

## Strategy and weather: Why Hezbollah has stepped up aerial attacks

Idan Eretz / 25 Nov, 2024

*Besides wanting to look like winners, Hezbollah has a tactical advantage in wintry weather.*

More than 250 rockets were launched at Israel yesterday, triggering more than 500 sirens. There were direct hits in Petah Tikva, Kfar Kassem, Nahariya, and Haifa, and several people were injured. The reason for the large salvoes and the hits are the wintry weather, which interferes with the ability of the IDF to spot rocket launches and intercept them, and the extensive arsenal still held by Hezbollah in Lebanon. All this is against the background of negotiations on a ceasefire agreement in Lebanon, and Hezbollah's desire not to appear weak at the end of the fighting.

"First of all, the rocket fire has diplomatic significance," says **Dr. Yehoshua Kalisky, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies**. "They want to show that they are not going to surrender, that they are on the ground, and that they are capable of firing as much as they want." Former commander of Israel's air defenses Brigadier General Ran Kochav adds, "They are trying to establish a narrative of fighting and success until the last moment, while we want to improve the narrative of defeating Hezbollah. In the end, everyone is just offsetting losses."

Beyond the strategic questions, there is also the operational effect of the cloudy and rainy weather that visited the whole of Israel on Sunday. **Dr. Kalisky** says that bad weather has two effects. Wind and turbulence divert the missile or UAV from its course. If you want to intercept a missile with the Iron Dome system, you know the missile's estimated trajectory, but the wind blows the missile and the interceptor off course, causing a miss.

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