

Israel's Operation Northern Arrows Projectile Tracker: 9/24-9/30

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The Jewish Institute for National Security of America's (JINSA) <u>Iran Projectile Tracker</u> presents regularly updated charts and graphs on missiles, rockets, drones, and mortars that Iran and its regional proxies have fired at U.S. personnel, partners, and interests in the Middle East, as well as data for other Iran-linked malign activity. In light of the large escalation between Hezbollah and Israel beginning on September 20, JINSA is releasing a weekly update with the latest information as of September 30 at 3:20 p.m. ET.

Attacks Against Israel from Lebanon Since September 20



1. Strategic Insights

- Since September 19, Israel has substantially escalated its fire against Hezbollah, including the targeted killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and almost the entirety of the Hezbollah senior leadership, without escalating to full-scale war. Although Hezbollah initially escalated its fire, its attacks have been shockingly limited in recent days, decreasing by 50 percent in the last five days, indicating the severe breakdown of its military structure or a strategic choice to preserve itself in the face of clear Israeli operational superiority.
- After killing Nasrallah with a September 27 strike against Hezbollah headquarters in the Dahiyeh neighborhood of Beirut, Lebanon, Israel is now seeking to translate its clear operational successes into strategic gains. Its objectives are to stop Hezbollah attacks into northern Israel and push Hezbollah's Radwan force away from the border to allow the return of the 60,000 Israelis that have evacuated their homes.

- Killing Nasrallah eliminated the most important terrorist figure in the Iranian regime's proxy network, sending a strong deterrent signal to Iranian proxies that Israel can and will target them wherever they are. The elimination of Hezbollah's senior leadership has sent the organization into disarray, which undermines its role as a second-strike deterrent against an Israeli operation to directly target Iran's nuclear program.
- While Hezbollah maintains a large arsenal of rockets, missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Israeli operations have killed almost all of Hezbollah's senior leadership, eliminated over 500 of its fighters, destroyed substantial portions of its weapons arsenal, and targeted Iranian efforts to resupply the terrorist group. These operations have substantially depleted Hezbollah's capability and capacity to mount a retaliation as demonstrated by the fact that Hezbollah's rate of fire at Israel has fallen by 50 percent in the last five days.
 - The Iran-backed terrorist group would likely struggle to launch the 6,000 projectiles per day that Israel had feared it would face in a major conflict because of its diminished capacity, capability to launch projectiles, leadership disorder, and communications breakdowns.
 - This decrease in Hezbollah attacks in the wake of Israeli operations has been due either to the breakdown in its leadership, communications, and capability to fire in the wake of the Israeli strikes or a strategic choice by what remains of Hezbollah's leadership and/or its Iranian patrons to preserve Hezbollah as a fighting force.
- Iran may retaliate against Israel both because of the preeminent position that Nasrallah served within the regime's strategy and because the strike also killed Iranian Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan, the Deputy Commander of Operations for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRCG) and the Acting Commander of IRGC Quds Force Operations in Syria and Lebanon. However, Hezbollah exists to protect the Iranian regime, not the other way around, and Iran has both diminished capacity and limited capabilities to strike Israel successfully.
 - After an Israeli strike that killed senior IRGC officers in Syria on April 1, Iran responded on April 13-14 with a massive aerial attack against Israel of over 350 ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and UAVs. This attack diminished Iran's capacity to launch missiles that could reach Israel.
 - Iran has not directly retaliated against Israel since the death of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran on July 31, despite Iranian officials promising to attack Israel.

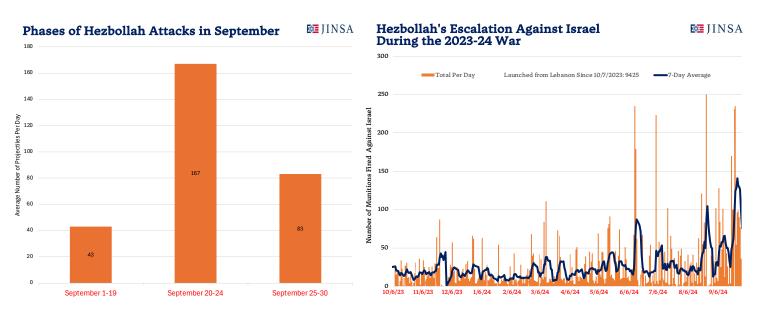
The Military Chain of Command of the Hezbollah **Terrorist Organization**





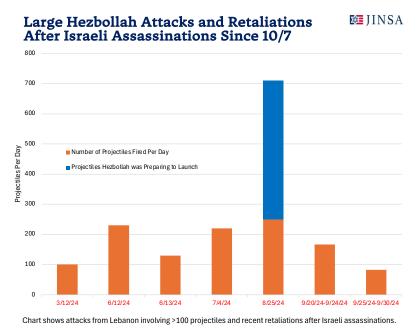
2. Charts and Trends

- Since September 20, both Hezbollah and Israel have escalated their fire against one another
 - » Hezbollah began its escalation on September 20 and its attacks have broken into two phases.
 - From September 20-24, it mounted a substantial escalation compared to its previous attacks in September.
 - From September 25-30, it decreased the number of its attacks but continued to launch a high number of attacks compared to prior weeks.
 - » Israel began its escalation on September 19 and its strikes in Lebanon have also occurred in two phases.
 - From September 19-26, Israel launched a record number of attacks against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.
 - From September 27-30, Israel decreased its strikes in Lebanon compared to the earlier phase but maintained a substantially higher rate of fire than it had earlier in the war.
- Following Hezbollah's escalation against Israel from September 20-24, it decreased the number of rockets, missiles, and drones it launched at Israel by 50 percent from September 25-30. However, Hezbollah's projectile fire against Israel since September 20 remains 181 percent higher than it was earlier in September and 139 percent higher than the previous ten months.
 - The terrorist group launched an average of 83 rockets and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) per day from September 25-30, down from an average of 167 per day from September 20-24.
 - From September 25-30, Hezbollah attacks targeted sites in the Galilee, Tiberias, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Safed, and likely attempted to strike the Karish gas facility in the Mediterranean Sea, among numerous other locations.

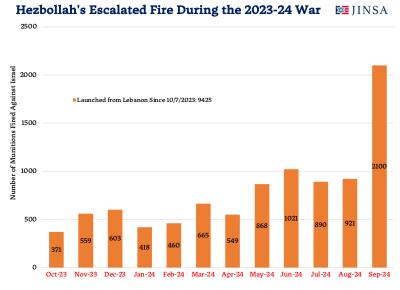


» The average number of projectiles that Hezbollah has launched per day since September 25 has been smaller than its previous retaliations.

- After an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon on September 20 killed Ibrahim Aqil, the head of Hezbollah's military operations and the acting commander of its Radwan Force, along with at least 15 other Hezbollah commanders, Hezbollah escalated its fire by launching 836 rockets but over the course of 5 days for only an average of 167 rockets per day.
- Hezbollah launched a barrage of roughly 250 rockets and UAVs on August 25 in response to the killing of Fuad Shukr, who was Hezbollah's most senior military commander. Israel preemptively destroyed two-thirds of 700 projectiles that Hezbollah planned to launch.



By comparison, during the first 19 days of September Hezbollah launched only 43 projectiles on average per day.



Since September 19, Israel has increased its strikes in Lebanon against Hezbollah by more than 3,580 percent compared to earlier in September, indicating expanding operations to degrade Hezbollah's capabilities and infrastructure.

- From September 19-30, Israel conducted an average of 302 strikes per day, an increase from 8.2 per day earlier in the month. Israel has conducted 3,632 strikes in Lebanon since September 19, including against Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut and the Bekka Valley, compared to 149 strikes that it conducted earlier in the month.
- After conducting the strike that killed Nasrallah on September 27, Israel has decreased its strikes against Hezbollah by 75 percent compared to the initial escalation on September 19-26.
 - From September 27-30, Israel conducted an average of 103 strikes per day targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon, which followed an average of 402.5 strikes per day from September 19-26. Israel has launched 414 strikes since September 27 after it conducted 3,218 strikes from September 19-26, including 1,600 strikes on September 23.
- Hezbollah has hidden rocket launch sites and weapons storage facilities in civilian locations, including residential buildings, schools, and schools. Israeli strikes against these locations have caused secondary explosions when the munitions illegally stored at these facilities exploded.

