



Security Council

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United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) from 21 May to 20 August 2024, pursuant to the mandate set out in Security Council resolution [350 \(1974\)](#) and extended in subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution [2737 \(2024\)](#).

II. Situation in the area of operations and activities of the Force

2. The ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic was generally maintained, notwithstanding several violations of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 1974. The overall security situation in the UNDOF area of operations remained volatile, with continued military activity in the areas of separation and limitation and across the ceasefire line, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2737 \(2024\)](#).

3. In employing its best efforts to maintain the ceasefire and to see that it is scrupulously observed, as prescribed in the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, UNDOF reports all breaches of the ceasefire line that it observes. All incidents of firing across the ceasefire line, and the crossing of the ceasefire line by aircraft, drones, military vehicles and personnel, as well as other individuals, constitute violations of the Agreement. In its regular interactions with both sides, the leadership of UNDOF continued to call upon the parties to exercise restraint and avoid any activities that might lead to an escalation of tensions in the region.

4. On 27 July, UNDOF personnel in the northern part of the area of separation heard multiple loud explosions and observed smoke rising from Majdal Shams on the Alpha side (Israeli-occupied Golan). The UNDOF personnel were unable to determine the origin and exact location of the explosions. Subsequently, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF that 40 rockets were launched from Lebanon towards the Golan. The Israel Defense Forces also informed UNDOF that “at least 10 children have been murdered and 6 critically injured so far ... in the Hezbollah rocket attack on a soccer field in the Druze village of Majdal Shams”. The following day, the Israel Defense Forces posted on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) that 12 children had been killed in Majdal Shams the previous day.



5. On 24 June, United Nations personnel at United Nations observation post 32 heard one explosion and observed smoke in the vicinity of Hamidiyah in the area of separation. Shortly thereafter, the Israel Defense Forces relayed a message to UNDOF in which they stated that they had destroyed a “Syrian military position” and that “the continued presence of Syrian military personnel at this position within the AOS [area of separation] violated the Disengagement Agreement and poses a threat to the security of Israel The IDF holds the Syrian regime, SAAF [Syrian Arab Armed Forces] ... responsible for any violation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement.” An UNDOF patrol that deployed to the site of the explosion found a destroyed two-storey building.
6. On 9 July, UNDOF personnel at United Nations position 22 observed Israel Defense Forces fire a round from a battle tank towards the vicinity of Qunaytirah in the area of separation. On 10 July, United Nations personnel at United Nations observation posts 68 and 51 observed seven explosions in the vicinity of Qunaytirah; they also observed Israel Defense Forces fire rounds from three battle tanks towards Qunaytirah. Subsequently, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF that they had destroyed a “Syrian military position”.
7. On 11 July, UNDOF personnel at United Nations position 80 observed three rockets fired from the Alpha side cross the ceasefire line and impact the area of separation.
8. During the reporting period, UNDOF observed, on numerous occasions, some drones flying from the Alpha side across the ceasefire line and others over the area of separation.
9. On multiple occasions, United Nations personnel in several positions in the UNDOF area of operations went into shelter owing to heavy fire and explosions, including when the Israeli Iron Dome system was activated to intercept rockets fired from Lebanon towards Israel.
10. On 19 July, UNDOF personnel noticed the Israel Defense Forces firing multiple shots towards two individuals from the Bravo side who were herding livestock in the area of separation. On 27 July, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF that a person with livestock in the vicinity of United Nations position 22 threw an item at the Israeli technical fence and fled the area. The Israel Defense Forces stated that the individual returned later that day to that location and placed an explosive there. In addition, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF that they had “responded to the threat” posed by the individual, who was then killed in an explosion that occurred approximately 700 m north of position 22. On 29 July, UNDOF personnel searched the location and found the body of the alleged individual in the area of separation. They observed small fragments of metal and pieces of electrical wire, which they assessed to be remnants of a detonator, in the vicinity of the body. On 4 August, the Syrian authorities informed UNDOF that a Syrian national had been shot on 3 August by an Israel Defense Forces soldier while herding livestock in the vicinity of Hadar in the area of separation and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.
11. On 17 occasions during the reporting period, Israel Defense Forces personnel restricted the movement of UNDOF on the Alpha side. On all of these occasions of restriction of movement, UNDOF patrols left the locations.
12. Sporadic heavy explosions and bursts of heavy machine gun and small arms fire persisted in the areas of separation and limitation on the Bravo side. UNDOF assessed that the military activity was the result of the controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance as part of clearance operations by the Syrian armed forces. UNDOF observed the continued presence of Syrian security forces, some of whom were armed, staffing several checkpoints within the area of separation.

13. The continued presence of Iron Dome systems, artillery systems and multiple rocket launcher systems in the area of limitation on the Alpha side constitutes a violation in each case. Pursuant to the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, the presence of any unauthorized military equipment or personnel in the areas of separation and limitation is a violation of the Agreement.

14. UNDOF protested to the parties with regard to all violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement that it had observed, including the firing into and across the area of separation, as well as across the ceasefire line, the presence of unauthorized equipment and personnel in the areas of separation and limitation, and the crossing of the ceasefire line by Israel Defense Forces personnel and by drones and aircraft, as well as by civilians from the Bravo side. UNDOF liaised closely with the parties to de-escalate the situation, including during periods of heightened tension. In addition, UNDOF protested all restrictions on the movement of UNDOF personnel carrying out their mandated activities.

15. UNDOF continued to observe daily crossings of the ceasefire line by unidentified individuals from the Bravo side. It assessed that the individuals were shepherds and farmers from the surrounding areas tending livestock, as well as hunters carrying weapons. The Israel Defense Forces continued to express deep concern about the crossings, which they stated were a threat to the safety and security of their personnel operating in proximity to the ceasefire line. On several occasions, the Israel Defense Forces fired shots to discourage individuals from approaching the Israeli technical fence. On 28 May, UNDOF, in cooperation with the Israel Defense Forces and the Syrian authorities, facilitated the return of two individuals, who had been detained by the Israel Defense Forces for allegedly crossing the ceasefire line earlier that day. On 19 August, UNDOF, in cooperation with the Israel Defense Forces and the Syrian authorities, also facilitated the return to the Bravo side, through the Qunaytirah crossing, of an individual who had been previously detained by the Israel Defense Forces for allegedly crossing the ceasefire line.

16. UNDOF continued to coordinate with both parties regarding the distribution by the Syrian authorities of identity cards to the shepherds in the local community in the area of separation to enable them to move within the vicinity of the ceasefire line and to prevent the recurrence of incidents involving the firing of warning shots.

17. The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed several letters to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General. In a letter dated 19 June 2024 ([A/78/943-S/2024/481](#)), the Permanent Representative said: "On Wednesday, 19 June 2024... Israeli enemy aircraft launched an aerial drone attack targeting two military sites of the Syrian Arab Army, in the Qunaytirah Governorate countryside and the Dar'a Governorate countryside, leading to the death of an officer and causing material losses". In a letter dated 27 June 2024 ([A/78/953-S/2024/516](#)), he said: "In continuation of the Israeli occupation entity's hostile policies towards the sovereignty and territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and its repeated violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, enemy aircraft launched an air strike from the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan, firing missiles at a number of points in the southern region, killing two people and injuring a soldier, as well as causing material losses". In addition, the Permanent Representative, in a letter dated 16 July 2024 ([A/78/966-S/2024/558](#)), stated: "On Sunday, 14 July 2024, at dawn, Israeli occupation forces launched an air strike from the occupied Syrian Golan against a number of military sites in the southern region and a residential building in the Kafr Susah neighbourhood of Damascus, killing one soldier, injuring three others, and causing material damage to residential buildings and infrastructure."

18. In identical letters dated 21 May (S/2024/396) and 10 June (S/2024/453) addressed to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations relayed information regarding Syrian violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement and breaches of Israeli sovereignty in the months of October to December 2023 and January to March 2024, respectively. In those letters, the Permanent Representative said: “Syrian violations of the Alpha line and armed presence in the area of separation occur daily.”

19. UNDOF assessed that the security situation in the northern and central parts of its area of operations on the Bravo side had generally remained calm but continued to be volatile in the southern part, with security incidents reportedly occurring in locations within the area of limitation, including along UNDOF patrol routes in Dar‘a Governorate. Open sources reported security incidents in Jasim, Nawa, Tafas and Inkhil in the southern part of the area of limitation, involving armed and improvised explosive device attacks targeting checkpoints and convoys of the Syrian security forces, as well as other government authorities and former members of armed opposition groups.

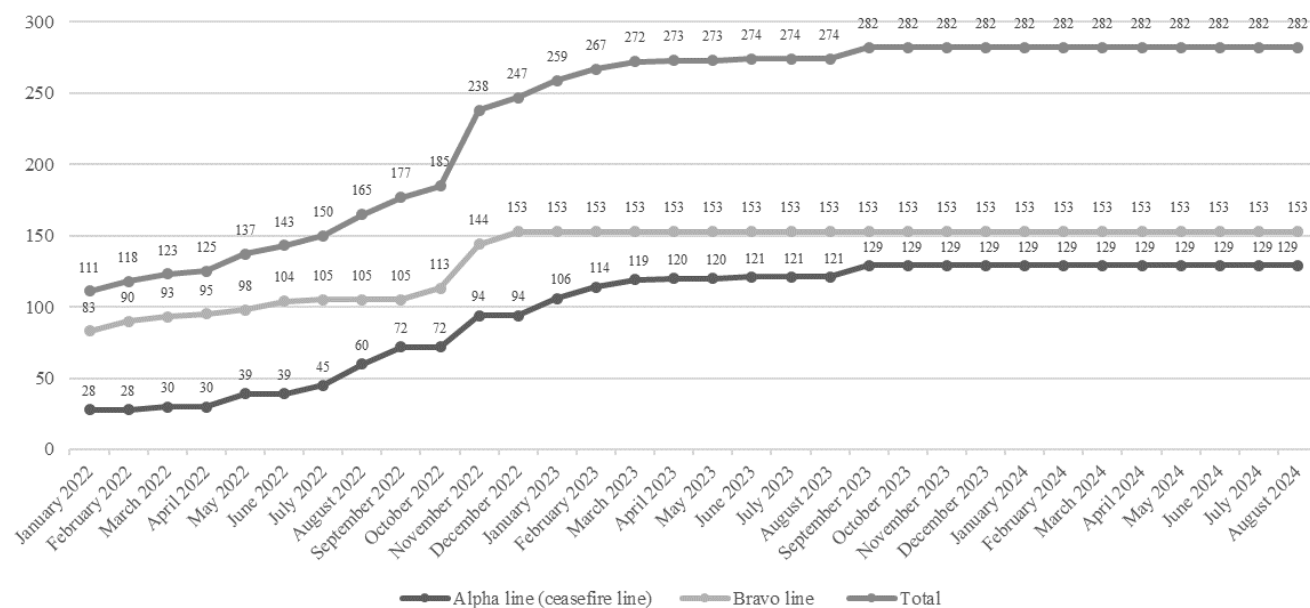
20. Since early March 2020, the Israel Defense Forces have restricted the movement of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan personnel through the Alpha gate at the Qunaytirah crossing, requiring advance notice of movement, which has continued to adversely affect the operational and administrative activities of the mission. Since the attack by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023 and subsequent developments in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Israel Defense Forces have further limited these movements at the Qunaytirah crossing. However, during the reporting period, the Israel Defense Forces eased restrictions at the Qunaytirah crossing, increasing to three the number of weekly crossings facilitated. UNDOF continued to liaise with the Israel Defense Forces on their full facilitation of the crossing of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan personnel at the Qunaytirah crossing and on the need for United Nations personnel to cross using only documents issued by UNDOF at the crossing and to return to the established crossing procedures. The Syrian authorities returned to the established procedures to facilitate the movement of UNDOF personnel and supplies through the Bravo gate at the Qunaytirah crossing.

21. UNDOF continued to engage with the Israel Defense Forces with a view to addressing restrictions on the movement and access of United Nations personnel from the Alpha side, through the Israeli technical fence, to United Nations observation posts in the area of separation.

22. UNDOF, with the facilitation of the Israel Defense Forces and the Syrian authorities, continued to carry out, through Observer Group Golan, fortnightly inspections of the military positions of the Israel Defence Forces and the Syrian security forces in select parts of the respective areas of limitation. UNDOF continued to engage with both parties to facilitate the expansion of the inspections in their respective positions in the various parts of the areas of limitation.

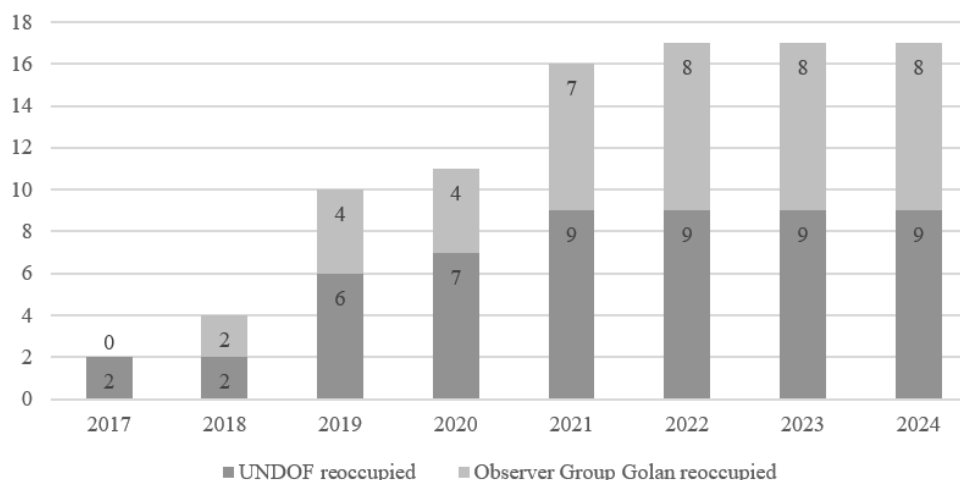
23. As part of the return to full mandate implementation on the Bravo side, UNDOF continued restoring, repainting and refurbishing the barrels marking the ceasefire line and the Bravo line, which delineate the area of separation, with 129 barrels restored to date along the ceasefire line and 153 barrels along the Bravo line (see figure I). UNDOF continued to consult with the parties on the barrel refurbishment and, in some instances, replacement activity.

Figure I
Number of barrels restored, repainted and refurbished along the ceasefire line and the Bravo line



24. The construction of the new United Nations position 17A, in the northern part of the area of separation, was completed in May and UNDOF fully occupied the position in June. The restrictions on access through the technical fence gate imposed by the Israel Defense Forces hampered the progress on the reconstruction of United Nations observation post 52, in particular following the events of 7 October 2023. The reoccupation of this observation post will complete the return of Observer Group Golan to all observation posts that the military observers temporarily vacated in 2014 owing to the deterioration in the security situation (see figure II).

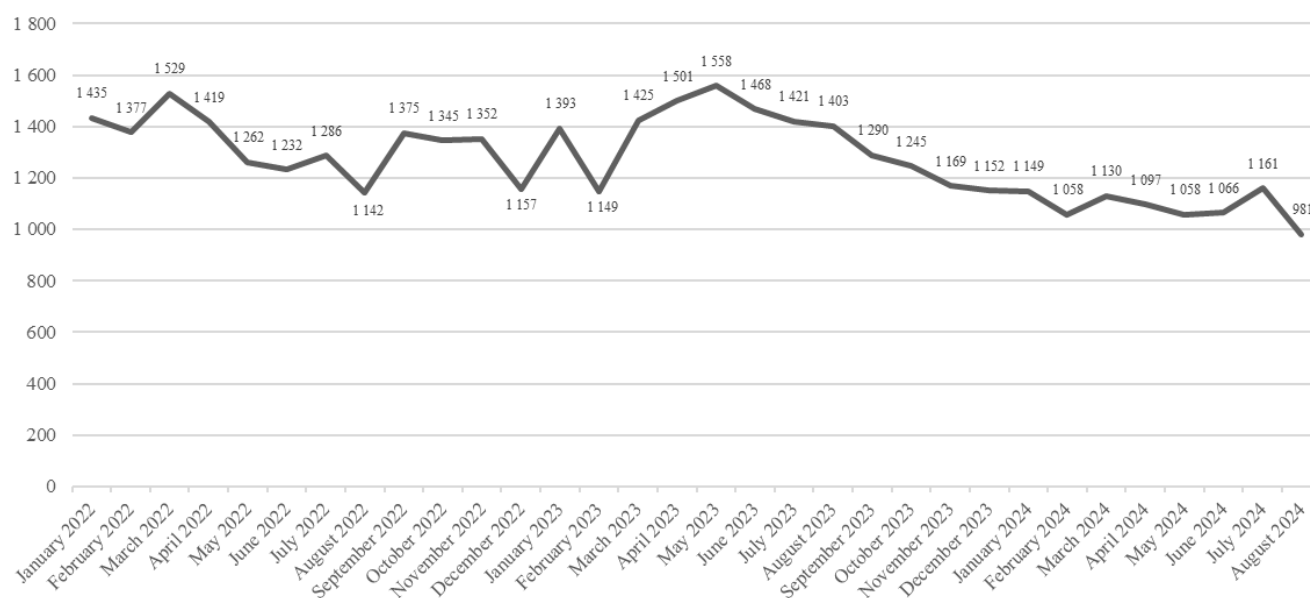
Figure II
Number of reoccupied Force positions and Observer Group Golan positions on the Bravo side since 2017



25. UNDOF operations continued to be supported by the military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Observer Group Golan, who are under the operational control of the UNDOF Force Commander and maintain 10 fixed observation posts within the UNDOF area of operations. The focus of Observer Group Golan remained on continuous static observation and situational awareness. In addition, the military observers are tasked with carrying out investigations of incidents within the UNDOF area of operations.

26. UNDOF monthly operational patrols continued in the areas of separation and limitation, with 1,058 operational activities carried out in May, 1,066 in June, 1,161 in July and 981 by 20 August (see figure III). UNDOF patrol routes cover the full breadth of the area of separation and 70 per cent of the area of limitation. The volatile security situation in the southern part of the area of operations continued to hinder progress in opening new patrol routes in the area of limitation on the Bravo side.

Figure III
Number of Force patrols carried out per month



27. While the movement of UNDOF personnel continued to be restricted by Lebanese administrative requirements, since 21 May the Lebanese authorities have further streamlined some of the procedures to facilitate the movement of UNDOF vehicles between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. The route between Beirut and Damascus, through the Judaydah and Masna' border crossing, which is a primary resupply route for UNDOF, remained open for the movement of commercial goods and personnel. It is also the main route for UNDOF troops rotating through Beirut.

28. UNDOF continued to assess that there remained a significant threat to United Nations personnel in its area of operations from explosive remnants of war, including unexploded ordnance and mines, as well as a possible threat as a result of localized violence, including the possible presence of sleeper cells of armed groups.

29. UNDOF continually conducts assessments of and updates contingency plans for the reinforcement, extraction and evacuation of positions and observation posts on both the Alpha and Bravo sides, in addition to regular rehearsals, exercises and training for various contingencies. Risk mitigation measures, including force protection measures, continue to be developed at positions, observation posts and the operational base at Camp Ziouani and headquarters at Camp Faouar.

30. UNDOF recorded two allegations of misconduct during the reporting period. Both matters remain under investigation. The mission continued to implement activities, including regular personnel training related to prevention, enforcement and remedial actions regarding misconduct.

31. As at 20 August, UNDOF comprised 1,180 troops, including 98 women peacekeepers. Troops are deployed from Argentina (1), Australia (2), Bhutan (4), Czechia (4), Fiji (152), Ghana (5), India (202), Ireland (4), Kazakhstan (140), Nepal (451), the Republic of Korea (1), Uruguay (211) and Zambia (3). In addition, 77 military observers from Observer Group Golan, including 14 women, assisted UNDOF in carrying out its tasks.

III. Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

32. In its resolution 2737 (2024), the Security Council called upon the parties concerned to immediately implement its resolution 338 (1973). It decided to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, until 31 December 2024, and requested the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973). The search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, in particular the efforts made at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973), was addressed in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East (A/78/315), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/26 entitled “The Syrian Golan”.

33. Since the discontinuation of indirect peace talks in December 2008, there have been no negotiations between the parties. I look forward to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and the resumption of efforts towards a comprehensive, just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973) and other relevant resolutions.

IV. Observations

34. At a time of volatility in the region, I remain concerned about the continued violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, including breaches of the ceasefire on 24 June and on 9, 10 and 11 July. Any firing across the ceasefire line is in violation of the Agreement and must cease immediately. The Israel Defense Forces must refrain from firing into the area of separation and across the ceasefire line, as well as from crossing the ceasefire line. I also remain concerned by the continued presence of Syrian armed forces in the area of separation. There should be no military forces or activities in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF. The continued presence of unauthorized weapons and equipment in the areas of limitation on both the Alpha and the Bravo sides, as well as the flying of aircraft and drones across the ceasefire line and over the area of separation, are in violation of the Agreement. I urge the parties to the Agreement to exercise utmost restraint and comply with the Agreement. I continue to encourage members of the Security Council to support efforts to raise the awareness of both parties of the risk of escalation and the need to preserve the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

35. It remains critical that the parties maintain their liaison with UNDOF. All violations of the ceasefire line increase tensions between the signatories to the Disengagement of Forces Agreement of 1974 and undermine stability in the area. The continued liaison by UNDOF with the parties has contributed to de-escalation during times of heightened tensions in the region.

36. The continued commitment of both Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and support for the presence of UNDOF remain essential. I count on the continued cooperation of both parties to ensure that the Force can implement its mandate fully, including the extension of inspections on both sides. I remain concerned by the restrictions on the movement of UNDOF in its area of operations, including at the Alpha gate at the Qunaytirah crossing. At the same time, the parties must continue to support the enhancement of the liaison function of UNDOF.

37. Given the worrying trend of continued violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and the volatile security situation in the southern part of the area of limitation on the Bravo side amid the regional escalation, the safety and security of military and civilian personnel in UNDOF and Observer Group Golan are of particular concern. The parties must refrain from any activity that may risk the safety of the peacekeepers. It is therefore of particular importance that the Security Council continue to bring to bear its influence on the concerned parties to ensure that UNDOF is accorded the ability to operate safely and securely, and is allowed to operate freely in accordance with the Agreement. It remains important that the parties also continue to facilitate the deployment of all personnel to UNDOF for effective mandate implementation.

38. The continued support of Member States, and in particular the confidence of troop-contributing countries in UNDOF and their commitment to it, remain key factors in the Force's ability to carry out its mandate. I am grateful to the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Czechia, Fiji, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Uruguay and Zambia for their contributions and the commitment, resolve and consummate professionalism of their military personnel in UNDOF. I am also thankful to the Member States that have contributed military observers to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

39. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Lieutenant General Nirmal Kumar Thapa, the military and civilian personnel serving under his leadership in UNDOF, and the military observers in Observer Group Golan, who continue to perform the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council with efficiency and commitment, under extremely challenging circumstances.

Map

