



News Front Page



Africa

Americas

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Middle East

South Asia

UK

Business

Health

Science/Nature

Technology

Entertainment

Have Your Say

In Pictures

Country Profiles

Special Reports

Programmes

RELATED BBC SITES

SPORT

WEATHER

ON THIS DAY

EDITORS' BLOG

LANGUAGES

Last Updated: Wednesday, 30 August 2006, 18:56 GMT 19:56 UK

UN denounces Israel cluster bombs

The UN's humanitarian chief has accused Israel of "completely immoral" use of cluster bombs in Lebanon.

UN clearance experts had so far found 100,000 unexploded cluster bomblets at 359 separate sites, Jan Egeland said.

Israel has repeated its previous insistence that munitions it uses in conflict comply with international law.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert rebuffed UN chief Kofi Annan's calls for a swift end to Israel's air and sea blockade of Lebanon.

After talks with Mr Annan, Mr Olmert said the siege would only be lifted once the ceasefire terms were fully implemented.

This included the release of two Israeli soldiers whose capture by Hezbollah militants sparked the conflict.

But a Lebanese Hezbollah cabinet minister said there would be no unconditional release of the soldiers - the pair would only be freed as a result of a prisoner exchange with Israel.

UN efforts to rid Lebanon of cluster bombs have been under way since the conflict ended. Earlier estimates from UN experts had suggested a total of about 100 cluster bomb sites.

Mr Egeland described the fresh statistics as "shocking new information".

"What's shocking and completely immoral is: 90% of the cluster bomb strikes occurred in the last 72 hours of the conflict, when we knew there would be a resolution," he said.

The UN ceasefire resolution which ended the month-long conflict between Israel and Hezbollah was agreed by the Security Council on Friday, 11 August, and came into effect on Monday, 14 August.

Mr Egeland added: "Cluster



Cluster bombs are causing injuries and deaths daily, the UN says

“ Every day, people are maimed, wounded and killed by these weapons - it shouldn't have happened ”

Jan Egeland
UN humanitarian chief

SERVICES

**News alerts**

Get the latest breaking news delivered to your desktop or mobile device

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

LATEST NEWS

Lebanon 'desperate for funds'
UN condemns Israeli bombs
Olmert firm on Lebanon blockade
Nasrallah sorry for scale of war

DESPATCHES

**Tough challenge**

Kofi Annan faces difficult times as he tries to ease tensions in the Middle East.

Israel's northern border attracts curious

UN chief's calm presence

ANALYSIS

EU test over Lebanon force
Crisis fact and figures

BACKGROUND

Day-by-day: Lebanon crisis
Quick guide: Hezbollah

VOICES

A year after Gaza withdrawal



Lebanese voices
Lebanon: Laptop link-up

VIDEO AND AUDIO

Reports and analysis

HAVE YOUR SAY

Will the ceasefire work?

PROFILES

Hezbollah

RELATED INTERNET LINKS

UN Mine Action
Israeli government
Lebanese government
UN humanitarian office

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

TOP MIDDLE EAST STORIES

Lebanese PM makes plea for help
Iran defiant on nuclear deadline
West Bank militant leader killed

| News feeds

MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW



bombs have affected large areas - lots of homes, lots of farmland. They will be with us for many months, possibly years.

"Every day, people are maimed, wounded and killed by these weapons. It shouldn't have happened."

Mr Egeland said his information had come from the UN Mine Action Co-ordination Centre, which had undertaken assessments of nearly 85% of the bombed areas in Lebanon.

Earlier this week the US state department launched an inquiry into whether Israel misused US-made cluster bombs in Lebanon during the conflict.

A senior White House official told the BBC that the investigation would focus on whether US-made weapons were used against non-military targets.

Blockade defended

At their talks in Jerusalem, Mr Annan and Mr Olmert discussed the deployment of UN troops in Lebanon as well as the continuing blockade.

The UN chief said he hoped Israel would withdraw from southern Lebanon once 5,000 UN peacekeepers were on the ground "in the coming days and weeks".

The BBC's Jill McGivering, in Jerusalem, said Mr Annan and Mr Olmert emerged from their meeting with little sign of the gap between them having narrowed.

Mr Annan's Jerusalem talks followed a visit to Lebanon as part of a regional tour aimed at bolstering the truce between Israel and Hezbollah.

After his talks in Israel, Mr Annan flew to the West Bank for talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

At a joint press conference in Ramallah, Mr Annan said that more than 200 Palestinians had been killed since the end of June, and the violence had to stop.

Mr Annan has now arrived in Jordan for talks with King Abdullah II, after which he is expected to proceed to Syria.



Factfile: Cluster bombs
Cluster bomb clean-up fears

MOST E-MAILED

MOST READ

[Sex tourists 'exploit loophole'](#)
[Gaze of the Green Lady](#)
[Juices 'may cut Alzheimer's risk'](#)
[Supernova captured in 'real time'](#)
[Outrage at Zimbabwe bugging plan](#)

[Most popular now, in detail](#)



Ehud Olmert rebuffed Kofi Annan's call

[WATCH Olmert and Annan](#)

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

FEATURES, VIEWS, ANALYSIS



Action hero
The life and films of Glenn Ford, who has



Life on the edge
A Sri Lankan aid worker describes the



Photo journal
Inside the Bolivian jail that looks more like a

died aged 90

stress of the displaced

city than a prison

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

[E-mail news](#)

[Mobiles](#)

[Alerts](#)

[News feeds](#)

[Podcasts](#)

Most Popular Now | The most e-mailed story right now is: Juices 'may cut Alzheimer's risk'

[Back to top](#) ^^

[Help](#) | [Privacy and cookies policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#) | [Contact us](#)