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22/07/2009

*Translated from Arabic*

**Lebanese Republic**

**Ministry of Defence**

The Minister

4 April 2009

Subject: Lebanese report on national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The Ministry of Defence emphasizes the measures taken to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction and indicates once more as follows:

- Lebanon does not possess weapons of mass destruction and is bound by the resolutions of the United Nations which prohibit the use or acquisition of such weapons by terrorists;
- Lebanon has introduced laws and regulations that permit the inspection of any kind of weapons that are exported, in transit or transported across its borders and it prohibits trafficking in such weapons. It prosecutes terrorists where they are present and, in particular, Lebanese law does not permit the harbouring of terrorists.
- Lebanon encourages the strengthening of international cooperation, participates in international efforts to combat terrorism and has introduced the necessary legislation and strict deterrent regulations to regulate the surveillance and prosecution of terrorists where they are present.
- Lebanon combats the deployment of such weapons and restricts their availability, in particular with a view to establishing a zone free of such weapons in the Middle East; it is also against legitimizing the use or threatened use of such weapons.
- Lebanon condemns all forms of terrorism and supports the coordination of joint international efforts to combat it.
- Lebanon is very alarmed by Israel's failure to comply with international legitimacy and regards it as a threat to all States in the region.

*(Signed)*

**Elias Murr**

Minister of Defence

*Translated from Arabic*

## **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants**

### **Subject: Report of the Lebanese Republic on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction**

Weapons of mass destruction are known internationally by the abbreviation NBC (nuclear, biological or chemical). They are non-conventional weapons, often manufactured to be used in combination with other conventional or non-conventional weapons, particularly by the superpowers during the Cold War period when the world was divided into eastern and western camps.

With the demise of the socialist camp, the world has become unipolar, and with the onset of globalization and the communications revolution in the age of computers and the Internet, it has become possible to gain access to information on the construction and manufacture of such weapons as well as the raw materials needed to make them. Such information is published on certain Internet sites, including some affiliated with terrorist groups, and it is also possible for terrorist organizations to acquire the materials necessary for manufacturing such weapons.

The following are measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and stop them from falling into the hands of terrorist groups and cells.

#### **I. On the level of security**

On instructions from the Lebanese Government, the Lebanese security services are working under the direct supervision of the Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation to detect and dismantle terrorist networks and cells and to arrest and bring to justice their members. The security services confiscate various kinds of weapons belonging to such groups and cells, including conventional light and heavy weapons, explosives, and any materials that might be used to cause serious harm, such as chemical or biological substances. Members of one terrorist network have already been arrested and a stockpile of cyanide seized.

#### **II. On the level of legislation**

A draft revision of the Lebanese Penal Code incorporates crimes of biological terrorism. A section on the import, storage and manufacture of biological substances has also been added to the penalties section. The draft law also envisages the formation of a higher committee composed of representatives of the Ministries of Defence, the Interior, Health and the Environment, and of the Department of Customs. That committee would oversee the control of ports and of land, sea and air borders and prevent the entry of such substances without that committee's authorization. The draft law also envisages the installation of new border crossing and port equipment to ensure detection of chemical, biological and nuclear materials.

Beirut, 14 May 2009

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[*Signed*] Ziad Baroud  
Minister of the Interior and Municipalities

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