

Emergency briefing on Lebanon's violence to Transatlantic

Contributed by Administrator
Monday, 30 December 2013

"Opposition should change its strategy on Hezbollah"

Mideast Newswire

In the wake of the assassination of moderate politician, advisor and diplomat Mohammed Chatah and the killing and wounding of many Lebanese as a result of the Terror attack in Beirut, Dr Walid Phares performed a short emergency briefing to members of the US Congress and the European Parliament via staffers on the latest violence in Lebanon. "Mr Chatah was not only a moderate Sunni Lebanese scholar who served as a diplomat and has been serving as advisor to several Prime Ministers, but he was also an important bridge between the forces of the liberal opposition to Hezbollah and the Iranian-Assad axis in the country" said Phares. "His elimination was a preemptive strike against any attempt to internationalize the Lebanese crisis and any official call on the international community to intervene against both Hezbollah and the al Qaeda linked groups in Lebanon." Phares added "we know that Mr Chatah played a role in convincing the slain Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri in 2004 to go the international route to remove Syrian forces from Lebanon. As soon as Hariri adhered to the UNSCR 1559 late 2004 and early 2005 he was executed by Hezbollah. This year, as soon as Mohammed Chatah was in the process of seeking international support to remove Hezbollah's armed control from Lebanon and withdraw its forces from Syria's civil war, he was eliminated."

Phares added: "However, while the Iranian-Assad axis is the main threat, along with al Qaeda, to Lebanon's freedom and security, we should note that the Lebanese opposition, also known as March 14 Coalition has lost several opportunities to seize the momentum, to allow international initiatives. In 2005, after the success of a massive popular uprising, known as the Cedars Revolution, the politicians of that Coalition invited Hezbollah to be part of an electoral alliance, and later on invited the Terror group to join the Government." Phares concluded that "without a serious and strategic change in direction on behalf of the opposition regarding Hezbollah's status and legality, as Egypt's Government has identified the Jihadists in Sinai and across the country, it will be difficult to launch serious and effective international initiatives to help Lebanon against Terror."