



Paulo Casaca
Deputado ao Parlamento Europeu

Aramaic Democratic Organization
Sweden

Brussels, 21 March 2005

Dear Sirs

My conviction that an independent, free and democratic Lebanon is fundamental for World peace and stability was certainly reinforced after my visit to Lebanon last month.

It is in this context that the Portuguese Socialists in the European Parliament decided to organise homage to Mr. Rafik Hariri and to Mr. Gebran Tueni.

The event is endorsed by leaders from the Lebanese communities around the world and will be held in Lisbon on April the seventh.

I would be very honoured if I could count with your presence.

Yours sincerely,

Paulo Casaca

Annex: Information on the Lisbon Homage



"Homage to Rafik Hariri and Gebran Tueni"

Martyrs of freedom and independence for Lebanon

Lisbon*, 7 April, 17:00

The murder of the former Lebanese Prime-Minister, Mr. Rafik Hariri, by terrorist means provoked the largest demonstrations ever witnessed in Lebanon and a general movement for freedom, democracy and national independence known as "The Cedars Revolution".

The international community supported this movement, namely through the UNSCR number 1559, that decided the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Lebanon and the disarmament of militias.

This resolution resulted to a large extent from an intense work carried out by citizens of the Lebanese Diaspora originating from various countries, including Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, Latin America and Africa, that after the resolution was passed organized themselves in the "International Lebanese Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1559", an INGO launched on July 6th, 2005. The goal of "Committee 1559" is to campaign with the international community for a full implementation of this UN resolution.

"Committee 1559" has been expanding its activities and widening its basis of support, including now a parliamentary sub-committee involving US, European and parliamentarians from other continents, and has been visiting several countries, debating with the political establishment and with the civil society the ways to continue the implementation of the above mentioned resolution.

One year after "The Cedars Revolution" of 14 of March, the implementation of UNSCR 1559 has stalled, to a large extent because of the terror imposed on the Lebanese society.

Since Rafik Hariri's assassination, Lebanon witnessed already thirteen other major terrorist attacks targeting the symbols of the political and public opinion leadership, the last of which, to the present day, was the murder of Mr. Gebran Tueni, senior journalist and Member of the Lebanese Parliament, closely associated with the work of "Committee 1559".

Most of the Lebanese leading democratic politicians feel threatened for expressing freely their views or live "arrested" in their own houses, surrounded by heavy security measures, as it is the case with Mr. Saad Hariri and Mr. Walid Jumblatt.

It is in this context that the Portuguese Socialists in the European Parliament, through Paulo Casaca - himself a member of "Committee 1559" - decided to organise homage to Rafik Hariri and Gebran Tueni. The event is endorsed by leaders from the Lebanese communities around the world.

In this homage representatives of the religious communities established in Lisbon as well as representatives of both families - Hariri and Tueni - will address the audience and will invoke the role of the religious communities in building tolerant societies.

Legislative and public personalities from various countries and parties will also address the event.

* *venue to be confirmed*