

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

Naqoura,
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PRESS RELEASE

In accordance with Resolution 1701, the Israeli Army started yesterday the withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and this morning the Lebanese Army begun deploying troops south of the Litani River, including the areas vacated by the IDF. These operations are conducted in close coordination and with the support of UNIFIL.

The Israeli Army withdrew yesterday from the following areas inside Lebanese territory: Tibnin in the central sector; Frun, Ghanduriyah in the northern part of the central sector, and Marjayoun, Qulayah, Khiyam in the eastern sector. They handed over control to UNIFIL, which established a number of checkpoints and patrolled these areas to verify the withdrawal of the Israeli Army.

This morning, the Lebanese Armed Forces started the process of deployment inside the territory vacated by the IDF, while UNIFIL controls a buffer zone to the south, between the Lebanese Army and the IDF. Significant numbers of troops of the Lebanese Army arrived this morning to Tyre, with around 500 already deployed in the general area of Tibnin, and some 800 in the general area of Marjayoun. They are in the process of establishing a brigade HQ in Marjayoun.

The Israeli Army withdrawal and the deployment of the Lebanese Army are planned to continue in the coming days in accordance with the plan and timeline agreed during a trilateral meeting of the Force Commander UNIFIL and the senior representatives of the Lebanese and Israeli Army.

The cessation of hostilities was generally maintained in the past 24 hours. There were no reports of incidents or breaches of the agreement, the parties have not fired into the territory of or at the other side, and there were no attempts to occupy any additional territory.

On two instances yesterday afternoon and once this morning, Israeli aircraft violated Lebanese airspace in the eastern sector.

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.

UNIFIL de-mining team from the Chinese contingent continued operations to clear unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the area. Their medical team

provided assistance to two civilians injured by UXO in the village of Hinniyah yesterday.

UNIFIL distributed food and water to the villages of Ayta Ash Shab and Al Boustan today. UNIFIL has been providing medical assistance and water to a number of local villages in its area of operations. It also provided fuel to the village of Rmeich to power the water supply system. It is reported that the internally displaced people are returning in numbers in the villages in the UNIFIL area of operation.

The IDF handed over to UNIFIL one civilian at the Ras Naqoura crossing yesterday. This move was coordinated with the Lebanese authorities, and UNIFIL handed him over to the Lebanese Army Liaison Unit.