# Hezbollah Claims Military Advancements Amid Rising Tensions with Israel



Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has claimed advancements in its military capabilities amidst rising tensions with Israel. On June 19, 2024, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah announced in a televised speech that the group possesses "new weapons" to use in potential conflicts, including with Cyprus, which he accused of aiding Israel.

This declaration followed the release of drone footage showing Hezbollah's reconnaissance over strategic sites in northern Israel, including the Port of Haifa. Nasrallah warned of wider regional implications if Israel escalates its military actions in Lebanon, mentioning that Hezbollah could target other nations, such as Cyprus.

In response, Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides denied any involvement in military operations, emphasizing Cyprus's role in humanitarian aid through the Cyprus-Gaza maritime corridor.

Israeli military officials acknowledged Hezbollah's threats, with Israel's military chief, Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi, stating that Israel is prepared to counter any aggression. The statement comes as both sides have been engaged in cross-border violence since the October 7, 2023, conflict initiated by Hamas.

Western diplomatic efforts, including a recent visit by U.S. adviser Amos Hochstein, are ongoing to de-escalate the situation. However, the potential for a broader conflict remains as Hezbollah and Israel continue to exchange rhetoric and military posturing.