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PRESS RELEASE

Commemoration Ceremony Held for Six Fallen Peacekeepers

Naqoura, Lebanon – A commemoration ceremony for the six fallen peacekeepers took place today in UNIFIL Sector East headquarters, Camp Cervantes.

The ceremony was attended by the UNIFIL Force Commander, Major-General Claudio Graziano, Spanish Defence Minister José Antonio Alonso Suarez, the Ambassadors of Spain and Colombia, General Matar, the representative of the Chief of the Lebanese Army, and UNIFIL's Sector East commander, Brigadier-General Ramón Martín-Ambrosio Merino of the Spanish Army. The officers and troops from the Spanish contingent as well as representatives of other contingents from UNIFIL were also in attendance.

The Chief of the Lebanese Army, General Michel Suleiman, visited the Sector Headquarters in Marjayoun earlier today and met separately with Major-General Graziano, the Spanish Minister of Defence, and the commanding officer of the Spanish contingent. General Suleiman posthumously awarded the fallen peacekeepers the Lebanese Army's "War Medal," "Military Valour Medal" and "Medal for Battle Wounds."

UNIFIL's Major-General Graziano made the following statement:

"In this tragic moment our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our fallen comrades and for the quick recovery of those wounded. On behalf of all members of UNIFIL, I extend my sincere condolences to the families and to the Government of Spain and Columbia. In tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, I want to reaffirm UNIFIL's commitment to vigorous pursuit of our mandate for the cause of peace and security in Lebanon, the cause for which our comrades laid down their lives. We will continue to work with greater resolve together with the army and the Government of Lebanon to fulfill the tasks mandated to us by the UN Security Council."

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