

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

Naqoura,
24 August 2006

PRESS RELEASE

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) has withdrawn from the general area of Bint Jbeil this afternoon and handed over the control to UNIFIL. UNIFIL set up a number of checkpoints and is conducting intensive patrolling to verify IDF withdrawal. UNIFIL is to hand over this area to the Lebanese Army tomorrow.

At present the Lebanese army is deployed to areas marked by forward positions in Buyit As Sayyid, Majda Zun, Zibqin, Yatar, Rshaf, At Tiri, Kunin, Mhaibeb, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Gandouriyah, and Frun in western and central sectors, and in Dier Miness, Tall el Nhass, Arab el Louazih, Rihanet Berri, Halta, Kafer Chouba, and Cheeba in eastern sector.

The cessation of hostilities was maintained in general in the past 24 hours. No incidents and breaches of the cessation of hostilities or air violations were recorded.

UNIFIL continued intensive ground and air patrolling throughout its area of operation to assess the situation on the ground and to monitor the cessation of hostilities.

The IDF handed over to UNIFIL one Lebanese civilian at the Ras Naqoura crossing yesterday. This move was coordinated with the Lebanese authorities. UNIFIL handed the person over to the Lebanese authorities.

UNIFIL distributed 92, 000 liters of drinking water to villages of Markabe, El Khiam, Raab Ett Tallatine, Al Qusayr, Ebel Es Saqi, Bayt Leif and Rumaysh. UNIFIL also provided medical assistance to the local population.

A team of Mine Action Coordination Center continued controlled demolition of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the areas of Yohmor, Ras Al Ain, Zawtar West, Deir Al Zahrani, Siddiqin, Bint Jbeil and Aita Al Jabal.