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## THE LEBANESE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL 1993-2023



### ITS TASKS, POWERS, DECISIONS, MEMBERS AND BUDGET

Nationality Recovery Decrees 2015-2023  
**Only 943 Persons Have Reacquired  
their Lebanese Nationality**

State Revenues from LibanPost  
**From 45% in 1998  
to 5% in 2023**

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The publication of this issue was delayed to May 2023 to provide a more complete description of important material

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# Hypocrisy in Giving

By Jawad N. Adra

*Amid the economic crisis that hit Lebanon lately and led to a rise in poverty and indigence rates, the acts of charity and giving have increased. This article was first written and published in The Monthly, issue No. 139 of February 2014, and we are republishing it today, after 9 years, for the reality it reflects has never changed.*

- **Q:** What is the occasion of this fancy ceremony?
- **A:** It is for raising funds for the poor.
- **Q:** Do you work for the organization?
- **A:** No. I work for a reception services' company to bid you a cordial welcome.

This is how we, men and women, entered the ceremony in our glitzy clothes and opulent jewelry to keep track of who sat with who and who donned what. We played Tombola, bid on a car, necklace or painting and donated money for a noble deed that might save a child's life or help a family. What is wrong with that?

We raise money from "the rich" and then spend it on "the poor" as verbalized by the receptionist. So what is the big deal about flaunting our benevolence and wanting to engage in further philanthropy, except that they are often propelled by a jealous and ostentatious disposition? What is giving? What is hypocrisy?

The essence of the matter lies in the motive and the meaning. "It is when you give of yourself that you truly give," says Gibran Khalil Gibran. And the self knows what you did.

- **Worthless** is all that a fraudulent trader gives.
- **Worthless** is all that an abusive despotic employer gives.
- **Worthless** is all that is given by a politician who fails to assume his responsibilities in Parliament or at the Ministries of Public Health, Public Works and Transportation, Energy and Water, Education, etc
- **Worthless** is all that is bestowed by the opulent of ill-gained fortunes.

"You often say, "I would give, but only to the deserving." The trees in your orchard say not so, nor the flocks in your pasture," Gibran adds.

The problem with these pretentious forms of giving is that:

- They are designed to alleviate the ailing conscience of the donor, which he knows, has been weighed down by too much wrongdoing to lay at rest.
- They give off the impression that one is generous and benevolent and thus conceal one's ill-doings.

- They obscure the violations and underplay the guilt of those who have squandered public money and abused public and private properties as well as those who have fallen short of their responsibilities and contributed to exacerbating education and healthcare costs, unemployment and brain drain, tricking us into believing that this bank or that millionaire are philanthropists.
- They stifle our role and social responsibility as citizens. Instead of pressuring the government to assume its duties by ensuring a proper healthcare coverage, imposing purposeful taxation and improving public education, we become too blindfolded by the alleged generosity to take any action. So-and-so has "given"! Given what? If anything, let him serve diligently in his post.

Speaking of giving, it might be useful to take a glance at some of the world's most celebrated givers:

- **Bill Gates:** Donations worth USD 29 billion
- **Li Ka Shing:** Donations worth USD 10 billion
- **Cummings Family:** They gave away 90% of their fortune amassed mostly from the real estate industry. How large are the contributions made by the Lebanese business magnates in the real estate and construction sector to their community and how much tax did they pay on their profits? After their death, Bill and Joyce Cummings will donate their entire wealth because their children have enough. By enough, the parents mean the family house, the jewelry and the furniture.
- **Warren Buffet:** He has pledged to give away his fortune worth USD 58 billion prior to or upon his death provided that the sum is spent to the last penny within 10 years.

The total US donations soared in 2012 to USD 316 billion, most of which was offered by individuals, thanks to a conducive taxation system and a community that appreciates community service.

"There are those who give and know not pain in giving. These are generous. And there are those who give much and withhold little. These are munificent. But to reach the virtue of altruism, one must give it all and put others ahead of themselves."



# Leader



# THE LEBANESE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL 1993-2023

## ITS TASKS, POWERS, DECISIONS, MEMBERS AND BUDGET

**Thirty years on, did the Lebanese Constitutional Council carry out its tasks and duties?**

Among the constitutional-political reforms stipulated in the National Accord Document of the Taëf Agreement (1989) is “the establishment of a Constitutional Council to interpret the Constitution, observe the constitutionality of laws and settle disputes and contests emanating from presidential and parliamentary elections”. Accordingly, and enacted in 1993, Article 19 of the Constitution was amended on September 21, 1990 to provide for the creation of the Council and the law establishing it (Law No. 250/1993).





## Constitutional Establishment

Amendment to Article 19 of the Lebanese Constitution reads as follows: “A Constitutional Council shall be established to supervise the constitutionality of laws and to arbitrate conflicts that arise from parliamentary and presidential elections. The President of the Republic, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Prime Minister, along with any ten members of Parliament, have the right to refer to this Council matters related to the constitutionality of laws. The officially recognized heads of religious communities have the right to refer to this Council laws relating to personal status, the freedom of belief and religious practice, and the freedom of religious education. The rules governing the organization, operation, composition of the Council and referral thereto shall be decided by a special law”.

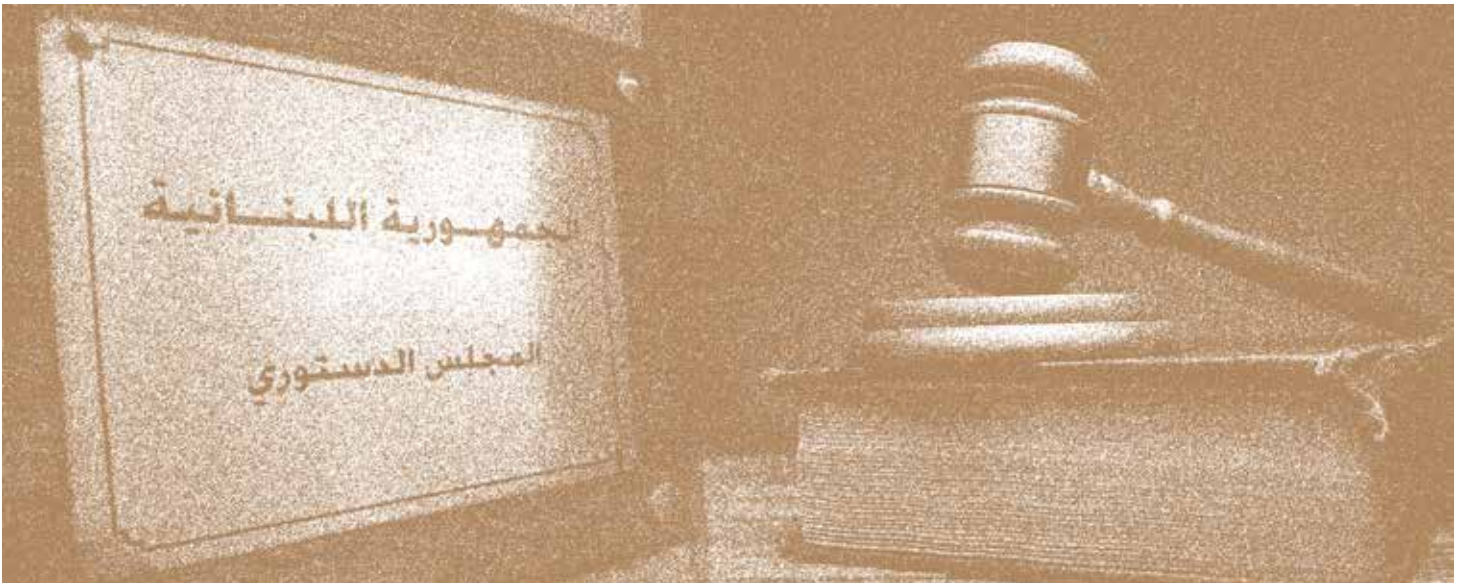
This constitution denies the Council’s right to interpret the constitution and entrust that power to the Parliament.

## Legal establishment

In accordance with provisions laid out in Article 19 of the constitution, law No. 250 passed on July 14, 1993, enables the establishment of the Constitutional Council, an autonomous entity comprising 10 individuals. Half of the council members are appointed by the parliament following a decisive vote by the legal constitutional council members. The remaining half of the members are appointed by the Council of Ministers, requiring two thirds majority vote from government officials.

The Council members shall be appointed for a fixed, non-renewable term of six years. The Constitution and the Law do not include any provisions about the sect of the President and members, but it is customary that the ten members equally represent Muslims and Christians as follows: 2 Maronites, 2 Sunnis, 2 Shiites, 2 Greek Orthodox, 1 Greek Catholic and 1 Druze, provided that the President be a Maronite, the Vice-President a Sunni and the Secretary a Shiite. This was a blow to the Constitutional Council, being established based on a sectarian quota system.

The ten members may be former judges who have practiced judicial, administrative or financial law for a minimum of 25 years. Alternatively, members may be higher education instructors who have taught law or political science for a minimum of 25 years, or attorneys who have practiced for a minimum of 25 years. The Constitutional Council member should be between fifty and seventy-four years of age but should not concurrently be member in the Council of Ministers, Parliament or any public institution or civil service.



## Work

According to law, the Constitutional Council is not convened unless a minimum of eight members are present. The Council decisions are taken by the majority of at least seven members and shall be signed off by the Council President and all present members, including the disagreeing members who shall also note, in writing, the reason of disagreement. Those decisions are irrevocable and cannot be subject to any kind of review.

## Functions

The functions of The Council include reviewing the constitutionality of laws and elections.

In Lebanon, laws are published in the Official Gazette or other official channels. Proceeding the publication, the council shall review the constitutionality of the laws within 15 days as it is the Council's responsibility to supervise the constitutionality of laws and all texts that have the force of law. These reviews are submitted to the presidency of the council during that period. If the review is not submitted within 15 days, the review is officially rejected. The Council presidency has 25 days to issue a decision on the submitted review; in the case of no decision, the text is considered accepted. However, if the presidency deems the text unconstitutional, it must make a statement indicating the nature of the unconstitutionality.

Upon the election of a Head of State and Speaker of Parliament, the Council shall, within three days, determine the legitimacy of the elections. Election reviews are conducted based on the request of at least one third of deputies of parliament. The election review is presented to the council presidency 24 hours after the election results are declared. The Council is responsible for conducting election review upon the request of the deputies of parliament and election legitimacy must be determined within three days.

Similarly, the Council shall determine whether deputies of parliament were elected in a constitutional manner. This includes reviewing cases contesting election results including allegations of fraud, recount requests, and other disputes and challenges. This process shall be concluded within an extendable period of two months provided that any claims contesting election results are submitted to the Council presidency within 30 days of the final election results.



## Budget

Decree No. 5790, signed on October 12, 1994, transfers an appropriation of LBP 200 million from the public budget to the Constitutional Council. A sum of LBP 750 million was allocated for this purpose in the 1995 public budget, namely in the Council of Ministers' budget item. As of 1996, the Constitutional Council's budget was accounted for in item No. 17 of the public budget and in 2001 in item No. 4.

**Budget of Constitutional Council (1994-2022).**

Year	Budget (LBP thousand)
1994	LBP 200 million
1995	LBP 750 million
1996	2,640,975
1998	1,591,768
2000	2,334,685
2002	1,711,904
2005	1,734,190
2010	1,708,340
2011	1,708,340
2015	1,889,500
2017	1,889,500
2018	1,847,217
2019	1,817,909
2020	1,476,776
2021	1,739,905
2022	2,011,145

Source: *Information International* based on the public budget laws of the said years.





## President and Members

Four bodies have been elected to represent the Constitutional Council since its establishment in 1993. They are as follows:

### First body (1994-2000)

- President: Wajdi Mallat (he resigned in 1997)
- Vice-President: Mohammad Al-Majzoub
- Members: Adib Allam, Pierre Gannagé, Salim Al-Azar, Khaled Kabbani, Antoine Kheir, Jawad Osseiran, Michel Turkiye and Kamel Raydan.

### Second body (2000-2009)

- President: Amin Nassar
- Vice-President: Mostafa Ouji
- Members: Hussein Hamdan, Fawzi Abou Mrad, Salim Jreissati, Emile Bejjani, Gabriel Siriani, Mostafa Mansour, Sami Younes and Afif Mukaddem.

### Third body (2009-2019)

- President: Issam Salman
- Vice-President: Tarek Ziadeh
- Members: Assad Diab (after his death in 2010, he was replaced by Mohammad Bassam Mortada), Salah Moukheiber, Souheil Abdel Samad, Toufic Soubra, Zaghoul Attieh, Antoine Kheir, Ahmad Takieddine and Antoine Messara.

### The current fourth body (2019-present)

- President: Tannous Mechleb
- Vice-President: Omar Hamze
- Secretary: Aouni Ramadan
- Members: Michel Tarazi, Elias Mecherkani, Fawzat Farhat, Akram Baassiri, Riad Abou Ghida, Abdallah Chami (after his death in 2021, he was replaced by Albert Serhan) and Elias Bou Eid (after his death in 2021, he was replaced by Mireille Najm)

## Review of the Constitutionality of Laws

### 1-Appeals against the 1996 parliamentary election results

19 appeals were submitted to the Constitutional Council following the five-stage parliamentary elections that took place between August 18 and September 15, 1996.

The Council made its decisions regarding these appeals, refusing 15 appeals and accepting four. This led into an election rerun to fill the vacant seats, yet the results did not change except for the Maronite seat in Western Beqa'a-Rashaya district, which was transferred from Henri Chedid (who did not run again) to Robert Ghanem.

**Table No. 1: Constitutional Council's decisions regarding the appeals submitted after the 1996 parliamentary elections.**

Appeal #	Date of submission	Appellant	Appellant's sect	# of votes	Appellee	Seat	
4/96	06-09-1996	Nazem El- Khoury	Maronite	6,621	Emile Nawfal	Maronite	
5/96	14-09-1996	Ali Ammar	Shiite	18,960	Salah Harake	Shiite	
6/96	16-09-1996	Albert Moukheiber	Greek Orthodox	26,270	Raji Abou Haidar	Greek Orthodox	
7/96	18-09-1996	Riad Raad	Shiite	14,823	Bassem Sabeh	Shiite	
8/96	18-09-1996	Henry Sfeir	Maronite	14,362	Camille Ziade	Maronite	
9/96	18-09-1996	Aref Aawar	Druze	18,956	Ayman Choucair	Druze	
10/96	18-09-1996	Menhem Azar	Greek Catholic	17	Antoine Haddad	Greek Catholic	
11/96 14/96	21-09-1996	Mohammed Yahya & Jamal Ismail	Sunni	49,678 52,252	Khaled Daher	Sunni	
12/96	25-09-1996	Mostafa Ajam	Sunni	32,256	Omar Meskawi	Sunni	
13/96	25-09-1996	Mikhael Daher	Maronite	59,852	Fawzi Hobeich	Maronite	
15/96	27-09-1996	Georges Saadeh	Maronite	47,209	Sayed Akl	Maronite	
16/96	28-09-1996	Antonios Saad & Emile Chehade	Evangelical	15,901 1,083	Ibrahim Darhaban	Evangelical	
17/96	01-10-1996	Issam Neeman	Druze	31,415	Khaled Saab	Druze	
19/96	08-10-1996	Habib Sadek	Shiite	65,883	Ali Hassan Khalil	Shiite	
20/96	09-10-1996	Tarek Chehab	Sunni	20,198	Recounting votes		
21/96	15-10-1996	Antoine Ghantous	Greek Orthodox	665	Elie Ferzli	Greek Orthodox	
22/96	16-10-1996	Robert Ghanem	Maronite	67,240	Henri Chedid	Maronite	



	# of votes	Electoral sub-district	Resolution No. & Date	Result
	6,932	Jbeil	Resolution No. 3, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal approved, Emile Nawfal's representation declared invalid, elections rerun, Emile Nawfal regained the seat, Member of the Constitutional Council Salim Al-Azar opposed the decision
	21,367	Baabda	Resolution No. 04, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	30,331	Matn	Resolution No. 05, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal dismissed by majority after the opposition of Salim Al-Azar
	27,220	Baabda	Resolution No. 06, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	14,518	Kessrouan	Resolution No. 07, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	21,697	Baabda	Resolution No. 08, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	30,431	Matn	Resolution No. 09, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	52,364	North Lebanon Mohafaza (Akkar)	Resolution No. 10, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously approved, Khaled Daher's representation was cancelled, election was conducted to fill the vacant seat, the result did not change, Khaled Daher won again
	64,869	North Lebanon Mohafaza (Trablous)	Resolution No. 11, dated 17-05-1996	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	73,905	North Lebanon Mohafaza (Akkar)	Resolution No. 12, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal approved by majority, Mohammad Al-Majzoub & Salim Al-Azar opposed the decision, Fawzi Hobeich's representation was cancelled, election was reconducted, Fawzi Hobeich won again
	50,325	North Lebanon Mohafaza (Batroun)	Resolution No. 13, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	52,372	Beirut	Resolution No. 14, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	51,599	Beirut	Resolution No. 15, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal dismissed by majority after the opposition of Salim Al-Azar
	123,493	South Lebanon Mohafaza & Nabatieh Mohafaza	Resolution No. 16, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal dismissed by majority after the opposition of Salim Al-Azar
		South Lebanon Mohafaza & Nabatieh Mohafaza	Resolution No. 17, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	95,699	Beqa'a Mohafaza	Resolution No. 18, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	68,510	Beqa'a Mohafaza	Resolution No. 19, dated 17-05-1997	Appeal unanimously approved, Henri Chedid's representation was cancelled, election was reconducted, Robert Ghanem won by acclamation after Henri Chedid's withdrawal



## 2- 2000 parliamentary appeals

15 appeals were filed before the Constitutional Council following the 2000 multi-stage parliamentary elections, and they were all rejected.

**Table No. 2: Constitutional Council's decisions on appeals submitted after the 2000 parliamentary elections.**

Appeal #	Date of submission	Appellant	Appellant's sect	# of votes	Appellee	Seat	
13/2000	27-09-2000	Riad Rahal	Greek Orthodox	30,465	Karim Rassi	Greek Orthodox	
15/2000	27-09-2000	Kassem Abdel-Aziz	Sunni	24,539	Jihad Al-Samad	Sunni	
16/2000	27-09-2000	Samir Frangieh	Maronite	46,198	Jean Obeid	Maronite	
17/2000	30-09-2000	Mikhael Al-Debess	Greek Orthodox	20,616	Youssef Maalouf	Greek Orthodox	
18/2000	04-10-2000	Walid Choueiry	Greek Catholic	15,987	Elias Skaff & Nicolas Fattoush	Greek Catholic Greek Catholic	
19/2000 & 20/2000	04-10-2000	Chawki El-Fakhri & Samir Chamoun	Maronite Maronite	13,997 1,467	Nader Sukkar	Maronite	
6/2000	26-09-2000	Boutros El-Doueihy	Maronite	595	Kayssar Moawad	Maronite	
7/2000	26-09-2000	Pierre Daccache	Maronite	44,397	Abdallah Farhat	Maronite	
8/2000	26-09-2000	Khaled Daher	Sunni	23,934	Mohammed Yahya & Jamal Ismail	Sunni Sunni	
9/2000	26-09-2000	Camille Ziade	Maronite	25,045	Fares Boueiz	Maronite	
10/2000	27-09-2000	Nizar Younes	Maronite	45,548	Sayed Akl & Boutros Harb	Maronite Maronite	
11/2000 & 14/2000	27-09-2000	Boutros Chokor	Maronite	22,649	Kabalan Issa El-Khoury & Melhem Tawk	Maronite Maronite	
12/2000	27-09-2000	Talal El-Merhebi	Sunni	27,681	Mohammad Yahya	Sunni	



	# of votes	Electoral sub-district	Resolution No. & Date	Result
	32,247	Akkar (North Lebanon I)	Resolution No. 13, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	31,242	Dennieh (North Lebanon I)	Resolution No. 15, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	59,349	Trablous (North Lebanon II)	Resolution No. 18, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	26,493	Zahle (Beqa'a II)	Resolution No. 17, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	28,467 27,512	Zahle (Beqa'a II)	Resolution No. 18, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	35,765	Baalbeck-Hermel (Beqa'a I)	Resolution No. 19, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	56,078	Zgharta (North Lebanon II)	Resolution No. 06, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed for lack of merit
	44,485	Baabda-Aley	Resolution No. 07, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	36,897 33,849	Akkar (North Lebanon I)	Resolution No. 08, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	25,343	Kessrouan-Jbeil	Resolution No. 09, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	45,862 45,927	Batroun (North Lebanon II)	Resolution No. 10, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	30,700 34,972	Bsharri (North Lebanon I)	Resolution No. 11, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	33,849	Akkar (North Lebanon I)	Resolution No. 12, dated 08-12-2000	Appeal unanimously dismissed

### 3- 2005 parliamentary appeals

The 2005 parliamentary elections were held in stages, with 11 appeals being submitted to the Constitutional Council, in addition to an appeal against Beirut by-election results in 2007.

The Council decided to dismiss the appeals on the ground that after holding the parliamentary elections, the new Parliament adopted Law No. 679/2005 “to postpone consideration of appeals by the Constitutional Council until being replenished”. Thus, the Constitutional Council was unable to consider appeals lodged before it until July 2009, that is, after the end of term of the parliament's elected in 2005. The Council rejected the 11 appeals on the ground that their legal status had expired with the end of the Parliament's tenure on June 20, 2009.

**Table No. 3: The Constitutional Council's decisions regarding the appeals submitted after the 2005 parliamentary elections.**

Appeal #	Date of submission	Appellant	Appellant's sect	# of votes	Appellee
7/2005	12-07-2005	Youssef Maalouf	Greek Orthodox	29,089	Camille Maalouf
8/2005	19-07-2005	Mikhael Daher	Maronite	50,701	Hadi Hobeich
9/2005	20-07-2005	Gebzan Bassil	Maronite	74,807	Antoine Zahra
10/2005	20-07-2005	Fayez Karam	Maronite	75,412	Elias Atallah
11/2005	20-07-2005	Salim Al-Azar	Greek Orthodox	67,002	Nicolas Ghosn
1/2007 (by-elections in 2007)		Zouheir El-Khatib	Sunni	75	Mohammad Al-Amin
1/2005	09-07-2005	Najah Wakim	Greek Orthodox	13,921	Atef Majdalani
2/2005	09-07-2005	Fouad El-Turk	Greek Catholic	28,327	Nicolas Fattoush
3/2005	12-07-2005	Pierre Daccache	Maronite	64,916	Abdallah Farhat
4/2005	12-07-2005	Emir Talal Arslan	Druze	65,392	Akram Chehayeb & Faysal Sayegh
5/2005	12-07-2005	Hikmat Dib	Maronite	62,944	Fouad El-Saad
6/2005	12-07-2005	Mohsen Dalloul	Shiite	28,975	Hassan Yaacoub





	Seat	# of votes	Electoral district	Resolution No. & Date	Result
	Greek Orthodox	31,108	Zahle	Resolution No. 08, dated 08-07-2005	Appeal unanimously dismissed due to the end of Parliament's term on 20-06-2009
	Maronite	91,566	Akkar (North Lebanon I)	Resolution No. 09, dated 08-07-2005	Same as above
	Maronite	87,645	Batroun (North Lebanon II)	Resolution No. 10, dated 08-07-2005	Same as above
	Maronite	89,890	Trablous (North Lebanon II)	Resolution No. 11, dated 08-07-2005	Same as above
	Greek Orthodox	92,907	Koura (North Lebanon II)	Resolution No. 02, dated 08-07-2005	Same as above
	Sunni	22,988	Beirut	Resolution No. 01, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above
	Greek Orthodox	25,993	Beirut	Resolution No. 02, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above
	Greek Catholic	31,111	Zahle	Resolution No. 03, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above
	Maronite	69,440	Baabda-Aley	Resolution No. 04, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above
	Druze	70,085	Baabda-Aley	Resolution No. 05, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above
	Druze	69,103			
	Maronite	69,567	Baabda-Aley	Resolution No. 06, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above
	Shiite	31,920	Zahle	Resolution No. 07, dated 08-07-2009	Same as above

## 4- 2009 parliamentary appeals

19 parliamentary appeals were submitted to the Constitutional Council following the elections held on Sunday June 07, 2009. The Council did not issue its decisions regarding these appeals until November 25, 2009, i.e., after 5 and a half months. It rejected all of them after correcting the results of several successful and unsuccessful candidates.

**Table No. 4: The Constitutional Council's decisions regarding the appeals submitted after the 2009 parliamentary elections.**

Appeal #	Date of submission	Appellant	Appellant's sect	# of votes	Appellee	Seat	
13/F/2009	08-07-2009	Maged Eddy Abillama	Maronite	44,423	Salim Salhab	Maronite	
12/F/2009	08-07-2009	Nicolas Sehnaoui	Greek Catholic	16,730	Michel Pharaon	Greek Catholic	
17/F/2009	08-07-2009	Sarkis Sarkis	Maronite	45,252	Nabil Nicolas	Maronite	
5/F/2009	07-07-2009	Hassan Yaacoub	Shiite	40,670	Okab Sakr	Shiite	
4/F/2009	07-07-2009	Rachid Daher	Maronite	53	Hadi Hobeich	Maronite	
2/F/2009	03-07-2009	Mikhael Daher	Maronite	37,956	Hadi Hobeich	Maronite	
6/F/2009	07-07-2009	Ajaj Haddad	Greek Catholic	6,498	Issam Sawaya	Greek Catholic	
16/F/2009	08-07-2009	Elias Moukheiber	Greek Orthodox	44,297	Ghassan Moukheiber	Greek Orthodox	
13/F/2009	06-07-2009	Adnan Arakji	Sunni	8,071	Nohad Machnouk	Sunni	
18/F/2009	08-07-2009	Ghassan Achkar	Maronite	45,759	Sami Gemayel	Maronite	
15/F/2009	08-07-2009	Elias Karamah	Greek Catholic	44,543	Edgard Maalouf	Greek Catholic	
19/F/2009	08-07-2009	Salim Aoun	Maronite	41,277	Elie Marouni	Maronite	
19/F/2009	08-07-2009	Ghassan Rahbani	Greek Orthodox	46,514	Elias Murr	Greek Orthodox	
20/F/2009	06-07-2009	Rami Ollaik	Shiite	63	Abbas Hachem	Shiite	
8/F/2009	07-07-2009	Fouad El-Turk	Greek Catholic	40,684	Tony Abou Khater	Greek Catholic	
7/F/2009	07-07-2009	Elias Skaff	Greek Catholic	43,196	Nicolas Fattoush	Greek Catholic	
10/F/2009	07-07-2009	Rida Meiss	Sunni	40,251	Assem Araji	Sunni	
14/F/2009	08-07-2009	Emile Kanaan	Maronite	44,374	Ibrahim Kanaan, Nabil Nicolas & Salim Salhab	Maronite	
11/F/2009		Camille Maalouf	Greek Orthodox	41,643	Joseph Maalouf	Greek Orthodox	



# of votes	Electoral sub-district	Resolution No. & Date	Result
48,673	Matn	Resolution No. 13, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 9 votes to Abillama and 406 votes to Salhab
19,742	Beirut I	Resolution No. 14, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed
47,844	Matn	Resolution No. 15, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 14 votes to Sarkis Sarkis and 412 votes to Nabil Nicolas
49,410	Zahle	Resolution No. 16, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and deducting 10 votes from Okab Sakr's total votes
78,450	Akkar	Resolution No. 17, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed
78,450	Akkar	Resolution No. 18, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed
14,914	Jezzine	Resolution No. 19, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed
46,869	Matn	Resolution No. 20, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 10 votes to Elias Moukheiber and 415 votes to Ghassan Moukheiber
16,583	Beirut II	Resolution No. 21, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed
47,688	Matn	Resolution No. 22, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 406 votes to Ghassan Achkar and 10 votes to Sami Gemayel
48,577	Matn	Resolution No. 21, dated 28-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 10 votes to Elias Karamah and 411 to Edgard Maalouf
49,504	Zahle	Resolution No. 24, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 213 votes to Salim Aoun and 176 votes to Elie Marouni
48,953	Matn	Resolution No. 25, dated 28-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 13 votes to Elias Murr and 450 votes to Rahbani
28,232	Jbeil	Resolution No. 26, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed
48,166	Zahle	Resolution No. 27, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 211 votes to Fouad El-Turk and 167 votes to Tony Abou Khater
47,884	Zahle	Resolution No. 28, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 221 votes to Elias Skaff and 175 votes to Nicolas Fattoush
48,699	Zahle	Resolution No. 29, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 205 votes to Rida Meiss and 175 votes to Assem Araji
49,147 47,844 48,673	Matn	Resolution No. 30, dated 28-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the election results and transferring 13 votes to Emile Kenaan, 411 votes to Ibrahim Kenaan and 406 votes to Salim Salhab
48,288	Zahle	Resolution No. 31, dated 25-11-2009	Appeal unanimously dismissed after transferring 214 votes to Camille Maalouf and 171 votes to Joseph Maalouf



## 5- 2018 parliamentary appeals

The parliamentary elections took place on May 6, 2018, and 18 appeals were submitted. The Council rendered its decisions on February 21, 2019. That is, about 9 and a half months after the election date, rejecting 17 appeals and accepting one presented by unsuccessful candidate Taha Naji against MP Dima Jamali. The elections were held according to the majority voting system (the vacancy being less than two seats), and Dima Jamali won again.

**Table No. 5: The Constitutional Council's decisions regarding the appeals submitted after the 2018 parliamentary elections.**

Appeal #	Date of submission	Appellant	Appellant's sect	# of votes	Appellee	Seat
17/2018	06-06-2018	Joumana Salloum	Minorities	431	Antoine Bano	Minorities
20/2018	06-06-2018	Myriam Skaff	Greek Catholic	6,347	Michel Daher & Georges Okaiss	Greek Catholic
13/2018	06-06-2018	Nadim Kozhaya Costa	Evangelical	169	Edgard Traboulsi	Evangelical
10/2018	05-06-2018	Sarkis Sarkis	Maronite	4,337	Elias Hankach	Maronite
14/2018	01-06-2018	Ibrahim Halabi	Sunni	195	The six Sunni MPs running on different electoral lists: Saad Hariri, Nohad Machnouk, Tammam Salam, Rola Tabsh, Fouad Makhzoumi & Adnan Traboulsi	Sunni
15/2018	06-06-2018	Omar Najah Wakim	Greek Orthodox	476	Nazih Najem	Greek Orthodox
16/2018	06-06-2018	Several unsuccessful candidates of "Beirut al-Watan" list	Various sects		MPs from different lists	Various sects
6/2018	05-06-2018	Zeina Monzer	Druze	237	Faysal Sayegh & Nohad Machnouk	Druze Sunni
9/2018	05-06-2018	Taha Naji	Sunni	4,152	MPs from "Al-Azm" and "Al-Mustaqbal Lil Shamal" lists	Various sects
8/2018	04-06-2018	Several unsuccessful candidates	Various sects		MPs from several lists	Various sects
5/2018	30-05-2018	Nassif Al-Tini	Greek Orthodox	528	Cesar Maalouf	Greek Orthodox
6/2018	01-06-2018	Boghos Kurdian	Armenian Orthodox	142	Eddie Demerjian & Cesar Maalouf	Armenian Orthodox Greek Orthodox
12/2018	05-06-2018	Several candidates	Various sects	-	MPs from different lists	Various sects
19/2018	06-06-2018	Melhem Tawk	Maronite	4,649	Joseph Ishak	Maronite
18/2018	06-06-2018	Kazem El-Kheir	Sunni	6,754	Othman Alameddine	Sunni
7/2018	06-06-2018	-	Various sects	-	All MPs of the electoral district	-
22/2018	07-06-2018	Mohammad Misbah Al-Ahdab	Sunni	908	MPs of different lists	Sunni
11/2018	06-06-2018	Ghada Marouni Eid	Maronite	2,094	Farid Boustani	Maronite



# of votes	Electoral district	Resolution No. & Date	Result
539	Beirut I	Resolution No. 02, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed after the opposition of Antoine Messara
9,742 1,136	Zahle	Resolution No. 03, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
1,919	Beirut II	Resolution No. 04, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal dismissed by majority, Judge Suhail Abdel Samad opposed the decision and requested not to pursue the appeal as the Candidate Nadim Kozhaya abandoned the appeal
2,583	Matn	Resolution No. 05, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Beirut II	Resolution No. 06, dated 21-02-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
2,351	Beirut II	Resolution No. 07, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
1,902 6,411	Beirut II	Resolution No. 08, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
1,902 6,411	Beirut II	Resolution No. 09, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
-	Trablous	Resolution No. 10, dated 21-02-2019	Annuling the parliamentary membership of MP Dima Jamali and declaring the seat vacant. Judge Suhail Abdel Samad opposed the decision.
-	Beirut II	Resolution No. 11, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
3,554	Zahle	Resolution No.12, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
77 3,554	Zahle	Resolution No. 13, dated 20-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
-	Baalbeck-Hermel	Resolution No. 14, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
5,990	Bsharri	Resolution No. 15, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed after correcting the number of votes received by Melhem Tawk from 4,649 to 4,715 and by Joseph Ishak from 5,990 to 6,154
10,221	Mennieh	Resolution No. 16, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
-	Trablous-Mennieh-Dennieh	Resolution No. 17, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed
-	Trablous	Resolution No. 18, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed for it was filed outside the legal deadline (June 06)
2,657	Chouf	Resolution No. 19, dated 21-02-2019	Appeal unanimously dismissed

## 6- 2022 parliamentary appeals

15 appeals were brought before the Constitutional Council following the parliamentary elections held on May 15, 2022. The Council rendered its decision. In several stages, rejecting 13 appeals and accepting two. As a result, the seat of MP Rami Fanj was transferred to unsuccessful candidate Fayssal Karame and the seat of MP Firas Al-Salloun was handed over to Haydar Nasser.

**Table No. 6: The Constitutional Council's decisions regarding the appeals submitted after the 2022 parliamentary elections.**

Appeal #	Date of submission	Appellant	Appellant's sect	# of votes	
6/F	14-06-2022	Elie Khalil Charbachi	Minorities	727	
9/F	15-06-2022	Zeina Kamal Monzer	Druze	308	
14/F	16-06-2022	Simon Habib Sfeir	Maronite	142	
4/F	13-06-2022	Josephine Zgheib	Maronite	1,303	
12/F	16-06-2022	Jad Emile Ghosn	Maronite	8,526	
15/F	16-06-2022	Wassef Habib El-Harakeh	Shiite	4,092	
5/F	14-06-2022	Haidar Zahreddine Issa	Alawite	3,948	
2/F	31-05-2022	Paul Hanna Hamod	Maronite	18	
7/F	14-06-2022	Fayssal Karame	Sunni	6,494	
13/F	16-06-2022	Haydar Assef Nasser	Alawite	313	
16/F	16-06-2022	Mtianos Issa Nicolas Mahfouz	Greek Orthodox	250	
3/F	08-06-2022	Mohammad Chafik Hammoud	Sunni	5,869	
8/F	15-06-2022	Amal Hikmat Abou Zeid	Maronite	5,184	
10/F	15-06-2022	Ibrahim Samir Azar	Maronite	7,894	
11/F	15-06-2022	Candidates of al-Amal Wal Wafaa 's List: Mohammad Hussein Raad, Hani Hassan Kobeissi, Nasser Fawzi Jaber, Ali Hassan Khalil, Ali Rashid Fayyad, Kassem Omar Hashem, Marwan Salim Kheireddine, Assaad Halim Hardan, Hassan Nizamuddin Fadlallah, Ayoub Fahd Hmayed & Ashraf Nazih Hashem Baydoun			
		Marwan Salim Kheireddine	Druze	2,634	



	Appellee	Seat	# of votes	Sub-district	Resolution No. & Date	Result
	Cynthia Fadi Zarazir	Minorities	486	Beirut I	Resolution No. 08, dated 03-11-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Faysal Sayegh Waddah Sadek	Druze Sunni	2,565 3,760	Beirut II	Resolution No. 11, dated 03-11-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Neemat Frem Farid Haykal El-Khazen	Maronite	10,743 9,056	Kessrouan	Resolution No. 13, dated 17-11-2022	Appeal dismissed by majority
	Farid Haykal El-Khazen	Maronite	9,056	Kessrouan	Resolution No. 09, dated 03-11-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Razi Wadih El-Hage Hagop Ohaness Pakradounian	Maronite Armenian Orthodox	3,459 4,973	Matn	Resolution No. 17, dated 22-12-2022	Appeal dismissed by majority
	Fadi Fakhry Alameh	Shiite	4,862	Baabda	Resolution No. 13, dated 17-11-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Ahmad Mohammad Rustom	Alawite	324	Akkar	Resolution No. 18, dated 22-12-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Elias Fouad El-Khoury	Maronite	3,426	Trablous	Resolution No. 04, dated 20-10-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Ihab Mohammad Matar Firas Ahmad Al-Salloum Rami Saadallah Fanj	Sunni Alawite Sunni	6,518 370 5,009	Trablous	Resolution No. 15, dated 24-11-2022	Approving the appeal, declaring that Fayssal Karamé won by majority of votes, Vice-President of the Constitutional Council, Judge Omar Hamza, opposed the decision
	Ihab Matar Firas Al-Salloum Rami Fanj	Sunni Alawite Sunni	6,518 370 5,009	Trablous	Resolution No. 15, dated 24-11-2022	Approving the appeal and announcing the winning of Haydar Nasser
	Jamil Abboud Abboud	Orthodox	79	Trablous	Resolution No. 03, dated 20-10-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Bilal Houshaimy	Sunni	3,865	Zahle	Resolution No. 05, dated 20-10-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Said Suleiman El-Asmar	Maronite	1,102	Jezzine	Resolution No. 10, dated 03-11-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Charbel Maroun Saad Said Suleiman El-Asmar	Maronite	984 1,102	Jezzine	Resolution No. 07, dated 20-10-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
	Firas Ismail Hamdan	Druze		Marjeyoun & Hasbaya	Resolution No. 06, dated 20-10-2022	Appeal unanimously dismissed
			4,859			Appeal unanimously dismissed



## Matn by-Elections

Following the death of Matn MP Albert Moukheiber, parliamentary by-elections were held on June 02, 2002 to fill the Greek Orthodox seat that became vacant by death. The elections witnessed a fierce competition between three candidates: Mirna El-Murr, her uncle Gabriel and Ghassan Moukheiber, nephew of Albert Moukheiber. Conflicting results that declaring Gabriel El-Murr as the winner, pushing Mirna El-Murr to appeal the election results to the Constitutional council. The seat was given to unsuccessful candidate Ghassan Moukheiber. The decision reads as follows: “Since there is no significant difference in the number of votes compared to Ghassan Moukheiber, and as the law does not stipulate for a limited majority, and because it is recognized in jurisprudence that this difference does not matter when violations are serious”.

Next issue: “Election appeals to the Constitutional Council”.



## Public Sector

# 77 LAWS IN 4 SESSIONS WITH NO PRESIDENT

In a session held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, the Lebanese Parliament enacted a law extending the mandate of municipal and ikhtiyariah councils until May 31, 2024 and approved amendments to the Public Procurement Law in order to facilitate the work of municipalities.

This is not the first time laws were passed in the absence of a President; After the end of President Michel Suleiman's term in May 2014, four legislative sessions were convened to pass 77 laws. They are as follows:

- 8 laws during a session held on October 01, 2014.
- 8 laws during a session held on November 05, 2014.
- 38 laws during a session held on November 12 and 13, 2015.
- 23 laws during a session held on October 19, 2016.

A table showing the promulgated laws by date and subject.

Law No.	Enactment Date	Subject
1	30-10-2012	Authorizing an additional budget appropriation of LBP 626.6 billion to cover salary and wage shortfalls until 2014
2	03-11-2014	Authorizing the government to conclude with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) an agreement on equipping the Faculties of Engineering and Architecture at the Lebanese University, Trablous
3	03-11-2014	Authorizing the government to conclude with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) an agreement on equipping the Faculties of Engineering and Architecture at the Lebanese University, Trablous
4	03-11-2014	Authorizing the government to conclude with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) an additional loan agreement aimed at financing the educational building project of Beirut
5	03-11-2014	Authorizing the government to conclude with the German Development Bank KfW a loan agreement for Jeita Spring Protection Project
6	03-11-2014	Signing an agreement with the World Bank to support innovation in SMEs projects
7	03-11-2014	Amending Article 278 of the Traffic Law dated October 22, 2012
8	03-11-2014	Concluding an agreement with Germany to finance Jeita Spring Protection Project
9	03-11-2014	Signing an agreement with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to finance the drinking water supply project of Zahle and its environs
10	11-11-2014	Increasing Lebanon's contribution to the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman)
11	11-11-2014	Increasing Lebanon's contribution to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)
12	11-11-2014	Increasing Lebanon's contribution to the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
13	11-11-2014	Increasing Lebanon's contribution to the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development (AFESD)
14	11-11-2014	Authorizing the government to issue Eurobonds up to USD 2.5 billion
15	11-11-2014	Authorizing an additional budget appropriation of LBP 340 billion, including LBP 300 billion to cover the various budget items and LBP 40 billion for judgments and reconciliations
16	11-11-2014	Extending the Parliament's term until June 20, 2017
17	24-11-2015	Signing with the European Community, represented by the European Commission, an amendment to the agreement on cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean
18	24-11-2015	Increasing Lebanon's contribution to the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID)
19	24-11-2015	Derogatory provisions with regard to students sitting for 2014 official exams



Law No.	Enactment Date	Subject
20	24-11-2015	Approving a loan agreement between the Lebanese Republic and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in favor of the Ministry of Finance in order to complete the Public Finance Management Reform Project
21	24-11-2015	Approving an Istisna' agreement worth USD 72.4 million between the Lebanese government, represented by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to finance the development of the Lebanese University
22	24-11-2015	Approving an Istisna' agreement between the Lebanese government, represented by the Council for Development and Reconstruction- and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to finance the development of the Lebanese University
23	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement of KWD 7 million (about USD 23 million) between the Lebanese Republic and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to implement Karak-Rayak road project
24	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement of USD 474 million between the Lebanese Republic and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in order to implement the improved water supply project
25	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement between the Lebanese Republic and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in order to implement the improved water supply project
26	24-11-2015	Approving a framework convention on the tax and customs regime applied by the partner country on the projects financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) and the general budget of the European Union (EU)
27	24-11-2015	Approving an agreement establishing the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) as an international organization
28	24-11-2015	Approving a funding agreement of EUR 75 million between the Lebanese Republic and the European Investment Bank (IEB) (Lebanese Highway Project-Phase II)
29	24-11-2015	Acceding to the amendment to the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the Basel Convention)
30	24-11-2015	Authorizing the government to allocate from the budget LBP 1.348,3 billion to secure the necessary ammunition, equipment and infrastructure for the Lebanese Army
31	24-11-2015	Increasing Lebanon's contribution to the capital of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) by 17.580,000 gold dinars (about USD 20 million)
32	24-11-2015	Approving a funding agreement of EUR 50 million between the Lebanese Republic and the European Investment Bank (IEB) (energy efficiency and renewable energies)
33	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement of KWD 34 million (about USD 112 million) between the Lebanese government and the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development to provide financing for the Housing Project
34	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement of KWD 30 million (about USD 99 million) with the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development to complete the sewage treatment plant project in Lebanon
35	24-11-2015	The Food Safety Law (FSL)
36	24-11-2015	Authorizing the government to borrow up to USD 3 billion in foreign currencies
37	24-11-2015	Authorizing the government to increase Lebanon's contribution to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
38	24-11-2015	Authorizing the government to increase Lebanon's contribution to the capital of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
39	24-11-2015	Authorizing an additional budget appropriation of LBP 4,568 billion to cover some of the needs of public administrations and institutions



Law No.	Enactment Date	Subject
40	24-11-2015	Authorizing an additional budget appropriation of LBP 861 billion to cover salary and wage shortfalls
41	24-11-2015	Specifying the requirements for the recovery of Lebanese nationality
42	24-11-2015	Declaring trans-boundary money transfers
43	24-11-2015	Exchanging tax information
44	24-11-2015	Fighting money laundering and terrorist financing
45	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement of KWD 35 million (about USD 115 million) between the Lebanese government and the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development to help rehabilitating the power plants damaged by Israeli airstrikes
46	24-11-2015	Signing a loan agreement of KWD 25 million (about USD 82 million) between the Lebanese Republic and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) aimed at financing the rehabilitation project of Zouk and Jiyeh power plants
47	24-11-2015	Amending Article 26 of Legislative Decree No. 304/1942 (Overland Trade Law)
48	24-11-2015	Approving a loan agreement aimed at carrying out cooperation projects between Lebanon and the Republic of China
49	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement worth KWD 21 million (about USD 69 million) with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in order to finance the Litani irrigation project (800-meter level)
50	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement worth KWD 32 million (about USD 105 million) with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in order to finance the Litani irrigation project (800-meter level)
51	24-11-2015	Concluding a loan agreement of USD 15 million between the Lebanese Republic and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in order to fight environmental pollution in Lebanon
52	24-11-2015	Signing a loan agreement worth KWD 5.5 million (about USD 17 million) with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to help finance the project of establishing and equipping a slaughterhouse in Trablous
53	24-11-2015	Authorizing the Lebanese government to join the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism signed in New York on 09-12-1999
54	24-11-2015	Extending the effectiveness of Law No. 462/2002 (Law Regulating the Electricity Sector)
55	27-10-2016	Exchanging tax information
56	27-10-2016	Approving a trade cooperation agreement between Lebanon and Kuwait
57	27-10-2016	Amending Article 68 of Legislative Decree No. 102/1983 (Civil Defense Law)
58	27-10-2016	Concluding a cooperation agreement with China
59	27-10-2016	Signing a defense cooperation agreement between Lebanon and France
60	27-10-2016	Amending Tax Procedure Law No. 44/2008
61	27-10-2016	Amending Article 154 of Traffic Law No. 243/2012

Law No.	Enactment Date	Subject
62	27-10-2016	Establishing the National Commission for Human Rights, which includes the Committee for the Prevention of Torture
63	27-10-2016	Allocating appropriations of LBP 1.1 trillion for the implementation of expropriation works in the Litani River Basin area from the source to the mouth
64	27-10-2016	Approving a loan agreement worth USD 55 million with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) aimed at financing the Lake Qaraoun Pollution Prevention Project
65	27-10-2016	Approving a loan agreement worth USD 55 million with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) aimed at financing the Lake Qaraoun Pollution Prevention Project
66	27-10-2016	Exempting the heirs of the Lebanese who perished in the Air Algerie crash from litigation costs and ownership transfer fees
67	27-10-2016	Reducing the penalties incurred as a result of unpaid municipal fee arrears
68	27-10-2016	Reducing the penalties incurred as a result of unpaid mechanic fee arrears
69	27-10-2016	Reducing fines
70	27-10-2016	Reducing the penalties incurred by tourism establishments as a result of unpaid municipal fees
71	27-10-2016	Criminalizing the firing of gunshots into the air
72	27-10-2016	Authorizing the government to issue Eurobonds up to USD 3 billion
73	27-10-2016	Authorizing an additional budget appropriation of LBP 533.8 billion to cover some of the needs of public administrations and institutions until end of 2016
74	27-10-2016	Determining the tax obligations that the trustees are liable to
75	27-10-2016	Abolishing registered and bearer shares of joint-stock companies
76	27-10-2016	Approving an additional budget appropriation of LBP 235.2 billion to cover some of the needs of public administrations with annexed budgets for the year 2016
77	27-10-2016	Amending Article 316 bis of the Lebanese Penal Code relating to terrorism financing

Source: *Information International* based on the laws published in the Official Gazette.

## Diversity of Positions

Some political parties are consistent in their view that a parliament sans an elected president defaults into an electorate, with no legislative power. Others, whilst agreeing with this view, stress that ‘necessary legislation’ can still be passed.

Reviewing the contents of the 77 laws promulgated during the presidential void between May 2014 and October 2016, shows that the majority of these laws (namely Laws No. 75, 58, 55, and 27) were not urgent. How did the Parliament hold these sessions without any objections?

Evident to anyone reading the content of these laws is the fact that many of them authorize the government to conclude agreements aimed at acquiring funds for specific projects. How were these funds spent? What and where are these projects?

# **NATIONALITY RECOVERY DECREES 2015-2023**

**ONLY 943 PERSONS HAVE REACQUIRED  
THEIR LEBANESE NATIONALITY**

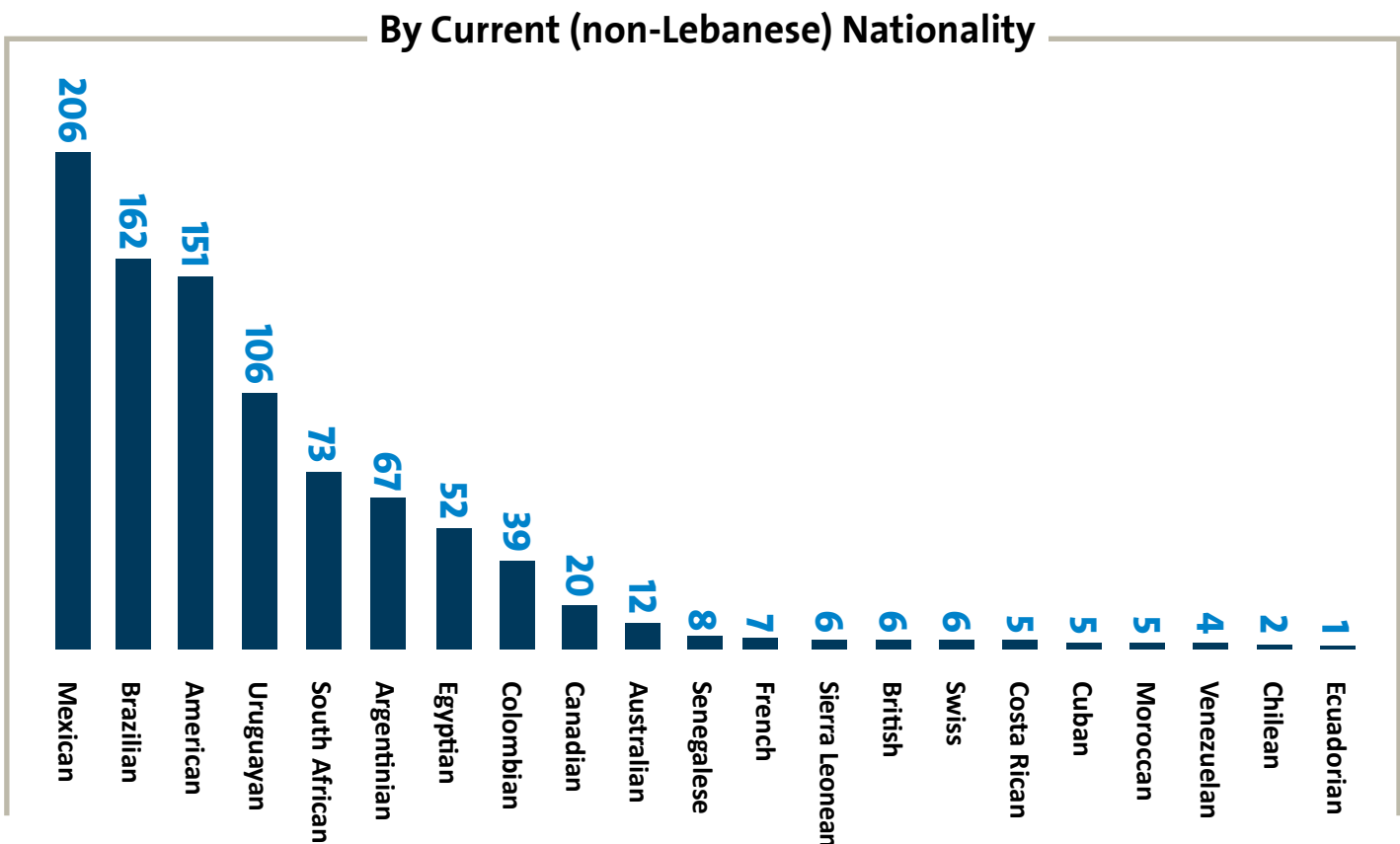
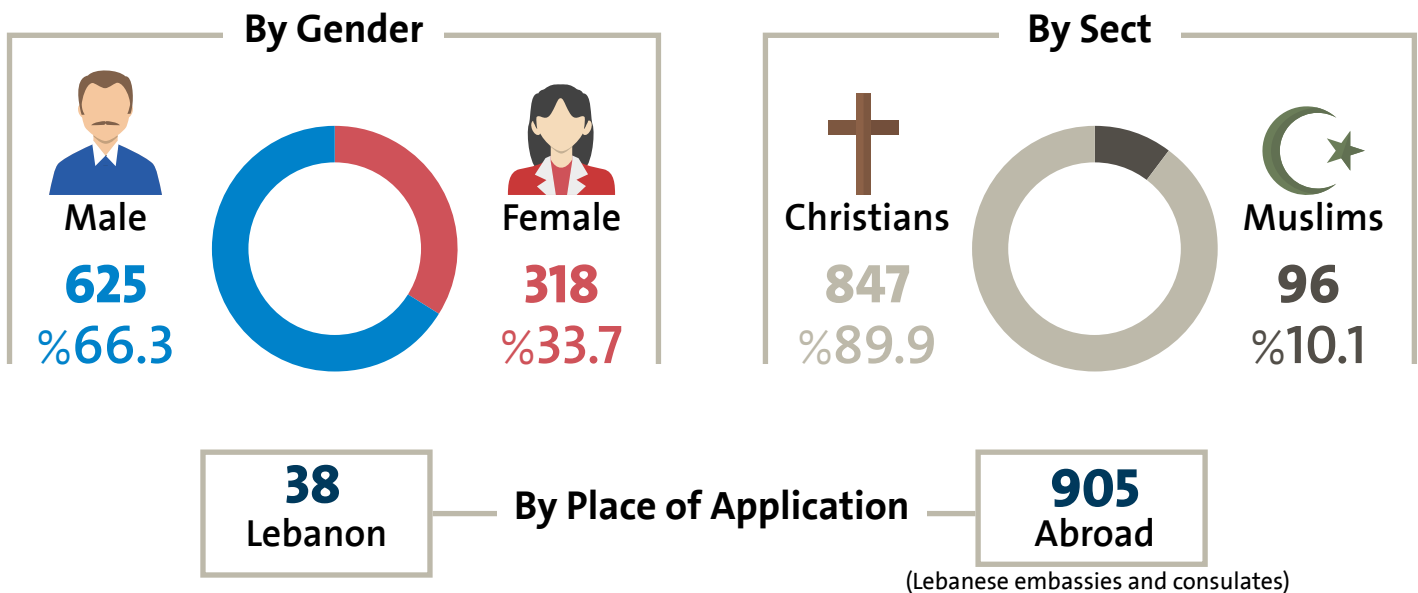
Information International has tallied the number of nationality restoration decrees issued after July 30, 2019, noting that during the period 2015-July 30, 2019, it had reached 414 and involved 763 persons.

According to information International 414 nationality restoration decrees for 763 persons were issued from 2015 until July of 2019. Information international conducted the study again to determine how many decrees were issued from July 2019 until 2023.

No decrees were issued between August 2019 and January 2020, or from January 2023 until March 2023. The last decree pertaining to nationality restoration was signed during President Michel Aoun’s term in office: Decree No. 8950 of March 16, 2022 published in the Official Gazette on March 24, 2022.

Between January 2020 and December 2022, 108 decrees for 182 persons were promulgated. Fourty one of those decrees were issued in 2020, 54 in 2021 and 13 in 2022. This brings the total number of people who restored their Lebanese nationality since the enactment of Law No. 41 of November 24, 2015 (a law determining the conditions for reacquiring the Lebanese nationality) to 943.

The Breakdown is as Follows:





A table listing the decrees on Lebanese nationality recovery (2020-2022).

Name	Current nationality	Place of application	Date of reacquisition of nationality	Decree no.	Official Gazette no. & date
Jane Marie Georges Khoury and her sister, Denise Sharifa Khoury	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Detroit	10-03-2020	6173	11 On 12-03-2020
James Georges Abou Rizk and his two children Charles Thomas and Alia	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Detroit	10-03-2020	6174	11 On 12-03-2020
Jibreen John Joseph Suleiman and his two children Christopher and Stephanie Marie Suleiman	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Detroit	10-03-2020	6175	11 On 12-03-2020
Miguel Miguel Said and his son Alejandro	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	10-03-2020	6176	11 On 12-03-2020
Edward Georges Gerges Fares and his son Daniel	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Detroit	10-03-2020	6177	11 On 12-03-2020
Richard John Peter Khoury	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Detroit	10-03-2020	6178	11 On 12-03-2020
Samir Abdullah Charles Maroun Tawil	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	10-03-2020	6179	11 On 12-03-2020
Joseph Donald Joseph Abbas	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in New York	10-03-2020	6180	11 On 12-03-2020
Michael Junior Nakhle Khoury and his son Andrew James	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Detroit	13-03-2020	6195	13 On 26-03-2020
Eugenio Alberto Najib Abi Zeid	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	13-03-2020	6194	13 On 26-03-2020
Manuel Najib Abi Zeid	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	13-03-2020	6193	13 On 26-03-2020
Jennifer Lynn Anthony Vincent Zaini and her brother Anthony Vincent Jr. Zaini	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Los Angeles	03-04-2020	6244	15 On 09-04-2020
Chad Edward Vincent Joseph	South African	Lebanese Embassy in Pretoria	23-04-2020	6285	18 On 30-04-2020
Adir Amin Hannoush	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	23-04-2020	6286	18 On 30-04-2020
Carmen Beatriz Francis Karam and her brothers Juan Sebastian, Rodolfo Andres, Fernando Javier, Jose Miguel, Eduardo Martin, Francis Roberto and Julio Diego Karam	Uruguayan	Lebanese Embassy in Montevideo	10-07-2020	6605	40 On 15-10-2020
José Luis de Jesús Guillermo Badawi and his two children Ramzi and Khilda Maria	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	10-07-2020	6604	40 On 15-10-2020
Pablo Estephan Doumit Karam and his two sisters Maria Ital and Carmen Empero Karam	Uruguayan	Lebanese Embassy in Montevideo	10-07-2020	6606	40 On 15-10-2020
Louisa Newton Daher	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-07-2020	6701	44 On 12-11-2020

Name	Current nationality	Place of application	Date of reacquisition of nationality	Decree no.	Official Gazette no. & date
Eduardo Newton Daher	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-07-2020	6702	44 On 12-11-2020
Suzan Angel John Bou Akl	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	30-07-2020	6703	44 On 12-11-2020
Samir Sadem Marib Faoul Apelles and his son Arthur	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-07-2020	6704	44 On 12-11-2020
Antonio Bernardo Guillermo Badawi and his two children Antonio and Desiree	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-07-2020	6705	44 On 12-11-2020
Mario Enrique Elias Karam and his two siblings Silvia Olga and Luis Humberto Karam	Uruguayan	Lebanese Embassy in Montevideo	30-07-2020	6706	44 On 12-11-2020
Gerardo Musa Hanna Al-Andari and his children Lilian, Lorena, Alvira Gerardo and Roberto	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	14-08-2020	6837	46 On 26-11-2020
Harold John Manasseh and his daughters Catherine Elizabeth and Stephanie Margaret	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	14-08-2020	6838	46 On 26-11-2020
Sarah Elizabeth Robert Saadallah	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Los Angeles	14-08-2020	6839	46 On 26-11-2020
José Carlos Antonio Octavio José Herrero	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-12-2020	7300	5 On 04-02-2021
Stephanie Karen Marcio Ibrahim	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7301	5 On 04-02-2021
Gabriela Joao Paulo Assaad Selim	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7302	5 On 04-02-2021
Arthur Wilson Naimeh	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7303	5 On 04-02-2021
Edgar Selim Edgar Haddad	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7304	5 On 04-02-2021
João Paulo Assaad Jamil Assaad Selim	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7305	5 On 04-02-2021
Michel Ahmed Alfonso Abi Zeid	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-12-2020	7306	5 On 04-02-2021
Mario Dolores Gabriel José El-Khoury	Ecuadorian	Lebanese Embassy in Bogota	30-12-2020	7307	5 On 04-02-2021
Mrs. Luisa Maria Mauricio Zakhia and her sister Letitia Rassi Zakhia	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	30-12-2020	7308	5 On 04-02-2021
Ricardo Gabriel Tannouri and his son Henrique	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7309	5 On 04-02-2021
Octavio Fernando Octavio José Herrero and his son Fernando	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-12-2020	7310	5 On 04-02-2021

Name	Current nationality	Place of application	Date of reacquisition of nationality	Decree no.	Official Gazette no. & date
Manuel Marcial Octavio José Herrero and his daughter Monserrate	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-12-2020	7311	5 On 04-02-2021
Gabriel Gerges Fadel Tannouri and his daughter Christine	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	30-12-2020	7312	5 On 04-02-2021
Hussein José Chammout and his two daughters Tamara and Nadia	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-12-2020	7313	5 On 04-02-2021
Alfredo Juan Alfredo Jorge Abou Haloun and his children Alfredo Selim, Alejandra Karina and Adrian Marcelo	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	30-12-2020	7314	5 On 04-02-2021
Luis Fernando Assaad Lahoud and his two children Fernando and Déborah de Lourdes	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	19-01-2021	7372	7 On 18-02-2021
Marisa Miranda Odair Bechara Tohme	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	19-01-2021	7373	7 On 18-02-2021
Stephen Philip Stanley Bracks	Australian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Melbourne	19-01-2021	7374	7 On 18-02-2021
Carlos Eduardo Edward Estephan	Colombian	Lebanese Embassy in Bogota	19-01-2021	7375	7 On 18-02-2021
Julian James Tabsh and his children Maria Olivia, Eliana Patricia, Gebran Khalil and Jalila Maria	Costa Rican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	19-01-2021	7376	7 On 18-02-2021
Emilio Gerges Haddad and his daughters Carmen del Socorro, Lisbeth Yolanda and Yesenia Angelica	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	19-01-2021	7377	7 On 18-02-2021
Tarek Hassan Yehya and his daughter Hamida	Senegalese	Lebanese Embassy in Dakar	19-01-2021	7378	7 On 18-02-2021
Farouk Hassan Yehya	Senegalese	Lebanese Embassy in Dakar	19-01-2021	7379	7 On 18-02-2021
Roger Mitchell Mitchell Fares	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in New York	19-01-2021	7380	7 On 18-02-2021
Nadia José Chammout	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	19-01-2021	7381	7 On 18-02-2021
Miguel Antonio Miguel Abraham and his two sons Antonio and Raoul Adrian	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	19-01-2021	7382	7 On 18-02-2021
Rosenaide Waldemar Abrahão	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	22-01-2021	7407	7 On 18-02-2021
Alan Edward Adib El-Rassi	Canadian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Los Angeles	22-01-2021	7408	7 On 18-02-2021
Santiago Santiago Yammine and his daughter born out of wedlock, Dalal	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	22-01-2021	7409	7 On 18-02-2021
Leila José Chammout	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	01-2021	7413	7 On 18-02-2021

Name	Current nationality	Place of application	Date of reacquisition of nationality	Decree no.	Official Gazette no. & date
Orias Rafael de Paolo Hobeil and his daughter Stephanie	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	26-01-2021	7414	7 On 18-02-2021
Amin Antonio Amin Zidane	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	26-01-2021	7415	7 On 18-02-2021
Rosa Maria Youssef Fakhry	Venezuelan	Lebanese Embassy in Caracas	26-01-2021	7416	7 On 18-02-2021
César Augusto Alberto Estephan	Colombian	Lebanese Embassy in Bogota	26-01-2021	7417	7 On 18-02-2021
Miguel Ighid Mansour El-Khoury	Colombian	Lebanese Embassy in Bogota	10-02-2021	7448	9 On 04-03-2021
Ricardo Nilson Eduardo Maalouf	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	19-02-2021	7449	9 On 04-03-2021
Jamil Nazha Anwar Tarabay and his two brothers Eduardo Anwar and Guillermo Tarabay	Uruguayan	Lebanese Embassy in Montevideo	19-02-2021	7450	9 On 04-03-2021
Irma Dalal Manuel El-Quaik and her siblings Maria Rosa, Suzanna Beatriz, Julio César and Estella Gladys El-Quaik	Uruguayan	Lebanese Embassy in Montevideo	19-02-2021	7451	9 On 04-03-2021
Carlos Antonio José Carlos Antonio Herrero	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	19-02-2021	7452	9 On 04-03-2021
Luis Claudio Ghandour Najib Baz	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	05-03-2021	7525	11 On 18-03-2021
Isabel Aparecida Manes Barbari	Brazilian	Lebanese Embassy in Brasilia	05-03-2021	7526	11 On 18-03-2021
Amadeo Luis Joao Jaara	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	05-03-2021	7527	11 On 18-03-2021
José Jamil José Abrau Ghadey and his two children Raquel and Ariel	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	05-03-2021	7528	11 On 18-03-2021
Flavio Henrique Val Doser Francisco Alves	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	05-03-2021	7529	11 On 18-03-2021
Octavio José Marcial Herrero and his daughter Margarita Mariana	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	05-03-2021	7530	11 On 18-03-2021
Gilberto Selim Jr. Gilberto Selim Maalouf	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	05-03-2021	7531	11 On 18-03-2021
José Sady José Sady Fayyad	Colombian	Lebanese Embassy in Bogota	05-03-2021	7532	11 On 18-03-2021
John Louis Bou Akl	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	05-03-2021	7533	11 On 18-03-2021
Jamil Nehme Hammoud and his son Fouad	Sierra Leonean	General Directorate of General Status-Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	05-03-2021	7534	11 On 18-03-2021



Name	Current nationality	Place of application	Date of reacquisition of nationality	Decree no.	Official Gazette no. & date
Maria das Graças Habib Bechara	Brazilian	Lebanese Embassy in Brasilia	12-03-2021	7566	11 On 18-03-2021
Maria de Los Angeles Miguel Al-Shamlati	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	12-03-2021	7567	11 On 18-03-2021
Adriana Businger José Neeman	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	12-03-2021	7568	11 On 18-03-2021
Jacob William Jacob Jureshi	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	12-03-2021	7569	11 On 18-03-2021
Alberto Youssef Skaff	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	12-03-2021	7570	11 On 18-03-2021
Ismail Zreir Obeid	Brazilian	Lebanese Embassy in Brasilia	12-03-2021	7571	11 On 18-03-2021
Anis Ghattas Jr. Anis Ghattas Metri	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	12-03-2021	7572	11 On 18-03-2021
Vilma Georges El-Khoury Boulos	Brazilian	Lebanese Embassy in Brasilia	12-03-2021	7573	11 On 18-03-2021
Emilio Emilio Haddad and his two sons Christian Miguel and Willy Amin	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	12-03-2021	7574	11 On 18-03-2021
Jihan Georges Trad	Egyptian	Lebanese Embassy in Cairo	12-03-2021	7575	11 On 18-03-2021
Camila Rosa Vander Tannouri	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	23-04-2021	7690	18 On 06-05-2021
Paula Marie Francis Mansour	American	Directorate General of Civil Status-Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	23-04-2021	7691	18 On 06-05-2021
Antonio Abrahão Antonio Abrahão Karam	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	23-04-2021	7692	18 On 06-05-2021
Derek Hayden David Alexander Abdelnour	South African	Lebanese Embassy in Pretoria	23-04-2021	7693	18 On 06-05-2021
James Joseph James Al-Zaini	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	23-04-2021	7694	18 On 06-05-2021
Alexander Michel Antonio Michel Abelio	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	23-04-2021	7695	18 On 06-05-2021
Ashley Elizabeth Dave Anthony Saliba	American	Consulate General of Lebanon in Los Angeles	23-04-2021	7696	18 On 06-05-2021
Anthony John Alfredo Romella	American	General Consulate of Lebanon in Detroit	23-04-2021	7697	18 On 06-05-2021
Andrea Gabriela Miguel Moawad	Chilean	Lebanese Embassy in Santiago	23-04-2021	7698	18 On 06-05-2021

Name	Current nationality	Place of application	Date of reacquisition of nationality	Decree no.	Official Gazette no. & date
Raafat Elias Shamali and his adult daughter Myriam	Egyptian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Alexandria	23-04-2021	7699	18 On 06-05-2021
John Milan Joseph Chamoun	American	Directorate General of Civil Status-Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	28-02-2022	8884	11 On 10-03-2022
Emir Wehbe José Mansour	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	28-02-2022	8885	11 On 10-03-2022
Maria del Carmen Juan Nicolas	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	28-02-2022	8886	11 On 10-03-2022
Lazaro Douglas Raoul Bassil Estephan	Cuban	Embassy of Lebanon in Havana	28-02-2022	8887	11 On 10-03-2022
Adel Georges Hijaz	American	Lebanese Embassy in Washington	28-02-2022	8888	11 On 10-03-2022
Luis Felipe Henri Daoud	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	28-02-2022	8889	11 On 10-03-2022
Eileen Milton Salibi	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Sao Paulo	28-02-2022	8890	11 10-03-2022 في
Eduardo Eduardo Machado Matar and his sister Fernanda Machado Matar Rocha	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	28-02-2022	8891	11 On 10-03-2022
Fouad Mohammad Aridi and his children Gansler Punicinia, Chandler Punicinia and Rolander Punicinia	Brazilian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Rio de Janeiro	15-03-2022	8939	13 On 24-03-2022
Enrique Enrique Maouchi	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	15-03-2022	8938	13 On 24-03-2022
Fernando Enrique Maouchi	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	15-03-2022	8937	13 On 24-03-2022
Habib Habib Bachaalani and his daughter Mrs. Charbel	Mexican	Lebanese Embassy in Mexico City	15-03-2022	8936	13 On 24-03-2022
Richard Lotfallah Lotfi	Canadian	Consulate General of Lebanon in Montreal	16-03-2022	8950	13 On 24-03-2022

Source: *Information International* based on the naturalization decrees 2020-2022.

# STATE REVENUES FROM LIBANPOST

## FROM 45% IN 1998 TO 5% IN 2023

In 1995, the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) was authorized to hire a company develop Lebanon's postal service sector on behalf of the General Directorate of Posts. The CDR contracted a German institution to supervise the development. The council of ministers floated a tender where four companies submitted bids.

On July 22, 1998, the CDR signed a 12-year contract with the Lebanese Joint Stock Company, LibanPost which represented the Canadian consortium Canada Post Systems Management Ltd. (CPSML) and Profac, to jointly manage the sector. The contract was later awarded solely to LibanPost. After 25 years of extensions and concessions granted to LibanPost, the postal service was privatized by Merit Invest and Colis Privé France in late March 2023 and was not nationalized. LibanPost commenced work on October 21, 1998.

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## Parties to the Contract and its Supplement

The contract dated July 22, 1998, addendum dated March 29, 2000, scope and relevant parties was established through consultation number 463/2000 dated July 25, 2000, and implemented the Committee of Legislation and Consultations, as follows:

- 1- The Lebanese state-Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications as the Regulator of the contract and project;
- 2- CPSML, which is wholly owned by the Canadian government, and Profac Management Group Ltd. as the project's Operator;
- 3- LibanPost S.A.L., the Lebanese company as the Operator's authorized representative.

The contract and its addendum, including the subject matter and obligations of both parties, is as follows:

- a- The Regulator entrusts the Operator with the responsibility of providing services related to mail logistics via postal offices and agencies, counter service, etc.

To fulfill its services, the Operator was to be provided with all data and expertise the regulator possesses. The regulator shall entrust its human resources, offices and equipment to the Operator.

- b- The Operator shall indiscriminately provide the aforementioned and additional services (to all natural and legal persons, and public and private administrations and institutions across Lebanon in accordance with the rules and regulations.

## Contract Provisions

The contract between the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (First Party) and the Canadian consortium (Second Party) consists of 63 articles and 10 appendices. The introduction reads as follows:

***“Whereas the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications wishes to appoint the Operator to plan, design, engineer, equip, install, test, operate and maintain the services of hand-delivered mail, express mail, fax and postage stamp for a period of 12 years, provided that the Operator returns such services to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications at the end of this period”.***

The following paradoxes are included in the contract:

- The Operator leases facilities from the Ministry for the duration of the contract and assumes the responsibility of employing the current postal staff.
- The Operator's operational costs of rent or the Ministry's share of total revenues are reduced by the expenses associated with facility refurbishment.
- Rental costs cannot be increased by more than 10% triennially.
- The Operator is required to provide a guarantee letter to the Ministry, signed by its legal representative, ensuring the faithful execution of the contract by the Lebanese subsidiary. The guarantee letter should also include a commitment to provide a minimum funding of USD 5 million for hand-delivered mail services, USD 50 million for express mail and fax services, and USD 10 million for postage stamp services.
- The Ministry shall audit the Operator's accounts and records.

The table below shows the percentage of state revenues throughout the 12-year contract.

A table showing the state share of Operator's revenues\*.

Year	Objective of financial plan (USD million)	The Ministry's share until achieving the objective (%)	The Ministry's share after achieving the objective (%)
1	14.8	5	10
2	31.6	10	15
3	46.8	15	20
4	55.6	15	20
5	73.8	25	30
6	78.1	30	35
7	83.4	30	35
8	87	35	40
9	91.4	35	40
10	96.3	35	40
11	100.6	40	45
12	105.8	40	45

\*In addition to revenues resulting from the payment of terminal dues to the postal service companies.

## Contract Renewals

By virtue of Resolution No. 10 dated June 09, 1999, the Council of Ministers approved, the proposed amendments to the contract with CPSML and Profac as put forward by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The amendments were made in accordance with the interpretation provided by the Ministry's legal advisor, who considered that:

- The legislature does not prescribe the complete process outsourcing the entire postal sector, but rather, the outsourcing of mail transport operations. Consequently, negotiations must be initiated with the relevant company to review the contractual content and modify any provisions that violate Lebanese public laws and regulations or are deemed unfavorable to the state.
- The contractual scope has been redefined and restricted solely to the transportation of postal items, encompassing postal transfers, postal parcels, and international express mail. This excludes the comprehensive outsourcing of the entire postal sector.
- The contract shall be drafted in both Arabic and English languages.
- Upon reaching the financial plan's objective, the state's share of revenues shall be augmented by 5%.
- To effectuate the renationalization the postal sector, the Operator is required in the last year of the contract to carry out knowledge transfer to staff assigned by the ministry.

In accordance with Resolution No. 11 of April 12, 2000, the Council of Ministers redefined the implementation date of August 16, 1999 extended the contract period for an additional three years, resulting in a total duration of 15 years instead of the originally stipulated 12 years



In accordance with the Council of Ministers' Resolutions No. 21 of August 09, 2000 and No. 7 of August 16, 2000, the contract with Canada Post System Management Ltd. and Profac Management Group Ltd. was amended as follows:

- LibanPost revenue prior to August 16, 1999 shall be wholly kept by LibanPost. The Council of Ministers resolved that LibanPost's expenses in implementing its end of the contract exceeded the generated revenue.
- LibanPost shall allocate incentives from the levied terminal dues to each employee willing to resign, agreement with and under super vision of the Ministry,
- In the event that financial targets set forth in the annex to the contract concluded on August 19, 1999 are not achieved as a result of failure of the state to hand over the correspondence items and invoices to LibanPost, state revenues shall be reduced.
- All new non-postal products and services developed and implemented by the Operator "shall not be subject to revenue sharing with the Regulator",
- "The introduction of new products and services shall be contingent upon the approval of the Regulator, unless a valid reason provided to the contrary. The Regulator shall consider the internationally recognized standards applicable to these products and services in the respective fields".
- The Operator shall exercise the right to terminate the contract by providing written notice to the Ministry a minimum of 90 days prior to the termination date specified in the notice.



## Individual Mailboxes to all Lebanese Citizens, a Donation from CPSML

In order to facilitate mail distribution, the Council of Ministers approved on August 09, 2000 the donation of individual mailboxes from CPSML, boxes that the company will distribute and install for all citizens living in buildings with more than three-floor across Lebanon. The donation is estimated at about USD 10 million, which is equivalent to LBP 15,075,000,000. Although the council of ministers issued decree No. 3898 to that effect on September 25, 2000, it is not clear whether these mailboxes were received or installed.

## Issuance of a Circular to all Public Administrations, Institutions and Municipalities to Exclusively Adopt LibanPost as the National Postal Operator in Lebanon

The Director-General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers formally requested the Committee of Legislation and Consultations to undertake a study regarding issuing of a circular to all public administrations, institutions and municipalities to exclusively adopt LibanPost as Lebanon's national postal service provider by virtue of Consultation No. 490/2000 dated July 31, 2000, the Committee deemed it necessary to establish a cooperation mechanism between the public administrations and LibanPost, as the designated official mail carrier.

According to the Committee, the draft circular was legally sound. However, public administrations, state institutions and municipalities may still be exempt from postal charges incurred for their correspondence falling out of scope of the exemption stipulated in Article 47 of Legislative Decree No. 126/59. This exemption would not impede on the state's share of Operator's revenues.

## Replacing the Canadian Investor with a Lebanese one

In 2001, the Council of Ministers resolved, by virtue of Resolution No. 28 of August 30, 2001, to replace the main Canadian investor with LibanPost S.A.L. LibanPost shall keep all revenues generated prior to August 16, 1999. Furthermore, LibanPost was exempted of its financial obligation of LBP 4,971,223,759 towards the government as of June 30, 2001.

In accordance with the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 28 dated August 30, 2001, the third amendment to the contract stipulated the following:

- On the duration of the contract, clause (5) stipulated: the contract period was extended to 15 years effective June 16, 2002 through June 15, 2017. The contract may be extended for a further three years contingent on the Ministry's approval. LibanPost shall request an extension 18 months prior to the expiry of the contract and the Ministry shall process the request within 6 months. If an extension were to be granted, the contract end date would be June 15, 2020.
- The rental fee of Beirut Sorting Center at Rafic Hariri International Airport shall be reduced from USD 1,200,000 to USD 600,000 with the center's ground floor being offered rent-free to LibanPost.
- The state's share of LibanPost's revenue which were originally 0% to 54% of revenue shall be reduced as per the following table.
- The state share of revenues, which used to exceed 40%-45%, shall be reduced according to income, as follows:

Income range of operator's revenues in USD	State share
Up to 20 million	5%
From 20 to 25 million	10%
From 25 to 30 million	15%
From 30 to 35 million	20%
Over 35 million	35%

- Speed Post, a subsidiary of LibanPost shall not issue licenses to mail transport companies that may transfer revenue to the state.
- LibanPost shall receive a monthly compensation of up to USD 50,000 that may not be shared with the state and that would be deducted from the dues owed by the international postal companies.

## New Investor

The Court of Audit (COA)'s 2021 report identified Profac Management Group Ltd. and Al-Qantara Holding as major shareholders of LibanPost. Those shareholders requested the Ministry of Telecommunications to accept two new shareholders into the company: The Lebanese holding company, Al-Moussahamat S.A.L. and the French company, Facteur Invest Holding SAS. Both of these new shareholders are subsidiaries of Lebanon Invest S.A.L., a company owned by Bank Audi S.A.L. As such, the new shareholders will hold 100% of LibanPost shares.

The contract stipulates that the operator may carry out its contractual activities via a local subsidiary that must be established in Lebanon under the following conditions:

- The minimum capital paid within three months of establishing the subsidiary and throughout the duration of the contract shall not be less than the Lebanese pound equivalent of USD 20 million.
- The subsidiary shall be established within one month.
- The subsidiary's articles of association shall not include clauses that are inconsistent with the contract terms.
- A copy of the articles of association shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Telecommunications.
- All the subsidiary's shares shall be held throughout the duration of the contract. Whilst the company is the nominee holder of shares, the shareholder is the beneficial owner.
- The Operator shall retain the voting rights and 66.7% of the subsidiary's capital, either directly or through a company that it fully owns, throughout the duration of the contract.

## Entrusting LibanPost with Telephone Billing Logistics

In 2002, the COA was consulted on LibanPost's eligibility to print, package, distribute and collect telephone bills. The court issued opinion number 138/2002 on 17/12/2002, with the base number 123/2002. Ogero, a state-owned institution operating Lebanon's telecommunications sector, is not eligible to contract LibanPost, to handle telephone billing logistics. That is because public institutions are not entitled to contract with other entities to carry out tasks beyond their scope. This was made clear in 2002 in the COA's opinion number 138/2002 on 17/12/2002, with the base number 123/2002.

Another contract between the ministry of communication, the Association of Banks in Lebanon (ABL) and LibanPost, to collect telephone bills was suggested. The COA cited, that according to Article 47 of Legislative Decree No. 127 dated June 12, 1959, that defined the methods of collecting telephone bills, the issuance of transfers is different from postal mails. Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 126/1959, highlights that transportation of postal mails to be awarded to other entities; Furthermore, Article 2 of the same decree defines the concept of postal mails confining it to letters and publications. Based on Article 125, which contains a specific paragraph stating the exclusivity of issuance of transfers to the Post and Telegraphs Offices only; The COA advised that it is impermissible to assign LibanPost this task.

## 3rd Amendment Signed on June 19, 2002

Although the third amendment to the contract between LibanPost and the Lebanese state was signed on June 19, 2002, it has not been published, and its details have not been released. However, the COA, in its report No. 11/2021, underscored that the numerous amendments made to the contract primarily favored LibanPost.

## Occupancy Costs of Beirut International Airport's Area

Floor space occupied by LibanPost at the Beirut International Airport is distinct and separate from the Airmail Exchange office. In this regard, the Minister of Telecommunications issued Letter No. 1355/1/f on July 29, 2004, explicitly stating that that the occupancy costs of the area occupied by LibanPost at Beirut International Airport are payable by LibanPost itself, not the Ministry.

On January 15, 2004, the General Directorate of Post and Telegraph sent Letter No. 1220/D to the Ministry of Telecommunications, including requesting the COA's advisory opinion on the party responsible for occupancy costs. The general directorate considered that the Lebanese Postal Administration (Regulator) was not one of the public institutions operating at Beirut International Airport, that the tasks entrusted to the Office were assumed by LibanPost and that the aforementioned area was not rented when LibanPost occupied it. The letter's request was based on Table No. 9 annexed to the 1999 budget law.

The letter made reference to Article 6 of the amended contract with LibanPost, which explicitly stipulates that the Operator has the responsibility to meet its financial obligations related to the leases. Additionally, the other offices of the Lebanese Postal Administration that are leased by the Operator are placed under the Operator's control. In response to this matter, the COA provided their advisory opinion (Advisory Opinion No. 69/2005 - dated June 03, 2005 - base number 20/2005) as follows:

"The legal amendments to Legislative Decree No. 36 dated June 15, 1983 (amending the airport fees) specified in Table No. 9 annexed to Law No. 107 of July 23, 1999 (the 1999 Budget Law) incorporated a solution for the issue at hand. The lease payment obligations involved the state and the public institutions. Paragraph 7 of the said Table stipulates the following:

'Half the rentals of the areas specified above shall be paid by the public administrations operating in Beirut International Airport''.

Subject to the foregoing, LibanPost shall pay, for all the areas it occupies, the same amount as the Lebanese Postal Administration.



## Granting LibanPost a License to Store and Distribute Goods (Warehousing and Logistics) on the Ground Floor of Beirut Sorting Center

In 2005, LibanPost filed a request to introduce warehousing and logistics services within certain postal offices. Additionally, the company submitted a petition to utilize the ground floor of Beirut Sorting Center for its services, subject to approval from the Lebanese Postal Administration, in accordance with Article (6) of the third amendment to the contract signed on June 19, 2002. The basis for this request was Article (9) of the second amendment to the contract signed on August 24, 2000, as well as Paragraph (B), Article (7) of the third amendment to the contract.

The Ogero Authority determined that both the Lebanese state and LibanPost explicitly included non-postal products and services within the contractual scope. As a result, LibanPost was authorized to invoke the provisions of Article (9) of the second amendment to the contract as the legal foundation for its petition. Paragraph (B) of Article (6) of the third amendment to the contract explicitly stated that, “notwithstanding any contrary provision, the ground floor of Beirut Sorting Center shall be added to the leased buildings without any additional rental,” in accordance with the contract.

The Minister of Telecommunications initially granted approval to LibanPost’s petition on October 31, 2003, under reference number 4758/1/D. Furthermore, the new services were approved on May 11, 2004, under reference number 1790/1/F, taking into consideration the provisions of the existing contract and its amendments. The Authority reached the following conclusions:

- The contract between the Ministry of Telecommunications and LibanPost, along with its amendments approved by the council of Ministers, appoints to the LibanPost the right to use non-postal services of storing and distributing goods, after obtaining a license from the competent authority. The contract also places at LibanPost’s disposal the ground floor of Beirut Sorting Center, to store and distribute goods. These non-postal services are out of the scope of Article (9) of the second amendment of the contract and Paragraph (B), Article (7) of the third amendment to that contract. This allows LibanPost to pursue legal action against the Ministry of Telecommunications as the entity overseeing the postal sorting centre at the airport.
- LibanPost’s petition for using the ground floor of Beirut Sorting Center as a public storage of goods after obtaining a license to establish and invest a public warehouse was endorsed by the Minister of Telecommunications.
- The authorization given by the Minister of Telecommunications to LibanPost which obtained a license from the competent authority in accordance with resolutions No. 2355/1923 and 172/1933, to occupy the ground floor and use it as a public storage suggests that the Ministry believes that the new services will not adversely affect postal service functions.
- The company’s occupancy of Beirut Sorting Center’s ground floor for the purposes of public storage of goods is not for free; it is represented by the state’s share specified in Paragraph (B), Article (7) of the third amendment to the contract.

## State Dues Owed by LibanPost & LibanPost Dues Owed by the Public Administrations.

In 2007, the Ministry of Telecommunications informed the Council of Ministers that as a result of contracting with LibanPost from September 15, 2001 to December 31, 2006, and based on an audit by two companies, it was determined that LibanPost must pay the Ministry of Telecommunications LBP 9,314,343,896. When asked to settle the amount due, LibanPost stated that it will make the payment after it has recovered dues owed by the ministries and departments of the Lebanese state, worth LBP 8,885,000,869.



The Council of Ministers delegated the Ministry of Finance to make a set-off between the financial dues owed to the Ministry of Telecommunications by LibanPost, and those owed to it by the public administrations and state institutions.

## LibanPost's Contract Extensions

- **2015:** The Minister of Telecommunications extended LibanPost's contract by another three years (Minister's Letter No. 669/2015, dated August 19, 2015).
- **2019:** On September 05, 2019, the Council of Ministers extended the contract for eight more months.
- **2020:** On May 05, 2020, the Council of Ministers extend the contract for a period not exceeding December 31, 2020 and set up Terms of Reference (ToR) for a global bid. The council also concluded that in its Resolution No. 14 of June 18, 2020, to refer the matter to the COA, which submitted its report No. 11/2021 on June 08, 2021. Therefore, pursuant to the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers' Letter No. 2255 of December 15, 2020, the contract was extended until June 30, 2021 with approval from the President and the Prime Minister.

## Discharge of LibanPost

On December 05, 2022, the Minister of Telecommunications notified the Council of Ministers that two cheques worth LBP 13,733,470,000 and LBP 1,545,613,288 No. 734227 (the same number referred to in the minutes of Council of Ministers meeting), and cash orders No. 22-70-11148615 dated October 04, 2022 and No. 22-70-11148534 dated October 01, 2022 were deposited at the Ministry of Finance-Treasury Directorate on September 29, 2022. This is the total amount owed by LibanPost to the Ministry of Telecommunications-Directorate General of Posts until December 31, 2019. Upon the proposal of Minister of Telecommunications, the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. 35 authorizing the Minister to sign LibanPost's deed of discharge and release.

## Pre-and Post-Awarding Postal Revenues

Postal revenues deposited in the Treasury in 1997	LBP 7,869,663,475
Postal revenues deposited in the Treasury in 1998	LBP 4,538,458,783
Cost of transporting public administrations and state institutions' mails, which was handled by the Directorate General of Posts	0

## Post Offices Occupied by LibanPost

Description	No./value
Number of post offices occupied by LibanPost without rental	34/0
Number of post offices occupied by LibanPost under a rental agreement	2/0
Total annual rentals for post offices occupied by LibanPost	15/LBP 153,813,562
Rentals of Beirut Sorting Center-Rafic Hariri International Airport before amending the contract	USD 1,200,000
Rentals of Beirut Sorting Center-Rafic Hariri International Airport after amending the contract	USD 600,000

## State Dues and Mail Transportation Cost

Description	Value (in LBP)
Postal revenues deposited in the Treasury in 1997 by the Directorate General of Posts	7,869,663,475
Postal revenues deposited in the Treasury in 1998 by the Directorate General of Posts	4,538,458,783
Cost of transporting public administrations and state institutions' mails, which was handled by the Directorate General of Posts	0
Cost of transporting public administrations and state institutions' mails through LibanPost from 2001 to 31-12-2019	43,226,027,756
Amounts due from LibanPost (Ministry of Telecommunications' share of revenues)	42,733,122,097
Amounts owed to the Lebanese state until 30-6-2001, from which LibanPost was exempted in 2001	4,971,223,759

In order to transport the state mails, LibanPost incurred during the years 2016-2019 the following annual costs:

Year	Cost of transporting public administrations and state institutions' mails through LibanPost (in LBP)
2016	2,724,316,625
2017	2,976,358,207
2018	3,025,544,811
2019	2,721,463,462



# CASINO DU LIBAN REVENUES TO REMAIN IN LEBANESE POUNDS?

On August 14, 1945 a law was passed that established Lebanon's only gambling club. After the Lebanese civil war ended in 1994, the parliament passed Law No. 320 on March 24, 1994, authorizing Casino du Liban to invest in the same gambling club in Maameltein. Pursuant to law No. 417, *Casino du Liban* was granted exclusivity for any gambling operation in Lebanon as of 1995. In implementing this law, resolution No. 6919 was promulgated on June 29, 1995, to authorize the Casino to exclusively invest in gambling, namely in the Maameltein gambling club. Investment terms and the state's shares of revenues are determined by percentage of gross annual income from gambling games.



In 1995, state revenues from *Casino du Liban* were as follows: 30% for the first ten years of the contract, 40% for the second ten years of the contract and 50% for the third ten years of the contract.

In 2001, by virtue of Resolution No. 58/2011, the council of ministers approved a settlement with *Casino du Liban* that included increasing the state's shares of the casino's revenue. As a result, state revenues from Casino du Liban's revenues as of 2001 were: 40% instead of 30% as of January 2000 until end of first ten years of the contract; 50% instead of 40% for the second ten years of the contract and 60% instead of 50% for the third ten years of the contract.

The state's share of revenues from Casino du Liban falls under the annual public budget. The table below shows that the actual amounts received from Casino du Liban for the years 2016 to 2021 (inclusive) totaled LBP 849.6 billion.

Public treasury revenues from Casino du Liban	
Year	Amount (LBP billion)
2016	100.6
2017	121.5
2018	123.5
2019	101.8
2020	71.5
2021	330.7

Source: *Information International* based on the relevant public budget laws.

## Regularization of Casino du Liban

On November 10, 2007, The Council of Ministers approved by Resolution No. 72, the proposals of Ministry of Finance to settle the situation of Casino du Liban according to the following mechanism:

- The state's share of revenues shall not be increased.
- The investment shall be inclusive of all games, except "open poker" (Open poker, known as American poker, was prohibited in Lebanon. It is characterized by high-ceiling bets).

According to Decree No. 6239 (September 03, 2001), a committee is tasked with the financial and technical control of the casino. This control included auditing the correct implantation of the contract that existed between the state and the casino. This committee is comprised of:

- Director-General of the Ministry of Finance as Chairman.
- Director-General of the Ministry of Tourism as Vice-Chairman.
- Director of Revenue as Member.
- Director of Expenditure as Member.
- Head of Indirect Tax Department as Rapporteur Member.

## Entry Card Fee for Lebanese Casino-Goers

There exists an entrance fee that is paid by all non-Lebanese guests entering the casino's lounge. Lebanese citizen's exception from this entrance fee is by virtue of Article 34 of law No. 497 dated January 30, 2003. Entrance fees for foreigners are collected by a card that was specifically made to be swiped at the entrance of any casino lounge. The entrance fees are detailed below.

Value of stamp duty (LBP)	Card
10,000	One-day entry card
50,000	One-week entry card
150,000	One-month entry card
350,000	Three-month entry card
1,000,000	Annual entry card

## Casino du Liban not Covered by the Amendment

The Casino's entry fee has been exempt from revision in the state's tax budget. Because all financial transactions in the casino occur in United States Dollar (USD), the state's revenues from the casino must be either partially or completely USD denominated.





## **ENDOMETRIOSIS A MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS!**

**Dr. Mirna Sabra**

Endometriosis is a condition characterized by the extrauterine presence of endometrial-like tissue; it affects about 200 million women around the world (WHO, 2023). One in ten women of childbearing age (15-44 years old) are affected by the disease. The symptoms accompanying endometriosis include daily pain and infertility in women. Despite it being described in ancient text, endometriosis remains a mystery that scientists are still trying to decipher today.

### **Main symptoms of «Endometriosis»**

Women with endometriosis suffer from recurrent and often debilitating pain in the abdominal or pelvic region that is felt during menstruation (dysmenorrhea), sexual inter-course (dyspareunia) or defecation (dyschezia). Infertility, and digestive and urinary disorders during menstruation and chronic fatigue may be experienced.

The symptoms of endometriosis have been described for over 4000 years, including in ancient Egypt. However, it wasn't until 1860 that the term 'endometriosis' was coined by Austrian pathologist Karel Rokitansky to describe the symptoms collectively. The disease was difficult to diagnose because of the late onset of symptoms which are also related to other diseases.

### **What do we know about endometriosis?**

For healthy women, the endometrium is naturally eliminated during menstruation. But in women with endometriosis, the endometrial tissue becomes implanted in the pelvic cavity outside the uterus.

The disease is classified into four main types:

- When the lesions do not exceed a few millimeters in diameter, the endometriosis is said to be superficial or peritoneal.
- If the lesions are larger than five millimeters and deeply embedded under the peritoneum, the membrane covering the entire abdominal cavity, it is called deep endometriosis.
- Endometriotic cysts can appear on the ovaries and are called endometriomas.
- Extra-pelvic endometriosis describes the appearance of lesions typical of disease in organs such as the diaphragm, or less frequently the lungs and brain.

### **What treatments are currently available?**

Endometriosis is a hormone-dependent disease; Lesions proliferate in the presence of oestrogen, which is produced in increased quantities during menstruation. According to Marina Kvaskoff, an



epidemiologist in the Exposome, Heredity, Cancer and Health team at the Center for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health (CESP-Paris-Saclay University)<sup>1</sup>, President of the Scientific Council of the French Endometriosis Research Foundation and co-leader of the “research” working group of the national strategy to fight endometriosis, suppressing menstruation through contraceptive pills is one of the treatments offered for endometriosis. Kvaskoff states that surgery may be helpful in removing lesions, but recurrence of these lesions is possible.

### Latest studies on endometriosis

Last March, the international journal, *Nature Genetics*, published a new scientific study conducted by researchers at the Oxford University, in collaboration with 25 teams across the world involving 60,600 women with endometriosis and 701,900 women without endometriosis. To date, this is the largest genetic study of endometriosis. The study evidenced a common genetic basis for endometriosis as well as migraines, back and multisite pain- conditions that are seemingly unrelated to endometriosis.

This same study suggests that ovarian endometriosis differs in its genetic basis from other manifestations of the disease. These results offer new understandings for developing new medical treatments and repurposing existing ones.

### A terrifying diagnostic error and gender discrimination

According to the Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the erroneous diagnosis of this disease is a major problem as the average time between the onset

of symptoms and diagnosis is between seven and ten years. “Most women with the disease have been to the doctor around five times before getting the correct diagnosis”. NEED A REFERENCE FOR THIS QUOTE.

“This diagnostic error is terrifying and unacceptable”, notes Arnaud Fauconnier, Director of Clinical Risks and Safety in Women’s and Perinatal Health Laboratory (RISCQ-Univ. Paris Saclay, UVSQ). Women who experience pain during menstruation are usually not immediately concerned, and unfortunately neither are those around them, including their healthcare providers. Additionally, the common symptoms of endometriosis are trivialized.

In short, this is a disease that has been described for four millennia and for which neither the causes, the forms nor the means of diagnosis are known with certainty. For Marina Kvaskoff, it is anything but a coincidence that endometriosis research lacks resources, when the disease only affects women. “Current data show that research into specifically male conditions is much better funded than research focusing on female conditions. Endometriosis is a glaring example of gender bias in research”.

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1- *CESP-Univ. Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, Inserm*

### **References:**

- 1- *The genetic basis of endometriosis and comorbidity with order pain and inflammatory conditions, a study published in the scientific journal Nature Genetics on March 13, 2023.*
- 2- *Endometriose, la grande inconnue, a study by Paris-Saclay University, February 3, 2023.*



## BEIT LIF: GREEN VILLAGE IN SOUTH LEBANON

Beit Lif is one of the southern border villages that is described as “The Green Village” for its richness in green spaces.

### Etymology

Beit Lif is a Syriac word consisting of two syllables: the first is “BET”, which means “place”, and the second is “LIFA”, which means “connected and added”. Thus, the entire meaning of “Beit Lif” is “the connected house” since the village was linked to several nearby villages and served as a transit route for them.

### Location

Situated in the Qada'a of Bint Jbeil - Nabatieh Mohafaza at an altitude of 530 m, Beit Lif is 105 km from Beirut and stretches across an area of 530 hectares. It may be reached through the following route: Beirut-Saida-Nabatieh-Beit Lif.

### Population and Houses

The village has an estimated population of 7,300 all belonging to the Shi'a sect and residing in 800 dwellings.

### Voters

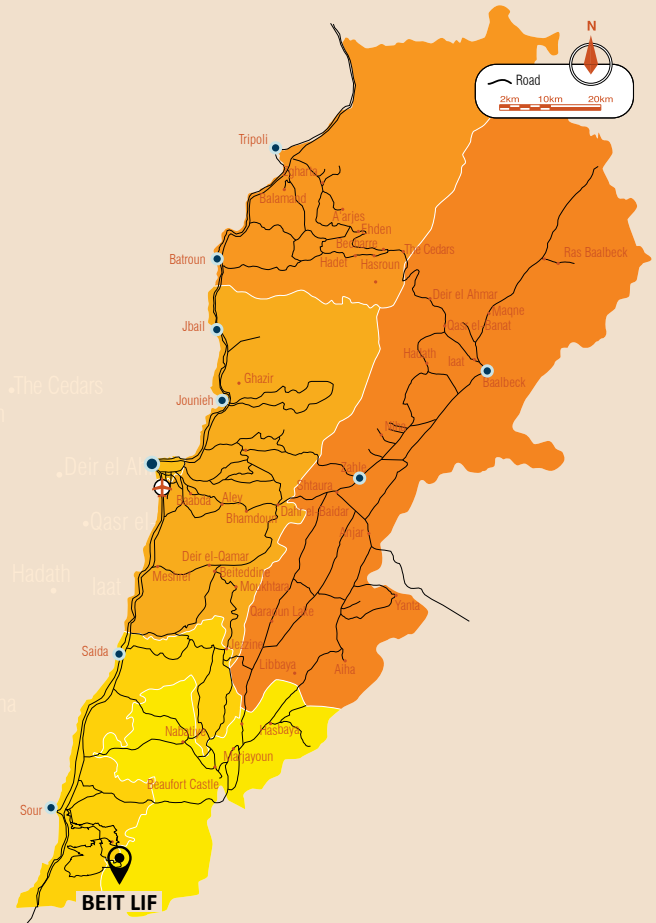
Between 2000 and 2022, Beit Lif's registered voters rose from 2,274 to 4,563. They are distributed by family as follows:

- Hammoud: 1,140
- Hmayed: 634
- Zalgout: 465
- Baddah: 451
- Al-Malak: 365
- Mostafa: 260
- Ismail: 251
- Al-Sayyed: 250
- Bachir: 210
- Faraj: 81
- Akil: 70

Not mentioning other families.

### Local Authorities

Beit Lif has a fifteen-member municipal council established in 1963, a three-member ikhtiyari council and three mukhtars. The village's share from the Independent Municipal Fund revenues stood at LBP 505 million in 2020.



### Economic Life

Its economy is based on the cultivation of tobacco and olives, public sector employment and remittances from expatriates. Israeli occupation until 2000 led to the displacement of most of the village's residents that now only visit Bet Lif during the holidays and summer months.

### Educational Life

The village has one school, Martyr Moussa Bdah Public Middle School with a total of 24 teachers and administrators that served 342 students during the academic year 2020-2021.

### NGOs

There are three NGOs in Beit Lif:

- Beit Lif Karyati, established in 2017.
- Amalouna Al-Nissaiya, established in 2013.
- An agricultural cooperative, established in 2000.

# KODAMI AND BATEH FAMILIES

## In South Lebanon and Rashaya

### “Kodami”: a Shia’a Family from South Lebanon

“Kodami”, which is known to be a kind of nuts, is the name of one of the smallest families in Lebanon.

#### Etymology

Leblebi (in Arabic “Kodami”) is a type of nuts that comes in several varieties and tastes. It is likely that the family was so named for its members used to bite off hard things. Hence, the name has nothing to do with nuts, but with the act of “biting off”.

#### Family Members

It is estimated that there are 185 members of the Kodami family. They belong to the Shia’a sect and are distributed by place of registration between Al-Marwaniyeh-Qada’a of Saida, Jwayya-Qada’a of Sour and Beirut.

- Jwayya: 115
- Al-Marwaniyeh: 64
- Beirut: 6

### Bateh: a Christian family from Rashaya

Bateh families are among the Lebanese families whose existence is restricted to one particular village, Rashaya.

#### Etymology

“Bateh” in Arabic means a flat thing. For example, flattening his hand means spreading it out and flattening a place means to make it flat. The family was probably so named due to the easygoingness and simplicity of its members.

#### Family Members

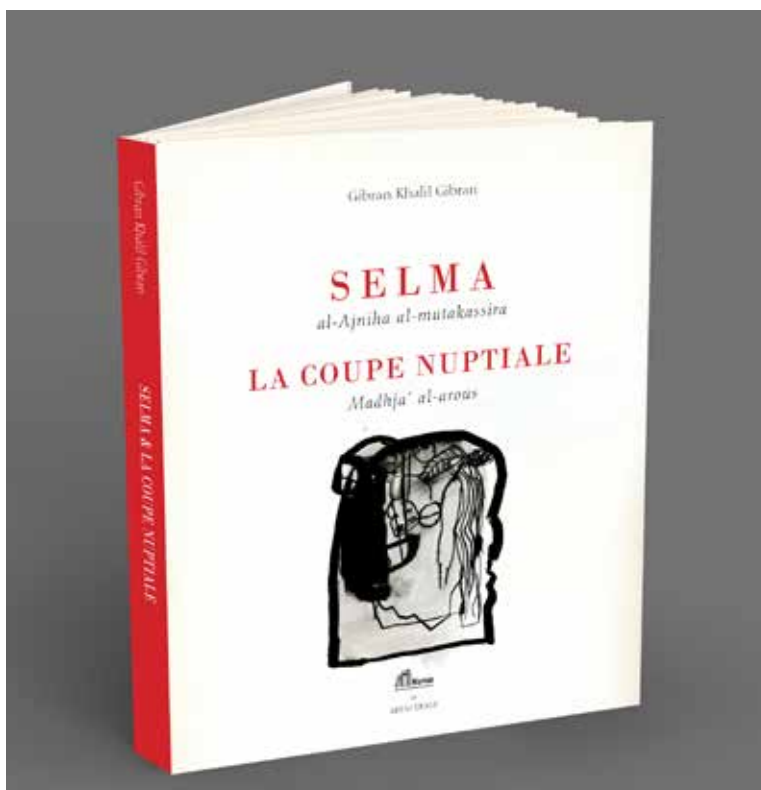
It is estimated that there are 150 members of the Bateh family. According to their place of registration, they are located in Al-Midan neighborhood in Rashaya-Qada’ of Rashaya and belong predominantly to the Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox sects.



# **SELMA** (AL-AJNIHA AL-MUTAKASSIRA) **LA COUPE NUPTIALE**

GIBRAN KHALIL GIBRAN

This book is recently published by Kutub publishing house (Beirut) and the publications of Abencerage (Tunisia), translated into French by the orientalist Charles Pellat, found among his papers after his death. The Book was revised by Salim Mujais & Abdelaziz Ghozzi in collaboration with Badr el-Hage, and illustrated by the Iraqi artist Mahmoud al Obeidi.



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