

## **Hashem Safieddine, Hezbollah's likely next leader, followed Nasrallah down militant path**

Lebanese group says successor to long-time head will be appointed soon

khaled Yacoub Oweis / Amman / Sep. 30, 2024

Hashem Safieddine is one of the front-runners for leadership of Hezbollah after Hassan Nasrallah was killed in an Israeli attack on south Beirut last Friday.

A maternal cousin of Nasrallah, Mr Safieddine has rarely appeared in public but could soon be leading an organisation that works hard on propaganda, although its military has suffered at the hands of the Israeli military over the past months.

[...]

**Orna Mizrahi, senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies**, said that as far back as 2008, both Nasrallah and Iran had decided that Mr Safieddine would be his replacement.

Although Mr Safieddine has mainly dealt with Hezbollah's finances and ties to its Shiite constituency, he was assigned to some military tasks, Ms **Mizrahi** said from Tel Aviv. "He does not have the experience or standing of Nasrallah," she said, adding that he could grow into the role.

She said that in the event he becomes the leader, the magnitude of damage that Israel has inflicted on Hezbollah's command structure has made it imperative for Mr Safieddine to conduct a review of "what kind of organisation Hezbollah will be", helped by the surviving top cadres, such as Mr Qassem.

But Hezbollah "will continue to attack Israel because of the Iranian influence" and an anti-Israel ideology that guided Nasrallah and appears to also permeates the thinking of Safieddin, Ms **Mizrahi** said.

*For full article:*

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2024/09/30/hezbollah-nasrallah-safieddin/>