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Even resistance has many forms..
The principle is.. do not leave your
place.



Resist in your way.



A parliament minister fighting for
jihad is like a fighter for Allah;
everyone fulfills his destiny.

 **Alma** Research and
Education Center

Hezbollah's Structure: The Civilian Wing – The Military Wing's Enabler

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This article is an introduction to a series of articles dealing with the structure of Hezbollah in general with the various councils and the executive council on its various civilian entities in particular, including key officials. All of these form a basis for supporting Hezbollah's military infrastructure and enabling its military activity.

The ongoing day-to-day activities of the Executive Council's civilian institutions support and assist Hezbollah's military activities. Hezbollah supports the "*principle of non-separation*" between its civilian activity and its military activity, and the "*resistance society*" ideology leads Hezbollah in all its actions, which is especially reflected in the implementation of the "human shield" tactic.

The Ruling Shura Council is Hezbollah's supreme council headed by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Under the Shura Council, there are five designated councils responsible for all of Hezbollah's military and civilian infrastructures and activities. Hezbollah's infrastructure and civilian activities constitute the foundation for its military activities.

The five designated councils include the two main councils: the Jihad Council, in charge of Hezbollah's military activities, and the Executive Council, which is in charge of Hezbollah's civilian activities. Alongside them, there are three other designated councils engaged in the legal, political, and state of affairs domains: the Judicial Council (in charge of the Shiite courts for Hezbollah members), the Parliamentary Oversight Council (which oversees Hezbollah's parliamentary and political activities) and the Political-State Council (responsible for political and governmental advice to the Shura Council and entrusted with the contact with other political groups.



Above: Hezbollah's organizational structure describing the councils and the names of the heads of the councils.

Many reports, articles, and papers deal with the structure of Hezbollah and the organizations operating within its framework in detail. Many of them can be located within the list of sources presented in the framework of this report, sources that have even broader and in-depth details regarding one organization or another. The purpose of this project is to detail the information about Hezbollah's general structure in a set of documents (the Shura Council and its subordinate five designated councils) and to focus the reader's attention on the nine areas of activity carried out by the Executive Council and the 19 main civilian bodies subordinate to it.

This project focuses on the Executive Council and is based on open sources. Through the Executive Council and the civilian entities subordinate to it, Hezbollah maintains an extensive system of social institutions among the Shiite community in Lebanon that engage in education, health, sports, economic matters, social and welfare issues, and communications. These entities serve as a base of support for Hezbollah's military infrastructure and strengthen Hezbollah's standing among the Shiite community in particular and in the internal Lebanese arena in general.

These entities provide the Shiite community with services of national-state nature, taking advantage of the ongoing weakness of the Lebanese government, especially in light of the economic crisis that has plagued Lebanon in recent years. These entities enable Hezbollah to maintain the "Hezbollah state" within the "State of Lebanon" (in practice, the situation is that the State of Lebanon is currently within the State of Hezbollah...). Thus, enabling the activity of Hezbollah's military infrastructure, utilizing the "human shield" within the "resistance society" (the civilian society that supports Hezbollah and its struggle against Israel)

The executive council is headed by Hashem Safi al-Din, who is considered Hezbollah's number 2. Safi al-Din is intended to replace Nasrallah (with the blessing of the Iranians) in due course. Safi al-Din's deputy is Ali Daamouh, who is also in charge of the Foreign Relations Unit, which operates under the Executive Council and serves as a kind of Hezbollah "Foreign Ministry". The Foreign Relations Unit is not only a civilian "Foreign Ministry." Its activities also assist Hezbollah's military terrorist infrastructures abroad, emphasizing the assisting of unit 910, commanded by Talal Hassan Hamia, which operates under the Jihad Council and is in charge of Hezbollah's foreign operations, including several attacks against Israeli targets.

In light of the direct link between the Executive Council's activity and the implications on Hezbollah's military activity, both a senior military representative and a senior representative from Hezbollah's security unit, whose identities are unknown to us, are members of the executive council. In addition, the council includes the five heads of the geographical regions in which Hezbollah operates in Lebanon, Beirut, Beqaa, southern Lebanon (the southern strip: "the first zone," geographically located in the area between the border with Israel and the Litani River), southern Lebanon (the northern strip: "the

second zone," which is geographically located between the Litani River and the Awali River) and Mount Lebanon and the north (the "fifth zone").

The Executive Council manages Hezbollah's daily activities in all areas except direct management of the military domain. Under the Executive Council, there are 9 thematic units responsible for the civilian areas in which Hezbollah operates. Within the framework of the thematic units, there are several entities, each engaged in its relevant field:

- A. **The Electronic Unit / "Simia".**
- B. **The Communications Unit** (Al-Manar, Radio Al-Nour, Al-Ahed Newspaper, Baqiatollah Magazine).
- C. **The Social Unit** (Jihad Construction, the Martyr's Organization, the Foundation for the Wounded Organization, the "Al-Imdad" Islamic charity association).
- D. **The Education Unit** (Hezbollah's Educational Recruitment Organization (EAH), The Islamic Religious Education Association (AIRE), Al-Mahdi School Network (the Islamic Education Foundation), the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts Association, Hezbollah Sports Organizations, 6. Various publishing entities).
- E. **The Islamic Health Organization.**
- F. **The Jihadi Financial Unit / Baitulmaal / Resistance Assistance Authority.**
- G. **The Labor Union** (Directing Hezbollah representatives to the various trade unions).
- H. **The Foreign Relations Unit.**
- I. **The Liaison and Coordination Unit** (responsible for coordinating Hezbollah and the various Lebanese security forces).



We have numerous examples demonstrating the integration of civilian and military activities and the "*principle of non-separation*" between the civilian infrastructures and Hezbollah's military infrastructure. The following are some examples related to major entities subordinate to the Executive Council and serving as a foundation for Hezbollah's military infrastructure and enabling its activities:

The civilian media parties:

The civilian media parties in the electronic unit and the communications unit (emphasizing Al-Manar and Radio Al-Nour) serve as a central military propaganda tool in routine and military emergencies. They operate on traditional and social media serving the information warfare campaign influencing public opinion, both in Lebanon and outside Lebanon (in Israel), thereby assisting the psychological warfare alongside the military campaign.

The civilian media parties assist Hezbollah's combat information body ("Al-Alam al-Harbi"). This body operates under the Jihad Council and not under the Executive Council. The Combat information group is an integral part of Hezbollah's military activity and is responsible for publishing the photographs and videos from this activity.

The Jihad al-Binaa institution:

The Jihad al-Binaa institution is considered one of Hezbollah's most important executive branches dealing with the construction, rehabilitation, and building of civilian infrastructures, including implementing projects related to agricultural infrastructure. Jihad al-Binaa is a major executive wing for building military infrastructure for Hezbollah and is an integral part of Hezbollah's military infrastructure. Among other things, Jihad al-Binaa plays a part in the construction of Hezbollah's missile and rocket concealment infrastructure throughout Lebanon and has led the construction of Hezbollah's tunnel system throughout Lebanon with the help of the North Koreans and the Iranians. The net of tunnels includes strategic, regional, and cross-border offensive tunnels exposed on the border with Israel in December 2018.

Jihad al-Binaa was assisted by companies that served as civilian cover for constructing Hezbollah's "land of tunnels" in Lebanon. One of the companies suspected by us of involvement in construction and providing civilian cover is the "Bekaa Building and Contracting Company," or by its former name, the "Iranian Authority for the Reconstruction of Lebanon." The company was founded in 2005 under the sponsorship of the Revolutionary Guards and, until 2013, was headed by Iranian military engineer Hassan Shateri (also known as Hessam Khoshnevis). Shateri, a Major General of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Quds Force, was assassinated in Syria in February 2013. Shateri was likely responsible for carrying out Hezbollah's tunneling project in Lebanon. In our



IRGC officer (Maj. Gen.) - Engineer Hassan Shateri

assessment, nowadays, the company operates as an integral arm of the Jihad al-Binaa Foundation. ([See report we published about Hezbollah's land of tunnels](#)).

Jihad al-Binaa is also heavily involved in agricultural projects. This shows the importance of the issue in the eyes of Hezbollah, and for good reasons. Knowing Hezbollah's modus operandi, we know that Hezbollah broadly utilizes agricultural and industrial infrastructure for its military needs. Agricultural fields and Olive groves serve as a place to hide concealed rocket launchers, chicken coops serve as observation points and weapons depots, factories serve as exit points for the excavation of some of the offensive tunnels against Israel, and industrial zones serve as areas designated by Hezbollah as missile launching sites. All this is under the umbrella of the human shield tactic. Jihad al-Binaa is heavily engaged in developing this structural infrastructure and expanding its potential military use.

Ironically, on the U.N. website under the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (organizations in Asia that help economically and socially) - there is a listing of Hezbollah's Jihad al-Binaa in Lebanon:

(<https://archive.unescwa.org/jihad-al-binaa-development-association>).

The website states that Jihad al-Binaa, a Development Association (Lebanon), was founded in 1988 and that "it strives to develop the company and increase its development through various programs and projects..."

Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association:

In April 2016, the U.S. Treasury Department included the Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association on the list of Hezbollah institutions under sanctions. The Association engages in semi-banking activities and aims to provide loans and operate community mutual guarantee funds. However, these sanctions appear to be ineffective, to say the least, and since then, there has been a clear growth trend in the volume of the Association's activities. Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association is an important component of the Shiite "resistance society" puzzle in Lebanon. Hezbollah's civilian social institutions, including the Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association, are integral to the jihadi financial capital.

The following are some examples of the connection between the Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association and funds used to finance Hezbollah's military activities in particular and the activities of the radical Shiite axis headed by Iran in the Middle East in general: Since January 2019, one can donate to the Islamic Resistance Assistance Authority, a Hezbollah institution that raises funds for military purposes, through an Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association account. This is a campaign carried out annually among Shiite communities in Lebanon and abroad. The funds collected during it are intended primarily to gather weapons for Hezbollah operatives ("Project - Equip a Jihadi").

In November 2018, the Association opened an account ostensibly aimed at delivering donations to children affected by the war in Yemen. This is likely actually a conduit for transferring money from Lebanon to the Houthi rebels, who serve as a major proxy for Iran.

A possible connection to money laundering: As of June 2013, a link can be seen between the Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association (Mishrara branch) and the Al Mabarrat Charity Association, which operates, among other things, educational institutions. The Al Mabarrat Charity Association was mentioned in January 2019 in connection with money laundering as part of a lawsuit filed in the U.S. against Lebanese banks for aiding Hezbollah.

At the height of the economic crisis in Lebanon and in the middle of the parliamentary election campaign (expected to take place on May 15, 2022), Al-Qard Al-Hasan announced on April 25, 2022, that in 2020 and 2021 it had distributed loans amounting to \$ 553 million. The question arises, where does the money come from?

In May 2020, we published an [article about brothers Mahmoud and Yehya Morad](#). The two brothers manage a company called "MoradCo," located in the al-Ghobeiry area of the southern suburb of Beirut – a Hezbollah stronghold. Mahmoud is chairman of the Lebanese Exchange Association. Yahya is a well-known Hezbollah operative in Hezbollah's jihadi financial unit (Unit 104). "MoradCo" is a major player in the Lebanese money exchange market, and Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association maintains close ties with it. The Lebanese money exchange market is a fertile ground for Hezbollah for illicit financial activity and a conduit for money laundering and terrorist financing.

Headed by Haj Jihad, the financial unit also operates under the executive council. Hezbollah manages most of its currency transactions with "MoradCo." Many Hezbollah operatives turn to the company to convert the dollars they hold into Lebanese pounds.

In his May 04, 2021 speech Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah noted that Hezbollah was not operating and was not affiliated with the field of money exchange in Lebanon. Nasrallah's denial came in the wake of major widespread public criticism that the Lebanese exchange market is one of the main causes of Lebanon's precarious economic



Above: An event to "collect donations for children affected in Yemen" took place in Ayta ash Shab's village in southern Lebanon.



situation. The direct and deep connection between Hezbollah's financial unit and financial institutions and "MoradCo," which deals in the money exchange arena and belongs to a Hezbollah operative, completely contradicts Nasrallah's statement.

The Islamic Health Organization:

Hezbollah's independent civilian medical wing, "the Islamic Health Organization," carries out its sectoral work among the Shiite community. At the same time, it is related routinely and in times of emergency to the military wing of Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards/Qods Force in Lebanon and is part of the "human shield" tactic.

The Islamic Health Organization was established as part of the extensive civic infrastructure established by Hezbollah throughout Lebanon, which aims to provide medical services to members of the Shiite sector in general and to Hezbollah activists and their families in particular. The Islamic Health Organization is in charge of providing medical services (some subsidized and some free) and also operates hospitals, clinics and Pharmacies located in Shiite communities throughout Lebanon.



Left: A poster published on "Shaheed's Day" (November 2020) illustrating the connection between Hezbollah's Islamic Health Organization and Hezbollah's military-terrorist wing, highlighting its members' activities within the military wing and the inseparable connection between them.



In an article published by the "Maj. Gen. Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center" (July 19), it is stated that the Islamic Health Organization has close ties to Hezbollah's military "resistance activity," as is detailed in the organization's website: "The organization accompanied the activities of Hezbollah fighters against the Zionist occupation." In addition, at least 20 operatives belonging to the organization are known to have been killed during their service. There is no doubt that the organization's operatives are currently integrated and will be integrated into any Hezbollah military activity against Israel in the future.

Qassem Muhammad Suleiman, a Hezbollah operative killed in action in 2014 in Syria near the border with Lebanon, was photographed dressed in an Islamic Health Organization uniform. Another Hezbollah operative, Musa Ahmed Saqer, killed in action in 2013 in the western Damascus region, was also photographed dressed in an Islamic Health Organization uniform.



Above: Hezbollah operative Qassem Muhammad Suleiman (right: in a uniform of the Islamic Health Organization, left: as a military operative. Source: "The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center named after Maj. Gen. Meir Amit")



Above: Hezbollah operative Musa Ahmed Saqer (right: in a uniform of the Islamic Health Organization, from left: as a military operative. Source: "The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center named after Maj. Gen. Meir Amit")

The Islamic Health Organization is also likely linked to the Iranian Red Crescent in Lebanon. According to an article written by Dr. Yossi Mansharof, a research fellow at the Alma Center, which we published in June 2020 ("[Organizations and Associations in the Service of the Quds Forces in Syria](#)"), the Iranian Red Crescent serves as a cover for the Quds Forces and the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS), which are widely used to promote Iranian subversion in various countries including Lebanon, Bahrain, Yemen, and Iraq.

The teams dispatched by the Iranian Red Crescent to Lebanon during the war against Israel in 2006, supposedly to help the civilian population, were members of the Quds Force who came to Lebanon to assist Hezbollah. The teams allegedly brought shipments of medical equipment that were used as cover for shipments of military equipment and weapons. The use of a medical platform to conceal military activity by the proxy forces of the radical Shiite axis in all the areas in which they operate is well known (including in the Gaza Strip, where Hamas and PIJ organizations also adopted this tactic). Transporting operatives and weapons in ambulances and establishing headquarters and ammunition depots in or near medical buildings constitutes a central pillar of the "human shield" tactic.

Although Hezbollah's Islamic Health Organization is clearly related to Hezbollah's military activities, it is not known that sanctions have been imposed on it by any Western entity (the United States / Europe).

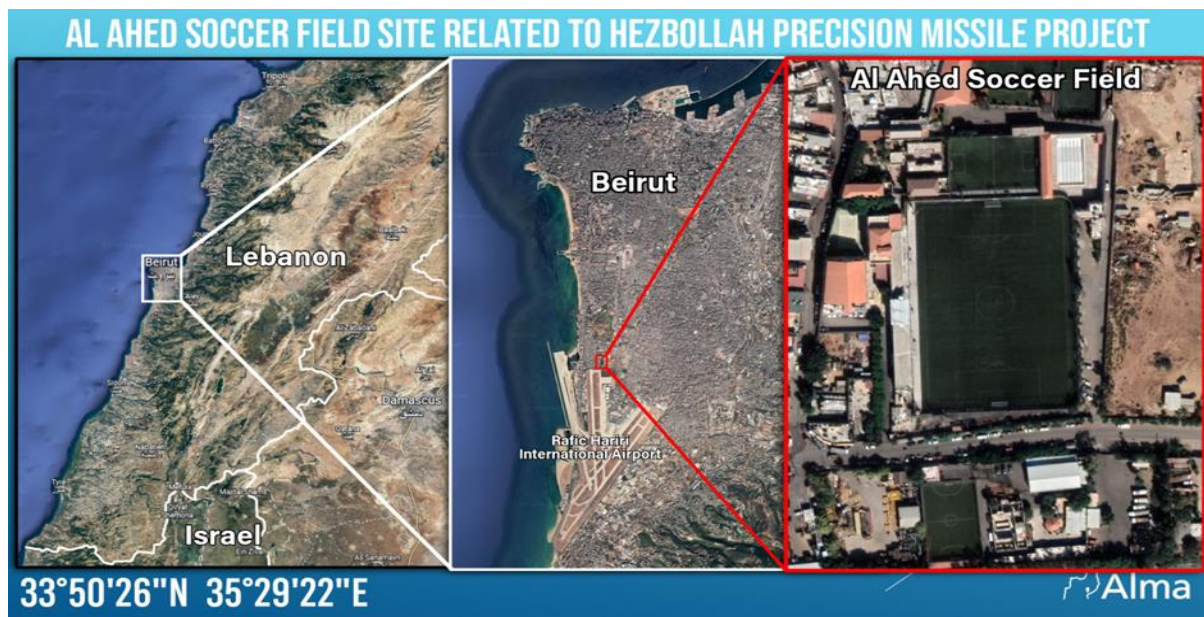


Above: Ambulances used by Hezbollah's Islamic Health Organization in the city of Tyre (April 2020)

Hezbollah's sports organizations and facilities:

Hezbollah's sports organizations and facilities also serve in the service of military activity. In addition to being a tool for fostering values of body and mental health and a platform for conveying positive messages such as fair behavior, discouraging smoking, integrating populations with special needs, etc., Hezbollah's sports organizations serve as a magnet of attraction for Shiite youth and as a preparatory platform for military activity (martial arts, running, rappelling, etc.). In addition, they serve as a recruitment platform for military activity.

The sports facilities are used by Hezbollah as part of the human shield tactic. The prominent facility that served as a site related to Hezbollah's missile precision project is the home stadium of the Al-Ahed Football Club in Beirut. Al-Ahed Football Club is Hezbollah's main football team. The site was unveiled by former Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu during his speech to the U.N. General Assembly in September 2018.



Hezbollah's Scouting Organization "Scouts of Imam al-Mahdi":

Hezbollah's Scouting Organization "Scouts of Imam al-Mahdi" serves as a central platform for recruiting operatives for Hezbollah's military units and military activities, infusing militancy in the young members through military parades frequently carried out in public and through meetings with Hezbollah combatants. In addition, during the activities of this youth movement, messages of indoctrination are embedded among the scouts, such as the ideology of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Shiite religious fanaticism, impatience, hatred of Israel, and martyrdom.



Above: A march of the imam al-Mahdi scouts in Beirut, trampling the Israeli flag. (From the Scout movement's Facebook page)

After the age of 16-17, many scouts join Hezbollah's military activities directly. The unit commanders locate prominent trainees, "mark" them, and recruit them to Hezbollah's various military units. As part of Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian civil war, at least 90 Hezbollah operatives who are graduates of Imam al-Mahdi's scouts were killed. Ironically, Hezbollah's Boy Scouts is a member of the global Boy Scouts and is not included on the sanctions list.



Above: An operative of Hezbollah's military wing during a meeting with the campers of the Imam al-Mahdi Scout movement in the town of Tir Daba in southern Lebanon (From the Scout movement's Facebook page)

Hezbollah's Shaheed Day is another opportunity for Hezbollah to intensify the narrative that expresses the connection between its civilian activity and the institutions of its civilian infrastructures and its military activity and infrastructure. This is, of course, further proof that Hezbollah's civilian wing cannot be separated from its military wing.

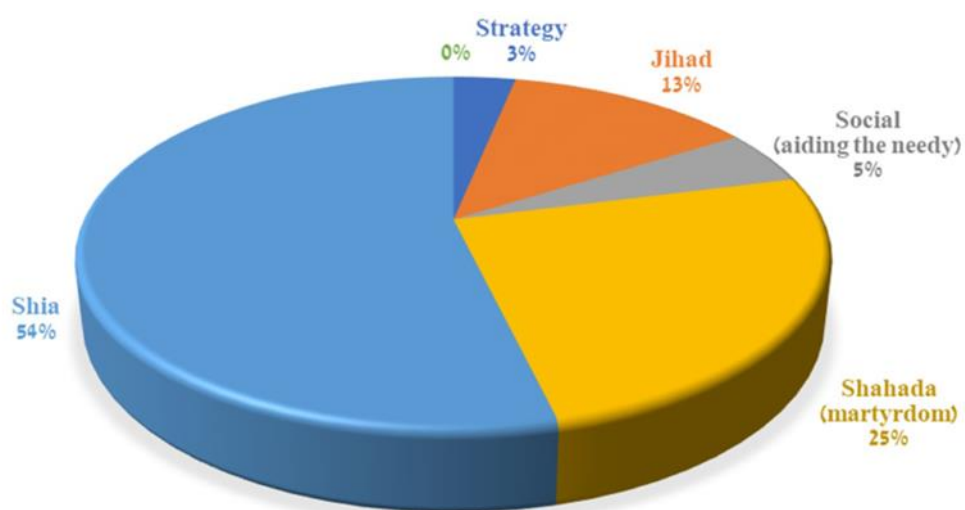
The al-Mahdi poster pitched in honor of Shaheed Day (November 2020) displays two trainees with the official logo and slogan of Shaheed's Day ("The Creators of Life"): "Look at our blood and continue in the path" (the quote is attributed to one of the fallen in the battle of Meidoun village, fought against the IDF in 1988, who allegedly wrote on a rock, with his blood, before he died: "We fell as Martyrs and did not kneel, look at our blood and continue in the path:")



Education:

Educational recruitment is Hezbollah's central organization dealing with the Lebanese educational systems (state and private; separate from Hezbollah's education system). The organization appeals first and foremost to Shiite students in Lebanese schools and universities to recruit them to activities in Hezbollah upon completion of their studies. The education recruitment organization conducts many activities such as lectures and cultural and educational workshops, religious ceremonies, excursions, political gatherings, sports competitions, and more.

In about 40 percent of these activities, the key values expressed are military values, which Hezbollah wants to instill in its supporters and activists. The leading values are Jihad (13 percent) and Shahada "martyrdom"(25 percent), as can be seen in the following pie chart:



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The data presented above is an analysis we carried out by sampling 470 activities published on Hezbollah's official website is between 2012 and 2018.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the term "resistance company" of Hezbollah is well expressed in the term "al-Taba'a al-Amah," which in simple translation means "general recruitment." Hezbollah's reserves outfit is called "Quat al-Taba'a" ("Mobilization Forces"). These forces are relevant in aiding the fight on the battlefield and are subordinate to the Jihad Council. However, this outfit includes citizens whose activity is most likely concentrated under the Executive Council. These are volunteers, men, and women of all ages, from all Shiite areas, with diverse occupations ranging from doctors to farmers who will join the "resistance" if a war breaks out against Israel or for any purpose that Hezbollah sees fit. For example, a farmer that a rocket launcher was placed in his field will be in charge of operating it using a mechanism prepared for him in advance...

Don't be confused. Although the organizations operating under Hezbollah's Executive Council are professional and organized bodies broadly deployed throughout Lebanon, serving a broad population, these are not formal institutions belonging to the Lebanese state. In fact, they compete with the corresponding formal Lebanese state institutions. This competition causes the decline of the formal state institutions, rendering them irrelevant. This process undermines the stability and sovereignty of the Lebanese state and strengthens the Iranian orientation in Lebanon.

Organizations such as these, subordinate to Hezbollah's Executive Council, exist, in the same or similar configuration, in any regular sovereign state. However, while in a typical sovereign state, these institutions are intended for the civic interests of the state, the entities operating under the Executive Council Are designed to create a dependency of the population on them and intended to act in Hezbollah's interests, including supporting and taking part in military activities and objectives, not just civilian ones.

