

International Warning to Syria Against Murdering Hariri or Jumblat

Contributed by Naharnet
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Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N coordinator of Syria's departure from Lebanon under Resolution 1559, has reportedly asked that President Assad be given a 'last chance' to bow to the will of the international community or face a financial blockade by the United States and the European Union.

The London-based Al Hayat newspaper said Sunday that Roed-Larsen made the request during a 75-minute meeting with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris Saturday following 5-days of talks in Beirut and Damascus on ways to bring about an 'amicable' Syrian pullout from Lebanon.

Chirac responded by a reiteration that France wants complete compliance with U.N. resolution 1559, stressing that the Lebanese parliamentary elections set for May "represent a step that the international community will be very sensitive to," an Elysee statement said.

Roed-Larsen, in turn, told reporters after the Elysee meeting that the "situation is difficult, but I think there will be a solution for which we need the good will of all parties concerned to make progress in applying the resolution."

Al Hayat cited diplomatic sources in Paris for its 'last chance' report. It quoted the sources as also saying the international community had sent a clear message to the Assad regime to refrain from 'any bloodletting in Lebanon.'

The message warned that assassinating ex-Premier Hariri or Druze leader Walid Jumblat would initiate a "total, final and irrevocable divorce with the international community," according to Al Hayat.

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