

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

Naqoura,
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PRESS RELEASE

Heavy exchanges of fire continued unabated throughout the UNIFIL area of operation in the past 24 hours. Hezbollah fired the largest number of rockets within a 24-hour period since the outbreak of hostilities from various locations. The IDF continued intensive shelling and aerial bombardment all across the south.

It was reported that the IDF made two new ground incursions, entering Lebanese territory in two locations.

Yesterday afternoon, they entered again the general area of Marwahin and Ramyah in the western sector. Additional reinforcements were brought in during the night. Heavy shelling and intensive exchanges on the ground are reported this morning from the area of Al Duhayra, west of Marwahin.

Last night, the IDF entered Lebanese territory in the general area of Sarda in the eastern sector. Heavy shelling is reported this morning in the area, but no fighting on the ground.

The IDF has maintained their presence in five other locations on Lebanese territory, in the general areas of Ayta Ash Shab in the western sector, and Marun Al Ras, Mays Al Jabal, Hula/Markaba, and Kafr Kila/Tayyabah/Addaïsseh in the central sector. Intensive shelling is reported in all these areas, except in Marun Al Ras. Sporadic exchanges on the ground were reported in the general area of Tayyabah, Dier Mimess, Hula, and Ayta Ash Shab. The IDF reinforced their presence in the area of Marun Al Ras last night.

One rocket from the Hezbollah side impacted directly on a UNIFIL position in the general area of Hula yesterday evening, causing extensive material damage, but no casualties. Half an hour later, another rocket from the Hezbollah side impacted directly on the same UNIFIL position, causing additional material damage, but no casualties. Hezbollah also fired rockets from the vicinity of four UN positions in the areas of Alma Ash Shab, Marwahin, Tibnin, and At Tiri. There were two incidents of firing from the Israeli side close to a UNIFIL position in the general area of Kafr Kila. Furthermore, an IDF tank fired machine gun rounds from the vicinity of a UN position in the area of Marwahin. UNIFIL strongly protested all these incidents to the Lebanese and Israeli authorities respectively.

All UNIFIL positions remain permanently occupied and maintained by the troops. UNIFIL dispatched seven logistic and two humanitarian convoys

yesterday. Additional re-supply convoys are planned for today, particularly to the forward positions in the central sector between Kafr Kila and Hula, and in the area of Ramyah in the western sector, which are facing critical shortages of basic supplies. UNIFIL engineering contingent from China carried out a reconnaissance of the position in Khiyam yesterday to assess the type of heavy engineering equipment required to remove the debris, and the possibility of moving the equipment along the existing degraded roads, in order to continue the search operation for the body of the fourth OGL military observer.

UNIFIL supplied water and provided medical assistance to internally displaced people concentrated in Ibil As Saqi yesterday. UNIFIL engineering contingent removed a roadblock at Burj Qallawiyah and opened the road to Tibnin 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. Humanitarian convoys to At Tiri and Haris are planned for today, but the ability to move the convoys will depend on the situation on the ground.

This morning, the IDF handed over to UNIFIL one Lebanese boy at the Ras Naqoura crossing. This move was coordinated with the Lebanese authorities. UNIFIL handed him over to the Lebanese authorities.