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Nasrallah warns March 14, EU over terror designation



Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday warned the March 14 coalition against using the EU's blacklisting of his party's military wing for political purposes and said the EU would be "complicit" in future Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

"I tell March 14, they won't be able to use this decision in internal Lebanese politics, if anyone from March 14 believes they have something to use... to isolate us... I say nothing has changed," he added during a televised speech.

"This decision will not change anything on the internal scene."

Nasrallah's comments come in response to the statements of a number of March 14 politicians and commentators that a government cannot be formed with Hezbollah's presence as Prime Minister-designate Tammam Salam looks to form a new cabinet amid a political deadlock in the country.

The Hezbollah chief also issued a warning to the EU, saying the alliance's countries "are making themselves complicit in Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and the Resistance."

"[The EU] provided a [legal] cover to the Israelis... they are providing a service free of charge to the Israelis, who don't need it."

However, Nasrallah said that "this decision will not affect our determination, since all wars in the past already enjoyed this sort of support [from Europe]."

"The goal of the [EU's] decision is very clear; it's goal is to make us give in, retreat, hesitate, and become fearful. Let me tell you, you will not get anything from this decision other than disappointment and failure."

Nasrallah also reiterated his party's earlier statement that the EU's move on Monday resulted from strong US and Israel pressure, saying that Europe "succumbed to the will of the US and Israeli administrations."

"This decision in all its aspects is an Israeli decision that is in the interest of Israel."

The Hezbollah leader further asked, "If we want to speak logically, why wouldn't the Europeans blacklist Israel's military wing, i.e., its army?"

EU foreign ministers on Monday added Hezbollah's military wing to its list of "terrorist organizations."

The decision came after some of the EU's 28 foreign ministers overcame reservations in some member states that such a move would further destabilize Lebanon where the party plays a major political role.

To do so, ministers agreed that EU political and economic links with Lebanon would be maintained.

They also highlighted the fact that it is the military wing alone that is blacklisted after Hezbollah was blamed for a deadly attack on Israeli tourists in Bulgaria last year.