

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**Acting UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Pernille Dahler Kardel
Visits Lebanese Army bases in Baalbek and Rayak**

8 November 2018

Acting UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Pernille Dahler Kardel today visited the 4th Land Border Regiment Command of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in Baalbek and the Army's Air Base and Central Training Centre for Border Management in Rayak, in eastern Lebanon. She took stock with representatives of the LAF of progress underway to strengthen border security and to extend the authority of the State along the eastern border, noting that Lebanon has made significant progress through the establishment of four Land Border Regiments all along the north-eastern border.

“Border management is key to the extension of Government authority and the sovereignty of Lebanon over all Lebanese territories,” Ms. Kardel said. “It is clear from my visit today that the LAF is making important strides in that direction by deploying Land Border Regiments and constructing watchtowers that are used in the context of counterterrorism, anti-smuggling, and anti-trafficking operations,” she added.

At a border watchtower in Baalbek, recently constructed with support from the United Kingdom, Ms. Kardel recognized the army's achievements but also remaining logistic and military needs. “I encourage the formation of a consensus government as soon as possible so that Lebanon can also fully benefit from coordinated international support to the LAF and other security agencies for Lebanon's long-term security and stability.” She added that one of the priorities for the new government will be to endorse the draft Integrated Border Management Strategy. She also commended the work to date of the Rayak Central Training Facility for Border Management established in May 2018, with support from its international partners (Canada, the EU, UK, US) in strengthening LAF human capacity.
