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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Monday, 08 August 2011

I am very grateful to Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri for receiving me today. I am particularly grateful that he is still receiving me and other visitors during the Holy Month of Ramadan. I think it is testimony to the spirit of the Speaker that even now he is working relentlessly as ever.

I am particularly pleased that the Parliament continues to meet on a regular basis and is doing very important work. We noticed in particular the law that Parliament has adopted on maritime issues. It is very important for Lebanon's future. We also talked about Security Council Resolution 1701. I thanked the Speaker for his support and strong condemnation of the attack on FINUL, on UNIFIL, on July 26.

We also touched upon the issue of Syria and I briefed the Speaker about the telephone call that Secretary General Ban Ki Moon had with President Bashar al-Assad on Saturday and the Secretary General expressed the hope that the violence would come to an end, that there would be dialogue and that there would be reform so I hope these can go forward.

Thank you very much.
