

N O W May 18, 2013

## Al-Qusayr rebels claim killing of Hezbollah fighters



Rebels in Syria's Al-Qusayr on Saturday uploaded a video to YouTube in which they claimed to have killed ten Hezbollah fighters during a round of clashes and showed the corpse of one of the alleged militants from the Shiite group.

In the video, the spokesperson for the Syrian Revolution General Commission group, Hadi al-Abdallah, shows the metal ID-tags he claims belonged to the alleged Hezbollah fighter.

He also said that the rebels found maps and papers in the dead man's pocket that they could use for their advantage.

The fighters in the video added that several Hezbollah fighters had been injured in the clashes.

Abdallah has previously narrated a video showing Al-Qusayr-based rebels showing the body of another alleged dead Hezbollah fighter. He regularly appears in videos in which he shows rebels in the Homs-based Farouq Brigades in action.

In recent weeks, pro-regime Syrian troops have advanced throughout the area around the Homs town of Al-Qusayr, which activists say is surrounded by government forces on three sides, and that approximately 25,000 residents are believed to still be in the town.

Reports have emerged that Hezbollah is playing a key role in the regime's military campaign in the area, while the Shiite party's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has said that his group would defend Lebanese Shiites in the area.

The area has been a strategic boon to the rebels, who used it as a base from which to block the main road from Damascus to the coast, impeding military movement and supply chains.