

Lebanese Hizballah



OVERVIEW

AS OF APRIL 2026

Lebanese Hizballah is a political and military organization as well as a designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO) with elements capable of conducting attacks against Israeli and US interests worldwide. The group is committed to opposing Israel and driving US forces from the Middle East. Hizballah's Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO)—a.k.a. the External Security Organization, or Unit 910—is primarily responsible for overseas terrorism operations, including against US targets.

In March 2026, Hizballah fired rockets and launched drones into Israel to retaliate for the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, marking the group's entry into the Iran conflict and provoking Israeli strikes against the group. From October 2023 to November 2024, Hizballah conducted near-daily attacks on Israel in support of HAMAS. Israeli airstrikes in September and October 2024 killed several Hizballah leaders, including Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, who had led the group since 1992, and his designated successor, Hashim Safi al-Din.

Operating Areas

Hizballah operates throughout Lebanon, particularly in the Beqaa Valley, southern Beirut, and southern Lebanon. The group has also supported Iran-aligned militants in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, and has conducted attacks globally.

Members

Approximately 40,000 fighters

Tactics And Targets

Hizballah has statelike military capabilities, including air defense systems; antiship, antitank, and precision-guided missiles; rockets; and unmanned aircraft systems. However, these capabilities were degraded during the Israel-Hizballah conflict from 2023 to 2024. The fall of the Asad regime in 2024 probably diminished Iran's ability to resupply the group through Syria. Hizballah remains skilled at asymmetric and conventional warfare tactics, including ambushes, assassinations, bombings, indirect-fire attacks, and kidnappings. Hizballah's IJO has a history of caching explosives precursors and maintains clandestine infrastructure in various countries to support operations.

Terrorist Group Designation

The US State Department designated Hizballah as an FTO in October 1997. More than 60 other countries and organizations, including the EU, the Arab League, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, have also designated Hizballah—either in part or in its entirety—as a terrorist organization.



Lebanese Hizballah *(continued)*

KEY LEADERS



Naim Qasim
Secretary General



Talal Hamiyah
IJO Commander



Hasan Nasrallah [DECEASED]
Former Secretary General; charismatic leader who oversaw all sectors of Hizballah's operations from 1992 to 2024

NOTABLE ATTACKS

15 September 2023

Tel Aviv, Israel

Hizballah attempts to assassinate a former Israeli defense minister with a remotely detonated bomb; no injuries are reported.

18 July 2012

Burgas, Bulgaria

Hizballah bombs a bus carrying Israeli tourists, killing six people and injuring 33.

18 July 1994

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hizballah bombs a Jewish community center, killing 95 people.

14 June 1985

Athens, Greece

Hizballah hijacks TWA flight 847, holds dozens of US passengers hostage, and kills one hostage—a US Navy sailor.



Lebanese Hizballah *(continued)*

NOTABLE ATTACKS *(continued)*

20 September 1984

Beirut, Lebanon

Hizballah bombs the US Embassy Annex, killing 23 people, including two Americans.

23 October 1983

Beirut, Lebanon

Hizballah bombs the US Marine Corps barracks, killing 241 Americans and injuring 70.

18 April 1983

Beirut, Lebanon

Hizballah bombs the US Embassy, killing 78 Americans and injuring 120.

