



Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5800th meeting

Wednesday, 12 December 2007, 7 p.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
<i>Members:</i>	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Ms. Halászová
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Williams
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.



The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Lebanon, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salam (Lebanon) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Baabda on 12 December 2007, which killed General François el-Hajj of the Lebanese Armed Forces and killed and injured several other persons.

"It expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, to the Lebanese Armed Forces and to the Government of Lebanon.

"The Security Council expresses its strong condemnation of this attempt to destabilize Lebanese institutions, in this particular case the Lebanese Armed Forces.

"The Security Council reiterates its condemnation of all targeted assassinations of Lebanese leaders, particularly since October 2004, and demands an immediate end of the use of intimidation and violence against the representatives of the Lebanese people and institutions.

"It stresses that it is of the highest importance that the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this heinous crime are brought to justice and expresses its determination to support the efforts and commitment of the Government of Lebanon to this end.

"The Security Council recalls its support for the Secretary-General's efforts for the establishment of the special tribunal for Lebanon in a timely manner, as a means to put an end to impunity in Lebanon and deter further assassinations in Lebanon.

"It underlines that no attempt to destabilize Lebanon should prevent the holding, without delay, of a free and fair presidential election in conformity with Lebanese constitutional rules, without any foreign interference or influence, and with full respect for democratic institutions.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of the unity of all the Lebanese people. It also reiterates its full support for all ongoing efforts in Lebanon to combat terrorism, solidify democratic institutions, engage in political dialogue and pursue national reconciliation."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/47.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.