

2026 Lebanon war

Since 2 March 2026, there has been an ongoing war in Lebanon, between the state of Israel and the Lebanese Shia militant group Hezbollah. The war^{[43][44][45][46]} has killed more than 1,400 militants and civilians combined in Lebanon^{[47][48][49]} and displaced nearly 1 million, 20% of the country's entire population,^[50] creating a humanitarian crisis.^[50] It is a major escalation in the wider conflict throughout the Middle East^{[51][52]} and the Israeli–Lebanese conflict.

Since November 2024, despite an official ceasefire, Israel has continued its attacks in Lebanon nearly every day,^[53] killing 500 people (including 127 civilians),^[54] while Hezbollah violated the ceasefire by rebuilding its militant infrastructure and weapons arsenal.^[55] On 28 February 2026, the United States and Israel launched attacks on Iran and assassinated Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.^{[56][57]} In response, Hezbollah launched strikes on Israel. Israel responded by launching strikes across Lebanon, including the capital Beirut. The Israeli army began ground operations in southern Lebanon on 16 March 2026.^[58] During the first month, Hezbollah fired drones and as many as 1,800 rockets into Israel, while Israel conducted hundreds of airstrikes across southern Lebanon, Beirut, and the Beqaa Valley. The main bridges on the Litani River were attacked by Israel to cut off the south from the rest of Lebanon.^[59]

Following the 2 March attacks launched by Hezbollah against Israel, the Lebanese government publicly condemned Hezbollah for launching attacks without state authorization. It stated that decisions of war and peace are exclusively in the hands of the Lebanese state, moved to ban Hezbollah's military activities, called on the group to place its weapons under government control and







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Part of the Hezbollah–Israel conflict and the 2026 Iran war

- Israel (and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights)
- Attested Hezbollah presence in Lebanon
- Lebanese territory under Israeli control
- Syria
- Litani River (For an up-to-date, interactive, detailed map of the current military situation, see [here.](#))

Date	2 March 2026 – present (1 month and 5 days)
Location	<u>Northern Israel</u> and <u>Lebanon</u>
Status	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Israeli ground operations in southern Lebanon began on 16 March 2026 ▪ <u>General elections</u> postponed to 2028

Belligerents

 <u>Hezbollah</u>	 <u>Israel</u>	 <u>Lebanon</u> ^[d]
 <u>UNIFIL</u> ^[e]	Attacked by Israel:  <u>Amal Movement</u> ^[a]	Attacked by Hezbollah:  <u>Syria</u> ^[c]

cease further unauthorized attacks from Lebanese territory.^{[60][61][62]} Iran has conditioned a ceasefire in the Iran war on ending the Lebanon war and the attacks on Hezbollah.^[63]

Background

In the aftermath of the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023, Israel and the Lebanese Shia militia Hezbollah have been engaged in conflict, as part of a longer stretch of hostilities between the two since the latter's founding in 1982. Hezbollah launched strikes against Israel for a year after the 7 October attacks, which it said was in solidarity with Palestinians following the 7 October attacks and beginning of Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip.^{[64][65]} In response, Israel invaded southern Lebanon in October 2024, pulling out after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire at the end of November, but not before killing Hezbollah's leader, cleric Hassan Nasrallah. Between November 2024 and March 2026 however, several ceasefire violations occurred between the two, with Israeli attempts to enforce the ceasefire terms and prevent Hezbollah's renewed military buildup,^[66] by launching near daily attacks into Lebanon a year after the ceasefire,^[67] and Hezbollah violating the ceasefire terms by rebuilding its militant infrastructure and weapons arsenal.^[55]

On 28 February 2026, the United States and Israel initiated a joint strike campaign against Iran, the culmination of a geopolitical crisis that began around the turn of the year. Hezbollah condemned the attacks, stating "we are confident that the American and Israeli enemy will receive a great slap and will reap nothing but failure from its tyrannical, criminal aggression."^[68] During the campaign, US-Israeli strikes killed the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei; following Iranian confirmation of his death on 1 March, Hezbollah's secretary-general Naim Qassem vowed to retaliate and "undertake our duty of confronting the aggression", stating Hezbollah would not leave "the field of honor and resistance."^[69] Hezbollah later

 Palestinian

Islamic Jihad

 Hamas

 Islamic

Group^[2]

 Lebanese

Forces^[b]

Commanders and leaders

 Naim

Qassem

 Hajj Yusuf

Ismail

Hashem X

 Ali

Zadeh X


 Reza

Khazaei X

 Adham

Adnan al-

Othman X


 Ahmad

Abdullah X

 Benjamin

Netanyahu

 Israel Katz

 Eyal Zamir

 Rafi Milo


 Joseph Aoun


 Nawaf Salam


Units involved


See order of battle


Casualties and losses

 400+ militants killed (per internal sources)^[10]


 12 fighters arrested^[11]


 ~1,000 militants killed (per Israel)^[12]


 2 Radwan Force militants captured (per Israel)^[13]


 6 paramedics killed^{[14][15]}

 3 members

 12 soldiers killed^[f]


 411 soldiers wounded^{[24][25][26][27]}

 2 civilians killed^[9]


 7 soldiers killed,^{[30][31][32]}

and 4 injured^[33]

1 Civil Defense member killed,^[34] and 11 injured^[35]

 3 peacekeepers killed,^{[36][37]} and 6 injured^{[37][38][39][40]}

claimed that the attack was a "defensive act" after over a year of Israeli attacks despite a truce.^[70] It added that it restarted fighting to force Israel to stop its aggression and evacuate from seized Lebanese territories, emphasizing that the move was unrelated to the Iran war.^[71]

killed ^[16]		
 At least 1 member killed ^[3]		
1,530 killed, 4,812 injured, ^[41] 1,200,000+ displaced in Lebanon ^[42]		

Main events

2 March

On 2 March, Hezbollah launched several projectiles into northern Israel, the first time it had done so since the 2024 ceasefire, targeting a missile defense site south of Haifa.^[56] Hezbollah said it restarted fighting to force Israel to stop its aggression and evacuate from seized Lebanese territories, emphasising that the move was unrelated to the Iran war.^[71]

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it have intercepted one projectile originating from Lebanon, letting several others fall into open sites.^[72] In response, Israeli jets struck targets in the Lebanese capital of Beirut at 3am local time,^[73] issuing evacuation orders to local civilians in 50 villages across Southern Lebanon and the Beqaa Valley.^[74] The Israeli military said it carried out "precise and targeted" strikes against "senior terrorist elements of the Hezbollah terrorist organization in the Beirut area" and "a central terrorist element of the Hezbollah terrorist organization in southern Lebanon."^[75] Early reports suggested the intended targets were Naim Qassem and Mohammad Raad.^[76] Later, Saudi news channel Al Hadath reported Raad's whereabouts were unknown and stated his body was being searched for in the rubble.^{[77][78]} The IDF said Hezbollah's intelligence chief, Hussain Makled, was killed in the strikes.^[79]

3 March

Hezbollah fired missiles and drones targeting three Israeli bases, Ramat David Airbase, the Meron monitoring base and Camp Yitzhak.^{[57][80]} Israel executed airstrikes on Hezbollah strongholds and also targeted Al-Manar TV's headquarters in Beirut.^[81] Later on in the day, Israeli forces were ordered to seize positions within Lebanon.^[82] Israel said its military had seized "strategic areas" in southern Lebanon while ordering nearby Lebanese towns to evacuate.^[83] Israel struck Yohmor with white phosphorus, illegal under international law, causing several homes to catch fire.^{[84][85]}

4 March

Hezbollah launched drone and missiles into Israel, attempting to hit military bases and oil and gas infrastructures.^[86] Hezbollah anti-tank fire caused moderate injuries to two Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, making them the first Israeli injuries of the conflict.^[26] Israel launched strikes eliminating the communications centers of Hezbollah, al-Manar TV station and al-Nour radio station.^[87] More strikes were focused on villages in southern Lebanon used by Hezbollah.^[86] Following Hezbollah's continued attacks, Israel issued an

immediate urgent evacuation warning to South Lebanon residents, telling them to move north of the Litani River.^[88] UN peacekeeping force reported Israeli soldiers entered several towns and villages in Southern Lebanon, including: Kfar Kila, Houla, Kfar Shouba, Yaroun and Khiam.^[89]

Israel carried out an incursion into southern Syria, shelling the area between Jamla and Saisoun in Daraa Governorate, and arrested four civilians. Israel accused Syria of deploying combat units to the Syrian Golan Heights, stating it will not allow the Hezbollah–Israel strikes to be used as a pretext to "harm the Druze" in southern Syria and demanded the Syrian government prevent Iraqi militias from crossing Syrian territory towards the Golan Heights.^{[90][91]}

5 March

UNIFIL published that since 2 March it monitored over 210 missiles fired by Hezbollah into Israel.^[92] Israel killed a Hamas official in a strikes in Beirut, as well as several strikes early in the day, including two in the Hezbollah stronghold of south Beirut. More attacks continued, targeting Hezbollah facilities and operatives, as it renewed its evacuation warning to residence in Southern Lebanon, close to sites it will target.^{[93][94][95]} At midday, the IDF published an immediate evacuation notice to the southern suburbs of Beirut, specifically Bourj el-Barajneh, Hadath, Haret Hreik and Chiyah. Residents were advised by the IDF to move north and east.^[96]

Airstrike on Ghazali family home


On the evening of 5 March 2026, four members of the Ghazali family were killed by an Israeli airstrike on their home in Mashghara, southern Lebanon.^{[97][98][99]} The attack on the family home occurred while they were gathered for Iftar, the meal that breaks the fast at the end of the day in Ramadan.^{[97][98]} The men's maternal uncle, Fouad Qasem, who lived nearby, helped recover the bodies. He told NPR, "I held my own flesh and blood in my hands... What did the children do to deserve this?"^[100] The IDF claimed responsibility for the attack in Lebanon, alleging that Ibrahim Ghazali (the children's father) was a "Hezbollah commander" and describing Ibrahim as "eliminated", the term the IDF use for assassinations.^[101] The IDF's Arabic language spokesperson Avichai Adraee further alleged that Ibrahim Ghazali was in Hezbollah's anti-tank missile unit.^{[102][103]} In response to the statements by Israel, a Hezbollah spokesperson said that none of the family members were affiliated with Hezbollah.^[104] A memorial service was held for the family in West Bloomfield, Michigan, where other family members lived.^[105] According to CNN, the men killed were the brothers of Ayman Mohamed Ghazali, who on 12 March killed himself in the Temple Israel synagogue attack.^[106]

Ghazali family killing	
	
Location	33°31′41″N 35°39′6″E﻿ / ﻿Machghara
Date	5 March 2026 at sunset
Target	Ibrahim Ghazali
Attack type	<u>Assassination (targeted killing)</u> with other casualties
Weapon	Airstrike
Deaths	4 (2 men + 2 children) Ibrahim Ghazali Ibrahim's children: Ali & Fatima Ibrahim brother: Kassim Ghazali

6 March

After Israel ordered inhabitants of the entire portion of Lebanon that is south of the Litani River to evacuate (along with some other areas), Hezbollah issued its own orders to civilians in a five-kilometer wide strip of Israeli territory bordering Lebanon to evacuate. This message was published by Hezbollah in Hebrew, along with maps of the zone to be evacuated. Israeli sources described Hezbollah's self-described evacuation orders as psychological warfare; Israel said it is not evacuating the area. Hezbollah repeated the supposed evacuation order in the following days and weeks.^{[107][108][109]}

Injured 4 (both men's wives + parents)

Perpetrator  [Israel Defense Forces](#)

 [Israeli Air Force](#)

Hezbollah conducted a series of attacks on Israel and Israeli forces, launching rockets and artillery shells toward the [Golan Heights](#) and [Haifa](#).^[110]

During the night and morning after issuing advance warnings to minimize civilian casualties, Israel launched a series of airstrikes targeting Hezbollah headquarters located in ten high-rise buildings in Beirut. The strikes also targeted warehouses where drones used in attacks against Israel were reportedly stored.^[111] A Hezbollah projectile fired near the Lebanese border caused injuries to 8 Israeli soldiers, five of them severe.^[112] Among the injured was the son of far-right finance minister [Bezalel Smotrich](#).^[113]

Two Israeli missile strikes hit a UNIFIL battalion headquarters in [al-Qaouzah](#) in [Bint Jbeil](#), injuring three UN peacekeepers from [Ghana](#).^{[114][38]}

7 March

Hezbollah continued firing missiles and rockets into Israel's northern parts, with no deaths reported.^{[115][116]}

Israel's retaliation action included attacks in the eastern Lebanese town of [Nabi Chit](#), where reports say an operation to search for [Ron Arad](#) took place.^{[117][118][119]} The Lebanese health ministry reported that Israeli military killed over 41 people there, and injured 40 more.^[120] The deaths include at least three soldiers of the [Lebanese Armed Forces](#) and one from Lebanon's [General Security Directorate](#).^[30] Later that day an evacuation notice was issued by the IDF to [Zqouq El Mufdi](#), [Tyre](#).^[121] These evacuation notices were followed by "Save your lives" notices and reminders to residents to stay away from their homes.^[122]

8 March

Israel launched an airstrike on the Ramada hotel building in central Beirut, killing four key Iranian commanders of Iran's elite [Quds Force](#) of the [IRCG](#), who were planning terror attacks on Israel.^{[123][124]} Later the Israeli army stated they killed five senior commanders from the Lebanon Corps of the [Quds Force](#) of the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#) in a precise strike in Beirut.^[125] Netanyahu said: "Whoever lays down their arms will save their life, and whoever doesn't, their blood will be spilled."^[126]

[Constantinos Kombos](#), [Cyprus's](#) Foreign Minister stated the explosive-packed drones launched from Lebanon towards the Island, were launched by Hezbollah, targeting [British bases](#) there.^{[127][128]}

A Hezbollah rocket attack in southern Lebanon damaged a [Puma armored engineering vehicle](#) and then hit a [Caterpillar D9 bulldozer](#) attempting to assist the vehicle, killing two soldiers.^[17]

9 March

According to Hezbollah, the organization fought Israeli forces that landed once again in eastern Lebanon near Nabi Sheet. This time they were 15 Israeli helicopters that came from the Syrian side of the border.^[129] Hezbollah kept firing rocket and missiles in to Israel.^[130] During the day Israel targeted strikes on the Al-Qard Al-Hasan Association, an US-sanctioned institution known for funding Hezbollah.^[131] Before mid night, the Syrian Army informed Hezbollah shelled their positions.^[132] The Syrian Army declared they detected Hezbollah's reinforcements at the Syrian-Lebanese border.^[133]

A double strike on a house in Al-Qlayaa killed Lebanese Maronite Catholic priest Father Pierre al-Rahi.^[134]

10 March

The Syrian Army said they would coordinate a possible Syrian response to Hezbollah's actions with the Lebanese government side.^[135] On the same day, Syria reported early in the morning that artillery shells fired from Lebanon landed near a town 20 miles west of Damascus. Syria accused Hezbollah of targeting Syrian army positions in the area and said that it had observed Hezbollah reinforcements arriving along the Lebanon–Syria border, warning that it would respond to any attack on its territory.^[4]

Hezbollah claimed it targeted sites in Tell al-Hamames, south of the city of Khiam.^[136] According to reports Hezbollah and Iran fired missiles on northern Israel.^[137] It was reported that residents from Aalma El Chaeb in South Lebanon, left the town towards Tyre, escorted by LAF and UNIFIL forces.^[138] Later Israel issued warning to residence of Arnoun, Yohmor, Zawtar El Charqiyeh, and Zawtar El Gharbiyeh residents to evacuate.^[139]

11 March

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency, reported about airstrikes over night, that were later confirmed by the Israeli military.^[140] It was followed by an evacuation notice issued to six villages in south Lebanon.^[141] The IDF confirmed Iranian commander Ali Musallam Tabaja was killed during the airstrikes.^[142]



Israeli soldier in Southern Lebanon, 11 March

12 March

An Israeli strike on the outskirts of the village of Ain Ebel killed three men.^{[143][144][145]}

13 March

Lebanon's health ministry said that an Israeli airstrike hit a health center in Burj Qalaouiyah killing 12 people—nearly the entire medical team of paramedics, doctors, and nurses—leaving only one severely injured worker alive. Four others remain missing.^[146]

14 March

Israel continued to conduct airstrikes across Lebanon, including areas outside of Hezbollah's operations. An airstrike on an apartment in Bourj Hammoud in northeastern Beirut killed at least one person and wounded four others.^[147]

15 March

Israel said it have killed Ibrahim Ghazali earlier in March, who it alleged was a Hezbollah commander and the brother of the Lebanese-born Ayman Ghazali who perpetrated the Temple Israel synagogue attack on Michigan, United States.^{[148][149]}

16 March

The IDF announced that it had begun a "targeted ground operation against key targets" in southern Lebanon, aimed at establishing "the forward defense area." Defense Minister Israel Katz said that such operations would continue until Hezbollah no longer posed a threat to northern Israeli communities, and ruled out displaced Lebanese people returning to their homes in the south until then. He added that the operations will resemble the Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip, "just as was done against Hamas in Rafah, Beit Hanoun and the terror tunnels in Gaza." Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem has been designated a target for elimination.^[58]

Four injuries were reported in northern Israel as a result of Hezbollah rocket attacks on the area, including three in Nahariya and one in Kibbutz Kabri.^[150] An Israeli soldier from the Givati Brigade was injured during an operational accident.^[151] An Israeli airstrike hit a building near Jabal Amel Hospital outside Tyre killed one person and injured five others.^[152]

Mahmoud Qamati, Hezbollah's political council vice president, threatened to topple the cabinet of Nawaf Salam after the war ends, comparing it to Vichy France's regime.^[153] The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior said it arrested a 16-member Hezbollah cell with weapons, drone and encrypted communications devices, which planned an attack.^[154]

Fighting was reported at the Hezbollah stronghold of Al-Khiyam in southern Lebanon where a "major battle was under way" with at least three airstrikes in the city.^[155] Israel also struck targets in Yatar, Burj Qalaouiyah, as-Sultaniyah, Shaqra, Qantara, and as-Sawana.^[156]

17 March

The IDF said it had deployed a second division to southern Lebanon,^[157] launching a ground invasion. Israel Katz said the operation would be similar to the Gaza war, suggested that Israel could occupy some Lebanese territory indefinitely and ruled out the return of displaced Lebanese people to their homes as long as Hezbollah remained a threat.^[158] In a joint statement, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the UK said such an operation should be avoided.^[159] Syria was pressured to militarily intervene in Lebanon by the United States by sending its troops and striking positions in Lebanon alongside the IDF in order to further weaken Hezbollah,^[160] however the Syrian government refused the offer on the same day Israel Katz declared a ground invasion of southern Lebanon.^[161] Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey discouraged a confrontation between Syria and Hezbollah.^[162]

18 March

Israel conducted extensive overnight strikes in central Beirut, which were largely unannounced with no warnings issued, killing at least 10 people and injuring 27.^[163]

21 March

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded by a Hezbollah mortar attack in northern Israel.^[164]

Civilians were also injured as munitions fired by Hezbollah struck civilian buildings in northern Israeli border towns, including Ma'alot.^[165]

22 March

Israel's Defense Minister Katz declared that the IDF would demolish the Lebanese villages bordering Israel and destroy all the Litani river crossings.^[166] Following a warning, Israel destroyed the Qasmiyeh Bridge, the main bridge over the Litani river, connecting Lebanon and south Lebanon.^{[167][168]} The Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said that Hezbollah's operations are commanded by IRGC officers.^[169] The IDF reported that 7 soldiers were wounded on Lebanon in separate incidents.^[27] IDF Chief of General Staff Eyal Zamir approved plans "to advance the targeted ground operations and strikes" against Hezbollah, and that this would be a "prolonged operation".^[170] The Israeli military said it killed a commander of Hezbollah's Radwan Force and two other operatives in a strike in southern Lebanon. In a statement, it said Abu Khalil Barji was killed along with two other Hezbollah members in an air strike in the Majdal Selem area.^[171] That same day, an Israeli avocado farmer was killed from a misfired artillery by the IDF near the Israeli–Lebanese border.^[28] Hezbollah official Wafiq Safa in an interview admitted Hezbollah had started the war for revenge over the assassination of Khamenei and threatened the Lebanese government with the repeat of the 7 May clashes.^[172]

23 March

The IDF struck the Dallafa Bridge in southern Lebanon, which it accuses Hezbollah of using to send militants and weapons to fight Israel.^[173] Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated that Israel, following the war, should annex territories up to the Litani River.^[174]

Satellite imagery from 23 March showed the remains of the Khiam detention center being demolished.^[175]



Aftermath of an airstrike in Bachoura, Beirut, on 18 March



IDF 162nd Division on the Israel Lebanon border, 21 March



The Qasmiyeh Bridge after it was destroyed by Israeli forces

24 March

The Lebanese government declared the Iranian ambassador Mohammad Reza Sheibani *persona non grata*, giving him time until Sunday to leave.^[176] According to news reports, Iran fired a ballistic missile at Lebanon several hours after the announcement. The projectile struck Lebanon's coast.^[177] Israel's defence minister, Israel Katz openly stated that the military will take control of south Lebanon all the way to the Litani river,^{[178][179]} mirroring the claims of Smotrich from the previous day. Hassan Fadlallah, a lawmaker of Hezbollah, vowed that the group would fight Israel to prevent the plan from coming to fruition, labelling it as one of the goals of the organization during the war.^[180] An Israeli interceptor missile shot down a ballistic missile over Keserwan launched from Iran.^[181] Various sources from the US military intel heavily suggest the target was Cyprus.^{[182][183][184][185]}

Israel reported that missile fire from Lebanon killed one Israeli civilian and wounded another two.^[29] Israeli Defense minister Israel Katz states that the military will control a "security zone" up to the Litani River in southern Lebanon until the threat of Hezbollah is removed.^[186]

An Israeli drone strike targeted the residence of a teacher in Ain Ebel, but the family members on the ground floor survived unharmed.^[187]

25 March

Nethanyahu followed Katz's and Smotrich's statement calling for the creation of a "security/buffer zone" in Southern Lebanon.^[188]

Iran asserted that Lebanon must be included as part of a ceasefire deal with the United States and Israel, thereby conditioning a ceasefire in the 2026 Iran war on a cessation of hostilities against Hezbollah.^[63]

26 March

Two IDF soldiers were killed by Hezbollah attacks on Southern Lebanon.^[19] One Israeli civilian was killed by Hezbollah rocket fire in Nahariyah.^[189] The IDF said that it was sending more troops from Division 162 to join two other army divisions in southern Lebanon to expand the "buffer zone" in the area.^[190]

27 March

The IDF have made relatively rapid advances into southern Lebanon, advancing north past the coastal town of Naqoura toward Bayada. Hezbollah said that it had targeted an Israeli tank in Bayada.^[191]

28 March

An Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon killed two prominent Lebanese television journalists, including Ali Choeib who worked for the Hezbollah-affiliated Al-Manar and Fatima Ftouni, who worked for the pro-Hezbollah Al Mayadeen. The IDF stated that Choeib had been exposing Israeli military positions, and described him as a member of Radwan force, Hezbollah's special operations unit.^{[192][193]}

29 March

An IDF soldier was reported killed by Hezbollah attack, while another 3 soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon.^[20] Israel killed two Lebanese paramedics in Bint Jbeil with airstrikes, and later accused Hezbollah of making "extensive military use" of ambulances and other medical facilities.^[194] Lebanese military sources told Al Jazeera that Israeli troops had bypassed Aitaroun and reached the outskirts of Wadi al-Salouqi, at the same time entering the town of al-Bayada, advanced towards the Litani from below the town of Qantara near al-Muhaysibat and also east of it.^[195]

The Iranian diplomatic source told Agence France-Presse the Iranian ambassador who is declared *persona non grata* defied the Lebanese government's order to leave.^[196]

Syrian authorities launched a crackdown on tunnels along the border with Lebanon used for smuggling arms by Hezbollah. The Syrian defense ministry announced the discovery and closure of two tunnels on the border of Lebanon used for smuggling by Hezbollah.^[197]

30 March

A clash erupted between in an incident between Hezbollah and a UNIFIL patrol after the patrol had been stopped by Hezbollah in Deir Qanoun an-Naher on its main street and ordered to leave the area, which the patrol refused, resulting in gunfire from both sides.^[9]

Israeli media reported the death of four IDF soldiers in clashes with Hezbollah, three of whom were the from the Nahal Brigade's Reconnaissance Unit.^[198]

1 April

An Israeli Navy strike in Beirut killed the commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, Hajj Yusuf Ismail Hashem, whose predecessor Ali Karaki was killed in September 2024. Hezbollah confirmed Hashem's death, stating that it was their harshest loss since the killing of Haytham Ali Tabatabai in November 2025.^{[199][200]}

4 April

A IDF soldier was killed and another wounded after a friendly fire incident in Sheeba southern Lebanon, during a Commando raid.^[201]

6 April

IDF spokesman Avichay Adraee ordered the southern suburbs of Beirut to be evacuated, because Israel will strike "Hezbollah infrastructure" there.^[202]

Casualties

As of 6 April, at least 1,497 people have been killed and 4,639 wounded by Israeli strikes in Lebanon during the war.^[203] Internal Hezbollah sources said that over 400 Hezbollah fighters had been killed in the war^[204] while the Israel Defense Forces said that it had killed about 1,000 fighters.^[205] According to Lebanon, more than one

million Lebanese nationals,^[206] corresponding to one-sixth of the country,^[207] were displaced.^{[208][209]}

On 2 March, the first day of the war, Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that at least 31 people had been killed and 149 injured in the initial Israeli strikes, including 20 killed and 91 wounded in Beirut's southern suburbs and 11 killed and 58 wounded in southern Lebanon.^[75] Civilian displacement became significant, with families fleeing southern areas toward cities like Sidon.^[52] In the afternoon, the Israel Defense Forces announced that Hussein Makled, head of Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters, had been killed in overnight strikes in Beirut. Local media also reported the death of the brother of the late Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah along with his wife as a result of strikes in Haret Hreik.^[210] Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Lebanon announced that its commander, Adham Adnan al-Othman, had been killed in Beirut's southern suburbs.^[211] At night, casualties rose to 52 deaths and 154 injuries, according to the Health Ministry.^[75]

Reactions

Lebanese government

On 2 March 2026, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam condemned Hezbollah's rocket and drone strikes from southern Lebanon, calling them irresponsible acts outside the authority of the Lebanese state that endanger national security. While he emphasized that all military action must fall under the government's control, he has not formally declared Hezbollah outlawed, focusing instead on preventing unauthorized armed operations.^{[212][213]}

Following an emergency Cabinet meeting convened early in the day amid the escalating strikes, Salam announced a total ban on all military activities by Hezbollah, demanding the group surrender its weapons to the state and restrict itself to political activities only. He affirmed that decisions on war and peace rest exclusively with the state, rejecting any unauthorized actions from Lebanese territory, and called on security forces to prevent such violations and arrest those responsible.^[75]

The National News Agency reported that Justice minister Adel Nassar requested the public prosecutor at the Court of Cassation, Jamal Hajjar, and the government commissioner at the Military Court to assign the security forces with immediately arresting those involved in launching rockets from southern Lebanon toward Israel.^[75]

The Lebanese government announced on 5 March it would "arrest and repatriate" anyone in Lebanon connected to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, leading to the departure of dozens of Iranian officers from Beirut in the past two days, according to Axios and several other sources. Most of those departing are believed to be members of the Quds Force who had been serving as military advisers to Hezbollah and influencing its operations.^[214]

Following the Lebanese legal actions against Hezbollah and the IRGC, more than 150 Iranian nationals left Lebanon, including diplomats.^[215]

President Joseph Aoun said the state is the only one that can protect its citizen and that no one expected that the country once again to become the arena for the wars of others.^[216] Minister of Information Paul Morkos has ordered all media (television, radio and the national news agency) to stop using the word - "resistance" affiliated to Hezbollah, meaning they are not to call them by that name anymore.^{[217][218]}

In a 22 March 2026 interview to Saudi Arabia's Al-Hadath television station, Salam said Iranian IRGC is directing Hezbollah in its war on Israel and that this war was imposed on Lebanon. "These were the Revolutionary Guards, who are present and, unfortunately, managing military operations in Lebanon ...These people have fake passports and entered the country illegally,". He mentioned again the government's unprecedented decision to ban Hezbollah's military actions, calling them to disarm and hand their weapons to the state.^[219]

On March 24, 2026, the Lebanese government declared it is expelling the Iranian ambassador, Mohammad Reza Raouf Sheibani, naming him as Persona Non Grata. They reason was Iran continuing interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.^[220]

Hezbollah

Hezbollah condemned the Lebanese government after it banned Hezbollah's military and security activities, stating "We understand the Lebanese government's impotence in the face of the brutal Zionist enemy, which violates national sovereignty, occupies land, and poses a continuous threat to the country's security and stability", and that it is the government's right "to decide on war and peace", concluding that "given this clear weakness and deficiency, we see no justification for Prime Minister Salam and his government to take such aggressive measures against the Lebanese who reject the occupation."^[221] Hezbollah later said that its attack was a "defensive act" after over a year of Israeli attacks despite a truce. It added that "for fifteen months, Israeli aggression against Lebanon has continued through killing, destruction, bulldozing, and all forms of criminal acts."^[51]

Other domestic political parties

Many of Lebanon's other political parties have expressed dismay with Hezbollah's actions and have urged the Lebanese government to disarm the party.

In a meeting between Lebanese Christian representatives and Emmanuel Macron, the Lebanese Forces party went as far as to suggest rearming its party militia to make up for the Lebanese government's perceived inaction in disarmament.^[222]

Israel

The IDF said that it would "not allow the organization [Hezbollah] to pose a threat to the State of Israel and harm the residents of the north", further accusing it of "destroying the state of Lebanon."^[223] IDF spokesperson Effie Defrin said "Hezbollah opened fire last night. We warned it. It will pay a heavy price." When asked about a possible ground incursion into Lebanon, Defrin stated that "all options are on the table."^[224] Israel also indirectly threatened to strike Lebanese government targets unless it intervened against Hezbollah. Lebanese foreign minister Youssef Rajji revealed that Lebanon had "received warnings indicating that any intervention on the part of Hezbollah could prompt Israel to strike infrastructure targets."^[225]

International

France condemned Hezbollah's attacks against Israel as "irresponsible" and expressed its solidarity "in the face of the ordeal Lebanon is going through due to the irresponsible decision of Hezbollah". It also expressed solidarity with Israeli civilians affected by the Iranian attacks.^{[226][227]}

Syrian president Ahmed al-Sharaa said that he supports the Lebanese government's efforts to disarm Hezbollah.^[228] Syria also warned that it would respond to any attack on its territory, after accusing Hezbollah of targeting Syrian Army positions and moving forces to the border.^[4]

Spain "strongly condemned" the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, and urged full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1701.^[229]

United States President Donald Trump said "Hezbollah is a big problem" and "they're rapidly being eliminated" in response to Israel's ground offensive in southern Lebanon, adding that he spoke to Israeli leaders about the offensive.^[230] U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz said that the U.S. strongly condemns attacks by Hezbollah against Israel and supports Israel's right to defend itself. He further described Hezbollah as an Iranian proxy that does not represent the interests of the Lebanese people and commended the Lebanese government's decision to ban its military activities.^[231]

Turkey condemned the Israeli ground operation in Lebanon, calling it one of the "genocidal and collective punishment policies, this time in Lebanon," of the Netanyahu government, and warned against "another humanitarian catastrophe."^[232]

In a joint statement, France, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom expressed that they were "gravely concerned" at the violence in Lebanon and called for "immediate de-escalation." They jointly condemned Hezbollah's "decision to join Iran in hostilities" and also called for the proposed Israeli ground invasion of Lebanon to "be averted" as it could trigger "devastating humanitarian consequences and could lead to a protracted conflict."^[233]

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney condemned what he called the "illegal invasion" of Lebanon by Israel, calling it "a violation of [Lebanon's] territorial sovereignty" and noted that the Lebanese government has made efforts to ban Hezbollah's activities.^[234]

Consequences

Return migration of Syrian refugees

According to the UNHCR, the total population of Syrian refugees in the entirety of Lebanon was 1.4 million people in March 2026.^[235] Due to the 2026 Lebanon war, thousands of individuals of Syrian heritage migrated back to Syria, especially by using the Jousseh border crossing.^[236] A report dated 13 March 2026 by Intersos reported that other local agencies had recorded back on 10 March 2026 that 85,000–90,000 people had crossed the main legal border crossings from Lebanon to Syria. The demographic of these refugees was composed by 93% of Syrian returnees and 7% by Lebanese citizens.^[237] By 18 March 2026, only counting the Syrians, 119,000 people had crossed the border from Lebanon into Syria according to UNHCR's Displacement Tracking Matrix.^[238] The people that had crossed the border in total by then were 125,000 people.^[239]

See also

- 2006 Lebanon War
- Outline of the Gaza war
- Palestinian insurgency in South Lebanon
- Hamas in Lebanon
- 2023 Israel–Lebanon shellings
- Displacement during the Israel–Hezbollah conflict
- International Monitoring and Implementation Mechanism
- Green Without Borders
- Hezbollah armed strength
- Homeland Shield Plan
- Hezbollah–Syria clashes (2024–present)

References

Notes

- Paramedics belonging to the Amal Movement's Islamic Risala Scout Association have been targeted in Israeli airstrikes.^[1]
- On 5 April 2026, Israel launched an airstrike on what it called "a terror target" in the predominantly Christian town of Ain Saadeh east of Beirut. A Lebanese Forces party official and his wife were killed by the strike, though Israel later stated they were not the intended targets. There has been speculation that Israeli strikes on Christian communities in Lebanon are aimed at inflaming sectarian tensions.^[3]
- Syria declared its support for the disarmament of Hezbollah following the outbreak of the war. In response, Hezbollah struck Syrian army positions near Damascus.^[4] Syrian authorities began closing smuggling routes used by Hezbollah along the Lebanese border.^[5]
- Lebanese soldiers have been killed in Israeli drone attacks.^[6] The Lebanese army arrested armed Hezbollah members.^[7]
- UNIFIL peacekeepers have been attacked by the IDF^[8] and have engaged in a clash with Hezbollah^[9]
- 1 off-duty^{[17][18][19][20][21][22]}1 killed by friendly-fire^[23]
- 1 by friendly fire^{[28][29]}

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