



Grenade Explodes Near Church in Beirut

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Beirut -- An explosion struck Beirut's Shiyyah district within minutes of Wednesday's UN vote on the Hariri tribunal, causing no casualties or damage.

Security sources said a concussion grenade went off near St. Michael's Church, near the boundary of Shiyyah and Mar Mikael - both formerly Maronite neighborhoods now populated mostly by Shiites driven from the South during the Israeli occupation. The church was the site of the February 2006 pact that brought MP Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement into partnership with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's Hizbullah to form an opposition alliance.

Six attacks have taken place since May 20, when fighting broke out between the army and militants at the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp. Previous incidents have struck the Beirut district of Achrafieh, Verdun and Barbir, as well the Mt. Lebanon resort of Aley and the Bekaa Valley town of Zahleh. One person has been killed and dozens wounded.

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