



## Jihadi tourism: visits to battle legacy sites and shahid tombs as an indoctrination tool for spreading Hezbollah's ideology

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### Overview

► **Hezbollah constructs a Shiite “mini-state” among the Shiite community in Lebanon, which caters to the needs of Shiite population in all spheres of life.** For this purpose, Hezbollah, with massive Iranian support, is engaged in establishing a civilian system, which operates alongside its military infrastructure, in the spheres of education, culture, health, welfare, finance, sports, construction, agriculture, and more.

► The social institutions established by Hezbollah, and its intensive civilian activity, provide the Shiite population of Lebanon with a wide variety of services of the sort which is usually provided by the state, while taking advantage of the weakness of the Lebanese administration and years of neglect of the Shiite community. Hezbollah's extensive civilian activity **is designed to create among the Shiites in Lebanon a “resistance society” which supports Hezbollah in its struggle against Israel.**

As part of the “resistance society,” Hezbollah operates **jihadi tourism**, which includes **visiting battle legacy sites and exhibitions, jihadi meetings with military operatives, and visiting shahid tombs.** **Jihadi tourism** nurtured by Hezbollah **is different in nature** from the common meaning of tourism worldwide. While tourism is usually intended for recreation, rest and excursions, **in Hezbollah's perception, it serves as a tool for the indoctrination of the operatives, the Shiite population and various institutions in Lebanon** (including the Lebanese army). Thus, jihadi tourism serves **as a tool for spreading Hezbollah's ideology** while **preserving the belligerent spirit in the struggle against Israel.**

► The main site used for jihadi tourism is **the Mleeta Tourist Landmark of the Resistance**, which was established in Jabal Safi (north of Nabatieh) after the Second Lebanon War. This site, from which Hezbollah operated when the IDF was deployed in the Security Zone in southern Lebanon, **is where extensive activity takes place, focusing on the inculcation of Hezbollah's battle legacy, the commemoration of Hezbollah's shahids, the cultivation of shahada culture (heroic death for the sake of Allah), and the glorification of Hezbollah's**

**capabilities in the military struggle against Israel.** Other prominent sites where jihadi tourism takes place are **the detention facility in the village of Al-Khiyam and the Iran Garden in Maroun al-Ras** (both near the border with Israel). Another site is **the Garden of the Shahids cemetery** in Beirut’s southern suburb, where Hezbollah’s high-ranking shahids (including Imad Mughniyeh) are buried.

►The main “tourism sites” and additional local sites throughout Lebanon are visited by Shiite Lebanese citizens, Hezbollah operatives, delegations of various institutions in Lebanon (including the Lebanese army), and delegations from abroad, including Iranian delegations. These sites host exhibitions, ceremonies and events of a political nature. Hezbollah’s media empire is also mobilized to preserve the organization’s battle legacy, inter alia, through several designated Twitter accounts.



**The museum in Mleeta. Right: Map showing the Israeli airbases and the names of squadrons in each base, types of planes operated by each squadron, and the squadrons’ emblems. Left: Exhibition of weapons seized from the IDF (Facebook)**



**Inculcation of Hezbollah’s battle legacy and ideology in the Lebanese army. Right: Cadets of the Lebanese army’s officers’ training school visiting the Mleeta site on Lebanon’s Army Day (2015). Left: Routine visit by Lebanese soldiers during a course, July 2017 (Facebook page of the Mleeta site, August 1, 2015; New Lebanon website, July 1, 2017)**

►Iran’s “fingerprint” and Iranian support for Hezbollah are clearly felt in Mleeta. The site was built after the Second Lebanon War **by the Iranian Association for Assistance in the Reconstruction of Lebanon**, which assisted Hezbollah to rebuild southern Lebanon after the

war. Explanation signs for visitors in Mleeta also include a translation into Persian, and Nasrallah's speech which is projected on a screen has also Persian subtitles. **Many Iranian delegations visit the site** (for example, in 2018, there were 14 visits of Iranian delegations, including a delegation of the Iranian Supreme Leader's Office). Iranian delegations also visit additional Hezbollah battle legacy sites, including **the Iran Garden in Maroun al-Ras** (a jihadi tourism site which was also built by the Iranian Association for Assistance in the Reconstruction of Lebanon) and the Garden of the Shahids cemetery in Beirut's southern suburb.



**Right: Delegation of women belonging to the Iranian Supreme Leader's Office (engaged in religious questions and answers for women) visiting Mleeta (Facebook page of Mleeta, March 13, 2018). Left: Belongings of Hezbollah's shahids at an exhibition in memory of shahids at the detention facility in Al-Khiyam. On the uniforms, there are unit badges of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (Facebook)**

## Structure of the study

►The study includes the following sections:

- ◆ Background for the emergence of jihadi tourism
- ◆ Mleeta Tourist Landmark of the Resistance
- ◆ Al-Khiyam Detention Facility as a jihadi tourism site
- ◆ The Iran Garden in Maroun al-Ras
- ◆ Jihadi exhibitions
- ◆ Jihadi meetings and trips
- ◆ The Garden of the Shahids (or: the Garden of the Two Shahids) in southern Beirut
- ◆ **Appendix:** The ITIC's publications on Hezbollah's civilian infrastructure

## Background for the emergence of jihadi tourism

► In 2009, three years after the Second Lebanon War, the Hezbollah leadership sensed restlessness below the surface among its supporters. After the war, cases were exposed in which **the desire to get rich overshadowed the willingness to sacrifice**. They culminated in the Salah Ezz el-Din affair. Ezz el-Din was a Lebanese wealthy businessman who in September 2009 was exposed as having led a Ponzi scheme. Hezbollah was among the investors who lost their money. The Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, even published an article at that time, warning against the consequences of the continuation of the disturbing situation (Al-Akhbar, September 30, 2009).

One of the steps taken by Hezbollah at that time to cope with the restlessness was **increased commemoration activity (“the battle for the memory”)**, as a response to the battle for hearts and minds waged against Hezbollah by its enemies. The preoccupation with battle legacy and the commemoration of shahids was also intended **to preserve the belligerent spirit against Israel**, as worded by the Al-Akhbar newspaper: **“When the military confrontation [during] the revolution subsides, the revolution is always in need of fuel to feed it”** (Al-Akhbar, November 30, 2009).

► With this in the background, during 2010, Hezbollah’s Education Mobilization, which engages in the indoctrination of Shiite students<sup>1</sup>, increased its activity in the sphere of **“jihadi tourism” in southern Lebanon. This “tourism” was used as a tool for presenting Hezbollah’s version of the events of the Second Lebanon War and to respond to the accusations directed at Hezbollah by its political rivals**. The target population included **students and academics from among the camp of Hezbollah supporters (the March 8 Alliance)**. It also included **Christian supporters of the Free National Faction of Michel Aoun** (France24 Channel, May 18, 2010; Asharq al-Awsat, June 4, 2010). This Hezbollah activity also continued after 2010 and even increased.

► In order to promote the preservation of the battle legacy and commemoration of shahids, **Hezbollah operates a network of jihadi tourism sites. In these sites, visits take place and meetings are held with Hezbollah operatives**. This network provides Hezbollah with **another important tool for the indoctrination of its operatives and supporters** and of

<sup>1</sup> See the ITIC’s Information Bulletin from July 2019, “Hezbollah’s Education Mobilization: An institution engaged in the indoctrination of Shiite students in Lebanon’s state and private educational systems, in preparation for their joining Hezbollah upon graduation”

groups from all sectors of Lebanese society. This tool enables Hezbollah to inculcate its version of various events and incidents, such as the fighting in the Security Zone and the IDF's withdrawal, the Second Lebanon War, and Hezbollah's involvement in the civil war in Syria. In terms of organizational structure, it appears that **jihadi tourism is managed mainly by two institutions in Hezbollah's civilian infrastructure – the Media Relations Unit and the Islamic Resistance Support Association (IRSA)**<sup>2</sup> (Lebanon Files website, June 5, 2014; As-Safir, July 19, 2014; Araby Press, August 2, 2018; Al-Ahed website, August 14, 2017).

## Mleeta Tourist Landmark of the Resistance

### Overview

**Hezbollah's main site of jihadi tourism is the Mleeta Tourist Landmark of the Resistance, which is located on Jabal Safi, in Iqlim Tuffah (north of Nabatieh).** The site is situated about 2 km northwest of the former South Lebanon Army's Sujud outpost, against which Hezbollah had fought fiercely when the IDF was deployed in the Security Zone (fighting which is revered in Hezbollah's battle legacy). The site, which was constructed by **the Iranian Association for Assistance in the Reconstruction of Lebanon**, opened for visits as part of the festivities marking **the 10th anniversary of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon** (May 2010). It covers an area of 60,000 sq.m. of gardens and forests plus 4,500 sq.m. of built-up area ("Engineer of Friendship," a book about the life of the Iranian engineer Hossam Khosh-Nevis, who headed the Iranian Association at the time, pp. 153-155<sup>3</sup>; "Jihadi tourism site of Mleeta", Arabic Wikipedia; Mleeta's website).

<sup>2</sup> For further details, see the ITIC's Information Bulletin from February 2019, "Hezbollah launched a campaign to raise money for military purposes using the Islamic Resistance Support Association"

<sup>3</sup> The book is available on the website in memory of Khosh-Nevis (<http://www.khoshnwis.net/materials/news/news012.html>), without details of the publishing house, date or place of publication.



Right: Map of the Mleeta site (Mleeta’s website, September 25, 2019). Left: The Mleeta site – view from above (Aljaras, September 25, 2019)



Right: General view of the entrance to the Mleeta site (Facebook). Hezbollah and Lebanese flags are visible at the entrance, allegedly symbolizing the fact that Hezbollah and Lebanon have identical interests. Left: The entrance gate to Mleeta, with the slogan “The Story of the Earth to the Sky” (Facebook). This slogan, which expresses the relation between the earth and the sky, is the slogan of Mleeta and appears in Hezbollah’s various publications.



The site of Mleeta and the slogan “The Story of the Earth to the Sky” (Mleeta’s website, September 26, 2019)

►The chairman of the board of the Mleeta site is **Sheikh Ali Daher**, and his assistant is **Ahmad Zain al-Din** (Lebanon Files website, June 5, 2014; Facebook page of the Mleeta site, August 12, 2018). Sheikh Ali Daher was formerly **the official in charge of Hezbollah’s Media Unit** (Al-Jazeera TV, July 28, 2007; Al-Alam TV, July 18, 2012). In addition, at the time, he registered as member of the board of the Lebanese Communication Group L.C.G. SAL, which operates Hezbollah’s **Al-Manar TV Channel**, when it was registered at the Lebanese Registrar of

Companies (Lebanese Registrar of Companies, January 13, 1997). Ahmad Zain al-Din is **the official in charge of media relations in the Islamic Resistance Support Association** (Radio Al-Nour, February 19, 2019). **The acting director of the museum is Abu Mustafa Hejazi**, and the official in charge of media relations of the site is **the poet Ahmad Mansour** (Lebanon Files website, June 5, 2014; Facebook page of the Mleeta site, August 12, 2018).



**Right: Sheikh Ali Daher, chairman of the board of the Mleeta site, in an interview with the Iranian Al-Alam TV during the weapons exhibition at the site (Al-Alam TV, July 18, 2012). Left: Ahmad Zain al-Din, Sheikh Ali Daher's assistant in Mleeta and the official in charge of media relations in the Islamic Resistance Support Association (Al-Ahed, July 26, 2017)**

## The goal of the Mleeta site

In the ITIC's assessment, the main designation of the Mleeta site is **to preserve Hezbollah's battle legacy in the war against Israel for the indoctrination of Hezbollah operatives and the Shiite population in Lebanon**. The site also fulfills other purposes, mainly **the glorification of Hezbollah, nurture of Hassan Nasrallah's image, and the promotion of support for Hezbollah among various Lebanese institutions including the Lebanese army (see below)**.

►The Mleeta site is also used as a platform **for events intended to convey a deterrent message to Israel**, as part of Hezbollah's propaganda strategy. Thus, for example, in August 2018, two new exhibitions were opened in Mleeta to mark the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War: **an exhibition of aircraft used by Hezbollah in the past, and an exhibition of heavy rockets which Hezbollah launched at Israeli territory during the Second Lebanon War** (Araby Press, August 2 and 19, 2018).



Right: Exhibition of aircraft used by Hezbollah, at the Mleeta site (Facebook). Left: Exhibition of heavy rockets from the Second Lebanon War (Facebook)

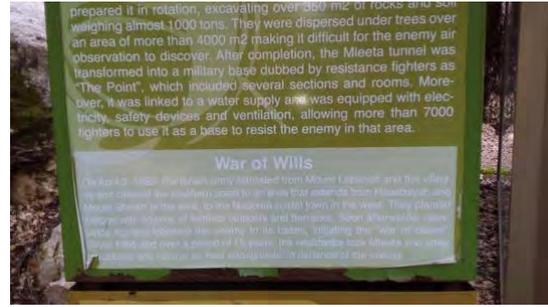
## Secondary sites of the Mleeta compound

►The Mleeta compound consists of 11 secondary sites:

- ◆ **The Exhibition:** A roofed area where the site displays weapons and military equipment seized by Hezbollah from Israel and the South Lebanon Army during the years of the fighting. In addition, the display includes information on the structure of the IDF and its various corps. In February 2019, the exhibition received an addition of a real-size statue of Sayyid Abbas Mussawi, former leader of Hezbollah, as part of the glorification of the images of Hezbollah’s past and present senior leaders.



Right: Map showing the airbases of the Israeli Air Force and specifying the names of the squadrons in each base, types of planes used by each squadron, and the emblems of the squadrons. Left: Display of weapons seized from the IDF (Facebook)



Right: Hezbollah’s version regarding the IDF’s withdrawal to the Security Zone in 1985, as displayed at the exhibition. Left: Fighter of Hezbollah’s military wing saluting the statue of Sayyid Abbas Mussawi at the Mleeta site (Facebook)



Trainees of the soccer school in Nabatieh visiting the exhibition in Mleeta (Facebook page of the Al-Manar Academic Institute, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, August 29, 2014)

- ◆ **A hall** with a capacity of up to 150 people. It is used for screening films and holding seminars and various other activities.
- ◆ **“The Abyss”** – a display in an area of 3,500 sq.m., which is situated on a relatively low terrain. It displays **armored vehicles left by the IDF and the South Lebanon Army during the withdrawal from the Security Zone.** The display also includes seized weapons and equipment from the Second Lebanon War. Among other items, it includes a model of a Merkava tank sunk in the ground with its gun tied. Some of the displayed items are sunk in the ground, symbolizing the IDF sinking in the “Lebanese quagmire.”



Right: View of the “Abyss” at the Mleeta site. Left: Close-up of a burned tank of the South Lebanon Army (Facebook)

◆ **“The Track”** – a paved path 650 m long in rocky, wooded terrain. At the sides of the path, there is a **display which includes models of Hezbollah operatives in various combat scenes** (preparing rockets for launching, treating a wounded operative, etc.). There are also explanation signs about Hezbollah’s forces. The “Track” also includes “the Outpost of Sayyid Abbas.” According to the explanation signs, Sayyid Abbas Mussawi, Hezbollah’s leader who died in a targeted killing by the IDF, stayed there when he met with Hezbollah’s fighters at the front.



**A motorcycle and an RPG launcher in the “Track” area at the Mleeta site. Left: Treatment of the wounded at a field hospital, demonstrated in the “Track” area (Facebook)**



**“The Outpost of Sayyid Abbas [Mussawi]” in the “Track” area (Facebook)**

◆ **“The Cave”** – an underground outpost, at the time built for the Hezbollah fighters when the IDF was deployed in the Security Zone. **The depth of the outpost is 200 m.** It includes rooms and diverse equipment which are open for visitors.



**Right: A model of a Hezbollah fighter reading the Quran at the “Cave” in Mleeta. Left: One of the entrances to the “Cave” (Facebook)**

◆ **“The Observation Point”** – a hill situated at the Mleeta compound, from which visitors can observe the southern Lebanon area.



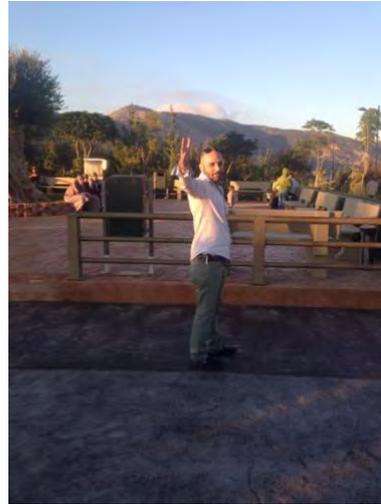
**“The Observation Point” at the Mleeta site (Facebook)**

◆ **“The Line of Fire”** – an exhibition of weapons that have been used by Hezbollah since 1982.



**Right: Rocket launcher at the “Line of Fire” weapons exhibition at the Mleeta site. Left: Vehicle carrying an anti-aircraft gun (Facebook)**

◆ **“The Liberation Field”** – an open area for gathering and rest. The display on the edges includes **various types of weapons** used by Hezbollah. Nearby, there is a **glass plaque with quotes from Nasrallah’s speeches during the Second Lebanon War**.



**Right: Open space with benches at the Mleeta site. Left: Anti-tank rocket launchers at the “Liberation Field” (Facebook)**

◆ **“The Hill”** – the highest summit at the site (1,060 m), **symbolizing the ascension of shahids to heaven**. From this hill, it is possible to observe outposts which were used by the IDF and the South Lebanon Army before the IDF left the Security Zone.



**Boys of the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, Hezbollah’s youth movement, having their picture taken on the stairs to the “Hill” (Facebook)**

◆ **“Laser Firing Range”** – a hall 200 sq.m. in size, **equipped with several models of weapons** used by Hezbollah. It includes a system **that simulates showcase actions carried out by Hezbollah against military outposts**. This is the only hall of its kind in Lebanon.



**A visitor at the Mleeta site during laser target practice. Left: View of the laser firing range (Facebook)**

- ◆ **Playground and adventure park** – Includes an ATV track, a climbing tower, rope bridge, zip line, fountain, and more.



**Right: General overview of the playground and adventure park. Left: ATV track (Facebook)**

► In addition to these sites, the Mleeta compound includes **several other facilities:**

- ◆ **A souvenir shop**, selling, inter alia, products made by **the House of the Wounded for Traditional Handicraft**. This institution belongs to Hezbollah’s Foundation for the Wounded<sup>4</sup> and to the **Treatment and Rehabilitation Center** of Hezbollah’s Al-Imdad charitable association.
- ◆ **A swimming pool, a reception hall for guests, a house of prayer** (for up to 250 people), **a cafeteria** (with a capacity of 180 people indoors plus 750 on the terraces), **a clinic, and a parking lot** (250 cars and 25 buses).
- ◆ **Donation boxes of the Islamic Resistance Support Association**, which are spread around the Mleeta site.

<sup>4</sup> See the ITIC's Information Bulletin from May 2019, “Hezbollah’s Foundation for the Wounded: purpose, modus operandi and funding methods”



**Donation boxes of the Islamic Resistance Support Association in the Mleeta site (Facebook)**

◆ In the future, there are plans to build in the site a **hotel** (30 suites), a **cable car**, and a **camping site**. In addition, the management plans to invest money in scientific research about the flora and fauna in the Mleeta area and to conserve the woods, animals, vegetation and birds in the area (Mleeta's website).



**Right: IDF equipment seized by Hezbollah, displayed at the parking lot of the Mleeta site (Facebook). Left: General overview on the parking lot of the Mleeta site. On the right, there is an advertisement sign for products of the House of the Wounded of Hezbollah's Foundation for the Wounded (Facebook).**

## Opening hours and entrance fees of the Mleeta site

► The Mleeta site is open every day from 09:00 in the morning until sunset. A visit at the site takes an hour or two. The site includes **explanation plaques** on all the exhibits, in Arabic and English. At least in some of the areas, **there are also signs in Persian** (Nasrallah's speeches screened at the site also include subtitles in Persian). The site offers **free guidance for tourists in English, Spanish, German and Persian** (website of Mleeta).



**Right: Nasrallah’s speech projected on a screen in Mleeta, with Persian subtitles. Left: Explanation sign in Persian (the left sign), alongside signs in Arabic and English (Facebook)**

► **The entrance fee to the site is LBP 4,000 for an adult and LBP 2,000 for a child** (\$2.6 and \$1.3, respectively). In addition to the entrance fee, there is an additional fee for using the attractions at the site: riding ATVs (LBP 7,000 for an adult and LBP 5,000 for a child – \$4.6 and \$3.3, respectively); laser firing range (LBP 7,000, i.e. \$4.6); playground park (LBP 5,000, i.e., \$3.3); rope gliding (LBP 10,000, i.e., \$6.6); zip line (LBP 15,000, i.e., \$10); photographing and development of the photos on the spot (LBP 5,000, i.e., \$3.3); riding a cart being towed by another vehicle around the site (LBP 2,000, i.e., \$1.3). A “golden ticket,” which includes entrance to the site plus using all the attractions (ATVs, zip line, laser firing range, etc.), costs, as at the summer of 2019, LBP 20,000 (\$13.25). On Shiite holidays, major discounts and benefits are given to visitors.

► A comparison of the entrance fee to Mleeta with entrance fees to sites in northern Lebanon and Mount Lebanon reveals that **the entrance fee to Mleeta is cheaper than that of other sites**. In addition, it appears that **the entrance fee to the Mleeta site is partially subsidized by Hezbollah**. Furthermore, attractions and benefits enjoyed by a family at the site are much more than in a normal tourism site; plus it includes attractions for children and adults alike (this is also indicated by comments written by visitors on the Facebook page of the site).

## Visits of delegations to Mleeta

**The Mleeta site is visited every year by many delegations, mainly from Lebanon but also from abroad. These delegations are exposed to a high dose of Hezbollah’s battle legacy and propaganda messages.** In order to examine the characteristics of these delegations, the ITIC examined the visits of delegations to the Mleeta museum during 2018 (Facebook page of Mleeta). Apart from regular attractions offered by the site, this year saw the **Festival of Resistance Poetry**, held under the auspices of Iqlim al-Tuffah’s Union of Municipalities to mark the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War, and the **International Symposium for Nature Paintings**.

► In 2018, the following visits took place in Mleeta:

- ◆ **14 visits of Iranian delegations**, including a delegation from the office of Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei and the Supreme Leader’s representative in Lorestan Province, Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Ahmad Mir Emadi.
- ◆ **27 visits of media personnel**, including Western members of the media (for example, the Spanish journalist Andrea Oleas<sup>5</sup>).
- ◆ **59 visits of Lebanese higher education students, Shiite and non-Shiite alike**; for example, delegations from the Jesuit University and the Islamic University in Baalbek, and delegations from Hezbollah’s Al-Mahdi and Al-Mostafa school networks<sup>6</sup>.
- ◆ **14 visits of delegations from the Arab and Islamic world**; for example, Iraqi and Pakistani tour operators.
- ◆ **70 visits of Lebanese delegations**; for example, families of shahids, youth delegations from northern Lebanon, and members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party.
- ◆ **23 visits of trade unions, unions, municipalities and companies**; for example, Christian charitable associations, and the Arab Scout Movement.
- ◆ **9 visits of foreign delegations**; for example, the ambassador of Macedonia in Syria.

<sup>5</sup> A journalist engaged in human rights, immigration, and gender. In 2017, she moved to Lebanon as an independent journalist covering Middle Eastern affairs (Equal Times).

<sup>6</sup> See the ITIC’s Information Bulletin from July 2019, “Hezbollah operates networks of private schools indoctrinating the Shiite community in Lebanon with the ideology of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and with loyalty to Hezbollah and the path of terrorism.”



**Right: Delegation of women belonging to the Iranian Supreme Leader’s Office (engaged in religious questions and answers for women) visiting Mleeta (Facebook page of Mleeta, March 13, 2018). Left: Participants of the International Symposium for Nature Paintings in Lebanon visiting Mleeta (Facebook page of Mleeta, June 24, 2018)**

**The site is also visited by Lebanese government and security personnel:** since 2015, **the museum has been visited by cadets of the Lebanese army’s officers’ training school in the last year of their training** (Facebook page of Mleeta; New Lebanon website, July 1, 2017; Lebanon 24, July 8, 2017). In October 2018, Lebanese Minister of Tourism Ouadis Kidanian (Armenian Christian from the Armenian Revolutionary Federation – Dashnak) visited the site. In August 2019, **Youth and Sports Minister Mohammad Fneish** (Hezbollah) visited the site (Al-Khiyam website, October 24, 2018; Facebook page of Mleeta).



**Right: Cadets of the Lebanese army’s officers’ training school visiting Mleeta on Lebanon’s Army Day in 2015. Left: Lebanese soldiers on a regular visit to Mleeta during a course in July 2017 (Facebook page of Mleeta, August 1, 2015; New Lebanon website, July 1, 2017)**



**Right: Lebanon's Minister of Tourism Ouadis Kidanian visiting Mleeta (Facebook page of Mleeta, October 24, 2018). Left: Youth and Sports Minister Mohammad Fneish giving a speech during a visit in Mleeta (Facebook page of Mleeta, August 18, 2019)**

## The Al-Khiyam Detention Facility as a site of jihadi tourism

**The interrogation and detention facility in Al-Khiyam**, which was run by the South Lebanon Army when the IDF was deployed in the Security Zone, **is currently used by Hezbollah as an important jihadi tourism site**. As part of Hezbollah's battle legacy, the site represents the period of the IDF's deployment in the Security Zone. The Al-Khiyam Detention Facility is also used by Hezbollah **to hold events of a political nature**, for example, a demonstration of solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners (Al-Manar Channel, May 6, 2017); or protest against the Trump declaration on the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (Wadi press, December 24, 2017). The facility is also visited by **Iranian delegations** (Al-Khiyam website, August 2, 2017; Al-Manar Channel, July 8, 2019).

►The Al-Khiyam site includes **the original detention facilities** (including the watch towers, detention cells, etc.); a **monument for the shahids** who died at the site; **photos from the liberation day** following the IDF's withdrawal from the Security Zone (May 23, 2000)<sup>7</sup>; and an exhibition of **seized weapons and vehicles**. In addition, **names and positions of the South Lebanon Army soldiers who operated the detention facility** are also displayed at the site ("Al-Khiyam Detention Facility" location tag on Facebook). It seems that entrance to the Al-Khiyam site is free.

<sup>7</sup> May 23, the day of the "liberation" of the Al-Khiyam detention facility, was designated by Hezbollah as the Lebanese Prisoner's Day.



**Right: Entrance gate to the Al-Khiyam Detention Facility. Left: Keys of the detention facility displayed at the site (Al-Akhbar, May 28, 2015)**



**Right: Monument in memory of the shahids who died at the Al-Khiyam Detention Facility. Left: Part of the exhibition of seized weapons and vehicles at the site (Facebook)**

## The Iran Garden in Maroun al-Ras

**The Iran Garden** was established in **Maroun al-Ras** after the **Second Lebanon War** to preserve the battle legacy of the place and enlarge the scope of the jihadi tourism sites. The site is run by **Ahmad Salim**. The Iran Garden was built as a token of appreciation for the important role played by the village of Maroun al-Ras in the Second Lebanon War. The site **was built by the Iranian Association for Assistance in the Reconstruction of Lebanon**, which operated in southern Lebanon after the Second Lebanon War (“Engineer of Friendship,” a book on the life of the Iranian engineer Hossam Khosh-Nevis, who headed the Association at the time, pp. 71-98; website of the Bint Jbeil’s Union of Municipalities, April 27, 2012; As-Safir, July 19, 2014).



**Gate of entrance to the Iran Garden. The word “Allah” as it appears on the Iranian flag is visible between the words.**



**Right: General overview of the Iran Garden (Facebook). Left: Donation box of the Islamic Resistance Support Association in the Iran Garden (Facebook)**

► **The Iran Garden occupies an area of 25,000 sq.m. which belongs to the Maroun al-Ras municipality.** In the future, it is planned to enlarge the site to 80,000 sq.m. A **monument for the four Iranian diplomats** abducted in Lebanon by the Lebanese Forces (Iran holds Israel responsible for them) was built in the Garden. The site has a cafeteria, an amphitheater overlooking the Israeli community of Avivim, a children’s playground, an observation tower 12 meters high, stone arches, a mosque in the shape of the Dome of the Rock, a soccer field, a paintball course, a rope gliding site, a large well to store water, and a parking lot for 1,500 vehicles. Over 5,000 trees of various kinds were planted around the site. **Entrance to the site is free** (website of the Bint Jbeil’s Union of Municipalities, April 27, 2012; As-Safir, July 19, 2014; Dunia al-Watan, May 23, 2017).



**Right: The mosque in the Iran Garden, in the shape of the Dome of the Rock. Left: The entrance to the Imam Khomeini Hall. A picture of Khomeini is visible in the background on the right, with a donation box of the Islamic Resistance Support Association (Facebook)**



**The paintball course and part of the playground in the Iran Garden. Left: The observation tower (Facebook)**

► **Various Hezbollah events take place in the Iran Garden.** For example, an art festival held by Hezbollah to mark the anniversary of the IDF’s withdrawal from Lebanon; Hezbollah’s main event on the Global Jerusalem Day initiated by Iran (June 2018); “The Best Produce of the Land” exhibition of Hezbollah’s Jihad al-Bina Association (August 2018). There are also **delegations visits to the Iran Garden.** For example, a visit of an Iranian delegation headed by the chairman of the Culture Committee of the Iranian Parliament in June 2011; a visit of a delegation of the Palestinian Teachers Association on the 45th anniversary of the death of Ghasan Kanafani<sup>8</sup> in July 2017 (Hezbollah’s website, June 5, 2011; Al-Khiyam website, May

<sup>8</sup> Palestinian author and playwright, member of the PFLP.

28, 2015; Lebanon Files website, March 14, 2016; Bint Jbeil website, July 21, 2017; Wadi Press, July 24, 2017; Ya Sour, May 28, 2018; Al-Manar Channel, June 2, 2018; Al-Khiyam website, July 2, 2018; Ya Sour, August 24, 2018).



**Art festival held by Hezbollah's Education Mobilization in the Iran Garden, on the anniversary of the IDF's withdrawal from the Security Zone (Al-Khiyam website, May 28, 2015)**

## Jihadi exhibitions

### Overview

Hezbollah organizes “**jihadi exhibitions**” on the main sites of the jihadi tourism and in Shiite towns and villages around Lebanon. The institutions organizing the exhibitions usually belong to the Executive Council. These institutions include the **Women's Organizations, the Al-Mahdi Schools, the Culture Unit, and the Education Mobilization**. The exhibitions are usually held on anniversaries such as the **Shahid Commanders Day** (February) and **the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War** (August). The jihadi exhibitions include **personal belongings** of the shahids, especially **belongings which were with the shahid when he died**. In addition, **weapons and equipment used by Hezbollah** are also displayed. The first exhibition took place in August 2008 **and was dedicated to the glorification of Imad Mughniyeh**, who was killed in Damascus in February of that same year. The exhibition included Mughniyeh's personal belongings (clothes, a chain of prayer beads, personal weapon etc.), a model of his office, Hezbollah's weapons, and Israeli weapons seized in the Second Lebanon War (Al-Ahed news website, August 12, 2008).



**Belongings of the shahid Mohammad Mazloum displayed in an exhibition at the Al-Mahdi schools in the town of Shamastar, in the Bekaa Valley (Facebook)**

## Examples of jihadi exhibitions

► On August 12, 2017 (on the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War), Hezbollah opened the exhibition “Resistance – Gate to jihad” in the Shrine of Sayyida Khawla in Baalbek<sup>9</sup>. The exhibition was organized by the **Islamic Resistance Support Association**. Hezbollah’s official in charge of the Bekaa region, Hajj Mohammad Yaghi, sponsored the opening ceremony. The exhibition was open for one year, 24 hours a day.

► The prominent exhibits were (according to the Al-Ahed news website, August 14, 2017; “the Shrine of Sayyida Khawla” location tag on Facebook, August 2017):

- ◆ **Historic photos from the history of Hezbollah.**
  - **Hezbollah operatives during combat activity**
  - **Models of members of the “Resistance Society”** displaying country life in Lebanon, receiving **the body of a shahid and praying for his soul**
- ◆ **Models of important sites in Hezbollah’s history or ideology:** the Al-Khiyam Detention Facility; the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock; a sand table of the ridges of the Syrian-Lebanese border and Iqlim al-Tuffah, and more
- ◆ **Weapons in use by Hezbollah**
- ◆ **Personal belongings of the Shahid Commanders** Sheikh Ragheb Harb, Sayyid Abbas Mussawi, and Hajj Imad Mughniyeh (including **the burned vehicle in which Sayyid Abbas Mussawi was killed in 1992**)
- ◆ **Posters of the Islamic Resistance Support Association** for donations to Hezbollah throughout the years
- ◆ **A screen to project the speeches of Hezbollah leader Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah**

<sup>9</sup> Sayyida Khawla was the daughter of Imam Hussain and great granddaughter of the Prophet Muhammad. Her tomb is at the southern entrance to Baalbek, in the Bekaa Valley.



**Right: Model of a Hezbollah operative firing a mortar. The emblem of the Islamic Resistance Support Association, which organized the exhibition, is visible in the background. Left: Model showing a family of a shahid receiving his body and praying for his soul (Facebook)**



**Right: The weapons exhibition at the entrance hall of the shrine. Left: Sand table simulating the ridges on the border between Syria and Lebanon, a major battle legacy area of Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian civil war (Facebook)**



**Right: Personal belongings of Sayyid Abbas Mussawi, former leader of Hezbollah. Left: Exhibition of posters of donation campaigns of the Islamic Resistance Support Association throughout the years (Facebook)**

► On June 24, 2018, Hezbollah opened the **“Wareth” exhibition** (“Wareth” is the name of an important prayer in Shiite Islam) in the Al-Khiyam Detention Facility, in memory of Hezbollah’s shahids. The exhibition was held to mark the “anniversary of the victories” (the battles in the Second Lebanon War in 2006 and against the jihadists on the ridges of the Syria-Lebanon border in 2017). The opening ceremony was attended by the political council member Sheikh Khudr Nour al-Din, alongside clerics, local dignitaries, and relatives of shahids. The exhibition, which was open for one week, included, inter alia, **death notices of shahids, shahids’ belongings, photos** from the day of the IDF’s withdrawal from Lebanon, and photos from Nasrallah’s visit at the Al-Khiyam Detention Facility. The main part of the exhibition was **a large quantity of weapons of all kinds, which were displayed at the site.** The display also included a model of the Dome of the Rock, a model of a shahid’s tomb, and an installation of a Hezbollah fighter’s boot stepping on an Israeli fighter’s helmet. In addition, a camera and binoculars were placed at the exhibition, enabling visitors to observe the IDF outpost on the border between Israel and Lebanon (Al-Khiyam website, June 24, 2018; “the Al-Khiyam Detention Facility” location tag on Facebook, June 2018).



**Right: Death notices and photos of Hezbollah shahids at the Wareth exhibition in Al-Khiyam. Left: Belongings of Hezbollah shahids. On the uniforms, there are unit badges of the Iranian Revolution Guards (Facebook)**



Right: Part of the weapons exhibition. Left: Visitor at the exhibition using the binoculars to observe the Israel-Lebanon border (Facebook)

## Jihadi trips and meetings

Starting at least in 2012, Hezbollah holds “**jihadi meetings**” several times a year. These are **meetings of civilians with operatives of Hezbollah’s military wing**. The meetings take place, inter alia, **in Hezbollah’s educational institutions** (for example, the Al-Mahdi schools). The target audience is **the general Shiite public and operatives of Hezbollah’s civilian wing**: the Cultural Unit, the Education Mobilization, Hezbollah’s municipal representation in the villages, the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, the Women’s Organizations, and more. In many cases, meetings take place **during Hezbollah’s anniversaries**, for example – the Shahid Commanders Day, the Iranian Islamic Revolution Day, the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War, and Shahid’s Day. The meetings are usually focused on **Hezbollah’s battle legacy alongside a religious talk emphasizing the importance of keeping religious laws as part of the support of Hezbollah’s fighters at the front**.

► Starting in 2016, a new element was added to the jihadi meetings: “**jihadi trips**.” As part of this activity, Shiite civilians visit **Hezbollah’s main battle legacy sites** (for example Wadi al-Hujeir and Wadi al-Salouki). At these sites, jihadi meetings usually take place. In 2012-2019, **at least 87 jihadi meetings and jihadi trips took place** (the Education Mobilization website; Ya Sour; Facebook pages of the Education Mobilization and the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts).



**Right: Hezbollah fighter explains about various kinds of weapons during a meeting with students and lecturers in the Al-Massar academic institute in the village of Al-Lubuwwa in the Bekaa Valley (Education Mobilization website). Left: Hezbollah fighter talks to high school students who participated in an “educational” youth camp on the bank of the Litani River in the village of Tir Falsay in southern Lebanon, which was organized by the Education Mobilization**

► **Starting on July 7, 2019**, in the period that preceded the anniversary of the Second Lebanon War, **a sharp increase was recorded in the number of jihadi trips held by Hezbollah** (35 events in July and August). The trips focused on Hezbollah’s battle legacy in its fighting against the IDF. During the trips, visitors met with **operatives of Hezbollah’s military wing** and in some cases **were even received as guests in Hezbollah’s outposts**. As part of the preparations for these trips, Hezbollah posted **explanation signs** at selected spots. Some of the itineraries combined **battle legacy sites** with **visits to holy tombs** (Sujud and Jabal Safi).

► The jihadi trips were organized by Hezbollah’s municipal representation in the villages, the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, the Sports Mobilization, and the Women’s Organizations, as well as municipalities and municipality unions affiliated with Hezbollah, sometimes **in collaboration with sports clubs affiliated with the Sports Mobilization** (for example, the Awtad Hiking Club). Many people joined these trips: each of the trips was attended by **dozens and even hundreds of people** (for example, the Rassed network Facebook page; the town of Al-Marwanieh’s Facebook page; Facebook pages of the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts).



**Right: Dignitaries from the town of Al-Marwanieh received as guests of a Hezbollah outpost in the Al-Luwayzah area, Jabal Safi (north of Nabatieh), during a jihadi trip in the area. The declared purpose of the trip was “to get to know the history and establishment of the resistance in 1982.” The participants met with a Hezbollah operative who had been taken prisoner by ISIS and was released (Al-Marwanieh’s Facebook page, July 7, 2019). Left: Activists of the Women’s Organizations from the village of Kafr Raman during a jihadi trip in the area of Jabal Safi. An explanation sign with a picture of one of the shahids is visible in the background (Facebook page of “The Resistance Media – Kafr Raman”, August 10, 2019)**



**Right: Jihadi trip organized by the Aramta municipality to the Tomb of Abu Rkab<sup>10</sup> (Facebook page of the Municipal Activity – The Second Region, August 10, 2019). Left: Activists of the Women’s Organizations in the village of Wardanieh at a jihadi meeting with Hezbollah’s wounded operative Mohammad Allouche (Facebook page of the Wardanieh branch, August 8, 2019)**

<sup>10</sup> Abu Rkab was considered holy by the people because he believed in one god in pre-Islamic times.

# The Garden of the Shahids (or the Garden of the Two Shahids), a cemetery in southern Beirut

## Establishment of the cemetery

► During the first years of the Lebanese Civil War (1975-76), a cemetery by the name of the Garden of the Two Shahids was constructed in Beirut's Shiite southern suburb. The cemetery was named after two brothers, Amal operatives, who were the first to be buried there. **The name was given to the site by Imam Mussa Sadr**, the founder of the Amal Movement, who also initiated the use of the grove as a cemetery due to the Shiites' shortage of cemeteries. Since then, **more than 2,000 people have been buried in the site**, many of them shahids of various parties and organizations (Al-Modon, May 22, 2016; Qalam Hurr website, August 27, 2019). The entire site is used as a Shiite cemetery. **It is run by the Amal movement, the Supreme Shiite Islamic Council, and the General Department of Religious Endowments in the Lebanese government.** The site is used to bury Shiite residents of Beirut's southern suburb who are not necessarily Hezbollah operatives or related to Hezbollah. A monument for the shahids of the Amal movement was also erected there.



**Monument for shahids of the Amal Movement in the Garden of the Two Shahids  
(Facebook page of Abu Hassan Eid, July 5, 2019)**

## The construction of the Hezbollah section



The Hezbollah section in the Garden of the Two Shahids. On the walls, there are Quranic verses praising shahids and a prayer for the soul of Imam Hussain and his family (Facebook page of the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids, March 9, 2016; “Ba Velayat ta Shahadat” Facebook page, July 4, 2019)



Emblem of the Hezbollah section in the Garden of the Two Shahids  
(Facebook page of the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids, November 17, 2016)

► Hezbollah began to bury its fatalities in the Garden of the Two Shahids (which was named by Hezbollah “the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids,” hereinafter: “the Garden of the Shahids”). Hezbollah even erected a large hall above the graves of its **shahids** to separate them from the general cemetery and create a sort of a “**private section**” of Hezbollah. In this section, the graves are arranged in lines and are of uniform structure, shape and size. The hall is built in the shape of a holy shrine. **Many shahids killed during the fighting against Israel are buried in the Hezbollah section.** Shahids killed in the fighting in Syria have been added in recent years. The shahids buried in the site include **major figures in the history of Hezbollah**, such as Imad Mughniyeh<sup>11</sup>, his mother and his son Jihad, Samir Quntar, and Hadi Nasrallah (the son of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah).

<sup>11</sup> The cemetery also includes the tomb of Abd al-Malek al-Shami, a senior Houthi figure who expressed in his will the desire to be buried close to the tomb of Imad Mughniyeh.



**Top right: Hadi Nasrallah's tomb. Top left: The tombs of Mostafa Badr al-Din, Imad Mughniyeh and his mother (Facebook page of Maysaa Ismail, February 17, 2019; Facebook page of Hajj Montazar Yazbek, April 1, 2019; Facebook page of Fatimah Ghandoura, May 5, 2019). Below: Samir Quntar's grave.**

► In recent years, Hezbollah's opponents raised allegations that **Hezbollah had in fact taken control of part of the site to use it for the inculcation of the shahada culture (heroic death for the sake of Allah) among its supporters.** Hezbollah had even tried to create the impression that the “**two shahids**” after whom the site was named are **Imad Mughniyeh and Mostafa Badr al-Din**, Hezbollah's two prominent military commanders. At any rate, among Hezbollah, the site is also known by two other names, “**the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids**” and “**the Sayyida Zaynab Garden**” (Sayyida Zaynab is the granddaughter of the Prophet Muhammad, the daughter of Ali, who is a key figure in Shiite Islam). Even though there is a clear difference between this site and other sites of jihadi tourism, **there are those who regard it as a complement of Mleeta** (Al-Modon, May 2, 2016; Facebook page of the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids, November 4, 2016; Tha'er al-Janub Twitter account, October 21, 2017).

## Visits of delegations from Lebanon and abroad in the Garden of the Shahids

►The Garden of the Shahids is a burial site where various events and ceremonies take place, a site visited by Hezbollah operatives and supporters among the Shiite community. It is visited by delegations from Lebanon and abroad, including **Iranian delegations**. Following are several examples:

- ◆ Hezbollah's **Education Mobilization** held a memorial gathering there to mark **the anniversary of Jihad Mughniyeh's death**, with the participation of Mughniyeh's classmates (Education Mobilization website, undated).



**Jihad Mughniyeh's friends in a memorial gathering organized by the Education Mobilization on the anniversary of his death (Education Mobilization, without date)**

- ◆ In February 2018, Imad Mughniyeh's tomb was visited by **Sheikh Akram al-Ka'abi, the leader of the Nujaba movement**, an Iraqi Shiite militia handled by Iran which has close relations with Hezbollah.



**Shaikh Akram al-Ka'abi visiting Imad Mughniyeh's tomb (alkawthartv, February 15, 2018)**

- ◆ In November 2017, students of Hezbollah's **Al-Mahdi School network** visited the site in advance of the Shahid's Day (website of the Al-Mahdi Schools, November 9, 2017).



**Students of the Al-Mahdi School network visiting the Garden of the Shahids (website of the Al-Mahdi Schools, November 9, 2017)**

- ◆ In May 2017, the site was visited by former **Cuban prisoner Rene Gonzalez**, who was released from an American prison. He visited the site as part of a tour in Lebanon, which also included the Palestinian refugee camps (the Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar, May 17, 2017).

- ◆ In May 2016, the site was visited by **Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs**. It was part of his condolence visit in Beirut for the shahid Mostafa Badr al-Din (Al-Alam TV, May 14, 2016).



**Visit of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian at the Garden of the Two Shahids (Al-Alam TV, May 14, 2016)**

- ◆ In January 2016, the site was visited by a **delegation of children and families of Palestinian shahids** on the occasion of the Palestinian Shahid's Day. Attending on behalf of Hezbollah were Sheikh Atallah Hamoud, the official in charge of the Palestinian Portfolio, and senior officials of Hezbollah's Media Relations Unit (Lebanese News Agency, January 7, 2016).

◆ In October 2015, the site was visited by Alaeddin Boroujerdi, **chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee in the Iranian Parliament** (Al-Alam TV, October 16, 2015).

◆ In January 2015, the site was visited by **Qods Force Commander Qassem Soleimani** (Al-Mayadeen Channel, January 30, 2015).



**Qods Force Commander Qassem Soleimani visiting the tombs of Imad Mughniyeh and his son Jihad in the Garden of the Shahids in Beirut (Al-Mayadeen Channel, January 30, 2015)**

◆ In January 2015, the site was visited by a **delegation of anti-Zionist orthodox Jews**. The delegation visited the tombs of Imad and Jihad Mughniyeh (Janoubia, January 26, 2015).



**Visit of orthodox Jews at the tombs of Imad Mughniyeh and his son Jihad (Janoubia, January 26, 2015)**

## **Events at the Garden of the Shahids**

◆ In November 2016, the site hosted **an exhibition of shahids' belongings**, marking the Shahid's Day (Facebook page of the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids, November 17, 2016).



Right: Invitation to an exhibition of shahids' belongings on Shahid's Day 2016. Left: The mother of a shahid arranging the belongings of her son on his grave in advance of the exhibition (Facebook page of the Garden of Islamic Resistance Shahids, November 17, 2016).



Ashura ceremony in September 2019 (Facebook page of Mohammad Yahya, September 2, 2019)

◆ In June 2016, several shahid families had the traditional meal marking the end of the Ramadan fast at the graves of their dead sons at the site (Janoubia, June 22, 2016).



A shahid's relative having the traditional meal of breaking the Ramadan fast at the shahid's grave (Janoubia, June 22, 2016)

## The special status of the Garden of the Shahids

► **The site has received a special status among Hezbollah’s supporters and operatives.**

Following are several examples:

- ◆ Quoted from the life story of the shahid Hussein Atef Issawi, killed in an attack on an IDF outpost in the Security Zone, as published in Hezbollah’s organ: “Every time he passed near the Garden of the Two Shahids on his way to the mosque, he would stand in front of the shahids’ graves watching them together, each of them smiling at him and urging him to join them. **‘I’m afraid there won’t be room for me among the shahids’ graves, this is the last spot,’** he said to his mother” (Baqiyyatullah, issue no. 126, March 2002).
- ◆ In July 2017, a group of Christian Facebook users supporting Hezbollah visited the Garden of the Shahids. They put up a **statue of the Virgin Mary**, lit candles and conveyed a **message to the Hezbollah fighters** that they were praying for them in view of the fierce battles that they were waging on the Aarsal ridges against the terrorist Al-Nusra Front (Jabal Amel News Facebook page, July 23, 2017; Al-Mayadeen Channel, July 23, 2017).



**Statue of the Virgin Mary placed near the tomb of Samir Quntar  
(Al-Mayadeen Channel, July 23, 2017)**

- ◆ **Many shahids express their desire in their wills to be buried at the Garden of the Shahids**, inter alia, to enable their parents to visit their graves relatively easily (Baqiyyatullah, issue no. 257, February 2013; issue no. 264, August 2013; issue no. 333, June 2019).



**Shahids' graves at the Garden of the Shahids. These graves are clearly well maintained, with indications of families' regular attendance at the site (pictures, a chain of prayer beads, a Quran, candles etc.) (Facebook page of Maysaa Ismail, February 17, 2019)**

- ◆ Quoted from a collection of poems by Fatima Bahsoun, in memory of **the shahid Amar Hussein Hamoud**<sup>12</sup> (Baqiyyatullah, issue no. 278, November 2014, translated into English by the ITIC):

In the Garden of the Two Shahids  
 I felt great sorrow  
 I looked for his brother, the shahid  
 Mohammad  
 To ask him about the hidden light of the  
 shahid Amar  
 My feet carried me to his grave  
 And my eyes to the wonderful picture  
 Showing the two dear moons  
 Mohammad and Amar

- ◆ **At the end of his wedding ceremony**, Mostafa Shams went with his bride to the Garden of the Two Shahids **to thank his shahid friend Sayyid Hussein al-Mussawi, who had been killed in Syria**. Shams made this gesture **“since if it weren’t for his shahada [i.e., heroic death for the sake of Allah] and others’ shahada, no one could live in joy and no one’s dreams could come true”** (Mohammad Hamza’s Twitter account, April 22, 2019).

<sup>12</sup> A Hezbollah operative who blew himself up in a car bomb against an IDF convoy in the Marjayoun area on December 30, 1999 (Hezbollah website, January 4, 2012).



**Mostafa Shams and his bride visiting the grave of the shahid Sayyid Hussein al-Mussawi after their wedding (Mohammad Hamza's Twitter account, April 22, 2019)**

- ◆ In June 2019, **fans of the Al-Ahed soccer team** (affiliated with Hezbollah) visited the grave of the shahid Qassem Shamkha, who had been a player in the team, **believing that this would guaranty the team's success in the West Asian Cup** (Facebook page of Ali Houli, June 24, 2019).



**The grave of the shahid Qassem Shamkha, who had been a player in the Al-Ahed soccer team, as photographed by fans who visited it (Facebook page of Ali Houli, June 24, 2019)**

## Appendix

### The ITIC's publications on Hezbollah's civilian infrastructure (February-October 2019)

►The ITIC is engaged in a research project whose aim is to map and analyze Hezbollah's civilian infrastructure. **So far, the following 14 publications have been issued as part of this project:**

- ◆ “Hezbollah launched a campaign to raise money for military purposes using the **Islamic Resistance Support Association**” (February 2019).
- ◆ “**Hezbollah's Martyrs Foundation:** purpose, mode of operation and funding methods” (April 2019)
- ◆ “**Hezbollah's Foundation for the Wounded:** purpose, modus operandi and funding methods” (May 2019)
- ◆ “Hezbollah's socioeconomic foundations: **Al-Qard al-Hasan**, a quasi-bank that provides interest-free loans, mainly to members of the Shiite community” (June 2019)
- ◆ “**Jihad al-Bina Association in Lebanon:** A Hezbollah social foundation engaged in construction and social projects among the Shiite community, being a major component in Hezbollah's civilian infrastructure” (June 2019)
- ◆ “**The Imam al-Mahdi Scouts Association:** Hezbollah's youth movement which indoctrinates youth with Iranian radical Shiite Islam and serves as a source of youngsters who join Hezbollah” (July 2019)
- ◆ “Hezbollah operates **networks of private schools** indoctrinating the Shiite community in Lebanon with the ideology of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and with loyalty to Hezbollah and the path of terrorism” (July 2019)
- ◆ “**Hezbollah's Education Mobilization:** An institution engaged in the indoctrination of Shiite students in Lebanon's state and private educational systems, in preparation for their joining Hezbollah upon graduation” (July 2019)
- ◆ “Sports in the service of terrorism: **Hezbollah's Sports Mobilization** conducts extensive sports activity, using it for indoctrinating and preparing youth to join the ranks of Hezbollah” (July 2019)

- ◆ **“The Islamic Health Organization:** Hezbollah institution providing health services to Hezbollah operatives and the Shiite population in general as a means for gaining influence and creating a Shiite mini-state within Lebanon” (August 2019)
- ◆ **“Art and culture used by Hezbollah as instruments of indoctrination”** (August 2019)
- ◆ **“Hezbollah’s Women’s Organizations Unit”** (August 2019)
- ◆ **“Hezbollah’s media empire”** (October 2019)
- ◆ **“Resistance society: Hezbollah’s municipal activity”** (October 2019)