

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Prime Minister-designate Najib Miqati
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 06 April 2011

Good afternoon

I just had a very good meeting with Prime Minister-designate Najib Miqati. We discussed the situation in Lebanon and the dramatic developments in the broader Arab region.

I expressed to the Prime Minister my concern over the abduction of seven Estonian cyclists in the Beqaa Valley. It has now been two weeks since their disappearance. I welcome the diligent efforts of Lebanon's security forces and the Lebanese army to uncover their whereabouts and secure their release. I take this opportunity to once again appeal for their immediate release. No purpose is served by their continued detention, and I hope this can be resolved – and resolved soon.

I briefed the Prime Minister-designate on my recent trip to New York and on my briefing to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. I told Mr. Miqati that the United Nations and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon were closely monitoring the situation in countries throughout the Arab world. There has long been a crisis of governance in the region, the effects of which we are witnessing now. We all hope that leaders in these countries listen to the expressions of legitimate aspirations by their people.

We also discussed today the domestic situation in Lebanon and the process of government formation. I commended Mr. Miqati for his determination to form a cabinet that would meet the aspirations of all Lebanese. We look forward to the early formation of a government, which will help address the priorities of the Lebanese people.

Thank you very much.
