

Nasrallah "secretly" meets Khamenei for Tehran talks: discuss Syria crisis

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Hezbollah and Iran are thought to be sending thousands of militants to support Syrian regime forces fight against the Western/Gulf-backed rebels

Hezbollah boss Hassan Nasrallah has "secretly" met with Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran, to discuss both parties' involvement in the ongoing Syrian conflict.

The Hezbollah leader has faced accusations, from the opposition and civilians in Syria, that thousands of militants aligned with his party have crossed the border to support Bashar al-Assad's forces.

He's due to give a speech in on May 9, in order to clear up Hezbollah's role in the Syrian conflict, the Lebanese newspaper Daily Star reported.

The leader has rarely been seen in public since the 2006 Lebanon-Israel war, and usually gives speeches from an undisclosed location via video-link. His most recent public appearance was in 2010, when he met with the Syrian President and his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

During the Tehran talks, the two discussed an "Iranian-Syrian defence system", that would guard against rebel forces making further gains, according to a report in the Al-Rai newspaper.

"Iran is willing to send hundreds of thousands of its men to Syria to defend Assad's government and its resistant role if the west continues to support armed [groups]," the newspaper quoted an unnamed Iranian source as saying.

Reports that Hezbollah and Iran have already sent thousands of fighters to the frontline in Syria have increased in frequency in

recent months.



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