

Anti-Syrian lawmaker dies in Beirut blast

by UPI

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Walid Eido, an anti-Syrian member of Lebanon's Parliament, his son and two bodyguards were among at least 10 people killed Wednesday in a Beirut car bombing.

The blast occurred outside a military sports club in the Manara neighborhood on the edge of the Mediterranean. Eleven people were reported injured.

Eido was an ally of Saad Hariri, son of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who was killed in a similar attack two years ago, CNN reported.

Walid Jumblatt, another critic of Syrian involvement in Lebanon, told CNN he believes the Damascus government wants to get rid of legislators who oppose it.

"With this bunch of assassins in Damascus, they don't care about international justice," he said.

A United Nations investigation determined Syrian officials might be behind the Hariri assassination. Eido, like Saad Hariri, advocated a U.N. tribunal, which the Syrian government opposed.

U.S. President George Bush released a statement saying there has been a "clear pattern of assassinations" since October 2004.

"Those working for a sovereign and democratic Lebanon have always been the ones targeted. The victims have always been those who sought an end to Syrian President Asad's interference in Lebanon's internal affairs," he said.

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