

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
DAMASCUS

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الجمهورية العربية السورية
مجلس الشعب

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H.E Speaker of the Parliament

Dear ,

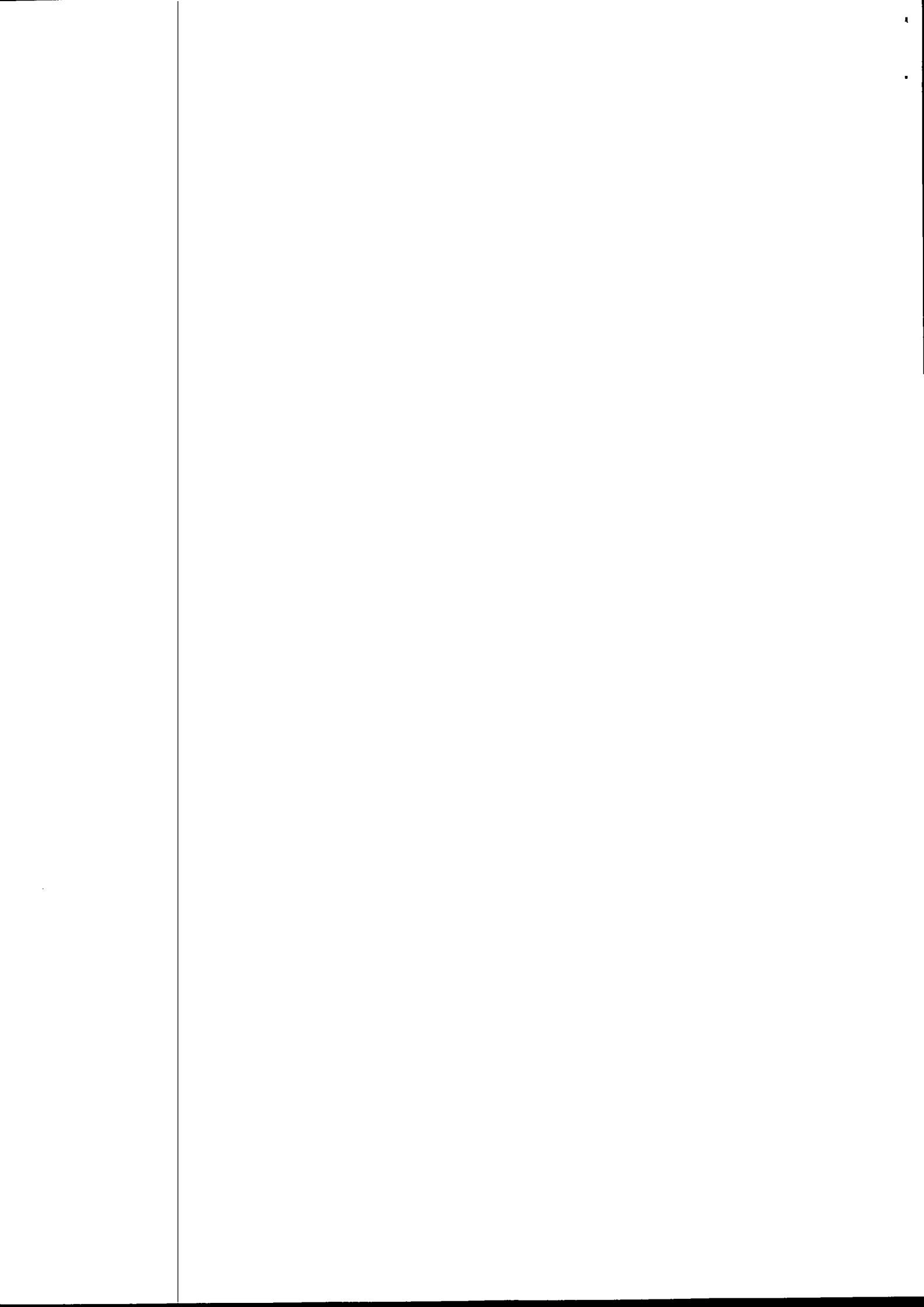
Please find enclosed a statement of People's Assembly , related to the report of the International Investigation Committee on the assassination of Former Lebanese Prime minister , Rafiq Hariri .

We would be grateful if you forward it to relevant members of your Parliament .

With best regard

Secretary - General
of People's Assembly
Abdulrazzak Koutayni





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We , the people's Assembly in Syria have decided . based on decree 201 dated 24/10/2005 issued by parliament speaker the formation of a special committee made up from members of the parliament who work in the judiciary and legal fields . Their mission will be to study the report of the international investigation committee in the assassination crime of the late Rafik Al Hariri . The mentioned committee undertook the study of the report from all angles and prepared a preliminary memorandum which includes an analysis of different legal and procedural aspects . This memorandum was then presented to the People's Assembly who in turn discussed it along with the report . Interventions were made by most members of the parliament , through out the three consecutive days in which they expressed their reservations about the content of the report and they ascertained its lack of the truth , its contradictions and its multiple legal and professional contraventions and that it aims in scoring political points rather judicial ones .

As a result of the study of all interventions and the preliminary memorandum , the following final memorandum was adopted .

The relationship between Syria and Lebanon has always formed a unique model for Arab relations through its geographical and historical ties and the degree of closeness that binds the citizens of both countries .

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Syria has always held out its hand in support and help of its brothers in Lebanon and it has always been asked to do so . Syria never intended hegemony over Lebanon or ever wanted to see an end to its existence . Syria has always stood by Lebanon's side in its many crisis and disasters not out of patriotic duty only but because every event that causes tension and threatens the existence and independence of Lebanon , puts a strain on Syria .

Hence followed the entrance of the Syrian forces to Lebanon in the year 1976 as a response to the legal request of the Lebanese government and to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon .

Everyone knows that Syria has always stood by the Lebanese nationalist forces in 1982 in the face of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon . Syria lost thousands of martyrs specifically in trying to save the sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon at a time when the isolationists in Lebanon were conspiring with Israel and welcoming its occupation. That very same force which now raises the banner of freedom and calls for Lebanese sovereignty and independence .

These solid ties between Syria and Lebanon pushed certain sides to try and find a way to deny and destroy them . This job was undertaken by a particular Lebanese force- a force which did not understand historical relations by asking for help from the enemy .

The assassination of the late Hariri was catastrophe that was seized upon by the isolationists who have ties with foreign forces to hold responsible the Syrian and Lebanese security forces .

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This happened in the shadow of programmed incitement prepared by high ranking levels in the USA and Israel using the UN security council as a means of pressurizing Syria .

This drama continued with the hope of the break down of the Syrian Lebanese alliance and the violation of Syrian and Lebanese sovereignty . An international investigation committee was entrusted with the investigation . Their basic assumption was to try and indicate that Syria took part in the assassination crime .

Out side forces rushed to try and change this interim report into a tool that can be used to impose sanctions on Syria .

The point of view of those supporting this report is that Syria must expel all nationalist logic in looking at the problems of the Arab world . That it must stop shouldering the responsibility of struggle against Israel , which has occupied Palestine and part of Syria. That it must expel from its political agenda the close historical and geographical ties with brotherly Iraq . That it must submit to the dictates of a racist and occupying state .

If pessimism ,tendencies of fear and the acceptance of humiliation and defeat have leaked into some peoples' souls it is important to say , that the flame of life has not been extinguished in the hearts and minds of the Syrian Arab people whose spirit of struggle is continuous . The hope of rising and progressing has never left our conscience . We will defend our dignity , liberty , and independence to the last drop of our blood .



Although , we are fully aware of the fact that Mr. Mehlis ' report is politicized from A to Z and that Syria is absolutely innocent from Mr. Hariri's blood we are seeking to unveil the truth and the real murderers . Nevertheless we find it a must to scrutinize this report in order to realize its fragility , weakness , contradiction , and lack of logic, apart from its political stamp . These are quite apparent in the following points :

Firstly : The content of the report was leaked to Lebanese mass media which is against international law and against the investigative procedures that should be followed to ensure the secrecy of investigation until it is completed . This clearly indicates that the report is unlawful .

Secondly : The report is politically motivated and this is clearly apparent especially through focusing the attention toward Syria and accusing it of the assassination of Mr.Hariri . This was done by projecting the accusation in a method which paves the way and helps the pressurizing party condemn Syria by using the report through the media and promoting the tale that Syria is involved in the assassination and that it is behind the idea of the crime , its planning and its implementation

Thirdly : The obvious contradictions in the report through the apposing ideas and their incoherence in the introductions and conclusions . For the report concludes with an accusation in spite of it mentioning the following items : (It is impossible for anyone to know the whole story , how and what happened and who was



responsible for assassinating Rafek , and therefore the assumption of innocence remains) paragraph 21 .

(The committee sees that all people including those accused should be assumed innocent until their guilt is proven in a just court of law) paragraph 210 .

This indicates that the report is self – contradictory in that aspect ; since it repeats its conviction that Syria is involved in the assassination on one hand and the assumption of innocence until proven otherwise on the other hand . The report strongly sheds light on the incident of extending the term of office of president Lahoud when it includes two contradicting stories - one Syrian and one Lebanese .

The report tried to depict the Syrian version as untrue and the report described it as misleading while it depicted the Lebanese version as truthful and convincing . This contradicts the basic rules of logic and justice as the Syrian version is both coherent , logical and to the point with out any weaknesses or misleading statements . (paragraph 25) .

The Lebanese version is incoherent , contradictory and recited differently by different witnesses despite the fact that all the mentioned witnesses met with Alhariri . He had told them in one meeting session the facts of the discussion concerning the extension of the term of office of president Lahoud .

Fourthly : The clear defamation of Syria in the subject of the Syrian cooperation with the international investigation committee .



The report describes Syrian cooperation with the committee as superficial and that the foreign minister asserted the Syrian government support by using vague phrases . The report also said that those people interrogated gave similar answers , most of which were contradictory to the evidence collected by the investigation committee . The reality is exactly the opposite . Syria 's stand was very clear in cooperating with the investigation committee as was stated by president Assad and foreign minister Alsharaa . The committee demanded to meet with some of the witnesses , then added names , then divided these names into witnesses and suspects . Syria responded to that request and the committee listened to everyone they wanted . Also , the committee expressed its wish to search the premises of the suspects . However , after arriving in Syria it did not confirm this request .

The interviews with witnesses and suspects took place in clear atmospheres . Also what was mentioned in the report regarding the presence of a person taking the minutes and other unknown people is untrue ; there was only one man taking minutes in Arabic employed in the foreign ministry familiar in report writing , in addition to one of the law advisers Dr. Ryad Daoudi or Dr. Abed alsarraaj , and the translator who came with the committee. But the phrase (and

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other unknown people to whom they worked) is a pure culmination proved by the documented facts.

Fifthly: It is clear that the investigation committee unlike the general law traditions and principles , stated pre-made results starting from a presumption that the Syrian and Lebanese authorities are the ones who prepared for Alharriri assassination crime Then they searched for proof to prove this assumption . Where, in reality, they should have searched for proof first to reach the truth and know the killers . So all the evidence and proof which they used to affirm their results is unacceptable and illogical , because they depended on two witnesses : the first is a liar, as the report says, and the second is unknown . So , who is the witness ? And is he so important and trustworthy so as to be given all this information about an operation supposed to be top secret ?why did the investigation committee refrain from mentioning his name although they mentioned lots of names and information in this report ? Does the committee have the right to arouse the Lebanese and Syrian public opinions through such important information with out mentioning the source in order to allow the mentioned

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persons to present their appropriate answer ?And why don't they face the accused with this information in order to give them the chance to come up with the correct answers which is a holy right as the investigation committee knows . The investigation committee pays special importance to Ahmad Abu Adas where they specify to him the paragraphs from /169/ to /182/then finish to say in/182/: (the evidence shows that it is almost probable that Abu Adas had left his house on 16th of January 2005 and was taken , willingly or unwillingly , to Syria where he disappeared since that date).But if we go back to what was mentioned in these paragraphs , we see that there is no evidence or indication that Abu Adas entered and disappeared in Syria , or that he was used as snare , or that he recorded the video tape under threat. So we are before a critical confrontation, where we should deal with it in all competence and rationality under the leadership of president Bashar Al Assad in order to defend our national adherence and the dignity of our nation .This demands that specialized committees should make Arabic and foreign rounds to explain the concomitants of the

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whole case , and to enlighten the international public opinion with the facts, which our enemy tries to bury

In spite of what is going on between us and our brothers in Lebanon , we will not give the ambuscaders the chance to achieve their purposes in creating a rupture between the two countries .We will work together to rebuild the bridges which some people think were broken off. We are so confident that the Syrian and Lebanese ,will build up and solidify the bonds between the two people .

We call for activating the Arab meetings on the popular level and ask to hold an Arabic popular conference to activate the relationships between the people of the Arab world to defend Syria and Lebanon and other Arabic countries . We will follow up ,swiftly ,with the whole international organizations which follow the united nations and with the deputies in security council and with the general society and popular organizations and profession unions to put all facts between their hands in cooperational with the foreign ministry.

All this , increases our faith that political, economical , financial and administrative reform will start rapidly in our

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society again. Through an invulnerable national union against any aggression whether from the inside or outside.

We denounce and condemn all the attempts which aim to weaken the Syrian- Lebanese attitude in the face of the American and Zionist plans . Also, we appeal to the brotherly and friendly countries and their parliaments to support Syria in order to achieve truth and to fend off injury , and in order to not to allow the passing of unfair decisions against the Syrian people .

We are so hopeful that the whole world and its representatives will stand beside us in our just and truthful cases ,and we hope that their parliaments and governments will support the Syrian attitude which is committed to applying the international legitimacy decisions .We also express our appreciation and thanks to all those who stand beside us in our fair cases .

Damascus on: 29/10/2005

**People Assembly Speaker
Dr. Mahmoud Al Abrach**