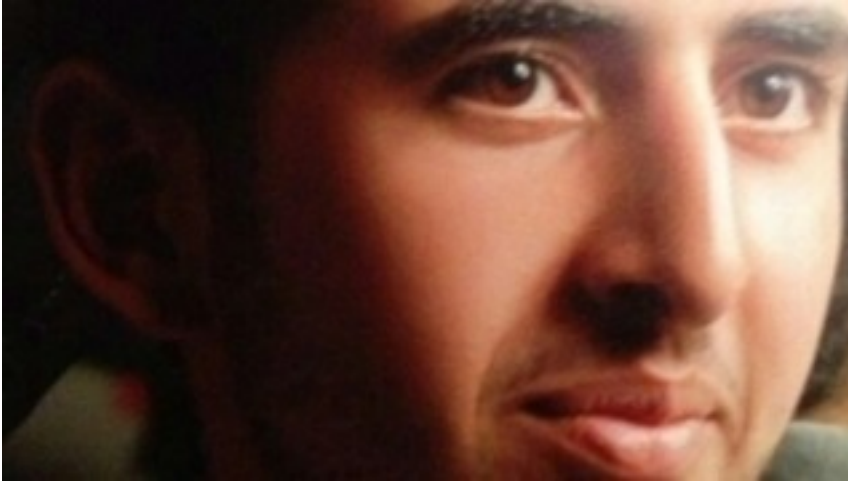


Wednesday, 3 April 2013

Hezbollah members bury fighter killed in Syria battle: report



The Lebanese Shiite Party Hezbollah on Tuesday buried one of its fighters killed in Syria, the Lebanese daily An-Nahar reported on Wednesday.

Nazih Abbas was buried in the town of Koutharyet al-Sayyad, in the Zahrani district of southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah supporters circulated his photo on Facebook, with comments that he was killed in battle near the Sayyidah Zaynab shrine in Damascus.

Meanwhile, the rebel Free Syrian Army arrested Hezbollah members in Sayyidah Zaynab, the opposition SANA Revolution Network reported.

There is an “unprecedented deployment” of Hezbollah fighters and Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the heart of Damascus in support of Syrian regime troops, whose movements signal a large operation in the capital, the FSA said on Wednesday.

The Lebanese government has sought to adopt a policy of neutrality vis-à-vis the crisis in Syria. However, Hezbollah has been repeatedly accused of being directly involved in the conflict.

In October 2012, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah acknowledged that party members had fought Syrian rebels, but said they were acting as individuals, not under the party’s direction.