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al-janoub

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UNIFIL
magazine

a
decade
of
Hope

Resolution 1701 explained

The devastating 2006 war ended in a cessation of hostilities on 14 August, following the adoption three days earlier of Resolution 1701 by the UN Security Council. Since then, Resolution 1701 has helped stabilize the situation in south Lebanon. The following are the key elements of the Resolution, which forms the core of UNIFIL's mandate:

- Monitoring the cessation of hostilities;
- Accompanying and supporting LAF as they deploy throughout south Lebanon (as shown in this image);
- Extending assistance to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons;
- Assisting LAF in the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons except those of the Government and UNIFIL;
- Assisting the Government, at its request, in securing its borders and other entry points to prevent the illegal entry of arms or related materials into Lebanon.

In addition, the resolution also authorized UNIFIL to take "all necessary action" to ensure that its area of operations is not used for hostile activities of any kind.

As envisaged by the resolution 1701, UNIFIL provides a window of opportunity to advance the progress towards a permanent ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel. UNIFIL's good offices role has been effective in de-conflicting the situation on the ground and de-escalating tensions. One such example is the UNIFIL-chaired "Tripartite Forum", under which both parties meet once every month at the behest of UNIFIL.

UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos



Message from the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Michael Beary

I am delighted to take this opportunity to send a greeting to both my fellow peacekeepers and to all those residents of south Lebanon who will get an opportunity to read this edition of *"Al-Janoub"*, either in this format or online. Indeed, since my appointment as Head of Mission and Force Commander in July 2016 I have used every opportunity available to me to introduce myself to the people of south Lebanon and to highlight the important role that UNIFIL plays as we strive together to implement the mandate laid out for us in the UN Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

I therefore complement the editorial staff of *"Al-Janoub"* for selecting the 10th anniversary of the adaption of UNSCR 1701 as the central theme of this edition. While the tragic memories of the 2006 conflict are now beginning to fade, it is right that we never forget what happened 10 years ago and remind ourselves of the costs of war for the people of south Lebanon.

This is the fourth time that I have had the pleasure of serving here in Lebanon. In many ways, I feel that there must be an umbilical chord linking me to the people, towns and villages where I served: Sultaniyah, Dayr Ntar, Tibnine and now for the second time, Naqoura. However, there is of course no comparison between the Lebanon of my memories and the current reality in 2016. During my first deployment in 1982 as a young platoon commander, my soldiers and I experienced first-hand the violence of that year's Israeli invasion. Now, I am fortunate to be a witness to the fruits of a decade of relative calm and stability and one of the key challenges I will face as Head of Mission and Force Commander is maintaining that calm, by working in close conjunction with our colleagues in the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). It is fair to say that the LAF, the Lebanese Government and people of south Lebanon, deserve our admiration for what they have achieved in the last decade.

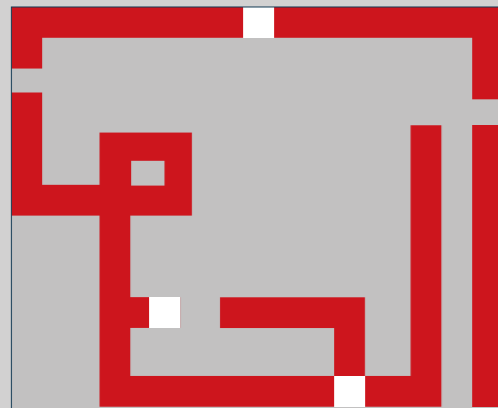


UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

This commemorative edition will help us all appreciate how much life in the UNIFIL Area of Operations has improved since the cessation of hostilities. I look forward in particular to reading the reflections of Brig Gen Manuel Kiréjian, the LAF Liaison Officer to UNIFIL in 2006, while I have no doubt that being reminded of the experiences of those who were present in Bint Jbeil during that summer's month long conflict will make sombre reading. With the future in mind, Brig Gen Antoun Mourad will give us in UNIFIL, as well as our general readership, a unique Lebanese insight into the marking of the Blue Line. I have no doubt that our colleagues in the Division of Political and Civil Affairs, who work on this important project, including the soon to retire Mr. John Molloy, will be particularly interested in this article.

To conclude, I say to the 10,600 peacekeepers of UNIFIL: always be mindful of your mission, your mandate and your responsibilities as representatives of your home country and the United Nations. To our Lebanese hosts, I thank you for your continued welcome and promise you that as long as we are present in South Lebanon we will hold out the hand of friendship to you, your families and your communities.

I look forward to engaging with you in the coming months.



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UNIFIL CIMIC activities



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

UNIFIL implements several projects, identified and designed in coordination with local authorities and other stakeholders, in its area of operations. These small-scale projects aim to improve the lives of the people in UNIFIL's host

communities, thereby deepening the relations between UN troops and the local population. During the first ten months of 2016, a total of 10,671 Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities were carried out. The following

are the major highlights:

- 36% of the activities included sanitary assistance, medical, dental and veterinary.
- 26% of the activities included meetings with local and religious authorities, school principals,

- directors of social centres and NGOs, among others.
- 19% of the activities included various language courses.
- 230 projects (23 from UNIFIL budget and 207 from the budget of individual troop contributing countries of TCCs) were conducted during the period, which is 56 more than the number of projects completed during the same time in 2015.
- The total amount spent was about \$3,000,000, of which 87% was financed by TCCs and 13% by UNIFIL.
- Additionally, 200 donations were conducted by various TCCs during the same period in the fields of education and social issues.
- As of early November 2016, 52 CIMIC projects are ongoing with a total amount of \$926,995.

LAF joins UNIFIL peacekeepers in peace relay march



UN Photo/UNIFIL Sector East HD

UNIFIL's eastern command organized a friendly relay march on 25 September 2016 along the 52-kilometre stretch of the Blue Line with participation of UN peacekeepers and Lebanese soldiers as a way to furthering and deepening the ties between them.

A total of 19 teams participated in the peace march from Shab'a to Blida, the first of its kind, in which each group carrying a UN flag ran for about five kilometres under scorching heat. The last stretch of about three kilometres was run by UNIFIL's Sector East Commander (June - November 2016) Brig Gen Perez de Aguado, contingent commanders and soldiers from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF).

The 120-kilometre Blue Line or the Line of Withdrawal stretches

from the south-western tip of Lebanon in Ras al-Naqoura to the south-eastern tip in Shab'a. The United Nations identified the Line in June 2000 for the sole purpose of confirming the full withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from Lebanese territory. Both the Lebanese and Israeli authorities have reiterated their commitment to respect the Line.

Brig Gen Aguado said one of the objectives of the march was to show UNIFIL's commitment to respect the Blue Line and raise awareness against any violation.

"The second objective was to interact with all the battalions (operating in Sector East) and LAF," said the Spanish General. "Finally, what we obtained was that comradeship, brotherhood among us has increased and improved."

'Strong bond between UNIFIL and local community vital'



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

During his introductory meetings with local authorities and religious leaders from UNIFIL's area of operations in south Lebanon, the newly arrived head of the UN peacekeeping mission, Maj Gen Michael Beary, underlined the importance of cooperation between peacekeepers and the host community in order to sustain the existing calm while working together for a permanent peace.

Maj Gen Beary told gatherings of dignitaries, including *Qaem Maqams*, mayors, *mukhtars* and religious leaders in October and November, that while the ten years of peace in south Lebanon is a work in progress "its cause can only be advanced one small step at a time."

"One of the most fundamental and

enduring features of Lebanese society is its sense of community and the respect that the people of the south have for their religious, political and civil leaders," said the UNIFIL head.

He added that remarkable achievement – in the areas of infrastructure, economic development, educational opportunities and security – can only be done through the strong partnership between the local leaders, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), the Government and UNIFIL. He stated that achieving the final goal of permanent peace is ultimately what the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1701, which forms the core of UNIFIL's mandate, is all about.

Treading the line on the ground

LAF Brigadier General Antoun Mourad on Blue Line marking



UN Photo/Pasquale G. Mancos

The southern extreme of Lebanon is a very sensitive area. Here runs the 'Line of Withdrawal' [of Israeli troops in the year 2000] or the so called Blue Line. In 2007, the parties agreed to a proposal by UNIFIL to visibly mark the line on the ground as an ongoing tripartite project to foster mutual trust, build confidence and to diffuse tensions between Lebanon and Israel.

The Blue Line is not always visible, and just a single incautious step could lead one to inadvertently cross it, risking life. Brigadier General Antoun Mourad, who currently heads the General Studies Office of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)'s Directorate of Intelligence, was the LAF focal point for Blue Line marking when it started in 2007.

Brig Gen Mourad scans the inhospitable terrain before him with steep escarpments and ubiquitous minefields, there is a constant threat from booby traps and war debris. "In front of us we can see two barrels that are only 30 metres apart, while in other cases the distance can be as much as 400 metres. One can draw an imaginary line between the barrels identifying the Blue Line we should not cross," he said.

The Blue Line begins from the coastal village of Ras al-Naqoura in the west and runs 120 kilometres up to Mount Hermon in the east. The Blue Line is not a border. It was identified by the UN in 2000, soon after Israel announced that it would withdraw its forces.

A former UNIFIL senior advisor and spokesperson, Timor Goksel, recalled that the

UN had to find "some sort of a line" that could be used as a reference for Israel's withdrawal from that point, as required by the Security Council Resolution 425. "It was a necessity," said Mr. Goksel.

It was a line of withdrawal, not a border demarcation, which eventually came to be known as "Blue Line".

To this day, the Blue Line remains a reference for ensuring that there is no violation from either side. It is an important element of the cessation of hostilities, and both parties have committed themselves to respect it.

Equipped with GPS instruments, Lebanese and UNIFIL military cartographers go to mark the Blue Line by confirming the exact location of the points where the blue barrels markers are to be placed. According to Brig Gen Mourad, it is just one stage of a complicated process. "First of all, UNIFIL proposes points and takes approval of both sides to prepare an action plan for them," he explained.

"After that, UNIFIL goes to the location and takes joint measurements with both sides, but separately, over a period of

"The Blue Line begins from the coastal village of Ras al-Naqoura in the west and runs 120 kilometres up to Mount Hermon in the east."



A Blue Line team of the Lebanese Armed Forces measure the location of a planned marker.

UN Photo/Pasquale G. Mancos

48 to 72 hours. On completion of these measurements, there will be three markers on the ground – UNIFIL's marker, the LAF marker and the IDF marker. If the difference between them is within 50 centimetres, the point is considered approved and we can move to the next stage: setting a marker in its place," Brig Gen Mourad said.

Checking and double-checking of points is time-consuming and can take anywhere from hours to weeks or even months. UNIFIL's engineers start construction only after all doubts have been allayed, starting with a concrete base on which the blue barrel will be constructed.

Blue barrel markers are usually placed on rough terrain. Construction crews made up of Chinese peacekeepers have to transport tons of sand, cement and other materials manually, making it a laborious and lengthy job, as attested by Chinese Sergeant Li Bin.

Working in a remote wadi ("valley"), he carries construction materials in a wicker basket, attached to his shoulders. "What a heavy load – it is filled with sand, I think there are 50 kilos in it," Sergeant Li Bin said. It can take two or three months to set up a single marker, due to the demanding physical effort involved.

Brig Gen Mourad is appreciative of the peacekeepers' hard work. "UNIFIL has a very tough job, which is to open safe pathways through the minefields. After that, the biggest burden on UNIFIL is to build the cement bases and carry large amounts of cement on their shoulders for long distances. Because of that, the LAF admires UNIFIL's work. We try to support them, providing whatever we

can, like supplying UNIFIL with data for maps and geographic information or in other ways possible," he said.

According to Brig Gen Mourad, there are several disputed areas where markers have not been placed due to a lack of consensus.

"In these areas, Lebanon respects the Blue Line but rejects the marking because it does not want to create a new reality on the ground. These reservation areas will be put on hold until we find a solution for them in the future," he explained.

A total of 257 blue barrels (as of early November 2016) have been installed. However, they are not sufficient to identify the Blue Line on the ground or to prevent violations.

Shepherds from Kfar Shouba, for example, deal with the realities of the Blue Line on a daily basis. They graze their flocks close to the Line, yet must be careful not to wander past it by accident. Whenever possible, UNIFIL peacekeepers offer them guidance on where the Line is and also assist in retrieving animals that have crossed over.

Preventative efforts undertaken by peacekeepers as well as the ambitious efforts around the marking of the Blue Line have resulted in positive changes on the ground. "Certainly it had an effective and obvious outcome, there is no doubt about it – the inadvertent violations have decreased noticeably," Brig Gen Mourad added.

"In Meiss el-Jabal, for instance, farmers used to cross the Blue Line on a daily basis. It was given priority and has been visually marked, and violations ceased. Similarly in Bida, where some groves cross the Blue

"The visible marking of the Blue Line may not prevent all violations, nevertheless, it is an important element of stability."

Line, UNIFIL took measures on the ground that facilitated the entry of the farmers to their land, and from then on, there was no incident or friction with the Israeli Army," Brig Gen Mourad said.

The visible marking of the Blue Line may not prevent all violations, nevertheless, it is an important element of stability. If these blue barrels can save a life or prevent security incidents to enhance peace and stability in the region, then the considerable efforts and expenses borne by UNIFIL to mark it will be worthwhile.

(This article is based on an interview of Brig Gen Antoun Mourad, conducted in January 2015 for UNIFIL Radio, with prior approval of LAF Headquarters.)

Yury Kushko and Rania Bdeir -
Public Information Office

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Working with UNIFIL during the time of crisis

Brigadier General Manuel Kiréjian, Lebanese Armed Forces



The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) has a liaison office at the UNIFIL Headquarters since the deployment of the peacekeeping mission in 1978. Besides representing LAF and other Lebanese authorities at both the civil and military levels in UNIFIL's area of operations, the Lebanese Liaison Office (LLO) ensures communication between UNIFIL, local population and local authorities, in order to facilitate the implementation of UNIFIL's mandate.

Since July 2004, I spent more than four years living and working together with the Blue Helmets in south Lebanon. Notwithstanding its utterly devastating effect on Lebanon and her people, the five-week war of 2006 nonetheless epitomized the excellent cooperation between LAF and UNIFIL.

Between July 2004 and July 2006, the main LLO office was based in the town of Qana and it was staffed with five officers, including an officer stationed in UNIFIL Headquarters in Naqoura. The problems taking place during that period – Israeli violations of the Blue Line and the Lebanese shepherds crossing the Line allegedly inadvertently with their herds – had been tackled amicably through LAF-UNIFIL coordination. In addition, Lebanese officers used to carry out regular patrols along the Blue Line in order to make sure that the Blue Line markers – evidence of the Israeli withdrawal in 2000 – have not been altered. At the logistical level, LAF used to escort UNIFIL convoys moving between Naqoura and Beirut.

In December 2005, the entire LLO was transferred to the UNIFIL Headquarters in Naqoura, giving a fillip to the already increasing cooperation between the Lebanese and UN troops. This was helpful not only with the exchange of information and coordination between them, but this also helped increase the efficiency of the troops. This provided an opportunity for UNIFIL troops, drawn from different countries, to better understand local traditions and customs.

Summer of 2006

During the July-August 2006 war, the coordination between liaison offices of LAF and UNIFIL became all the more important in order to cope with the events taking place in the area of operations. Since the outbreak of the hostile bombing operations, I felt that my job would be different than before. This is because of my presence in the headquarters of foreign troops in the capacity of a liaison officer. In the midst of military operations, something I was not familiar with before, I asked myself: 'what

should be my priorities?' At first, I assigned a LAF officer to station in UNIFIL's situation room in order to follow up the course of events, so as to keep the LAF Command abreast of all the developments, and to remain ready to provide assistance to UNIFIL as required.

As the situation unfolded, we were overwhelmed with reports of more and more bombings and clashes along the Blue Line. Bridges and main roads were bombed, effectively leaving the UNIFIL area of operations disconnected from the rest of Lebanon. In that situation, it was necessary to stress the cooperation and coordination between the Lebanese side and the international side, so as to keep up with what was going on and to ensure UNIFIL's freedom movement. The cooperation during the war can be divided into operational and humanitarian levels.

Operational level (as far as Lebanon was concerned):

- Provide the international forces with a daily bulletin on the state of roads and bridges which were bombed. This would help plan convoy movements.

- Make necessary arrangements to escort UNIFIL's convoys, enabling them to reach the town of Saida.

- Coordinate with UNIFIL for the repatriation of the people kidnapped by Israel from Lebanon in the course of the military operations.

- Facilitate UNIFIL's armoured convoys, considering the seriousness of movement along the Naqoura-Tyre road because of the shelling of hostile battleships.

- Attend emergency meetings and those with operational nature in UNIFIL's situation room.

- Assist in the evacuation of UNIFIL international civilian staff and other people with foreign passports by ensuring security in assembly points and the port of Tyre.

- Help locate the body of a UNIFIL employee who was lost during the evacuation process.

Humanitarian and logistical levels (as far as UNIFIL was concerned):

- UNIFIL carried out several evacuation

operations of civilians out of the military operations zone in cooperation with LLO.

- UNIFIL facilitated the evacuation of some 200 civilian prisoners from the prisons of Tibnin and Nabatieh to Beirut.

- UNIFIL's Chinese Engineering Battalion cleared the rubble of a building that was levelled by an Israeli shelling, which took the lives of a UNIFIL staff member and his wife. The two bodies were recovered from the rubble, along with those of other civilians who were living in the same building.

- UNIFIL evacuated civilians from the towns of Naqoura, Dhaira, and Yarin, who then took refuge in the UNIFIL Headquarters. They were later escorted to safety in Tyre.

- UNIFIL made all the necessary arrangements to ensure the entry of fuel tanks to Marjayoun following a request from the Lebanese side.

- UNIFIL helped with the delivery of food items (bread and canned drinks) and medicines to neighbouring villages (Naqoura, Dhaira and Alma al-Shaab).

- UNIFIL facilitated in transferring wounded civilians from the field hospital in Naqoura to the governmental hospital in Tyre.

The aforementioned activities only represented the tip of the iceberg. LLO's way of dealing with international forces was crucial to protect thousands of civilians, under constant threat of attacks from a hostile army for 34 days and around the clock.

I felt that my first responsibility was to work with the international forces to protect the people of my homeland, particularly the defenceless people who had nothing to do with tactical and military matters. In the end, my role as the liaison officer was to coordinate with the forces as I was assigned to communicate with, thereby facilitating the implementation of their mission in support of the Lebanese people.

(The author, who was the LAF liaison for UNIFIL in 2006, was the deputy chief of LAF's staff equipment division at the time of writing this article.)



Major General Beary of Ireland takes charge of UNIFIL

Major General Michael Beary of Ireland took over the command of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon amidst a special ceremony in the United Nations mission headquarters in Naqoura on 19 July 2016.

In his comments at the 19 July ceremony in which Major General Beary's predecessor Major General Luciano Portolano officially handed over the command to him, the new UNIFIL head expressed optimism about the future of Lebanon.

"I know that there will be challenges, even difficult moments. Put together, we can overcome and continue to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701 to the very fullest degree," he said. "(With the 10-year anniversary of the 2006 war) we now have 10-year olds who do not know what devastating war looks like. Let's work together so that they grow into adulthood with peace and stability."

During his time as Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL, Major General Beary

vowed, "no effort will be spared to bring lasting peace and stability to this beautiful area of south Lebanon."

He is not new to UNIFIL and south Lebanon. He had served three times with UNIFIL's Irish battalion in 1982, 1989 and 1994, when Lebanon was beset by devastating wars.

Major General Beary has had a long and distinguished career since joining the Irish Army as an Infantry Corps Officer in 1975. As General Officer commanding 2nd Brigade since 2013, he served in a wide variety of assignments and held several command and staff officer appointments.

Major General Beary has a wide range of overseas experience in addition to UNIFIL

deployments. He has served in Kuwait and Baghdad as part of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina with UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR). In 2003 he completed a tour of duty with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. In September 2004, he was seconded to the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, where he served for three years with the EU Military Staff.

Major General Beary commanded the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy mission to train the Somali Army in Uganda from August 2011 to February 2013. In July 2016, he was appointed as Force Commander and Head of Mission of UNIFIL in south Lebanon.

Ex-UNIFIL head stresses relationship with local population

As he was preparing to leave UNIFIL in early July 2016, the UN Mission's erstwhile head, Major General Luciano Portolano, left a piece of advice for his successor: continue to engage with local communities.

In his last interview as the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander, the Italian General said, "Operationally, I define the relationship with the local population as my centre of gravity. It means an element that, if it exists, might lead to success; if it doesn't exist it will lead, for sure, to complete disruption of the Mission."

Major General Portolano added that the link between UNIFIL and the local population is "the most important element I recommend for the

future leadership to take into consideration."

After his two years as UNIFIL head, Major General Portolano handed over the mantle of UNIFIL to Major General Michael Beary of Ireland on 19 July 2016.

In the interview, he also highlighted the spillovers of the Syrian conflict into Lebanon as a major challenge facing the UN Mission. Given this and continued mistrust between Lebanon and Israel, he said that, during his

two years as the Mission head, the number of daily operational activities of UNIFIL increased from an average of 250 to 400 on the ground, in the air and at sea."

In his comments after assuming the command of UNIFIL on 19 July, Major General Beary said the Mission will continue to support the local communities "to the very best of UNIFIL's abilities" and preserve "the strong bond of trust and friendship between UNIFIL and the proud people of South Lebanon."

10 years of keeping peace in Lebanese waters

The year 2016 marked a decade since the deployment of the United Nations' first and only naval peacekeeping force, the Maritime Task Force (MTF) of UNIFIL. In his comments at a special ceremony, organized to mark the occasion at the Beirut Port on 21 October 2016, the UN Mission's head, Major General Michael Beary, said MTF's work has become a trendsetter within the world body.

"Over the last 10 years the Maritime Task Force has laid the foundations of a United Nations naval doctrine," said the UNIFIL head and Force Commander, on the pier in front of MTF's flagship Frigate "Liberal."

He added: "As a result of a decade of closely planned training, today the LAF (Lebanese Armed Forces) Navy patrol their territorial waters, use modern coastal radar to monitor

sea traffic, plan and execute complex special operations exercises and coordinate search and rescue operations at sea."

MTF was deployed on 15 October 2006 at the request of the Government of Lebanon, following the adoption of the resolution 1701 by the UN Security Council.

MTF supports the Lebanese Navy preventing the unauthorized entry of arms or related

material by sea into Lebanon. It also assists the Lebanese Navy enhancing its capabilities by carrying out a range of different training courses and joint exercises with the intent of the Lebanese Navy assume all duties required for maritime security.

Rear Admiral Claudio Mello said MTF is proud to work in close coordination with its strategic partner, the LAF Navy, "in order to

enhance the latter's capabilities to carry out its maritime security duties."

"Countless training activities, ashore and at sea, have been accomplished in the past 10 years resulting in solid progress," added Rear Admiral Mello. Maj-Gen Beary called cooperation a "remarkable partnership."

Over the last decade, 15 countries have contributed their naval assets to MTF, which

in turn hailed more than 70,000 ships (as of October 2016). More than 8,500 of them were referred to the Lebanese Navy for inspection.

UNIFIL MTF currently has more than 850 uniformed naval personnel and seven ships: two from Bangladesh and one each from Brazil, Germany, Greece, Indonesia and Turkey. There are two onboard helicopters.

Tilak Pokharel - Public Information Office

A reflection of 2006 war

By John Molloy



Currently a senior political affairs officer with UNIFIL dealing primarily with the tripartite forum and Blue Line marking issues, John Molloy was the UN Mission's senior liaison officer, seconded by the Irish Defence Forces, during the 2006 war. Mr. Molloy completed his sixth military deployment with UNIFIL in December 2007 and returned to peacekeeping in UNIFIL in April 2008 in a civilian capacity. He wrote this article for "Al-Janoub", reflecting back on his first-hand experience of the war.

I arrived (back) to South Lebanon in September 2005 for what was to be my fifth tour of peacekeeping duty with UNIFIL. Excited by the prospect of renewing old acquaintances and visiting the picturesque villages I was so familiar with from earlier years, my return felt more like a 'home coming' rather than a tour of duty in a foreign land. As Senior Liaison Officer I had the opportunity to visit locations and I particularly enjoyed the open freedom of driving and passing through friendly villages, no longer under occupation, a choice I was unable to do in former times. However in my contacts it soon became evident that behind the smiling faces an air of apprehension existed where the community sensed a level of volatility about their (peaceful) future. This unease, I learnt, was a reflection of the unstable political/military situation along the Blue Line, heightened by the all too often exchange of deadly fire. History proved the people right and their anxieties were well founded.

By the summer of 2006 UNIFIL had downsized to a very small force of some 2,000 persons, including both military and civilian personnel. In fact such was the case that one of the main topics of discussion within the mission in those days was UNIFIL's future and its presumed anticipated withdrawal.

Wednesday 12 July 2006 started like any other day as I said goodbye to my wife in the

idyllic city of Tyr and headed to work. Shortly after 9:00 a.m., information started to trickle in that an incident, without any details, had taken place along the Blue Line. Little did we realize at that time that this so called 'incident' was a Hizbullah attack against an Israel Defense Force (IDF) patrol and would develop into a devastating and overwhelming war which left many, mostly civilian lives and property destroyed in its wake. Nor did I know that it would be months before I could get back to my apartment and almost six months before I'd see my wife again, following her evacuation on 20 July.

Five weeks of horror and devastation

In the period leading up to the war UNIFIL had witnessed a number of skirmishes between Hizbullah and IDF and always used its good offices to restore calm but a 'full on' war between the two, was not visualised and took everyone by surprise. Such was the case that UNIFIL and others first assumed that the reported 'incident' was again another skirmish, soon to be resolved, as had happened before. An attempt by me to drive up to the Al Ras Naqoura crossing point later that morning revealed the true seriousness of what was unfolding when I observed first hand: some very intense fighting and the use of heavy weaponry and aircraft.

While casualties among civilians had already

occurred in the first days, it was the early afternoon attack on 15 July that shocked us to the bone. An IDF aerial bomb hit a bus carrying civilians on the road between Sharma and al-Bayyadah resulting in 18 deaths, mostly women and children. By the time UNIFIL was informed it was already too late for the UNIFIL ambulance crews dispatched to the scene except the sad task of recovering the remains of those who died and bring them to the morgue in Tyre. UNIFIL, no different to the local population was also very challenged to drive and get about as most roads, bridges and tracks were impassable, destroyed by aerial bombs and vehicle movement came to an almost standstill. On 17 July news reached us that a UNIFIL staff member and his wife, along with their neighbours were victims when an IDF aerial bomb flattened their apartment in Tyre.

As the war progressed, UNIFIL turned its main effort to the rescue and support of the civilian population, trying to organize safe passage for those trapped in villages and allow them to leave the area. This effort proved to be a difficult undertaking and UNIFIL struggled due to the damaged communications and the destroyed road network to send relief convoys to the villages and respond to requests. We did our best to coordinate these movements with the Lebanese Red Cross and send relief when and where we could. By the second week of the war many civilians had acquired



Mr. Molloy briefs the visiting chief of the Serbian Army along the Blue Line in the vicinity of Alma Chaab, 10 December 2013

my phone number and when a connection was available I was inundated with calls asking to send assistance or to organise safe passage of private cars. However, this undertaking was not without risk as UNIFIL was unable to get any guarantee whatsoever of safe passage. The perils of undertaking these convoys of civilians fleeing their homes were fully explained to village organizers and the final decisions remained with them to go or stay. These very same coordination conditions were also imposed on UNIFIL convoys and to international agencies, without exception, regardless if they were UN marked logistical resupply/humanitarian vehicles or UN marked missions of mercy, trying to bring relief.

A constant air of gloom and frustration hung over UNIFIL as the daily reports of civilian casualties and destruction mounted from the villages where our efforts to assist were often thwarted. In this period even the sustainment and resupply of UNIFIL positions with food, fuel and basic necessities became a major challenge. UNIFIL itself was also not immune to the violence and every day we recorded artillery, air bomb and/or katyusha type rocket impacts either inside our positions or effects from their shrapnel. The recorded number of extraordinary escapes inside UNIFIL compounds from these bomb and shrapnel impacts is startling. However this situation was not to last and on 25 July an IDF aerial bomb completely obliterated a UN Observation Position (OP) on the outskirts of el-Khiam village, killing four unarmed UN Military Observers. UNIFIL had reported and warned that day, of up to 14 impacts of artillery and aerial bombings near this compound, to no effect.

Working daily with us in UNIFIL HQ, LAF liaison personnel provided great support and

guidance, helping us to plan and coordinate all operational, civilian, logistical, medical and humanitarian relief movements. It was a fact that from this relationship UNIFIL was able to assist the local population with aid and evacuation.

End of war, beginning of dialogue

Finally on 14 August 2006 and much to the relief of all, Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) came into effect. The day is also significant for it marked the convening of first Tripartite meeting between LAF and IDF, chaired by the UNIFIL Head of Mission. Initially set up to quickly supervise and coordinate the withdrawal of IDF out of south Lebanon and deployment of LAF up to the Blue Line, the meeting evolved over time into an indispensable forum to address Resolution 1701 issues. Now in its tenth year this key conflict management forum, has defied its detractors and proved itself, time and again as a 'mechanism of choice' in which the parties can express their positions and de-conflict potential or actual breakdowns to the cessation of hostilities.

As an observer and participant of this unique forum since its inception, I can say that were it not for this forum a number of tense situations on the ground could have taken us to a dangerous place and possibly a resumption of violence. Another and equally effective confidence building exercise achieved at Tripartite was agreement to measure and mark the Blue Line. This enduring process, guided by UNIFIL has helped the parties to visualise the Line in many areas thus removing confusion for all stakeholders and civilians alike and the possibility of misunderstandings.

LAF deploys south of Litani River

The Lebanese resilience is legendary as

has been witnessed by UNIFIL over many years, going all the way back to its first deployment in 1978. This determination to rebuild lives and homes was once again evident with the announcement of the cessation of hostilities as the people from south Lebanon started to return immediately to their villages. You could only admire and applaud the Lebanese spirit to get back and start rebuilding their lives.

However, unlike in 2000, on this occasion there was one very important and momentous addition with the return of the southern population, as this time, they returned in the company of their army, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). With great excitement, not to mention pride, the people of the south welcomed the LAF vehicles as they drove over the Litani River, through the villages and all the way up to the Blue Line. Finally as the LAF settled into their operational routine and new positions, I could not help but notice that a more relaxed atmosphere of normality and security descended over the area of south Lebanon a feature that was notable by its absence in the period 2000-2006.

Thriving life

Now, ten years after the heartbreak of the 2006 war we can look back on what I term as a 'decade of calm', and take notice of what can only be described as the 'new roots of peace' starting to take hold in the daily lives of the civilian population. I see every day happy and relaxed parents going to/from work and/or dropping their kids to school. Normality has returned and anxiety levels are fading into the background. UNIFIL for its part works closely with many municipalities and local authorities to strongly support their communities and where possible to maintain this positive environment going forward.

And so, to conclude let me say that we know the negative past, we are enjoying the present calm and now we must work to ensure a peaceful future. The 2006 generation of Lebanese children in school today are now ten years old and unlike their parents/grandparents have never witnessed war in their own village or town. I am confident that the young children of today will appreciate their peaceful start in life in years to come.

Frederick (the Great) summed it up very well when he said, "what is the good of experience if you do not reflect" and now, in 2016 and a decade later, I have no doubt that our collective reflection and experience has combined to shape our present calm. I am also confident that this working together with the local community and LAF will ensure a peaceful future and can take us into the next decade and beyond, *Inshallah*.

Did you know?

Ireland



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

Ireland is an island nation situated on the western edge of Europe and often referred to as 'The Emerald Isle'. The island is divided into the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland which is part of the United Kingdom. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and 'St. Patrick's Day' is a national holiday which is celebrated throughout the world on 17 March every year.

The Republic of Ireland has a population of approximately 4.6 million and a large diaspora in many countries throughout the world. The Irish people pride themselves on their hospitality and warm welcome given to visitors which, along with its beautiful scenery, contributes to its enduring popularity as a tourist destination. Agriculture, pharmaceuticals and information technology are also major drivers of Ireland's economy.

The national flag of the Republic of Ireland is composed of three vertical bands of green, white and orange. It represents the different traditions of the two main ethno-religious groups on the island of Ireland and the hopes for peace between them.

Ireland became a UN troop-contributing country (TCC) in 1958, when Irish military observers were deployed to Lebanon as part of United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). The first Irish Battalion to UNIFIL was deployed in 1978 making

Ireland one of the first TCCs to UNIFIL. Irish battalions served continuously in Lebanon until November 2001.

In the aftermath of the 2006 Hizbullah-Israel war, south Lebanon saw a temporary return of the Irish Defence Forces with UNIFIL in late 2006 and early 2007 with the deployment of a Mechanised Infantry Company in conjunction with a Finnish Engineer Company. In 2011 the Irish Government again responded to a request from the UN for troops to serve with UNIFIL with an Infantry group that formed part of a Joint Irish-Finnish battalion deploying in May 2011.

The Irish Defence Forces have 181 personnel currently serving with a contingent from Finland and a platoon of Estonian soldiers. Together, they form FINIRISHBATT, based in south-western Lebanon just east of the village of At Tiri. In addition, there are 30 personnel serving in UNIFIL Headquarters in Naqoura and four personnel serving in Sector West HQ, Shama.

Irish Peacekeepers have enjoyed a very good relationship with the local Lebanese population and are very proud of a long tradition of peacekeeping within the country. The welcoming nature and hospitality of the Lebanese people have left a strong impression on Irish Peacekeepers since 1958 and has had a profound impact on all that have served in UNIFIL.

Speaking on behalf of FINIRISH Battalion, Deputy Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Ryan Ireland said that serving in UNIFIL is part of the long military tradition of Irish UN peacekeeping.

"We are delighted to be able to continue the close association Irish soldiers have with the people of Lebanon as members of 116th FINIRISHBATT. I am currently enjoying this deployment as it gives our soldiers the opportunity to serve Ireland, the UN and to support and assist the people of Lebanon."



UN Photo/Pasqual G. Marcos

Stability leads to prosperity

Between the slopes of Mount Hermon and the Litani River in south-eastern Lebanon lies a cluster of bustling small villages – just a few metres from the Blue Line. These villages can be best characterized by the plenty of green meadows with seasonal crops, poultry and cattle farms, new houses, asphalted roads, schools, renovated mosques and churches, dispensaries and clinics, among a raft of other things that keep these villages thriving. This is how the towns of al-Mari, Halta, Ain Arab, and Deir Miness look today.

In al-Mari, 80 per cent of the people earn their living by being in agriculture and farming. There are around 20 poultry farms in the village, with each of them accounting for 20,000 to 30,000 chickens. They are the major source of poultry for various Lebanese companies today.

"The village has become like a little town enjoying self-satisfaction; there is one cafe, a restaurant, shops, market, clinic, football pitch, park, solar lamps lighting the streets," said al-Mari's proud mayor, Youssef Fayyad. "When there is security, people can enjoy better living conditions."

The town transformed significantly during the past ten years due to the efforts made by the municipalities, residents' belief in their land, and the projects and services provided by UNIFIL and other organizations. With a decade of stability and a sense of security, the village opened to the surrounding towns and areas.

"Now there is one bus that takes the students from al-Mari to the university in Bekaa, three buses that take students to the public high school in Hasbaya and Marjoun," said Fayyad,

adding that 98 per cent of his village people lives there. This is remarkable given that a majority of them had been displaced during the 2006 war.

The situation in another small village, Halta, is also not much different. The main occupation of the people is farming. Until 2006, the village of 550 families was known for bad roads, lack of public services and unemployment – to name a few. For example, it used to take 30 minutes for the people of Halta to reach the nearest hospital or a clinic; today, they have their own dispensary, attended by doctors every day.

According to Bassem Shibly, head of al-Awkaf Committee in Halta, 15 youth of Halta work in the nearby Spanish base of UNIFIL while 20 others have joined the Lebanese Army. He says the economic activities rebounded after the village got an electricity power plant in 2008.

Mr. Shibly has a long list of support received from UNIFIL: the Mission's Malaysian Battalion spent \$33,000 rehabilitating a mosque in the village in 2008; UNIFIL peacekeepers built water tank in 2013; they installed electricity network,

refurbished Halta's public school, equipped the dispensary, and provided mobile veterinary clinic services.

In addition to the construction boom and improvement in living conditions in these border areas, "the security reassurance and psychological situation for the people have improved significantly," said the Deir Miness Mayor, Dr. George Nakad.

"Nowadays, youths from Deir Miness, who had left the village in the past due to wars and insecurity, are motivated to come back to the village during summer vacation," said Dr. Nakad, adding that these youth have undertaken several community activities.

The al-Mari mayor, Mr. Fayyad, concludes: "UNIFIL and Lebanese Army patrols are the major difference that crowned the scene in south Lebanon after 2006 and after the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1701 (which forms the core of UNIFIL's mandate)."

Hiba Monzer - Public Information Office



Recalling war as UNIFIL head

By Major General (Rtd) Alain Pellegrini

(Major General Alain Pellegrini was the Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL from 2004 to 2007. In that role, he oversaw the UN Mission's response to the devastating 2006 war. Marking the 10th anniversary of the war, he agreed to share with "Al-Janoub" his experience of the terrible 34 days of hostilities. Currently based in Beirut, Pellegrini is working on a project with the European Union geared towards building the capacity of the Lebanese security forces.)

On 12 July 2006, when Hizbullah launched an operation across the Blue Line and abducted two Israeli soldiers, there was no sign of what was in store. At UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura, I was closely monitoring the unfolding situation and expected that – as had been the case numerous times in the preceding months after the "usual" tit-for-tat strikes between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Hizbullah – UNIFIL would get both sides to cease fire and restore calm. But this time, it wasn't the case.

The parties had not foreseen the consequences of their initial actions. Hizbullah did not anticipate the intensity of the Israeli reaction, and the IDF, after its strong initial response, found itself under political pressure to continue the hostilities. And so the parties did not stop and the conflict only escalated with devastating consequences until the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1701 (2006) ending the war 34 days later.

In hindsight, I believed that the situation in this region is always volatile and that, from time to time, a rise in violence occurs and the consequences are managed. In 2006 however, the situation was particularly volatile on the Lebanese side because there was no military presence in south Lebanon. There were a few

Internal Security Forces members who did not intervene along the borders. In effect, Hizbullah was the only Lebanese security presence along the border and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) not only did not have control of the area, but depended on Hizbullah as a source of information.

A long experience in Lebanon

When I took the command of UNIFIL on 13 February 2004 succeeding Major General Lalit Mohan Tewari of India, I was no stranger to Lebanon and the Middle East. I had first come to Beirut as early as 1983 as the intelligence chief of the French contingent in the Multinational Force in Beirut. I had also served as the Defense Attaché at the French Embassy in Beirut. Since July 2001, I had been the special adviser to the French Chief of Defence Staff on issues related to Africa and the Middle East.

In Lebanon, I was struck by the traditional organization of society including in the political realm. In this sense, leaders such as those who were my political interlocutors such as Speaker Nabih Berri or Druz politician Walid Jumblatt remained in charge throughout the years even if while encumbering various appointments. This greatly facilitated his efforts after he arrived in

UNIFIL, as he had already established personal relationships with most of the important figures in the country since the 1980s.

UNIFIL's challenges during the war

When the war broke out, UNIFIL was operating under UN SC resolution 425. It was a small force, with limited means to interfere and stop aggressive actions. It could use weapons only in self-defence. The only means of action were to activate open channels with Israel and Lebanon, and act as a go-between. Unfortunately, often this was not enough to end fighting. Another very important means of action was to report attacks and violations to the UN headquarters, and get them published in the media.

One of the main difficulties UNIFIL faced during the month-long war was communicating with the IDF command; there was no permanently open channel and the Israelis had other priorities than talking to UNIFIL. In the midst of bombings, this severely restricted UNIFIL's ability to move around and come to the rescue of civilians. UNIFIL had only a handful of armoured vehicles. In addition, UNIFIL was running out of food, water and fuel. Its reserves were bombed in the early days of the war and the continued shelling afterwards made it impossible to re-

supply. Pellegrini knew that UN positions had been bombed before and was very hesitant to allow local villagers to take shelter there as they could be targeted. Therefore my priority was to create safe areas and safe evacuation routes by communicating directly with IDF.

Resolution 1701 has given UNIFIL the means to be more robust and more successful. Overall, it is a well-balanced and useful resolution that must be implemented strictly in order to achieve optimum progress for peace.

Birth of tripartite forum

As soon as resolution 1701 was adopted, UNIFIL began implementing it, which meant firstly organizing the withdrawal of IDF. During this operation, it was impossible for the parties to be directly in contact with each other. While Israelis were withdrawing from the south of Lebanon, LAF was taking over the land, but UNIFIL always had to stay between the two armies and create a buffer to make sure they

would not come in contact. This was not an easy or quick task.

This led me to come up with the idea of having a tripartite meeting, a forum chaired by UNIFIL where both parties could meet together. At the beginning, the Israelis came with a map of their areas, and on the other side of the room, the Lebanese also had their maps. UNIFIL was going from one side to the other to work out the process. The first meeting was held on 14 August, on the same day the hostilities ceased.

Despite the existing tension between the two delegations, IDF, LAF and UNIFIL met regularly and step by step other issues beyond the IDF withdrawal were discussed. The Tripartite Forum was launched. Today, it still goes on, which I am very happy about, because it allows the two sides to discuss any topic and avoid conflict.

Blue Line marking: a crucial project for peace

When the withdrawal of IDF was complete with the exception of Northern Ghajar and adjacent

areas, my priority shifted to make the Blue Line more visible on the ground to prevent violation from either side. UNIFIL was aware that this would be a long and slow process, one small step at a time, and would require a sufficient level of confidence-building between the two sides. It was also important to inform the population living close to the Blue Line of the importance of this project as well as ensuring the support of local politicians.

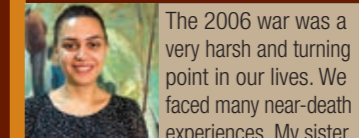
UN officials in Beirut, in particular Special Coordinator Geir Pedersen, played an important role in getting the support of the Government. The Blue Line marking process is a great success, but it is not complete yet. The areas that are yet to be marked are mostly on the eastern side of the Blue Line, in Shab'a Farms. It will be difficult to bring the two sides together and get their agreement on the marker points there but the work must be completed. UNIFIL must continue to do everything it can to solidify peace in South Lebanon.

VOX POPULI

What do you remember from the 2006 war and how has your life changed since then?

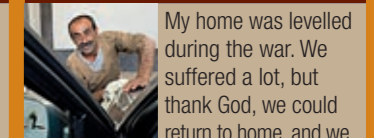
Al-Janoub's Rania Harb recently asked people of south Lebanon, who bore the brunt of the 2006 war, to recollect their memory of the war and explain how their life has changed in the last decade. Here are excerpts.

Sarah Al Souki, social worker, Tyre



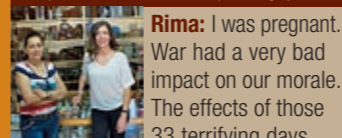
The 2006 war was a very harsh and turning point in our lives. We faced many near-death experiences. My sister worked with the Red Cross; she inspired me to overcome all fears and reach out to help everyone. I was impressed by UNIFIL's steadfast support to people on the ground – regardless of their political or religious leanings. They have left a positive impact on me.

Hassan Mohamad Qobeissy, carwash owner, Khiam



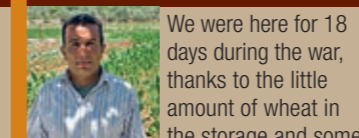
My home was levelled during the war. We suffered a lot, but thank God, we could return to home, and we reconstructed everything that had been decimated – even better than the way it was. Ten years on, thanks to UNIFIL, there is now security, patrols on the road, presence on the borders. Any skirmish on the borders, then UNIFIL intervenes, which is very good. There is now security.

Rima and Yolla Nahra (sister), shop owners, Ibl al-Saqi, Marjayoun



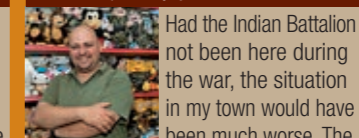
Rima: I was pregnant. War had a very bad impact on our morale. The effects of those 33 terrifying days lasted long after the war ended. We needed some glimpses of hope. After returning home after the war, I saw that UNIFIL had already deployed more troops. **Yolla:** Suddenly, you would see people from all nationalities all around. They really allayed our fears. The area flourished once again. Their presence has been reassuring for the people.

Ahmad Al Kassem, farmer from Yarin



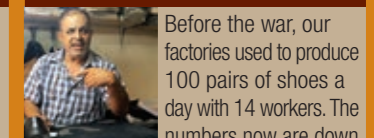
We were here for 18 days during the war, thanks to the little amount of wheat in the storage and some vegetables. We escaped to the coastline afterwards. We had to leave the house. When we escaped, I had no money. I worked in lemon fields, under bombardments, to be able to make ends meet. UNIFIL troops have a great deal of goodness and kindness in the way they deal with people. Their presence gave us a sense of reassurance.

Khaled Nahra, business owner, Ibl al-Saqi, Marjayoun



Had the Indian Battalion not been here during the war, the situation in my town would have been much worse. The peacekeepers helped many families escape. They were only a few but very helpful. After 2006, UNIFIL contributed a lot to the stability here. This is proven by the fact that several times when there were (security) operations in Shab'a Farms or elsewhere, and when shells were fired towards Israel, retaliation has always been limited, thanks to UNIFIL.

Ghassam Charara, shoemaker, Bint Jbeil



Before the war, our factories used to produce 100 pairs of shoes a day with 14 workers. The numbers now are down to 50 pairs a day and six employees. The war caused a total destruction. My shoe factories were levelled. Even the knife (used to cut leather) was destroyed. The war completely changed my life. UNDP helped me re-establish my business. Even passing UNIFIL cars gives a sense of security. I feel they are one of us. But I don't think I can ever get back the kind of life I had before.

Life rebounds



The town of Bint Jbeil, which was the flashpoint of the 2006 war, has witnessed a vast majority of its population settle abroad.

A casual stroll would be enough to make one believe that Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon is indeed a thriving town. Schools, hospitals, businesses, beautiful concrete buildings and asphalted roads criss-crossing the town offer ample evidence of that.

But today's prosperity veils the bitter truth that this town – just about three kilometres from the nearest Israeli territory – has been the epitome of decades of wars and decimation in southern Lebanon. In particular, Bint Jbeil – one of the oldest towns of the Middle East – was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting during the 2006 war between Hizbullah and the Israel Defense Forces. The town had suffered heavily at least twice before: in 1970, during Israel's war with the Palestine Liberation Organization; and during the Lebanese civil war between 1976 and 1978.

A resident of the town, Bilal Charara, 55, says Bint Jbeil was home to some 75,000 people in the late 1960s, but it now has only about 3,000 people – mostly elderly. The rest, he says, have settled abroad. Mr. Charara, who is the head of the foreign affairs at the Lebanese Parliament, says about 30,000 people from the town,

including his own son, have resettled in the United States alone.

"Now, they come here only as tourists," Mr. Charara, said, woefully, during an interview in his sprawling house in the centre of the town. "The city has been rebuilt with modern infrastructure but no one is here to live and enjoy the serenity... our people send money from abroad and those living here just guard the houses."

As Mr. Charara was talking, one of his relatives, an Australian citizen, entered the room. "I visit Bint Jbeil every summer to see my parents," said Ibrahim Boussi, 48, who left the town in the middle of an active war in 1991 and currently settled in Sydney. "There is no one here during the winter," added Mr. Boussi, who was planning to leave in three days.

Mr. Charara said, given the delicate geopolitical situation of the region, the "eerie peace" holding now cannot guarantee a sustainable peace in the future – the very reason many people are reluctant to return.

During the July-August war of 2006, the city was almost levelled to the ground with

hardly any building standing. In total, 940 houses were destroyed and others were damaged. Most of the people fled to safety and scores died there. Schools and hospitals were not spared.

The presence of UNIFIL, which transitioned from about 2,000 peacekeeping troops before the 2006 war to about 13,000 afterwards, has offered some "hope of peace and stability" to the people of the town, according to Mr. Charara.

Hassan Jouni was the director of a secondary school at the time of the war. "The students had just finished their final exams when the fighting started... our school was levelled to the ground," he said. Since 2006, Mr. Jouni's school has now been transformed into a technical institute with the name "Alafak," which means horizon.

Both Mr. Charara and Mr. Jouni said the town, which was occupied by Israel from 1978 to 2000, was also home to burgeoning shoemaking industry – with about 85 big or small factories – until early the 1970s. The current number of shoe factories is quite telling: down to only three.

Mr. Jouni later took us to one of the shoe factories, owned by Ghassam Charara, 55, who was the last of the three generations of his family in the business. His 21-year-old son has settled in the US.

"Before the 2006 war, our factories used to produce 100 pairs of shoes a day with 14 workers," he said, adding that the number has dropped to 50 pairs a day with only six employees.

The shoemaker does not want his son to return. He explains why: "If there is the guarantee of sustainable peace, my son may return... if another war breaks out his life is ruined."

But the one thing that keeps Ghassam hopeful is the presence of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). "Even seeing the UNIFIL cars pass by gives a sense of security... They (UN peacekeepers) walk around like they are one of us," said Ghassam. He appreciates the support of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which donated two shoemaking machines enabling him to restart his business afresh in the aftermath of the 2006 war.

Tilak Pokharel & Hassan Siklawi -
Public Information Office

National Recruitment in UNIFIL

As of 1 January 2017, UNIFIL National positions will be advertised electronically on the United Nations Careers Portal <http://careers.un.org>

When applying to a job opening, be sure to submit your application well before the deadline stated in the job opening.

All applications shall be in the Personal History Profile (PHP) format. You may create your PHP using the inspira web-based tool - <https://inspira.un.org>. Also, ensure that relevant supporting documents are attached in Inspira.

Once you apply to a job opening, your application will go through an automated pre-screening process. The process checks the information you entered in your application against the eligibility criteria established for that job opening.

Only candidates who meet the set criteria of the job opening will be shortlisted and contacted by the Human Resources Management Section to undergo an assessment and/or a competency-based interview.

Preference will be given to equally qualified women candidates.

UNIFIL does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing, training or any other fees).

For more information please visit our website:
<http://unifil.unmissions.org/jobs>



Salam



from the South

Every two weeks a new 10-minute radio episode is aired in Arabic on: Al-Risala, Sawt El-Mada, Voice of Lebanon, Voice of People and Radio Delta.

“UNIFIL: We Work With You”

From joint police training to medical visits, this is a new TV/Web series highlighting UNIFIL’s collaboration with Lebanese security forces and civic organizations to support local communities and maintain peace. Twice a month on NBN, OTV and YouTube.

Check unifil.unmissions.org to watch and read a weekly multimedia report on one of over 400 UNIFIL activities that happen every single day in south Lebanon.