

estimated to have 25,000 full-time fighters and perhaps 20,000–30,000 reservists.

They reportedly have at a conservative estimate around 14,000 precision rockets, which have a range of up to 200 kilometers, and between 100,000 and 150,000 non-precision rockets. This is without Hezbollah's longer-range missiles, which can pretty much cover every inch of territory in Israel, something Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has regularly boasted about. Their army is financed by Iran and trained by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Hezbollah's military budget runs about *one billion dollars per year*.

Hezbollah has committed terrorist attacks all over the world, including in Latin America—where it bombed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires killing 85 in 1994—in Europe and the wider Middle East. It is held directly responsible for the murder of 241 American servicemen in Beirut in 1983, the deadliest attack against U.S. Marines since the battle over Iwo Jima in 1945.

Hezbollah also maintains a social services wing, private school system, and its own TV and radio channels, whose primary aim is propaganda and indoctrination. This is to serve Hezbollah's ultimate agenda of turning Lebanon—whose now bombed-out capital used to be known as “The Paris of the East”—into a brutal and extremist Shiite state modeled on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With Near and Middle East politics now being split into a moderate wing, headed by pragmatic Sunni states, plus Israel, and an extremist wing, including Qatar and Syria, led by Iran, Hezbollah plays a major role in destabilization across the region. The group has been condemned and designated as a terrorist organization by both the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, for leading efforts to destabilize nations like Egypt, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Hezbollah has also been involved in countless atrocities in Syria in the service of Iranian interests in propping up the Bashar Assad regime and responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths since the conflict began in 2011. Hezbollah has been described as a crucial ally in allowing the Syrian regime and its Iranian backers to brutally quell any opposition in the country through its fighters in Syria.

With the help of Hezbollah, Lebanon has effectively become an Iranian colony. As Mordechai Kedar of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies wrote last year, “Lebanon has not existed for quite some time. The country's agenda is dictated by Tehran, and its military and economy are designed to serve the needs of Hezbollah . . . The Lebanese parliament, government, president and all other state institutions are nothing more than a façade.”

Ironically, with all this, Lebanon still receives billions of dollars in aid and assistance from the international community, much of it earmarked for the Lebanese Armed Forces, which is generally considered subservient to Hezbollah's agenda. Since 2006, the United States has provided over \$1.7 billion to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), even though that military has never lifted a finger to disarm or neutralize Hezbollah.

According to the U.S. government, this aid is provided specifically to “enable the United States to mitigate Iranian, Hizballah, and Sunni extremist threats and influence in the country. U.S. foreign assistance will build the capacity of the

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) to secure Lebanon's borders and disrupt and mitigate violent extremism.”

Nonetheless, it has now become almost impossible to differentiate Hezbollah from Lebanon, and any aid or assistance given to the Lebanese Republic merely contributes to the growth and power of the Shiite terrorist organization and its destabilizing and bloody influence in the region and globally.

At a minimum, nations that seek to help Lebanon should make their assistance dependent on disarming Hezbollah and ending its military and political presence, something demanded by United Nations resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that now is the time for the international community to end one of the region's greatest threats to security and stability. The U.S. should use its economic and diplomatic clout to pressure Lebanese authorities to establish their sovereignty over all of its territory and put an end to the perverse role of Hezbollah as a state within a state.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—which explains the sad, but true reasons Palestinians continue to fail at forming their own nation state.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Some American and European politicians argue that Israel's intention to apply sovereignty to the militarily critical Jordan Valley would inhibit formation of a Palestinian state. Nothing is further from the truth. The Palestinians don't have a state—despite numerous offers of land for peace by Israel—because the Arab group simply hasn't mustered an adequate strategy, political unity or leadership. They're simply unable to say yes. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[What's Stopping a Palestinian State?](#)” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific reasons the Palestinians have failed to create a sovereign state and why it's time for the world—and Israel—to move on. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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