



ONG en statut consultatif (catégorie 1) auprès du Conseil Économique et Social des Nations Unies.  
Résolution de la Commission d'Attribution du Conseil Économique et Social de l'Organisation des Nations Unies du 03 Juillet 1995.



# PEACEKEEPERS NEWS UPDATE



*Week 8*

## **UNIFIL (LEBANON) – ESCALATING TENSIONS & SECURITY RISKS KEY UPDATES:**

- **Daily IDF Violations & Hostilities:** The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continues to report daily Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) activities—both land incursions and airstrikes—inside Lebanese territory, violating the Blue Line (the UN-demarcated boundary between Lebanon and Israel). Firing across the Blue Line has been observed frequently, raising concerns about a potential escalation.
- **Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Threats:** Peacekeepers have discovered multiple unexploded munitions, including:
  - Rockets, bombs, and rocket launchers at several locations.
  - Anti-tank mines in the ruins of a house in Sector East (eastern Lebanon). These pose grave risks to civilians and peacekeepers, requiring urgent demining efforts.
- **Intimidation of Peacekeepers:** A serious incident occurred on 18 February 2026, when an IDF soldier aimed a weapon at a UNIFIL peacekeeper near Naqoura (a UN position ~10 meters from the IDF perimeter fence) and ordered him to move. This follows a pattern of obstruction and aggressive behavior toward UN personnel.
- **UNIFIL's Role Under Resolution 1701:** The UN peacekeeping chief recently reaffirmed UNIFIL's mandate to maintain stability and ensure the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1701 (which calls for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah).

## **MISSION-SPECIFIC UPDATES (FEB 16 – FEB 22, 2026)**

### **UNIFIL (Lebanon)**

Security Incident (Feb 16): Peacekeepers on patrol near Adeisse discovered an explosive device connected to a detonating cord after being warned by locals. A security cordon was established to handle the threat.

Ongoing Tension: The mission remains on high alert following the incident earlier in the month (Feb 2) where the IDF dropped an unknown “non-toxic chemical substance” near the Blue Line, forcing peacekeepers into cover. Tensions remain critical with reports of aggressive behavior and drone overflights violating Resolution 1701.

### **UNMISS (South Sudan) – Deteriorating Security & Humanitarian Crisis**

Renewed Fighting in Unity State: The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported grave concerns over intensified clashes between:

- South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) (government-aligned)
- Sudan People's Liberation Army-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) (rebel group)
- Shelling reported in Pakur and Tong (Unity State) on 19–20 February 2026.

Heightened Protective Measures: UNMISS has increased patrols around Bentiu's internally displaced persons (IDP) camp (Unity State) to prevent civilian harm. The camp hosts tens of thousands of displaced South Sudanese.

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## Humanitarian Access Challenges:

- Tumbura (Western Equatoria): A UN helicopter made its first visit since January 2026 to assess conditions in displacement camps, where thousands live in makeshift shelters.
- Torit (Eastern Equatoria): A 60-person patrol (uniformed + civilian peacekeepers) traveled 280 km from Juba to reinforce security amid rising tensions.
- Malakal: Rwandan peacekeepers conducted self-defense training for women and girls in IDP camps to counter gender-based violence.

Funding Crisis for WFP: The World Food Programme (WFP) warned that emergency food aid in Somalia and South Sudan will halt by April 2026 without \$95 million in immediate funding.

## **UNMISS (South Sudan)**

- Rising Violence in Jonglei: The mission is struggling to contain escalating violence in Jonglei State, where clashes and airstrikes have displaced over 100,000 people since late January.
- Human Rights Appeal (Feb 19): A coalition of NGOs issued an urgent appeal to the UN Human Rights Council to extend the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, citing "grave alarm" at inflammatory rhetoric by senior military figures and the risk of mass atrocities.
- Mandate Status: While the Security Council recently extended the UNMISS mandate until April 30, 2026, the mission is operating under severe strain due to the new liquidity crisis and liquidity-driven cost-reduction measures.

## **OTHER KEY PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS (WEEK 8 2026)**

**UNISFA (Abyei – Sudan/South Sudan Border):** Mandate Extended: The UN Security Council (under Chapter VII) extended UNISFA's mandate (UN Interim Security Force for Abyei) and its Joint Border Verification Mechanism until 15 November 2026.

**MINUSCA (Central African Republic):** Mandate Extended: The Security Council extended MINUSCA's mandate until 15 November 2026, focusing on protection of civilians, human rights, and support for elections.

**UNFICYP (Cyprus):** Leaders' Meeting: The Greek Cypriot leader (Nikos Christodoulides) and Turkish Cypriot leader (Tufan Erhürman) met for the first time as leaders in the UN-protected area, facilitated by UNFICYP.

**DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) – Humanitarian Crisis:** \$1.4 Billion Needed: The 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan for the DRC requires \$1.4 billion to assist 7.3 million vulnerable people, but is only 10% funded as of February 2026.

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## MONUSCO (DRC)

**South African Withdrawal:** Logistics are being finalized for the withdrawal of South African troops, a process confirmed earlier in February. This ends a 27-year presence. The withdrawal is part of a broader “consolidation” of South African military resources but leaves a security gap in the volatile east that MONUSCO is scrambling to fill with remaining forces.

**Transition Focus:** The mission is currently in a “transition phase” focusing on handing over security responsibilities to Congolese forces while managing the closure of bases mandated by the budget cuts.

## ATMIS (SOMALIA)

**Withdrawal Paused:** In a significant change to the timeline, ATMIS has paused its planned troop drawdown of 2,000 soldiers.

**Reason:** The pause is intended to prevent a security vacuum during the critical transition to the new successor mission, AUSSOM (African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia), which is set to fully replace ATMIS by the end of the year.

## UNAMA (AFGHANISTAN - POLITICAL MISSION)

**Airstrikes (Feb 21-22):** The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan reported civilian casualties following Pakistani military airstrikes in Khost and Kunar provinces late on Feb 21 and early Feb 22. Preliminary reports indicate at least 13 civilians killed, increasing regional diplomatic tensions.

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Key developments</i>	<i>Risk level</i>
UNIFIL	Lebanon/Israel	Daily IDF violations, UXO threats, peacekeepers intimidations	High (escalation risk)
UNMISS	South Sudan	Renewed fighting in Unity State, IDP protection, WFP funding crisis.	Critical (humanitarian emergency)
UNISFA	Abyei (Sudan/S.Sudan)	Mandate extended until Nov 2026	Stable (Monitoring role)
MINUSCA	Central African Republic	Mandate extended, focus on elections	Moderate (instability persists)
UNFICYP	Cyprus	Leader's meeting under UN facilitation	Stable (diplomatic progress)

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR WEEK 8, 2026

- **UNIFIL faces escalating tensions** with the IDF, including direct weapon pointing at peacekeepers – a serious breach of international norms
- **South Sudan is sliding back** toward armed conflict, alarming the UN mission on the ground
- **Diplomatic progress in Cyprus** offers a rare positive signal in peacekeeping operations
- Multiple **mandate renewals** signal continued international commitment to stability in Africa

## UPDATES

Indonesia's Gaza Preparations: On February 15, 2026, Indonesia announced readiness of 8,000 troops for a potential non-combat peacekeeping role in Gaza by June under Trump's Board of Peace initiative, with 1,000 as an advance team by April; this follows a February 12 meeting and focuses on humanitarian aid, civilian protection, and reconstruction.

Kazakhstan's Golan Heights Mission: On February 23, 2026, Defense Minister Dauren Kosanov reviewed the third contingent's readiness for the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), confirming 139 Kazakh peacekeepers are already deployed there; the unit is fully trained per international standards.

UNIFIL in Lebanon: Recent activities include intensified night patrols along the Blue Line with Lebanese Armed Forces and support for removing unexploded ordnances last week, amid the mission's planned conclusion by end-2026.

Other Notes: UNMIK reported SRSG Peter Due's visit to Belgrade on February 12 emphasizing dialogue. 6  
A February 5 UN briefing condemned a Nigeria attack and noted. ADF decline in DRC due to operations since August 2025. 4

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