

Sources: Assad adviser assassinated

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Sunday, 03 August 2008

{mosimages}Report: Sniper kills Syrian Pres. Assad's Hezbollah liaison

Sources: Assad adviser assassinated
Posted: 02-08-2008 , 18:35 GMT

Well known sources informed Albawaba that General Mohammed Suleiman, an adviser to Syrian president Bashar al Assad, was assassinated on Friday. Suleiman also served as Syria's liaison officer to Lebanon's Hizbullah movement.

According to the sources, Suleiman was shot dead by a sniper in the Syrian port city of Tartous. They added the funeral service will be held on Sunday in Suleiman's home-town of Driekesh which is located less than 20 kilometers away from Tartous.

The sources told Albawaba the Syrian authorities have been making huge efforts to prevent the publication of the news regarding Suleiman's killing. It should be mentioned that on February 13, 2008 Imad Moughniyeh, the militay commander of Hizbullah, was assassinated in Damascus.

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<http://www.albawaba.com/en/countries/Syria/233395>

Top Syrian Army Officer and Liaison with Hizbullah Killed, Report

A senior Syrian army officer believed to be Damascus' liaison with Hizbullah in Lebanon has been assassinated, Arab media reported on Sunday.

The reports came almost six months after the killing in a Damascus car bomb of top Hizbullah military commander Imad Mughniyeh, Hizbullah blamed on Israel.

The pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat on Sunday, citing informed sources, said that a senior Syrian officer had been found dead.

"The circumstances of the incident are not clear," the London-based paper said in its report, which said the sources suggested that the slain officer had been "in charge of sensitive files and closely linked to the Syrian top brass."

Al-Bawaba, an Arab news website, named the officer as Mohammed Suleiman and said he was "Syria's liaison officer with Lebanon's Hizbullah movement."

It said he was killed by a sniper in the northwest Syrian town of Tartus and would be buried in his hometown of Driekesh on Sunday.

Al-Mustaqbal newspaper quoted a Syrian news site as saying Suleiman was the head of security at the presidential palace in Damascus and President Bashar al-Assad's "right-hand man."

The paper made no mention of Hizbullah in its report.

A Hizbullah official told AFP in Lebanon that he did not know Mohammed Suleiman and had not heard about any killing.

Israel has denied the Hizbullah charge that it was behind the assassination of Mughniyeh in the Syrian capital on February 12.(Naharnet-AFP)

Beirut, 03 Aug 08, 10:04

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&677BC245F7CCA615C225749A0039874B>

Report: Sniper kills Syrian Pres. Assad's Hezbollah liaison
By Yoav Stern, Haaretz Correspondent, and Reuters
Tags: Assad, Israel, Hezbollah

A senior Syrian officer, in charge of Syrian President Bashar Assad's liaison with the Hezbollah guerilla group, was shot dead in mysterious circumstances in northern Syria last week, Arab media reports said on Sunday.

Pan-Arab al-Hayat newspaper, quoting "well-informed" sources in London, said the officer had been found dead on Friday night-Saturday morning. It said the officer had been in charge of "sensitive files" and was close to the Syrian leadership.

Lebanon's Future News television station identified the officer as Brigadier General Mohammad Suleiman whom it said was a military aide to Assad. It said his body was found at a hotel in the northern port city of Tartous.

According to the Syrian newspaper Albawaba, the sources told another Arabic-language newspaper, the London-based Al-Hayat, that Syrian authorities have been trying to prevent the publication of the news regarding Suleiman's assassination.

The Syrian Web site "Free Syria", affiliated with Syrian opposition leader Abd al-Halim Khaddam, also dealt extensively with the assassination, and described Suleiman as Assad's right-hand man on military matters. According to the Web site, Suleiman was also a member of Syria's Baath Party, and held the government's Lebanon portfolio.

Albawaba stated that no organization has claimed responsibility for the killing as of yet and the reports did not say who was behind it.

The reports did, however, refer to the assassination of Hezbollah's senior commander Imad Mughniyah in February, and suggested that Israel was involved in the killing.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1008004.html>

'Liaison officer to Hizbullah killed'
Aug. 3, 2008
JPost.com Staff , THE JERUSALEM POST

A top Syrian general who served as the country's liaison officer to Hizbullah has been assassinated, Arab media reported Sunday.

The London based Al-Hayat and the pan-Arab Al Bawaba both quoted Damascus sources as saying that General Mohammed Suleiman, who was an adviser to Syrian President Bashar Assad, was shot dead by a sniper in the Syrian port city of Tartous on Friday.

The sources said that Suleiman's funeral would be held Sunday in his home-town of Driekesh.

The sources said that Syrian authorities had been trying to prevent news of Suleiman's death from being published.

The Jerusalem Post could not confirm the report.

The reported assassination comes some six months after Hizbullah terror chief Imad Mughniyeh was assassinated in a Damascus car bomb.

This article can also be read at <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1215331175081&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Report: Syria's liaison officer to Hizbullah assassinated

Arab website reports Mohammed Suleiman, who served as Assad's senior advisor, killed by sniper fire over weekend

Roe Nahmias Published: 08.03.08, 08:29 / Israel News

Mohammed Suleiman, a senior advisor to Syrian President Bashar Assad, was assassinated over the weekend, Arab website Albawaba reported Saturday.

Suleiman also served as Syria's liaison officer to Lebanon's Hizbullah movement.

According to the report, Suleiman was shot dead by a sniper in the Syrian port city of Tartous. The assassin's identity is unknown.

It was also reported that the officer's death was not reported in Damascus, and that it appears the Syrian authorities are exerting efforts not to bring the affair to the public's attention.

The London-based Arabic-language newspaper al-Hayat reported that a senior army officer close to Assad was killed Friday night. The report did not name the officer, but said he was responsible for a series of sensitive matters.

About half a year ago, the Lebanese organization's operations officer Imad Mugniyah, another key figure operating on the Syria-Hizbullah axis, was assassinated in Damascus a mysterious blast in his car.

Media outlets across the world linked Israel to the assassination, although Mugniyah had several "unsettled accounts" with quite a few elements worldwide.

Over the weekend, the man responsible for southern Lebanon on behalf of Hizbullah warned that his organization was "stronger than ever and ready to confront Israel." Nabil Kaouk spoke of the relations between Hizbullah and Iran, stressing that the option for a war against Israel remains opens.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak warned during a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in New York last week that "Hizbullah's armament may undermine the delicate balance in Lebanon." He added that "Israel views this as a real and serious danger."

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3576824,00.html>

Report: Assad's Hezbollah liaison assassinated
Published: 08/03/2008

A Syrian general liaising with Hezbollah on behalf of Bashar Assad was reportedly assassinated.

Mohammed Suleiman, who had been in charge of coordinating ties between the Syrian regime and its proxy Lebanese militia, was shot dead by a sniper in the port city of Tartous, Israeli and Arab media reported Sunday.

There was no official comment from Damascus on the incident, which came amid a welter of reports suggesting a covert war is being waged against Hezbollah's assets in Syria and Iran.

Israel has recently stepped up a public campaign against Hezbollah, which it says has tripled its rocket arsenal since the 2006 Second Lebanon War despite an expanded United Nations peacekeeper presence in southern Lebanon.

<http://www.jta.org/cgi-bin/iowa/breaking/109761.html>

Senior officer found shot dead in Syria - reports
Sun Aug 3, 2008 5:01am EDT

BEIRUT, Aug 3 (Reuters) - A senior Syrian officer was shot dead in mysterious circumstances in northern Syria last week, Arab media reports said on Sunday.

Pan-Arab al-Hayat newspaper, quoting "well-informed" sources in London, said the officer had been found dead on Friday night-Saturday morning. It said the officer had been in charge of "sensitive files" and was close to the Syrian leadership.

Lebanon's Future News television station identified the officer as Brigadier General Mohammad Suleiman whom it said was a military aide to President Bashar al-Assad. It said his body was found at a hotel in the northern port city of Tartous.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian authorities on the reports.

Syria is a tightly controlled state with powerful police and intelligence services. High-ranking officers hold senior state positions and are at times involved in rivalries and power struggles. (Writing by Nadim Ladki)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL383774>

Syrian President's Top Aide Assassinated
by Hana Levi Julian

(IsraelNN.com) Syrian President Bashar Assad's top aide and adviser, General Mohammed Suleiman, was assassinated on Friday, according to Arab news sources.

Suleiman, who was also Syria's liaison officer to the Hizbullah terrorist organization in Lebanon, was shot and killed by an unidentified sniper in the Syrian port city of Tartous.

Syrian authorities tried unsuccessfully to prevent publication of the news. The country's Albawaba newspaper, which reported the incident, speculated that Israel might have been behind the killing.

Both Albawaba and the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper raised the issue of last February's assassination of Hizbullah second-in-command Imad Mughniyeh, who died in a car bombing in Damascus. Syria blamed Israel for the killing, but Jerusalem denied any involvement.

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<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/127041>
