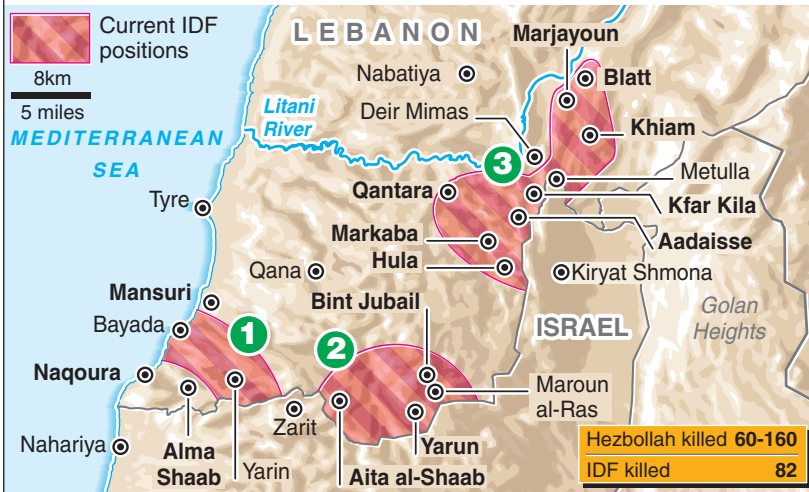


## Expanded ground offensive put on hold

Up to 20,000 extra Israeli Defence Force (IDF) troops are set to join 10,000 others inside south Lebanon to establish a “buffer” zone and force Hezbollah fighters north of the Litani River. Hezbollah has fired more than 3,300 rockets at Israeli towns during the four-week-old offensive



**1 Western sector:** Fierce fighting between IDF's **Alexandroni Infantry Brigade 903** and Hezbollah rocket squads dug-in between villages of **Naqoura** and **Alma Shaab**. Heavy fighting around **Mansuri**. Israeli gunboats shell coast north of **Naqoura**. Rocket attacks continue

**2 Central sector:** **Golani Brigade 1** and **Sa'ar Brigade 7** exchange intensive fire around village of **Bint Jbeil** – main Hezbollah stronghold in south – and **Yarun**. House-to-house fighting between Hezbollah units and **Paratroop Brigade 35** in **Aita al-Shaab**

**3 Eastern sector:** **Iron Tails 401 Armoured Brigade** enforced with **Nakhal Infantry Brigade 933** and **Carmeli Infantry Brigade 2** push north, taking key town of **Marjayoun** and village of **Blatt**. IDF also advances on **Kham** from which Hezbollah fires rockets into northern Israel