

Facts about Lebanon's Hezbollah

Hezbollah –
“Party of God”
in Arabic – is a
Lebanese Islamist
group with both
a military arm and
a civilian arm



Secretary General: **Hassan Nasrallah**. Age: 52

MILITARY WING

■ **1982:** Group founded to fight Israeli forces that have invaded Lebanon

■ **Al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya:**
The Islamic Resistance is backed by Syria, but funded and equipped by Iran.* U.S. Treasury claims Hezbollah has tight links with South American and West African drug traffickers – charge denied by Nasrallah

■ **1990:** Hezbollah is only group to keep its weapons following Lebanon's 15-year civil war

■ **2006:** Group fights 34-day war with Israel which claims lives of 1,200 Lebanese and 158 Israelis

■ **2013:** Hezbollah fighters are gaining battlefield experience in Syria but at price of hundreds dead or wounded†

CIVILIAN WING

■ **Politics:** Hezbollah holds two portfolios in 30-strong cabinet and 12 seats in ruling **March 8 coalition** in 128-seat parliament until resignation of government of Prime Minister **Najib Mikati** on March 22

■ **Society:** Runs four hospitals, numerous clinics and 12 schools. Its **Jihad al-Bina Reconstruction Campaign** builds infrastructure in Shia-populated areas of Lebanon

■ **Media:** Operates satellite television station **Al-Manar TV**, and radio station **al-Nour**

■ **Jul 22, 2013:** European Union agrees to place military wing of Hezbollah on terror list. Group is already blacklisted by U.S., Canada, Australia, UK and Netherlands

*Admission by Nasrallah on February 7, 2012

†Dr. Mordechai Kedar, Israel's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies

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