

# Iran Pledges Aid to Lebanese Army



Lebanese Defense Minister Samir Moqbel (2nd left) holds talks with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani (right) in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said it is ready to provide aid to the Lebanese army as well as the Hezbollah resistance movement to help combat "terrorists."

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was quoted as saying that "supporting the Lebanese nation, army and resistance will still remain on Iran's agenda".

"Iran is ready to transfer its experience in order to improve security in Lebanon and the region, and to combat terrorists," he said during

a meeting with visiting Lebanese Defense Minister Samir Moqbel. Moqbel also met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and Defense Minister Hussein Dehqan.

Dehqan has said Tehran is ready to provide modern military equipment and strategic assistance to the Lebanese army to help it combat extremists.

During a meeting with Moqbel, Dehqan said such aid would have the aim of "consolidating national authority and reinforcing security

in Lebanon".

Shamkhani visited Beirut last month, where he exchanged views with senior Lebanese officials on ways to bolster bilateral defense cooperation.

The war in neighboring Syria has left Lebanon deeply vulnerable. In August the violence spilled across the border when militants from Syria briefly overran the border town of Arsal, killing and kidnapping several Lebanese soldiers and police.

The Iranian media reported that Tehran would provide the army with semi-heavy machine guns and ammunition, 120 mm mortars, 120 mm ammunition, 60 mm ammunition, TOW anti-armor missiles, TOW rockets, 155 mm artillery shells, night vision goggles, and T-55 and T-62 tank ammunition.

Echoing Shamkhani, Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif voiced Tehran's readiness to provide modern military equipment and strategic assistance to the Lebanese army "to enable it to gain an upper hand in its fight against terrorism".

The Holy Qur'an

And there are those of them who made a covenant with Allah: If He give us out of His grace, we will certainly give alms and we will certainly be of the good.

The Holy Qur'an (9.72)

#### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:49
Evening (Maghreb)	17:40
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:52
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:16

## Iraqi PM in Tehran to Discuss War on ISIL

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi was to visit Iran on Monday for talks on Baghdad's battle against ISIL, which holds swathes of the country, his office said.

The one-day trip was part of Abadi's bid "to unite the efforts of the region and the world to help Iraq in its war against the terrorist group", it said in a statement.

The visit also aimed to strengthen cooperation between the two neighbors "in the fields of energy, and housing and construction" among other areas.

Iraq is fighting to push back ISIL, which overran much of the country's Sunni Arab heartland in a lightning offensive in June.

Tehran is a key backer of the government in Baghdad.

According to senior Iraqi Kurdish officials, Iranian forces played a role in the Turkmen town of Amerli, where security forces and allied militiamen broke a months-long ISIL siege at the end of August.

On the eve of PM Abadi's visit, (Continued on Page 7)

## Turkey Mum on Death of Press TV Reporter

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- A Lebanese-American journalist covering the Syrian conflict for Iran's Press TV was killed in a car accident in Turkey, which her family and employers say was premeditated by the Turkish authorities, the station said Monday.

"Serene Shim was killed on Sunday as she was in Turkey on a mission on the Turkish side of the border across from Syria's strategic town of Kobani to cover the ongoing war there between the ISIL terrorists and Kurdish fighters," a Press TV report said.

Shim was returning to her hotel from reporting in the Turkish city of Suruç when the car she was traveling in collided with a heavy vehicle. The identity and whereabouts of the truck driver remain unknown, the report added.

A Press TV reporter in Beirut said the station was skeptical about the reported circumstances of Shim's death, because she arrived in Turkey almost 10 days ago and had been closely monitored by Turkish intelligence.

"She told us in an earlier message that intelligence people visited the

hotel where she was staying to collect information about her background and to keep a close eye on her," Ali Rizk told The Daily Star.

"Moreover, the truck driver who collided with her car has disappeared, and we are not aware that the Turkish authorities are investigating the accident, or searching for the driver. All these facts made the station question Serene's death," Rizk added.

Shim had told the station Friday that the Turkish intelligence agency accused her of spying and that she feared being arrested, the TV report said.

Members of Shim's family said they did not believe she died in a normal accident in Turkey and that they would pursue the matter legally, the station reported.

Press TV News Director Hamid Reza Emadi called on the Turkish government "to find out exactly what happened" to Serena, describing the accident as "suspicious", the report said.

Shim, a mother of two, worked for Press TV in Lebanon, Iraq, and Ukraine.

## Four Suspects Arrested Over Acid Attacks

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian authorities have arrested four people suspected of throwing acid on women, according to a report by the official IRNA news agency.

A string of acid attacks against at least two women in the central city of Isfahan last week prompted a loud public outcry. According to Iranian law, the four suspects, if convicted, could face the death penalty.

The IRNA report doesn't reveal the identities of the suspects or their possible motives.

Gholamhussein Mohseni Ejehei, a spokesman for the Iranian judiciary, told the Fars news agency Monday that the suspects, if convicted, should receive harsh sentences as a message to other potential attackers. "The perpetrators of such acts should be punished, but pre-emptive punishment so others do not dare to do such actions," he said.

Hojatolislam Muhammad Taghi Rahbar, a senior cleric in Isfahan, has condemned the attacks, saying that "such an act under any pretext is reprehensible".

## Press Digest

### Failed Hoax

**RESALAT:** Enemies are trying to destabilize Iran's borders because they failed in their efforts to topple the government in Syria. Those who are trying to destabilize Iran's borders are in for nothing because they will similarly fail. Iran protects its borders with the help of its Sunni and Shia forces.

### Red Line

**RESALAT:** No one can cross the red lines drawn by the leadership and that includes the ongoing nuclear talks. Enemies have done everything to sideline Iran but to no avail. It's been all to the leadership and his guidelines that we are where we are now: Strong, developed and influential.

### Nuclear Deal

**ETTELAAT:** It is still possible for Iran and the P5+1 to reach a deal in nuclear talks by November. It takes trust and determination to do just that – by both sides. There are still differences in almost all issues and that explains why no deal is still on the table.

### Plain Truth

**JOMHOURI ESLAMI:** Both the United States and ISIL goons are doomed to failure because they don't follow the truth. They have also failed tragically and completely in Syria because what they went after was not based on truth or reality. Syria has the full backing of Iran because they are allies.