

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

Fellow Lebanese,

The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri and his friends on February 14, 2005 in a heinous act of terror was a massacre that shocked the world's conscience. The cowardly and monstrous attack on his convoy amounts to an act of war and was permitted amidst considerable political tension between the current government under Syrian tutelage, and a massive opposition movement calling for free and independent elections.

Our brethren in Lebanon have expressed their grief and outrage in the most solemn and civil gathering in recent Lebanese history. The touching scenes of Moslems, Christians, and others of all ages, in tears, and praying side by side at Mr. Hariri's tomb is yet another lauded affirmation of our national solidarity and unity. The Lebanese people took to the streets in grief, but also overwhelmingly in support of the opposition movement and its declarations, in the most massive civil and peaceful demonstration that our country has witnessed.

Today's grief, though extremely unfortunate, must be channeled towards the best for our national interest. This rare momentum must be quickly and efficiently transformed into a firm negation of the presence of any foreign troops (military, intelligence or in other form) on Lebanese soil, namely Syrian.

We, the undersigned, hold accountable all officials in the current Lebanese government in charge of security and peace in the country and strongly support the opposition movement in its push to:

- Unveil the culprit(s) behind the assassination of Mr. Hariri by all means and bring them to justice
- Withdraw the Syrian troops from Lebanon
- Free the decision-making process in Lebanon from undue foreign interference, and
- Hold free parliamentary elections

We also firmly believe that the task of re-building Lebanon, largely initiated by the late Mr. Hariri, transcends the rock to the human; therefore we recommend the attainment of the above demands by strictly peaceful and civil means and with high vigilance, drawing on lessons from our violent history.

Furthermore, we consider that complete territorial sovereignty and free elections are only the initial steps on the long and arduous road towards re-building our civil society and institutions in a country that stands as a beacon of democracy, culture and civilization.

We sign this document as a declaration of support for the opposition movement and the aspirations of our people in grief, and also as a pledge of continuous effort to reach the goals stated above, and of support for the subsequent emergence, in Lebanon, of a true democracy and a hard-working society that strives on liberty and mutual respect.