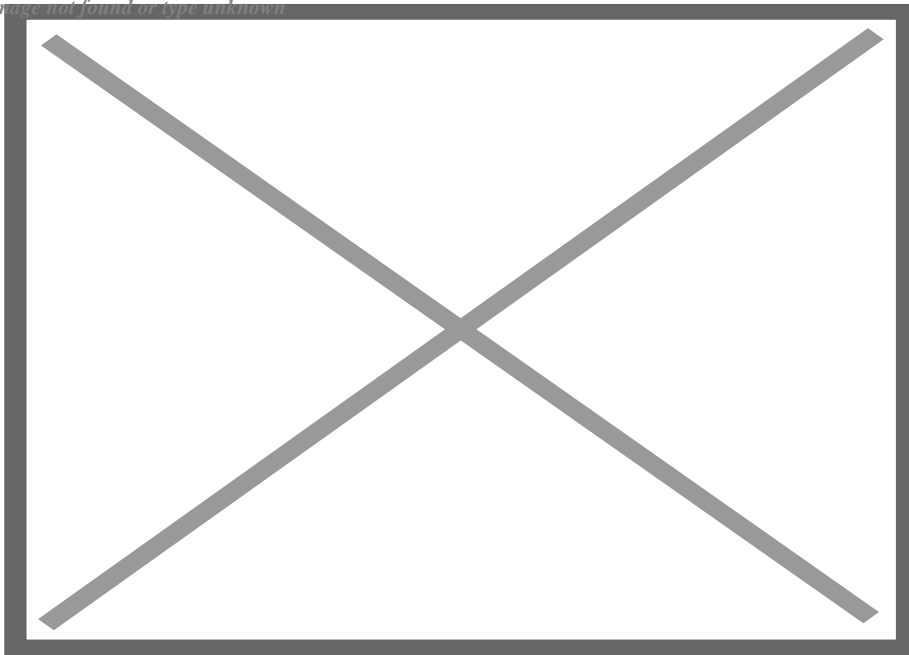


Lebanese parliamentary speaker says Israel must pull out of entire Lebanon

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Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri

Beirut, December 31 (RHC)-- Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri demands that the Israeli regime commit to the terms of the ceasefire deal that supposedly stopped its intensified deadly aggression against Beirut last month after killing thousands of innocent civilians.

The official made the remarks to Lebanon's An-Nahar daily on Monday regarding the regime's recurrent fatal violations of the truce deal. The violations come while Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement that forced the regime into coming to terms with the agreement by mounting thousands of retaliatory strikes against the occupied Palestinian territories, was committing to the deal, he said.

Hezbollah's commitment, he added, were being implemented in coordination with the Lebanese Army. "Israel too is obligated to pull out of all of Lebanon's areas, and end its aggression," Berri asserted. He also urged that the committee monitoring implementation of the deal take up its responsibilities alongside

the UNIFIL, which features the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Lebanon.

“Upon Israel’s [potential] withdrawal from all of Lebanon’s areas, the country’s Army has to be fully stationed in those areas.” Most recently, the Army reported “dangerous contravention” of the ceasefire deal by Israeli forces, who had invaded the Wadi al-Hajir area in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli regime’s Ha’aretz paper, meanwhile, reported that the Israeli army sought to overstay in Lebanon upon expiration of the deal’s 60-day span.

Mustafa Bayram, labor minister in Lebanon’s Interim Government, also addressed the violations, saying, “The Israeli army’s invasion of Wadi al-Hajir amounts to a historical salutary lesson, and proves that resistance is the only option towards confronting the Zionist occupiers, and that all other solutions have severely failed in the face of the regime’s aggression.”

Berri, in addition, addressed the issue of the ongoing process of appointment of Lebanon’s next president, saying that he intended to pick the official during a meeting scheduled for January 9, and urging the Lebanese legislators to assume their relevant responsibilities concerning the matter too.

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