

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boston, February 23, 2005 – In response to the recent assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese-American community of Greater Boston will hold a peaceful demonstration and candlelight vigil at City Hall Plaza on Friday, February 25 from 5pm – 7pm to denounce this terrorist act that killed 15 people and injured over one hundred others.

An estimated population of 100,000 Lebanese-Americans living in Massachusetts is concerned about the situation in Lebanon more than ever. This grassroots event is one of many being organized across the U.S. and worldwide.

Since the end of the Lebanese War in 1990, Syria has increasingly dominated Lebanon militarily, politically, and economically, and has reneged on its obligations under the Taif Accord and United Nations Security Council's resolutions to withdraw its forces from the country. Lebanese political prisoners are languishing, some for many years now, in Syrian and Lebanese Government jails. The presence of thousands of Syrian troops and a vast network of intelligence agents in Lebanon not only fails to provide security, but blocks the democratic process and endangers Lebanon's chances for free elections this coming May.

In solidarity with the people of Lebanon, the Lebanese-American community of Greater Boston supports the Lebanese Opposition and its struggle to:

- Condemn the targeted assassination of former Prime Minister, Mr. Rafik Hariri
- Denounce this terrorist act as a threat to the stability of Lebanon
- Seek justice through an impartial international investigation
- Demand the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon
- Restore the democratic process through free elections in May

President Bush recently stated to the European Union and NATO leaders in Brussels, "My nation and France worked to pass Security Council Resolution 1559, which demands that Lebanon's sovereignty be respected, that foreign troops and agents be withdrawn, and that free elections be conducted without foreign interference."

The Lebanese-American community of Greater Boston calls on all concerned citizens to support the international community in its fight against terrorism and mission for justice in Lebanon, the oldest democracy in the Middle East.

Contact Information:

Mr. Walid G. Chamoun (617.939.6363)
Mr. Loai Naamani (617.452.5380)
Ms. Leila Tomey (617.605.2120)