

August 8, 2020

To: The UN Security Council Member States

From: The Victims of the Beirut August Massacre

Further to the massive explosion that rocked Beirut on August 4, 2020, killing more than 200 persons, injuring more than 7,000, leaving more than 100 missing, and more than 300,000 displaced and homeless, in addition to victims suffering other material damages;

Whereas this explosion that caused seismic waves felt in Cyprus, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Greece and other countries, killed and injured victims from various nationalities including the wife of the Netherlands' ambassador and UNIFIL naval peace keepers as well as victims across nationalities, gender, religion, race and age;

Whereas this crime is not only an unimaginable atrocity that deeply shocked the collective conscience of the worldwide community, but also an inhumane act causing great suffering and serious injury to body, mental and physical health, having such a degree of seriousness and gravity;

Whereas this is a crime against humanity that shakes Lebanon's national security and threatens international security;

Further to the unanimous international and national admission that this explosion is the direct result of detonated ammonium nitrate and/or other explosives, which detonation, nature and quantity are yet to be determined, that were unduly stored amidst the capital Beirut, the most populated area of Lebanon;

In light of the various official public statements blaming this crime on negligence, grand corruption, foreign action through a missile and/or other causes;

Whereas the Lebanese authorities remain a primary suspect in light of publicly displayed evidence of the Government's pre-existing knowledge and contradictory versions concerning this matter;

Taking into consideration the political and security situation in Lebanon, the intimidation, threats and aggressions against judges and lawyers in Lebanon;

Recalling the Lebanese Judges Association declaration of August 5, 2020 denouncing the attempts of politicians at all levels to evade responsibility for this crime and to blame it on judges;

Taking into consideration the increasing suspicions of tampering with the crime scene and preventing international experts from providing relief efforts as well as the historical inefficiency of the Lebanese system in prosecuting significant crimes leading to impunity and smothering the truth;

Noting, the Lebanese authorities' inhumane violence exercised against civilian protestors calling for justice in this crime;

And always within the framework of the absolute respect of the Lebanese Sovereignty and Dignity;

The victims of the Beirut August Massacre, hereby strongly request the international community's support to Justice and Truth by:

- deciding the international investigation and prosecution of this crime by referring the matter to the International Criminal Court under Chapter VII, or appointing an international investigation commission and creating an international special tribunal where all victims have standing to participate, appear and submit damage claims;
- with the court's full competence to impose all sanctions, penalties, monetary damages, and remedies; and full jurisdiction to prosecute any Lebanese and non-Lebanese private and public person directly and/or indirectly involved in this crime against humanity.

Respectfully submitted,
upon the request of Victims of the Beirut August Massacre
Nada Abdelsater-Abusamra Esq.,

