

Transatlantic Summit on Terrorism and Arab Spring at the US Congress

Contributed by WCCR
Friday, 17 June 2011

It is ironic that while other nations in the Middle East are obtaining more freedoms, Lebanon is losing them.

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The World Council of the Cedars Revolution

Representing the hopes and aspirations of many millions of Lebanese in Lebanon and throughout the Diaspora

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June

14th 2011

Transatlantic Summit on Terrorism and Arab Spring at the US Congress

Dear ladies and gentlemen

Honorable members of the European Parliament and the US Congress

Dear friends

I'd like to thank you for giving us the opportunity as a representative of the Cedars Revolution NGO in Washington and also with the United Nations.

I'd like to thank in particular MEP Khaime Mayor Oreha and Rep Sue Myrick for hosting this event, and also thank Dr Walid Phares and his colleague Guillermo Marines Casan for organizing the event as well as Mr Andy Polk from Congress.

Among all uprisings of the Arab spring, the Cedars Revolution is the very first one that triggered the belief by youth and civil societies that people can march peacefully and provoke change. When one million and a half people marched in downtown Beirut in 2005, we felt it was Prague, Warsaw, Estonia or East Berlin again.

The Syrian occupation, pressed by the demonstrators and world democracies, withdrew and we were able to hold the first free elections for over 30 years. Our revolution inspired Arab speaking peoples from Tunisia, to Egypt to other places. The Cedars Revolution also inspires the Green revolution in Iran. Like in Beirut they marched in Tehran and expressed their views.

But Lebanon's democratic revolution was attacked, assassinated and as of yesterday removed from Government. Hezbollah and the Syrian networks in Lebanon waged a campaign of assassinations eliminating members of parliament, journalists, intellectuals and ordinary people till they took up arms against the democratically elected government in 2008 through a Coup.

Since then Lebanon's democracy gradually was weakened and this week Hezbollah and the Assad regime re-established a Government with militias and terror groups

It is ironic that while other nations in the Middle East are obtaining more freedoms, Lebanon is losing them.

Dear friends

We hereby ask you to help the Cedars revolution; the Lebanese people to regain its freedom and its democracy by implementing the UN Security Council resolutions including 1559 and 1701 and helping this small country disarm the militias and conduct free and fair elections

The Lebanese Diaspora, 15 million strong has contributed to the economy and well being of world democracies and economies, from Europe to the US, Canada, Australia, Mexico and Brazil. It is witnessing terror forces oppressing its mother country. In the name of millions of Lebanese around the world we urge you, lawmakers from the US and Europe to help Lebanon come back to the community of free and democratic nations.

Finally, we urge you to pressure your governments to reject the new government in Lebanon.

Thank you

Tom Harb

SG/WCCR