

Laith Marouf: HEZBOLLAH STRIKES BACK: Israel's Buffer Zone CRUMBLES!

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#Nima

The situation in Lebanon and the buffer zone that the Israelis wanted to make in the southern part of Lebanon. What can we learn right now about what's going on in the southern part of Lebanon, the confrontation? Is there anything happening on the ground?

#Laith

Yeah, I mean, up until now, the Zionists are getting their behinds handed to them. Just a few hours ago, the Zionist media announced that one of their advancing columns got under attack and an ambush. We saw videos yesterday released by Hezbollah of their FPVs, you know, hitting gatherings of Israeli soldiers, not even around Jerusalem, inside any armored vehicles or something like that. We also heard a few hours ago the Israelis say that one of their helicopters was shot down. So the resistance is hunting these sitting ducks every day. Yesterday, Hezbollah announced, I think, 18 different operations. And so when we look at the output of videos that are coming out from Hezbollah statements, as well as the admittance of these Zionists, it's clear that they are suffering huge losses.

They're unable to advance anywhere they want every day, during the day and every night. During the night, they're getting bombarded. There's no air defenses that can protect them. Announcements from the Israeli military just over the last two days said their multiple new tactics to defend themselves from FPVs or drones have all failed. We even watched one of those videos from an FPV go through this protection net that the Zionists put around their tanks and blow up the tank. So nothing is working for them. And because there are no fortifications in South Lebanon, where these Zionists are advancing to, they are easy targets. There's no air defenses to fight off any attacks on them.

And the number of Israeli tanks that have been destroyed in South Lebanon now is over 250 tanks. This is a huge number. Yeah, and every day we see more and more of them. This is, of course, because of these losses, the Zionists keep on increasing their attacks on civilian sites. We saw yesterday at least 20 Lebanese people being martyred in different attacks on villages in the south of

Lebanon. And, you know, this is the only response that the Zionists have to their military failures — to increase the human price on civilians in Lebanon. But that's not going to change anything on the battlefield. And this is, I think, where they're stuck, the Zionists.

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Laith, if you were to compare the Israeli defense system or the way they can defend themselves against Hezbollah, how do you see the difference between their capabilities before this war started and right now, as we see it happening not only in the southern part of Lebanon but in the northern part of Israel as well?

#Laith

Yeah, so we look at the 66-Day War in 2024. Obviously, the Israelis had, at that time, the whole West behind them, and they were not busy attacking Iran. And so in that 66-Day War, with all the full capabilities that they had, they weren't able to advance much beyond the first line of villages, and the main villages like Al-Khiyam and others they were unable to occupy. And so that was two years ago. Now the Israelis, according to their own admittance, have already lost a thousand tanks inside Gaza and in Lebanon in the 66-Day War. So now they're coming in with a weakened military, with the vast majority of their advanced tanks destroyed in Gaza and Lebanon in the last round of war, with their reserves overstretched, and many of their generals either killed or dead in Gaza and in Lebanon during that first wave.

And many of their skilled soldiers have left the country, so they're depending more and more on a younger fighting force, the Israelis. And the Israelis are good at one thing militarily, which is to bombard from the air — you know, one of the biggest air forces in the world and an unlimited amount of munitions supplied to them by the West to bombard from the air. But once they go on the ground, even in the best conditions, they are cowards. Their only training is to kill children and women and unarmed civilians in the West Bank and in Gaza. So once they are on the ground, the Israeli military starts collapsing. Now, add to it all those conditions that we talked about — the already deteriorating power, equipment, and quality of soldiers — and we can see why they are losing so many tanks and soldiers inside South Lebanon right now, even more than the 66-Day War.

I mean, we look at those videos that Hezbollah is releasing from the FPVs, and when you notice six or seven tanks and APCs all gathered in one place, that's a stupid move. This is something you don't do except if you're an amateur. And this is what it truly is. The army of the Zionists is an amateur force. So they're gathering their soldiers in homes that they're occupying — the only homes that are left in a village they've already destroyed. So it's even an easy target as a gathering point for the soldiers. There are zero tactical assessments working for the Zionists, and they are putting themselves in situations that make them very, very easy targets. And that's because of the deterioration of the quality of equipment they have and the deterioration of the quality of the soldiers.

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From what we've seen so far with the case of Hezbollah and its capabilities to fight back — because you remember when Bashar al-Assad was removed from power in Syria, many people were somehow arguing that this is the end for Hezbollah and that they cannot fight back — how is the situation with Hezbollah and their capabilities today?

#Laith

We look at, again, the videos that are being released from Hezbollah, and it's clear that they have restocked their weapons, that whatever the Israelis destroyed in the first wave of the war in 2024 was very marginal in terms of the amount of rockets or drone warehouses that the Israelis were able to destroy. And we're seeing Hezbollah use drones, FPVs, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles. Those are all clear indications that the stockpiles of Hezbollah are very healthy. And it seems like the collapse of Syria under the control of the Wahhabis gave more motivation for Hezbollah to be truly able to sustain itself without a direct supply route through Syria.

So I think what we saw — and we may probably get proof of this in the next few years as things become more clear — is that Hezbollah maybe has accelerated its ability to manufacture at home these weapons. So there must be right now, as we saw from those videos, Hezbollah fighters putting together these FPVs piece by piece, you know, soldering and so forth. So there are whole manufacturing lines inside Lebanon right now that make it not have to worry about supply routes through Syria or through the Mediterranean, which is controlled by UNIFIL here — the United Nations forces, their navy that is controlling all the entry of boats and ships into Lebanese waters.

So I think Hezbollah has now reorganized itself to make sure that it can sustain resistance without anything having to be shipped into the country or go through Syrian territory since the fall of the Assad government. And so sometimes, as we saw with Iran over the last 30-some-odd years, these blockades and sieges are a blessing in order to nationalize and indigenize technologies in a country that is under attack by the imperialists and the Zionists.

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Laith, there are people who are arguing that Hezbollah can be redefined within the system in Lebanon. How do you see the people in Lebanon feeling about Hezbollah and the future of Hezbollah and the future of the country, considering the sort of government they have and the combination of both Hezbollah and the government? Because we know how the West is investing and trying to do everything to put pressure on Lebanon to bring some sort of civil war in Lebanon. But how do the people feel about what's going on in Lebanon?

#Laith

Yeah, I mean, we look at the surveys done of the Lebanese population, and we can see that the absolute majority of Shia, something around 90-something percent, are supportive of Hezbollah and against disarmament. Similarly, in the Sunni population, over 70% of the Sunni population, again as an absolute majority, is against the disarmament of Hezbollah and against the normalization of the Zionist colony. And within the Christian population, it's over 60%, even in the Maronite sect, which is the closest to imperialism. And for those who don't know, there are a lot of Orthodox and Catholic and Chaldean and Assyrian Christians in Lebanon. It's not only Maronites. So even in the Maronite population, over 60% are against the disarmament of Hezbollah and/or the normalization of the Zionist colony.

So I think both the valiant resistance that Hezbollah put up, that showed the efficiency of resistance—how you can actually resist the United States, the Zionists, even with a small population and a small territory like Lebanon—effectively, as well as the unhindered massacres that ISIS-HTS committed inside Syria after the collapse of the Assad government, have reinforced that feeling within the Lebanese population. The Christians, the Druze, the Alawis, even the Sunnis of Lebanon, when they watched how the religious sites and the religious leaders and communities were targeted, even when we talk about the Sunnis being the vast majority of Syrian Sunnis and Lebanese Sunnis are Sufi, and the Sufi preachers and seminaries were attacked immediately by HTS after taking over the government.

And many of those Imams were killed. That, I think, threatened a lot of even the Sunnis in Lebanon. And they don't want to see what happened in Syria happen to them. So this reinforced support for the resistance. And the intentional attacks on Christian villages and/or on Sunni institutions in Lebanon that the Israelis committed over the last few months—whether it's the destruction of the statue of Jesus Christ and/or desecration of churches in the south of Lebanon, or the attacks on the Sunni non-profit that helps the disabled and the orphans here in Lebanon, in Saida.

Al-Maqasid Association, which is the main charitable arm of the Sunni population here in Lebanon, immediately triggered an opposite reaction to what the Zionists wanted. The Zionists were attacking these Christian and Sunni sites and organizations to, you know, kind of force these communities to say, hey, stop Hezbollah because they're attacking me. No, the reaction was the opposite. The reaction was, Hezbollah, defend us more. Okay, so I think this is the overall, you know, what is happening in terms of the feelings here in Lebanon among the population.

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Laith, the situation in the southern part of Lebanon, I think, is so important for the decision-makers in Lebanon, both in Hezbollah and the government in Lebanon. And we know that the policy of Hezbollah is fighting back and resistance. They're not going to back down on that. But what is the policy of the government when it comes to the southern part of Lebanon? Because they know

Israelis are talking about creating a buffer zone in the southern part of Lebanon that goes to the Litani River. I would say it's going to go beyond the Litani River. And how do they communicate that with the Lebanese people?

#Laith

Yeah, the Lebanese government is having a hard time explaining to the Lebanese population what it really wants. There are contradictory messages in the same statements that are coming out from the president, the prime minister, and the government. On the one hand, they are arguing that state sovereignty entails that only the government is the one that can declare war against anyone and/or carry arms to defend the country. On the other hand, they're refusing to send the military to defend the south of Lebanon. So I think much of how this government is acting feels out of time. You know, it's like, as we say in Arabic, he's going to the Hajj as everybody is coming back. Okay? So it's like, you know, maybe this language of the collaborationist government here in Lebanon would have worked 15 years ago in the middle of the quote-unquote Arab Autumn, right?

But we all watched, the whole world watched a genocide happen in Gaza. We all watched how the Saudi and Emirati regimes and so forth collaborated with the Israelis to attack Iran, to also destroy Syria. And so it is suicidal. What the Lebanese government is doing today is suicidal because their sponsors, the Zionists and the Americans, are actually at their weakest point in history. Okay, so for anyone that is critical even of Hezbollah, when they are watching how the Lebanese government is maneuvering itself in these statements, they are also feeling disappointed because there's nothing innovative in what this government is saying. And even their propaganda is not that good. It's not manipulative enough to get the Lebanese population to somehow blame everything on Hezbollah.

So I think the Lebanese officials, the president and the prime minister, are putting themselves in a dead end, okay? And it's a one-way street that they're taking, and it's a dead end at the end. There's no way for them to retreat from the positions that they're taking. And every time they make a statement that is critical of Hezbollah or is somehow supportive of the imperialists, it's digging them deeper into the hole. And I think there's nothing that the government of Lebanon can do to better the aims of the imperialists and the Zionists in Lebanon. And they cannot deliver on what the West wants. They want them to disarm Hezbollah, but they don't have the power to. They don't have the manpower to. They don't have the weapons to.

And Hezbollah is just ignoring them and is continuing. And this is partially, I think, why... You know, a lot of people are asking, why is Hezbollah not leading a coup? Or why isn't there a revolution in Lebanon against these, you know, collaborationist prime minister and president? And the truth is because actually there is no power in the Lebanese government. So why even fight for it? Let them talk. Let them waste the money of the Saudis, the Emiratis, and Qataris, and the Zionists and Americans that are throwing all this money on these politicians and on the imperialist media. Let them spend it because it has no effect. It's better that they spend it there than spending it on weapons to kill Lebanese people or Palestinians.

