



HIZBALLAH

Background

- Hizballah is an Islamic militant group based in Lebanon and allied with Iran. Its primary goal is the destruction of Israel.
- Since 2013, Hizballah has plotted attacks against Israeli citizens and institutions in Europe, South America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. In January, five Palestinians were arrested on suspicion of joining a Hizballah cell and planning a suicide bombing and shooting in the West Bank. In June 2015, a Hizballah member pled guilty to acquiring nine tons of ammonium nitrate in Cyprus, which was intended for attacks against Israelis.
- Although Hizballah possesses the capability to attack the United States and Western interests, the group is focused on supporting Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria. Hizballah receives training, weaponry, and about \$200 million per year from Iran.
- In 2013, Hizballah's involvement in the Syrian conflict shifted from an advisory to a combat role. The group's commitment is demonstrated by the number of personnel it has dispatched to Syria – Western media estimate 6,000 to 8,000 fighters, or roughly one-quarter of its assessed fighting force.



Hizballah supporters rally in Lebanon

Threat to New Jersey: Low

The terror threat from Hizballah to New Jersey is low because the group's resources and efforts are focused on supporting the Assad regime in Syria. Nonetheless, group supporters and sympathizers are active in the New Jersey region, primarily in fundraising.

- In February, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) – to include its Newark office – and international agencies across seven countries uncovered a global Hizballah drug and money-laundering scheme. In October 2015, federal authorities in New York – acting in concert with the Newark DEA office – arrested two Hizballah associates for conspiring to launder narcotics proceeds and international arms trafficking.
- In July 2013, Moussa Ali Hamdan, a former New Jersey resident, was sentenced in Philadelphia for providing proceeds from counterfeit goods sales to Hizballah.



Hizballah's flag



Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah

Intelligence Gaps

- What fundraising tactics do Hizballah's supporters use in New Jersey?
- How many Hizballah cells are in the United States? What are their capabilities?
- How reliable will Iranian funding for Hizballah be in the future?

US Nexus

- Since 2005, approximately 20 Hizballah-related cases have been prosecuted in the United States. Half of the cases were along the East Coast, including in New York and Pennsylvania. None were in New Jersey.
- Hizballah has never conducted an attack on US soil, but it has targeted the US military in Lebanon, including the bombing of a US Marine compound in 1983 in Beirut, which killed 241 US personnel.

Allies:



Iran



Syria



Russia

Rivals:



Israel



United States



European Union

Contact Information

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