

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

Naqoura,
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PRESS RELEASE

Heavy exchanges of fire continued unabated along the length of the Blue Line. The IDF and Hezbollah are also engaged in exchanges on the ground in the general areas of the villages of Marwahin in the western sector, and Marun al Ras in the central sector. A number of IDF tanks and bulldozers moved into these two areas inside Lebanese territory yesterday afternoon, and stayed throughout the night and into this morning. The IDF reportedly used incendiary shells in the area of Kafr Kila in the eastern sector.

There were 31 incidents of firing close to UN positions during the past 24 hours, with three positions suffered direct hits from the Israeli side. Ten artillery shells impacted inside UN position of the Ghanaian battalion on the coast in Ras Naqoura, causing extensive damage. Four artillery shells impacted inside the patrol base of the Observer Group Lebanon in the Marun al Ras area, including three direct impacts on the building which caused extensive damage and cut electricity and communication connections. At the time of the shelling, there were 36 civilians inside the position, most of whom were women and children from the village of Marun Al Ras. There were no casualties. One artillery shell impacted inside the UNIFIL Headquarters compound in Naqoura, causing extensive damage and danger to the UNIFIL hospital where the doctors were operating at the time. Splinters of artillery shells also damaged the boundary wall of the Naqoura camp. Extensive shelling damage was reported in the Ghanaian battalion position south of Alma Ash Shab. Hezbollah firing was also reported from the immediate vicinity of the UN positions in Naqoura and Maroun Al Ras areas at the time of the incidents.

All UNIFIL positions in the area of operation remain permanently occupied and maintained by the troops. UNIFIL is still facing serious restrictions in its freedom of movement, and was able to carry out only a small number of logistic and humanitarian convoys yesterday, including the supply of water to the civilian hospital with 1000 people in Tibnin. Doctors at the UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura performed a limb saving surgery on two children from the Alma Ash Shab village, who sustained multiple splinter injuries.

Some re-supply convoys to UNIFIL positions are planned for today, but the ability to move will depend on the situation on the ground. All UN positions in the close proximity of the Blue Line are facing shortages of basic supplies, and our ability to re-supply them is vital.