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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by World Lebanese Cultural Union, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Largest Non-Nuclear Explosion at Port Beirut in Lebanon - Call for Justice and Transparent Investigation by Independent Judiciary

“At best it is negligent, at worst [there is a] nefarious dealing going on”,

It is with these words that the youngest victim of the Beirut Port Explosion’s mother Sarah expressed her angst and heartfelt pain at the loss of her young son.

The Beirut Port Explosion represents for the Human Rights Commission, a matter that whilst appearing seemingly insoluble because of the intransigence of the domestic government in Lebanon and its failure at a legislative and executive level to address what are the very real concerns, there is also a contribution made to that intransigent and regrettably inept response by the Lebanese Government that its judiciary (in the main) has also failed to address the need for an open transparent and just inquiry into the cause of the explosion and the perpetrators.

The failure to bring to justice and more importantly to engage in a hearing that has effectively enabled not only the identification of the suspects involved but more importantly the redress and the just adjudication of the grievances of the victims represents a complete and utter breach of Lebanon’s obligations under its commitment to the United Nations Charter.

The Judge responsible for the investigation has stood resolute and in splendid isolation as the only just judex that can be identified within Lebanon’s somewhat perplexing judicial system, who has stood for the course of justice and more importantly has been receptive to the need that justice be meted out to the victims of the Beirut Port Explosion.

The continuing need for a just domestic resolution of this tragedy is juxtaposed against what is equally a regrettable response by members of the United Nations, save for Australia (in the main) which has been somewhat forthright in terms of engaging in the realization of a response that was both refreshing and more importantly secured by the Human Rights Council Ambassador in Geneva who delivered a statement on behalf of 38 countries with respect to the delay and the obfuscation being undertaken by the Lebanese authorities. In that regard, under the aegis of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Australia, the intrepid intervention by Australia and those 38 signatories is to be welcomed.

What is required is that there be brokered and more importantly promoted a reformation for the international system that requires and more importantly engages in domestic tragedies on a national scale as the Beirut Port Explosion ably manifests a need for today’s international order to engage in and resolve such dilemmas as have been undertaken domestically within Lebanon.

There is a need in societies that have been beset by such tragedies to be benefitted from the development of a “rule of law among nations” as was recently promoted by the United Nations Security Council.

Global communities cannot ignore the plight of domestic victims such as they are in the rather parlous and hapless circumstances of what is occurring within Lebanon, in terms of the deft defiance to resolve the Beirut Port Explosion. The litigation internationally, whilst with the best endeavors, has not achieved what is required and more importantly has not been able to resolve the identity of the perpetrators and more particularly bring to justice those responsible.

There is a need and the Human Rights Council must uphold the development of a universal jurisdiction that will apply and more appropriately bring to bear upon tragedies such as the Beirut Port Explosion represents.

The application of positivist legal theories which are in their diagnostic and prescriptive approaches amenable to but more importantly able to ameliorate the breaches of human rights that the Beirut Port Explosion represents for not only the domestic but the international victims of this tragedy.

"In concluding, we urge the Human Rights Council to not be averse to the declaration of the need that there must be sooner rather than later an international inquiry set up to ensure transparency and more importantly a swift and just adjudication and resolution of what is, leaving aside Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the biggest explosion in civil society in recent years, since those matters were undertaken in the Second World War.

"The time is long overdue and the intervention must be sooner rather than later."