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ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DEPLORES CONTINUED
ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS

Amnesty International strongly condemns today's death of 74 civilians, and again calls on the Israeli Government to immediately cease attacks on civilians.

This morning, nine civilians, including a mother and seven of her children, died when Israeli warplanes demolished their two-storey home in South Lebanon. Later on this afternoon, the Fijian battalion of the UN peace-keeping force in South Lebanon, where about 500 Lebanese civilians have taken refuge, came under Israeli shelling and at least 65 civilians were killed and about 130 injured.

"We are appalled at the continuation of attacks on civilians by the Israeli army in South Lebanon," Amnesty International said today.

A large part of South Lebanon has been declared by Israel to be "a free-fire zone". Civilians are dying in direct or indiscriminate attacks. More than 400,000 have been forced out of their homes. Such attacks are unacceptable and in clear breach of international humanitarian law.

So far the Israeli attacks have resulted in the killings of more than 115 civilians and wounded about 180.

Amnesty International deplores targeted or indiscriminate attacks on civilians from any party, and urges that any settlement should include clear guarantees for the protection of civilians.

Amnesty International is sending delegations to Israel and Lebanon in pursuit of its concerns regarding the safety of civilians under the present escalation of the conflict in South Lebanon.

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