



Israel's
CYBER-PHYSICAL WARFARE

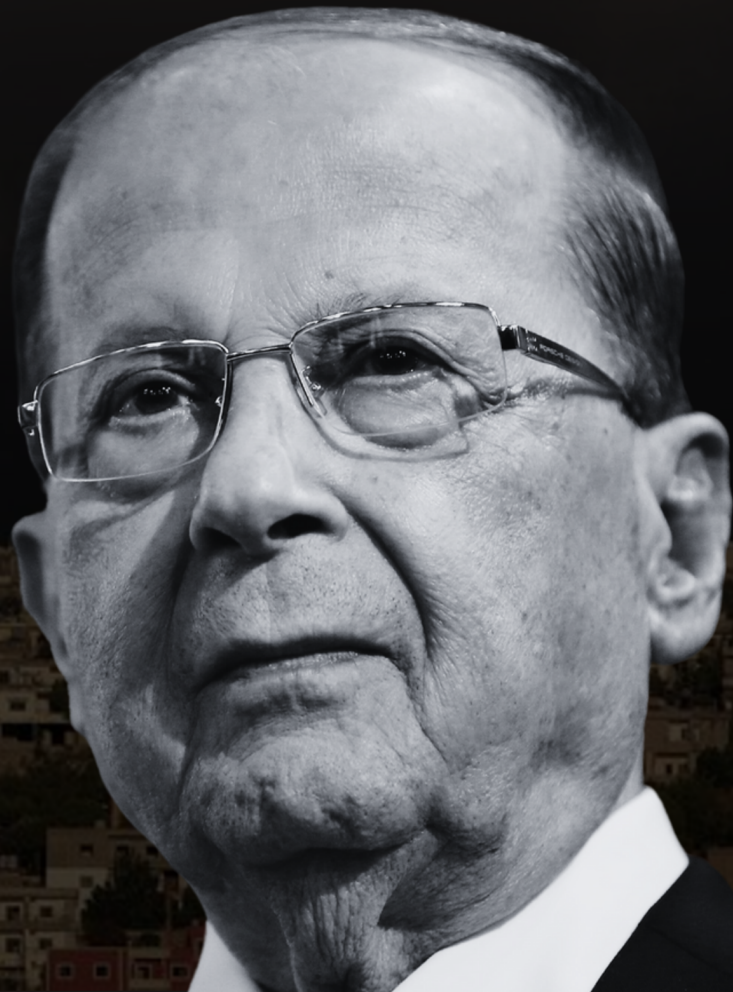
INN

LEBANON



Summary of Events

On the afternoon of September 17, 2024, a mass casualty event struck Lebanon when pagers used by Hezbollah members exploded simultaneously. These devices, spread across multiple locations, particularly Beirut and southern Lebanon, left over 70 Hezbollah fighters injured, with potential casualties in the hundreds. Local hospitals were quickly overwhelmed, issuing urgent calls for blood donations to cope with the surge in critically injured individuals. Notably, some civilians, including children, were also harmed due to explosions occurring inside homes.





Incident Details

Hezbollah fighters had been using pagers as a secure communication method, avoiding more traceable mobile phones. These pagers, which received encrypted messages, exploded while receiving transmissions. The injuries, mostly concentrated on victims' hands and faces, were devastating as many had the pagers close to their bodies. Tragically, some children were hurt as pagers exploded inside homes.

Initial investigations have revealed that these pagers were a newer model, distributed only three months prior. Hezbollah had already identified flaws in the devices and was in the process of recalling them, though the recall was incomplete at the time of the incident.

Possible Causes

Multiple sources, including Sky News Arabia, have implicated **Mossad**, Israel's intelligence agency, as the likely orchestrator of this attack. The prevailing theory is that explosives, specifically **PETN**, were embedded behind the batteries during the pagers' production or distribution by a **European subcontractor**. The devices were remotely detonated, possibly ahead of schedule, as Hezbollah began to detect issues with them.

This attack may have been designed as a pre-emptive strike, aimed at weakening **Hezbollah's communication infrastructure** in anticipation of a larger conflict.



Notable Figures Injured

Among the injured was **Mojtaba Amani**, the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, along with two of his bodyguards who were also using the pagers. In addition, several **senior Hezbollah commanders** are rumored to be among those affected, signifying a potential impact on Hezbollah's leadership.





Reactions and Investigation

Hezbollah has launched an internal investigation into how these compromised pagers infiltrated their communication network. The Lebanese Ministry of Health held a press conference addressing the magnitude of the casualties, while the Ministry of Telecommunications has initiated a separate inquiry into how the devices entered Lebanon undetected.

International speculation has surged regarding Israeli involvement, though U.S. officials have denied any participation. The Taiwanese company Gold Apollo, whose branding was on the devices, issued a statement distancing itself from the attack, claiming that the pagers were produced by a third-party European subcontractor.

Taiwan's Position

Taiwan has asserted that the pagers were manufactured by the Hungarian company BAC Consulting KFT, under license from Taiwan. This indicates that the sabotage was likely introduced during the European production process. The company has also noted that the affected pagers were part of a broader shipment, meaning the sabotage was not exclusive to Hezbollah but affected all pagers imported into Lebanon over the last five months.



Strategic and Political Implications

This event has significantly compromised Hezbollah's manpower and communication capabilities, exposing a critical vulnerability. The pre-emptive strike also casts doubts on Hezbollah's ability to sustain operational efficiency in the face of such strategic sabotage. Israeli officials have not commented, though reports suggest this was a calculated maneuver to cripple Hezbollah's communication systems before future military confrontations.

The attack has drawn strong condemnation from Hezbollah supporters, and regional allies, including Iran, Iraq, and Syria, have offered medical and logistical assistance to Lebanon. This solidarity could reinforce Hezbollah's position despite the setback.



Expanding Wave of Sabotage

In the aftermath, the scope of the attack appears broader than initially understood. Explosive incidents were reported involving a variety of electronic devices beyond pagers. Explosions affected transceivers, solar energy panels, scooters, and even ZKTeko MB2000 fingerprint devices. Lebanese authorities have also reported a surge in cyberattacks, with numerous WhatsApp accounts being targeted.

The Lebanese public has been urged to switch off any electronic devices with lithium-ion batteries due to the possibility of remote detonations.





Developments

- Switch to Landline Communication: Hezbollah frontline troops have shifted to using landlines and motorcycle couriers for communication, according to Al Mayadeen.
- Syrian President's Directive: President Bashar al-Assad has ordered Syrian commanders to discard two-way radios and handheld communication devices to prevent similar incidents.
- Widespread Device Explosions: Detonations have affected phones, walkie-talkies, scooters, and even car radios across Lebanon. At least three people have been killed in these secondary explosions, further intensifying the crisis.



Conclusion

The mass explosion of Hezbollah's communication devices signifies a major escalation in the ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. This attack highlights the growing role of technological sabotage in asymmetric warfare, with a focus on undermining enemy infrastructure. Investigations are ongoing into how Mossad managed to infiltrate Hezbollah's supply chain, though early evidence suggests the involvement of a European subcontractor.

With Lebanon reeling from this attack, Hezbollah is expected to respond forcefully. This event marks a turning point in the conflict, signaling an intensification of Israel's covert operations against Hezbollah and setting the stage for potential retaliatory measures.



GLOBAL EYE INTELLIGENCE

