



Department of Political Science and International Affairs

POL 499 Senior Study

The Success of UNIFIL:

An Important Role in Security and Development Despite The Doubts

Hassan Saad

201508956

24/5/2021

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Name: Hassan Saad

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Saad', written in a cursive style.

Date: 24 of May 2021

Abstract:

After the 2006 War, resolution 1701 was added to the mandate of UNIFIL making it responsible for monitoring and securing the borders, ensuring the cessation of fire, assisting the civilian population, assisting the Lebanese Armed forces to maintain its borders, and establishing an area free of arms between the Blue Line and the Litani river. Despite the many doubts in the effectivity and the efficiency of the peace keeping mission in the Southern Lebanon, UNIFIL's social, economic, and political effects remain very important, and its presence remains very crucial for maintaining the security on the border in the short run. Yet, it is very clear that not all the terms of resolution 1701 are being applied. This study aims to inspect the doubts, and will analyze the importance of UNIFIL and its social, economic, and security effect. In addition, the study will focus on the violations of resolution 1701 from both sides and how UNIFIL deals with these frequent violations. By investigating media reports, and official documents from UNIFIL and the Security Council, the study acquire insights to very significant information regarding the violations of Resolution 1701. Furthermore, empirical findings and real life examples analyzed within this study, support the importance of the developmental role of UNIFIL and its added value to the security of Southern Lebanon.

“Peacekeeping is not a job for soldiers, but only soldiers can do it.”

Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Abbreviations:

CIMIC: Civil-military co-operation

IDF: Israeli Defense Forces

QIPs: Quick Impact Projects

LAF: Lebanese Armed Forces

LRC: Lebanese Red Cross

MTF: Maritime Task Force

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

UN: United Nations

UNIFIL: United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon

UNMIL: United Nations Mission In Liberia

UNMISS: United Nations Mission In South Sudan

UNSC: United Nations Security Council

Table of Contents

I. Introduction:	7
II. Literature Review:	8
III. UNIFIL II: A Key Player in Southern Lebanon	13
IV. Resolution 1701: Between Theory and Real Life	21
V. Discussion and Conclusion:	28
VI. References:	30

I. Introduction:

The United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon is the one of 13 peacekeeping missions in operation today. It was established in 1978 with a mandate that includes both resolutions 425 and 426. After the 2006 War, resolution 1701 was added to the mandate of UNIFIL making it responsible for monitoring and securing the borders, ensuring the cessation of fire, assisting the civilian population, assisting the Lebanese Armed forces to maintain its borders, and establishing an area free of arms between the Blue Line and the Litani river.

Since 2006, UNIFIL played and still playing a very important role on both developmental and security level. First, UNIFIL is working side by side with the civil society, the government, NGOs, municipalities, and religious figures for the greater benefit of Southern Lebanon. Such cooperation resulted in many developmental projects implemented by the Civil-Military Cooperation teams or CIMIC that works directly with municipalities and civil societies. Second, UNIFIL main objective is to maintain security in its area of operation by implementing the articles of resolution 1701. Such objective resulted in a long term collaboration between UNIFIL and LAF who are seen as partners.

All what is mentioned previously show the importance of UNIFIL presence in southern Lebanon, and the implementation of resolution 1701. Yet, in the real world, the resolution is not being applied properly. Since 2006, multiple attacks by Lebanese armed groups occurred, but Israeli violations happens almost on a daily basis. These violations raise many doubts regarding the effectiveness of UNIFIL over all. Today, the USA and Israel are lobbying for the amendment of Resolution 1701, and to increase the enforcement power of UNIFIL in its area of operation. Yet, the problem does not lay in the resolution itself, but in its frequent violation and its implementation or lack of.

Regardless of these uncertainties, UNIFIL presence in Southern Lebanon remains a key factor for security and development. In fact, the mission's effect on the society, economy, and security remains very crucial in Southern Lebanon. So, how UNIFIL affects Lebanon in general and the south in particular, and what added value they offer? Why the presence and the extension of this peace keeping mission is very important despite the doubts in their effectivity and efficiency? And, how resolution 1701 is being implemented on the ground in real life? This study aims to inspect the doubts, and will analyze the importance of UNIFIL and its social, economic, and security effect. In addition, the study will focus on the violations of resolution 1701 from both sides and how UNIFIL deals with these frequent violations. Through investigating media reports, and official documents from UNIFIL and the Security Council, the study acquire insights to very significant information regarding the violations of Resolution 1701. Furthermore, analysis of scholarly articles and empirical data will confirm the importance of the mission regarding social, economic, and security aspects. Also, direct and structured observation of real world events will play a big part in proving the importance of the role of UNIFIL. At first this study will inspect the existing literature on the importance of peace missions, then the paper will analyze the multiple roles of UNIFIL, next the paper will evaluate the implementation of UNSC resolution 1701, and the study will end by discussing the findings of the research.

II. Literature Review:

Despite not being mentioned directly in the UN Charter, Peacekeeping missions remain a very popular and important tool to ensure peace and prevent the escalation of conflicts. Chapter VII of the UN Charter demands that the UNSC should take the necessary measures to ensure and preserve international peace, and peacekeeping missions have proven to be a very effective

measure. Today, there are 13 peacekeeping missions in operation around the world, each with different mandate that states the specific tasks and responsibilities for each operation. At first, UN peace missions were tasked to observe, monitor, and ensure the standing of peace between the parties of the conflict. After the Cold War, with the rise of new international security challenges, the role of peace missions expanded to a multilateral conflict management tool used after the cessation of a conflict with a task to achieve sustainable peace (Wall and Druckman, 2003). This goal is affected by the local capabilities remaining after the conflict like infrastructure and manpower, the level of aggression between the parties of the conflict, and the capacity of international support mainly funding. Any UN peace mission is affected by these three factors in which the higher the aggression is, the lower the local capability will be and will require more international support.

Chapter VII of the UN Charter require the UNSC to use any necessary mean to maintain international peace and security. That is why, UN peace operations can have four distinctive roles. First, peace enforcement, implemented by armed military forces to maintain the cessation of hostilities between the parties of the conflict even without their consent. Second, peacemaking which is simply a type of negotiation where the UN mediate peace talks between the parties of the conflict in order to reach a truce that end the conflict. Third, peacekeeping, implement also by UN forces but with the consent of all the parties of the conflict without the use of force with a main goal of observing the peace and cessation of hostilities with full neutrality. Fourth, post conflict rebuilding, which aims to nurture the economic situation in war torn countries by implementing different developmental projects which help indirectly in maintaining a sustainable peace (Doyle and Sambanis, 2007). Today, with a huge success rate, peacekeeping has demonstrated itself to be a great mean to maintain sustainable peace, ensure the cessation of

hostilities, and monitor the implementation of truce between parties of the conflict. Despite such record, uncertainty regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations remains the argument of many scholars. This is because any peacekeeping mission can be affected by multiple factors on the ground such as the level of aggression of the conflict, the funding or lack of, even the nationality and the background culture of participating countries play a crucial role in the success of the mission.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan or UNMISS is a very controversial peace operation. After the independence of South Sudan back in July 2011, the Security Council identified the situation in the region as a threat to international security. As a result, resolution 1996 was approved to recalibrate the situation in South Sudan by reestablishing sustainable peace, and a suitable environment for development. Later on, and after the escalation of hostilities in the country in December 2013, resolution 2155 was adopted and added to the mandate of UNMISS which prioritized the protection of civilians and required the mission to monitor the violations of Human Rights, facilitate and help with the distribution of humanitarian aid, and to reestablish truce. Indeed UNMISS was successful in protecting the lives of civilians by saving more than 200,000 people and moving them to specialized camp which indirectly separated different communities and avoided further violence. The result of such efforts was the avoidance of a huge genocide, but they were not enough. The camps, where the civilians were being held at, drained most of the resources of UNMISS. Despite protecting large numbers of people, huge numbers remain outside the camps. With no enough resources to patrol the areas of hostilities, more than 2 million people were left in the danger. UNMISS was accused with poorly managing its resources, and failing to implement resolution 2155 which required the protection of all civilians (Oladipo, 2017).

On the contrary, the United Nations Mission in Liberia or UNMIL was one of the most successful peacekeeping mission in the UN history (NU, 2020). UNMIL was established in 2003 to monitor the cessation of hostile activities in the country after the end of the second Liberian Civil War. The Security Council adopted resolution 1509 which was very similar of 2155 of UNMISS mandate. Resolution 1509 required from UNMIL to prioritize the protection of civilians especially women and children, protect human rights, and help the Liberian government in implementing justice and security reforms. The community in Liberia was torn apart after the war, yet UNMIL was seen as a glance of hope by the people. Indeed the mission helped the country in maintaining sustainable peace and development by disarmament of armed groups, and rehabilitating soldiers back into the community. Also, UNMIL trained new police officers and soldiers, and helped with reforms regarding national security. Furthermore, UNMIL ensured a democratic transition of power by monitoring three effective elections. After successfully fulfilling its mandate, UNMIL came to an end in march 2018 leaving Liberia in a better shape (Kemayah, 2018).

The two previous examples show that UN peacekeeping missions effectivity is correlated with several variables such as the severity of the conflict, the nationality and the culture of peace troops, the funding and international support, in addition to other challenges that can be faced on the ground. One important cause that lead to the failing of a peace missions is that the rich countries of the north are not encouraged any more to participate in such missions. During the rise of the first peacekeeping missions, developed countries were more keen to send soldiers in order to prevent another Cold War. With the development of peacekeeping mission, the support and participation of rich countries in these missions decreased significantly (Jett, 2019). This can be caused by the foreign policy of these countries and their democratic nature in which officials

can be held accountable by the public population that may refuse to send soldiers and resources abroad. This policy resulted in most peacekeeping missions being operated and equipped by poor countries that lack proper conflict management skills, training capabilities, and weapons.

UNMIL and UNMISS were very similar yet they yielded different outcomes. Both missions had similar mandates and operated by poor countries. However, UNMIL succeeded, and UNMISS failed despite having more than triple of the number of soldier that UNMIL had. This shows that the conflict it self and its severity is an important factor alongside the funding in determining the effectiveness of a peacekeeping mission (de Coning, 2019).

Although many literature argue about the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions in general and some scholars give UNMISS as an example, UNMISS was able to save more than 200,000 lives most of them were women and children despite the doubts. Regardless that UNMISS wasn't capable of fully fulfilling its mandate, the mission wasn't a total failure and it was effective. A genocide was prevented due the efforts of the mission which, alone, present great importance for the mission (Day, 2019). The same argument can be made regarding the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon or UNIFIL. Security Council Resolution 1701 was adopted after the 2006 war and added to the mandate of the UNIFIL. The resolution demanded the withdrawal of the IDF from South of Lebanon, cessation of hostile acts, to support the Lebanese Armed forces in their deployment and monitoring of the border, and the disarmament of armed groups. Till to date, violations of resolution 1701 continue and the mandate is not fulfilled completely. However, this does not mean that UNIFIL is ineffective and not important. Despite the violations and the doubts regarding the mission, UNIFIL role remains very important and is far from failing.

In addition to its part as a peacekeeping force, UNIFIL indirectly acquires a developmental role in Southern Lebanon. In which, the mission has contributed a lot in the economy, the society, and the security of the area. Irrespective of the doubts regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of UNIFIL, its security and developmental role remains necessary. The Civil-Military Cooperation teams are working directly with local authorities, civil society, and key figure in the community to provide humanitarian support for the population of the area and to implement development projects that can be very beneficial. After the 2006 war, the area was destructed completely. But, UNIFIL was an important player in the reconstruction operation by using the engineering teams, and their heavy equipment to help the local community. Also, CIMIC teams are helping local municipalities by implementing projects and providing aids that can make the area more developed. Another important role for UNIFIL, which is stated in its mandate, is to ensure security, and support the LAF in their deployment in the south and securing the borders. UNIFIL and LAF are considered to be partners and they have an obligation by resolution 1701 to work together. Under the title of sharing military expertise, LAF soldiers took training from UNIFIL in different aspects which helped in strengthening the deployment of LAF in the south after 2006. All of this show the importance and the effective role of the peacekeeping mission in the South of Lebanon despite doubts and the violations of the mission's mandate till to date.

III. UNIFIL II: A Key Player in Southern Lebanon

In August 2006, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1701 and was added to the mandate of UNIFIL. The main target of the peacekeeping mission was to ensure the cessation of hostile activities, Support the Lebanese Armed Forces, and maintain sustainable peace in its area of operation which is spread between the Litani River and the Blue Line. But, the role of UNIFIL

in the Southern Lebanon went beyond that. In addition to its important role regarding security and peace, the mission was an added value for the economy and the society of the area which created strong relationship between the force and the local community. This does not mean that the mission received the same treatment from all the factions, in which UNIFIL faced at the beginning of the mission and is still facing some challenges with certain groups in the community. Yet, these challenges remain minor in comparison of what UNIFIL was able to do for that same community (Makdisi, 2014).

After 33 days of devastating war, the South of Lebanon suffered greatly in 2006 after being the main target for the IDF. Most of the infrastructure was destroyed, schools and medical facilities were targeted, and civilian houses were put to ground. The international community was eager to help by sending humanitarian aids and supports, and helping in reconstructing the area. Despite the importance of such help which lasted for several years after the war, the developmental role that UNIFIL have played, and still, is with equal importance if not more. The Civic-Military corporation teams, or CIMIC are working with local authorities, NGOs, municipalities, and key figures of the community to implement developmental projects, and provide humanitarian aids that can ensure sustainability for the long term. Such projects include providing equipment for local schools and hospitals, organizing training and awareness session regarding a specific issue, and financing much needed infrastructure projects. These projects are called Quick Impact Projects or QIPs which are designed to be implemented in a rapid manner so it can treat and solve a pressing problem that is facing the local community. In order to implement such projects, CIMIC and Civil Affairs teams meet with municipalities and local representatives and work together in order to pinpoint a certain need or a project that the society

could benefit from. Then, after choosing a project, the parties agree on the cost and the different means of financing (Abrams, 2018).

These QIPs benefit both UNIFIL and the local community in which the area and its population will profit from necessary developmental project that can lead to sustainability, and the relationship between the two will strengthen. An important project done by UNIFIL that almost all the villages in its area of operation benefited from is financing the cost of electrical generators. Electricity is a major problem in Lebanon especially in the rural areas even before the 2006 war. In the first meetings between CIMIC and local municipalities and figures, almost all of them shared a mutual concern which is the long power outage in the area. After the efforts and cooperation between CIMIC and the local authorities, UNIFIL financed the cost of electrical generator for tens of villages in the south of Litani. Today, all these villages benefit from 24/7 electricity thanks to UNIFIL. Another important project is the rehabilitation and restoration of many roads and the installation of LED street lights. One example is the border village of Kafer Chouba which suffered from poor road condition that made it difficult for farmers to reach their lands, and for UNIFIL and LAF to do their patrols. The rehabilitation of the roads of Kafer Chouba benefited the local community and will led to local economic growth in which the transportation of goods was facilitated. One more developmental project implemented in the villages of south Litani is the rehabilitation of the water network in the area which all the population is in need for. Sribbin, and Dibbine are two examples for villages that benefited from this project where new networks of water pipeline were constructed that can feed the existing water tanks with larger volume of water. The additional volume of water available benefited all the local population especially the farmers (UNIFIL, 2019). The defaulting of the Lebanese government in providing the necessary amenities and services for the citizens is not a new thing,

and developmental inequality between districts in Lebanon is increasing due to negligence from officials. By implementing these and other QIPs, UNIFIL is filling the developmental role of the Lebanese government in their area of operation. This shows the importance of the presence of UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon, and its crucial developmental role.

The Quick Impact Projects doesn't include only developmental projects and infrastructure rehabilitation, these projects also support the local population by assisting existing institutions like schools and hospitals, and helping people by raising awareness. Regarding the health sector, UNIFIL was prior in supporting hospitals, healthcare centers, and first responders located within its area of operation. The joint efforts of local authorities and CIMIC teams resulted in financing important and advanced medical equipment which were given to local hospitals and medical centers. This initiative increased the capabilities of the health care sector for the short run, and improved the quality of the health service for the long run in the area. In addition, and most recently during the COVID pandemic, UNIFIL has equipped most of local hospitals with PCR test machines, PPE for the medical staff, and sanitizers in order to help fight the spread of the Corona virus in Southern Lebanon. Also, UNIFIL supported first responders such as the Lebanese Red Cross and the Civil Defense by providing necessary tools that weren't available to them. Civil Defense Centers in Qabrikha and Kleyaa benefited from equipment they lacked like air lifting bags, metal cutter, and fire extinguishers. UNIFIL also provided the LRC in Tyre, and Tebnin with PPE so they can help people during the Covid Pandemic. The governmental health institutions in Lebanon are weak, and better quality health services are afforded only by the middle class and the rich. By supporting the health sector, UNIFIL has facilitated access on better and affordable health services to the locals. This, again, shows the important role of UNIFIL in the community.

Regarding the Educational sector, UNIFIL provided local schools with tools and equipment that can facilitate and enhance the educational process. Examples of these equipment are white boards, student desks, computers, laboratory equipment, and even rehabilitation of the hole building of schools. Some of this doesn't seem that much, yet due to the negligence of the Lebanese government, most of the public schools in the South lacked basic educational tools. Thus, these aids help in enhancing the quality of education all in all. Furthermore, due to the Covid pandemic, schools in Lebanon went online which raised a problem in poor rural areas like the South of Lebanon. Most of the families couldn't afford to buy laptops or tablets especially when there is more than one child in the family. Regarding this issue, UNIFIL coordinated with local authorities and supplied the schools with laptops and tablets that students in need could use. Another important role for UNIFIL, is the awareness campaigns that CIMIC teams organize in most of the villages that tackle specific issues and problems. One example is the drug awareness campaign in Ayta Al Shaab that aims to provide the young generation with accurate information about the hazards of drug usage. All these projects lay under the title of Quick Impact Projects, and the mentioned examples are only a small fraction of the QIPs implemented by UNIFIL. Thanks to these efforts, Southern Lebanon, an area once was considered to be far behind regarding basic amenities, is now considered to be one of the most developed region in Lebanon. In fact, these QIPs raised the quality of life in the area, and allowed the population to enjoy certain services they lacked before.

The QIPs affected positively the economy of UNIFIL's area of operation, and led indirectly to economic growth. Almost, all the developmental project were executed by Lebanese labor hands which created jobs and decreased unemployment. Furthermore, all the projects benefited all the population and facilitated life such as better roads for transportation, training

farmers and ranchers to increase productivity, and improving the quality of education so the young have a better chance of life. That is how these QIPs contributed to an economic growth in the area (Marta, 2009). So, indeed, the economic added value of the mission is benefiting the locals in many ways which proves the importance of the force in the area. UNIFIL international civilian staff live and spend their money in Lebanon. They rent households, buy groceries, and pay school and university tuition for their children which contribute largely to the Lebanese economy. Also, UNIFIL troops contribute to the local economy when they eat out, buy souvenirs, and purchase different commodities. In simple world, UNIFIL troops are sometimes seen as tourists in armored 4*4, and are exploited by local merchants. In addition, there are more than 500 national staff in UNIFIL who receives their salary in US dollars and benefit from medical and dental insurance for them and their families. It is estimated that, in general, each year UNIFIL contribute with approximately 40 million US dollars to the Lebanese economy (UNIFIL, 2020). UNIFIL's area of operation is not considered to be a tourist attraction like Beirut or North Lebanon because it's sometimes portrayed by foreign media as an area of clashes that contains armed militias. Yet, UNIFIL's international staff and soldiers fill this gap by indirectly taking the role of tourists.

The local population of UNIFIL's area of operation is very modest, yet it suffered a lot of wars in the last 50 years. UNIFIL exist in Southern Lebanon since 1978, thus people are not strange from peacekeepers and their importance. However, despite the great added value of UNIFIL, sometimes the peacekeepers are faced with unwelcoming behavior in their daily encounters with locals. Such occurrences could be linked to the background of peacekeepers and the background of the locals (Elron, 2007). Regarding the peacekeepers, their cultural background, their history, and if they come from a rich or poor country all are variables that

could affect the mission. There is 10,327 peacekeepers in Lebanon from 46 countries with Italy being the biggest contributor with 1076 soldier (UNIFIL, 2020). Peacekeepers from third world countries have a weaker relation with locals than rich countries. This is because these countries lack the financial resources to implement large development projects, and because they are located in camps near the borders with little civilian encounters. Another variable is the cultural background and history like Ireland, and Poland where they share indirectly certain experiences, believes and sympathies with the local population on matters concerning the rights of resistance against occupation. Whereas, peacekeepers from France and Finland think they are coming to a warzone like in Afghanistan and Iraq, and think that they will encounter armed terrorists on the streets. Regarding the locals, most of them don't have any problem with peacekeepers except some Hezbollah supporters who believe that UNIFIL is only a tool to implement foreign agendas against them. All these variables play an important role in shaping the love hate relationship between locals and peacekeepers (Ruffa, 2014).

Although the developmental and economic role of UNIFIL remain at a great importance, the mission's main goal is to ensure security and cessation of hostile activity, and to maintain sustainable peace. According to the mandate of the mission, this goal is to be reached by working with the Lebanese Armed Forces (Abrams, 2018). UNIFIL and LAF are considered to be partners in the eyes of the international community so they can fulfil the mission's mandate in an efficient and effective manner. Shared patrols in the villages and on borders, and joint checkpoint are two examples on the cooperation between them. Even if UNIFIL are patrolling alone, it is done in coordination with LAF. These patrols allow UNIFIL to observe and preserve the proper implementation of resolution 1701. By doing so, it created an environment free of arms, at least in public. According to Feltman, after 2006, Hezbollah moved their weapons and missile arsenal

outside UNIFIL's area of operation north of the Litani river. If such thing is true, then the patrols did their job and removed the scene of arms from the streets. Moreover, UNIFIL provides training for LAF in regard of different subjects. Explosive Ordinance Disposal is an example, in which UNIFIL shares necessary skills and knowledge with LAF in demining and disposing of cluster munition. This kind of training help in saving many lives, and increase security in the area. On the 30th of January in 2020, UNIFIL and LAF signed a Memorandum of Understanding that lay ground for future cooperation in demining the area south of Litani River. By supporting LAF and monitoring the implementation of resolution 1701, UNIFIL was able to increase peace and security in Southern Lebanon and lower the public presence of armed groups which emphasizes on the important role of the mission in maintaining peace and security.

A Maritime Task Force is also a part of UNIFIL's deployment in Lebanon. Positioned alongside the 110 NM of the Lebanese coast, the MTF aim to help the Lebanese Navy in securing the coastline, and to prevent the smuggling of arms into lebanon through the sea which is in accordance with resolution 1701. The MTF is assigned also with the responsibility of monitoring the Lebanese air space, and rescue operations in coordination with LAF. Formed by 15 countries and 5 ships, UNIFIL MTF was the first MTF in the history of peacekeeping operations which proved to be a successful tool by investigating over 106,000 ships since 2006 (UNIFIL, 2020). The Lebanese Navy is not able to monitor the entire coastline of the country due to the lack of funding which proves that the MTF cannot be considered as an accessory for the mission but as a necessity.

In addition, UNIFIL stood many times in the middle of encounters between LAF and IDF in order to stop a clash from forming, and a conflict from escalating. All the means of security that were mentioned previously, from border patrols and checkpoints, to monitoring the coastline

and the airspace, to partnering with LAF made the area of the south of Litani more secure, maintained sustainable peace, and made the scenes of arms disappear. Yet, despite all of that, violations of the mission's mandate still occur and in frequent manner. Here comes another important role of UNIFIL which the Tripartite Forum. This forum is a monthly meeting that happens in Naqoura between UNIFIL, LAF, and the IDF with UNIFIL mediating the meeting. Parties of the meeting discuss the means of implementation and identify the violations of resolution 1701. There is no direct communication between Lebanon and the Israeli government which make it hard to maintain security, and to prevent the escalation of clashes between the two parties. Thus, the presence of UNIFIL is essential to play the role of a mediator. UNIFIL has proved itself to be an economic, and security asset for Lebanon. Yet, frequent violations of Resolution 1701 form a threat for the security of the area, and shape doubts regarding the effective role of the mission despite its positive impact.

IV. Resolution 1701: Between Theory and Real Life

On 19 March 1978, and after the IDF invasion of South Lebanon, the UNSC established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and adopted resolutions 425 and 426. The mandate of the peacekeeping mission was to ensure IDF withdrawal from all occupied territories in Southern Lebanon, support the Lebanese government to establish a stronger grip in the area, and maintain peace and security. In 1985, the mandate of the mission was updated after another IDF invasion. In 2000, the IDF withdrew from Southern Lebanon which allowed UNIFIL to resume its work alongside the Blue Line which is the last point of IDF withdrawal. Before this, UNIFIL was unable to reconvene its military tasks, and humanitarian work because all its area of operation was under occupation. In 12 July 2006, Hezbollah fighters crossed the Blue Line, attacked an IDF border patrol, and abducted two Israeli soldiers. This action pulled Lebanon to a

devastating war that ended after 33 days after UNSC calls for the immediate termination of all hostile activities and the adoption of resolution 1701; the new mandate of UNIFIL.

UNIFIL 2, the new peacekeeping operation, was deployed in the area between the Litani River and the Blue Line with a mission to fulfil UNSC Resolution 1701. The new mandate demands the permanent cessation of hostilities from all the parties and UNIFIL is responsible for monitoring and maintaining security in the area. Also, the peace force will support LAF in their deployment in South Lebanon and on the Blue Line, help LAF in making the area free of armed personnel, and support the Lebanese government in monitoring and securing its borders to prevent trespassing and arms trafficking. Also, according to the new mandate, UNIFIL will ensure access to humanitarian aids for all the population in need, and demands the full withdrawal of IDF from all the occupied territories (United Nations Security Council, 2006). All these tasks seem promising, and UNIFIL appears equipped more than enough to implement such resolution. After 2006, the peacekeeping mission received a big reinforcement allowing its forces to reach up to 15000 soldiers. Despite being a peacekeeping mission and is not allowed to use force unless it is for self-defense, UNIFIL large number of personnel increases the overall effectiveness of the mission which can be shown in the important role it is playing mentioned in the third part of the paper. However, frequent violations of resolution 1701 from both sides occur and on a daily basis. These violations jeopardize the sustainable peace and security in the area, and raise doubts regarding the effectiveness and the importance of UNIFIL. Indeed, the mission has proved to be an important player in maintaining security and development in Southern Lebanon but the frequent violations of the mandate put the mission under questioning regarding if it failed to fulfill its different roles.

It is true that the violations of Resolution 1701 are frequent and from both sides. Yet, Lebanon's handful violations are nothing compared to the daily violations by the IDF. From the Lebanese side, most of the violations are caused by farmers who cross the Blue Line because it passes through their lands. In addition, after the 2006 war, Hezbollah was responsible for 4 hostile activities near the border against the IDF which caused minor harms. Also, the existence of Hezbollah by itself in UNIFIL's area of operation is considered to be violation for the mission's mandate in which Resolution 1701 demands the disarmament of all armed groups in the area. Yet, it is suspected that, after 2006, Hezbollah moved its arsenal to the north of Litani River (Feltman, 2020). From the Israeli side, things are very different. People who live in Southern Lebanon got used to the annoying buzzing of IDF drones in Southern skies every single day. Also, F16 fighter jets enter Lebanese air space very frequently and breach the sound wall mimicking the sound of an explosion which terrorize civilians on the ground. Furthermore, every UNSC monthly report regarding the violations of Resolution 1701, mentions that the IDF crossed the Blue Line, or that the Israeli Navy crossed into the Lebanese water in Naqoura. These are very general examples on the violation of the mandate, yet they remain a great threat on the security of the area and regarding the effectiveness of the mission (Jegic, 2020). Most of these violations are considered to be hostile activities that endanger the security of the area and thus stressing on the important role of the mission in ensuring the full implementation of resolution 1701. This is because the decrease of violations will lead immediately to an increase in security.

Ghajar is a village located between Lebanon and the occupied Golan Heights. The village of Ghajar was occupied by the IDF and remains till this day. Both resolutions 425 (1978) and 1701 (2006) require the withdrawal of IDF from the South of Lebanon. The northern Lebanese

part of the village is located north of the Blue Line, yet it remains occupied and with each day count as a violation for resolution 1701. Other zones Like kfarchouba hills and Shebaa' Farms also share the same case. Hezbollah, which started as a resistance against the IDF occupation of South Lebanon, justifies its existence with the untreated problem of the remaining occupied territories. Hezbollah states that its fight against the IDF will not stop until every occupied land is freed. For example, on the first of September of 2019, Hezbollah launched three anti tanks missiles that targeted armored vehicles but without causing any casualties. Such incidences are used by the IDF to justify their frequent violation of Resolution 1701 in which the threat of Hezbollah is an enough reason for all these violations (Orion, 2020). This shows how violations create other violations, and how they threat security and peace in the area if such thing remains. However these violations does not indicate that UNIFIL is a failed mission. They show the importance of the role of the mission in maintaining security and it is on the parties of the conflict to abide by the guidelines. UNIFIL is not a Peace enforcement force, it is a Peacekeeping mission that is responsible for ensuring the implementation of resolution 1701 which means that the violations are the liabilities of the parties of the conflict, and does not mean that the mission is failing in fulfilling its mandate.

All these violations form a big threat to the security of the Lebanese population in general and put their lives in danger. Not only Southern Lebanon is affected by them, but all of Lebanon is living in uncertainty and concern regarding the escalation of a clash. Thus, the proper implementation of Resolution 1701 is very important and necessary. One example that demonstrate how violations endanger the lives of locals is, on 25 August 2019, two IDF drones equipped with explosives attacked a building in Beirut Southern Suburb suspected to be housing several offices for Hezbollah officials. This hostile activity, which is a clear violation of

resolution 1701, cannot be justified even if the target was Hezbollah because the city is a very populated area and lives of people including women and children were put in danger. Such actions, also, might provoke Hezbollah to retaliate which will lead to more violations and threatens the security of the area (Ghaddar, 2019). This shows the great importance of implementing resolution 1701 in order to maintain peace and security. Furthermore, since the beginning of war in Syria in 2011, the IDF used the Lebanese air space to launch air attacks against regime targets in Syria. This is not only a violation of Resolution 1701, but also disregard of the Sovereignty of the Lebanese government (Jegic, 2020). Another example is, On April 8 2021 at exactly 1:05 AM, an IDF F16 fighter jet passed through Lebanese air space and launched an attack on Syria. Syria's air defense responded and targeted the F16 with missiles that followed the fighter jet all the way back to Southern Lebanon. One of the missiles exploded in the air and fell down into the backyard of a house in the village of Houla. The explosion was heard in all the area, yet no one got injured. In this example, the IDF couldn't justify their acts as a response to the eminent threat of Hezbollah because in this case Hezbollah isn't a party. This shows the recklessness of the IDF, and how they endanger the lives of innocent people by violating Resolution 1701. Thus, it is an obligation on all parties to respect and fully implement the resolution. IDF's frequent violations are putting the lives of civilians in danger under the excuse of targeting Hezbollah. Here comes the important role of UNIFIL in ensuring the implementation of the mandate. Yet, the mission is being criticized that it is being used as a shield by Hezbollah in which the IDF, if they applied resolution 1701, cannot target Hezbollah (Daoud, 2019). Even if these claims are true, then the presence of UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon was successful in preventing the IDF from endangering the security of innocent civilians.

According to the UNIFIL official website, the peacekeeping force responds to all the violations in a neutral and impartial manner. Also, in response of the violations, UNIFIL take all necessary measures such as patrolling, coordinating between the parties of the clash, and monitoring the Blue Line. In the case of a direct confrontation between LAF and the IDF, UNIFIL has a responsibility to intervene by separating the two parties and coordinating between them so that the conflict does not escalate. This could be seen in real life when UNIFIL intervened several times in the villages of Ouddaisseh, and Mais Al Jabal by standing in the middle between the IDF and LAF, and prevented the clash from escalating. However, on 3 August 2010, LAF intercepted an IDF group crossing the Blue Line and the encounter escalated quickly into a serious clash between the two parties. The Indonesian team of UNIFIL that was stationed near the incident was not able to manage the conflict before escalating, and it was ordered to retreat when the conflict intensified. Many Scholars would use this example to prove that UNIFIL needs more enforcement power. However, the problem is not about the power and authorities of the mission, it is about the frequent violations and the disregard of Resolution 1701 by the IDF.

The frequent violations of Resolution 1701 raised uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of UNIFIL in maintaining peace and security. The USA and Israel believe that the mandate of the mission is the cause of UNIFIL failing to fulfil its mandate. They see UNIFIL as a great force, driven by a fragile mandate that hampers the force from putting an end to the threat of Hezbollah. Hezbollah is believed to be a great power that control the Lebanese government which make Resolution 1701 an illusion that cannot be properly implemented by Lebanon as long as Hezbollah existed. That is why, in 2020, the US president Donald Trump threatened to withdrew his support and budget for UNIFIL if it isn't given more authority and enforcement

power (Daoud, 2019). This demand can be considered to be irrational and driven by the desire to terminate Hezbollah and not to maintain sustainable peace and security. The second part of the paper compared between the different types of peace operations and identified the differences between a peace enforcement and a peacekeeping mission. UNIFIL is a peacekeeping mission and not the later. UNIFIL main goal is ensure peace and security, support LAF, monitor the Blue Line, ensure the withdrawal of the IDF from occupied territories, and disarming armed groups. The disarming part is only one of several responsibilities of UNIFIL and not its main goal. Foreign powers are trying to use the mission as a tool to implement their own agendas in the region, and protect the interests of Israel.

Regardless of the authority and power delegated to the mission, UNIFIL will never be able to force the IDF to implement Resolution 1701, and from physically disarming Hezbollah from its large arsenal (Feltman, 2020). Hezbollah remains a great power in the region, and neutralizing its power using UNIFIL is far from reality. This is because of international influence in which indirect allies for Hezbollah in the Security Council will never let such decision pull through. The same thing is happening regarding the case of IDF violations in which Israel is backed up by the USA. Despite all of that, these facts does not justify the disregard and disrespect of Resolution 1701 and the role of UNIFIL. 1701 is a Security Council resolution and all the parties should abide by it. The paper has proved how violations of the resolution lead to more violations which endanger the safety of people and jeopardize the sustainable peace in the area. Resolution 1701 and the current power of UNIFIL are enough to maintain peace and security. Nevertheless, parties of the conflict should take responsibility and refrain from violating the articles of the resolution.

V. Discussion and Conclusion:

Between developmental and security demands, UNIFIL plays a very important yet complex role. The peacekeeping mission has fulfilled a developmental purpose by implementing almost 50 Quick Impact Projects each year which improved the quality of life in Southern Lebanon, and economic growth. Also, the economy of the area was positively affected by UNIFIL civilian staff and troops living and spending foreign currencies in the Lebanese markets. Moreover, the relationship between UNIFIL and locals is considered to be very good, at least most of times. Some incidences that happens between the two disturbed the flow of the relationship. Such confronts happens when UNIFIL patrols go through a tight old road in a village and damage the road with their heavy armored vehicles, or when peacekeepers are seen taking pictures in a specific location which provoke some locals. However, these encounters are occasional and are biggening to disappear thanks to efforts of the Civil Affairs teams who are working with community figures and authority to strengthen their relation with the local population.

By supporting LAF in its deployment in Southern Lebanon, demining lands, and monitoring the Blue Line UNIFIL showed a great importance regrading maintaining peace and safeguarding the security South of Litani River. In addition, despite the controversial opinion regarding patrols and checkpoint, UNIFIL was able to make the scene of arms in the street disappear even if only in public. The mission has proved to be successful during the time of its deployment, yet doubts regarding its effectiveness rises with the rise of violations of Resolution 1701, and that the missions mandate needs to be amended in order to have more enforcement power. Most scholars are dealing with the problem from a perspective that portrays Israel being

threatened always by Hezbollah and needs to act upon it. Whereas the main problem is the violations and how to implement all articles of resolution 1701.

Therefore, despite all the doubts and the uncertainties, UNIFIL presence in the area remains an added value to the security and development of Southern Lebanon. Out of the five goals in the mandate, UNIFIL was able to fulfil three while the remaining two are regarding the disarmament of armed groups and to secure the borders. These two goals are very important and by supporting LAF, UNIFIL could achieve them. Still, these two failures are not only the responsibility of UNIFIL, in which both Lebanon and Israel are accountable with the IDF being the most responsible. In this regard, the IDF has showed irrational and unjustifiable behavior that can reignite the conflict and threatens the security of innocent citizens. All this disorder is happening with the presence of resolution 1701, so imagine the state of anarchy that could happened if UNIFIL was terminated and resolution 1701 was canceled.

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