

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write to urge that the Administration continues to call upon and work with Lebanese officials to ensure that parliamentary elections scheduled for May 15, 2022, are carried out on time, transparently and free of corruption. With dueling political and economic crises, the May parliamentary elections are the first opportunity the Lebanese people will have to cast their ballots since protests in the country began in 2019 after years of corruption and mismanagement.

We concur with Ambassador Dorothy Shea that in holding elections on time, there is “no wiggle room,” and that the failure to do so should result in swift condemnation for those responsible in any delay. With this in mind, we strongly urge the Administration to:

- Speak out against any entity or individual that instigates the corruption, disruption, postponement or cancellation of the May 15, 2022 parliamentary elections;
- Work with relevant stakeholders to ensure a successful election monitoring operation is undertaken to ensure a free and fair election, which includes collaborating with stakeholders, qualified individuals, and organizations planning Lebanon’s election monitoring effort;
- Ensure that diaspora voting outside of Lebanon occurs on time, transparently, and votes are independently counted and reported in a manner consistent with current law;
- Continue to support the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces in maintaining security and stability ahead of, and during, elections; and,
- Continue to support Lebanon’s vibrant civil society in its pursuit of democracy, adherence to the rule of law, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you for your attention and action in helping Lebanon achieve a corruption-free government as well as free and fair May elections.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



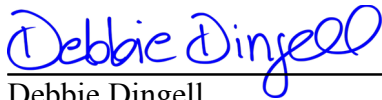
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



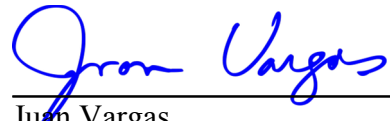
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



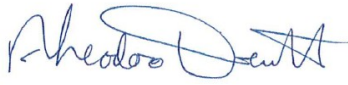
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
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Jimmy Gomez

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Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger

Adam Kinzinger
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Daniel T. Kildee

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

James A. Himes

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

David J. Trone

David J. Trone
Member of Congress