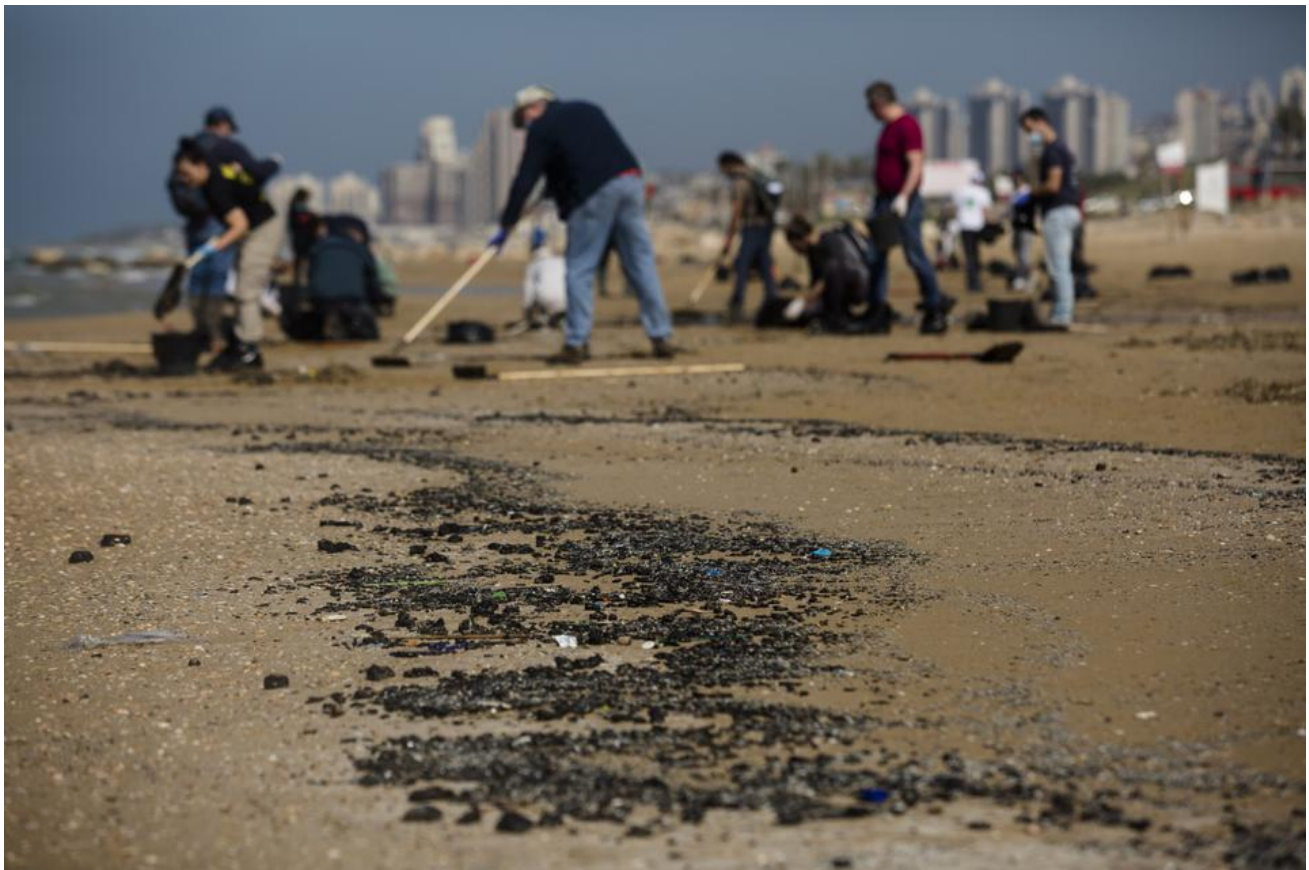


# Lebanese Prime Minister Accuses Israel of Being Behind Oil Spill

by Hugh Fitzgerald



A huge oil spill in the eastern Mediterranean has caused colossal damage to Israel's beaches, now gooey with clumps of tar that thousands of volunteers are laboriously picking out of the sand. It has been an unparalleled ecological disaster that has already done, and will continue to do, great harm to the coastal flora and fauna. It has devastated the local economy. For at least a year, and some estimates suggest much longer, tourists and locals will not be able to use the beaches; many will have to seek alternatives abroad. Coastal businesses in Israel, from vacation rentals to restaurants, will close down. The accident has spilled tons of tar across more than 100 miles of coastline from Israel to southern

Lebanon in what Israeli officials are calling one of the worst disasters in the country's history.

The Israelis are now trying to determine what ship caused the disaster, when it dumped oil, by accident or design, some fifty miles offshore.

The oil slick has moved up the coast to damage, though less dramatically, the Lebanese beaches. The Lebanese Prime Minister, Hassan Diab, in deploring the disaster, has chosen, without the slightest evidence, to blame Israel for the oil spill. His blaming of "a ship of the enemy Israel" is here: "Lebanon's PM blames 'ship of the Israeli enemy' for massive oil spill," [Jihad Watch](#).