# Hezbollah leader threatens to target any location in Israel, escalating tensions



Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah declared on June 18, 2023, that his forces, armed and trained by Iran, are capable of targeting any location within Israel in the event of war. This statement was made during a televised address where Nasrallah said, “there will be no place safe from our missiles and our drones.” This claim followed the release of drone footage by Hezbollah showing various Israeli sites, including military and residential areas, purportedly captured without detection.

One key development occurred on June 19 when Israeli defense officials, including Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi, visited northern Israel to assess the heightened tensions. This visit came after Hezbollah threatened Cyprus, accusing it of aiding Israel by potentially allowing access to its airbases.

Israeli-Hezbollah hostilities have been increasing, marked by the exchange of fire that began on October 7. The escalation intensified after the IDF killed Hezbollah commander Sami Taleb Abdullah, with Hezbollah responding by launching a significant number of rockets, missiles, and drones. The Israeli defense forces have also conducted retaliatory airstrikes in Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah positions.

Moreover, the situation involves diplomatic dimensions with U.S. mediator Amos Hochstein visiting Israel and Lebanon, trying to navigate the volatile situation. Nasrallah’s rhetoric and the military preparations indicate a severe escalation in tension, with both sides bracing for potential broader conflict.