

## [Politics](#)

# Pager terror in Lebanon – devices in Europe filled with explosives

September 18, 2024 by [Dr. Peter F. Mayer](#) 5.5 minutes reading time

**Around 5,000 pagers from the Taiwan company Gold Apollo are said to have been filled with 20 grams of PETN explosives in Europe. According to Sky News, the Mossad secret service was the client. According to US NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, this is an act of terrorism that would result in a massive outcry from the Western media in other cities around the world.**

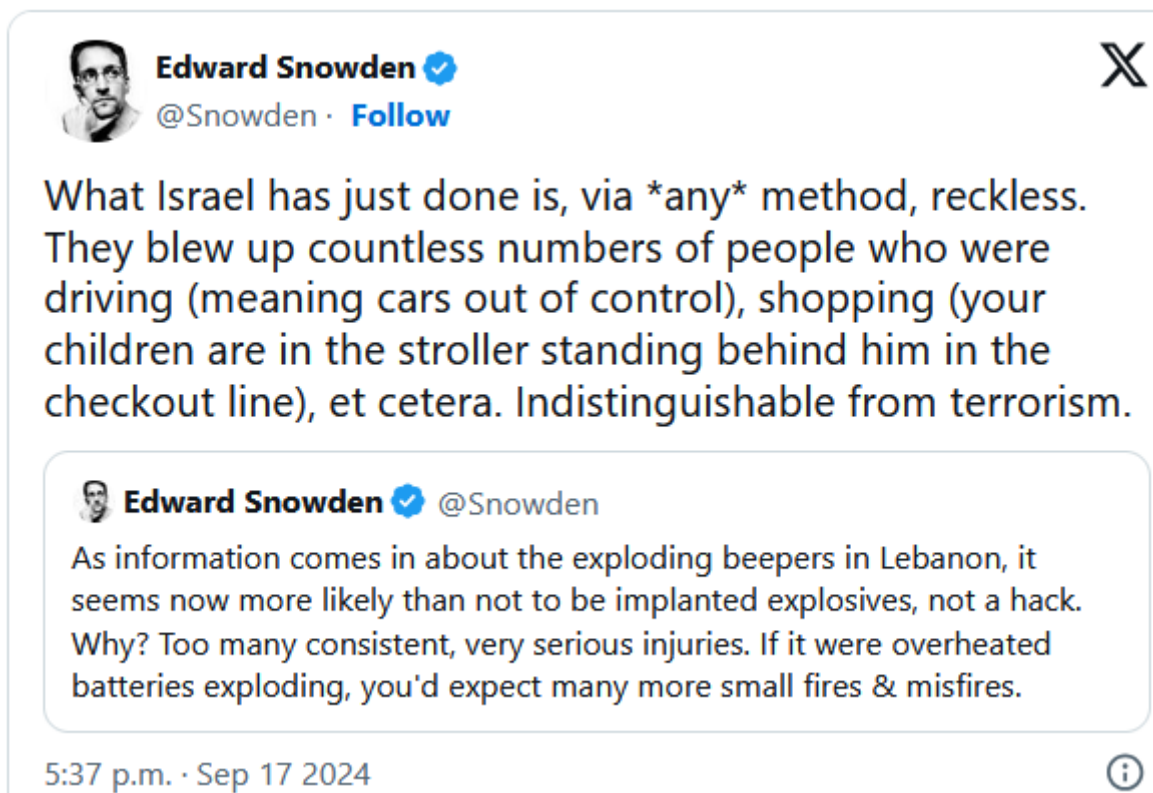
On Tuesday, [preliminary reports](#) suggested that thousands of Lebanese citizens were injured after their portable pager communication devices detonated. Reports of injuries spread in several villages in southern Lebanon, in the Bekaa Valley and in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Lebanese security forces confirmed that certain types of wireless devices were

attacked, with several sources claiming that an Israeli attack caused the devices to go off and then explode.

Lebanon's Islamic resistance movement - Hezbollah - issued a statement on the cyberattack that caused the [detonation of hundreds of pagers](#) used by its fighters and members, resulting in mass casualties in several regions of Lebanon, including Beirut, Bekaa and the south.

In its first statement, Hezbollah announced that a security investigation had been launched to uncover the causes and reasons for the simultaneous explosions, noting that health and medical facilities were working to treat the injured in several hospitals.

Edward Snowden says:



“What Israel has just done, no matter the method, is reckless. They blew up countless people who were driving (that is, the cars were out of control), shopping (your children are in the stroller and standing behind him at the checkout), etc. This is indistinguishable from terrorism.”

Sky News in Arabic quoted a source in the Israeli army leadership:

- The Mossad placed explosives in the batteries of the walkie-talkies and detonated them by increasing the temperature of the batteries.
- They used PETN, which is more stable than other materials for this operation
- The material was imported before the devices ended up in Hezbollah's hands.

[Al Mayadeen](#) was told that the detonation plan was planned as a crippling factor during a full-scale invasion of Lebanon, intended to shock Hezbollah until its defeat.

However, since a fault was discovered in these pagers and the devices were expected to be

returned, the explosives were activated to cause as much damage as possible. At the start of a war the effects could have been catastrophic.

Taiwan's Gold Apollo Pager Company issued a statement saying:

- The pagers that exploded in Lebanon bear our trademark but were made in Europe.
- All AP924 pager models were outsourced to a company in Europe, with about 5,000 in this batch going to Lebanon.
- The pagers were manufactured using third-party components.

The company is trying to keep Taiwan out of it, which is mostly plausible since Europe has historically been the Mossad's hub when it comes to sabotaging supply chains. According to Apollo, Budapest-based BAC Consulting KFT had a license to use its brand and manufactured the model of the pagers used in yesterday's blasts in Lebanon. As is well known, Hungary supports Israel's policies across the board. Even Israeli football team games take place in Hungary.

Additional Western intelligence confirms that the timing of the operation was chosen because Hezbollah had recently discovered a flaw in its pagers.

The relevant authorities in the US have been informed by Israel that they must either use this advantage or lose it. "It was a seize-or-lose moment," a U.S. official said, describing Israel's reasoning to the U.S. for the timing of the attack.

It was a strategic advantage intended to precede a ground invasion or the opening wave of the Third Lebanon War and to cripple Hezbollah until its defeat. It should be the weapon that could tip the scales.

There are currently 3,000 Lebanese in hospital, exceeding the capacity of the Lebanese healthcare system.



The day before, a US Air Force EC-130H Compass Call (Electronic Warfare) fighter aircraft was active in the eastern Mediterranean. The EC-130H can jam enemy command and control communications, conduct offensive counter-information operations and carry out other types of electronic attacks. The EC-130H is equipped with hardware and software that makes it possible to hack into wireless devices and much more.

A [Washington Post article](#) about the events said the U.S. believes Hezbollah is confused and panicked and will not immediately respond militarily. If an attack occurs, U.S. officials believe Israel can contain the damage and the U.S. will assist Israel if necessary.

As Hezbollah considers how to respond, it should keep in mind that Israel has more surprises in store for it. And so does Israel, said a source familiar with Israel's thinking. U.S. officials were in touch with Iran through an unofficial channel on Tuesday to convey that the United States played no role in the attack.

The last time a cyberattack of this magnitude was carried out was the 2010 attack by the US and Israel on Iran's uranium enrichment centrifuges. This was the Stuxnet computer worm. Stuxnet caused the centrifuges' controls to spin too quickly until they failed and their spinning rotors disintegrated. As far as is known, there were no victims in the Stuxnet attack.

A pager is inherently more secure than a cell phone because it is essentially a two-way radio that is not connected to the internet or social media.