

Lebanese media blames syria for fighting

by UPI

TRIPOLI, Lebanon - The news media in Lebanon and Jordan Monday blamed fighting between government troops and militants in Lebanon on neighboring Syria.

The BBC reported several regional media outlets were also making a connection between the violence and the approaching date of a U.N. resolution to investigate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Lebanese troops were fighting with Fatah al-Islam militants entrenched in a Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon near Tripoli.

"Some people think these incidents are designed to create widespread unrest to undermine the Security Council resolution. ... What happened proves clearly that the aim was to engage the army in battle ... then spread the plan across Lebanon," an editorial in Lebanon's Al-Anwar said, the BBC reported.

"It looks like Fatah al-Islam, which has usurped Palestinian refugee camps in northern Lebanon but is rejected by all Palestinian organizations, has deliberately initiated this confrontation just as the international Security Council is about to endorse the international tribunal draft," the former minister of information for Jordan, wrote in Jordan's Al-Ra'Y newspaper, the BBC reported.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.