

## Israeli Airstrikes Hit Southern Lebanon Amid Fragile Ceasefire Tensions



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BEIRUT/JERUSALEM: Israeli warplanes carried out a series of airstrikes on multiple locations in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, escalating tensions despite an existing ceasefire agreement, according to Lebanese media reports and the Israeli military.

Lebanon's official National News Agency said Israeli aircraft launched several air-to-ground

missiles around mid-morning, targeting areas including Wadi al-Numairiyah and Wadi Houmine in the Nabatieh region. The attacks were accompanied by intensive unmanned aerial vehicle flights over nearby towns.

A Lebanese army intelligence source said the Israeli air force conducted at least 11 strikes on sites believed to be linked to Hezbollah, firing around 20 missiles that caused powerful explosions and material damage. No immediate casualties were reported.

The Israeli military confirmed the operations, saying it targeted rocket-launching sites and military facilities used by Hezbollah. In a social media statement, its Arabic-language spokesperson claimed the sites violated existing understandings between Israel and Lebanon and warned that operations would continue to counter perceived threats.

A ceasefire brokered by the United States and France has been in place since late November 2024, following months of cross-border hostilities linked to the Gaza conflict. Despite the agreement, Israel has continued periodic strikes in Lebanon and maintained forces at several border positions beyond a planned withdrawal deadline.

Earlier this month, Israel and Lebanon held direct talks in Naqoura, followed by additional security discussions aimed at reducing tensions and facilitating the return of displaced residents to border areas.

