

Heavy Clashes at Nahr al-Bared, 1 Soldier Killed

Contributed by Administrator
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Heavy clashes resumed Saturday between the Lebanese army and Fatah al-Islam militants at the Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon. | Video

One Lebanese soldier was shot dead and an Islamist suicide bomber blew himself up and wounded several more, the military and a resident inside a besieged refugee camp said.

"One Lebanese soldier has been killed by a Fatah al-Islam sniper," an army spokesman said on the 35th day of the siege of Nahr al-Bared.

A Palestinian resident of the camp told Agence France Presse: "One Islamist blew himself up near an army position and several soldiers were wounded."

Lebanese artillery continued to bombard the fighters who responded with bursts of automatic fire.

Fires burned inside the camp and plumes of smoke rose over the southern part of Nahr al-Bared's single-storey buildings and narrow streets into which the surviving militants have retreated.

On Friday, Lebanese troops used artillery, tanks and machine guns against the fighters holed up in the camp despite the government saying the offensive had ended.

Defense Minister Elias Murr called a halt to the military onslaught late on Thursday, but said soldiers would pursue the siege until surviving Fatah al-Islam fighters in the camp surrendered.(AFP-Naharnet)

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