

# MEMMO

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April 18, 2007

## Iran and Syria Still Rearming Hizballah

**Hizballah, through its violation of the key provisions of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, is fomenting instability in Lebanon and threatening renewed hostilities with Israel. While Israel has met its obligations under the resolution, Syria and Iran are flouting international law by continuing to arm Hizballah, which is actively rebuilding its terrorist infrastructure. The international community, led by the United States, must do much more to prevent Hizballah from sparking a renewed conflict with Israel and undermining Lebanon's democratic government.**

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Hizballah, backed by Iran and Syria, is rearming at an alarming rate, violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701.

- Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah has made clear that Hizballah is rearming and preparing for another fight, saying in February, "...We openly declare that we have weapons, we are completing our preparedness for a greater and more dangerous stage and that we are transporting weapons to the front."
- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon told the Security Council that Hizballah's statements "are an open admission of activities that constitute a direct violation of... Resolution 1701." During a visit to Lebanon at the end of March, Ban pressed Hizballah to comply with the resolution, saying that the continued arms smuggling "will destabilize the situation in Lebanon."
- The U.N. Security Council on April 17 issued a statement expressing concern over illegal arms movement across the Lebanese-Syrian border in violation of Resolution 1701 and reiterating its call "for disbanding and disarmament of all militias and armed groups in Lebanon."
- Brig.-Gen. Yossi Baidatz, head of the Israeli Military Intelligence research division, recently said that Hizballah's military wing has been almost completely rehabilitated, thanks to constant arms smuggling via Syria.
- Hizballah has also refused to implement the resolution's call for the unconditional release of the two Israeli soldiers abducted in the unprovoked attack that started the fighting last summer.

Hizballah is increasing its presence in southern Lebanon and undermining Lebanese sovereignty.

- Hizballah terrorists have defiantly returned to Lebanon's border, riding around on motorbikes and waving the Shiite Muslim party's flag and pictures of their leader, Hassan Nasrallah. According to the U.N., suspected Hizballah members have been observed monitoring U.N. peacekeeping activities.
- Hizballah, backed by Syria, continues large-scale demonstrations in Beirut in an effort to oust the democratically elected Lebanese government and prevent the formation of an international tribunal to try those accused in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

- Hizballah is actively rebuilding its network of tunnels and bunkers under the guise of civilian reconstruction efforts. The U.S. Treasury Department recently designated the Lebanon-based construction company Jihad al-Bina as a terrorist organization, noting that it receives direct funding from Iran, is run by Hizballah members and is overseen by Hizballah's governing Shura Council.
- The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Lebanese army have not stopped Hizballah from rebuilding its terrorist infrastructure and from smuggling arms into Lebanon from Iran and Syria, despite the urging of Resolution 1701.

American leadership is needed to ensure that Hizballah cannot threaten Israel or the stability of Lebanon.

- The United States should refocus the Security Council's attention on Lebanon to insist that international forces are effectively implementing the Security Council's mandate to prevent Hizballah from rearming and rebuilding its terrorist infrastructure.
- 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 hold Syria and Iran accountable for violating Resolution 1701's arms embargo against Hizballah by bringing the full force of U.S. sanctions to bear against both nations. Iran is also specifically prohibited from exporting weapons by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1747, which also requires all states to prohibit the procurement of weapons from Iran.
- Congress should carefully monitor U.S. aid to the Lebanese government to ensure that the funds do not reach the coffers of Hizballah.

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### Basic Facts Summary

- Hizballah, backed by Iran and Syria, is rearming at an alarming rate and violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701.
- Hizballah is increasing its presence in southern Lebanon and undermining Lebanese sovereignty.
- American leadership is needed to ensure that Hizballah cannot threaten Israel or the stability of Lebanon.