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الطلاب العرب ORGANIZATION OF ARAB STUDENTS

Room 2, Memorial Union
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011

Increasing tension and instability in the Middle East, mainly in Lebanon, have come to a peak in the last few days. The suffering of the Lebanese and the Palestinian people goes on, the bleeding continues with no solution in sight.

Since last Monday July the 13th, barbaric attacks launched by the Israeli Air Force against innocent Lebanese and Palestinian civilians in Lebanon, left more than 450 people dead and an estimated 1126 wounded. The result of these aggressive and terrorist acts have been nothing short of calamitous. In the wake of the wide-spread destruction and disruption in all aspects of life, killing and maiming of the innocent population, the damage of refugee camps, buildings, installations and crops are prevalent on a wide scale. Some figures and statistics can help in understanding the full dimensions of the enormity of the blows that the Israelis inflicted on Lebanon and the tragedy that has engulfed the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Statistics produced by the United Nations Higher Council for Refugees (UNHCR) indicates that since 1978 3,000 families have lost their bread-winners, 8,000 people have been handicapped, 11,000 orphaned, 6,000 wounded and more than 1,500 killed. Israeli and Israeli-backed attacks, using U.S. made weapons, have led to the destruction of 9,400 buildings and heavy damage to another 21,500. The emigration of the south's manpower to safer parts of Lebanon creates new pressures on an already hard-pressed government. Some leave permanently and go abroad. Before 1978, the districts of Marjeyoun, Hasbaya, BintJbeil, Tyre and Nabitiya had a total population of 372,000. Present figures suggest a population fall of 50 percent. The four main centres of South-Tyre, Nabitiya, BintJabeil and Khiyam - have become ghost towns.

It is time to focus all our attention on the human dimensions of this tragic problem. It is time to end the suffering and the bleeding of innocent children, women and senior citizens. On behalf of all Arab people the organization of Arab students at Iowa State University condemns very strongly the Israeli barbaric and terrorist activities against the innocent civilians in Lebanon.

We implore all compassionate Americans and all the progressive democratic forces in the world to help pressure the Reagan Administration in halting all economic and military aid to Israel which has been an expansionist settler state on the expense of its neighboring countries and the American tax payer.

Long live the struggle of our people in Lebanon. Down with Israeli Terrorism.

The organization of Arab Students
at Iowa State University
July 22, 1981
Ames, Iowa

P.S. We invite you to participate in our demonstration Thursday July 23rd, 1981 at 12:00 noon between the Hub and Beardshear Hall.