

Lebanese army enters rebel-held enclave

by UPI

BEIRUT, Lebanon -- The Lebanese army, backed with heavy artillery, on Thursday made its first incursion into the rebel-held Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon. Using heavy tank fire, troops entered the near-deserted Nahr El-Bared refugee camp and house-to-house fighting was also reported, Lebanon's National News Agency said. Almost all of the 31,000 refugees have fled since fighting began May 20 between the Fatah al-Islam rebels and government forces at the camp. An undetermined number of rebels were killed in the Thursday assault, Kuwait's KUNA news agency reported. The military said it had located caches of weapons and food as well as booby traps, the report said. The Lebanese army said 119 of its troops have been killed in the fighting, although an estimate of the number of rebels killed wasn't available.

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