

Free Syrian Army Infiltrates Arsal, Attacks Army Post

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The Army Command announced on Saturday the infiltration of a Free Syrian Army unit of the Bekaa town of Arsal on Friday night.

It said in a statement that the unit, "backed by a large number of gunmen, infiltrated the outskirts of the town and then attacked an army post in the area."

No one was injured in the attack, it said.

The army then brought in reinforcements to Arsal to contain the situation and pursue the assailants, who fled to nearby mountainous regions and border villages.

The Army Command stressed that it "will not allow any side to use Lebanese territory in order to drag Lebanon towards the developments of neighboring countries."

It renewed its determination "to defend Lebanese territories and confront any violation regardless of what side is behind it."

Al-Manar television had reported that gunmen from Arsal kidnapped three Lebanese soldiers and detained members of the Free Syrian Army.

Security sources later denied to OTV the abduction of any Lebanese soldier in Arsal.

They added that the Free Syria Army unit withdrew to Syria after clashes with the army.

Lebanon's political parties are deeply divided over the Syrian revolt, with the Western-backed opposition supporting the uprising and March 8 allies a lead backer of President Bashar Assad.