

Laith Marouf: Hezbollah JUST HIT 3 Iron Dome Batteries – Buffer Zone CRUSHED

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#Nima

Hi everybody, today is Wednesday, May 20th, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother Laith Marouf from Beirut, is here with us. Welcome back, Laith.

#Laith

Good to be with you, Nima.

#Nima

Let's start, Laith, with the latest news about the battlefield. We've learned that by using FPV drones, they have hit three Iron Dome batteries. And what else can we learn from the battlefield between Hezbollah and Israel?

#Laith

Well, these videos were amazing. Obviously, these batteries are inside occupied Palestine, so this means that Hezbollah is flying these FPVs for tens of kilometers. I don't think we've seen that before being done in any other battle zone — not the Ukrainians, not the Russians. And they're hitting these batteries as well as other military sites. We've seen some videos from the colonists in these northern settlements showing that there are wire cables on top of their homes or beside their cars, realizing that there was some operation the night before in the vicinity of their homes.

We've also seen the Zionist colony in Naqoura on the Palestinian side, not the Naqoura of Lebanon. We've seen videos of how that FPV was flying around inside the Israeli base there, hunting for soldiers and actually hitting them. We also saw a video released yesterday by Hezbollah in commemoration of the May 17th agreement in 1983, after Israel occupied Beirut and brought in a collaborationist president, Pierre Gemayel. He signed, on the 17th of May 1983, a surrender

agreement. Basically, they released this video to show the government of Lebanon, which is right now negotiating with the Zionists in D.C., that it will not pass — whatever they sign is irrelevant. And this video was amazing.

It was a collection of all the operations of Hezbollah against the Israeli occupation stronghold in the Bayada area in South Lebanon on the coast. You know, this is a village that is really occupied and set up as a base for all their command of the coastal area. And Hezbollah showed a collection of around eight attacks on this command center from different FPVs, and finally showing how the Israelis ran away from this base and abandoned it, leaving an Israeli flag flying on the base. And an FPV comes and takes out that Israeli flag.

So what the Israelis are facing in the south of Lebanon is unprecedented. According to their own assessments, around 80% of all of their operations had to be halted. And they do not move during the day. There are orders to all the Zionist soldiers that they do not move in the open during daylight except for death or life situations. And still, they are, you know, receiving all these beatings. In retaliation, I think the Zionists have increased their massacres over the last 48 hours, 24 hours, also attacking multiple residential homes far, far away from the front lines, killing whole families in multiple villages. This is the only thing that the Israelis are able to do right now on the battlefield. They are defeated already.

#Nima

When it comes to the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, they're basically talking about Hezbollah targets or something related to Hezbollah. What is the reality of those targets?

#Laith

Yeah, the reality of those targets is complete families being wiped out. And, you know, why would any Hezbollah fighter be staying in a village in South Lebanon, north of Tall Tayniya, with their whole family, multiple generations? This is a clear, ridiculous thing to claim. Hezbollah fighters will not be staying with their families, and their families will not be staying in their regular homes. It's mainly poor, impoverished families that are working in the fields that have no choice, no place to go. They do not want to be in refugee centers or displacement centers. They want to stay in their homes and be able to feed themselves off their land.

And this is in the vast majority of the victims. Similarly, we saw multiple attacks on farmers in their farmlands as they were plowing their fields over the last 24 hours. There were also kidnappings of shepherds and farmers in the foothills of the Golan Heights and the return of some of those kidnapped. So all of this is an indication of how desperate the Israelis are. And they literally have a quota of dead that they need for every Israeli soldier that is killed or injured. They have a quota of civilians that they need to kill and injure because of how unable they are to achieve any real victories on the battlefield.

#Nima

Is Hezbollah getting its information using drones to go to the regions to see the gatherings of Israeli soldiers? And how do they find the situation right now in the southern part? How many gatherings of Israeli forces do they have in those areas?

#Laith

Yeah, so Hezbollah is using multiple technologies to track the movement of the Israeli soldiers. Of course, one of them is those FPVs that hover around. What we saw from that video from Al Bayada is that not only are these FPVs being used to attack, but there are also FPVs that are surveilling the location, confirming the hits, all of those. So that's one device. We also saw from other videos that Hezbollah is using night vision and heat vision to track the movements of the Israelis during the night. And, you know, we saw multiple videos showing the kills happening on those night vision and heat vision videos. There are also surveillance drones that are being fired all the time, not only those suicide drones that are used on the battlefield other than the FPVs, but also surveillance drones.

And some of them are very small. They're kind of being fired, collecting the information, and returning, or it just doesn't matter if they return, these drones. And people are on the ground. Hezbollah has a lot of its fighters between the villages, between the forests, and so forth, and they are watching everything. This is also why, because of the geography of South Lebanon, it's predictable which paths the Israelis need to take to advance. And if they need to advance in those paths, they already set up booby traps. There are IEDs. There's also the fact that anytime there's mechanized movement of Israeli troops, they need to push forward their bulldozers to make paths for them if they don't want to take the regular roads and what have you.

And that is why we saw Hezbollah also concentrating over the last two weeks specifically on the destruction of all the construction equipment that the Israelis are bringing forward. A big chunk of the Israeli soldiers dead and injured are the contractors operating this construction equipment. So right now the Israelis find themselves unable to move mechanized columns. And when they use specialized forces, infantry forces, as happened two nights ago, in an attempt to advance from the Shebaa Farms area towards the southern parts of the Beqaa Valley, that special force immediately fell into an ambush. They were monitored. Clearly, Hezbollah is watching all the bases and any movement, even on foot, in the middle of the night.

And they had to extract that special force as well. Also, the monitoring capabilities are so advanced that yesterday the Israelis admitted that one of the commanders of their battalions in the north was assassinated by Hezbollah in an attack on his car inside occupied Palestine. You know, he was traveling between the bases. And in multiple FPV videos that we watched, it was command and control vehicles, APCs with all the antennas on them that are specialized to control the battlefield, and the FPV actually going through the back door. So they are monitoring. They know where the command centers are. They know where the commanders of these battalions are. They're hitting

them inside occupied parts of Lebanon. They're hitting them inside the north of Palestine. And this is all an indication of very advanced surveillance and intelligence-gathering capabilities.

#Nima

We had other videos, Laith, about these FPV drones hitting wireless communication systems. And what are the functions of these wireless communication systems? Why do they need them to be in the area in the southern part of Lebanon?

#Laith

Yeah, so the further they are from their bases inside occupied Palestine, they need to set up relay mechanisms for communication. And these communication hubs inside the occupied parts of Lebanon in the south are necessary to control and command the movement of the troops and to also give, you know, coordinates for artillery and aircraft bombardment. So this is, you know, when we watch that video from Al-Bayada and see these FPVs go after the communication relays set up in a window, and then go after another window with the advanced cameras that are set up in it, and then go after, you know, another part of the communication relay and, you know, information-gathering equipment. So this all shows you that Hezbollah also knows every piece of equipment that the Israelis are using and can recognize them when they're hidden behind the window or so on.

And the use of the FPVs, the Zionists are unable to find, until now, solutions for that. They're dumping hundreds of millions of dollars on all these projects to speed up possibilities of finding solutions for the FPVs. One of these stupid solutions was setting up tarps and fishing nets over the locations where the Israeli soldiers are gathering inside occupied parts of South Lebanon, which is making them easy targets. It's declaring to Hezbollah which house, in what village, the Israelis are gathering. Therefore, well, if we can't get it with an FPV, you can definitely get it with a suicide drone and/or guided missiles. So, you know, the solutions that are put forward by the Israelis for the FPVs are actually making them even easier targets for Hezbollah.

#Nima

Laith, Israel believes that they're going to advance in the southern part of Lebanon and they want to annex the southern part. We know that. And how do you see the situation in the northern part of Israel? And do we have any sort of information on new attacks in the northern part of Israel?

#Laith

Yes, yes, so those attacks on the batteries of the Iron Dome are not separate by themselves. They're not unique in terms of attacks on the northern parts of Palestine. What's unique about them is that it was a battery of air defense missiles. But there are constant attacks on the houses that the Israeli soldiers are hiding in. It's very important to note for the viewers that almost every colony on the

border in the north of Palestine and the colonies in the Golan Heights are military zones. And the residents of those colonies have to be a part of the military service and/or intelligence services. So it's not like the residents in Kiryat Shmona are regular colonists.

#Nima

No, no.

#Laith

They are all soldiers and military and intelligence operatives. And over the last two and a half months, basically, all their families had to leave. Those who are staying in the houses are already part of the service and the fight. And they're gathered in different locations as well as hunting them. And the same intelligence gathering that Hezbollah has in the south of Lebanon, it is using in the north of Palestine, and it is hunting these Israeli soldiers in these homes where they are gathering as temporary bases, because Israeli soldiers had to actually empty their regular bases since they're such easy targets. So they spread out their soldiers in the front into residential homes in these frontline colonies, and now Hezbollah is hunting them there. You can, from eyesight, see some of these colonies completely destroyed to levels that we didn't see even through the 66-day war in 2024. So I think the damage is huge. The infrastructure and communication, even in those colonies, is as damaged as the frontline bases.

#Nima

Yesterday I talked with Professor Morandi. He said that the destruction that is happening in the southern part of Lebanon is not something new, and all of these buildings, they're going to rebuild everything, even better than it was before. What is the history? Because this is not something that happened yesterday or the day before yesterday. There's a huge sort of history behind what's going on in the southern part of Lebanon. This is not the first time Israel is destroying everything. What do we know about that? What can you say about that?

#Laith

Yeah, in 1942, in 1949, in 1978, in 1982, many, many, many of these villages were totally wiped out, destroyed to the, you know, every standing structure destroyed by the Zionists multiple times. And multiple times the Lebanese population, the people of the land, rebuilt with the money of their extended families around the world that all persist to continue. Some of these families have been migrating from Lebanon since the 1800s, right? And they're still connected to these villages. You go to a place in Venezuela, and there'll be a whole area where all the Lebanese Venezuelans in this town, or so forth, are from one village, and they have a village association named after their

homeland village that they, you know, that they immigrated from to Venezuela three generations ago. And they go and invest in their village, and they go and help their extended family and rebuild their homes.

Above and beyond, of course, the generosity of all the peoples around the world that are, you know, against imperialism and for the liberation of Palestine, the generosity of Iran in the rebuilding after the 2006 war. You know, so it's not something new. And I want to say it goes even deeper and longer in time. You know, the Crusaders did the same thing. The Crusaders leveled whole villages and towns and cities and cannibalized them. And the people still rebuilt. And the villages have the same names from 6,000 years ago.

So whatever the Zionists do, as long as they don't break the will of the people, and as long as the people insist on continuing to have their roots connected to that 6,000 years of history in this persistence of continuing to live, they'll be able to rebuild, and they will rebuild, and Israel will not be able to control the land in South Lebanon. I think Israel in general is at the last days of its existence. They're very, very violent last days, but they are the last days—the throes of a mad, mad dog that's going to be put down soon. I've seen—sorry.

#Nima

I've seen a video of you reporting about what's going on in Lebanon with the case of refugees. What is the situation of those Syrian people in Lebanon, and what's happening there?

#Laith

You know, this is one of the sad stories that are not reported that often. And of course, we know two million Syrians became refugees in Lebanon during the war on Syria. And then you had the takeover by the Jolani regime, and a million at least more Syrians from minorities—Alawi, Shia, Christian, Druze—crossed into Lebanon in those days of massacres. And they are spread around the country. They're in the south, they're in the north, most of them working in menial jobs, in the fields and what have you. And the Lebanese government, in this situation of a war where there are refugees in the country from Syria that are getting displaced inside Lebanon, the Lebanese government has abandoned them. And there is no support for them from any international agencies at this moment.

So we see a lot of these Syrian field workers with their whole families staying in many dangerous zones. I mentioned earlier those Syrian shepherds that got kidnapped, among eight different field workers that were kidnapped by the Israelis. Well, the Lebanese kidnapped civilians who were returned, but those two Syrian field workers—nobody knows about them. And al-Julani's government is not going to ask about them. And Israel could do its worst, and I don't think anyone on the planet will come and hold it to task for what it did. Similarly, a few days ago, we saw another Syrian father. He's on his motorbike, he's a farm worker, he's transporting his 12-year-old daughter on the back of

the bike to family, and their motorcycle was attacked by an Israeli drone. The child survived—the 12-year-old girl—and she ran into the fields.

And the Israelis chased her with two drones, two drone missiles, to kill her. So this is kind of the situation of the Syrian population. The video you're talking about, the report that you mentioned, was here on the waterfront, close to the old city of Beirut. And it's an area that is for festivals and what have you. And there are all these tented cities of refugees from southern villages in Lebanon. And there are refugees that are Syrian that are also in this tented city area. And the Lebanese police and the Lebanese government want to, by force, take the Syrian refugees that are camped there and throw them on the border with Syria. And of course, many of these people are wanted by the Jolani regime because they come from minorities and will be abused if they return to Syria.

So the Lebanese refugees in this tent city area are refusing to move to places that the Lebanese government is offering, not only because those places are limited and more crowded and there aren't many services, but also in solidarity with their Syrian brothers and sisters in this tent city. Because they know if the Lebanese refugees leave, the Syrian refugees in this tent city will become easy targets, and nobody will be there to protect them if the Lebanese government comes to abuse them. So the situation is hard. There's also another similar situation happening in Palestinian refugee camps, where the camps in the south have become targets, and there's a big wave of Palestinian refugees from the refugee camps in the south to the center of the country and the north of the country—overcrowding and no services. Again, overall, this is the situation of the displaced in the country.

#Nima

And Al Jolani is so busy with the perfumes that Donald Trump sent him. The guy is just amazing, you know, looking at Syria today. The transformation of, you know, the guy who was literally killing people and head-chopping. Right now he's talking about perfumes. Thank you, Donald Trump. How is that going to be perceived by Syrian people who are in Lebanon and seeing these things happening?

#Laith

Yeah, not only with the Syrians in Lebanon. I think all of Syria is waking up right now. You know, there's some of, let's say, the liberal class in Syria that were fooled by the talk of democracy and freedom of speech that the West pitched during the Arab Autumn. And now you see those same people, this liberal class, actually becoming anti-Jolani. Then you have the communities that come from the periphery regions, like Deir ez-Zor, for instance, where my family comes from, on the Euphrates, close to the border with Iraq, that may have felt that they were kind of isolated from the cities and the centers and the expenditures of the government of Assad, who are right now actually calling for Deir ez-Zor to be unified with Iraq.

#Nima

Okay.

#Laith

You have the people that are in Daraa, in the southern part of Syria, just beside the Golan Heights, who were the first to demonstrate against Assad in 2011–2012, are right now carrying arms and pushing out al-Julani's troops, and some of them are attacking Israeli positions. The country right now, much of it has awakened to the fact that al-Julani is—if they were fooled—because, of course, there's at least half of the population that is against and always supported the government of Damascus and Assad before. But now we're seeing that other part of the country abandon al-Julani. Looking at how, by the way, Turkey right now is expanding its communication into Latakia province—their communication infrastructure and the occupation infrastructure—just outside Latakia city.

So most of Latakia right now is being occupied by the Turks openly. So we can see that the coast of the country is going to revolt any minute. And, you know, yesterday the Israelis kidnapped two civilians from the Quneitra region. There are multiple Israeli attacks on different villages in Daraa and Quneitra. The situation is very fragile for al-Julani. And this is why I think he did this stupid tweet, you know. It's about him trying to get attention from his master, because the country is falling apart and he's not going to be able to hide it. He needs to get the attention of the White House to find ways to either finance his government and/or subdue some parts of the country that are almost in full-out rebellion.

#Nima

Do you see any sort of difference between American policy in Syria and the Israeli one?

#Laith

Well, you see, I think the United States pulled its control of much of Syria and left it to a competition between Turkey and Israel. And this is why the government of Syria doesn't exist. If the Americans acknowledge the right of Israel to occupy everything to the Euphrates, as Thomas Barrack and Huckabee said, and if the Americans let the Turks occupy Aleppo and Idlib and North Latakia, you know, there's really no state called Syria. And the government of al-Julani cannot do anything. It doesn't have access to resources. It doesn't have access to rebuilding anything. And much of the country is out of its control.

So what is it really controlling? I think as far as the U.S. policy in Syria, it's to let somebody else deal with it — one or two of its vassals in the region, its viceroys. And if they want to battle it out over influence, the U.S. will let them. But I don't think at this moment both Israel and Turkey may get into blows in Syria, because they're all part of a bigger war against the axis of resistance and against

Iran. I think we will not see that confrontation happening. And al-Julani is just trying to balance his existence on a useless chair of presidency that doesn't have any power.

#Nima

Who's selling the oil right now, Laith? We had American forces in the region cooperating with Kurdish people and then selling the oil to Israel. Is there any sort of understanding of who's selling and how much they're selling, and how much of it is going to get back to Syria?

#Laith

The same companies that got to sign those contracts, that are owned by Israeli businessmen and had the exclusive right basically to export Syria's oil through Turkey and Iraq, continue to have that contract. And instead of the Kurdish contractors that were in control of northeast Syria getting a cut of that, now it's going directly to Turkey. So Erdogan's son is part of that big company that is exporting the stolen oil of Syria and Iraq to the Zionist colony. And this is partially why we are hearing in Deir ez-Zor right now whispers of rebellion and wanting to secede and join Iraq.

By the way, Deir ez-Zor had a referendum in the 1920s and chose to be part of Iraq. Okay. And then, in the midst of the war, the British were abusing people there. So there was a revolution both in Iraq and in Deir ez-Zor. So the first revolution in Syria started in Deir ez-Zor. And a Republic of Deir ez-Zor was declared when the revolution in Iraq didn't fully succeed. So we're seeing now kind of whispers of a return to that. The tribes and families in the Jazeera area between the two rivers, the northeast of Syria, south of Turkey, are the same ones that are in the north of Iraq. And this is probably scaring the hell out of al-Julani.

It's also probably scaring the shit out of Erdogan, because if the tribes on both sides of the border around the Euphrates River join, they could easily take out any presence of al-Julani, the Julani regime. And it's kind of, you know, we saw how easy it was for ISIS to erase that border because of those connections of tribes and so forth. So I think this is the most worrying part for the Americans and the Israelis if they want to continue controlling the oil and gas fields. And so we will probably be seeing assassinations happening of elders in different tribes in Deir ez-Zor if the Israelis and the Turks want to continue controlling that oil.

#Nima

Laith, if the new round of war starts, the Iranian IRGC announced that it's not going to be a regional war. It's going to go beyond the region. And how do you see the coordination within the axis of resistance right now? Hezbollah, Yemen, Iran—you've mentioned Iraq. I think one of the most important ones is what's going on in Iraq as well. We had reports that there were two secret Israeli bases in Iraq, and it was allowed by the United States for them to go there. They were there to do something against Iran. What is your understanding of that?

#Laith

Yeah, I mean, that statement by the IRGC saying that it's not going to be a regional war but a supra-regional war, meaning regions beyond Western Asia will be included in this war. I think they're very truthful in what they're saying because last time Iran tried not to have it become a supra-regional war and gave warnings to countries outside Western Asia that were crucial in the continuation of attacks on it, that they may come and attack. We saw those attacks, you know, unadmitted, undeclared attacks that happened on Cyprus, the British base in Cyprus. Well, this will become open in attacks on Cyprus, on Crete.

The Souda base on Crete Island is the most important NATO naval base in all of the Eastern Mediterranean. It would be crucial to take it out, for instance, to make sure that the supplies of any naval air defense systems that are parked in the Eastern Mediterranean to defend the Zionist colony don't get supplied. Similarly, the air bases in Hungary, in Eastern Europe, that were used to attack Iran, the air bases in Djibouti, NATO bases in Djibouti that were used also, and the base in Diego Garcia. And any naval equipment that will be used by NATO members anywhere in the Eastern Mediterranean, in the Red Sea, in the Arabian Sea, in the northern Indian Ocean will become targets.

So, you know, look, in the 42, 43 days of war that we saw before, Iran was able to destroy all the airfields in Western Asia. And this is why the U.S. started flying those super bombers all the way from its own territory in the United States to bomb Iran, and/or use those bases in the Eastern Mediterranean, Eastern Africa, and the Indian Ocean to attack it. Well, Iran is not going to allow this to happen again in the next stage of this war. And this will, I think, not only, of course, help Iran, but it will also help Lebanon. A lot of people think that Israel is fighting by itself against Hezbollah. No, no, no. Hezbollah is fighting also all of NATO for the last three years.

There's actual air bombardment happening in Lebanon by NATO members flying out of Cyprus and Crete and other locations, above and beyond the constant surveillance that is done by NATO drones over Lebanon. And the NATO ships that are in the territorial waters of Lebanon are monitoring everything that Hezbollah is doing, are firing missiles to take down the drones. This was admitted by Germany, for instance. It fired from its own ships in the Eastern Mediterranean to take down Hezbollah drones on their way to occupied Palestine. So if the West as an empire wants to fight using all these resources against the whole Axis of Resistance, well, the Axis of Resistance will fight back and attack any base that is used to attack it.

#Nima

Laith, Lebanon is, I think, the foundation of the Axis of Resistance, in my opinion. And what's going on in Lebanon is of particular importance for the whole concept of the Axis of Resistance. How do you see the government in Lebanon and its ongoing negotiations and talks with the United States? I would assume they want to put a lot of pressure on Hezbollah because they know that Hezbollah is fighting back, and they know how to fight back. It's not just about hearing what's going on on the

battlefield, that's just watching. We are watching what Hezbollah is doing, as you've just mentioned, the capabilities of Hezbollah. So the only way that you can weaken Hezbollah is going to be through the Lebanese government. And how far do you see they can put pressure on Hezbollah?

#Laith

I think they can do nothing. You know, they have a lot of wishful thinking. They're being bribed and protected by the West, telling them, you know, do this, do that, and we'll protect you. But the truth of the matter is they can't deliver on what the West wants, what Washington and Tel Aviv want. The Israelis and NATO are using all their military might to try to defeat Hezbollah. And Hezbollah is using just a small part of its military capabilities in this battle. It has just a few thousand fighters on the ground. It can fight this war of attrition for years if this is what the West wants. And the West cannot sustain such a war of attrition for years. So what can the Lebanese government offer to help defeat Hezbollah? We saw the president of Lebanon three times over the last three months claim that there's a ceasefire.

And the Israelis continue to occupy and bombard, with Hezbollah just responding all the time and not even caring what the president says. The Lebanese military cannot be used to attack Hezbollah. It is weak. It doesn't have the equipment. It definitely cannot fare better than the Israelis. And if there is such a thing as a call on the military to attack Hezbollah, there will be a mutiny, most probably a coup, a military coup in Lebanon. So what I expect is that we will continue to see this charade of negotiations between the Lebanese government and the Israelis just ongoing, with nothing ever signed, because if they sign anything, they can't bring it to reality. They don't have the power to do so. And if they sign something immediately, the parliament will reject it, and the government will collapse.

This is even without talking about a coup or a military coup, even. So I think the only service that the collaborationist regime in Lebanon can give to the Zionists is to play theatrics, as if the Lebanese government is constantly producing propaganda demeaning Hezbollah or calling Hezbollah terrorists or whatever it is. But other than that, they cannot do anything. But we may see the Israelis and the Americans deciding that they would rather their own vassal government in Lebanon collapse and take a stupid decision, like signing onto an agreement that they can't bring to fruition, or calling on the Lebanese army to attack Hezbollah, than just allow Hezbollah to continue defeating Israel without any headache on the ground here inside the country.

#Nima

Thank you so much, Laith. Please go to www.freepalestine.video. Right below Laith's name you can find the address of the website. You can find Laith on freepalestine.tv, and the other on your X account is FreePalestine.tv as well.

#Laith

No, no, it's @TVFreePalestine on YouTube and X. And the website is FreePalestine.video, where you can find all the links and donate if you'd like to help us.

#Nima

Please, please go there and donate. What Laith is doing—you can find multiple videos each and every day that he's producing from the region and describing what's going on in Lebanon, in Syria. It's amazing what he's doing. Please go there and support him. Thank you, Laith.

#Laith

Thank you so much, Nima.

#Nima

See you next week. Bye-bye.