11 gunmen, including 4 Syrians, arrested in Arsal: Army

BEIRUT: The Lebanese Army said Friday it arrested 11 men, including four Syrian nationals, for possession of arms in the eastern town of Arsal as part of its crackdown on weapons and contraband smuggling.

"Army units deployed in the Arsal area arrested yesterday [Thursday] and this morning [Friday] 11 individuals, including four Syrian nationals, in the barren terrain leading to the Lebanese-Syrian border," a statement issued by the Lebanese Army said.

It said quantities of arms, ammunition and military gear the men had were seized.

The Army said the detainees and the confiscated items were handed over to relevant authorities.

The statement said the arrests were part of the Army's crackdown on wanted individuals as well as measures to counter cross-border infiltration and the smuggling of weapons and contraband.

The Army said that troops will continue to pursue "other individuals" involved in destabilizing Lebanon.

The military operation comes two weeks after an ambush on a Lebanese Army unit in Arsal left two soldiers killed.

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