

Laith Marouf on Lebanon Front: Will Israel Invade? Hizballah Strategy

We interviewed Laith Marouf on the rapidly escalating Lebanon front amid the ongoing US-Israeli attack on Iran. Support Independent media to remain bold: <https://patreon.com/IndiaGlobalLeft> Link for donation: <https://paypal.me/sankymudiar> As tensions rise across West Asia, the possibility of a broader regional war grows. In this in-depth conversation, Marouf breaks down the ground situation in Lebanon, the military balance between Israel and Hizballah, and whether Israel can realistically launch a ground invasion. He discusses:

- The current ground reality inside Lebanon
- Can Israel invade southern Lebanon?
- Hizballah's military doctrine and defensive strategy
- The role of the Lebanese government and its ties to the United States
- Internal political contradictions within Lebanon's complex society
- The impact of a two-front war on Israel (Iran + Hizballah)
- The possibility of a third front opening with Ansar Allah (Yemen)
- Whether recent events mark a turning point against Western imperialism and Zionism in the region
- Western media silence on the killing of Iranian children and the propaganda narratives during Al-Aqsa Flood
- Is Israel prepared for a prolonged regional war?
- Can Hizballah withstand and counter a ground invasion?
- Will the conflict expand beyond Lebanon and Iran?

Watch the full interview and share your thoughts below. Follow us on Substack: <https://substack.com/@indiagloballeft> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Indiagloballeft> Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/indiagloballeft/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559411353392> Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/69Y9iCWUv8ha3ATsPWtWk0?si=ee1f0de3de094f17> Telegram: <https://t.me/+WNlqoiv1Rhg5NjEx> #Lebanon #Israel #Iran #Hizballah #Hezbollah #AnsarAllah #WestAsia #MiddleEastConflict #USIsrael #Geopolitics #LaithMarouf #ResistanceAxis

#Mudiar

Welcome to another episode of India and Global Left. If you're new to the show, please hit that subscribe button. Also, consider becoming a YouTube member, a patron, or donating a small amount through the link in the description box. Let me welcome our guest tonight, Laith Marouf. Laith is a media activist and journalist who launched Free Palestine TV to support the resistance against Zionism and imperialism. Laith, welcome back to India and Global Left. Good to be with you, Jay. Thank you very much. I wanted to start with Israel–Lebanon, given that the conflict has intensified. Could you update us on the ground situation in Lebanon?

#Guest

Well, since yesterday, when Hezbollah finally retaliated after 14 months of Israeli violations of the so-called ceasefire, the Zionists have been bombarding the southern suburb of Beirut and much of

southern Lebanon. This morning, the Lebanese military withdrew from about 30 positions it controls in the south and moved north of the Litani River, leaving the area basically open to possible invasion. Over the last few hours, we've seen attempts by the Israeli military to cross into Lebanese territory. Just about half an hour ago, Israeli media claimed that a tank attempting to cross into Lebanon was hit by a guided missile and is now burning.

Since the morning, Hezbollah has carried out four waves of missiles and drones, all announced through its official channels, targeting Israeli military positions in the Golan Heights, the northern Galilee, and the Hula Valley — that panhandle that juts out from northern Palestine into the area between Syria and Lebanon. So the battle is on. It's clear that the Zionists want to invade southern Lebanon, but it's also very clear that Hezbollah had calculated all these possibilities before reopening the battle with the Zionists 24 hours ago.

#Mudiar

During the talks about the ground invasion and the resistance against it, could you comment on whether Israel would attempt or be able to carry out a ground invasion, and what the likely consequences or Hezbollah's strategy to fight against that would be?

#Guest

Yeah, I mean, now the villages in the south of Lebanon are practically deserted. Even before the beginning of this round of confrontation, many of these villages were destroyed during the so-called ceasefire. So this is going to be empty land with no cover, which the Israelis are going to try to invade. And clearly, that makes them an easy target for any resistance on the ground. It's clear from that tank being directly hit by guided missiles and the frontline bases around the Shebaa Farms, at the foothills of the Golan Heights, being bombarded over the last few hours. That shows you that the resistance, Hezbollah, is ready and has a plan.

And it's actually, most probably, what they've just done. I think more and more analysts are going to realize that they baited the Israelis into bringing out 100,000 of their reserves to be stationed on the border with Lebanon and to attempt to invade South Lebanon immediately, while their supply lines from central and northern Palestine are being bombarded by both Hezbollah and the Iranians. So we're going to have an entrapped army — 100,000 soldiers with no supply route — invading a territory with no cover. I think we'll be seeing large numbers of Israeli soldiers being eradicated if the Zionists actually decide to attempt this foolish invasion of South Lebanon.

#Mudiar

Can you tell me a little bit about the role of the government in Beirut? My own reading of some of the statements over the past few months by President Aoun seems extremely hostile to Hezbollah. There's also talk about his relationship with the United States — the embassy, if you like, in

Lebanon. How do you conceptualize the role of the government in Lebanon, given the complexity and layered structure of Lebanese society?

#Guest

Yeah, I mean, the statements from President Aoun have been less hostile than those from Prime Minister Nawaf Salam — though a lot of people jokingly call him Prime Minister Shalom. Clearly, he's representing the interests of the Zionists in Lebanon. For instance, there was a joint cabinet meeting the moment Hezbollah began its bombardment of Zionist positions in northern Palestine. The president, the prime minister, the ministers of the government, and the commander-in-chief of the Lebanese military, General Haykal, were all present, and there was a verbal fight between the chief of staff, General Haykal, and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam.

There have been a lot of leaks about what happened in that cabinet meeting. It's been printed and discussed in the Lebanese media over the last 24 hours. In the initial plan that General Haykal put forward to the cabinet, the Lebanese military was supposed to defend South Lebanon and coordinate its defense efforts with the resistance in the south to guarantee the protection of those territories. What we're hearing from these leaks now is that Prime Minister Nawaf Salam was shouting at the chief of staff, saying he would not allow the Lebanese military to lose any of its soldiers defending the south of Lebanon because of Hezbollah's actions, as he described them.

And that led to a huge argument inside the cabinet. The president of Lebanon, of course, doesn't have much say in the cabinet's decisions. So, in the end, the chief of staff was ordered to withdraw the Lebanese military from south of Thalitani and to attempt to disarm Hezbollah in the north of Thalitani simultaneously. And that's not going to happen, of course. What we saw was just the withdrawal of the Lebanese military, and General Haykal knows the army has no capability to confront Hezbollah. So we won't see that.

And if it happens that somehow, during this battle, the Lebanese military attempts to confront Hezbollah, we may see, for the first time, Hezbollah taking control of the government—something it has refused to do since the year 2000, when it liberated the country. They became the only liberation movement in history that freed a country and did not take control of its government. So now, in the midst of this regional war for survival and existence, where the so-called enemy of humanity—the pedophilic, cannibalistic empire and its colony—are killing and liquidating leaders in the axis of resistance, politically elected people, heads of state, heads of government, and religious communities, I think we may be seeing the axis of resistance also resorting to this.

This is the only way they can have real deterrence. Look, the axis of resistance right now, led by Iran, through its military operations, is creating a deterrent: an attack on Iranian territory would mean an attack on all Western, imperialist interests in the region. The only thing they need now to solidify as another formula in their relations with the empire is that the assassination of political leaders in the Axis will lead to the assassination of political leaders of the empire. And I think that's

what's coming. This is why the vassal emirs of the Emirates are now hiding in Asia, and why the vassal emirs of Bahrain are now hiding in Saudi.

This is why the vassals of Kuwait are also hiding in Saudi. They're all scared that they could be liquidated at any moment by the axis of resistance. The countries we just mentioned—the Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait—I think are on the edge of collapse as states, with the absence of these leaders and the absence of any real American military defense. I know I went on a longer answer, but given all this context, if the Lebanese government continues not only to avoid defending Lebanese territory but somehow flips to directly confronting Hezbollah, I think it will cease to exist the moment they do that.

#Mudiar

If I could ask one more question on this: what's the sentiment among different segments of the population, or in different parts of Lebanon, regarding the friction between the government in Beirut and Hezbollah?

#Guest

Yeah, look, if we look at the population makeup in Lebanon, you'll realize that just a little over 50% of the population is Shia. And these are the people suffering directly because of the Zionist, indiscriminate bombardment campaigns and the orders for evacuation. So, the wave of evacuation we saw in the last 24 hours, and the internal displacement in Lebanon, is larger than what we saw throughout the war—the last 66 days—or even the whole year and a half before the so-called ceasefire came into effect. We saw about a million Lebanese from the south of Lebanon and from the Dahiya leave their homes and now sleep in the streets or look for shelter in public institutions like schools and so on, moving to areas farther north in the country.

Now, this population is clearly ready to sacrifice to defend their homeland and to take revenge for the assassinations of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and the Ayatollah, the highest religious authority in Shia Islam. There's no doubt about it. Then, if we add to that the vast majority of the non-Shia population—both Christian and Sunni—they're watching as the United States and the empire as a whole, the Zionist empire as a whole, conduct genocidal actions, whether inside Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or now in Iran, with deliberate attacks on media, hospitals, and schools, and the massacres we saw at the girls' school in the south of Iran. This population also just watched what happened in Syria with the Wahhabi death cult being brought into power by the Zionists.

So I think the vast majority of the Lebanese people are standing behind the resistance and are rooting for Iran to destroy the presence of the Americans and help end the existence of the Zionist colony. There's no doubt about it. Everything now is exposed globally, in the same way that all these revelations that have come out over the last two and a half years since the Aqsa Flood began have changed public opinion globally and have changed human consciousness about what Zionism is,

what Palestine is, and what the evils of the Zionists are within states that are outside even the colony—looking at the Epstein class and how that's affecting the legitimacy of huge swaths of Western civilization. So this is happening within the Lebanese population, above and beyond the realities that the Lebanese are living because of the Zionists next door and how that's affecting their lives.

#Mudiar

The context of this round of escalation is the conflict between Iran, the U.S., and the Zionist entity. So maybe you have bits and pieces of the regional aspect, but if I could ask you a specific question: what do you think is the significance or impact of the conflict with Iran and the conflict with Hezbollah, and vice versa? In other words, given that there are two fronts now open at the same time for Israel, and that they're under tremendous stress—economically, internally, politically, militarily, and so on—how would they cope with these two fronts?

#Guest

Yeah, I think there's a third front coming very soon. I think Ansarullah in Yemen will be joining—there's no doubt in my mind. Already, the Iraqi Hezbollah and the resistance in general in Iraq have been pounding American positions for the last 48 hours and have practically destroyed the presence of the United States or Israel in the Kurdistan region, as well as an American spy base in Baghdad. So we're seeing right now even the Iraqi resistance beginning to target the American presence inside Jordan, along with the French and British presence there. So as soon as that front is softened enough...

I think the Iraqi resistance will start bombarding the Zionist colony once the vassal regime in Jordan is subdued. So how long can they sustain such a reality? The Zionist colony cannot defend itself even against Hamas or Islamic Jihad by itself, ever. Since October 7th, this war has been fought by the combined military might of what they call the Jewish empire ruled from D.C.—this empire of pedophilia and cannibalism. That includes all the Gulf countries, all the European countries, much of Latin America and Oceania, and now India as well. So this has been the reality.

If the Zionist colony had been left on its own to fight just Hamas, it would have ceased to exist by November 2023. So how is it faring now, when the entire axis of resistance is attacking it together—something that hasn't happened before? I think it's in its worst position in history. And given that many of the layers of air defense stretched by the empire from Erbil to the United Arab Emirates have been destroyed, the air defenses inside the Zionist colony are now at their weakest. We're seeing weapons hitting their targets today at a rate that used to take ten days of fighting during the twelve-day war.

You see, every day during the twelve-day war last year, we saw higher and higher hit rates for the Iranian missiles. Well, today, by the third day of this war, we're already seeing the same rates that

we saw around the tenth day back then. And given that the United States hasn't been able to use, I think, its sea-based air defenses right now—they pulled back because Cyprus got hit by Iran and Hezbollah, according to the Zionists—over the last 24 hours there have been four waves of attacks on Cyprus. That's the logistical hub for all the American efforts in the Eastern Mediterranean. Right now, the destroyers and the aircraft carrier—the Lincoln, sorry, the Gerald Ford—which is in the Eastern Mediterranean, are withdrawing to behind Cyprus.

So it's becoming harder for them to use their Aegis missiles to defend the Zionist colony. The THAADs and the Arrows are working overtime, and already the Iranians have hit multiple THAAD and Arrow batteries. So I think, you know, what looked like a total collapse of the Zionist colony in the twelve-day war is going to look like child's play in the next two days. In the next two days, the United States is going to have to make a choice on behalf of the Zionist colony: either they end this war with surrender, or they'll have to use a nuclear weapon to sustain its existence. And once that happens, I think all the doors of hell will be open.

#Mudiar

You can comment on this. Lincoln is in retreat in the Indian Ocean. I wanted to ask you a broader question about whether this is a significant moment—the beginning of the end of the U.S. empire in the region—or, if we think of the region in terms of Western empire, it's been at least a century. And the Persian-Alaska flood was historic in that sense, since from that point the resistance in Palestine became remarkably linked with the actions of Ansarallah in Yemen. The resistance in Lebanon was always there, but there was a growing movement that connected in a spectacular way. I mean, it had always existed, but it came to the forefront and was visible to everyone. Could you share your thoughts on this series of events over the past two years and their significance for the region in terms of ending Western imperialism and Zionism?

#Guest

Yes, yes, it's been, of course, more than a century of war on the Arab peoples and the Muslim peoples, but concentrated around the area connecting Africa and Asia. And in these hundred-plus years up until now, we're talking about almost thirty million Arab people who have been genocided from Mauritania to Iraq to Yemen in that triangle. Of course, you know, Arab lives are, you know, worthless to many on this planet. So this is at least how the empire has been successful—by killing sympathy for Arab peoples as human beings. So, you know, this war, the war in this region, never stopped. For us, World War I never ended. I know it's hard to imagine that for people outside this region.

But it's been a nonstop war since World War I, and now we're finally coming to the kind of crescendo of this hundred-year war. And, you know, October 7th—and the geniuses who designed October 7th—have changed the world, not only the region. Those geniuses who designed October 7th knew they most likely would not live to see the conclusion of October 7th. They decided to, you

know, sacrifice their lives for the freedom that we're now seeing build up globally—for humanity. And I think, you know, I know we're on a leftist, communist platform, but it's sometimes hard not to see the divine in what's happening in the resistance of the people of Palestine, of the people of Lebanon, of the people of Yemen and Iran, and so on.

It's also impossible to deny that both the Jewish supremacists in the colony and the pedophile, cannibalistic class that rules the West are religious. It's hard to deny that. It's impossible to deny it when the Zionists tell us, day in and day out, that this is being done in the name of Judaism, against the Amalek. Or when you hear the speeches of Hexteth, the Secretary of War, just yesterday, talking about Islam and denigrating it—and the way the whole West is talking about this. Right now, there are reports coming out from within the American army that officers are telling their soldiers this is a holy war.

So once we see this, and we see how—even though Hezbollah, for instance, wasn't ready or wasn't told that October 7th was going to happen, or Iran didn't know it was happening, or the Yemenis didn't know it was happening—and once we see how the leadership of all those Axis of Resistance members decided, in any shape or form, to defend Al-Aqsa, the flag, and the Palestinians from genocide in Gaza, even at any cost, and how things rolled out, and how every sacrifice that made us, all of humanity, sadder and sadder, it also awakened, over and over, parts of our humanity.

And now, in the moment when we were all in the darkest hour of humanity—watching Maduro being betrayed and sold out by his own government, watching the genocide, watching the assassinations of great figures like Ayatollah Khamenei—in this moment of despair comes the sun shining on all of us, comes the human awakening, comes the moment of no return for the Zionist and the cannibalistic, pedophile elite in the West. And so, looking back two and a half years into this war, I think we're at a crossroads right now.

And this crossroads is, on one side, the Axis of Resistance members and nations that are willing to sacrifice their very existence to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and humanity in general, and to liberate all of us. And on the other side is eternal war, eternal slavery, eternal death for our children. So humanity is going to make a choice. We are ready here. Our leadership is ready here. Our warriors are ready here to sacrifice themselves—not just for their own liberation, but for the liberation of humanity. And the rest of humanity has to ask itself: is it ready to step in to save itself, or does it want to be slaves forever?

#Mudiar

You spoke about humanity. I wish you'd also said a little bit about the strikes in Minab, in the Hormozgan province in southern Iran, that killed more than—well, I guess the new figures are around 150-plus people—and the ugliness of what happened, given the propaganda about the beheading of babies in Operation Alaska Flood, given all the propaganda from Afghanistan to Libya to Iran to Iraq about freedom for women in the West, and given the silence of the New York Times

and the Washington Post. Could you tell us a little more about how you feel about what they did in Iran?

#Guest

Yeah, I was watching a few hours of live broadcast from Iran, the mass funeral for about 180 children. Very, very sad moments. Of course, the Zionists also targeted a women's volleyball court, killing all those young girls who were playing. They also hit multiple hospitals, one of them being Gandhi Hospital in Tehran—it's named after the great liberator of India. And this has been ongoing, of course, for two and a half years. The primary targets for Israel and the empire as a whole are hospitals, schools, and media. We saw the attacks on the official Iranian government media complex in Tehran last night.

By the way, here in Beirut last night, the Zionists attacked near the offices of Al-Mayadeen television with five missiles. We went and filmed it, and the segment should be coming out on Free Palestine TV today. They also targeted the family of the war correspondent for Al-Mayadeen in South Lebanon, Fatima Ftouni. She's one of the most courageous journalists here in Lebanon. She's still in the South, filming live right now for Al-Mayadeen television. They targeted her family—seven members of her family were killed, martyred. This is how the Zionists, the imperialists, are operating. They believe they cannot win militarily.

So what they need to do is break the will of the people by breaking our hearts—by committing these infanticides, these ecocides, these femicides, these genocides against the medical and journalistic leaders in our societies—openly, laughing about it in our faces, trying to tell us that nobody can stop them. This is the reality of the warfare being conducted by the West right now: there are no limits, nothing sacred, and no rules. And yet, yes, the resistance is still conducting itself—the axis of resistance as a whole—within humane warfare rules, not targeting anything except the military positions of the United States, its vassals, and the Zionist colony.

I think as long as this is the norm, the Zionists will continue to target civilians. It pains me to say this, but I think hospitals in the Zionist colony must be leveled to the ground. It pains me to say this, but I think the Israeli media outlets and the imperialist media outlets in the region—their offices must be leveled to the ground with their occupants inside, in order to create a deterrent. As long as there's no deterrence that says, "You do this, we will do the same," they will continue to prioritize civilian targets because of their bloodlust. Therefore, we need to create an equivalent deterrence on that front.

#Mudiar

My final question, coming back to what I think is the central point, is about the resistance in Palestine and the struggle for freedom there. What do all these events—this moment, these historical processes—entail? What do they mean for the resistance in Palestine, given that the Israeli

occupying forces still control large parts of Gaza and the occupied West Bank? They're legalizing and expanding more settlements. They've opened up land records for settlements that were considered illegal not just by the 1967 standards, but even under the 1995 Oslo Accords. And you spoke about 100,000 reservists being deployed and not being trapped. We know that the Palestinian resistance never disappeared— Hamas didn't surrender, Islamic Jihad didn't surrender, the PFLP didn't surrender, and the Palestinians didn't surrender. What does all this mean for Palestine?

#Guest

Yeah, I mean, we're watching videos coming out of the West Bank over the last 48 hours of these Jewish supremacist thugs rampaging through Palestinian villages, walking into people's homes and shooting them while the Israeli military protects them. Of course, this has been the norm for a while, but now, under these conditions—these Jewish supremacists feeling impotent in the face of real warriors and real armies, like in their fight with Iran—they're targeting unarmed civilians in remote villages in the West Bank to take out their frustration and to feel like men. So this is happening. And the resistance, I think, in Palestine is waiting for its moment.

It cannot, right now, enter a confrontation with the Zionists in the West Bank or in Gaza without the Iranian missiles softening the ground for them. But that's coming—very much so. I think there's even a possibility of the Iraqi resistance moving into Jordan in the next few days, as the Jordanian air defenses and military positions start collapsing under the weight of the bombardment by the Iranian and Iraqi resistance. And that will affect the whole West Bank once the longest border of Palestine is exposed to inland operations. So we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, but clearly, this war is different from any other war before in the last two and a half years, or any of the previous rounds of wars.

This war is going to open possibilities that weren't available in other stages of this battle. And I think the Palestinian population, just by merely existing after a hundred years of this war and the genocidal campaign against them, is a huge thorn in the throat of the Zionists and, at any moment, of course, will be active. And I think it will be active—we just have to wait. This war is not going to end before a month, okay? And it may be that if, by the end of this month, there is no surrender by the West, that's when we could see the possibility of a world war. I don't know how things are going to roll out, but I think the Palestinian resistance will be active as soon as the ground is softened for them by bombardment from Iran and the Axis resistance members.

#Mudiar

As always, thank you so much for your time. It was a wonderful conversation.

#Guest

Great to be with you. See you soon, inshallah.

#Ayushman

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