Hezbollah’s Global Network of Crime and Terror
Matthew Levitt Reveals the Organization’s Worldwide Terrorist Activities and Financial Structure

WASHINGTON D.C. — Hezbollah, Lebanon’s “Party of God,” is a multifaceted organization: it is a powerful political party in Lebanon, a Shia Islam religious and social movement, Lebanon’s largest militia, a close ally of Iran, and a terrorist network. Hezbollah and Iran both deny the existence of a Hezbollah terrorist apparatus, but intelligence services worldwide know it well. While some acts of terror, like the kidnappings in Lebanon in the 1980s and the 1992 and 1994 bombings in Buenos Aires, are generally known, Hezbollah’s global presence and terrorist activities go much farther.

Despite the wealth of material published over the past few years on al Qaeda, the war on terrorism, and Iraq, far less has been written about Hezbollah. The few books that have been published focus on the group’s ideology, history, and activities in Lebanon. Matthew Levitt’s *Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God* breaks new ground with this first thorough examination of this organization’s covert operations beyond Lebanon’s borders. Drawing on extensive field research, including interviews with intelligence and law enforcement officials around the world, newly declassified intelligence material, court documents, and official reports, Levitt traces Hezbollah’s beginnings with its first violent forays in Lebanon. He then investigates its terrorist activities and criminal enterprises abroad in Europe, the Middle East, South America, Southeast Asia, Africa, and finally in North America, concluding with a look at Hezbollah’s position as Iran’s most trusted, professional, and deniable proxy.

Levitt argues convincingly that Hezbollah’s willingness to use violence at home and abroad should be of serious concern. *Hezbollah* authoritatively documents the history of Hezbollah’s clandestine activities over time and across continents, including the group’s terrorist operations and financial and logistical networks. A topic of tremendous relevance to current events, understanding the threat posed by Hezbollah today could not be more pressing.

Matthew Levitt is a senior fellow and director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy’s Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. Previously, Dr. Levitt served as the deputy assistant secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the US Department of the Treasury, as an FBI counterterrorism analyst, and as an adviser on counterterrorism to the US State Department. Levitt held fellowships with the Combating Terrorism Center at the US Military Academy and the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of *Hamas: Politics, Charity, and Terrorism in the Service of Jihad* (Yale University Press, 2006).

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News stories drawn from the book are embargoed until August 15, 2013. Book reviews prior to this date are welcome.

PUBLICITY CONTACT: Jackie Beilhart, (202) 687-9298, jb594@georgetown.edu

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Advance Praise for *Hezbollah*

“Matthew Levitt is a recognized authority on Hezbollah and its activities, both in the Levant and globally. . . . *Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God* fills a vital gap in understanding the international dimensions of Hezbollah, its reach, and its capacities for terrorism worldwide.” — **Charles Allen**, former Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Collection, CIA

“Hezbollah is perhaps the world’s most capable group. Terrorism expert Matthew Levitt offers a comprehensive and fascinating assessment of Hezbollah’s network outside the Lebanese theater, exposing its operations and fundraising apparatus in Asia, Latin America, Europe, and even the United States.” — **Daniel Byman**, professor, Center for Security Studies, Georgetown University

“Matthew Levitt has made a significant contribution to public understanding of Hezbollah’s worldwide operations. He has shone a bright light into some of the darkest corners of the group’s activities overseas.” — **Richard Barrett**, former head of MI6/SIS/British Intelligence’s Counter Terrorism Department and coordinator of the United Nations Al-Qaeda-Taliban Monitoring Team

“Matthew Levitt has laid out a timely and relevant history of Hezbollah, a global terrorist organization often referred to as the ‘A Team’ of terror. This book comes at the right time as Hezbollah continues its decades-long war against the United States, Israel, and our allies around the globe while it attempts to consolidate political power in Lebanon—on its behalf and for the Iranian regime.” — **Juan Zarate**, former Deputy National Security Advisor for Combatting Terrorism and author of the forthcoming book, *Treasury’s War*

“Richard Armitage, then Deputy Secretary of State, once described Hezbollah as the ‘A team’ of international terror. In his extraordinary new book, Matthew Levitt explains why Hezbollah is seen as such a global threat. Levitt paints a compelling picture of Hezbollah’s terror activities not just in the Middle East but throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America. While Western intelligence and law enforcement agencies have tracked and disrupted Hezbollah’s global activities for years, this highly unsettling story has been largely unknown to wider publics. Thanks to Levitt’s meticulous and well-written book that should no longer be the case.” — **Ambassador Dennis Ross**, counselor at the Washington Institute; former Special Assistant to President Obama and Senior Director for the Central Region at the National Security Council
“This book tells the sinister story of a highly sophisticated organization that for more than thirty years has been an archetype of world-wide illicit activities. Hezbollah effectively combines its overt social and political activities with covert criminal and terrorist operations on a global scale. Matthew Levitt's painstaking collection of a rich array of data provides uncomfortable evidence of ‘The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God.’ This book is essential reading for policy-makers and the international intelligence community.” — Uri Rosenthal, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

“In Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God, Matthew Levitt, through adept storytelling and impressive attention to historical detail, manages to teach even long-time students of the Middle East a great deal about Hezbollah. The book leaves little doubt as to the increasing importance, danger, and international reach of Hezbollah. It will be an important resource for serious scholars of the Middle East and a great read for anyone interested in better understanding the region.” — Andy Liepman, Senior Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation; former Principal Deputy Director, National Counterterrorism Center

“Matthew Levitt’s book touches a key point of the growing debate on Hezbollah: the approach to the phenomenon. It is a reminder for us Europeans that there are threats that might seem distant geographically, but could nevertheless have a strong impact politically on the continent as well.” — Franco Frattini, Justice and Chamber President of the Italian Conseil d’Etat (Supreme Administrative Court); President of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI); former Italian Foreign Minister (2002-2004 and 2008-2011)

“This book on Lebanese Hezbollah is a unique incisive insight into its global terror tentacles around the globe. No one has catalogued these terrorist connections and plots in such forensic detail as Matthew Levitt, especially how the terror nexus between Hezbollah and Iran has continually evolved. It systematically lays bare Hezbollah’s operational capability and its multiple intersections with Iranian intelligence architecture. This should be required reading for every intelligence analyst and terrorism researcher.” — Magnus Ranstrop, research director, Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies at the Swedish National Defence College

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# # #
Matthew Levitt
Author of *Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God*

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Matthew Levitt is a senior fellow and director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. Dr. Levitt has written extensively on terrorism and countering violent extremism with articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals, policy magazines, and the press, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The National Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Daily Beast*. As an internationally recognized expert on Hezbollah, he is a frequent guest for television news programs and radio shows, such as CNN’s *The Situation Room*, *Fox News*, *The Diane Rehm Show*, and NPR News. Dr. Levitt regularly does speaking engagements across the globe. His other books include *Hamas: Politics, Charity and Terrorism in the Service of Jihad* (Yale University Press, 2006) and *Negotiating Under Fire: Preserving Peace Talks in the Face of Terror Attacks* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008).

From 2005 to early 2007, Dr. Levitt served as deputy assistant secretary for intelligence and analysis at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In that capacity, he served both as a senior official within the department's terrorism and financial intelligence branch and as deputy chief of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, one of sixteen U.S. intelligence agencies coordinated under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. During his tenure at Treasury, Dr. Levitt played a central role in efforts to protect the U.S. financial system from abuse and to deny terrorists, weapons proliferators, and other rogue actors the ability to finance threats to U.S. national security. In 2008-2009, he served as a State Department counterterrorism advisor to the special envoy for Middle East regional security (SEMERS), General James L. Jones.
From 2001 to 2005, Dr. Levitt served the Washington Institute for Near East Policy as founding director of its Terrorism Research Program (now renamed as above), which was established in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Previously, he served as a counterterrorism intelligence analyst at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), where he provided tactical and strategic analytical support for counterterrorism operations, focusing on fundraising and logistical support networks for Middle Eastern terrorist groups. During his FBI service, Dr. Levitt participated as a team member in a number of crisis situations, including the terrorist threat surrounding the turn of the millennium and the September 11 attacks. He has earned numerous awards and commendations for his government service at both the FBI and the Treasury Department.

Dr. Levitt has served as an expert witness in several criminal and civil cases, lectured on international terrorism on behalf of the Departments of State, Justice, Defense, and Homeland Security, consulted for various U.S. government agencies and private industry, and testified before the Senate and House of Representatives on matters relating to international terrorism. He has held fellowships with the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Homeland Security Policy Institute at the George Washington University, has taught at Johns Hopkins University/SAIS, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves as a member of the international advisory board for both the Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel and the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research in Singapore.

Dr. Levitt holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Yeshiva University, as well as a master's degree in law and diplomacy and a doctorate from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He was a graduate research fellow at Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation, and has taught at both Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

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Matthew Levitt in the Media

Select Recent Publications:

- “Hezbollah’s European enablers,” The National Post, March 11, 2013
- “On a Military Wing and a Prayer,” Foreign Policy, February 12, 2013
- Hizballah and the Qods Force in Iran’s Shadow War with the West, Policy Focus 123 (Washington, D.C.: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, January 2013)

Select Recent Interviews:

- Sky News At 6 With Andrew Wilson, “Syria Air Strikes,” April 23, 2013
- France 24 The Interview, “Hezbollah and Israel: A New Kind of War?” February 27, 2013
- The Diane Rehm Show, “Understanding Hezbollah,” August 20, 2012

Select Recent Media Mentions:

- “Hezbollah Targets Israeli Tourists,” Salon, April 29, 2013
- “’Shadow War’ between Israel, Iran Rages on as Obama Visits,” The Washington Times, March 20, 2013
- “Die Hisbollah ist eine Terrorganisation,” Der Tagesspiegel, March 25, 2013
- “Investigators on Hezbollah Restart the Debate of their Terrorist Status,” Le Monde, March 29, 2013
Select Recent Lectures and Briefings:

- Maryland State Antiterrorism Advisory Council (ATAC) lecture, “Hezbollah and the Qods Force in Iran’s Shadow War with the West,” January 30, 2013
- La Societa Italiana per l’Organizzazione Internazionale, in collaboration with the American Jewish Committee, “Hezbollah and the Qods Force in Iran’s Shadow War with the West,” March 13, 2013
- DI Speaker Series, Directorate of Intelligence and Senior Intelligence Officer Council, Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon’s Party of God,” March 22, 2013
- US Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command brief, Ft. Meade, “Hezbollah and the Qods Force in Iran’s Shadow War With the West,” April 5, 2013
- Lecture for Military Intelligence Detachment for 4th BN, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Ft. Campbell, April 10, 2013

A frequently updated list of Matthew Levitt’s media mentions is available here:
http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/press-room/media_mentions_archive/14643

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