

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 303

Reps. Hammoud, Brixie, Manoogian, Camilleri, Pagan, Liberati and Cherry offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Congress and President of the United  
2 States to immediately send humanitarian aid to Lebanon in response  
3 to the Beirut Port Explosion.

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

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

11 Whereas, In addition to the tragic loss of life, the explosion  
12 has largely destroyed the port and its infrastructure, which was



1 responsible for 60 percent of Lebanon's imports and was one of the  
2 largest and busiest ports on the eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a  
3 result of the explosion, most of the city's grain reserves and food  
4 imports were destroyed, which is likely to cause widespread food  
5 insecurity for years to come. In addition, the city of Beirut is  
6 suffering billions in damages, with the explosion shattering glass  
7 as far as 15 miles from the scene. In response to the widespread  
8 devastation from the blast, a two-week state of emergency has been  
9 declared; and

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

18       Whereas, Rescue efforts have been hampered by the lack of  
19 electricity, and medical professionals are stitching the wounded in  
20 the streets under their cellphone lights. Public Health Minister  
21 Hamad Hassan said Lebanon's health sector is short of beds and  
22 lacked the equipment necessary to treat the injured and care for  
23 patients in critical condition. Meanwhile, many buildings and homes  
24 have been reduced to an uninhabitable mess of glass, leaving as  
25 many as 300,000 people homeless. Furthermore, the toxic gases  
26 released from the explosion, combined with the impact of COVID-19  
27 and the thick Mediterranean summer air, have created a deeply  
28 oppressive atmosphere where the people of Beirut cannot breathe;  
29 and

1  
2       Whereas, Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his  
3 government have stepped down after citing mass corruption that  
4 contributed to the disaster. Before the resignation, Prime Minister  
5 Hassan Diab made a plea to other countries for aid. France, Russia,  
6 Iraq, and Iran have sent planes full of doctors, medical supplies,  
7 medication, and more to help Lebanon through this crisis; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
10 Congress and President of the United States to send humanitarian  
11 aid in the form of medical supplies, medications, and emergency  
12 funding to Lebanon in the wake of the Beirut Port Explosion; and be  
13 it further

14       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
15 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States  
16 House of Representatives, the President of the United States  
17 Senate, and the Michigan congressional delegation.