Hezbollah is Vulnerable. Lokman Slim's Assassination Proves It.

by Hanin Ghaddar

Feb 16, 2021

Also available in Arabic

Also published in Foreign Policy

The assassination of the Lebanese activist and writer Lokman Slim—who was openly critical of Hezbollah—was in the making for years. His killer pulled the trigger earlier this month because the timing at home and abroad was convenient for his assassins, who wanted to send a message.

It has always been a matter of time. Hezbollah’s critics—including myself—always felt the shadows following. You have to go about your daily life constantly looking over your shoulder, checking under your car for a bomb every time you leave your house, and feeling your heart sink deeper each time your children’s school bus is late. We always knew we were being followed and monitored. Slim refused to live his life in these shadows, but he was not careless.

When I decided to leave Lebanon for good in 2016, after receiving similar threats, Slim encouraged me to do so. He refused to leave but did not expect me to do the same because he also knew that not everyone could afford to make the same sacrifices. His motto—“Zero Fear”—which has taken over Lebanon’s social media scene recently, is not a requirement; it’s a choice and a very calculated one...

Read the full article on the Foreign Policy website.
RECOMMENDED

ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

For Better or Worse: Which Way Will US-Saudi Relations Go Under Biden?
Feb 26, 2021
Simon Henderson

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Kidnapping and Extortion in Regime-Controlled Syria
Feb 26, 2021
Kenneth R. Rosen

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Biden’s Warning to Iran and Its Proxies: Implications of the Syria Strike