

THE ISRAEL-HEZBOLLAH WAR, 2006: LEBANON

Following the first Hezbollah rockets fired into Israel on 12 July 2006, Israel launched a series of air strikes on Lebanon, hitting 59 targets on the first day, while Israeli troops crossed the border into southern Lebanon. In the fighting and air strikes that followed, 500 Hezbollah fighters, 119 Israeli soldiers and 1,191 Lebanese civilians were killed

July 14: Four Israeli sailors killed when a Hezbollah-fired radar-guided missile hits their ship, part of the Israeli naval blockade of Lebanon during the war

- 1,100 Americans
- 4,100 Danes
- 1,500 Swedes
- 800 French
- 700 Norwegians
- 470 Romanians
- 400 Italians
- 300 Greeks
- 250 Austrians
- 200 Australians
- 100 Bulgarians
- 75 Czechs
- 24 Slovaks
- 30,000 Lebanese
- Canadians

July 18-21: to escape the bombing, more than 10,000 foreign nationals and dual citizens are evacuated from Beirut, including by a small unit of United States Marines that landed on July 20

July 26: an Israeli missile accidentally targets a United Nations building, killing four United Nations Truce Supervision (UNTSO) soldiers, from Austria, Canada, China and Finland

August 2: Israeli special forces in operation

700 Germans
270 Russians
200 Filipinos
having travelled from Beirut, leave by air

August 13: Uri Grossman (son of the Israeli writer David Grossman, who on August 12 had spoken at an anti-war rally in Tel Aviv) killed in action. He was two weeks short of his twenty-first birthday. All fighting ceased with the ceasefire on August 14

August 12-13: 10,000 Israeli troops advance to the Litani River in the 48 hours before the ceasefire: 30 Israeli soldiers killed

1 December 2006: United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan submits a report to the Security Council stating that 822 Israeli cluster bomb strike sites had been recorded in southern Lebanon, with 60,000 cluster bomblets having been cleared by the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre. On 28 January 2007, the United States State Department declared that Israel 'may have violated agreements' with the United States when it fired American-supplied cluster munitions into civilian areas of southern Lebanon. In the month after the ceasefire, 13 Lebanese are killed by previously unexploded cluster bombs

0 kilometres 15
0 miles 10

- ★ Principal Israeli air strikes
- ⊕ Israeli air base (less than 10 minutes flying time to Beirut)
- Israeli military incursions and areas of fierce fighting
- ← Initial evacuation of foreigners, 18-21 July 2006

© Sir Martin Gilbert 2008