# Mass Exodus from Lebanese Village Amidst Conflict with Israeli Forces and Hezbollah



**Mediterranean Village in Lebanon Witnesses Mass Exodus Amidst Conflict**

Alma al-Shaab, a picturesque village in southern Lebanon, has seen its population drastically reduced as 800 residents fled recent cross-border fighting. Located just over a kilometer from the Israeli border, the village has been heavily targeted by Israeli forces since October last year. The conflict involves Israel and Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militia operating from southern Lebanon.

The immediate escalation followed a rocket attack on Israel by Hezbollah on October 7, in support of Hamas. Israel retaliated with drone strikes, intensifying the violence along the border. By May, Alma al-Shaab had been struck 188 times, resulting in 10 destroyed houses, damage to 120 others, and the burning of 12 sq km of agricultural land, according to deputy mayor William Haddad.

Residents of this predominantly Christian village, labeled the most scenic in the region, have abandoned their homes, leaving about 100 people behind. Past conflicts, such as the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, still cast a shadow over the community.

Lebanese officials claim Israeli tactics aim to make the region uninhabitable. Villagers are hesitant to discuss Hezbollah's activities but suggest attempts to prevent militants from using their land. No casualties have been reported in Alma al-Shaab, but the bombardment has severely disrupted the community's life.

The broader conflict has severe repercussions, with the Beirut Urban Lab reporting over 5,300 Israeli attacks and 1,200 Hezbollah strikes. Civilians on both sides have suffered, with UN figures citing 88 Lebanese civilian deaths and 93,000 displaced. In Israel, reports indicate 10 civilian deaths and 60,000 displaced.

Amidst the crisis, United Nations officials warn of the real risk of a larger regional conflict due to potential miscalculations. Ongoing efforts by the United States and France aim to negotiate a settlement, but Hezbollah insists on maintaining fire until Israel halts its Gaza offensive.