

....And Lebanon will remain



وسيبقى لبنان...

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**UPDATE FROM A LEBANON UNDER UNJUSTIFIED ISRAELI WAR RAGE**  
**Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006- 18<sup>th</sup> day of attack**

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*Every single person in Lebanon has been affected by this brutal attack; not a single person here can understand why the world watches and doesn't react. War in Lebanon is now "old news" and news defined as "breaking" for a company such as CNN takes precedence. However, tens are still loosing their lives everyday due to this attack, children are being killed, thousands are injured, and hundreds of thousands are still displaced and more are fleeing their homse. The world should know this even if their media company finds it "old news".*

(Based on: "An Open Letter to CNN USA, by Daniel Drennan, available at:

<http://inquisitor.com/pcgi-in/NYD.cgi?NA=NYD&AC=File&DA=20060729ZBE&TO=DI>)

**18<sup>th</sup> day of attack on Lebanon...**

**Twenty civilians** were reported killed today;

Another massacre in Southern district of Nabatiyeh; A father goes out to buy bread for his family, he comes back to a dead family; his wife and six children were killed in a new wave of Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon. Israel said it was investigating. (News from BBC)

In Bekaa Valley, six persons were killed due to the shelling and their bodies could not be removed from under the rubble (Al Jazeera net)

The bodies of five members of one family who died in an Israeli raid on their car were removed today in Tyre.

The international road between Lebanon and Damascus was heavily targeted close to the Lebanese borders and it was destroyed and cut-off. From now on, there is only one exit from Damascus to Beirut, which is linked to the humanitarian corridor negotiated by the United Nations.

Thirty-one Lebanese were buried in a mass-grave in Tyre, after forty have been buried a few days earlier in another mass grave as well. Most bodies deformed; their families know them through the numbers that their wooden tombs hold.

**What does the UN representative know? Israel insists no need for ceasefire.....**

An Israeli spokesman said there was no need for a truce as a humanitarian corridor to the area had been opened. BBC reported that Israel has rejected a United Nations call for a three-day truce in southern Lebanon, as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrives in Israel.

(BBC news, online at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/5226996.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/5226996.stm)).

Yet, in his statement to the United Nations Security Council on the Humanitarian Situation in the Middle East (New York, 28 July 2006), Mr. Jan Egeland, under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, explained that he "met some of the survivors from the village of Srifa in South Lebanon where 20 people died during the air strikes on 19 July. Their desperate appeal was that the bodies of their killed family members be recovered from the rubble of their homes. "We cannot sleep at night", one women said. "We have heard that the dogs are eating their bodies". "This is one of the cases I raised directly with the Israeli authorities, requesting their assistance in facilitating the recovery and burial of the bodies in accordance with Islamic tradition", said Mr. Egeland. He

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insisted on the necessity to ensure no attacks on any of the humanitarian convoys from any of the parties involved. The direct hit sustained by the UN post in Khiam, resulting in the tragic killing of UN personnel, has caused considerable anxiety among relief workers. He added **"that the limited and carefully controlled assistance we will be able to provide through this notification system with the Israeli forces is not enough to prevent the excessive suffering of the civilian population"**. Mr. Egeland stated that "when there are clearly more dead children than actual combatants, the conduct of hostilities must be reviewed".

#### **More reporting on Lebanon's economic losses**

The Lebanese Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that the Lebanese transportation industry has taken a direct hit. This affected more than 20 % of the country's economic activity, according to Chafic Kassis the head of truck drivers syndicate. Israel has so far targeted more than 450 trucks, both those on the roads and those parked, Kassis said. Of the estimated 170,000 transport trucks and pick-ups in Lebanon, only 200 are still on the road carrying basic necessities and relief supplies, he added. The government is conducting negotiations with the United Nations to secure (humanitarian corridors) across the country to allow the flow of much-needed aids. The government has yet to hear back from the UN on the issue, Kassis said

Furthermore, Israel continues to concentrate its bombardment on residential and commercial areas in addition to roads and bridges. The HRC reported that till date 27 vital points, including airports, ports, water and sewage treatment plants, electrical plants, army brigades, water dams and others were hit. Six hundred km of road have been destroyed, in addition to 23 fuel stations, 62 bridges, 72 over passes, an estimation of 6,200 private houses and apartments, as well as 160 commercial sector institutions including factories, markets, and farms.

#### **Lebanese civil society meets with EU Commissioner for Foreign Affairs**

On Friday July 28, 2006, six representatives from the Lebanese civil society gathering 'For Life' met with the EU Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland and several European ambassadors.

The commissioner and the minister briefed the participants about their position in the Rome Conference demanding immediate cease-fire. They also explained how they hardly tried to convince Israel to allow the Humanitarian Corridors. They told the participants that they succeeded in creating a cell between the EU and the Israeli Ministry of Defense in order to secure safe mobility of the rescue teams. They announced that they offered 20 million Euros as humanitarian aids to Lebanon and they pledged another 30 million that are in the process of delivery.

After highlighting the current situation due to Israeli aggression and its violation of international law, the Lebanese group underlined that the political process is the best way to end this massacre asking for the use of political means to exert pressure on Israel mainly by freezing the Euro-med partnership and pressing on Israel's economic interests. They asked the EU to pressure Israel for immediate cease fire. They also presented the humanitarian aspect, specifying the immediate needs and obstacles they are facing in relief particularly in transporting supplies, as well as the environmental impacts that resulted from the attacks.

When discussing the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (EMP), the EU Commissioner argued that Israel doesn't need the partnership but Lebanon does. The Lebanese representatives answered that the EMP's essence is the values of democracy and human rights that it integrates and in case they are not respected, the EU will lose credibility as already the UN lost it. *(Reported by Gilbert Doumit)*

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### **The Children Refugees... Lebanon's Children – Voices from the War**

*Hadeel Moussa, age 12, from Dar al-Hamis- South Lebanon:*

"Israel made us refugees and destroyed our homes, and this is why we came here [to the refugee center] with our families... I saw bombing and I was so afraid... They are not bombing a certain place, they are bombing everywhere. I want to tell people in America to ask Israel to stop bombing because we didn't do anything. We're not the ones threatening anyone. Stop bombing because it's not the fault of the children! Why are they bombing and killing children? They are killing lots of children and they are bombing everywhere. If America asks Israel to stop bombing, and we will ask Hezbollah to stop bombing, because there are killing too many people."

*Zahra Musa, age 11, from Beirut:*

"I live in Beirut. We went [to the South] for summer vacation and Israel started bombing. So we came here and we don't know if our house is destroyed, or what happened there. There are no roads, they bombed the bridges, and there is no way to go safely to our home in Beirut... Hezbollah took two [Israeli] prisoners. This is good because Israel took lots of Lebanese prisoners... Hezbollah don't want to give them back, so Israel started this war and bombing. Maybe in some diplomatic way things could be resolved. They are fighting, and Israel is fighting because the two Israeli prisoners are important to them as human beings. I ask them to make a treaty for Israel to take the two prisoners and Hezbollah to take the three Lebanese prisoners."

By Ramzi Kysia- On Saturday, July 29th Ramzi spoke with several children from South Lebanon at a refugee center in the Chouf region. Full story available at:

<http://siegeoflebanon.blogspot.com/>



Now school chairs and desks are their food tables!

Displaced children, whether residing in schools or in public parks, try to entertain themselves while waiting for the time when they can go back to their homes.