



## **An on-the-ground look at Israel's 'Dahiya doctrine' & Israel Destroying Medical Facilities In Lebanon**

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**Dimitri Lascaris:** Good afternoon. This is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Beirut, Lebanon, on October 13th, 2024. I'm currently in the southern suburb of Dahiya, which has been struck repeatedly by the Israeli military over the course of the past several months, and particularly during the last two or three weeks following the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah. Behind me is what remains of an airstrike that occurred on October 2nd. Over there, you'll see the wreckage of what was a warehouse. And the warehouse has obviously been completely demolished. Presumably, the Israelis would say that this was an ammunition storage facility. But there's absolutely no indication of that. If you've seen the destruction of ammunition facilities, they typically will create huge quantities of black smoke and also a fireball. And the trees surrounding this facility are still intact, although some of the branches have been broken. They've not been burned. There's no black smoke on any of the buildings. So it seems highly doubtful that this was, in fact, any kind of an ammunition storage facility. And not only did they manage to demolish this warehouse in what is considered to be a relatively affluent neighbourhood by the standards of Beirut. In addition, this school behind me, the Mediterranean school, has suffered extensive damage. Now unfit for usage by the students who are being schooled there, the residential apartment buildings, these are clearly residential units adjacent to the warehouses, have also suffered extensive damage. Over here you have a sports complex with a gym and a basketball facility. We can't go over there at the moment and film, but I was there a moment ago and I saw that there was massive damage to the entrance of the facility that has obviously been put out of action. Over here is a soccer academy, a football academy, which has also suffered extensive damage. That, too, has now been put out of action. And then over in this building, there is a diplomatic facility, a consulate of the country of Seychelles. And a number of the residents in this building were injured as a result of the debris flying up from the blast site. One of them, by the way, happened to be a US citizen. So you'll see that these strikes that Israel is carrying out in Dahiya are having major impacts upon the civilian population, even when there's no demonstrable justification for the destruction of whatever target it is that they use as the pretext for striking here. We're going to continue our tour of Dahiya today, visit what other

sites we're able to access, to try to give you a sense of the damage that has been done and the death that has been inflicted upon the people of this war ravaged part of Beirut. This is Dimitri Lascaris signing off now. On October 13th, 2024.

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** Good afternoon. This is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Beirut, Lebanon, on October 12th, 2024. I'm currently situated in the central part of the city of Beirut in a district known as Bachoura. And the reason why we've come here today is that a week ago, a medical facility in this neighbourhood was struck by the Israeli military. That medical facility is right across the street in this building. It was on the second floor. As you can see, that has been wrecked by the strike. In addition, the levels above were occupied by civilians. These are private residences. A number of them have been damaged. And, in fact, it does appear as though the entire building, at least at the level of the second floor, has suffered structural damage that could very well affect the overall stability of the structure. This is a densely populated residential neighbourhood. The Israelis gave no justification, not even a semblance of a justification for striking this medical facility. The strike killed seven workers of the facility, including two medics. As you can see behind me, this is an ambulance that belonged to the facility. This is a parking space for the ambulance. It was clearly marked, publicly known to be a healthcare facility. And at the very same time that Israel struck this structure, it also struck medical facilities in the south of Lebanon, killing health care workers there as well. This is part of a broader pattern, the systematic degradation of Lebanon's health care system that's been going on since the genocide began in Gaza last year. I've reported previously, as have others from the south of Lebanon, on the killing of medics in the months leading up to the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah. The attack on medical facilities, in fact, I and my colleagues were at a hospital in Bint Jbail a few months ago, hours after it was struck by an Israeli drone killing three people, civilians who were exiting the hospital's emergency ward. Just two days ago, the UN commission of Inquiry accused Israel of committing crimes against humanity, in particular the crime of extermination, by destroying the healthcare system of Gaza, a process which continues to this very day. And if Israel continues to enjoy complete impunity for the destruction of the health care system of Gaza, there is a real risk that Lebanon will suffer the same fate to the profound detriment and suffering of the Lebanese people. That's why it's all the more imperative that Israel be held accountable for its war crimes and crimes against humanity before this process of destroying health care systems in the region expands outwards to other areas of West Asia. It's also notable that the explosion caused shrapnel to emanate outward. And here is one of the numerous pockmarks resulting from the shrapnel. I don't believe that any pedestrians in the area were killed or injured by the shrapnel, although 20 people who lived above the second floor were injured by the strike. But it just goes to show how deadly these types of strikes are, especially when they occur within a densely populated residential area. And lastly, I want to note that just down here, about 500m beyond the trees, you can't see it because of the greenage is the residence of the Lebanese prime minister. And a little bit beyond that is the Lebanese parliament. And clearly the proximity of these state institutions did not in any way shape or form deter Israel

from attacking the civilian infrastructure. Why all of this happened? Well, let me speculate for a moment. On the day prior to this deadly attack, Israel suffered one of its worst days militarily, where fighters of the Islamic resistance killed eight Israeli soldiers who tried to infiltrate into the territory of Lebanon. Now, whether or not this was retaliation for that, who knows? But it is certainly noteworthy that Israel hasn't even attempted to justify its attack on this medical facility.

**DL:** Good evening, Ali. Thank you for joining me today.

**Ali Azbek (AA):** Nice to meet you.

**DL:** And could you tell me your full name and what you do for a living?

**AA:** I'm Ali Azbek. I'm a civil engineer working at Wardaniyah near Saida. I live in Beirut and Hadath area. I left my home because the Zionist enemy is attacking my area.

**DL:** Where's your home? What part of Lebanon is your home? Dahieh?

**AA:** Dahieh.

**DL:** And so we're standing in front of a destroyed building. What is this place? And how was it destroyed?

**AA:** This place is a residential building containing a group of people that left their homes and went to this area as a safe area. But the Zionist enemy that made a massacre in this area.

**DL:** And when did that happen?

**AA:** When?

**AA:** Yesterday.

**DL:** Yesterday.

**AA:** Yesterday.

**DL:** And I understand you were here. You were close by when it happened. Where were you when this building was destroyed?

**AA:** The distance was about 50m only.

**DL:** And what were you doing?

**AA:** Well, we were in our new home in Basta, near this area.

**DL:** This is called Basta? This area.

**AA:** It is called Basta. Yes, yes, yes.

**DL:** Go ahead. And what happened when you heard the explosion? What did you do?

**AA:** I rushed to this area. And this is crime in this area. About 18 martyrs and about 100 wounded, as they say.

**DL:** Did you, when you came here after the explosion, did you see some of the people who were killed and wounded?

**AA:** Yes.

**DL:** And you didn't see any military?

**AA:** No, no, no. No military. This is a residential building. There is no military operation in this area at all.

**DL:** And I understand you also were very close to another attack that happened in Saida?

**AA:** Yes, [inaudible]. I rushed to the area of the bomb and this cultural association that was attacked by the Zionist enemy, also, here targeted the residential area. A residential building that contained about 20 civilians. Six of these civilians are dead. And about 27 wounded.

**DL:** And there, did you see some of the dead and wounded yourself as well? Did you see some of the victims?

**AA:** Yes. I worked with the municipality there and by my hand, I helped the wounded people . And with my hand – I see the martyrs there.

**DL:** You were trying to get them out with your hands.

**AA:** Yes.

**DL:** And so now are you going to stay in Beirut despite all of the destruction? Are you going to stay?

**AA:** Yes. Yes, I'm staying here till the end of this war.

**DL:** Well, thank you very much for speaking with me, Ali.

**END**

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