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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixty-first session
Items 5 and 8 of the agenda

**THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO
PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN
OCCUPATION**

**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE**

**Written statement¹ submitted by UN Watch,
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.

[15 February 2005]

* Re-issued for technical reasons.

¹ This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

RIGHT OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Under international law, the Lebanese people have the right to self-determination and the right to be free from the yoke of alien domination. Yet these rights are systematically violated by Syria's Baathist regime, which continues to illegally occupy Lebanon with an estimated 16,000 troops. United Nations Watch, with the support of leading non-governmental organizations active in the struggle for Lebanese freedom, including the World Lebanese Cultural Union, the Syrian Reform Party and the U.S Committee for a Free Lebanon, urges the 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights to adopt the following Draft Resolution to uphold and protect the international human rights of the Lebanese people.

2005/... Right of the Lebanese People to Self-Determination

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Articles 1 and 55 thereof, which affirm the right of peoples to self-determination, and reaffirming the need for the scrupulous respect of the principle of refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force, as specified in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Guided also by the provisions of article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm that all peoples have the right to self-determination,

Guided further by the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, and in particular Part I, paragraphs 2 and 3, relating to the right of self-determination of all peoples and especially those subject to foreign occupation,

Recalling all United Nations resolutions that confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Lebanese people, particularly their right to self-determination,

Recalling Security Council Resolution 1583 (2005) of January 28, 2005, which expresses strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, and under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon, and which calls upon the Government of Lebanon to fully extend and exercise its sole and effective authority throughout the south, including through the deployment of sufficient numbers of Lebanese armed and security forces, to ensure a calm environment throughout the area, including along the Blue Line, and to exert control over the use of force on its territory and from it,

Recalling also Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004) of 2 September 2004, which effectively rebuked Syria's illegal interference with Lebanon's constitutional rules for Presidential elections,

Recalling further Security Council Resolution 1553 (2004) of 29 July 2004, as well as the statements of the Security Council President concerning the right to sovereignty of the Lebanese people,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 520 (1982) of 17 September 1982, which calls for strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon through the Lebanese Army throughout Lebanon,

Noting the determination of Lebanon to be free, to exercise control over all Lebanese territory, and to ensure the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon,

Reaffirming the right of the Lebanese people to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant United Nations resolutions and declarations, and the provisions of international covenants and instruments relating to the right to self-determination as an international principle and as a right of all peoples in the world, as it is a *jus cogens* in international law and a basic condition for achieving freedom for the people of Lebanon,

Mindful of the unlawful and unconstitutional interference of the Syrian occupation forces in the recent Lebanese presidential elections and *underlining* the importance of free and fair elections according to Lebanese constitutional rules devised without foreign interference or influence,

Gravely concerned at the continued presence of terrorist groups in Lebanon, supported by Syria and Iran, which prevent the Lebanese government from exercising its full sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and its right to self-determination under international law,

Reaffirming that Lebanese independence and the end of Syrian occupation will facilitate the dismantling of the Hezbollah terrorist group, an organization that is sponsored by Iran and Syria, and that seeks through violence and terror attacks, including suicide bombing attacks that constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes, to derail the Middle East peace process,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Lebanese people to self-determination, including their right to exercise full sovereignty throughout all of Lebanon, including in the south, and their right to an independent Lebanese State free of foreign occupation, and looks forward to the early fulfillment of this right;

2. *Strongly condemns* Syria for its continuing illegal occupation of Lebanon, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the international human right of the Lebanese people to self-determination, and further constitutes a flagrant violation of Security Council Resolutions 425 (1978), 520 (1982), 1553 (2004), 1559 (2004) and 1583 (2005);

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Governments of Syria and Lebanon and all other Governments, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale and to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its sixty-second session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the present resolution by the Governments of Syria and Lebanon;

4. *Decides* that if the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session includes the item entitled "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial

or alien domination or foreign occupation”, then it shall consider the situation in occupied Lebanon under that agenda item, as a matter of high priority.
