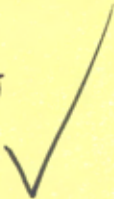


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Update Note for the Secretary General  
8 June 2009

*Samir*

*[Signature]*

# 1. Lebanon

Williams reports<sup>1</sup> that at a second press conference held today, Ziad Baroud announced the official election results for the remaining districts in the Lebanese parliamentary elections, confirming the final outcome of 71 seats for March 14 and 57 for March 8. Voter turnout surpassed the overall turnout mark of 45.8% of the 2005 parliamentary elections and reached the relatively high level of 54.8%.

March 14 leaders, including Saad Hariri and his Christian allies last night hailed the unofficial results as a victory for Lebanon as a whole, and for freedom and democracy. Statements from the victors have been moderate in tone and conciliatory. Hizbullah and Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement last night conceded defeat and pledged to respect the election results.

Reactions to the election results have remained measured for the most part. All sides are united in their praise for the efforts of Minister of the Interior Ziad Baroud, which kept violence and disturbance at bay. Speaker Berri reached out to March 14 – he needs the votes of the majority to retain his post – and praised majority leader Saad Hariri and March 14 stalwart Walid Jumblatt for their reconciliatory celebratory rhetoric.

The only dissenting voice today came from Hizbullah MP Mohammed Raad, who emphasized in remarks to AFP that “the majority must commit not to question our role as a resistance party, the legitimacy of our weapons arsenal and the fact that Israel is an enemy state”. Raad also declared that “the results indicate that the crisis will continue, unless the majority changes its attitude”, arguing that the relatively clear victory by March 14 does not spell a period any less turbulent than that after the elections of May 2005. The remarks suggest Hizbullah may insist on being accorded a ‘blocking third’ in the government. Nasrallah speaks later tonight.

This afternoon, the major international electoral observer missions (EU, NDI, Carter Center) held press conferences all highlighting that the elections had been held in a transparent and impartial manner, and in a largely peaceful and calm atmosphere. Shortfalls were registered with regards to some aspects of the electoral law, such as the absence of pre-

<sup>1</sup> (CLX-074 and CLX-075 of 8/06/09)  
29-05977

**SG OFFICE**

#1836 8 June

printed ballot papers, and the representation of women among candidates. Williams comments that it was clear – though very hard to document – that both sides had engaged in vote-buying.

The process of government formation is expected to begin with the election of the Speaker of Parliament, likely to be Nabih Berri (Amal 8 March), on 20 June. President Sleiman is obliged to conduct consultations with all MPs for the designation of a new Prime Minister. Given the clear 14 March victory, this is very likely to be Saad Hariri. He has previously insisted that he would form a majoritarian government, but will be hard-pressed to exclude Hizbullah, Amal and other 8 March parties despite their defeat.

## **2. Iraq**

De Mistura reports<sup>2</sup> that on 25 May, the Iraqi Trade Minister, Abdel Falah al-Sudani (Da'wa), resigned from his post one day ahead of a vote of no-confidence following allegations of skimming funds from the public food distribution system and trading food aid for profit. This is unprecedented in recent Iraqi politics.

Allegations of collusion between some members of the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) and Al Qaeda in Iraq in a taped confession were released by Iraqi Army General Qasim Atta on 18 May and televised in a press conference. This development may have been a factor in Iraqi Vice President Tariq al-Hashmi stepping down from his position as SG of the Sunni Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) on 24 May. The IIP's lackluster performance in the elections, poor relations with Sunni tribes (especially in Anbar and Ninewa), and a desire to improve relations with PM Maliki's Da'wa party may have also contributed to the IIP's decision to reorganize itself internally.

On the regional front, Iraq's relations with both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait soured during the reporting period. The PM accused Saudi Arabia of not doing enough to combat the flow of terrorists over the Saudi-Iraq border on 27 May. On 2 June, members of the Iraqi CoR expressed criticism of Kuwait over their unwillingness to settle outstanding bi-lateral differences, most significantly reparations stemming from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in 1990. Some lawmakers went as far as to call on Kuwait to pay reparations to Iraq for allowing the MNF-I to use their territory to occupy Iraq and Iraq's Minister of State for National Dialogue accused Kuwait of annexing Iraqi territory. Protesting these criticisms, some

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<sup>2</sup> (CZX-067 of 03/06/09)



Kuwaiti lawmakers have called on the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry to recall their Ambassador to Baghdad.

In the upcoming KRG elections, candidates for KRG President have been announced. President Masoud Barzani will compete with four other candidates including Halo Ibrahim Ahmad, Iraqi President Talabani's brother-in-law. Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Barham Saleh (PUK), has been nominated by his party as their candidate to replace outgoing KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani (KDP) who has served since March 2006.

Discussions indicate the CoR legal committee is working on a draft referendum law on the Iraq/US bilateral agreement which continues to set the date for this electoral event for 30 July. IHEC has advised the CoR and PM that \$100 million is urgently needed together with a referendum law in order for such a date to be viable. This matter seems to be gaining momentum and UNAMI is monitoring developments closely.

Sheikh Hammoudi indicated that the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) is in the process of submitting its third report and highlighted as his main concern that constitutional amendments could be deferred to the next parliament without the approval of articles already agreed upon. Sheikh Hammoudi sought UNAMI's view on the legality of Article 140 which he stated is a problem for the Constitutional Review Committee. He requested UNAMI to provide an analysis of the article and suggested that in addition to the recommendations presented by the CRC, the recommendations of the UN should be taken into account.

Sheikh Hammoudi further sought UN advice and support on water sharing and technical assistance in the establishment of the Federation Council, as envisaged by article 65 of the Constitution.

### **3. Sudan**

In reply to Le Roy's inquiry, Adada relays<sup>3</sup> his observation on the motivation of recent attacks by JEM in Umm Barru area and likelihood of further clashes in the region. It is notable that both in Muhajeria, south Darfur in February 09 as well as more recently in Umm Barru, JEM has launched successful attacks on the positions of Sudan Liberation Movement/Minni Minawi(SLA/MM) faction, the weaker of the Darfur Peace Agreement signatories. However, JEM subsequently lacked the capacity to defend seized territory when faced with a military campaign by Sudanese Armed Forces. Moreover, GoS authorities dismiss any possibility

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<sup>3</sup> (ELF-467 of 5/06/09)  
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for the JEM to sustain any part of Darfur, on the ground that the movement lacks popular support.

Adada observes that rather than seeking to seize territory, it is more likely that the ultimate goal of JEM's attacks was to be seen as the main contender of the Government, in the context of any negotiation pertaining to the peace process, thus prospect of further clashes remaining.

#### **4. Guinea-Bissau**

The Chef de Cabinet met today with the Ambassador of Cape Verde to talk about Guinea-Bissau. The Ambassador conveyed serious concern over the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the potential spillover effects on his country and of others in the region. They fear that the situation may degenerate even further, bringing chaos and civil war to the country and destabilization to the region.

In particular, the Ambassador raised the request presented a few months ago for UN Peacekeepers to be deployed to Guinea-Bissau to ensure the physical safety of the President and other officials, as well as the recent request for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate the murders of the President and of the Chief of General Staff. He pleaded for the UN to step-up and assist the country, as it is weak, and as its neighbours are fragile.

DPA has been requested to provide urgently advice on what the UN could do to assist Guinea-Bissau, and on the response to be give to the requests for assistance.

Mutaboba reports<sup>4</sup> on the murders of two presidential candidates on 5 June in Bissau. The Armed Forces Command and the Council of Ministers stated that a coup attempt had been aborted. The Prosecutor General and the President of the Supreme Court have sought refuge in foreign embassies and there are concerns of the safety of other

As a reaction, President Wade of Senegal convened a meeting on 5 June, which gathered representatives from UNOGBIS, France, the US, and the EU. Wade stressed the centrality of the armed forces in the mounting tension in Guinea-Bissau and expressed his intention of establishing a "direct dialogue" with them, in consultations with the authorities. He was going to inform Jean Ping of this initiative, and was looking to go to Guinea-Bissau accompanied by another African Head of State.

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<sup>4</sup> CDX-085 of 5 June 2009 and CGX 097 of 6 June 2009  
29-05977




## 5. Sri Lanka

Attached is a letter<sup>5</sup> addressed to the SG from Dr. Serrano, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect.

## 6 Pakistan

Kim reports<sup>6</sup> that according to the Pakistan media, where counter-insurgency operations require a lot of finances, the army says it cannot afford to have the India-specific defence budget curtailed. "If you are suggesting that we should take something out of here and put in another box that would not be a wise strategy. War on terror does require resources, but it should not be at the cost of something else," noted military spokesman Mag. Ben. Athar Abbas. Pakistan usually makes its defence allocations with the objective of maintaining certain conventional parity with India. In February this year, the Indian government made an interim 35 per cent increase of \$26.5 billion in its defence budget. Gen Athar Abbas did not have any doubt that the increase in the Indian defence budget is Pakistan-specific. Meanwhile, Dr. Pervez Hoodhoboy of Wuaid-i-Azam University has warned the government against following India in increasing the defence budget. "Our threat comes from the people within Pakistan. Our threat is inherent. We should not spend it on buying more aircraft, more tanks or more submarines," he suggests.



Political Unit  
8 June 2009

cc: DSG, VN, KWS

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<sup>5</sup> (29-04064)

<sup>6</sup> (Daily sitrep. of 08/06/09)

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RALPH BUNCH

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3 June 2009

By Fax: 212-963-4879

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General  
Room S-3800, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We write to thank you again for your efforts to pursue the urgent humanitarian needs and the imperative of political reconciliation during your recent trip to Sri Lanka. We also wish to express our concern at your acceptance, as expressed in the joint statement with the Sri Lankan government, of their assurances on access to the combat area and IDP camps, as well as on accountability for those on both sides, who violated international humanitarian law and human rights norms. While the current fighting has come to an end, we remain deeply concerned about the potential for future conflict and mass atrocity crimes. The United Nations must not only work with the government of Sri Lanka, but must also continue to place pressure on it, to prevent future atrocities.

You rightly called on the government to grant humanitarian groups "immediate and unhindered access" to all areas with displaced people. But reports from the field make it plain that this is not happening, thus placing the 280,000 IDPs, many of them gravely weakened after months of exposure, at risk of mistreatment and disease, as well as forced disappearance. Such neglect may itself result in gross human rights violations, and can breed the kind of profound resentment which leads to a new cycle of violence. You must hold the government of Sri Lanka to its pledge.

Both the rebels and officials of the Sri Lankan army and government must be held accountable for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law—not only in order to punish the guilty but to prevent these individuals from committing further such acts and to change the climate of impunity. That climate, left unchallenged, will impede attempts at meaningful reconciliation, and could also become a source of future conflict.

President Rajapaksa's promise to "take measures" to address such concerns can not be deemed sufficient: Over the last two decades, the Sri Lankan government has impeded one commission of inquiry after another; tens of thousands of allegations of abuse have been logged, thousands of alleged perpetrators identified—and a bare handful prosecuted,

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RALPH BUNCH

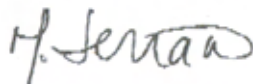
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and scarcely any convicted. Few governments have a worse record on accountability than that of Sri Lanka. For this reason, we were disappointed that you did not take the opportunity of your recent visit to publicly support Navi Pillay's call for an independent investigation into the events of the past weeks.

Mr. Secretary-General, we understand very well the difficulties you face in seeking to bring peace and justice to Sri Lanka after a quarter century of violence. We recognize the reluctance to insist on accountability for the state as well as for the rebels. But the world looks to you to uphold the deepest principles of the United Nations, even—perhaps especially—when others are failing to do so. We urge you, therefore, to press the Security Council to establish an independent inquiry and should they fail, for you to establish one, and to seek to promote the kind of institutional changes in Sri Lanka which will keep the country from sliding back into violence.

In Colombo, you said, "The world will be watching." The Sri Lankan civilians who have suffered so grievously will be watching as well. They have the right to be protected from further abuses, and to seek remedies and see their abusers brought to justice.

Sincerely,



Dr. Monica Serrano  
Executive Director