

Lebanon's Trouble

This is an initial posting of the troubles in Lebanon's Nahr Al Bared refugee camp.
The formatting of this will be improved in the next few days. (PC 6/19/07)

May		Tripoli, Nahr Al Bared, Beirut	
19	S	Bank Robbery in Aymoun, nr Tripoli (\$125,000 taken) Robbers reported as being from Fatah Al Islam (based in Nahr Al Bared refugee camp, population 40,000) 1969 agreement prevents Lebanon's army entering the camps Fatah Al Islam, founded in Nov 2006 by associate of Zarqawi, is pro-Syrian & Islamist. Responsible for twin bombs last month, numbers in the camp have been increasing this year. Fatah Al Islam is led by Shaker al Abssi, who is also wanted by Syria.	Total deaths
20	S	5 Police raid Tripoli apartment – gun battle ensues, spreads	
		8 Gunmen attack army post at Nahr Al Bared, killing 4	4
		11 Army responds, 3 more soldiers killed, 4 militants	7
		12 Tanks open fire on militants in camp, 4 army fatalities	15
		Militants prevent refugees leaving camp	
		16 Troops storm Tripoli building, 15 militants, 12 soldiers dead	43
		22 Troops assault Fatah Al Islam in camp, 10 civilian deaths	53
21	M	22 Bomb kills woman in Beirut mall in Christian district	
		Lebanese troops continue to shell Fatah positions	
		11 8 civilians killed, 40+ wounded in refugee camp	61
		18 Further deaths as sides exchange fire	70
		21 Ceasefire agreement reached	
		21 Bomb in Beirut injures 7 in Sunni district	
22	T	22 Syria rejects links with Fatah Al Islam	78
		5 Troops continue shelling Fatah positions in camp	
		9 Fatah Al Islam claim responsibility for Beirut bombs	
		10 Claim withdrawn	
		13 Fatah Al Islam offer ceasefire from 2:30pm	
		15 UN brings supplies, shelling forces withdrawal, 2 killed	
		Lone militant in Tripoli building explodes suicide bomb	
		20 Thousands flee from camp during lull, at least 27 dead	
		Sporadic gunfire continues in camp	
23 Arab countries & US offer military aid to Lebanon army			
23	W	Refugees report many dead in camp, as many as 15,000 flee	
		21 Bomb in Druze town nr Beirut, 5 injured	
24	T	6 planeloads of military aid come from Arab nations	
25	F	Additional troops deployed around Nahr Al Bared camp	
		Al Qaeda in Levant group threatens more attacks	
26	S	Fatah Al Islam emerges as part of Al Qaeda network	
		10 3 planeloads arrive for army from US supplies	
		12 Hezbollah head issues statement supporting Fatah Al Islam	
		150 refugees manage to leave Nahr Al Bared camp	
27	S	Army & militants clash through the night at Nahr Al Bared	
		Fatah Al Islam fighters from Saudi, Algeria, Tunisia & Syria	
28	M	Fighting breaks out again at refugee camp	
		Army waits as Palestinian groups talk with Fatah Al Islam	
		17 Lebanese govt. insists on F-A-I fighters surrendering	
29	T	More than half of camp has left - 20,000 - most to Bedawi	
		Sporadic shooting between army & Fatah Al Islam	
		12 Lebanon soldier killed in shooting	79
30	W	18 Fighting erupts, army first artillery shells, mortars returned	
		Reports: Fatah al Islam were Qaeda training ground for Iraq	
		16 20 Fatah Al Islam charged with terrorism	
31	T	Saudi held in Beirut, thought spying for Syria & Fatah al Islam	
		9 3 Lebanon army injured in clashes	
1	F	16 Soldier shot dead, some bodies found on edge of camp	84
		Estimates of fatalities: 35 soldiers, 29 militants, 20 civilians	
		Army assaults camp Nahr al Bared, 19 killed (3 soldiers)	103
2	S	Army seize 3 Fatah Al Islam positions on camp perimeter	
		16 Fatah Al Islam withdraw deeper, using human shields	
		2 soldiers killed overnight by rocket-propelled grenade	105
		Army shelling demolishes Nahr Al Bared's largest buildings	
3	S	Gunboats & helicopters involved in assault from sea	
		1 more soldier killed	106
3	S	Jund Al Sham militants attack army in Ain Hilweh, Sidon	

4	M	Jund Al Sham fight at Ain Hilweh, 2 soldiers, 2 militants dead	114
		20 Bomb in Christian suburb in E Beirut, 7 injured	
5	T	Shelling resumes	
		17 Some Fatah al Islam surrender to Palestinian leaders of Fateh	
6	W	Palestinian security mobilize to secure Ain Hilweh camp	
		Army shelling continues overnight	
		Islamic Action Front enter camp for talks with Fatah al Islam	115
7	T	21 Bomb in Christian suburb of Beirut kills 1	
		20 militants led away from Nahr al Bared by army troops	
8	F	Army continues to bombard Fatah Al Islam positions	
		Family pulled from rubble of destroyed house	
9	S	Heavy shelling by Lebanon army continues	
		21 5 soldiers killed in fighting	
		3 more soldiers die of wounds (now 55 military deaths)	125
10	S	Islamic Action Front organization fails to meet with Abssi	
		Lull in fighting allows about 80 to leave camp	
		21 2 more soldiers die from wounds yesterday	130
11	M	10 Army shelling of camp Nahr Al Bared resumes	
		4 soldiers, 2 Red Cross relief workers killed at Nahr Al Bard	
		17 4 more arrested on Lebanon's Syrian border	
		Heavy fighting in camp between army & militants	
12	T	19 5 soldiers wounded in today's fighting	
		300+ have managed to flee camp since Sunday	
		Reports of army beating those leaving, to extract information	
		2 Militants attack army post, 2 soldiers killed	140
		Army retaliates with 155mm artillery	
13	W	Shahine, a Saudi, has taken control of Fatah Al Islam	
		Fatah Al Islam said to be fleeing to the south of the camp	
		Lebanon complains PFLP fighters gathering on Syrian border	
		18 Bomb kills anti-Syrian MP Walid Eido	
14	T		
15	F	14 Booby-trap kills 6 soldiers in Nahr Al Bared	150
		21 Grenade thrown at Hamas official in Ain Hilweh camp	
16	S		
		Shooting overnight between army & militants	
		Shelling on N & E sides of camp	
17	S	14 (Katyusha Rockets fired from Lebanon across Israeli border)	
		(Hezbollah deny responsibility for rockets)	
		6 Military shells Fatah Al Islam position in camp	
		Samed building, Fatah Al Islam arms store, taken by military	
18	M	Army progresses in capturing posts around camp perimeter	
		Shelling of Fatah Al Islam positions continues	
		3 soldiers killed in fighting	153
19	T		

Lebanon's armed forces, dwarfed by those of neighbouring Israel and Syria, have no fixed-wing aircraft. Its air force consists of 33 helicopters -- 24 ageing U.S.-built UHMs and nine French Gazelle helicopters. Only two of the Gazelles are combat ready. They were supplied this year by the United Arab Emirates, a security source said. It has 260 artillery pieces and 240 battle tanks, including 60 U.S.-made M-48s and 180 Soviet-built T-54s, T-55s and T-56s -- all produced some 50 years ago. It has about 1,000 armoured troop carriers, mainly U.S.-made M-113s. (Reuters)