

# RT Crew Narrowly Escapes Israeli Strike in Lebanon During Live Broadcast

March 19, 2026



RT correspondent Steve Sweeney. [@rt\\_russ](#) / [Telegram](#)

A correspondent and cameraman of the Kremlin-funded news network RT were [injured](#) in a missile strike while reporting in southern Lebanon on Thursday.

RT cameraman Ali Rida captured the moment correspondent Steve Sweeney ducked for cover as a loud explosion ripped behind him. They were both injured by shrapnel from the blast and were receiving medical aid at a local hospital, according to the broadcaster.

It said the crew was filming near Al-Qasmiya Bridge, “not far from a local military base” in southern Lebanon, when it was attacked.

Israel’s Defense Minister Israel Katz [said](#) Wednesday that the military previously struck the bridge over Lebanon’s Litani River, claiming it was used by the Iran-aligned Hezbollah group to smuggle weapons to the south.

## Embed:

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Read more: <https://t.co/fPYah5Cmr8> [pic.twitter.com/ZCMmstWJub](https://pic.twitter.com/ZCMmstWJub)

— The Moscow Times (@MoscowTimes) [March 19, 2026](#)

According to RT, Rida accused the Israeli forces of “deliberately” attacking them near the bridge despite them wearing vests marked “PRESS.”

Russia’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova [claimed](#) the strike was “not accidental.”

“The missile did not hit an ‘important strategic military target,’ but the location of the report,” Zakharova wrote on Telegram.

She said Russia expected a response to the incident from “international organizations.”

Hezbollah said Thursday that its fighters were battling Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, as a military source on the ground told AFP that Israeli troops were slowly advancing while “systematically destroying” border towns.

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