# Intensified Conflict between Israel and Middle Eastern Factions Raises Concerns



On Day 252 of the ongoing conflict between Israel and various Middle Eastern factions, the Iran-backed Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed responsibility for a drone attack on the Ramat David air base in northern Israel. However, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Homefront Command did not report any such attacks or warning sirens.

Hostilities have intensified along the Israel-Lebanon border, with rocket alert sirens sounding in northern Israel at 6:30 a.m. and 7:09 a.m. local time. Hezbollah launched rockets and weaponised drones at nine Israeli military sites on Thursday, retaliating for an earlier Israeli strike that killed a senior Hezbollah field commander. According to Lebanese security sources, this was the largest coordinated attack by Hezbollah since October.

In the early hours of Friday, an airstrike east of Tyr resulted in the death of one civilian woman and injuries to more than a dozen people, including children. The Israeli military is investigating the incident. Hezbollah claimed responsibility for launching Katyusha and Falaq rockets at six Israeli targets and deploying attack drones aimed at Israel’s northern command and military barracks. A security source stated that Hezbollah launched at least 30 attack drones, marking its largest drone strike in the ongoing eight-month conflict.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah reported eight retaliatory attacks against Israel. Air raid sirens blared across northern Israeli cities on Thursday, with around 40 rockets fired from Lebanon. Footage showed mid-air interceptions of rockets, including in Safed, located about 12 km from the border. Two individuals were reportedly injured by shrapnel.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 300 Hezbollah fighters and around 80 civilians, while attacks from Lebanon have resulted in 18 Israeli soldier and 10 civilian deaths. The conflict has displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the border. An Israeli government spokesperson, David Mencer, assured that Israel would continue to defend itself.

Meanwhile, the US Central Command reported that Houthi rebels launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen into the Red Sea, causing no damage or injuries. The Houthi campaigns have disrupted global shipping and raised concerns about the potential spread of the Gaza conflict, which has caused significant casualties and displacement. The US and Britain have conducted strikes against Houthi targets in response to attacks on shipping. The conflict in Gaza began after a Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, which resulted in 1,200 Israeli deaths according to official tallies.