

## STL: Alleged witnesses list aims to undermine court

BEIRUT: The Special Tribunal for Lebanon slammed Tuesday the online publishing of a list of alleged witnesses involved in the probe into the assassination of statesman Rafik Hariri, describing it as an attempt to undermine the court's work.

"There have been a number of concerted efforts to undermine the work of the Tribunal and to threaten alleged witnesses," said Marten Youssef, the STL spokesman.

On Tuesday, the website of Lebanon's Al-Mustaqbal newspaper was hacked with its front page replaced with a list of names under the title "secret witnesses in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (Group #1)" from a website called "Journalists for The Truth."

The website, by a "group of journalists seeking to unveil corruption in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon," also lists a series of "instructions to STL witnesses."

Youssef described the "Journalists for The Truth" website as a "clear attempt by so-called 'journalists' to intimidate alleged witnesses."

"It is a grave breach of journalistic ethics," he added.

Youssef said that the Tribunal welcomed criticism and constantly engaged with its critics.

"We can handle criticism about our work. Every international tribunal is faced with similar issues. But what is happening here is not criticism; it is an agenda to intimidate alleged witnesses," he said.

In a statement from Al-Mustaqbal, the newspaper said it had turned its servers off soon after the cyber attack, adding that the objective behind the incident was to suggest it "had some specific

link to the publishing of the alleged list of secret witnesses” in the STL.

“This completely goes against the truth and the commitment of Al-Mustaqbal to the case of [former] Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, his [slain] colleagues and the martyrs of the Cedar Revolution,” the statement said.

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<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2013/Apr-10/213204-stl-hacking-of-news-site-aims-to-undermine-our-work.ashx#axzz2RC3A7vTP>