Israel's Minister of Defense: "We say that southern Lebanon will turn into Gaza, and that's exactly what we do"

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> Israel's Defense Minister details military operations in southern Lebanon, stating that threats have been implemented through systematic destruction of villages and elimination of Hezbollah militants, following what he describes as the 'Rafah model' applied in Gaza.

SAŽETAK

In this statement, Israel's Defense Minister describes the military campaign in southern Lebanon, emphasizing the implementation of stated objectives. He claims approximately 9,000 Hezbollah militants have been eliminated, with around 3,500 in the Shebaa Farms area alone, and that Israeli forces control approximately 700 square kilometers of Lebanese territory. The Defence Minister asserts that villages in southern Lebanon—populated by Shias and numbering 24 along the border—were used by Hezbollah as military positions and weapons storage points, with the Lebanese Army allegedly taking no action against them. He describes a systematic destruction operation called 'silver plow,' involving bulldozers and explosives to destroy approximately 15,000 to 20,000 houses in these villages, framing this as necessary to prevent threats to Israeli border communities including Metula and Shlomi. The statement criticizes media coverage for not reporting casualty figures and territorial control metrics provided by the IDF and military leadership.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

- The Defence Minister states that all threats made regarding Lebanon have been implemented, including operations modelled on what he calls the 'Rafah model' from Gaza.
- Claims approximately 9,000 Hezbollah militants eliminated, including roughly 3,500 in the Shebaa Farms area, according to IDF and military leadership data.
- Israeli forces are stated to control approximately 700 square kilometers of southern Lebanese territory, almost twice the area of Gaza.

24 border villages in southern Lebanon, existing for hundreds of years and populated by Shias, were allegedly used by Hezbollah for military positions and weapons storage; the Lebanese Army is stated to have taken no action against them.

Describes systematic destruction of 15,000 to 20,000 houses in these villages using bulldozers and explosives in an operation termed 'silver plow,' framed as preventing threats to Israeli border communities.

Criticizes media coverage for not reporting casualty figures and territorial control data provided by the IDF spokesperson and military leadership.

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Statements and Implementation

Regarding Lebanon in this current round, I have said that there is much in the regular media that loves to focus on "what he is threatening" and "what he is saying." There is nothing I have threatened that has not been implemented. There is a purpose to these statements: the message you broadcast to your forces, the message you broadcast to the enemy, and then you implement these things. Regarding Lebanon specifically, I stated that **southern Lebanon** would turn into Gaza. We would operate according to the Rafah model, we would destroy everything there, we would deal with them in this way, and that is exactly what we did.

Current Situation and Media Coverage

Now, the current situation in Lebanon—which the media does not want to reflect. Incidentally, the IDF spokesperson provides the data, and the Chief of Staff also states the data. They refuse to reflect it. You have close to 9,000 militants eliminated in **Hezbollah**'s "Resistance War," yes? Of these, around 3,500 were in the Shebaa Farms alone. You have approximately 700 square kilometers that we are holding. This is almost twice the area of Gaza, by the way. We are holding them. All the infrastructure is destroyed. The houses in 24 villages along the border in Lebanon—villages that had existed for hundreds of years and were populated by Shias—were used by Hezbollah to turn them into positions against... Do you remember the scenes at the border fences? Hezbollah paid them money, they brought weapons in, and used these villages against us. That was the method. The Lebanese Army did not touch them.

Destruction Operations

Now, what we did: we destroyed them. We ordered the IDF—they call it "silver plow"—which is done with an agricultural character, yes? Systematically destroying, with the bulldozers of the torch bearer, yes? Debris removal. He did this in Gaza, he can move

to another area. And with simple explosives, we finished 90 percent of these houses. This is 15 to 20 thousand houses, you need to understand. They will no longer threaten Metula and Shlomi and all the kibbutzim.

#Israel-Lebanon military operations #Hezbollah #Southern Lebanon #Destruction of villages #Military claims and casualties #Gaza operations comparison #Media coverage of conflict

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