

FORUM:	Advisory Panel
ISSUE:	Measures to De-Escalate Israel-Hezbollah Border Hostilities in Lebanon
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POSITION:	Head Chair of Advisory Panel

Introduction

Hezbollah is a Lebanese political party and armed group based mainly in southern Lebanon. Most of the fighting occurs near the Israel-Lebanon border in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah is not affiliated with the Lebanese government, but it is an armed group with its own military forces and operates independently. It has long opposed Israel and has carried out attacks along the Israel-Lebanon border. Since Hezbollah is based in southern Lebanon, it launches attacks from Lebanese territory which causes Israel to target Hezbollah positions which are in Lebanon. As a result, the fighting takes place along the border of Israel and Lebanon. Continued exchanges of attacks has resulted in displacement and growing concerns about regional stability. This report will explain the current situation, discuss the main challenges, and suggest possible solutions to reduce the impact of the conflict on civilians and promote long term peace.



This is picture of Hezbollah with their flag

Background

Hezbollah was established in the early 1980s during the Lebanese Civil War and after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. Israel entered Lebanon to remove Palestinian armed groups, especially the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). During the process, Israel launched attacks on Lebanese territory. The invasion led to the rise of Hezbollah. After the establishment of Hezbollah, Iran supported them by providing political and military assistance and helped them grow.

In 2000, Israel had withdrawn its forces from southern Lebanon after nearly two decades of military presence. However, even after Israel had withdrawn its forces, Hezbollah continued to view



Israel as a threat and kept being armed. Hezbollah argued that the resistance and armed status were necessary due to unresolved territorial disputes. On the other hand, Israel viewed Hezbollah's military presence as a security threat. Hezbollah soon led to a war that became the main background of the problem with the current border.

In July 2006, Hezbollah crossed the Israel-Lebanon border and captured two Israeli soldiers. Israel responded with a large-scale military operation in Lebanon, and that conflict lasted 34 consecutive days. During the conflict, many civilians were killed, and major infrastructure in Lebanon was damaged; even though the war ended after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, hatred from both sides continued to elevate.



Scene of explosion in Israel-Hezbollah Border

After almost a decade, the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2024 has once again increased the tension between Israel and Hezbollah. Hezbollah started to launch attacks toward northern Israel, stating that the attacks were for supporting the Palestinians. Israel has also launched strikes against Hezbollah positions in Lebanon. The continued exchange of attacks has resulted to have displaced civilians on both sides of the border.

Problems Raised

Humanitarian Needs

Almost all internally displaced people (IDPs) face severe shortages of basic necessities, including food and other resources. These shortages have made citizens hard to meet their basic needs and have created urgent humanitarian concerns. The health care that is first given by the government is sometimes limited to IDPs, but the chances that IDPs can get health care are low. A lot of displacement camps are already out of medical supplies needed. Those medical supplies are already gone and way off from the needs. In October 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) has delivered two shipments that would fulfil the needs of 800 to 1000 injured patients. Education is one of the basic needs that citizens should take care of. Children of every country have the right to get a proper education while growing up. Especially in their childhood, they should get the minimum education that will provide them the basic information and knowledge for the adaption for the societal change. The prolonged conflict has created fear and instability among both sides of civilians.

Security and Protection Problems

Continuing from the humanitarian needs that were mentioned, IDPs are the most vulnerable to violence. When they are not exposed to any basic needs and safety barriers, security and protection become the biggest problem. In a country where even the international treaty is not there for them, they are always exploited for the violence of life. In a life where their safety is not guaranteed, no further improvement can be done. Their only focus is to maintain their life, to protect themselves from any possible war that could happen right in front of them at any second.

Cause the possibility of a threat to their life, citizens are always in a state of insecurity. All areas where they are prone to violence. Any minute, any second, a threat is right in front of them. Ongoing conflicts are making the IDPs more insecure. The protection is sincerely needed. The protection of the citizens is the first problem in any country, and the loss of safe livelihood for the citizen is making the conflicts into a state of chaos.

Risk of Regional Escalation

Being more specific to the current situation, this conflict has the potential to expand beyond Lebanon and Israel. Iran has supported Hezbollah politically and militarily for decades, but the presence of support increases regional tension at this moment. On the other hand, Israel has strong relationships with countries such as the United States. Larger conflict has the potential to involve additional countries and create wider instability in the Middle East. Continued military exchanges are increasing the risk of unintended escalation of the whole situation.

International Actions

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006)

The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1701 in 2006, intended to end the Israel-Hezbollah War. The resolution was for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. Withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon was requested in the resolution. It also called for the Lebanese government and UN peacekeepers to increase control over southern Lebanon rather than Hezbollah. It aimed to prevent armed groups from operating near the Israel-Lebanon border. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 was one of the first major international efforts to reduce tensions between Israel and Hezbollah and created a



Edited picture of United Nation Security Council Resolution 1701



framework for maintaining peace along the border. However, the resolution remained as an attempt because both sides have accused each other of violating its terms.

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was established in 1978 and was expanded after the 2006 war through Resolution 1701. It is located in southern Lebanon near the Israel-Lebanon border. Its mission is to monitor the ceasefire and reduce tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. UNIFIL is the one that supports communication between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israeli military to help provide stability and protect civilians in conflict areas.



Logo of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Key Players

Iran

Iran is one of the Hezbollah's strongest supporters, and in military factors, Iran also contains a large factor. Iran not only provides military support but also provides political and financial support to Hezbollah. In fact, the relationship between Iran and Hezbollah is the reason why regional involvement of the current issue increases. Iran opposes Israel and groups that supports Israel. On the other side, Iran views Hezbollah as an important ally and supports Hezbollah's actions that weaken Israel.

United States

United States is one of Israel's closest allies just like Hezbollah and Iran. United States provides significant diplomatic and military support. United States views Hezbollah as a major security threat. United States supports Israel by giving humanitarian assistance and prioritizes Israel's security.

Possible Solutions

Strengthen the Ceasefire and Border Monitoring

Strengthening the ceasefire and border monitoring is one of the possible solutions. There is already a current ceasefire agreement. However, reinforcing it would reduce the chance of accidental escalation of the whole situation. The agreement could be strengthened by having the United Nations monitor violations and report them to the Security Council. Additional Security Council resolutions could also set clear consequences for breaking the ceasefire. Also, increasing the monitoring role of UNIFIL



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along the Israel-Lebanon border would directly support and protect the civilians living near the border. By moving these two things in action and encourage both sides to establish direct communication way to prevent misunderstanding would certainly build trust between both sides over time. Challenges are that both sides must be willing to cooperate and UNIFIL has limited authority and cannot force both sides for compliance.

Increase Humanitarian Assistance and Diplomatic Negotiations

Citizens are always craving safe place where they can protect themselves from violence. And these wishes can be accomplished by the legal support from the organizations.

International organizations such as the United nations (UN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) can provide resources.

Directly giving humanitarian aids to citizens might seem basic, however it is one of the most impactful ways that



could be given to citizens. Only by giving Citizens being provided with humanitarian aid reduce the risk of violence now they are exposed to.

Glossary

Ceasefire Agreement

Agreement of stoppage of a war in each side agrees with the other to suspend aggressive actions often due to mediation by a third party.

Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)

The official military of Lebanon that are responsible for defending the country and maintaining national security.

Regional Stability

The condition in which neighboring countries could remain peaceful, secure, and free from conflicts that are major armed.

Hezbollah

A Lebanese political party and armed group based in southern Lebanon. It is different from Lebanese government and has been involved in repeated conflicts with Israel.



Logo of Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)



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