

Hezbollah's staying power remains unshaken

Movement's adversaries miscalculate

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By Mohammad Ali Senobari
Director of New Vision

**OPINION
EXCLUSIVE**

The funeral of Hezbollah's top-ranking martyrs Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine was not merely a ceremony bidding farewell to great leaders; Rather, it was a resounding declaration of strength, unity, and resilience. This event sent shockwaves through both supporters and opponents alike. Those who viewed the funeral as a mere emotional event to boost Hezbollah's morale failed to grasp the deeper significance of this historic moment. It was not just about mourning; It was a message of defiance, strength, and unwavering commitment to resistance. The mass mobilization accompanying the funeral was not a reaction to tragedy but rather a declaration of continuity and defiance. It served as evidence of Hezbollah's resilience, not only as a military force but as a deeply rooted social and political entity. When analyzing this event, it becomes clear that Hezbollah's strength is not merely derived from its leadership, weapons, or battlefield victories but also from the organic relationship it has built with its people, its ability to adapt to shifting geopolitical realities, and its strategy and vision that extend beyond Lebanon's borders.

Beyond mourning: Testament to endurance, control

Traditionally, a funeral signifies closure. It represents an end, a

farewell, a moment of sorrow and reflection. However, the funeral of Hezbollah's leaders took place in an entirely different context. It was not about an ending but rather a reaffirmation of continuity and evolution.

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Many political movements throughout history have faced existential crises after the assassination or loss of their key leaders. Their ranks have crumbled, their ideologies wavered, and their followers dissipated. Hezbollah's adversaries had anticipated a similar trajectory, expecting the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah to push the party into disarray. Instead, the funeral proved that Hezbollah's fundamental strength does not lie solely in individuals but in a well-structured institutional system of governance, military organization, and mass mobilization. The funeral was carried out with meticulous precision, without any breakdown in control despite the immense size of the crowd — which in itself was a powerful message. It debunked the notion that Hezbollah's authority over its base relies solely on its leadership. This event was not a fleet-

ing occurrence; Rather, it was an affirmation that the party's grip on its supporters remains firm, even under the most emotionally charged circumstances.

Redefining perceptions of power

One of the most striking aspects of this event was the sheer scale of participation. The funeral was not limited to Hezbollah's direct base; It became a national and even international phenomenon. Participants arrived from more than 80 countries, making it one of the most significant mobilizations in modern Arab history.

This level of participation shattered many narratives that Hezbollah's adversaries had long sought to cultivate. First, it dispelled the notion that Hezbollah is an isolated entity, a sectarian force confined to Lebanon's Shia community. The presence of people from different sects, nationalities, and backgrounds demonstrated that Hezbollah's influence extends far beyond its traditional constituency. It is not merely a Lebanese or regional player but a global symbol of resistance.

Second, the funeral undermined the persistent Western narrative that Hezbollah is losing its grip on popular support. In reality, such a vast and sustained turnout would have been impossible if Hezbollah's base were eroding. Instead, the event showcased a level of popular commitment that few political organizations — whether in Lebanon or across the region — could ever dream of achieving.

This public display also carried another significant implication: Hezbollah's adversaries are not merely contending with a mili-

tary force or a political faction, but also with a deeply entrenched socio-political entity backed by the loyalty of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people. No amount of military pressure, economic sanctions, or political isolation can simply dissolve a movement that enjoys such widespread legitimacy among its supporters.

Lessons about Hezbollah's organizational strength

The funeral was also a testament to Hezbollah's organizational discipline — a characteristic that has long set it apart from other armed and political movements in the region.

Despite the intense emotional atmosphere, the event remained under strict control. Hundreds of thousands of people moved in an organized manner, there were no security breaches, and not a single gunshot was fired — an almost unprecedented feat for a gathering of this magnitude in the Arab world. This was not merely an example of crowd control; It was a reflection of Hezbollah's military, political, and social discipline.

This level of organization sends a direct message to Hezbollah's adversaries: Its internal cohesion remains intact. The Zionist entity, along with its Western backers, has long sought to weaken Hezbollah from within, hoping to foster internal divisions and sow discord. The funeral proved that these efforts have failed. Hezbollah remains a well-oiled machine, capable of managing not only its fighters on the battlefield but also its vast network of supporters in times of crisis.

Moreover, this discipline speaks

to Hezbollah's military capabilities. If it can organize an event of this magnitude with such precision, then it undoubtedly possesses the logistical and strategic capacities needed to sustain prolonged military engagements. This realization is crucial in understanding why Hezbollah remains an indomitable force despite continuous attacks from the occupying entity.

Strategic victory in face of assassination

Following the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, there was a widespread belief — especially among Hezbollah's enemies — that this marked the beginning of the party's downfall. Some Western analysts prematurely concluded that Hezbollah had suffered an irreversible blow, one that would dismantle its leadership structure and plunge its operations into chaos.

However, the post-assassination phase and its aftermath proved the exact opposite. Rather than disintegrating, Hezbollah quickly reorganized, maintaining its political and military operations seamlessly. Within days, it restored its internal communication networks, adjusted its battlefield strategy, and continued its resistance efforts without interruption.

The fact that the occupying entity ultimately agreed to a cease-fire following these events is itself an admission of failure. Had Hezbollah truly been on the verge of collapse, as some speculated, the Zionist entity would have pressed forward to deliver a decisive blow. Instead, the enemy realized that Hezbollah remained intact — it was still capable of launching



Mourners gather during a public funeral ceremony for late Hezbollah leaders Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (shown on the left side of the gigantic poster) and Hashem Safieddine in Beirut, Lebanon, on February 23, 2025.
● THAHER AL-SUDANI/REUTERS



Sheikh Naim Qassem (front-2nd L), who was later named Hezbollah's new leader, delivers an impassioned speech in Beirut, Lebanon, on September 22, 2024.
● COURTNEY BONNEAU/AFP



Supporters from Lebanon and beyond fill the Camille Chamoun Sports City stadium, where a part of the funeral of Hezbollah's assassinated leaders Nasrallah and Safieddine is held, on February 23, 2025.
● THAHER AL-SUDANI/REUTERS