

# Spotlight on Iran and the Shiite Axis

June 10—17, 2026

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## Key Trends

- ▶ The Iranian regime emphasized the link between the end of the war in Iran and the cessation of the campaign in Lebanon.
- ▶ The signing of the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States renewed dialogue between the president of Lebanon and the Iranian leadership after a period of tension.
- ▶ The involvement of senior Iranian military officials in Lebanon continues, specifically in commanding Hezbollah and transferring aid to the organization.
- ▶ The commander of the Qods Force praised the implementation of the “unity of the arenas” concept and the capabilities of the “Resistance Front” during the war.

## Highlights<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ Senior Iranian officials stressed that the ceasefire in Lebanon and an Israeli withdrawal constitute a central and inseparable part of the memorandum of understanding reached between Iran and the United States to end the war, and that failure to fulfill these demands would be considered a violation.
- ▶ Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the United States, the Iranian foreign minister held talks with the Lebanese president and the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, briefing them on its details. The speaker of the Iranian Majles also spoke with his Lebanese counterpart.
- ▶ Prior to the completion of the memorandum of understanding, senior Iranian officials threatened another missile attack against Israel in response to the IDF strike in Beirut.
- ▶ It was reported that senior Iranian military officials continue to operate in Lebanon and are involved in commanding Hezbollah and transferring Iranian aid to the organization.
- ▶ The commander of the Qods Force spoke at length about the conduct of the “Axis of Resistance” during the war, clarifying that the additional fronts came to Iran’s aid on their own initiative without being asked, as they knew it was their duty.

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<sup>1</sup> The weekly study includes the activities of Iran, the Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria, and the Houthis in Yemen.

- ▶ The Houthis condemned the president of Somaliland’s visit to Israel.
- ▶ The pro-Iranian militias in Iraq mourned senior Hezbollah official Mussa Ali Daqduq, who was eliminated in southern Lebanon, and emphasized his contribution to the “resistance against the American occupier” in Iraq.
- ▶ The “Islamic Resistance Front in Syria” criticized the statement made by the Israeli defense minister that the IDF would not withdraw from the “security zone” in southern Syria.

## Iran and Recent Developments in Lebanon

▶ Against the backdrop of the completion of the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, senior Iranian regime officials emphasized that the new agreement includes the cessation of the campaign in Lebanon as well, and that they will not compromise on a total end to the “aggression” and a full withdrawal of Israel from Lebanese territory. The following are notable statements:

- ◆ Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei noted that the IDF attack in Beirut on June 14, 2026, became an opportunity to advance the interests of Iran and the “Resistance Front” and increased the cohesion of the front against the “Zionist regime.” Baghaei emphasized that ending the war in Lebanon is an inseparable part of the understandings regarding the end of the war in Iran, and that Iran will continue to closely monitor developments and use all means at its disposal to realize its demands. He added that the word “Lebanon” appears three times in the memorandum of understanding and that the memorandum clarifies the components that must be included in any arrangement on this matter (Tasnim, June 15, 2026).

- ◆ Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and updated them on the details of the clauses in the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, particularly the clauses concerning Lebanon. Araghchi emphasized the Islamic Republic’s commitment to ending the war and “aggression” in Lebanon, the responsibility of the United States to ensure the proper implementation of the clauses of the understandings, and the need for a total cessation of Israeli attacks against Lebanon. The senior Lebanese officials welcomed the content of the memorandum of understanding and emphasized that Lebanon’s stability and security are an inseparable part of any serious effort to achieve stability in the region. Furthermore, they expressed gratitude for the inclusion of the issue of ending the war against Lebanon in the text of the memorandum of understanding (Tasnim, June 15, 2026).

- ◆ Majles Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf spoke with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and discussed with him the developments in the region and the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States (ISNA, June 16, 2026).
- ◆ In a meeting with ambassadors and international representatives in Tehran, Foreign Minister Araghchi said that ending the war on the Lebanese front is one of the fundamental conditions of the agreement with Iran. He noted that given the link between the Iranian front and the Lebanese front against the “aggression of the Zionist regime,” the Islamic Republic viewed ending the war in Lebanon from the very beginning as an inseparable and necessary part of the process. Therefore, just as the ceasefire included Lebanon, the announcement of the end of the war also unequivocally includes the Lebanese front. He added that without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during the war, the war cannot be considered completely over. According to him, any military attack by Israel against Lebanon from now on, as well as Israel’s continued holding of Lebanese territories, will be considered a “violation” of the memorandum of understanding (Tasnim, June 16, 2026).
- ◆ In an interview with Iranian television prior to the completion of the memorandum of understanding, Araghchi said that Iran had never forgotten Lebanon during the war because Lebanon and Hezbollah had fought alongside the Iranian people, and that Iran would never leave them alone. He added that, according to the understandings with the United States, a commitment would be made not to launch another war and not to resort to threats or the use of force (Telegram channel of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, June 12, 2026).



**The Iranian foreign minister (snn.ir, June 12, 2026)**

- ◆ The Iranian Khatam al-Anbiya Emergency Headquarters warned Israel of a harsh response if it continues its attacks in southern Lebanon. In the statement, it was claimed that the “terrorist army of the Zionist regime” violated the ceasefire in southern Lebanon 84 times over the course of two days (June 15–16, 2026) and continues its “crimes” and the killing of the

Lebanese people. The Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters further warned that if the “child-killing army of the Zionist regime” does not stop its “aggression” in southern Lebanon, it should expect a severe response from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic (Fars, June 16, 2026).

► The IDF attack against the Hezbollah headquarters in Beirut’s southern suburb (Dahiyeh) provoked angry responses from senior Iranian officials, who threatened to respond alongside a demonstration of confidence in Hezbollah’s ability to cope with the “aggression”:

◆ Majles Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf stated that the “Zionists’ aggression” in Beirut’s Dahiyeh proved once again that the United States lacks the will or the ability to fulfill its commitments. He added that concessions cannot be achieved by giving a green light to the “Zionist regime,” and that without the will and ability to fulfill commitments, it is impossible to speak of continuing down this path (Qalibaf’s X account, June 14, 2026).

◆ Mohammad Ja’far Asadi, the deputy commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Emergency Headquarters, warned that the Israeli attack in Beirut will not remain unanswered (Defa Press, June 14, 2026).

◆ Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, wrote in a published statement that the response of the warriors of Islam is still ahead of us. According to him, the “unity of the arenas” created a security chain to defend the region; Lebanon is Iran’s soul; and the violation of the Islamic Republic’s red lines will not pass without a response (Mehr, June 14, 2026).

◆ Qods Force commander Esmail Qaani stated that the great victory of Hezbollah over the “vile Zionists” is on the way. He noted that the nations of the world recognize Lebanon’s independence thanks to the magnitude of Hezbollah’s sacrifice, and not due to the dependency of a few rulers (Tasnim, June 14, 2026). In a statement published by Qaani on June 11, 2026, the commander of the Qods Force wrote that the “Zionist regime” must know that the “ongoing occupation, aggression, and crimes” against the residents of southern Lebanon will never break the will of the Lebanese people and the fighters of Hezbollah. It was further written that southern Lebanon has always been and will remain a land of honor, “resistance,” and steadfastness, and that Hezbollah, as a symbol of the “resistance” and honor of the Islamic nation, will continue to stand at the forefront of defending Lebanon and confronting the ambitions of the “occupation regime” (IRNA, June 11, 2026).

► It was reported that senior Iranian military officials deployed across Lebanon constitute the liaison axis between Tehran and Hezbollah and are involved in commanding the organization and making

decisions during the campaign against Israel. According to the report, these officials convey the organization's situation and its needs to the regime in Tehran and work to transfer funds, equipment, weapons, and training from Iran to Hezbollah with the aim of strengthening it and thwarting the Lebanese government's efforts to restrict its steps (Kan 11, June 13, 2026).

## Qods Force Commander's Interview on the "Resistance Front"

► Qods Force commander Qaani gave an interview to Iranian television, in which he addressed Iran and the "Resistance Front" following the "Roaring Lion war." The following are the key points (Iranian Broadcasting Authority website, June 16, 2026):

- ◆ **The concept of "resistance":** The concept of "resistance" is one of the central foundations of Islam, and a true Muslim is a person in whom the spirit of resistance is inherent. He added that the Americans and the "Zionists" know full well that the only factor that continues to stand against them under the most difficult conditions and does not leave the battlefield is the "resistance." He noted that since the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, unprecedented pressure has been applied to the Palestinians and to Lebanon, but despite the destruction, casualties, and "crimes" against them, none of the "resistance" elements have withdrawn from the struggle.
- ◆ **The concept of "unity of the arenas":** The United States and Israel viewed the war as an opportunity to weaken the "Axis of Resistance" as well, but according to Qaani, they miscalculated, and the concept of "unity of the arenas" was realized through the convergence of the various fronts against the "enemy." He claimed that all the "resistance" elements in the region – in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and even among the Palestinians – independently concluded that they must assist Iran according to their capabilities when it came under threat, without waiting for an explicit request. They viewed supporting the Islamic Republic, which constitutes the focal point of the "resistance," as a duty incumbent upon them. Qaani emphasized that the concept of "unity of the arenas" had proven itself once again during the war, as all fronts joined the effort against the enemy.
- ◆ **The campaign in Lebanon:** Hezbollah entered the campaign and proved wrong anyone who claimed the organization had weakened. According to Qaani, the IDF repeatedly replaced its fighting units during the war, while Hezbollah fighters continued to fight under extremely difficult conditions and did not break, despite all the resources at Israel's disposal. He added that whoever believes the organization can be eliminated is wrong because it represents the

entire Shiite society in Lebanon, as well as significant parts of non-Shiite society in the country. He warned Israel and the United States not to confront the “resistance” because they are incapable of subduing it.

◆ **The war in the Gaza Strip:** Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the other “resistance” organizations are the winners, even though they paid a heavy price.

◆ **Consequences of the campaign:** Qaani expressed his confidence that the war accelerated the beginning of the decline of the United States and that the collapse of the “Zionist regime” is now approaching at a faster pace.



**The commander of the Qods Force (Iranian Broadcasting Authority website, June 16, 2026)**

## The Houthis in Yemen

► Against the backdrop of reaching the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, the Houthi Foreign Ministry claimed that the United States failed to achieve its goals in its “aggression” against Iran. According to the ministry, the understandings reached are a result of the resilience and steadfastness of the fronts of the “Axis of Resistance,” understandings which establish the equation of “unity of the arenas,” thwarting the “Zionist project” that seeks to establish “Greater Israel” under the guise of change in the Middle East. It was further claimed that the armed forces across all “fronts of the Axis of Resistance” remain ready due to the “enemy’s” habit of violating agreements and commitments. The ministry praised the role of Pakistan “and a few other countries” in halting the “American aggression” and declared that the Houthis are committed to ensuring that any agreement leads to the establishment of “real security and peace that will end the aggression and the siege imposed on the Jerusalem axis” (Telegram channel of the Houthi Foreign Ministry, June 15, 2026).

► Mahdi al-Mashat, the head of the Houthi Supreme Political Council (SPC), congratulated Iran on its “great victory against the American-Zionist aggression,” which he claimed serves the entire Islamic nation and the region and contributes to their security against “American and Israeli hegemony projects.” According to al-Mashat, the recent confrontation confirmed that the “era of

aggression without consequences” has ended, and Iran’s insistence on maintaining the “unity of the arenas” led to the cessation of the “Zionist aggression” in Lebanon (Mahdi al-Mashat’s Telegram channel, June 16, 2026).

► The Houthi Foreign Ministry condemned the president of Somaliland’s visit to Israel. The ministry claimed that whoever shakes the hands of the “Zionist war criminals” should feel shame and disgrace, and that by drawing closer to Israel, Somaliland distances itself from its Arab environment and the Islamic nation. It was further claimed that the “Arab stance” must move beyond condemnation and take “concrete steps” to stop Somaliland’s actions. The ministry confirmed Houthi support for Somalia and stressed that Israel would not achieve its “malicious plots” in Somalia and the Horn of Africa (Telegram channel of the Houthi Foreign Ministry, June 14, 2026).

► Mohammad al-Farah, a member of the Houthi political bureau, stated that there would be no sustainable peace or an end to the current war as long as the “Zionist enemy” occupies “Palestine.” According to him, what is happening now is a series of consecutive rounds of confrontation, and only a “fool” would be complacent and fail to prepare for the next rounds (Mohammad al-Farah’s X account, June 12, 2026).

## The Pro-Iranian Militias in Iraq

### The militias’ responses to the killing of the senior Hezbollah official

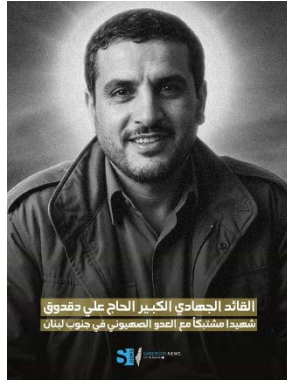
► The pro-Iranian militias in Iraq expressed condolences over the death of senior Hezbollah official Ali Mussa Daqduq, who was eliminated in an Israeli strike in southern Lebanon, and mentioned his significant role in the struggle against the “American occupation” in Iraq:<sup>2</sup>

◆ Qais al-Khazali, the secretary-general of Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, stated that Daqduq was a model of a dedicated fighter who devoted his life to the cause of truth and the eradication of oppressors. It was further stated that he was among the first to answer the “call of duty” to resist the “American occupation” in Iraq and that he made a significant contribution “to the organization, training, and development of the capabilities of the Islamic Resistance” (Qais al-Khazali’s X account, June 14, 2026).

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on Daqduq’s activities, see the ITIC’s study from March 19, 2019, “[Ali Mussa Daqduq \(Abu Hussein Sajed\): portrait of the commander of Hezbollah’s military network in the Golan Heights \(“The Golan Portfolio”\)](#)”

◆ In a statement by the Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba movement, it was said that Daqduq dedicated his life to jihad and to supporting the oppressed in the face of injustice and tyranny. The militia praised his stances that supported the Iraqi people during the years of “resistance to the American occupation” and the “defeat and humiliation” he inflicted on Israel in Lebanon (Harakat al-Nujaba’s Telegram channel, June 15, 2026).



**Right: Announcement by the Nujaba Movement on Daqduq’s death (Nujaba Movement Telegram channel, June 15, 2026). Left: Poster marking the death of the “great jihadi commander” Daqduq (Saberin News Telegram channel, June 14, 2026)**

◆ Haider al-Gharawi, the secretary-general of Ansar Allah al-Awfiya, stated that Daqduq was one of the pillars of the “resistance” in the region. He praised his assistance to the “resistance” in Iraq during the time of the “American occupation” and claimed that Daqduq embodied the “most sublime meanings of brotherhood, appreciation, and unity of destiny among the members of the Axis of Resistance,” serving as an active link between the arenas of confrontation (Haider al-Gharawi’s X account, June 15, 2026).

## The issue of disarming the militias

- ▶ Kata'ib al-Imam Ali (Imam Ali Brigades) announced that it had submitted “all data” regarding its fighters, as well as inventories of the weapons, equipment, and vehicles in its possession, to the joint committee responsible for dismantling the militia and integrating it into the Iraqi security apparatuses (Kata'ib al-Imam Ali Telegram channel, June 10, 2026).
- ▶ Following a meeting between the US envoy to Iraq and Syria, Tom Barrack, and the Prime Minister-designate of Iraq, Ali al-Zaidi, it was reported that an American request was conveyed to Iraq to draft a clear timetable for disarming the militias in the country and transferring their weapons to the state. It was further reported that Iraq is waiting for the results of the contacts for an agreement between the United States and Iran in order to decide on its next steps on the matter. Additionally, it was reported that at the current point in time, the four main militias refusing to disarm are Kata'ib

Hezbollah, Harakat al-Nujaba, Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, and Ansar Allah al-Awfiya (Alhurra, June 16, 2026).

## The Militias in Syria

- ▶ “The Islamic Resistance Front in Syria – Possessors of Might (Uli al-Ba’s, or UAB)” criticized the statement made by Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz that Israel would not withdraw from the “security zone” in southern Syria. The militia stated that this is a delusional statement that ignores attacks carried out by the militia against Israeli forces in Syria in the days preceding the minister’s statement, due to which those forces “were forced” to withdraw and evacuate sites where they operated and to cancel offensive actions before their completion. The militia added that the locations of all Israeli forces in Syria are known to it and that it will act against them at the right time for it (Telegram channel of the Islamic Resistance Front in Syria, June 12, 2026). It should be noted that no attacks against IDF forces located in Syria were reported during the recent period.
- ▶ “The Islamic Resistance Front in Syria” congratulated Iran on achieving “a historic strategic victory and forcing the United States into full compliance with the red lines of the resistance and the cessation of the war.” The militia claimed that Iran dictated its terms and caused the “fall of the arrogance of the American-Zionist project and the collapse of the weapon of siege.” It further stated that Iran proved to the world that the “resistance fronts” are one body and that they emerged from the confrontation as a steadfast regional force that cannot be broken (Telegram channel of the Islamic Resistance Front in Syria, June 15, 2026).