

From: Terje Rod-Larsen <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fw: AP -- Explosion targets UN convoy in Lebanon, killing 1

Date: Sat, 28 May 2011 00:22:09 +0000

From: Fabrice Aidan [REDACTED]

To: Terje Rod-Larsen

Sent: Fri May 27 19:28:26 2011

Subject: Fw: AP -- Explosion targets UN convoy in Lebanon, killing 1

Sent by Fabrice Aidan, United Nations

From: Douglas T. Coffman

Sent: 05/27/2011 12:19 PM EDT

Subject: AP -- Explosion targets UN convoy in Lebanon, killing 1

05/27/2011 11:46:17

Explosion targets UN convoy in Lebanon, killing 1

ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

Source: AP Online Regional - Middle-East Date: May 27, 2011

BEIRUT -- A roadside bomb ripped through a convoy of [REDACTED] vehicles carrying Italian peacekeepers in the country's south Friday, killing one of the soldiers and wounding several others, officials said.

Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman Maurizio Massari confirmed the peacekeeper's death and said the blast hit a vehicle carrying six Italian soldiers in the southern port city of Sidon.

Lebanese security and military officials, however, said six [REDACTED] peacekeepers and two civilians were wounded. One of the peacekeepers was in serious condition, the officials said.

The [REDACTED] peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, is deployed in southern Lebanon to monitor the border with Israel. Neeraj Singh, a UNIFIL spokesman, said "we have reports of some casualties of UNIFIL peacekeepers."

The army sealed off the area with yellow tape and was keeping journalists away. But a blackened white UNIFIL jeep could be seen, its top and left side destroyed.

The powerful explosion caused a large crater and broke the cement barrier on the highway.

The last such incident was in January 2008, when a roadside bomb struck a [REDACTED] vehicle traveling along the coastal highway south of Beirut, lightly wounding two peacekeepers.

The deadliest attack was in June 2007, a bomb hit an armored personnel carrier near the Israeli border and killed six Spanish peacekeepers.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks targeting UNIFIL.

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, expressing condolences in a statement, praised the UNIFIL mission, saying it makes a "decisive contribution to the stability to one of the most sensitive Middle Eastern areas."

Lebanon's Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati condemned the explosion in a phone call to the [REDACTED]. special coordinator for Lebanon, Michael Williams.

The explosion came the same day that UNIFIL commemorates the International Day of **United Nations** Peacekeepers to honor colleagues who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Associated Press writer Frances D'Emilio contributed to this report from Rome.