
....And Lebanon will remain



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UPDATE FROM A LEBANON UNDER UNJUSTIFIED ISRAELI WAR RAGE

Saturday July 22nd, 2006- 11th day of attack

Check in this update: **MAP OF LEBANESE LOCATIONS BOMBED BY ISRAEL BETWEEN JULY 15TH AND 21ST 2006**

From the Lebanese Ministry of Finance: To express your solidarity with the plight of Lebanese people and aid Lebanon in its hour of need, please send your donations to one of the following accounts:

US\$:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York, New York

Bic code FRNYUS33 Routing Number 021084694

Favor Banque du Liban account number 021084694

Euros:

Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt

Bic code DEUTDEFF

Favor Banque du Liban account number 021084694

Lebanese Lira:

Banque du Liban Account Number 01700362123

Donations to the Higher Council of Relief:

Bank of Lebanon- Account number 411150067

For more information, visit www.lebanonundersiege.gov.lb or contact relief@pcm.gov.lb

11 days of attack -----> 362 Lebanese killed, more than 1200 injured, more than 700,000 displaced (25% of Lebanese population), humanitarian crisis is in sight!!!

Today, nine people were removed from under a destroyed building in a village near Tyre in Southern Lebanon, after being stuck for 3 days under the wrecked building.

Yesterday hundreds of families find the time to bury the bodies of their beloved in a collective funeral, using the opportunities of the undeclared cease fire while thousands of foreigners were evacuating by sea.

A delivery of US bombs rushes to Israel

A rushing delivery of munitions was delivered by the US to Israel as part of a multimillion-dollar arms sale package approved last year. But Israel's request for rush delivery of the satellite- and laser-guided bombs was described as unusual by some military officers, and as an indication that Israel still had a long list of targets in Lebanon to strike. An arms-sale package approved last year provides authority for Israel to purchase from the United States as many as 100 GBU-28s, which are 5,000-pound (2,268-kilogram) laser-guided bombs intended to destroy concrete bunkers. The package also provides for selling satellite-guided munitions. It is worth noting here that of the nearly three billion dollars earmarked for Israel by the US annually, most goes for military credits (From the New York times, based on news reported by Agence France Presse)

Any paths for relief aid to Lebanon?

Israel announced that it has opened a humanitarian corridor to allow food, medicine and other aid into Lebanon and a sea corridor to Cyprus, following appeals from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and many Arab and Western leaders. But till today, UN staff were telling us that they have not figured a way to transport food from Beirut to the Southern cities where thousands of displaced are staying and injuries due to the attacks are increasing. NGOs are trying to send relief support from the capital to the South with the UN, but no safe route has been identified yet. In addition, even after a route is identified and agreed upon with Israel, all supplies will have to be carefully inspected which may delay the

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transportation a couple of days as well. So, it seems we need around one more week to get relief aid from Beirut to the South. In the meantime, the international community should know that they bear the responsibility for the resulting humanitarian crisis in Lebanon. For the time being, aids are being transported by individual efforts using private cars since trucks are targeted by Israel. This limits quantities of aids and the capacity to channel them to the Southern towns.

In the report issued by the UNIFIL forces in South Lebanon, it was reported that seven Israeli bombings were executed next to the UN stations during the last 24 hours. Three Israeli strikes hit the UN stations directly, which caused significant destruction in the buildings and cars. UNIFIL stations in several Southern villages were hit. UNIFIL forces explained that they are facing severe difficulties in doing their work, especially regarding ability of transportation.

Economic losses: more than 100 million\$ losses in Lebanese industries

The Association of Lebanese Industrialists indicated that the losses in the industrial sector in Lebanon currently exceed 100 million dollars. Losses are not limited to infrastructure and buildings, however the whole sector is loosing due to lack of raw materials to proceed with the work in the factories that have not been destroyed and there is no fuel to support their needs. Also, factories are not able to commit to the contracts they had signed, which will result in big penalties. Among the industrial institutions that were destroyed there was a factory for napkins and paper whose losses amount to \$8 million, a factory for milk that employs 270 persons and lost 12 million dollars in direct losses, a factory for glass bottles which employs 400 persons and its investment amounts to \$8 million, a factory for medical needs, a factory for plastics, transportation institutions that includes warehouses, a factory for sweets and gum and many others. Most of these investors will think twice before reinvesting in Lebanon especially that many of their factories were previously destroyed in 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In total, there have been complete or partial destruction in 700 Lebanese institutions, whose investment amounts to 500 million dollars and employ 7 thousand workers and staffs. We wonder if it is an economic war we are facing with Israeli?

The US State Department writes, in its evacuation letter to its citizens, "The U.S. Embassy reaffirms the firm, enduring and non-negotiable commitment of the United States to Lebanon and the Lebanese people." In light of that, the US took the following steps:

- The US vetoed a cease-fire decision in the Security Council
- Then the US ambassador to the UN, Bolton, insisted that no negotiations will take place at this stage which does not bring about permanent solutions to Hezbollah's existence
- Then the US evacuated their citizens and Lebanese with American passports
- Then they sent a speed delivery of weapons to their ally Israel
- Then they postponed sending their Secretary of State Rice to the Middle East until they can assure a durable solution to the conflict.
- Then the US calls for an international conference on 26th of July in Rome to look into how they are going to provide Lebanon with aids for reconstruction after their bombs, operated by Israel, had destroyed it

This is one sample of America's mission for spreading peace and building democracy

On the role of civil society

Civil society movements worldwide are impressively acting and protesting against the war. Massive demonstrations took place in Australia, US, Canada, Italy, France, Portugal, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Libya, and in Israel and several other countries. The world is witnessing a large movement of protest under one slogan unifying them: "Kafa" (enough) to war. This

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civil society mobilization and responsiveness is growing while governments are unable to reach a solution. The international community is observing their leaders powerless, weak and with no ability to put an end to any conflict particularly in the Middle East. The international community is watching how the international law is being violated on daily basis and the international system is unable to impose the respect to this law.

Kumi Naidoo, the secretary general of Civicus, World Citizens' Alliance wrote: *"armed conflicts, wars and their consequences destroy livelihoods, undermine democratic process, human rights, including the right to self determination...At times like this, our common global humanity must surface visibly and forcefully so that those who hold political power, put peace, democracy and justice before narrow political interests. Secondly, civil society is called upon to offer different policy perspectives and solutions, that have the potential to build peace, justice and democracy. Politics is far too important to be left to politicians alone, and the democratic forces of civil society in the Middle East, who survive under tremendous odds, must be supported more, so that they can bring alternative perspectives on how we might resolve the multiple levels of conflict in the Middle East".* (To read his article please visit: www.civicus.org/new/content/deskofthesecretarygeneral36)

The famous writer and anti war activist Naomi Klein called for a world-wide mass mobilization for solidarity with the Lebanese people and to an end of the war against Lebanon. She wrote: *"This calling also requires that civil society offer some policy observations about the inconsistency in the role that certain dominant governments play, who are often incorrectly and opportunistically referred to as the 'international community'. There is no "international community" that is coming to save the day, only our own anti-war networks that we have built in our communities and online"* (Please read her letter to one of the relief groups currently working in Lebanon at <http://sanayehreliefcenter.blogspot.com/>)

(Please see the whole article on ANND website: www.annd.org)

Today was the day of targeting communications in Lebanon:

Israeli jets hit another transmission station in north Lebanon used to relay television and mobile telephone signals. The director of the station was killed. The raid came after earlier attacks on a station used by several Lebanese television channels, including Hizbollah's station. Mobile phones in the north are no longer operational. The television signals are also down in that area.

Also today, Israel directly targeted the two press teams of Al Jazeera and Al Arabia TVs near Hasbaya in south Lebanon by a warplanes' raid. This can reflect the Israeli decision to prevent any media coverage of their military incursion to the area.

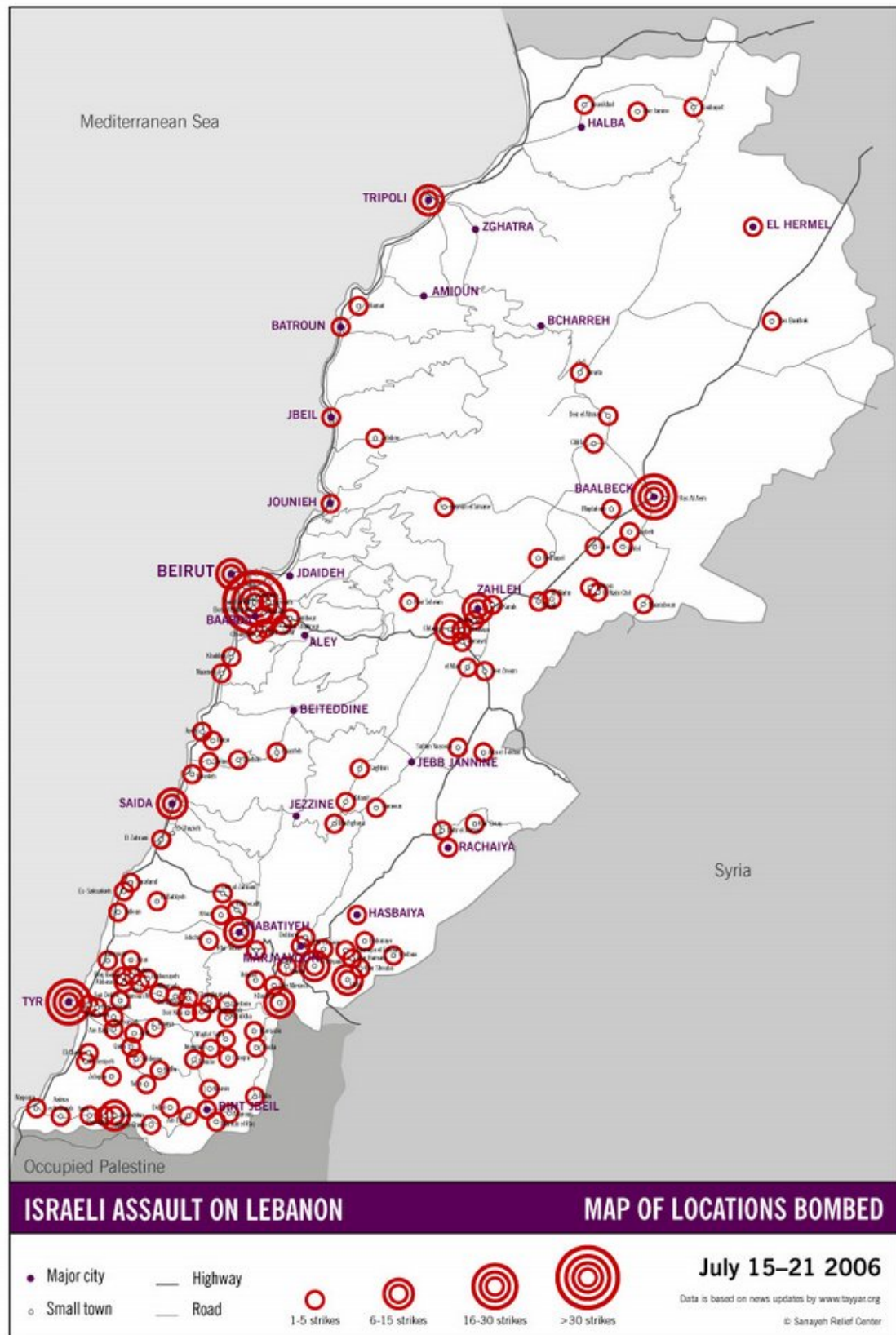
This is a quote from the chief editor of a Lebanese daily newspaper "The Daily Star www.dailystar.com.lb": "Bush ignores at his own peril the fact that Islamist political sentiments and resistance movements are the fastest growing sector of national life in the Middle East. For the U.S. to be squarely opposed to and unable to speak with this large part of the public spectrum is foolish enough; it is even more reflective of amateur American foreign policy-making that Washington's policies in the region are an important contributor to the expansion of such Islamist sentiments and organizations".

It is worth noting that most of the anti-Israel/anti-war demonstrations that were organized in the past few days in Arab countries, including Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Egypt, Syria were mainly called for by Islamic movements. The presence of other secular civil society forces is very limited on the grounds. This makes us wonder how the future of the region will look after all the efforts of this recent US administration to forcefully impose on the region their strategy for the so called "modernization and democratization".

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This update was prepared by the Arab Resource Network for Development. Information was collected from various news agencies, but mostly from blogs created by civil society groups and individual activists- for more information please visit our website at www.annd.org, email us at annd@annd.org, phone us at 961-1-319366 or fax us at 961-1-815636