

ACKERMAN CALLS FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR LEBANON IN CRISIS

Contributed by News from Congressman Gary Ackerman
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5th District – New York

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U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY), who is expected to be the Democratic Ranking Member on the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, today issued the enclosed statement following the action of the 11 Lebanese cabinet ministers who resigned as part of an effort to bring down the government of Prime Minister Sa’ad Hariri because of his continuing support of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon:

“At this moment of political chaos in Lebanon, I think it’s absolutely essential that the United States continue to support Prime Minister Hariri in his efforts to maintain stability, to protect Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence, and to preserve the quest for justice embodied in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL). Prime Minister Hariri has been steadfast, disciplined and focused on protecting Lebanon’s vital interests and maintaining calm in his country.

“Today, in his meeting with Prime Minister Hariri, President Obama made crystal clear the enduring support of the United States for Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence, as well as the continuing need to implement all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions regarding Lebanon. I commend the President for standing up so clearly for Lebanon in its time of need.

“In the face of provocation, threats of insurrection, and attempts at intimidation, extortion and blackmail by the terrorists in Hezbollah, an arm of the barbaric theocratic dictatorship in Iran, and an ally of the thuggish regime in Damascus, Prime Minister Hariri has stood firm, yielding only that ground necessary to preserve calm inside his country. But on the fundamental principle of the government’s sovereignty and the importance of the STL in the search for justice for his murdered father, the former prime minister, as well as 21 other innocent Lebanese citizens, he has been unwavering.

“The United States must continue to support those Lebanese committed to a future of peace, justice and stability for their country and for the region.”