



Genocide Warning: Israel, July 2024

By Aiden Carlton, Genocide Watch

Since October 8, 2023, Israel and Hezbollah have been [engaged in constant conflict](#). Hezbollah has launched [regular rocket attacks into northern Israel](#). Israel has [bombed Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon in response](#). Hezbollah claims its rocket attacks on Israeli towns are in [solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza](#). The attacks [have driven Israelis from several northern towns](#).

Israel has sent precision missiles into Lebanon and Syria that [have killed several senior Hezbollah leaders](#). Hezbollah has responded with [more rocket attacks](#) on Israel. Israeli leaders are now planning an invasion of Lebanon to stop Hezbollah attacks. Israel [may try to establish an Israeli-controlled buffer zone](#) in southern Lebanon.

Israel refuses to rule out an invasion of Lebanon until [Hezbollah ends its attacks in northern Israel](#). Hezbollah refuses to end its attacks against Israel [until the Israeli Defense Force \(IDF\) ends its war in Gaza](#), which Israel refuses to do [until it totally defeats Hamas and all Israeli hostages are freed](#).

On June 18, the IDF approved [operational plans for an invasion of Lebanon](#). This escalation of the conflict would force Israel into a two-front war. It would also violate [UNSC Resolution 425](#) and [Resolution 1701](#).

[Israeli Defense Minister Gallant](#), [Foreign Minister Katz](#), and [Prime Minister Netanyahu](#) have made statements indicating that the planned invasion is imminent. Genocide Watch warns that a war, once begun, will produce many civilian deaths. Some Israeli hawks even [advocate building settlements in southern Lebanon](#), which they call "[northern Galilee](#)," like [Jewish settlements in the West Bank](#).

Israeli missile strikes and shelling have already [cut agricultural output in southern Lebanon](#). [Syrian refugees](#) and Lebanese [Christians](#) and Muslims in southern Lebanon are moving further north and abroad. [Israel's phosphorus munitions](#), banned under international law, have [burned and poisoned southern Lebanese farmland and orchards](#).

Israel has [concentrated IDF forces](#) on the [2000 UN Blue Line](#) that divides Israel from Lebanon.

[Netanyahu has dissolved his unity war cabinet](#) and [split with moderate politicians](#). There are now [large demonstrations calling for new elections](#). Netanyahu rejects elections because of [his almost certain defeat](#). Loss of his office would result in loss of his immunity from [prosecution for corruption](#).

Israel is internally divided. It is at **Stage 6: Polarization**. Israel's planned invasion of Lebanon indicates that Israel is at **Stage 7: Preparation** for war, with war's certain war crimes.

Genocide Watch Recommends:

- Israel and Hamas must accept the [US and UN peace plan](#) and conclude the war in Gaza.
- The International Criminal Court should charge Hamas leaders for genocide in Israel.
- The ICC should prosecute Israeli leaders for the war crime of starvation of Palestinians.
- NATO states should impose Magnitsky sanctions on Israeli leaders for their war crimes in Gaza.
- The US should warn Israel that the US will cut off military aid if the IDF invades Lebanon.