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Last update - 21:04 01/08/2006

## Livni: Qana attack led to turning point in support for Israel

By [Yoav Stern](#), [Yuval Yoaz](#) and [Amos Harel](#), Haaretz Correspondents

The deaths of dozens of civilians in an Israeli Air Force attack on the southern Lebanese village of Qana marked a significant diplomatic turning point against Israel, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said Tuesday.

The foreign minister said that following the events in Qana, Israel's scope for political maneuvering had been reduced, as was the amount of European support Israel is receiving for its operation in Lebanese soil.

Livni said this change was exemplified in the "problematic" Russian and French stance towards Israel.

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She said that despite the pictures of civilian casualties coming from Qana of it was important not to stray from implementing UN decision 1559.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to establish a state commission of inquiry into the killings at Qana.

As the Israel Air Force continues to investigate the air strike, questions have been raised over military accounts of the incident.

It now appears that the military had no information on rockets launched from the site of the building, or the presence of Hezbollah men at the time.

The Israel Defense Forces had said after the deadly air-strike that many rockets had been launched from Qana. However, it changed its version on Monday.

The site was included in an IAF plan to strike at several buildings in proximity to a previous launching site. Similar strikes were carried out in the past. However, there were no rocket launches from Qana on the day of the strike.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Red Cross workers reported on Monday that 28 bodies, 19 of them children, were removed from the rubble.

The count is lower than the some 60 bodies reported by news agencies, quoting Lebanese security officials. Survivors say 60 people were in the building at the time of the strike.

### Today Online

**Three IDF soldiers killed in fierce battles with Hezbollah**  
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**Aluf Benn: War as a public relations exercise**  
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#### More Headlines

**00:18** Three IDF soldiers killed in fierce battles with Hezbollah in south Lebanon village of Ayta a-Shab

**23:31** Five IDF soldiers wounded by mortar attack on northern border

**21:54** EU issues call for 'cessation of hostilities' rather than cease-fire

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Additional bodies are expected to be found in rescue operations.

Elsewhere in southern Lebanon, 49 bodies were removed Monday from the ruins of buildings in ten villages. Medical sources in Lebanon say dozens more are buried in the rubble.

IDF sources said the warning pamphlets the IAF disseminated to residents, calling on them to leave the area, were dropped several days before the strike, and not over the weekend.

The IAF does not have a way to verify whether villages have been vacated, or whether civilians remain hidden in bomb-shelters in locations otherwise believed to have been vacated, the sources said.

Paratroopers who fought in Bint Jbail last week said they noticed civilians hiding in the rubble while the fierce battle with Hezbollah militants was taking place.

The IDF account and those of survivors present contradictory versions of the Qana deaths. The IDF said that there is an unexplained gap of about seven hours between the IAF strike and the first report that the building had collapsed. Residents' accounts say only 10 minutes went by between the strike and the collapse.

The survivors say rescue teams arrived only in the morning, as night conditions made the rescue mission difficult. The Red Cross in Tyre received a call for help only in the morning, explaining their late arrival.

Sami Yazbek, chief of the Tyre department of the Red Cross, said his office received a call only at 7 A.M. The ambulances were further slowed by the bombed roads leading to Qana.

The media first heard of the bombing at 8 A.M. The foreign press quoted Lebanese sources explaining the late announcement, saying the electricity and phones in the village of Qana were almost entirely cut-off by IAF attacks.

An IAF investigation into the bombing is underway.

The IAF admits the village was struck three times between Saturday night and Sunday morning. Two bombs were dropped on the building in the first strike. Channel 10, however, said on Monday that the initial investigation shows the bombs did not immediately explode, and an explosion in the early morning caused the casualties.

The IDF provided no explanation for the second explosion, and it is not clear whether the bomb was moved, or whether Hezbollah ammunition stored in the building caused the explosion.

Civilians continued to leave their homes en masse in southern Lebanon on Monday, taking advantage of the temporary slow-down in the fighting, imposed by the IAF after the Qana attack.

The United Nations and the Red Cross delivered emergency assistance to villages in the south on Monday. The UN also delivered food and medical equipment to Qana residents.

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A military fiasco can create a national trauma and blind a country's leadership.



### Sail away

Arab entertainers have come under criticism for being among the first to leave Lebanon.

## Talkback

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- |           |  |                            |          |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|----------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Its very simple. Hizbollah uses civilians as human shields.</b> | 13:39   Joel Meyers        | 01/08/06 |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>It's not very simple</b>  | 14:05   S                  | 01/08/06 |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>S No, it's very confusing</b>                                   | 14:52   Margie in Tel Aviv | 01/08/06 |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>The Democratic World</b>  | 15:02   bbbb               | 01/08/06 |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Hizbollah is responsible</b>                                    | 15:08   Armand Meyer       | 01/08/06 |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>No inquiry - this is war</b>                                    | 15:14   Meir               | 01/08/06 |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Hizbollah exploits and recycles dead bodies for photo ops</b>   | 15:17   Nannette           | 01/08/06 |

**22:32** Rafah crossing remains closed despite Israel's pledge to Rice

**20:11** Iran rejects UN resolution calling it to halt uranium enrichment

**21:44** Treasury to ask cabinet for NIS 1.65 billion budget cut

**21:16** Peres: Cease-fire can occur when Hezbollah stops firing rockets

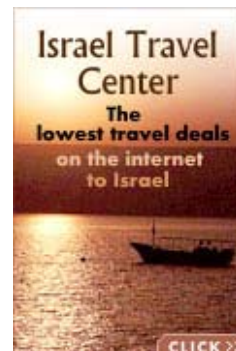
**21:47** Actor Mel Gibson seeks meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders

**21:04** Livni: Qana attack led to turning point in support for Israel

**18:26** Egyptian singer famed for song 'I Hate Israel' releases new protest song

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8.	# 1	15:28   Cengiz	01/08/06
9.	humans anr not just numbers	15:34   an Arab	01/08/06
10.	Don` t they have cellular phones?	15:56   surbitonite	01/08/06
11.	Visual Proof	16:03   Observer	01/08/06
12.	they were told to leave!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	16:45   reserve soldier	01/08/06
13.	NO CIVILIAN DEATHS IF GROUND TROOPS DEPLOYED. LIBERATE LEBANON)))	16:46   -VOICE of MOSHIACH))	01/08/06
14.	4: Speaking of lying...	16:47   David Teich	01/08/06
15.	Visual proof	16:47   ATM	01/08/06
16.	Claiming no Qana massacre, like saying Mossad did 9/11	16:47   Michael	01/08/06
17.	UNWILLNGNESS TO WIN WAR BRNGS MORE CASUALTIES & INT` L PRESSURE)))	16:48   -VOICE of MOSHIACH))	01/08/06
18.	#6 cellular phones	16:50   lina	01/08/06
19.	TO OBSERVER #7	16:51   NASRALLAH	01/08/06
20.	# 9: You remind me of Queen Marie Antoinette !!	16:55   Tony Ch.	01/08/06
21.	Really?	16:56   HL	01/08/06
22.	simply beyond the point	16:59   Israeli	01/08/06
23.	Qana Attack	17:00   Algonquin	01/08/06
24.	Eye Witness Accounts Considered	17:01   Mark of Lewiston	01/08/06
25.	Qana Attack	17:02   Moshe Samuels	01/08/06
26.	OJ Simpson is asked to investigate his own crime	17:03   Beirut	01/08/06
27.	MORAL IDF WND	17:03   ISHMAEL ISHMAEL	01/08/06
28.	Creating Refugees Tactic	17:04   Jackson	01/08/06
29.	qana attack	17:05   Roland	01/08/06
30.	TO NANETTE	17:20   NASRALLAH	01/08/06
31.	#6 --- No problem, we wont care when the same happens to you	17:21   PR	01/08/06
32.	to 12 : as the jews who didn` t leave Europe	17:21   Napoleon	01/08/06
33.	#12. they were told to leave!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	17:28   Bazz	01/08/06
34.	bbbb - The UN condemns the Pal the whole time	17:41   Jabadini	01/08/06
35.	Qana attack - see link - our PR vs PA PR	17:42   Michael	01/08/06
36.	US / NATO/ Russia / France also killed many civilians	17:53   semsem	01/08/06
37.	#3 Air strikes and international law	17:55   Observer #2	01/08/06
38.	12. What would you do if Hezbollah told you to leave!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	17:56   Michael	01/08/06
39.	Let` s keep it simple ...	17:58   Victor	01/08/06
40.	Civilian Casualties	18:00   David	01/08/06
41.	Public opinion -let` s get real	18:00   amsterdam	01/08/06
42.	Where is the apology from Hezbollah?	18:03   Yosef	01/08/06
43.	Qana attack was set up by Hizbullah!	18:07   jo	01/08/06
44.	Livni - wasn` t paying attention	18:09   Mark Lincoln	01/08/06
45.	Cengiz From Germany	18:17   David Israel	01/08/06
46.	Observer #2 - Illegal to shoot from civilian areas	18:24   David Israel	01/08/06
47.	Support is Vital	18:25   Dave	01/08/06
48.	Israel international relations	18:27   Peter	01/08/06
49.	to - 22 : accidents in Vietnam ?	18:27   ZangZang	01/08/06
50.	Tactic of Creating Refugees	18:28   Jackson	01/08/06
51.	Qana	18:30   Cynthia	01/08/06
52.	#25--simplicity for Hezbollah supporters	18:33   Paul Freedman	01/08/06
53.	TO NO.27	18:33   Bob	01/08/06
54.	to Michael	18:34   get it straight	01/08/06
55.	Mark Lincoln	18:38   HL	01/08/06
56.	The Suppreme Leader of Iran allowed to rule Lebanon?	18:40   BP Diplomacy	01/08/06
57.	#21 to Michael	18:42   Nannette	01/08/06
58.	Michael #24	18:43   Cynthia	01/08/06
59.	read the article, stupid	18:43   lb	01/08/06
60.	Excuses for murdering	18:48   Gabriel	01/08/06
61.	Reserve soldier, in which direction?	18:50   sh	01/08/06
62.	# 25	18:53   David	01/08/06
63.	where is hezbollah` s apology?	18:57   Mordechai	01/08/06

<b>64.</b>	<b>#12 Israelies were told to leave Palastine...</b>	18:58   Ah	01/08/06
<b>65.</b>	<b>#24 Michael obfuscating over hizbullah inability to defend</b>	18:58   peter	01/08/06
<b>66.</b>	<b>Nannette on hasbara</b>	19:03   sh	01/08/06
<b>67.</b>	<b>to PR</b>	19:05   marianna	01/08/06
<b>68.</b>	<b>Well that means it was WAR CRIME!</b>	19:07   Antoine	01/08/06
<b>69.</b>	<b>to lb</b>	19:08   marianna	01/08/06
<b>70.</b>	<b>Nanette # 41</b>	19:15   Cynthia	01/08/06
<b>71.</b>	<b>no one cares when the israeli die</b>	19:18   karl martell	01/08/06
<b>72.</b>	<b>One blind leading another blind.</b>	19:19   Ah	01/08/06
<b>73.</b>	<b>#23 Katyoushas on civilians and international law</b>	19:19   democratic citizen..	01/08/06
<b>74.</b>	<b>Don`t they have cellular phones</b>	19:22   nw6	01/08/06
<b>75.</b>	<b>Support of world, turning point in war</b>	19:34   bob	01/08/06
<b>76.</b>	<b>western lies</b>	19:42   francesco	01/08/06
<b>77.</b>	<b>Exorcism</b>	19:46   Not in my name	01/08/06
<b>78.</b>	<b>Peter. You`re defending the indefensible.</b>	19:49   Michael	01/08/06
<b>79.</b>	<b>No Security Council Authorization</b>	19:55   Pablo B	01/08/06
<b>80.</b>	<b>Take a Step Back</b>	19:56   lets try this	01/08/06
<b>81.</b>	<b>Michael #30</b>	19:59   Roland	01/08/06
<b>82.</b>	<b>This government has failed in communicating</b>	20:08   Russell L.	01/08/06
<b>83.</b>	<b>Michael, I am afraid Peter is right</b>	20:08   Peter	01/08/06
<b>84.</b>	<b>Ya reckon?</b>	20:11   HL	01/08/06
<b>85.</b>	<b># 59 Oh Please...</b>	20:18   David	01/08/06
<b>86.</b>	<b>To Pablo B</b>	20:25   HL	01/08/06
<b>87.</b>	<b>Roland, no way is this a war for Israel`s existenc</b>	21:21   Michael	01/08/06
<b>88.</b>	<b>Existential threat?</b>	21:35   Mark Lincoln	01/08/06
<b>89.</b>	<b>You come off it Michael</b>	21:39   HL	01/08/06
<b>90.</b>	<b>Qana</b>	21:56   Darrell S.	01/08/06
<b>91.</b>	<b>Dont underestimate Hizzbolah evilness</b>	21:57   Gabriel	01/08/06
<b>92.</b>	<b>Stuid or Mean</b>	22:11   kom@	01/08/06
<b>93.</b>	<b>their jihad</b>	22:19   joe	01/08/06
<b>94.</b>	<b>Hizbollah</b>	22:23   VA	01/08/06
<b>95.</b>	<b>Curiously enough HL I do care</b>	22:25   Michael	01/08/06
<b>96.</b>	<b>recycling photos, hmm?</b>	22:36   corbett	01/08/06
<b>97.</b>	<b>On hypocracy, bias and NATO</b>	22:46   KUTW	01/08/06
<b>98.</b>	<b>VA</b>	22:51   joe	01/08/06
<b>99.</b>	<b>Many name Hezbollah as Iran`s puppet</b>	22:51   V	01/08/06
<b>100.</b>	<b>#26 You are right</b>	23:19   ree	01/08/06
<b>101.</b>	<b>Many name israel as usa`s puppet</b>	23:41   sameer	01/08/06
<b>102.</b>	<b>to #12</b>	23:44   citizen	01/08/06
<b>103.</b>	<b>Get real...</b>	23:48   Joan	01/08/06
<b>104.</b>	<b>who said Jews where smart?</b>	23:56   Omar	01/08/06
<b>105.</b>	<b>ISREAL DON`T LIE?</b>	23:59   j	01/08/06
<b>106.</b>	<b>Israel Cannot Escape Blame</b>	00:06   WWW	02/08/06
<b>107.</b>	<b>Lying</b>	00:07   Heinz	02/08/06
<b>108.</b>	<b>War in Lebanon</b>	00:10   Errol	02/08/06

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