

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 738

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 15, 2007

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

OCTOBER 15, 2007

Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon.

Whereas in 2004, Lebanon's current president had his term extra-legally extended through the interference of Syria in Lebanon's internal affairs;

Whereas former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, the leading opponent of continued Syrian domination of Lebanon and the extra-legal extension of the president's term, was assassinated along with 22 people by a massive car bomb on February 14, 2005;

Whereas investigators from the United Nations have suggested that officials of Syria's government, at the highest levels, appear to be culpable for the assassination of Rafiq Hariri and the 22 other people;

Whereas the people of Lebanon, following the murder of Rafiq Hariri, engaged in a massive popular revolt known as the Cedar Revolution against Syrian interference in their internal affairs and suppression of their national sovereignty;

Whereas the Cedar Revolution, reinforced by international pressure, culminated in the rapid withdrawal of Syrian occupation forces and free elections;

Whereas the current Lebanese government has been under steady attack by domestic and foreign forces that have been engaged in instigating riots and insurrection, suspending the operation of Lebanon's parliament, and perpetrating horrific acts of terror against the Lebanese people;

Whereas Syria and Iran are seeking to dominate Lebanon through their campaign of murder and intimidation aimed at the Lebanese parliamentary majority and other anti-Syrian public and political figures;

Whereas Syria and Iran, through their Lebanese proxies, have demanded the selection of another Lebanese president hand-picked by the Government of Syria;

Whereas Syria and Iran, in clear contravention of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, notably 1559 (2004), 1655 (2006), 1664 (2006), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), and 1757 (2007), have grossly violated Lebanon's sovereignty by continuing to provide arms to illegitimate Lebanese militias, Palestinian terrorist

groups and other terrorist organizations; meddling in Lebanon's internal political affairs; and actively supporting efforts to prevent the election of a new president in accordance with Lebanese law; and

Whereas a sovereign and independent Lebanon is in the national security interest of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the campaign of murder, terror,
3 and intimidation aimed at overthrowing the demo-
4 cratically-elected government of Lebanon and estab-
5 lishing a new Lebanese government subservient to
6 the will and interests of Syria and Iran;

7 (2) condemns Syria and Iran for their gross in-
8 terference in Lebanon's internal political affairs, and
9 particularly, the selection of a new president, and
10 gross violations of United Nations Security Council
11 resolutions protective of Lebanon's sovereignty and
12 independence;

13 (3) condemns Lebanese political parties and ac-
14 tors who have allied themselves with Syria and Iran
15 to the detriment of their own country and its na-
16 tional interests;

17 (4) condemns efforts by some Lebanese political
18 figures to obstruct, delay, and impede the legal and
19 established processes of their country for the selec-
20 tion of a new president according to the rule of law;

1 (5) affirms its continued strong support for
2 Lebanon’s democratically-elected government, people
3 and national sovereignty, and its readiness to pro-
4 vide material support;

5 (6) calls on all nations to recognize and support
6 Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence; and

7 (7) urges the President to use all peaceful
8 means at the disposal of the United States to help
9 safeguard Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence.

○