

**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 rockets from various locations at a reduced level compared to the record of the previous day, but in large numbers nonetheless. The IDF continued intensive shelling and aerial bombardment across the south.

The IDF has maintained their presence and continued to operate in the following areas inside Lebanese territory: between the villages of Al Duhayra and Ayta Ash Shab in the western sector, and between the villages of Yarun and Sarda in the central and eastern sector. Intense shelling and exchanges on the ground were reported in these areas, including the urban areas of Al Duhayra, Tayr Harfa, Ramyah, Ayta Ash Shab, Markaba and Tayyabah. In some areas, the IDF operates a few kilometers inside Lebanese territory. The IDF reinforced their presence in the area of Marwahin, Marun Al Ras, Hula and Sarda.

A UNIFIL convoy from the Indian battalion came under small arms fire in the area of Markaba yesterday evening, causing damage to armored personnel carrier. It was not possible to establish the origin of the fire. There were four incidents of firing from the Israeli side close to UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura and UNIFIL positions in the general area of Hula and Markaba. It was also reported that Hezbollah fired rockets from the vicinity of two UN positions in the general area of Alma Ash Shab 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 six logistic convoys and managed to re-supply forward positions in Marun Al Ras and the area between Hula and Kafr Kila. Additional re-supply convoys are planned for today, particularly to the forward positions in the area of Ramyah and Marwahin, which are still facing critical shortages of basic supplies. The UNIFIL Engineering contingents from China and India resumed the search operation for the body of the fourth OGL military observer in Khiyam yesterday. The operation continued today, and the team was able to remove some debris and to extricate the remains of the observer.

The UNIFIL engineering contingent cleared the rubble and repaired three roads. They also cleared the rubble from the villages of Bourj Qallawiya, Al Sultaniyah and Tibnin. The team also filled up six bomb craters en route. UNIFIL evacuated 15 Lebanese civilians and six US citizens from the UN

position in Marun Al Ras to the UN position in the area of Tibnin. Attempts are being made to relocate them out of the area today. The medical team from the Indian battalion provided assistance and treatment to 15 Lebanese civilians in Hula. UNIFIL provided water to the internally displaced people in Ibil As Saqi. UNIFIL also provided an escort to a convoy of Lebanese Joint Security Forces from Marjayoun to Al Qulayah.

A humanitarian convoy, which is stranded in Tibnin for the past 24 hours, was unable to proceed to At Tiri and Haris yesterday. New attempts will be made today. Additional humanitarian convoys are planned for today, but the ability to move the convoys will depend on the situation on the ground. It was also reported that the Lebanese Red Cross evacuated a number of wounded from Al Duhayra north.