

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

Naqoura,
29 July 2006

PRESS RELEASE

Heavy exchanges of fire continued along the length of the Blue Line in the past 24 hours. Hezbollah continued to fire rockets and mortars from various locations, and the IDF continued the shelling and aerial bombardment. Ground fighting and heavy shelling in the area between Bint Jubayl and Ayn Ibil (southwest of Bint Jubayl), as well as in the area of Aytarun (east of Bint Jubayl) were reported this morning. The IDF maintained their presence inside Lebanese territory in these areas. It was reported that the IDF brought in limited reinforcements yesterday evening, and withdrew some of their forces and vehicles this morning.

There were two incidents of firing close to UNIFIL positions from the Israeli side in the area of Marwahin and Deir Mimesh in the past 24 hours. At the same time, it was reported that Hezbollah fired from the vicinity of six UN positions at Tibnin (2), At Tiri, Beit Yahoun, and Alma Ash Shab (2). UNIFIL strongly protested all these incidents to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities respectively.

All UNIFIL positions remain permanently occupied and maintained by the troops. UNIFIL dispatched four logistic convoys to re-supply forward positions, especially in the eastern sector, yesterday. A re-supply convoy to a forward UN position in the Marun Al Ras area, in urgent need of critical basic supplies, was unable to proceed due to heavy fighting on the ground yesterday and this morning. Another attempt to re-supply this position will be made soonest. Additional convoys are planned for today. The search operation for the body of the fourth OGL military observer in Khiyam remains suspended, because UNIFIL is not able to reach the position and bring heavy engineering equipment to remove the debris. The UNIFIL engineering team from China completed search operation in the Hosh area of Tyre, and recovered the remains of one adult and one child from the debris.

UNIFIL provided a humanitarian escort and transportation to a group of 421 Lebanese civilians from a UN position in the area of Al Duhayra to Tyre. Six civilians were also transported from UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura to Tyre. There were also reports of convoys of civilian cars moving from areas between Rmeich and Naqoura in the direction of Tyre.

UNIFIL medical teams provided assistance and treatment to three civilians, including one child, who were injured during the shelling at the Ain Arab village. One wounded woman was evacuated from the village of Ain Arab to the hospital in Marjayoun. Another two injured civilians received medical

treatment at the UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura and were subsequently evacuated to Tyre. The Indian battalion provided assistance and escort to the Electricity Department in Marjayoun to repair and restore the power supply, and to the local authorities in Ibil as Saqi and El Meri to restore power and water supply to the villages in this area.