



How Hezbollah's losses have weakened Iran's power and influence

By Will Croxton / December 22, 2024

On Sept. 17, almost a year into an escalating conflict with Israel, militants in the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah heard an urgent ringtone call out from their model AR-924 pagers.

They had no idea that the devices they pulled out of their pockets were bombs.

[...]

Sima Shine is a former Mossad analyst and current director of the Iran and the Shi'ite Axis research program at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

She told 60 Minutes that Hezbollah has been "defeated to a certain degree" and that the assassination of its head Nasrallah, and other leadership figures, was a devastating blow.

"They are a completely different organization. They don't have the leadership," she told 60 Minutes in an interview.

"And the leadership is not only Nasrallah. It's the whole people around him, going with him, 30 years together. ...[they're] not capable of organizing themselves the way that they've been before."

Lebanese American columnist Raghida Dergham told Stahl she also sees the pager operation as a significant factor in the undermining of Hezbollah, especially when the Nasrallah assassination, that came right after, is considered.

"It absolutely broke the backbone of the Hezbollah operatives... I think [the Israelis] had a very good idea of what they were doing in that," she told Stahl.

Retired Israeli intelligence analyst **Sima Shine** said the organization still lives on in other ways. Importantly, they will continue as a political organization in Lebanon's government, with ministers in the Council of Ministers and MPs in Lebanon's parliament.

Shine said the party became less popular after the pager attack and the group's decision to bring Lebanon into a war with Israel, which was perceived by its critics as a political priority of Iran and not necessarily of the Lebanese people.

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