

Treasury Sanctions Hizballah Financial Officials

Today, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is sanctioning seven senior officials and one entity associated with the Hizballah-controlled financial institution Al-Qard Al-Hassan (AQAH), which was designated by OFAC in [2007](#). These officials have served in senior management roles for AQAH and have facilitated the evasion of U.S. sanctions, enabling Hizballah's access to the formal financial system.

"Through their roles at AQAH, these officials sought to obfuscate Hizballah's interest in seemingly legitimate transactions at Lebanese financial institutions, exposing these banks to significant AML/CFT risk while allowing Hizballah to funnel money for its own benefit," said **Deputy Secretary Michael Faulkender**.

SANCTIONS EVASION BY AQAH OFFICIALS

The AQAH officials targeted today serve in critical roles for the organization's activities in support of Hizballah, and some have been associated with AQAH for over two decades. In addition to their employment with AQAH, several have previously held joint bank accounts at Lebanese financial institutions in coordination with other AQAH affiliates and conducted millions of dollars in transactions that ultimately benefitted, but obscured, Hizballah's interest. Many of the transactions in these accounts reflected the same pattern as the previously OFAC-designated "shadow bankers" where AQAH officials would conduct mirrored financial activity in AQAH accounts against proxy bank accounts within the formal Lebanese financial system to disguise the movement of money associated with known Hizballah members.

Nehme Ahmad Jamil (Jamil) is a senior AQAH official and head of the auditing and business departments of AQAH. He also manages financial services for Hizballah and its affiliated institutions. For almost 20 years, Jamil has provided financial services to AQAH. In addition, Jamil jointly owns a company, **Tashilat SARL**, with OFAC-designated Yazbeck and al-Shami. Tashilat SARL provided mortgage loans after the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war, and served as an integral part of the operations for AQAH and designated Hizballah financial institutions [Yousser Company](#) and [Bayt al-Mal](#).

Issa Hussein Kassir (Kassir) is a senior AQAH official who oversees the department responsible for supplying equipment to AQAH branches and handling procurement and logistics. In this capacity, Kassir opened bank accounts in the formal financial system to conduct business activities for AQAH. Kassir was documented sending nearly a million dollars to OFAC-designated AQAH shadow bankers Yazbeck, Gharib, and Othman between 2007 and 2019, prior to OFAC's designation of [Jammal Trust Bank SAL](#) (JTB) in 2019. JTB was designated for facilitating the banking activities of U.S.-designated entities openly affiliated with Hizballah, like AQAH and the Martyrs Foundation.

Samer Hasan Fawaz (Fawaz) is the head of the AQAH management division and is responsible for administration and liaising between AQAH and various companies that assist the organization with logistics and procurement. He has served in the role of administrative director for AQAH since at least 2010.

Imad Mohamad Bezz (Bezz) is the head of AQAH's evaluation and storage department and is responsible for AQAH's gold deals. Bezz transacted extensively with AQAH officials previously involved in shadow banking activities, including sending over \$2.5 million to an account held by three other AQAH officials.

Ali Mohamad Karnib (Karnib) is a senior AQAH employee who serves as the head of AQAH's purchase department. As of July 2024, Karnib oversaw the purchase of over a thousand ounces of gold for AQAH.

Ali Ahmad Krisht (Krisht) serves as the branch manager of AQAH in Tyre, Lebanon. He previously held at least three bank accounts on behalf of Hizballah and worked in close coordination with OFAC-designated AQAH director Mansour, as well as other AQAH officials. In addition to his ties to AQAH, Krisht was associated with senior Hizballah financial advisor Hassan Moukalled, who was designated in 2023 for providing support to Hizballah and helping Hizballah establish a presence in Lebanon's financial system.

Mohammed Suleiman Badir (Badir) served as a deputy director of AQAH under designated AQAH official Subayti at the Nabatiyeh branch. He previously held a joint account with Subayti opened as part of a Hizballah plan to circumvent the formal financial system by having members and associates open bank accounts in their personal names.

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated or blocked persons described above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked.

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ST. KITTS BRANCH