

# Bush's Executive Order: Against Anyone Undermining the Sovereignty, Democracy

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Executive Order: Blocking Property of Persons Undermining the Sovereignty of Lebanon or Its Democratic Processes and Institutions

For Immediate Release  
Office of the Press Secretary  
August 2, 2007

Executive Order: Blocking Property of Persons Undermining the Sovereignty of Lebanon or Its Democratic Processes and Institutions

White House News

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)(IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)(NEA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, determine that the actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty contribute to political and economic instability in that country and the region and constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and I hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat.

I hereby order:

Section 1. (a) Except to the extent provided in section 203(b)(1), (3), and (4) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(1), (3), and (4)), or in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the date of this order, all property and interests in property that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person, including any overseas branch, of the following persons are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in:

(i) any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

(A) to have taken, or to pose a significant risk of taking, actions, including acts of violence, that have the purpose or effect of undermining Lebanon's democratic processes or institutions, contributing to the breakdown of the rule of law in Lebanon, supporting the reassertion of Syrian control or otherwise contributing to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or infringing upon or undermining Lebanese sovereignty;

(B) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions, including acts of violence, or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order;

(C) to be a spouse or dependent child of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order; or

(D) to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order.

(b) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the type of articles specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency declared in this

order, and I hereby prohibit such donations as provided by paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) The prohibitions in paragraph (a) of this section include but are not limited to (i) the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order, and (ii) the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.

Sec. 2. (a) Any transaction by a United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

(b) Any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this order:

(a) the term "person" means an individual or entity;

(b) the term "entity" means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization; and

(c) the term "United States person" means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States.

Sec. 4. For those persons whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I find that, because of the ability to transfer funds or other assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render these measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that, for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in this order, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to section 1 of this order.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government, consistent with applicable law. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order and, where appropriate, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken. The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure compliance with those provisions of section 401 of the NEA (50 U.S.C. 1641) applicable to the Department of the Treasury in relation to this order.

Sec. 6. The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to submit the recurring and final reports to the Congress on the national emergency declared in this order, consistent with section 401(c) of the NEA (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)) and section 204(c) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)).

Sec. 7. This order is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH  
THE WHITE HOUSE,  
August 1, 2007.

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Message to the Congress of the United States

White House News

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)(IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat in Lebanon posed by the actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contributing to political and economic instability in that country and the region. Such

actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

This order will block the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to have taken, or to pose a significant risk of taking, actions, including acts of violence, that have the purpose or effect of undermining Lebanon's democratic processes or institutions or contributing to the breakdown of the rule of law in Lebanon, supporting the reassertion of Syrian control or contributing to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or infringing upon or undermining Lebanese sovereignty. The order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to block the property and interests in property of those persons determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financing, material, logistical, or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; to be a spouse or dependent child of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or to be owned or controlled by, or to act or purport to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 1, 2007.

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#### U.S. Keeps Close Vigil on Donors Sending Money to Aoun

The United States is keeping a tight vigil on Lebanese businessmen and other wealthy resident and non-resident Lebanese allegedly donating money to Gen. Michel Aoun and his Free Patriotic Movement.

The daily An Nahar on Tuesday, citing prominent sources, said "any citizen is subject" to the executive order issued by U.S. President George Bush which aims at blocking property of persons undermining Lebanon's sovereignty or its democratic process and institutions.

It said the move reflects the U.S. administration's "never-ending concern" over the possibility of Aoun's participation in any activity that could lead to the emergence of dual governments or hinder upcoming presidential elections if he figured he was not going to win.

The sources uncovered that the donors include renowned Lebanese businessmen from various sects.

They said these businessmen own property, companies, factories as well as houses in the United States, adding that they are known for their close relations with Aoun and for providing him with financial aid.

Bush on Thursday declared a "national emergency to deal with the threat in Lebanon" aimed at undermining Premier Fouad Saniora's government, reasserting Syrian control and undermining state sovereignty.

Bush's move was made in an executive order and informed to congress for immediate application. It aims at blocking property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic process and institutions, according to a White House statement.

Bush said the move aims at confronting the "threat in Lebanon posed by the actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions,

"to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty."

The move also targets persons "contributing to political and economic instability in that country and the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States," Bush said in a letter to congress.

He said the order will "block the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to have taken, or to pose a significant risk of taking, actions, including acts of violence, that have the purpose or effect of undermining Lebanon's democratic processes or institutions or contributing to the breakdown of the rule of law in Lebanon."

It also targets persons "supporting the reassertion of Syrian control or contributing to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or infringing upon or undermining Lebanese sovereignty."

"The order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to block the property and interests in property of those persons determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financing, material, logistical, or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; to be a spouse or dependent child of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or to be owned or controlled by, or to act or purport to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order," the letter said.

Bush concluded by telling congress that "I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order."

Beirut, 07 Aug 07, 11:56

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Reference:

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/Newsdesk.nsf/Story/ED51CD1D348EC638C2257261002361CE?OpenDocument&P RINT><BR><BR>All

Welch Criticizes Aoun for his Alliance with Hizbullah

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch has criticized Michel Aoun for his alliance with Hizbullah, recommending that the former general examine the consequences of this partnership.

"Unfortunately, we don't understand General Aoun's position. He supported a party which has a militia that fought a war in the summer," Welch said in an interview with Kalam el-Nas on LBCI television late Thursday. His remarks were instantaneously translated into Arabic through an interpreter.

He was referring to the July-August war between Hizbullah and Israel which was sparked by the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border Hizbullah raid.

Welch said Aoun should "very precisely examine the consequences of his partnership with those people (Hizbullah)."

On the Hizbullah-led open-ended sit-in to topple Prime Minister Fouad Saniora, Welch said he believes that the opposition's stands are not united.

However, Welch urged the rival political parties to resume "democratic talks on the future situation in Lebanon."

Responding to charges by Syrian Vice President Farouk el-Sharaa in which he accused Washington of seeking instability in Lebanon, Welch said: "Sharaa is an expert on instability and interference in Lebanon, but he is wrong with regard to the United States policy."

"Syria's influence in Lebanon is still obvious, and the problem is not with the United States policy," Welch added. His remarks were published in Arabic by several Lebanese newspapers on Friday.

Beirut, 12 Jan 07, 08:28

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From the US Treasury Department

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/200772410294613432.htm>

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/hp190.htm>

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/hp83.htm>

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/hp73.htm>

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From the US State Department

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/>

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/>

Hizballah

(Common alternate spellings: Hezbollah, Hizbullah, Hizb`allah)

a.k.a. Party of God; Islamic Jihad

#### Description

Formed in 1982 in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, this Lebanese-based radical Shia group takes its ideological inspiration from the Iranian revolution and the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini. The group follows the religious guidance of Khomeini's successor, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Hizballah is closely allied with Iran and often acts at its behest, but it also can and does act independently. Although Hizballah does not share the Syrian regime's secular orientation, the group has been a strong ally in helping Syria advance its political objectives in the region. The Majlis al-Shura, or Consultative Council, is the group's highest governing body and has been led by Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah since 1992.

Hizballah remains the most technically capable terrorist group in the world. It has strong influence in Lebanon's Shia community, which comprises about one-third of Lebanon's population. The Lebanese government still recognizes Hizballah as a legitimate "resistance group" and political party. Hizballah maintains offices in Beirut and elsewhere in the country, has official liaison officers to the security services, claims 14 elected officials in the 128-seat Lebanese National Assembly and was represented in the Cabinet for the first time, by the Minister of Water and Electricity Mohammed Fneish, until his resignation, along with other Shia ministers on November 11, 2006. Hizballah has largely withdrawn its military presence from southern Lebanon in accordance with UNSCR 1701, although likely maintains weapons caches in southern Lebanon and justifies its continued arms status by claiming to act in defense of Lebanon against acts of Israeli aggression, such as regular Israeli overflights of Lebanese airspace. Hizballah alleges that Israel has not withdrawn completely from Lebanese territory because, in Hizballah's view, the Shebaa Farms and other areas belong to Lebanon. Hizballah supports a variety of violent anti-Western groups, including Palestinian terrorist organizations. This support includes the covert provision of weapons, explosives, training, funding, and guidance, as well as overt political support.

#### Activities

In 2006, Hizballah launched a number of attacks on Israel, including the May 28 and July 12 attack, which resulted in the capture and kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers. (See Chapter 2, Country Reports.) Hizballah continued to call for the destruction of Israel and provided support to select Palestinian groups to augment their capacity to conduct attacks against Israel. Since at least 2004, Hizballah has provided training and logistics to select Iraqi Shia militants, including for the construction and use of shaped charge IEDs, which Hizballah developed against Israeli forces in southern Lebanon during the late 1990s and which can penetrate heavily armored vehicles. Hizballah is known to have been involved in numerous anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli terrorist attacks, and prior to September 11, 2001, was responsible for more American deaths than any other terrorist group; its terrorist attacks have included the suicide truck bombings of the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 and the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut in 1984. Four members of Hizballah, Imad Mughniyah, Hasan Izz-al-Din, Mohammed Hamadei, and Ali Atwa, are on the FBI's list of most wanted terrorists for the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847, during which a U.S. Navy diver was murdered. Elements of the group were responsible for the kidnapping, detention, and murder of Americans and other Westerners in Lebanon in the 1980s. Hizballah also has been implicated in the attacks on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina in 1992 and the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) in Buenos Aires in 1994.\* The U.S. Government has indicted a member of Lebanese Hizballah for his participation in the June 1996 truck bomb attack of the U.S. Air Force dormitory at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. In 2000, Hizballah operatives captured three Israeli soldiers in the Sheba'a Farms area and kidnapped an Israeli non-combatant.

#### Strength

Thousands of supporters, several thousand members, and a few hundred terrorist operatives.

#### Location/Area of Operation

Operates in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Beka'a Valley, and southern Lebanon. Has established cells in Europe, Africa, South America, North America, and Asia.

## External Aid

Receives training, weapons, and explosives, as well as political, diplomatic, and organizational aid, from Iran, and diplomatic, political, and logistical support from Syria. Hizballah also receives funding from religious donations, and profits from legal and illegal businesses.

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## From the CounterTerrorism Blog

Hizballah Activity in North America by The Counterterrorism Blog  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/07/hizballah\\_activity\\_in\\_north\\_am.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/07/hizballah_activity_in_north_am.php)

Activating Hezbollah cells "to make no place safe for Israelis": The Implications for Southeast Asia  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/07/activating\\_hezbollah\\_cells\\_to.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/07/activating_hezbollah_cells_to.php)

The U.S. Moves on Hezbollah Charities  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2007/07/the\\_us\\_moves\\_on\\_hezbollah\\_char.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2007/07/the_us_moves_on_hezbollah_char.php)

Understanding & Disrupting Terrorist Financing: Types of Terrorist Groups  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2007/07/understanding\\_disrupting\\_terror.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2007/07/understanding_disrupting_terror.php)

ARE YOU READY FOR HIZBOLLAH'S PREEMPTIVE TERROR?  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/04/are\\_you\\_ready\\_for\\_hizbollahs\\_p.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/04/are_you_ready_for_hizbollahs_p.php)

Will Congress Meet With Lebanese Parliamentarians Allied With Hezbollah?  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2007/04/will\\_congress\\_meet\\_with\\_lebane.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2007/04/will_congress_meet_with_lebane.php)

Lebanese Anti-Syrian Leader Agrees to Hezbollah's Terrorism Agenda  
[http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/02/lebanese\\_antisyrian\\_leader\\_agr.php](http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/02/lebanese_antisyrian_leader_agr.php)

Lebanese Anti-Syrian Leader Agrees to Hezbollah's Terrorism Agenda  
By Andrew Cochran

On Monday, Michael Aoun, Member of Parliament and leader of the Free Patriotic Movement, met with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's Secretary General, to discuss collaboration. These two leaders were on opposite ends of the Cedar Revolution that freed Lebanon from Syrian occupation last year, and Aoun is seeking the presidency after being kicked out of the country 15 years ago. The meeting produced a "memorandum of understanding" between the two, and it looks like Aoun is perfectly willing to let Hezbollah continue to pursue its agenda of terrorism against Israel and other Western interests. The MoA refers to Israel as "enemy territory" from which Lebanese should return (paragraph 6); it calls for renewed relations with Syria and the Palestinians without expressing any concern for their terrorist activities in the region (paragraphs 7 & 8), and doesn't limit Hezbollah from possessing and using its arms in any way (paragraph 9). Nasrallah seemed to support Aoun's bid for president, "We see in Aoun a serious and competent candidate who enjoys wide popularity." At a Shiite ceremony today in Beirut, Nasrallah said, "Defending the prophet should continue all over the world. Let Condoleezza Rice and Bush and all the tyrants shut up...We will uphold the messenger of God not only by our voices but also by our blood." We should hope that Aoun's backers, many of whom profess to be Christians, aren't so willing to compromise with terrorism.

February 9, 2006

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update:

US makes list of Lebanese engaged in 'anti-democratic actions'  
FPM slams charge of undermining sovereignty as 'ridiculous'  
By Iman Azzi  
Daily Star staff  
Thursday, August 09, 2007

BEIRUT: The US is preparing a list of the names of wealthy Lebanese businessmen known to have various political and religious backgrounds, and identified with partaking in suspicious activity, the Central News Agency (CNA) reported Wednesday. The CNA added that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had opened an inquiry into a relative of a

prominent Christian Lebanese leader who recently purchased land in North Carolina worth more than \$10 million. The FBI charged that the salary of the man being investigated could not support such expensive real estate and is aiming to find the source of the funds.

In comments to Arab journalists on Monday, Under-Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch discussed last week's executive order signed by President George W. Bush that aims to block property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic process and institutions, according to a White House statement.

The US would examine "any information there is about persons who may be engaged in anti-democratic actions," he said.

"It is not a matter of opposition to one person in government, or to the government, it is not personal in that sense. And there are a variety of people who I think should receive scrutiny right away because their loyalty does not lie either to the Constitution or to the country," added Welch without naming specific parties or people.

Welch was then asked how the executive order would affect the main members of Lebanon's opposition, namely the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) and Hizbullah if they refused to partake in a parliamentary election to elect a successor to President Emile Lahoud. Welch's answer concentrated on the laws already in place targeting Hizbullah and pointedly avoided mentioning if or how this would be used against the FPM.

The daily An-Nahar on Tuesday, citing prominent sources, said "any citizen is subject" to the executive order issued by US President George Bush which aims at blocking property of persons undermining Lebanon's sovereignty or its democratic process and institutions.

An-Nahar said the move reflects the US administration's "never-ending concern" over the possibility of Aoun's participation in any activity that could lead to the emergence of dual governments or hinder upcoming presidential elections if he figured he was not going to win.

A member of the FPM told The Daily Star that any attempt to charge the FPM of undermining Lebanese sovereignty was "ridiculous."

"The FPM as a member of the opposition is participating in a very democratic manner. I don't see how this would have any impact on the FPM or its members," the official said, refusing to comment further until an official statement was released by the US. - with Naharnet