

Hezbollah Learns from Iran, Winning Big Against Zionism | Laith Marouf

While Israel and the US would love to foster a civil war in Lebanon, the social forces in the country are NOT going along with the evil plan. In fact, Lebanon is currently haunting IDF soldiers, and there is little they can do. Laith Marouf of Free Palestine TV joins from Lebanon to discuss Israel's attacks, Hezbollah's role, the Lebanon ceasefire claims, the US-Iran war, new drone tactics, Israel's losses, leadership assassinations, the media battle, and why he believes the Axis of Resistance is gaining strength across the region. Links: Free Palestine TV: <https://www.freepalestine.video> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction 00:00:24 Lebanon Under Attack 00:02:00 The MOU and Hezbollah's Weapons 00:07:29 Iran War's Impact on Lebanon 00:12:08 Civil War Fears and the Lebanese Army 00:16:20 Hezbollah's Size and Military Shift 00:19:28 Drones, Innovation, and Resistance Tactics 00:24:52 Israeli Losses and Damage Claims 00:29:05 Hezbollah's Goals in South Lebanon 00:32:36 Assassinations and Hezbollah's Renewal 00:37:53 Khamenei Funeral and Regional Signals 00:41:45 The Media War and Public Opinion 00:47:47 Next Round of War with Iran 00:50:11 Where to Follow Laith Marouf

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies. Today we have an update with Laith Marouf from Free Palestine TV. Laith is, at the moment, of course, in Lebanon, and we'll be talking about the assault on the country that he's reporting from and the updates about the MOU. Laith, welcome.

#Laith Marouf

Great to be with you, Pascal. Thank you for having me.

#Pascal

Well, let's start right with Lebanon, where you are at the moment. How are things developing? What are the Israelis doing, and what kind of movements have you seen over the past couple of weeks?

#Laith Marouf

Well, although there is supposed to be a ceasefire, there's not really one. There are continued Israeli attacks on South Lebanon and continued destruction of villages that they are currently occupying, as well as the resistance continuing to fight them back. Every day we hear about the ambushes that Hezbollah sets up or assassinations of Israeli officers with the use of FPVs. So the battle continues

on the ground. And all this talk about ceasefire or memorandum of agreement seems to be in the imaginary or a different reality than the one we are living here. And this is because the prime minister and president of the country who are pushing for this agreement don't really have any power in the country. And so, whatever the Americans and the Israelis may have hoped that this collaboration between the president and prime minister may deliver on, they're unable to do so. So the reality on the ground is that we are going to continue, I think, this war until there is a true victor in it.

#Pascal

We've had this about a week ago now, right? This kind of agreement between the government of Lebanon and Israel that the Israeli occupation could basically continue until Hezbollah is demilitarized—no, not demilitarized, sorry—until they give up all their weapons. What's your assessment of that one? I mean, to me, right now, Lebanon's leadership strikes me as very similar to what Pétain was in the Second World War for the French. But how do you make sense of this?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, it's very much a Vichy regime. You know, remember the president and prime minister came into power right after the assassination of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of Hezbollah, and that pager terrorist attack and the fall of Damascus to the hands of the Jolani Wahhabi death squads. So there was, at that point, a high in the imperialist Zionist camp, and they pushed through the appointment of this president and prime minister. The resistance bloc in Lebanon was weak, so they let it happen.

But now, you know, there's a 180-degree shift in the power balance in Western Asia. The United States and Israel were defeated in their war against Iran, and they cannot bring to fruition whatever plots they had in 2025. Maybe if the United States had pushed this agreement, if it wasn't too victorious in its head in 2025, and instead of letting Israel destroy Lebanon for no reason at that time, had pushed for this agreement, then maybe they would have been able to achieve something. But now, this is not gonna pass.

There is no military power that can force Hezbollah to disarm, and the Israelis have had their wings clipped by the United States after Israel's defeat in the military operations in South Lebanon and its threats to use genocide and ethnic cleansing or mass casualty events as its form of warfare, with the threats of attacks on Beirut a few weeks ago when, of course, Iran said it would retaliate by bombing Aminu's colonies in Palestine. And so what we have right now is that the Israelis cannot win a military confrontation with Hezbollah. At the same time, they're not allowed by the United States and by Iran to conduct genocidal warfare as a replacement for their failures on the field in regular warfare. So this is where we're at, and I think Hezbollah is going to be victorious if this continues this way.

#Pascal

So your interpretation is actually that the United States this time is putting pressure on Israel not to commit genocide, not to repeat what it already did in Gaza, because it seems to me that they outwardly threatened to rinse and repeat Gaza in Lebanon. But your interpretation is that this time the U.S. is actually putting real pressure on them.

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, and I don't think that the U.S. really wants to put this pressure. But because the U.S. has lost the war with Iran, its own interests right now are starting to diverge away from the interests of the Jewish colony. So, you know, prior to this and the war on Iran, the strategic goal of the United States to remain the hegemon in Western Asia aligned perfectly with the strategic goal of the Jewish colony, which is to exist permanently in Western Asia.

And now what we see, with much of the military power of the United States in Western Asia being destroyed, and a host of other vassals that the United States has in Western Asia—mainly the Arab monarchies—shattering into collapse, with all their finances in ruins and their ability to influence Arab and Muslim populations becoming weaker and weaker, this is threatening the strategic goal of the United States to remain the hegemon in the region. And this is why there are beginnings of these divergences between the tactical maneuvers that the Jewish colony and the Americans perform in the region. And of course, this is visible and known to the axis of resistance, and they are hammering on the differences between the United States and Israel.

#Pascal

Last time we talked was shortly after the beginning of the war between the U.S., Israel, and Iran. And now we are speaking on July 3rd, so three months later, four months later. How has that time period been since February 28th? How did you experience the changes that came with, well, the losing of the United States in this battle, which I think culminated in the signing of the MOU, where the United States had to basically admit and put its signature under a piece that says, like, yeah, fine, we lost? And how did that impact the situation in Lebanon? Did you actually feel that, you know, the Israelis couldn't continue as they did before?

#Laith Marouf

Yes. You know, when we look at the battlefield, again, we see how Hezbollah has innovated and was able to destroy more than 500 Israeli tanks in the south of Lebanon in these three months. This is a huge number. It's 50% of the remaining tanks that the Israelis have. This is above and beyond, of course, the armored vehicles and technical vehicles like bulldozers and what have you that were

destroyed. And we're, you know, seeing how the financial, you know, effect that the Gulf countries had—the vassals in the Arab world—that all the millions they had to spend on influencing internal politics in the Arab and Muslim countries are now not available.

You know, so the Emiratis, the Qataris, have specifically withdrawn, I think, from intervening not only in Lebanon but in much of the Arab and Muslim world. They don't have enough money to waste with the destruction of their oil and gas industry. And now we see only Saudi Arabia still having some influence in Lebanon. And because Saudi Arabia has also seen the effects of this war on the other monarchs in the Arabian Peninsula, I think they are being more cautious. They're not throwing all their money in the same direction as the Israelis and the Americans are. We're seeing more and more of the political parties in Lebanon come out in support of the resistance as an effect of this.

You know, money talks, and when it's not, then, you know, internal influences become more effective in changing the opinions of these leaders. So over the last week, we saw 22 parties in Lebanon make public statements against the memorandum of agreement. And that's basically the vast majority of political parties in the country, representing the vast majority of sects and the vast majority of regions. So this all wouldn't have happened if Iran hadn't won the 44-day war. And this is, of course, affecting the ability of the prime minister or president of Lebanon to deliver on what the Americans want.

Even when we talk about, you know, the United States and the Zionists wanting the Lebanese military to be the one that's confronting Hezbollah to disarm it, if there was anyone within the Lebanese military that thought, yeah, maybe we can do that—well, now that's gone. So over the last week, we heard multiple times rumors that the president is attempting to fire the chief of staff, General Rudolf Haikal, and he didn't do it. So that means that he has no replacement for him that will agree to the stupid, suicidal move of using the Lebanese military to confront Hezbollah. So the victory of Iran and the axis of resistance in the 44-day war is translating openly in front of everybody to huge changes in Lebanon.

#Pascal

We have statements from Israeli politicians on their TV saying that what should be aspired to is a civil war, to foster a civil war in Lebanon. And what you outlined, right—the Lebanese army versus Hezbollah and everything going up in flames and pure chaos. And of course, we all understand how and why that would suit Israel very well. But so, is your analysis in that case that this scenario is now less and less likely just because the Lebanese government has no military that could realistically fight a civil war?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, yeah. I think it's now an impossibility. It was already something that is hard to achieve—to get the Lebanese military to attack Hezbollah. Because around 60% of the soldiers and officers in the

Lebanese military are from the Shia sect. And by the way, the Lebanese military, in my opinion, is a patriotic institution. It has never confronted Hezbollah at any time, not only this time. And so it's kind of the only institution in the government of Lebanon that is still truly representative of the majority of the population. So there would have been a mutiny if the president and the prime minister forced the army to confront Hezbollah. This is prior to the victory of Iran. So now, with the victory of Iran, I think the leadership of the military that is patriotic is more emboldened and even feels more protected, that it can reject openly pressures on it to kill its own citizens.

So that's out of the picture, I think, at this moment. So the other option that the Americans and the Zionists have is to cause a civil war, as you're saying, and that would require other militias. And when we look at the landscape of militias in Lebanon, it's not the 1970s anymore. The Christian supremacist parties like the Falange have very, very small militias. They're ineffective. They're also very, you know, centered in geographic regions where they have populations. So that's out of the picture. Then you have the other option of the Wahhabi death squads, and that would require Syria under al-Julani's rule to intervene. And we heard that, of course, over the last week with President Trump saying maybe al-Julani should be doing the work. And that's also, I think, a pipe dream.

Because when we look at the landscape inside Syria, much of the country is out of the control of al-Julani. And over the last three months, the Turkish authorities exported all the international Wahhabi death squad members that were there, those 60,000, 70,000 Central Asian and other Wahhabi death squads that were in Syria were exported to the Sahel region. We saw how that affected those attacks by Boko Haram in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, similarly in Somalia and in Sudan. So right now, al-Julani has only around 60,000 Syrian Wahhabi death squads, and they can barely maintain traffic in the major cities, the 60,000 fighters. So if he withdraws them from the major cities to attack Lebanon, not only will he be defeated inside Lebanon, but also the country will escape his hold.

#Pascal

Okay, so that is good news. In that case, all of the potential troublemakers actually don't have enough resources to do that to Lebanon. Can you give me kind of an understanding of how large, is your guess, Hezbollah is at this point? And about how large, how many troops are under government control in the army, as you said? And what... how is the relationship right now between Hezbollah and the central government? I mean, are they in a cold peace or something like that?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, well, you know, the last time we heard Hezbollah announce actual numbers of its fighters, maybe it was a few years ago when Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary General of Hezbollah, was still alive. He, at the time, said that they had around 200,000 fighters. And that's when, you know, he used specifically the words "Lebanese fighters inside Lebanon." So, you know, obviously that hinted at the fact that there are non-Lebanese members of Hezbollah and members that are

outside Lebanon. And so, you know, even if we want to cut that number in half just for the hell of it, for the exercise, we know that the Lebanese military has around 65,000 to 70,000 soldiers. That includes the office-sitting soldiers that are doing office work. So this is not a fighting force that can confront Hezbollah. Also, the Lebanese army is lightly armed.

It doesn't have tanks even. It has APCs. It doesn't have drones. It doesn't have jets and so forth. So it's not a threat to Hezbollah. It's impossible. Now, we look at the changes in Hezbollah since the last war in 2006. Clearly, there is a change in tactics, a change in technologies that it's using. It has adapted to a different reality. Before, during the 2006 war, Hezbollah was still acting as if it's a semi-army, you know, because of its experience in the Syria war, where it really started having tanks and armored columns and what have you. So it reorganized itself from being a militia into a semi-army. Well, now we see the reverse happening. Hezbollah stopped being a semi-army and is back to militia guerrilla warfare. So, you know, I think it's even more agile right now, Hezbollah, and stronger than it was in 2006 because of that.

#Pascal

Interesting. And what is your observation about, well, the impact of new technologies? I mean, Hezbollah showed that it is capable now of flying drones with fiber optic cables so they cannot be jammed by the Israelis, and with night vision. And it seems, at least following the stories in the mass media, as far as we can see, that that does have an impact. And secondly, do you observe any impact on Iran's winning strategy, that they kind of showed the world how to handle not only the Israelis but the Americans, with a strategy which, on the one hand, led to the death of their country, but on the other hand, being able to absorb these shocks and fire back and at any point in time cause significant damage to the U.S. empire with its bases? Do you think that this is now influencing the way that Hezbollah is looking at its own guerrilla warfare?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, I mean, it's very important to point out that whenever you have this asymmetry between an empire with limitless resources versus a local resistance group, the most important factor in winning this war is longevity. Can you sustain yourself even under genocidal situations for a long-term war? And the other is innovation. And as we've seen, the Axis of Resistance members have the upper hand in innovation. They also have the upper hand in terms of longevity and willingness to sacrifice. So we saw in Gaza the Palestinian resistance, in a besieged extermination camp, innovate with those paragliders and take over 12 Israeli bases, capturing and killing 12 Israeli generals, the top generals of the Israeli army, on October 7th.

We also saw them innovate with their homemade drones and anti-tank shells, the Yassin shells that destroyed huge swaths of Israeli armored vehicles. And finally, the innovation from them was the four-dimensional warfare that they carried on from the Vietnam, Viet Cong strategies and developed into these whole cities underground that allowed them to sustain themselves for three years. So we

saw the same, of course, in Lebanon, with Hezbollah's initial innovations in the use of ATGMs in direct fights, targeting little, you know, one-meter-sized targets. Everybody around the world saw in 2024 how skilled the sharpshooters of Hezbollah are with ATGMs, and then, of course, those drones, waves of drones that shook the Zionist colony, and the missiles that it used in that stage.

And now we see the FPVs that you mentioned, with the fiber optic cables and the night vision and so forth. A lot of people were comparing those FPVs to the way the Russian and Ukrainian armies were using them. But most people forgot that actually it was Hezbollah that innovated this strategy during the Syria war. So during the war on Syria, Hezbollah innovated this strategy of using the FPVs with fiber optics and missiles to, at the time, just assassinate some of the leadership of Al-Qaeda and HTS and ISIS. And then that was carried forward and tweaked by the Russian and Ukrainian militaries.

And now finally we see Hezbollah even innovating more with that same strategy, with these very long fiber optic wires that sometimes go 60 kilometers inside occupied Palestine, hunting Israeli officers in the back lines who are commanding the troops there on the front lines. And yes, of course, Iran innovated with its hypersonic missiles, multi-warhead missiles, and so forth, that changed the whole playing field in Western Asia. So innovation is a must for an underdog. And sometimes, as we see here, innovations by an underdog can defeat whole empires.

#Pascal

Yes, very clearly so. But since you're closer to Israel, to the occupied territory of Palestine, they have been, for the last four months, basically very silent about what happened to them, right? Censorship across the board — you're forbidden from broadcasting or showing even anything, videos on social media. A little bit of it went out, but not that much. What is your assessment of the damage, on the one hand from the Iran war, on the other hand now coming from Lebanon? Because as you're saying, Lebanon is able to strike significantly beyond what the Israelis claim as—well, they don't claim it as a border because Israel doesn't admit to its borders—but what they are occupying.

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, just in the last few days, we saw satellite images coming out from the occupied territories, and we saw that massive destruction of the refinery around Haifa Bay. The Israelis had denied that their refinery was destroyed, but the images show massive destruction. And we know now this is going to take them until 2028 to even get it back working. So Israel is suffering hugely in terms of shortages of gasoline and diesel because this is a refinery that was providing the local needs for transportation in the country. And so if we extrapolate from that and look at the other few satellite images that were released over the last month or two of major Israeli bases being attacked and destroyed — their airfields and so forth.

And then when we compare that to the 100% release that we saw of the images of destruction in the Gulf countries and American bases in the region, then we are 100% sure that the Israeli bases

and industrial zones and so forth must have suffered hugely, very comparable to the situation of American bases and industrial zones in the monarchy vassal states. So yes, the Israelis always lie. The Israelis always hide their losses. Similarly with their numbers of injured and dead soldiers. When we have visual confirmation through the FPVs and other drones and videos that Hezbollah has released over the last three months, when we have the visual confirmation that at least 500 tanks are destroyed, and we know that usually tanks have four to eight members of crew inside them, it is impossible that the Israelis don't have thousands of dead soldiers.

It's impossible. So for them to still claim that they just have a few hundred dead and a few hundred injured, it doesn't make sense. And yes, there are some armored vehicles Israel is using that are drones, but they're not putting tank drones. They're putting APCs full of explosives and sending them as a drone into a neighborhood and blowing it up, as we saw in Gaza. But they're not doing that with tanks. So where are all those dead and injured soldiers? Are they just, you know, extracted to a different multiverse or something? You know, they are dead. There's no way they've been kind of lifted to heaven or something like this, like in a godly way.

#Pascal

No, but, you know, even in 2026, the people who implement wars are still able to shield a lot of this kind of very numeric information. So do the Russians and the Ukrainians, right? They're able to keep that from going out. What is your... what do you think is the current goal of Hezbollah? Is the goal to push the Israelis out of the entire territory of Lebanon, all the way in the south? Is the goal to actually counterattack and go and strike Israel in its northern territory, in the northern territories? What do you think? Where does Hezbollah want to take this, and what's the point where they would say, like, fine, mission accomplished?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, well, we had statements from the Secretary General of Hezbollah, Naim Qasem, and it's clear from statements of members of parliament that represent Hezbollah that their aim is total liberation of Lebanese lands. So they're not going to stop until Israelis leave every inch of Lebanon that they currently occupy. So what's going to happen after that, I think, is if Israel continues in this way, much of their land forces will be in tatters. And if Hezbollah wants to attack to liberate North Palestine at that moment, it will have that ability.

So this is why we see the Israelis freaking out and attempting to get the United States to agree to allow it to conduct mass casualty events, genocidal events, because if it continues on this path, they will have no more tanks left if this battle continues even for another month this way. And their troops in South Lebanon are sitting ducks. So Hezbollah is, I think, we saw this huge shift in its tactics from 2024 until now. In 2024, it fought face-to-face to prove that it could prevent the Israelis from occupying any villages, and it succeeded. But that was hugely costly in terms of Hezbollah's men. Now they're not doing that. They're letting the Israelis spread inside the territories that they

occupy and giving them hundreds of targets to hunt from far away with these FPVs or drones and artillery and what have you.

So the longer the Israelis stay and the more areas that they take, the bigger their losses are. And so this is why the Israelis know clearly that they cannot continue in this way, and they've been trying to break the formula that is in existence right now. And Hezbollah's final goal is not only the withdrawal of Israelis from territories they occupy in Lebanon, but to assert a new balance of power where the Israelis don't even dare do this again. So Hezbollah is trying to push the balance of power and retaliatory powers back to the point before the war started in 2023–2024. And I think that's what the Israelis are trying to prevent.

#Pascal

Right. But overall, Hezbollah, you know, when Nasser al-Hasrallah was killed, the interpretation was that Hezbollah was basically going to be defeated, sooner or later, and that it was on the losing foot. But now it seems that the opposite is the case. So the assassinations of the top leadership—do you think it has led to a rejuvenation of Hezbollah, actually, and to the changes in tactics that you said were very important, of going back to guerrilla warfare and whatnot, what worked? So are we seeing now a more ready Hezbollah for the task at hand?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, look, a lot of people asked publicly many times—I've read this—people talking about why did Hezbollah or Iran or what have you allow for the assassination of their leadership? And there are two parts to it. One is that there is psychological warfare and hybrid warfare there to try to create a wedge between the leadership of the resistance, whether it's in Lebanon or Iran, and the population. So the Israelis just admitted last week that Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah never hid in a bunker, that he was living in a regular apartment, everybody knew where it was. And similarly with Ayatollah Khamenei, he was in the official residences and in the government offices and so on, not hiding.

Why did they do that when they knew they were on an assassination list? It's because if they had been hiding from the beginning, their population would have started to think that they didn't care about them, or that these people were hiding underground and didn't care about them being killed. And so the assassinations and the martyrdom of these leaders actually rekindled the love of the people for the leadership and for the organization of resistance, and cut off this idea of creating a schism between the population and the leadership. And now the new leadership in Hezbollah or in Iran can hide, and people wouldn't blame them.

They're like, well, the leader before him sacrificed himself and stood and showed us that he's not scared. But now that we're in the midst of this war, we're okay with the leader hiding. Okay, so that's one thing. The other is, obviously, when we're looking at the changes in Hezbollah's tactics, yes, when there are organizations that exist for a long time, there are kind of beginnings of atrophy

or becoming more solid, right, like less agility and so on, especially after years or decades of leaders being in places, friendships being built, and so forth, it becomes less innovative.

This is not just about Hezbollah. This is an irregular corporation when we talk about how human organizational structures become more rigid, right? So with the assassinations of much of the leadership or command in Hezbollah, there is a younger generation with new ideas, and the organization is more agile. I, of course, didn't want the assassinations of these people, but this is the result of it. And another thing that we need to note here is that Israel has had an experience of almost 80 years of killing leadership in the Palestinian resistance and Arab and Muslim resistance around the region. And this strategy has shown that zero results can be brought from this.

You can't just, especially in a population that understands martyrdom and historic human struggles in a longer form that goes back all the way to the prophets that are in these holy books. It's impossible to just expect that by killing a leadership, things are going to change. On the contrary, it just adds to the fuel that drives people to resist. And this has happened over and over with the assassinations in Palestine over the decades, and in Lebanon, the same thing. You know, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah himself came into power after the assassination of the Secretary General of Hezbollah before him, and he innovated and made the situation worse for the Israelis. Now, of course, the same thing is happening again with the assassination of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah.

#Pascal

If I'm informed correctly, then I think a three-day funeral is going to start tomorrow, right? July 4th to 7th for Ali Khamenei in Iran. And they're making that a mass event and an international event, especially through social media. What do you think this funeral—what will be the impact in Lebanon, and will large masses of people in Lebanon actually join in that collective remembering of another resistance leader who gave his life in order to resist?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, the processions and proceedings have started today, the third. We can already see international delegations of governments and officials from all around the world coming. The remains of Ayatollah Khamenei and his family members who were martyred are also on display. We saw a few hours ago a delegation of Lebanese resistance officials and family members, including the family members of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, the surviving ones, going to pay their respects and pray at the location where the ceremonies are beginning. There are presidents, vice presidents, and leaders from all around the world, from the region and beyond, who are also going to be there today.

The proceedings will continue for three or four days, with the bodies of Sayyid Ayatollah Khamenei and his family traveling around the country. There are going to be funeral processions here in Lebanon, in Iraq, in Yemen, in other places, in Pakistan, and what have you. And yes, it is expected that thousands upon thousands of people will arrive. There's already talk about 20 million people in

Tehran showing up. So this is going to be huge—one of the biggest, if not the biggest, funerals in recorded human history. The last time we saw something like this was, of course, after the funeral for Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and the funeral for General Soleimani that showed these huge numbers.

The funeral of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah was the largest in the Arab world in modern history, and the funeral of General Soleimani was the largest or the second largest in the history of Iran after the funeral of Ayatollah Khomeini before him. So I think over the next three or four days, we will be seeing the true sentiments of the people in the region and the cohesion of the Axis of Resistance population and members. This is partially, I think, why the Iranians are allowing the memorandum of agreement deception to continue right now. Also, the United States has an interest in allowing the World Cup to finish its proceedings before going back into any full confrontation. And I think we'll be back into full confrontation in the next week.

#Pascal

Right. I wanted to ask you that as well. So you're also thinking that currently they're just hitting the pause button, right? But then, for different reasons, they agree on a pause. But it's going to continue next. Maybe you can speak to that. But one more question—the media war. It seems to me that Iran was extremely skilled at that. And it seems to me that also the Axis of Resistance in general is these days much, much better at getting its version of the conflict out. Do you also see that there's a change happening and that some of these interpretations—I mean, you're working directly on accurate reporting from Lebanon, right, on what's actually happening on the ground—is it finally breaking through in the West that this is not just about terrorism, but this is a resistance struggle against colonialism?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, look, in media warfare, innovation is as crucial and important as in military warfare when we're talking, again, about the imbalance in power between an empire—and in this case, a media empire that controls much of the media in the world, not only in the West—and the Axis of Resistance. So, you know, look at what happened. I think it's very important to look at the cumulative effect of this propaganda war and the innovations that we saw happening from the Axis of Resistance and their populations. So we have tools that are made by the West, like social media or new filming technologies and so forth, like DJI and GoPros and what have you. And maybe the West created these innovations thinking it was going to dominate with them.

But what ended up happening is that we saw the Axis of Resistance and their populations actually manipulating technology and platforms to their advantage. So we saw the first level, which is the citizen journalists—the brave Palestinian people, Lebanese people—who filmed themselves and the crimes being committed against them, the genocide. If it wasn't for these citizen journalists putting out these videos, and the millions of people that retweeted them, reposted them, the algorithmic and censorship controls that the West had over these social media platforms would have worked.

But because of this tsunami, this flood of citizen journalists filming themselves and millions of people retweeting them, it was impossible to algorithmically control the message. So that first layer of citizen journalists was crucial in breaking the monopoly on the story by the imperialist media.

The second level is the military media of Hamas, of Islamic Jihad, of Hezbollah, of Iran, that brought us these glorious videos of Hamas destroying the tanks—the guy running and putting the bomb on top of the tank—or Hezbollah's first-person view from the head of the HEGM missile that's taking out an Israeli tank, or this FPV going through behind an Israeli soldier. Right. Those military intelligence, military operations videos, you know, had the other effect. The first effect from the citizens' media was to show the violence, the crimes, the genocide, the war crimes of the imperialists and the Zionists.

With the military videos that were superbly produced, we had the motivation of showing the resistance capable of taking on the most vicious monster humanity has known—the Zionist colony and its imperialist backers. And so, finally, on top of those two that were the base for this victory, this propaganda victory, we had the social—sorry, the independent—media, whether it's the Zoom warriors like your show or the aggregators that were on Telegram and others, also building on top of this, using the citizens' media and the military media of the Axis of Resistance to take it to another level of analysis and what have you, to fill the gap created by the fact that the television stations associated with the Axis of Resistance that would be capable of producing analysis and so forth are banned in the West.

So these three layers of innovation, these propaganda media innovations that the West hasn't been able to counter, actually won us this propaganda war. And there is nothing that the West can do today, and the Zionists can do today, to wind back the clock. Our minds as a human collective have now been saturated with the propaganda of the Axis of Resistance and its people. It's going to take three generations of people to forget what they saw. There's nothing that the West can do to erase that from the mind and change the results of this propaganda war.

#Pascal

And we're seeing the direct impact also in the vote—not the voting behavior, but the preferences in the United States—a huge shift in old opinion polls on Israel. Maybe a very last question, and then I'll let you go. I promised you not to make this too long. But what is your prediction about when we will see the next round of warfare, also with Iran?

#Laith Marouf

Yeah, I think within the next week we will be back, as soon as the World Cup is finished. And we will be back in full force. We can see those skirmishes happening back and forth, firing between the Americans and the Iranians, and of course the continued war in Lebanon, the possible confrontations that we're beginning to see in Iraq and Yemen. Those are all attempts by the United States to

trigger other battles within the Axis of Resistance sphere without directly attacking Iran. In hopes—this is, I think, the thing that we will see happening from now until a return to a full confrontation between the U.S. and Iran—the U.S. is hoping that it can kind of neutralize the effect of the other components of the Axis of Resistance in the case of a direct war with Iran again.

Remember, during that 44-day war, it was only Hezbollah that intervened on the side of Iran, and it was only in confronting the Zionists, not the vassals in the region. So the U.S. is worried that if there's a second round, somehow Yemen and Iraq will enter the fray in full force. And the results of the entry specifically of Yemen and Iraq will be huge because of Iran, the blockade on the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb that will result, and the possible invasion by Iraqi resistance groups of Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia to destabilize the presence of America and those things. Those are what the U.S. is worried about for the next stage, and this is why it's trying to create as many fires as possible internally in those countries, hoping that the Axis members in those countries will not be part of the formula of resistance once they attack Iran again.

#Pascal

Scorched earth strategies in order to counter the resistance. But we will keep an eye on that. Laith, for people who want to follow you, where should they go?

#Laith Marouf

Well, you can go to our website, freepalestine.video, where you can find all our social media platform links, and you can also donate to our work. We're 100% demonetized on all platforms. We just came back from Portugal and Spain, where we filmed, in 13 days, 21 field reports about the history of pro-Palestine resistance, anti-fascist struggles, and the historical connections between Iberian people and the east of the Mediterranean here. So please take a look at all those amazing documentaries as they're coming out, share them, and donate if you can at freepalestine.video. And from there, you can find all our social media platforms. We're at freepalestine.tv.

#Pascal

I will put the links in the description box below. Laith Marouf, thank you so much for your time today.

#Laith Marouf

Thank you for having me, Pascal Lottaz.