



November 22, 2005

Hezbollah attacks along Israel's northern border to cover an attempted abduction of Israeli soldiers

Overview

- During the afternoon hours of November 21, 2005 Hezbollah **initiated well-planned, broad attacks** from Har Dov to the central and western sectors of Israel 's border with Lebanon . The attacks were apparently an attempt (which **failed**) to cover the abduction of Israeli soldiers, and at least four Hezbollah terrorists were killed. The organization issued the **false and intentionally misleading announcement** that it had acted to “protect” Lebanon from the IDF's crossing of the blue line ¹ at the village of Ghajar .
- The incident again illustrated the need for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1559 (September 2004), which calls, among other things, **for the disarmament of the Lebanese militias (i.e., Hezbollah) and the return of sovereignty over south Lebanon to the Lebanese government** . The lack of Lebanese government control over the Israeli-Lebanese border leaves a security vacuum, making it easy for the Hezbollah to continue its provocative attacks against Israel .

The attack

- On November 21 at about 3 p.m. Hezbollah opened fire in **well-planned, concerted attacks** on IDF posts at Har Dov (Shebaa Farms) and at the village of Ghajar in the eastern sector. It included mortar shells, Katyusha rockets, anti-tank missiles and sniper fire, and **spread along the border to the central and western sectors** . The Katyushas also targeted populated Israeli civilian areas, including the village of Metulla , where a building sustained damage. The residents of Kiriya Shemonah, Metulla, Nahariya and other settlements along the border were instructed to enter bomb shelters for the first time since Israel pulled out of Lebanon (May 2000).



Pictures from the Lebanese side of the border taken by Hezbollah during the attack (Photos: Al-Manar TV, November 21, 2005). Al-Manar TV and Radio Nur, both Hezbollah stations, reported the attacks with photographs, video clips, excerpts from Hassan Nasrallah's speeches and songs glorifying Hezbollah.

- Under cover of the massive artillery attacks Hezbollah operatives approached IDF posts in the village of Ghajar and in Har Dov, **intending to abduct Israeli soldiers** . At the village of Ghajar four terrorists on foot were in the lead and behind them were others on ATVs and motorcycles. The attempts were foiled by IDF soldiers **and four Hezbollah terrorists were killed** . The IDF responded with artillery fire, and the Israeli Air Force attacked the sources of the Hezbollah fire and its strongholds in south Lebanon . Sixteen Israeli soldiers were injured in the attack, two moderately and the rest on slightly.

The Hezbollah operatives killed in the village of Ghajar (Photos: Al-Manar TV)



Muhammad Baker Ibrahim al-Musawi
from Al-Nabi Sheet in the Bekaa in
Lebanon



Yussuf 'Ali Barakat
from Zibkin in southern Lebanon



Wassam Radwan al-Bawab
from Al-Bourj al-Shimali near Tyre



'Ali Bahij Shams al-Din
from Yuhmur in the western Bekaa

Scenes from the failed attack in the village of Ghajar (Photos courtesy of the IDF spokesman)



**Weapons found in the Hezbollah
operatives' possession**



**The bodies of two
Hezbollah operatives**



**One of the motorcycles
used in the attack**

Hezbollah's misleading response

- According to the false announcement issued by Hezbollah on Al-Manar TV on November 21, the incident began at 2:45 p.m. when IDF soldiers crossed the blue line and entered the Lebanese part of the village of Ghajar . A member of the Hezbollah faction in the Lebanese parliament, Hassan Hubballah, claimed that the incident was the result of Israeli action against Lebanon and that Hezbollah was “exercising its legitimate right to respond” (Radio Sawa, November 21). Hezbollah's political chief in south Lebanon, Hassan Izz al-Din, denied that his organization intended to abduct IDF soldiers and claimed that the Hezbollah action had been taken “to defend Lebanon” (NTV, November 21).

- The statements issued by Hezbollah, which is a terrorist organization claiming to act as Lebanon 's “shield,” are completely false. The attack was complex, thoroughly planned, broad in scope (the largest of its kind since Israel pulled out of Lebanon) and initiated by Hezbollah with no previous action taken by the IDF. ²



Commander of the IDF Northern Command, General Udi Adam: “The incident was not preceded by any activity on our part. The attack in question was thoroughly planned...It has been a long time since we have seen such a complex, broad-scope attack...” (Photo courtesy of the IDF spokesman)

¹ The line drawn by the UN's cartographers along the Israeli-Lebanese border after Israel pulled out of Lebanon in May 2000.

² For further information see our Special Bulletin, “ [Hezbollah attacks at Har Dov \(Shebaa Farms\) continue](#)”