



**Ahmad Jaafar Qassir “Haidar”**  
**4 September 1964—11 November 1982**

Ahmad Qassir was born 4 September 1964 in the village of Deir Qanoun al Nahr. His parents nurtured Ahmad with the love of faith and commitment to high values. As a child, he was alert and perceptive, characteristics which led him to develop into a self-starting and independent youth. As early as four years old, he would run past his father to a patch of farm land in order to pick some vegetables and return home before his father had barely set out on the chore.

Ahmad loved reading and would buy many new books to pursue his thirst for knowledge outside of school. The local mosque soon became his home away from home as Ahmad frequently went there to pray and read the Quran. He steadily grew in his Islamic devotion, which was reflected in his dedication to charity for the poor people and his kind relations with all.

For Ahmad lived his faith. On a personal level, he would routinely pray in the middle of the night when his family were sleeping. They would discover him in the quiet darkness, intent on his prayers.

On a social level, Ahmad displayed great courage in urging people to fight the enemy and calling on them to tear up the authorisation papers they received from the headquarters of the occupying military commander—to present such papers in order to pass the Israeli roadblocks, he asserted, was an official recognition of the enemy.

But Ahmad knew he had to do more. To protect his family’s safety and the integrity of the Resistance, Ahmad secretly carried out several military operations against the Israeli enemy. He also used his resourcefulness to move armaments from Beirut to wherever they were necessary to confront the enemy troops.

Finally, Ahmad committed himself to strike against the headquarters of the occupying military commander in South Lebanon. Located in Tyre near “Jal El Bahr,” the headquarters was one of the most important Israeli fortifications in the A’amel Mountain region. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1982, Ahmad used the only means available to deal a lethal blow to the heart of the occupation. He drove his white Peugeot laden with explosives into the building as swift as lightning.

Ahamd’s action broke not only the headquarters building, but also the arrogance of the occupying enemy forces. The head of the Israeli intelligence system and the Israeli commander were killed in the blast. While the precise number of enemy casualties may never be irrefutably determined, it has been agreed by all to have exceeded 150. Ahmad’s own martyrdom was the choice of a lifetime of his perceptive and religious devotion.

### **The significance of Ahmad Qassir**

The date of Ahmad Qassir’s martyrdom mission, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, has since been recognised as a day of remembrance. His devotion and his accomplishment are indeed remarkable as well as significant.

When I met with Martyr Ahmad’s parents recently, they greeted me with an eager and warm welcome. Naturally, they spoke with great fondness of Ahmad. They had supported his commitment, even though its full extent remained unknown to them for three years after his martyrdom. Because of concern for the personal safety of Ahmad’s family, Hezbollah had refrained from notifying them that it was their own Ahmad who had taken on this particular mission—until 1985, when Hezbollah had succeeded in lifting the occupation of their village.

Ahmad’s mother shared with me the most extraordinary sentiment. I asked her how she felt when she heard Sayyed Nasrallah publicly single out her son’s achievements as special. Expecting her to gush with pride over her status as his mother, I could only marvel at her response.

She shook her head and smiled. “There is no ranking of martyrs,” she said. “They are all equal. Ahmad’s brothers, both his younger brothers Rabih and Hassan, and his Islamic brothers of the Moqawama, have also been martyred. We love them all the same.”

**The following is an excerpt from a speech delivered by Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on the occasion of Martyr's Day, 11 November 2008.**



“On Martyrs' Day we recall the very origin of this occasion: on November 11th, 1982. This event became the title for every martyr, for every wound, for every struggle, for every victory, for every resistance, and for every defeat for the enemy. Why November 11, 1982? Why the operation of the self-martyr Ahmad Qassir in particular?

That's because it was the first operation; because it expresses the early awakening of the Lebanese youth in resisting the occupation; because it's the people's and the nation's outcry that reverberates in the present, future and past. Because it's the foundation of the long route of self-martyrdom operations and the resistance struggling, conscious, deliberate, planned, purposeful, industrious, clear, complying and committed work; because that operation also expressed the great human content of resistance men, fighters, martyrs and self-martyrs in their prime days and the conscience and will of Ahmad Qassir.

Further because that operation was the strongest in the history of Arab-Israeli struggle since its onset. Until this very moment it's the most powerful. Not any operation could match it so far. That's when martyr Ahmad Qassir broke through the headquarters of the Israeli military leader on November 11, 1982, and demolished it completely. It was the first military operation of this kind –in which man explodes his body, blood and flesh to destroy one's enemies who killed his people, disgraced his holy sites and wanted to control his fate, future, homeland and nation.

So it's the first self-martyrdom operation of this kind in the history of the Arab-Israeli struggle. It's also the most powerful operation militarily and technically speaking and also taking into consideration the casualties on the enemy's lines. The enemy admitted in one second that 140 Israelis were killed including officers and soldiers. [Israeli Prime Minister Menachem] Begin's government was obliged to announce mourning for three days. I believe the operation of self-martyr Ahmad Qassir which was called "Khaibar operation" did really hold the symbol and signs of the "Khaibar battle". On November 11, 1982, the cornerstone of the great Lebanese victory on May 25, 2000 and of the great Lebanese victory in July 2006 was founded. Thus this day was adopted to become the occasion of Martyr's Day - whether this martyr was a leader, a secretary

general, a scholar, a great fighter, a leader, a self-martyr, a fighter in the battlefield, or a civilian killed while confronting steadfastly the Israeli aggressions.”

*[Note: The Khaibar battle is the battle of Prophet Mohammad in the year 629.]*