



Hezbollah's Legacy of Global Terror



Introduction

Since Hezbollah, Arabic for “Party of God,” was created, its influence has expanded into multiple areas. Not only is Hezbollah the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world, but it also serves as a military force, political party and transnational criminal organization. However, Hezbollah’s different facets all serve one purpose: to spread the principles and ideology behind the Islamic Revolution as far as possible. In order to achieve this mission, Hezbollah operates directly under the orders of Iran. Not only does Iran provide funding and weapons for the terrorist group, but the Islamic republic also is behind Hezbollah’s global terror network and pulls the strings on its attacks that have extended to continents across the globe.



Hezbollah fighters participate in military parade

1983: US embassy bombing in Beirut

On April 18, 1983, a suicide bomber crashed a truck full of explosives into the front of the US embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The truck ended up detonating upon impact approximately 2,000 pounds of explosives. The explosion killed 63 and wounded 120.

1983: Beirut barracks bombing

On October 23, 1983, a bombing occurred when two truck bombs struck buildings that were housing American and French service members in Beirut, Lebanon. The attack resulted in 241 US and 58 French military personnel and six civilians being killed. The tragedy was marked as the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Marine Corps since World War II.

1984: US embassy annex bombing in Beirut

On September 20, 1984, a Hezbollah-affiliated suicide bomber sped toward the entrance of the US embassy in Beirut. The driver drove to the entrance with a van packed with 3,000 pounds of explosives in his vehicle.

Although the terrorist was shot and ended up losing control before reaching his target, the vehicle struck a parked van and detonated. As a result, the explosion destroyed the front of the embassy. Hezbollah came forward and claimed responsibility for the attack under the cover name of the Islamic Jihad Organization. This terrorist attack occurred barely over a year after the 1983 embassy attack.



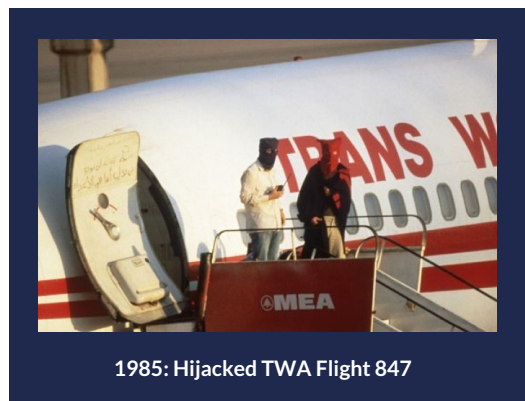
1984: US embassy annex bombing in Beirut

1985: El Descanso bombing

On April 12, 1985, a bombing took place at a restaurant near the US Air Force base in Madrid, Spain. As a result of the explosion, the El Descanso restaurant ended up crashing down on about 200 diners and employees. The attack killed 18 Spanish civilians and injured 82 others, including 11 Americans who were working at the Torrejón Air Base.

1985: Hijacked TWA Flight 847

On June 14, 1985, a flight from Cairo, Egypt to San Diego was hijacked by Hezbollah terrorists. The hijackers shot and killed US Navy diver Robert Stethem, 23, after beating him until he was unconscious. The terrorists ended up releasing the other 146 passengers and crew members on the plane in stages. These included making three stops in Beirut and two stops in Algiers. However, the last hostage was held for an additional 17 days before eventually being freed.



1988: Murder of US Marine

US Marine Col. William Higgins was captured and murdered when serving on a UN peace keeping mission in Lebanon. While driving back from a meeting, he was pulled from his vehicle by armed men who were believed to be affiliated with Hezbollah. Further investigation into the attack leads many to believe that a group aligned with Hezbollah called “Believers’ Resistance” plotted the kidnapping and eventual murder of Higgins.



1994: Bombing of Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires

1992: Attack on Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina

On March 17, 1992, the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires was attacked during a suicide bombing. A truck that was driven by a suicide bomber was loaded with explosives and was rammed into the front of the embassy and detonated. Not only was the embassy destroyed as a result of the attack, but a nearby school and a Catholic church were also ruined. The blast ended up killing 29 and 242 were wounded.

1994: Bombing of Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires

On July 18, 1994, 85 people were murdered, and hundreds were injured during a suicide van bomb attack on the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) in Buenos Aires. Argentina is home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America and the sixth largest in the world with a total 230,000. The AMIA bombing remains Argentina’s deadliest terror attack to date. The driver drove his explosives-loaded van into the Jewish’ communities AMIA building where it then exploded.

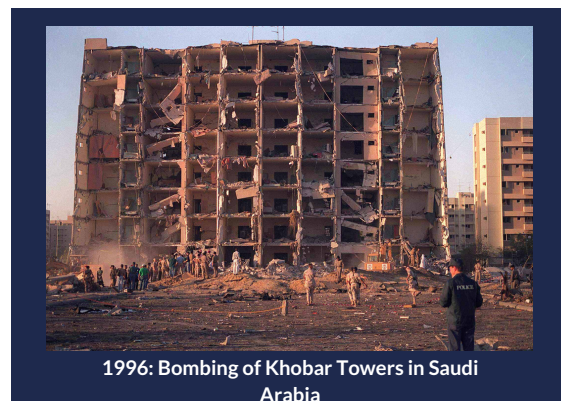
1994: AC Flight 901 Attack in Colón, Panama

On July 19, 1994, AC Flight 901 exploded shortly after departing from Colón city to Panama City. All 21 passengers ended up dying from the bombing, and 12 of those on board the flight were Jewish. Investigators were able to determine that the explosion occurred from a bomb when examining the wreckage that was found throughout the Santa Rita Mountains near Colón. They decided that the bomb was brought on the flight and detonated by a suicide bomber.

The attack appeared to tie back to Hezbollah since it was directed against Jews and took place a day after the AMIA in Buenos Aires and an expression of support was given by an affiliate of Hezbollah, “Ansar Allah,” in South America.

1996: Bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia

On June 25, 1996, a terrorist attack took place on a US Air Force housing complex in the town of Khobar, near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The bombing occurred when Hezbollah terrorists drove a tanker truck filled with 5,000 pounds of explosives near the housing complex. The terrorists decided to flee the vehicle before it detonated. The impact of the explosion that resulted was so loud that people twenty miles away heard it and an 85-foot-wide and 35-foot-deep crater was formed. The terrorist attack ended up killing 19 US service members and injured 500 people.



2012: Burgas Bus Bombing

On July 18, 2012, a bus transporting 42 Israeli tourists, mainly youths, to their hotels in Burgas, Bulgaria exploded at the Burgas Airport. The terrorist attack was carried out by a suicide bomber who boarded the bus and then detonated the bomb. As a result of the bombing, the Bulgarian bus driver and five Israeli passengers were killed, and 32 Israelis were injured. In February 2013, the Bulgarian Interior Minister stated that there was “well-grounded” evidence that Hezbollah, backed by Iran, had committed the atrocity.

2017: Karbala provincial headquarters raid

On January 29, 2017, five Americans were killed and three were wounded after the US contingent of the Joint Security Station within the Iraqi police headquarters was attacked. Hezbollah operative, Ali Musa Daqduq, was suspected to be the mastermind of the attack in Baghdad in which five Americans were killed.

2019: Hezbollah scouting

On September 19, 2019, Alexei Saab, who was trained in bomb-making and intelligence gathering by Hezbollah, was accused and indicted for scouting out targets for attacks on behalf of Hezbollah in New York, Boston, and Washington, DC. One of Saab’s targets was Times Square.