

No, Israel Did Not Destroy a Catholic Monastery in Lebanon

THE LIE

The Israeli military targeted and destroyed a Catholic monastery in southern Lebanon.

THE TRUTH

No such destruction occurred. The monastery remains safe and intact.

BACKGROUND

- On May 1, 2026, former congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene accused the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) of destroying a monastery in the Lebanese border village of Yaroun. ([Marjorie Taylor Greene](#))
- She based her accusation on a tweet from Mario Nawfal, an online figure known for repeatedly spreading misinformation about Israel, and demanded the United States stop “funding Israel.”
- Alex Jones and other anti-Israel voices immediately amplified the claim. ([Alex Jones](#))

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- The evidence attached to the viral posts did not support the claims. One image showed only rubble and a damaged Lebanese flag – not IDF soldiers, planted explosives, or a monastery being destroyed – while the video later shared by Alex Jones showed little more than distant machinery operating far away.
- The IDF acknowledged only minimal nearby damage and released photos showing the monastery structure still standing, while the Israeli Foreign Ministry separately confirmed the site remains intact and safe. ([Times of Israel](#)), ([Israeli Foreign Ministry](#))
- Israeli officials explained that Hezbollah had been operating near the compound and firing toward Israel from the area, reflecting Hezbollah’s broader pattern of embedding military infrastructure within civilian and religious sites. ([Times of Israel](#)), ([Israeli Foreign Ministry](#))
- The IDF stated that once forces identified religious indicators at the location, they took steps to prevent further damage, directly contradicting claims that Israel intentionally targeted a Christian site. ([Times of Israel](#))
- Israel has a strong record of acknowledging when Christian sites or artifacts are damaged and taking steps to repair or address it afterward, which undermines claims that it is secretly running a deliberate campaign against Christian sites like the one in Yaroun. ([Israel Truth Network](#))
- The Yaroun story fits a broader pattern in which Greene promotes narratives portraying Israel or Jews as persecutors of Christians even when the underlying claims are false or collapse under basic scrutiny.
- In February 2026, Greene similarly claimed Jewish “settlers” were taking Christian homes in Bethlehem despite the fact that Jews are prohibited from entering Bethlehem under Palestinian Authority control and there are no Jewish communities in the city. ([Israel Truth Network](#))

QUOTES

“It’s happening again. Another lie about a monastery being destroyed. Rest assured. The monastery is intact and safe. False stories about Israel are pushed fast, checked later, and used to paint Israel as uniquely evil. This pattern isn’t accidental. It’s deliberate. And who pays the price? Real people. Christian communities on the ground. Israel has its challenges, like every country. But when you vilify Israel, you target the one place in the region where Christians can live their faith safely and freely.” – George Deek, Israel’s Special Envoy to the Christian World

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TAKEAWAY

Marjorie Taylor Greene is using “America First” language and concern for persecuted Christians to spread unverified and misleading claims about Israel. She repeated an allegation from a known misinformation source and pushed it to a large audience as fact before checking whether it was true, presenting it as another case of supposed Christian persecution.

This pulls attention away from real suffering. Christians in parts of Africa and the Middle East are facing real violence — including church attacks, kidnappings, and mass killings by Muslim groups. Instead of focusing on that, Greene amplifies false stories about Israel, turning genuine concern for persecuted Christians into a political talking point and muddying the reality of actual persecution.