



Coordinating Committee for  
International Staff Unions and Associations

7 June 2021

Dear Secretary-General,

The Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations (CCISUA) is concerned that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) may be closing in July over a funding crisis preventing it from fulfilling its mandate.

The STL was created in 2009 by UN Security Council Resolution 1757. Its primary mandate is to hold trials for the people accused of carrying out the attack of 14 February 2005 which killed 22 people, including the former prime minister of Lebanon, Rafik Hariri, and injured many others. The STL also has jurisdiction over other attacks in Lebanon between 1 October 2004 and 12 December 2005 if it is proven that they are connected to the events of 14 February and are of similar nature and gravity.

The STL relies on voluntary contributions that make up 51 per cent of its funding, while 49 per cent comes from Lebanon.

In 2020, the STL made significant cuts in staff numbers, which led to a reduction by almost 40% (more than 100 posts). This has had a disastrous impact on the dedicated staff who have been working relentlessly to fulfill the mandate of the Tribunal.

We are very concerned about the 280 staff which will be affected by the closure. The personal and family ramifications stemming from the closure of the Tribunal in the current economic climate cannot be underestimated.

We are requesting that you look into all possible ways to ensure the effective functioning of the Tribunal through its proper funding, so that the dedicated staff may continue their work in line with relevant Security Council resolutions on the matter.

Best regards,

Prisca Chaoui  
President of  
CCISUA

Rouba Romanos  
President of the STL  
Staff Union Council

Mr. Antonio Guterres  
UN Secretary-General

CC: Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet  
Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance  
Judge Ivana Hrdlickova, President of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon  
Mr. David Tolbert, Registrar of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon  
Mr. Adam Boys, Chief of Administration of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon  
Mr. Chanaka Wickremasinghe, Chairman of the Management Committee