



**Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center
at the Center for Special Studies (C.S.S)**

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**Developments following Security Council Resolution 1701
(Update No. 1)**



UN Security Council members voting to adopt Resolution 1701 (Photo: Keith Bedford for Reuters)

The situation on the ground

1. At 8 a.m. (local time), **August 14**, the **ceasefire** called for by Security Council Resolution 1701, **went into effect**, and so far **has been preserved**, with the exception of two local shooting incidents in the area of the villages of Ghandouriya and Hadatha.
2. On August 13, the eve of the ceasefire, IDF infantry and armored forces continued cleaning out the area south of the Litani, fighting fiercely against pockets of Hezbollah terrorists. During the course of the action many weapons (primarily anti-tank missiles and explosive charges) were discovered, and approximately 20

buildings used by Hezbollah were demolished. Nine IDF soldiers were killed and 46 wounded. The Israeli Air Force continued intensive air strikes against Hezbollah targets throughout Lebanon. In the evening, there was a massive air strike against Hezbollah targets in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Hezbollah announced that none of the organization's leaders had been hit.



The ruins of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's house in south Beirut (Al-Safir, August 9)

3. On August 13, just before the ceasefire went into effect, Hezbollah carried out its farewell barrage of rocket fire, a propaganda ploy to support the organization's efforts to justify the declaration of a "victory" in the war against Israel. More than 220 rockets were fired at populated areas in Israel, killing one and wounding 15. Kiriyat Shmonah and Ma'alot were hit most often (55-60 rockets), and after them Nahariya, Safed, Nazareth and other population centers.
4. Hezbollah's attempts to combine its final rocket barrage with other exceptional attacks **failed**: On the evening of August 13, Hezbollah tried to fly two unmanned Ababil¹ planes carrying Iranian-made high explosives into Israeli territory. The first

¹ The Ababil is an Iranian unmanned air vehicle capable of carrying 40-50 kg (88-110 lbs) of explosives. *Ababil* refers to mythical birds mentioned in the Qur'an which threw rocks at the forces of Abraha, the Abyssinian general who attacked Mecca with elephants. The Muslims view it as a miracle sent by Allah for the sake of the people of Mecca in the struggle against the infidels. According to Muslim tradition, Muhammad was born in the same year, which is called "the year of the elephant."

was **intercepted** by the Israeli Air Force near Tyre and the second **crashed**, its remains found on August 4 near Ma'a lot in the upper Galilee. In addition, near Metulla, IDF soldiers in Lebanon opened fire on a truck they suspected of being booby-trapped and blew it up.

The political arena

The Lebanese government's first crisis

5. The day after the Lebanese government accepted Security Council Resolution 1701, the first crisis relating to its implementation broke out. It occurred at the government meeting held on August 13, which was supposed to deal with the **practical aspects** of deploying Lebanese army forces in the south.
6. The main item on the Lebanese government's current agenda is how the Lebanese army will perform in the south, that is, how it will deploy and create an area free of weapons and terrorists, as determined by Resolution 1701. The absence of consensus and the subsequent **postponement of the government meeting** are the **first signals from Hezbollah and its supporters than any attempt to disarm the organization or take effective steps to weaken it will lead to a political crisis.**

Syria attacks Resolution 1701

7. Syrian propaganda attacks Resolution 1701

- A. **Bashar al-Ja'afari, Syrian representative to the UN**, claimed that the resolution was bad for Lebanon and the Arabs because it did **not call for a ceasefire and the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of the IDF**. That gave Israel, he said, an extension of a number of weeks to continue the fighting. He also criticized the resolution for not making a positive statement about the "occupied" Sheba'a Farms (demanded by Hezbollah), and claimed that it left the issue "to the mercy of the UN Secretary General."
- B. On August 12, **Radio Damascus** attacked the resolution **for not calling for the immediate withdrawal of the IDF**. That, according to the commentator, would enable Israel to continue its "aggression" in south Lebanon with the goal of racking up political and practical achievements. Radio Damascus warned of American and Israeli attempts to weaken the Lebanese position regarding the "resistance" (i.e., Hezbollah).

8. Such criticism is liable to mean that in partnership with Iran, Syria will support Hezbollah in its efforts to take the wind out of the sails of the paragraphs which are not to its liking (leaving south Lebanon and turning the territory over to Lebanon, disarmament, the embargo on weapons consignments to the organization). In our estimation, it can be expected that **Syria and Iran will attempt to repair the damage done to Hezbollah's military strength**, particularly by replenishing its rocket arsenal and by violating the embargo on the supply of weapons to the terrorist organizations in Lebanon.