

The American Lebanese Coalition

May 6, 2004

The American Lebanese Coalition is urging you to condemn the atrocious human rights violations that continue to take place in Lebanon against Democratic Opposition groups and individuals.

On Saturday May 1, 2004 at approximately 2 a.m. Pierre Boulos, a political activist with the Lebanese Forces Party, opposed to the pro-Syrian Lebanese Government, was found murdered, his body wrapped in a blanket and, with careless disregard, stuffed into the trunk of his car. The cause of death was severe, repeated blows to the head. The victim was also savagely beaten on his arms and hands. A bloodied iron rod laid by the car.

Pierre believed in democracy, freedom and peace for all, regardless of religious belief or political affiliation. He held peaceful demonstrations against the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and against the human rights violations taking place there. Unfortunately, in a country held hostage by occupation, there is no room for democracy and freedom of expression, except among the dead.

This heinous, senseless crime is by no means isolated or unique. Approximately two years ago Ramzi Irani, another Lebanese Christian activist, father of two and the Chairman for the Lebanese Forces Party Student Committee, was also found murdered fourteen days after his disappearance. His decaying body was found wrapped in a blanked stuffed in the back of his car. Like Pierre Boulos, Ramzi Irani was beaten, tortured then murdered. Like Pierre Boulos, Ramzi Irani believed in freedom and democracy. Both men peacefully demonstrated against Syrian occupation of Lebanon and governmental violations of civil liberties. Both encouraged the Lebanese youths to promote their beliefs calmly, with respect for others and for all human life.

Both Pierre Boulos and Ramzi Irani had a following among the Christian youths in Lebanon. Young college students, who had the vision for the return of a democratic Lebanon, followed their teachings. However, these peaceful teachings were viewed as a threat by a government determined to promote their militant agenda. Both men were repeatedly detained by authorities and brutally mistreated. Both men ended up viciously murdered, their bodies shoved into the trunks of their cars. Their only crime was the promotion of democracy and the aspiration for a free Lebanon.

The American Lebanese Coalition is asking for your support in condemning the repeated abuses of Human Rights and political freedoms in Syrian-occupied Lebanon, at a time when peace and democracy must prevail, in a part of the world where terrorism and a disregard for human life is rampant.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gebeily,M.D.
Executive Director, American Lebanese Coalition
President, Lebanese Information Center
*4900 Leesburg Pike Suite 203 ** Alexandria, VA 22302*
*Phone: 703-578-4214 ** Fax: 703-578-4615*
E-Mail: jgebeily@licus.org
www.licus.org