



SECURITY COUNCIL-THE SITUATION IN LEBANON

The Israeli-Lebanese conflict is a series of disputes that began in 1948 and concluded its main phase in 2006. However, it is still a tense area in which several difficult situations arose between the parties involved. This conflict has cost over 20,000 Lebanese civilian lives throughout all these years. ¹

On 11 March 1978, eleven Palestine Liberation Organization (hereinafter PLO) militants made a breach of the peace landing 30 km south of Haifa, Israel, and they killed almost 40 Israeli people. This event, known as the Coastal Road massacre, was the main event which detonated the whole conflict between Lebanon and Israel, due to the launching of Operation Litani by the latter, which left lots of casualties. ²

That is why, on March and May 1978, the Security Council emitted resolutions regarding the conflict between Lebanon and Israel. In those resolutions, the Council called upon Israel for strict respect for the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Lebanon, and to cease its military action against such State. ³

The Council also authorized and established, under its authority, a United Nations interim force in Southern Lebanon for the purpose of *"confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area"*.⁴ That is how the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (hereinafter UNIFIL) was created.⁵

Throughout the years, several conflicts arose in Lebanon's territory, mostly against Israel, two of the most important ones are the Israel's invasion in Lebanon in 1982 and the Hizbollah's attack on Israel in 2006, respectively, which also ended up within Security Council's Resolutions, which tried to provide a solution to the problem. ⁶

When the situation got completely out of control, Security Council chose to provide military aid to Lebanon, including the possibility to open fire in certain cases, such as self-defense and to civilians' protection, but never transgressing the Lebanese sovereignty.

After the cease fire in 2006, the tasks of UNIFIL were reduced to monitor the cessation of hostilities, accompany and support the Lebanese armed forces and extend its assistance to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations. It was recognized, that the only legitimate forces of Lebanon should be the Lebanese Armed Forces (hereinafter LAF). Therefore, no foreign forces should be allowed in Lebanon without the consent of its Government, attending to the sovereignty principle.

Nevertheless, UNIFIL's duties did not completely cease in that territory. In fact, every year the Security Council updates the Lebanese status reaffirming the mission that UNIFIL has in that territory, depending on the situation arising at the time.⁷



On 4th August, 2018, near the town of Majdal Zun, in southern Lebanon, an attack occurred against the UNIFIL. Peacekeepers were threatened with illegal weapons, vehicles were set on fire and UNIFIL's own weapons and equipment were seized. Until now, there is no statement of certainty of the responsible State or group who committed this attack. ⁸

The Security Council emitted a Press Release a few days later (9th August, 2018) condemning such attack, and recalling the commitment and role of UNIFIL in maintaining calm along the Blue Line (the line determined by the United Nations as border between Israel and Lebanon in 2000, when Israel withdrew from Lebanon in accordance to Resolution 425/1978), and its cooperation with the LAF, with the precise aim of extending the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory.⁹

Furthermore, on August 30th, 2018, the deadline date to present a new update on UNIFIL's mandate, the Security Council emitted Resolution 2433 (2018). In this Resolution, UNIFIL's mandate was extended for another year, and it was provided, among other things, that Lebanon shall increase its naval capabilities, with the goal of ultimately decrease UNIFIL's Maritime Taskforce, and also the condemnation of all violations of the Blue Line's stability and UNIFIL's mandate, including the attack of the 4th of August. Regarding the latter situation, the Council recalled its past Resolutions in order to maintain UNIFIL's main tasks and provide peace to the region, stressing the importance of the maintenance of Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory.
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In addition, the Security Council comprised itself to investigate the facts, and to determine the measures that shall be taken in order to preserve international peace and security, and mostly, Lebanon's sovereignty and stability, according to the United Nations principles. In order to take such decision, the Security Council shall listen to all the international community, particularly the current members of the Council. ¹¹

Nowadays, UNIFIL has 11,343 total personnel and 15,000 total authorized uniformed personnel according to Security Council's most recent resolution in this topic. The top ten troop and police contributing to the mission are, in descending order, Indonesia, Italy, India, Nepal, Ghana, Malaysia, France, Spain, China, and Ireland. Since its creation, 313 people have given their lives in the cause of peace in southern Lebanon. Furthermore, the United Nations constantly publishes and updates the budget for this mission, being the most recent amount of approximately 483 million dollars, which also represents a considerable price for the United Nations. ¹²

In that matter, the Council, attending to the recent attack and the current situation in that zone, must conclude an updated Resolution.



QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED AND ANSWERED:

1. Does the Security Council has an obligation to emit a Resolution concerning the recent attack of 4th August 2018?
2. Is there an imminent necessity to authorize UNIFIL to use force if needed?
3. Are the duties and tasks of UNIFIL enough to encourage and comply with their mission?
4. Should the international community, through the Security Council, provide personnel and additional economic aid to UNIFIL after the attack?
5. If the Security Council authorizes more military functions to UNIFIL, will Lebanon's sovereignty be threatened?
6. Which means are adequate to prevail peace and security in the Israeli-Lebanon's border?
7. Is the International Community entitled to intervene on its own in the problem?
8. Can UNIFIL use force in an extreme or self-defense case, even though the Security Council did not authorize it?
9. Should a Resolution be emitted in order to grant the use of force and aggressive means for UNIFIL?
10. Is there any other option rather than UNIFIL for Lebanon to restore peace and security in its border with Israel? If there is, does the Security Council have the obligation to emit a Resolution in that matter?



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- General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 72/299, Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, A/RES/72/299, (July 19, 2018)
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- ² Omer-Man, M. (2011, March). This week in History: Israel's Deadliest Terror Attack. *The Jerusalem Post*.
- ³ Security Council (UNSC) Res. 425 (Mar. 19, 1978). S/RES/425 (1978); Security Council (UNSC) Res. 426 (Mar. 19, 1978). S/RES/426 (1978); Security Council (UNSC) Res. 427 (May. 3, 1978). S/RES/427 (1978)
- ⁴ Ibidem.
- ⁵ United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. <https://unifil.unmissions.org/>
- ⁶ Security Council (UNSC) Res. 520 (Sep. 17, 1982); Security Council (UNSC) Res. 521 (Sep. 19, 1982).
- ⁷ See, generally. United Nations Security Council Resolutions concerning Lebanon.
- ⁸ SC/13451-PKO/746. (2018, August). Security Council Press Statement on Attack against United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. On: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13451.doc.htm>
- ⁹ Al Jazeera. (2018, January). Lebanon: Living on the Blue Line. *Al Jazeera World*.
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- ¹⁰ Security Council (UNSC) Res. 2433 (Aug. 30, 2018).
- ¹¹ SC/13451-PKO/746. (2018, August). Security Council Press Statement on Attack against United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. On: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13451.doc.htm>



¹² UNIFIL FACT SHEET. United Nations Peacekeeping. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unifil> ; Infographics. United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon. <https://unifil.unmissions.org/infographics> ; General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 72/299, Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, A/RES/72/299, (July 19, 2018)