

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

Naqoura,
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PRESS RELEASE

**UNIFIL Force Commander voices serious concern over increasing
number of Israeli air violations**

UNIFIL Force Commander Major-General Alain Pellegrini has voiced serious concern over the increasing number of air violations over South Lebanon by Israeli planes, with nine occurring during the past 24 hours. Almost all the UNIFIL battalions have reported air violations taking place in their area of operations.

“It is in the best interest of all the parties on the ground to respect the terms of Security Council Resolution 1701 in letter and spirit,” said Major-General Pellegrini.

UNIFIL Celebrates United Nations Day in Naqoura

United Nations Day was celebrated today by all UNIFIL troops in South Lebanon. Major-General Pellegrini, who addressed the military and civilian personnel of UNIFIL in Naqoura, said that “since its inception in 1978, our Force has been totally committed and dedicated to the cause of peace. Today, which is our day, we can feel proud to be part of the UN fraternity. This day pays also tribute to the 251 UNIFIL peacekeepers, military, civilian staff and dependants, who have served to death and continue to stay in our memory and our heart as the expression of the sense and the cost of peace.”

The United Nations Secretary-General’s message for this day was also read out by the Force Commander.

UNIFIL and Lebanese Navy carry out Command Amphibious Exercise

From 24 to 25 October, the Lebanese Navy and UNIFIL are carrying out a command amphibious exercise between Beirut and Tyre. The exercise gives an opportunity for UNIFIL to explore various courses of action if the main supply roads in UNIFIL’s area of operation are destroyed due to any security incidents and also in the event that the road between Beirut and Tyre are not available for a long time and to support the UNIFIL forces on the ground with water, food and other essential supplies.

Eight UNIFIL vehicles are involved in this exercise and their mission is to deliver supplies to the French battalion based in Dayr Kifa. They have embarked onboard the Lebanese amphibious ship “Damour 22” to move from Beirut to Tyre on 24 October and to reverse the day after.

The amphibious exercise is being initiated on the proposal of the Lebanese Navy.

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