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PRESS RELEASE

**CLARIFICATION ON REPORTS OF CLASH BETWEEN SPANISH
PEACEKEEPERS AND BLIDA RESIDENTS**

Naqoura, Lebanon – Concerning reports carried in some Lebanese newspapers which claim that there was a clash in the town of Blida in southern Lebanon on Saturday between members of the local population and Spanish peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the UNIFIL Public Information Office wishes to provide the following clarification, namely, that no such incident took place.

A regular patrol by Spanish peacekeepers, consisting of troops travelling in a light vehicle and an armoured personnel carrier, entered a narrow street in the town and had difficulty proceeding. The patrol's only option was to reverse out of the street. Upon attempting to do so, the patrol's path was suddenly blocked by a car. This led to apprehension amongst some members of the local population. The Lebanese Army was informed and the situation was soon resolved with the arrival of a Lebanese Army liaison officer.

For further information, please contact the UNIFIL Public Information Office:

Tel.: +961 1 827 068 or 827 018

Email: unifil-pio@un.org

Fax: +961 1 827 016

View the UNIFIL website:

<http://www.un.org/depts/dpko/missions/unifil/index.html>