



March 2013

Terrorism in Cyberspace: Hezbollah's Internet Network¹



Hezbollah sends Iranian messages of deterrence to Israel and boasts of its military capabilities: A map showing "potential targets" in northern Israel, planned for attack in the next confrontation between Hezbollah and Israel. The map was posted to Hezbollah's leading news site (in Arabic and English) entitled "The Galilee: the next site of confrontation with the enemy" (From the moqawama.org website, October 1, 2012).

Overview

1. For Hezbollah, its cyberspace presence is of great importance, and is considered by both Hezbollah and Iran as an important weapon in the battle for hearts and minds. Hezbollah and Iran use the Internet for both **internal information and indoctrination** (in Lebanon, the Shi'ites and its own operatives) and **external pro-Iranian propaganda** (especially the Arab-Muslim world and the West). The network enables Hezbollah to circumvent the limitations placed on its other media (television, radio, the press) by the West, especially the United States.

¹ Update and supplement to two previous documents and Hezbollah and Iran's use of the Internet for terrorist purposes: the first, issued on December 3, 2006, "Terrorism and Internet: Hezbollah's widespread use of the Internet as a means to distribute anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish, and anti-American incitement as part of the war for the hearts and minds;" and the second, issued on July 25, 2007, "The Internet as a battleground used by the terrorist organizations."

2. Today Hezbollah's vast media network includes a **satellite television channel** (Al-Manar TV), **a radio station** (Radio Nur), **the press** (Al-Ahad/Al-Intiqad) and **network of websites**. Hezbollah also uses the social networks, YouTube and various Lebanese media which it does not own but which are affiliated with it, to publicize its positions and policies (for example, the newspaper Al-Akhbar and the Al-Mayadeen TV channel).

3. During the past decade Hezbollah developed an extensive Internet presence, much larger than those of the other terrorist organizations. Since the Second Lebanon War (2006), and with greater intensity during the past year, **Hezbollah has increased its Internet presence, improved its quality and upgraded it technically**. Currently (updated to March 2013) Hezbollah has **more than 20 websites in seven languages**, some of them news sites and some of them relating to specific issues. The sites are used by senior Hezbollah figures, the organization's social institutions, its media and several important Shi'ite villages in south Lebanon where Hezbollah is entrenched.

4. From the point of view of a terrorist organization like Hezbollah, developing and maintaining such a broad Internet network in particular and its media empire in general is very expensive. It also necessitates technical capabilities and trained manpower. In our assessment, Iran supports the development and maintenance of **Hezbollah's Internet presence and media empire, which exceed, both in extent and capabilities, Hezbollah's needs in Lebanon per se**. In addition, Iran itself operates two Farsi websites devoted to Hezbollah.

5. **The propaganda and information strategy of Hezbollah's websites is uniform**, and both serves the organization and promotes Iran's ideology and political agenda. In our assessment, **media strategy is formulated by Hassan Nasrallah and the Hezbollah leadership, based on overall Iranian strategy**. Hezbollah's media policy is **coordinated with Iran**, whose policies and considerations are well known to senior Hezbollah figures.

The Main Themes of Hezbollah's Websites

6. **The main themes of Hezbollah's websites are the following:**

- 1) **Glorifying the organization, representing it as a force gaining in strength while Israel is represented as growing weaker and about to collapse: That includes messages of deterrence for Israel**, which also serve Iranian strategy. Such messages were more conspicuous during the past year, resulting from the

open discourse between Israel and Iran regarding the international sanctions imposed on Iran.

Glorifying Hezbollah: Scenes from a 17-part Al-Manar TV documentary entitled "What if Hezbollah were defeated," broadcast beginning December 17, 2012



Hezbollah's main war room (Al-Manar website, December 18, 2012).



Hezbollah's main war room (Al-Manar website, December 18, 2012).



A Hezbollah sectorial operations room (Al-Manar website, December 25, 2012).



Hezbollah's main war room (Al-Manar website, December 18, 2012).



Hezbollah operative shoots an anti-tank missile (Al-Manar website, December 25, 2012, also posted to YouTube)



Hezbollah pickup mounted with a rocket launcher (Al-Manar website, December 25, 2012).

- 2) **Fostering the personality cults of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and of Hezbollah shaheeds, represented as heroes and role models.** The three principle shaheeds commemorated by the organization are Sheikh Gharb Kharb, Sheikh Abbas Musawi and Imad Mughnieh.
- 3) **Legitimizing terrorism towards Israel and the West** by cultivating the ideologies of *shahada* (death as a martyr for the sake of Allah), *muqawama* ("resistance") and *jihād*; at the same time, there is strong condemnation of any Arab or Palestinian peace process and the agreements or arrangements with Israeli they might produce.
- 4) **The hate industry:** Vicious propaganda and incitement against Israel, the Zionist Movement, the Jewish people, the United States and the West. **Hezbollah rejects the existence of the State of Israel**, calling for its annihilation and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the ruins.
- 5) **Disseminating Iranian Islamic Shi'ite ideology based on the principles set down by the Ayatollah Khomeini**, including hatred for the United States, the West, Israel and the Jewish people. Hezbollah websites also promote **the personality cult of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei**, representing Hassan Nasrallah as one of his supporters and admirers.



Picture posted on the forum of Sayid Hassan Nasrallah's admirers: Nasrallah and Khamenei under the title "Admirer of Khamenei."

6) **Promoting Hezbollah and Iran's political agenda:** Hezbollah's websites support Iranian policy in the Middle East and its positions concerning the United States and the West. They also foster the "resistance camp," which includes Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and the Palestinian terrorist organizations. During the past year Hezbollah's media, including its websites, were enlisted in a **propaganda campaign to support the Assad regime in Syria** it defaming and criticizing the Syrian opposition and the popular uprising.

Hezbollah's Target Audiences

7. The main **target audience of Hezbollah's websites is Lebanon**, especially the Lebanese Shi'ite population. Hezbollah wants Shi'ite support and to recruit its members as fighters in its ranks. Another **important target audience** is Iran. In our assessment, its second priority is **the Arab-Muslim world**, whose support it also needs. Third in importance are **the West and Israel**, especially their Arab-Muslim communities (exposed to anti-Israeli and anti-Western as well as pro-terrorism incitement through Hezbollah's websites).

8. **Hezbollah's websites appear in seven languages**, the most important of which is Arabic, the language of the Lebanese and Arab target audiences. Until recently, they

appeared in **Arabic, English, French, Farsi and Hebrew**;² **Azeri and Spanish** have lately been added. Their addition indicates the importance Iran and Hezbollah give **Azerbaijan and Latin American countries** (in which there are large Arab-Muslim communities, especially Lebanese communities). Thus, through Hezbollah's Internet network, Azeri and Spanish-speaking populations are exposed to anti-West, anti-Israeli and pro-terrorism incitement, with Iranian orientation.

Examples of Hezbollah Website Homepages



The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon website, Hezbollah's leading media website, in Arabic.

The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon website, Hezbollah's leading media website, in English.

² Hezbollah wants to reach the Israeli audience even though it is not the organization's top priority. The Shia Online website recently reported that a number of media personnel plan to announce the launching of a Hezbollah satellite TV channel in Hebrew. The channel will promote the positions of the "resistance" [i.e., terrorist organizations] and introduce them to the Israeli audience.



Hezbollah's Al-Ahad/Al-Intiqad website in Spanish.



The French website of Al-Manar, Hezbollah's TV channel.



The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon website, Hezbollah's leading media website, in Hebrew.



The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon website, Hezbollah's leading media website, in Azeri.



The Farsi website of the Lebanese branch of the Iranian social services organization Al-Emdad ("support"). The masthead celebrates the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The Popularity of Hezbollah's Websites

9. Despite the efforts Iran and Hezbollah have invested in launching and developing the Hezbollah website network, most of them received **relatively low ratings in a survey conducted of Lebanese news sites**. According to the global web metrics provider Alexa.com, the only Hezbollah website enjoying high ratings the Al-Manar TV website, which in 2012 was rated second of the ten most popular Lebanese news sites (after Tayyar, the site of the Free Patriotic Movement, Hezbollah's opposition in Lebanon. In eighth place was the website of the newspaper **Al-Akhbar**, affiliated with – but not owned by – Hezbollah).

10. Most of Hezbollah's websites, especially those belonging to its social institutions, **are not particularly popular in Lebanon** and especially not beyond its borders. In our assessment that is because **most of its visitors are Shi'ites** (the largest community in Lebanon), **who visit them because of their religious/sectarian slant and because of their clearly Iranian orientation**. On the other hand, most other communities, which are hostile to Hezbollah (and its Iranian and Syrian sponsors), prefer websites which do not identify with Hezbollah and Iran's political and ideological agendas.

11. **Hezbollah operates in a number of ways to break through the constraints of its religious-sectarian-political identity.** For example, it makes use of Lebanese media such as **Al-Mayadeen TV** and the newspaper **Al-Akhbar**, which are affiliated with but not owned by Hezbollah. In some instances Hezbollah **tries to blur the identity of some of its websites** and attempts to represent them as **overall-Lebanese or at least generally Shi'ite**. Another marketing tactic is the **large number of languages** used by Hezbollah to appeal to Arab-Muslim communities around the globe, especially those in the West and in Latin America.

Results of a Technical Analysis of Hezbollah Websites³

12. Most of Hezbollah's websites receive technical support from Internet companies in **the United States, Europe (Britain, France) and Lebanon**. They provide Hezbollah with IP addresses and/or access to the Internet. In our assessment, most of the time the Internet service providers (ISPs) are **approached by front men or by Internet companies, usually from Beirut**, which not necessarily affiliated with Hezbollah. They are then listed as contact personnel for a number of websites (For further information see below). In addition, as opposed to past practice, **Hezbollah's websites frequently change their IP addresses and ISPs** (almost every year), and each of them has **addresses with various extensions** (.org, .com, .net).

13. In our assessment, using front men and Lebanese Internet intermediaries, like frequently changing ISPs, **has three objectives: the first is to blur, insofar as is possible, Hezbollah's ties to the websites** and prevent the ISPs from connecting it to them. **The second is to make it difficult for the authorities in the United States and other Western countries to shut the sites down** (the **United States** is especially problematic for Hezbollah, where Hezbollah is designated as a terrorist organization and where in the past law enforcement authorities used measures against Hezbollah media). **The third** is to prevent cyber attacks. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which maintains close relations with Iran, uses similar tactics to make it difficult to identify its websites.⁴

14. Two important websites do not hide their Iranian identities: **Moqawama.ir** is a Farsi site and is registered to the owner of an Internet company in Mashhad, who is head of the culture and communications department of the Islamic information ministry in the

³ In the technical analysis of the websites used **Haganah, Who is websites and MEMRI Reports**.

⁴ An examination of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) websites shows that opposed to the past, today **most of them are registered to private individuals in the Gaza Strip and possibly Judea and Samaria**. Those individuals, either journalists or computer professionals, are, in our assessment, front men serving as go-betweens for the PIJ and various Internet companies. For further information see the September 27, 2012 bulletin "Terrorism and the Internet: the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's Internet Network."

province of Razavi Khorasan, in northeastern Iran. The website is devoted in its entirety to Hezbollah and Lebanon. It may be officially or semi-officially run by the Islamic Information Organization in Iran and **promotes Hezbollah's image in Iran**. Another Iranian website is **moqavemat.ir**, **registered to a man living in Iran** (in Qom, and in the past in Mashhad); its IP is with a company in Qom. It mostly posts articles about Iran, combined with relatively scanty coverage of Hezbollah. In our assessment, the website is also operated by Iran to promote Hezbollah's image.

15. **Most of Hezbollah's websites are interactive:** Programs broadcast by its radio station, **Al-Nur**, can be heard on its website; **Al-Manar TV** broadcasts can be viewed, and its newspapers and magazines can be read in PDF format. Moreover, Hezbollah uploads propaganda videos to YouTube, has a Facebook page and a Twitter account, **some of its sites have RSS feeds and others can be downloaded to smart phones**.

16. **The graphic design of Hezbollah's websites has improved in recent years** and there are links to the social networks. In particular, the graphics of the news websites are more professional.

Main Findings of the Analysis of Hezbollah's Websites

17. **Hezbollah websites can be divided into eight general categories according to the functions they serve:**

1) **Category 1 – Main news sites:** Hezbollah's leading news site is **Al-moqawama al-islamiyyah fi-lubnan** ("the Islamic resistance in Lebanon"). It also has other news sites, among them **Moqavemat** ("resistance") **wa-inbaa** ("news") and **Daam al-moqawama al-islamiyya fi-lubnan** ("Support for the Islamic resistance in Lebanon") (which can be accessed through a link in Hezbollah's **Qawem** forum). There was also a now-defunct news site called **Wa'ad** ("promise"). The category also includes the Farsi sites **Moqawama.ir** and **Moqavemat.ir**, which are **apparently run directly by the Iranian administration** to promote Hezbollah (and Iranian) public relations.

2) **Category 2 – Hezbollah media sites:** Among them are the **Al-Manar TV site**, the **Radio Al-Nur site** and the website of its newspaper **Al-Ahad**, (whose full name is **Al-Ahad/ Al-Intiqad**).

3) **Category 3 – Websites of Hezbollah's social institutions:** Hezbollah's social institutions are active in the fields of health, welfare, education and aid to the needy,

particularly from the Shi'ite community. **The institutions are maintained through generous Iranian support, and in several instances they are Lebanese branches of Iranian institutions. They support Hezbollah's military-terrorist infrastructure and are an important platform for spreading revolutionary Iranian Islamic ideology to the local Shi'ite population.** The websites include:

i) **Website of the Martyr's Institution** (Muassasat al-shahid) provides aid to the families of Hezbollah shaheeds.

ii) **Website of the Construction Jihad** (Jihad al-binaa) provides social services for the Shi'ite population and deals with initiatives for construction and rehabilitation in south Lebanon.

iii) **Website of the Institution for the Wounded** (Muassasat al-jarha) aids wounded Hezbollah operatives and their families.

iv) **Website of the Islamic Health Authority** (Al-hayaa al-sahiya al-islamiya), an institute providing medical services to Shi'ites and Hezbollah operatives.

v) **Website of the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts** (Kashafat al-imam al-mahdi), Hezbollah's scouting movement, whose goal is to influence the younger generation of Shi'ites and prepare them to join Hezbollah.⁵

vi) **Website of the Imam Mahdi Guides Association** (Jamiat murshidat al-mahdi), a women's association guiding young girls in the spirit of Shi'ite Islam, who participate in social and religious activities affiliated with Hezbollah.

⁵ For further information see the September 12, 2006 bulletin "Hezbollah's Shi'ite youth movement, 'The Imam al-Mahdi Scouts,' has tens of thousands of members. According to captured documents, they are indoctrinated with the principles of radical Iranian Islam. That indoctrination includes the personality cult of Iranian leader 'Ali Khamenei and Hezbollah's 'battle legacy;' national Lebanese symbols are minimized."



Girls of the Imam Mahdi guides association at one of their activities (Picture from the almahdiguides.net website)

vii) **Website of the Al-Emdad ("aid") Society**, the Lebanese branch of an Iranian aid society founded by the Ayatollah Khomeini. It helps the needy, including orphans, some of them children of Hezbollah terrorist operatives killed in confrontations with Israel. The society also runs kindergartens, schools and organizations offering vocational training.

viii) **Website of the Islamic Institute for the Study of Culture – the Al-Mahdi schools**, which operates educational institutions used by Iran and Hezbollah to spread Shia and Iranian ideology in Lebanon.

ix) **Website of the Society of Knowledge (Al-Maaref)**, an association established in 1996 to spread Khomeini's version of Shi'ite Islamic ideology. It has dozens of cultural and religious centers which operate in the spirit of Khomeini's ideology, and also publishes books and newspapers.

x) **Website of the Friends of the Environment**, an association affiliated with Hezbollah, although it represents itself as Lebanese-nationalistic. It maintains a pretense of being oriented towards ecology, but in fact its activities focus on Hezbollah's propaganda campaign (in collaboration with other Hezbollah-affiliated organizations). The campaign trumpets the "environmental pollution" allegedly caused by the Second Lebanon War. Its website was set up in 2008 and has not been updated since.

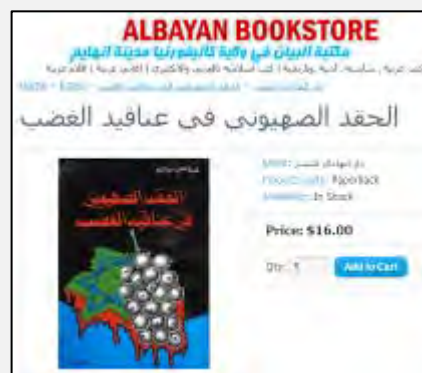
xi) **Websites distributing anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic books**: Hezbollah formerly had a website for its publishing house, **Dar Al-Hadi**, which

distributed anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic books. **Dar Al-Hadi** was closed, but the books published by Hezbollah (including Iranian books translated into Arabic) are still offered for sale on Arab book sites and by Western sites abroad, including in the United States (whose target audience, in our assessment, is Arabs/Muslims living there).

Selling Hezbollah Publications in the United States



Book published by Dar al-Hadi and offered for sale on a California website. The book is entitled **The Imam Khomeini – Studies of His Legacy** (Albayanbookstore.com).



Book published by Dar al-Hadi and offered for sale on a California website. The book is entitled **Zionist Animosity in [Operation] Grapes of Wrath**

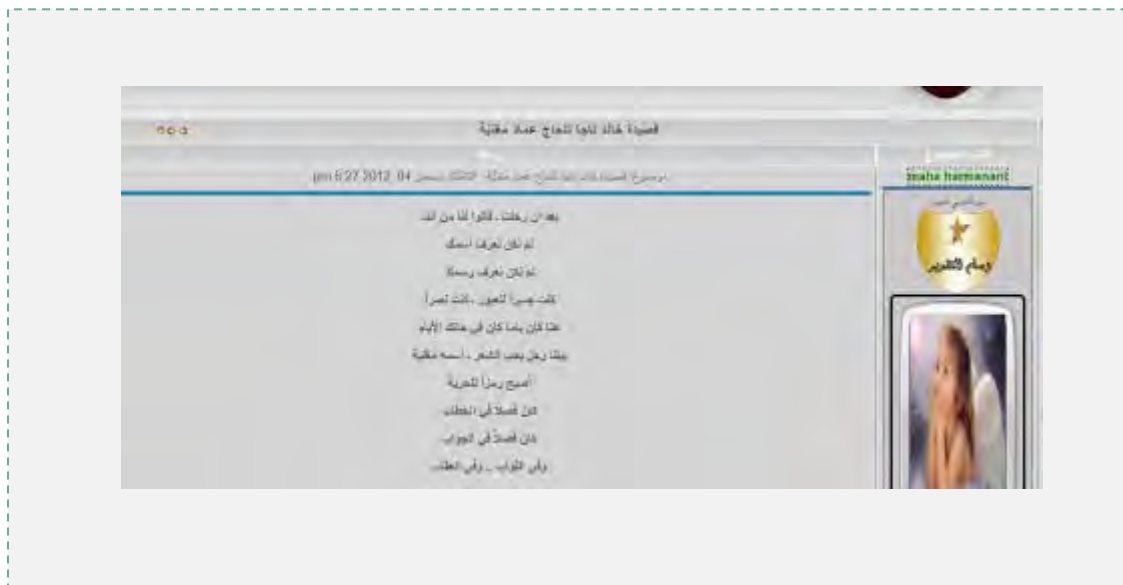
xii) **Website of the Association of Imam Khomeini Cultural Centers in Lebanon**, an institute with many branches in Lebanon whose objective is to spread the ideology of the Ayatollah Khomeini throughout Lebanon.

xiii) **The ShiaWeb**, which deals with Shi'ite theological issues. It has a link to a site affiliated with Hezbollah.

xiv) **Other websites** linked through the Society of Knowledge (Al-Maaref) website which deal with spreading Khomeini's ideology in Lebanon.

4) **Category 4 – Local Hezbollah websites in Lebanon** include the Shi'ite villages of **Bint Jbeil, Al-Taybeh and Jebchit**. They are three large Shi'ite villages in south Lebanon, two near the Israeli border and one in the Nabatieh Heights. The objective of their websites is to strengthen the ties between Hezbollah and these

three important villages: **Jebchit** is the Hezbollah stronghold in the south Lebanon and **Bint Jbeil** has become a symbol of the so-called "resistance" to Israel. In addition, **Deir Qanoun al-Nahr** also has an active website affiliated with Hezbollah, although that is not specifically stated.⁶



An ode to Imad Mughnieh posted on the forum of the Deir Qanoun al-Nahr website: "He lowered the heads of the infidels...he was a symbol of freedom...after he passed away...the keys to paradise were [put] in his hands (From the Deirqanounalnahr.fr-bb.com website).

5) **Category 5 – Websites dedicated for fostering the personality cults of past and present Hezbollah leaders:** The **Somod** ("firm stance") website, linked through the pro-Iranian Shi'ite ShiaWeb portal, focuses on the personality cult of **Hassan Nasrallah**. In addition, there is a Hezbollah-affiliated site for forums called "the site of the admirers of the **Sayeed Hassan Nassrullah**." His second in command, **Sheikh Naim Qassem**, has a personal site. Formerly there was a site of forums called **Abu Hadi**, a nickname of Nasrallah, but it is no longer active. Nasrallah's personal website as well, which appeared under the title "the website of the official representative in Lebanon of the Imam Khamenei" is also no longer active.

6) **Category 6 – Forums affiliated with Hezbollah:** The forums affiliated Hezbollah include **Qawem** ("resist!"), **Lebanon Chat** and the **Admirers of Sayeed Hassan Nassrullah**.

⁶ Other towns and villages in south Lebanon have their own websites, among them **Nabatieh** and **al-Khiyam**, which are not affiliated with Hezbollah.

7) **Category 7 – Video sharing, social networks and smartphone app sites:** Hezbollah is very active in uploading propaganda videos to **YouTube** and in tweeting on **Twitter**. Facebook has imposed limits on Hezbollah since the summer of 2012. Hezbollah also uses **smartphone apps** (Apple's iPhone and Google's Android), although it encounters difficulties (because of the limits the United States places on Hezbollah, designated as a terrorist organization by the American administration).



The Al-Manar TV Twitter page (February 13, 2013).

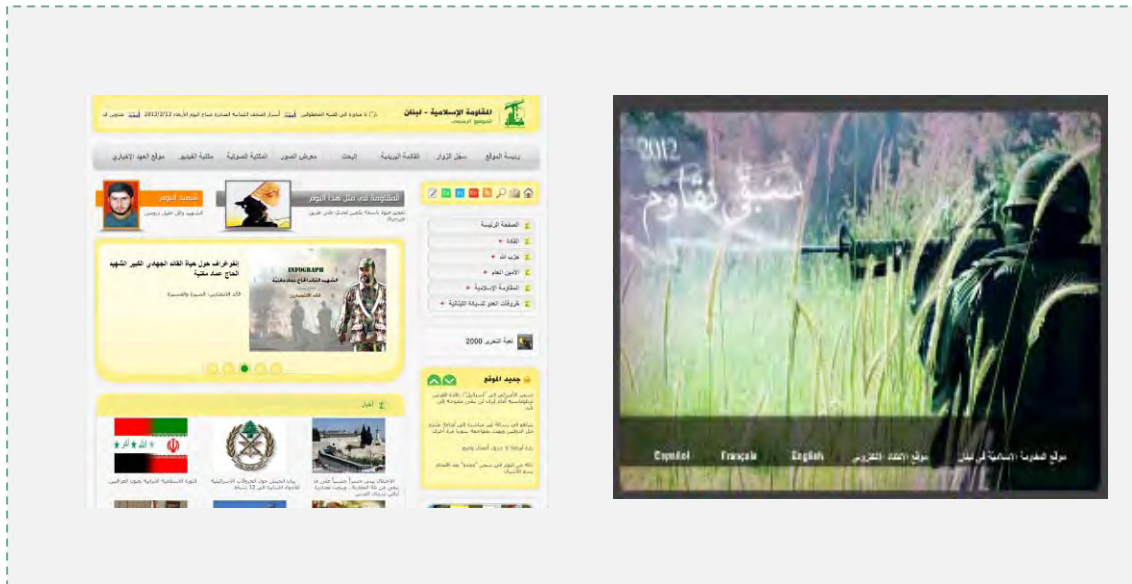
18. There is also a category of news sites which do not belong to Hezbollah but are affiliated with it and disseminate its propaganda. They include:

- 1) **Al-Akhbar** is the website of a leading Lebanese newspaper, published in Beirut since 2006. The site does not belong to Hezbollah but is affiliated with it and consistently supports both Syria and Hezbollah; Hezbollah uses it as a platform to publish news items it wants to see in print.
- 2) **Al-Mayadeen** is the website of a Lebanese TV channel which began broadcasting in June 2012 as an alternative to Al-Jazeera TV and Al-Arabiya TV. It was founded by **Ghassan bin Jiddo**, formerly a senior Al-Jazeera correspondent and affiliated with Hezbollah. Hezbollah uses Al-Mayadeen as a platform to publicize articles, sometimes exclusively.

Hezbollah's Internet Sites

Category 1: The Main News Sites

Moqawama.org – The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon



Left: The homepage of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon. The inscription in Arabic reads "We continue [our] resistance" [i.e., the path of terrorism]. Right: The Farsi version of the same homepage, newly redesigned.

1. **Moqawama.org is Hezbollah's leading news site.** It is active and updated frequently. **Links to Facebook and a cellphone app** were recently added, as well as **Hezbollah-produced videos**. The site appears in **Arabic, French, English, Spanish and Farsi**. The Farsi version of the website was recently redesigned.

2. **The main themes dealt with by the website** are the encouragement of anti-Israeli terrorism (muqawama and jihad) and belligerence; messages aimed at deterring Israel and fostering Hezbollah; anti-Israeli and anti-West propaganda and incitement and anti-Semitism; the glorification of Hezbollah; fostering the personality cults of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, the Ayatollah Khomeini, who led the Islamic Revolution, and Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei; and support for Hezbollah and Iran's political agenda, emphasizing, during the past year, considerable support for Syria.



Promoting belligerence and militarism towards Israel: A game in Arabic with battlefield background noises that can be downloaded from the site. Players shoot at IDF soldiers "to participate in defeating the enemy." The game is called "The Liberation [of Palestine]" (Moqawama.org website).

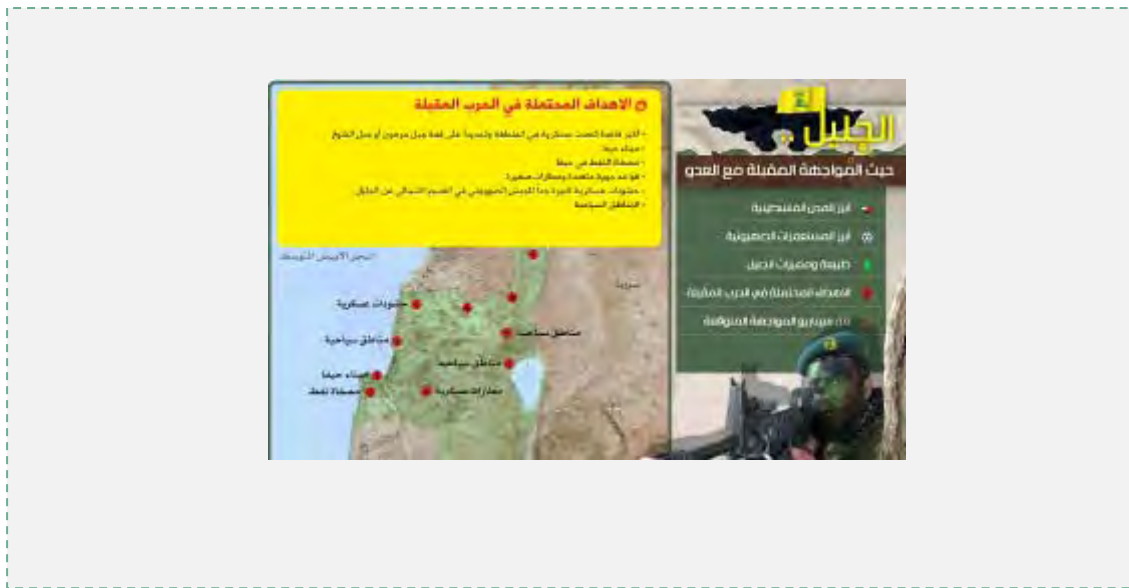
3. Examples of themes in postings to the site, 2012:

1) **Hezbollah's identity as a jihadist organization** – On October 8, 2012 the Moqawama.org website posted a speech given by **Sheikh Hashem Safi al-Din**, chairman of Hezbollah's operational council, at a memorial service in the town of Sohmor in the Beqa'a Valley, held for two dead Hezbollah operatives, possibly killed in Syria. He said that **"our martyrs, during the past ten years, are martyrs [who fulfilled the] duty of jihad and faith. It is [our] identity, which has not changed from the time the resistance [i.e., Hezbollah] was founded to this day, and will not change."**

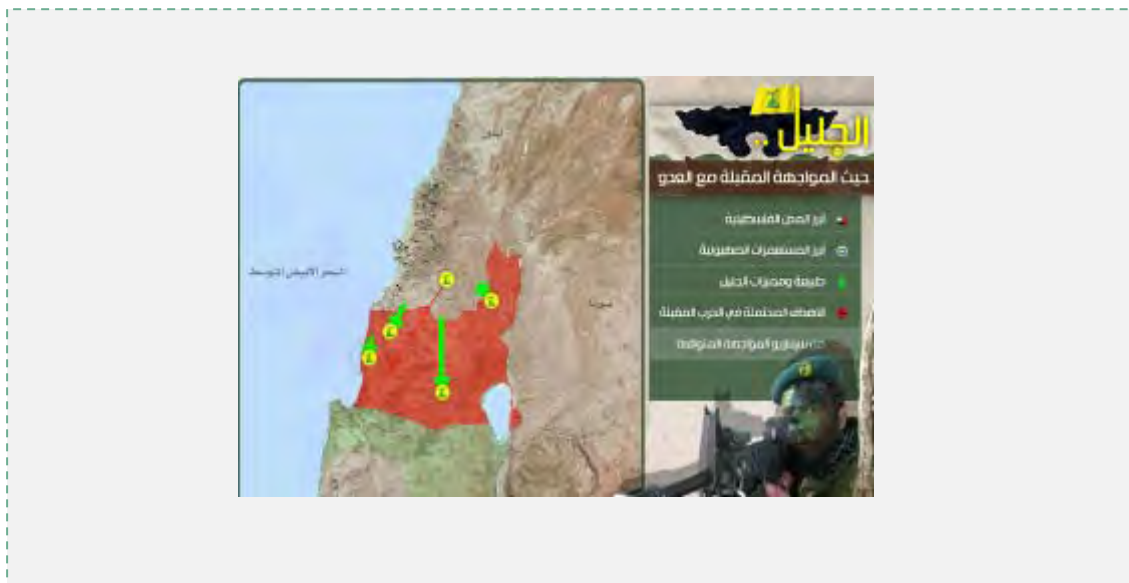
2) **Boasting of Hezbollah's military capabilities** – The theme was repeated often on Hezbollah websites and its other media during the past year. For example, on October 1, 2012, the Moqawama.org website posted an article entitled **"The Galilee: site of the next confrontation with the enemy."** It analyzed and elaborated on a scenario of **Hezbollah attacks on Israeli civilian and military targets in the Galilee using rockets, missiles and ground forces.** It asked why Hezbollah's advance toward the Galilee frightened Israel to a great degree. A partial answer was given through the use of before and after pictures the surfer could see by hovering. In addition, according to the article, it is the assessment of various observers that **"the resistance [i.e., Hezbollah] is capable of breaking through enemy lines and can easily reach the Galilee."** Their path was

illustrated by the use of arrows marking Hezbollah's conquest of the Galilee and its advance to the Jezreel Valley (southeast of Haifa). The article described in detail the **damages which would be inflicted on Israel's economy** in a confrontation with Hezbollah (using quotations allegedly attributed to Israel), especially **its energy infrastructure** (oil refineries and gas fields). The maps that follow are from the posting.

The Most Important Israeli Targets (Haifa Port, the Oil Refineries, Military Bases, Tourist Attractions)



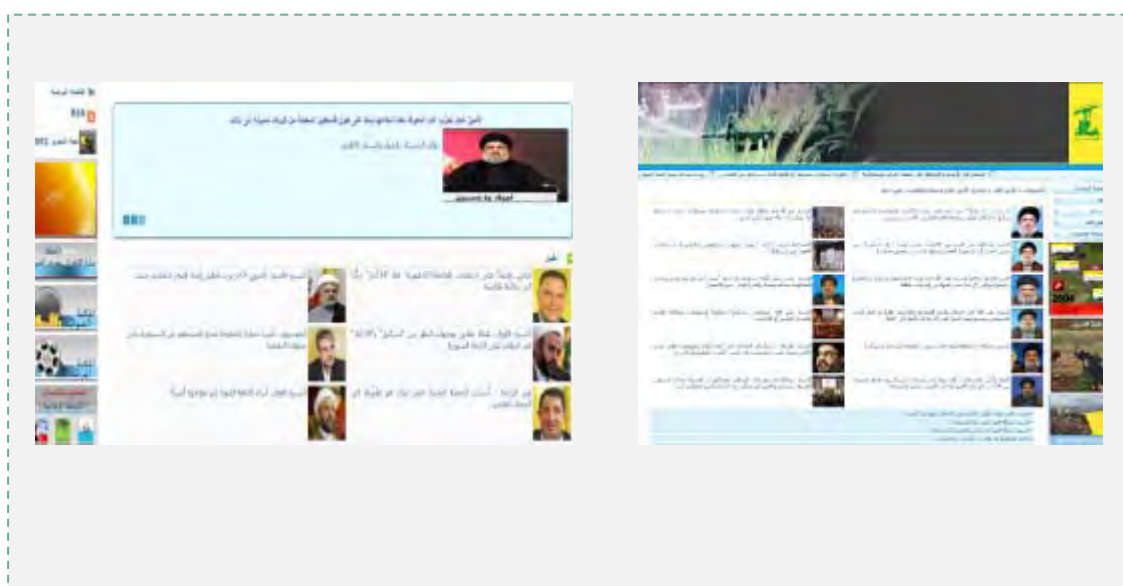
Hezbollah Forces Spearhead an Attack on the Galilee





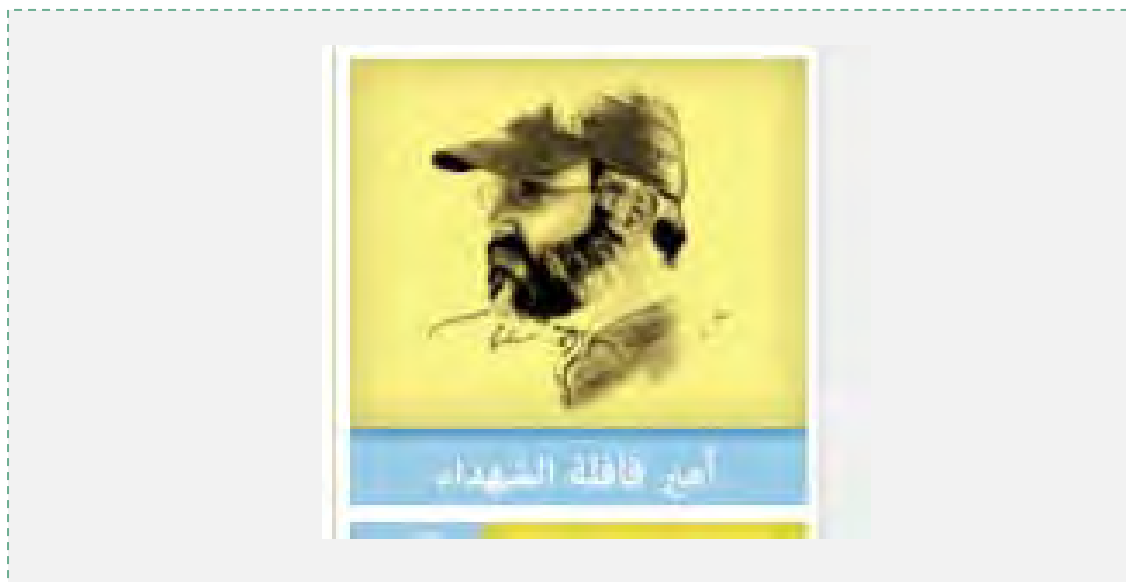
Article about Iran's military achievements

- 4) **Glorifying Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and other prominent leaders in the organization** – The site posts texts and videos of speeches given by Hassan Nasrallah. The speeches are an important platform for disseminating Hezbollah ideology and political themes. There are also postings commemorating Hezbollah terrorist operatives who died in the confrontation with Israel, especially **Abbas Musawi** (Nasrallah' predecessor), **Sheikh Ragheb Kharb** and **Imad Mughnieh**. Mughnieh has his own special spot on the homepage, with a picture captioned "Stands at the head of the shaheed ranks."



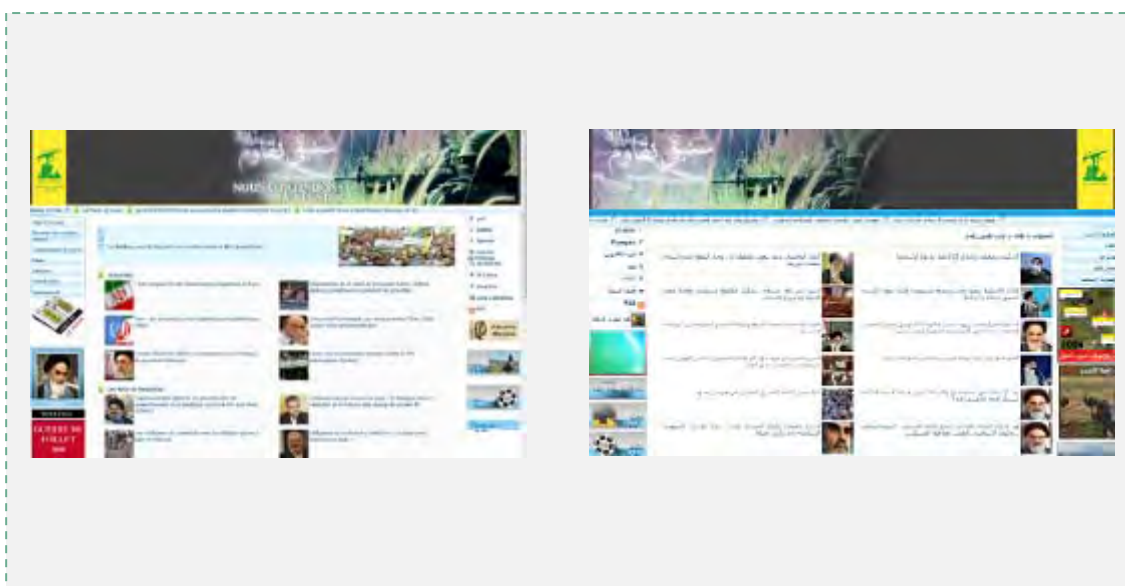
One of the Moqawama.org pages listing speeches given by Hassan Nasrallah.

A speech given by Nasrallah on November 26, 2012 heads the Moqawama.org homepage (January 6, 2012).



**Imad Mughnieh, Hezbollah terrorist commander responsible for many terrorist attacks against Israel and Western and Arab countries, called "the prince of shaheeds)
(Moqawama.org website, October 8, 2012).**

5) Glorifying the Ayatollah Khomeini and Supreme Leader Khamenei and their ideologies – The Arab version of Moqawama.org has pictures and articles about the life and legacy of the Ayatollah Khomeini and praise for him from Supreme Leader **Ali Khamenei** and Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General **Sheikh Naim Qassem**. There are also pictures and articles about Iranian Supreme Leader **Ali Khamenei** (primarily speeches and reports of his various activities). He is referred to as an "imam, master and supreme commander of the armed forces and the Iranian military command."



The Moqawama.org website glorifies Khomeini and Khamenei, and their legacies.



Posting about Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

6) Propaganda and incitement against the United States combined with denial of the Holocaust – Moqawama.org exploited the video called "The Innocence of Muslims," used in the Arab-Muslim world as an excuse for incitement against the United States, the West in general and the Jewish people. Khamenei was quoted as wondering why Western freedom of expression allowed such a video to be made while no one dared to cast doubt on the Holocaust, "whose genuineness is veiled in fog." On another occasion he was quoted as saying that the Muslim protests around the world against America were an expression of their deep hatred for American policy and Zionism.

Technical Data

There are **two websites** with the name Moqawama, **moqawama.org** and **moqawama.com**.

URL: www.moqawama.org

IP address 1: 212.28.242.151

Internet access provider: Cyberia S.a.l, Beirut

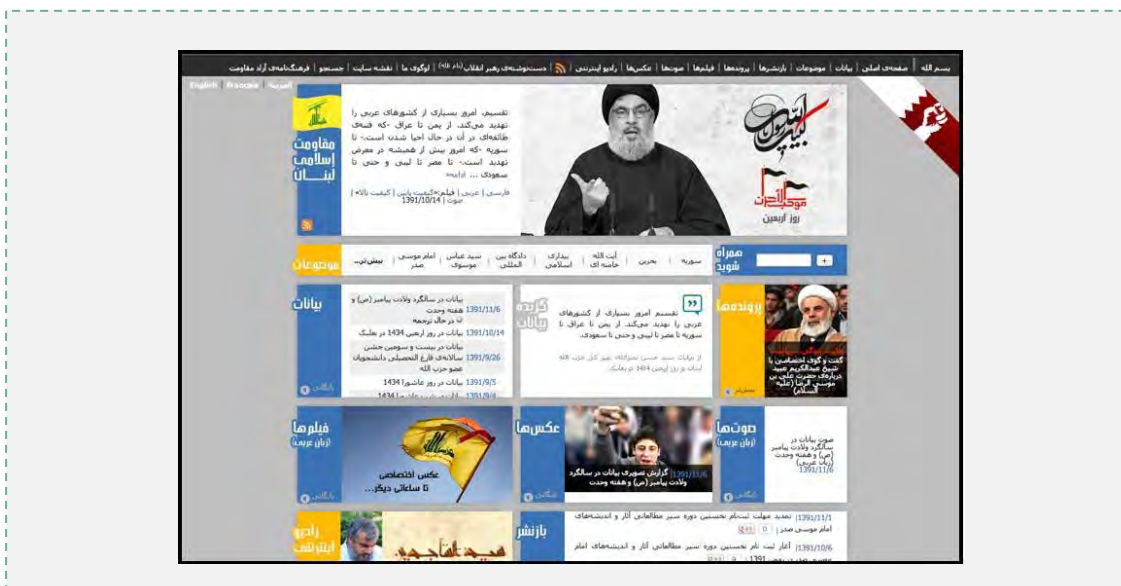
IP address 2: 130.180.203.6

IP location and hosting: Serverspace Ltd., Britain

Registration: The site was registered in 1997 to Cyberia S.a.l in Beirut, apparently a company used as a front by Hezbollah.

Server location: The server has had many different locations. As of February 2012 it was at **Network Solutions LLC, in the United States**.

Moqawama.ir



The Moqawama.ir homepage

4. Moqawama.ir is a Farsi website operating in **Iran**, devoted to Hezbollah and apparently sponsored by the Iranian administration.

5. According to the American Haganah website, it is registered to **Sayed Ahmed Morkabi**, a resident of **Mashhad, Iran**. He is also involved in running a site linked to MOIS, the Iranian ministry of intelligence, as well as the Ayatollah Khamenei's site in collaboration with Khamenei's confidants. Our examination indicated that **Sayed Ahmed Morkabi** is a resident of Mashhad, owns an Internet company, and **is behind other Farsi websites affiliated the Iranian regime**. According to the Website.informer.com, he owns a number of URLs, two of which, Katebbashi.ir and Ansarnews.ir, are affiliated with Khamenei. According to the Haganah site, he also operates a site called Irandidban, with ties to the Iranian ministry of intelligence (unproven so far).⁸

6. Morkabi has been mentioned in the past in connection with Iranian media. It was reported that he participated in a meeting of the board of directors of the culture and communications department of the Islamic information ministry in the province of Razavi Khorasan (northeastern Iran). At the meeting he was presented as the head of the ministry's culture and communications department (Dte.ir website). On another occasion, the website of the conservative daily paper Resalat also stated that he was head of the department. The news item referred to a meeting Morkabi held with the directors of the Eporshesh website, which answers questions about religious law (Resalat.ir website).

⁸ According to our examination, Irandidban.com has many reports directed against an Iranian opposition organization called **Mujahedin Khalq**, and attacks the organization's ties to the United States and the West.

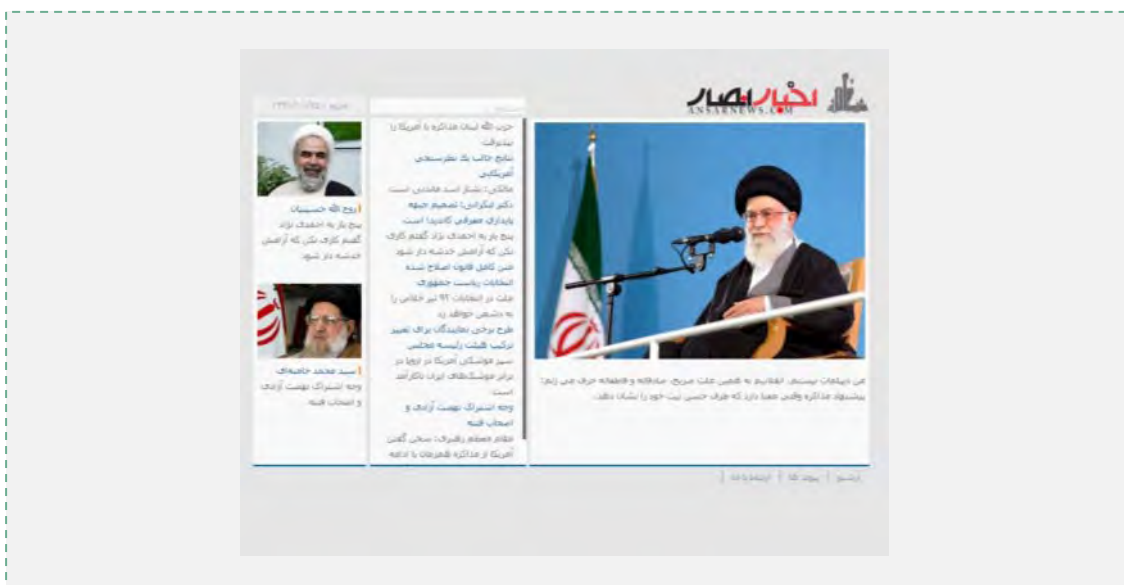
Technical Data

URL: www.moqawama.ir

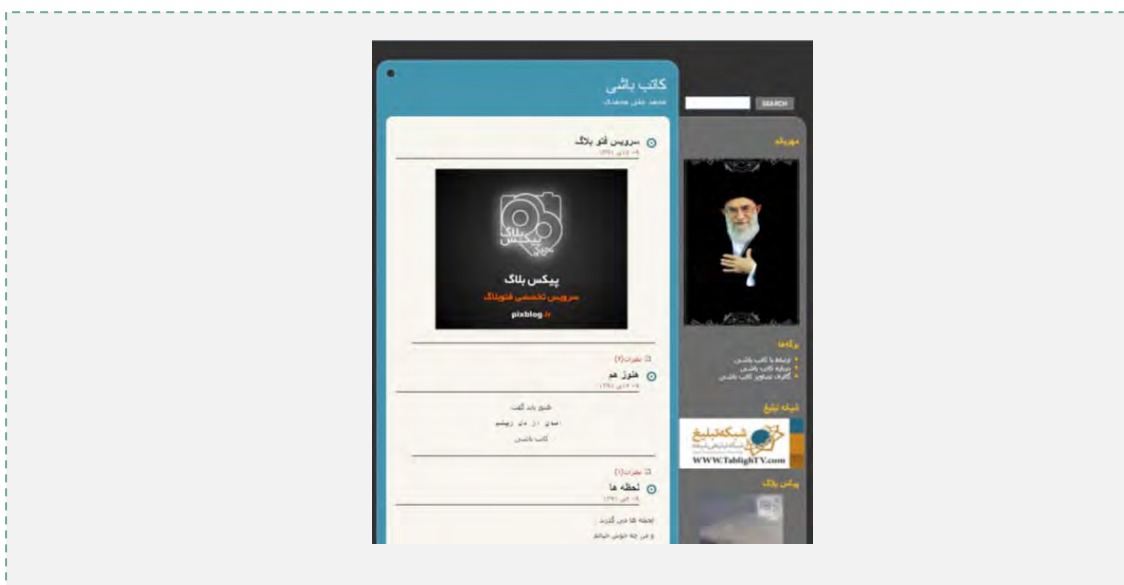
IP address: 5.9.55.183

Internet access provider: Hetzner Online AG, Germany :

Registration: According to the Haganah website, the site is registered to **Sayed Ahmed Morkabi**, a resident of **Mashhad, Iran**. According to **Website.informer.com**, he owns a number of URLs, two of which are Katebbashi.ir and Ansarnews.ir.



The Farsi site Ansarnews.ir, run by Sayed Ahmed Morkabi



The Farsi site Katebbashi.ir, run by Sayed Ahmed Morkabi

Moqavemat.com and Moqavemat.ir

7. **Moqavemat is an Iranian-oriented news site** and appears in **Farsi, Hebrew, Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Azeri**. It was recently extensively updated and upgraded both graphically and technically.

8. **Moqavemat posts articles mostly related to Iran** expounding its policies and ideology. **Its coverage of Hezbollah somewhat smaller**, as opposed to its previous version. There is no mention of the website as belonging to Hezbollah. **In our assessment, also based on the site's technical data, which is similar to that of Moqawama.ir, it is operated by Iran.**



Left: The old Hebrew version; the Hezbollah logo appears in the masthead (September 23, 2009).
Right: The new Hebrew version, without the Hezbollah logo (January 7, 2013).

9. Recurring themes on the Moqavemat website, 2012:

1) Speeches by Hassan Nasrallah and deterrence of Israel



The lead article, Hebrew site, October 17, 2012: a speech given by Hassan Nasrallah about a UAV which penetrated Israeli airspace. It shared the homepage with an article about Iran's military might.

2) Glorification of Hezbollah



November 7, 2012, an article in which Hashem Safi al-Din, the chairman of Hezbollah's operational council, claims that Hezbollah's launching of the UAV into Israeli airspace was "proof of the power and capability of the resistance [i.e., Hezbollah], against which Israel remains powerless."

3) Brainwashing readers with hatred for Israel



Permanent pictures on the Moqavemat Hebrew and French homepages: burning the Israeli flag; Palestinian children [allegedly] killed in Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip, side by side with alleged pictures of Jewish children killed in the Holocaust.



The Azeri homepage: a blood-spattered Israeli flag goes up in flames.

4) Brainwashing readers with hatred for the United States



The lead on the Hebrew homepage, September 30, 2012: an article about "The Innocence of Muslims," an American video mocking the prophet Muhammad. At the right, an American flag goes up in flames.



Accusing the United States of causing birth defects in Iraqi children (October 22, 2012).



The crawl in English notes the 33rd anniversary of the Iranian takeover of the American embassy in Iran. The signs held by demonstrators read "Death to America."



A cartoon posted on September 19, 2012: Obama and Romney vote for Israel

5) Support for the Syrian regime



An article in the Arabic version about Bashar Assad, entitled "Assad: Any political action must be based on the halt of terrorism (October 22, 2012).

6) Hostility toward the Saudi Arabian regime



The lead article in the English version, entitled "The Saudi Arabian regime is about to collapse" (September 20, 2012).

Technical Data

URL: www.moqavemat.ir

IP address: 217.218.165.222. Ten different websites use the address.

IP location: Information Technology Company, Qom, Iran

Site registrar: Click Registrar, India

Registration: Mahdi Sadr, Qom, Iran

URL2: www.moqavemat.com

IP address: 217.218.165.222. Ten different websites use the address.

IP location: Information Technology Company, Qom, Iran

Technical support: Mahdi Moazdi, Istanbul, Turkey, from Keyanait.com, through which payments are made

Site history: The site was founded in 2006 during the Second Lebanon War. Initially it was registered to **Muhammad Sadje Mahboubi, a resident of Tehran, Iran**. In the summer of 2008 the domain was transferred to **Mahdi Moazdi and registered in Istanbul**. In 2007, before Moazdi transferred the site to a proxy company, it was listed as registered in **Mashhad, Iran**.

Inbaa.com

10. **Inbaa.com is Hezbollah's main news site**, although its affiliation is not specifically stated. The site was updated and has appeared in a new format since September 2012; **it appears only in Arabic**. It represents itself as objective but its contents indicate that it clearly promotes Iran and Hezbollah's political agenda.

11. The site reposts selected, biased reports from the international media, as well as articles written for it specifically about Lebanon in general and Hezbollah in particular. **Every day the site offers the Arabic paraphrases of a selection of items from the Iranian media** which reflect the political agenda of the Iranian regime. It also offers articles in support of the Assad regime in Syria and **presenting Saudi Arabi in a negative light**. For example, on October 3, 2012, Saudi Arabia was represented as on the verge of collapse. On October 7, 2012, Saudi Arabia was accused of supporting the Syrian rebels.



The Inbaa.com home page, October 10, 2012. Its lead article is entitled "Victory in Syria – a question of time"

12. Recurring themes on the Inbaa.com website, 2012:

1) Inciting hatred for Israel



An article accuses Israel of enslaving the Palestinians and turning its "murderous war machine" [sic] against them

2) Inciting hatred for the United States and its policies



Obama and Romney, servants of Israel
(November 5, 2012)

The United States accused of fomenting anarchy and civil war in the Arab world to achieve hegemony in the Middle East



The United States on its way to withdrawing from the Middle East
(October 17, 2012)

Ali Khamenei gives a speech about alleged American "plots" to divide Muslims

3) Glorification of Hassan Nasrallah



Article about a speech given by Nasrallah (October 13, 2012)

4) Boasts about Hezbollah's military capabilities



An article representing the flight of the Hezbollah UAV into Israeli airspace as a strategic achievement for the "resistance" [i.e., Hezbollah].

5) Defamation of Hezbollah's opponents in Lebanon



Article defaming the March 14 Camp, which leads the resistance in Lebanon to Hezbollah, Iran and Syria.

6) Brainwashing readers with hatred for Saudi Arabia



An October 16, 2012 article entitled "Racist discrimination against foreign workers in Saudi Arabia"

Technical Data

URL: www.inbaa.com

IP address: 216.172.186.30

IP location: [Websitewelcome.com](http://www.Websitewelcome.com)

Internet access provider: HostGator LLC, United States

Operator: Rakeem.net, Beirut, Lebanon

Contacts: Zaafar Ramadan, Vadia Ritael, **Beirut, Lebanon**

News.qawem.org – Daam al-moqawama al-islamiyya fi-lubnan ("Support for the Islamic resistance in Lebanon")⁹

13. News.qawem.org is a news site which recently began operating. It is obviously affiliated with Hezbollah, although the affiliation is not specifically stated. Most of its postings glorify the organization and its leader.



The News.qawem.org homepage, January 20, 2013. Most of the postings deal with Hezbollah. A speech by Nasrallah can be viewed and statements made in the name of the organization by its senior figures are also available.

14. The site also posts articles about Iran: on January 17, 2013, there was an article on speech given by Khamenei about "the arrogant front" [i.e., the United States and the West]. Khamenei is referred to as "Imam" and "the Ayatollah Uzma," that is, the most senior cleric in the Shi'ite world.

Technical Data

URL: www.news.qawem.org

IP address: 85.17.156.15

IP location: LeaseWeb, Amsterdam, Holland

Registration: The site is registered as Qawam Support, Beirut Lebanon

Operator: Located in Lebanon

⁹ To be distinguished from **Hiat daam al-muqawama al-islamiya** ("the support authority of the Islamic resistance"), a Hezbollah organization with a similar name which deals with collecting donations and the battle for hearts and minds.

Category 2 – Hezbollah media

Almanar.com.lb – The website of Al-Manar TV

15. Almanar.com.lb is the website of Al-Manar TV, Hezbollah's satellite TV channel and its leading medium. Its style is brash, belligerent and militant. It emphasizes hatred for Israel and the West and the glorification of the might of Hezbollah. It brainwashes viewers with the ideology of "death as a martyr" (representing suicide bombers as heroes) and fosters the personality cults of Hassan Nasrallah and the Iranian leadership.

16. **The site appears in English, Arabic, Spanish and French.** In addition to general topics common to all its visitors, **it has topics specific to the individual target audiences of the various languages.** For example, the Spanish site consistently reports on current events in Latin America, emphasizing what are referred to as the "weaknesses" of the United States and its alleged hostility to Muslims.

17. The site was recently upgraded with a chronological archive of broadcasts, whereas formerly only live broadcasts could be viewed. The site has links for downloading its app to iPhones, iPads, Androids, Blackberries and Nokia Symbians, as well as a link to Facebook (on the Arab site) and Twitter. In addition, in the past there were links to YouTube; they have since been removed. On July 25, 2012 Al-Manar TV launched apps for the iPhone and iPad that could be purchased. The app provides news from Al-Manar TV, technical support and a key to the application.

18. On **October 11, 2005**, the American Department of State designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. On **March 23, 2006**, the Department of State declared Al-Manar TV an SDGT, a "specially designated global terrorist." At the same time, the Department of the Treasury declared Al-Manar TV as a "specially designated global terrorist entity" under the authority of Executive Order 13224 and American law, which designated Al-Manar TV as Hezbollah's media arm.¹⁰

19. At the **beginning of December 2012** it was reported that, following MEMRI reports, Al-Manar TV was removed from American and Dutch servers, following the discovery that it used American and Dutch Internet companies (MEMRI reports, December 4, 2012 and February 8, 2013).

20. Examples from the Al-Manar TV website:

¹⁰ MEMRI Report, July 27, 2012.

1) Cultivating the ideologies of "the death of a martyr for the sake of Allah" and "the resistance" [i.e., terrorism]



Fostering the memory of Assad Baru, a suicide bomber who blew himself up near an IDF convoy close to the Fatma Gate in northern Israel (near Metulla) on August 19, 1988, killing seven IDF soldiers.

Commemorating Hezbollah shaheeds (i.e., terrorist operatives who died while attacking Israel), some of them suicide bombers who carried out attacks against the IDF.

2) Spreading hatred for Israel and calling for its elimination



The picture appears on the homepage of the Arabic version in an area called "The enemy's last days." It is a link to articles predicting Israel's approaching end the result of its social, economic and moral collapse.

An article with the results of a survey which showed that 35% of the Arab world regarded Israel as a threat to world stability. It was posted on the Spanish site on October 23, 2012.



The crawl reads "Islamic intifada against the insult to the prophet Muhammad" [in response to the video "The Innocence of Muslims"]

4) Promoting Iran’s political agenda



Ali Khamenei: “The Iranian people will never surrender to the pressure” (October 3, 2012)



The English version of the website: favorable coverage of the Bashar Assad regime



Quotes by Nasrallah, Khomeini, and Khamenei flickering on the French homepage of the website (October 24, 2012)

An article representing Ayatollah Khomeini as the spiritual father of the “Arab spring” (from the Spanish version of the website, June 4, 2012)

5) Anti-American articles in Spanish geared towards Latin America



An article posted on the Spanish version of Al-Manar on January 16, 2013, entitled “Cuba condemns U.S. double standard on terrorism.” According to the article, Cuba’s ambassador to the U.N. allegedly said that under the pretext of fighting the war on terrorism, certain countries (i.e., the United States) meddle in the internal affairs of other countries.

The homepage of the Spanish version of Al-Manar, dedicated mostly to Hassan Nasrallah (January 21, 2013)



An article posted on the Spanish version of Al-Manar on January 9, 2013 says that the economy of the United States is facing a collapse.

The Spanish version of the Al-Manar website portrays the United States as a hostile place for Muslims, drawing on the film "The Innocence of Muslims" (October 19, 2012)

Technical Data

URL: www.almanar.com.lb

IP address 1: 31.24.33.46. Hosted by is Coreix Limited, **United Kingdom**

Internet access provider: ServerSpace Ltd., **London, United Kingdom**

IP address 2: 204.11.234.90

Internet access provider: Vault Network Ltd., **United States**

Domain name registrar: American University of Beirut, Lebanese Domain Registry

Contact: Abdallah Qasir, **Beirut, Lebanon** (Note: Abdallah Qasir is a Hezbollah activist, the CEO of Al-Manar TV, and a former MP)

Server location: The organization's main server is located in **London**, with backup servers in **Florida** in case the main system is attacked. According to a MEMRI report, the website currently has two servers: one with ServerSpace Ltd. in **London**, and the other with Vault Networks in the **United States**.¹¹

The Website of Radio al-Nour (www.alnour.com.lb)

21. This is the website of Hezbollah's leading radio station, which can be heard online. It prominently displays links to recordings of Nasrallah's speeches. The website is

¹¹ MEMRI report, February 8, 2013.

technically and visually unimpressive, **rather poor in content**, and has not been upgraded for several years.

22. The website contains religious broadcasts about Shi'ite Islam, Hezbollah propaganda, and articles glorifying Hezbollah leaders and promoting Iran's political agenda. It also has thumbnail information about the radio station, information about its programs, and news of awards won by the station.



Articles featuring statements made by Hezbollah Deputy Chairman Sheikh Naim Qassem and Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei (October 4, 2012)

The homepage of the Al-Nour website (September 20, 2012). Links to recordings of Hassan Nasrallah's speeches can be seen on the left.

Technical Data

URL: www.alnour.com.lb

IP address: 64.79.68.246

IP location: XLHost.com, **United States**

The website is listed as belonging to the Al-Nour radio station, situated in the Harat Hreik neighborhood of **Beirut, Lebanon**

Youssef al-Zein is listed as the website's technical operator.

Al-Ahed – The Website of Hezbollah's Periodicals (www.alahednews.com.lb)

23. Al-Ahed is a single website for two of Hezbollah's periodicals: **Al-Ahed** and **Al-Intiqad**. The site was redesigned in late 2012 and is now called **Al-Ahed**. **It can be accessed in Arabic, French, English and Spanish**. It contains video clips and has links to YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.



The Al-Ahed's new homepages

24. The website fosters Nasrallah's personality cult and fans hatred for Israel and the West (particularly the United States). It is also used as a platform for releasing official Hezbollah statements. In addition, it issues publishes information related to Iran.



A report of Iran's announcement that it had launched a production line for ScanEagle UAVs (December 18, 2012)

25. Examples of articles and themes posted on the website:

1) Fostering the personality cults of Hassan Nasrallah and Ali



Hassan Nasrallah and Ali Khamenei are featured at the top of the homepage of the website's English version (October 24, 2012)

A section dedicated to documenting speeches delivered by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah

2) Fostering hatred of Israel and calling for its destruction



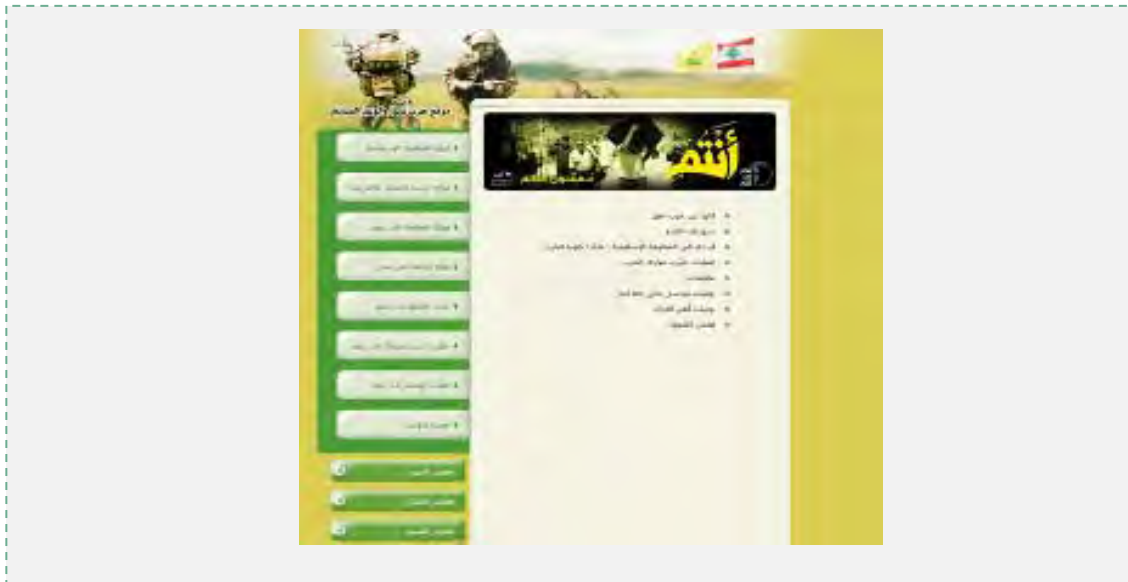
Top: A review of the Israeli daily press appears with a photograph of a burning Star of David (November 1, 2012). Bottom: Article about an IDF attack in Gaza in which a terrorist ("motorcyclist," according to the article) was killed. It focuses on two children who suffered [apparently minor] injuries during the attack, and claimed Israel deliberately targeted Gazan children. The article was accompanied by a photograph of the wounded Palestinian children (English version of the website, October 10, 2012)

3) Fostering hatred of the United States



An article predicting the United States will suffer the wrath of the Muslims because of the film "The Innocence of Muslims," considered humiliating to the prophet Muhammad. It claims that "an Israeli Jew produced the film in the United States" (which turned out to be untrue) (the Arabic version of the website).

4) Glorifying Hezbollah's military capabilities



The homepage of a website dedicated to the second Lebanon war, linked from the Al-Intiqad website. It glorifies Hezbollah's achievements in the war and the so-called Israel's defeat.

Technical Data

URL: www.alahednews.com.lb

IP address: 72.9.232.166

IP location: Global Net Access, LLC, Georgia, Atlanta, **United States**

The website is listed as belonging to the Descr Aldoha media and press company,
Beirut, Lebanon

Technical operator: Uday Mustafa

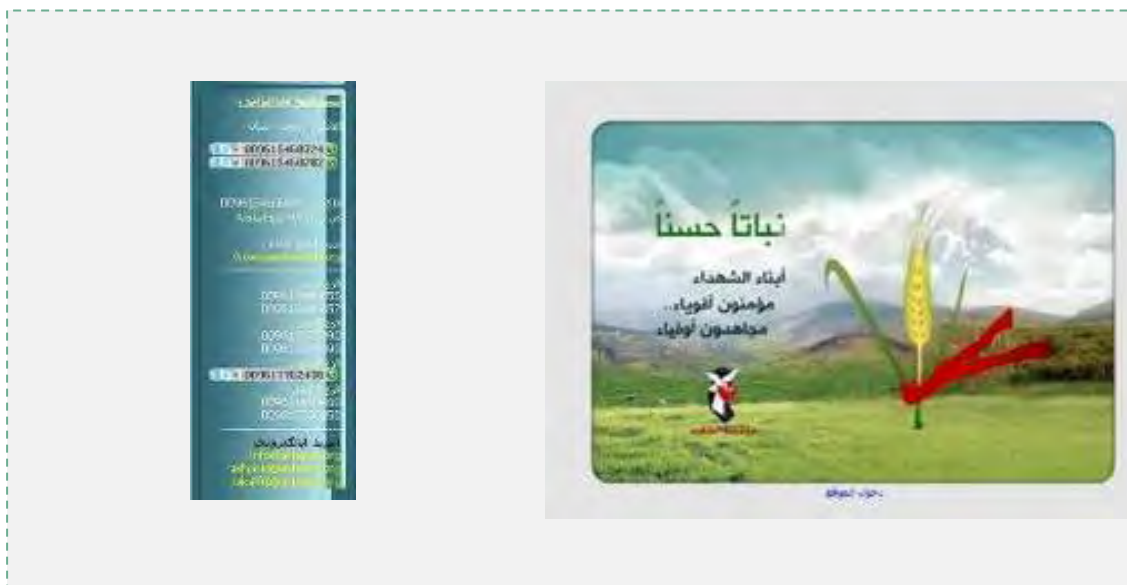
Category 3: Websites of Hezbollah's Social Institutions

The Martyr's Institution (www.alshahid.org)

26. This is the website of Hezbollah's **Martyr's Institution**, a branch of **Iranian-based** social institution that supports the families of the organization's martyrs. **The website can be accessed in Arabic and English.** The English version consists of a single page that provides reports on the institution's activities and has telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in Beirut for donations.

27. **The website glorifies Hassan Nasrallah and commemorates the organization's shaheeds.** A recent addition to the website was a link to YouTube.

28. Examples of the site's content:



Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for donations

The homepage, entitled "Good Plant." The text reads, "The sons of the shaheeds are faithful and strong, jihad warriors and loyal."

Technical Data

URL: www.alshahid.org

IP address: 212.28.242.143

IP location: Transmog S.a.l, **Beirut, Lebanon**

Internet access provider: Cyberia SAL **Beirut, Lebanon**

The website is registered to Wadi' Rital, **Beirut**

The server has been located at eNom Inc, **United States**, since September 2007.



Frame from a video produced by the Martyr Institution and uploaded to YouTube. It shows the Martyr Day festivities in Lebanon; photographs of Imad Mughniyeh appear several times in the video.

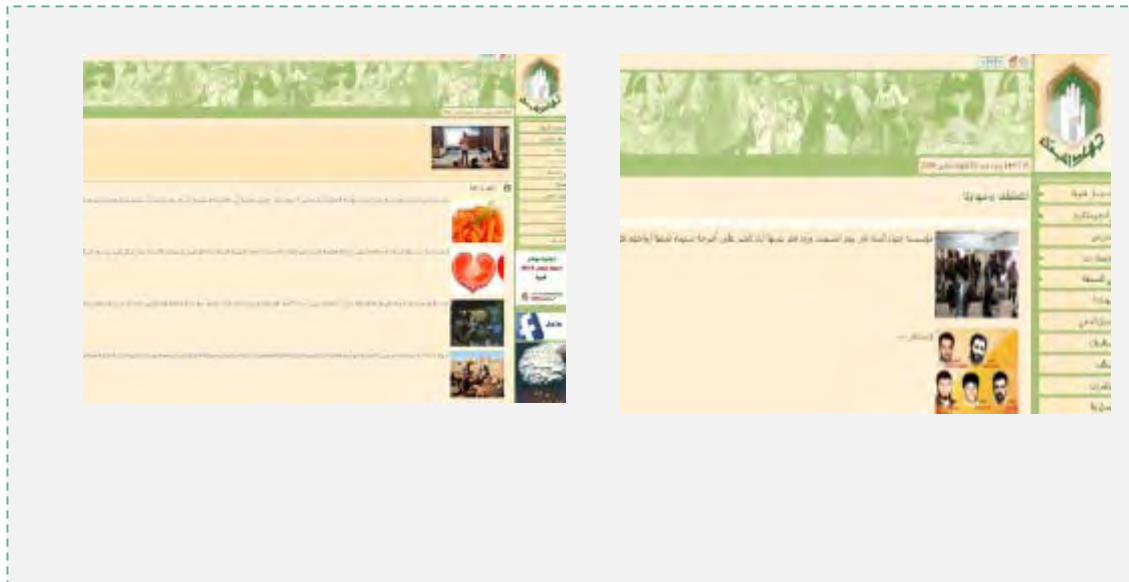
The homepage features a speech by Hassan Nasrallah. Bottom left: Link to the YouTube website, which contains video clips glorifying Hezbollah and its shaheeds.



The website of the Martyr Institution is linked to another website named Irth al-Shahada (Legacy of Martyrdom), whose aim is to glorify the legacy of Hezbollah's shaheeds. The website's address is www.irthshahada.org.

Jihad of Construction (www.jihadbinaa.org)

29. **The Jihad of Construction** website is used by the Hezbollah institution providing social services and promoting rebuilding and construction projects in south Lebanon. The website documents the activity of the Jihad of Construction institution and nurtures the cult of martyrdom.



Documenting the activity of the Jihad of Construction establishment

A webpage dedicated to Hezbollah's



The website is linked to a site dedicated to rebuilding south Lebanon after the Second Lebanon War and to glorifying Hezbollah's rebuilding activities (www.tarmeem.org.lb)

Technical Data

URL: www.jihadbinaa.org

IP address 1: 212.28.242.141

IP location: microwave, Beirut, **Lebanon**

IP address 2: 88.191.249.189

Internet access provider: Desibox SAS, **France**

The company operating the website: Cyberia Ripe Administration, **Beirut**

Contacts: Mohammed Hejazi and Moussa Taraf, **Beirut**

Institution for the Wounded (www.aljarha.net)

30. The website of Hezbollah's Institution for the Wounded, which provides the organization's wounded members with medical care and helps them rehabilitate socially. The website reports on the institution's activity and emphasizes the contribution made by the wounded. It fosters Hassan Nasrallah's personality cult and disseminates the values of "resistance" [i.e., terrorism] and jihad.



The homepage of the Institution for the Wounded



Al-Jarah (“The Wounded”), a magazine published by Al-Jarah Institution for the Wounded

Mention of “Day of the Wounded Resistance Warrior”

Technical Data

URL: www.aljarha.net

IP address: 208.96.29.150

IP location: Gogrid LLC, California, United States

Internet access provider: Servepath, United States

Contacts: Moustafa Khazem, from Beirut, Lebanon, is listed as the owner of the website. He is also listed as the owner of other Hezbollah websites (**note:** our examination has shown that a person named **Moustafa Khazem** is a reporter for the Al-Ahed/Al-Intiqad, Hezbollah’s organ. He may also be the contact person for the website mentioned above).

The Islamic Health Authority (www.hayaa.org)

31. **This is a website** used by the Islamic Health Authority, a Hezbollah organization which runs hospitals and clinics operating in accordance with the Shi’ite Islamic tradition. The Health Authority works in Shi’ite population centers in Lebanon, Hezbollah’s strongholds.

32. The website contains information on the activities of the Health Authority. The authority’s direct affiliation with Hezbollah is played down, even though the website often hosts Hezbollah operatives and leaders.



Opening ceremony for a hospital in the Lebanon Valley region; second from the left is the Hezbollah flag (October 25, 2012)

Technical Data

URL: www.hayaa.org

IP address: 213.175.212.27

IP location: Eukhost Ltd, United Kingdom

Internet access provider: Servepath, United States

Contacts: When it was first established, the website was registered to Abbas Hobballah. Since 2008 it is registered to the Hayya Health organization, **Beirut**.

Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts (www.almahdiscouts.net)

33. The website belongs to the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts, Hezbollah's youth movement, and reports on its activities. The movement inculcates Shi'ite youngsters with the values of terrorism and the Iranian Khomeinist ideology in order **to train a new generation of Hezbollah operatives and supporters of Hezbollah and Iran**. The movement's website is accessible **only in Arabic**, has not been upgraded in recent years and is not technologically advanced.

34. In the past Hezbollah allowed the publication of militaristic photographs of the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts dressed in uniform, carrying weapons and marching in formation. In recent years Hezbollah had not released such photographs. In our assessment, that is because it seeks to portray the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts, both in Lebanon and elsewhere, **as a legitimate, normative youth movement, like the Boy Scouts or similar**

movements.¹² In practice, however, Hezbollah continues to inculcate its scouts with the values of jihad, hatred of Israel, and Iranian Shi'ite Islam to train a new generation of operatives who will someday join the organization.



Sheikh Nabil Qaouq, senior Hezbollah leader, giving a speech; the Hezbollah and Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts flags can be seen on stage (Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts website, January 18, 2013)



Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts on a visit to the Abbas Moussawi Park in Baalbek. Sheik Abbas Moussawi was Hezbollah leader who he died in a targeted killing in south Lebanon (Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts website, January 18, 2013)



Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts listening to a speech delivered by Hassan Nasrallah. Above them are photographs of Hezbollah's three prominent shaheeds: Imad Mughniyeh, Ragheb Kharb, and Abbas Moussawi (March 31, 2010)

¹² There were many Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts among 44 youngsters who represented Lebanon at an international conference in Sweden. The conference was attended by approximately 40,000 members of youth movements from around the globe (scoutforum1.com).



Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts cheering Hassan Nasrallah, who delivers a televised speech (March 31, 2010)



Girls belonging to the youth movement dressed in traditional Islamic clothing and carrying a sign that reads "At your command, Zainab"1 (2010)

The Military Aspect of the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts Which Hezbollah Attempts to Conceal



Members of the Hezbollah scout movement, dressed in uniform and carrying [apparently plastic] guns, march over an American flag and about to march over an Israeli flag during a Jerusalem Day parade (Middle East On-Line, August 2006)



Hezbollah scouts at a parade on Iranian-sponsored Jerusalem Day. (Reuters, November 21, 2003, photo by Jamal Sa'idi)

Technical Data

URL: www.almahdiscouts.net

Domain name registrar: Online SAS, France

IP address: 208.96.29.151 (the same IP address is used by six websites, one of which is www.almahdiscouts.org)

IP location: Servepath, United States

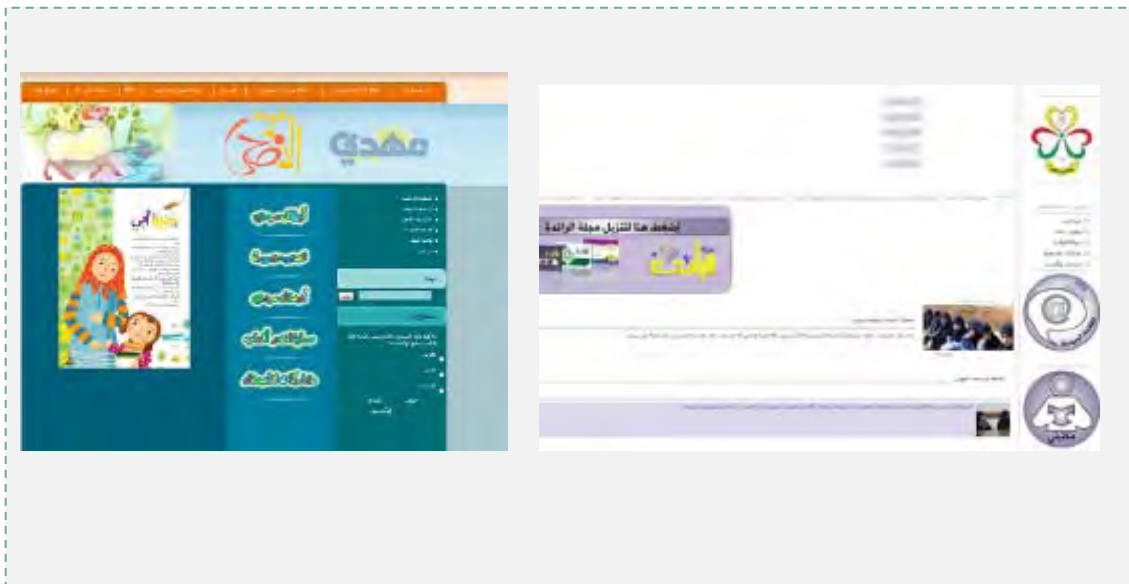
Contacts: the domain is registered to **Mustafa Khazem, Beirut**

Registration: Interliant d/b/a navisite.com, United States

[Imam] Al-Mahdi (women) Guides Association (almahdiguides.net)

35. This website, linked from the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts website, reports on the activity of young Shi'ite Muslim women affiliated with Hezbollah. The website contains download links to the movement's newspaper **Al-Ra'eda** ("The Pioneer"), which preaches a pious Shi'ite Islamic lifestyle.

36. The website also hosts a forum (www.mahdifamily.net/forum/index.php). A related website is that of the **Mahdi magazine** (www.mahdimagazine.net). That website also preaches Shi'ite Islam and Iranian Khomeinist ideology.



The website of the Mahdi newspaper

The homepage of the [Imam] Al-Mahdi (women) Guides Association website

Technical Data

URL: almahdiguides.net

IP address: 208.96.29.150 (the same IP address is used by six websites)

IP location: Rihlah Multimedia Services, **San Francisco, United States**

Internet access provider: Servepath, **United States**

Contact: Taraf Moussa, **Beirut, Lebanon**

AI-Emdad Society, Lebanon branch (www.alemddad.net)

37. This website belongs to the Lebanese branch of the Iranian AI-Emdad Islamic charitable society. **It is accessible in English, Arabic and Farsi.** The Lebanese branch helps people in need, many of them orphans, some of them children of Hezbollah operatives killed in the campaign against Israel. The organization operates schools and kindergartens, and organizes vocational training programs.



The Farsi website of the Lebanese branch of AI-Emdad, an Iranian charitable society



The logo of the Lebanese branch of the Iranian society AI-Emdad



Sayyed Hashem Safi al-Din, chairman of the Hezbollah Executive Council, presents a certificate to a young girl at a ceremony organized by the Al-Emdad society and an Hezbollah-affiliated Islamic educational institution.

Technical Data

URL: www.alemdad.net (there are other addresses, among them alemdad.com and alemdad.org)

IP address: 212.28.242.133

Internet access provider: Cyberia SAL, **Beirut, Lebanon**

Contact: **Mustafa Khazem, Beirut, Lebanon**

The Islamic Culture and Studies Institution – Al-Mahdi Schools (www.almahdischools.org)

38. This website is used by a Hezbollah Islamic educational institution, which promotes the Iranian Khomeinist ideology and raises support for Hezbollah. The website contains photographs and texts pertaining to the activity of the institution.



Photographs from a school operated by the institution. A photograph of Hassan Nasrallah can be seen hanging on the wall in the left picture. There are separate classrooms for boys and girls, who wear traditional Islamic clothing.



A school play in one of the organization's schools, titled "[Children] dramatizing [Hezbollah's] victories on the theater stage." The photograph shows a boy dressed in military uniform and carrying the Hezbollah flag.

Technical Data

URL: www.almahdischools.org

IP address: 216.205.111.84

IP location: Interliant, United States

Contact: Wadi' Rital, Beirut, Lebanon

The Society of Knowledge (Al-Maaref) website

39. This website is used by an association established in Lebanon in 1996 to spread Islam according to the ideology of the Khomeini. Its website has recently been upgraded.

It is accessible in Arabic, English and French.

40. The website reports on the association's extensive activities at its dozens of cultural centers working to spread Khomeini's ideology. One of them is the **Al-Nour** Anti-Illiteracy Center. **There are also cultural centers for women.** The association operates an extensive network of institutions and has links to similar centers in Lebanon which disseminate Khomeini's ideology. The Society of Knowledge has its own **publishing house** and holds **international book fairs**.

41. The association publishes **periodicals** dedicated to Shi'ite Islamic ideology: **Baqiyat Allah** (a term used to refer to the Mahdi, who according to Shi'ite tradition is the messiah), **Sada al-Wilaya** ("Echo of Loyalty to the House of Ali"), and **Dawhat al-Wilaya** ("Dynasty of the House of Ali"). **The periodicals are posted on the society's own website and on other websites to which it links.**



Hassan Nasrallah's speech attacking the American film slandering Prophet Muhammad (October 11, 2012)



Khomeini's picture is prominently featured on the website's homepage



Baqiyat Allah, a periodical published by the society

Sada al-Wilaya, another periodical published by the society

42. The society's website has recently been upgraded. Its website has a link to a website of the **Imam Khomeini Cultural Center Association in Lebanon**. The society has many branches in Lebanon whose objective is to disseminate the Ayatollah Khomeini's teachings. It translates and disseminates his ideological legacy and perpetuates the so-called "culture of resistance" and the personality cult of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.



The homepage of the Imam Khomeini Cultural Centers Association in Lebanon

Technical Data

URL: almaaref.org

IP address: 208.56.204.7 (the website is listed under other IP addresses: 208.94.148.2, owned by the French Online SAS company, and 208.94.148.2, owned by the American Tiggee LLC company).

IP location: Alabanza, **Baltimore, Maryland, United States**

Contact: Mustafa Khazem, **Beirut, Lebanon**

Shi'a Web

43. The website is dedicated to religious Shi'ite topics. It links to **somod.net**, a secondary website affiliated with Hezbollah. Somod.net has replaced what used to be Hezbollah's somod.org (see below).



Left: The Somod website, clearly affiliated with Hezbollah. Right: The homepage of Shi'a Web.

Technical Data

URL: shiaweb.org

IP address: 69.65.63.135

Internet access provider: GigeNet, **United States**

Registration: The website is registered to **Malek al-Hashemi**, who lives in the United States. He allegedly uses an e-mail address in Houston and a telephone number belonging to the University of Colorado in Denver. His e-mail address is shiaweb-

2@yahoo.com. According to the Haganah website, while his e-mail address is genuine, the rest of the information is questionable.

Other websites

44. **Other Hezbollah cultural-religious associations have websites of their own, linked to the Society of Knowledge website.** They include **Values Association (Qiyam)**, **the website of the Islamic Center for Spreading and Inculcating Religion (Al-Markaz al-Islami lil-Tabligh)**, **Al-Nour (Light) Anti-Illiteracy Association**, **the Imam Al-Mahdi Institute (Ma'had al-Imam al-Mahdi)**, **and the website of the Al-Mi'raj Association,¹³** which helps people in need, raises public awareness of prayer and builds mosques across Lebanon.



The homepage of the Al-Nour Anti-Illiteracy Association. Hassan Nasrallah is prominently featured at the center.

The Islamic Center for Disseminating and Inculcating Religion

¹³ The term *Al-Mi'raj* refers to Prophet Muhammad's ascension to heaven from Temple Mount after his night ride from Mecca, according to Muslim tradition.



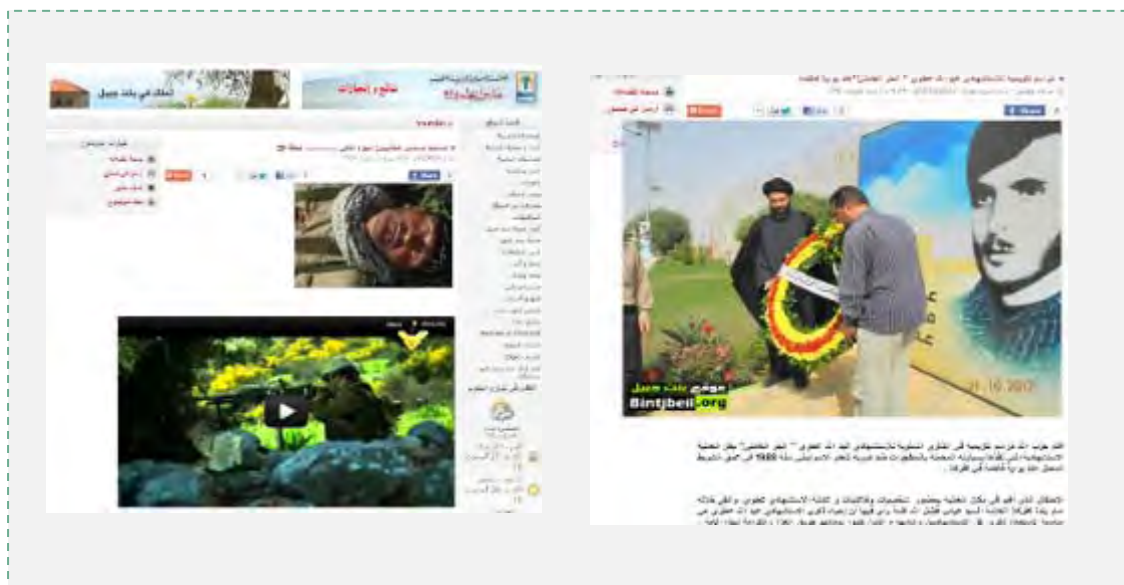
The website of the Al-Mi'raj Association: the title shows Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, with his quote on the duty of prayer.

The website of the Imam Al-Mahdi Institute

Category 4: Local Hezbollah Websites in Lebanon

45. Such websites include those belonging to Shi'ite villages in south Lebanon (for example, **Bint Jbeil, Taybeh, and Jebchit**). Jebchit and Bint Jbeil have become symbols of Hezbollah's so-called "resistance" to Israel. Their objective is to strengthen the connection between Hezbollah and the local population as well as with Shi'ite immigrants abroad, and commemorate the shaheeds of south Lebanon.

46. **The Bint Jbeil website:** The recently upgraded website has been completely redesigned and rebuilt. It now contains a larger number of high-quality articles as well as many photographs. **It has an English version** which, in our assessment, is geared to Lebanese living in Western countries (many Shi'ites who emigrated from Bint Jbeil currently live in the United States).



Link to a series devoted to Hezbollah operatives and aired on Al-Manar TV, on the Bint Jbeil website

Commemoration of Hezbollah shaheeds on the Bint Jbeil website

47. The Bint Jbeil website is used by other nearby Shi'ite villages. For instance, it contains an article about the **creation of "Iran Park"** in the Shi'ite village of **Maroun al-Ras**, where intensive fighting took place during the Second Lebanon War. The park has a model of Al-Aqsa Mosque (bearing the Iranian emblem), and a building of the **Imam Khomeini Center**, which houses a clinic belonging to Hezbollah's Islamic Health Authority (Bint Jbeil website, August 30 and November 17, 2012).¹⁴

48. According to the Haganah website, before the Second Lebanon War the website's affiliation with Hezbollah was clear, and it even hosted some of the organization's forums. The forums went offline in 2006 and the affiliation with Hezbollah is not as obvious as it once was. In our assessment, however, since the village of Bint Jbeil is a Hezbollah stronghold and symbol, and since the website features content associated with Hezbollah and Iran, **Hezbollah is apparently closely linked to the website**, even if it attempts to play down that connection (as it does with several other websites).

¹⁴ An article about Iran Park was also issued by Iran's Fars News Agency in January 2013.



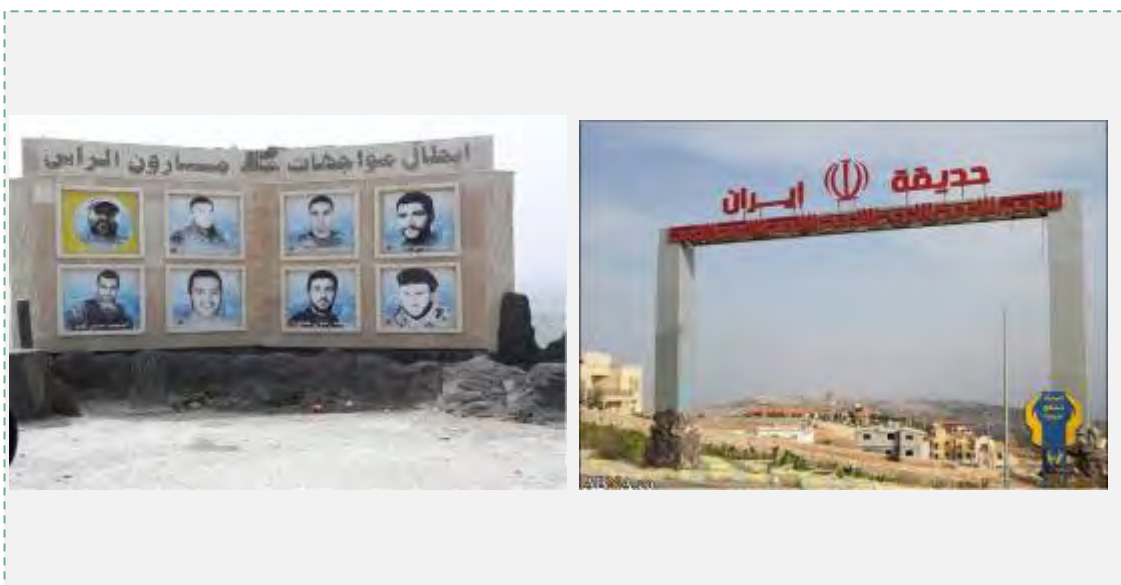
Imam Khomeini Hall in Iran Park, with the Iranian emblem imprinted at the center (Bint Jbeil website, November 17, 2012)



Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts visit Iran Park. In the background is a model of Al-Aqsa Mosque bearing the Iranian emblem (Bint Jbeil website, August 30, 2012)



The Iranian emblem appears on the memorial (left) and Al-Aqsa Mosque model (right). The flag of Hezbollah flies alongside the flag of Lebanon (left).



A commemoration site for Hezbollah martyrs from Maroun al-Ras (Fars News Agency, Iran, January 2013)

The entrance to Iran Park, with the emblem of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the center (Fars News Agency, Iran, January 2013)

Technical Data

URL: www.bintjbeil.com

IP address: 74.208.80.121

Internet access provider: 1&1 Internet, **United States**

Website history: The website was first registered in 1999. According to data from 2001, it was registered to Khalil al-Saghir, in Dearborn, Michigan, USA. In 2003 Al-Saghir changed his e-mail address. After the Second Lebanon War in 2006 he removed his name and changed his e-mail address once again, even though the physical address has been listed as Dearborn, Michigan. It is quite possible that he is no longer involved in operating the website.

49. **The website of the town of Taybeh:** This is another local website commemorating the town's killed Hezbollah operatives, and mentions Hezbollah's social activity in the town itself and elsewhere in south Lebanon. There is no clear indication that the website belongs to Hezbollah; however, an examination of its contents shows that it is definitely affiliated with that organization.



Commemorating Hezbollah shaheeds from Taybeh, who are referred to on the website as “princes of paradise.”

Article from the Taybeh website covering Hezbollah’s community activities in the village.

Technical Data

URL: www.altaybeh.net

IP address: 208.64.28.50

Internet Access Provider: Versaweb LLC, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States

Contact: Talal Nahle, Sweden

50. **The Jebchit website:** This is a website used by a village in the Nabatieh Heights, from which Hezbollah’s activity in south Lebanon emerged. Its homepage links to a video documenting the abduction of Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, produced by Al-Mayadeen, a Lebanese TV channel closely affiliated with Hezbollah.



Article on the Jebchit website covering a party for the winners of a Quran memorization contest. The article praises Hezbollah and quotes remarks made by Hashem Safi al-Din, chairman of Hezbollah's Executive Council (January 18, 2013)

Webpage on the Jebchit website glorifying and commemorating local Hezbollah shaheeds

Technical Data

URL: www.jebchit.com

IP address: 85.25.145.43

IP location: BSB-SERVICE Dedicated Server Hosting, **Germany**

Contact: Hussein al-Zein, Jebchit Webhosting, **Jebchit, Nabatieh, Lebanon**. The website was once registered to Hesham Jadalkarim, who currently resides in Dubai.

Category 5: Websites of Hezbollah's Past and Present Leaders

51. Forums for People Who Admire Hassan Nassrullah (hassan-nasrullah.realmsn.com) glorifies Hassan Nasrallah. Hassan Nasrallah once had his own personal website, titled "The Website of the Official Representative [*al-wakil al-shari'i al-'aam*] of Imam Khamenei in Lebanon." That website is currently inactive. Somod ("firm stance"), a sub-section of the Shi'a Web website, also glorifies Hassan Nasrallah.



Poster on the Forums for People Who Admire Hassan Nassrullah: a picture of Nasrallah and Khamenei under the title “Admirer of Khamenei”

The homepage of Forums for People Who Admire Hassan Nassrullah, glorifying the image of the Hezbollah leader

Technical Data

URL: www.somod.shiaweb.org

IP address: 69.65.63.135

IP location: Gigenet, Arlington Heights, Illinois, United States

Contact: Malek al-Hashemi, Houston, Texas

52. **Sheikh Naim Qasem, Hassan Nasrallah’s second-in-command**, operates a website that serves his interests and promotes his image.



The homepage of Sheikh Naim Qassem’s website, which contains statements and speeches (September 20, 2012)

Technical Data

URL: naimkassem.net

IP address: 212.28.242.136

Internet access provider: Cyberia SAL, Lebanon. The website used the services of Syrian Telecommunications Est until 2011.

Registration: Moussa Taraf, Beirut, Lebanon.

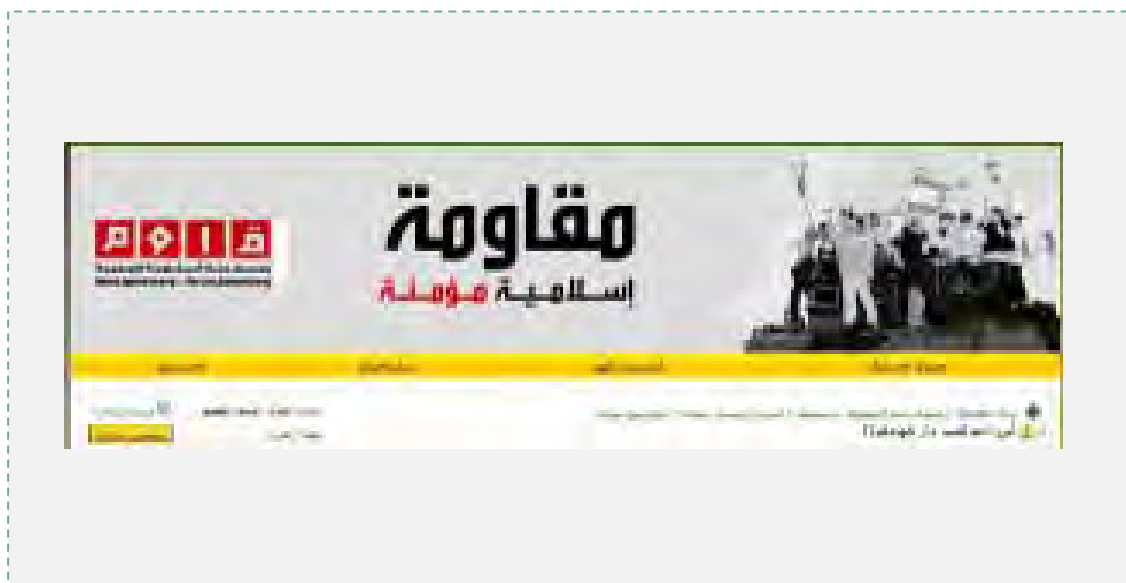
Category 6: Forums Affiliated with Hezbollah

Overview

53. There are several online forums clearly affiliated with Hezbollah. The most significant is **Qawem** (Arabic for “resist!”). Other forum websites affiliated with Hezbollah include **Lebanon Chat and The Admirers of Sayeed Hassan Nassrullah**. In the past there was a forum website called **Abu Hadi** (Hassan Nasrallah’s nickname). The websites are a platform for an interactive discussion on Nasrallah and Hezbollah in general.

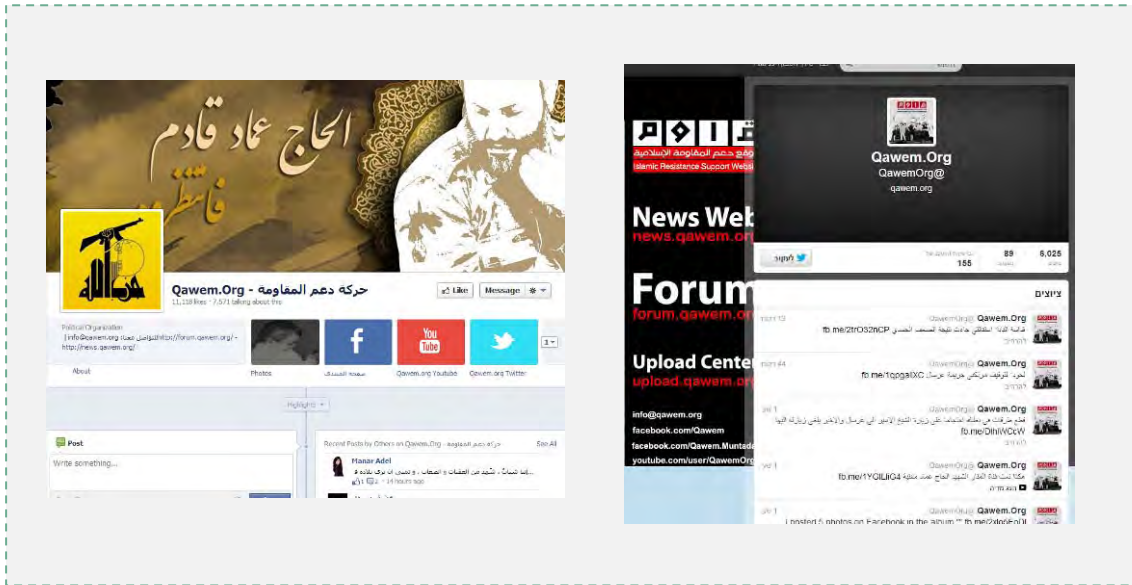
Qawem Forum (qawem.org)

54. **Qawem Forum** is affiliated with Hezbollah and carries its logo. Its forum sections can be accessed by non-members (**Note:** An examination of the forum sections has shown that one of the English documents uploaded to the forum is "Hezbollah: Portrait of a Terrorist Organization" (English translation), issued by the **Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center**).



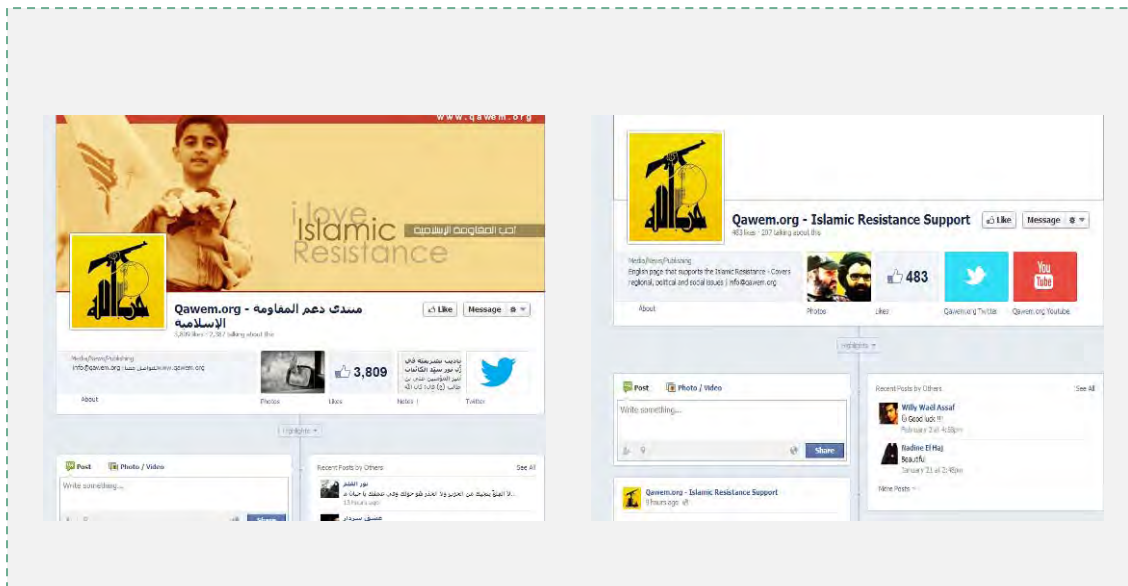
Qawem website: The forum is entitled “Faithful Islamic Resistance.” The picture shows Lebanese carrying the flags of Lebanon and Hezbollah and a picture of Hassan Nasrallah.

55. Qawem also has presences on social networks like **Facebook** and **Twitter**, as well as on **YouTube**. The following are some examples (source: Haganah website):



The forum's Facebook page
(facebook.com)

The forum's Twitter page (twitter.com)



Left: Qawem's Arabic Facebook page. Right: Qawem's English Facebook page.



Qawem's Twitter page

Technical Data

URL: www.qawem.org

IP address: 85.17.156.15

Internet Access Provider: LeaseWeb, **Netherlands**. The website itself is operated from **Beirut**.

Domain name registrar: Dynadot LLC, **United States**

Note: The domain has not been registered under its real name.

56. **Lebanon Chat** is an internal Lebanese social network extensively used by Hezbollah operatives. It can only be accessed by registered users. It is unclear whether the website belongs to Hezbollah or is just used by its operatives. The website uploads video clips from Al-Manar TV, speeches delivered by Hassan Nasrallah and songs glorifying Hezbollah.

Category 7: Video Sharing, Social Networks and Smartphone App Websites

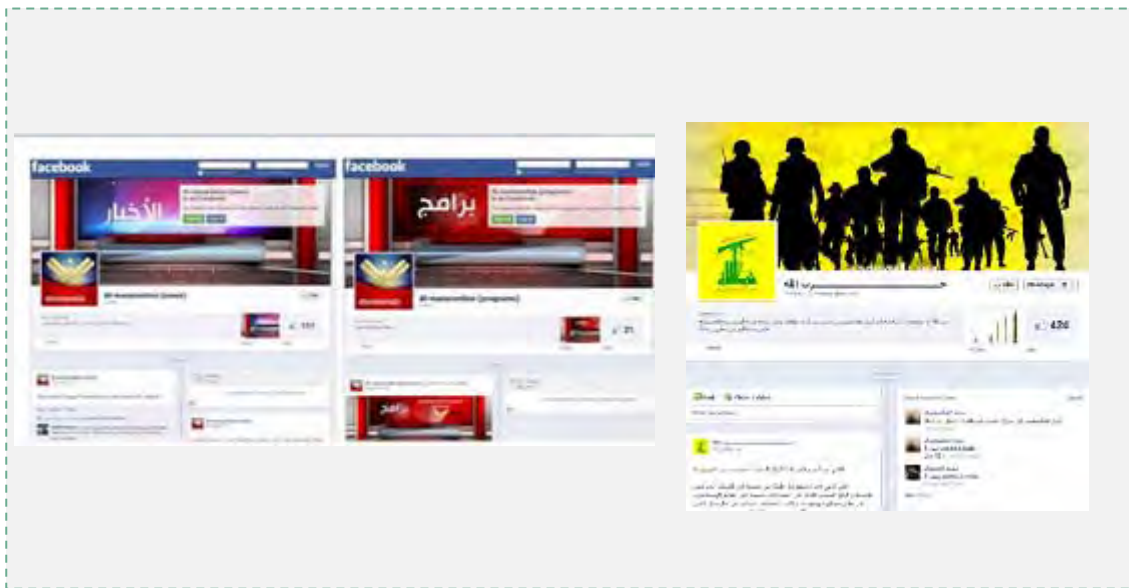
Hezbollah Activity on Facebook

57. Since the summer 2012 Facebook has restricted Hezbollah's activity on the social network. This was the result of a MEMRI report exposing how Hezbollah uses social networks. **The Facebook administration** consequently removed three pages affiliated with the organization: one dedicated to Hassan Nasrallah, one for Al-Manar TV and one

dedicated to Hezbollah.¹⁵ It can be assumed that Hezbollah **continues looking for ways to bypass the restrictions imposed on it by Facebook** and other companies.

58. On August 2, 2012, after its activity was banned by Apple, Google and Facebook, Hezbollah announced that it would **find new ways to deliver the “message of resistance.”** In a report released on the same day, Al-Manar TV cited the supervisor of the Al-Manar website, who said that “the media war began as soon as we signed up for the Facebook site about five years ago. Five accounts were deactivated during this period.”¹⁶

Hezbollah’s Facebook pages before being removed

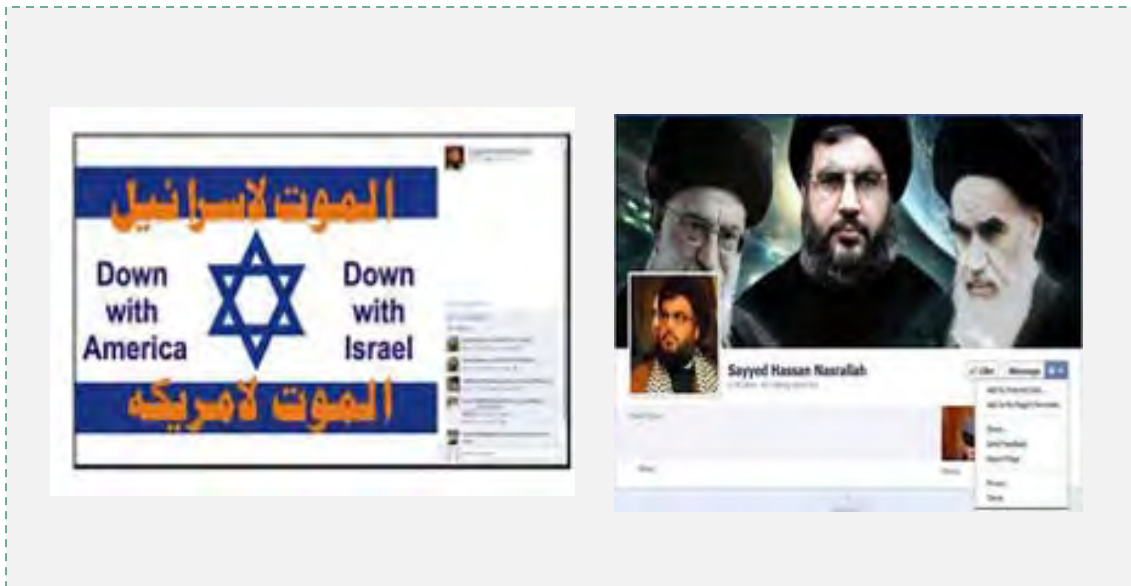


The Facebook page of Al-Manar, Hezbollah’s leading TV channel, before being removed (MEMRI, August 22, 2012)

Hezbollah’s Facebook page, showing the Hezbollah logo and silhouettes of operatives (MEMRI, October 2, 2012)

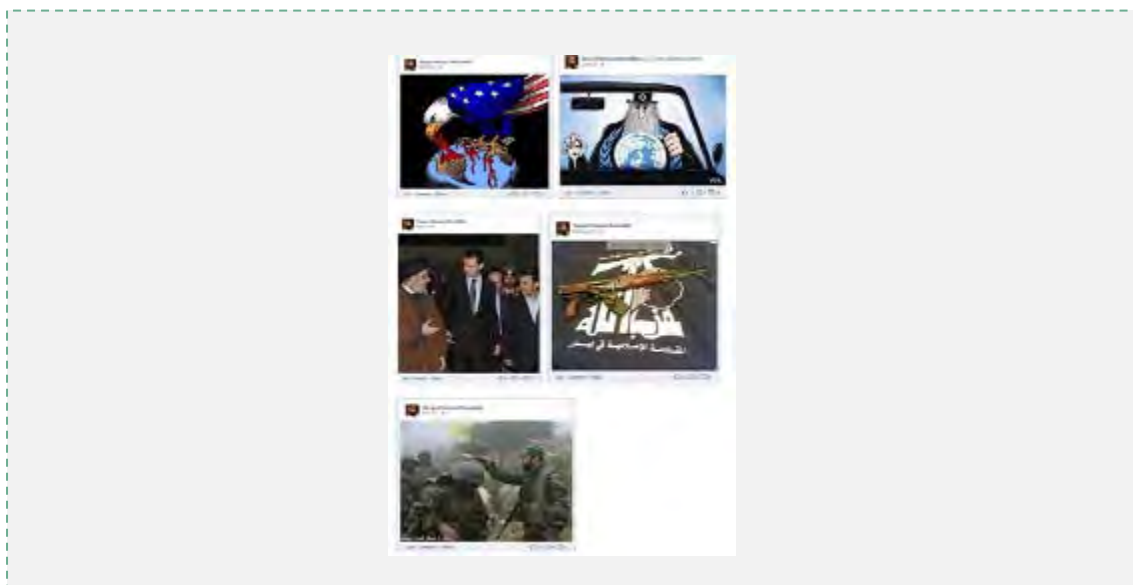
¹⁵ See MEMRI report dated July 27, 2012: “Designated Terrorist Organization Hizbullah Makes Extensive Use of U.S Social Media – Apple iTunes, iPad and iPhone, Google, Android, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter – in Violation of U.S. Law”, by Steven Stalinsky.

¹⁶ See MEMRI reports dated August 6, 2012 and February 8, 2013.



The Arabic text reads “Down with Israel” and “Down with America” (MEMRI)

Hassan Nasrallah’s Facebook page shows Nasrallah with Khomeini and Khamenei (MEMRI. August 21, 2012)



Anti-Semitic and militaristic elements posted on Hezbollah’s Facebook pages (MEMRI)

Hezbollah’s Activity on Twitter

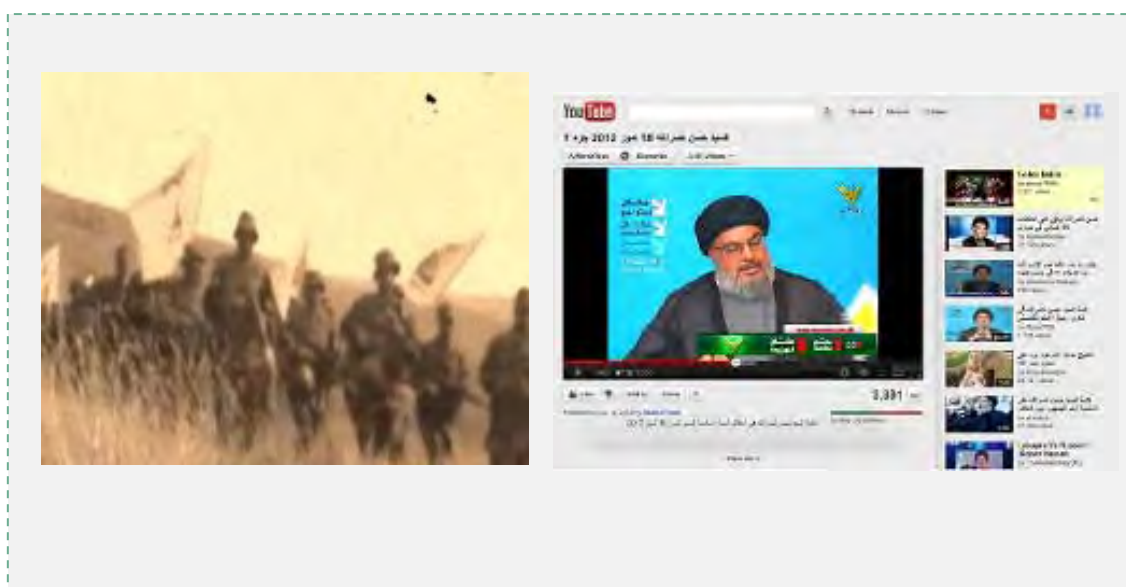
58. Hezbollah began its activity on Twitter in **November 2011**. In just 35 days it posted more than 15,000 tweets in Arabic, English and French. They included statements made by Hezbollah leaders and senior Iranian officials (MEMRI). Hezbollah is still active on Twitter (through the Al-Manar website, for instance).



The Al-Manar website on Twitter

Hezbollah's Activity on YouTube

59. Hezbollah maintained a presence on YouTube, considering the site a good platform for disseminating propaganda and supporting its battle for hearts and minds. Hezbollah uploaded a great many videos, including belligerent speeches delivered by Nasrallah and videos encouraging jihad and “resistance” against Israel.



Video posted on YouTube shows Hezbollah operatives in action, while a pro-jihad song plays in the background.

The Al-Manar YouTube channel

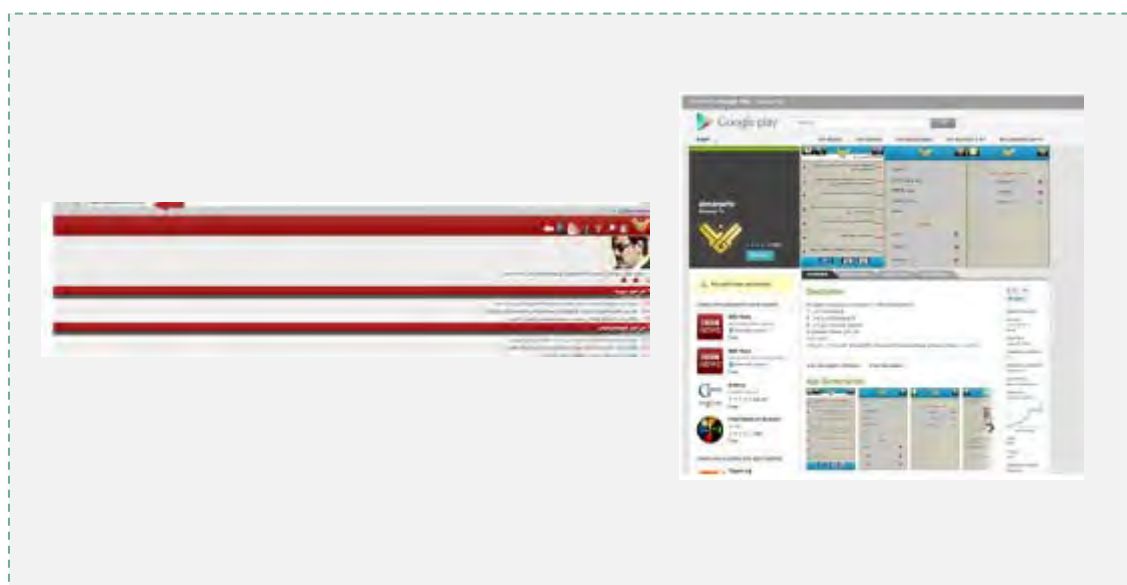


A YouTube video shows Hassan Nasrallah speaking on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Second Lebanon War

From a Hezbollah video glorifying the operation in which a UAV was launched into Israeli territory

Smartphone Applications

60. Hezbollah currently promotes the development of **smartphone apps** (using the WAP and ANDROID applications), even though it encounters difficulties from Google and Apple, which restrict its activities. One noteworthy example is the blocking of the Al-Manar website on the Android and Wap applications.



Al-Manar TV's Wap application (MEMRI)

Al-Manar TV's Android application (MEMRI)

Category 8

61. **This category includes two Lebanese news websites**, one belonging to a newspaper and the other to a TV channel. Neither belongs to Hezbollah's media network but they disseminate its messages and reflect its political agenda.

The Website of the Al-Akhbar newspaper

62. This is the website of the popular Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper, even though it does not explicitly admit the affiliation. The articles posted on the website clearly reflect Hezbollah's ideology and political agenda. Hezbollah uses the newspaper as a platform for publishing interviews with the its leaders (for example, on October 21, 2011, it published an interview with Hassan Nasrallah in which he threatened to attack Tel-Aviv if Israel attacked Lebanon).



On January 20, 2013, Al-Akhbar revealed information about the witnesses in the Rafiq al-Hariri murder trial, in which Hezbollah has been accused by the international tribunal in The Hague. The publication angered anti-Hezbollah elements in Lebanon and elements close to the prosecution, who claimed that the newspaper was endangering the lives of the witnesses (at least some of whom are supposed to testify against Hezbollah at the trial).

Technical data

URL: alakhbar.com

IP address: Unknown. It is possible that the website uses a proxy company.

IP location: Enough Host, Texas, United States

The Al-Mayadeen TV website

63. This is a website that posts TV items aired by the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen TV channel. Al-Mayadeen, which broadcasts from Beirut, was created by **the journalist Ghassan Ben Jeddo, who is close to Hezbollah**, as an alternative to Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiyya (both hostile to Hezbollah). The channel supports Hezbollah and its political agenda, even though it plays down its connections with the organization and portrays itself as professional and politically unbiased. Hezbollah provides Al-Mayadeen with exclusive information, such as footage of the abduction of Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.



Providing a platform to the terrorist Leila Khaled (referred to by the TV channel as a “Palestinian fighter”), who took part in PLO’s plane hijackings in the 1970s.

Favorable coverage of the Bashar Assad regime on the Al-Mayadeen website (January 6, 2013)



The homepage of the almayadeen.net website

Technical Data

URL: almayadeen.net, with another website called almayadeen.com that uses the same server

IP address: 213.199.128.194 (as at February 2013). The IP address of the website and the ISP are changed every few months.

IP location: 1&1 Internet Inc., **Pennsylvania, United States**

Internet access provider: Microsoft Corporation, **United States**

Registration: The website was first registered to **Ghassan Ben Jeddo**, the channel director, in Beirut. It was then registered to **Naif Krayem**, the channel's CEO, using the e-mail address of his son, **Jaafar Krayem**. The website is now registered to the channel and uses the e-mail address of **Mustafa Shams**.