

Lebanese fighting enters ninth day

by UPI

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Clashes between Lebanese troops and Islamist militants were reported Tuesday, the ninth consecutive day of the fighting in and around Beirut.

Lebanese officials said that as of 30 soldiers, 60 militants and 20 civilians had been killed in the fighting, the Alalam Satellite TV network reported.

Gunfire, rocket and artillery fire was reported at the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, where Fatah Islam militants first holed up May 20. Two days later, a truce was declared but sporadic exchanges have occurred almost daily since, the report said.

Shaker al-Absi, leader of Fatah Islam, whose leader has said he is inspired by al-Qaida, has vowed to fight to death as Lebanese troops encircled the camp.

Police in Beirut said two people were killed Monday when their car sped past a checkpoint and troops opened fire on it.

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