

# Laith Marouf: How Hezbollah's FPV Drones Grounded Israel's Iron Dome

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## #Nima

The latest news about the battlefield: we've learned that Hezbollah, using FPV drones, has 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 base there, the Israeli base, and 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 DC, 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 receiving all these beatings. In retaliation, I think the Zionists have increased their massacres over the last 48 hours, 24 hours or so, 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 Talloussa, 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 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 to, for every Israeli soldier that is killed and/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 are there 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 and 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 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 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 on 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. Hezbollah's 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's 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 indications 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 coordinates for artillery and aircraft bombardment. So 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 another part of the communication and information-gathering equipment, 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 into 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, while if we can't get it with an FPV, you can definitely get it with a suicide drone 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**

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. How do you see the situation in the northern part of Israel? And do we have any sort of information about 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 regular residents in Kiryat Shmona are regular colonists. No, no. 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, you know, 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. Israeli soldiers had to actually empty their regular bases because they're so easy as targets, right? So they spread out their soldiers in the front into residential homes in these frontline colonies, and now Hezbollah's hunting them there. From eyesight, you can see some of these colonies completely

destroyed at levels that we didn't see even through the 66-day war. 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 and have, you know, you go to a place in Venezuela and there'll be a whole, you know, area, 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 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, are 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 name 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 to, you know, continue 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.

## **#Speaker 03**

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, you know, 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. You know, 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 camp 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. 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.