



## Briefings 12/12/2007



### Hizbullah condemns the assassination of Lebanese

**General** - Following the car explosion that killed General *François Al-Haj*, considered one of the contenders to take over as the head of the army next week, Hizbullah asked the Lebanese population to rally around the army and called the murder a crime and a sin. **PI Online** has recovered early postings in which some claim that the killing was retaliation for the



general's role in the operation against the insurgents of *Fath Al-Islam* which was conducted in *Al-Nahr Al-Bared* earlier this year.

Source: <http://www.almanar.com.lb/NewsSite/NewsDetails.aspx?id=31102&language=ar> - (12/12)  
<http://www.aljazeeraatalk.net/forum/showthread.php?p=876179> (posting #10) (12/12)



### Qaddafi creates French Crisis

During *Qaddafi's* visit to France, President Sarkozy seemed to be at odds with his minister of foreign affairs, Bernard Kouchner, and his Minister for Human Rights, Rama Yade. Both strongly criticized the Libyan leader records on human rights, while the French president was emphasizing the economic benefits of the \$14 billion deals Libya and France were signing.

Source: [http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=ArticleA\\_C&cid=1196786118256&pagename=Zone-Arabic-News/NWALayout](http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=ArticleA_C&cid=1196786118256&pagename=Zone-Arabic-News/NWALayout) (12/11)

### Egyptian – Iranian Rapprochement?



In anticipation of renewing diplomatic relations, an Egyptian delegation is leaving for Iran tomorrow. While *Aljazeera* portrays these negotiations as a move by Iran to counteract U.S. efforts to isolate it, the Egyptian overture seems to have Washington's blessing. Iranian analyst *Ma Sha' Allah Al-Wa'izin* indicated that the U.S. administration is now looking at such a move as serving Washington's interests. Egypt's move was also seen as elevating security concerns in the region over ideological differences between the two countries.

Source: <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0B6248C1-EAE7-4856-A9ED-4F365F3A54F0.htm> (12/12)