

Syria Readies to Deploy Troops East of Border with Lebanon

Contributed by Naharnet
Friday, 10 October 2008
Last Updated Friday, 10 October 2008

Syria on Friday was reportedly readying to carry out a military measure along its border with the Bekaa Valley unlike the move it had taken on the northern frontier with Lebanon.

Al Akhbar newspaper, citing information obtained from Lebanon, said Syrian troops are getting prepared to deploy along border crossings near al-Qaa all the way to Jabal al-Sheikh passing through Lebanon's eastern mountain range.

Witnesses told the daily that Syrian bulldozers were seen making fortifications in the Kfeir region north of the border crossing known as Jdaidet Yabous which overlooks vast parts of the Central Bekaa.

They said Syrian intelligence have lately discovered "very dangerous security gaps" along its border with Lebanon.

Syrian intelligence had obtained confirmed reports of extremist activities along various Bekaa towns, the sources said.

In a related development, Lebanese sides in charge of combating smuggling from Syria to Lebanon via illegal crossings said smuggling is down 80 percent.

Beirut, 10 Oct 08, 12:24

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&B325BF34E314809CC22574DE003E1F09>