

**UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
(UNIFIL)**

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PRESS RELEASE

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan visits UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited UNIFIL HQ at Naqoura on Tuesday, 29 August 2006. He was briefed on the situation on the ground by the Force Commander Major-General Alain Pellegrini and by senior staff. He met with UNIFIL officers, soldiers and civilians and took part as a Guest of Honour at a Wreath Laying Ceremony in Honour of Fallen UNIFIL Staff. He also visited several UNIFIL Positions on the blue line.

Speaking to the media, the Secretary-General said that "this has been a great opportunity for me to come to Naqoura to thank the women and men of UNIFIL under the leadership of Major-General Alain Pellegrini for the wonderful work they have done...Since the UN came here, we have lost almost 300 people in the service of peace. During this recent crisis, General Pellegrini and his men were remarkable. They could all ask us to be redeployed and to get them out of harms way but they knew that the time will come when they will be needed to help the civilian population."

Regarding the situation in South Lebanon, the Secretary-General said that "both parties have to respect the ceasefire...Parties with complaints on the ground, they should come to General Pellegrini, not take matters into their own hands...It's a bit like having a football match where one of the teams also attempts to play the referee. You cannot be a team in a football match and the referee at the same time."