Lebanon Announces Deployment of Troops Along Israeli Border

photo: Al jazeera

Lebanon will deploy its armed forces up to the Israeli border as part of efforts to strengthen state control across the entire country, President Joseph Aoun announced. He outlined the plan during a meeting with Admiral Brad Cooper, head of U.S. military forces in the Middle East.

The meeting focused on implementing the recently signed U.S.-mediated peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon, as well as the security situation along the border.

During the same visit, Admiral Cooper also met with Lebanese Army Commander Rodolphe Haykal.

In a statement, the Lebanese Armed Forces said the discussions covered both Lebanon's domestic security situation and broader developments across the Middle East.

Under the U.S.-brokered agreement, the Lebanese Army is responsible for disarming Hezbollah. However, Israel has maintained a firm stance on the issue.

Israeli officials said their forces stationed in southern Lebanon will remain in place for the time being. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated that Israel has no intention of occupying Lebanese territory, but its troops will not withdraw until Hezbollah has been fully disarmed.

The visit by the head of U.S. Central Command is being viewed as significant, coming shortly after the Israel-Lebanon peace agreement was signed. On the same day, Israel reiterated that its forces would continue their deployment in southern Lebanon.