

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON  
(UNIFIL)

Naqoura,  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**One month since the Cessation of Hostilities went into effect**

It has been one month since the cessation of hostilities in South Lebanon went into effect. Over the past 31 days, the situation has stabilized with UNIFIL increasing in numbers on a daily basis and additional forces planning to come into theatre in the next weeks substantially raising the number of UNIFIL troops in line with UN Security Council resolution 1701.

*“It is with satisfaction that I note on this day how much has been accomplished since 14 August,”* said UNIFIL Force Commander **Major-General Alain Pellegrini**, *“The cessation of hostilities is generally maintained, the Israeli Army is continuing to withdraw from South Lebanon, while the Lebanese Army deploys in these areas. I expect the withdrawal to be complete by the end of this month.”*

The parties have largely complied with the cessation of hostilities. UNIFIL observed a number of minor incidents and violations in its area of operation between the Litani River and the Blue Line, but they have not been of an offensive and hostile character, and the parties seem determined to uphold the agreement.

*“UNIFIL is now enhancing its presence, we have been reinforced by Italian and French troops, and I expect the Spanish contingent to arrive tomorrow. We are starting to have the numbers that we need, we have a detailed concept of operation and the required rules of engagement. Working in conjunction with the Lebanese Armed Forces, and in close coordination with the Israeli Army, I think we can ensure a stable environment here in South Lebanon, something that the people need very much to get on with their lives,”* said **Major-General Pellegrini**.

**Note to the media:** On 15 September 2006, at 0900 Hrs, the Spanish Amphibious Task Force will start disembarking in Tyre and Naqoura Port in South Lebanon. The deployment will continue throughout the day and on 16 September. On 15 September, the Task Force will also offload heavy equipment in Beirut port.

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