

For Immediate Release – Beirut 2 August 2021
Bureau of Accusation at the Beirut Bar Association
in relation with Beirut port explosion of the 4 August 2020

On 2 August 2021, the Beirut Bar Association (the « BBA ») and some victims of the Beirut Port Explosion of 4 August 2020 (the « Claimants ») filed a civil action against Savaro Ltd in the High Court of Justice in London.

The claim seeks indemnification for inter alia the failure to take any actions to secure or properly dispose of the Ammonium Nitrate, causing death, injury, loss and damage to the Claimants in the Beirut Port Explosion, for which the Claimants hold Savaro Ltd liable together with other parties.

The President of the Beirut Bar Association, Melhem Khalaf, stated the following:

“Every person or entity who is directly or indirectly responsible for any part of the devastation which occurred on 4 August 2020 should and will be brought to justice. The importer of the Ammonium Nitrate, Savaro Ltd, being a company incorporated in England and having its offices in London, is subject to the jurisdiction of English courts. As such, the BBA and the other Claimants instituted this legal action. Depending on progress, other victims of the Beirut Port Explosion can either apply to join this action or institute a parallel action in due course.

I wish to thank Dechert LLP, a global law firm, which is undertaking this work on a pro bono basis at the request of Camille Abousleiman, a senior attorney at the firm, who has also offered to personally cover filing and other expenses of the proceedings. I also wish to thank David Hart QC and his team at 1 Crown Office Row Chambers for their pro bono assistance.

The BBA will do its utmost to see justice prevail in the crime of the Beirut Port Explosion.”