

Hezbollah Supports the Assad Regime

Now! Lebanon (<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?ID=274765>) is reporting that Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, has urged Syrians to support the Assad regime against the protesters.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday urged Syrians to back President Bashar al-Assad's "regime of resistance" while calling for the rejection of newly imposed sanctions against Damascus.

"We call on all Syrians to preserve their country as well as the ruling regime, a regime of resistance, and to give their leaders a chance to cooperate with all Syria's communities in order to implement the necessary reforms," Nasrallah said in a speech broadcast by his party's Al-Manar television.

...

It was the first time the reclusive Hezbollah leader has commented on the protests in Syria, which along with Iran is a major backer of his Shia party.

"The difference between the Arab uprisings and Syria... is that President Assad is convinced that reforms are necessary, unlike Bahrain and other Arab countries," said Nasrallah, who has not appeared in public since 2008.

He also urged his party's supporters to reject sanctions by the United States, European Union and Canada on his ally.

Please read the entire article for more information.

Analysis. I do believe the Iranians are getting desperate to have Nasrallah come out and defend the Assad regime. If the parties working against Assad manage to unseat him, that changes the whole complexion of the Middle East. Iran loses its Mediterranean anchor. Hezbollah, and by extension all of the rejectionist groups in the area, lose their major logistics base. While Hezbollah can function as a logistics base for Hamas and the others for a while, it is not a nation state even though it controls Lebanon.

Losing Syria to the rebels also removes the Syrian Armed Forces from the Iranian western front order of battle. Hezbollah is not capable of functioning as a conventional military. Nor is it large enough to do more than its job of keeping the Israeli Defense Force busy. With the Syrians out of the way, the IDF can concentrate on Hezbollah in case of another war. It need not worry about providing close air support to the Jordanians or shooting down the Syrian Air Force.

So far it appears that Assad has the rebellion under control. However, he is using precious logistics resources to do so. His army is still required for riot suppression. That keeps them pretty much off the Damascus-Amman highway.

The continuing Syrian problem puts a big crimp in the plans of those who want to help the Mahdi return. The group lead by Mesbah Yazdi and President Ahmadinejad is under serious pressure to come back under the leadership of Supreme Guide Ali Khamenei. Several of their underlings have been arrested and charged with "dealing with the occult" for producing the film *The Coming is Upon Us*. I suspect that is not so much that they made the film but that it is now public. However much Khamenei and his followers may believe that the Mahdi is about to appear, the film must be disavowed to cover

up their eventual plans for Middle East wide war.