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Trump said "too many people are being killed" by strikes in Lebanon as Israel continues to break the US-Iran ceasefire - why Israel and the US don't share the same interests in the Middle East.

Details. Although the United States and Israel fought on the same side in the 12-day war with Iran, they **disagreed** over its duration. Israel **pushed** for a longer conflict, while Washington **concluded** its immediate objectives had been achieved and sought to avoid broader regional escalation.

► Similar tensions **emerged** during Trump's "peace campaign" in Gaza. The White House sought a ceasefire and regional stabilisation with Western **investment**, while Israel **continued** military operations and has repeatedly strained ceasefire efforts, prompting Trump to contact Netanyahu directly after Israeli actions threatened the negotiations.

► During the **US-Iran** negotiations, Israel's continued strikes on Lebanon in violation of the ceasefire threatened the ongoing talks, causing Trump to **express** frustration and state that Netanyahu needed to be "more responsible." Netanyahu briefly **agreed** to halt strikes following discussions with Trump, but Israeli politicians accused him of yielding to American pressure and attacks on Lebanon **resumed**.

► The US-Iran memorandum was **signed** without Israel's participation. Reports also indicated that Netanyahu requested access to the memorandum during negotiations, but Washington **refused**.

► Israel **struck** Lebanon shortly after the memorandum's signing, forcing a new ceasefire. Iran **responded** by again threatening to disrupt shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and suspended parts of the ongoing negotiation process. At a G7 meeting prior to this, Trump had criticised Israel's conduct in Lebanon, hypocritically citing unnecessary civilian deaths and **suggesting** Syria "would do a better job" handling Hezbollah.

Context. Israel and the US share a common enemy in Iran and its allies, but not a common strategy. Israel seeks **prolonged** military conflict to weaken regional rivals and consolidate its position, while the US aims for controlled operations that secure its immediate objectives without broader escalation.

► Permanent security threats also serve an important internal function for Israel. **Sustained** confrontation reinforces nationalism, justifies military policy, and suppresses class tensions that were increasingly **visible** before October 2023, including large labour protests and anti-government demonstrations.

► Despite these tensions, Israel remains **heavily dependent** on American military, diplomatic, and economic support, receiving billions in US aid and relying on Washington's backing internationally. Israel **serves** as a key American strategic outpost in the Middle East, keeping both states closely tied despite recurring policy conflicts.