

Mikati: We completely back the army and urge residents of Arsal to cooperate with it

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Prime Minister Najib Mikati stressed that the Lebanese army enjoys complete political cover, adding that the gunmen involved in the ambush that killed two soldiers should be handed over immediately.

He said: "We completely back the army and urge the residents of Arsal to cooperate with it."

He made his remarks after holding talks at the Defense Ministry with Minister Fayez Ghosn and Army Commander General Jean Qahwaji.

Mikati hoped that the repercussions of the Arsal incident would be contained as soon as possible, demanding that the sides that fired at the army be handed over to concerned security agencies.

Moreover, Mikati said that he agreed with Ghosn and Qahwaji on a number of measures that would help reach a solution to the situation.

"Let us leave it up to the army to resolve this issue in a calm manner and away from sectarian tensions," he stressed before reporters.

"No particular Lebanese faction was targeted in the incident because one of the victims was a wanted suspect," he added.

"We want calm to be restored among the people and leave it up to the army to tackle the incident away from sectarianism," he stated.

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