

Imad Mughniyeh: Stratfor File

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Compilation of STRATFOR File on Imad Mughniyeh

By Stratfor Today This Report Expresses the views of Stratfor.

Lebanon: Khalil Not Killed In Feb. 12 Bombing
February 15, 2008 | 1610 GMT

Hajj Hussein Khalil, deputy director of political affairs for Lebanese faction Hezbollah, did not die in the Feb. 12 car bombing that killed Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Stratfor sources reported Feb. 15. Khalil reportedly is alive and well.

Syria: Will Release Proof Of Mughniyah Killer
February 15, 2008 | 1512 GMT

Syria will soon release "irrefutable" evidence showing who was responsible for the Feb. 12 death of Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyah in Damascus, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported, citing Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem.

Syria: Iran's Mottaki Meets With Vice President, Palestinian Leaders
February 15, 2008 | 1353 GMT

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki met with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal and Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Abdullah Shallah in Damascus, Syria, on Feb. 15, The Associated Press reported. Later the same day, Mottaki met for an hour with Syrian Vice President Farouk al-Sharaa to discuss the Imad Mughniyah assassination.

Lebanon: Bomb Was In Car Near Mughniyah's
February 15, 2008 | 1350 GMT

Imad Mughniyah, key member of Lebanon's Hezbollah militant movement, was killed by a car bomb parked near his car in Damascus, Syria, Reuters reported Feb. 15, citing a Lebanese security source. The explosive was detonated remotely as Mughniyah walked by. Earlier reports said the explosive was inside Mughniyah's car.

Lebanon: Mughniyah's Successor Chosen
February 15, 2008 | 1345 GMT

Lebanon's Hezbollah has chosen slain guerrilla commander Imad Mughniyah's successor, Reuters reported Feb. 15, citing a Lebanese security source. The source did not identify the successor but said Hezbollah chose the new commander hours after Mughniyah's Feb. 12 death in a bombing in Damascus was announced.

Syria: Investigation Under Way Into Commander's Death
February 15, 2008 | 1203 GMT

Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, reported Feb. 15 that its agents have been assigned to the probe into the car bombing that killed Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyah in the Syrian capital. Separately, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said investigations into the killing are under way and that he expects to identify the perpetrators soon.

Iran, Hezbollah: Ahmadinejad Laments Mughniyah's Death
February 14, 2008 | 1850 GMT

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Feb. 14 sent a letter to Hezbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah expressing his condolences for the Feb. 12 death of Imad Mughniyah, the group's former top military commander. In the communication, Ahmadinejad says, "There are hundreds of thousands, even millions more [Mughniyahs] who possess the same courage and resolve to join the struggle against the occupiers, the terrorists and the uncultured."

Israel: Warning About Abductions Abroad

February 14, 2008 | 1833 GMT

Israelis abroad should be vigilant and could be targeted for abduction attempts, Israel's Counterterrorism Bureau said in an advisory warning issued Feb. 14. The agency also urged Israelis to be alert, pay attention to abnormal incidents and refrain from visiting Arab or Muslim nations about which advisories already have been issued. The bureau added that Israelis should resist unexpected gifts and tempting opportunities from unknown sources.

Middle East: Mughniyah Planning Major Attack When Killed?

February 14, 2008 | 1633 GMT

Hezbollah's Imad Mughniyah was in the midst of planning major attacks in moderate Arab countries when he was killed in a car bombing in Damascus on Feb. 12, Israel National News reported Feb. 14, citing Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan. The Kuwaiti newspaper reported that U.S. intelligence had learned Mughniyah went to Damascus three days earlier to meet with Hezbollah leaders and coordinate a mass attack. Mughniyah had orders from — and coordinated with — Iran and was to receive assistance from Syrian intelligence in planning the attack, the report said.

Lebanon: Mottaki, Nasrallah Speak At Mughniyah Funeral

February 14, 2008 | 1424 GMT

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki attended the funeral for key Hezbollah member Imad Mughniyah, who was killed Feb. 12 in a blast in Damascus, Naharnet reported Feb. 14. Mottaki delivered a speech in Farsi at the ceremony. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, speaking at the funeral, said Mughniyah's martyrdom is a further incentive to proceed with the jihad against Israel. "Zionists killed Mughniyah in Damascus … if you want this kind of open war, let the whole world hear it, let it be open war," Nasrallah said. He also accused Lebanon's March 14 alliance of looking for foreign armies to fight in its stead.

Iran: Khamenei Sends Condolences To Nasrallah

February 14, 2008 | 1248 GMT

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in condolences sent to Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah on Feb. 14, called Imad Mughniyah a "great man," Agence France-Presse reported. Khamenei repeated Iran's allegation that Israel was behind the attack on Mughniyah and said the Jewish state would encounter more resistance. Israeli Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki is slated to attend Mughniyah's funeral Feb. 14.

Syria: Mughniyah Had Met With Meshaal -- Report

February 14, 2008 | 1102 GMT

Hezbollah operations chief Imad Mughniyah, who was killed in a Feb. 12 bombing in the Syrian capital, was in the country for talks with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal, Asharq Al-Awsat reported Feb. 14. Mughniyah had arrived in Damascus from Tehran in late January to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip, according to the report. He apparently was traveling under a pseudonym. Mughniyah had met with senior Syrian security officials shortly before the bombing, according to the report.

Lebanon: Mughniyah Killed While In Car

February 13, 2008 | 1720 GMT

Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah was inside a car when he was killed in a Feb. 12 bombing, Stratfor sources reported Feb. 13.

Lebanon, Syria: Khalil, Others Killed With Mughniya

February 13, 2008 | 1717 GMT

Hajj Hussein Khalil, deputy director of political affairs for Lebanese faction Hezbollah, was killed in the Feb. 12 car bombing along with Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Stratfor sources said Feb. 13. A number of others, likely bodyguards, also died. The incident did not occur because of a leak by Palestinian faction Hamas, the source said, but represents a serious crack in Syrian security measures. The source added that recent shuffles in the Syrian intelligence apparatus have weakened its capabilities, because Syria is primarily focused on domestic sources of sabotage.

Lebanon: Clashes In Beirut

February 13, 2008 | 1643 GMT

Clashes among Lebanon's opposition and supporters of the country's March 14 alliance occurred in Beirut late Feb. 13. Security forces fired shots and troops were deployed to prevent the fighting from escalating. Lebanon

recently has seen similar clashes as tensions there have risen.

Syria: Israel Blamed For Mughniyah's Death

February 13, 2008 | 1620 GMT

Syria said Feb. 13 that Israel is responsible for the Feb. 12 car bombing death of Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Haaretz reported.

U.S.: Israel Briefed U.S. On Mughniyah Bombing

February 13, 2008 | 1609 GMT

The United States was briefed by Israel simultaneous to the Feb. 12 car bombing that killed Lebanese Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Stratfor sources reported Feb. 13.

Israel, Lebanon: PM Office Denies Role In Mughniyah's Death

February 13, 2008 | 1555 GMT

The Israeli prime minister's office on Feb. 13 released a statement denying any Israeli involvement in the Feb. 12 car bombing that killed Lebanese Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Israel National News reported.

Lebanon: Hezbollah Forces On Alert

February 13, 2008 | 1553 GMT

Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon are on alert following the Feb. 12 death of leader Imad Mughniyah, Ynet reported Feb. 13, citing Iran's PressTV television channel. Hezbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah is set to speak at Mughniyah's Feb. 14 funeral in Beirut, Iran's Alalam television channel reported.

Iran, Syria: Mottaki To Visit Damascus

February 13, 2008 | 1541 GMT

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki is set to meet with senior Syrian officials in Damascus to discuss recent developments in the Middle East, Iran's PressTV reported Feb. 13.

Iran, Lebanon, Israel: Israel Blamed For Mughniyah's Death

February 13, 2008 | 1503 GMT

Iran on Feb. 13 blamed Israel for the Feb. 12 car bombing that killed Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Reuters reported. Iran called the bombing "state terrorism," IRNA reported.

Lebanon: Car Bomb Killed Second Hezbollah Official

February 13, 2008 | 1421 GMT

Hajj Hussein Khalil, deputy director of political affairs for Lebanese faction Hezbollah, died in the Feb. 12 car bombing that also killed Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, Israel National News reported Feb. 13, citing an Iranian report. Hezbollah has not commented on the unconfirmed report.

Lebanon: Hezbollah To Consider Reponse To Mughniyah's Death

February 13, 2008 | 1317 GMT

Lebanese Islamist group Hezbollah's leadership will meet in Beirut to discuss its response to the death of its Deputy Secretary General Imad Mughniyah, Haaretz reported Feb. 13, citing comments from Hezbollah lawmaker Ismail Sukeyir. The legislator said, "Hezbollah has the right to retaliate anywhere in the world and in any way it sees fit."

Israel: Denies Involvement In Mughniyah's Death

February 13, 2008 | 1300 GMT

Israel has denied involvement in the death of Hezbollah leader Imad Mughniyah, The Associated Press reported Feb. 13. Israel issued an official statement rejecting "the attempt by terror groups to attribute to it any involvement in this incident." Hezbollah had said Israeli agents planned Mughniyah's death, which reportedly happened in a car bombing in the Syrian capital of Damascus the night of Feb. 12.

Syria: Hezbollah Leader Killed In Blast

February 13, 2008 | 0926 GMT

Hezbollah commander Imad Moughniyah was killed by a car bomb in Damascus, Syria, Reuters reported Feb. 13. Moughniyah was reportedly responsible for a wave of Western kidnappings in Lebanon in the 1980s.

Syria: More Blast Details

February 12, 2008 | 2341 GMT

Syrian security forces sealed off the area around a suspected car bombing in Damascus on Feb. 12 and removed the car, in which the driver's and front passenger's seats had been completely destroyed. The identity of the person that was killed in the blast is still unknown, but witnesses have said the individual was a passerby. In contrast to previous reports, The Associated Press has said there are no government buildings in the vicinity of the blast. The outlet also reports that the Iranian school located a few hundred yards from the blast is undamaged. According to Reuters, exiled Hamas leaders were in the area at the time of the explosion. Members of the group's cadre, including leader Khaled Meshaal, currently are in exile in Damascus.

Syria: Damascus Explosion Details

February 12, 2008 | 2248 GMT

An explosion occurred in Syria's capital, Damascus, on Feb. 12, killing one person. Security officials have declined to comment, and the cause of the blast is still unclear. Witnesses reported seeing a mangled white car being towed away from a residential area that is home to an Iranian school, a police station and a main Syrian intelligence office.

Syria: Explosion Near Iranian School In Damascus

February 12, 2008 | 2154 GMT

An explosion was heard in the vicinity of an Iranian school in the Kafar Souseh district of Damascus on Tuesday, Reuters reported Feb. 12, citing witnesses. Police blocked a road leading to the area, but no further details were available.

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