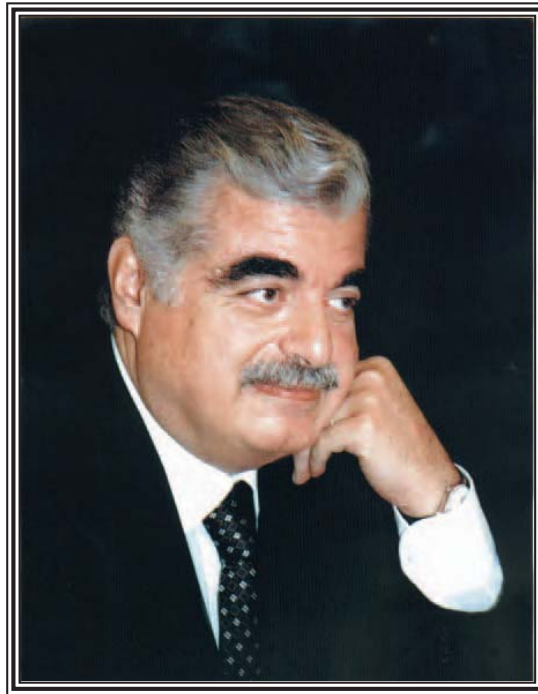




# HARIRI-GRAM

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## *Remembering Rafik B. Al-Hariri* *November 1, 1944 – February 14, 2005*

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As we observe the second anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik B. Al-Hariri, we embrace this opportunity to honor and remember his extraordinary achievements as philanthropist, visionary, peacemaker, and nation builder. The passage of these last two years has not dimmed the guiding light of his leadership. On the contrary, this light continues to inspire us, allowing us to measure more accurately the scope and significance of what he did for Lebanon.

Above all else, we honor Rafik Hariri for restoring the spirit of the nation and teaching his countrymen that it was again possible to hope for a better future, a

future of peace and prosperity. This renewed sense of hope is perhaps his greatest and most enduring gift to the nation.

Although we often speak, perhaps too easily, of the workings of fate in our lives, it is difficult not to discern an element of fate in Rafik Hariri's emergence as a national leader at such a critical juncture in Lebanon's history when the nation stood in great need of a gifted and inspiring leader. If not fate, it was assuredly Lebanon's great good fortune to count such a man as one of its most loyal and devoted sons and to entrust its welfare to his capable hands.

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Since no one person can restore the spirit of a nation without the support of like-minded colleagues, it was providential that Rafik Hariri possessed in strong measure the ability to marshal the talents of skilled and dedicated Lebanese who shared his vision for the nation's recovery, reconstruction, and development.

The process by which Rafik Hariri gained the confidence and allegiance of so many Lebanese began in the early 1980's when Lebanon was in danger of losing forever a whole generation of its children. Expressing a profound faith in the youth of Lebanon, he launched a student sponsorship program that rescued and preserved for Lebanon its most valuable resource – its youth. Within the space of a few short years this program made it possible for many thousands of Lebanese students to acquire skills and knowledge that would be critical to Lebanon's recovery and development.

It is in the nature of education programs that their effects are often not immediately evident but become so in the long-term. Yet there were other ways in which Rafik Hariri helped Lebanon that did have immediate effects as when he put his construction company's equipment and personnel to work in 1982 clearing Beirut's streets of wartime rubble and repairing damaged schools and hospitals. Such actions touched the lives of many Beirutis and carried with them a symbolic value in addition to their practical usefulness.

At the same time that Rafik Hariri was working to improve the situation of his countrymen through education programs and relief activities, he was also devoting much time and energy to brokering a number of cease-fires during the civil war and to bringing about the end of the war. It was largely his initiatives on behalf of peace that produced the Taif Accords and the end of hostilities in Lebanon.

With the end of the civil war and Rafik Hariri's election to the office of President of the Council of Ministers (i.e. Prime Minister) of Lebanon, he was able to begin reconstruction in earnest. Within six short years his program of reconstruction achieved stunning successes as Beirut, the hub of Lebanese life, rose from the ashes to become once again a major

Mediterranean destination with a new airport, infrastructure, and central business district.

Mr. Hariri knew that such visible signs of recovery were needed to re-inforce a sense that Lebanon's war-inflicted wounds were healing and the country was ready to meet the challenges of the future.

He also knew that Lebanon needed the support of the international community to stimulate economic recovery. Here again Lebanon was truly blessed to have Rafik Hariri as head of government. Because of his international stature and the close relationships he had formed over the years with heads of government from many countries, Mr. Hariri had the unique ability to mobilize international economic support for Lebanon.

It was largely the confidence he inspired in the international community that spurred the formation of three important international conferences to assist Lebanon - the Friends of Lebanon (December 1996), Paris I (February 2001), and Paris II (November 2002). Bringing together representatives of the governments of 30 nations and of international business and finance, the conferences resulted in pledges of over 4 billion Euros of support for economic recovery in Lebanon.

Rafik Hariri's accomplishments in reconstruction and economic recovery have earned him a lasting place of honor and respect in the history of Lebanon. When his efforts on behalf of the health, education, and social welfare of his countrymen are added to these accomplishments, he is assured a pre-eminent place among those who have contributed to the welfare of Lebanon.

Through Rafik Hariri's many achievements as a national leader an overriding goal remains constant – that of building a prosperous and peaceful future for Lebanon. For advancing peace and prosperity in Lebanon, and by extension in the Middle East and the world, we will always honor the memory of Rafik Hariri. For giving his life in the cause of freedom and independence we will be forever in his debt. May his example always inspire and guide us as we strive to achieve the goals to which he devoted his life.

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## ***A Message from Rafic A. Bizri, President***

In the months following the assassination of Rafik Hariri, many memorial tributes took place to honor, thank, and celebrate a man whose overriding concern was for the welfare of Lebanon. Those who spoke at these tributes often expressed the belief that the most fitting tribute to the memory of Rafik Hariri would be to carry on the noble work for which he gave his life.

Because we share this belief, we are resolved to continue to advance the goals entrusted by Rafik Hariri to the Hariri Foundation, especially the goal of building up the human resources of Lebanon.

In tribute to Mr. Hariri's legacy and in recognition of the second anniversary of his assassination, we offer in this newsletter a report on the relief efforts of the Hariri Foundation during last summer's war.

Within days of the start of this conflict, it became evident that a massive relief effort would have to be mounted to help Lebanon survive a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions. To participate in this relief effort the Hariri Foundation-USA established the Hariri Foundation Lebanon Relief Fund and sent out an appeal for donations to this fund.

Because so many people were looking for a way to help the immense numbers of Lebanese who were suffering the effects of this catastrophic war, the

response to our appeal for support was overwhelming. For this response I express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the many friends whose generosity touched the lives of countless Lebanese.

The spectacle of suffering and



Part of the first shipment of relief supplies for the Hariri Foundation after being unloaded in the port of Beirut in August 2006

destruction in Lebanon which the world witnessed moved many other non-profit organizations to mobilize for relief activities and to undertake joint relief efforts with like-minded organizations.

Thanks to the combined efforts of many humanitarian programs and organizations, the immediate needs of the majority of those affected by the conflict have been met. However, close to 200,000 Lebanese are still without homes and a source of income.

Lebanon has already begun to rebuild the schools, hospitals, homes, and infrastructure lost during the conflict which swept over the nation in July and August. But we still have much work to do to assist the victims of last summer's outbreak of violence. This task will continue

to occupy us for many days to come. We at the Hariri Foundation stand committed to do our share as this work moves forward.

Once again, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to the many friends of Lebanon who contributed so generously to the HF-USA Lebanon Relief Fund. Your support in this relief effort has truly made a difference to those affected by last summer's conflict.

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## Facing the Challenge of a Nation in Crisis

### *Hariri Foundation-USA Lebanon Relief Fund*

The war which erupted in Lebanon on July 12, 2006 inflicted tragic losses in human life, housing, and infrastructure before hostilities ceased on August 14.

The statistics are staggering: 1,191 dead, 4,405 injured, 974,184 internally displaced, 30,000 homes destroyed, over \$2.5 billion in ruined infrastructure, including scores of bridges, roads, schools, and hospitals, thereby erasing the gains of 15 years of recovery and reconstruction in a matter of only a few days.

Although most of the internally displaced were able to return to their villages within weeks of the cease – fire, as of late December the government of Lebanon reported that over 200,000 were still internally displaced.

When the extent of the immense losses that Lebanon was suffering became apparent, HF-USA set up the Hariri Foundation-USA Lebanon Relief Fund within days of the outbreak of the conflict and appealed for contributions to the fund by e-mail, web page, and letter.

The outpouring of generosity in response to this appeal was overwhelming and enabled HF-



Displaced Lebanese seeking medical treatment at the Hariri Clinic in Ein Al-Hilwe, the main Hariri Foundation medical center in South Lebanon.



Displaced Lebanese seeking medical treatment at the Tareek Al-Jadeeda clinic, the main Hariri Foundation medical center in Beirut.

USA to provide vitally needed relief aid to Lebanon in the form of medical supplies and equipment, food, water, clothing, blankets, and temporary shelter.

HF-USA was able to channel contributions to its relief fund directly to Lebanon by working with the Rafik Hariri Foundation in Lebanon which purchased and

distributed relief supplies in Lebanon on its behalf to help the displaced and those in need of medical care

Thanks to these donated funds, scores of Lebanese were treated free of charge at the clinics operated throughout Lebanon by the Directorate of Health and Social Services of the Rafik Hariri Foundation under the direction of Dr. Nouredine El-Kouche.

Thanks also to these donated funds, the Rafik Hariri Foundation was able to provide food and shelter to many hundreds of the displaced in the schools and universities administered by the Foundation in Saida and Beirut.

At present the Foundation is continuing to provide medical care and relief supplies to those affected by the war and is also participating in the ongoing effort to reconstruct the homes, schools, and hospitals damaged or destroyed during the conflict.

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## ***Hariri Foundation Partners with Other NGOs to Ship Relief Supplies to Lebanon***

In addition to raising funds to provide Lebanon with relief supplies, Hariri Foundation-USA also partnered with several NGOs to ship 241 tons of relief supplies to Lebanon and distribute them in country.

### ***August 1, 2006 Shipment***

The first air shipment of 85 tons of relief supplies, containing more than \$2 million worth of medical supplies, powdered milk, baby formula, hand soap, and hygiene kits, was donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Utah. The Islamic Relief Worldwide organization donated the airfreight expenses for the shipment. After leaving Salt Lake City on August 1, the shipment was flown to Cyprus where a Hariri Foundation field office transferred it to a High Speed Swift Vessel made available by the U.S. Navy for relief activities. After reaching Beirut on August 4, the relief supplies were distributed by HF-Lebanon to various organizations which used them to care for over 20,000 Lebanese.

### ***September 8, 2006 Shipment***

For the second and much larger shipment – 156 tons – HF-USA donated half of the airfreight cost for the September 8 flight from the U.S. to Lebanon. This major shipment contained many millions of dollars worth of relief supplies which were donated by the following organizations: the DC Chapter of the American



Shown at the Cyprus airfield is part of the August 1, 2006 air shipment of relief supplies before transport to Beirut via Swift boat, courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

University of Beirut Alumni of North America, Mercy Corps, Church World Service, American Regent, Brother's Brother, Heart to Heart, Operation USA, World Vision, Global Operations and Development, and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Included in this shipment were clinical, orthopedic, and surgical supplies, medicines, maternity kits, baby food and formula, school and hygiene kits, blankets, cookware, soap, and personal care kits.

*(Continued next page)*



A large part of the second shipment of relief supplies after being unloaded in the port of Beirut. .

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Among the recipients of these relief supplies were the Ministry of Health of Lebanon, the Rafik Hariri Foundation Directorate of Health and Human Services, Catholic Relief Services, Charities of the Maronite Church, the International Medical Corps, and the Free Evangelical Association.



Part of the August 1, 2006 shipment of relief supplies: pallets of baby food awaiting transport by sea from Cyprus to Beirut.

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