

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.303

Reps. Hammoud, Brixie, Manoogian, Camilleri, Pagan, Liberati, Cherry, Afendoulis, Alexander, Allor, Anthony, Bellino, Berman, Bolden, Bollin, Brann, Byrd, Calley, Cambensy, Brenda Carter, Tyrone Carter, Chirkun, Clemente, Coleman, Crawford, Ellison, Filler, Garrett, Garza, Glenn, Greig, Guerra, Hauck, Hertel, Hoadley, Hood, Hope, Huizenga, Iden, Inman, Cynthia Johnson, Jones, Kahle, Kennedy, Koleszar, Kuppa, Lasinski, Leutheuser, Lightner, Lilly, Love, Maddock, Markkanen, Meerman, Miller, Mueller, Cynthia Neeley, O'Malley, Paquette, Peterson, Pohutsky, Rabhi, Reilly, Rendon, Sabo, Schroeder, Shannon, Sheppard, Slagh, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Tate, VanSingel, Vaupel, Wakeman, Warren, Webber, Wendzel, Wentworth, Whiteford, Wittenberg, Witwer, Wozniak and Yaroch offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Congress and President of the United



1 States to immediately send humanitarian aid to Lebanon in response
2 to the Beirut Port Explosion.

3 Whereas, On August 4, 2020, a cache of the chemical substance
4 ammonium nitrate which was being stored in a warehouse on the Port
5 of Beirut in Lebanon caught fire, resulting in an explosion that
6 killed more than 150 people and wounded over 5,000 others.

7 According to experts, the blast registered on seismographs at 3.3,
8 and the blast was the third most powerful explosion in history
9 after Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan during World War II; and

10 Whereas, In addition to the tragic loss of life, the explosion
11 has largely destroyed the port and its infrastructure, which was
12 responsible for 60 percent of Lebanon's imports and was one of the
13 largest and busiest ports on the eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a
14 result of the explosion, most of the city's grain reserves and food
15 imports were destroyed, which is likely to cause widespread food
16 insecurity for years to come. In addition, the city of Beirut is
17 suffering billions in damages, with the explosion shattering glass
18 as far as 15 miles from the scene. In response to the widespread
19 devastation from the blast, a two-week state of emergency has been
20 declared; and

21 Whereas, The people of Lebanon were already suffering from
22 daily power outages, a lack of safe drinking water, food and fuel
23 shortages, and limited public health care before the explosion. The
24 COVID-19 Pandemic exacerbated these issues, resulting in Lebanon's
25 worst economic crisis since the 1975-1990 Civil War. Now with the
26 devastation from the explosion, it has become nearly impossible for
27 the Lebanese people to obtain basic human rights without
28 humanitarian aid; and

29 Whereas, Rescue efforts have been hampered by the lack of



1 electricity, and medical professionals are stitching the wounded in
2 the streets under their cellphone lights. Public Health Minister
3 Hamad Hassan said Lebanon's health sector is short of beds and
4 lacked the equipment necessary to treat the injured and care for
5 patients in critical condition. Meanwhile, many buildings and homes
6 have been reduced to an uninhabitable mess of glass, leaving as
7 many as 300,000 people homeless. Furthermore, the toxic gases
8 released from the explosion, combined with the impact of COVID-19
9 and the thick Mediterranean summer air, have created a deeply
10 oppressive atmosphere where the people of Beirut cannot breathe;
11 and
12

13 Whereas, Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his
14 government have stepped down after citing mass corruption that
15 contributed to the disaster. Before the resignation, Prime Minister
16 Hassan Diab made a plea to other countries for aid. France, Russia,
17 Iraq, and Iran have sent planes full of doctors, medical supplies,
18 medication, and more to help Lebanon through this crisis; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
21 Congress and President of the United States to send humanitarian
22 aid in the form of medical supplies, medications, and emergency
23 funding to Lebanon in the wake of the Beirut Port Explosion; and be
24 it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
27 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
28 Senate, and the Michigan congressional delegation.

