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SAUDIA'S STANCE ON THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBONAN (JULY 11-AUGUST 14, 2006)

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ABSTRACT

Israel conducted military operations against Lebanon from July 11 to August 14, 2006. This paper analyses Saudi Arabia's viewpoint on the situation. It analyses Saudi Arabia's diplomatic initiatives and the declarations and actions of its leadership during the crisis. The research employs credible sources and a descriptive analytical method to elucidate the Saudi perspective on regional tensions and international responses. The study emphasizes several critical aspects, including the Saudi government's official response to the war, its endorsement of diplomatic initiatives to halt the violence, its participation in the Arab League, and the statements and actions of Saudi individuals and media organizations. Saudi Arabia's denunciation of both Israeli military actions and Hezbollah's conduct that triggered the crisis reflects a comprehensive approach. Upon examining official papers from Saudi Arabia and juxtaposing them with those of other Arab nations, the study determines that the nation's foreign policy is prudent and pragmatic. The objectives were to preserve regional stability, terminate the conflict, and safeguard Lebanese sovereignty. The Kingdom's response adhered to its established protocol for addressing regional crises: it prioritized moderation, diplomacy, and cooperation with international allies. The study elucidates Saudi Arabia's foreign policy regarding armed conflicts, highlighting its inclination towards diplomatic approaches rather than direct military intervention to secure Arab safety.

KEYWORDS: Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Israeli Aggression, Hezbollah, Foreign Policy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between July 11 and August 14, 2006, during Israel's assault, Saudi Arabia significantly aided Lebanon in addressing its difficulties. The Kingdom adopted one of the most-loud and aggressive positions among Arab nations, condemning Israel's assault on civilians and essential infrastructure while monitoring the evolving political and military developments. Saudi Arabia partnered with Arab and international organisations to halt the violence in Lebanon in order to maintain the nation's unity. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal were staunchly opposed to the war and supported the just forces in Lebanon. The Kingdom provided financial assistance and medical supplies to support Lebanon throughout the crisis.

2. PRELUDES TO THE AGGRESSION

Israel recognised that Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance had constituted a strong military capability that may jeopardise its supremacy. The Israeli military leadership formulated a strategy to engage in warfare with Lebanon and Hezbollah to annihilate Hezbollah, eradicate its forces, or force its disarmament and capitulation. Hezbollah officials expressed apprehension regarding the potential incarceration of Lebanese resistance members in Israeli prisons and detention facilities.

A special Israeli military force affiliated with Hezbollah orchestrated an ambush targeting an Israeli patrol in Aita al-Shaab on July 12, 2006. Eight Israeli troops were slain and two were apprehended in the event. Hezbollah referred to this operation as "The Truthful Promise." Israeli soldiers responded with heavy artillery and tank bombardments in southern Lebanon, accompanied by severe incursions to isolate towns.

The Lebanese government attributed the Hezbollah military campaign against Israeli troops on the Israeli Cabinet. Saudi Arabia has assumed a crucial role in handling the crises and challenges in Lebanon by holding Hezbollah accountable for the developments in the conflict with Israel. As a nation, we have consistently advocated for the rights of occupied peoples and denounce any efforts to alter the existing reality by obliterating their identity.

Saud al-Faisal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, stated that his nation would do all efforts to assist the legitimate resistance combating military occupation and safeguarding civilians. He believes the time has come for these factors to confront the repercussions of their negligence and the gravity of the issue they have created.

2.1. *The Expansion of the Aggression and Its Inclusion in Most Lebanese Cities, July 13-15, 2006*

Saudi monarch Abdullah bin Abdulaziz communicated with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan following the escalation of the Israeli assault on Lebanon on July 13. The Saudi leadership is engaging with other governments to exert pressure on Israel to cease its hostilities and release Arab hostages. To uphold tranquilly and restraint, the Kingdom is actively engaging in conversations with Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. Syria has guaranteed the Lebanese and other pertinent parties that it will commence the necessary communications to address the crisis. France has committed to supporting worldwide efforts to terminate violence and foster peace and stability in the region.

In reaction to the incident, Arab foreign ministers assembled for an emergency meeting. According to Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, Israeli action towards Lebanon is part of Israel's broader objective of regional occupation and domination. A dispute ensued between Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and his Syrian counterpart, Walid al-Moallem, during the meeting. Al-Moallem commended Hezbollah and attributed blame to Israel, although al-Faisal deemed the organisation accountable for the Israeli incursion. The Ministerial Council released a statement condemning Israeli aggression and commending the solidarity of the Lebanese populace in response.

2.2. *The Saudi Position on the Developments of the Aggression, July 16-18, 2006*

Israeli aircraft and jets resumed their bombardment of Lebanese communities, escalating aggression against Lebanon in July 2006. Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and Sheikh Abdullah Qabalan, Vice President of the Supreme Shiite Council, contacted King Abdullah to implore him for immediate assistance for Lebanon. In a demonstration of his support for the Lebanese government, King Abdullah pledged \$50 million to the nation. The Saudi government has intensified its denunciation of Palestinian and Lebanese activists, attributing responsibility to organisations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. The Saudi cabinet denounced the United States' veto that obstructed a UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to halt its aggression against Lebanon.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal underscored the need of terminating Israeli

aggression against Lebanon while affirming Saudi Arabia's solidarity with Lebanon and the deployment of international troops in the region. On July 20, he declared that Saudi Crown Prince Sultan would commence an official visit to France. During the journey, he pledged to address the situation in Lebanon and strive for a truce, as requested by Lebanon. The Kingdom is leveraging its contacts to tackle the situation in Lebanon and has underscored that a ceasefire is the foremost goal. The release of two soldiers held by Hezbollah will take place only after the truce.

2.3. The Kingdom Intensified its International Diplomatic Contacts to Halt the Aggression, July 19-25, 2006

In 2006, Saudi Arabia intensified its endeavours to curtail the Israeli military escalation against Lebanon, aided by several Arab, regional, and international discussions. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and US President George W. Bush deliberated on the deteriorating circumstances in Lebanon and resolved to assist the displaced Lebanese populace. President Jacques Chirac conferred with Saudi Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz during his sojourn in France. Chirac underscored the necessity for global cohesion, called for the liberation of Israeli troops detained in Lebanon, and insisted on the cessation of military actions against civilians. Furthermore, he proposed the implementation of Resolution 1559, which would deploy an international peacekeeping force to Lebanon's southern border and reinforce the Lebanese government's authority throughout the nation.

To assist Saudi Arabia in addressing the Lebanese situation and halting the conflict between Israel and Lebanon, King Abdullah convened with Presidents Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Jordan's King Abdullah II. To encourage Israel to settle its conflict with Lebanon, he dispatched letters to the leaders of the UN Security Council's permanent members. As the Lebanese populace united and the administration laboured diligently during the invasion, King Abdullah conveyed his endorsement for Lebanon.

The prolonged fighting between Israel and Lebanon has resulted in the displacement of numerous individuals and caused significant destruction on both sides; Saudi Arabia is endeavouring to terminate the hostilities. King Abdullah of Lebanon has convened an urgent Islamic gathering to address strategies for terminating Israel's assault. He has emphasised the necessity of

supporting Lebanon while condemning the international community for its inaction about Israel's transgressions against the Lebanese populace. Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora have deliberated on the advancement of the Israeli invasion and the potential for a truce.

The Saudi government has presented a solution to address the Lebanese issue. The agreement encompasses peace negotiations with Israel over prisoner exchanges, a total cessation of hostilities, and the stationing of the Lebanese military in southern Lebanon. The Saudi Crown Prince aims to communicate this concept to global leaders in the expectation of achieving a truce in Lebanon.

In a meeting with US President George W. Bush, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal requested Bush to facilitate a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel. He stated that the Lebanese government would be capable of fully governing and managing its own nation once the hostilities cease. The Lebanese government will ascertain the date and method of this action.

The Lebanese Business and Investment Council in Saudi Arabia, along with the Lebanese community in Riyadh, has initiated a campaign to support the Lebanese populace. The campaign's main goal was to secure adequate financial contributions and in-kind gifts to finance needed items such as food, medication, tools, and firefighting equipment. Abdulaziz Khoja, the Saudi ambassador to Beirut, conferred with Lebanon's Prime Minister, Fouad Siniora. Khoja informed Siniora of Saudi intentions to resolve the Israeli-Lebanese issue.

The most significant aid provided by the Kingdom to Lebanon amounted to \$1.5 billion, established on July 25, 2006, comprising \$1 billion deposited in the Central Bank of Lebanon and \$500 million as a grant. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh appreciated the Saudi donation and deposit, expressing Lebanon's gratitude and appreciation.

King Abdullah called for an urgent cessation of Israeli military actions against Lebanon, warning that their continuation could provoke a regional crisis and widespread chaos in the Middle East. The meeting between King Abdullah and Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak is a component of a broader Arab initiative to address the critical situation in Lebanon and seek a unified resolution, emphasising the dynamics between Riyadh and Cairo.

During his global tour to solicit support for a ceasefire in the Israeli offensive against Lebanon,

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal remained resolute. The implementation of the Saudi proposal for a truce in Lebanon was the subject of his discussion with Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

2.4. The Kingdom's Participation in the Rome International Conference to End the War in Lebanon, July 26, 2006

In its continuous endeavour to confront Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the Saudi Crown Prince and global Minister Saud al-Faisal recently embarked on an international journey to engage with global leaders. In response to these developments, the Saudi monarchy has reiterated its request for an international conference to resolve the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict and mitigate the humanitarian situation affecting Lebanon for more than two weeks.

Fifteen countries and three international organisations attended the summit in Rome on July 26, 2006. Saudi Arabia dispatched a delegation to the conference, headed by Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, to mitigate the situation.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora delivered the opening comments during the meeting, presenting a seven-point proposal for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire. The accord delineated several critical elements: the prompt release of all detainees from Lebanon and Israel, the cessation of Israeli ground forces' presence behind the Blue Line, UN oversight of the contested Shebaa Farms region, complete authority of the Lebanese Army over southern Lebanon, the deployment of a multinational force to the area, and the assignment of necessary powers to uphold stability and security therein. The leader of the Saudi delegation, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, emphasised in his address the pressing necessity for a ceasefire and the conference to advocate for the same, referencing the critical circumstances in Lebanon and the impending threats they present, particularly to humanitarian initiatives. Moreover, it emphasised the urgency of delivering humanitarian assistance to the populace of Lebanon and cultivating a milieu conducive to constructive dialogue among the pertinent parties to achieve a political resolution to the crisis in Lebanon. It emphasised that the battle had heightened Saudi nationalist feelings towards Israel. Israeli assaults on Lebanon continued concurrently with the conference sessions. Saudi Arabia has intensified its diplomatic initiatives to conclude the conflict and mitigate the discontent of its populace. This follows statements by Saudi officials regarding Lebanon that prompted King Abdullah's royal declaration on July 26,

wherein he cautioned that "Patience cannot last forever" and that "if the Israeli military brutality persists in killing and destruction, no one can foresee the potential consequences" in light of the political inertia to conclude the conflict.

After thorough debate, the conference released a final declaration articulating significant concern regarding the present circumstances in Lebanon. To address the political, economic, and security crises in Lebanon, the participants pledged support to the government and insisted on the complete implementation of the Taif Agreement and international resolutions, enabling the Lebanese military to be deployed universally and militias to be disarmed. A UN-sanctioned multinational force will be deployed in southern Lebanon to support the Lebanese military forces in ensuring security and monitoring developments in the region. To facilitate the recovery of the Lebanese economy, the participants resolved to convene a meeting of foreign donors and advocated for the Lebanese government to obtain financing for reconstruction, especially in the southern region of the country. The United States successfully obstructed Arab and international efforts to resolve the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict, preventing the conference from calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities. On July 27, French President Jacques Chirac contacted King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to deliberate on the ongoing crisis in Lebanon and its resultant human toll, including casualties, displacement, and humanitarian issues. The discussion encompassed bilateral relations between the two countries and regional issues, notably the circumstances in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories. At a Saudi-Palestinian conference in Jeddah on July 28, King Abdullah and Mahmoud Abbas discussed recent military developments in Palestine and Lebanon, along with the serious repercussions of Israel's aggression towards Lebanon.

2.5. Saudi Arabia's Position on the Qana Massacre, July 30, 2006

The village of Qana, situated east of Tyre in southern Lebanon, was the location of a massacre perpetrated by Israeli jets on unarmed civilians at daybreak on July 30, 2006. A three-story edifice was struck by an Israeli missile, resulting significant devastation. The predominant demographic of the 65 residents in the building were women, children, and the elderly. More than sixty innocent lives were extinguished in the explosion. The Israeli government asserts that the explosion targeted a missile launch pad employed in assaults against

Israel throughout the conflict. Hezbollah has asserted that the structure did not contain party militants and that the majority of the dead were civilians. Fouad Siniora, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, contacted King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. King Abdullah was informed by the Lebanese prime minister about the prevailing circumstances in the country, including the details of the atrocious massacre executed by Israel in Qana, which led to the fatalities of several defenceless civilians. Alongside initiating an international investigation into the Israeli atrocities in Lebanon, Siniora informed King Abdullah that Lebanon would refrain from negotiations unless an immediate and unconditional ceasefire was established. King Abdullah expressed his concurrence with the Lebanese position and reiterated the Kingdom's steadfast dedication to support Lebanon in all circumstances.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemned the massacre as a continuation of Israel's prior atrocities within its comprehensive assault regarding Lebanon. This was declared on July 30, 2006, by a credible source. The conflict has devastated Lebanon, obliterating its economic infrastructure and essential resources for the entire population. The innocent villagers massacred by Israel in Qana were predominantly women and children seeking safety from Israeli hostilities. The Kingdom vehemently denounces this egregious crime that violates Sharia, sanctity, and a charter. It recognises that Israel could not have transgressed against Lebanon without the substantial military apparatus it acquired, the international community's inability to resolve the bloodshed, and the economic, political, and moral support it got. The official source stated that the kingdom anticipates an immediate cessation of hostilities and a response to the Lebanese government's pleas, while cautioning against the repercussions of Israeli aggression, which exacerbates conflict and complicates matters. Regulate.

The Saudi Royal Court issued a statement denouncing Israeli aggression and any actions that harm innocent individuals. The Kingdom has condemned Israel's disproportionate use of force and the devastation of Lebanon's critical infrastructure. The study expressed increasing concern on the tragic events and asked global leaders to halt Israel's blatant violation of international law and treaties by implementing prompt and decisive measures to avert future escalation and the expansion of military operations.

On July 30, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement denouncing the Israeli shelling of

Qana. The statement conveyed shock and dismay at the incident, which the ministry labelled as "heinous," asserting that Israel had intentionally bombed innocent civilians. The statement underlined that the entire community must denounce the massacre with the highest degree of severity, as it has escalated to an unprecedented level of atrocious cruelty against innocent individuals. Conversely, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz received King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, who arrived in Jeddah on July 30 on a visit from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. A meeting was convened to address the latest news from Lebanon. The two monarchs denounced the atrocious killing in the Lebanese town of Qana by Israeli forces and underscored the necessity for the global community to exert all efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese populace by achieving a permanent and urgent peace. The international community must prioritise halting Israel's atrocities in Lebanon, as stated by the two kings.

During the Saudi Cabinet meeting chaired by King Abdullah on July 31, 2006, the King provided an overview of his interactions and discussions with foreign leaders and envoys, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordanian King Abdullah II, and Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. The sessions focused on the circumstances in Lebanon and tactics to mitigate Israel's extensive military campaign against the nation. Following the conclusion of the session, the Saudi Press Agency disseminated a statement from Iyad bin Amin Madani, the Saudi Minister of Culture and Information, asserting that the Kingdom's position regarding the ongoing events in Lebanon is to endorse the unity of the Lebanese decision, the authority of the Lebanese state and its official institutions over the entirety of Lebanon, and the legitimacy of the Lebanese state in accordance with the Taif Agreement and the Lebanese National Dialogue sessions. The Council has held Israel fully accountable on all fronts politically, ethically, and financially for the genocide and war crimes it is committing against the Lebanese people, their institutions, infrastructure, and the essential elements of their existence. The Council underscored the necessity of Arab and Islamic unity in reaction to Israeli aggression and its supporters. The Council reaffirmed its dedication to engaging in discussion with allied governments that have condemned Israel's actions in Lebanon, advocate for the quick cessation of military operations, and oppose an ideology movement that seeks to instigate strife and instability in the region. The Kingdom reaffirmed its comprehensive political and economic support for

the Lebanese people. The Council commended the involvement of Kingdom residents in King Abdullah's ongoing charitable initiative for the welfare of the Lebanese populace. During a press conference on August 2, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal stated that the massacre in Qana village serves as a tragic reminder of the potential consequences if the Lebanese government fails to promptly cease its military operations, deliver emergency humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese populace to alleviate their dire living conditions, and pursue a political resolution to the crisis in Lebanon through negotiations and dialogue.

2.6. Stopping the Aggression: Saudi Efforts, August 1-3, 2006

The Saudi Arabian government criticised US President Bush for neglecting previous pleas to mediate a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel and insisted that the US take the lead in such efforts on August 1. Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, asserts that the US ought to spearhead global peace efforts and resist being swayed by Israeli ambitions. His primary assertion was that all participants in the conflict merit the perception of having made a significant impact without experiencing humiliation; hence, comprehensive peace in the region is essential. The Saudi ambassador stated that Lebanon and its citizens are enduring severe aggression resulting from a conflict they did not instigate, emphasising that the kingdom cannot remain passive while it exerts pressure on Washington and the UN for an immediate ceasefire backed by an international force. Prince Turki asserts that Hezbollah's "reckless adventure masquerading as resistance..." initiated this conflict. Nevertheless, Israel's ethnic cleansing of Lebanon and its targeting and retribution against the Lebanese populace are not warranted by these reprehensible and reckless activities. He stated that the Israeli army's brutality and negligence were evident in the orchestrated airstrikes that resulted in the deaths of Lebanese residents. He urged the Saudi ambassador to reassess King Abdullah's 2002 peace initiative, which offered Israel a comprehensive resolution including a cease of hostilities and normalisation of relations in exchange for Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied areas, including Jerusalem. Israeli aircraft targeted southern Lebanon, inflicting damage on highways and bridges, and posing a threat to Beirut as hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces intensified on August 2. At a news conference in Jeddah that evening, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal articulated the Arab

League's endorsement of Lebanon by declaring that negotiations were in progress to convene the Arab League Ministerial Council in Lebanon at the earliest opportunity. At his news conference, al-Faisal urged Hezbollah and Israel to cease their hostilities without delay.

"We disagree with American policy in this respect..." Al-Faisal stated, condemning Washington's position on the Israeli military incursion in Lebanon. Due of its prominence as a worldwide force, the United States can promptly demand a truce. Some assert that the United States ought to take greater measures to prevent Israel from assaulting Lebanon; nevertheless, it has been mute thus far. He concluded that the United States government had a moral duty to prevent Israel from assaulting individuals with weapons produced in the United States. He termed the U.S. position on the Lebanese truce as "obstinate." "I have not received information indicating that the United States endorses military action against Lebanon, Syria, or Iran," he stated, refuting claims that Washington supports any nation's aggression. The US is expected to oppose an attack on Lebanon and we hope it would actively resist Israel's aggression towards Syria. Al-Faisal asserts that the Arab-Israeli conflict is the fundamental source of all issues in the Middle East. He recently communicated this message to US President George W. Bush, addressing the prompt cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. In his address to the US president, the Saudi king underscored the United States' crucial role in achieving a peaceful resolution, while cautioning that patience has its constraints, as per his statement. The Arab nations have long anticipated a peaceful outcome. The King unequivocally stated that the Kingdom is prepared to take necessary measures to halt Israel's assault towards Lebanon. He insisted that the Arab summit be thoroughly planned before to its occurrence. Saud al-Faisal initiated an atypical public critique of American aspirations to create a new Middle East with the declaration, "We want to return to the old Middle East." Our difficulties and suffering have simply intensified due to the new situation. He acknowledged the effectiveness of partial solutions in achieving a comprehensive and just resolution in Lebanon, underscoring the necessity of supporting the Lebanese government in its efforts to extend sovereignty over all Lebanese territory in accordance with the Taif Agreement. Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal corresponded with Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa, requesting a visit to Saudi Arabia to deliberate on formulating a unified Arab position about the situation in Lebanon. He

advised against the proposition of deploying a multinational force to southern Lebanon to safeguard Israel. Alarmed by the significant human and material casualties in Lebanon resulting from the Israeli assault, the Saudi Crown Prince communicated with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora on August 3, 2006, to express the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stance. A cohesive and independent Lebanon, he asserted, is essential for peace in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia's political and diplomatic support for Lebanon continued. Consequently, on August 3, 2006, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, the Kingdom participated in the 10th Emergency Islamic Summit Conference. The Saudi team was led by Foreign Affairs Minister Nizar Madani. Nizar Madani, during the negotiations, affirmed that the Kingdom unequivocally supports the Lebanese government in its endeavours to safeguard Lebanon's interests, uphold its independence and sovereignty, and extend its authority over the entirety of Lebanon's national territory. The Saudi minister stated that it is both a moral and legal duty of the participating states within the international system to protect the Lebanese populace, asserting that Israeli activities have exacerbated extremism, intensified instability, and undermined societal cohesion. He called for prompt action to halt the catastrophic Israeli assault on Lebanon. He emphasised Saudi Arabia's apprehensions that the Middle East is on the verge of a new cycle of violence if the region persists in its descent into conflict, which he asserted will obliterate any prospects for peace. Although the degree of tension is uncertain, all parties are dedicated to achieving a resolution that fosters stability and an equitable, inclusive peace in the region. Should this not occur, the prevailing circumstances in Lebanon may be perceived as an element of a broader plan that is detrimental to Arab and Islamic nations. During Saudi Arabia's participation in the OIC emergency summit in Malaysia on August 3, 2006, the head of the Saudi delegation, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, implored the United Nations Security Council to mandate an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon in response to Israeli aggression. The group issued a statement following its emergency meeting, reiterating the Saudi call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Lebanon and expressing discontent with the international community's duplicity on Israel's aggression towards Lebanon.

2.7. Meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers in Beirut at the Kingdom's request on August 7, 2006

The proclamation was issued by Ahmed

Abdul Aziz Qattan, the Saudi Arabian envoy to the Arab League. The letter, delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal to the Arab League Secretary-General, proposed that the Arab League Council convene an extraordinary session in Beirut with the participation of Arab foreign ministers to demonstrate support for Lebanon and its government, as well as to endorse the resolution put forth by Lebanon. According to Qattan, the statement made by Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora prior to the Rome Conference, which outlined seven principles endorsed by the Lebanese government, should underpin the assembly of Arab foreign ministers in Beirut, as the Kingdom deems this appropriate. He indicated that the Saudi statement articulated apprehension at the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and the possible threats it entails; the Arab world must unite in support of Lebanon during this difficult period. He stated that Arab states should endorse Siniora's seven recommendations, presented prior to the Rome Conference, at the Beirut assembly. The Saudis solicited a convening of Arab foreign ministers in Beirut, to which Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa responded by stating that deliberations were currently underway over the issue. The Arab League convened this summit to reiterate its support for Lebanon and its populace amid the Israeli offensive. Moussa stated in a press release: "We, as Arab nations, the Arab community, and the Arab League, endorse the Lebanese stance in opposing Israeli aggression."

On August 7, 2006, Arab foreign ministers convened in Beirut at the behest of Saudi Arabia to support Lebanon in the face of Israeli aggression and to attempt to broker a ceasefire. Ahmed Ben Helli, the assistant secretary general of the Arab League, stated that all Arab foreign ministers have been invited to the summit.

On the evening of August 6, 2006, the Secretary-General of the Arab League arrived in Beirut, coinciding with the Arab foreign ministers' summit. The ministers will support the seven principles articulated by Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, as he stated upon his arrival, and the violence and aggression against Lebanon will end. He emphasised that the Arab League would refrain from any actions contrary to the wishes of the Lebanese over the seven problems. Beirut hosted the conference of Arab foreign ministers on August 7, 2006. Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora delivered a speech at the outset of the meeting, delineating the humanitarian catastrophe that had afflicted Lebanon due to the aggression, and

clarifying that the objective of the assembly was to demonstrate solidarity with Lebanon, support its resistance to the aggression, and facilitate conflict resolution through an unconditional ceasefire. He asserted that during the July 26th Rome Conference, he presented a comprehensive plan for a radical resolution, which encompassed the release of Israeli and Lebanese prisoners and detainees, the withdrawal of Israeli forces behind the Blue Line, and the facilitation of the return of displaced individuals to their homes and communities. Furthermore, he underscored that the Security Council has resolved to place the Shebaa Farms and Kfar Shuba Hills under UN jurisdiction until the border demarcation is completed and the Lebanese government assumes administration of these regions. The Lebanese government will assert its jurisdiction over all its territory by deploying its legitimate armed forces, which will retain armaments and authority within the Lebanese state, as articulated in the Taif National Accord Document. Furthermore, he underscored that the global community is wholly dedicated to assisting Lebanon in its pursuit to surmount the significant humanitarian, social, and economic crisis it currently faces. Consequently, we rely on your ongoing financial contributions for relief and reconstruction initiatives, along with your support in this new undertaking. Israel, which inherently disapproves of many aspects of the program, is also dependent on guaranteeing implementation, whether for a ceasefire or for achieving various other objectives," he noted. Arab leaders must unite today to engage with the Security Council resolution in a way that promotes the pursuit of a sustainable solution while safeguarding our political framework and preserving stability. Only then can we advance with assurance and conviction tomorrow.

"A just and thorough peace is imperative for the cessation of the occupation of Arab land, and we must collectively strive for it," he stated. Earlier today, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia convened an emergency Arab summit in Mecca over Lebanon. He stated that this summit was convened by their esteemed counterpart, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "Brothers, you have come to our aid in Lebanon and Beirut, and we genuinely require your assistance during this ongoing crisis." We want your assistance with relief operations, reconstruction, and support for the Lebanese economy, which is already encumbered by debt and deficits from prior invasions. To avert further assaults, interventions, guardianships, and extortion, we require strong and sustained diplomatic and political support. Prior to the arrival of tomorrow, we must mobilise global

support to compel the UN Security Council to enact a resolution that mandates an immediate cessation of hostilities, the release of all detainees, the liberation of the Shebaa Farms, the affirmation of Lebanese sovereignty over all of Lebanon's territory, and the establishment of a comprehensive and enduring ceasefire. In the meeting, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, the head of the Saudi delegation, articulated the Kingdom's position, reaffirming Saudi Arabia's support for Lebanon and advocating for a prompt cessation of hostilities. Furthermore, he affirmed that the Saudi government is prepared to organise an emergency Arab gathering in Mecca to discuss the problem in Lebanon. The Prophet stated: "I am empowered to declare that the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is ready not only to participate in an emergency Arab summit but also to host it in Mecca, at a time mutually agreed upon by the leaders of the Arab states." "The King does not impose conditions for the meeting," he continued. Its sole desire is for it to occur with sufficient preparation. He stated that this dependence is based on a definitive Arab strategy aimed at generating outcomes, choices, and options that align with the hopes and desires of the Arab populace. Saud Al-Faisal reiterated his unequivocal and resolute endorsement of the seven points established by the Lebanese administration, which received full consensus among the Lebanese to resolve the problem. This idea effectively encapsulates the Arab world's position on the Lebanese issue, offering a logical basis for prospective solutions. He asserts that they ought to be the foundational elements of the resolution proposal. During the United Nations assembly concerning Lebanon's ceasefire, Al-Faisal articulated in his address: "It is a profound loss for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that we convene amidst the destruction and devastation wrought by the barbaric Israeli military apparatus in one of the most exquisite Arab capitals, the cherished Lebanon, which holds a unique significance in the hearts of all Arabs." By hosting this important Arab summit, Lebanon has always exemplified decency and tolerance among the Arab community, and will continue to do so, thanks be to God. It represents religious tolerance, plurality, and interfaith friendship. Regardless of the justification, Lebanon should not serve as a theatre for regional and global conflicts. It has withstood significant adversity on our behalf and was an inaugural member of the Arab League. It is just that we all participate in its struggle against the formidable challenges that life has presented. Saud Al-Faisal says that Lebanon is suffering the

consequences of the regional crisis due to the inability of the nation's leaders to reach a consensus on a unified strategy.

The concluding statement of the Arab Foreign Ministers Conference expressed unequivocal support for the resilience of the Lebanese national stance, encompassing both the government and the populace, against Israeli aggression, and commended Lebanon's resistance to this aggression amid Israel's strategy of destruction and sabotage aimed at dismantling Lebanon's infrastructure and humanity. It strongly opposed any plan that would convert Lebanon into a theatre for regional or international interests, neglecting the safety and welfare of the Lebanese populace. In light of the ongoing violent Israeli assault on Lebanon, the conference reiterated its unified and strong condemnation of the aggression and expressed its deep dissatisfaction with the Security Council's delay in fulfilling its responsibility to maintain global peace and security. They asked the Council to promptly halt the aggression, alleviate the siege, withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon, and declare a comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire. It further affirmed that Arab states will unequivocally support the Lebanese government politically and commit to its "seven-point" agenda, which encompasses a call for a comprehensive and immediate ceasefire and consensus on various matters, the most critical being the assurance of releasing Israeli and Lebanese prisoners via the International Committee of the Red Cross and the withdrawal of the Israeli military behind the Blue Line. Alongside facilitating the repatriation of displaced individuals to their towns, it is imperative to hold Israel accountable for its aggressive conduct, the resultant harm, and the intentional targeting of civilians and infrastructure. This constitutes a significant violation of international law, specifically humanitarian law and the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Israel ought to indemnify the Lebanese Republic and its residents for the loss of human lives, material and moral damages, and economic detriment resulting from infrastructure destruction and Israeli assault. During its meeting on August 7, 2006, the Saudi Cabinet discussed the ongoing assault in response to Israel's disregard for Arab and international calls to halt its aggression and the sustained, extensive bombardment by its forces on Lebanese cities and villages. It posited that the Israeli aggression on Lebanon constitutes an Arab issue for a unified Arab response. The Cabinet reiterated the Kingdom's unified position with the Lebanese populace in rejecting Israel's extensive assault, as stated by Saudi

Minister of Culture and Information Ayman bin Amin Madani during the session. Furthermore, he stated that the Cabinet has underscored the necessity for the Arab community to adopt a resolute position in reaction to Israeli aggression, as it pertains to Arab interests. He expressed the expectation that the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Beirut will result in a definitive and pragmatic Arab position endorsing unity, legitimacy, and the Lebanese approach. He also anticipated that the meeting's resolutions would bolster Arab efforts in addressing the Lebanese situation and its worldwide implications with a cohesive discourse. The ongoing Israeli strikes have resulted in destruction and calamities, and the persistent international efforts to address the situation remain insufficient, according to the Cabinet.

2.8. Saudi-Turkish Talks on the Aggression on August 8, 2006

King Abdullah's travel to Turkey on August 8, 2006, was a component of the kingdom's effort to maintain regional and international pressure on Israel to cease its aggression against Lebanon. He participated in discussions with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (2003–2014) and Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer (2000–2007) over developments in the Middle East. The gathering occurred in the Middle East, where the persistent Israeli aggression towards Lebanon is a significant issue. King Abdullah underscored the necessity for a measured and judicious global reaction, cautioning against recklessness. He stated that the present circumstances in Lebanon exemplify the global threats we confront, and that initiatives are in progress to cease hostilities and achieve an equitable resolution for both the Lebanese and the Palestinians. Turkish President Ahmet Necdet expressed apprehension regarding recent regional developments and the stagnation in attaining a truce in Lebanon.

Mohammed Raja Al-Husseini, the Saudi ambassador to Turkey, informed the Saudi Press Agency that the Kingdom and Turkey own numerous significant agreements pertaining to the Middle East. The escalation of the severe Israeli attack towards Lebanon has ravaged the nation's infrastructure and resulted in numerous civilian casualties. The Saudi ambassador stated both King Abdullah and President Sezer underscored the necessity of a truce in Lebanon and supported the Lebanese government's endeavours to extend its authority throughout the nation. The imperative for the international community to engage in encouraging Israel and Hezbollah to terminate their

fight was emphasised. The Position of the Saudi Government Regarding the Ceasefire and Resolution 1701 (August 11–14, 2006).

The United Nations Security Council held its 5511th session on August 11, 2006, to discuss Israel's actions against Lebanon in response to appeals from the Arab countries and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Council has expressed profound concern at the recent intensification of hostilities in Lebanon, advocating for an immediate cessation of violence and a concentration on addressing the underlying causes of the conflict, including the abduction of two Israeli soldiers. Resolution 1701, which received unanimous approval from the Council, recommended a permanent truce and the evacuation of Israeli forces from Lebanese land. The proposed steps encompassed the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south, supported by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and the halt of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah. The UN General Assembly recently urged all member states to promptly provide humanitarian and financial assistance to the people of Lebanon, and called upon Israel and Lebanon to uphold the ceasefire and collaborate in establishing a durable peace agreement that fully honours the Blue Line. The two parties established a security accord to prevent the resurgence of hostilities and to prohibit foreign troops from entering Lebanon without governmental consent. The governments of Israel and Lebanon both expressed their endorsement of the international resolution, and on August 13, 2008, hostilities between the two nations ceased.

Following the United Nations Security Council's resolution calling for a truce, Saudi Arabia implored both Hezbollah and Israel to adhere to the accord and implement its stipulations. The Saudi Council of Ministers has pledged steadfast assistance to the Lebanese government in executing Resolution 1701 and upholding its position at the United Nations. On August 12, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora contacted King Abdullah. During the phone conversation, they deliberated about the recent happenings in Lebanon. During the briefing with King Abdullah, Siniora reiterated Lebanon's hopeful viewpoint towards UN Security Council Resolution 1701. He stated that Lebanon perceives its Arab neighbours, especially Saudi Arabia, as a catalyst for peace and stability, both domestically and regionally. Siniora, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, commended King Abdullah and the Saudi populace for their positions regarding the Lebanese people. The King of Saudi Arabia articulated his aspiration for Lebanon to be "nurtured, after God, by

the efforts of its populace and its devoted government." He stated that the Kingdom finds solace as long as this situation persists. The King expressed confidence in Lebanon's capacity to "restore its vitality and reconstruct what was devastated by Israeli aggression," noting that the nation will require the support of God and its Arab allies. The Lebanese administration has the steadfast support of the Kingdom as it endeavours to implement the ceasefire decision. Saud al-Faisal stated on August 13 that Resolution 1701 represented the authentic and collective effort of the Arab states and the Kingdom to address the crisis. He stated that the Lebanese situation remains unresolved, as it lacks certain of our needs. He confirmed that the Kingdom unequivocally supports the Lebanese government's initiatives to extend its authority throughout Lebanon. He articulated his want for an immediate cessation of hostilities in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1701. He underscored that the backing of Arab nations is essential for Lebanon's restoration and territorial governance.

Following the conclusion of Israeli military operations on August 14, King Abdullah convened a session of the Saudi Cabinet. Cabinet members reiterated the United Kingdom's endorsement of the Lebanese government, its adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 1701, and the ambitions of the amicable Lebanese populace. The Cabinet emphasised that, despite Israel's formidable military capabilities and the steadfast financial, material, and diplomatic support it receives from international entities, the devastating assaults on Lebanon and the egregious human rights violations perpetrated against civilians illustrate that aggression and warfare will not resolve the region's conflicts. The Cabinet reiterated that the reconstruction of the region, the reconciliation of its factions, and the resolution of disputes among various sects pose the most significant threat to the national security of the member states in the region.

3. CONCLUSION

The Saudi stance on the aggression was one of the most prominent, assertive, and unequivocal among the official Arab viewpoints. The Kingdom attributed the developments in the dispute with Israel to Hezbollah. On July 12, the Saudi Press Agency disseminated a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which articulated extensive condemnation of Israel for its ongoing violent bombardment of civilians and infrastructure in southern Lebanon. The official stance of Saudi Arabia towards the aggression was articulated by the

political statements of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, which encompassed a total rejection, resistance, and condemnation of the aggression. The Kingdom reiterated its steadfast support for the legitimate national forces in Lebanon. The Kingdom also endeavoured to assist Lebanon financially by offering monetary aid and diverse medical care to individuals impacted by the attack. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has consistently urged an emergency assembly of Arab foreign ministers to address the aggression and to implore the Security Council to enact a definitive resolution to halt hostilities. It also requested a statement denouncing the extensive Israeli assaults on Lebanon, which seek to intentionally obliterate infrastructure and

egregiously infringe upon human rights by targeting innocent civilians, in blatant contempt of international treaties and conventions. The statement characterised the action as only an extension of Israel's policy of occupation and dominance in the region. Saudi Arabia's endorsement of the ceasefire resolution from the UN Security Council demonstrates the Kingdom's persistent efforts and its sincere, collaborative pursuit to resolve the Lebanese conflict and halt hostilities. The Saudi Council of Ministers reaffirmed its commitment to support the Lebanese government in its stance at the United Nations and in the execution of Resolution 1701, which mandates a cease of hostilities and the departure of Israeli soldiers from Lebanon.

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