



PRESS RELEASE

UNIFIL TROOP STRENGTH AND ACTIVITIES

Naqoura, Lebanon (28 December 2006) -- The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) will end the year with more than 11,000 peacekeepers in its area of operations.

The latest addition to UNIFIL's troop numbers was made with the recent arrival of peacekeepers from Qatar. It is the first time Qatar has contributed troops to a UN peacekeeping operation.

UNIFIL's current total of 11,083 peacekeepers from 26 countries, is made up of 9,167 ground troops and 1,777 naval personnel.

UNIFIL peacekeepers continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the local population, including medical and dental aid. Between 15-21 December, there were 300 instances where UNIFIL peacekeepers provided medical assistance and 55 instances where they provided dental care.

Meanwhile, between 15-21 December, UNIFIL de-miners from various national contingents destroyed a total of 1,019 separate explosive devices. These include rockets, grenades, cluster bombs, anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. Since the cease-fire came into force on 14 August, and up until 21 December, UNIFIL de-miners have destroyed a total of 16,819 separate explosive devices.

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