



Hezbollah chief Nasrallah threatens Israel over future conflict

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Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah has vowed that his party will bomb Israel's infrastructure if Israel attacks Lebanon. His comments came amid a war of words between Israel and Hezbollah that has raised concerns of renewed conflict in the region.

AFP - Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah vowed on Tuesday that his militant party would bomb Israel's infrastructure, including its airports and refineries, if the Jewish state attacks Lebanon.

"I say to the Israelis: if you attack Beirut's Rafiq Hariri airport we will attack Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv," he said in comments transmitted via video link to thousands of supporters massed in Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs.

He added that should Israel also bomb Lebanon's refineries, factories or power plants, his militant party would retaliate with all its might.

"I declare to you today that I accept this challenge," Nasrallah said in a defiant speech commemorating the assassination of three Hezbollah leaders.

"If you destroy one building in the southern suburbs we will destroy several of yours," he added.

His comments came amid an escalating war of words between Israel and Hezbollah that has raised concerns of a renewed conflict in the region that could draw in other regional players such as Syria and Iran.

Nasrallah, whose party fought a devastating war with the Jewish state in 2006, accused Israel of engaging in a psychological war aimed at sowing fear among the Lebanese.

He said his party was not seeking a new conflict but stood ready to respond to any Israeli attack.

"The only language Israel understands is that of threats," he said.

His speech on Tuesday was in commemoration of the killing of his predecessor Abbas Moussawi, who died in an Israeli air raid in 1992, as well as Ragheb Harb, another Hezbollah leader assassinated by Israel in 1984, and top commander Imad Mughnieh, who died in a car bombing in Damascus in 2008.

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