

...And Lebanon will remain



...وسيقى لبنان...

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**UPDATE FROM A LEBANON UNDER UNJUSTIFIED ISRAELI WAR RAGE**  
**Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006- 22<sup>nd</sup> day of attack**

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Yesterday late night, an Israeli raid on Ba'albeck resulted in the death of **20 persons**, among them three were Hezbollah members. The rest were civilians including **eight people from one family**, and **a pregnant woman in her ninth month**, who was killed with her baby just 100 meters away from the hospital where she was going to deliver her baby.

In Aitaroun, **a woman and her two children** in addition to **an old man and lady** were the victims of Israeli attacks. These were among the rest of death toll caused by Israel in Lebanon.

There was to be another mass burial today; **93 people were to be buried** in Southern town of Tyre, among them the victims of the Israeli Massacre in Qana. The burial had to be postponed due to the Israeli bombardment and the constant threat of Israeli aggression.

### Fuel crisis in Lebanon

Everyday in the morning, hundreds of cars queue at gas stations to fill up and buy extra fuel. They are being rationed; reports from functioning petrol stations in Lebanon indicate that customers are being limited to between 10 and 20 liters of fuel per visit. According to [UN World Food Programme](#) WFP spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume, fuel stocks across Lebanon are running dangerously low. Lebanon has only two or three days of fuel left and the United Nations is working urgently to persuade Israel to give safe passage to supply ships, UN officials said Tuesday.

The [UN World Food Programme](#) (WFP) indicated that Israel has told them emergency fuel supplies will be given safe passage into Lebanon. The ships are due to dock within the next 24 hours. According to the WFP, two tankers, carrying a total of 87,000 metric tons of fuel, are to be allowed to dock in the ports of Beirut and Tripoli.

The Israeli strikes on Lebanon have closed petrol stations and affected commerce and farming. The lack of fuel and precarious security is preventing many UN organized convoys from reaching victims of the war in Lebanon. Also, three hospitals in southern Lebanon have closed because of the lack of fuel.

Some reports highlighted earlier that the lights could go out at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, Lebanon's biggest and most important hospital. The hospital has only enough oil to fuel their generators for a maximum of 20 days, or as little as seven days if the state cuts off the little power it now provides, according to Dr. Nadim Cortas, Dean of the medical program. With the electric grid damaged and the current shortage of fuel, the lights could very well go out for the healthcare provider.

Oil tankers ready to deliver the much-needed fuel are standing by in nearby waters, but they are being kept out by the Israel's blockade. If it get is, the fuel that will enter Lebanon will be destined for Lebanese power stations. Some may be diverted to keep agricultural production running and ensure food can be distributed through the country. (Based on reports by Daily Star [www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb), AFP, BBC, and Lara Setrakian)

Israeli mark on Lebanese environment; oil spills and depleted uranium

Local environmental groups describe the oil slick caused by Israeli strike on Lebanese fuel station as an "environmental disaster". Almost as much oil may have entered the water as during the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker incident in Alaska, which led to widespread ecological damage. The eventual total could be 35,000 tonnes, while the spillage from the Exxon Valdez accident totaled just under 40,000 tonnes of crude oil.

The Malta-based Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre (Rempec) for the Mediterranean, which is advising the Lebanese government, says "a small quantity of tar balls" also reached the Syrian coast further north. The group Green Line says that some of the oil has settled on the sea floor, threatening areas where tuna spawn. It also says that slicks on beaches will prevent baby turtles from reaching the sea after they hatch. The green turtle, whose eggs hatch in July, is an endangered species.

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UNEP expressed its "grave concern" about oil pollution in Lebanese coastal waters and agrees that the oil is a significant threat to some Mediterranean wildlife, but also says the slick could compromise livelihoods when the current conflict ends.



On the other hand, the delivery of bombs containing depleted uranium warheads by the United States to Israel for use against targets in Lebanon will result in additional radioactive and chemical toxic contamination with consequent adverse health and environmental effects throughout the Middle East. Dr. Doug Rokke, former Director, U.S. Army Depleted Uranium project, wrote on July 26, 2006 that the U.S., British, and now Israeli military personnel are using illegal uranium munitions- America's and England's own "dirty bombs" while U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, and British Ministry of Defence officials deny that there are any adverse health and environmental effects as a consequence of the manufacture, testing, and/or use of uranium munitions to avoid liability for the willful and illegal dispersal of a radioactive toxic material which is depleted uranium. U.S. and British officials have arrogantly refused to comply with their own regulations, orders, and directives. He added that the use of uranium weapons is absolutely unacceptable, and a crime against humanity.

The problem with depleted uranium is the fact that it is radioactive. The United States uses tons on depleted uranium on the battlefield. At the end of the conflict, this leaves tons of radioactive material in the environment. (Based on article by Dr. Rokke <http://editorial.gettyimages.com>, and BBC report)

#### **City logging: an Idea to Let the World Know about what is happening to Lebanon**

Paul Keller from Amsterdam wrote: "...in the last two weeks mazen kerbaj's drawings have been one of the strongest most vivid expressions of the whole mess that is unfolding in Lebanon that I came across. Now what are drawings if not posters-in-waiting that can easily be printed out and stuck against the walls of the city? Clearly one only has to print them out, copy them a couple of times, get wallpaper-glue and head out. So I spend some of Sunday night sticking a4 sized mini-posters all over the walls of my neighborhood in Amsterdam. I am planning to continue for the next couple of nights, hopefully these relatively small posters will catch some eyeballs and make more people think and start expressing their outrage.

... I also like this little action on a symbolic level. It feels like translating a blog (something normally contained to the internet) into something that is part of the urban fabric. I like the idea of images leaking from my screen into the streets of Amsterdam and would probably be even more beautiful if people in other cities started doing the same... (Mazen's drawings are available at <http://mazenkerblog.blogspot.com/>)

Story from Seige Lebanon blog <http://siegeoflebanon.blogspot.com/>

**Note:** another supporter from Miami took on the same task

IFEX reports: "Lebanon Press under Fire as Israeli Offensive Continues"  
(IFEX Communiqué VOL 15 NO 30, 1 August 2006)

As Israel steps up its military offensive into Lebanon, journalists covering the conflict continue to come under fire. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) says crews from four Arab television stations told the organization that on 22 July 2006, Israeli aircraft fired missiles within 75 meters of them to prevent them from covering the effects of Israel's bombardment of the eastern town of Khiam... They also said obtaining live television pictures of the Israeli operation along the border from the Lebanese side is now virtually impossible.

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A photojournalist and a television station technician have already been killed in the past three weeks since Israel launched a bombing campaign in retaliation for a cross-border raid by Hezbollah guerrillas (see: <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/75903/>).

Meanwhile, newspaper editors and executives in Lebanon fear their publications may not be able to hold out much longer if the war continues, reports the World Association of Newspapers (WAN). The destruction of basic infrastructure has led to a massive drop in advertising, major distribution problems and fears of paper supply shortages... The embargo imposed by the Israeli army has also posed a major logistical problem for newspapers. "The borders are closed for any shipment. We will run out of newsprint by the end of the month," says Tassabehji. The French-language daily "L'Orient Le Jour" and "An-Nahar" say they are facing the same problem.

The precarious security situation is also preventing the newspapers' reporters from getting out to cover unfolding events. "The main difficulty is security of the staff coming in and out of the office. The other is to keep staff moral up," says Tassabehji of "The Daily Star". "Humans in general - and journalists are no exception - become demoralized after few days of bombing. It is almost impossible to write a business story when you know that a bomb might fall on your head."

For more information, visit these links:

- WAN Arab Press Network: <http://www.arabpressnetwork.org/home.php>
- CPJ: <http://www.cpj.org/news/2006/mideast/lebanon27july06na.html>
- RSF: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id\\_article=18386](http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id_article=18386)
- IFJ: <http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?Index=4085&Language=EN>
- BBC: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/5233842.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/5233842.stm)

On another note, campaigns against photographers and news agencies are starting. A British website posted a claim that Associated Press, AFP, and Reuters made up the pictures of the late Israeli massacre in Qana on Sunday 20th July 2006, given the time difference in their airing. The website claimed that the reporters were part of making up the story and increasing the negative impact on the viewer. The news agencies refused these claims and explained that the time of airing the picture does not relate to the time of taking it. (As-safir daily Lebanese newspaper [www.assafir.com](http://www.assafir.com))