



HIZBALLAH: POSSIBLE TRAJECTORIES IN 2016

Key Assumptions	MOST LIKELY	Indicators	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Syrian civil war continues. Iran's political system – a theocracy – remains intact. Hizballah has continuity in its leadership ranks. 	 <p>Hizballah's flag</p> <p>Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hizballah's finances and weapons supply remain stable. The group's response to Israeli offensives is calculated and tempered to conserve resources and de-escalate tensions. Hizballah cells continue to monitor Israeli activities abroad, and the group refrains from plotting against or attacking US interests. 	<p>Hizballah continues its involvement in the Syrian civil war in support of Bashar al-Assad.</p>
<p>Key Intelligence Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of money Hizballah will receive as a result of the Iranian nuclear deal. The number and operational capabilities of Hizballah cells worldwide. The amount of infighting among Hizballah fighters over the group's participation in the Syrian civil war. 	<p>Spread Too Thin</p> <p>Offensive</p> <p>LEAST LIKELY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hizballah receives less revenue and resources from its allies and faces pressure from continued US sanctions. The group relies on criminal enterprises to generate revenue. Hizballah is unable to replace battlefield losses in Syria, forcing it to enlist younger, less experienced members. Hizballah's military capabilities are degraded as a result of battlefield losses. 	<p>Hizballah reins in its military involvement in Syria to conserve diminishing resources.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hizballah aggressively seeks new revenue streams independent of Iranian patronage. Hizballah, in an effort to boost membership numbers, sends recruiters beyond Lebanon to other countries in the Middle East. Propaganda targeting Israel becomes a principal recruiting tactic. Hizballah cells expand globally to surveil Israeli targets, gather intelligence, and plot attacks. 	<p>Hizballah continues its involvement in Syria, while striking inside Israel with increased regularity. The group also ramps up a campaign of high-profile attacks against Israeli interests globally.</p>

For more information, please contact the NJOHSP Analysis Bureau at analysis@njohsp.gov or 609-584-4000.

Leading "Wildcard" Variables		
The United States or the West engage in ground combat operations in Syria.	The Assad regime collapses.	Iran becomes involved in a war with Saudi Arabia.