

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

Naqoura,
5 August 2006

PRESS RELEASE

Exchanges of fire continued with the high intensity throughout the UNIFIL area of operation in the past 24 hours. Hezbollah fired rockets from various locations in large numbers. The IDF continued intensive shelling and aerial bombardment across the south.

The IDF withdrew their troops this morning from the general area of Mhaibeb in the central sector, and Sarda in the eastern sector, to the Israeli side.

The IDF has reinforced their presence inside Lebanese territory in the general area of Al Duhayra and Marwahin in the western sector. It seems that the IDF has also extended their presence in these areas to the north. Intensive shelling and ground exchanges were reported in the areas of Tayr Harfa, Shihin and Majdel Zun to the north during the night and this morning.

The IDF has also maintained their presence and continued to operate inside Lebanese territory in the areas of Ayta Ash Shab in the western sector, and in the general areas of Marun Al Ras, Markaba and Kafr Kila in the central sector. Intense shelling was reported in these areas, and exchanges on the ground took place especially around El Addaisseh, Tayyabah, and Talusha.

There were three incidents of firing close to UNIFIL positions from the Israeli side in the general area of Hula (2) and At Tiri. There was one incident of Hezbollah firing rockets from the vicinity of the UN position in the general area of Tibnin. UNIFIL strongly protested all these incidents to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities respectively.

All UNIFIL positions remain permanently occupied and maintained by the troops. Ten UN positions along the Blue Line are currently located in the areas where the IDF operates inside Lebanese territory and where intensive shelling and ground exchanges are taking place. UNIFIL dispatched two logistic convoys and managed to re-supply forward positions in the area of Marwahin and Ramyah which were facing critical shortages of basic supplies. Re-supply convoys to forward positions in the eastern sector are planned for today, as well as re-supply convoy from the UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura to the Ghanaian battalion headquarters in Tibnin. The remains of the fourth OGL military observer were transported from Khiyam and handed over to UNTSO.

UNIFIL evacuated 25 internally displaced people, including six US citizens, from the UN position in Tibnin to Tyre yesterday. Two wounded Lebanese civilians, including an 88 year old woman, were relocated from Al Qawzah

village to UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura, and provided with initial medical treatment yesterday. Thereafter, they were transferred by UNIFIL to the Lebanese Army barracks in Tyre. UNIFIL distributed food donated by the French government to civilians in Al Qawzah and Ramyah villages in the western sector yesterday. UNIFIL also provided water to the village of Ibil As Saqi, and medical assistance to the internally displaced people in the village. A humanitarian convoy to distribute food to some border villages is planned for today.