



# Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Lebanon – July to December 2024

31 December 2024

**15 July 2024**

## **Situation in the Lebanese-Israeli border region**

Hezbollah and the Israeli army continue to exchange fire. At the same time, according to various reports, there is considerable movement in the ceasefire negotiations. Hezbollah is said to have agreed in principle to accept a framework agreement of the Lebanese government. According to various sources, agreements have now been reached on several previously unresolved border issues.

On the night of 12.07. to 13.07.24, a firefight between Lebanese and Israeli forces in al-Ghajar is reported, no casualties were reported on either side.

In the meantime, at least 500 people have been reported dead on the Lebanese side, including at least 90 civilians; on the Israeli side there were 29 victims, most of them soldiers.<sup>1</sup>

**29 July 2024**

## **Israel: Rocket fire from Lebanon claims at least twelve civilian lives**

On 27.07.24, a rocket hit a football pitch in the predominantly Druze-inhabited town of Majal Shams in the Israeli annexed Golan Heights (still part of Syria under international law), killing at least twelve civilians between the ages of ten and 16. The casualties were members of the Druze minority, which is mainly found in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. According to Israeli military sources, the projectile was an unguided Iranian-made Falaq-1 missile with a range of around ten kilometres and a warhead weighing around 50 kg and it had been fired from Hezbollah-controlled territory. Hezbollah and Iran deny any involvement in the incident without offering an alternative explanation for the events. The Israeli military leadership assumes that only Hezbollah has missiles of the above-mentioned type in Lebanon. In anticipation of a major Israeli backlash, Beirut airport, among other places, was temporarily closed.

It was the deadliest attack from Lebanon on Israel since Hezbollah began firing rockets in the wake of the Hamas attack on 07.10.23. At least 527 people are now reported dead on the Lebanese side, including at least 104 civilians; on the Israeli side, 22 soldiers and 24 civilians lost their lives.<sup>2</sup>

**05 August 2024**

## **Situation at the Lebanese-Israeli border region**

Hezbollah and the Israeli army continue to exchange fire on a regular basis.

On 30.07.24, an Israeli air strike targeted a building in a Hezbollah-controlled Beirut suburb. In addition to several dozen injured people, three people died, among them, Fouad Shukr, a senior member of Hezbollah, whom Israel holds responsible for the rocket strike on the Golan that killed twelve children and young people on 27.08.24, died (cf. BN of 29.07.24).

At Shukr's funeral on 01.08.24, the Secretary General of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, spoke and announced a "new phase" in the war between Israel and Hezbollah. In the context of the targeted killing of Ismael Haniyeh, chairman of the Hamas politburo, in Tehran on 31.07.24, a major coordinated counter-reaction by Hezbollah and other allied militias is generally expected. Meanwhile, various countries (including the US, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia) have called on their nationals to leave Lebanon.

By now, at least 547 people have been reported dead on the Lebanese side, including at least 115 civilians; the figures for the Israeli side are 22 soldiers and 24 civilians.<sup>3</sup>

## **19 August 2024**

### **At least ten dead in Israeli air strike on factory building**

According to the state news agency NNA, ten civilians were killed by Israeli air strikes in the Lebanese city of Nabatieh on 17.08.24. Five others were injured. All are said to have been Syrian nationals. The Israeli army announced in a statement that it had attacked a Hezbollah arms depot.

According to the Lebanese authorities, this was the deadliest attack since the increase in armed clashes on the Lebanese-Israeli border between Hezbollah and Israel during the times of the Gaza war. Hezbollah attacked the Ayelet Hashahar kibbutz and a military base in northern Israel in retaliation for the Nabatieh attack. According to the Israeli army, two Israeli military personnel were injured in the attack.<sup>4</sup>

## **26 August 2024**

### **Mutual shelling of military positions of Hezbollah and Israel's military**

On 25.08.24, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Israeli military engaged in an intense exchange of fire. According to Israeli reports, 100 fighter jets flew preventive air strikes on Lebanon in a "self-defence operation" after the extensive preparations of rockets and missiles for an attack on Israeli territory had been observed overnight. It is said that thousands of rocket launchers have been destroyed. According to the report, Hezbollah fired 20 drones and 210 rockets from Lebanon, the majority of which were intercepted by air defence. One member of the Israeli navy is said to have been killed by an interceptor, shelling or shrapnel and two others wounded. Hezbollah confirmed that two of its own members and a fighter from an allied militia had been killed. Hezbollah leader Nasrallah stated in an address that the attacks were in retaliation for the killing of a high-ranking member a few weeks ago (cf. BN of 05.08.24). The attacks had only focussed on military targets, he said.<sup>5</sup>

### **Further attacks on Lebanon**

According to Al-Jazeera, at least eight people, presumably Hezbollah members, were killed in an Israeli air strike in southern Lebanon on 23.08.24. One child was also killed. In a separate Israeli attack, a suspected Hezbollah fighter and another child were killed. The incidents occurred prior to the large-scale mutual shelling by Israel and Hezbollah.<sup>6</sup>

### **Attack on high-ranking member of Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade**

According to media reports, an Israeli drone attacked a car in the city of Sidon on 21.08.24, killing Khalil al-Maqdah, a high-ranking officer of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. According to the Israeli military, al-Maqdah was acting on behalf of the terrorist organisation Hezbollah and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards.<sup>7</sup>

## **02 September 2024**

### **Ongoing disputes between Israel and Lebanon**

According to an international news agency, on 28.08.24 an Israeli drone attacked a car at a Syrian checkpoint on the Lebanese border killing three Palestinian fighters and a member of Hezbollah.

Among the victims was Faris Qasim. He is said to have been an important figure in the operations department of the Iranian-backed militant group Islamic Jihad, which is responsible for operational plans in Syria and Lebanon. He is also said to have played a central role in the recruitment of Palestinians for Hezbollah.<sup>8</sup>

## **09 September 2024**

### **Situation in the Lebanese-Israeli border region**

Hezbollah and the Israeli army continue to exchange fire.

In the meantime, at least 614 people have been reported dead on the Lebanese side, including at least 138 civilians as well as 24 military personnel and 26 civilians on the Israeli side.<sup>9</sup>

## **16 September 2024**

### **Situation in the Lebanese-Israeli border region**

Exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli army continues.

On 15.09.24, an Israeli unit dropped leaflets with evacuation orders on the Lebanese side of the village of Ghafar. However, it turned out that this was an unauthorised action, whereupon the Israeli army launched an investigation into the incident.

In the meantime, at least 623 people have been reported dead on the Lebanese side, including at least 142 civilians; victims on the Israeli side were 24 soldiers and 26 civilians.<sup>10</sup>

## **23 September 2024**

### **Situation in the Lebanese-Israeli border region**

The armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel is currently escalating.

On 17.09. and 18.09.24, several thousand Hezbollah-issued pagers and thereafter Hamas-issued walkie-talkies exploded in two waves, killing at least 37 people. While most of the victims were most likely Hezbollah members, two children were also among the dead. Several hundred people were injured, some of them seriously. Although no responsibility has been claimed, Israel is generally seen as the strike's mastermind, which appears to have hit Hezbollah's middle command level particularly hard. It seems that also Iranian contacts of Hezbollah have been affected to a considerable extent. In Lebanon, the Iranian ambassador was seriously wounded when his pager, apparently handed to him by Hezbollah, exploded. In Syria, too, many pagers of the same batch exploded, killing 19 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

On 20.09.24, Ibrahim Akil, the commander of the Radwan forces, an elite Hezbollah unit, and a large number of other high-ranking Hezbollah members were killed by an Israeli air strike in Beirut. The number of people killed in the attack has not yet been determined and was initially reported as 45 on 22.09.24.

On 22.09.24, one of the largest exchanges of fire to date took place. Hezbollah claimed to have fired a three-digit number of rockets, primarily at two military bases in Israel, with no casualties reported on the Israeli side. Several rockets landed in Israel in obviously civilian areas. According to Israeli reports, also pro-Iranian Iraqi militias fired several rockets which were repelled.

The Israeli air force struck over 400 targets in southern Lebanon on 21.09. and 22.09.24, primarily targeting rocket launchers. Videos of several large explosions, which indicate that larger Hezbollah ammunition depots were also hit, are circulating on social media.<sup>11</sup>

**30 September 2024**

#### **Escalation of the armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah**

The armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel is currently escalating.

On 21.09.24, the Israeli air force started an extensive campaign against Hezbollah, focussing on southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and the southern suburbs of Beirut. At times, a four-digit number of attacks were flown daily.

Videos circulating on social media show various secondary explosions in many targets. Furthermore, the leadership of Hezbollah was systematically targeted. Images are circulating on social media creating the impression that the entire leadership of Hezbollah has been wiped out, are clearly exaggerated, however, most of the Hezbollah's publicly known leaders have been killed in attacks meanwhile. The most prominent victim of these targeted killings to date is the former Secretary General and thus the head of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in a major attack on the Hezbollah headquarters in Beirut on 27.09.24, along with a large part of the Hezbollah leadership and at least one general from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The events triggered refugee movements both within Lebanon and between Lebanon and Syria. At the time this article went to press, the fighting is estimated to have resulted in at least 250,000 new internally displaced persons in Lebanon, and more than 30,000 people – mainly Syrian nationals – are said to have fled from Lebanon to Syria.

The intensity of Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel decreased over the course of the campaign, although they had intensified initially. According to information from the Lebanese Ministry of Health on 28.09.24, 1,030 people have died in air strikes since 21.09.24, 156 of them women and 87 minors.<sup>12</sup>

**07 October 2024**

#### **Escalation of the armed conflict between Israel and Hamas**

The Israeli air force continues to carry out intensive air raids on targets in Lebanon on a daily basis. Leading Hezbollah figures, groups affiliated with Hezbollah and Hamas also continue to be systematically targeted. Key focuses of the attacks are southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut. As the number of incidents runs into three figures on a daily basis, only two are highlighted below:

On 05.10.24 Hashem Safieddine was killed in an air strike on the Danieh district of Beirut. Safieddine was Hassan Nasrallah's cousin, and after the latter's death he was the de facto leader of Hezbollah.

On the same day, one of the commanders of the Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing, died together with his family in a targeted attack in Tripoli. This was the only attack on Tripoli to date.

Large numbers of Lebanese have left their homes and fled to the country's interior and also to Syria. The recent hostilities are estimated to have resulted in 1.2 million new internally displaced people in Lebanon, in addition to which more than 375,000 people, for the most part Syrian nationals, are believed to have fled from Lebanon to Syria.

Due to the ongoing events, it is not possible to put an exact figure on the number of casualties at present. The Lebanese health ministry puts the number of dead on the Lebanese side at 1,400 or more, with adult men making up the overwhelming majority of casualties. No reliable reports are currently available on the number of soldiers killed in the launched ground offensive, as both sides are largely maintaining silence about the course of events. The deployment of a third division of the Israeli military to southern Lebanon is an indication of heavy fighting, however.<sup>13</sup>

**14 October 2024**

#### **Armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah**

The Israeli armed forces continue to carry out daily attacks by air and on land against targets in Lebanon.

In addition to attacking ammunition dumps, military infrastructure and roads leading to Syria, leading figures of Hezbollah and other groups associated with Hezbollah also continue to be targeted systematically. Key focuses of the attacks are southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut. With regard to operations to eliminate leading figures in particular, the attacks are now extending beyond these and other areas which are traditionally regarded as "Shiite" and increasingly also taking in regions which have not previously been

affected by the hostilities. In addition, the Israeli army regularly issues evacuation orders for regions in which ground operations are imminent or in which large immobile targets are located. The UN mission United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which has been in existence since 1978, has also been ordered to withdraw its soldiers from the embattled areas in the south and relocate them at least 5 km further north.

According to consistent reports, a number of incidents occurred on 10.10. and 11.10.24 in which observation towers of the UNIFIL mission came under fire from the Israeli side. As a result, two Indonesian UN soldiers suffered minor injuries on 10.10.24 and on 11.10.24 a number of Sri Lankan UN soldiers were slightly injured. UNIFIL has no mandate to militarily enforce UN Resolution 1701 from 2006, which called, among other things, for the withdrawal of the Israeli army and Lebanese armed groups.

It is estimated that 1.2 million people are currently internally displaced in Lebanon as a result of the hostilities. The IOM confirmed a figure of around 670,000 internally displaced people on 09.10.24. In view of the prevailing circumstances, this is considered to represent a minimum conservative estimate. Most of the displaced people are believed to belong to the country's Shiite population. Some 185,000 people are reportedly living in emergency shelters.

According to a UNHCR press statement on 11.10.24, up to 09.10.24 at least 420,000 people had fled from Lebanon to Syria, including some 310,000 Syrians and 110,000 Lebanese.

The death toll on the Lebanese side since 08.10.23 is currently put at 2,170 or more, with adult men making up the overwhelming majority of casualties (approx. 80 %) and most of the deaths reportedly having occurred since 23.09.24.<sup>14</sup>

## **21 October 2024**

### **Armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel**

The Lebanese authorities have reported that at least 16 people died in Israeli air strikes on the municipal building in Nabatieh on 16.10.24. The city's mayor was reportedly among the dead. On the same day, the health ministry reported the first case of cholera this year. Only a week earlier, the WHO had warned that overcrowding in emergency shelters and hospitals was making outbreaks of diseases more likely.

On 18.10.24 the UN's monitoring mission in Lebanon (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL) issued a statement making it clear that it wished to keep the UN troops in the country. The UN mission currently has some 10,000 UN soldiers from 50 different countries in operation at 29 different positions in Lebanon along the border region with Israel. The Israeli government had repeatedly called for a withdrawal of the UN troops on the grounds that they were located in a war zone and that Hezbollah fighters were regularly taking cover behind them. According to UNIFIL, the UN soldiers have come under fire from the Israeli military on five occasions.

A report in an international daily newspaper on 18.10.24 states that the village of Mhaibib in the south of the country has been almost totally destroyed. Analyses of satellite images reportedly prove that around two dozen houses have been destroyed by what appear to have been controlled detonations. The Israeli military stated that it had dismantled a tunnel network of the Redwan Force, a special Hezbollah unit. According to reports in the media, the Mhaibib's residents had already left the village. Also on 18.10.24, Hezbollah released a press statement announcing the beginning of a new escalation in its fight against Israel.

On 19.10.24 a combat drone from Lebanon evaded the Israeli air defences and hit a building close to the prime minister's private residence in Caesarea, Israel. There were no casualties. On the same day, a total of around 180 projectiles were fired at Israel from Lebanon. According to Lebanese rescue workers, on 19.10.24 two people were killed when the car in which they were travelling was hit by what is presumed to have been an Israeli drone near to the Lebanese coastal city of Jounieh.

On 20.10.24 the Israeli air force carried out a series of air strikes all over the country on branches of the Al-Qard al-Hassan financial association. This association is said to be closely linked to Hezbollah. It has been subject to US sanctions since 2007. In Lebanon itself, Al-Qard al-Hassan is run as a charity organisation associated with Hezbollah which provides financial support for people who receive no assistance from the ailing mainstream banking sector. An Israeli army spokesman called on the people of Lebanon in Arabic to leave buildings in the vicinity of Al-Qard al-Hassan facilities before the air bombardment began. The organisation is reported to run some 30 branches throughout the country. Also on 20.10.24, the Israeli military stated that it had attacked a Hezbollah command centre and an underground weapons factory on the evening of 19.10.24.

According to reports in the media, more than 2,400 people have been killed as a result of the hostilities with Israel since October 2023.<sup>15</sup>

## **28 October 2024**

### **Escalation of the armed conflict between Israel and Hamas**

The Israeli armed forces continue to carry out daily attacks by air and on land against targets in Lebanon. Key focuses of the attacks continue to be southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut. Attacks on leading figures are becoming increasingly rarer, especially as the main popular leading figures of Hezbollah are now dead.

The Israeli military continues to issue evacuation orders on a regular basis for regions in which ground operations are underway or in which large immobile targets are located. Major differences apply here with regard to the advance warning time provided. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is still refusing to withdraw its soldiers by at least 5 km to the north and has issued a statement reminding Israel of its obligations under UN Resolution 1701 from 2006.

An air strike hit the Jousieh border crossing between Lebanon and Syria on 25.10.24, rendering it temporarily impassable. Israel justifies attacks on border crossings on the grounds that they are used to provide military support for Hezbollah from Syria. Critics point out that such attacks also make it difficult or impossible for civilian goods traffic or civilians fleeing the hostilities to cross the border.

On 27.10.24 an Israeli air strike hit the town of Haret Saida. There was no advance warning of the strike. The attack targeted Hezbollah official Hussein Fneish, who is reported to have died together with several members of his family.

Residents of Lebanon continue to flee their homes in large numbers, heading for the country's interior or Syria. The number of internally displaced people in Lebanon as a result of the hostilities is currently estimated at up to 1.3 million. As far as can be assessed at present, the overwhelming majority of these displaced people belong to the Shiite ethnic group.

At least half a million people are believed to have fled to Syria. The majority of these people are Syrian nationals. No information is available at present as to whether Palestinians are being turned back at the Syrian border.

Due to the ongoing events, it is not possible to put an exact figure on the number of casualties at present. The death toll on the Lebanese side since 08.10.23 is currently estimated at 2,672 or more, with adult men making up the overwhelming majority of casualties (approx. 80 %). No reliable figures are currently available with regard to the number of soldiers killed in the ongoing ground offensive, as both sides are largely maintaining silence about the course of events.<sup>16</sup>

## **04 November 2024**

### **Armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah**

The Israeli armed forces continue to carry out daily military operations against targets in Lebanon. Key focuses of the attacks continue to be southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut, although isolated attacks targeting individuals are also carried out in other regions. On 29.10.24 Naim Qassem was appointed as the new secretary general of Hezbollah, providing the terrorist organisation with an official leader once again.

The Israeli military continues to issue evacuation orders on a regular basis for regions in which ground operations are underway or in which large immobile targets are located. Major differences apply here with regard to the advance warning time provided.

A series of intense attacks was carried out on targets in the Beqaa Valley on 02.11.24, in the course of which at least 52 people were killed and 72 injured.

Also on 02.11.24, the Israeli military captured a high-ranking Hezbollah official by means of a naval landing operation. Around 25 Israeli soldiers are said to have abducted Imad Fadel Amhaz, whom the Israeli military describes as a leading member of Hezbollah's naval force. He was reportedly captured with the aim of obtaining information from him. Batroun is located on Lebanon's north coast and has a majority Christian population.

According to UNHCR, at least 472,000 people have fled to Syria, the vast majority of whom are Syrians, with minors making up a roughly 60 % share.

Due to the ongoing events, it is not possible to put an exact figure on the number of casualties at present. The death toll on the Lebanese side since 08.10.23 is currently estimated at 2,900 or more and at least 13,150 wounded, with adult men making up the overwhelming majority of casualties (approx. 75 %). No reliable figures are currently available with regard to the number of soldiers killed in the ongoing ground offensive, as both sides are largely maintaining silence about the course of events. The Israeli military puts the number of soldiers killed in the ground offensive to date at 38. In all, 63 Israelis are said to have been killed in the border region with Lebanon since the beginning of the conflict.<sup>17</sup>

## **18 November 2024**

### **Armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel**

The Israeli armed forces (Israeli Defense Forces, IDF) continue to carry out daily military operations against targets in Lebanon. Key focuses of the attacks, the number of which is in the hundreds every day, continue to be southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut, although isolated attacks targeting individuals are also carried out in other regions. In response, Hezbollah launches daily counter-attacks, both on the ground and by firing missiles at targets in Israel.

The IDF continues to issue evacuation orders on a regular basis for regions in which ground operations are underway or in which large immobile targets are located.

On 12.11.24 an air strike was carried out on the village of Ain Yaaqoub in the north-eastern governorate of Akkar, close to the Syrian border. The target was allegedly a member of Hezbollah who had sought refuge in the village, whose population consists for the most part of Sunnis and members of the Greek Orthodox church. At least eight people died.

Six IDF soldiers were killed on 13.11.24 – the highest number of fatalities on any single day to date.

On 17.11.24 the head of Hezbollah's media department, Mohammad Afif, was killed in a targeted attack in Beirut.

On the evening of 17.11.24 an electronics shop in the Beirut district of Mar Elias was hit in an attack. The shop belonged to the brother of Mahmoud Madi, the Hezbollah commander on the south front, who appears to have been the actual target of the attack.

A new estimate by the World Bank puts the damage caused to Lebanon as a result of the war to date at US\$ 5.1 billion in economic damage and US\$ 3.5 billion in infrastructure damage. Around 100,000 homes have reportedly been damaged.

Residents of Lebanon continue to flee their homes in large numbers, heading for the country's interior or Syria. An estimated additional 1,300,000 people have become internally displaced in Lebanon as a result of the hostilities. As far as can be assessed at present, the overwhelming majority of these displaced people belong to the Shiite ethnic group.

The UNHCR estimates that at least 528,000 people (as per 13.11.24) have fled to Syria, although this figure is to be considered as a minimum estimate in view of the prevailing conditions in the border region.

The death toll on the Lebanese side since 08.10.23 is currently estimated at 3,400 or more and at least 15,000 wounded. No reliable figures are currently available with regard to the number of soldiers killed in the ongoing ground offensive, as both sides are largely maintaining silence about the course of events. In all, 76 Israelis are said to have been killed in the border region with Lebanon since the beginning of the conflict.<sup>18</sup>

## **25 November 2024**

### **Armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel**

The Israeli armed forces continue to carry out daily military operations against targets in Lebanon. Key focuses of the attacks are southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut, although isolated attacks targeting individuals are also carried out in other regions. In response, Hezbollah launches daily counter-attacks, both on the ground and by firing rockets at targets in Israel.

According to reports in the media, at least 29 people died in an air strike on the centre of Beirut on 23.11.24. Israeli media report that the strike targeted Mohammed Haidar, a high-ranking member of Hezbollah. Since 23.11.24, intensive fighting has been reported around the small town of Khiam in southern Lebanon, approx. 6 km from the border with Israel.

On 24.11.24 Hezbollah fired at least 250 rockets at Israel, a number of which targeted the greater Tel Aviv area. This was the largest rocket attack on Israel for a number of months. The attack caused damage to property and injured an unknown number of people. Although the Lebanese army is largely staying out of the conflict, some 40 soldiers have been killed in attacks to date.

Many residents of Lebanon continue to flee their homes in large numbers, heading for other parts of the country or Syria.

According to the UNHCR, at least 557,000 people (as per 13.11.24) have fled to Syria, although this figure is to be considered as a minimum estimate in view of the prevailing conditions in the border region.

Due to the ongoing events, it is not possible to put an exact figure on the number of casualties at present. The death toll on the Lebanese side since 08.10.23 is currently estimated at 3,670 or more and at least 15,400 wounded. On the Israeli side, at least 90 soldiers and some 50 civilians have been killed to date.<sup>19</sup>

## **02 December 2024**

### **Ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel**

A ceasefire agreement entered into force at 4 a.m. local time on 27.11.24, officially ending the phase of open warfare. The agreement provides for a 60-day transition period and grants Israel comprehensive rights of intervention.

Under the agreement, Hezbollah must withdraw behind the Litani river and is not allowed to possess any weapons or any infrastructure usable for military purposes south of the river. Observers describe the ceasefire as fragile. It has already been broken several times, with Hezbollah and Israel accusing each other of being responsible for such breaches.

While Hezbollah has officially claimed the ceasefire to be a victory, despite the disadvantageous conditions to which it is subjected under the agreement, substantial numbers of people are already returning to their homes. The Lebanese army has moved considerable forces to the south. Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement, it is to station around 10,000 men in the region.

At the end of the fighting, which began on 08.10.23, the Lebanese health ministry announced the final casualty count from the conflict on the Lebanese side on 28.11.24. The official figures are 3,961 dead and 16,520 injured. Experts suspect that many killed Hezbollah fighters are not included in these figures, however. It is said that Hezbollah actually estimates its own losses at around 4,000 fighters. For its part, Israel estimates that it has killed around 3,000 Hezbollah fighters.

On the Israeli side, 45 civilians and 76 soldiers have died.

Since the beginning of the ceasefire, substantial numbers of Lebanese who had fled their homes have been returning from other parts of the country and also from Syria. In the days after 27.11.24, thousands of people are reported to have crossed the border from Syria to Lebanon every day.<sup>20</sup>

## **09 December 2024**

### **Fragile ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel**

The ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel has largely held to date, although both sides are accusing each other of breaches of the agreement. Isolated exchanges of fire and targeted air strikes still occur.<sup>21</sup>



## 16 December 2024

### Ceasefire agreement: Israeli military withdraws from first town

On 11.12.24 the Israeli armed forces withdrew from the town of Al-Khiyam in southern Lebanon in accordance with the terms of the ceasefire agreement. Only one day later, the Israeli air force carried out an air strike on the town, allegedly targeting a Hezbollah fighter. The Lebanese health ministry reported one fatality.

On 14.12.24 one person died in a drone attack on Al-Khardali.

According to information from the Israeli military, Hezbollah arms caches and depots continue to be found on an almost daily basis. Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement, Hezbollah must not have any fighters or weapons south of the Litani river and Israel has been granted the right to remove or destroy these itself, if necessary.<sup>22</sup>

## 23 December 2024

### Fragile ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel

The ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel has been largely held to date, although both sides are accusing each other of breaches of the agreement.

According to reports in Lebanese media, the Israeli army moved into Bani Hayyan on 18.12.24 and destroyed a number of buildings in the town. It subsequently withdrew from Bani Hayyan on 20.12.24. On the same day, the Lebanese army occupied further positions south of the Litani river in accordance with the terms of the ceasefire.

At least 20 people have died on the Lebanese side in fighting and air strikes since the ceasefire began on 27.11.24. The ceasefire agreement grants Israel the right to take military action, should Hezbollah attempt to rearm and/or build up a presence in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah and Israel are continually accusing each other of breaking the truce.

Lebanese media have reported that three more bodies have been recovered in rescue operations in Beirut. They are allegedly victims of the air strike against Hassan Nasrallah, in which he was killed. An official death toll from the attack is still outstanding, and many people remain missing in Lebanon.<sup>23</sup>

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration  
Briefing Notes  
BN-Redaktion@bamf.bund.de

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  - 3 Al Jazeera: Hezbollah says top commander Fuad Shukr killed in Israeli strike on Beirut, 31.07.24; Naharnet: Foreign nationals told to leave Lebanon as war fears surge, 05.08.24.
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  - 8 Reuters: Israeli strike kills four fighters on Syria-Lebanon border, security sources say, 28.08.2024.
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