



Press Statement

Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Washington, DC

April 6, 2006

Syrian Interference in Lebanon

The United States condemns the reported issuance of warrants by a Syrian military court for Lebanese Parliamentarian Walid Jumblatt, Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, and journalist Fares Kashan to appear for questioning, in a case accusing them of "inciting the US administration to occupy Syria" and "defaming" Damascus. This move is yet another cynical attempt by the Syrian government to interfere in the Lebanese political process and intimidate the Lebanese people and their political leaders.

We call on the international community to hold the Syrian regime accountable for its continued interference in Lebanon, insufficient action on the Iraqi border, sponsorship of Palestinian terrorist groups, and its harsh crackdown on civil society.

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