

Greenpeace calls for a regional post conflict environmental impact assessment as a first step to safeguarding Lebanon's environment

Lebanon (Beirut) 05/10 – Onboard the Rainbow Warrior, Greenpeace today presented in a press conference the preliminary findings of its new report on the environmental impact of the conflict, and gave an account of the work its flagship, the Rainbow Warrior has concluded as part of the oil spill emergency response.

The crew and divers onboard the Rainbow Warrior have spent the last 3 weeks collaborating with international organizations involved in the mitigation of the effects of the oil spill (1). Greenpeace divers have mapped the extent of the underwater fuel oil contamination (2), as well as collected shell fish samples for the Italian scientists and the American University of Beirut to undertake scientist analysis of the effect of the oil spill on marine life.

The report, '*Witnessing War*' brings together statistical information documenting the impacts identified to date along with testimonies and images of impacts collected through field research conducted by Greenpeace.

In this report Greenpeace is highlighting the most striking environmental problems that occurred during bomb attacks based on its preliminary findings on the ground and a range of documents collected.

Basma Badran, spokesperson for Greenpeace said "It is clear to us from the work we have carried out that environmental recovery must be a priority of any post conflict re-construction strategy in order to enable the people of Lebanon to get their lives back to normal as fast as possible. We urge the international community to conduct a full scale, post-conflict environmental damage assessment across the region. With the findings feeding in to long term environmental protection measures that can safeguard the environment of Lebanon in times of peace as well as war".

The report constitutes part of a region wide post conflict environmental impact assessment that will be launched at a later date.

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Note to editor:

- (1) Greenpeace worked under the direction of the expert of the Italian Ministry of Environment. Nationally, Greenpeace has worked with Bahar Lubnan
- (2) In Jiyeh, Palm Islands and Byblos