

Sheikh Qassem: Hezbollah's Arms Necessary to Defend Lebanon's Sovereignty

BEIRUT (Dispatches) — The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah on Thursday dismissed the disarmament of the resistance movement, stressing that its weapons are necessary for defending the Arab country's national sovereignty. Sheikh Naim Qassem said Hezbollah will never accept handing over its weapons to Israel.

In a televised speech broadcast from the Lebanese capital, the Hezbollah chief emphasized that the munitions are necessary in order to preserve Lebanon's national sovereignty in the face of the Tel Aviv regime's aggression.

Sheikh Qassem said those who are calling for Hezbollah's disarmament are serving the Israeli interests, and are aligning themselves with the Zionist enemy.



Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem delivers a televised speech broadcast from the Lebanese capital Beirut on July 30, 2025.

but also from the United States and the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, under the guise of the “New Middle East.”

Sheikh Qassem stated that the U.S. is emboldening the Israeli regime to continue its violations of the ceasefire agreement, and is stirring sedition among Lebanese parties.

“They (enemies) thought Hezbollah had become weak. They were, however, surprised by the strong political and popular presence of the party during the funerals of Seyed Hassan Nasrallah and Seyed Hashem Safieddine, as well as in the municipal elections,” Sheikh Qassem said.

Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire that took effect on November 27, 2024. Under the deal, Tel Aviv was required to withdraw fully from Lebanese territory—but has kept forces stationed at five sites, in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and the terms of last November's agreement.

Since the implementation of the ceasefire, Israel has reportedly violated the agreement more than 3,700 times through repeated assaults on Lebanese territory. Lebanese authorities have warned that the regime's violations of the ceasefire threaten national stability.

Pointing to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Sheikh Qassem described the unfolding atrocities there as organized, brutal and unparalleled criminality, which is being carried out just before the eyes of the international community.

“The Zionist enemy is starving children, bombing tent encampments for displaced Palestinians, and blocking deliveries of formula urgently needed for infants — all with U.S. support — as part of attempts to force Palestinians into submission,” he stated.

“Where are Arab states and countries claiming to advocate for human rights? Why don't we see any concrete measures against Israel?” the Hezbollah chief questioned.

The ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza since October 2023 has so far resulted in at least 60,239 documented Palestinian fatalities, with over 146,894 others injured.

Thousands of victims are feared trapped under rubble, inaccessible to emergency and civil defense teams due to Israeli attacks.

Israel's genocidal attacks continue unabated despite calls from the UN Security Council for an immediate ceasefire and directives from the International Court of Justice urging measures to prevent genocide and alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Israel... (Continued From Page One)

faces the threat of Israeli occupation.

Control of this area would grant Israel key access corridors to Damascus, endangering the HTS regime's hold and signaling an aggressive escalation. Simultaneously, new Israeli outposts and electronic warfare systems near the Golan Heights are disrupting communications and consolidating Tel Aviv's grip over critical border areas.

The Damascus regime, controlled by a coalition of takfiri and other extremist groups allied with the HTS and linked to Al-Qaeda and Daesh, continues its merciless campaign against southern Syria's population.

The recent massacre of hundreds of Druze civilians in Sweida, carried out by regime loyalists and armed Bedouin militias, has pushed the Druze closer to seeking protection from Israeli forces — a tragic irony given Israel's broader colonial and expansionist designs.

This massacre, reportedly greenlit by both Washington and Tel Aviv, reveals the dark alliance between imperialist powers and extremist factions within the Damascus regime. It reflects a cynical strategy to sow sectarian division, weaken resistance, and pave the way for Israeli control under the pretext of “security” and “stability.”

Further complicating the situation, Israel's collaboration with local Druze militias, including the Men of Dignity group, involves supplying weapons and medical aid while simultaneously maintaining pressure on Damascus through military strikes against pro-regime forces. Israeli drones have targeted Damascus-allied factions seeking to expand control, deepening the chaos.

The so-called David's Corridor project — aiming to connect Israeli-occupied Golan Heights with U.S.-backed Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria — embodies Tel Aviv's imperialist vision for permanent fragmentation and occupation of Syrian territory. It reveals Israel's intent not merely to secure its borders but to control vast swaths of Syrian land, destabilizing the country and enabling continuous conflict.

The Damascus regime, led by Abu Muhammad al-Jolani — a former Daesh commander— remains a puppet of foreign imperialist agendas. Installed with backing from Israel, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey, this regime has overseen a 14-year campaign of repression and terror aimed at crushing Syrian sovereignty and resistance.

The alliance between Israel and the Damascus regime, mediated through extremist groups linked to HTS and other terrorist organizations, has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe. Southern Syria is left caught between brutal military occupation, sectarian violence, and a geopolitical game that prioritizes imperialist interests over the lives and rights of Syrians.

International actors must urgently condemn Israel's aggressive incursions and the Damascus regime's extremist proxies for their roles in perpetuating conflict and suffering. Only a unified Syrian resistance, free from foreign occupation and extremist domination, can restore peace and sovereignty to this war-torn region.

Soldier... (Continued From Page One)

heavy airstrikes targeting Be'eri and other border kibbutzim. The strikes, which included helicopters, tanks, and drones, were reportedly intended to prevent Hamas from retreating into Gaza with captives.

However, according to testimonies and reports, hundreds of Zionists and Hamas fighters were killed in these strikes, including during the controversial attack at the Nova Music Festival, carried out under the secretive “Hannibal Directive.”

The rapid attribution of all casualties to Hamas, without acknowledgment of the consequences of Israeli military actions, highlights a broader pattern of obfuscation.

Sheetrit expressed deep pain over the tragedy, saying, “Unfortunately, we were not up to the task. There were dozens against hundreds of terrorists, 25 against 150, and so we couldn't arrive, unfortunately.”

Crucially, the revelation of a standing order to cancel routine patrols feeds into growing evidence that Israeli political and military leadership were aware in advance of the impending Hamas attack yet chose to ignore warnings. This apparent negligence allowed the operation to proceed unimpeded, serving as a pretext for harsh Israeli military onslaught on Gaza.

Multiple intelligence signals were reportedly dismissed in the days and weeks leading to October 7. Female Israeli soldiers tasked with surveillance along the Gaza fence issued warnings of an imminent attack, yet these were allegedly ignored by higher command.

“In hindsight, we could have done a lot of things; we could have listened to the observers, we could have brought up the air force, and these things didn't happen,” Sheetrit said. He criticized senior military officials for ignoring intelligence alerts and for leadership failures that contributed to the disastrous outcome.

Further criticism is leveled at Israeli authorities for downplaying the scale of intelligence failures and the systemic issues within the military chain of command. The incident exemplifies broader Israeli strategic objectives, which include justifying aggressive campaigns in Gaza, the destruction of Palestinian urban centers, and advancing settlement expansion on occupied land.

Analysts view these revelations as confirmation that Israel's military leadership deliberately allowed the Hamas attack to unfold, creating a pretext for further aggression against Gaza and intensifying the ongoing displacement and suffering of the Palestinian people. This episode reaffirms the urgency of international efforts to hold Israel accountable for its actions and to support the rights of Palestinians under occupation.

Hamas: Israel's 'Cowardly' Assassination of Haniyeh Reinforced Resistance

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) — Hamas says Israel's “treacherous and cowardly” assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the former head of the resistance group's political bureau, strengthened the resilience of the Palestinian people against the occupation.

Hamas released a statement Thursday, marking the first anniversary of Israel's killing of Haniyeh in the Iranian capital of Tehran after he attended the inauguration ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced in a statement on July 31, 2024, that Hani-

yeh and one of his bodyguards were killed when their residence was hit in Tehran. Israel acknowledged that it killed Haniyeh while he was in Tehran last July.

In its statement, Hamas said time has proven that the policy of assassinating Hamas leaders only reinforced commitment to national rights and principles, and increased struggle and resistance until the occupiers are expelled from Palestinian land and its sacred sites.

The martyrdom was not a passing incident, but rather a turning point that demonstrated how resistance leaders stand at the very heart of the

struggle and offer their loved ones in the path of resistance, just as a number of Haniyeh's children and grandchildren were also killed, it added.

Hamas further stressed its commitment to Haniyeh's call to designate August 3 as a national and international day to support Palestine.

“It is a matter of loyalty to the martyr leader Ismail Haniyeh that we continue to affirm his call to our people, our nation, and free people around the world, to make the third of August of each year a global national day to support Gaza ... al-Quds, al-Aqsa [Mosque], and the prisoners, and to continue the movement until the

war of extermination and starvation against our people in the Gaza Strip stops, until the occupation is expelled from all our land, and until our people achieve their freedom,” it said.

Haniyeh's assassination came amid an Israeli genocide in the Gaza Strip, which began on October 7, 2023, following a historic Hamas operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for the regime's intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

In its brutal Gaza onslaught, Israel has so far killed more than 60,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Ministry: Over 18,500 Children Killed by Israel in Gaza Since October 2023

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) — Official data from Gaza's Health Ministry on Thursday showed that the Israeli regime has killed 18,592 Palestinian children in the besieged enclave since October 2023.

The ministry's records indicated that many of the victims were killed in their earliest days of life. Some died just hours after birth, struck by Israeli airstrikes or bombs.

Figures released by the ministry showed that the victims included nine babies killed on the day of their birth, five killed on the first day, five on the second day, and eight on their third day.

The ministry explained that the dead children also included 88 aged one month, 90 aged two months, and 78 aged three months.

The Israeli occupation army has

pursued a brutal offensive on Gaza since October 7, 2023, killing over 60,000 Palestinians. The relentless bombardment has devastated the blockaded territory and led to food shortages.

On Monday, Israeli rights groups B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel affirmed that the Tel Aviv regime was committing genocide in Gaza, citing the sys-

tematic destruction of Palestinian society and the deliberate dismantling of the territory's healthcare system.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former military affairs minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

American Expert: Israel Perpetrating Genocide in Gaza With U.S. Complicity

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) — John Mearsheimer, an international relations scholar and professor of political science at the University of Chicago, said in an interview with U.S. media personality Tucker Carlson that the Israeli regime, with the complicity of the U.S. administration, is committing genocide against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Mearsheimer said what is unfolding in Gaza is a systematic effort by Israel to dismantle the Palestinian national identity, adding that the occupying entity is targeting Palestinians specifically as a group, aiming not only to kill large numbers but also to erase their identity as a people.

“The Israelis are executing genocide in Gaza,” he said, adding that the U.S. is “complicit in that genocide.”

Mearsheimer underlined that the Israelis have long aimed to expel the Palestinian population from what they consider “Greater Israel,” which “includes the Israel that was created in 1948 and the occupied territories.”

The American political expert said the Israeli occupation pounced on Palestinian retaliatory attacks

on October 7, 2023 as an “excellent opportunity for ethnic cleansing” in the besieged territory.

“In other words, it's an excellent opportunity to go to war in Gaza and drive the Palestinians out of Gaza and solve that demographic problem that they face,” he added.

Stressing that Israel also carried out large-scale ethnic cleansings in the region in 1948 and 1967, Mearsheimer described the latest campaign in Gaza as “the third attempt at a massive ethnic cleansing.”

He said the ethnic cleansing is a topic “that the Zionists talked about from the get-go, and they talked about extensively because there is no way they could create a Greater Israel without doing massive ethnic cleansing.”

David Ben Gurion, Vladimir Jabotinsky, and other Israeli-Zionist leaders are fully aware that achieving their goals would require doing “horrible things” to the Palestinians, Mearsheimer added.

Mearsheimer stressed that when a major power like the U.S. has conflicting interests with another country, it prioritizes its own, following an “America first” approach. However, regarding Israel, it's

the opposite — it is “Israel first,” he stated.

Washington's policy in West Asia clearly reflects this, with plenty of evidence to support it, the scholar underscored.

Pointing to the Israel lobby in the U.S., Mearsheimer said, “I think the lobby is an incredibly powerful interest group, and I'm choosing my words carefully. It has awesome power, and it basically is in a position where it can profoundly influence U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East... when it comes to the Middle East, and again, the Palestinian issue in particular, it has awesome power. And there's no president who is willing to buck the lobby.”

The Israeli regime has ravaged the besieged Gaza Strip since Operation al-Aqsa Flood in October 7, 2023, killing more than 60,000 Palestinians thus far. Most of the victims are women and children, as indiscriminate Israeli attacks target schools, mosques, and even tents that shelter displaced Palestinians.

Israel's relentless bombardment campaign has devastated the enclave and led to food shortages, famine and acute starvation.