



Iran Strategy Brief No. 4: Hezbollah's Inroads Into The Western Hemisphere

August 23, 2011 **Ilan I. Berman**

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A year after the attacks of September 11th, then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, in contextualizing the terrorist threat facing the country, made a telling assessment. "Hezbollah may be the A-team of terrorists," Mr. Armitage told an audience at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, "and maybe al-Qaida is actually the B-team." The description was apt, and remains so. With a presence in an estimated forty countries on five different continents, the Lebanese Shi'ite militia represents one of the very few terrorist groups active today that possess a truly global presence and reach.

This footprint extends not only to the greater Middle East and Europe, but to the Western Hemisphere as well. Over the past quarter-century, Hezbollah has devoted considerable energy and resources to establishing an extensive network of operations throughout the Americas. Today, its web of activity in our hemisphere stretches from Canada to Argentina, and encompasses a wide range of illicit activities and criminal enterprises, from drug trafficking to recruitment to fundraising and training.

Read the full Iran Strategy Brief, in PDF form, by clicking on the link below.