

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

Naqoura,  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**LAF deploying in some areas in South Lebanon**

On 13 September, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) start to deploy in the general areas of Al Qusayr, Al Qantarah, At Tayyabah, Markaba and the areas west of Hula in the central sector of the South where the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew yesterday. The Indian battalion, after conducting extensive patrolling throughout the area, confirmed that there were no IDF troops present there.

**Continued UNIFIL deployment**

According to Security Council resolution 1701 of 11 August 2006, UNIFIL is deploying troops up to the authorized strength to a maximum of 15,000 troops.

As of 13 September 2006, the total number of UNIFIL troops in theatre coming from ten countries is 3745 troops, including two new battalions from France and Italy. The Headquarters of the French Battalion will be established in Bint Jubayl, and the headquarters of the Italian Battalion will be located in Jwayya.

A Battalion from Spain, comprising initially of some 650 troops is to arrive on 15-16 September in Tyre. Their HQ will be in At Tayyabah.

In coordination with UNIFIL, the Interim Maritime Task Force continues to assist the Lebanese Navy in monitoring the sea border with eight vessels on patrol (five from Italy, and one each from France, Greece and the United Kingdom).

**UNIFIL experts commence work**

At the request of the Lebanese Government, a group of UNIFIL military, police, customs and border experts started to review the security measures in place at entry points and borders of Lebanon. The experts are working in close cooperation with Lebanese Army and with Internal Security Forces. This afternoon, the UNIFIL team met with General M. Sleiman, Commander of the Army.

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