

# *Israel rejects ceasefire calls and prepares for ground invasion of Lebanon*

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Tel Aviv, September 26 (RHC)-- Israel has rejected a possible ceasefire as it continues its assault on Lebanon. The U.S., France, Canada, Australia, Japan, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia had called for a 21-day ceasefire as the death toll in Lebanon topped 620 people, at least 72 of those killed on Wednesday.

Despite resounding international warnings against escalating attacks, Israel is doubling down, with its military chief Herzl Halevi telling troops Wednesday: “You hear the jets overhead; we have been striking all day. This is both to prepare the ground for your possible entry and to continue degrading Hezbollah.”

Half a million people in Lebanon are now believed to be displaced. Hospitals are totally overrun with victims of Israeli attacks.

Dr. Adel Raee, director of the Raee Hospital in Sidon: “Since Monday until today, we have received 136 wounded, including 36 martyrs. Among those 36 martyrs, 18 were torn to pieces. There are still bodies in the morgue that require DNA testing for identification.”

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