

Assir accuses Iran, Syria of being behind Tripoli blasts



Salafi Sunni cleric Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir accused Iran and Syria of being behind the twin explosions that targeted Tripoli last week.

“The Iranian-Syrian team and their tools in the region are the ones who conducted this criminal act, regardless of who actually executed the [order]... whether it was Hezbollah or the Syrian Social National Party, the Baath Party, the intelligence or the likes of [former minister Michel] Samaha,” Assir said in voice recording published Tuesday.

“Can anyone doubt the conviction of the residents of Tripoli that there is a link between the speech held [lately] by [Hezbollah leader Sayyed] Hassan Nasrallah and the explosions in Tripoli? The Lebanese should not be lied to and the truth must be told as it is,” he added.

He also warned the Christians in Lebanon that their areas might be targeted with explosions.

“I warn our partners the Christians that what happened in Tripoli and [in the Beirut area of] Dahiyeh might take place in your areas, [especially following] Nasrallah’s statement that no city or sect will be spared [from explosions], and [by calling] the Lebanese people to protect [themselves] from terrorists,” he added.

He also reiterated that Hezbollah was responsible for the instable security situation in the country.

“Nasrallah must be held completely accountable for what happened in Lebanon and what will happen with his sect or other sects,” he said.

Two explosions rocked the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli on Friday afternoon, leaving at least 42 people dead.

The explosions took place outside the Al-Taqwa Mosque in the city's Al-Zahiriya area and the Al-Salam Mosque in the Al-Mina neighborhood.

Also, a car bomb went off on August 15 on the main road between the Al-Roueiss and Bir al-Abed areas of Hezbollah’s Beirut stronghold of Dahiyeh, leaving 22 people dead and at least 200 injured.