

# Lebanon and Neighboring Countries



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# Lebanon Timeline

- 1975 - Civil war erupts and a "Green Line" frontline divides Beirut into Christian East and Muslim West.
- 1978 - Israel invades south Lebanon and sets up an occupation zone in an operation against Palestinian guerrillas
- 1982 - Israel invades all the way to Beirut. Israel's ally and head of Christian militia Lebanese Forces, Bashir Gemayel, is elected president but killed before taking office. Bashir's brother, Amin Gemayel, becomes president. Hundreds of civilians in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila are massacred by Christian militiamen allowed in by Israeli troops. Iran's Revolutionary Guards establish Hezbollah in Lebanon
- 1983 - Shi'ite Muslim suicide bombers kill 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers in Beirut as part of a multinational force.



# Lebanon Timeline

- 1990 - Aoun and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia led by Samir Geagea battle for months to control Christian enclave. The Vatican arranges a ceasefire.
- 1991 Parliament passes an amnesty law pardoning all political crimes as the civil war comes to an end.
- 1992 – Rafik al-Hariri, a Saudi-backed billionaire, becomes prime minister after the first post-war election.
- Feb 14, 2005 – Assassination of Rafik Hariri
- July 12, 2006 – 34-day war with Israel begins
- May 2008 – weeklong clashes leave 100 dead
- July 2008- Lebanon forms a 30-member national unity government in which Hezbollah and its allies have a veto



# Lebanon Timeline

- January 2011 - Hezbollah forces the collapse of the unity government
- June 2011 - a new Hezbollah-dominated government is formed
- April 2013 - Hezbollah confirms its fighters have deployed to Syria to fight in the country's conflict on the side of President Bashar al-Assad
- September 2019 - September, hundreds of people protest in Beirut over the deteriorating economy and increasingly difficult living conditions, largely caused by the fall of the Lebanese pound
- April 30, 2020 - Lebanon defaulted on its sovereign debt for the first time
- August 4, 2020 – Port of Beirut Explosion
- June 1, 2021 – World Bank issues report that Lebanese Economic crisis is one of the three worst since 1850

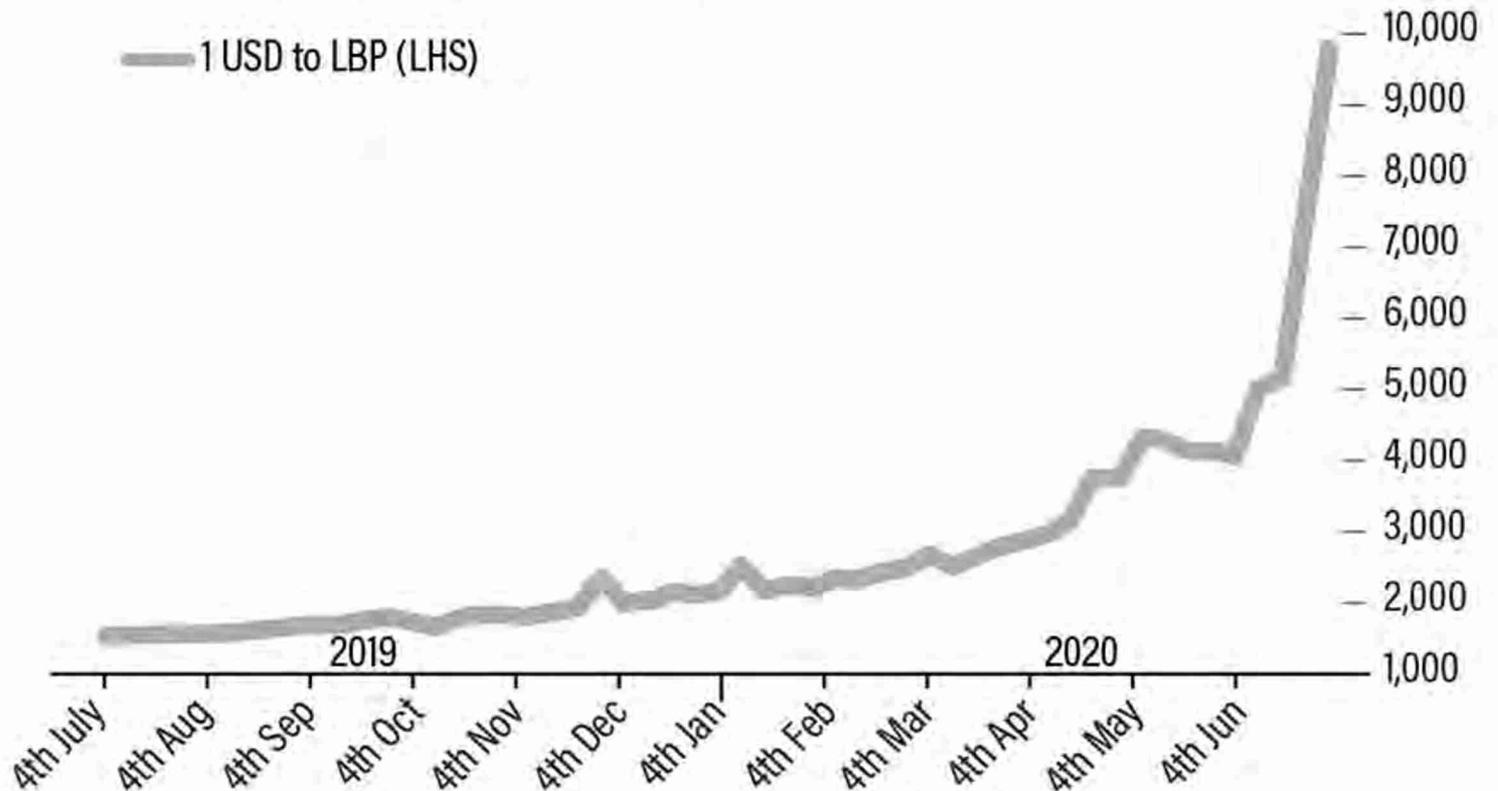


# The Lebanese Economy

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FKZ4\\_LgEUM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FKZ4_LgEUM)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQYkYI56Dtc> minute 5:00-10:54
- Dr. Nasser H. Saidi is founder and president of Nasser Saidi & Associates and Former Chief Economist and Head of External Relations at the DIFC Authority in Dubai. Dr. Saidi was the Minister of Economy and Trade and Minister of Industry of Lebanon between 1998 and 2000.
- He was the first Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon for two successive mandates, 1993-1998 and 1998-2003. He was a Member of the UN Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP) for two mandates over the period 2000-2006.



# DEVALUATION OF THE LEBANESE POUND IN THE BLACK MARKET



Source: Black market rate



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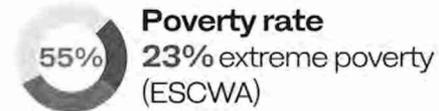
# LEBANON'S ECONOMIC CRISIS IN NUMBERS

Area **10,452** km<sup>2</sup>

Population **6.825** million



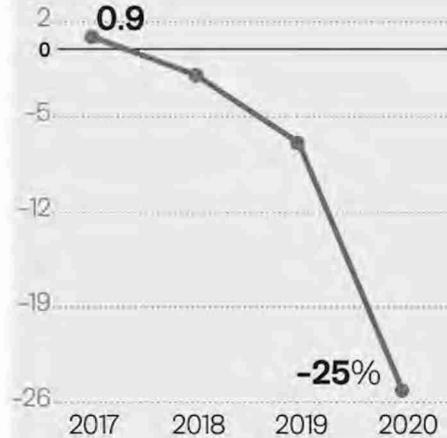
Syrian refugees **865,531** (Dec 2020)



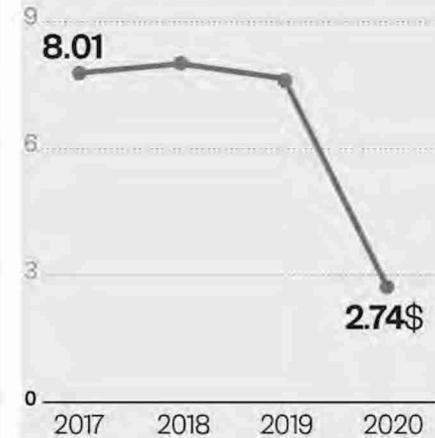
Lebanese pound to US dollar exchange rate

Black market rate (on March 16, 2021): \$1= <b>14,000+</b> lbp	Official rate (since 1997): \$1= <b>1,507</b> lbp
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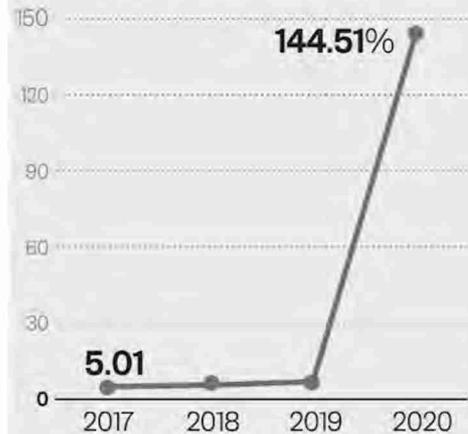
**GDP growth**  
in %



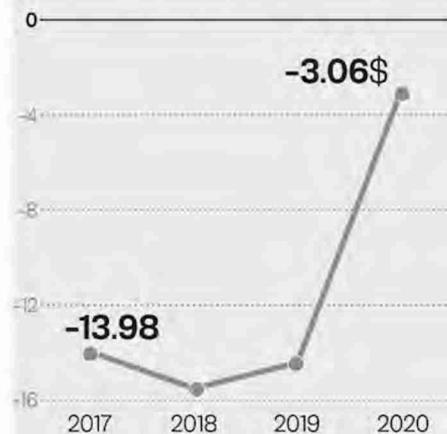
**GDP per capita, current prices**  
in thousand of dollars



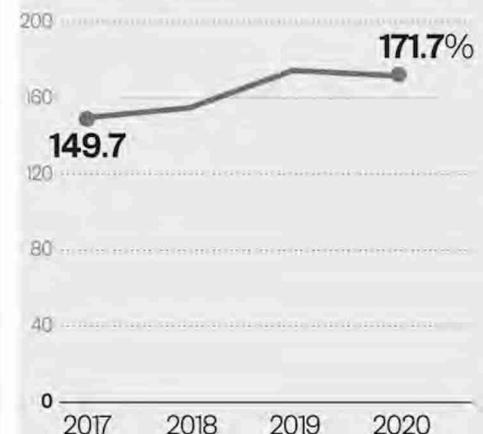
**Inflation rate, end of period**  
consumer prices (% change)



**Current account balance**  
in billions of dollars



**Public debt**  
as % of GDP



Source: IMF (October 2020), UNHCR, Lebanese government

ARAB NEWS

# The Lebanese Economy

- “Lebanon is enduring a severe and prolonged economic depression. According to the latest World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor (LEM) released today [June 1, 2021], the economic and financial crisis is likely to rank in the top 10, possibly top 3, most severe crises episodes globally since the mid-nineteenth century.”
- “The World Bank estimates that in 2020 real GDP contracted by 20.3 percent, on the back of a 6.7 percent contraction in 2019. In fact, Lebanon’s GDP plummeted from close to US\$55 billion in 2018 to an estimated US\$33 billion in 2020, while GDP per capita fell by around 40 percent in dollar terms. Such a brutal contraction is usually associated with conflicts or wars. Monetary and financial conditions remain highly volatile; within the context of a multiple exchange rate system, the World Bank average exchange rate depreciated by 129 percent in 2020. The effect on prices have resulted in surging inflation, averaging 84.3 percent in 2020. Subject to extraordinarily high uncertainty, real GDP is projected to contract by a further 9.5 percent in 2021.”



# The Lebanese Economy

2019



## Cash Receipt

Date Mar 2019

Item	
Milk 1 Ltr	3,000 LBP
Tomatoes 1 Kg	490 LBP
Oranges 1 Kg	800 LBP
Apples 1 Kg	1,250 LBP
Cucumbers 1 Kg	850 LBP
Rice 1 Kg	1,100 LBP
Chicken 1 Kg	2,800 LBP

**Total 10,250 LBP**

2020



## Cash Receipt

Date Mar 2020

Item	
Milk 1 Ltr	6,700 LBP
Tomatoes 1 Kg	1,250 LBP
Oranges 1 Kg	2,300 LBP
Apples 1 Kg	2,850 LBP
Cucumbers 1 Kg	1,700 LBP
Rice 1 Kg	2,350 LBP
Chicken 1 Kg	5,000 LBP

**Total 10,250 LBP**

All Items 22,150 LBP

2021



## Cash Receipt

Date Mar 2021

Item	
Milk 1 Ltr	10,000 LBP
Tomatoes 1 Kg	5,000 LBP
Oranges 1 Kg	4,000 LBP
Apples 1 Kg	5,400 LBP
Cucumbers 1 Kg	4,000 LBP
Rice 1 Kg	6,400 LBP
Chicken 1 Kg	23,000 LBP

**Total 10,000 LBP**

All Items 57,800 LBP



Source: Carrefour and Spinneys Lebanon Hypermarkets



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# Current Protests (beginning 2019)

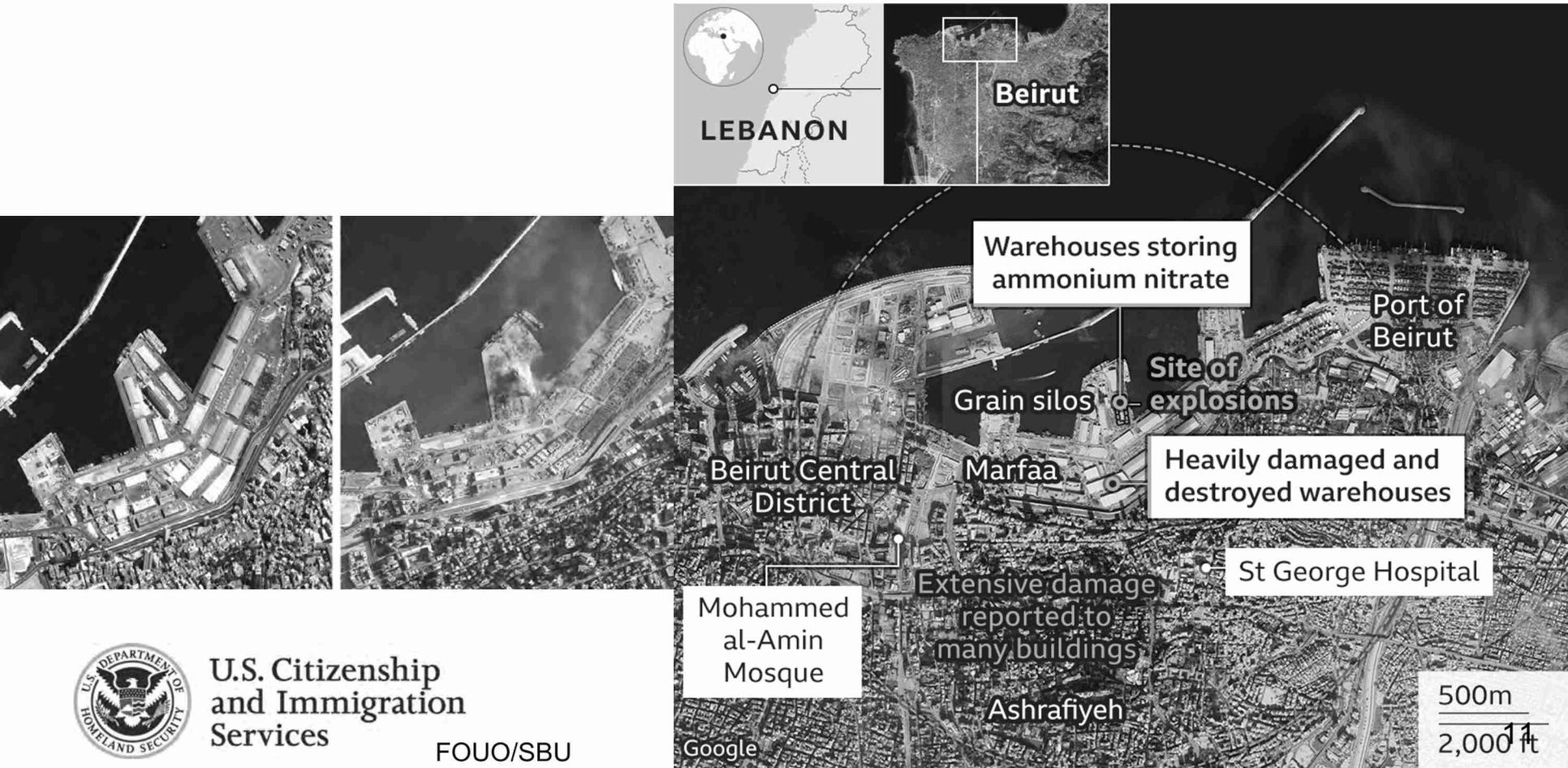
- “On 17 October 2019, the Lebanese cabinet announced new tax measures to address an economic crisis. In response, tens of thousands of peaceful protesters took to the streets across the country calling for their social and economic rights, for accountability, an end to corruption, and the resignation of all political representatives. Although the cabinet resigned, many of the ruling figures who have dominated the Lebanese political scene for decades remained in power. In January 2020, a new cabinet was appointed, with little change to address the population’s demands, and the protests continued. On 4 August, an explosion at the port of Beirut killed at least 190 people, injured more than 6,500, and left an around 300,000 people homeless. The blast was caused by 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored unsafely in a warehouse. This tragic event, against the backdrop of a global pandemic, financial crisis, and political crisis, reignited the October protests on 8 August with calls for accountability and justice. The street pressure resulted in the resignation of the cabinet for the second time since the beginning of the protests. The largely peaceful protests since October 2019 have been met by the Lebanese military and security forces with beatings, teargas, rubber bullets, and at times live ammunition and pellets.” ~ Amnesty Sept 2020 <sup>10</sup>



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# Beirut Port Explosion August 4, 2020



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# Port of Beirut Explosion and Political Aftermath

Two explosions on 4 August 2020 at the port of Beirut killed at least 190 people and wounded 6,000 others. Shockwaves from the second and larger of the two blasts shattered glass for miles. Search and rescue efforts were ongoing on 5 August as dozens of people were still reported missing. The explosions significantly damaged buildings, warehouses, and grain silos in the port, as well as popular nightlife and shopping districts and dense neighborhoods in a part of the city inhabited by 750,000 people. Over the weekend of 9 August, thousands of protestors demonstrated in central Beirut against government negligence. Protestors marched on government buildings and briefly took control of several ministry buildings, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before security forces retook the buildings. Protestors chanted "The people demand the fall of the regime" while some shot fireworks at security forces, who responded with tear gas.



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# Port of Beirut Explosion and Political Aftermath Cont.

Protests outside the Parliament building calling for the resignation of officials continued into their second day on 10 August. On the evening of 4 August 2020, President Michel Aoun called an emergency meeting of the Higher Defense Council. In a statement, Prime Minister Hassan Diab said, "What happened today will not go unpunished and those responsible for this disaster will pay the price, and this is a promise to the martyrs and the wounded." Diab also said, "Facts about this dangerous warehouse that has been there since 2014, i.e., for 6 years now, will be announced," but said he would not preempt any investigations. On 10 August, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his cabinet resigned amid ongoing protests in the aftermath of the 4 August 2020 explosions. During a televised address, Diab said, "I set out to combat corruption, but I discovered that corruption is bigger than the state. I declare today the resignation of this government. God bless Lebanon."



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# Beirut Port Explosion August 4, 2020



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# Lebanon's Political System

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMVVd97SEBE>



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# Current Demographic Estimates

- The CIA World Fact Book currently provides the following estimates on Lebanon's Geography
- Population - "5,261,372 (July 2021 est.)"
- Religions
- "Muslim 61.1% (30.6% Sunni, 30.5% Shia, smaller percentages of Alawites and Ismailis), Christian 33.7% (Maronite Catholics are the largest Christian group), Druze 5.2%, very small numbers of Jews, Baha'is, Buddhists, and Hindus (2018 est.)"
- note: data represent the religious affiliation of the citizen population (data do not include Lebanon's sizable Syrian and Palestinian refugee populations); 18 religious sects recognized"



# 1932 Lebanese Census and the 1989 Ta'if Agreement

- “The political ramifications of the 1932 census are reflected in the undocumented National Pact agreed upon by the political elite in 1943. Political representation and power was to be distributed according to the proportional size of each confessional sect as rendered in the census. The census therefore provided the demographic as well as the political cement that molded and legitimized the principle of power-sharing under Christian dominance, based on a ratio of six to five Muslims in the government, the parliament and the civil services. This formula lasted until the outbreak of the civil war in 1975 which ended in 1990, after which the constitutional amendments of the Taif agreement were enacted, whereby Christian dominance was reduced. Political representation was altered to a fifty-fifty political parity between Muslim and Christian representatives in the government and parliament, and the Maronite Christian president was stripped of many prerogatives that were transferred to the Sunni Muslim prime minister.”



# Maronite Christians in Lebanon

- Maronite Church - “Maronites follow Eastern Orthodox ritual practices while maintaining its allegiance to Roman Catholicism. It is prominent in modern day Lebanon. Maronites trace their origins both to St. Maro, a Syrian hermit who lived in the late 4th century, and to St. John Maron, the patriarch of Antioch from 685-707. Seeking refuge from increasing Muslim control in Syria, the Maronites migrated to Mount Lebanon in the ninth century. Existing in isolation for centuries, they were discovered by Roman Crusaders in the twelfth century and both immediately “made common cause” with each other.”  
Harvard Divinity School Religious Literacy Project



# Druze in Lebanon

- “The Druze are an ethnoreligious group concentrated in Syria, Lebanon, and Israel with around one million adherents worldwide. The Druze follow a millenarian offshoot of Isma’ili Shi’ism. Followers emphasize Abrahamic monotheism but consider the religion as separate from Islam. The Druze are named for Muhammad al-Darazi, an Isma’ili missionary from Persia who lived in Fatimid Cairo, and was propagated by Hamza ibn Ali. The Druze believe in the imamate of al-Hakim ibn Amr Allah (d. 1021), the sixth caliph of Egypt's Isma’ili Fatimid Dynasty. Though the Fatimids (909-1171) were Isma’ili Shi’a, al-Hakim established a new faith in which he was the incarnation of God. Druze believe that al-Hakim, who disappeared in 1021, will reappear to establish justice and global peace. They believe in five divine messengers, in Abrahamic prophets including Jesus and Muhammad, and minor prophets including Ali Ibn Abi Talib, Plato, and Socrates.” - Harvard Divinity School Religious Literacy Project



# Druze in Lebanon Con't

- “In addition to belief in core principles such as rejection of other religions and maintenance of Druze secrets, the Druze believe in reincarnation. The community has historically been closed to outsiders—including converts—for both social and political reasons and which has resulted in strong community solidarity... Druze families have been prominent in Lebanese politics in the 20th century. Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblat, son of prominent Druze political activist Kamal Junblat, has been a key figure in the Lebanese anti-Syria movement, accusing the Syrian government of assassinating his father in 1977. Walid Junblat has allied himself with Syrian opposition figures and has called for a United States occupation of Syria.” Harvard Divinity School



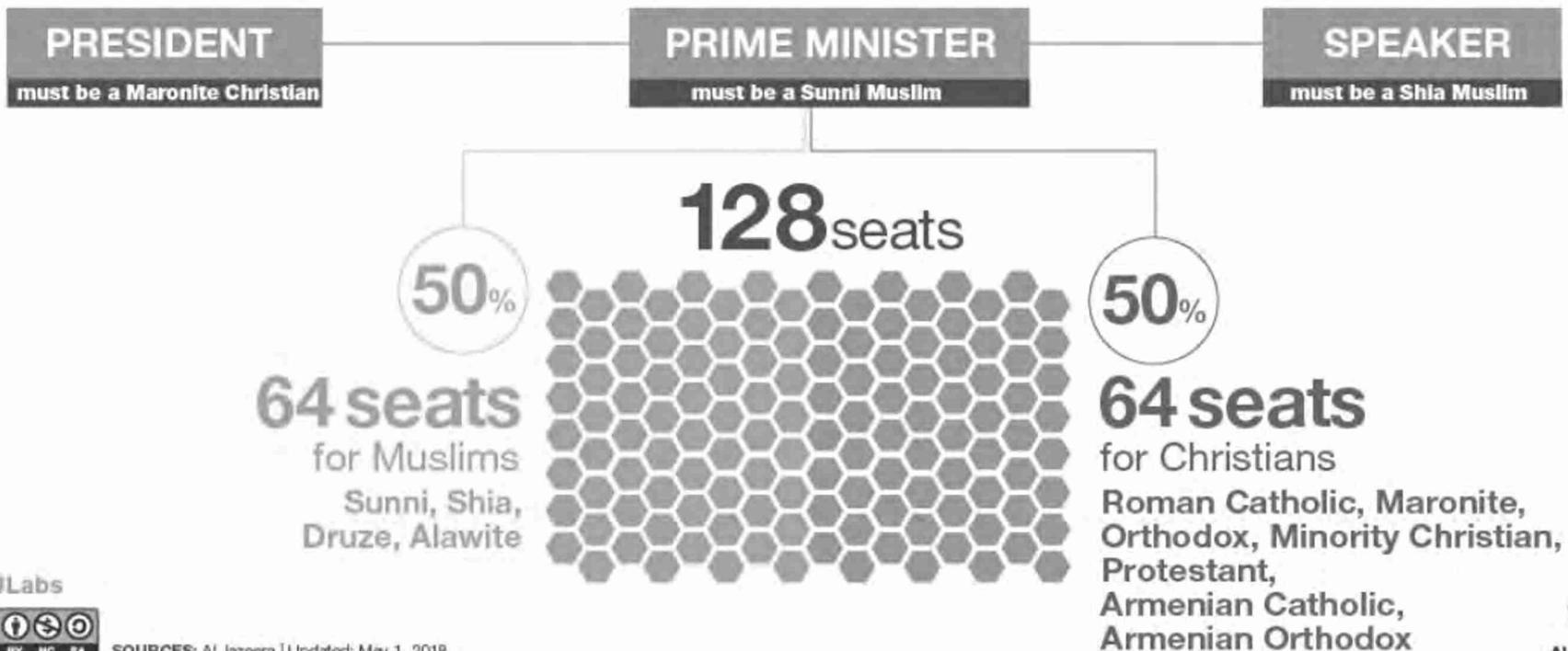
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Religious Literacy Project

# Lebanon's Political System

## Lebanon 2018: The parliament

The Lebanese parliament has proportional representation, according to the Taif Accord.



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SOURCES: Al Jazeera | Updated: May 1, 2018



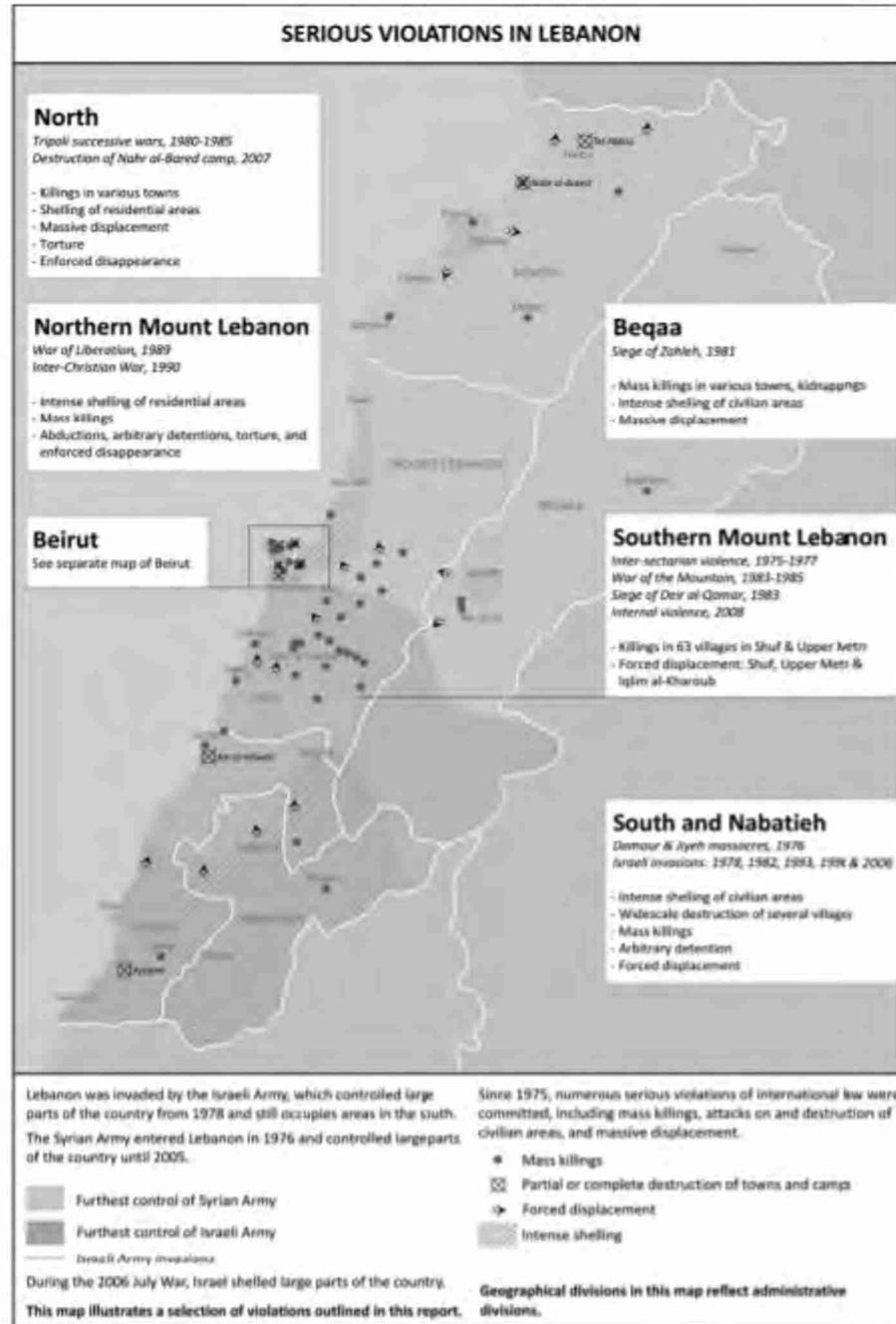
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# Human Rights Violations and War Crimes that occurred during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)



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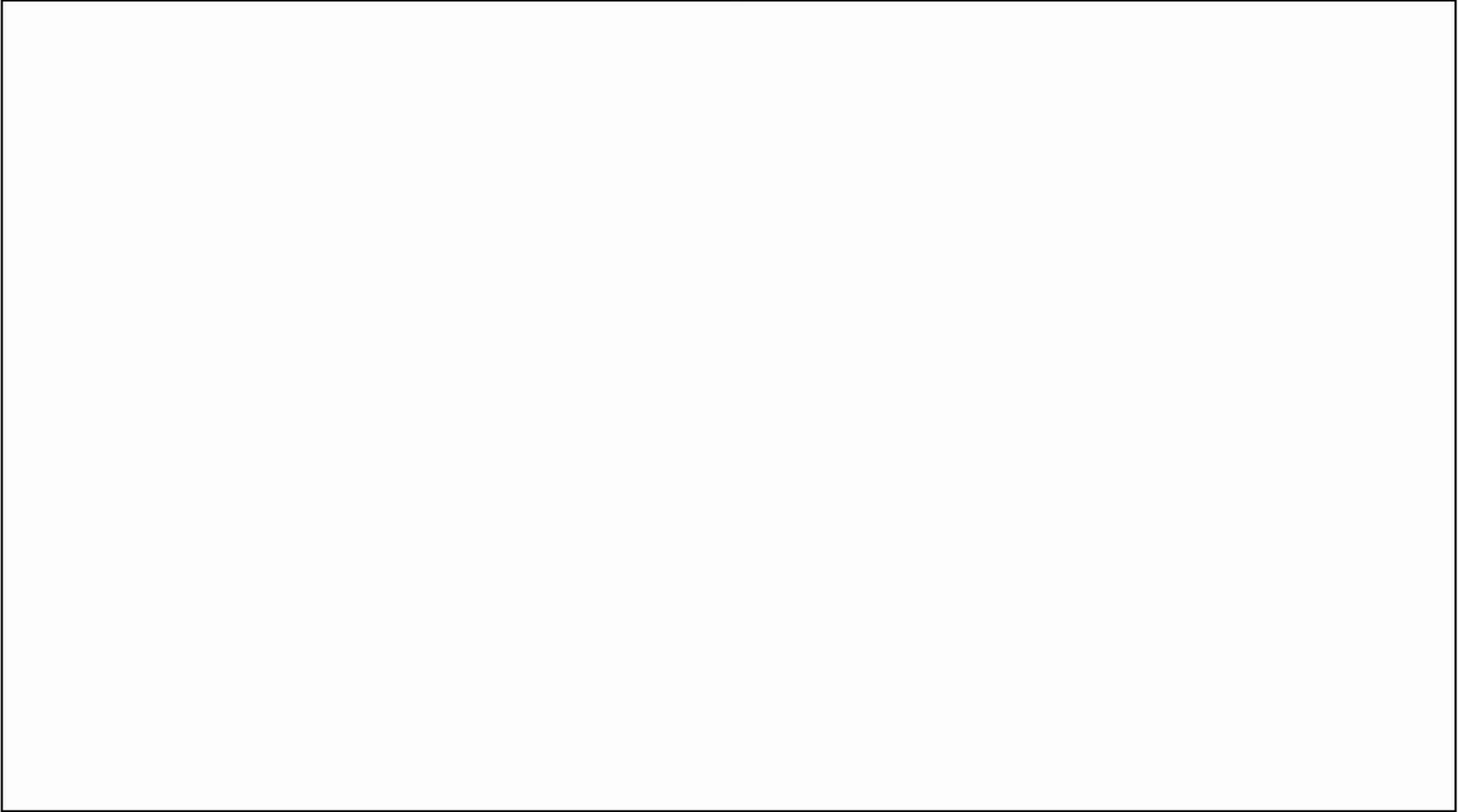
# Armed Groups and Militias active in the Lebanese Civil War

- “Lebanese Forces
- Army of South Lebanon
- Progressive Socialist Party Militia
- Shia Amal Militia
- Islamic Amal Militia
- Muslim Students’ Union Militia
- Islamic Unification Movement Militia
- Murabitun Militia
- Lebanese Arab Army
- Arab Cavalier Force
- Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party Militia
- Lebanese Communist Party Militia
- Communist Action Organization Militia”



# Lebanese Forces – TRIG Concerns and Exemptions

(b)(7)(E)



# Lebanese Forces Aliases (alternate names)

- Al-Quoat Al-Lubnani
- Al-Qouat
- The Forces
- Al-Muqqawima
- The Resistance
- Al-Muqqawima Al-Mesehi
- The Christian Resistance
- Lebanese Front (August 1976- August 1980)
- Kata'eb (August 1976- January 1986)
- Phalanges (August 1976- January 1986)
- The Phalangist Forces (August 1976-January 1986)
- Tanzim (August 1976- January 1986)
- Guardians of the Cedars (August 1976- January 1986)
- National Liberation Party (August 1976- January 1986)



# Lebanese Forces- Potential Persecutor Bar Issues (Non-Exhaustive)

- “June 13, 1978: In Ehden, an LF commando attacked the house of Tony Frangieh, killing him as well as his wife, daughter, and 28 others.”
- “July 7, 1980: LF commandos attacked the Numur in Safra, and several other PNL offices in Beirut and elsewhere. In a matter of hours, they took control of the PNL. At least 50 armed and unarmed people were killed in that operation, and about 60 were wounded”
- Sept. 16-18, 1982: Sabra and Chatila Massacre  
“September 16, 1982: At 6 p.m. the LF entered the camps. Survivors recounted that some began stabbing people to death. In the first hours, hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians were killed”



# Lebanese Forces- Potential Persecutor Bar Issues (Non-Exhaustive)

- Sept 16-18 1982: Sabra and Chatila Massacre Con't  
“Scores of witness and survivor accounts relate numerous forms of violence committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese residents of the camps. These included smashing children’s heads against walls; the rape of a seven-year-old girl; gang-rape of many women and cutting the breasts off of some; disembowelment of pregnant women and removing their fetuses; slitting throats of entire families in their homes; the torture of many men before being killed, and mutilation of some after death; and dragging some men alive behind military vehicles through the camps’ streets. Their corpses were later found piled up in a garage. From time to time, militiamen inspected the heaps of corpses, finishing off those who moved. Survivors reported that family members including women and children were crammed into trucks by militiamen and taken to unknown destinations. These people were never seen again”



# Lebanese Forces- Potential Persecutor Bar Issues

“ There has been no official calculation of the number of victims. Israel’s official figure of 700 people killed, which was reported by the Kahan Commission of Inquiry, is highly unlikely in light of subsequent findings. Indeed, the figure should vary between 1,390, based on a list of identified victims compiled during a two-year field research project, 355 and 3,500.<sup>356</sup> The latter calculation includes the bodies that were identified and buried by local rescue teams ; unidentified bodies reburied in mass graves; and bodies identified and returned by the ICRC, as well as approximately 2,000 people who were buried in mass graves that were never opened, bodies that had remained under destroyed homes, and those who were transported by trucks and never seen again... All of the evidence indicates that the massacre was perpetrated by LF members, between the time they entered the camps and left. The Kahan Commission concluded that then-minister of Defense Ariel Sharon and several others were at least negligent in their duty and should have known that there was a danger that such massacres might occur.<sup>359</sup> The MacBride Commission concluded that Israel shared responsibility with the Lebanese militias for the massacre, on the grounds that Israel was an occupying power from the time its army entered West Beirut on September 15, 1982, until its withdrawal on September 26, 1982. “



# Lebanese Forces- Potential Persecutor Bar Issues (Non-Exhaustive)

- November 11, 1982: LF members attacked the Druze village of Kfarfakoud, killing two civilians and injuring several people.
- The War of the Mountain
- January 11, 1983: Fighting on the Hadath-Kfarshima-Baabda front between the LF and PSP led to the killing of four civilians and wounding of 15.
- May 5, 1983: The fighting between LF and PSP in the Shuf reached Beirut and its suburbs again, with heavy shelling of residential areas. At least 24 civilians were killed in this round, and many were wounded; material damage was caused to cars and buildings, and property was set on fire



# Lebanese Forces- Potential Persecutor Bar Issues (Non-Exhaustive)

- May 5, 1983: The fighting between LF and PSP in the Shuf reached Beirut and its suburbs again, with heavy shelling of residential areas. At least 24 civilians were killed in this round, and many were wounded; material damage was caused to cars and buildings, and property was set on fire
- September 11, 1983: In Deir Durit, the LF set up a checkpoint and killed 12 Druze who were passing through. This was the final attack attributed to the LF during the War of the Mountain
- June 25, 1983: Members close to the LF forced 12 Muslim families to evacuate their homes in the area of Saida
- May 21–22, 1983: The LF and PSP abducted members from each other's militias in Deir Durit and in Kfarhim respectively, in the Mountain, and they also took 21 civilians. On May 22, 1983, 23 of these hostages were killed (9 Christians and 14 Druze).



# Lebanese Forces- Potential Persecutor Bar Issues (Non-Exhaustive)

- Mid-January 1986: Samir Geagea led an insurrection within the LF against Elie Hobeika's followers. By February, Hobeika's men were arrested in their houses and detained by Geagea loyalists; most of the detainees were summarily executed
- October 1, 1990: The LF opened fire on a pro-Aoun demonstration in Nahr al-Mot. Between 13 and 25 people were killed, and between 36 and 82 were wounded

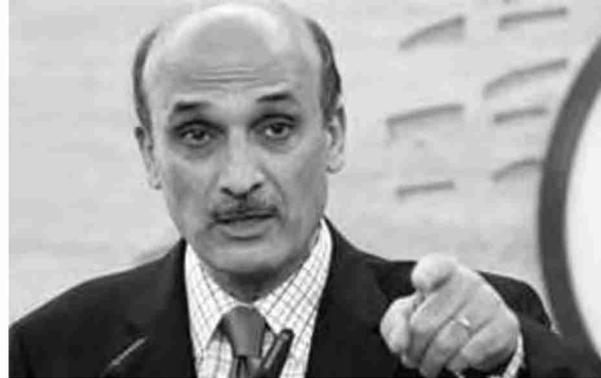


# Lebanese Forces after 1990 – Transition to a Political Party

- In 1989 with the Ta'if agreement, the Lebanese Forces began the transition from militia to political party
- In 1990, the militia agreed to disarmament and handed over their heavy weaponry
- In March 1991, Parliament passed an amnesty law regarding actions that occurred during the civil war
- In May 1991, all of the militias except Hizbollah were dissolved – including the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Forces began the process of reconstituting themselves as a political party and LF remains a political party until today
- In 1994, the Saydet Al-Najad church was bombed and accusations were made against members of the Lebanese



# Samir Geagea



- Samir Geagea is a Lebanese politician and former leader of Christian Militia during the civil war. Geagea is the only Lebanese militia leader convicted for crimes committed during the civil war. In 1995, Lebanon's Judicial Court found Geagea, guilty of murdering National Liberal Party leader Dany Chamoun and his family in October 1990. He was sentenced to four death sentences that were later commuted to life sentences. In 2005, Lebanon's parliament voted to pardon Geagea and he was released from prison. Following his release from prison Geagea reformed the political arm of his militia and currently leads the Lebanese Forces party.



# 2006 War with Israel

The 2006 Lebanon War, also known as the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah War, was a 34-day conflict in Lebanon, northern Israel, and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The primary actors were Hezbollah and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Several other Lebanese-based groups also fought Israeli forces on a smaller scale. These groups included the radical pro-Syrian PFLP-GC, the Shi'a Amal Movement, and Lebanese Communist Party. The conflict started 12 July 2006 when Hezbollah commandos, covered by rocket and mortar fire, launched a cross-border attack on two Israeli military patrol jeeps, killing three soldiers and taking two hostage.

Following the attack, Israeli ground forces entered Lebanon near the point of Hezbollah's infiltration and were subsequently targeted in a large IED blast that killed all four members of a tank crew. In response to these attacks, the Israeli government late on 12 July decided to launch a major operation against Hezbollah. During the ensuing five weeks of fighting, the violence escalated significantly with Israel conducting a ground invasion and Hezbollah engaging the Israel Defense Forces in guerrilla warfare. Throughout the conflict, Israel conducted hundreds of airstrikes



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and imposed an air and naval blockade of Lebanon, while Hezbollah launched thousands of rockets into northern Israel

# Military service became voluntary in 2007

- “government and media sources indicate that compulsory military service in Lebanon officially ended on 10 February 2007. According to the Lebanese National News Agency, the Guidance Directorate of the Army Command issued a statement that "Military Service shall be completely cancelled as of 10 February 2007 in accordance with Law No. 665/2005" (12 Feb. 2007). Media sources report that in January 2005, the Lebanese parliament had voted to abolish compulsory military service within two years and to reduce the period of military service to six months for the remaining time of compulsory service; prior to the new law, military service was for one year. The Lebanese army website provides information in English on Law 665 (Lebanon n.d.b). According to the website, Clause 1 of Law 665 states, "Contrary to any other stipulation, the military service provided for in the decree law number 102 issued in 16/9/1983 is to be conclusively invalidated in two years after the publication of this law in the official newspaper (Law number 665 issued in 4 February 2005)" (ibid.). Clause 2 of Law 665 states an amendment to the previous law number 102 as follows: "Reduction of the period of military service to six months until the conclusive cancellation stipulated in the first clause of this law"



# The Lebanese Military and the Economic Crisis

- There are currently approximately 80,000 members of the military
- Before the crisis, an enlisted soldier earned the equivalent of about \$800 a month, but that has now dropped to less than \$100 per month. Officers' salaries are higher but have also dropped in value, now about \$400 a month
- “After Lebanon’s 15-year civil war broke out in 1975, the army split along sectarian lines. It reunited in the early 1990s under the command of Gen. Emile Lahoud, who later became the president. Since then, it has become one of the most professional militaries in the Middle East. The military is also one of the few state institutions that enjoy respect among the Lebanese public, in contrast to their politicians, so mired in infighting they haven’t been able to form a government since October. During anti-government demonstrations that swept the country in late 2019, videos of soldiers overcome by emotion as they confronted protesters were widely shared on social media.”



# Hezbollah

Hezbollah (Arabic: حزب الله) is a Shi'a political party, religious and social movement, and armed group based in Lebanon and aligned ideologically with Iran. The group formed in 1982 as a coalition of militant groups and radical members of the Amal Movement before merging into a single group in 1985.[9] The US State Department designated Hezbollah a terrorist organization in 1997. Emerging during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), Hezbollah began as an armed resistance against the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and was influenced by Iran's theocratic government. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) provided funds and training to the budding militia that later earned its reputation as an extremist militant group after conducting terrorist attacks on foreign targets and frequently clashing with other Shi'a groups. Hezbollah brands itself as a resistance movement pledged to expel western powers from Lebanon and give the Lebanese people the right to self-

determination.

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# Hezbollah Con't

In 1992, Hezbollah won eight seats in parliament after participating in national elections for the first time and has been a fixture in Lebanese national politics and governance since. Hezbollah has held cabinet positions since 2005; the group updated its manifesto in 2009, making it less Islamist and calling for “true democracy.” Hezbollah won 13 seats in the 2018 parliamentary elections. Hezbollah, along with the rest of Lebanon's government, was the target of country-wide protests that began in October 2019 demanding the current government relinquish power to a technocratic government; even Lebanese Shi'a openly criticized Hezbollah. Hezbollah is one of the strongest and best-supplied armed forces in the region. The organization's close ties to the Syrian and Iranian regimes have enabled it to arm itself with high-grade weaponry. After Hezbollah's 2006 war with Israel, the organization resupplied and improved its weaponry. In 2014, Israeli military analysts monitoring Hezbollah said the organization was the strongest Arab army in the region



# Hezbollah's involvement with Education and Schools

- “Hezbollah’s Education Unit provides another indispensable service to the Shiite poor. Lebanon’s public school system is considered to be of extremely low quality, a last resort for only the poorest of families, who cannot afford to send their children to private schools. Hezbollah operates a number of primary and secondary schools at fees that are far less than those of most other private schools. Hezbollah’s schools reportedly serve approximately 14,000 students. In addition to education, Hezbollah provides low-income students with scholarships, financial assistance and books, buying in bulk and selling at reduced prices; it also operates lending libraries for students. In a country where public education is weak and sometimes lacking, Hezbollah’s highly valued educational services put the party at the center of people’s daily lives.” – Middle East Policy Summer 2009



# Christian public opinion regarding Hezbollah

**Table 1.** Is Hezbollah a legitimate political organization? (%)

	Maronite	Catholic	Eastern	Druze	Sunni	Shi'a
Strongly disagree	34.1	34.0	28.1	35.0	43.5	0.3
Disagree	8.7	10.6	7.8	17.0	21.0	0.7
Agree nor disagree	9.6	2.1	9.4	10.0	14.0	6.5
Agree	16.1	19.2	15.6	26.0	13.7	16.6
Strongly agree	31.6	34.0	39.1	12.0	7.9	75.9
<i>N</i>	323	47	64	100	315	307

**Table 2.** Perception of Hezbollah's activities in the region (%)

	Maronite	Catholic	Eastern	Druze	Sunni	Shi'a
Very threatening	40.7	25.0	29.7	44.0	63.1	2.6
Somewhat threatening	9.1	10.4	1.6	16.0	10.0	2.3
To an extent	10.0	14.6	10.9	17.0	10.0	6.5
Somewhat not threatening	8.2	6.3	6.3	5.0	5.0	16.1
Not at all threatening	31.3	43.8	46.9	16.0	11.6	71.9
<i>N</i>	329	48	64	100	320	310



# Hezbollah's political alliances with Christian Parties

- “The collaboration of Hezbollah and the parties associated with Christian denominations did not start with the 2005 revolution, but actually goes back to the municipal and then legislative elections in 1989 and 1992. Since then, Hezbollah and Amal's candidates stood with Christian ones on the same electoral list since the first election in which Hezbollah took part (Harik 2005, 75). Support for Hezbollah's candidates by Maronites and other Christian groups, or vice versa, for Christian candidates by Shi'a groups, is not a novel phenomenon. Political alliances of elites across sectarian identities have been instruments for parties built upon those identities. This time, however, the durability of this alliance is striking. The alliance between Hezbollah and Aoun's party was effective in terms of their political influence in the Lebanese system since they were able to dictate certain conditions to the government” - Karakoç, Özcan and

Alkan Özcan 2021



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# Hezbollah's relationship to Christians in Lebanon/Treatment of Christians

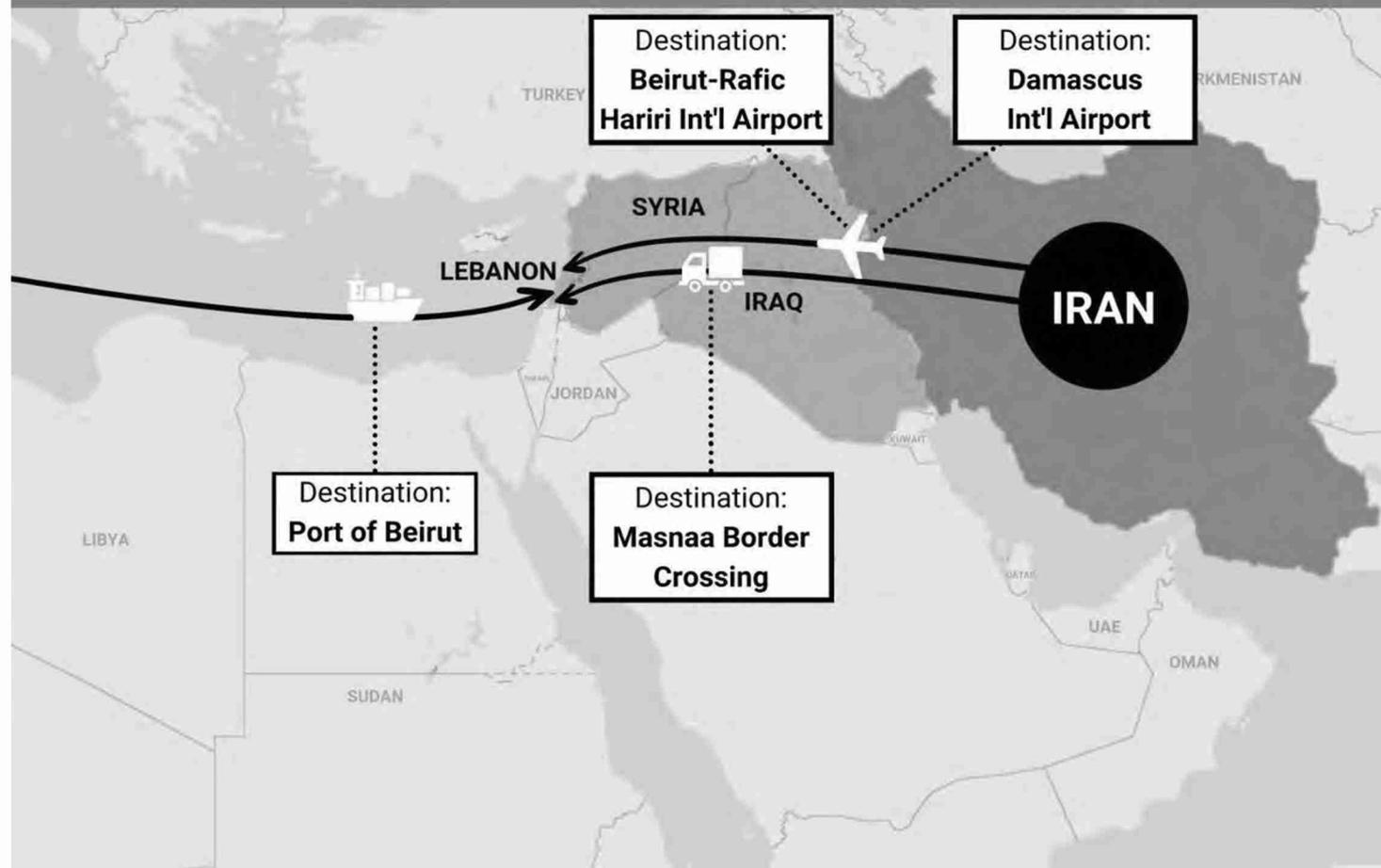
- As the previous slide indicates- the relationship is complicated and not clear cut
- “[t]he way Hezbollah treats Christians is defined around the organization's strategic interests. First comes the security of the organization itself. Therefore any individual (Christian or non-Christian) who is deemed to be an existential/imminent threat to the organization's security will be subject to close monitoring and neutralization (through intimidation, detention, physical elimination or other means). This red line is not subject to compromise. The second strategic interest in line is to avoid any unnecessary internal conflict. This is why an exclusively Shia Hezbollah deployed lot of efforts to get a "Christian" coverage of its activities through a political alliance with the Free Patriotic Movement led by former PM and Army Commander General Michel Aoun. Hezbollah translates this into a zealous attitude of tolerance and integration towards Christians living in areas under their control (always provided these Christians don't constitute a threat to the organization's security of course).”



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# Weapons Smuggling/Gun Running

Iran's methods to transfer weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon



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\* This is a claim made in July 2019 by Israel/Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon. Within days Hezbollah denied the claim specifically related to the port of Beirut

# Weapons Smuggling/Gun Running

## The Cost Of An AK-47 On The Black Market

Average cost of an illegally-acquired AK-47 worldwide\*



\* Lowest average cost. Selected countries (2011-2013).

\*\* Price for a legitimate model.

A locally produced version can be procured for \$148



@StatistaCharts

Source: Global Financial Integrity

Forbes **statista**



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# Narcotics Trafficking/Drug Smuggling

## DRUG-SMUGGLING ROUTES

How contraband moves from Lebanon to southern Syria to Jordan



Source: EnabBaladi.net

ARAB NEWS

Table 7: Number of drug seizures by drug-related crimes (2012-2016)

<i>Drug-related crimes</i>						
Facilitation	369	472	377	393	548	+49%
Dealing	334	387	556	549	526	+57%
Smuggling	33	85	77	64	84	+155%
Transport	7	11	23	11	8	+14%
Illegal Cultivation	6	7	18	10	6	0%
Production	6	8	4	5	4	-33%
Other*	23	20	32	13	21	-9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>1197</b>	<b>+54%</b>
<i>Year</i>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Change</b>

\*arrested for crime other than drug and during investigation found to have drug-related crime

Data source: MOIM 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016b

Table 8: Number of drug seizures by location of seizure (2012-2016)

<i>Location of Seizure</i>						
Lebanese Territory	1913	2175	2372	2496	3303	+72.7%
Airport	24	30	24	22	18	-25.0%
Land	1	8	4	4	1	00.0%
Sea	2	2	3	3	1	-50.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>2215</b>	<b>2404</b>	<b>2525</b>	<b>3323</b>	<b>+71.3%</b>
<i>Year</i>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Change</b>

Data source: MOIM 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016b



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# Captagon in Lebanon

- “WHAT IS CAPTAGON? Captagon was the popular brand name for an amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) called fenethylline. West German pharmaceutical company Degussa AG introduced fenethylline in 1961, with the brand name of “Captagon,” as a treatment for children diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Thereafter, medical prescription usage became prevalent across the world. In 1981, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with many other countries, banned the drug because of studies suggesting fenethylline’s high potential for addiction, abuse, and adverse health effects. Although the ban on fenethylline ended the official Captagon brand, the name stuck as a slang in black market drug circles. Captagon’s popularity as a recreational drug remains limited to the Middle East, where it is known as al-Kabtagon and Abu Hilalain, Arabic for “father of the two crescent moons.” The latter Arabic slang derives from the two letter C’s resembling crescent moons found on each round, off-white



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Captagon pill.”

# Captagon in Lebanon

- “It is important to note that Captagon today refers to the drug’s appearance, not its true chemical composition. Pills marketed as Captagon can contain almost any chemical compound. According to Turkish anti-drug officials, seizure records in many Middle Eastern countries count all ATS in powder or liquid form as “amphetamines,” regardless of whether it proves to be fenethylline. Alternatively, all drugs found in round, off-white pills with two letter C’s on them are counted as Captagon (even if later shown to be methamphetamines or other non-fenethylline substances). A Jordanian study in 2004 analyzed 124 samples of seized Captagon and determined that there was no fenethylline present in any of the samples. One Turkish National Police official insisted that black market Captagon is just as often counterfeit as it is real fenethylline, but it is always produced to resemble the original pharmaceutical drug to meet black market demand. In addition, many black market Captagon pills are drug cocktails marketed for different effects, sometimes containing mixtures of Viagra or heroin in addition to their amphetamine stimulant. The formula can affect the street price. For instance, a new, cheaper brand of black market Captagon called farawla (Arabic for “strawberry,” and exclusively from Syria) is about \$7 per pill, whereas a more typical Captagon pill might fetch \$10 to \$25 per pill.”



# Captagon in Lebanon

- “Lebanon has long been a key waypoint in the Captagon trade, with the country home to significant trafficking routes for years. Lebanon serves as a connection between southeastern Europe and Syria, and from there to Jordan and the Gulf via overland routes, and provides access to the sea for illicit shipments. Equally important is the chronic instability that has plagued Lebanon during the civil conflicts of the past 40 years. The sectarian, chaotic nature of the country has empowered non-state actors to exert state-like authority and act with relative impunity within their “spheres of influence.” In Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley, Hezbollah is such an actor, dominating the area militarily and economically. While there are conflicting reports about the level of Hezbollah’s institutional involvement in the actual production of Captagon pills, the organization is at the very least complicit in the activity... Lebanon’s crowning as the most prolific producer of Captagon in the region makes sense on a practical level, and helps to explain the overall drop in global Captagon seizures. Shifting the center of production of Captagon from eastern Europe and Turkey to Lebanon not only decreased the distance over which the illicit drugs needed to travel, but it removed inspection points where the drugs could be interdicted, lowering the probability of seizure. Additionally, the added scrutiny from Turkey’s crackdowns on drug smuggling would have resulted in increased losses.”



# Issues affecting the LGBT+ community

■ “A district court of appeal in Lebanon issued a groundbreaking ruling on July 12, 2018, that consensual sex between people of the same sex is not unlawful. The ruling follows similar judgments from lower courts that have declined to convict gay and transgender people of “sexual intercourse contrary to nature” in four separate rulings between 2007 and 2017. It is the first such ruling from an appeals court and moves Lebanon further toward decriminalizing homosexual conduct...Activists in Lebanon have long fought to end the use of article 534 of the penal code to prosecute consensual same-sex conduct. The law is a colonial relic, put in place by the French mandate in the early 1900s, and punishes “any sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature” with up to one year in prison. It has at times been enthusiastically wielded to persecute LGBT people, often affecting particularly vulnerable groups including transgender women and Syrian refugees.” ~Human Rights Watch 2018



# Jehovah's Witnesses in Lebanon

- The situation of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the Arab World/Middle East is complex and tends to deal with both restrictions on members of the faith to openly practice their religion, as well as issues related to an imputed political opinion that they support actions of the State of Israel
- COI on Jehovah's Witnesses in Lebanon is a challenging issue
- If you ever need COI on this topic, please reach out to the RAIO Research Unit [RaioResearch@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:RaioResearch@uscis.dhs.gov)



# Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, Kafala System, Slavery and Domestic Workers

- “The Kafala System is an oppressive system that controls unskilled migrant workers in the Arab states, most of them being women from Africa and South Asia. The system requires each worker to be sponsored by a citizen of the host country. That employer, also known as a kafeel, is responsible for the worker’s legal status and visa. When the worker’s term finalizes, the employer can either renew it or terminate the worker’s status, which requires that the worker be immediately deported. Under this oppressive system, workers are excluded from Lebanese labor laws regulating minimum wage, maximum working hours, vacation, and overtime...



# Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, Kafala System, Slavery and Domestic Workers Con't

- “In essence, the Kafala System creates a power dynamic, enabling employers to have complete control over their employees. The workers are not protected by law against basic labor abuses and they are subject to deportation if they speak out about their conditions. If beaten, raped, or starved, the workers have nowhere to go. In practice, they either risk getting deported if they report their conditions to the police or they are ignored. A worker also cannot move without their employer’s consent: they are often forced to stay at home through financial limitations, emotional abuse, or physical abuse. Additionally, workers have no say in transactions between one employer and another. The employees are treated as objects, expected to do their work with disregard for their personal conditions. They have no safety barriers and, as a result, are subject to multiple human rights abuses.”



# The Standard Unified Contract was adopted on Sept. 4, 2020 and is a step toward abolishing Kafala

- “Under the new standard unified contract, workers can terminate without notice if they are subjected to any form of abuse or if the employer does not abide by any of the contract’s provisions. Either party can terminate the contract without notice if there are unforeseen events beyond their control that prevent them from completing the contract period. Either party can also terminate at will with one month’s notice. However, if either the employer or worker terminates the contract without notice and there is no breach of the contractual provisions, they are required to pay compensation of one month’s salary. The employer may also be able to recoup part of their recruitment costs if the domestic worker terminates the contract before the end of the two-year contract, from either the recruitment agency, in accordance with labor ministry decisions, or from the new employer, worked out on the basis of the total amount of recruitment costs divided by the number of months of the contract, in which the new employer pays the equivalent of the number of months remaining in the contract. Domestic workers should not be made to pay any recruitment costs in any



# Treatment of Women in the Lebanese Legal System

- “Lebanon’s religion-based personal status laws discriminate against women across the religious spectrum and don’t guarantee their basic rights, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Lebanon has 15 separate personal status laws for its recognized religions but no civil code covering issues such as divorce, property rights, or care of children. These laws are administered by autonomous religious courts with little or no government oversight, and often issue rulings that violate women’s human rights.” –HRW 2015
- “Lebanon’s 1925 nationality law allows the foreign spouses of Lebanese men, but not women, to obtain citizenship after one year. The law also grants Lebanese citizenship only to children born to a Lebanese father, those born in Lebanon who would not otherwise acquire another nationality through birth or affiliation, or those born in Lebanon to unknown parents or parents of unknown nationalities. Children of Lebanese mothers with unknown paternity therefore have greater claims to citizenship than those with Lebanese mothers and a known foreign father.” – HRW 2018



# Lebanese Citizenship by Descent

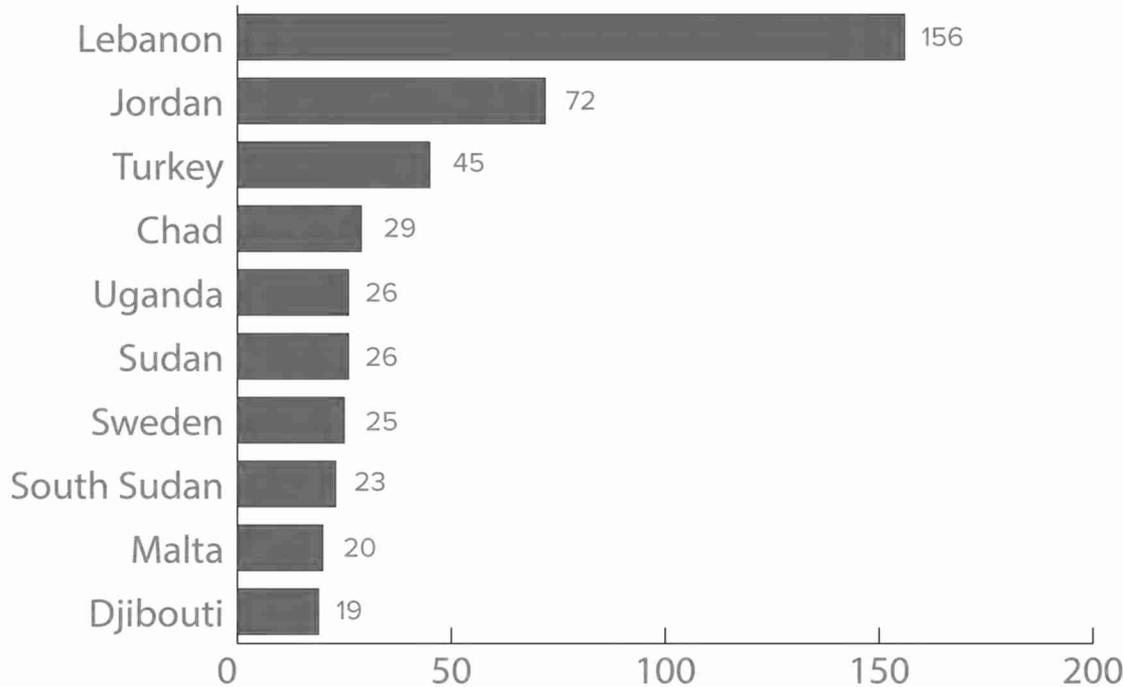
- Lebanon has no provision allowing citizenship by descent through the mother. Lebanon's 1925 nationality law grants Lebanese citizenship to children born to a Lebanese father, those born in Lebanon who would not acquire a foreign citizenship, and those born in Lebanon with unknown parents or whose parents are of unknown citizenship. Decree No. 4186 of 2010 gave the husbands and children of Lebanese women the ability to get three-year courtesy residency permits without fees. Despite this, applicants must pay for the paperwork, and the process is complicated and time intensive.



# Refugees in Lebanon - UNHCR

## Lebanon has the most refugees per capita in the world

Number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants at the end of 2018



Source: UNHCR

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that Lebanon has 865,530 registered Syrian refugees and estimates all Syrians in Lebanon at 1.5 million



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# Refugees in Lebanon - UNWRA

- “Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon, with 180,000 estimated for planning purposes to be residing in the country. About 45 per cent of them live in the country’s 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice. Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in as many as 39 professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon. The conflict in Syria has forced many Palestine refugees from Syria to flee to Lebanon in search of safety. Nearly 29,000 of them are receiving UNRWA assistance in the country, including cash assistance, education, health care, and protection. Read more about Lebanon Field Office Operation and about Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon. Facts & figures 476,033 registered Palestine refugees (as of 31 Dec 2019) 12 refugee camps 65 schools, with 36,817 students, including 5,254 Palestinian refugees from Syria One Vocational and Technical Training Centre with about 900 students on two campuses 27 health centers Figures as of 31 December 2019”



# Attacks on Journalists and the Media

- “Lebanon once prided itself on being a beacon of freedom of expression in the region. But recently, journalists and activists have been facing increasing verbal and physical threats, in some cases amounting to death threats, from supporters of the country’s major political parties. The recent assassination of publisher and activist Lokman Slim on 4 February in southern Lebanon is the latest episode.” – Open Democracy March 2021
- “The start of the hostility towards the media dates back to the beginning of a wave of protests in October 2019, when journalists suddenly found themselves being surrounded, or interrupted while reporting live from the street or even having their microphones snatched. Since then, the possibility of being obstructed in this way has made work very difficult for reporters in the field.” –Reporters without Borders January 2021



# Attacks on Journalists - OTV

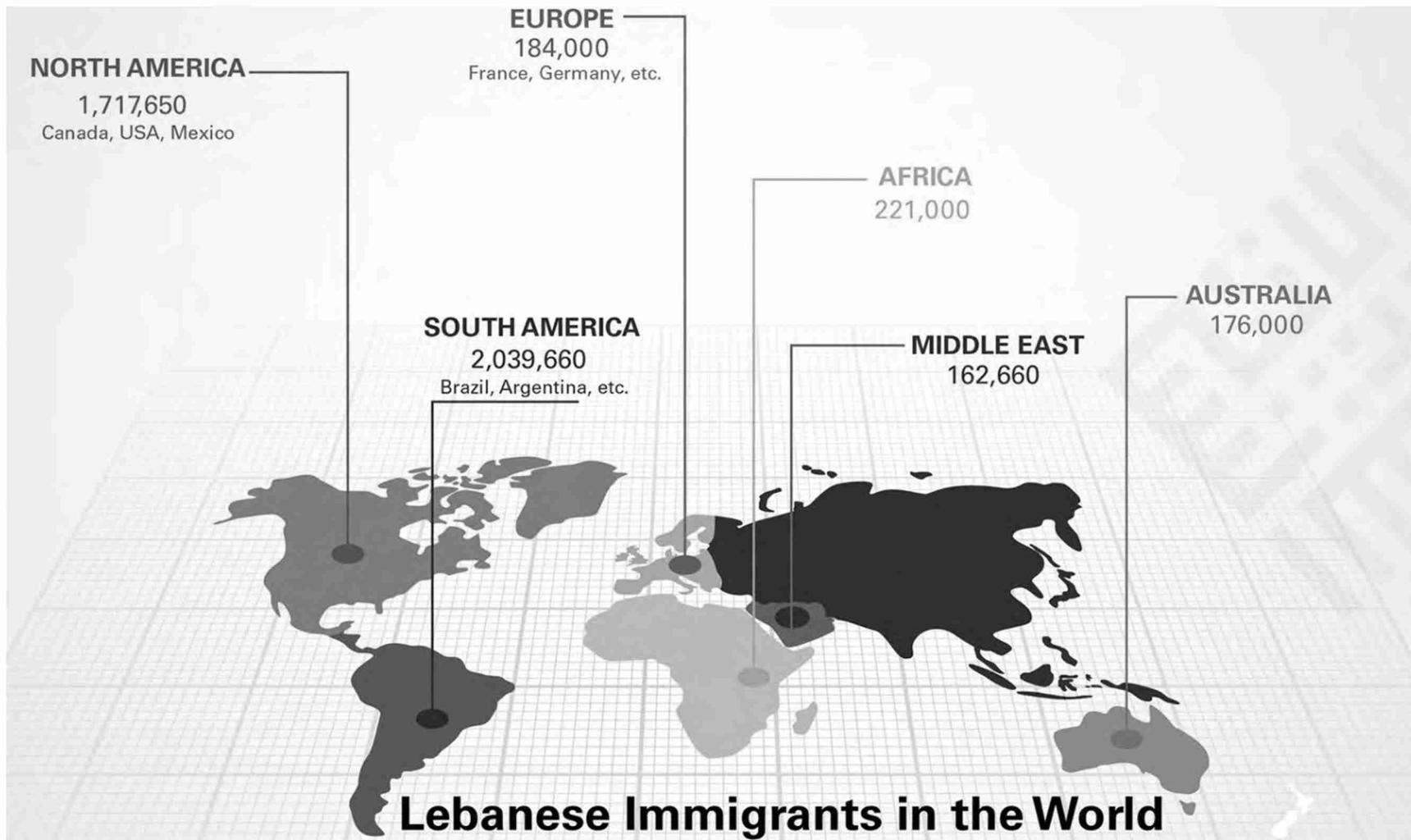
- “Protesters have also targeted journalists reporting with what are seen as pro-government outlets. OTV station workers briefly removed their logos from equipment while covering on the demonstrations to avoid verbal and physical abuse. The station is run by supporters of Aoun’s FPM. “The protest movement has turned our lives upside down,” said OTV journalist Rima Hamdan, who during one of her reports slapped a man on his hand after he pointed his middle finger at her. She said ‘the station’s logo “is our identity even though sometimes we had to remove it for our own safety.”” –Arab News 7 Dec 2019
- “July 19, MTV correspondent Haytham Khawand and cameraman Jad Abou Antoun were beaten while covering a protest organized by supporters of the Free Patriotic Movement in front of the Energy Ministry, while OTV correspondent Edmond Sassine and photographer Roland Khoury were subsequently attacked while trying to help protect their colleagues.” – Lebanon Daily Star Aug

2012



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# Lebanese Diaspora



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# Lebanese Diaspora



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# Lebanese Diaspora

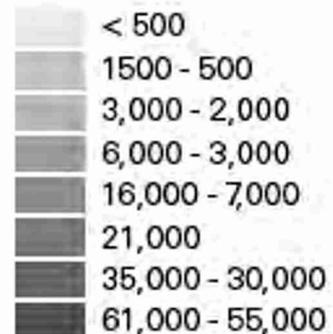
## An Overview: Lebanese U.S. Population

### Population Distribution



The 1-Year 2013 ACS reports 489,702 individuals who identify their ancestry as "Lebanese" live in the United States, though this estimate is considered to be underreported\*.

This community is heavily concentrated in metropolitan areas with significant populations residing in California (58,107), Michigan (57,867), Massachusetts (32,722), New York (32,642), Florida (32,346), and Texas (31,584).



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# Helpful Lebanon Resources

- [RAIO Research Unit Lebanon ECN Page](#)
- [Law Library of Congress – Lebanon](#)
- PIX – [www.Pixtoday.net](http://www.Pixtoday.net)
- [Harvard Religious Literacy Project](#)
- [Lebanon’s Legacy of Political Violence: A Mapping of Serious Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Lebanon, 1975-2008](#)
- [RAIO TRIG ECN Page](#)
- [DOJ – Lebanese Republic](#)



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