

**UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
(UNIFIL)**

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PRESS RELEASE

The IDF withdraw from the South, except Ghajar

**“UNIFIL is here to help to ensure the territorial integrity of Lebanon,” says
Maj.-General Pellegrini**

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have withdrawn their troops from South Lebanon today, except from the general area of Ghajar north of the Blue Line which is still under IDF control. UNIFIL is in the process of confirming that there are no IDF troops present in the areas declared as vacated. The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) are to begin their deployment in these areas tomorrow morning. UNIFIL is also in close contact with the IDF to facilitate a speedy withdrawal from the area of Ghajar.

Following a full IDF withdrawal from South Lebanon, UNIFIL in cooperation with LAF will inspect the entire length of the Blue Line to ensure that there are no violations of the said Line.

“Significant progress has been achieved today. The IDF have withdrawn their troops from the South, except from the area around the village of Ghajar. I expect that they will leave this area in the course of the week thus completing the withdrawal in line with the Resolution 1701. The LAF are now in a position to take control and to deploy in these areas including along the Blue Line,” said **UNIFIL Force Commander Maj.-General Alain Pellegrini**. *“The LAF can now provide security and stability for the people of the South who have already suffered a great deal. UNIFIL is here to assist, and to help to ensure the territorial integrity of Lebanon.”*