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Years ago Hezbollah was a limited, regional threat. Today, it is an international movement conducting terrorist and criminal acts all over the world. Recent notable activity includes:

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- Potential involvement in the bombing of an Israeli diplomat in Tbilisi, Georgia in February 2012.
- Storing over 8,000 pounds of explosive material in a warehouse in Thailand, uncovered in January 2013.
- Attempted assassination of Israeli targets in Bangkok in February 2013.
- Attempted laundering of approximately \$70 million dollars from Venezuela to Germany in January 2013.
- Running training camps and international narcotics smuggling operations in Venezuela, Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico.
- Suicide bombing of a bus of Israeli tourists in Bulgaria in July 2012.

In addition to these attacks, Hezbollah may have had a hand in Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' and Quds Force plots such as the attempted assassination of the Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. in Washington, DC in October 2011.

This dangerous uptick in Hezbollah activity in recent years is a direct result of Iranian prodding. The Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, recently described the Iran-Hezbollah relationship as "a partnership agreement, with the Iranians as the senior partner."

The Iranian agents running Hezbollah are the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Quds Force. General Qassim Suleimani is the leader of the Quds Force. In this role, he serves as the de-facto Director of Hezbollah. Now a major general — the highest rank in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps — he has been the mastermind behind key Iranian foreign policy moves. He helped Iran grow its influence in Iraq and continues to support the murderous Assad regime in Syria. American and British intelligence officials have drawn comparisons between the

real-life Iranian general and the fictional Soviet spymaster Karla, of John le Carre's Cold War novels. Only Suleimani is real and he is at war with the U.S.

Hezbollah is also using social media to spread its propaganda and get new recruits. As of last August, Hezbollah had tweeted an average of 250 tweets per day and had 18,903 followers. Clearly Hezbollah understands the value of Twitter when it comes to spreading its propaganda. Too bad Twitter and our government don't recognize it too

Hezbollah is also getting information out via apps on smartphones. Blackberry and iPhone users who download an app called "WhatsApp" can get daily updates from Hezbollah. WhatsApp is one of the top overall paid apps and the company is based out of Dallas.

The IRGC, Quds Force, and Hezbollah also don't have to go it alone. They maintain lots of friends and allies around the world. The Venezuelans, under the Chavez regime, serves as one of the Iranians' closest allies. Hezbollah is currently using the Venezuelan banking sector to launder hundreds of millions of dollars a year and smuggle narcotics to US and European markets and has also conducted terror training on Margarita Island for recruits from Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Hezbollah operatives and their co-conspirators hold senior positions in the Venezuelan government. They provide travel documents, weapons and logistical support to terrorist operatives and cocaine smugglers, as our witnesses will explain.

Hezbollah is active in other regions, as well. In Afghanistan, the Iranians provide arms and training to Taliban fighters to kill U.S. and Afghan forces. In Africa, Iran and Hezbollah are expanding their terrorist and criminal networks in places like Nigeria, Senegal, and Gambia. In Asia, be it China, North Korea, or smaller countries like Malaysia, the Iranian-Hezbollah conspirators are outpacing our ability to constrain them.

So far, U.S. efforts to combat the expanding threat have fallen short. Sanctions are necessary, but they are not enough, to counter the expanding activities of Hezbollah and the IRGC. Despite severe international pressure, the EU has flat-out refused to declare Hezbollah a terrorist group. This is too bad. This would pave the way for additional sanctions.

If Western leaders continue to allow these actors to engage in a global campaign of terror without some repercussion, a dangerous precedent will be set. Hezbollah is not going away and it is even more troubling to imagine what the Iranians might be empowered to do if they are allowed to develop nuclear weapons. The United States and its allies must correctly understand this threat and develop a coherent, comprehensive strategy of their own to confront these activities of Hezbollah and Iran.

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Hezbollah is also using social media to spread its propaganda and get new recruits. As of last August, Hezbollah had tweeted an average of 250 tweets per day and had 18,903 followers. Clearly Hezbollah understands the value of Twitter when it comes to spreading its propaganda. Too bad Twitter and our government don't recognize it too

Hezbollah is also getting information out via apps on smartphones. Blackberry and iPhone users who download an app called "WhatsApp" can get daily updates from Hezbollah. WhatsApp is one of the top overall paid apps and the company is based out of Dallas.

The IRGC, Quds Force, and Hezbollah also don't have to go it alone. They maintain lots of friends and allies around the world. The Venezuelans, under the Chavez regime, serves as one of the Iranians' closest allies. Hezbollah is currently using the Venezuelan banking sector to launder hundreds of millions of dollars a year and smuggle narcotics to US and European markets and has also conducted terror training on Margarita Island for recruits from Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Hezbollah operatives and their co-conspirators hold senior positions in the Venezuelan government. They provide travel documents, weapons and logistical support to terrorist operatives and cocaine smugglers, as our witnesses will explain.

Hezbollah is active in other regions, as well. In Afghanistan, the Iranians provide arms and training to Taliban fighters to kill U.S. and Afghan forces. In Africa, Iran and Hezbollah are expanding their terrorist and criminal networks in places like Nigeria, Senegal, and Gambia. In Asia, be it China, North Korea, or smaller countries like Malaysia, the Iranian-Hezbollah conspirators are outpacing our ability to constrain them.

So far, U.S. efforts to combat the expanding threat have fallen short. Sanctions are necessary, but they are not enough, to counter the expanding activities of Hezbollah and the IRGC. Despite severe international pressure, the EU has flat-out refused to declare Hezbollah a terrorist group. This is too bad. This would pave the way for additional sanctions.

If Western leaders continue to allow these actors to engage in a global campaign of terror without some repercussion, a dangerous precedent will be set. Hezbollah is not going away and it is even more troubling to imagine what the Iranians might be empowered to do if they are allowed to develop nuclear weapons. The United States and its allies must correctly understand this threat and develop a coherent, comprehensive strategy of their own to confront these activities of Hezbollah and Iran.



Recent focus on Iran has centered on Tehran's quest for nuclear weapons but the Iranians and their proxy Hezbollah also use terrorism to threaten global stability. Hezbollah enjoys the full backing of the Iranian regime and the Supreme Leader and the IRGC direct Hezbollah's global terror campaign.

Years ago Hezbollah was a limited, regional threat. Today, it is an international movement conducting terrorist and criminal acts all over the world. Recent notable activity includes:

- Attempted assassination of Israeli diplomats in New Delhi, India in February 2012.
- Potential involvement in the bombing of an Israeli diplomat in Tbilisi, Georgia in February 2012.
- Storing over 8,000 pounds of explosive material in a warehouse in Thailand, uncovered in January 2013.
- Attempted assassination of Israeli targets in Bangkok in February 2013.
- Attempted laundering of approximately \$70 million dollars from Venezuela to Germany in January 2013.
- Running training camps and international narcotics smuggling operations in Venezuela, Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico.
- Suicide bombing of a bus of Israeli tourists in Bulgaria in July 2012.

In addition to these attacks, Hezbollah may have had a hand in Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' and Quds Force plots such as the attempted assassination of the Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. in Washington, DC in October 2011.

This dangerous uptick in Hezbollah activity in recent years is a direct result of Iranian prodding. The Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, recently described the Iran-Hezbollah relationship as "a partnership agreement, with the Iranians as the senior partner."

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