



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

Press Release

United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly Visits South Lebanon

Thursday, 28 June 2012

Bint Jbeil, Lebanon

I am very pleased to be here today. It is not my first visit to south Lebanon but it is the first opportunity for me to tour the town of Bint Jbeil and to see for myself the situation here.

I am very grateful to MP Hassan Fadlallah, MP Ali Bazzi, officers of the LAF and the heads of the municipalities of Bint Jbeil and surrounding areas who took the time to meet with me and to share their views on the political, socio-economic and cultural realities of this area.

I have been particularly impressed by the reconstruction efforts that have taken place since the war of 2006 and by the determination of the people to rebuild their homes and livelihoods and by the economic activity and prosperity they have generated.

Implementation of resolution 1701 since 2006 has made possible unprecedented calm in south Lebanon. The strong cooperation that exists between UNIFIL, the Lebanese army and the local population is key to its success. We hope that the prevailing calm will continue and that the remaining requirements of the resolution will be met in order to achieve a long-term and permanent ceasefire along the Blue Line.

A threat to the safety of south Lebanon and its residents is that of cluster bombs and landmines. I have been very impressed by the formidable efforts of the Lebanese Army and international NGOs who have been working tirelessly to clear south Lebanon from this terrible legacy of cluster bombs and landmines. Earlier this morning, I had the opportunity to visit the Lebanese Mine Action Center and am grateful to Gen. Odaimi and his team for briefing me on the work that has been done so far. The United Nations and international community remain committed to assisting the Lebanese authorities in this endeavor.

It is also important to point out here that the unprecedented stability in south Lebanon since 2006 has created a favorable environment for economic development. I just visited a cooperative association supported by UNDP in Bint Jbeil and saw for myself the excellent work the women are doing there. The project demonstrates in a small way the commitment of the whole UN family to supporting development in this beautiful area.