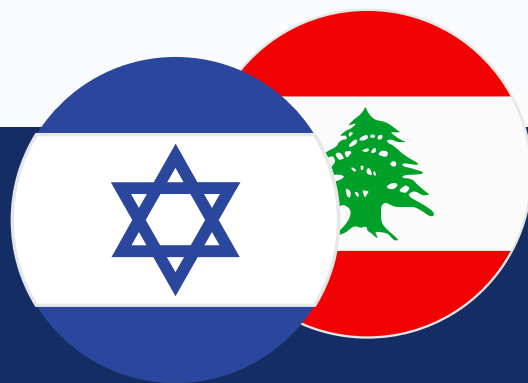


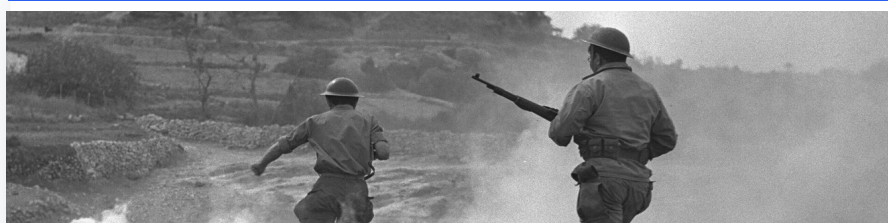
# Israel-Lebanon relations:

## From 1948 to a new diplomatic horizon



### 1948–1949

#### Creation of Israel and War of Independence



1948

#### Israel's War of Independence

Lebanon joined other Arab states in declaring war following Israel's declaration of independence, but its military role was limited compared with Egypt, Syria, Jordan.

1949

#### Armistice signed

Israel and Lebanon signed an armistice agreement but remained in a state of belligerence.

### 1950s-late 1960s

#### A relatively quiet border

Lebanon did not play a major military role in either the Six-Day War or the Yom Kippur War.

# 1970–1982

## Palestinian terrorism and growing conflict



1974

### Ma'alot massacre

Three members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a PLO faction entered Israel from southern Lebanon where they first shot and killed Israeli civilians including members of an Israeli family in Ma'alot.

They then stormed the Netiv Meir elementary school, taking over 100 Israeli schoolchildren and teachers hostage, resulting in the murder of 31 Israelis, including 22 schoolchildren.



1978

### Coastal Road Massacre

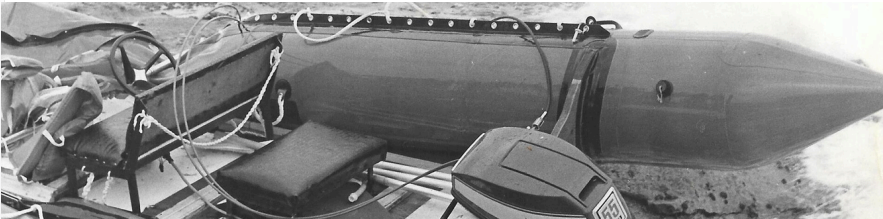
A PLO Fatah squad infiltrated from Lebanon by sea. They hijacked civilian buses on Israel's coastal highway near Tel Aviv. Thirty-five Israeli civilians were murdered, including 13 children, and dozens were wounded.

1978

## Operation Litani

In response to ever more violent attacks on its citizens, Israel launched Operation Litani into southern Lebanon. Later moving back into Israeli territory.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established to help maintain peace in southern Lebanon.



1979

## Nahariya attack

Lebanese terrorist Samir Kuntar convicted of a notorious cross-border terror raid in Nahariya, that resulted in the deaths of five people, including a father and his four-year-old daughter.

Kuntar was released in a 2008 prisoner exchange, rejoined Hezbollah and was assigned (as a Druze) to set up a cell on the Syrian Golan, where he was eliminated by an air strike in 2015.

# 1982–2000

## The First Lebanon War and the Security Zone

Lebanon did not play a major military role in either the Six-Day War or the Yom Kippur War.



1982

### First Lebanon War

Israel launched Operation Peace for Galilee, aiming to expel the PLO after repeated deadly terror attacks against Israel.

Israeli forces reached Beirut, from where the PLO leadership eventually left Lebanon.

During this period:

- Israel supported Christian militias and later the South Lebanon Army.
- Hezbollah emerged with Iranian support, initially to resist the Israeli presence.

1983

Israel and Lebanon signed the US-brokered May 17 Agreement intended to normalise relations, but Lebanon cancelled it under domestic and Syrian pressure.

1992

Hezbollah starts firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, approximately 500+ had been fired between 1992 and 1996.



**1996**

Israel launches Operation Grapes of Wrath 16-day air campaign to stop escalating Hezbollah rocket attacks which had spiked in early 1996.

**2000**

### **Israel's unilateral withdrawal**

Israel unilaterally withdrew from the “security zone” in southern Lebanon that it had maintained since 1985.

## **2000–2006** **Hezbollah’s military entrenchment**

Israel's withdraws to the UN recognised blue line. Hezbollah claimed victory and argued that Israel kept control over Sheba Farms, formerly Syrian territory.

Hezbollah expands military build-up and entrenches itself in civilian communities in southern Lebanon.

**2006**

In July, Hezbollah launch a cross-border raid, eight soldiers are killed, two more are abducted.

2006

### Second Lebanon war

Israel launched a major military campaign - Hezbollah fired thousands of rockets into northern Israel.



2006

The 34-day war ended with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which expanded UNIFIL's role and called for southern Lebanon to be free of armed groups other than the Lebanese state.

## 2007-2022

### Tense quiet as Hezbollah regroups

Hezbollah significantly expanded its missile arsenal, with Iranian backing.

2008

### May clashes

Violent internal clashes bring Lebanon to the brink of civil war. The crisis is resolved by the Doha Agreement, which grants Hezbollah greater political leverage within Lebanon's power-sharing system.

2011

### Syrian civil war starts

Hezbollah intervenes in Syria's lengthy civil war on the side of Bashar al-Assad. Assad's eventual defeat in 2017 leaves Hezbollah politically exposed and strains its relations with Syria's new regime.

2013

Israel starts frequently striking weapons transfers in neighbouring Syria intended for Hezbollah.

2022

### Maritime agreement

With US mediated negotiations, Israel and Lebanon reached a maritime boundary agreement, allowing both countries to develop offshore natural gas resources without recognising each other diplomatically.

## 2023–today

### After October 7

2023

### Hezbollah join war on October 8

After the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the ensuing Gaza war, Hezbollah joined the war the following day with regular, unprovoked attacks along Israel's northern border. Israeli intelligence showed that Hezbollah had plans for a Hamas-style incursion into northern Israel.

Israel responded with air strikes and artillery and limited ground offensive.

Civilians on both sides of the border are displaced.

2024

## **Operation Grim Beeper & Nasrallah's elimination**

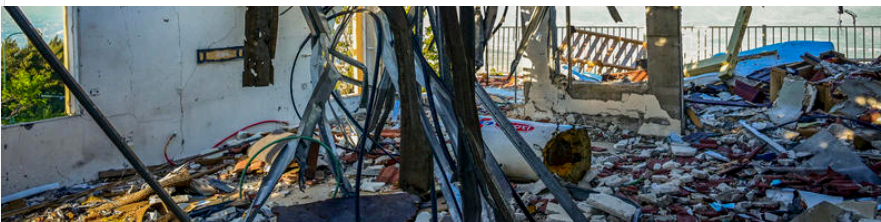
Senior Hezbollah commanders are targeted in Mossad-led covert operation which saw two waves of simultaneous explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies.

Days later, Hezbollah's long-time leader and mastermind within the Iranian Axis of Resistance, Hasan Nasrallah, is eliminated in an air strike.

2024

## **November ceasefire**

US-brokered ceasefire allows Israel to continue to target Hezbollah infrastructure.



2026

## **Hezbollah launches attacks following Israeli-US strikes on Iran**

Hezbollah launch over 7,000 rockets, missiles and drones towards northern Israel and IDF troops operating in southern Lebanon.

Israel re-establishes a security zone – the yellow line, aimed at preventing direct missile attacks into northern Israel.



## 2006

### New diplomatic horizon

- From April 2026 Israel and Lebanon have engaged in unprecedented US -mediated direct negotiations.
- In June a framework agreement was announced that aims to end the formal state of war, link Israeli withdrawal from parts of southern Lebanon to Hezbollah's disarmament, and support Lebanon's reconstruction.
- Since October 8, 2023, Hezbollah launched more than 20,000 missiles, rockets, drones weee into Israel.

*Photo credit: Operation Grapes of Wrath: Photographer: Beni Birk, Israel Press and Photo Agency (I.P.P.A.) / Dan Hadani collection, National Library of Israel / CC BY 4.0  
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