

## UN Security Council Gives New Backing to Hariri Probe

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U.N. Security Council powers threw their weight behind the international investigation into the assassination of ex-PM Rafik Hariri at special talks Friday.

French ambassador to the U.N. Gerard Araud said the meeting was to show support following an attack on investigators in Beirut's southern suburbs and to demand that the inquiry go ahead in "a serene, independent and effective way."

The U.N. Special Tribunal for Lebanon was set up in 2007 to investigate the 2005 assassination of Hariri. Tensions have mounted as unconfirmed reports say that charges are to be made against members of Hizbullah.

The Shiite group has called for a boycott of the U.N. investigation.

Friday's Security Council meeting was "the expression of our common concern after the attacks on the investigators team," Araud told reporters afterwards.

"There was a general expression of support to the tribunal. Now we are going to see what happens on the ground in the coming weeks, which is important," he added.

"We have all expressed our wish that the tribunal will be able to continue its action in a serene, independent and effective way," said Araud.

Lebanon has started an investigation into the October 27 attack by a group of women on two U.N. investigators and their translator at a clinic in a Hizbullah-controlled southern suburb of Beirut, its U.N. ambassador Nawaf Salam said.

Prime Minister Saad Hariri, son of the slain ex-leader, has reaffirmed his commitment to the U.N. investigation.(Naharnet-AFP)

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<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/newsdesk.nsf/Lebanon/02BE98908E57F3AAC22577D2006B8A43?OpenDocument>