

MEMMO

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International Community Must Ensure Hizballah's Disarmament

Despite passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 last month calling for a cessation of hostilities in Lebanon and the disarming of Hizballah, Iran and Syria appear to be making every effort to rearm the terrorist group. Resolution 1701 can only reduce Hizballah's threat to Israel and increase Lebanese stability if its provisions are actually implemented. The United States has a vital role to play in ensuring that the resolution's critical elements are fulfilled.

If implemented, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 can reduce the threat Hizballah poses to Israel and increase the stability of Lebanon.

- U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 expands UNIFIL, the existing U.N. force in Lebanon, from 2,000 to as many as 15,000 troops and authorizes it to take "all necessary action" in cooperation with Lebanon's army to stop Hizballah attacks on Israel.
- The resolution requires UNIFIL and the Lebanese army to deploy in southern Lebanon to prevent Hizballah from reoccupying its former positions in the area.
- Resolution 1701 also states that only the Lebanese government may receive arms, prohibiting Iran and Syria—the main sources of Hizballah's arsenal—from resupplying Hizballah. It also authorizes the Lebanese government to ask UNIFIL to help block such smuggling along the Syrian border.
- Resolution 1701 reiterates the Security Council's calls for full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559, passed in September 2004, which requires the disarming of Hizballah.

Indications are growing that key elements of Resolution 1701 are not being fully implemented by the Lebanese government.

- Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora has reportedly agreed to allow Hizballah to keep its weapons so long as they remain out of sight — a clear violation of the resolution's intent.
- Only a third of the 15,000 Lebanese Army forces committed by the government have been deployed in southern Lebanon,
- The government also has declined to invite international forces to assist its troops in monitoring the Lebanese-Syrian border, the area used to smuggle weapons from Iran and Syria to Hizballah.
- Hizballah continues to defy the Security Council's call for the unconditional release of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers. Mohammed Fneish, a Hizballah cabinet minister, recently said: "There will be no unconditional release. This is not possible."

Israel is meeting its obligations under Resolution 1701.

- Israeli forces have withdrawn from more than two-thirds of the territory it controlled during the war, and is continuing to redeploy as international forces arrive in southern Lebanon.
- Israel lifted its naval blockade of Lebanon after an international naval force became operational off the Lebanese coast.
- Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora rejected Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's offer to open discussions on a permanent peace treaty, saying: "Lebanon will be the last Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel."

American leadership is needed to bring about the full implementation of U.N. Resolution 1701.

- The United States must ensure that the international community remains determined to deploy forces to Lebanon and that these forces are equipped with the necessary mandate to implement the resolution.
- The United States should encourage the Lebanese government to ask for international assistance in monitoring its borders for illegal weapons shipments.
- The United States must bring the full force of sanctions to bear against Syria, including those called for in the Syrian Accountability Act, so long as Damascus continues to funnel weapons to Hizballah in violation of Resolution 1701.

Basic Facts Summary

- If implemented, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 can reduce the threat Hizballah poses to Israel and increase the stability of Lebanon.
- Key elements of Resolution 1701 are not being fully implemented by the Lebanese government.
- Israel is meeting its obligations under Resolution 1701.
- American leadership is needed to bring about the full implementation of Resolution 1701.