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**Second session of the Human Rights Council  
(18 September-6 October 2006)**

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and has the honour to transmit the progress report of the Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-2/1 of 11 August 2006, to be considered under the segment entitled "Follow up to decisions of the Human Rights Council". The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights wishes to inform that the progress report will be circulated as an official document during the current session.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. L".

26 September 2006



**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON LEBANON**

22 September 2006.

Dear Mr. President,

Following-up on our letter of 5 September 2006, the members of the Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-2/1, of 11 August 2006, would like to update you, and through you the Council, on progress made toward fulfilment of the Commission's mandate.

After the formal appointment of the Commissioners on 1 September 2006, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) established a Secretariat for the Commission headed by a Secretary and including three human rights officers and a military analyst, as well as security, logistical and administrative staff. OHCHR also procured all the necessary equipment and facilities in Geneva and in Lebanon, as required. The United Nations Office at Geneva facilitated rapid recruitment and travel of the Commission and its staff and provided office space in Geneva.

On 11 September 2006, the Commissioners began work. On 15 September Commission members met with the President of the Human Rights Council and three days later with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour.

During the period of 11-22 September the Commission undertook the necessary preparations for its visit to Lebanon. The Commission will travel to Lebanon on 23 September 2006 for a visit of two weeks. The Commission began also collecting and examining relevant written material. Furthermore, Commissioners met with relevant United Nations agencies, including UNMAS, WHO, UNHCR, UNEP, OCHA, UNESCO, ICRC, as well as three of the Special Rapporteurs who visited Lebanon recently.

The Commission also agreed upon its Terms of Reference, a copy of which is attached.

The Commission intends to submit a report of its findings to the Council within two months.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. João Clemente BAENA SOARES

Judge Mohamed Chande OTHMAN

Professor Stelios PERRAKIS

H.E. Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba  
President of the Human Rights Council  
Secretariat of the Human Rights Council  
Palais Wilson

OHCHR REGISTRY

22 SEP 2006

Recipients : HRC



**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON LEBANON**

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. On 11 August 2006, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution S-2/1 at its second special session. In paragraph 7 of the resolution the Council decided to "urgently establish and immediately dispatch a high-level commission of inquiry".
2. On 1 September, the President of the Human Rights Council appointed three persons to the Commission on the basis of their expertise in human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as their integrity, impartiality and independence. The Commission began its work on 11 September and will report to the Council within two months.
3. According to paragraph 7 of resolution S-2/1 of the Human Rights Council, the mandate of the Commission includes the following actions:
  - "(a) to investigate the systematic targeting and killings of civilians by Israel in Lebanon;
  - (b) to examine the types of weapons used by Israel and their conformity with international law; and
  - (c) to assess the extent and deadly impact of Israeli attacks on human life, property, critical infrastructure and the environment."

The Commission will implement its mandate through the prism of international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The Commission will take due account of relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the work of UN special procedures.

4. The Commission is provided, by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the administrative, technical and logistical assistance required to fulfil its mandate promptly and efficiently, including through a Secretariat.
5. The Commission should enjoy the full cooperation of all States Members of the United Nations. It may also seek the cooperation of international institutions and other relevant actors, as appropriate.
6. In order to enable the Commission to discharge its mandate, the following facilities should in particular be provided:
  - a. Freedom of movement throughout the territory of Lebanon, including facilities of transport.
  - b. Unhindered access to all places and establishments, and freedom to meet and interview representatives of Governmental and local authorities, military authorities, community leaders, non-governmental organizations and other institutions, and any such person whose testimony is considered necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate.
  - c. Unhindered access for individuals and organizations wishing to meet with the Commission.

- d. Free access to all sources of information, including documentary material and physical evidence.
- e. Security arrangements for the personnel and documents of the Commission to be provided in accordance with the United Nations Host Country Agreements.
- f. Protection of victims and witnesses and all those who are in contact with the Commission in connection with the inquiry; no such person shall, as a result of such contact, suffer harassment, threats, acts of intimidation, ill-treatment or reprisals.

7. In particular, the Commission Members and staff shall enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to experts on missions and officials under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.