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Israeli Official Warns Power Grid Not Prepared for War With Hezbollah

'After 72 hours without power in Israel – it will be uninhabitable,' says CEO of company overseeing electrical systems. Israel Electric Company quick to distance itself from the 'irresponsible' comments

Idan Binyamin / Jun 20, 2024

Israel is utterly unprepared for a war with Hezbollah and for the toll such a conflict could take on the country's power infrastructure, the CEO of a company that manages and oversees Israel's electrical systems on behalf of the government said on Thursday.

"We are not ready for a real war. We live in a fantasy world, in my eyes," said Shaul Goldstein, head of Noga – the Israel Independent System Operator. Later, in an interview with Kan Public Broadcaster, he seemed to walk his comments back somewhat: "I said irresponsible things. I shouldn't have."

Speaking at a conference organized by The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in the southern city of Sderot, Goldstein said that Israel will be "uninhabitable" after 72 hours without power. "You look at all of our infrastructure, the optical fibers, the ports – and I won't go into the sensitive things – we are not in a good place."

"If [Nasrallah decides](#) to paralyze Israel's power grid, he only needs to pick up the phone and call the head of Beirut's power grid, which is [technically] identical to Israel's." Goldstein said, before noting that "the upside is that we have invested a lot in protection, working together with Israel Electric Company."

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