# Hezbollah Launches Rockets and Drones at Israeli Military Sites, Escalating Border Hostilities



Hezbollah launched rockets and weaponized drones at nine Israeli military sites on Thursday, escalating hostilities on Lebanon's southern border for the second consecutive day. This attack was in retaliation for an Israeli strike on Tuesday that killed a senior Hezbollah field commander. A Lebanese security source described it as the largest attack by Hezbollah since October, when the group started exchanging fire with Israel amid the Gaza war.

Early Friday, a strike on a building near the port city of Tyr resulted in the death of a civilian woman and injuries to more than a dozen individuals, many of them children, according to Lebanese security sources. The Israeli military is investigating the incident.

Hezbollah stated it fired volleys of Katyusha and Falaq rockets at six Israeli military locations, with Al-Manar television reporting over 100 rockets launched simultaneously. Additionally, Hezbollah claimed to have used attack drones against Israel's northern command headquarters, an intelligence base, and a military barracks. A security source told Reuters that the attack involved at least 30 drones, marking Hezbollah's largest drone assault in the two-month conflict.

The recent escalation follows near-daily exchanges of fire since October between the Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel, with intensified clashes after the Israeli strike that killed the Hezbollah commander. On Wednesday, Hezbollah reported conducting at least eight retaliatory attacks.

Air raid sirens went off across northern Israeli cities on Thursday, and Israeli officials confirmed around 40 rockets were fired from Lebanon in the afternoon. Footage aired by state broadcaster Kan showed numerous mid-air interceptions of rockets above towns, including Safed, about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the border. Israel's national ambulance service reported two individuals wounded by shrapnel.

Israeli strikes have reportedly killed over 300 Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon, exceeding the group's losses in the 2006 war, according to a Reuters tally. Civilian casualties in Lebanon number around 80. Conversely, attacks from Lebanon have resulted in the deaths of 18 Israeli soldiers and 10 civilians. The ongoing conflict has displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the border.

Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer stated, "Diplomatically or militarily, peace will be returned to our north. Israel will defend itself. There should not be any doubt about this whatsoever. This [situation] cannot be a sustained reality."

Group of Seven leaders, meeting in Italy, expressed deep concern about the situation on the Israel-Lebanon border in a draft communiqué.