

OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE REPORT ·  
UNCLASSIFIED

# The Nabi Sheet Information Cascade: Architecture of a Wartime Rumor

*Misinformation Cascade Analysis &  
Verified Event Reconstruction*

*How Lebanese pro-Hezbollah channels built an unverified  
ambush narrative, and how it looped back through unofficial  
Hebrew media*

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Report date: **8 March 2026**    Event period: **6-7 March 2026**

Sources: **3 Lebanese channels + Hebrew Telegram**

Geography: **Eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanon**

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**OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT) · UNCLASSIFIED**

Compiled from open-source material: 3 Lebanese channel archives (Sada Al-Dahiye, Sabrina News, Bint Jbeil) and a Hebrew-language Telegram screenshot.

Channels examined are representative examples of a wider amplification ecosystem active on the night of 6-7 March 2026.

All assessments made against primary source material from the Operation Nabi Sheet Intelligence Report (7 March 2026).

**DISCLAIMER\*** · All sources analysed in this report are pro-Hezbollah. "Verified" denotes independently confirmable events (strikes, official statements). "Unverified" denotes claims with no independent corroboration. Multiple messages cite unnamed "Hebrew platforms" or "Israeli media"; no independent verification exists that any Israeli Hebrew-language channel reported the specific claims attributed to them. The phrase "حدث أمني صعب" (difficult security event) was removed from Israeli military-media lexicon following the 2024 war. Some Israeli channels did report, citing "Lebanese sources," that a security event was occurring in the Bekaa, but none used this phrase or provided details matching the claims in these channels.

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# 1) Misinformation Cascade Analysis

*How Lebanese pro-Hezbollah channels built an unverified ambush narrative, and how it looped back through unofficial Hebrew media*

Report date: **8 March 2026**    Event period: **6–7 March 2026**

Sources: **3 Lebanese channels + Hebrew Telegram (illustrative examples)**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

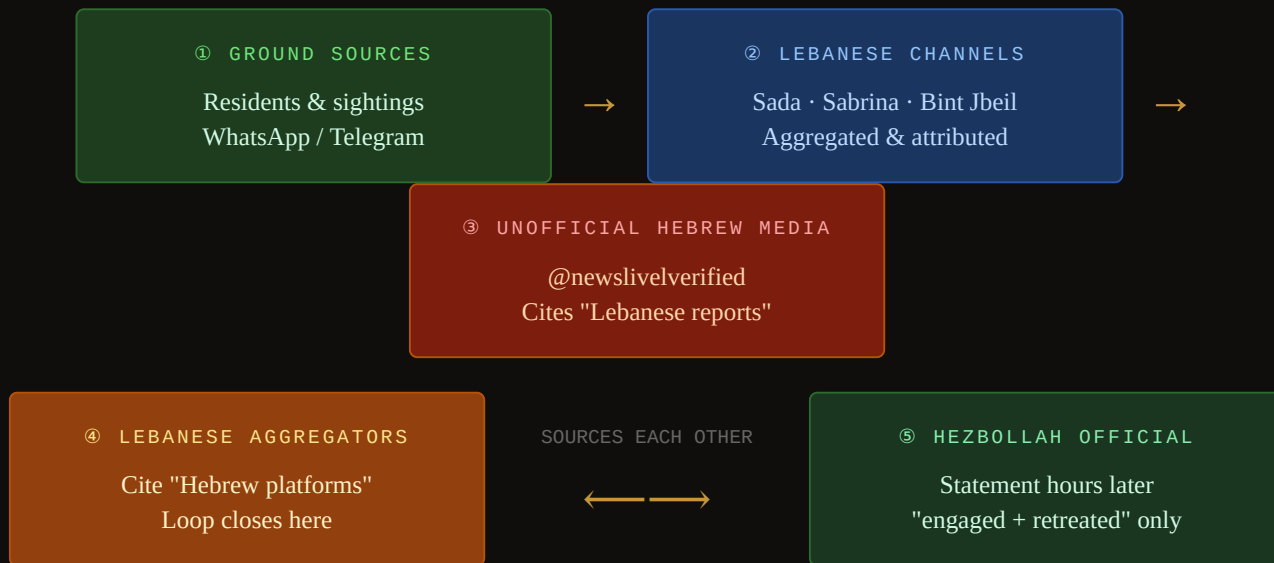
On the night of 6–7 March 2026, a confirmed Israeli helicopter insertion near Nabi Sheet in the eastern Bekaa Valley became the seed of something else entirely: a fabricated narrative, built and amplified across Lebanese pro-Hezbollah media, in which Hezbollah's Radwan Force had ambushed the Israeli unit, inflicted heavy casualties, and left a besieged force unable to extract.

This report examines three channels as documented examples of a much wider pattern, **Sada Al-Dahiye**, **Sabrina News**, and **Bint Jbeil**. Many other WhatsApp groups and Telegram channels were broadcasting simultaneously. These three are studied in detail because their timestamps and content are well-documented; they illustrate the mechanism rather than define its full reach.

What set this cascade apart from ordinary rumour propagation was its **circular sourcing loop**, a structural feature that gave fabricated claims the appearance of independent corroboration. Lebanese channels attributed claims to unnamed "**Hebrew platforms**"; the unofficial Hebrew Telegram channel **@newslivelverified** (62,351 subscribers) broadcast those same claims, almost certainly drawn from the Lebanese channels, and framed them as Israeli reporting; Lebanese channels then cited those Hebrew posts as confirmation. No primary source existed at any point in the loop. Each post appeared to add a new layer of verification while adding none at all.

## INFORMATION LAUNDERING CYCLE

The mechanism described above, visualised



LOOP CREATES FALSE CORROBORATION, NO PRIMARY SOURCE EXISTS AT ANY NODE

PART 1

## Source Profiles

The four channels below are examined as documented cases from a larger Lebanese media ecosystem that was active throughout the night. Their content and timestamps are verifiable, which is why they serve as the analytical basis here, not because they were uniquely responsible.

### Sada Al-Dahiye

WHATSAPP GROUP · PRO-HEZBOLLAH ·  
BEIRUT SOUTHERN SUBURBS

A WhatsApp group serving Hezbollah's core support base in the Dahiye. Content is user-contributed with no editorial oversight, it functions as a real-time rumour aggregator. Posts routinely invoke "a source" or unspecified "Hebrew platforms" with no traceable attribution.

PRIMARY AMPLIFIER

### Sabrina News

TELEGRAM / WHATSAPP · PRO-RESISTANCE  
· LEBANON

A pro-resistance Lebanese channel operating across Telegram and WhatsApp, styled as a news outlet with no bylines, editorial standards, or fact-checking. Responsible for the sharpest escalations, including the first published explanation of the Hannibal Protocol at 2:02 AM.

NARRATIVE ESCALATOR

## Bint Jbeil

TELEGRAM CHANNEL · PRO-RESISTANCE · SOUTH LEBANON

Named after the symbolically resonant southern Lebanese town, this channel aggregates from Hezbollah-aligned sources. It was the first to publish the "Tzanhanim stumbled" claim, attributing it to "Hebrew platforms", and subsequently posted multiple videos of sporadic, non-directional gunfire in the air presented as anti-aircraft engagement.

FIRST MOVER / VIDEO  
MISCONTEXTUALIZER

## @newslivverified

HEBREW TELEGRAM · UNOFFICIAL · 62,351 SUBSCRIBERS

An unofficial Hebrew-language Telegram channel whose name is engineered to imply credibility it does not have. It posted that "Hezbollah's Radwan forces ambushed our forces", language that originated in Lebanese channels minutes earlier, creating the appearance of independent Hebrew corroboration.

UNOFFICIAL / CIRCULAR SOURCE

### WHY @NEWSLIVELVERIFIED CANNOT BE TREATED AS A CREDIBLE SOURCE

"Verified" in a Telegram channel name is self-applied. The platform has no verification infrastructure.

The screenshot shows the channel reporting the Radwan ambush in language that directly mirrors what Lebanese channels were broadcasting at the same moment. The mechanism is circular: the Lebanese channel cites "Hebrew media," the Hebrew channel cites "Lebanese reports," and each side treats the other's post as independent confirmation. Neither has a primary source.

The channel's post, [כוחות רדואן של חיזבאללה ארבו לכוחותינו](#) ("Hezbollah's Radwan forces ambushed our forces"), was unattributed, uncaveated, and not carried at that hour by any Israeli outlet with editorial accountability: not Kan, not Walla, not Ynet, not the Times of Israel.

PART 2

## First Instances, How the Narrative Entered the Record

The ambush narrative was not born in one place. It entered progressively, between roughly 01:05 and 01:42 AM, each post building on what the previous one had left uncontested.

**THE "FAILED" FRAME, SADA AL-DAHIYE**

①  
01:05

Sada Al-Dahiye forwards a report from Al-Manar's Bekaa correspondent: the Israeli enemy "attempted a landing operation on the Eastern Mountain Range but failed to carry it out." This is the first application of "failed" to the operation.

*Attributed to: Al-Manar (Hezbollah-affiliated broadcaster)*

**THE FABRICATED HEBREW SOURCE, BINT JBEIL**

②  
01:13

Bint Jbeil publishes the claim that the Tzanhanim paratrooper brigade "stumbled and failed a mission inside Lebanese territory," attributing it to unspecified "Hebrew platforms." No outlet is named, no article linked.

*Falsely attributed to: unnamed "Hebrew platforms"*

**NEAR-IDENTICAL CLAIM ECHOED, SADA AL-DAHIYE**

③  
01:17

Four minutes after Bint Jbeil, Sada Al-Dahiye reports clashes "inside the Nabi Sheet cemetery" and repeats the Tzanhanim failure claim, almost verbatim. The verbal similarity points to direct consumption of Bint Jbeil's post.

*Almost certainly sourced from: Bint Jbeil, 4 minutes prior*

**THE LOOP CLOSSES, @NEWSLIVELVERIFIED**

④  
01:28-29

The unofficial Hebrew Telegram posts "severe incident near the border" followed by "Hezbollah's Radwan forces ambushed our forces." Lebanese channels then cite this post as Israeli confirmation, and the loop is complete.

*Source: almost certainly Lebanese channels, Effect: circular confirmation achieved*

**VISUAL "PROOF" PUBLISHED, BINT JBEIL**

⑤  
01:32

Bint Jbeil publishes video captioned as "footage of the Radwan Brigade ambush." The footage shows night-sky light streaks consistent with sporadic, non-directional shooting in the air, following the news of a heliborne attack. The lack of any directional aim indicates there was no actual visual on the helicopters. This is the first claimed visual evidence.

*Footage: consistent with sporadic shooting in air, no directional targeting visible*

**RADWAN AMBUSH BECOMES CONSENSUS, SADA AL-DAHIYE**

⑥  
01:42

All three Lebanese channels now carry versions of the ambush claim, all attributing it to "Hebrew" or "enemy" media. The narrative has achieved cross-channel consensus, without a primary source anywhere.

*Attributed to: "enemy media", unspecified and unverifiable*

## SOLDIER CAPTURES AND THE HANNIBAL PROTOCOL, SABRINA NEWS

⑦

01:58–  
02:02

Sabrina News escalates: from ambush to soldier capture attempts, then, at 02:02 AM, publishes an explanation of the Hannibal Protocol, the IDF's most sensitive contingency directive. No capture had been confirmed. This represents the furthest point of departure from any verifiable event.

*Peak claim: Hannibal Protocol, 02:02 AM, zero confirmed captures*

⑧

02:16–  
02:55

## HUMOUR, MOCKERY, AND TRIUMPHALISM ENTER THE FEED

As the fabricated narrative solidified, all three channels began publishing jokes and mocking content built entirely on the unverified claims. At 2:16 AM, Sabrina News posted a sarcastic message about someone in Brital who "captured a prisoner and wants to show off for free." Between 2:46 and 2:54 AM, a burst of humorous posts appeared: "In the Bekaa we hunt sparrows, in the south we hunt tanks" and "For sale: 2026 helicopter, no paperwork, in Brital, a few bullet holes." At 2:55 AM, an unverified claim circulated that "Netanyahu is in a state of tremendous shock," attributed to an unnamed Hebrew website with no corroboration. These posts are analytically significant: they indicate the narrative had moved beyond information and into cultural absorption, the audience had already accepted the fabricated version as settled fact.

*Sources: Sabrina News (2:16, 2:46–2:54, 2:55 AM), satirical amplification of false capture, helicopter downing, and ambush narratives*

PART 3

## How the Narrative Was Built

### NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

The cascade did not start as a fabrication. It started as a real event, an Israeli helicopter insertion, and was shaped from there through a series of editorial decisions, each treating the previous unverified claim as a foundation rather than a question.

The first move was reframing. The IDF's withdrawal under approximately forty airstrikes was not described as a planned extraction (which is what the operational evidence supports) but as a forced retreat under fire.

The more consequential step came when channels began attributing specific military details (a named Israeli brigade, unit immobility, an ambush) to "Hebrew platforms" and "Israeli media." The technique is effective because it borrows credibility from the adversary: if

even Israeli reporting acknowledges the defeat, the logic runs, it must be real. No named Israeli outlet reported these details. The phrase most often attributed, "difficult security event" (حدث أمني صعب), had been retired from IDF communications after 2024. Its appearance is a forensic tell.

As this invented attribution circulated, the unofficial Hebrew Telegram @newslivelverified picked it up and rebroadcast it. Lebanese channels then cited that post as Israeli confirmation. The loop was closed.

From there the escalation ran on its own momentum. When Hezbollah's own official communiqué finally arrived, hours later, it stated that helicopters were observed, fighters engaged and clashed with the Israeli unit, and the force subsequently retreated. The communiqué confirmed clashes and fighting but made no mention of an ambush, no captures, and no aircraft downed. The distance between what Hezbollah's affiliated channels had been broadcasting (ambushes, prisoner captures, the Hannibal Protocol) and what Hezbollah itself was willing to formally claim is a significant measure of how far the cascade had deviated from verifiable events.

## PART 4

# Misinformation Patterns

### ANALYTICAL ASSESSMENT

The patterns below recurred across all three channels and are likely present across the wider ecosystem active that night. They constitute a recognisable approach to constructing a victory narrative in real time.

### CIRCULAR SOURCING

Lebanese channels attributed battlefield specifics to "Hebrew media." The unofficial Hebrew Telegram broadcast those same details (almost certainly drawn from Lebanese channels) and framed them as Israeli reporting. Lebanese channels then cited those Hebrew posts as confirmation. No one at any node had a primary source. The result was the appearance of independent multi-source corroboration.

#### CLAIM ESCALATION

A failed landing became an ambush; an ambush became a besieged unit; that became captured soldiers; captured soldiers triggered the Hannibal Protocol. All within ninety minutes, with no new evidence at any stage.

#### ADVERSARIAL ATTRIBUTION

"Hebrew platforms are reporting..." ran as a refrain across all three channels. The forensic flaw is the phrase "حدث أمني صعب", retired from IDF communications after 2024. Its presence confirms the source was invented, not translated.

#### VACUUM EXPLOITATION

The IDF said nothing during the operation (standard procedure). Four hours of unchecked narrative construction preceded Hezbollah's official communiqué, and by then the fabricated version had already been absorbed and propagated across multiple social media platforms through immediate Hezbollah influencers and indirect affiliates, in addition to all Lebanese TV channels.

#### VIDEO MISCONTEXTUALIZATION

Several videos circulated that night as "combat footage." Each documented case shows footage of sporadic, non-directional gunfire. Misrepresenting this kind of footage gives an otherwise unverifiable claim a visual anchor.

#### KEY FINDING: THE LOOP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES


The most consequential feature of this cascade was not any individual fabrication but the structure that made fabrications collectively persuasive. By the time Hezbollah's restrained official communiqué appeared (no ambush, no captures, no downed aircraft), sporadic shooting in the air had already sounded across Dahiye following the news of the heliborne attack, the Hannibal Protocol had been explained to audiences as if active, and a detailed account of Israeli military failure had been absorbed as fact.

## 2) Verified Events Timeline

Friday 6 March → Saturday 7 March 2026 · Eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

**Sources** · Physical events independently documented across multiple outlets including Al Markazeya and Nidaa Al Watan

**Events** · 7 verified **Unverified claims excluded** · 8 removed

 VERIFIED & CROSS-CONFIRMED

All 7 events confirmed by at least two independent sources. Unverified claims excluded.

### INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION NOTE

Each event listed is a physical, on-ground occurrence confirmed by independent documentation, Reuters, Al Jazeera, L'Orient Today, CNN, Times of Israel, Haaretz, NNA (Lebanese National News Agency), Al Markazeya, Nidaa Al Watan, and the Lebanese Army's official statements.

### VIDEO PROPAGATION, LEBANESE MEDIA PICKUP

Shortly after the footage first appeared on the pro-Hezbollah Telegram and WhatsApp channels documented in this report, multiple Lebanese websites and social media accounts picked up and redistributed the video directly. Al Markazeya and Nidaa Al Watan were among the first Lebanese news outlets to carry the footage, which then spread rapidly across Lebanese TV channels and affiliated social media pages, further amplifying the unverified claims to mainstream audiences who may not have encountered the original pro-Hezbollah channels.

12:30 PM  
6 MAR



VERIFIED

Times of Israel · Haaretz · JNS · ACLED

## IDF Evacuation Order, Adraee Tweet: Bekaa Valley Residents Ordered to Move

Col. Avichay Adraee issues an urgent warning on X ordering residents of Lebanon south of the Litani River and Bekaa Valley towns to evacuate immediately, ahead of imminent Israeli strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure.

إنذار عاجل لسكان الجنوب والبقاع, الإخلاء الفوري

✓ Times of Israel · Haaretz · JNS · ACLED, Adraee tweet confirmed; IDF evacuation order covering Bekaa towns documented by multiple outlets.

11:39 PM  
6 MAR



VERIFIED

Lebanese Army · CNN · Reuters · L'Orient Today

## Israeli Commando Landing Near Nabi Sheet, Helicopters in Lebanese Army Uniforms

Four Israeli military helicopters enter Lebanese airspace from Syria; two land commandos. Soldiers reportedly dressed in Lebanese Army-style uniforms. Lebanese Army detects aircraft at ~22:30–23:00.

إنزال بطائرات مروحية قرب النبي شيت, عناصر بزي الجيش اللبناني

✓ Lebanese Army statement · CNN · Reuters · L'Orient Today, Army chief Gen. Haykal confirmed Israeli soldiers wore Lebanese Army-style uniforms.

12:48 AM  
7 MAR



VERIFIED

Al Jazeera · NNA · L'Orient Today

## Airstrikes on Nabi Sheet Confirmed, ~40 Raids as Commando Force Exposed

After Israeli commandos reach the Nabi Sheet cemetery and encounter Hezbollah fighters, Israeli jets launch approximately 40 airstrikes. Nine killed initially; toll updated to 41 killed, 40 wounded.

غارات على النبي شيت, نحو 40 غارة بعد كشف القوة المتسللة

✓ Al Jazeera · NNA · L'Orient Today, NNA reported '~40 raids' after Israeli force exposed. Health Ministry toll: 41 killed, 40 wounded.

12:54 AM  
7 MAR



VERIFIED

L'Orient Today · LiveUAMap · Pravda UK

## Strikes on Brital + Eastern Mountain Range, Bekaa Valley Bombardment Widens

Israeli airstrikes extend beyond Nabi Sheet to the town of Brital and the eastern mountain range. Three helicopters reported in mountainous Brital area near Lebanon-Syria border.

ضربات على بريताल والسلسلة الشرقية، توسع القصف في البقاع

✓ L'Orient Today confirmed Israeli strike between Khodor and Brital. LiveUAMap reported fierce strike on Brital.

SATURDAY · 7 MARCH 2026 · PRE-DAWN

03:14 AM  
7 MAR



VERIFIED

L'Orient Today · ACLED · Lebanon LiveUAMap

## Airstrikes on Bekaa, Two Raids on Nabi Sheet Highlands + Guided Missile South of Al-Khiam

Israeli warplanes launch two additional raids on the highlands around Nabi Sheet. Separately, a guided missile targets Israeli forces south of Al-Khiam. Ground clashes confirmed east of Khiam.

غارتان على جرود النبي شيت + صاروخ موجه جنوب الخيام

✓ L'Orient Today confirmed heavy clashes east of Khiam and continued strikes. ACLED documented Hezbollah clashes with IDF. Lebanese Army confirmed operation continued until ~03:00 AM.

03:52 AM  
7 MAR



VERIFIED

L'Orient Today · Hezbollah statement (AFP) · Health Ministry

## 3 Israeli Airstrikes on Al-Khraybeh Outskirts, Eastern Bekaa

Three Israeli airstrikes target the vicinity of Al-Khraybeh in the eastern Bekaa, the zone where commando helicopters originally landed.

3 غارات على محيط الخريبة في البقاع الشرقي

✓ Hezbollah statement (via AFP) confirmed helicopters landed in Yahfoufa-Al-Khraybeh-Ma'raboun triangle. L'Orient Today final toll: 9 of 41 killed from Khreibeh.



## Strike on Shamsatar + Warplanes West of Baalbek, Intensive Bombardment Covers Withdrawal

Israeli airstrike on Shamsatar; warplanes circle over western Baalbek. Intensive final bombardment of Nabi Sheet outskirts covering withdrawal. IDF confirms no soldiers injured; operation concludes ~03:00–04:00 AM.

غارة على شمسطار + قصف كثيف حول النبي شيت لتأمين الانسحاب

✓ Reuters confirmed IDF stated no soldiers injured. CNN confirmed troops launched strikes before evacuating. IDF confirmed it found no remains of Ron Arad.

## Verified Event Summary, Cross-Source Analysis

These 7 events are the physical, on-ground occurrences that actually took place, the hard anchors of the night. Around them, multiple competing narratives were constructed and broadcast across various channels.

### ✓ CONFIRMED EVENTS (7)

- IDF evacuation order, Adraee tweet (12:30 PM, 6 Mar)
- Israeli commando landing, Lebanese Army uniforms (11:39 PM)
- Airstrikes on Nabi Sheet, ~40 raids confirmed (12:48 AM)
- Strikes on Brital + Eastern Mountain Range (12:54 AM)
- Raids on Nabi Sheet highlands + guided missile Al-Khiam (3:14 AM)
- 3 strikes Al-Khraybeh outskirts (3:52 AM)
- Shamsatar strike + heavy Nabi Sheet bombing, force withdraws (3:56 AM)

### ↗ INDEPENDENT SOURCES USED

- Reuters (commando operation, IDF statement, casualties)
- Al Jazeera / NNA (40 raids confirmed, Lebanese Army statement)
- L'Orient Today (on-ground correspondent, Khreibeh toll breakdown)
- CNN (Lebanese Army uniform detail, operation timeline)
- Times of Israel / Haaretz (Adraee evacuation tweet)
- Lebanese Army official statement (Gen. Haykal press conference)
- ACLED (Khiam ground clashes, buffer zone context)

NOTE · These are the offline, physical events. The events on this timeline existed independently of how they were reported; the reporting came after.

## 3) Thermal Camera Leak Analysis

*LAF surveillance footage: leak pathway, attribution, and amplification assessment*

Subject: **FLIR thermal footage of helicopter activity over the Bekaa Valley**

Attribution: **Widely attributed to LAF; not officially released**

Equipment: **UK-supplied FLIR border surveillance towers**

### PART 1

## Thermal Footage Attributed to LAF

### THE FOOTAGE

The second evidential question concerns a [thermal surveillance video](#) that circulated widely on the morning of March 7, attributed to the Lebanese Army. The footage appears consistent with the FLIR camera family used in several fixed border surveillance towers delivered to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) under the [UK-Lebanon border security program](#). The video is, in that sense, plausible as LAF footage. What is anomalous is not its content but its circulation pathway.

In normal military communications, official footage flows outward from an institution through its own press channels. In this case, the reverse occurred. The footage first appeared through informal internal Lebanese sources who attributed it to the Army, and was simultaneously picked up by external channels including the Hebrew Telegram account FEKA NEWS at 01:09 AM, attributed to a vague "Lebanese source." [LebyNews](#) on X posted at 01:10 AM, making it one of the earlier sources to circulate the video on the Lebanese side. Lebanese television channels and pro-Axis OSINT accounts followed in the early morning. [Nidaa Al Watan newspaper](#) and [Al Markazia News Agency](#) published it

with attribution to the Lebanese Army that was assumed, not confirmed. [YouTube Shorts](#) carried it by daytime with no sourcing at all.

Throughout this entire cycle, the LAF itself never participated. It did not publish, confirm, or acknowledge the recording at any point, despite the official LAF social media channels and Gen. Haykal's press office being highly active during the same period. The question of whether this footage was a deliberate leak from within the LAF, an independent recording consistent with LAF equipment, or material produced by another actor entirely, remains open. What is established is the anomaly: footage attributed to an institution that never claimed it, flowing through channels that could not have received it through normal institutional conduits.

The presence of dual, non-synchronized timestamps within the footage, specifically the camera's internal 18:14:10 reference and the digital video recording (DVR)'s 11:15:03 PM overlay, introduces a technical ambiguity that complicates the chronology of the operation.

While the LAF statement indicated that sightings of helicopters occurred around 22:50, the video itself contributes to competing timelines depending on which clock is prioritized. In addition, the LAF statement mentions the drop of illumination flares: *"In response, specialized military units implemented immediate mobilization and defensive measures and fired illumination bombs to expose the drop-off site, while elements of the hostile force had already concealed themselves from view."* This description is consistent with eyewitness accounts and videos that emerged only after midnight.

If the internal camera timestamp is viewed as the accurate operational record, it raises the possibility that the sequence captures an arrival much earlier than the LAF's statement pointing to a 22:50 detection. Conversely, the visible movement in the thermal imagery raises questions rather than answering whether the detection occurred on the spot — around 18:11 according to the internal clock — or later, closer to midnight, after receiving intelligence from sources on the ground.

Without official confirmation of the video from its original source, or the metadata required to reconcile the roughly five-hour discrepancy, the recording remains open to multiple interpretations. On March 7, around noon, LBCI [reported](#) — quoting LAF sources — the following:

وبعد انتهاء العملية وإقلاع المروحيات وسماع أصواتها، أقدم عدد من المواطنين، بينهم عسكريون خارج الخدمة، على إطلاق النار في الهواء، قبل أن تلاحقهم مسيرات إسرائيلية ما أدى

إلى سقوط عدد من القتلى. وأكدت المعلومات أنه لم يحصل أي اشتباك لا مع الجيش اللبناني ولا مع عناصر من حزب الله، فيما استهدفت الغارات الإسرائيلية مداخل بلدة النبي شيت بهدف تأمين انسحاب قوة الكوما ندوس.

*Translation: After the operation ended and the helicopters took off and their sounds were heard, several citizens, including off-duty soldiers, fired shots into the air. Israeli drones then pursued them, resulting in a number of fatalities. The information also confirmed that no clashes occurred with the Lebanese Army or with Hezbollah members, while Israeli strikes targeted the entrances of the town of Nabi Sheet to secure the withdrawal of the commando force.*

This statement is consistent with footage that emerged at 1:00 AM on social media of sporadic nondirectional shooting in the air.

However, one hour later, the [official LAF statement](#) presented a different account:

تخللت الإنزالَ عمليةُ قصفٍ وتمشيطٍ معادٍ لهذه البقعة، تلاها تبادل لإطلاق النار بين القوة المعادية وأبناء المنطقة بعد انتقال هذه القوة من موقع الإنزال إلى منطقة النبي شيت، فيما استمرت العملية حتى نحو الساعة ٣:٠٠ فجرًا.

*Translation: The landing operation was accompanied by hostile shelling and sweeping fire targeting the area. This was followed by an exchange of gunfire between the hostile force and local residents after the force moved from the landing site toward the Nabi Sheet area. The operation continued until approximately 3:00 AM.*

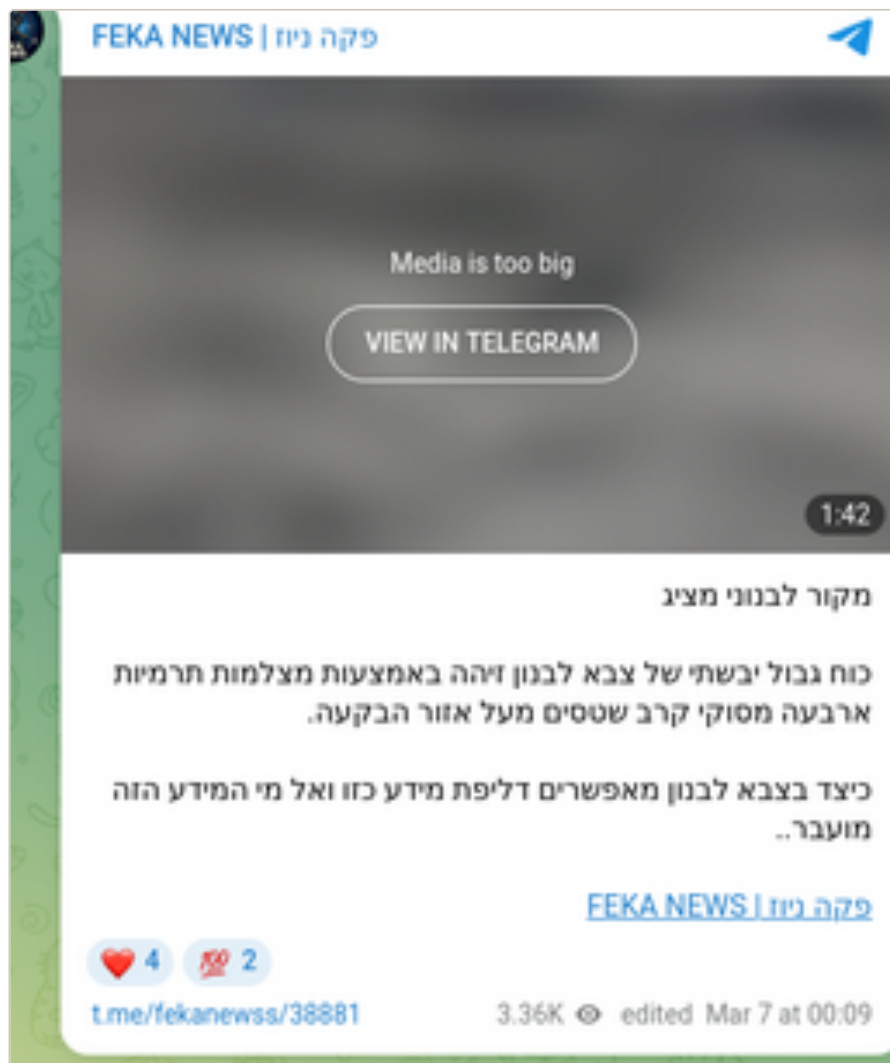
This discrepancy adds further confusion to the already unclear sequence of events.

## THERMAL CAMERA SCREENSHOT: HUD OVERLAY VISIBLE



Screenshot from the circulated thermal footage. The HUD overlay is clearly visible in the upper portion of the frame: FOV indicators, x1.0 magnification, DDE 60, and HIST (histogram) display. These parameters are consistent with FLIR thermal imaging systems deployed on UK-supplied LAF border surveillance towers along the Bekaa Valley.

## SUSPICIOUS EARLY APPEARANCE – FEKA NEWS (ISRAELI TELEGRAM CHANNEL)



One of the earliest documented instances of the thermal footage being shared is on **FEKA NEWS** (פְּקָה נְיוּז), a Hebrew-language Telegram channel ([t.me/FEKANEWSS](https://t.me/FEKANEWSS)). The post was published on **March 7 at 1:09 AM** — placing it in the very first hours of the footage's circulation, before Lebanese mainstream media amplification reached its peak. The channel appears to be an Israeli-operated or Israeli-audience Telegram news aggregator.

The post text translates to: *"A Lebanese source shows: The Lebanese Army ground forces used thermal cameras to document four combat fighters near the Bekaa area. How can Lebanon's army leak this information and who transmitted this data?"*

The post itself raises the question of who leaked it — suggesting the channel's operators were aware of the anomaly in the footage's origin. Notably, the channel frames the leak as a potential intelligence or security failure on Lebanon's side. The fact that FEKA NEWS suspiciously appears among the earliest sources to circulate the video — before most Lebanese domestic media had picked it up — raises questions about how an Israeli-audience channel obtained LAF-attributed footage so quickly, and whether the leak pathway ran through Israeli or Israeli-adjacent channels before reaching Lebanese outlets.

Post published at 1:09 AM — before most Lebanese mainstream coverage · 3,336 views; edited same day (suggests active management) · Video marked "Media is too big" — original high-resolution file, not a recompressed copy · The post's framing emphasises LAF's security failure, not the footage's content.

## KNOWN DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS – DOCUMENTED APPEARANCES

The thermal footage was picked up and redistributed by multiple channels and platforms shortly after its initial appearance. The following table documents the known distribution pathway:

CHANNEL / PLATFORM	TYPE	ORIENTATION	APPROX. TIMING	ATTRIBUTION GIVEN	ASSESSMENT
<b>FEKA NEWS</b> (Telegram)	Telegram	Hebrew / Israeli-audience	Mar 7, 1:09 AM	"Lebanese source" — vague	► <b>Suspicious origin</b>
<b>LebyNews</b> (X)	X (Twitter)	Lebanese news aggregator	Mar 7, 1:10 AM	Attributed to LAF	► <b>Near-simultaneous early post</b>
<b>Lebanese TV Channels / Social</b>	TV / Social	Lebanese domestic media	Mar 7, early AM	Lebanese Army (assumed)	► <b>Mainstream broadcast</b>
<b>Pro-Axis OSINT Accounts &amp; Groups</b> (X / Telegram)	X / Telegram	Pro-resistance / OSINT	Mar 7, early AM	Attributed to LAF / unattributed	► <b>Narrative amplification</b>
<b>YouTube Shorts</b>	YouTube	Mixed / no affiliation	Mar 7, daytime	None / "Lebanon army"	► <b>Mass reach, no sourcing</b>
<b>Various Lebanese News Outlets</b> (Nidaa Al Watan, Al Markazeya, others)	News / Social	Lebanese domestic media	Mar 7, daytime	Lebanese Army (unconfirmed)	► <b>Unverified amplification</b>
<b>Lebanese Army Official Page</b>	Official	Lebanese state	—	Not published	✓ <b>No official claim</b>

*None of the outlets listed above independently verified the footage's origin or received it through official LAF*

press channels. *Nidaa Al Watan* and *Al Markazeya* published the footage with attribution to the Lebanese Army, but this attribution was assumed, not confirmed. The LAF has never acknowledged or claimed the recording.

#### ATTRIBUTION ANOMALY

The Lebanese Army possesses the camera equipment, the geographic access, and a direct operational interest in documenting the events of the night of March 6-7. Yet the video has not appeared on the LAF's official social media, its press office, or any statement from Army Chief Gen. Haykal, despite those channels being highly active during the same period.

#### TECHNICAL CONTEXT: UK-SUPPLIED SURVEILLANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

The British government's Lebanon Border Security Programme (LBSP) has delivered over 80 fixed border surveillance towers to the LAF since 2015. Each tower carries FLIR thermal cameras, radar, and communications equipment. The HUD overlay visible in the circulated footage is consistent with the FLIR camera family used in those installations.

PART 2

## Origin & Attribution: Who Filmed This?

#### CRITICAL ANOMALY: DIRECTIONALITY OF LEAK

In normal military communications, official footage flows outward from the institution through its own press channels. In this case, the footage followed the opposite path. It first appeared through internal unofficial Lebanese sources who claimed it was attributed to the army, and was simultaneously picked up by external, potentially adversarial channels and sources. From there, Lebanese and regional media redistributed the footage, and it was ultimately re-attributed back to the LAF as though it were an official release. Throughout this entire cycle, the LAF itself never participated: it did not publish, confirm, or acknowledge the recording at any point. This reverse flow is atypical for military communications and raises serious questions about the leak's origin point, the intent behind its release, and whether the attribution to the LAF was accurate or deliberately constructed.

## CLAIM STATUS: FALSE (VERY HIGH CONFIDENCE)

Multiple channels asserted that an Israeli helicopter was shot down over the Bekaa during the operation, circulating video as evidence. The footage has been identified as Lebanese Army illumination flares.

### WHAT WAS CLAIMED

Videos showing descending light streaks over the Bekaa Valley circulated with captions describing an Israeli helicopter hit by Hezbollah fire. They spread quickly and were treated as visual proof of the ambush.

### WHAT THE FOOTAGE SHOWS: LEBANESE ARMY ILLUMINATION FLARES (LATER CORROBORATED BY THE LAF)

#### **Descent, not impact.**

The lights move downward slowly and evenly, the behaviour of a flare descending under a parachute. A helicopter in distress descends irregularly. The footage shows a calm, even fade with no impact event.

#### **Extinction, not explosion.**

Parachute flares dim gradually as their fuel runs out. The footage ends with lights fading into darkness, with no secondary fire and no ground plume.

#### **Multiple simultaneous sources.**

LAF artillery flare deployments produce two to four near-simultaneous light points in a spread pattern. The footage shows exactly this cluster, not a single burning aircraft profile.

#### **Confirmed LAF flare activity.**

L'Orient Le Jour independently reported that the Lebanese Army detected the helicopters via thermal cameras and fired artillery flares over the Anti-Lebanon Mountains. The Lebanese Army's own official statement subsequently confirmed that it had deployed illumination flares during the incident. The footage matches precisely this activity.

**No wreckage. No ground fire. No crash report.**

A helicopter coming down in the Bekaa would leave debris and a ground fire visible for kilometres. None occurred.

### **WHY HEZBOLLAH'S SILENCE SETTLES IT**

Hezbollah has an unbroken record of immediately claiming aircraft kills and supporting them with footage. If a helicopter had gone down, they would have said so. Their official communiqué described helicopters that *retreated*, not downed.

#### **DECISIVE LOGIC**

Hezbollah is the only party that could have downed the helicopter. They had every reason to claim it and the means to prove it instantly. Their communiqué says the helicopters retreated. The footage shows Lebanese Army flares. There is no crash site.

**THE DOWNING CLAIM IS FALSE.**

**OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT) · UNCLASSIFIED**

Compiled from open-source material: 3 Lebanese channel archives (Sada Al-Dahiye, Sabrina News, Bint Jbeil) and a Hebrew-language Telegram screenshot.

Channels examined are representative examples of a wider amplification ecosystem active on the night of 6-7 March 2026. All assessments made against primary source material from the Operation Nabi Sheet Intelligence Report (7 March 2026).

**Report date: 8 March 2026**