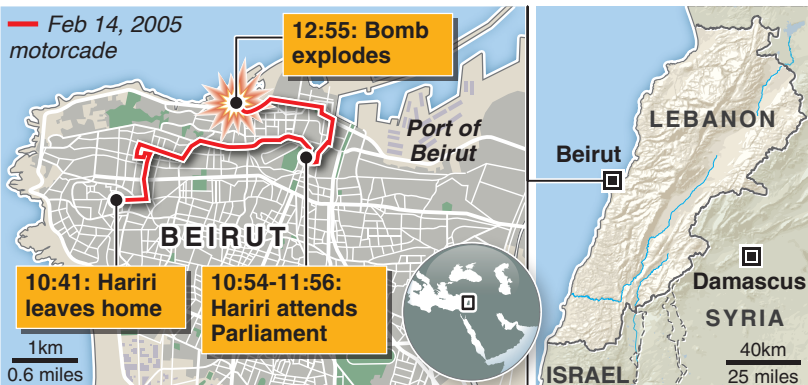


# Guilty verdict over Hariri assassination

A UN-backed court has convicted a member of the militant group Hezbollah of involvement in the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri. Three other defendants were acquitted



■ **Feb 14, 2005:** *Rafik Hariri* is killed when massive bomb explodes as his motorcade passes *Saint Georges* hotel on waterfront. 21 others also die

■ **Mar-Apr: Cedar Revolution** – Huge anti-Syria protests force withdrawal of Syrian troops after 29-year deployment

■ **Oct:** Initial UN investigation implicates Syria in Hariri murder – Syria denies any role

■ **May 2007:** UN-backed *Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)* established



■ **2009:** STL orders release of four pro-Syrian generals held since 2005 for Hariri killing, citing lack of sufficient evidence

■ **2011:** STL issues arrest warrants for four suspects linked to Shia movement *Hezbollah*

■ **2013:** STL indicts fifth suspect

■ **2014:** Trial opens in The Hague

■ **2016:** *Mustafa Badreddine*, one of four initially indicted, dies while fighting with Hezbollah in Syria

■ **Aug 18, 2020:** *Salim Ayyash* (far left) convicted in absentia of involvement in assassination. (L-R) *Hassan Merhi*, *Assad Sabra* and *Hussein Oneissi* acquitted

