

## **International Socialism: A transparent international investigation into the Beirut bombing**

The Progressive Socialist Party received a statement issued by the International Socialist Organization, in which it expressed its "deep shock and sadness as a result of the destruction caused by the huge explosion in the Beirut port on Tuesday 4 August, killing at least 135 people and injuring thousands." While more than 300 thousand citizens have become homeless."

International Socialism" affirmed its full solidarity with the" people of Beirut and Lebanon and all those affected, including the Progressive Socialist Party and its members, pointing to "the extent of the material damage represented by the destruction of buildings in central Beirut, and the damage to residential areas, hospitals and important infrastructure in the port."

The organization considered that "The disaster befell Lebanon at its worst times, and in the midst of the economic and financial crisis that led to the devaluation of the Lebanese Pound and sliding half of the Lebanese into poverty, the crisis was exacerbated by corruption and political mismanagement, which makes it imperative for the government to assume its responsibilities."

The organization added that "Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees compared to its population, most of them are Syrians who fled the war." She added that "economic, political and social problems have exacerbated with the outbreak of the

Coronavirus in recent months, which made it difficult to deal with the repercussions of the great destruction in the port."

The organization stressed "the importance of international assistance to Lebanon," calling on "the international community for immediate and substantial support." And it considered that "priority must be given to preventing further loss of life by locating survivors, treating the wounded and providing for people who now need shelter and food."

She added that Lebanon "will need big investments to rebuild Beirut, and for this reason, it urges all countries and organizations that can do so to provide assistance to Beirut."

She pointed out that "this tragedy should not have been allowed to happen, and a full investigation must be conducted to find out how and why 2750 tons of ammonium nitrate have been stored for years in the Beirut port despite repeated warnings about its seriousness, and an international and transparent investigation must be conducted to be able to hold accountable those responsible for what happened."

She stressed "cooperation and sympathy to overcome the tragedy," and indicated that she looks forward to the re-emergence of vibrant Beirut and the place where socialism held several important and successful meetings."

She concluded her statement by expressing "solidarity with the people of Beirut and standing by them in this difficult time."