

SUBSCRIBE TO THE FLAME HOTLINE DONATE TO FLAME

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

September 8, 2020



U.S. aid to Lebanon helps Hezbollah create an Iranian puppet state

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The massive explosion that rocked Beirut on August 4th not only inflicted warlike damage in Lebanon's capital city, it also exposed a subversive force hidden to most Westerners that increases its control of the country daily.

The detonation of 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate killed nearly 200 people, injured thousands, and devastated Beirut's port. Perhaps the only good to come of the accident is its highlighting of Hezbollah's insidious role in Lebanon.

Many in Lebanon and around the world accused Hezbollah—considered a terrorist organization by the U.S., Europe and in the Arab world—of owning the ammonium nitrate. This possibility is the more ominous since Hezbollah also operates as an unofficial state within a state, holding a vice-like grip on the Lebanese government, where it commands a veto on government policies and appointments.

Hezbollah's power and activities are indicative of much that is wrong in the region, especially as a vital part of Iran's arc of influence throughout the Near and Middle East. Unfortunately, the U.S. and European nations have continued to enable Hezbollah by supporting the facade of an independent Lebanese government, and have contributed billions of dollars of aid and assistance to it.

Hezbollah was founded, funded and ideologically inspired by the Islamic Republic of Iran. While Hezbollah opposed Israel's military initiative in Lebanon's south to bring protection for Israeli citizens in the north, it was a full partner to the Syrian occupation of eastern Lebanon. Syria's brutal occupation of Lebanon only ended when former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, widely considered to be the main architect of the end of the Lebanese Civil War, was assassinated. Hezbollah members were recently found guilty of the murder by a United Nations tribunal.

Hezbollah has built up a mighty military that is far superior to the Lebanese army. It has an arsenal of weapons equal to a medium-size army and is generally considered the most powerful non-state actor in the world. The group is

HOME

SUBSCRIBE

DONATE

PR FOR ISRAEL

HOTLINE ARCHIVE

ABOUT

CONTACT US

THIS MONTH'S AD APPEARED IN PUBLICATIONS REACHING 10 MILLION READERS

**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...
What's Stopping a Palestinian State?**
Over 72 years, Israel has offered land for peace and a Palestinian state. The Palestinians have rejected all offers. How much longer should the world wait?
While some media and politicians assert that Israel's intention is to annihilate the Arab people in the Middle East, the fact is that Israel has offered the Palestinians more than 100 times to accept a Palestinian state. But if Palestinian leaders were actively to pursue a policy of reconciliation with Israel and promote a strategy of peace to prosperity, it's far more likely the Palestinian people would live in the future, because no Palestinian leader has had the courage to negotiate seriously with Israel, despite the generous offers of land for peace, including a return to Jerusalem. However, Palestinians have offered the return \$30 billion U.S. price plan without discussion.
Palestinian society is splintered with disunion, preventing a state.
Thousands of militant members of Hamas, Syria has demonstrated the power of a militant society, and the Palestinians in Gaza, Israel, is in a state of chaos. Military experts estimate that in several years, Israel will control the Jordan Valley in Judea-Samaria, which includes Jericho, where only the Palestinian law enforcement security forces, Israel has been designated the Jordan Valley for the implementation of sovereignty.
How can Israel meet the world's call for the Palestinians?
Like most people who cover the Arab world, we have seen the Palestinians have failed to receive a viable strategy, instead of a land for peace, had enough to see that the Palestinians, after 72 years of waiting, the world could offer the only real solution to the Middle East.
To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: www.factsandlogic.org



DONATE NOW

IF YOU SUPPORT PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD PR MESSAGES, PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

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.

DONATE NOW >>



SUBSCRIBE FREE

**FLAME'S WEEKLY
HOTLINE E-
NEWSLETTER**



FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

SUBSCRIBE NOW >>

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.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline at no charge every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#).

FLAME

Facts and Logic
About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

Copyright 2020 FLAME. All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#)