



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

20 July 2011

Dear Secretary-General / Dear Colleagues

With a heavy heart, the UN family in Lebanon received the news of the earthquake in Haiti on 12 January that devastated the country, brought so much additional hardship on its people, and left SRSG Hédi Annabi, his deputy, Luis Carlos da Costa, and so many other international and national UN staff members dead.

Although we are far away geographically from the tragedy that has befallen ordinary Haitians and so many of our own colleagues, we have been with the people of Haiti and our friends and colleagues in the UN in our thoughts and prayers. As a small gesture of our solidarity, UNSCOL opened a book of condolences at UN House in Beirut for the week after the earthquake struck. Many representatives of the diplomatic community and of Lebanese authorities noted in the book their heartfelt sympathies and their messages of solidarity with the United Nations and with the people of Haiti at this very difficult time. I would like to pass this book of condolences on to you as a token of solidarity from Lebanon and the UN family here, and as a small gesture that conveys our sympathy in these terrible circumstances.

The UN family in Lebanon also held, at the initiative of ESCWA Executive Secretary-General, Mr. Bader Al-Dafaa, a memorial ceremony to honour our fallen colleagues at UN House on 21 January 2010. Addressing a hall packed with sympathisers from Lebanon, the diplomatic community and UN staff, Mr. Al-Dafaa, UNIFIL's Deputy Force Commander Brig. Gen. Apurba Kumar Bardalai and myself joined voices in mourning our dear colleagues and in stressing the importance of international solidarity for the relief of the devastated island of Haiti. We also emphasised that the work of the UN in Haiti and around the world, in the service of peace and development, is and will remain a lasting memorial to the dedication and commitment of our friends and colleagues who perished in Haiti.

On behalf of the UN family in Lebanon, and conveying the sentiments of the Government and people of Lebanon as they have been expressed to me, please accept our deepest condolences and sympathies, and know that our thoughts and full solidarity remain with the families and loved ones of the victims and with the people of Haiti.
