

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 548

Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. BOUSTANY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon.

Whereas on February 14, 2005, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, along with 22 other people, was assassinated by a massive bomb;

Whereas Lebanon's Cedar Revolution led to the withdrawal of Syrian troops in April 2005, following 30 years of Syrian military occupation;

Whereas parliamentary elections were held in Lebanon in May and June of 2005 leading to the formation of gov-

ernment under Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, with a majority of the parliament and cabinet committed to strengthening Lebanon's independence and the sovereignty of its democratic institutions of government;

Whereas Lebanese independence and sovereignty are still threatened by an ongoing campaign of assassination and attempted assassinations of Lebanese political and public figures opposed to Syrian interference in Lebanon's internal affairs, and terrorist bombings intended to incite ethnic and religious hatred, the continuing presence of state-sponsored militias and foreign terrorist groups, and the ongoing and illegal trans-shipment of weapons and munitions from Iran and Syria into Lebanon;

Whereas the democratically-elected and legitimate government of Lebanon, in accordance with the mandate of United Nations Security Council resolutions and the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords, has made efforts, through the internal deployments of the Lebanese Armed Forces, to exercise its full sovereignty, so that there will be no weapon or authority within Lebanon other than that of the Government of Lebanon;

Whereas the Lebanese Council of Ministers, on November 25, 2006, approved a statute for the establishment of a tribunal of an international character according to the terms negotiated between the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations in order to bring to justice all those responsible for the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005;

Whereas a majority of Lebanese members of parliament sought a vote in favor of ratifying the statute establishing a tribunal of an international character, and 70 of Lebanon's then 127 current parliamentarians sent a memo-

randum to the United Nations Secretary-General endorsing the establishment under the United Nations Charter of a Special Tribunal to bring to justice all those responsible for the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005;

Whereas the Speaker of the Lebanese parliament subverted the clear will of the Lebanese people, and a majority of Lebanese parliamentarians, by refusing to convene the parliament since November 2006 in order to prevent ratification of the statute approved by the Council of Ministers to create a Special Tribunal to bring to justice all those responsible for the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005;

Whereas Hezbollah, a United States Department of State designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, and their pro-Syrian allies have declared the democratically-elected and legitimate government of Lebanon “unconstitutional”, and are seeking to topple the government through extra-legal means, including, rioting, continuous street demonstrations outside of the Council of Ministers, and obstructing traffic in Beirut;

Whereas the transfer of weapons, ammunition, and fighters into Lebanon in contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), has twice prompted the Security Council to issue statements, on April 17, 2007, (S/PRST/2007/12) and on June 11, 2007, (S/PRST/2007/17) wherein it expressed deep and serious concern at mounting information by Israel and other states of illegal movements of arms into Lebanon, and in particular across the Lebanese-Syrian border in violation of Security Council Resolution 1701;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, with the full support of the United States, has repeatedly adopted res-

olutions, notably, Resolutions 425(1978), 520 (1982), 1559 (2004), 1655 (2006), 1664 (2006), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), and 1757 (2007) that, among other things, express the support of the international community for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon, and demand the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolutions, notably, 1595 (2005), 1636 (2005), 1644, (2005), 1664 (2006), 1748 (2007), and 1757 (2007), that underscore the importance of the pursuit of justice in response to the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005, and if appropriate, other assassinations and assassination attempts since October 2004;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, with the full support of the United States, has sought to assist the Government of Lebanon in extending its authority over all Lebanese territory, including its sea, land, and air borders, through the presence of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon and through technical and personnel assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, with the full support of the United States, has strongly supported the demand of the Lebanese people that justice be done to those responsible for the terrorist attack of February 14, 2005, and other terrorist attacks and attempted assassinations since October 2004, establishing and extending the mandate of the International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) to investigate terrorist bombings of February 14, 2005, and moving toward the creation of a Special Tribunal of an international character, ac-

ording to United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1595 (2005), 1636 (2005), 1644 (2005), 1664 (2006), 1686 (2006) and 1748 (2007);

Whereas Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora in a letter of May 14, 2007, informed the Secretary General of the United Nations that, “the Lebanese Government believes that the time has come for the Security Council to help make the Special Tribunal for Lebanon a reality. We therefore ask you, as a matter of urgency, to put before the Security Council our request that the Special Tribunal be put into effect. A binding decision regarding the Tribunal on the part of the Security Council will be fully consistent with the importance the United Nations has attached to this matter from the outset, when the investigation commission was established. Further delays in setting up the Tribunal would be most detrimental to Lebanon’s stability, to the cause of justice, to the credibility of the United Nations itself and to peace and security in the region.”;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, with the full support of the United States, adopted Resolution 1757, establishing on June 10, 2007, a Special Tribunal try all those found responsible for the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005, and if appropriate, both prior and subsequent attacks in Lebanon, unless the Government of Lebanon has provided notice that such a tribunal has been established under its own laws;

Whereas the United States Congress has appropriated emergency economic and military assistance to Lebanon at levels far greater than the amounts of bilateral assistance provided in recent fiscal years; and

Whereas it is manifestly in the interests of the United States and the international community to support the full sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon, its democratically-elected and legitimate government, and to insist that justice be done concerning the terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005, and both prior and subsequent politically-inspired assassinations and assassination attempts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the attempts by Hezbollah and
3 other pro-Syrian groups to undermine and intimi-
4 date the democratically-elected and legitimate Gov-
5 ernment of Lebanon by extra-legal means;

6 (2) condemns the campaign of attempted and
7 successful assassinations targeting members of par-
8 liament and public figures in favor of Lebanese inde-
9 pendence and sovereignty and opposed to Syrian in-
10 terference in Lebanon, and bombings in civilian
11 areas intended to intimidate the Lebanese people;

12 (3) calls on the Speaker of the Lebanese par-
13 liament to convene the parliament without further
14 delay, so that it can fulfill its legislative obligations
15 and pursue the interests of the Lebanese people
16 under the rule of law;

17 (4) confirms the strong support of the United
18 States for United Nations Security Council resolu-
19 tions concerning Lebanon, and the clear and binding

1 mandate of the international community for the
2 arms embargo and disarmament of all armed groups
3 in Lebanon, and particularly, Hezbollah and Pales-
4 tinian factions in Lebanon;

5 (5) condemns Syria and Iran for their ongoing
6 roles in providing arms to Lebanese militias, par-
7 ticularly Hezbollah and Palestinian factions in Leb-
8 anon, in blatant contravention of United Nations Se-
9 curity Council Resolution 1701;

10 (6) expresses its strong appreciation to Bel-
11 gium, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France,
12 Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary,
13 India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, the Republic of
14 Korea, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands,
15 Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, Slo-
16 venia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, and Turkey for
17 their contributions of military personnel to serve in
18 the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
19 (UNIFIL), now manned with 13,251 troops of the
20 15,000 troops authorized in United Nations Security
21 Council Resolution 1701;

22 (7) urges the Government of Lebanon to re-
23 quest UNIFIL's assistance to secure the Lebanese-
24 Syrian border against the entry of illicit arms or re-
25 lated material under paragraphs 11(f) and 14 of

1 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701,
2 and pledges earnest American support for this ac-
3 tion, should the Government of Lebanon choose to
4 do so;

5 (8) calls on the international community to fur-
6 ther support the mission of UNIFIL and efforts by
7 the United Nations Secretary-General to improve the
8 monitoring of the Lebanese border in order to effec-
9 tively implement the arms embargo on armed groups
10 in Lebanon required by United Nations Security
11 Council Resolution 1701;

12 (9) affirms strongly United States support for
13 efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the
14 terrorist bombing of February 14, 2005, and both
15 prior and subsequent politically inspired assassina-
16 tions, and for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon es-
17 tablished by the United Nations Security Council
18 Resolution 1757;

19 (10) endorses prompt action by the Special Tri-
20 bunal for Lebanon for the terrorist bombing of Feb-
21 ruary 14, 2005, and both prior and subsequent po-
22 litically-inspired assassinations, under Chapter VII
23 of the United Nations Charter;

24 (11) pledges continued support for the demo-
25 cratically-elected and legitimate Government of Leb-

1 anon and the Lebanese people against the campaign
2 of intimidation, terror, and murder directed at the
3 Lebanese people and at political and public figures
4 opposing Syrian interference in Lebanon;

5 (12) commends the many Lebanese who con-
6 tinue to adhere steadfastly to the principles of the
7 Cedar Revolution and support the democratically
8 elected and legitimate government of Lebanon;

9 (13) applauds the Government of Lebanon's ef-
10 forts to fully extend Lebanon's sovereignty over the
11 entire country through the internal deployments of
12 the Lebanese Armed Forces, including direct action
13 against the Fatah al Islam group, and encourages
14 the Government of Lebanon to intensify these ef-
15 forts; and

16 (14) re-affirms its intention to continue to pro-
17 vide financial and material assistance to support the
18 sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political
19 independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclu-
20 sive authority of the Government of Lebanon.

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