

# GHANA ARMED FORCES



## PRESS RELEASE

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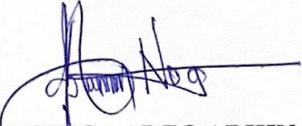
### **RE-ALLEGED EXPLOITATION OF GHANAIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN LEBANON**

The attention of the Ghana Armed Forces has been drawn to a publication circulating in the media, alleging the exploitation of Ghanaian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The publication indicated that troops have been banned from shopping outside the Camps of the Ghanaian Battalion (GHANBATT). It also indicated that troops were made to pay for their own airfare during their leave to Ghana.

Ghana Armed Forces wishes to clarify that in view of the volatile security situation in UNIFIL's area of operation, UNIFIL Force Headquarters has facilitated the establishment of Eleven (11) shops manned by local Lebanese within Two (2) GHANBATT locations, with just One (1) Post Exchange shop operated by the Battalion. Many other Battalions in UNIFIL also have the same arrangement. This offers troops the option to purchase from a number of shops and not the Post Exchange shop only as has been reported.

On the allegation of troops paying for their own airfare during leave to Ghana, the story is untrue as the Government of Ghana continues to fully fund troops airfare for all Ghana Armed Forces peacekeepers including those serving with UNIFIL.

It must be noted that such misinformation undermines discipline and morale of troops and could further tarnish the image of the country as a whole. The Ghana Armed Forces therefore continues to appeal to media practitioners to crosscheck their facts before going to press.

  
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Acting Director General Public Relations

#### Note to Editors

For favour of publication, please.

Cc: All Media Houses