

# Israel is ethnically cleansing southern Lebanon

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate address the shocking human toll of Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon, where the IDF is destroying entire towns and even targeting local turtle conservationists with airstrikes. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Max

What's happening in Lebanon? I mean, it's horrific. I was just in Dearborn, Michigan, which, as everyone knows, is a sort of center of Arab-American life and civic culture, just outside Detroit. And I gave a talk at a fundraiser for an independent media outlet called TMJ, which some young people are starting there. And I got to meet a lot of the local Lebanese-American population. And what they would tell me was that there were memorials happening every day in Dearborn, or at least every week, for families, entire families that had been killed. Ten people killed in one strike. Twelve people. A couple that was giving me a ride to the banquet hall or the event hall—I mentioned this to them, that I heard there were a lot of memorials—and the wife said to me, yeah, my cousin was just killed by Israel while he was farming his land.

They're just killing people. No one is unscathed by Israel's campaign of mass murder and ethnic cleansing in Lebanon, in that community. And what Israel's doing is actually attacking the people that are closest to the land, which means they're attacking farmers, they're attacking conservationists, they're killing, and they're spraying farms with glyphosate. This is—Steve Sweeney, who's a reporter on the ground in southern Lebanon—Lebanon files a UN Security Council complaint accusing Israel of violating the Chemical Weapons Convention in the south. Lab tests from Ait al-Shab, Nakura, and Dehaira confirmed catastrophic levels of glyphosate, a cancer-linked chemical produced by Monsanto—you know, Roundup—in agricultural soil, basically like spraying Agent Orange.

Normal farming levels would show 0.5. Well, you get the point. They were doing this in Gaza prior to October 7th with all the farmers in the so-called buffer zone. Another horrible thing they've done—as I said, they're actually deliberately attacking conservationists. This is someone named Mona Khalil, Mona al-Khalil, who's been protecting sea turtles at a conservation center she established called the

Orange House just south of Tyre. Here she is. And Israel, last week, a week and a half ago, bombed the Orange House. Deliberate strike, badly burning Mona al-Khalil. She's, last I heard, in a hospital in Beirut. This is deliberate. They want the people off the land.

I remember in northern Gaza, to prevent people from being able to feed themselves, Israel would deliberately assassinate small farmers who were trying to feed people during the genocide by teaching them to grow their own food. These are some of the baby sea turtles released by Mona Khalil in 2018 to crawl into the sea in southern Lebanon. This is deliberate. There is no question about this. And it's not really, of course, being covered adequately by our media, which consistently reports that Israel has struck Hezbollah targets. BBC, New York Times, they refer to Hezbollah targets. CBS, of course. The Hezbollah targets are an entire community, specifically Lebanese Shias, who are being subjected to ethnic cleansing. And that's what's happening in Lebanon today.

### **#Aaron Mates**

And in the West Bank, too, we got to mention what has just happened recently, which everyone just continues to ignore because the Iran aspect just takes over everything else—Lebanon, too. But what happened in the West Bank, was it last week? I lost track, but Israeli settlers set fire to a mostly Christian village, the town of Taybeh. Yeah, set it ablaze. And then when Palestinians tried to put the fire out, they shot at the firefighters. This is, you know, this is a major village, like a major Christian village in the West Bank. And, you know, these types of attacks on the land in the West Bank happen every single day within this partnership between Israeli settlers and the Israeli military, the occupying Israeli military. Yeah.

### **#Max**

More double-tap strikes, double-tap, triple-tap strikes on rescuers, firefighters. And also, while I was in Dearborn—I'll put up video of this later today or tomorrow—I visited the Wall of Tears, which is, I think, the first memorial in the United States for the children who were murdered by Israel during the Gaza genocide between October 7th and July 2025. And it's four long panels with just names, some photos of all the children that have been killed. It's really shocking to see it. It's a Holocaust memorial.

### **#Aaron Mates**

It's at least 20,000 children, if I remember correctly.

### **#Max**

On this list, it's 18,500, but the list has grown since July 2025. It's violating the ceasefire in Gaza day after day after day with no pushback from this administration. The Board of Peace has done nothing except work to set up a joint U.S.-Israeli military base in Kiryat Gat, near the frontiers of Gaza, to

administer the concentration camp. They're even building a giant tower overlooking Gaza, like the towers that overlooked concentration camps and various other internment centers throughout history.

The MOU with Iran, I know it doesn't include any provisions about Gaza. It says nothing about Gaza, which is very unfortunate given how important Palestine is to Iran throughout the history of the Islamic Republic and to its base of support, which is partly why there have been protests against the MOU in Iran, in Tehran, for the past several days. People chanting against Araghchi, the foreign minister, and Mohammad Ghalibaf. And one reason is they feel Palestine has been left out, and another reason is they don't trust the United States—and why should they?