

EVENTS IN LEBANON

GENERAL NEWS

The intensity of the missiles and bombs increased at night as the Israelis relentlessly pounded the Southern villages of Lebanon, the Southern part of Beirut, as well as other areas in the country. As groups of buildings collapse, entire neighborhoods are quickly destroyed. The residents are sometimes given short notice, but no pre-warning is often given. Hundreds of people have died as a result of being trapped under the rubble, while members of the rescue squads trying to save those who are still alive, get hit and killed. Video of collapsing building: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DBbUYI1NvHD/?igsh=MXRranNqenA5cjQ5bA==>

Most of those rescued are in dire need of medical aid, yet more than 50 hospitals have endured air strikes forcing their closure. Recently, one of the main hospitals in southern Beirut which serves many patients received a warning and hurriedly evacuated the hospital in the middle of the night. However, it was only a trick to bring fear as the target was three buildings adjoining a big government hospital in the same area. The buildings collapsed killing 38 people and injuring many while causing significant damage to the hospital. As the rescue squads rushed to remove people from under the rubble, 2 other adjacent areas in the southern area of Beirut were hit causing the collapse of many more buildings and increasing the death toll.



Ammar, H. (2024). man watches rescuers sift through the rubble as they search for people still missing at the site of an Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs, Monday, Sept. 23, 2024. [Photograph]. Colombia Journalism Review via AP Photos.



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The airstrikes and missiles next extended to the Eastern part of the country targeting the fertile Beka'a valley with its many towns and villages and the historic city of Ba'lback with its famous Roman temples where hundreds of famous actors and singers have performed. In addition, the highway leading to Syria passes through this valley. The same system of killing and demolishing houses, villages, and cities is being followed causing hundreds of deaths and thousands to flee in search of safety.

As people are being forced to flee, they seek safe places to go to. With the government shelters now full, many seek accommodation with relatives and friends which are also very crowded. Thus hundreds were traveling through the Beka'a valley to cross the border into Syria. Yet, on Oct. 14, the border crossing was bombarded by Israeli airstrikes rendering the road unusable for any vehicle. Many more airstrikes followed, further destroying the road. Yet people were not deterred but continued to clamber over the rubble, crossing on foot the four-meter-wide crater in the road as they desperately sought safety.



GENERAL NEWS

Targeting rescue workers and medical staff is against international law. Yet the Israeli attacks have killed up to date, 107 relief workers. The press has not been spared either, as journalists and photographers are being intentionally targeted and killed. Lately, three journalists were killed and several wounded by an Israeli air strike at night on a group of small chalets where 18 journalists from seven different media outlets were staying while covering the war in Southern Lebanon. Several cars with “Press” signs on them were parked in front of the site.



Dallah, R. (2024). A damaged press vehicle is seen at the site of an Israeli strike on a hotel where journalists were staying in Hasbiyya town, Nabatieh, Southern Lebanon, 25 October 2024. [Photograph]. Anadolu via Getty Images. <https://rfex.org/lebanese-journalists-confront-risks-and-challenges-amid-israeli-war/>

EVENTS IN LEBANON

Historical glimpse of Tyre

The ancient city of Tyre with its imposing Roman ruins and hippodromes 83 km south of Beirut. It is a UNESCO-listed heritage city. It was founded in the third millennium B.C. by the Phoenicians who were the first to sail the seas.



Roman ruins of Tyre. Photograph: My Lebanon Guide <https://mylebanonguide.com/place/tyre-monuments/>

According to legend, it was they who discovered the purple pigment. At present, it is among Lebanon's larger cities attracting tourists for its historical sites and lovely sandy beaches. It also attracts the sea turtles who use the sandy beaches during their nesting season.

In the suburbs of this historic city are 3 Palestinian refugee camps established in 1948 with a population of around 70 thousand persons.



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EVENTS IN LEBANON

UPDATES ON THE TYRE FARM

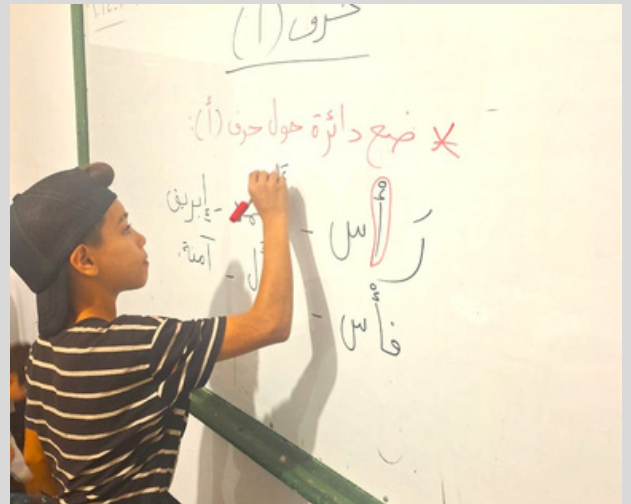
Accessible to the 3 camps is the JCC farm which receives most of its agriculture students from these camps. The farm with its green house, plastic tents open spaces, bees and chicken stood ready to begin with its courses when the war on Lebanon began. Israeli missiles and rockets began systematically targeting and destroying the southern villages, killing its people and causing them to flee. The airstrikes slowly worked their way towards Tyre. They began by targeting the surroundings of Tyre which included parts of the 3 refugee camps, causing thousands to flee. This was followed by the heavy pounding of Tyre, beginning with the lovely beach facilities and moving to the buildings in the midst of the city and between several heritage sites causing massive destruction to buildings, shops and cars. It became impossible for any of our staff to check on the farm and carry out its needs of survival. Thus we still depend on our chickens and bees to care for the farm if they are still alive.



EVENTS IN LEBANON

UPDATES ON EIN EL HILWEH CENTER

Ein El Hilweh is an over-crowded camp that suffers from unemployment and often violence amongst different political factions. The JCC center with its art and music programs, provides an oasis of safety and joy amid this camp. The Israelis have been targeting with their missiles different people around the camp. Two weeks ago a prominent leader was targeted and killed inside the camp causing many to flee in fear. Schools nearby were set up as shelters and they soon filled up with people with very scared children.



Our art teachers volunteered to help alleviate their fear by occupying them with art activities. This week, despite fear of possible air strikes on the camp, a large number of young people appeared at the center. Nine were anxious to start literacy classes as they were ashamed that they could not read, while 20 asked for tutoring to be ready for the re-opening of their schools. Encouraged, although apprehensive, our center re-opened and even added an exercise program.



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NEWS OF CENTERS

UPDATES ON SAIDA CENTER

The center is in the middle of Saida city and has offered refuge to some of our farm staff whose houses were hit in the camps of the south. However, this did not interfere with the online classes for our Syrian students who need to be ready for the end-of-the-year exams in Syria. The teachers come in daily with occasional students attending when they can.



Hundreds of families fleeing from the villages in the South sought shelter in Saida, feeling it was safe although several airstrikes had been carried out around the city. Yesterday and with no prior warning, an Israeli air raid was launched dropping bombs amid a highly populated area in the center of the city. Three residential buildings where many displaced families had taken refuge were destroyed. At least seven people were killed and 33 injured with more reported missing and the search under the rubble continues.

NEWS OF CENTERS

UPDATES ON DBAYEH LIBRARY



The Dbayeh camp which lies to the north of the country initially received 105 families most of whom stayed with relatives and friends. Yet, with increasing Israeli air attacks, destruction, and warnings to evacuate villages and whole areas of cities, more people had to flee. So more families came to this camp seeking shelter raising the number to 120 families within the camp and 70 families around the camp which makes around 740 persons.

THE DISTRIBUTIONS CARRIED OUT TO DATE:

7860 hot meals 1000 donuts 190 food boxes

1000 items of clothing

200 mattresses 200 pillows 200 blankets

150 packs of herbal tea

Programs for psychosocial support for the displaced children and sports activities for the youth are being carried out by the staff and the youth volunteers.



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NEWS OF CENTERS

UPDATES ON DBAYEH LIBRARY

The JCC would like to note the hospitality and generosity of the residents of the camp who welcomed the displaced families amongst them and in their homes in spite of their own poverty. A big appreciation goes to the 20 young volunteers from the camp under the leadership of the JCC Dbayeh director and his dedicated staff who are working tirelessly. A special and heartfelt appreciation goes to all who are supporting our work.

Support is still needed and will be greatly appreciated.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKNU1GjYaRA>

