

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

Naqoura,
1 August 2006

PRESS RELEASE

This afternoon, the IDF entered Lebanese territory in the general area of Ayta Ash Shab in the western sector. Heavy ground fighting is reported in this area. The general area of Ayta Ash Shab, Ramyah, Dibil, and Qawzah was under intensive Israeli shelling yesterday and this morning.

This morning, the IDF crossed the Blue Line and made a limited incursion entering Lebanese territory in the general area of Hula in the central sector, where they remain until now. No fighting is reported.

The IDF maintained their presence in the general area of Kafr Kila in the eastern sector. They continued intensive shelling in the area of Kafr Kila, Tayyabah, Addeisseh, and Raab att Tanatine, and ground fighting is reported last night and today. There were also reports of Israeli air strikes in the general area of Kafr Kila yesterday. The IDF moved some reinforcements last night into this area.

It seems that the IDF also maintained their presence inside Lebanese territory in the general area of Marun Al Ras in the central sector. It was reported that some of the IDF troops withdrew from that area yesterday.

Yesterday morning, the IDF entered Lebanese territory in the area of Al Duhayra in the western sector, and withdrew to the Israeli side through the area of Marwahin later in the afternoon.

Exchanges of fire continued with somewhat reduced intensity along the length of the Blue Line in the past 24 hours. Hezbollah continued to fire rockets and mortars, but on a lower scale. The IDF continued intensive shelling.

One artillery round from the Israeli side impacted directly on a UNIFIL position in the general area of Mays Al Jabal early this morning, causing material damage, but no casualties. There were eight other incidents of firing from the Israeli side close to UNIFIL positions in the general area of Hula last night and this morning. It was reported that Hezbollah fired mortar rounds from the vicinity of three UNIFIL positions in the area of Tibnin, Hariss, and At Tiri. 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 a number of logistic convoys yesterday to re-

supply the positions. Additional re-supply convoys to the eastern sector, including the forward positions, are planned for today.

UNIFIL extricated and provided escorts for 40 foreign nationals from Rmeich to Tyre yesterday. Twelve Australian nationals and 7 Lebanese civilians were transported from the UN position in the area of Marwahin to Tyre. 15 Lebanese civilians and 6 US citizens from Marun Al Ras were sheltered inside the UN position in that area yesterday. Attempts are being made to relocate them out of the area. There were reports that some 2000 Lebanese civilians fled from the Shaba village towards the Beka'a valley yesterday.

UNIFIL delivered food and water to Rmeich, and delivered water to Ibil As Saqi yesterday. It is also planned to deliver water to the hospital in Tibnin today. UNIFIL attempted to assist the local authorities in Marjayoun to repair and restore the power supply yesterday, but they were not able to proceed due to the heavy shelling in the area.

Yesterday, the IDF handed over to UNIFIL one Lebanese female civilian who was caught in the cross fire and wounded in the area of Marun Al Ras, and her son. This move was coordinated with the Lebanese authorities. UNIFIL handed them over to the Lebanese authorities today.