

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 273

Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COX, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

Whereas the people of the Lebanese Republic have a rich, proud, and honorable history dating from ancient times to the present, and Lebanon has been a free and democratic nation for much of its modern history;

Whereas Lebanon and the United States have enjoyed a history of friendship and cooperation which has been witnessed by the immigration of millions of Lebanese to the

United States where they and their descendants have contributed greatly to the fabric of American life;

Whereas Syria has dominated Lebanese politics and political leaders, resulting in a deterioration of Lebanon's human rights situation, the engineering of Lebanese election results to Syria's liking, and the imposition of curbs on Lebanon's media, once the freest in the Arab world;

Whereas Syria has publicly withdrawn its military forces from Lebanon, leaving behind a pro-Syrian intelligence structure within the Lebanese intelligence agencies;

Whereas Congress conditioned the lifting of sanctions on Damascus in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–175) upon the Government of Syria ending its occupation of Lebanon, including the complete withdrawal of intelligence and all other security-related personnel in Lebanon, and upon other factors;

Whereas the international community has reaffirmed its call for the strict respect of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon through the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

Whereas there remains unresolved and as a matter of national and world concern the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri, former Lebanese prime minister, which has justly been condemned as a terrorist act;

Whereas the international community has begun investigations into the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri and it is the policy of the United States to urge full compliance with the investigations;

Whereas the international community is considering further action to promote Lebanese sovereignty;

Whereas the emancipation of political prisoners and detainees held in Syrian and Lebanese prisons is a requirement to a national reconciliation and rebuilding of Lebanon's democratic institutions; and

Whereas general elections in Lebanon are scheduled to begin on May 29, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) Syria should complete its withdrawal of all
4 remaining intelligence and security forces from the
5 Lebanese Republic in accordance with United Na-
6 tions Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

7 (2) Lebanon should allow unfettered access to
8 international monitors verifying compliance with
9 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559
10 (2004);

11 (3) Lebanon should hold free, fair, and trans-
12 parent elections to begin on May 29, 2005, in ac-
13 cordance with all international standards and agree-
14 ments;

15 (4) the United States should aid the people of
16 Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of
17 powers, the rule of law, and the proper respect for
18 fundamental freedoms of every citizen; and

1 (5) it should be the policy of the United States
2 Government to—

3 (A) support free and fair elections in Leb-
4 anon by encouraging international election as-
5 sistance and observers;

6 (B) urge the development of democratic in-
7 stitutions and safeguards to foster sovereign
8 democratic rule in Lebanon; and

9 (C) call for the immediate release of all po-
10 litical prisoners and detainees held in Lebanese
11 and Syrian prisons.

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