

scene absurdity was a career and decorated civil servant promoting Canada's values and interests at home and overseas and was charged with confronting anti-Semitism on a university campus.

My goodness.

Not done embarrassing himself, Wilczynski turned amateur psychoanalyst by suggesting that his online detractors – who chastised

him for “joking” about children's deaths – were guilty of “morbid projection”.

Then, Wilczynski trotted out the predictable, exculpatory bromide that he found the “loss of innocent lives...abhorrent”.

“There has been significant misunderstanding of my use of the word “brilliant”, he wrote on X. “The loss of innocent lives in any conflict is abhorrent & must be

avoided. As a retired national security & intel leader, my use of that word was about the complexity & sophistication of an operation.”

Whether Wilczynski is prepared to admit it or not, the shadowy architects of Israel's “complex” and “sophisticated” “operation” are guilty of killing Fatima and Bilal.

They bear responsibility. They are to blame. The killings should

haunt their consciences since they will never be held to account. Instead, they may win medals and promotions. They will be praised by Wilczynski and callous company for their “service” and inventiveness.

Wilczynski's hurried and self-serving clarification did not work.

On September 18, he took, once again, to a social media platform renowned for its seriousness of

purpose, intelligence, and nuance, X, to announce his resignation.

“My posts on the Hezbollah/Israel war caused harm & affected my ability to help combat antisemitism at U of Ottawa. My intent in sharing is irrelevant when it is clear many were hurt by them. I apologize. I resigned as Special Advisor on Antisemitism,” he wrote.

Wilczynski's posts that caused

such “hurt” and “harm” remain, as of this writing, live on X.

Meanwhile, Fatima and Bilal have been buried. They will never graduate. They will never marry. They will never have families of their own to love.

And Fatima will never learn English.

The article was first published by Al Jazeera.

Israel's attack on Lebanon using exploding electronics, part of a long history of targeting civilians



By Jonathan Ofir
Musician, conductor
and writer

OPINION

The massive unfolding attack in Lebanon targeting personal electronics belonging to members of Hezbollah, which has killed tens of people and wounded roughly 3,000, is already beyond doubt Israel's work. The attack that began last Tuesday has continued into a second day, with more reports of other personal communication devices exploding, killing at least nine people and injuring dozens of others at a funeral on last Wednesday for people who had been killed in the first attack the day prior.

The ongoing attack, which can only be described as terrorist in nature, is unprecedented in its scope and method, but the nature of its indiscriminate attack is far from unique for Israel. In fact, Israel's doctrine of inflicting massive harm to civilians is named after the area of Beirut, Dahiya, where this very attack was centered. The most recent development marks a shocking advancement in Israel's wholesale disregard for human life but it is not new, even if you would never learn that from reading the Western press.

Western media spin

The New York Times team of Patrick Kingsley, Euan Ward, Ronen Bergman, and Michael Levenson covered the attack, and while they did name Israel as the culprit, it worked to include Israel's blatantly false p.r. angle that it was a targeted attack.

The Times reported:

“According to American and other officials briefed on the attack, Israel hid explosive material in a shipment of Taiwanese-made pagers imported into Lebanon. The explosive material, as little as one or two ounces, was inserted next to the battery in each pager, two of the officials said. The pagers, which Hezbollah had ordered from the Gold Apollo company in Taiwan, had been tampered with before they reached Lebanon, according to some of the officials. According to one official, Israel calculated that the risk of harming people not affiliated with Hezbollah was low, given the size of the explosive”.

The Times also wrote that “the blasts appeared to be the latest salvo in a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that escalated after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7,” giving this an aura of mere military activity, rather than a blatantly imprecise and deadly attack on a civilian population. American whistleblower Edward Snowden, cited on Sept. 17, correctly summarized the focus and impact of the attack:

“What Israel has just done is, via *any* method, reckless. They blew up countless numbers of people who were driving (meaning cars out of control), shopping (your children are in the stroller standing behind him in the checkout line), et cetera. Indistinguishable from terrorism.”

Al Jazeera's senior political analyst Marwan Bishara provided a reality check, perhaps most pertinent for Western audiences:

“For our viewers around the world, it is probably helpful to do some ‘role-play’ here. Imagine if 1,200 people, active in the Pentagon, State Dept. and CIA, had pagers explode in their faces, arms and abdominals. How would you think the U.S. would feel about that?”

The Times notes Israel's “long history of using technology to carry out covert op-



erations against Iran” as if it were some impressive technological achievement. But really, in order to understand what Israel is doing here, we must look at its track record of indiscriminate attacks. And this is, in fact, not only historically relevant but strategically and geographically relevant as well.

The path from indiscriminate attacks to genocide

The name of the Dahiya Doctrine stems from the Dahiya quarter of Beirut that Israel targeted and leveled during the 2006 war, a quarter where many families affiliated with Hezbollah lived. In 2008, then military Chief of Northern Command Gadi Eisenkot (later chief of staff and centrist minister), coined the doctrine and outlined “what will happen” to any enemy that dares attack Israel: “What happened in the Dahiya quarter of Beirut in 2006 will happen in every village from which Israel is fired on... We will apply disproportionate force on [the village] and cause great damage and destruction there. From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages, they are military bases.”

Israel applied this method already in its 2008-9 Gaza onslaught. The UN ‘Goldstone Report’ of 2009 concluded that Israel had conducted a “deliberately disproportionate attack, designed to punish, humiliate and terrorize a civilian population”, and noted that the Dahiya Doctrine “appears to have been

↑ A photo of the rubble in South Beirut in 2006 after massive Israeli air strikes targeted the Lebanese capital.
● REUTERS

precisely what was put into practice.” Just to reiterate: “Punish, humiliate and terrorize.” That last word, “terrorize”, should give us all pause, especially in this particular context. The recent Gaza onslaught has in its way been the implementation of this doctrine into full-blown genocide. This is not surprising, since the vein of deliberate harm to civilians as a logic of “warfare” has been in the DNA of this doctrine to begin with. So now, Israel is blowing up pagers. The prospect of this being called an act of terror by Western media appears to be very low. That is still considered a radical notion, when it comes to Israel because terror is a political term that is only reserved for enemies of the West. For the readers of the New York Times, it is just a “latest salvo” and not a reflection on the nature of Israel itself.

The article first appeared on Mondoweiss.

↑ Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Kham on September 25, 2024.
● RABIH DAHER/AFP



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