

## Qahwaji in Paris on July 19 to Discuss Military Assistance to Lebanon

Contributed by Naharnet  
Monday, 11 July 2011

Army chief Gen. Jean Qahwaji is scheduled to visit Paris on July 19 for talks with top French army officials to provide military assistance to Lebanon, An Nahar daily reported Saturday.

A high-ranking source told An Nahar late last month that Qahwaji's visit to Washington and Paris depends on the appointment of a new chief of staff to replace Maj. Gen. Shawqi al-Masri following his retirement.

A Lebanese army delegation that recently visited Washington told officials there that the military was not willing to fight Hezbollah to serve Israel.

There is growing concern in Lebanon that the U.S. would stop providing military assistance after the formation of the new cabinet that is dominated by Hizbullah and its allies.

An Nahar's source said that U.S. military assistance hasn't yet stopped but "I feel it has been frozen."