

Tuesday, 9 April 2013

Twelve Hezbollah members killed in ambush near Damascus



Twelve members of Hezbollah have been killed in an ambush near Damascus, Al Arabiya television reported Tuesday, quoting sources close to the Lebanese armed movement.

More than 20 other Hezbollah members, part of alleged military brigade deployed in Syria to defend President Bashar al-Assad, were also wounded in the attack, the sources said.

The wounded were transferred from Damascus to a hospital in the south of the Lebanese capital Beirut, the sources said, adding that Hezbollah is tightlipped about the issue.

On Monday AFP reported that two Hezbollah members fighting alongside Syrian government forces in the Qusayr area near the border with Lebanon were killed. AFP quoted a source close to the Lebanese Shiite militant group.

“Two members of Hezbollah who went to Syria to fight against armed groups in the Qusayr sector have been killed,” the source said.

On Feb. 16, three Shiite Lebanese trained by Hezbollah were killed in fighting in the same area, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

A Hezbollah source said at the time that the three were residents of Syria and had died defending themselves.

But the two killed on Monday were residents of Lebanon, the source said, without revealing their identities.

The group has acknowledged that its members living in Syrian villages on the border with Lebanon have

But it refuses to discuss allegations by Syrian rebels that it has sent fighters from Lebanon to bolster the forces of its ally, Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.