

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

Naqoura,  
30 July 2006

**PRESS RELEASE**

Heavy exchanges of fire continued unabated 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.

During the night, IDF troops entered Lebanese territory in the area of Kafr Kila in the eastern sector, and are currently present in the general area of Kafr Kila, Al Tayyabah and Deir Mimess. Intensive fighting on the ground was reported in the area of Al Tayyabah this morning. The area was under heavy Israeli bombardment and shelling yesterday.

The IDF also maintained their presence inside Lebanese territory in the general area of Marun Al Ras/Bint Jubayl in the central sector. It was reported that they had withdrawn some of their forces from this area to the Israeli side during the night. Sporadic fighting in these areas, as well as the shelling and bombardment of the areas north of Bint Jubayl (Aynata, Aytarun, At Tiri, Brashit and Ayn Ibil) was reported yesterday.

Five aerial rockets from the Israeli side impacted in the immediate vicinity (5 to 20 meters) of a UNIFIL position in the area of Addaisseh, yesterday afternoon. One aerial rocket exploded in the air above the position and two UNIFIL soldiers from the Indian battalion were moderately wounded and evacuated to the UNIFIL hospital in Ibil As Saqy. In another incident, one artillery round from the Israeli side impacted directly inside the UNIFIL position in Mays Al Jabal yesterday night, causing extensive material damage and the collapse of the ammunition shelter, but no casualties. Early morning, two IDF soldiers removed and dragged away the protective concertina wire around the UNIFIL position in the Marun Al Ras area. It was reported that Hezbollah fired rockets from the vicinity of three UN positions in the area of Tibnin, At Tiri and Brashit. They also fired small arms fire from the vicinity of two UN positions in the area of Alma Ash Shab and Al Duhayyra. UNIFIL strongly protested all these incidents to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities respectively.

***(Since the outbreak of hostilities, four military observers from OGL, one UNIFIL international staff member and his wife were killed, and four Ghanaian soldiers, three Indian soldiers, and one OGL military observer were wounded as a result of firing.)***

All UNIFIL positions remain permanently occupied and maintained by the troops. UNIFIL dispatched five logistic convoys to re-supply UN positions with

water and fuel. After a number of attempts, UNIFIL also succeeded to re-supply the position in the Marun Al Ras area. The search operation for the body of the fourth OGL military observer in Khiyam remained suspended as UNIFIL is still unable to reach the position and bring heavy engineering equipment to remove the debris due to the exchanges of fire in the area.

This morning, UNIFIL medical teams from Tibnin and Naqoura were urgently dispatched to the village of Qana to provide medical and humanitarian assistance to the local population and the victims of the aerial bombardment. The UNIFIL engineering team from China is also dispatched to Qana to assist in the search and rescue operation and to clear the debris.

UNIFIL provided an escort to a contingent of Lebanese Joint Security Forces out of their headquarters in Marjayoun. However, the convoy was unable to proceed to Tibnin due to a broken bridge and the heavy firing along the road, and has returned to Marjayoun. UNIFIL provided a humanitarian escort and transportation to a group of 38 Lebanese civilians from Naqoura to Tyre. They were still reports of convoys of civilian cars moving from areas between Yarin and Alma Ash Shab. Today, UNIFIL will attempt to extricate and provide escort for a number of foreign nationals from Rmaich and the neighboring villages to Naqoura for evacuation from the country.

A French ship, arrived to the waters of Naqoura this morning, with essential supplies for UNIFIL humanitarian efforts and re-supply. The ship is also to evacuate a number of foreign nationals from the border areas.