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## ***Israel attacks targets in Lebanon after rocket strike on annexed Golan Heights. Hezbollah denies responsibility***

On Sunday, the Israeli army bombed numerous targets in Lebanon. The armed forces said they had destroyed Hezbollah weapons depots and infrastructure in the Bekaa Valley, in Tyre and in numerous places in southern Lebanon. The wave of attacks was in retaliation for a deadly attack on a football field in the Druze community of Majdal Shams. Twelve children and young people aged between ten and 20 were killed late on Saturday afternoon. Israel blames Hezbollah.

In a statement by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, it was said that the Lebanese "terrorist organization" was deliberately killing civilians. It was responsible for the "massacre" and had crossed "all red lines." Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen demanded that "Lebanon should burn." The Supreme Commander of the Israel Defense Forces, Herzl Halevi, said that the soccer field had been hit by an Iranian-made "Falak" rocket. The "Hezbollah rocket" was loaded with 53 kilograms of explosives. "Anyone who fires such a rocket into a populated area wants to kill civilians and children," Halevi said in a video message on Sunday morning. A meeting of the Israeli security cabinet was planned for Sunday afternoon, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's early return from Washington.

On Saturday, immediately after the first accusations from Israel, Hezbollah had "categorically" declared that it was not responsible for the incident. A Hezbollah representative told the UN mission for Lebanon (UNIFIL) that the explosion was probably caused by a misdirected Israeli interceptor missile. As usual, Hezbollah also published information on Saturday about all the missiles it had fired at Israeli positions, including their target, reason and explosive power.

The head of the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon, Lieutenant General Aroldo Lázaro, called on all sides to exercise absolute restraint. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called for an "independent international investigation." The US presidential envoy for Israel and Lebanon, Amos Hochstein, spoke on the phone with the leader of the Lebanese Druze, Walid Jumblatt. He repeated to Hochstein that "everything must be done to stop Israeli aggression against Palestine and Lebanon," Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party reported to Lebanese media. Jumblatt expressed his condolences to the families of the children killed. An escalation must be avoided. Israel is doing everything "to fuel conflict and the fragmentation of the region." The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kanaani, again warned Israel against starting a war against Lebanon under any pretext. Israel is trying to distract the world from "ten months of mass murder in the Gaza Strip and mass murder of Palestinian children and women."

The Israeli armed forces attacked another school in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday morning. According to local reports, at least 30 people were killed, including 15 children. The Khadija School in Deir Al-Balah also housed an emergency hospital. However, Israel claimed to have destroyed a " Hamas command and control center."