



# GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

HEZBOLLAH'S NEXUS OF  
CRIMINAL SYNDICATES



GLOBAL EYE  
INTELLIGENCE

# Executive Summary

Hezbollah's transnational criminal activities have evolved into a complex web that spans the globe. The group's involvement in global crime is driven by its need for funding, particularly as it continues to fight IDF troops in Lebanon, try to formulate its position as a key actor amongst the 'Axis of Resistance' and engage in regional conflicts. Its operations include narcotrafficking, money laundering, arms smuggling, and ties to organized crime syndicates in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Hezbollah, a Shia Islamist political and militant group based in Lebanon, is recognized as both a legitimate political entity and a terrorist organization by various countries.



# Introduction

In recent decades, its international criminal enterprises have expanded, providing critical revenue to fund its military activities and social services in Lebanon. This report examines Hezbollah's global criminal activities, focusing on how these operations support its political and military goals and their implications for global security.

Hezbollah continues to exert significant political influence in Lebanon, controlling key ministries and maintaining a military wing. Despite financial pressures due to sanctions and increased military intervention from Israel, the group's criminal networks provide alternative revenue streams.



# Overview



GLOBAL EYE  
INTELLIGENCE

The group has become weak with the killing of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, the IDF's military operations in southern Lebanon and covert operations such as pager and walkie-talkie explosions that injured dozens of its fighters. However, Hezbollah remains deeply involved in the Syrian Civil War and has deep ties with the Iranian Government.

Hezbollah's criminal enterprises contribute to its financial resilience, helping it weather economic challenges despite U.S. and European sanctions, and amid the recent Israeli operation in Lebanon. However, increased international scrutiny is complicating its operations.

Hezbollah maintains support among Lebanon's Shia population through a network of social services funded in part by its illicit activities, including narcotics and arms trafficking.



# Regional Analysis

**Lebanon:** Hezbollah's dominance in Lebanon's political landscape is inseparable from its military and criminal activities. The group's illicit activities are vital to sustaining its local support base and ensuring its influence within the Lebanese government.

**Europe:** Hezbollah's operatives are linked to money laundering networks and drug trafficking, notably in Germany, France, and the Balkans. These activities help fund the group's militant operations and social services.

**West Africa:** Hezbollah has cultivated alliances with local criminal networks, engaging in drug trafficking, illegal diamond smuggling, and money laundering through West African countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia.



# Latin America

The group is heavily involved in narcotrafficking, particularly in the Tri-Border Area (TBA) between Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil. This region serves as a key node for drug smuggling and money laundering operations.

**Criminal Networks:** Hezbollah's involvement in narcotrafficking has expanded significantly, particularly in Latin America. The group works with drug cartels to move cocaine into Europe and West Asia, using profits to fund its military and political goals.

**Money Laundering:** Hezbollah operates sophisticated money laundering schemes, often through front companies and shell corporations in Europe, Latin America, and Africa. This allows

sanctions



# Latin America

**Drug Trafficking:** Hezbollah's narcotics operations, particularly its role in cocaine trafficking, are vital sources of revenue. The group's connections to Latin American drug cartels are key to moving drugs through Africa into Europe and West Asia.

**Global Reach:** Hezbollah's criminal operations demonstrate its ability to operate on a global scale, using both legal and illegal businesses to finance its activities while maintaining close ties to international crime syndicates.

# NARCOS



# Implications



GLOBAL EYE  
INTELLIGENCE

**Impact on International Relations:** Hezbollah's global criminal activities have drawn increasing attention from international law enforcement, particularly in the U.S. and Europe. Efforts to disrupt the group's finances have led to a tightening of sanctions and increased international cooperation.

**Regional Alliances and Rivalries:** Hezbollah's alliance with Iran is central to its survival. Tehran provides financial and military support, while Hezbollah's criminal operations offer the group financial independence and the ability to support Iran's strategic interests in the region.





# Outlook



**Strategic Considerations:** The group's global criminal network enables Hezbollah to remain financially stable despite sanctions, making it a persistent security threat in West Asia. Its ability to leverage criminal revenues for militant purposes underscores the need for robust international efforts to disrupt its illicit activities.

**Short-term Projections:** Hezbollah's global criminal activities are likely to continue growing as the group seeks alternative revenue sources amid sanctions. Law enforcement agencies will likely intensify efforts to dismantle these networks.

**Long-term Trends:** Hezbollah's resilience depends on its ability to maintain its criminal networks. Increased international collaboration may put additional pressure on the group's operations, but Hezbollah is expected to adapt and evolve its tactics.

# HEZBOLLAH





**Policy Recommendations:** International law enforcement agencies should enhance cooperation to disrupt Hezbollah's financial networks. Intelligence-sharing between countries affected by Hezbollah's activities in Latin America, Africa, and Europe is essential.

**Strategic Advice:** Policymakers should target Hezbollah's financial infrastructure, including front companies and money laundering operations. More aggressive measures to crack down on drug trafficking routes associated with Hezbollah will also be critical.



# GLOBAL EYE

## INTELLIGENCE



GLOBAL EYE  
INTELLIGENCE