

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

Naqoura,
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PRESS RELEASE

Heavy exchanges of fire continued with renewed intensity throughout the UNIFIL area of operation in the past 24 hours. Hezbollah continued to fire rockets and mortars from various locations, and the IDF continued aerial bombardment in some areas, and intensive shelling all over the south.

The IDF has maintained their presence in four locations on Lebanese territory in the general areas of Ayta Ash Shab in the western sector, and Marun Al Ras, Hula/Markaba and Kafr Kila in the central sector. Intensive shelling, a few air strikes, and sporadic exchanges on the ground are reported in the area of Ayta Ash Shab during the night and this morning. Sporadic exchanges on the ground are also reported in the area of Kafr Kila, and intensive Israeli shelling in Wadi Saluki to the west. No fighting was reported in the area of Marun Al Ras and Hula/Markaba. The IDF reinforced their presence in these two locations during the night and this morning.

It was also reported that Israeli helicopters dropped some troops inside Lebanese territory in the area southwest of Mays Al Jabal in the central sector last night.

There were five incidents of firing from the Israeli side close to UN positions. Twelve artillery shells impacted within 50 meters from a UN position in the general area of Hula, and some debris impacted within the position. At the request of the Lebanese authorities, this morning, UNIFIL dispatched one armored personnel carrier (APC) to the village of Srifa to escort and assist the Lebanese Army Engineering Contingent to clear the debris in the village. Around 10 a.m., Hezbollah fired four rockets from close vicinity of the location and subsequently, the IDF shelled the area, forcing a UNIFIL APC to withdraw to a nearby UN position. It was also reported that Hezbollah fired rockets from the vicinity of three UNIFIL positions in the area of Tibnin, At Tiri, and Alma Ash Shab. 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 two logistic and one humanitarian convoys to re-supply some positions, but it is unable to reach positions in the general area of Kafr Kila due to heavy exchanges of fire and shelling. Additional re-supply convoys, including to the forward positions, are planned for today.

UNIFIL escorted a WFP humanitarian convoy of five trucks from Tyre to Qana yesterday. This morning, UNIFIL escorted another humanitarian convoy from Tyre to Tibnin. They will attempt also to reach At Tiri. UNIFIL delivered water

to the hospital in Tibnin and to the village of Ibil As Saqi yesterday. Fifteen Lebanese civilians and six US citizens from Marun Al Ras remain inside the UN position in that area. Attempts to relocate them out of the area are still ongoing. UNFIL engineering contingent from China carried out a search and rescue mission in Jibal Al Butm and recovered the remains of two adults (male and female).