

Lebanon shells militants in refugee camp

by UPI

BEIRUT, Lebanon -- Lebanese soldiers used heavy artillery Thursday to bombard Islamist militants holed up in a nearly deserted Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon. Reinforcements were sent in to help with the push, as the army and al-Qaida-linked militants have been fighting near the Nahr al-Bared camp for two months, CNN reported. The military said a number of the Fatah al-Islam militants have been killed but it's not known exactly how many are in the compound. A 1969 agreement that allows Palestinians to run the refugee camps bars the Lebanese military from entering the areas, the report said. Since the fighting began May 20, at least 80 Lebanese soldiers have been killed, the most recent being a soldier struck by a sniper, the report said. The overcrowded camp was once home to about 30,000 Palestinians but most have fled since the fighting started, officials said.

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