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From: "Chris Doyle (CAABU)" <doylec@caabu.org>
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Sent: 12 October 2006 16:32
Subject: Press Release: CAABU condemns FCO's human rights report as Pravdaesque

**CAABU condemns [FCO's human rights report](#) as Pravdaesque
12 October 2006**

The [Foreign Office's 2006 Annual report into Human Rights](#) was published today. Conspicuous by its absence, was any mention of Israeli human rights violations in Lebanon during July and August 2006, while criticism was reserved for Hizbollah alone.

Commenting on this, Chris Doyle, CAABU's Director stated: "This pravda-style report deliberately ignores Israeli violations of Lebanese human rights. It does not offer even the merest hint that Israel's mass aerial flattening of Lebanon might somehow have breached the human rights of 1191 Lebanese who were killed, and the million who were displaced. Does this mean the Foreign Office justifies the collective punishment of the Lebanese people through the illegal blockade, the targeting of vital civilian infrastructure such as power stations? Does it endorse the widespread use of cluster bombs in built up civilian areas?"

The eye-witness accounts from journalists, NGOs, aid workers and others as to the destruction by Israeli forces is overwhelming. Other human rights groups have carefully reported on the abuses on both sides, by Israel and Hizbollah. The total failure of the British government to do likewise, further undermines its credibility, and makes a farce of its whole pretence to promote human rights.

It should be stressed that the official excuse that there was not time to include an analysis of what happened in Lebanon is inaccurate. The report talks of Hizbollah being responsible for the deaths of 40 Israeli civilians, and mentions the visit of Hilary Benn to Beirut on 15 August. Why was there time to analyse Hizbollah's actions and that of the Israeli armed forces? There were copious reports available of these violations that the Foreign Office could have used. The United Nations was issuing daily reports on the casualty levels.

Moreover, the Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett today refused to offer a condemnation or even an expression of concern over this when asked.

All of this paints a frightening picture of the Foreign Office acting as nothing less than a worthless vehicle for discredited propaganda. Britain's credibility in the Arab World is low enough without needing further reason to sink deeper.

For further information and interviews please contact the CAABU office 0207 832 1320 – doylec@caabu.org. Chris Doyle can be reached on 07968 040 281.

The report can be viewed here:
http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/hr_report2006.pdf
comments on Hizbollah can be viewed page 107.

Some human rights reports:

Human Rights Reports

[Israel: Government Committee Should Probe Lebanon Laws of War Violations](#) - Human Rights Watch, 22nd September 2006

[Under fire: Hizbullah's attacks on northern Israel](#) - Amnesty International - 14th September 2006

[Israel must disclose details of cluster bomb attacks and accept a full investigation](#) - Amnesty International, 31st August 2006

[Deliberate destruction or "collateral damage": Israeli attacks on civilian infrastructure](#) - Amnesty International, 23rd August
(See also: [Press release](#))

[Further information on Thousands of civilians in southern Lebanon](#) - Amnesty International, 21st August

[Israeli Cluster Munitions Threaten Civilians: Israel Must Provide Data to Save Lives](#) - Human Rights Watch, 17th August

[Protect Civilians From Unexploded Weapons: Civilians and Aid Work Endangered by Dud Ordnance](#) - Human Rights Watch - 16th August 2006

[Human Rights Council members put politics before lives](#) - Amnesty International - 14th August

[The United Nations Human Rights Council must make a positive contribution to ending violations of human rights and humanitarian law](#) - Amnesty International - 11th August

[U.S.: Deny Israeli Request for Cluster Munitions: Use in Lebanon Has Killed and Maimed Civilians](#) - Human Rights Watch - 11th August

[U.N. Rights Body Squanders Chance to Help Civilians](#) : Failure to Condemn Abuses by All Parties Damages Credibility - Human Rights Watch - 11th August

[UN. Rights Council Must Protect Civilians](#) - Human Rights Watch, 11th August

[U.N.: Open Independent Inquiry into Civilian Deaths](#) - Human Rights Watch - 8th August 2006

[Urgent need for ceasefire and investigation of war crimes](#) - Amnesty International, 6th August 2006

[Hezbollah Must End Attacks on Civilians](#) - Human Rights Watch, 5th August 2006

[Fog of War is No Cover for Causing Civilian Deaths](#) - Kenneth Roth- Executive Director, Human Rights Watch, 4 August 2006

[Fatal Strikes: Israel's Indiscriminate Attacks Against Civilians in Lebanon](#) - Human Rights Watch, 3rd August

[Israel/Lebanon: End Indiscriminate Strikes on Civilians - Some Israeli Attacks Amount to War Crimes](#) - Human Rights Watch, 3rd August

[Qana inquiry denounced as whitewash](#) - Amnesty International, 3rd August

[Qana Death Toll at 28 - International Inquiry Needed into Israeli Air Strike](#) - Human Rights Watch, 2nd August

[Israel Responsible for Qana Attack](#) - Human Rights Watch - 30th July

[Amnesty writes to Margaret Beckett urging end to arms exports](#) - Amnesty International - 28th July 2006

[Israeli Cluster Munitions Hit Civilians in Lebanon: Israel Must Not Use Indiscriminate Weapons](#) - Human Rights Watch - 24th July 2006

[Israel Must Allow Civilians Safe Passage: Warnings Do Not End Duty to Avoid Civilian Casualties](#) - Human Rights Watch 21st July 2006

[Israel Must Provide Safe Passage to Relief Convoys: Shortages of Food, Medicine a Risk as IDF Blockades Air, Sea and Land Routes](#) - Human Rights Watch - 20th July 2006

[Questions and Answers on Hostilities Between Israel and Hezbollah](#) - Human Rights Watch Briefing, 17th July 2006

[Hezbollah Rocket Attacks on Haifa Designed to Kill Civilians -Human Rights Watch](#) - 18th July

[Amnesty International urges UN Security Council must adopt urgent measures to protect civilians in Israel-Lebanon conflict](#) - 18th July

[Israel: Investigate Attack on Civilians in Lebanon: IDF Must Take Precautions to Protect Civilians Fleeing Areas at Risk](#) - Human Rights Watch - 17th July

[Amnesty International UK - Israel/Lebanon: Attacks against civilians must end immediately](#) - 13th July

[Human Rights Watch - Lebaanon/Israel: Do not attack civilians](#) - 13th July

Chris Doyle
Director

CAABU (Council for Arab-British Understanding)

"Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance" A lecture by Professor George Saliba - 19 October - for details:

http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=events&article=events&detail=george_saliba

Why not sponsor me this Sunday to help Palestinian and Lebanese children?

<http://www.justgiving.com/chrisdoyle>

see the CAABU section on the current Israel-Lebanon conflict

http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=key_issues&article=israel_lebanon&detail=crisis_july2006

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