

Comprehensive Report: Ceasefire Agreement between Israel and Lebanon Period: November 2024 – March 2025

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Overview

On November 27, 2024, Lebanon and Israel entered into a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States and France following over a year of conflict. The accord aimed to end hostilities, restore stability to southern Lebanon and northern Israel, and prevent further escalation.

- *What does the ceasefire deal say?*

Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, the day after its ally Hamas launched a deadly attack into Israel that ignited the war in Gaza. Israel responded with airstrikes and shelling, and the two sides were locked in a low-level conflict for nearly a year.

In September 2024, the exchange of fire escalated into a full-scale war. Israel launched widespread aerial bombardment of the country and a ground invasion in southern Lebanon. More than 4,000 people were killed in Lebanon, including much of Hezbollah's top leadership but also hundreds of civilians.

The internationally brokered deal that ended the war called for both Hezbollah and Israeli forces to withdraw from the area south of the Litani River in Lebanon, which would be patrolled by a beefed-up Lebanese Army, along with U.N. peacekeepers.

The agreement called for Lebanese authorities to prevent Hezbollah and other armed groups from launching attacks on Israel and for Israel to halt "offensive military operations" in Lebanon. However, the deal allows both sides to act in "self-defense" without defining what that means.

It also left vague how Hezbollah's weapons and military facilities north of the Litani River should be treated, saying that Lebanese authorities should dismantle unauthorized facilities **starting** with the area south of the river.

The ceasefire initially called for a 60-day cessation of hostilities and was later extended to February 18, 2025, due to delays in compliance by both parties.

- *What says the US 'guarantee' letter to Israel*

1- Israel and the U.S. intend to share sensitive intelligence concerning violations, including any infiltration by Hezbollah into the Lebanese Army.

2- The U.S. may share information provided by Israel with the Lebanese government or commission to allow them to address the violations.

- 3- The U.S. is committed to cooperating with Israel to curb Iran's destabilizing activities in Lebanon, including preventing the transfer of weapons, affiliates and others from Iranian territory.
- 4- The U.S. recognizes Israel's right to respond to threats from Lebanese territory, in accordance with international law.
- 5- The U.S. recognizes Israel's right to respond to threats coming from Lebanese territory in accordance with international law.
- 6- Outside the southern region, Israel reserves the right to act against the development of threats directed against it, if Lebanon is unable or unwilling to thwart these threats, including the smuggling of illegal weapons to Lebanon from borders and crossing points.
- 7- If Israel decides to take such steps, it will inform the U.S. of this wherever possible.
- 8- Israeli flights over Lebanon will be conducted for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance purposes only, will not be visible to the naked eye and will not break the sound barrier.

Agreement Details and Commitments

Israeli Commitments:

1. Initiate a phased and complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon within 60 days.
2. Cease all military operations inside Lebanese territory—land, sea, and air—except under the right to self-defense.
3. Coordinate any military responses or exceptions with a joint committee composed of representatives from the United States, France, the Lebanese Army, Israel, and UNIFIL.

Lebanese Commitments:

1. Ensure Hezbollah fully withdraws its personnel and weapons to positions north of the Litani River.
2. Deploy 10,000 Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) personnel in southern Lebanon with logistical and training support from the US and France.
3. Dismantle all unauthorized Hezbollah military infrastructure and arms depots across Lebanese territory.
4. Enforce strict control over arms production, transfers, and sales.

Joint Commitments:

1. Uphold United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 in its entirety.
2. Establish and maintain a Tripartite Oversight Mechanism with participation from the US, France, Lebanon, Israel, and UNIFIL to monitor and verify implementation, address disputes, and facilitate dialogue.

Summary and Outlook

The ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon marked a critical step toward de-escalation. Despite international support and diplomatic pressure, both sides have struggled to meet the agreement's deadlines and requirements. Hezbollah's armed presence and Israel's continued military responses highlight the fragility of the truce. Moving forward, the success of the ceasefire will hinge on robust international oversight, accelerated Lebanese Army action, and transparent enforcement of commitments.

References

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- Al Arabiya English, “Top US senators warn Lebanese army is moving too slowly on Hezbollah-Israel ceasefire” (April 3, 2025)
- Politico, Reuters, AP News – Reports on ceasefire negotiation and regional incident