**Massive Explosion Killed More Than 70, Injured Thousands in Beirut**

**贝鲁特发生大规模爆炸致70多人死亡数千人受伤**

A massive explosion shook Beirut Tuesday, flattening much of the Lebanese capital’s port and damaging buildings across the city.

周二黎巴嫩首都贝鲁特发生大规模爆炸。爆炸导致黎巴嫩首都港口大部分地区被夷为平地，建筑被大面积破坏。

The country’s health minister reported more than 70 people were killed and at least 3,000 others were injured.

该国卫生部长报告称，爆炸致70多人死亡，至少3000人受伤。

Officials expected the number of dead to increase as emergency workers continue to search the ruins for victims. Hours after the explosion, emergency vehicles continued to transport the wounded to medical centers as army helicopters helped fight fires at the port.

官方预计伴随着急救人员持续在废墟中搜寻遇难者，死亡人数还会增加。爆炸发生数小时后，急救车不断将伤员送往医疗中心，军方直升机也在港口协助灭火。

The explosion was Beirut’s most powerful in years. It was so huge that some people in the city thought an earthquake had occured. It could be heard and felt as far away as Cyprus, more than 200 kilometers across the Mediterranean Sea.

这是贝鲁特多年来遭遇的威力最大的一次爆炸。由于震波实在太大，该市甚至有人以为发生了地震。横跨地中海200多公里外的塞浦路斯都能听到和感受到此次爆炸。

The cause of the explosion has not been reported.

爆炸原因尚未公布。

Abbas Ibrahim, chief of Lebanese General Security, said a supply of highly explosive material in port storage might be to blame. A local television station reported that material as ammonium nitrate.

黎巴嫩安全总局局长阿巴斯•易卜拉欣称，港口储存的高爆炸性材料供给物可能是罪魁祸首。据当地一家电视台报道这种高爆炸性材料是硝酸铵。

Witnesses said an orange cloud appeared after the explosion. Such clouds often result from explosions involving nitrates.

目击者称爆炸后天空中出现了橙色云。而这种云通常是由硝酸盐引起的爆炸造成的。

An Israeli government official said Israel “had nothing to do” with the explosion. Israel has fought several wars in Lebanon. And tensions continue to rise between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

一名以色列政府官员表示，以色列与此次爆炸“无关”。以色列曾在黎巴嫩打过几场战争。以色列和黎巴嫩激进组织真主党之间的紧张局势持续升级。

Marwan Ramadan was about 500 meters from the port when the explosion forced him off his feet. He told the Associated Press, “It was a real horror show. I haven’t seen anything like that since the days of the (civil) war.”

马尔万·拉马丹当时在距离港口大约500米的地方，爆炸将他震倒在地。他告诉美联社，“这是一场真正的恐怖秀。自从(内战)以来，我还没见过这样的事。”

Beirut’s governor, Marwan Abboud, cried as he explored the wreckage, describing the city as “devastated.”

贝鲁特州长马尔万·阿博德在视察现场时痛哭并称这座城市“被毁”了。

A witness told Reuters, “I saw a fireball and smoke…People were screaming and running, bleeding. Balconies were blown off buildings.”

一名目击者告诉路透社，“我看到一个火球和烟雾……人们尖叫着奔跑着还在流血，阳台都被炸飞了。”

“This country is cursed,” one young man said.

“这个国家被诅咒了，”一个年轻人说。

The explosion happened as Lebanon’s economy is facing collapse from a financial crisis and coronavirus restrictions. Many people are unemployed. Some have lost savings and others have been thrown into poverty.

爆炸发生时黎巴嫩经济正面临金融危机和冠状病毒限制处于崩溃的边缘。许多人失业。一些人失去了积蓄，还有一些人陷入贫困。

I’m Caty Weaver.

凯蒂·韦弗报道。

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