

Text of Nasrallah's May 9 speech

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Thursday, May 9 gave a televised address on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding his party's Al-Nour radio station. The following are the contents of his speech:

I give praise to the workers in the Al-Nour radio... and thank them for their dedication to the resistance, productivity, faith and loyalty. The radio station is part of the resistance.

Al-Nour radio has worked hard to get to the point it is at today, and the [station's] path is one of initiative and simplicity. In the same way the resistance developed in the field, the resistance's media outlet has come to possess the same spirit, seriousness, loyalty, and creativity. Al-Nour radio is not a competitive radio station.

Some media sources that are part of the competitive framework resort to lying in an effort to outperform other outlets. But the resistance media's main concern is reporting the news with honesty. Sometimes, delivering honest news might do harm unto national unity and serve the interest of the enemy. In this case, we should avoid broadcasting such news, but we should not lie, because we are expected to be honest.

Even when waging psychological warfare, we must be truthful. If we were to lie while waging a psychological war, and the enemy finds out we were not telling the truth, then efforts are reduced to empty words. This is why it is important to be honest during wars and never lie, not even once.

The biggest problem with media today, especially in the Arab world, is the lack of credibility that it possesses.

What is happening in our region of the world today is permitting for our enemy to take advantage of certain opportunities that exist. We must admit that the enemy is [smart] and knows how to take advantage of any number of situations.

We [Arabs] are a nation that is [at present] missing several chances.

The Arab world is now ready to give more concessions after the Arab Spring has taken place. When Arab foreign ministers agree to yield Palestinian rights and transfer land, isn't that sad for friends [of Palestine] and a success for its enemies? The Arab world's governments consider the Palestinian cause and Al-Aqsa Mosque a historic burden they must shoulder, and they want to [rid themselves] of this burden.

Some Arab leaders view the priority as being how to go about killing each other, eradicating [all between] Syria and Afghanistan.

The Zionist enemy wants all Arabs, not just Palestinians, to recognize the Jewish nature of the state they have made. I invite thinkers and analysts to study what it means to recognize the "Jewish nature" of the enemy's state, and explain it to the public.

When we accept that the land in question belongs to the enemy and not to the Palestinian people, such a concession presents us [all with] huge risks. With regards to the Israeli aggression against Syria, the Israeli enemy is seeking to achieve its aims. One of which is to exclude Syria from the equation and eliminate it as a factor in the ongoing conflict with Israel.

Everyone knows what Syria did for the resistance movements against Israel, especially within Lebanon and Palestine. Over the course of the history of Arab history, no regime offered as much to the Palestinian cause as Syria did.

Israelis know that the source of strength of resistance in Palestine and Lebanon is Syria and Iran. It wants to remove Syria in an effort to strengthen its position. Israel is showing Syria that sending weapons to the resistance means that war will in turn be waged on Syria.

Reports that 300 Syrian soldiers were killed in the strike are incorrect. According to my figures, three to four soldiers died as a result of the strikes.

The Syrian response to Israel was to [insist] that Syria will continue supplying the resistance with weapons. This is a critical strategic decision. Syria will give the resistance qualitative weapons, which the resistance has never received before.

The second strategic response to Israeli action in Syria was to declare the beginning of a popular resistance campaign in the Golan Heights.

We, the resistance in Lebanon, announce that we are ready to receive any sort of qualitative weapons even if it is going to disrupt the [regional] balance. We are ready to receive these weapons and we are competent enough to possess them. We will use these weapons to defend our people and our country.

We announce that we stand by the popular resistance in the Golan Heights and we offer both out military and moral support in an effort to liberate the occupied territory.

All the recent events that have taken place illustrate that there is strong leadership guiding Syria in the battle against the enemy with nerves of steel and great wisdom, as well as calmness and courage. This will achieve victory, God willing.

For all those who want Palestine to be [liberated], it will not happen by way of Arab League or United Nations action. As we all know, the first and last lines of defense have been the resistance, and they will continue to be.

A compromise must be reached in order to resolve the crisis in Syria. It is shameful to see the US work in Syria's best interest, while the Arabs sit by and permit the destruction of their country.

As far as Lebanon is concerned, we [Hezbollah] want to see formation of the cabinet as soon as possible, and we want the elections to be held on time even if a technical delay takes place. We are dealing with the cabinet formation in a way that is different from the March 14 coalition when [Caretaker] Prime Minister Najib Miqati was nominated.

The opposition party nominated [PM-designate] Tammam Salam, who belongs to their ranks, and we accepted the nomination because [Salam] is a balanced [political] personality with whom we can work. We said we wanted a national unity and partnership cabinet and not a cabinet of defiance.

We [have called] for the participation of the parties in the cabinet relative to the number of parliamentary seats they hold. If the Orthodox draft electoral law is put to a vote in parliament, then we will vote in favor of it. If hypothetically the Orthodox proposal is not put to a vote, [we must note that] we and our allies have not yet found a substitute for it.

Regarding the issue of the [Shiite pilgrims] kidnapped in Syria, Hezbollah has done everything that it can to resolve it. The rest [of the work must be done] by the Lebanese state. I'm not going to comment further on this issue, because we do not want to [tackle it] by way of the media.