FORUM: Security Council

ISSUE: Situation in Lebanon

STUDENT OFFICER: Joshua Smith

POSITION: Head Chair of Security Council

Introduction

The current situation within the country of Lebanon has transformed into one of the most drastic theaters of conflict in our global stage today, as well as being one of the most urgent security concerns the international community is facing today. Since October 2023, conflict between Israel and Hezbollah had been dramatically rising after the occurrence of the Israel-Hamas war within Gaza. What pushed this escalating conflict truly into the territory of an active conflict zone was the extremely frequent hostile exchange of missile strikes, remote-controlled drone attacks, as well as multiple airstrikes along the present Israel-Lebanon border. By the year 2024, the regional fighting had greatly expanded, resulting in thousands of casualties, mass destruction of civilian infrastructure, and hundreds of thousands of people being displaced in both Lebanon and Israel.



Figure 1 Damaged Lebanese Buildings

Before the conflict had even began to escalate, Lebanon was already experiencing a myriad of the world's worst economic crises, serious humanitarian issues, and polity instability. The additional violence from the conflict has gone even further in stripping power away from the state of Lebanon, as well as putting a chokehold on humanitarian aid and increasing the potential risk of a larger regional war in the Middle East.

As for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), this pressing crisis presents a number of concerns. Some of these concerns include subjects such as maintaining international safety and peace, ensuring civilian protection, backing up Security Council resolutions that have been published in the past, and preventing the further spread of conflict within Middle Eastern regions. While discussing this topic, it is imperative that delegates take into account short-term and long-term effects of any proposed resolution to the conflict and political instability.

TIANMUN

Background

Armed conflict between the nations of Israel and Lebanon is no new occurrence: it has been present for many decades. After the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, along with multiple subsequent conflicts between nations in the Arabian Peninsula, the southern section of Lebanon was filled with more frequent military intervention, with Palestinian, Israeli, and Lebanese military groups being highly involved.

The group Hezbollah was first founded in the earlier part of the 1980s while the conflict in the Lebanese Civil War was raging due to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Since they were supported by Iran, they were soon able to transform into a political party in Lebanon, becoming one of the most powerful non-state military forces. Israel has stated that Hezbollah is a terrorist group, but some other countries beg to differ. Some nations agree with Israel's view, while others view the organization in a better light.

Large-scale damage and destruction afflicted both Israel and Lebanon in the 2006 Lebanon War. During the conflict, there were approximately 1,300 Israeli soldiers injured or dead and 500 Hezbollah soldiers dead as a result of the war. Additionally, there were more than a million people displaced due to the conflict. Following the conflict, a Security Council Resolution called for a ceasefire and withdrawal of military forces within the conflict. Despite the short-term issues the resolution solved, the long-term implications were not dealt with. Over several years, skirmishes and small-scale conflict continued between Israeli and Lebanese forces. For example, in August 2010, Lebanese and Israeli forces fired at each other at the village of Adaysseh; this skirmish is now known as the Adaysseh border clash. Additionally, in January 2015, the Shebaa Farms incident took place. In this small conflict, Hezbollah deployed anti-tank warheads at an Israeli military convoy, killing two Israeli soldiers. Israel then responded by deploying their own artillery in the area.



Figure 2 Hezbollah Military Personnel

Eventually, Hamas initiated a large coordinate attack on Israel based in Gaza on October 7, 2023. Subsequently, Hezbollah claimed to be aligned with Palestinians within Gaza and likewise led large attacks on northern Israel. Thereafter, Israel retaliated against Hezbollah with air and drone strikes, attacking strategic locations where Hezbollah positions are located within Lebanon.

While entering 2025, Lebanon and Israel both increased the strength of their military actions, with Israel increasing their military spending by 202% and Lebanon increasing their military spending by 120%. Both nations currently pour billions of dollars per year into their military forces. Hezbollah emerged with a more extensive use of precise missile strikes and armed drones, while Israel continued to hammer attacks deeper into Lebanese territory. This resulted in the loss of several major commanders of Hezbollah, such as Nabil Kaouk, Hashem Safieddine, and Ali Karaki, as well as the demolition of a substantial amount of Lebanese civilian infrastructure.

Because of the heat of the chaos and war, many civilians from both sides of the conflict have been displaced. Both experts and internationally established organizations warn that the continuation of this conflict could potentially result in a larger-scale conflict involving more nations in the Middle East.

In a way, the war between Israel and Lebanon is pouring oil onto an already raging fire of domestic challenges within Lebanon. Lebanon has consistently been experiencing high levels of inflation, a political stalemate, and record-high levels of debt. This current situation has become one of the most fragile in global security.

Problems Raised

Problem 1: The Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon

The conflict between Israel and Lebanon has caused many sections of civilian infrastructure to be badly damaged. Not only has land for agriculture been negatively affected due to missile and ballistic attacks, but educational centers and hospitals have had to close due to the danger from the conflict.

Moreover, the displacement of families within both nations is rising as a serious issue. Because of this, along with constant air and missile strikes, organizations focusing on humanitarian aid have had a difficult time reaching these displaced families in need. The economic crisis in Lebanon is further contributing to the inability of organizations and the government to help Lebanese families in need.

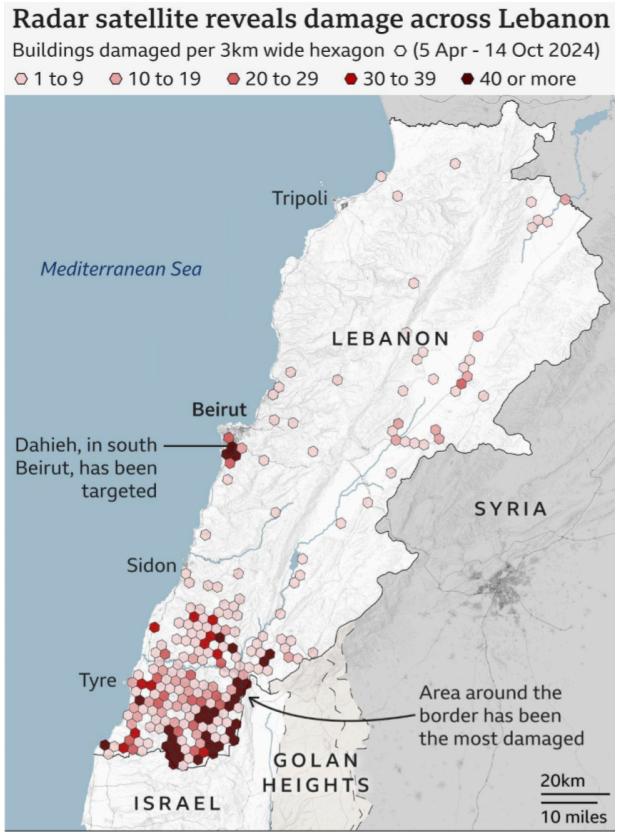


Figure 3 Damage Locations in Lebanon

Problem 2: A Potential Risk of a Larger Regional War

Despite the conflict currently being centered around Lebanon and Israel, it is highly possible that in the next few years, the conflict could expand if nothing is done about it soon. Israel shares close bonds with the USA, while Hezbollah shows a strong relationship with the state of Iran. This could be detrimental if the conflict escalates further, as larger military powers of the world could possibly be dragged into the conflict to maintain current national ties.

In addition to this, UN peacekeeping efforts in the region are becoming more dangerous by the day. The increasing frequency of airstrikes and drone attacks is keeping a hold on these UN efforts to maintain stability in the region.

Without an effective end to this conflict, the Lebanese government could continue to fall into disrepair and be continuously lose its power because of extremist recruitment in the area.

International Actions

Action 1: Efforts in UN Peacekeeping

The UN has tried to keep hostilities low in Lebanon mainly through the use of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Being established officially in 1978, the task force delves into many jobs, including monitoring the border between Lebanon and Israel, keeping the peace in the regions around Lebanon, and more.



Figure 4 UN Peacekeeper Near the Border

Over the course of this conflict, the UN Secretary-General continues to call for a ceasefire between the two warring states, in addition to the proper protection of civilians and international respect and passage for humanitarian aid to those in need.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are UN humanitarian aid organizations that have, over the course of the conflict, continuously supplied the displaced civilians of the conflict with basic resources and supplies such as food, water, shelter, and medical aid. These efforts are beneficial, but without a ceasefire or some resolution, total damages will continue to increase.

Action 2: International Diplomacy and Aid

To prevent the further escalation and potential spread of the conflict between Israel and Lebanon, several nations have set forth diplomatic efforts. For example, the US has maintained steady communication with both Israel and Lebanon, playing a major role in negotiating temporary agreements between the nations in order to reduce possible skirmishes and tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border. The country of France has likewise been involved in the negotiations, encouraging diplomacy as a long-time ally of Lebanon.

Other actors in the Middle East, such as Qatar and Egypt have also been involved in possible ceasefire meetings involving Lebanon and Israel. As a whole, financial support and humanitarian aid has been given form the European Union (EU) in order to support Lebanon.

Additionally, some global financial organizations such as the World Bank have been highly involved in discussions on the topic of assisting the economic revitalization of the Lebanese government.

Key Players

Israel

The justification from Israel for the escalated conflict is that Hezbollah's missile and ballistic weapon presence around the north border pose too much of a threat to ignore. Because of the need to protect civilians and the nation of Israel's security along the border, Israel deems its military efforts as being necessary. Israel strongly advocates for the removal of non-government militarized groups from the areas of southern Lebanon.

Lebanon

Lebanon has truly reached a crossroads. It values the importance of protecting national sovereignty and civilian protection against foreign forces such as Israel, but it also acknowledges its limited control over the potentially hostile actions of the Hezbollah political group. Lebanon believes that diplomatically-focused solutions and more humanitarian aid is the way to go for an effective resolution.



Figure 5 Israeli and Lebanese Flags

Hezbollah

Hezbollah has strongly aligned itself with the Palestinian forces, which is why Hezbollah conducts attacks on northern Israel. This political/military group states that military action is currently necessary as long as there is still a threat from Israel against Lebanon and Palestine. In addition, Iran and Hezbollah continue to maintain strong relations, and Hezbollah stands on its view that Israeli military actions should be stopped.

United States

The US remains Israel's strongest international partner, and it vehemently supports the Israeli use of military for national defense and mitigating any potential threats in the region. The US still advocates for the deescalation of armed conflict in the areas around Israel and for peace within the Middle East.

Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran openly supports Hezbollah, stating that Hezbollah is a valid resistance against military actions coming from Israel. Iran has continued to support diplomatic discussions among neighboring nations to preserve Hezbollah, and it is fully against the military operations from the state of Israel.

Possible Solutions

Solution 1: Mutual Ceasefire and Enhanced Peacekeeping

One possible solution to the issue could be to have diplomatic negotiations in order to establish a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel, with both parties putting an immediate halt to military operations in the region. In addition to this, an increased level of peacekeeping efforts from UNIFIL through monitoring and observational technology could be established.



Figure 6 An Israeli Tank

Vivid oversight mechanisms ought to be set in place to ensure that Hezbollah and Israel both hold up their end of the agreement of a ceasefire. A successful implementation of this mechanism would be very effective in maintaining peaceful relations within the Middle Eastern regions.

Solution 2: Economic and Diplomatic Stabilization Efforts

Solely relying on military-related solutions cannot solve this issue within Lebanon. It is equally important that the international community aims to support diplomacy efforts aimed at resolving tensions and addressing security at the border for the nation of Lebanon.

Economic efforts to revitalize the Lebanese economy also need to be set in place for long-term stability within Lebanon. These economic efforts could potentially be incited by international organizations such as the World Bank and by local government agencies. Additionally, international organizations should provide financial support in rebuilding the damaged infrastructure of Lebanon.

Additionally, continual dialogue and discussion between Lebanon, Israel, and other involved parties in the Middle East is vital for long-term stability. There may be potentially improved relations, communication, and a reduced chance of conflicts in the future because of these discussions.

Glossary

Ceasefire

A temporary agreement for an end of fighting between two or more nation-states.

Hezbollah

A Lebanese political and military organization established in the 1980s that is supported by Iran.

Peacekeeping

The deployment of international troops in an area in order to reduce conflict in an area.

Displacement

When an individual is forcibly moved to a different location without much support.

Humanitarian Aid

Supplies and emergency assistance in the form of medical care, food, water, and shelters.

Resolution

An official statement or document issued by the UN stating instructions for nations to comply with.

Escalation

An increase in the intensity or severity of a conflict or situation.



Figure 7 Reported Attacks on the Border

TIANMUN

Sources

"How to End the Third Lebanon War-and Prevent the Fourth." *The Washington Institute*, www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/how-end-third-lebanon-war-and-prevent-fourth. Accessed 30 July 2026.

"Israel Issues New Lebanon Occupation Map and Is in Talks with U.S. over Deployment." *NBCNews.Com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 18 June 2026, www.nbcnews.com/world/lebanon/israel-issues-new-lebanon-occupation-map-talks-us-deployment-rcna350681.

"Israeli-Lebanese Framework Agreement: A Promising Start?" *Türkiye Today*, 4 July 2026, www.turkiyetoday.com/opinion/the-israeli-lebanese-framework-agreement-a-promising-start-3223172.

"Lebanon: Israel's Surge in Attacks Highest since Ceasefire." *NRC*, NRC, 5 Feb. 2026, www.nrc.no/news/2026/lebanon-israels-surge-in-attacks-highest-since-ceasefire.

"Lebanon: Israeli Strikes 'could Amount to International Crimes,' Warns Türk | UN News." *United Nations*, United Nations, news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1168034. Accessed 30 July 2026.

"Middle East Live 15 April: Civilian Dangers Intensify as Israel Expands Lebanon Evacuation Orders | UN News." *United Nations*, United Nations, news.un.org/en/story/2026/04/1167302. Accessed 31 July 2026.

"Washington to Host Israel-Lebanon Talks Next Week." *France 24*, FRANCE 24, 10 Apr. 2026, www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20260409-middle-east-live-us-iran-truce-enters-second-day-as-war-flares-in-lebanon.

"What Is Hezbollah?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/backgrounders/what-hezbollah. Accessed 30 July 2026.

"Will Lebanon Remain Trapped by Its Old Fault Lines in 2026?" *Arab News Japan*, www.arabnews.jp/en/middle-east/article_161828/. Accessed 31 July 2026.

Another War Could Break out on the Israel-Lebanon Border, www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2024/01/04/another-war-could-break-out-on-the-israel-lebanon-border. Accessed 30 July 2026.

BBC Team, the Visual Journalism. "Israel-Lebanon in Maps: Tracking the Conflict with Hezbollah and Iran." *BBC News*, BBC, 27 Nov. 2024, www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9vp7dg3ml1o.

CGTN. "Israel, Lebanon to Extend Ceasefire for 45 Days." *CGTN*, CGTN, 16 May 2026, news.cgtn.com/news/2026-05-16/Israel-Lebanon-to-extend-ceasefire-for-45-days-1NbpZTDhSeY/p.html.

Ebrahim, Nadeen, and Sarah Tamimi. "What Is Israel's War in Lebanon and Why Could It Shatter the Iran Ceasefire?" *CNN*, Cable News Network, 10 Apr. 2026, www.cnn.com/2026/04/09/middleeast/israel-us-lebanon-iran-ceasefire-intl.

In Shellshocked Lebanon, More than a Million Displaced by Israeli Strikes - March 27, 2026 | Reuters, www.reuters.com/pictures/shellshocked-lebanon-more-than-million-displaced-by-israeli-strikes-2026-03-27/TLSXAA2AG5LKLDDVQD6IKHEVD4/. Accessed 31 July 2026.

Israel Contemplates a Ground Invasion of Lebanon, www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/19/israel-contemplates-a-ground-invasion-of-lebanon. Accessed 31 July 2026.

Liebermann, Oren, and Tal Shalev. "As Iran War Rages, Israel Seizes Chance to Finish the Job against Hezbollah." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 6 Mar. 2026, www.cnn.com/2026/03/06/middleeast/israel-iran-hezbollah-war-analysis-intl.

Motamedi, Maziar. "Is the Trajectory of Lebanon-Israel Border Conflict Changing?" *Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 16 Nov. 2023, www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/31/is-the-trajectory-of-lebanon-israel-border-conflict-changing.

Who Are the U.N. Peacekeepers at Lebanon-Israel Border? - The New York Times, www.nytimes.com/article/unifil-un-peacekeepers-lebanon.html. Accessed 30 July 2026.