

Israeli artillery strikes Lebanon after rocket launch

Israel's military says it responded with artillery fire after a rocket was launched from southern Lebanon.

A statement said the rocket “exploded adjacent to the Blue Line in Israeli territory”, referring to the UN-demarcated frontier between the states.

Lebanon's state news agency reported that more than 15 Israeli shells had hit the outskirts of the Lebanese villages of Kfar Shouba and Halta.

So far no militant groups have claimed they were behind the rocket launch.

The United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon, Unifil, urged all sides to “exercise restraint and avoid any action that could cause further escalation” on the frontier, where tensions have increased in recent months.

In April, the Israeli military carried out air strikes on targets it said belonged to the Palestinian militant group Hamas in southern Lebanon after more than 30 rockets were fired from there towards Israeli territory.

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