



HJS OPEN LETTER ON HEZBOLLAH IN SYRIA

The EU Must Proscribe and Sanction Hezbollah Over Syria

For the past year and a half, the people of Syria have been subjected to one of the worst state campaigns of atrocity in recent history. An estimated 30,000 people have been killed while hundreds of thousands have fled the country and over 2 million are designated as internally displaced. Women and children have borne some of the gravest human rights abuses, from torture to gang-rape.

What began as peaceful calls for reform in March 2011 has now turned into a nation's fight for survival against the depredations of a totalitarian regime led by Bashar al-Assad.

But Assad has had help from the very beginning. Recently, the United States government has sanctioned Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah and two of his deputies, Mustafa Badr Al-Din and Talal Hamiyah, for their complicity in the regime's war crimes.

While Hezbollah has long been on America's list of terrorist entities, it has not been similarly designated by the European Union, which separates the group into "political" and "military" wings.

The fact that Nasrallah is the sole political leader of Hezbollah and now, according to credible U.S. intelligence, directly responsible for aiding its military crackdown in Syria, should be proof enough to end this nonsensical distinction. Of all EU member states only the Netherlands has rightly recognised the vertical command structure of Hezbollah and banned the organisation in whole.

We, the dissidents and activists of Syria, feel that given the West's failure to provide the Syrian opposition with military equipment, or to intervene to stop Assad's butchery, the least the EU can do is make it harder for those actors helping him on the ground.

We strongly urge the European Union to designate and sanction Hezbollah for its cynical and barbaric support of a mass murdering regime.

Sincerely,

Akil Hashem, Brig Gen (Ret.), Syrian Army

Ammar Abdulhamid, dissident, writer

Khawla Yusuf, dissident, writer

Nada Kiwan, medical doctor, activist

Farha Barzai, activist

Amer al-Sadeq, Representative, Syrian Revolution Coordinators Union

Helen Abduldayem, activist for the Syrian Opposition and nursery school in Homs

Nadia Nashawi, Syrian opposition activist

Mouna Akil Hashem, Syrian opposition activist

Hamza al-Fahker, journalist, Syrian opposition activist

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