

## Israel strikes Hamas, Hezbollah targets in Gaza and Lebanon



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JERUSALEM, April 17, Israel launched a series of airstrikes on Thursday, targeting what it described as Hamas and Hezbollah infrastructure in Gaza and southern Lebanon.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said its strikes in southern Lebanon focused on Hezbollah military sites. “The IDF will operate against any attempts by Hezbollah to rebuild or establish military

presence under the guise of civilian cover,” the military stated, without disclosing further details.

In Gaza, Israeli forces, in coordination with the Shin Bet domestic security agency, struck a command and control center in Jabalia. The military said the site was used by Hamas to plan and execute attacks on Israeli civilians and troops.

The latest escalation adds to the ongoing toll from the conflict that reignited in October 2023.

According to Gaza’s health authorities, at least 40 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes over the past 24 hours, raising the total number of deaths in Gaza to 51,065. An additional 4,464 have been injured since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, following a ceasefire and prisoner swap earlier in the year.

Tensions remain high in both Gaza and Lebanon, with fears of further escalation amid ongoing cross-border exchanges between Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters. Israel maintains that its operations are focused solely on neutralizing threats posed by armed groups operating in civilian areas.