

## The Arab American Community and Organizations in Michigan

February 5, 2025

Honorable Donald J. Trump, *47<sup>th</sup> president of the United States*

**Subject:** A call for justice, sovereignty, and lasting peace in Lebanon

We hope this message finds you in great health and high spirits. On behalf of the Arab American community in Michigan, we extend our warmest greetings to your and your family.

Mr. President, the Arab American Community remains steadfast in its belief that strong and decisive leadership—like yours—has the power to shape history and bring long-overdue justice, stability and peace to the Middle East. As one of the most influential leaders in modern history, your voice carries the weight of millions who year for security, fairness and the fulfillment of long-standing promises.

### **The contributions of Lebanese Americans: A legacy of strength and innovation**

We remind you, Mr. President, of the invaluable contributions that Lebanese Americans have made to this great nation for over a century. From pioneering advancements in manufacturing and commerce to excelling in academia, arts and public service, Lebanese Americans have played an essential role in strengthening the United States. Their talents, resilience and resourcefulness are second to none.

Among them was the great Lebanese American writer Khalil Gilbran, whose words inspired Present John F. Kennedy's iconic inaugural declaration: "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." This spirit of selfless service has defined generations of Lebanese Americans, from diplomats to entrepreneurs to decorated war heroes. Their contributions demand recognition, and their voices deserve to be heard in shaping a just and lasting peace in the region.



## **The unalienable rights of Lebanese Americans and Lebanon's sovereignty**

Mr. President, as free and sovereign individuals, Lebanese Americans are not mere petitioners but rightful stakeholders in the policies that shape both their homeland and the country they call home – the United States. Lebanese Americans have, for over a century, strengthened the United States' economy, culture and global standing. In return, we expect and demand:

- 1. Full sovereignty for Lebanon** –The occupation of South Lebanon must end **immediately as per the cease fire agreement endorsed by all parties including the United States by the end of February 18, 2025.** The United Nations explicitly recognizes the right to resist foreign occupation, including through armed resistance. We cite U.N. resolutions affirming this right and demand the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from every Lebanese village.
- 2. Air defense and military protections** – Lebanon, a sovereign nation, is denied the right to modern air defense systems, leaving its people vulnerable to relentless bombardment. We demand an end to restrictions preventing the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) from acquiring such protections. Notably, half the salary of the Lebanese military is funded by the United States – yet it is deprived of the tools needed to defend its own citizens.
- 3. Accountability for ceasefire violations** – Over the past two months alone, Israel has committed 1,400 violations of the ceasefire agreement – the equivalent of a military strike every hour. These are flagrant acts of aggression that demand international condemnation and reparations for the destruction inflicted on Lebanese families, businesses, and critical infrastructure.

### **A vision for lasting peace & stability**

Mr. President, history will remember this moment. The next U.S. administration must be serious about securing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. True peace is built on honor, dignity, security and mutual respect – not on continued occupation, destruction and



displacement. Generations of Americans have sacrificed for these principles, and they must guide America's foreign policy today.

We urge you to take bold steps to:

- Advocate for a comprehensive regional peace framework that respects the sovereignty of all nations, including Lebanon.
- Hold all parties accountable for violations of international law, including war crimes and illegal occupations.
- Champion economic policies that support Lebanese stability rather than perpetuate financial dependency and crisis.

**A call to action: Leadership that shapes the future**

Mr. President, your legacy has the potential to be remembered not just in political history, but in the centuries to come as a turning point for the Middle East. A just resolution in Lebanon will not only strengthen U.S. relations with the Arab world but will reaffirm America's role as a true champion of justice and self-determination.

We, as the Arab American Community, are dedicated to voting and actively participate in the democratic process and have full confidence in your commitment to fulfilling your promises. We look forward to seeing these commitments realized, strengthening our trust and support as we approach the crucial 2025 and 2026 elections.

With your leadership, a single decisive action – a bold phone call, a firm policy shift, a clear stand for sovereignty – can change the course of history. We ask you to seize this moment and stand for the values of freedom, dignity, and peace.

With profound respect and gratitude,

**Arab American Community and Organizations in Michigan: represented by**

**Dr. Ned Fawaz President; Lebanese International Business council,**

