

Petition For The Institution Of A United Nation International Commission Against Impunity And Corruption For Lebanon.

Dear Mr. António Guterres
Secretary General
The United Nations

We, a number of deputies in the Lebanese Parliament, Non-Governmental Organisations and Independent Intellectuals suffering from the impunity and corruption of the Lebanese public institutions, kindly urge your excellency to help the Lebanese people regain transparency, and correctness through the creation of a United Nation International Commission against impunity and Corruption for Lebanon.

Similarly, to the precedents of the UN Commissions against corruption created in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, we urge you to put all the necessary steps and pressures to work with selected Lebanese prosecutors and judicial entities and investigate all acts of corruption, abuses of power, abuses of human rights and illicit enrichment. We look forward for the commission to have the power and authority to bring charges against anyone and any entity who have committed criminal acts, acts of corruption or any illegal action. We look towards the UN members to assist us by providing qualified and experienced investigators, subject matter experts, forensic, IT, environmental, educational and financial experts and prosecutors to assist our Attorney General.

In his Foreword to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the late Secretary-General, Kofi A. Annan said:

“Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organised crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. This evil phenomenon is found in all countries – big and small, rich and poor – but it is in the developing world that its effects are most destructive. Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government’s ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign aid and investment. Corruption is a key element, an economic under-performance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development.” This is so true of the Lebanese status. The adoption of the Convention and the ratification of it by States, who were minded to do so, was a clear message that the international community was determined to prevent and control corruption. It was a warning that corruption would not be allowed, as it was a betrayal of the public trust and its tolerance was zero.

Lebanon signed the Convention, in terms of ratifying it, on the 22nd of April 2009. In that regard, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) was and is a compact that the Lebanese Government solemnly subscribed to uphold and implement. It was a document that was brought into existence in tandem with another landmark instrument, the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime. Ideally, the UNCAC (hereafter the Convention) introduced a comprehensive set of standards, measures and rules that all countries could apply in order to strengthen their legal and regulatory regimes to fight corruption. It required Member States to return assets obtained through corruption to the country from which they were stolen. In that regard, we refer to the General Assembly Resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003.

In harmony with similar Commissions, may we suggest that its mandate would consist:

- To investigate the existence of illicit security forces and clandestine organizations that commit crimes that affect the fundamental human rights of the citizens of Lebanon, and identify the illegal group structures (including links between state officials and organized crime), activities, modes of operation and sources of financing.

- To appoint professional personnel to support the work of selected lebanese institutions, principally the Attorney General in his/her work to investigate and prosecute individuals involved in illegal groups. Additionally, to make recommendations to the Lebanese Government for the adoption of new public policies and procedures directed at the eradication of these groups and to strengthen the state's capacity to protect the basic human rights of its citizens.

- To investigate acts of corruption and illicit enrichment by government officials or anyone promoting and supporting corruption and illegal activities.

- To support the Public Prosecutor's Office in criminal prosecutions, and participate as a complementary prosecutor (querellante adhesivo).

We thank you heartedly for helping us and look forward to the creation of this extremely important tool that will allow our people to regain normalised governance and join the international community in its implementation of Justice, Freedom and struggle against Terror and fundamentalism.

Lebanon, the 6th of January 2020

Signatures

Name

Organisation

Signature

[illegible]