunications network. For instance, in 2008, Hezbollah ally Nabih Berri, the speaker of the Lebanese parliament, refused to open the chamber for debate on electing a president to replace the outgoing pro-Hezbollah and pro-Syria President Emile Lahoud. The reason was simple: Hezbollah did not wish to allow the election of a new executive who would be unfriendly to its agenda. In September and October of 2010, Hezbollah even used its allies in the Lebanese government to attempt to shut down the activities in-country of the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon because it did not want its own members named in the Hariri killing.

Hezbollah employs a highly effective media and propaganda strategy. The party owns the *al-Manar* television network which broadcasts music videos supporting the group, news that is indistinguishable from propaganda, speeches by Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, and religious programming extolling the group’s virtues as the standard-bearer of Shi’a Islam. *Al-Manar* also airs game shows and soap operas thus spreading its audience among the Lebanese and greater pan-Arab audience.
Hezbollah’s activity as a terrorist group is often thought to be limited to its war against Israel. This is a great mistake. From its killing of 58 French peace-keepers in 1983 to the current day, Hezbollah has repeatedly sought out, killed and been implicated in the killing of numerous European targets.

Yet despite this fact the European Union (EU) refuses to put Hezbollah on its official list of designated terrorist groups. This list includes Hamas but, inexplicably, not Hezbollah.

The official reason given by the EU is that there is a separation between the political and military wings of Hezbollah. In reality no such separation exists. Hezbollah does not see it. Lebanon – which Hezbollah has done so much to destroy – does not see it. America does not see it. Only the EU sees it. It is time that this disgraceful anomaly was rectified. Not only because it is wrong, but because the current situation allows and encourages Hezbollah to recruit and fundraise in Europe.

For their part, Hezbollah’s leaders are deeply concerned about what would happen if the EU did finally designate their organisation. The Secretary General of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, has himself said that were the EU to outlaw Hezbollah it would ‘destroy’ the group because ‘the sources of our funding will dry up and the sources of moral, political and material support will be destroyed.’

This publication aims to serve as a reminder of what Hezbollah has done. But it is also intended to serve as a resource for European citizens. The case for designating Hezbollah is overwhelming. We need political leadership on the issue. But that will only come about if European citizens who abhor terrorism – and who have suffered so many times from it – make their voices heard. It is in our power to make Nasrallah’s nightmare come true, and in the process make a practical step toward assisting peace in the Middle East and Europe.

Douglas Murray
Associate Director
1982: Israel invades Lebanon. Hezbollah is formed with Iranian financial and military backing and an explicitly Khomeinist doctrine of establishing an Islamic state in Lebanon and “liberating” Jerusalem and all of historical Palestine, which includes the current State of Israel.

**Hezbollah Was Formed**

**1982**

**1983 April 18**

**Suicide Truck Bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Supplied by Iran**

**Casualties:**
49 Embassy staff were killed and 34 were injured. The Embassy relocated to Awkar, north of the capital.

**Other Accounts:**
63 people, including 17 Americans

**1983 October 23**

**Bombing of U.S. and French Marine Barracks in Beirut**

**Casualties:**
299 dead

**Other Accounts:**
240 marines died, 58 French soldiers

July 19, 1982: Davis S. Dodge, the president of American University in Beirut, is kidnapped.
March 16, 1984: William Francis Buckley, a CIA operative working at the U.S. embassy in Beirut, is kidnapped and later murdered.

BOMBING OF A RESTAURANT NEAR THE U.S. AIR FORCE BASE IN TORREJON, SPAIN

CASUALTIES:
18 U.S. SERVICEMEN KILLED, 83 INJURED

1984 APRIL 12

CAR BOMBING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY ANNEX IN BEIRUT

CASUALTIES:
KILLED 11, 58 INJURED

1984 SEPTEMBER 20

HIJACKING OF KUWAIT AIRLINES PLANE

CASUALTIES:
KILLED 4

1984 DECEMBER 4

Flight hijacked out of Athens > Beirut > landed in Algiers > Beirut

**AT FIRST:** 2 Hijackers & 153 passengers

**IN ALGIERS:** Hijackers became 12 to 15, all crew were released except for 32 male Americans and crewmen

**DEMANDS:** release of 50 Shiite Muslim detained in Israel, terrorists was aiming to free 700 Shiite Muslims detained in Israel.

To be able to land in Beirut, they killed 1 Marine U.S. officer.

**February 16, 1985:** Hezbollah releases “Downtrodden in Lebanon and the World” manifesto calling for an Iranian-style Islamic state in Lebanon and for Israel’s destruction.

**1985 JUNE 14**

**MURDER OF THREE SAUDI DIPLOMATS**

**1988 JAN-FEB**

**SUSPECTED OF MURDURING THE THIRD SECRETARY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN BANGKOK WHO WAS SHOT IN HIS RESIDENCE**

**1989 JANUARY**

December 31, 1986: Using the alias the “Organization of the Oppressed on Earth”, Hezbollah abducts and kills three Lebanese Jews.
SUSPECTED OF THE MURDER OF TWO SAUDI DIPLOMATS AND A TELEX OPERATOR AT THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN BANGKOK WHO WERE SHOT DEAD

SUSPECTED OF KIDNAPPING SAUDI BUSINESSMAN WHO VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE, DECLARED DEAD, BUT BODY WAS NEVER FOUND

MURDER OF EHUD SADAN, SECURITY CHIEF AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN ANKARA, TURKEY

CASUALTIES: EHUD SADAN DEAD, 2 TURKS (PASSENGERS) INJURED: ONE 9 YEAR-OLD CHILD AND A TAXI DRIVER

SUICIDE BOMBING AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES

CASUALTIES: 29 KILLED, MORE THAN 240 INJURED.
ATTEMPTED MURDER OF JAK KAMHI, HEAD OF TURKISH JEWISH COMMUNITY, THE OPERATION FAILED

CASUALTIES:
4 GUNMEN SHOT AT KAMHI’S CAR

ATTEMPTED TO EXPLODE A CAR BOMB AT ISRAELI EMBASSY IN THAILAND, THE OPERATION FAILED

SUICIDE BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA) BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES

CASUALTIES:
85 KILLED, APPROXIMATELY 300 INJURED.
Hezbollah bombards towns in northern Israel with volleys of Katyusha rockets in one of the group’s numerous attacks on Israeli civilians. Casualties: cannot be found.

1995 November 28

Hezbollah fires 28 Katyusha rockets into northern Israeli towns. A week later, the group fires 16 rockets, injuring 36 Israelis. Israel responds with a major offensive, known as the “Grapes of Wrath” operation, to stop Hezbollah rocket fire. Casualties: 36 injured.

1996 March 30

**October 1997:** The U.S. proscribes Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

**June 2000:** United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan acknowledges Israel’s withdrawal from Lebanon. His report is adopted by the UN Security Council. Nevertheless, Hezbollah insists that Israel still occupies Lebanon. It claims that the 22-square km Shebaa Farms, which is disputed by three countries - Israel, Syria and Lebanon - is still occupied.

**HEZBOLLAH OPENS FIRE ON NORTHERN ISRAEL WITH DOZENS OF ROCKETS IN ONE OF THE GROUP’S NUMEROUS ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS**

**SUSPECTED OF MURDER OF AN AMERICAN OFFICER AND HIGH-RANKING TURKISH OFFICER**

**HEZBOLLAH OPERATIVES ABDUCT AN ISRAELI BUSINESSMAN AND THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS PATROLLING ISRAEL’S BORDER WITH LEBANON**

**CASUALTIES:**
The soldiers’ remains and the businessman are returned to Israel in 2004.

**1997 August 19**

**2000 May 9**

**2000 October 7**

**March 1, 2001:** The British government adds Hezbollah’s “military wing” to its list of proscribed terrorist organizations.
SHOOTING ATTACK AGAINST ISRAELI VEHICLES NEAR THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER

CASUALTIES:
SIX KILLED, SEVEN INJURED.

December 11, 2002: Canada proscribes Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

August 11, 2006:
The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1701, which ends the Israel-Hezbollah War and calls for the disarmament of “armed groups” in Lebanon, a direct reference to Hezbollah which refuses to disarm.

August 11, 2006:
Hezbollah’s military chief ‘Imad Mughrabi was killed by a vehicle bomb in Damascus, resulting in the following reported disruptions of cell activities:

- 2008 disruption of a cell in Baku, Azerbaijan, targeting the Israeli embassy there
- Late-2008 disruption of a cell in Egypt targeting Israeli tourists and ships in transiting the Suez Canal.
- 2009: operation disrupted in Turkey
- Early 2011 Israel warned its citizens of several Hezbollah plots against Israeli interests in Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Cyprus.

June 5, 2003: Australia proscribes Hezbollah’s “military wing” as a terrorist organization.

INDICTED FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIG AL-HARIRI IN 2005

(UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) indicted four Hezbollah members, including a senior Hezbollah official) Hezbollah does not allow any of its members arrested, and considers STL as a proxy of U.S. and Israel. The four indicted Hezbollah operatives claimed responsible for attack by the United Nations court investigation are:

1. Mustafa Badreddine: Hezbollah commander and the suspected bomb maker of the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut
2. Salim Ayyash (known as Abu Salim)
3. Assad Sabra
4. Hassan Anise, who changed his name to Hassan Issa

FOILED ATTEMPT TO EXPLODE IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IED) AT BANGKOK SITE FREQUENTLY VISITED BY ISRAELIS

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF ISRAELI CONSUL MOSHE KIMCHI

CASUALTIES: 8 TURKS INJURED

2011 MAY 26

2011 JULY

2012 MID-JANUARY
PLANNED TO ATTACK ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO AZERBAIJAN AND TWO CHABAD EMISSARIES

(known as Chabad Houses, they are centres for disseminating a distinct sect of Orthodox Judaism) in Azerbaijan, the operation failed.

2012 JANUARY 24

SUSPECTED FOR CONDUCTING ATTACKS ON ISRAELI EMBASSY STAFF AND DEFENCE MINISTER IN TBILISI, GEORGIA AND IN INDIA

INDIA: EMBASSY CAR BLEW UP NEAR THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, AND PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH’S RESIDENCE WAS BURNT.

CASUALTIES:
2 PEOPLE INJURED

GEORGIA: EXPLOSIVE DEVICE FOUND IN THE EMBASSY STAFF’S CAR, BOMB WAS DISMANTLED BEFORE IT BLEW UP.

CASUALTIES:
NONE

2012 FEBRUARY 13

SUSPECTED OF PLANNING TO ATTACH IED TO ISRAELI VEHICLE IN BANGKOK

2012 FEBRUARY 14
suspected of attempting to attack U.S. and Israeli embassies as well as groups and companies with Western ties in Azerbaijan.

2012 March

suspected of plotting terrorist attack to target Israeli residents or traveling to Bulgaria. The terror attack is said to be scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of Hezbollah’s leader Imad Mughniyah.

2012 July

suspected of attempting to attack Israeli tourists and blow up a plane or a tour bus.

2012 July
SUSPECTED OF CARRYING OUT A SUICIDE BOMBER MISSION ATTACKING ISRAELI VACATIONERS IN BULGARIA
ENDNOTES

8. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
27. Ibid.


36 Ibid.


i The Guardian, “Hezbollah’s political evolution: The democratisation of the party and its engagement in public life should be an example to other militant Islamic groups” http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/apr/08/middleeast-israel

ii The Guardian, “The second Lebanon war”, http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jan/30/israelandthe palestinians.marktran

SUPPORT OUR WORK EDUCATING POLICYMAKERS

I, [Signature], hereby call upon the European Union to formally proscribe Hezbollah and recognise that the organisation, in its entirety, is a terrorist organisation that consistently uses violent terrorist tactics to target civilians as well as public officials.

I also hereby call upon the United Kingdom to designate Hezbollah, in its entirety, as a terrorist organisation.

Signed [Signature]

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