

Hezbollah successfully strikes Israel, Mossad

Hezbollah claimed it targeted 11 Israeli military locations with over 320 Katyusha rockets. Most of the projectiles hit Israeli military bases in northern Israel's Galilee region and the occupied Golan Heights, followed by drone strikes against military forces during the ensuing chaos. Israel has declared the area off-limits to the press. Later, Hezbollah announced that it concluded its series of attacks that began on Sunday morning and warned Israel that any further mistakes or attacks on Lebanese cities would have dire consequences for Israel.

Hezbollah had already warned that it would launch a large-scale attack in retaliation for the killing of its senior commander, Fuad Shukur. In its recent statement, Hezbollah said it carried out an aerial attack using numerous drones on areas under Israeli control. The statement further emphasized Hezbollah's high level of preparedness and warned that if civilians in Lebanon were harmed, the punishment would be severe and intolerable.

As the Zionist regime's army commenced its own retaliatory strikes on Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant also informed US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin of the overall situation. Israeli observers were worried that in the 48 hours that followed, the entity would be subjected to another wave of attack from Resistance groups in Yemen, Iraq, and/or Syria, while a major attack from Iran was expected to come as the Arbaeen march of Imam Hussein (PBUH) ends.

According to US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby, the US stays committed to ensuring Israel's security while continuing its role in containing the conflict in the region. Israel has informed the US that its preemptive attacks on Lebanon were intended to prevent Hezbollah's large-scale attack. However, Israel's strategy failed as a significant Hezbollah assault went through regardless, further compro-



People participate in a rally that was held in Lebanon on August 25, 2024, to mark the holy occasion of Arbaeen.
● MEHR



People watch Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah deliver a televised address, at a cafe in Sidon, Lebanon, on August 25, 2024.
● HASSAN HANKIR/REUTERS

missing Israel's security. Meanwhile, the Israeli military advised residents in southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah is active, to evacuate as soon as possible. Yet, the Israeli actions

did not cause widespread panic in Lebanon, as the regime hoped, and people continued to participate in Arbaeen ceremonies, ignoring Israeli threats. A Western diplomat

commented that Hezbollah has once again succeeded in undermining Israeli deterrence. Israeli reports indicate that Hezbollah initially targeted two crucial military locations

near Tel Aviv. An Arab security official, speaking anonymously, mentioned that Hezbollah's attack was more severe than usual, restoring parity. This is all while the Israeli military



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's
correspondent in
Pakistan

OPINION

On Sunday, Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel, marking what Hezbollah has termed the first phase of revenge for the martyrdom of one of its senior commanders. In response to this major attack, Tel Aviv declared a 48-hour nationwide emergency. While Israel, as always, claimed that the attack was thwarted, hospitals there were put on emergency alert. Around the world, this attack has raised concerns about the intensification of the conflict between Resistance forces and Israel.

launched preemptive strikes against Hezbollah in Lebanon an hour before Hezbollah's attack, aiming to limit the possibility of attacks on Israel. However, the Israeli military and intelligence apparatuses suffered severe failure, as Hezbollah struck two military sites in Tel Aviv, exposing weaknesses in Israeli military power. Hezbollah has also refuted Israeli claims that its preemptive strikes were meant to prevent retaliatory attacks. After Hezbollah announced the completion of the first phase of its counterattacks on Sunday morning, Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon continued, potentially complicating the situation further. Hezbollah will likely respond once the outcomes of the Israeli bombardment have become clear.

The Lebanese Ministry of Health reported soon after that two people were martyred and two others slightly injured in the town of Altiri as a result of the Israeli attack following Hezbollah's assault. Additionally, Hezbollah ally group Amal movement announced the death of one of its fighters, identified as Ayman Idris, who was martyred in the Israeli attack in the Kham area of southern Lebanon.

The gravity of Hezbollah's Sunday attack is highlighted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's emergency cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv shortly after the attack. The meeting aimed to devise a new strategy to counter the security threats on the northern front. Israelis have stated that Hezbollah has turned the north into hell, with 60,000 Jews displaced and burdening Tel Aviv.

Diplomatic sources immediately attested that Hezbollah achieved all its targets in the attack on Sunday, including a significant target, Mossad's intelligence unit 8200, which was involved in planning the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Due to the intensity of this attack, lines of fleeing Israeli citizens have reappeared at Tel Aviv airport.

Following Hezbollah's retaliation Who won this bout?

OPINION

In his speech, hours following the Hezbollah retaliation against Israel on Sunday, the movement's leader Hassan Nasrallah said that the group has "targeted sites and barracks to exhaust the Iron Dome and its interceptive missiles, allowing drones to reach their targets".

"We identified a set of targets near Tel Aviv that meet our specifications, including the Gilot base, which is a central base for Israeli intelligence and houses Unit 8200," Nasrallah added.

"Our data confirms that a significant number of drones reached these targets, but the enemy is concealing the facts. However, the coming days and nights will reveal the truth of what happened there."

On that same night, Abu Obeida, the spokesperson for the Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, congratulated Hezbollah for its "initial response operation" and emphasized that Hezbollah's operation demonstrates a significant shift in the strategic landscape for Israel since the start of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

"The enemy has no safety from retribution, and there are no limits to the possibility of striking it anywhere and from any front," Abu Obeida said.

Despite all of this, some voices, including many anti-Hezbollah Arab analysts, doubted the effectiveness of Hezbollah's retaliation.



A multiple rocket launcher belonging to Hezbollah raises into the firing position, below an aperture in the roof of a tunnel in a video released by Hezbollah on August 16, 2024.
● AL HASANIZEN