

6.2. Overview of security dynamics related to recent developments with Israel

6.2. Overview of security dynamics related to recent developments with Israel

Hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel intensified between October 2023 and September 2024,³⁸⁷ with over 10 000 cross-border attacks recorded during that period,³⁸⁸ including strikes reaching Beirut by late September 2024, while Israeli airstrikes³⁸⁹ killed several of Hezbollah's senior leaders.³⁹⁰ Meanwhile, clashes between Israel and Hezbollah in the second half of 2024, including near Palestine refugee camps, further affected the broader security situation in southern Lebanon.³⁹¹ On 17 and 18 September 2024, coordinated blasts of thousands of pagers and handheld radios resulted in the fatalities of at least forty people, among them two children, and left over 3 400 injured.³⁹² This attack reportedly targeted around 4 000 Hezbollah members, including fighters and commanders, and was blamed by the group on Israel.³⁹³

On 16 October 2024, an Israeli airstrike struck the municipal headquarters in Al Nabatieh, during a council meeting, killing at least sixteen people including the mayor, Ahmad Kahil, and injuring more than fifty others.³⁹⁴ A ceasefire agreement was reached on 27 November 2024³⁹⁵ and violence declined following the ceasefire as disarmament talks with Hezbollah and Palestinian armed groups progressed.³⁹⁶

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) report of March 2025 'The situation in Lebanon remains tenuous as continued military operations threaten the safety and protection of civilians'.³⁹⁷ Conflict-related violence has killed at least 98 civilians, including more than a dozen children, since the cessation of hostilities, and recent air strikes, demolitions, and artillery shelling have contributed to a significant increase in military activity in southern Lebanon.³⁹⁸ While the November 2024 ceasefire allowed border residents to return to their homes,³⁹⁹ and markets and services in southern Lebanon gradually resumed,⁴⁰⁰ Lebanon has continued to face repeated shelling and clashes along its southern border with Israel.⁴⁰¹ The Israel army carried out several attacks on Lebanon between December 2024 and September 2025.⁴⁰²

On 8 September 2025, Israeli warplanes conducted a series of airstrikes over northeastern Lebanon, targeting alleged training and weapons-storage sites of Hezbollah's elite al-Radwan unit across the Anti-Lebanon heights, specifically near Hermel and several areas within northern Bekaa, causing five deaths and injuries.⁴⁰³ This incident reflects a notable expansion in Israel's operational zones, which typically focus on southern Lebanon, now extending into the Bekaa amid tensions.⁴⁰⁴

Meanwhile, UNIFIL's mandate, initially set to expire in August 2025,⁴⁰⁵ was unanimously extended, reaffirming its tasks of monitoring the cessation of hostilities, supporting LAF, and facilitating humanitarian access.⁴⁰⁶ The UNIFIL noted that the LAF currently lacks full capacity in the south due to Lebanon's financial crisis and the ongoing presence of Israeli forces, emphasising that the mission's role is to support state authority rather than disarm Hezbollah.⁴⁰⁷ With UNIFIL's withdrawal set for the end of 2026, concerns remain over a potential security vacuum and the need to reduce Hezbollah's influence to rebuild state

credibility.[408](#)

The ongoing economic crisis has weakened Lebanon's defence and security forces.[409](#) Meanwhile, Hezbollah, backed by Iran,[410](#) continues to exert influence in the Bekaa Governorate and other Shia border areas. Although the government has proposed bringing weapons under state control[411](#) and integrating Hezbollah into the army,[412](#) the group's ideology and the army's limited capacity make full integration unlikely.[413](#)

Hezbollah's new leader, Sheikh Naim Qassem, stated that disarmament would only be considered as part of a nationally determined defence strategy and after a full Israeli withdrawal,[414](#) warning of possible violence if forced to disarm.[415](#) While Hezbollah and Amal split over protests against the government's weapons monopoly,[416](#) Israel indicated that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) could withdraw if the LAF takes steps to disarm Hezbollah by the end of 2025 under a US-led security mechanism.[417](#) Meanwhile, Samy Gemayel, leader of the Kataeb (Phalange) Party, has called for all weapons to be brought under state authority.[418](#)

According to the Associated Press article of 8 September 2025, Hezbollah has not fired at Israel since November 2024 ceasefire and claims it no longer maintains an armed presence south of the Litani River, while continuing to reject disarmament talks until Israel withdraws from five hilltop positions captured during the war.[419](#) Maalouf Monneau noted that security remains particularly precarious in southern Lebanon, western Bekaa, and southern Beirut.[420](#)

On 28 August 2025, the UN Security Council welcomed the Lebanese government's efforts to assert sovereignty across the country through the LAF, called on Israel to withdraw north of the Blue Line, and urged deployment of Lebanese forces, with UNIFIL support, to ensure that only the state maintains authority and weapons in line with relevant UN resolutions and the Taif Agreement.[421](#) Between 8 and 14 September 2025, the Israel Defense Forces conducted multiple operations across 17 locations in Lebanon, mainly south of the Litani River but also reaching as far as Hermel, including airstrikes, targeted assassinations, ground activities, detonations, and leaflet drops against Hezbollah personnel and assets, while overall activity remained relatively low compared with previous weeks.[422](#)

On 18 September 2025, the Israeli army carried out multiple airstrikes in the southern and northern areas of the Litani River,[423](#) claiming to target Hezbollah positions to prevent them from rebuilding their strongholds.[424](#) The IDF reportedly issued evacuation notices in southern Lebanon, asking residents to leave six specific buildings, which it described as Hezbollah military sites.[425](#)

Meanwhile, Israel, through the United States, asked the Lebanese Army to start its disarmament plan in the Baalbek and Hermel Governorates, described as hubs for advanced missiles and drones, and after Lebanese officers expressed reservations, Israeli warplanes struck the outskirts of Hermel, claiming to have hit Hezbollah training camps and weapons depots.[426](#) By 18 September 2025, the Lebanese army recorded over 2 500 Israeli land, air and sea attacks on Lebanon since the November 2024 ceasefire.[427](#)

On 19 September 2025, the UNIFIL considered the Israeli attacks violations of Security Council resolution 1701, emphasising that they endanger civilians, put UN peacekeepers and Lebanese soldiers at risk, and threaten the fragile stability achieved in southern Lebanon.[428](#) As of 23 September 2025, in a meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, President Aoun stated that Lebanon's disarmament plan is ready but obstructed by Israeli strikes.[429](#) As of 27 September 2025, Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem rejected disarmament, urged the government to 'correct its mistake,' highlighted the group's 'victories' and resilience during the 66-day war, and reaffirmed Hezbollah's readiness for any confrontation with Israel. He also called for parliamentary elections under the current law and the creation of a Senate as outlined in the Taif Agreement.[430](#)

Reuters, What is Hezbollah and what is its role in Lebanon, 24 September 2024, [url](#)

[388](#)

Al Jazeera, Mapping 10,000 cross-border attacks between Israel and Lebanon, 25 September 2024, [url](#)

[389](#)

AP, Netanyahu vows to use ‘full force’ against Hezbollah and dims hopes for a cease-fire, 27 September 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Israel attacks Lebanon updates: ‘We are not stopping, we’ll keep attacking’, 25 September 2024, [url](#)

[390](#)

Al Jazeera, The history of conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, 18 September 2024, [url](#)

[391](#)

UNRWA, UNRWA Strategic Assessment - UN80 Initiative, Report to the Secretary-General, 20 June 2025, [url](#), para. 39

[392](#)

UNSG, Implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), during the period from 21 June to 20 October 2024, Report of the Secretary-General, S/2024/817, 13 November 2024, [url](#), para. 9; HRW, Lebanon: Exploding Pagers Harmed Hezbollah, Civilians, 18 September 2024, [url](#); BBC, What we know about the Hezbollah device explosions, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

[393](#)

This is Beirut, Netanyahu Says Nasrallah’s Death Brought Down the Pro-Iranian Axis, 16 September 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Exploding pagers, psychological warfare: Israel’s attack on Hezbollah, 18 September 2024, [url](#)

[394](#)

Reuters, Mayor among 16 killed in Israeli strike on south Lebanon municipality building, 17 October 2024, [url](#); BBC, Mayor and 15 others killed in Israeli strike on Lebanon council meeting, 16 October 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Israeli attack on town in Lebanon’s far north kills 14 people: Mayor, 10 November 2024, [url](#)

[395](#)

World Bank, Lebanon, 10 April 2025, [url](#); Reuters, Israel-Hezbollah truce holds, displaced Lebanese begin to journey home, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

[396](#)

ACLED, Middle East Overview: September 2025, 5 September 2025, [url](#)

397

UN OCHA, Lebanon: Flash Update #63 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, as of 13 March 2025, 13 March 2025, [url](#), p. 1

398

UN OCHA, Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lebanon, Syria, 23 September 2025, [url](#)

399

Reuters, Israel-Hezbollah truce holds, displaced Lebanese begin to journey home, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

400

IPC, Lebanon, IPC acute food insecurity analysis, April 2025 – October 2025, 21 May 2025, [url](#), p. 7

401

UN News, Israeli strikes in Lebanon continue to kill civilians, UN rights office warns, 15 April 2025, [url](#)

402

Al Jazeera, Updates: Israel bombs Lebanon, killing 9 in biggest attack since truce deal, 2 December 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Israel kills at least 22 in south Lebanon on day army was due to withdraw, 26 January 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Israeli air strike kills six in eastern Lebanon amid fragile ceasefire, 8 February 2025, [url](#); UN OCHA, Lebanon: Flash Update #63 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, as of 13 March 2025, 13 March 2025, [url](#); BBC, Four killed in Israeli strike on Beirut, Lebanon says, despite ceasefire, 1 April 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, One killed, eight wounded as Israel hits Lebanon in major post-truce attack, 8 May 2025, [url](#); LWJ, Israeli operations in Lebanon against Hezbollah: May 19–May 25, 2025, 27 May 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon kill three people, 28 June 2025, [url](#); New York Times (The), Israel launches new ground incursion in Lebanon, rising fears for truce, 9 July 2025, [url](#); LWJ, Israeli operations in Lebanon against Hezbollah: August 4–17, 2025, 21 August 2025, [url](#); LWJ, Israeli operations in Lebanon against Hezbollah: September 8–14, 2025, 17 September 2025, [url](#)

403

L’Orient Today, Five killed in Israeli airstrikes targeting Anti-Lebanon mountain range, 8 September 2025, [url](#); This is Beirut, Five killed in Israeli raids on East Lebanon, 8 September 2025, [url](#); LBC, Israeli army strikes Hezbollah targets in Lebanon’s Bekaa region, claims Avichay Adraee, 8 September 2025, [url](#)

404

AP, Israel airstrikes kill 5 in northeastern Lebanon, including 4 Hezbollah members, 8 September 2025, [url](#)

405

UN News, UN peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon faces scrutiny ahead of Security Council vote, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

406

UNIFIL, Security Council extends UNIFIL's mandate: Resolution 2790 (2025), 28 August 2025, [url](#)

407

UN News, UN peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon faces scrutiny ahead of Security Council vote, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

408

AP, UN votes to end its peacekeeping force in Lebanon next year after nearly 5 decades, 28 August 2025, [url](#)

409

International Crisis Group, Supporting Effective Policing by Lebanon's Embattled Security Agencies, 27 August 2025, [url](#); France 24, Nasrallah's death was necessary to achieve Israel's war aims, says Netanyahu, 28 September 2024, [url](#)

410

France 24, Nasrallah's death was necessary to achieve Israel's war aims, says Netanyahu, 28 September 2024, [url](#)

411

International Crisis Group, Supporting Effective Policing by Lebanon's Embattled Security Agencies, 27 August 2025, [url](#); Diwan, Pushing back against Hezbollah, 21 February 2025, [url](#); The New Arab, Exclusive: Lebanon's President Aoun says dialogue with Hezbollah is only way to secure state monopoly on weapons, 16 April 2025, [url](#)

412

Asharq Al-Awsat, Proposal of Merging Hezbollah Fighters with Lebanese Army Collides with Reality, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

413

Asharq Al-Awsat, Proposal of Merging Hezbollah Fighters with Lebanese Army Collides with Reality, 21 April 2025, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Supporting Effective Policing by Lebanon's Embattled Security Agencies, 27 August 2025, [url](#); Diwan, Pushing back against Hezbollah, 21 February 2025, [url](#)

414

Arab News, Why the future of Lebanon's fragile state rests on Hezbollah's next move, 21 July 2025, [url](#); Naharnet, Qassem says Hezbollah won't hand over arms 'while aggression continues', 18 August 2025, [url](#)

415

ISW, Iran update, 26 August 2025, [url](#)

[416](#)

Asharq Al-awsat, 'Shiite Duo' in Lebanon Retracts Call for Protests against Govt Decisions, 26 August 2025, [url](#)

[417](#)

International Crisis Group, Lebanon, recent developments, 25 August 2025, [url](#)

[418](#)

The New Arab, Head of Phalange party says Hezbollah must apologise for Lebanon war, 1 November 2024, [url](#);

[419](#)

AP, Israel airstrikes kill 5 in northeastern Lebanon, including 4 Hezbollah members, 8 September 2025, [url](#)

[420](#)

Dr. Maalouf Monneau M, email communication, 11 September 2025

[421](#)

UNSG, Resolution 2790 (2025), Adopted by the Security Council at its 9989th meeting, on 28 August 2025, 28 August 2025, [url](#), p. 1

[422](#)

LWJ, Israeli operations in Lebanon against Hezbollah: September 8–14, 2025, 17 September 2025, [url](#)

[423](#)

Arab News, Israel resumes attacks on Hezbollah's strongholds south, north of Litani River, 18 September 2025, [url](#); BBC, Israeli air strikes hit southern Lebanon, 18 September 2025, [url](#); Reuters, Israel attacks Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon, 18 September 2025, [url](#)

[424](#)

Reuters, Israel attacks Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon, 18 September 2025, [url](#)

[425](#)

ISW, IDF-Issued Evacuation Warnings for Southern Lebanon, 18 September 2025, [url](#)

[426](#)

Naharnet, Report: Israel asks that Lebanon begin disarmament plan from Baalbek-Hermel, 8 September 2025, [url](#)

[427](#)

Arab News, Israel resumes attacks on Hezbollah's strongholds south, north of Litani River, 18 September 2025, [url](#); L'Orient Today, Series of Israeli strikes on south Lebanon, Aoun, Salam and Berri urge action, 18 September 2025, [url](#);

[428](#)

UNIFIL, UNIFIL statement, 19 September 2025, [url](#)

[429](#)

This is Beirut, Aoun to Guterres: Disarmament Plan Ready, 23 September 2025, [url](#)

[430](#)

This is Beirut, Naim Qassem Stands Firm: Weapons or Karbala, 27 September 2025, [url](#)

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu