November 26, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Lebanon Renaissance Foundation ("LRF"), we would like to extend to you our heartfelt congratulations on your election victory.

We are mindful of the many challenges ahead and wish you every success as you seek to build a more prosperous and peaceful world.

As you are well aware, our region is in the midst of unprecedented upheaval and change, creating the hope for greater freedom and democracy but also the risk of further instability and uncertainty.

As Lebanese and Lebanese-Americans, we deeply appreciate your efforts to support democratic institutions that further the cause of a free, sovereign and pluralistic Lebanon.

In particular, your administration’s continued support for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) is critical. These are the only legitimate armed forces entrusted by the people of Lebanon to protect the country’s sovereignty and enforce the rule of law.

These LAF and ISF are building effective capabilities with strong allegiance to the principles of Lebanese sovereignty and independence. They continue to play a key role in uncovering and investigating organized political crime intended to instigate civil strife.

The resumption of military aid to LAF, as well as your dispatching of an FBI forensic unit to assist in the investigation into General Al-Hassan's murder, has been invaluable.
Lastly, Lebanon continues to take in more Syrian refugees. This adds to the financial strain of an estimated four hundred thousand Palestinian refugees on its territory. Security remains the prevailing concern of most Lebanese and such security will remain fragile if the United States and other donor countries do not contribute to the cost of feeding and sheltering over one hundred thousand Syrian refugees on Lebanese soil.

Mr. President, we look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead on these and other issues to help ensure greater stability and security for our region and throughout the world.

We wish you every success as you embark upon your second term in office.

Respectfully,

President & Chairman of the Board  
Charles El- Hage

US Director and Member of the Board  
Firas Maksad