

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

Naqoura,
13 August 2006

PRESS RELEASE

Exchanges of fire continued in the past 24 hours with heightened intensity throughout the UNIFIL area of operation. The IDF intensified shelling and aerial bombardment across the south, especially in the general areas of Khiyam in the eastern sector, Tibnin in the central sector, and between Tyre and Naqoura along the Mediterranean cost. Hezbollah fired rockets in significant numbers from various locations.

The IDF has maintained their presence and continued to operate inside Lebanese territory in different areas. It seems that the IDF has been trying to advance during last night and this morning in the general area of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Burj Qallawayah in the northern part of the central sector, as well as in the general area of At Tiri, Bayt Yahun and Kunin in the southern part of the central sector. Intensive shelling and ground exchanges in these areas were reported this morning. Intensive shelling and sporadic ground exchanges were also reported last night and this morning in the area of Bayyadah, Al Jibbayn and Tayr Harfa in the western sector, and Mays al Jabal and Markaba in the central sector.

There were five incidents of firing from the Israeli side directly inside UNIFIL positions in the areas of At Tiri, Bayt Yahun and Tibnin (3) yesterday and this morning, and one incident of firing from the Hezbollah side directly inside a UNIFIL position in the area of Ghanduriyah yesterday. The impacts caused extensive material damage in all the positions, but no casualties. There were nine other incidents of firing from the Israeli side close to UN positions in the areas of At Tiri (4), Ghanduriyah (2), Brashit, Tibnin and Ibil as Saqi. UNIFIL strongly protested all the incidents to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities respectively.

All UNIFIL positions remain permanently occupied and maintained by the troops. 19 UN positions, including the UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura, are currently in the areas where the IDF operates inside Lebanese territory and where intensive shelling and ground exchanges are taking place.

UNIFIL's freedom of movement and the ability to re-supply positions and provide humanitarian assistance were denied because of the lack of security clearance from the IDF and due to the intensive hostilities on the ground. Attempts are being made today to re-supply nine forward positions of the Indian battalion in the eastern sector which are facing critical shortages of fuel.

A UN helicopter medically evacuated a member of the Ghanaian battalion from Naqoura to Cyprus yesterday. One member of the Chinese contingent was medically evacuated from a UNIFIL position in Hinniyah to the UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura yesterday.

A French ship arrived to the waters of Naqoura yesterday and offloaded essential supplies for UNIFIL humanitarian efforts and the troops.

A humanitarian convoy to distribute food to the villages in the western sector, and other humanitarian activities planned by UNIFIL, could not proceed in the last seven days due to the denial of consent by the IDF.

UNIFIL position in the area of Haris provided medical assistance to a wounded girl with multiple splinter injuries, and relocated her to the UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura.

Three wounded Lebanese civilians (two women and one man) from the village of Duhayra were relocated from the UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura to the hospital in Tyre for further medical treatment yesterday.