STUDENT HANDOUT

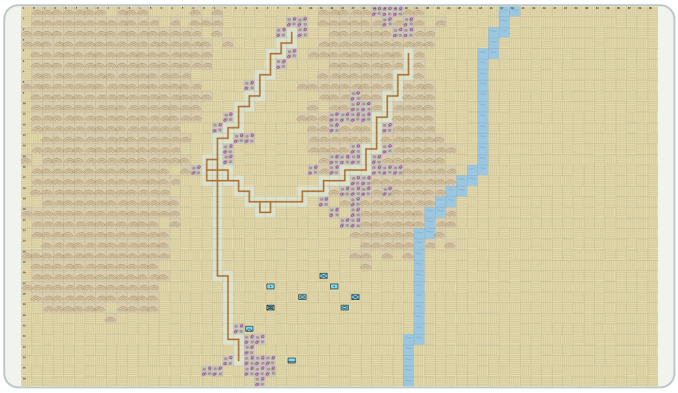
The Renewed Battle for Khiam

Khiam and Marjayoun district, southern Lebanon · 18 to 26 November 2024

Information as of October 2026



Scenario illustration · AI generated



Student map · own side only · Simulation situation map · reconstructed terrain and estimated deployments; not verified historical positions.

Learning objectives

- Distinguish local force estimates from documented formations.
- Explain how reconnaissance connects ground forces and supporting artillery.
- Evaluate a limited military objective while accounting for civilians.

Run time and a good result

Default run clock: 6 minutes 0 seconds at 1×, excluding pauses, briefing and discussion. Time controls change elapsed play time.

Objective: Disrupt at least four Hezbollah fighting or support groups during the renewed advance. This is a limited military damage goal, not a claim of complete town capture.

The Renewed Battle for Khiam: Disrupt at least four Hezbollah fighting or support groups during the renewed advance. This is a limited military damage goal, not a claim of complete town capture. Put at least 4 represented opposing units out of action; decoys do not count. The authored limit is 360 simulation seconds across 3 stages. Compare objective progress, time, losses, drone expenditure and recorded civilian harm with a second run. A strong classroom result also explains the source evidence and reconstruction estimates; it does not verify a historical casualty count.

Atrocity notice

Human Rights Watch reported apparent war crimes in Israeli attacks on Lebanese medical workers in 2024; Amnesty called for investigation of Hezbollah's unlawful rocket attacks on Israeli civilian areas as war crimes. These 2024 reports are earlier context for the separate 2026 scenario.

These reports describe the wider conflict. They do not establish that every crime occurred in this modeled battle.

Studying or commanding a side does not endorse its conduct. Drone Front never lets players target civilians, hospitals, schools or places of worship. Civilian harm from simulated strikes is counted and shown in the debrief, including nonzero harm. Civilian massacres are never playable operations. Designated terrorist forces and Wagner remain computer controlled; Gaza war events remain excluded from play.

▼ Dated reports and findings

- 2024-10-30 · Human Rights Watch: Israeli attacks on medics, apparent war crimes
- 2024-12-20 · Amnesty International: Hezbollah's unlawful attacks with inherently inaccurate weapons

Learn more: the laws of war

- ICRC: Geneva Conventions and commentaries
- ICRC: Customary IHL database
- UN: Genocide Convention (9 December 1948)
- UN: Rome Statute (17 July 1998), articles 6–8

Historical source notes

Reconnaissance can expose firing and support groups that ground troops cannot see. Its effect depends on the availability of supporting fire.

A limited military damage result is different from occupying a town. Claims of control must be compared with the dated evidence.

Displacement and damage to civilian services extend the effects of a border battle beyond the formations shown.

Civilian harm

UN humanitarian coordinator Imran Riza, quoted by Reuters, described extensive civilian infrastructure damage and displacement during the escalation. This is campaign context, not a local Khiam casualty census.

Evidence for learning objectives

Khiam counters are estimated local groups; the four-group threshold is an authored damage objective.

Hermes 900 is a reconnaissance proxy; local airframes and sortie counts are not established.

Reuters interviewed Imran Riza about campaign displacement and infrastructure damage, not Khiam’s local toll.

Timings

60 minutes: brief 15, run 20, review 25. 90 minutes: add a second run and compare observation coverage. 180 minutes: research the reported outcomes, compare assumptions and present a civilian impact review.

Session	Plan
45 minutes	Brief: 10 min; Run: 15 min; Collect: 5 min; Review: 15 min
60 minutes	Before questions: 5 min; Brief: 10 min; Run: 20 min; Collect: 5 min; Debrief and after questions: 15 min; Discussion: 5 min
90 minutes	Before questions: 5 min; Brief: 10 min; Run 1: with drones: 20 min; Run 2: without drones: 15 min; Collect: 5 min; Compare and discuss: 25 min; After questions: 10 min
180 minutes	Before questions: 10 min; Brief and staff roles: 15 min; Run 1: with drones: 25 min; Run 2: without drones: 20 min; Break: 10 min; Run 3: syndicates: 30 min; Collect: 10 min; Seminar replay and debrief: 40 min; After questions: 10 min; Close: 10 min

Staff roles

commander
Set the limited military goal and review civilian risk.

intelligence
Separate observations from claims and simulation estimates.

fires
Connect observed military targets to supporting batteries.

droneOps
Maintain observation and report confidence in target identification.

Decision points

- 18 November: where should the first reconnaissance mission observe?
- 20 November: should observation cover the town approaches or supporting fire?
- 26 November: what evidence would justify ending the operation?

Before and after questions

1. **What does the Khiam model's four-group objective establish?**

   A. Complete control over all of Khiam
   B. Limited disruption of military groups
   C. Four verified civilian casualties locally
   D. Demolition of four residential buildings

2. **How should Shehadeh’s control claim in The National’s Khiam report be used?**

   A. As independent proof of permanent control
   B. As the model’s verified four-group loss count
   C. As an attributed assessment at that date
   D. As confirmation of the town’s later capture

3. **What can the Hermes 900 card establish about Khiam sorties in this model?**

   A. A verified local Hermes 900 sortie count
   B. Confirmed armed missions over Khiam
   C. Exact Israeli airframes identified by phase
   D. A reconnaissance role without local counts

4. **What do later Hezbollah counters mean in the Khiam model’s dated phases?**

   A. Previously unrepresented support functions appearing in later contacts while preserving the fixed local allocation
   B. New reinforcements confirmed at that time
   C. Extra people added to the fixed allocation
   D. Eight complete companies entering the town

5. **What scope fits Reuters’ October 2024 interview with Imran Riza?**

   A. An exact death count for the November map
   B. Campaign context for displacement and damage
   C. A verified local count of military functions
   D. A final census of all intact Khiam buildings

Discussion

- Does disabling a firing group establish control of a town?
- How should disputed claims change the confidence attached to a briefing?
- What changes when counters represent small detachments instead of battalions?
- How do evacuation and destruction affect civilians who remain or return?

Debrief rubric

Strong
Meets the objective or explains why it was not met; uses the published sources and run evidence, separates known facts from assumptions, compares both sides' losses and cost exchange, and evaluates precautions against civilian harm.

Adequate
Describes the objective and main decisions, identifies at least one source and model limitation, reports losses and harm, and gives a reasoned change for a second run.

Weak
Reports only victory or points, treats teaching settings as real performance, gives unsupported historical claims, or omits uncertainty and civilian harm.

Published readings

1. The National: Battle for Khiam (25 November 2024, updated 26 November)
2. CTP and ISW: Iran Update (19 November 2024)
3. CTP and ISW: Iran Update (20 November 2024)

Complete source list

Wikipedia: 2024 Lebanon war (accessed 6 October 2026)
The National: Battle for Khiam (25 November 2024, updated 26 November)
CTP and ISW: Iran Update (19 November 2024)
CTP and ISW: Iran Update (20 November 2024)
AP: Hezbollah shoots down an Israeli drone in Lebanon (1 June 2024)
Reuters: Civilians bear brunt of Lebanon conflict, UN official says (3 October 2024)
Amnesty International: Hezbollah use of inaccurate weapons (20 December 2024)