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The Speech of His Excellency, the President of the Republic

Keep your vow

I admit, with ultimate honesty, joy and pride, that this military institution has always been and remain my point of weakness as much as it is my point of strength. It is my point of weakness because it makes me emotionally biased to it and it is my point of strength because it has never failed me, even in the most difficult and critical of phases. Furthermore, in any circumstance and at any time, it forms the point of strength of Lebanon as a nation, people and land, particularly in this difficult stage of our history.

Soldiers,

You are the guardians of the nation's sovereignty, freedom and independence. You protect this valuable treasure with your blood, heroism, sacrifices and fusion with your people for you are this people's safety guarantee and source of tranquility. You have proven in your latest victories in the outskirts that not only with weapon and with equipment do armies prevail. Ney, they also prevail thanks to determination, belief, discipline and intrepidity. These are values that do not lack in an army which holds "Honor, Sacrifice, Loyalty" as a slogan. With this slogan, our army has, and always will triumph.

Therefore, remain as I have always known you and in return, I vow to you that I shall remain just as you have known me as well.

May you remain victorious through every Independence Day.





Speech of the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun

There is no patriotic occasion more noble than the occasion of Independence in the lives of nations, for independence is an expression of national identity of the people and its collective will to be liberated from any occupation or foreign mandate. It is an incarnation of the joint history between the citizens as well as the humanitarian, cultural and civilizational characteristics gathering them, which fuse them into one coherent entity: the nation.

In order to achieve independence, the Lebanese fought for a long time against the occupation and mandate as they offered major sacrifices and fought along with their men against the dark prisons up until they achieved independence in the 22nd of November 1943.

In order to preserve this independence, the journey of honor, sacrifice and loyalty officially took off with the army in the 1st of August 1945, where the Army has vowed to protect the nation's people and sacred land and always committed to its vow, offering numerous martyrs at Lebanon's altar during harsh wars and battles against the Israeli enemy, greedy for Lebanon's land, water and riches, then in facing terrorism during several critical phases. The last of those phases was the "Dawn of the Outskirts" operation at the eastern borders, which was accomplished with ultimate victory over terrorism, leading to finally chasing it away from the Lebanese territories.

In the Independence Day, we renew our vow to be loyal to the martyrs of the army and the nation and we promise the Lebanese that we shall protect the nation's independence, so that it remains the way they want it to be, the nation of freedom, coexistence, humanitarian and civilizational interaction and a haven for independence, security and prosperity.



The Order of the Day

Esteemed soldiers

Independence Day comes upon us this year at a time where the positive feedback of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation still echoes locally and internationally after you have vanquished terrorism.

Esteemed soldiers

The exceptional political situation, which Lebanon is going through, requires you to adopt the highest levels of alertness and vigilance as well as commit to taking measures that shall preserve security and stability. This stability forms a strong base in reaching a breakthrough in bringing forth the intended political solutions and a bridge that allows us to cross once again from the shore of concern and skepticism to the shore of safety and salvation.

Esteemed soldiers

I call upon you to deal firmly with outlaws and perpetrators committing organized crimes and assaulting the citizens. I call upon you to be unyielding and resilient in countering any attempt to take advantage of the recent circumstances with the aim of stirring tumult, separation and chaos and jeopardizing our unity, national safety and the interests of the Lebanese.

In parallel, I call upon you to continue launching preemptive operations targeting terrorist cells until you are able to arrest every perpetrator who committed crimes against the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese people and to turn them in to the relevant judiciary authorities so that they may receive the appropriate retribution. I urge you to be fully prepared at the southern border in order to confront the Israeli enemy’s threats and violations as well as its hostile schemes against Lebanon, its people and army. You are called to remain vigilant to ensure the implementation of Resolution 1701 in close coordination and cooperation with the UNIFIL in order to preserve stability.

Yarzeh on 21/11/2017
The Armed Forces Commander
General Joseph Aoun

Schedule of the Ceremony

Timing	Details
7:45	The units participating in the parade complete their positioning
8:20	Arrival of all official guests
8:30	Arrival of the Lebanese Army Flag
8:35	Arrival of Major General P.S.C, Chief of Staff
8:40	Arrival of the Armed Forces Commander
8:45	Arrival of His Excellency the Minister of National Defense
8:50	Arrival of His Excellency the Prime Minister
8:55	Arrival of His Excellency the Speaker
9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrival of His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic (firing 21 blank artillery shells)• Placing a wreath of flowers before the memorial• Parade of the forces• An air formation displaying the Lebanese flag and the Army flag• Displaying a short (8 minutes) movie produced by the Directorate of Orientation• An air formation in the shape of the Lebanese cedar• Preparation for the salute• The Military Salute• Offering congratulations



The Dawn of the Outskirts

The “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation would not have had this wide local and international attention if it weren’t for the conclusive results achieved by the army during its war against terrorism. The army has set goals for this operation, mainly liberating the land and revealing the fate of the soldiers who were kidnapped by terrorist organizations after attacking army posts in Eرسال on the 2nd of August 2014 and completely accomplished these goals with record speed and with minimum possible losses. In the last scene, the nation before the operation is not the same after it, as its land is now free from any organized terrorist body and all its borders are under the army’s protection. Therefore, Lebanon was the first among the other countries of the region in finally chasing away terrorism from its land.





The tours of the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun over the Eastern border

The decision of the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun was clear since he took over the command on 08/03/2017 and consisted of the concept that there is no place for terrorism in Lebanon and there is no choice for the army except achieving the required victory, regardless of difficulties and sacrifices.





Raiding the camps

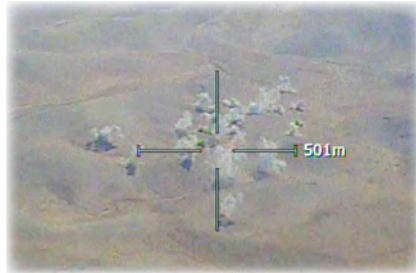
The Intelligence Directorate, Elite units and operational army units began intensifying their preemptive operations inside the deployment zone of terrorist organizations at the eastern borders. The most important raid targeted el Nour and Qariya camps in Ersal on 30/06/2017 in a sudden and accurate manner, thus leading 5 terrorists to blow themselves up while army forces arrested 356 individuals including dozens of individuals belonging to the terrorist Nusra and ISIS organizations. Moreover, the army confiscated amounts of arms, ammunition and military equipment.





The preparation for the beginning of the battle

In preparation for the launch of the “Dawn of Outskirts” operation, the army artillery and planes intensified their shelling of terrorist posts and movements while ground units performed specific attacks where they were able to liberate 20 Kms² including several hills and heights overlooking these posts. These efforts led to tightening the noose on the terrorists, thus forming the base to set the starting point of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation.





The declaration of the beginning of the battle

On the dawn of the 19th of August, the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun announced the launch of the operation and addressed the soldiers and the Lebanese citizens by saying: **“In the name of Lebanon, the kidnapped soldiers and the blood of the noble martyrs and on behalf of the great Lebanese Army heroes, I announce the beginning of the Dawn of the Outskirts operation”**.

As a result, His Excellency, the President of the Republic General Michel Aoun visited the operations room in the Army Headquarters and addressed the commanders of the combat units and the soldiers fighting at the front and said: **“Our minds and hearts are with you today, the Lebanese people looks up to you and is awaiting your victory. I salute every soldier fighting among you and I am confident that you shall not disappoint the Lebanese. Everything is going perfectly so far and with God’s will, our battle shall go on with no losses regardless of the circumstances. Good job. Our hearts and minds are constantly with you. May God protect you.”**





The First Stage

Army units advanced against the terrorist organization ISIS deployed in the outskirts of Ras Baalbek, el-Qaa and el-Fekha under heavy fire support from airplanes and artillery that used laser-guided missiles, on the following axes: Tallit el-Hamra-Hokab Khazaaal-Harf el-Jarsh and managed to take control of the following regions: Mrah el-Mkhayrmeh-Chaab el-Mkhayrmeh-Mourtafah 1564-Dahrat Hkan el-Esh-Sahlat Kald el-Thaalab-Wadi Khirbit 1 Shammis-Wadi el-Kheshen-Dhour el-Mbayyid-Dhour Wadi el-Tinee-Jabal el-Mkhayrmeh-Chaabat el Darb-Kal3it el Jillede and Kornit el Jilledee. The space liberated by the LAF amounted to around 30 square kms, which equals to almost 25% from the deployment zone of the mentioned organization. Army units also controlled with fire the movement pathways and logistic provision line of terrorist groups in the entire combat zone. The army operations resulted in the death of several terrorists and the destruction of 11 posts belonging to them, containing caves, tunnels, communication paths, fortifications and different weapons.





The Second Stage

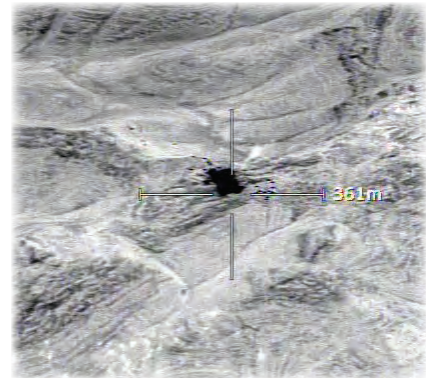
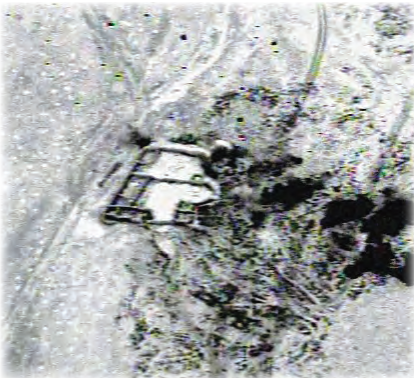
In the second day of the operation, Army units continued their large scale attack at the axes of Sahlat Kherbet Daoud and Dhour Wadi el Tine where LAF Forces managed to take over: the heights of Dalil Omm el Jamaa (1605), Dhour Wadi el Tineh (1551), Qrani Meqyal Farah (1575), Wadi el Kheshen – Qornet Houqab el Hamam and Qarani el Ouqab (1563), which resulted in the LAF Forces taking over wide divisions of the regions parallel to the Lebanese – Syrian borders with the force of fire. Therefore, the army liberated during that day around 30 Km² , making the total liberated area since the beginning of the Dawn of the Outskirts operation and the operations of tightening the noose around 80 Km² out of 120 Km². The operations resulted in the death of several terrorists and the destruction of 12 posts containing different weapons. Furthermore, the LAF managed to detonate a rigged car and a rigged motorcycle transporting suicide bombers while attempting to target army units.





The Third Stage

On 22/08/2017, the army forces executed the third stage through two main axes, where they were able to accomplish the objective of tightening its grip over the northern spot of the combat front stretching to the Lebanese – Syrian border. The recaptured area included the following regions: Tallit Khalaf (1546), Ras el-Kaf (1643), Ras Dalil el-Damana (1464), Qrani Shaabat el-Oueishel (1500), el-Madqar (1612), Mrah Darb el-Arab (1400), Qrani Khirbit Hawrta (1621), Mrah el-Douwar (1455), el-Dikkeneh (1494). Accordingly, the area liberated at that day was estimated to be around 20 km² and thus the liberated areas since the beginning of the operation and the operations of tightening the noose were around 100 km² out of 120 km². During these operations, 9 terrorist posts which included different equipment and weapons were destroyed and several terrorists were taken down.





The Head of the Deputies Chamber Nabih Berri congratulates the Lebanese for the heroic achievements of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation



Speaker Nabih Berri commended the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation. His speech included: **“The Lebanese Armed Forces are doing a heroic and patriotic job and accomplishing major achievements, particularly in fighting and defeating terrorists that are involved in a life-or-death battle”.**

Mr. Berri congratulated the Lebanese for the heroic and critical accomplishments in the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation in liberating the Eastern border facing Qaa and Ras Baalbek.

His Excellency, the Prime Minister Cheikh Saad el Hariri toured the combat front along with the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun



As a confirmation of providing full support to the army, His Excellency, the Prime Minister Cheikh Saad el Hariri toured the combat front along with the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun. During the tour, he visited the combat units and commended the efforts and sacrifices of the officers and soldiers and announced that the state and the Lebanese people will stand by their sides in this heroic battle. What he said included: **“this battle is patriotic at the highest level. We have lost martyrs who fell, and baptized the land with their blood in order to protect the country so that the Lebanese citizens may live in liberty, stability and security. This army is our pride and we aim to make it stronger and invest in it...”**





The tour of the Minister of National Defense

As a result of the third phase, the terrorists were trapped in Wadi Martbaya and its surroundings, which is in almost 20 Kms² while army units continued in the following days shelling the locations of terrorists with different weapons and targeting any activity or movement they might make, thus putting them in a state of utter distress which led them to clearly announce their will to fully retreat outside the borders and to reveal the fate of the missing soldiers. Indeed, this is what happened, for the bodies of the martyr soldiers were retrieved in Wadi el Deb in the barren lands of Ersal while the remaining terrorists retreated along with their families outside the Lebanese territories.





Declaring Victory

On the 28th of August, the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun visited the President of the Republic General Michel Aoun in Baabda where they announced victory over terrorism after having accomplished all the targets of the operation.

The speech of the President of the Republic includes:

“I declare today the victory of Lebanon over terrorism and I dedicate this victory to all the Lebanese who have the right to be proud of the Armed Forces and Security Forces.

I congratulate the Army Command for this accomplishment and I salute the soldiers who made this victory.

I bow before the martyrs who fell in the square of honor and to those who were the first to fall years ago because of the same treacherous terrorist groups...

Be confident that your national Armed Forces have accomplished what other armies and states that are still fighting with terrorism and terrorists have failed to accomplish.”

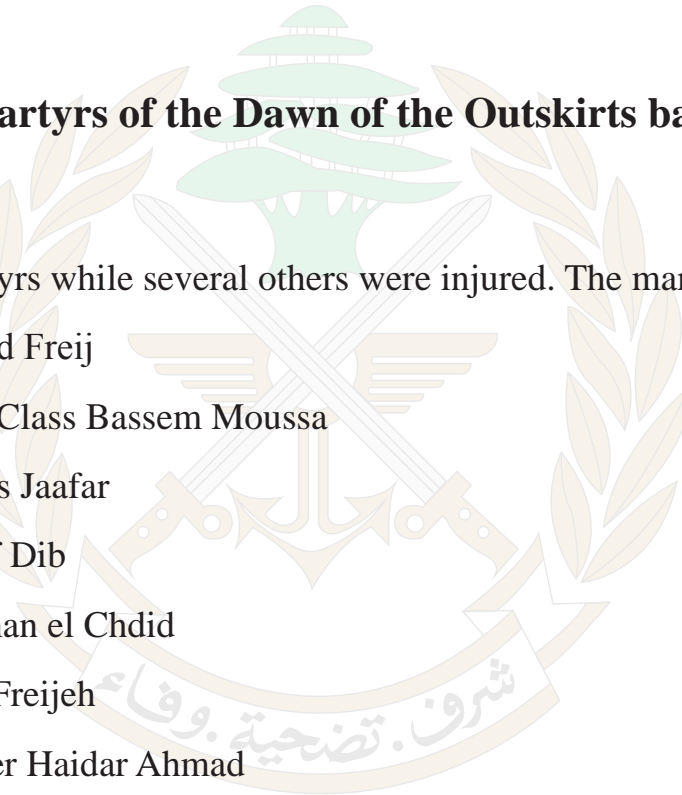




The martyrs of the Dawn of the Outskirts battle

The army lost 7 martyrs while several others were injured. The martyrs are:

- Adjudant Walid Freij
- Sergeant First Class Bassem Moussa
- Sergeant Abbas Jaafar
- Sergeant Aaref Dib
- Sergeant Othman el Chdid
- Corporal Elie Freijeh
- Corporal Yasser Haidar Ahmad





Sergeant
Aaref Dib



Sergeant
Abbas Jaafar



Sergeant first class
Bassem Moussa



Adjudant
Walid Freij



Corporal
Yasser Haidar Ahmad



Corporal
Elie Freijeh



Sergeant
Othman el Chdid





The kidnapped martyr soldiers

Moreover, DNA tests were run over the retrieved bodies and proved that they were the remains of the 10 soldiers who were kidnapped by the terrorists in August 2014.

The martyrs are:

- Warrant officer Ibrahim Mghayt
- Sergeant Ali el-Masri
- Sergeant Moustapha Wehbe
- Sergeant Seif Thebian
- Sergeant Mohammad Youssef
- Corporal Khaled Hasan
- Corporal Hussein Mahmoud Ammar
- Corporal Ali el-Hajj Hasan
- Corporal Abbas Medlej
- Corporal Yehya Ali Khodor.



Sergeant
Mohammad Youssef



Sergeant
Seif Thebian



Sergeant
Moustapha Wehbe



Sergeant
Ali el-Masri



Warrant officer
Ibrahim Mghayt



Corporal
Yehya Ali Khodor



Corporal
Abbas Medlej



Corporal
Ali el-Hajj Hasan



Corporal
Hussein Ammar



Corporal
Khaled Hasan





Honoring ceremony for the martyrs in the Ministry of National Defense – Yarzeh

In honor of the martyr soldiers, a major national ceremony, headed by the President of the Republic General Michel Aoun was held in Yarzeh. The ceremony was attended by the Chief of the Deputies Council Mr. Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Cheikh Saad el Hariri, the Minister of National Defense Yaacoub Riyad el Sarraf and the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun along with the commanders of security units, families of martyrs and a crowd of official, spiritual and national figures.





The President of the Republic delivered a speech on the occasion in which he commended the sacrifices of the martyrs and announced them as martyrs of the honor square. What he said included: “It is another national phase in our history in which we stand with reverence before the bodies of our martyrs, we bow before their sacrifices and those of their comrades who preceded them in the same path of martyrdom and martyrs who fell in a battle in which their mission was accomplished, for their bodies were liberated and they preserved with their joint blood the land of the nation and they guarantee the security of society and the future and dreams of our children. Our martyrs, whose bodies are lying before us today have stood in 2014 at the defense lines, committed to their duty and responsibility as well as the vow of honor, sacrifice and loyalty to their army and nation. They faced dangers and challenges with firmness and belief and fell in the grip of the terrorist groups, greedy to take control of our country and became dear noble martyrs and joined the list of immortals who fell for the sake of Lebanon and all the Lebanese. We would not be worthy of nations if we were not ready to protect them till martyrdom and with every valuable thing we own... the bodies of your martyrs, sons of the army is a testimony to the world of what Lebanon is paying as a price for its long confrontations against terrorism over the years and for its belief in the fact that the spirit of righteousness, peace and openness is far stronger than the evil of terrorists and their extremist mentality which promotes violence, annihilation and savagism as a way to achieve their destructive goals. On this occasion, I reiterate to all the Lebanese, in loyalty to our martyrs, that we have to strengthen our national unity and avoid personal interests that cost us Lebanon and its people as well as aim to build a modern and open country, rich with the variety of its citizens and the richness of its civilizations and that in order to realize the dreams of our youth who have had enough of divisions, political tumult and problems that are inherited from one generation to another. The medals which I have placed at your caskets are medals of affection and appreciation from all the Lebanese for your sacrifices for their sake and for the sake of your country”.





After the necessary honoring ceremony for the martyrs while their bodies entered the square of the Ministry of Defense, the President of the Republic decorated them with the medals of war, the wounded and military valour. Moreover, the Armed Forces Commander offered the Lebanese flag to each family of the martyrs.

The Armed Forces Commander then delivered a speech on the occasion which included:

“We are gathered here today on this emotional occasion that is filled with great sacrifices offered by the sons of the Military Institution who declared their complete readiness to defend the country and to martyr for its sake the minute they were abducted by the hands of brutal terrorists and thus our abducted soldiers turned into the epitome of “Dawn of the Outskirts” battle.

Excellency, President of the Lebanese Republic General Michel Aoun, Your presence in person with the first lights of that dawn inside the Army Command’s operation room had an immense impact over the morale of the Army where you have followed the course of the battle and spoke to the hero officers and soldiers who engaged in the battlefield and you have expressed your total support and ultimate confidence in their victory over terrorism. Furthermore, you have confirmed to the Lebanese people and to the whole world that the Army and its martyrs shall safeguard the Lebanese territories and that vanquishing terrorism will be the definite result. His Excellency the Speaker Nabih Berri has expressed the same stance knowing that he repeatedly showed his support to the Military Institution and voiced his backing to this institution throughout different situations by reiterating his famous saying “the Army is always right”. His Excellency Prime Minister Saad el-Hariri has visited the territories that we have recaptured and met with the soldiers in the field where he uttered his total support to achieve the missions that we were charged with. The “Dawn of the Outskirts” battle would not have been a success had it not been for the support of each and everyone one of you and for the sovereign decision taken by the Lebanese government.”



Hero martyrs: “Our joy in the victory over terrorism remains sorrowful for we were hoping that we manage to free you unharmed from the hands of terrorism so that you may return to your Army and families in order to participate with us in this historic achievement. However, the barbaric terrorism feared your strong belief in your country and transformed you into venerable martyrs under our country’s soil that is now blessed thanks to your virtuous blood. The feelings of reverence and awe are mixed in your presence and our heads bow in honor and respect before your coffins, however, our heads shall forever stand high thanks to you and to your sacrifices after you have become the medals that adorn the chests of the officers, NCOs and soldiers who participated in “Dawn of the Outskirts” battle since you were first to sacrifice yourselves.”

Hero soldiers :”On behalf of Lebanon and the martyr abducted soldiers, the blood of the pious martyrs and on behalf of the heroes in our great army, we have declared the beginning of “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation and its objectives are accomplished.

You have rushed into the battlefield with an invincible combat will where you have muscled your professionalism, bravery and heroism and showed that you are the force that made this victory and recaptured the land.

Nevertheless, and despite the importance of this historic achievement, we shall never forget that cancerous terrorist cells remain hidden in our country and might attempt to avenge for their loss after we have drove them away and put an end to all their barbaric ways among which the lone wolf attacks and this necessitates that we remain vigilant and ready to confront them and annihilate them.”





Dear families of martyrs: "Your sons are main partners in achieving this victory and in the pride of being an icon for liberation and for the defeat of terrorism!

They are our pride. They have inhabited the hearts of all the Lebanese, for through their sacrifices we have fought the "Dawn of the Outskirts" battle and the Lebanese have united around the army and its sacred mission. As a result, our battle was honorable, clean and heroic, enlightened by the beacon of the sacrifices offered by your martyr sons! The years of waiting and hope for their return were difficult and harsh. However, you have never lost your trust in the Military Institution and your belief in the nation for which sake the most valuable of sacrifices are offered."

Despite this victory, major sacrifices remain ahead of us and are as important as defeating global terrorism, for the army will be deployed from now on at the eastern border in order to defend it. Lest we forget the main and most important terrorism which is lurking at the border with our dear South: the Israeli enemy. We have to defend and protect this dear land since we cannot be guardians of the border for the treacherous enemy. Through this mission, we are empowered with a firm unyielding will, enforced with the support of the state institutions, on top of the list is His Excellency, the President of the Republic as well as the Lebanese people which has never given up its right to resist the Israeli occupation and support the army.

In this frame, we confirm our full commitment to Resolution 1701 and all its stipulations as well as our ultimate cooperation with the UNIFIL in order to preserve the stability of the Southern border.

From this platform, I confirm to you today that the army shall have the same response in the future to whoever will attempt to sabotage our security and national sovereignty or target national peace and the will of coexistence. The army will be impartial to all confessions and parties of the community during all constitutional contests and will be fully prepared to defend our dear nation. The support which you have offered us, your Excellency the President, has enrooted this foundation.

I offer to you my most sincere condolences and feelings of sympathy and solidarity, dear parents. Be certain that our sympathy with you and our pride in you are as immense as your patience and as the sacrifices of your sons. You have set an example for the citizens of this land and your sons are the great heroes of the institution of Honor, Sacrifice and Loyalty. May the noble martyrs rest in peace and may God grant our nation Lebanon further glory and dignity."





The honoring ceremony of the units that participated in the battle

In honor of the military units that participated in the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation and of the martyrs and wounded that fell during this operation, the Army Command organized a celebration in Riyak Airbase headed by the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun and attended by the Chief of Staff Major General P.S.C Hatem Mallak, commanders of security units, members of the military council, the commander of the UNIFIL General Michael Beary and an accompanying delegation as well as several high ranked army officers and families of martyrs who fell in the “Dawn of the Outskirts” battle.





The ceremony began by the placement of a wreath of flower by the Armed Forces Commander in front of the martyrs memorial as well as standing for 1 minute of silence in respect of their souls. Afterwards, the Armed Forces Commander decorated the honored units with the medals of war. The honored units are: the Army Staff for equipment (QuarterMaster Directorate) – the Intelligence Directorate – the Directorate of Orientation – the Military Healthcare Unit – the region of the Bekaa - the 6th Infantry Brigade – the 9th Infantry Brigade – the Support Brigade (Anti-Armor, Engineering and Signaling Regiments) – Logistic Brigade – the 1st Intervention Regiment – the 2nd Intervention Regiment – the 4th Intervention Regiment (the 3rd Platoon) – the Airborne Regiment – the 1st Artillery Regiment – the 2nd Artillery Regiment – the 1st Armored Vehicles Regiment – the 2nd Ground Borders Regiment – the Air Force – the Independent Works Regiment.

Then General Aoun decorated the medal of the wounded to the soldiers who were injured during the battle: Captain Omar el Chamaa from the 6th Infantry Brigade – Sergeant Wi'am Bou Kroum from the Airborne Regiment – Corporal Ali Youssef from the 6th Infantry Brigade – Private Ahmad el Ali from the 2nd Intervention Regiment – Recruit Samir Fadel from the 6th Infantry Brigade – Recruit Rabih Saad el Din from the 1st Intervention Regiment – Recruit Mahmoud Dib from the 1st Intervention Regiment – Recruit Ihab Awad from the 6th Infantry Brigade. The Armed Forces Commander then presented the families of martyrs with the army commemorative shields. The martyrs are: Adjudant Walid Freij from the Engineering Regiment, Sergeant First Class Bassem Moussa from the 6th Infantry Brigade, Sergeant Abbas Jaafar from the 6th Infantry Brigade, Sergeant Aaref Dib from the 6th Infantry Brigade, Corporal Elie Freijeh from the 6th Infantry Brigade, Corporal Othman el Chdid from the 6th Infantry Brigade and Private Yasser Haidar Ahmad from the 6th Infantry Brigade.

General Joseph Aoun delivered a speech on the occasion which included:

“We celebrate together on this day the end of “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation that resulted in your conclusive victory over terrorism. This dangerous enemy has crouched heavily over our eastern border where it seized the land and intimidated the citizens. However, thanks to your resolve, courage and unlimited combat will and thanks to the blood of your seven martyr comrades and the blood of your courageous comrades who were wounded during the battle, we have gained victory over terrorism by driving it away once and for all so that this land may return to its owners and under the wing of national sovereignty where the flag of your country flutters over the high peaks safeguarded by an army that gained the trust of all the sides that bet on its role and has proven to be worthy of the trust.

Hero troops,

This battle which you have fought with a firm resolve and a clear vision was, at the operational level and with the judgment of leaders of friend countries, experts and military, local and international analysts, more than successful in terms of all criteria and military principles: its swift end during a few days, the combat professionalism of the troops, the coordination and integration between different army units, whether land units, air units, logistic or administrative units, or the complete commitment to the International Humanitarian Law. Eventually, you have achieved the main goals of the battle: Liberating the land from terrorism and revealing the fate of the soldiers kidnapped by the criminal terrorist groups, as their pure bodies were returned to their families and villages and they were highly honored at the level of the army and the nation.

Therefore, I congratulate you for this historic accomplishment as I congratulate the army, which you have decorated with the medals of pride, dignity and bravery.





Hero troops,

You have prevailed and through you, the army and the nation have triumphed and your institution has become the core of the country, just as the cedar symbolizes the core of the flag. This fact was embodied when the Lebanese, regardless of their confessional and regional differences, rushed during and after the battle to surround you with an unprecedented overwhelming national unity and the nation's squares were crowded with supporters who were rushing to honor you and express their pride in you.

You have prevailed and through you, the state has triumphed, for it has become more immune in the face of the regional and internal challenges and more capable of pushing forward the economic and developmental reform in the country.

Nevertheless, a lot of efforts and work remain ahead of us. Therefore, the jubilation of victory shall never deter us from continuing the preemptive war against terrorism with its dormant cells and lone wolves. Furthermore, it shall never prevent us from proceeding with the journey of security and stability inside the country and tracking down everyone who targets the security of Lebanon and the army. The series of arrests has begun and everyone who is proven to have attacked citizens and army posts during the previous period will be arrested and that is a vow that we have made and we will follow through.

Be certain that there will be no safe haven inside the country for saboteurs and random shooters, for the safety of the citizens is a responsibility that we will maintain regardless of the sacrifices. Moreover, there will be no safe refuge for saboteurs who tamper with social security and the future of the Lebanese youth such as narcotics traffickers and drug dealers, no matter how important they falsely believed they were. Just as we were firm and strict in facing terrorism, this will be our attitude in facing these saboteurs.

In parallel with all these missions, you have to double your preparedness in facing the State Terrorism practiced by the Israeli enemy, lurking at the borders of our beloved South and continuously making threats against Lebanon with its hostile acts that constitute a clear breach of resolution 1701. However, this shall not terrorize us and shall not prevent us from performing our sacred duty, in view of the fact that after the end of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation, we have boosted the deployment of the army at the southern border in order to defend it. These facts come in parallel with our complete commitment to the mentioned resolution with all its stipulations and to our ultimate devotion to the cooperation and coordination with the UNIFIL in order to boost the security of the borders and reinforce the resistance of the villagers as well as to face any attempt made by the enemy to destabilize the region.

Brave troops,

Your comrades who were kidnapped by terrorism and martyred between its claws symbolize ultimate pride, for they have lived in the heart of the nation’s conscience and they have enlightened with their names the symbol of immortality. They were the bright beacon of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation.

Your 7 martyr comrades and all the heroes who were injured during the battle symbolize pride as well, for they have merged their pure blood with the sole of the nation and they have carried the banner of victory and fueled the blazing fire of liberation.

Officers, NCOs and soldiers, you symbolize pride in your turn, for you have been potential martyrs in the battlefield. However, you have fought courageously at the margin between victory and martyrdom and you have never feared danger for one second, nor have you hesitated. The pride goes to all the Lebanese, regardless of their affiliations, confessions and regions, for we are soldiers from their villages, houses and loyal patriotic families.





I extend my appreciation and gratitude to the committees, institutions and individuals in civil society that have offered financial and material aid to military units during and after the battle, for being a symbol of national fusion between the army and the citizens.

I extend my appreciation and gratitude as well to the International Community and the friend countries for their military and moral support that they provided to the army, thus efficiently contributing to providing the essentials necessary for the good conduct of the battle.

In the end, I extend my salutes with reverence and respect to all the souls of the brave martyrs of the institution. To you, army heroes, I say: we shall not fear for a nation in which you are the brave guardians and the sturdy fence of its borders.”

Consequently, the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation was accomplished with a conclusive victory over terrorism that will remain in the history of the nation and the Army, baptized in the blood of martyrs and the sweat of heroes.

The Dawn of the Outskirts



August 2017