

# Hamas: Senior commander, companions killed in Israeli strike on Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Jan. 2 (UPI) — A senior Hamas leader and two companions were killed Tuesday in an Israeli drone strike in Beirut's southern suburb, the stronghold of Iran-backed Hezbollah, according to the militant Palestinian group.

Saleh al-Arouri, 58, who served as Hamas' deputy politburo leader and its military commander of the West Bank, died in the attack. He was a founding commander of Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' Armed Wing, and has been living in Lebanon since 2018.

He was imprisoned twice in Israeli jails for a total of 18 years before being released in 2010. He was known to be the coordinator between Hamas and Hezbollah.

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