

Beirut, on 13<sup>th</sup> may 2022

Motion

The decision of the local authorities is to demolish the silos at the port of Beirut, under the pretext of public safety, while all the surrounding streets in the neighbor residential areas are bordered with unstable buildings damaged by the explosion.

The UIA stresses the importance of reversing the decision of the lebanese Prime Minister and government to prevent the beirut port silos from being torn down as they represent a major forensic evidence in the beirut port explosion, as well as representing an important living witness, memento and monument to those who lost their lives, were injured, lost their loved ones, homes, businesses and livelihoods.

Built in 1968 these Grain Silos represent:

1. A major omnipresent piece of forensic evidence in the ongoing investigation of the explosion and it's causes.
2. A surviving witness of a huge crime perpetrated against Lebanon.
3. A tangible and intangible symbol of what happened to the city and its people.
4. A part of the collective memory of the city and its residents in a country where collective amnesia prevails.
5. A Modern heritage building and a landmark monument.
6. A mourning process healer. (Psychological effect).

We stress that the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the port should be carried out in a holistic way rather than a fragmentary manner, within a comprehensive vision and a clear master plan that rethinks the port and its services integrating it with its surroundings, taking into consideration its economic role, and its relationship with the rest of the local and regional ports in addition to reviving the maritime and land transport sector and the need to protect, maintain and develop port facilities.

We consider that any reconstruction or restoration initiative, especially regarding the port should be treated as a holistic master plan with its relation to the city and the silos, must take place with the involvement of the surrounding communities.

We reject this decision, aware that appropriate technical solutions can and must certainly be found to preserve and protect this landmark building.

Aref Yassin

President of the Federation of Lebanese Engineers

