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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Saad Hariri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Tuesday, 12 April 2011

Good afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with the Prime Minister, H.E. Saad Hariri. We discussed the situation in Lebanon and also the dramatic developments in the broader Arab region.

We agreed on the need to preserve Lebanon's security and stability at all costs. In this regard, we touched on the events last week in Roumieh prison as well as on the abduction of the seven Estonian nationals in the Beqaa Valley. Prime Minister Hariri updated me on the efforts of the government, under his leadership, to address these issues. I take this occasion to renew my appeal for the immediate release of the Estonian citizens.

We also discussed the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the plight of thousands of Lebanese who remain in that country. I assured the Prime Minister that the United Nations is doing all it can to ensure stability in Cote D'Ivoire and to help those Lebanese who need the UN's assistance.

Thank you very much.
