

■ 1975: Civil war erupts. Lebanese *Maronite*Christian and Phalangist militias fight Shia, Sunni and Druze militias and Palestinian Liberation Organization. Maronites are backed by Israel and Syria

■ 1978: Syrian forces enter Lebanon as peacekeepers



I 1982: Israel invades Lebanon to oust *PLO* leadership. Anti-Israeli resistance groups

coalesce into *Hezbollah* (*Party of God*) under leadership of *Sheikh Abbas al-Musawi* (above). 22-year-old *Sayed Hassan Nasrallah* joins newlyfounded group

Sep 14: Israeli ally, Lebanese President Bachir Gemayel, assassinated



Sep 16: Lebanese

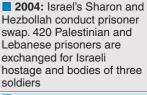
Maronite Christian militias

– supporters of Gemayel –
attack Sabra and Shatila
refugee camps under eyes
of Israeli army. Death toll
estimated at 700-3.500

Hezbollah – rise of a state within a state

After Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon in 2000, Hezbollah's secretary-general Sayed Hassan Nasrallah moved into politics and raised hopes he planned to abandon guerrilla activities. But the group – backed by Syria and Iran – quietly built up its military strength to become one of the most sophisticated militia forces in the world

1990: Civil war ends with Taif Agreement which calls for disbanding of all militias – Hezbollah is only group to retain its weapons



■ 2005: Syrian troops leave Lebanon in line with UN Security Council resolution. Hezbollah turns down UN demand that it be disarmed and continues to secretly import Iranian weapons



Nasrallah takes over Hezbollah leadership

following assassination of al-Musawi by Israel. He calls for Hezbollah to participate in elections for first time – party wins 12 seats

Arsenal (es Iran: Fajr-3 Iran: Fajr-3 Iran: Fajr-5 Iran: C-802

1993: Israel launches major attack on southern Lebanon – Operation Accountability – to counter Hezbollah resistance

1994: Hezbollah bombs Jewish community centre in Argentina, killing 95 people

■ 1996: Israel mounts **Grapes of Wrath**, military blitz against Hezbollah

■ 1997: Nasrallah's son killed in fighting with Israelis

Israeli Prime
Minister Ariel
Sharon pulls
troops out of
Lebanon.
Hezbollah
takes credit

for withdrawal. Nasrallah begins covert military buildup – with weapons from Syria and Iran – and builds bunkers and tunnels along Israel-Lebanon border

Rockets and ranges:
Iran: Katyusha Up to 40km
Syria: Raad 45km
Arsenal (est.) 10,000

Iran: *Fajr-3*Iran: *Fajr-5*Arsenal

50km
70km
Up to 120

Iran: *C-802 Noor* Arsenal 120km Unknown

Iran: *Zelzal-1,-2* 120-200km Arsenal 11-12

Hezbollah wins 23 of 128 seats in Lebanon's parliament



July 2006: Kidnap of two Israeli soldiers triggers massive retaliation. Israel surprised at ferocity of Hezbollah resistance.

Nasrallah (above) threatens to extend rocket attacks

Apr 1983:

Hezbollah pioneers use of suicide truck bombs with attack on U.S. Embassy in Beirut – 63 people killed

Oct: Suicide truck bomb kills 241 U.S. Marine-peacekeepers at their Beirut barracks

Feb 1984: U.S. troops withdraw from Beirut

■ 1985-1991: Hezbollah turns to hostage-taking. 62 Western civilians including 48 Americans and three Britons kidnapped. Seven hostages murdered.



39 American hostages are from hijacked *TWA 847*. U.S. journalist

Terry Anderson (1) and academic

Thomas Sutherland (2) are held for six years – British church envoy **Terry Waite** (3) is freed after almost five