

# Laith Marouf: Hezbollah's OFFICIAL Stance on US-Iran MoU While Striking Israel back

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## #Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Wednesday, June 17, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Laith Marouf, is here with us. Welcome back, Laith.

## #Laith

Thank you for having me, Nima.

## #Nima

Laith, let's start with the MOU, the Memorandum of Understanding, and the reaction of Hezbollah. What is the position of Hezbollah, and what can we learn about the situation in Lebanon and the sort of talks or maybe discussions that are happening? Because we know that we have two sides talking to each other — the Iranians and the Americans — and Hezbollah on the part of Iran. And it seems that Israel would be part of the United States' position, and Israel so far has said that they're not going to be part of it, they're not going to abide by any sort of agreement between the United States and Iran. And on the other hand, we have Hezbollah, which is close to the Iranian position. What can we learn from Hezbollah's position about the MOU?

## #Nima

Laith, can you hear me? Yeah, it seems that we have some sort of problem with Laith's connection. He's out, as you're hearing, there's a lot of noise because he's in a public place. He's talking to us from outside. Yeah, let me just bring him up. Yeah.

## #Laith

Yeah, really sorry about that. We're on the road. We just crossed from Portugal into this small town in Spain. We've been filming about the anti-imperialists and pro-Palestinian movements, and also the history of connection between people in Iberia and our region in West Asia. About your question,

you were asking what's the reaction here in Lebanon to this Memorandum of Understanding — it's clear that Hezbollah sees this as a victory for the Axis of Resistance. Right now, we see even politicians in Lebanon lining up outside the Iranian embassy in Beirut to basically ask for forgiveness for their collaboration with the Americans and the Israelis in the destruction of Lebanon.

It is now a fact that Iran has extended its military power and its protection to the Lebanese people and Lebanon as a whole. And there will be a reckoning for those politicians that did all that, attempting to break off the track of negotiations for a ceasefire in Lebanon from that of Iran. On the ground, there are still military confrontations, as we are speaking, happening all night long. And there were multiple attempts by the Israelis to advance, but they fell into ambushes. We saw multiple videos yesterday released by Hezbollah of their operations. And because journalists are now pushing further down into the south, they are able to broadcast attacks on Israeli positions.

So the Israeli military is in a really bad situation. And as we heard yesterday from the Iranian officials, if the Israelis don't stop their attacks in Lebanon, their violations of the memorandum of agreement and ceasefire, there will be a punishment for this rogue regime and its military. In fact, we were reading this morning in the American press that American officials believe the Islamic Republic of Iran may attack without warning the Israeli colony if it continues to violate the ceasefire. A lot of people in the south of Lebanon are returning to their villages and unfortunately, of course, finding the massive destruction and the war crimes that the Israelis committed.

But at the same time, they're walking into their villages and they're finding destroyed Israeli machinery, tanks, APCs that have been abandoned. And that shows you how the Israelis are running away. Yes, they are trying to pretend that they are able to continue this fight without their masters in the White House giving them the coverage, military cover, but they are not really. So the situation in South Lebanon is very delicate at this moment. The Israelis keep on firing from drones around people that are returning to their homes. But this cannot continue much further because everybody's expecting Iran to punish the Israelis if they continue with these violations of the memorandum of agreement between the two superpowers, Iran and the United States.

## **#Nima**

What do we know about the level of disruptions in some of these cities, for example, Tyre or Nabatieh, Mefadoun, these parts of, you know, the southern part of Lebanon? Are they the same, something like 20%, 50%, 30%? What is the level of disruption in these cities?

## **#Laith**

When we are talking about Tyre, or Sur, this is a city that the Israelis over the last 48 hours purposefully concentrated some attacks on residential buildings. So this beautiful archaeological treasure and its resorts and buildings have been targeted heavily. I would say around 20% of the city has been damaged or destroyed, which is a huge number. In terms of Nabatieh, which is the

main commercial hub in the central region of the south of Lebanon, they have, you know, I would say more like 10%, because the attacks in the south of Lebanon around the Nabatieh region have been concentrated on the villages outside Nabatieh in the path between the Crusader fort of Beaufort and Nabatieh city, which the Israelis for almost a month have been trying to push forward, and have faced huge resistance, and much of their advancing troops and machinery have been destroyed in these attempts.

You know, we haven't been able to get further than those frontline villages around Nabatieh, so we don't know what's beyond that. But looking at the videos that the Israelis kept on releasing over the last three months of them blowing up whole villages, it is expected that when people go back to the second-line villages in the south of Lebanon, they'll see total destruction. Also, we heard this morning that the Israelis withdrew completely from Al-Khiyam. This is the famous village where there was a torture center for the collaborationist Lahad army in the 1980s and 90s.

That's a symbol, a signal. If they withdrew from Khiam, it means everything north of Khiam they have evacuated, and they are stationing themselves right on the border between the colonies and Khiam. So that's an indication, again, that they're trying to bring their troops into a gathering point before they put them on buses and bring the tanks on, you know, take them on heavy-lift machinery. So I think if in the next 24 hours we don't see a full stop—actually, I think by nighttime coming, if the Israelis don't stop their attacks, there will be a retaliation from Iran.

And anyways, Hezbollah is continuing their military operations, and they are now firing heavy salvos of missiles, not only those FPVs that we're seeing, on the exposed positions of gathering Israeli soldiers. So the more the Israeli military takes its time with withdrawing, the more casualties they'll have and losses. In a way, everybody still in Lebanon is not thinking of this as a real ceasefire. It's been many times that we saw how the Israelis violate ceasefires, and it seems like the Americans are either playing a game always with their wards or that they can't control this rabid dog. So we'll see what happens in the next 12 to 24 hours, but I think that will determine the actual reality of the ceasefire.

## **#Nima**

Is that going to improve the situation in Lebanon between the various factions, different parties, or do you see the same thing happening? Because I'm talking about the MOU and the new sort of pressure on Israel to get out of Lebanon. Because the whole point, the Iranian foreign minister yesterday said, without Lebanon, there would be no deal between Iran and the United States. That's the whole game. And we've learned from the Iranian military, the IRGC, they said, if they attack, we're going to respond. These are new sorts of pressures on Israel. And there is some sort of panic in Israel politically. They're saying, what can we do with the Trump administration? Because they have no—at least from what we've heard—they don't know what is in the MOU so far.

## **#Laith**

Yeah, look, this war and Iran's victory in this war have flipped the whole power dynamics in the region. All those dreams and illusions that the Israelis had about being a chosen people and being a superpower, and somehow seven million colonists can rule all the Arabs and the Muslims, are in tatters. Iran, with this victory, has the right to set the tone of politics in the region. I think we will see, not only as we saw now over the last day and a half, all these Lebanese politicians lining up outside the embassy to beg for mercy, we will see that happening within the Arab vassals also, as their master withdraws and admits their defeat.

So there will be a new change in the region. And in terms of internally here in Lebanon, there's going to be a reckoning. Hezbollah and the patriotic parties in Lebanon will not allow a return to the Ta'if Agreement, where parties are guaranteed a say that is exaggerated over their actual representation in the country. So I think that if this ceasefire actually stays and the memorandum of agreement starts coming into effect, Lebanon will see a change in its electoral system. The president and the prime minister will be ousted. There is no backing for that. They are going to have to resign.

And I personally believe that this president and prime minister will pack up and go to France or the United States, because the way that they have, you know, undermined Lebanese security and caused so much damage to the country with their belligerence against their own people is not going to be forgiven easily. And so there will be a new balance of power in Lebanon, and the winning party will be the one that sets it. And although Hezbollah in the 2000s, when it liberated Lebanon, decided to be magnanimous and give national forgiveness to those who committed crimes and tried to reconcile with the parties that were vassals of the United States.

I don't think this is going to happen again, because the sacrifice that Hezbollah gave and the patriotic parties in Lebanon gave over this war is ten times, a hundred times more than the sacrifice that was given to liberate Lebanon in the year 2000. The blood of martyr Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and all the martyrs of Lebanon will not be allowed to pass without a reckoning for those who participated in the mass genocide and ethnic cleansing of the country here. So we will see, I think, as I said, the president and the prime minister resigning and probably leaving the country with their second passports. And at the same time, the parties that collaborated, that already anyway do not represent except a small faction and fraction of Lebanon, they will be cut down to size.

There will be a rearrangement of the electoral system where it will become representative of the real weight of people. And I think Lebanon has a chance to end the sectarian electoral system. And if people have a chance to vote according to their political belief, not according to their religious or sect belonging, we will see huge swaths of the Sunni and Christian and secular population voting for Hezbollah or a coalition that Hezbollah creates with the other patriotic movements. So the future is bright for Hezbollah and for Lebanon as a whole. But there will be a period where there will be an adjustment and a rearrangement of the political scene in Lebanon for these problems that we faced with emboldened collaborators that outright call for the killing of their own people. That's not going to be allowed to happen again.

## **#Nima**

I think that's a serious point that you raised. One of them is the double citizenship of these people — the prime minister and president of Lebanon. That should be part of the constitution. I don't know, many countries consider that as part of the constitution, part of the law — you cannot have some sort of connection with other countries over your own country. And when you have two passports, you are a citizen of two countries, and that's hugely problematic. You can be an ordinary person, and I think that's not going to cause any sort of problem. But when you are the prime minister or president of a country, you have to be just connected with that particular country, not any other country. I don't know, is there any sort of discussion considering that? No.

## **#Laith**

I think that will definitely be one of the top priorities, because as we know, in all Western countries, you cannot run for parliament, you cannot run for president or prime minister positions if you have dual citizenship. I remember a few years ago, one of the candidates for the prime minister position in Canada had an American passport, and he had to revoke his citizenship openly and issue a statement that he had dropped his American citizenship in order to be eligible to run. That's logical. You cannot have dual loyalties in such a position. Of course, regular citizens should be allowed to have as many passports and citizenships as they want to.

But you cannot be in charge of decision-making in a country when there's a question about which country you are more loyal to. And we've seen this. Of course, the issue of loyalty comes up now specifically for the West with all those dual-citizen Israelis that are infiltrated into positions of power in the countries, or in positions of control of media, banking, or military industries. So the questions that will have to be dealt with here in Lebanon, in terms of changes in the constitution and electoral regulations, are the issues of representation — how do you elect? For now, you're forced to vote for somebody within your religious sect, and there are reserved seats for religious sects in Lebanon that are also not representative of their weight.

Iran has reserved seats for people from different religions, but actually those numbers of seats represent the number of citizens from that sect. In Lebanon, it's not like that. There are reserved seats that are set on the census from 1942, when half of the population was Christian. Today, almost half of the population is Shia, and the Shia have around 20–25% only of the seats reserved for them. So one way to deal with that is to make sure that people can vote whichever way they feel like voting. And Lebanon, as a multi-faith, multi-ethnic nation, has always been able to protect and be inclusive.

This is why it's loved by everybody around the world, looked at as a place where people can be who they want to. So there will be a change in the electoral process, representation, and of course there have to be guarantees that people don't have dual loyalties through those dual citizenships if they want to run for the parliament and the prime minister or president positions. It's not going to be an

easy conversation, but it has to be dealt with, and Lebanon cannot go into another war, let's say, or deal with its neighbors as long as there's not correct representation of the people and their opinions.

## **#Nima**

I think to understand how deep the problem is in Lebanon, I don't know if you watched the Lebanese Minister of Industry. When he was reported, I asked him—he was giving candies to the reporter. He said, "What is the occasion?" And he said, "The ceasefire." And the reporter asked him, "What is the next step?" "I don't know, ask the Iranian embassy." It means that you have no understanding of what's going on, and nobody would, I don't know, because there is no connection. There is no, you know, somehow understanding between Hezbollah and the government in Lebanon.

Because the way Hezbollah sees the government, it seems that if they say something to the government, the government would give it to the Israelis or some other parties who are not aware of it. I don't know what is the reality of the communications in Lebanon, but that shows how deeply they're not involved. They don't know, you know, what's going on in Lebanon as part of their duty. They're the government in Lebanon, but they don't know what's going on. This is hugely problematic for those people in Lebanon looking at this.

## **#Laith**

You know, the Minister of Industry is associated with the Hezbollah bloc. So he was making a joke and at the same time a jab at the pro-American, pro-Zionist factions in both the cabinet of the prime minister and in the media and so forth that were asking him. And it's to say to those within that media landscape that are funded by the Gulf and to the rest of the cabinet that, you know what, there's a new sheriff in the neighborhood, and that sheriff is the one that's setting the rules. It's rubbing it in the face of those who collaborated and hid behind the back of America and Israel to protect them while they are killing their own people and collaborating with the enemy.

So prior to the war on Syria, there was a governing kind of balance in Lebanon between Syria and Saudi Arabia, and behind Saudi Arabia were the Americans, and this kind of balance kept the country from having any problems. Well, today, there is no Saudi Arabia, there is no Syria, there is no Emirates or Qatar or Turkey that can have a say in Lebanon. I think the minister was very clear when he said, "Ask Iran" or "Ask the embassy." He wanted to say that there will be no new balance where Iran and America somehow govern Lebanon. No, there's a victor today, and the victor is the axis of resistance.

And there will be no return to this idea that there will be power sharing to govern Lebanon. Those who have lost will be made to understand that they've lost. And the axis of resistance, I think, is much more emboldened right now because of this memorandum of agreement. And it was a funny moment from the Minister of Industry to illustrate that to the whole country. Don't ask me. There is no government right now. The government is in Tehran. And that is not to exaggerate, but to say

that the axis of resistance is really the one that is going to set what's going to happen in Lebanon next.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Donald Trump yesterday said that he believes Israel should back down and give the role of dealing with Hezbollah to Syria, to al-Sharaa, al-Jaafari. When it comes to the role of Syria, let's assume that we know that Israel is not going to back down. They're going to continue with this sort of operations, with their sort of occupation, or they have to be forced out. This is the problem. It's gonna happen on the battlefield, not by negotiations in my opinion, but you're welcome to give your understanding of that. On the other hand, what would be the role of Syria? What is the role of Syria in this? Are they going to come from the northern part of Lebanon?

Are they going to make some sort of chaos? What is in it for Syria to join? Because in the last two or three days, two times we've learned from Syria that they're not going to be part of this operation. They're not willing to do that. They even said to the Lebanese prime minister that there is no point in negotiating with Israel. These are two points so far. But it seems that Donald Trump is trying to put pressure on Syria to be part of that, to go against Hezbollah. What is that? What is your understanding? What do you make of it?

## **#Laith**

I think there are two things at play. If we watch that statement from Trump and read between the lines, when he said, you know, Israel is not able to do what it wants without killing innocents, and therefore, I think al-Julani should be the one doing it, what he means is that if we're going to kill innocents, let it be done in the name of Muslims. Let a Wahhabi death squad leader be the one that kills innocents, so Israel is not blamed for it. He's not saying that al-Julani is going to do better and kill fewer innocents. The other thing that we should note is that al-Julani gave a speech yesterday with some of the political appointees that he put, and it was broadcast on Syrian television. And it's clear that he doesn't think that they can do anything. They understand their limitations.

Maybe Trump is going to throw money and throw weapons at al-Julani and his death squads, but they're probably just going to keep that money and weapons, like the Kurdish militias and death squads that were in Iraq after Trump gave them all that money and weapons and they just kept it because they know their real size. These Kurdish militias in Iraq couldn't really take on Iran, and they would be minced and destroyed. Similarly, the situation right now for al-Julani and his militias, much of the death squads that were brought in from outside Syria to destroy Syria and take down the government, have been slowly exported over the last six months to Central Asia, Central Africa specifically, to fight the Sahel Confederacy — all those attacks that we have been seeing in Niger, in Mali, and so on.

These are the militias that are exported. So right now al-Julani is left with a very small core of his fighters that are Syrian. And as we've seen over the last week, across all of Syria, there have been military clashes. In Deir ez-Zor, where I come from, there are huge military clashes right now between various tribes over allegiance to al-Julani and/or access to farmland, access to oil and gas, access to those resources. There have been attacks by al-Julani's militias over the last two days on Alawi neighborhoods and Shia neighborhoods in Damascus and other cities.

There are attacks happening inside the coastal area, the mountains of the coast. So what does this tell us? That tells us that al-Julani is unable to govern Syria, and at any minute it's going to collapse out of his hands. So there is no possible way for al-Julani and the military power that he has to attack Lebanon. It would be a suicide mission. The last time they tried to do that, you know, a year and a half ago, after the collapse of the Assad government in Damascus, when al-Julani's militias were at the height of their power and euphoria of taking the country, they attacked from the north of Lebanon into the north of the Qa'a Valley. The local tribes were able to repel them, destroy their columns, and push forward inside Syria. So I think, you know, whatever we heard Trump say is kind of his wishful thinking.

And the answers we heard from the speech of al-Julani yesterday clearly indicate that he's not going to do that. In fact, much of al-Julani's speech yesterday was focused on relationships with Lebanon and normalizing those relationships, talking about how they need to even wait on solving the issue of the border demarcation between Lebanon and Syria, which was never demarcated since 1942. There are a lot of villages that are half in Syria, half in Lebanon, or have Lebanese citizens on the Syrian side and Syrian citizens on the Lebanese side. And he, in his speech to the Syrian public, indicated that he is not ready to even open that Pandora's box. If there was an excuse that al-Julani would have used to attack Lebanon, it would have been that excuse of the demarcation of borders.

And it's clear from that speech that he's going to avoid even discussing this for a while. He brought up, in that speech, al-Julani, what could be considered, let's say, something that Syria has against Lebanon. He said some Syrian people still feel hurt for Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian struggle. And then he coupled that with saying the Lebanese people still have grievances against Syria for its involvement in Lebanon during the 80s and the 90s. So that was a neutralization to the public of Syria of any grievances they have against Hezbollah because he equalized it with the grievances that the Lebanese people have against Syria. So I think from this speech that I listened to carefully of al-Julani yesterday, it's clear that he is trying to minimize any conflict with Lebanon and hinting that he will not be using any power to intervene in Lebanon.

## **#Nima**

Laith, how do you see Qatar and the UAE? Because we know that the UAE, during the war, somehow improved its relationship with Israel, but it seems that they're somehow abiding by or listening to Donald Trump because they're under the thumb of the Trump administration by any

measure. And they're trying to make a deal. They're so desperate. Yesterday, MBZ was talking about it. The Qatari emir is...

## **#Nima**

Sheikh Tamim was talking about it. And it's all about making a deal, changing the face of the Middle East because they're somehow tired of this war. They don't want this war. They know how devastating the war has been for their economy. This is the calculation on their part. But do you see any sort of leverage on—do they have any sort of leverage on the Trump administration, or are they somehow cooperating with the Trump administration and its policies?

## **#Laith**

You know, to be very frank, the United States had all its bases in Western Asia destroyed. And part of the memorandum of agreement is that there will be no return of American troops to the region. So it's already set that these vassal regimes that hid always behind American power have no cover now. So they have to readjust to the reality of their true size and their true power. You know, the Emirates or Qatar or Bahrain are insignificant countries on a global scale. They should be insignificant because their population is so minuscule. There cannot be a Liechtenstein that is deciding what the EU does, or a Monaco that decides what the foreign policy of the EU is. Similarly, Bahrain or Qatar or the Emirates, they shouldn't have a right to decide how the Arab people as a whole or the Muslim peoples govern themselves or have foreign affairs.

So what we are seeing right now is these regimes, these vassal regimes, realizing they have no military protection from the United States and they have to deal with Iran at their true size. And so I remember decades ago watching old videos from the time of the Shah of Iran, that dictator, that fascist, that massacrer of his own people, when the Gulf monarchs would come every year and literally kiss his hand on television. Right. When the Iranian state was collaborating with Israel and the United States and it was given the role to be the sheriff of the region. Well, now the sheriff of the region is Iran without any interference from the United States or Israel. And Israel and the United States cannot protect their vassals in the region. So we will see these vassals now that have been cut down to their true size come and kiss the hand.

And they should come and kiss the hand of Iran. And they should be paying for the damage that they did. And this is what we're seeing — all this money that is being sent by Qatar and the Emirates, and eventually now Saudi Arabia will also be sending money to cover the costs of the destruction and the damage they did to the Iranian people and the Iranian nation. So this is the future. And this is the only way that they will survive, if they want to survive, because Iran is not in the business of doing regime change or occupations, although it can. Iran right now is in the position that it can go and cross the Strait of Hormuz and wipe out the state of the United Arab Emirates or Bahrain or Qatar and install whoever they want to, and nobody will stop them.

But because Iran and its leadership are a nation that care for themselves and have no imperialist agenda like the West, it's not doing that. So in order for these regimes to survive right now, they have to readjust and understand their true size and have amicable relations with Iran. And if they continue to plot after their master has left the region, they will be dealt with eventually like the way we are dealing with Israel, which is, I think, the last of the vassals in the region that has yet to get it through their thick head that their master has lost the war — Israel. And this is why we're still stuck in this situation where we don't know where we're going next.

## **#Nima**

I think with the statement of Hezbollah yesterday, they mentioned what the main goals for Hezbollah are. One of them is the complete liberation of Lebanese territory, and this is in process with the ongoing negotiation talks or maybe military operations. Some sort of escalation may happen down the road. But the second point in their goals is the return of Lebanese prisoners. Who are these prisoners, and what is the main reason or the problem with that? Because we haven't heard that much about it.

## **#Laith**

Yeah, I think we have the names of around 20 to 24 Lebanese prisoners. These are either fighters that fell on the battlefield and were taken by the Israelis, or civilians that were kidnapped from the border area. So it's a mix of both. But these are the ones that we know about, so there could be more, because there are a lot of missing people that are either presumed dead or there's no indication of exactly what happened to them. So there could be more. And of course, Hezbollah will not allow the Israelis to continue to hold these Lebanese citizens after a ceasefire comes into effect. So if the Israelis do not deliver on this condition, I think we'll still be in a confrontational manner, as well as trying to liberate all of Lebanon's territory and liberate all of the Lebanese people.

That's what a liberation movement does, and if people don't remember, in 2006 Hezbollah kidnapped Israeli soldiers in order to release Lebanese prisoners of war and Palestinian prisoners of war, and succeeded in doing so. So I don't think the fighting will stop in South Lebanon until there's a guarantee that every Lebanese prisoner is released and that Israelis leave every inch of Lebanon. I think this is where... this is going to be very tricky in the next 12, 24 hours. It's not only about cessation of hostilities and the Israelis staying where they are, and it's not only about Israelis exiting areas they occupied in 2006. No, it's about exiting every inch of Lebanon that has been occupied, all the way to Shebaa Farms. And by the way, yesterday Al-Julani in his speech referred to Shebaa Farms.

And I think the reason he spoke about Shebaa Farms is because maybe the Israelis are going to try to pretend that Shebaa Farms are Syrian, and therefore they're not going to leave them. And maybe Al-Julani will try to renege on the Syrian government's, you know, mapping that happened decades ago, which said Shebaa Farms are Lebanese, not Syrian. And so this is probably the only service that

Al-Julani can give to Israel—to try to claim that Shebaa Farms are Syrian and then leave them occupied by the Israelis. But I don't think any other part of Lebanon will be allowed to continue to be occupied. And the prisoners, as I said, include some fighters, include medical workers, like paramedics that were doing their service trying to save people that got kidnapped, and include a sailor that was kidnapped from the north of Lebanon in the 2006 war.

So the names that we know of are around 24, but it's possible that the numbers are much higher. We just don't know because a lot of people are presumed dead, but we need proof. And this is where the role of the Red Cross comes in. Up until now, the Red Cross has reneged on its duties. It has not visited any of the Lebanese prisoners over the last two, two and a half years, almost three years of this war. The Red Cross hasn't brought any news about the Lebanese prisoners, didn't even give us or force the Israelis to give them a list of them. That's the basics of the duties of the Red Cross. And so I think pressure will start building up for this specific file, with the number one step being getting the names of those who are in the Israeli prisons.

## **#Nima**

How many of the people who were evacuated from the southern part of Lebanon are getting back to their homes? Do we know? I mean, sort of 20%, 50%—what's the situation there? You mentioned that at least 20% of these cities were destroyed by the Israeli attacks. And how about the people who are moving right now to their homes?

## **#Laith**

You know, there is movement to the villages that are third and fourth tier, not the first and second line. And it's very light movement because people are still not sure if the Israelis are going to violate the ceasefire and drag us into another war. So what we are seeing is around 10% movement of what it was before the war. And it's mainly people going, not the whole families. And if there are whole families, they're just going to go and check on their homes, see if there's anything salvageable, and go back, because Israel is flying drones and dropping bombs around people just to scare them. So nobody is yet feeling safe to return, but they are entering villages that the Lebanese paramedic associations and Hezbollah are saying are safer—you can go and check, but please don't stay.

So there is that movement of people going into those villages, checking on their homes, taking pictures, showing the world what's happening, and also seeing the remains of Israeli machinery that is left on the battlefield. So I think this will be the trickle of movement until we have a true ceasefire that is guaranteed. And up until now, that didn't happen. And the Lebanese people love their land, love their homes. And I feel for them. Everybody wants to rush and go and check on their generational homes that they grew up in and so forth, and their lands. But everybody's very careful at this moment because we have the most vicious enemy anyone can have south of the border.

## **#Nima**

I think the other goal of Hezbollah is reconstruction of areas damaged during the conflict, which I think is related or connected to the situation in Lebanon. Because if you have the war, if you have these sorts of attacks, you cannot go after reconstruction or rebuilding those parts of the city that were destroyed during the war. They need some sort of stability in Lebanon before doing that. And it seems that with this statement, they're gonna be alone in reconstructing the southern part of Lebanon. I don't know what the history of the Lebanese government is. Are they gonna help Hezbollah? Are they gonna help the people in the southern part of Lebanon to repair or reconstruct the buildings?

## **#Laith**

I think definitely this collaborationist government of Prime Minister Salam and President Aoun will do nothing. In fact, when we go back to 2006, the government of Lebanon did nothing. It was Hezbollah and the generosity of the Iranian people, the Iranian government, and the peoples of the world that donated to help rebuild Lebanon at the time. So I think primarily in the beginning, until there's a change in government and removal of this collaborationist regime, there will be nothing coming from the Lebanese government.

Although we saw over the last 24 hours the Minister of Communication order the reconstruction of the cellular and internet network in the safer villages that are third or fourth tier. So we've been seeing since the morning movement of these teams rebuilding the towers and laying the cables and what have you. So that will continue. We're also seeing movement by the Ministry of Water and Electricity sending teams to rebuild the water distribution network into villages that were targeted deliberately by the Israelis. And same thing with electricity, although the electricity in Lebanon doesn't really come from the government.

The government gives you one or two hours a day of electricity. So the primary focus right now is to install communication networks again, so anyone that returns can communicate if something happens—they can call ambulances or what have you. And similarly for water, because water is life and you cannot be in a place where there's no water. So that's the primary movement as we see of rebuilding. I think that Hezbollah is capable and is willing, as it indicated through the last ceasefire in 2005, that it will rebuild all of the destroyed infrastructure, homes, and so forth, out of its expenditures. And the Axis of Resistance members will come to the aid.

I remember how people, when those videos of Yemeni people—you know, Yemeni women—taking off all their gold and sending it to Gaza, right? And with the poverty that is there in Yemen, or sending it to Lebanon. We will see that generosity on a global scale. And since we are in Spain, and on this issue of generosity to our peoples, yesterday the Spanish regime went and arrested activists in the Basque Country in the north—our brothers and sisters in the Basque Country that have been seeking their own liberation from the Spanish regime—kidnapped from their homes, including a

Palestinian activist, kidnapped from their home in Bilbao in the north of what is the Kingdom of Spain, in Basque Country, and taken to Madrid. And why?

Because they visited Lebanon, because they are fundraising for people in Lebanon in the refugee camps, in the displacement camps openly. There's nothing hidden. They all know where the money is going and everything. But the regime in Spain is trying to punish our brothers and sisters that are doing work of solidarity with us. These people came to Lebanon and stayed in the refugee camps and were there for the funeral of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and have stood openly with us. And I think there's a lot of people like that around the world, and the minute there is a chance for these people to come and help in the construction of Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, they'll come. I get calls every day from activists around the West that are saying, I am ready to come to put bricks. You just— I will be sweeping the floor.

This is how much people around the world have seen the sacrifices that we all in the region have given—the people of Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, Syria—and are ready to come and change this story of how the West treats us. Because the majority of the people in the West are human beings like us that have dignity and have understanding of oppression and don't like what their governments are doing. And this government here in Spain that pretends to be a pro-Palestinian government, while it allows a continuous resupply of Israel through its airports and its ports, is now trying to punish, at this critical moment when the United States and Israel have been defeated, it's trying to punish its own citizens for having the human position of providing aid to our people. So the minute this ceasefire truly comes into effect, all of the people of Lebanon will go to the south and will start rebuilding.

Hezbollah and the patriotic parties like Amal, SSNP, Al-Marada, and others, they will all put everything they have into the rebuilding of the country. After the removal of the collaborationist president and prime minister, the finances of the government of Lebanon will be dedicated to rebuilding for the first time in the history of Lebanon. The government of Lebanon will be directed to that. Members of the Axis of Resistance governments and peoples will rise up to the occasion and deliver on this solidarity. And I think we will see thousands upon thousands of international leaders, humanitarians, and activists come to our region to help in the rebuilding and financing of that rebuilding.

## **#Nima**

Thank you so much, Laith. Please go to [freepalestine.video](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8). Right below, you know, Laith, right below Laith's name here on the picture, you can see [freepalestine.video](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8). Go there and follow Laith, and you can find him on Free Palestine TV on YouTube. And please go there and follow, and you're going to help him a lot because he needs this sort of help, and we have to help each other. He's providing us with very precious and important reports from Lebanon, and right now he's in Spain preparing a new sort of documentary there. Thank you, Laith, for being with us.

## **#Laith**

Thank you so much, Nima. And inshallah, we will also be in Iran for the funeral of the greatest martyr of the Iranian nation, Ayatollah Khamenei. And we will also cover that. We will show our brotherly love to our extended family there.

## **#Nima**

Thank you. Thank you, Laith, for being with us today. Great pleasure, as always.