

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 510

Supporting the findings of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission that is investigating the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, condemning the Government of Syria for its apparent involvement in this terrorist attack, and demanding compliance by Syria with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1595.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2005

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TANCREDI, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. McCOTTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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# RESOLUTION

Supporting the findings of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission that is investigating the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, condemning the Government of Syria for its apparent involvement in this terrorist attack, and demanding compliance by Syria with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1595.

Whereas Rafik Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, was assassinated in a terrorist attack on February 14, 2005, that killed 22 others and injured more than 100 people;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a Presidential Statement (February 15, 2005) condemning the terrorist bombing that killed former Prime Minister Hariri and calling on “the Lebanese Government to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this heinous terrorist act”;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1595 (April 7, 2005) established an International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC) based in Lebanon to assist the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of all aspects of the terrorist attack that killed former Prime Minister Hariri;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan notified the United Nations Security Council that the UNIIC, led by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, was declared operational on June 16, 2005;

Whereas during the course of the investigation—from June 16, 2005, through October 6, 2005—the UNIIC issued 244 witness statements, 293 investigator notes, and 22 suspect statements, producing 16,711 pages of documents with the assistance of investigators from 17 different countries;

Whereas the UNIIC focused on the crime scene, analysis of telephone intercepts, the testimony of more than 500 witnesses and sources, and received support from the Government of Lebanon and other national and international entities;

Whereas on October 19, 2005, Commissioner Mehlis presented the UNIIC’s findings to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan;

Whereas the UNHIC report concluded that the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri was carried out by a group with extensive resources and capabilities, and that the crime had been prepared over the course of several months;

Whereas the UNHIC report concluded that the decision to assassinate former Prime Minister Hariri “could not have been taken without the approval of top-ranked Syrian security officials and could not have been further organized without the collusion of their counterparts in the Lebanese security forces”;

Whereas the UNHIC report established that leads in the investigation pointed directly toward senior Syrian security and military officials as being involved with the assassination, including the former Syrian Intelligence Chief in Lebanon, General Rustum Ghazali;

Whereas the UNHIC report found: “[T]he context of the assassination of Mr. Hariri was one of extreme political polarization and tension. Accusations and counter accusations targeting mainly Mr. Hariri over the period proceeding his assassination corroborate the Commission conclusion that the likely motive of the assassination was political.”;

Whereas the UNHIC report found that “[t]he apparent growing conflict between Mr. Hariri and senior Syrian officials, including Syrian President Bashar Assad, was a central aspect of the information provided to the Commission through interviews and documents”;

Whereas the UNHIC report found that “[a] meeting in Damascus between Mr. Hariri and President Assad on August 26, 2004 appeared to bring the conflict to a head”

culminating with President Assad allegedly threatening Mr. Hariri if he opposed the extension of Lebanese President Emile Lahoud's term; and

Whereas the UNIIIC report found: "While the Syrian authorities, after initial hesitation, have cooperated to a limited degree with the Commission, several interviewees tried to mislead the investigation by giving false or inaccurate statements. The letter addressed to the Commission by the Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic proved to contain false information. The full picture of the assassination can only be reached through an extensive and credible investigation that would be conducted in an open and transparent manner to the full satisfaction of international scrutiny.": Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) condemns the Government of Syria for its  
3       apparent involvement in the assassination of former  
4       Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri;

5               (2) supports the findings of the United Nations  
6       International Independent Investigation Commission  
7       (UNIIIC), led by Detlev Mehlis, which assisted the  
8       Lebanese authorities in their investigation of all as-  
9       pects of the terrorist attack that killed former Prime  
10      Minister Hariri;

11              (3) demands Syrian President Bashar Assad  
12      and the Government of Syria fully cooperate with  
13      international and Lebanese efforts to further inves-

1        tigate the assassination of former Prime Minister  
2        Hariri and bring those responsible to justice;

3            (4) supports the full implementation of United  
4        Nations Security Council Resolution 1595 (April 7,  
5        2005), which calls on all states and parties to fully  
6        cooperate with the UNHCR and provide it with any  
7        relevant information they may possess pertaining to  
8        this terrorist attack;

9            (5) directs the United States Permanent Rep-  
10       resentative to the United Nations to use the voice,  
11       vote, and influence of the United States in the  
12       United Nations Security Council to demand Syrian  
13       compliance with the ongoing UNHCR investigation  
14       under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter,  
15       given evidence linking the Syrian regime to the as-  
16       sassination of former Prime Minister Hariri and  
17       Syria's failure to abide by the provisions of Security  
18       Council Resolution 1595; and

19            (6) urges the Government of the United States  
20       to actively support ongoing international and Leba-  
21       nese efforts to investigate the assassination of  
22       former Prime Minister Hariri and bring its per-  
23       petrators to justice, including through support of the

- 1 establishment of an international tribunal, if so re-
- 2 quested by the Government of Lebanon.

