

Where Is It All Going? Mixed Messages From Israel-Lebanon War

Keren Setton / Nov. 14, 2024

Escalating violence from Israel and Hezbollah may be just a death rattle before the two sides reach a cease-fire, but any misstep could impede a diplomatic solution

As Israel and Hezbollah continue to strike one another, conflicting reports indicate that a cease-fire between the two sides may be in the works.

[...]

According to the Lebanese Health Ministry, over 3,200 Lebanese people have been killed since the fighting began last year. **Data from the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University** show 100 Israelis have been killed by Hezbollah attacks in the same period, the majority of them civilians.

[...]

Kobi Michael, a researcher at INSS and the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy, told The Media Line that Israel would not withdraw from Lebanon until the Lebanese military and the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon can effectively restrain Hezbollah.

[...]

“Israel will continue to strike at strategic assets of Hezbollah until an agreement is reached,” **Michael** said.

Indeed, what looks like a recent intensification of violence from both sides could be a negotiation tactic employed by both Israel and Hezbollah.

“Israel needs to apply as much power as possible. This is a chance to strike at Hezbollah and all of its means,” **Michael** said. “For Hezbollah, it wants to be seen as saying the last word and still retaining the ability to strike at Israel.”

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