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134 OF 235 POSITIONS VACANT



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or Tokenism?

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A 56% Female
and 44% Male Workforce

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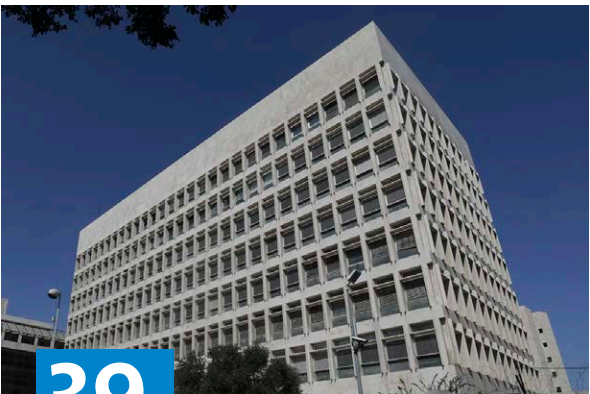
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The publishing of this issue was delayed from January to February as a result of business stagnation and postponement of issues after the war

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Editorial

Lebanon's Wars, Why?*

By Jawad N. Adra



This article was published in The Monthly editorial, issue no. 55- January 2007

"This is not the Lebanon that I know," said my colleague. "Why are 'they' doing this to 'us'?" she continued. An honest, spontaneous yet "benign" remark, echoing Bush's famous why "they" hate "us", speech. We seem to have this image of ourselves (individuals and nations), that we hold true, where only "good" is within "us" and evil is from "them."

Lebanon is today on the edge of an abyss. However, this is not something new. Since 1943, Lebanon has been witnessing crises and wars, not to mention those of the nineteenth century. The main problem lies in the system that we have developed either by consent, force, inaptness, or by all these combined. In fact, our political and socio-economic system strives on crises.

The question is that of legitimacy and authority, or the lack thereof. A citizen believes that his country's political and economic affairs are not his concern due to the absence of the state, so he delegates a politician, "Za'im" who, for the same reason, is only concerned with protecting his position and political inheritance, so he entrusts technocrats of weak political roots with daily government work and foreign powers with managing the country's key national affairs. The 1975-1990 civil war was not about Palestinians and their weapons. Today, the dispute is not between the "March 14 and the March 8 Forces," or about "freedom, sovereignty and independence" versus "the resistance's arms." It is about power sharing in a system that lives on generating fear amongst confessions. Human resources are depleted, forced to emigrate or even assassinated. Moreover, the country's financial resources are also squandered by either corruption or destruction. It seems that the system cannot function without an "enforcer", who is always an external force(s).

Those who are called "Zua'ama" (leaders) or "Emirs of confessions" are not only the victims of this vicious circle, but also its creators, along with their followers and other citizens. It is impossible to get out of this infernal circle unless we agree on the need to identify the defects of our system and join efforts to resolve them. Two steps are required for this purpose: Reconciliation and objectivity.

The process of reconciliation was halted by a general amnesty law drafted by those who participated in the war. It is not acceptable to forget about the long 1975-1990 civil war, which is perhaps still ongoing, as if it never occurred. The subsequent, as well as the organized looting of the state perpetrated under the slogans of "reconstruction" and the "state of law and institutions" as a reward to Zua'ama does not provide for stability.

Understanding one's history as factually as possible and reporting current pertinent facts is another prerequisite not only to achieve reconciliation but to plan for the future. It is time to understand that, in the end, everyone loses. Leaders who seek and live by power are either assassinated or go into oblivion and the people are always the ultimate victims. We hope that Information International, through its Monthly Magazine and other publications, would contribute to reviving the Lebanese people's memory, and present them with facts and figures in order for history not to repeat itself.

* A new book entitled "Lebanon's Wars, Why?" was published by the Social and Cultural Development Association (INMA) in cooperation with Information International within the Bee Series for civic education.

FIRST-CLASS AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE LEBANESE STATE

134 OF 235 POSITIONS VACANT



First-class and leadership positions in the Lebanese state form the backbone of the country's administration, driving government functions and economic and administrative services. These positions are occupied by employees for long periods, unlike ministers whose terms may vary in length depending on political circumstances. First-class employees hold the highest administrative ranks in the state, reporting only to ministers. The Director General is the direct supervisor of employees within their department.

A significant challenge facing the administration is the high vacancy rate in these positions due to political disagreements that have prevented their appointment. Some positions have remained vacant for over twenty years. These vacancies are not permanently filled but are instead occupied through temporary appointments, delegation, or assignment.

Public Service Positions

Public service positions have several classifications:

- **Permanent Employee:** Holds a permanent position listed within the official government staffing structure.
- **Temporary Employee:** Appointed to a position created for a specific period or temporary task (though temporary positions often become permanent).
- **Contract Employee:** Someone working for the state without being classified as either a permanent or temporary employee.

Appointment of First-Class Employees

First-class employees are appointed by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers, requiring the approval of two-thirds of its members. Appointments can be made either from within the existing civil service ranks by promoting second-class employees or by selecting candidates from outside the civil service, provided that the proportion of external appointments does not exceed one-third of the administrative workforce in ministries.

Previously, promotions and appointments followed a mechanism established by the Council of Ministers in its meeting minutes (Decision No. 22, dated April 12, 2010). This process involved receiving applications, reviewing candidates, and conducting interviews by a committee composed of the relevant minister, the Head of the Civil Service Council, and the Minister of State for Administrative Development or their designated representative. The committee would then submit three names to the Council of Ministers, which would select one candidate.

This mechanism, however, is not legally binding. Parliament previously passed Law No. 367 (dated August 16, 2001) to establish a formal appointment process, but the Constitutional Council annulled it. Another attempt was made in 2020 with the enactment of Law No. 7 (dated July 3, 2020), which was rejected by President Michel Aoun and later overturned by the Constitutional Council.

Vacancies and Temporary Appointments

When a first-class or equivalent leadership position in the Lebanese state becomes vacant and cannot be permanently filled, temporary measures are taken, including:

- **Acting Appointment:** The employee is appointed by decree and must be of the same rank as the original position, holding full authority.
- **Delegation:** The employee is appointed by ministerial decision but does not have decision-making power, meaning no additional financial obligations arise from the appointment.
- **Assignment:** The minister appoints someone without any legal basis or regulation.
- **Substitution:** An employee from the same rank is temporarily assigned by decree for a specific period.
- **Delegation of Authority:** A superior official delegates certain powers or the authority to sign specific documents to a subordinate.



Structure of the Lebanese State

The Lebanese state consists of:

- The General Administration, which includes the presidency and ministries as defined by Law No. 247/2000.

The central government apparatus comprises:

- The General Directorates of the Presidency of the Republic
- The General Directorates of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- Ministry of National Defense
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Ministry of Economy and Trade
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Telecommunications

- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Information
- Ministry of Energy and Water
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of the Displaced
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Industry

These ministries contain 79 first-class positions.

Additionally, there are:

- 94 public institutions, including the Council for Development and Reconstruction, Electricité du Liban, water authorities, government hospitals, and the Lebanese University.
- 4 state-owned companies, including Intra, Middle East Airlines, Casino du Liban, and the Finance Bank.
- Leadership positions in the judiciary and military sectors.



First-Class and Leadership Positions

Article 95 of the Lebanese Constitution states:
“Sectarian representation shall be abolished, and merit and competence shall be the criteria for appointments in public offices, the judiciary, the military and security institutions, public institutions, and mixed-sector entities, in accordance with the principles of national reconciliation, except for first-class positions and their equivalents, which shall be equally divided between Christians and Muslims without assigning any position to a specific sect, while adhering to the principles of merit and competence.”
However, this constitutional provision has not been fully respected, as first-class positions are often monopolized by certain sects without rotation.
The total number of first-class and leadership positions in Lebanon is 235, of which 134 are vacant. Additionally, 16 positions have never been filled, and no clear job descriptions exist for them. Two positions—the Directorate General of Urban Planning and the Presidency of the Petroleum Sector Authority—are theoretically subject to rotation among the six major sects based on the family name of the appointee, as outlined in Table 1.

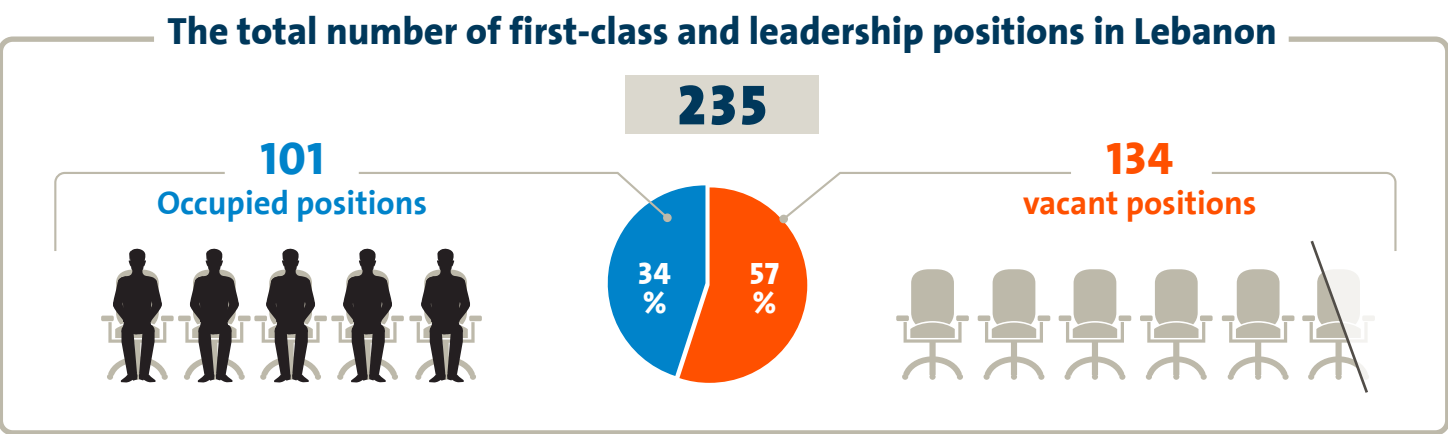


Table 1. Distribution of positions by sect, the number of vacancies, and the vacancy rate as of January 2025.

Denomination	Number of Denomination Positions	Number of Vacant Positions	Percentage of Vacancies
Maronite	57	31	54%
Greek Orthodox	18	14	78%
Roman Catholic	25	15	60%
Armenian Orthodox	4	2	50%
Christian Minorities	4	1	25%
Total of Christians	108	63	58%
Sunni	45	22	49%
Shiite	46	26	56%
Druze	18	8	44.5%
Alawi	2	-	0%
Total of Muslims	111	56	50%
Undetermined or rotating	16	15	94%
Total	235	134	57%

Source: *Information International*, based on relevant decrees of appointments and vacancies in the Lebanese State.

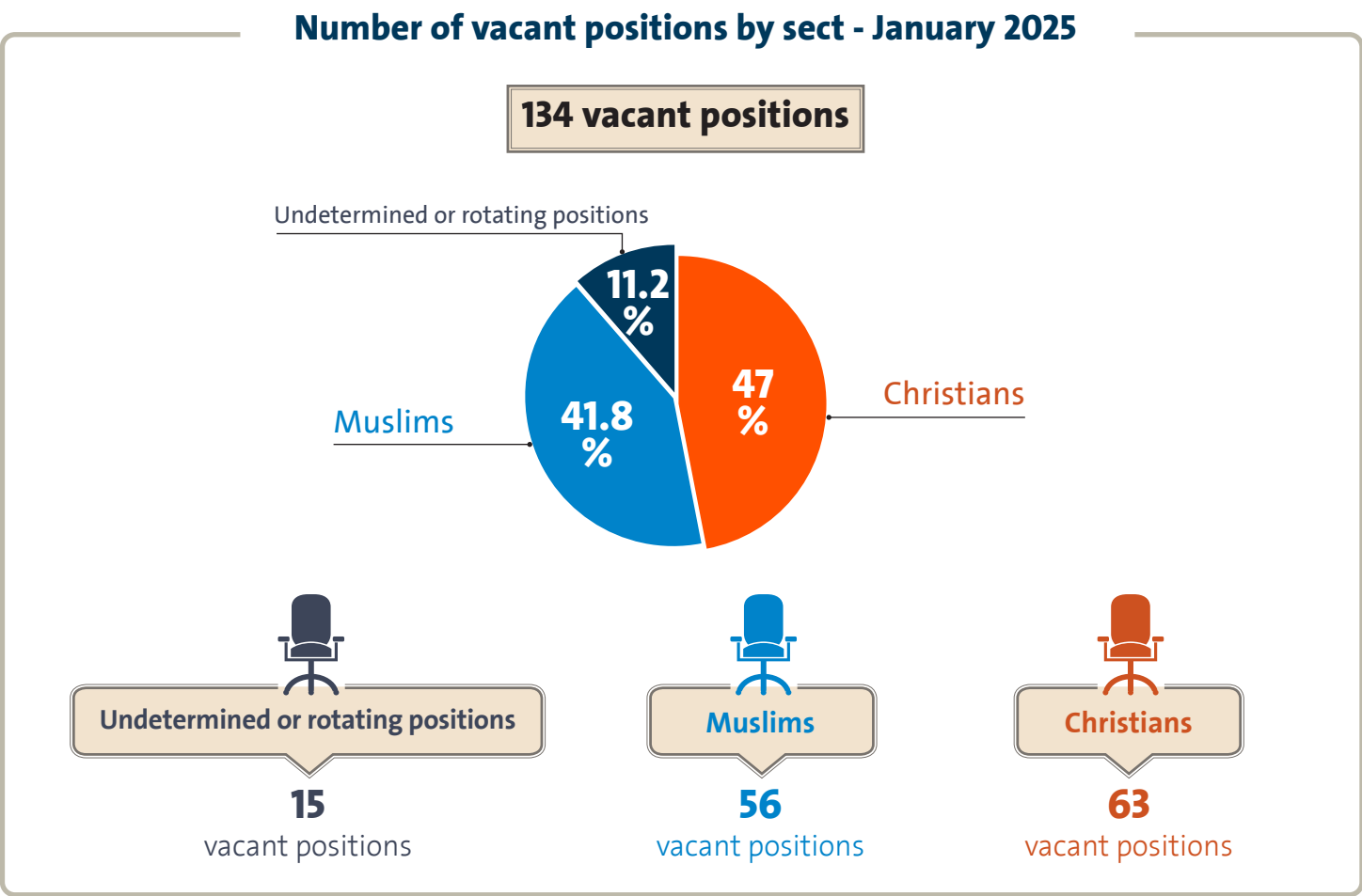


Table No. 2: Job Titles of Vacant and Occupied Positions by Sect – February 2025.

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
Shi'a - 26 out of 46 positions, vacant: 56%				
1	Director-General of Public Security	20/03/2023	Still vacant since the retirement of The Major General Abbass Ibrahim, Still vacant. Elias Al-Baysari acts in his place	-
2	The second Deputy President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction	2003	Still vacant, Yasser Berri is still acting president	-
3	Secretary-General of the Parliament	2005	Still vacant, Adnan Daher currently occupies the position	-
4	Director of the Investment Department at the Port of Tyre	2005	Still vacant, Currently held by Ali Khalifa by appointment	-
5	Director-General of the Legal Affairs Branch at the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	2007	Still vacant. Sa'id Mirza, a legal advisor, currently occupies the position.	-
6	President of the National Audiovisual Council of Lebanon	2008	Abdel Hadi Mahfouz's term has ended, but he still occupies the position	-
7	Member of the National Audiovisual Council of Lebanon	2008	The terms of the council members have ended, but Ghalib Qandeel still occupies the position	-
8	Chairman of the Management Committee of the Zahrani Refinery - Zahrani Oil Facilities	2016	Ziad al-Zein has been appointed	

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
9	Director-General of Vocational and Technical Education	2017	Hanadi Berri holds the position by appointment	-
10	Director-General of Expatriates Affairs	2017	Still vacant since the retirement of the former director general Haitham Jumaa. Georges Jallad has been appointed	-
11	Director at the Régie Libanaise des Tabacs et Tombacs (not Nassif Saqlawi)	2017	Still vacant	-
12	Chairman of the Board at Finance Bank SAL	Apr-18	Still vacant, Nadim Rahal has been appointed as interim director	-
13	President of the Southern Council	2020	Still vacant since the resignation of Qabalan Qabalan in 2020, Hashim Haider has been appointed as the president of the Southern Council by the decision of the Prime Minister No. 3/2023 issued on 18/1/2023	-
14	Governor of Nabatieh	July 1, 2020	Still vacant. On July 18, 2023, the former Minister of Interior and Municipalities in the caretaker government Bassam Mawlawi issued Memorandum No. 78/2023/22 appointing Professor at the Lebanese University Houaida Mustafa Al-Turk to perform the duties of the Governor of Nabatieh	-
15	Director-General of Investment at the Ministry of Energy and Water	2022	still vacant, former Minister of Energy and Water Walid Fayyad assumed the duties of the Director General	-
16	Secretary-General of the National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon	Jun-22	Still vacant since the retirement of Mouin Hamze. Tamara al-Zein has been appointed until she became the Minister of environment affairs on February 8, 2025	-
17	Director-General of Social Affairs	10/20/2022	Still vacant since the end of Judge Abdullah Ahmed's mandate and the then Minister took over the duties of the General Directorate.	-
18	Director-General of Youth and Sports	12/25/2022	Still vacant, Fadia Halal has been appointed on March, 2024	-
19	Director-General of Administration in the LAF - Ministry of Defense	03/02/2023	Minister of Defense (former) appointed Colonel Hadi Al-Husseini from the General Directorate of Administration to manage the affairs of the mentioned directorate until the appointment of an authentic Director-General, after Colonel Mounir Shehadeh was referred to retirement due to reaching the legal age on 10/1/2023	-
20	Head of the National Drug Office	1999	Still vacant and the office is inactive	-
21	Director-General of the South Council	03/24/2023	Still vacant since Hashim Haider was referred to retirement, and then he was appointed as the president of the Southern Council by the decision of the former Prime Minister No. 3/2023 dated 1/18/2023	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
22	Government Commissioner at the National Institute for the Guarantee of Deposits (NIGD)	15/04/2020	Alia Abbas held this position since working as director of expenditures at the Ministry of Finance. She continues to serve in this position even after her appointment as General Director of the Economy and her retirement.	-
23	Chairman of Intra Investment Company	2012	Mohammad Cha'aib continues to occupy this position even after the end of his term.	-
24	President of the Supreme Customs Council	07/31/2023	Minister of Finance Youssef Khalil decided to appoint Rima Maki to the position of President of the Supreme Customs Council when the position became vacant due to the retirement of Colonel Assad Al-Tufaili	-
25	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	14/10/2024	The end of Term of the Supreme Judicial Council Member Habib Mezher	-
26	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	28/05/2021	The end of Term of the Supreme Judicial Council Member	-
27	Petroleum Sector Authority	2022	Vacant after the resignation of Nasser Hoteit	-
28	President of the Lebanese University	-	Bassam Badran	22/10/2021
29	First Deputy of the Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon	-	Wassim Mansouri	appointed for 5 years that will end in 10L6L2025
30	Director-General of Economy and Trade	-	Muhammad Yunis Abu Haidar	10/06/2020
31	Director General of Political Affairs and Refugees at the Ministry of Interior	-	Faten Ali Yunis	02/04/2014
32	Director-General of Information	-	Hassan Mohammad Falha	30/12/1999
33	Inspector General of Education	-	Faten Habib Jumaa	17/11/2012
34	President of the Audit Bureau	-	Muhammad Hussein Badran	17/11/2019
35	Director-General of Finance	-	Ali Mosbah Ibrahim	He retires on 10/4/2025
36	Director-General of Social Security	-	Muhammad Ibrahim Karaki	31/01/2002
37	Director General of the National Authority of the Litani River	-	Sami Hassan Alawiye	22/03/2018
38	Member of the Banking Control Commission	-	Kamel Wazne	Appointed for 5 years that will end 10/6/2025
39	Member of the Board of Directors of the Capital Markets Authority	-	Wajeb Ali Qanso	Appointed for 5 years that will end 10/6/2025
40	Director General of the Economic and Social Council	-	Muhammad Ghazi Seifeldin	23/11/2017
41	Chairman of the Management Committee Director General of Régie libanaise des tabacs et tombacs	-	Nassif Subhi Saqlawi	19/01/2002
42	Member of the Supreme Disciplinary Authority	-	Ali Hassan Merhi	23/11/2017

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
43	Inspector General of the Central Inspection	-	Jalal Samir Suleiman	09/03/2018
44	Chairman of the Board of Directors - Director	-	Wassim Salah Daher	22/03/2018
45	General of the South Lebanon Water Establishment	-	Awni Ramadan	23/8/2019 for 6 years
46	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	Fawzat Farhat	23/8/2019 for 6 years
Maronites - 31 out of 57 positions, vacant: 54%				
1	The commander of the Lebanese Army	09/01/2025	After electing the General Joseph Aoun president of the Lebanese Republic, Chief of Staff of the Lebanese Army, Major General Hassan Aoude acts in his place.	-
2	Director General of Civil Defense	03/12/2024	Brigadier General Raymond Khattar referred to retirement and Brigadier General Nabil Farah was assigned	-
3	Head of the Administrative Committee for Lebanon's Green Deal	2000	Gloria Abu Zeid has been appointed as the head of the committee since 2000, then the Minister of Agriculture oversees the project.	-
4	Director General of Middle East Airlines	2000	Still vacant	-
5	Member of the National Media Council	2008	Still vacant	-
6	Member of the National Media Council	2008	Still vacant	-
7	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	14/10/2024	Still vacant	-
8	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	14/10/2024	Still vacant	-
9	Member of the Petroleum Sector Authority	04/12/2018	still vacant, Wissam Shbat continues to act.	-
10	Director General / Head of Budget, Financial, Economic, Social, and Educational Affairs Branch at the General Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic	2006	Dr. Antoine Choucair, the Director General of the Presidency, assumes the duties of this Directorate	-
11	Chairman of the Board of the National Social Security Fund	2008	Toubia Zakhia is currently abroad, and his deputy, Ghazi Yahya, assumes his duties. The term of the council's bureau was extended for two months by Decree No. 518 effective July 5, 2007, and the members continue to perform their duties until their substitutes are appointed. The term of the Social Security Fund's board of directors and its bureau was extended by Decree No. 768 issued on January 3, 2008, and the members continue to perform their duties until their substitutes are appointed by the former Minister of Labor	-
12	First Deputy President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)	Jan-11	Still vacant since the death of Alain Kordahi	-
13	Director-General of the Ministerial Affairs Branch at the General Directorate of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers	2015	Still vacant	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
14	President of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Administration (École Nationale d'Administration ENA)	2017	Georges Tannous Loubaki's term has ended, but he continues to act	-
15	Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Elissar Foundation	2017	Elie Chedid's term has ended, but he continues to act	-
16	Chairman of the Board of Directors / Director General of Electricité du Liban	22/05/2017	Kamal Fouad Al-Haik was reappointed on 22 May, 2014 for a period of 3 years. His term ended, but he continues to work.	-
17	Director General of the National Employment Office (NEO)	May-19	This post is held by Elie Berberi	-
18	Chairman of the Oil Installations Committee in Tripoli and Zahrani	2019	This post is held by Giscard Khoury	-
19	Director General of the National Archives	21/04/2020	This post is held by Layla Al-Hassan from the Presidency of the Government	-
20	Director-General of Customs	08/10/2020	Badri Daher is placed at the disposal of the Prime Minister, and Raymond Khoury has been appointed in his place	-
21	Director-General of Finance	29/08/2020	After the resignation of Alain Bifani, George Me'raoui, Director General of Real Estate Affairs, assumed the position by appointment under Decree No. 6957/2020	-
22	Member of the Banking Control Commission	03-23-2021 under the decree 7590/2021	Vacant since Marwan Youssef Mikhael resigned	-
23	Director General of Water and Electricity Resources	25/06/2021	Still vacant, previously held by Fadi Qomair, and the Minister of Energy and Water assumes the duties	-
24	Chairman of the Technical Committee at the National Social Security Fund	17/10/2021	Samir Aoun held the position and was appointed by the Minister of Labor on September 12, 2023 as interim chairman until a permanent one is appointed	-
25	Director-General of the Public Housing Establishment	29/06/2022	Roni Tanios Lahhoud was appointed on 23-05-2014, and his appointment was renewed in 2018 under Decree 3324/2018. His term ended, but he continues to work	-
26	Director General of Oil	18/12/2022	The Minister of Energy and Water assumed the duties of the directorate when Aurore Youssef Feghali was referred to retirement	-
27	Director General of Education	27/02/2023	Imad Al-Ashqar serves as acting director after Fadi Yarak's request for a one-year renewable sabbatical; which he renewed in February 2023 by Decree 11096/2023.	-
28	Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon	31/07/2023	Acting Governor Wassim Mansouri, First Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon, is currently performing the duties of the Governor.	-
29	Commander of the Regional Gendarmerie in the Internal Security Forces	04/09/2023	Colonel Rabih Mojaes has assumed command as the acting commander being the highest ranking officer among the unit's officers	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
30	Inspector General of Administration at the Central Inspection	01/03/2024	Vacant. Last occupied by Mikhail Jirjis Fayyad.	-
31	Director-General of Civil Status	04/04/2024	Vacant after the retirement of Brigadier General Elias Jean Al-Khourì. On 6/12/2024, the head secretariat of the Minister of Interior affairs and Municipalities at the time, Radina Marab, was assigned the tasks until a permanent Director-General is appointed.	-
32	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the National Library	14/07/1905	Vacant after Hassan Idriss Al-'Akra's end of term	-
33	President of the Constitutional Council	-	Judge Tannous Meshleb	23-08-2019 for 6 years
34	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	Mireille Najem	19/10/2021would end in August 2025
35	"Director of Intelligence in the Lebanese Army"	-	Brigadier General Tony Qahwaji	11/30/2021 He is appointed by a decision of the Minister of Defense based on the approval of the Military Council of the Lebanese Army.
36	"President of the Supreme Judicial Council"	-	Suheil Nadim Abboud	17/9/2019 and will be retired on 20/6/2027
37	"President of the State Shura Council"	-	Fadi Elias	17/9/2019 and will be retired on 31/10/2028
38	"Head of the Central Inspection Department - "	-	Judge Georges Auguste Atiye	06/04/2017
39	"Presidency of the Council of Ministers"	-	Gracia Yusuf Qazi	15/03/2017
40	"Member of the Supreme Council of Customs"	-	Kamal Emil Abu Jaoude	20/12/2017
41	"Governor of Bekaa - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities"	-	Lahud Fayez Lahud	11/12/2012
42	Director General of Protocol in the Presidency of the Government	-	Gloria Abu Zeid	18/8/2015 She was previously appointed as the head of the Green Project's administrative committee in 2000 and continued to hold the position as acting director general of cooperatives.
43	"Director General of Tenders - Central Inspection"	-	Jean Salim al-'alye	31/05/2012
44	"General Inspector of Health, Social and Agricultural in the Central Inspection "	-	Nidal Nassif al-Ra'i	19/02/2018
45	"Director General of Antiquities - Ministry of Culture"	-	Sarkis Wajih al-Khourì	01/08/2015

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
46	"Vice President of the Council of the South"	-	Jean Mikhael	/7/1993 and will be retired on 4/10/2025
47	Inspector General - Government Commissioner to the Higher Disciplinary Authority	-	Ivette Joseph Antun	17/11/2012
48	Chairman of the Board of Directors - Director General of the Agricultural Scientific Research Service - Ministry of Agriculture	-	Michel Antoine Frem	12/02/2002
49	Director General of the Presidency of the Republic	-	Antoine Georges Chuqayr	22/07/2011
50	"Head of the Research and Guidance Department - Civil Service Council"	-	Natalie Yared	14/04/2012
51	Secretary General of the Higher Council for Privatization	-	Farhat Yuwakim Farhat	17/09/2019
52	Chairman of the Board of Directors - Director General of the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment	-	Jean Yusuf Gebran	22/03/2018
53	Director General of the Lebanese Standards and Specifications Institution	-	Lana Yusuf Dergham	22/05/2014
54	Chairman of the National Deposit Insurance Corporation	-	Khater Abi Habib	1997
55	Director of Casino du Liban	-	Roland Khouri	10/04/2017
56	Director General of Real Estate Affairs	-	Georges Ma'rawi	29/05/2015
57	Director General of Rashid Karami International Fair	-	Antoine Bu Rida	29/02/2000
Sunnis - 22 out of 45 positions, Vacant: 49%				
1	Member of the Supreme Disciplinary Committee	02/01/2025	Still vacant; Mrs. Mervat Itani was retired	-
2	Director General of Ogero	11/10/2024	Still vacant; Director General of the Authority Imad Kreidieh was retired and reaching the legal age, but he continues in his work	-
3	Director of Investment at the Port of Sidon	2005	Imad El Hajj Shahada is serving in this position by appointment.	-
4	Director General/Head of Protocol and Public Relations Branch at the General Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic	2006	Still vacant; Nabil Shdid, a professor at the Lebanese University, was appointed to this position.	-
5	Member of the National Council for Audiovisual and Listening Media	2008	Still vacant, position still held by Ibrahim Awad	-
6	Member of the National Council for Audiovisual and Listening Media	2008	Continues in his/her duties.	-
7	President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction	2009	The current president, Nabil Al-Jisr, is still in office	-
8	Director General of Civil Aviation	Dec-10	Fadi Al Hassan is serving in this position by appointment.	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
9	Chairperson of the Electricity Governance Committee in Qadisha	2016	Abdul Rahman Al-Mawas holds the position of director.	-
10	Chairperson of the Management Committee of Tripoli Refinery - Oil Facilities in Tripoli	2016	Still vacant, Hadi Houssami was holding the position.	-
11	Director General of Local Administrations and Councils	2017	The position is still vacant and Faten Abu Al-Hasan is serving in the position by appointment.	-
12	Director of the National Institute of Administration	2022	Jamal Adli Al-Za'im Al-Munjed, whose services were terminated by Decree No. 12920 dated 18-1-2024, as of March 6, 2024.	-
13	Director General of Higher Education	10/01/2019	Still vacant, held by Mazen Al-Khatib by appointment.	-
14	Director General of Tourism	2019	The position remains vacant since Nada Al-Sardouk retired. Caretaker Minister of Tourism Walid Nassar issued Decision No. 150 dated July 13, 2023, appointing Engineer Joumana Ghanum as Acting Director General of Tourism.	-
15	Director General/Head of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Branch at the General Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic	2019	Still vacant, Judge Yahya Karkatli was delegated to the position.	-
16	Director General of the Technical Affairs Branch at the General Directorate of the Council of Ministers	2019	Position held by an officer	-
17	President of the Tripoli Special Economic Zone	31/01/2019	After appointing Rayya Al-Hassan as Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri issued resolution No 89/2029 authorizing the advisor to the Administrative Authority, Hassan Al-Dennawi, to manage the Authority's duties	-
18	Director General of Land and Sea Transport	Feb-21	Ahmed Tamer is appointed to carry out the duties of the Director General of Land and Sea Transport.	-
19	President of the Judicial Inspection Authority	01/07/2022	Judge Samar Al-Sawwah serves by appointment after Judge Burkan Abdul Qader Saad retired.	-
20	Public Institution for Sports and Youth Facilities	01/01/2023	On 28/02/2023, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Georges Kallas, assigned the head of the Ministry's Sports Department, Mohamed Oweidat, as acting general director.	-
21	Prosecutor General of the Court of Cassation	22/02/2024	Jamal Al-Hajjar is serving in this position by appointment after Ghassan Owaidat was retired. Al-Hajjar will be retired on April 25, 2026.	-
22	Member of the Petroleum Sector Authority	04/12/2018	The term of Wissam al-Zahabi has ended yet he continues his work.	-
23	Secretary General of the Supreme Defense Council	-	Brigadier Muhammad al-Mustafa	10/03/2022

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
24	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	Judge Ahmad Ba'assiri	23/8/2019 Appointed for 6 years
25	Vice President of the Constitutional Council	-	Judge Omar Hamze	23/8/2019 Appointed for 6 years
26	Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	Hani Ibrahim Chmaytelli	Jul-17
27	Director General of the Internal Security Forces	-	Major Imad Mahmoud Othman	08-03-2017 It was extended until 5/15/2026 pursuant to Law No. 331 dated 12/4/2024.
28	Director General of Justice - Ministry of Justice	-	Judge Muhammad al-Masri	19/10/2021
29	Secretary General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers	-	Judge Mahmoud Adnan Makiye	07/03/2019
30	Chairman of the Civil Service Council	-	Nisrine Machmouchi	10/06/2020
31	Chairman of the Higher Relief Commission	-	Brigadier Bassam Nabulsi	01/12/2024
32	Governor of Mount Lebanon	-	Muhammad Chafiq Makawi	20/12/2017
33	Director General of the General Authority for the Promotion of Investments - Presidency of the Council of Ministers	-	Mazen Soueid	17/09/2019
34	Chairman / General Manager of Beirut Port Management and Investment	-	Omar Itani	03/06/2021
35	Member of the South Council	-	Yusuf Abdel Razaq Doughan	07/04/2016
36	Director General of the Ministry of Culture	-	Ali Qassem al-Samad	09/03/2018
37	Member of the Supreme Council of Customs	-	Hani Said al-Hajj Shhade	15/03/2017
38	Third Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon	-	Salim Chaheen	Appointed on 10/6/2020 for 5 years
39	Chairman of the Banking Control Commission	-	Maya Dabbagh	Appointed on 10/6/2020 for 5 years
40	"General Engineering Inspector - Central Inspection"	-	Ahmad Zafer Aref al-Hajjar	09/04/2020
41	General Manager of Investment and Maintenance - Ministry of Telecommunications	-	Bassel Ahmad al-Ayoubi	26/01/2017
42	Chairman of the Board of Directors - General Manager of the North Lebanon Water Establishment	-	Khaled Barakat Obeid	22/03/2018
43	"Chairman of the Board of Directors - General Manager of Middle East Airlines"	-	Muhammad Abdel Rahman Al-Hout	1998
44	General Manager of the Cooperative Fund for Mukhtars	-	Jalal Kabrit	10/11/2010
45	Beirut Hospital - Rafik Hariri Governmental Hospital	-	Jihad Saade	2023

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
Roman Catholics - 15 out of 25 positions, vacant: 60%				
1	Chairman of the Beirut Stock Exchange Committee	2009	Held by Ghaleb Mahmassani after the resignation of Chairman Fadi Khalaf in 2009.	-
2	Director General of Roads and Buildings	2010	Gaby Youssef Al-Hajj has been serving in an acting capacity since 6/2/2025, following the vacancy of the position previously held in an acting capacity by Tanous Boulous, then Ali Hobballah. The last person to hold the position before resigning was Fadi Al-Nammar.	-
3	Director General/Head of the Technical Affairs Division at the General Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic	2011	Still vacant	-
4	Chairman of the Insurance Control Commission (ICC)	2012	Upon vacancy, multiple people were assigned to the position. Minister of Economy and Trade was assigned at one point, and in March 22, 2024, Nadim Haddad was assigned as acting Chairman.	-
5	Member of the Petroleum Sector Authority	04/12/2018	Still vacant after the end of the term of the member who is continuing his work	-
6	Head of the Litigation Authority at the Ministry of Justice	15/01/2025	Still vacant with the referral of Judge Helena Iskandar to retirement	-
7	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	14/10/2024	Still vacant with the end of the term of Judge Mireille Haddad	-
8	Member of the Military Council in the Lebanese Army	27/09/2024	Still vacant with the referral of Major General Pierre Saab to retirement	-
9	Member of the National Council for Audiovisual Media	2008	Still vacant	-
10	Chairman of the Board of Directors of Télé Liban	05/01/2017	Currently managed by the Minister of Information in the caretaker government, Engineer Ziad Al-Mekari.	-
11	Director General of the General Secretariat Branch at the General Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic	2019	The Director General of the Presidency of the Republic, Antoine Choucair, assumes the responsibilities of this directorate.	-
12	President of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (ESEC)	12/11/2020	Charles Arbid remained in office despite the end of his term. The mandate of General Assembly members was 3 years starting from the date of publishing the appointment decree, which was amended in 2022 to set the term of office at 4 years, with the possibility of renewal for one time only. Mandates commence upon publishing the appointment decree and the new General Assembly is elected two months prior to the end of mandate. The outgoing Council continues to perform its functions until the issuance of a decree appointing the new members	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
13	Chairman of the Board of Directors/ Director General of the Bekaa Water Authority	02/01/2022	Upon Rizk Jirjis Rizk's resignation, Paula Emile Hawi, Head of the Distribution Department, assumed the position. She was temporarily assigned by the Minister of Energy to perform the duties of the Director General of the Authority for a period of 3 months starting from 27/11/2023 according to his decision No. 132/1 issued on 27/11/2023, and she continues to act in the position.	-
14	Director General of Industry	26/05/2023	The position became vacant after the Director General of Industry, Danny Jadoun, was suspended from work and referred to the Higher Disciplinary Board under Decree No. 11478/2023. Minister of Industry in the caretaker government, Georges Boukhejian, issued Decision No. 42/1, appointing the Head of the Technical and Industrial Services Affairs Department at the Industrial Licenses Authority in the Ministry of Industry, Engineer Chantal Abdel Nour (known as Andre) Akl, to perform the duties of the Director General of Industry in addition to her main duties.	-
15	Director General of the Administration and Investment of Beirut Port Silos	2017	Asaad Haddad was assigned to the position.	-
16	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	Elias Mecherqani	23/08/2019
17	Member of the Board of Directors of the Capital Markets Authority	-	Walid Khalil Qadri	Appointed on 10/6/2020 for 5 years
18	Head of the Legislation and Consultations Authority at the Ministry of Justice	-	Judge Joelle Fawaz	12/09/2019
19	Public Prosecutor at the Audit Bureau	-	Judge Fawzi Khamis	10/10/2012
20	"Governor of the North - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities"	-	Ramzi Nohra	19/05/2014
21	Director General of State Security	-	Major General Antoine Fayez Saliba	15/3/2017 and resigned in 2022 and was reappointed as a civilian until May 2028
22	Director General of Agriculture	-	Louis Lahoud Lahoud	He was appointed in 2003, dismissed from his position in 2006, and reinstated on 8/27/2012.
23	Head of the Lebanese Food Safety Authority	-	Elie Naji Awad	21/5/2018 (This position was created by Law No. 35/2015)
24	Member of the Banking Control Committee	-	Joseph Haddad	Appointed on 10/6/2020 for a period of five years
25	Director General of Equipment at the Ministry of Telecommunications	-	Naji Marcel Andraos	30/01/1999

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
Greek Orthodox - 14 out of 18 positions, vacant: 78%				
1	Head of the Tripoli Port Investment Authority	2005	Held by Ahmed Tamer by acting appointment.	-
2	Head of the Center for Educational Research and Development (CRDP)	2014	Assigned to Hiyam Ishaq.	-
3	Head of the Central Fund for Displaced Persons	Since 2017, according to Decree 11590/2014	Previously held by Nicolas Mikhael Al-Haber.	-
4	Director General of the Ministry of Labor	2021	Vacant, delegated to Marlene Atallah upon Director General George Youssed Ida's end of term	-
5	President/Director General of the National Higher Institute of Music	12/05/2019	Dr. Heba Al-Qawwas was assigned to perform the duties of the Chairman of the Board of Directors / Director General of the National Higher Institute of Music during the vacancy of this position.	-
6	Government Commissioner at the Central Bank of Lebanon	2022	Minister of Finance in the caretaker government, at that time Youssef Khalil, assigned Moni Khoury to perform the duties of the Government Commissioner at the Central Bank of Lebanon, until a permanent commissioner is appointed by the Cabinet, following the resignation of Government Commissioner Christelle Wakim.	-
7	Director General of the General Directorate of Grains and Sugar Beet	23/04/2023	After the retirement of Grace Tannous Barbari, the Minister of Economy in the caretaker government assigned Amin Salam, head of the Diwan department in the General Directorate of Grains and Sugar Beet, Issam Abu Jouda, as Director General by assignment.	-
8	Secretary-General of the Council for Development and Reconstruction	-	Ghazi Haddad continues in this position	-
9	President/Director General of the Traffic Management Authority	2023	Huda Saloum was appointed by Decree 12315/2023, and Judge Marwan Aboud, Governor of Beirut, with the duties of Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Authority, was assigned to the position.	-
10	Member of the National Council for Audiovisual Media	2008	Still vacant	-
11	Member of the National Council for Audiovisual Media	2008	Still vacant	-
12	Member of the Petroleum Sector Authority	04/12/2018	Still vacant, end of term of the member of Council Gaby Daaboul, who continues to work	-
13	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	14/10/2024	Still vacant, end of term of the member of Council	-
14	Inspector General of the Lebanese Army	25/12/2022	Still vacant, after the retirement of Major General Milad Ishaq	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
15	Governor of Beirut - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	-	Marwan Abboud	16/06/2020
16	Head of the Supreme Disciplinary Authority	-	Rita Ghantous	17/09/2019
17	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	Albert Sarhan	10/19/2021 and the term ends in August 2025
18	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	Michel Tarazi	05/08/2021
Druze - 8 out of 18 positions, vacant: 44.5%				
1	General Manager of the State Employees Cooperative	16/12/2024	Vacant with the retirement of the Director Yahya Khamis. Nazih Hamoud was assigned by decree No. 14571 issued on 19/1/2025	-
2	Director General of Emigrants	2002	Held by Ahmed Mahmoud by assignment.	-
3	Member of the National Council for Audiovisual Media	2008	Still vacant, Dr. Hassan Hamadeh remains in his post despite the end of his term in 2008	-
4	Director General of Sessions and Committees at the Parliament	2013	Still vacant after the retirement of Riad Ghannam	-
5	Director General of Health	27/05/2020	Still vacant, Fadi Sinnan has been appointed to the position by assignment after the retirement of Walid Ammar	-
6	Government Commissioner at the Council for Development and Reconstruction	30/01/2022	Ziad Nasr has been appointed to perform the duties of the Government Commissioner at the Council for Development and Reconstruction on an interim basis, after the retirement of Walid Safi	-
7	Member of the Petroleum Sector Authority	04/12/2018	Still vacant with the end of the term of the member of the body, Asim Abu Ibrahim, although he is still continuing his work	-
8	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council	14/10/2024	Still vacant with the end of the term of Judge Afif Hakim	-
9	Governor of the South - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	-	Mansour Adib Daou	19/05/2014
10	General Financial Inspector - Central Inspection	-	Wael Sami Khadaj	19/02/2018
11	Member of the Board of Directors of the Capital Markets Authority	-	Fouad Chouqair	Appointed on 10-6-2020 for 5 years
12	Second Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon	-	Bashir Yaqzan	Appointed for 5 years on 01/06/2020
13	Chairman of the Board of Directors - Director General of the Railways and Public Transport Authority	-	Ziad Bahij Nasser	10/01/2013
14	Financial Controller of the Council of the South	-	Yasser Suleiman Zebian	22/05/2014
15	Chief of Staff of the Lebanese Army	-	Major General Hassan Odeh was appointed in February 2023.	08/02/2023

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
16	Member of the Banking Control Committee	-	Adel Dreik	Appointed on 10/6/2020 for 5 years
17	Member of the Constitutional Council	-	The judge Riad Abu Ghida	Appointed on 23/8/2019 for 6 years
18	Chairman of the Board of Directors - Director General of the General Corporation for Consumer Markets	-	Ziad Chayya	21/05/2018
Armenian Orthodox -2 out of 4 positions, vacant: 50%				
1	Director General of the Central Statistics Bureau	18/06/2022	Maral Toutlian retired in 2022, then Marilyn Bakhos assumed the duties by assignment, followed by Maria Nalbandian	-
2	Chairman/Director General of the Genaral Authority for Museums	21/10/2022	Held by Inmarie Georges Ofeish for 5 years, Retired in 2022	-
3	Director General of the Ministry of Environment	-	Berge Arman Hatejian	12/02/1999
4	Inspector General of the Central Inspection	-	Hory Lion Derserkissian	19/02/2018
Christian minorities and Armenian Catholics - 2 out of 4 positions, vacant: 50%				
1	President of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority	2010	Held by Amin Mekheiber, Acting President of the Authority	-
2	Governor of Akkar (Latin)	-	Imad Maroun Labaki	19/05/2014
3	Fourth Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon (Armenian Catholic)	-	Alexander Mordian	Appointed for 5 years on 10/6/2020
4	Head of the Personnel Department - Civil Service Council (Syriac Orthodox)	-	Jacqueline Ya'coub Boutros	09/04/2020
Alawites - Two positions and no vacancy				
1	Director General of the Post		Muhammad Yusuf	05/01/2002
2	Governor of Baalbek and Hermel		Bachir Nasr Khodr	23/05/2014
Unspecified & 1 position alternating- 16				
1	Government Commissioner at the General Directorate of Civil Aviation	-	-	-
2	Establishment of Industrial Gathering Centers Authority	-	The establishment of a public institution called "Establishment of Industrial Gathering Centers Authority" by law implemented by Decree No. 1660 dated 17-01-1979.	-
3	Mediator of the Republic	-	This position was established by Law No. 664 dated 04-02-2005.	-
4	Chairman of the Board of the National Drug Agency	-	The agency was established by Law No. 253 issued on 05-01-2022.	-
5	Director General of the National Drug Agency	-	The agency was established by Law No. 253 on 05-01-2022.	-

#	Job Title	Vacancy Date	Observations	Appointment date
6	President of the National Competition Authority - President of the Competition Council	-	The authority was established by Law No. 281 on 15-03-2022.	-
7	Secretary-General of the National Competition Authority - Head of the Administrative Apparatus	-	The National Competition Authority was established by Law No. 281 issued on 15-03-2022.	-
8	General Rapporteur of the Investigation Apparatus at the National Competition Authority	-	The National Competition Authority was established by Law No. 281 issued on 15-03-2022.	-
9	Chairman of the Electricity Sector Regulation Authority	-	The Electricity Sector Regulation Authority was established by Law No. 462 dated 02-09-2002, tasked with regulating and supervising electricity affairs.	-
10	Chairman of the Investment Committee at the National Social Security Fund	-	This position was created by Retirement Law No. 319/2023.	-
11	Executive Director of Investment at the National Social Security Fund	-	This position was created by Retirement Law No. 319/2023.	-
12	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the National Solid Waste Management Authority	-	Established by Law No. 80 of 10/10/2018 Integrated Solid Waste Management and Decree No. 14637 of 9 January 2025 Organizing the National Solid Waste Management Authority and Determining its Staff.	-
13	Chairman / Director-General of the Lebanese Petroleum Administration	2018	This position was established by Sovereign Fund Law No. 320/2023	-
14	Director General of Urban Planning	-	Ali Ramadan was assigned the duties of the Director General of Urban Planning in September 2023 after the previous Director General, Elias Al-Tawil, was referred to retirement. It is not specified to whom this directorate will return, whether to the Sunni, Maronite, Orthodox or Christian minorities.	-
15	Secretary General of the National Anti-Corruption Commission	-	This position was established by Retirement Law No. 319/2023 .	-
16	Director of Liban Telecom	-	This position was established by Sovereign Wealth Fund Law No. 320/2023.	-

Source: Information International, based on employee appointment decrees.

FROM DAYS TO MONTHS

TRACING THE EVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION IN LEBANON SINCE THE TAIF AGREEMENT

Since the signing of the Taif Agreement in 1989, the time required to form Lebanese governments has undergone a significant shift. During Syria’s presence in Lebanon (1989-2005), governments were typically formed within days. However, after Syria’s withdrawal in 2005, political divisions and negotiations have increasingly prolonged the formation period, often stretching to several months.



The longest and the shortest period of Government formation



The Government of
Tammam Salam
2014

315 days



The Government of
Rafik Hariri
2003

2 days



The Government of
Salim al-Hoss
1998

2 days

Since the signing of the Taif Agreement in 1989 until today, Lebanon has witnessed the formation of 20 governments. Some were formed by the designated prime minister within days (such as Prime Minister Salim Hoss’s government in 1998 and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri’s government in 2003, each of which took only two days to form). Others, however, took nearly a year (such as Prime Minister Tammam Salam’s government in 2019, which took 315 days to form). It is worth noting that the Lebanese constitution does not impose a time limit on the designated prime minister for forming a government. Three designated prime ministers withdrew from forming a government, while a fourth, Najib Mikati, neither formed a government nor officially withdrew. Instead, the legal period for government formation ended with the expiration of President Michel Aoun’s term on October 31, 2022.

During the Syrian presence
in Lebanon
1989 - 2005

10 Governments

Average formation period is
6 days

After Syria’s withdrawal from
Lebanon
2005 - 2025

10 Governments

Average formation period is
115 days

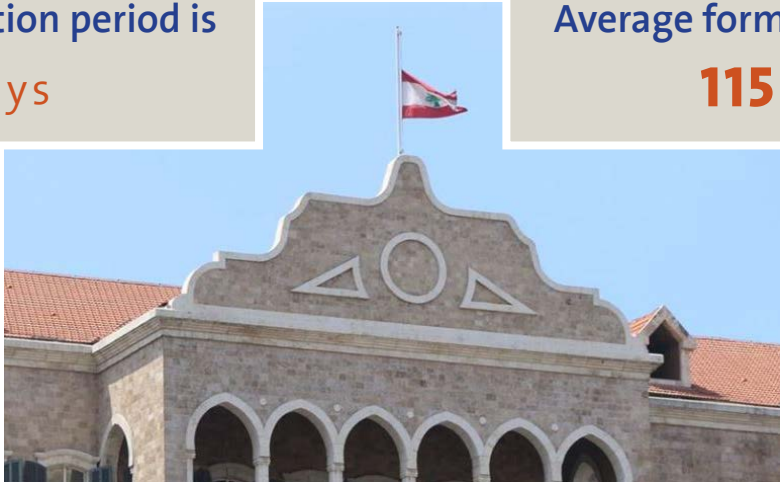


Table: The governments formed in Lebanon since the Taif Agreement in 1989 until today (January 2025) and the duration between designation and formation.

	Designated Prime Minister	Date of Designation	Date of Formation	Time Between Designation and Formation
	Salim Hoss	13-11-1989	25-11-1989	12 days
	Omar Karami	20-12-1990	24-12-1990	4 days
	Rashid Solh	13-5-1992	16-5-1992	3 days
	Rafik Hariri	24-10-1992	31-10-1992	7 days
	Rafik Hariri	22-5-1995	25-5-1995	3 days
	Rafik Hariri	25-10-1996	7-11-1996	13 days
	Salim Hoss	2-12-1998	4-12-1998	2 days
	Rafik Hariri	22-10-2000	26-10-2000	4 days
	Rafik Hariri	15-4-2003	17-4-2003	2 days
	Omar Karami	20-10-2004	26-10-2004	6 days
	Omar Karami	10-3-2005	Not formed	Withdrew on 13-4-2005 (34 days after designation)
	Najib Mikati	14-4-2005	19-4-2005	5 days

	Designated Prime Minister	Date of Designation	Date of Formation	Time Between Designation and Formation
	Fouad Siniora	29-6-2005	19-7-2005	20 days
	Fouad Siniora	28-5-2008	11-7-2008	44 days
	Saad Hariri	28-6-2009	9-11-2009	134 days
	Najib Mikati	25-1-2011	13-6-2011	139 days
	Tammam Salam	6-4-2013	15-2-2014	315 days
	Saad Hariri	3-11-2016	18-12-2016	45 days
	Saad Hariri	24-5-2018	31-1-2019	252 days
	Hassan Diab	19-12-2019	21-1-2020	33 days
	Mustafa Adib	31-8-2020	Not formed	Withdrew on 26-9-2020 (26 days after designation)
	Saad Hariri	22-10-2020	Not formed	Withdrew on 15-7-2021 (266 days after designation)
	Najib Mikati	26-7-2021	10-9-2021	46 days
	Najib Mikati	23-6-2022	Not formed	The legal period ended with the expiration of President Michel Aoun's term on 31-10-2022
				

Source: Information International, based on the results of parliamentary consultations and government formation decrees.

LEBANESE WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

24 MINISTERS IN 21 YEARS- PROGRESS OR TOKENISM?

With the formation of the new Lebanese government—the first under President Joseph Aoun—some MPs and parliamentary blocs had called for a significant representation of women, reflecting the capabilities and qualifications of Lebanese women. This was seen as an attempt to achieve some measure of justice for Lebanese women after the marginalization they faced in previous government formations.

Since Lebanon’s independence in 1943, a total of 78 governments have been formed. However, women have only been represented in 10 of them. The first instance was in 2004, during the government of Prime Minister Omar Karami under President Émile Lahoud, which included two female ministers. The highest number of female ministers was in 2020, in Prime Minister Hassan Diab’s government under President Michel Aoun, which included six women out of 20 ministers. That government also saw the appointment of a female Deputy Prime Minister and a Minister of National Defense for the first time (Zeina Akar). Following that, the current government, led by Nawaf Salam, includes five female ministers.

Across these 10 governments, a total of 24 women have served as ministers out of 266 total ministers, representing just 9%. Each female minister served only once, except for Raya El Hassan, who served twice.

By sectarian affiliation, the female ministers were distributed as follows:
Maronites: 7, Sunnis: 6, Greek Orthodox: 3, Shiites: 3, Druze: 1, Greek Catholics: 1, Armenian Orthodox: 2, Christian minorities: 1

Table: Women in Lebanese Governments and Their Ministerial Positions (2004–2025)

Govt. No./Formation – End Date	President	Prime Minister	Female Ministers	No. of Women / Total Ministers
67 / 26-10-2004 – 19-4-2005	Émile Lahoud	Omar Karami	- Leila Solh (Minister of Industry) - Wafaa El-Dika (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs)	2/30
69 / 19-7-2005 – 11-7-2008	Émile Lahoud	Fouad Siniora	- Nayla Moawad (Minister of Social Affairs)	1/24
70 / 11-7-2008 – 9-11-2009	Michel Sleiman	Fouad Siniora	- Bahia Hariri (Minister of Education and Higher Education)	1/30
71 / 9-11-2009 – 13-6-2011	Michel Sleiman	Saad Hariri	- Mona Ofeich (Minister of State for Women’s and Children’s Affairs) - Raya El Hassan (Minister of Finance)	2/30
73 / 15-2-2014 – 18-12-2016	Michel Sleiman	Tammam Salam	- Alice Chabtini (Minister of Displaced Affairs)	1/24
74 / 18-12-2016 – 31-1-2019	Michel Aoun	Saad Hariri	- Inaya Ezzeddine (Minister of State for Administrative Development)	1/30
75 / 31-1-2019 – 21-1-2020	Michel Aoun	Saad Hariri	- Raya El Hassan (Minister of Interior and Municipalities) - May Chidiac (Minister of State for Administrative Development) - Nada Boustani (Minister of Energy and Water) - Violette Khairallah (Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth)	4/30
76 / 21-1-2020 – 10-9-2021	Michel Aoun	Hassan Diab	- Zeina Akar (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense, later acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants) - Manal Abdel Samad (Minister of Information) - Lamia Yammine (Minister of Labor) - Ghada Shreim (Minister of Displaced Affairs) - Vartiné Ohanian (Minister of Youth and Sports) - Marie-Claude Najm (Minister of Justice)	6/20
77 / 10-9-2021 – 13-1-2025	Michel Aoun	Najib Mikati	- Najla Riachi (Minister of State for Administrative Development)	1/24
78 / 8-2-2025 – Present	Joseph Aoun	Nawaf Salam	- Laura Khazen (Minister of Tourism) - Haneen El-Sayed (Minister of Social Affairs) - Nora Bayrakdarian (Minister of Youth and Sports) - Rima Karami (Minister of Education and Higher Education) - Tamara Zain (Minister of Environment)	5/24

Source: *Information International*, based on the Lebanese Governments’ formation decrees.

WORKING UNTIL THE DEATHBED: WHEN DO LEBANESE MPS RETIRE?

In Lebanon, there are systems and laws that define retirement ages based on the job type. For example, employees retire at 64, judges at 68, the army chief at 60, generals at 59, and brigadiers at 58.



However, for members of parliament, there is no defined retirement age or age limit for candidacy except that candidates must be at least 25 years old. Consequently, many MPs have continued their parliamentary work well into their later years, even reaching the age of 90.

Notably, MP Qabalan Issa al-Khoury retired in 2005 at the age of 94, followed by MP Ibrahim Haidar in 1960 at the age of 93. Two parliamentary seats became vacant when MPs Albert Moukheiber and Michel Murr died at the age of 90. Other MPs retired at ages 88 and 87, among whom some did not seek re-election.

By the end of the current parliament’s term in 2026, Speaker Nabih Berri will be 88 years old, and if he continues for another term, he will be 92. This still will not break the record set by Qabalan Issa al-Khoury and Ibrahim Haidar.

Table: The ages of parliamentarians who retired at 70 years or older since independence until today (January 2025), with projections for 2026.

MP	Date of Birth	End Date of Duties as MP	Age	Sect
Kabbalan Issa Khoury	1911	2005	94	Maronite
Ibrahim Haidar	1867	1960	93	Shi’a
Albert Moukheiber	1912	2002	(Deceased) 90	Greek Orthodox
Michel El Murr	1931	2021	(Deceased) 90	Greek Orthodox
Kazem El-Khalil	1902	1990	(Deceased) 88	Shi’a
Nabih Berri	1938	(Projected) 2026	88	Shi’a
Abdel Latif El-Zein	1930	2018	88	Shi’a
Henry Chdid	1934	2022	88	Maronite
Edmond Naim	1918	2006	(Deceased) 88	Maronite
Kamil Shamoun	1900	1987	(Deceased) 87	Maronite
Dori Shamoun	1931	2018	87	Maronite
Maurice Zouen	1898	1985	(Deceased) 87	Maronite
Saeb Salam	1905	1992	87	Sunni
Marwan Hamadeh	1939	(Projected) 2026	87	Druze
Adel Osseiran	1905	1992	87	Shi’a
Aziz Aoun	1895	1981	(Deceased) 86	Maronite
Nabil El Bustani	1924	2009	85	Maronite
Hashem El-Husseini	1907	1992	85	Sunni
Rashid El-Khoury	1907	1992	85	Greek Catholic
Nasri Maalouf	1911	1996	85	Greek Catholic
Anwar El-Khalil	1938	2022	84	Druze
Edgar Maalouf	1934	2018	84	Greek Catholic

MP	Date of Birth	End Date of Duties as MP	Age	Sect
Abd El Halim Awadat	1908	1992	84	Sunni
Neemet Tuma	1939	2022	83	Greek Orthodox
Ghassan Tueini	1926	2009	83	Greek Orthodox
Albert Mansour	1939	2022	83	Greek Catholic
Antranik Manoukiyan	1910	1992	82	Evangelical
Neemetallah Abi Nasr	1936	2018	82	Maronite
Jean Obeid	1939	(Deceased) 2021	82	Maronite
Salim Abdel Nour	1911	1992	81	Greek Catholic
Antoine Saad	1937	2018	81	Greek Orthodox
Pierre Daccache	1928	2009	81	Maronite
Sami El-Solh	1887	1968	81	Sunni
Michel Aoun	1935	2016	81	Maronite
Maurice Fadel	1928	2009	81	Greek Orthodox
Assem Qanso	1937	2018	81	Shi’a
Farid Jibran	1912	1992	80	Christian Minorities
Badr Wannous	1937	2017	(Deceased) 80	Alawi
Bashir El-Aawar	1909	1989	(Deceased) 80	Druze
Youssef El-Zein	1882	1962	80	Shi’a
Raef Samara	1912	1992	80	Greek Orthodox
Yehya Tabara	1929	2009	80	Sunni
Habib Keyrouz	1916	1996	80	Maronite
Abdel Rahim Murad	1942	2022	80	Sunni
Youssef El-Hrawi	1889	1968	79	Maronite
Wehbeh Qatisha	1943	2022	79	Greek Orthodox
Elie Aoun	1939	2018	79	Maronite
Georges Adwan	1947	(Projected) 2026	79	Maronite
Toufic Assaf	1913	1992	79	Druze
Ali Osseiran	1947	(Projected) 2026	79	Shi’a
Emile Rouhana Saqr	1913	1992	79	Maronite
Gilbert Zouein	1939	2018	79	Maronite

MP	Date of Birth	End Date of Duties as MP	Age	Sect
Georges Zouein	1872	1951	79	Maronite
Akram Chehayeb	1947	(Projected) 2026	79	Druze
Pierre Gemayel	1905	1984	(Deceased) 79	Maronite
Rashid Baidoun	1889	1968	79	Shi’a
Abdel Mawla Amhaz	1913	1992	79	Shi’a
Raymond Edde	1913	1992	79	Maronite
Samir Al-Jisr	1944	2022	78	Sunni
Edward Hnein	1914	1992	(Deceased) 78	Maronite
Mohammad Abdel Latif Kabbara	1944	2022	78	Sunni
Hussein Mansour	1915	1992	77	Shi’a
Michel Moussa	1949	(Projected) 2026	77	Greek Catholic
Taha Naji	1949	(Projected) 2026	77	Sunni
Farid Habib	1935	2012	(Deceased) 77	Greek Orthodox
Nazih El-Bizri	1915	1992	77	Sunni
Khatchik Babikian	1922	1999	(Deceased) 77	Armenian Orthodox
Fouad El-Saad	1941	2018	77	Maronite
Tammam Salam	1945	2022	77	Sunni
Maurice Der Kaloustian	1895	1972	77	Armenian Orthodox
Ghazi Zeaiter	1949	(Projected) 2026	77	Shi’a
Michael El-Daher	1928	2005	77	Maronite
Jamil El-Sayyed	1950	(Projected) 2026	76	Shi’a
Issam Sawaya	1942	2018	76	Greek Catholic
Ali El-Abdallah	1916	1992	76	Shi’a
Naji Garios	1942	2018	76	Maronite
Robert Ghanem	1942	2018	76	Maronite
Mohammad Kabbani	1942	2018	76	Shi’a
Hussein Moussawi	1947	2018	76	Shi’a
Nicolas Nahas	1946	2022	76	Greek Orthodox
Nicolas Fattouche	1943	2018	75	Greek Catholic
Fouad El-Sanyoura	1943	2018	75	Sunni

MP	Date of Birth	End Date of Duties as MP	Age	Sect
Youssef Salem	1897	1972	75	Greek Catholic
Abdel Latif Baydoun	1909	1984	(Deceased) 75	Shi’a
Louis Abou Charaf	1914	1989	(Deceased) 75	Maronite
Mounir Abou Fadel	1912	1987	(Deceased) 75	Greek Orthodox
Mostafa Hussein	1946	2021	(Deceased) 75	Shi’a
Pierre Helou	1928	2003	(Deceased) 75	Maronite
Najib Daher	1864	1939	75	Maronite
Nazem Kadri	1914	1989	(Deceased) 75	Sunni
Mohammad Yehya	1951	(Projected) 2026	75	Sunni
Manuel Younes	1921	1996	75	Maronite
Fouad Lahoud	1912	1987	(Deceased) 75	Maronite
Fouad Makhzoumi	1952	(Projected) 2026	74	Sunni
Mohammad Safadi	1944	2018	74	Sunni
Habib Hakim	1926	2000	74	Maronite
Walid Succarieh	1948	2022	74	Sunni
Boutros Harb	1944	2018	74	Maronite
Mohammad Qaraawi	1948	2022	74	Sunni
Ahmad Karami	1944	2018	74	Sunni
Auguste Bakhous	1923	1996	73	Maronite
Elias Khazen	1927	2000	73	Maronite
Sami Khateeb	1932	2005	73	Sunni
Salim Saadeh	1949	2022	73	Greek Orthodox
Salim Sayegh	1945	2018	73	Maronite
Riad Al-Sarraf	1927	2000	73	Greek Orthodox
Khalil Abdel Nour	1927	2000	73	Greek Catholic
Najib Osseiran	1866	1939	73	Shi’a
Fouad Ghossn	1911	1984	73	Greek Orthodox
Elie Ferzli	1949	2022	73	Greek Orthodox
Hassan Ezzedine	1953	(Projected) 2026	73	Shi’a
Farid Al-Boustany	1953	(Projected) 2026	73	Maronite

MP	Date of Birth	End Date of Duties as MP	Age	Sect
George Dib Nehme	1932	2005	73	Maronite
Emir Majid Arslan	1911	1983	(Deceased) 72	Druze
Ahmad Isber	1920	1992	72	Shi’a
Souren Khan Amerian	1924	1996	72	Armenian Orthodox
Hussein Hussein	1937	2009	72	Shi’a
Ayoub Hmeid	1954	(Projected) 2026	72	Shi’a
Osama Saad	1954	(Projected) 2026	72	Sunni
Mohsen Dalloul	1933	2005	72	Shi’a
Adnan Traboulsi	1952	(Projected) 2026	72	Sunni
Said Akl	1933	2005	72	Maronite
Suleiman Al-Ali	1910	1987	(Deceased) 72	Sunni
Mahmoud Ammar	1920	1992	72	Shi’a
Salim Karam	1946	2018	72	Maronite
Osama Saad Al-Masri	1954	(Projected) 2026	72	Sunni
Ashraf Rifi	1954	(Projected) 2026	72	Sunni
Zaki Mazboudi	1920	1992	72	Sunni
Shamel Mouzaya	1937	2009	72	Maronite
Mohammad Raad	1955	(Projected) 2026	71	Shi’a
Abdul Rahman Bizri	1955	(Projected) 2026	71	Sunni
Salim Hoss	1929	2000	71	Sunni
George Efram	1934	2005	71	Maronite
Bahij Taqieddine	1909	1980	(Deceased) 71	Druze
Asaad Hardan	1951	2022	71	Greek Orthodox
Sabri Hamadeh	1905	1976	(Deceased) 71	Shi’a
Ahmad Sweid	1929	2000	71	Sunni
Youssef Khalil	1947	2018	71	Maronite
Antoine Khoury	1938	2009	71	Greek Catholic
Othman Al-Danna	1921	1992	71	Sunni
Gebran Tawk	1934	2005	71	Maronite
Mario Aoun	1951	2022	71	Maronite

MP	Date of Birth	End Date of Duties as MP	Age	Sect
Fayez Ghossn	1950	2021	71	Greek Orthodox
Marwan Fares	1947	2018	71	Greek Catholic
Joseph Mghayzel	1924	1995	71	Greek Catholic
Farid Makari	1947	2018	71	Greek Orthodox
George Qassarji	1938	2009	71	Armenian Orthodox
Anis Nassar	1951	2022	71	Greek Orthodox
Abdullah Yafi	1901	1972	71	Sunni
Alfred Naqqash	1886	1957	71	Maronite
Agop Pakradounian	1956	(Projected) 2026	70	Armenian Orthodox
Amin Hafez	1926	1996	70	Sunni
Bahia Hariri	1952	2022	70	Sunni
Mostafa Hussein	1952	2022	70	Alawite
Joseph Shader	1907	1977	(Deceased) 70	Armenian Catholic
Kamel Rifai	1948	2018	70	Sunni
Abdel Majid Saleh	1948	2018	70	Shi'a
Ali Ammar	1956	(Projected) 2026	70	Shi'a
Mohammad Khawaja	1956	(Projected) 2026	70	Shi'a
Samir Azar	1939	2009	70	Maronite
Hashem Alameddine	1940	2010	70	Sunni
Nassouh Fadel	1890	1960	70	Sunni
Fadel Fadel	1865	1935	70	Shi'a
Omar Karami	1935	2005	70	Sunni
Maroun Kanaan	1898	1968	70	Maronite
Atif Majdalani	1948	2018	70	Greek Orthodox

Source: *Information International*, based on the results of parliamentary elections and the Lebanese Parliamentary Dictionary, authored by Adnan Daher and Dr. Riad Ghanem.

Public Sector

THE JUDICIARY IN LEBANON: A 56% FEMALE AND 44% MALE WORKFORCE

Article 20 of the Lebanese Constitution states the following: “The judicial authority is vested in the courts of all levels and jurisdictions within a system stipulated by law, ensuring the necessary guarantees for judges and litigants (...) Judges are independent in the exercise of their duties, and decisions and judgments are issued by all courts and enforced in the name of the Lebanese people.”

This highlights the importance of the judiciary and its role in upholding justice, applying the law, and ensuring fairness. Judges hold a fundamental position in the structure of the state and society, making it essential to examine the composition of the judicial body.



Number of Judges

The total number of active judges, including the judicial judiciary, the State Shura Council, the Court of Accounts, and those attached to government departments, is 628 judges.

Number of Judges by Gender

Women outnumber men in the judiciary, with 351 women comprising 56% of the judges, compared to 277 men who make up 44%.

Religious, Sectarian, and Gender Distribution

Judges are nearly equally divided between Muslims and Christians, with 317 Muslim judges, constituting 50%, and 311 Christian judges, also constituting 50%.

In terms of sect and gender, the largest group of judges belongs to the Maronite sect, making up 35%, followed by Shia judges at 23%, and Sunni judges at 22%.

Regarding sect and gender, women represent 57% of the Christian judges and 54% of the Muslim judges, as shown in the following table.

Retirement of Judges

It is revealed that 8 judges (6 females and males) will retire in 2025, and the number will increase to 10 judges (4 females and 6 males) in 2026, then decrease to 9 judges (3 females and 6 males) in 2027.

Table: Distribution of Judges by Sect and Gender*

Sect	Number	Men	Women
Maronites	222	93	129
Greek Orthodox	42	16	26
Greek Catholics	38	17	21
Syriac Catholics	4	4	-
Syriac Orthodox	2	1	1
Armenian Catholics	2	1	1
Latin Catholics	1	-	1
Total Christians	311	132	179
Shiites	146	62	84
Sunnis	138	67	71
Druze	33	16	17
Total Muslims	317	145	172
Overall Total	628	277	351

Source: *Information International*, based on judicial appointment decrees.

*Note: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Public Sector

BDL’S FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES: AN OVERVIEW

On July 31, 2023, the term of the Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon, Riad Salameh, which lasted 30 years, ended without appointing a successor. The first vice-governor, Was-sim Mansouri, assumed the role of acting governor thanks to Article 25 of the Monetary and Credit Law issued in 1963, which states, “In the event of a vacancy in the position of governor, the first vice-governor assumes the duties of the governor until a new governor is appointed.”

During the first year of the acting governor's term, the exchange rate was maintained at LBP 89,500 per US dollar. Some believe that this rate could be lowered to strengthen the value of the Lebanese pound, which could have been achieved by not intervening in the purchase of dollars by the Central Bank. However, the acting governor considers the increase in foreign currency reserves by about USD 1.7 billion (from USD 8.5 billion at the end of July 2023 to USD 10.2 billion at the end of July 2024) to be the achievement, rather than lowering the exchange rate.

The Central Bank of Lebanon managed to purchase USD 1.684 billion, including USD 329 million in July 2024 and USD 258 million in December 2023, with a daily average of USD 6.7 million based on working days.

Table: Development of the Central Bank of Lebanon's Foreign Currency Reserves from July 2023 to July 2024.

End of Month	Foreign Currency Reserves (USD Billion)	Monthly Increase or Decrease (USD Million)
July 2023	8.573	-
August 2023	8.609	+36
September 2023	8.751	+142
October 2023	8.927	+176
November 2023	9.063	+136
December 2023	9.321	+258
January 2024	9.380	+59
February 2024	9.584	+204
March 2024	9.643	+59
April 2024	9.682	+39
May 2024	9.929	+247
June 2024	9.928	-1
July 2024	10.257	+329
Total	10.257	+1684

Source: Summary Statement - Central Bank of Lebanon.

The Central Bank of Lebanon holds Eurobond securities with a nominal value of USD 5.153 billion, which are added to the ready external liquidity, bringing the value of foreign currency reserves to USD 15.410 billion. It is worth noting that these reserves amounted to USD 37 billion in July 2019, on the eve of the financial crisis. These current and previous reserves do not belong to the Central Bank of Lebanon but are the depositors' funds that they deposited in the banks, which in turn deposited them in the Central Bank of Lebanon. A large portion of these funds has evaporated.

INSURANCE

PREMIUMS IN 2023

USD 860 MILLION

The value of written insurance premiums in 2023 increased to USD 860 million, compared to USD 27 million in 2022.



Reasons for the Increase

This significant increase does not reflect a rise in the number of insurance policies but is a natural consequence of three factors:

- Insurance companies resorting to adjusting the pricing of premiums to be in actual and real dollars (i.e., in cash dollars or the market price of USD 1 = 89,500 Lebanese pounds).
- Adjusting the exchange rate of the dollar to be closer to the official rate.
- Abolishing the use of the 1500 LBP/USD rate for insurance policies, as was previously applied.

Insurance Distribution by Categories

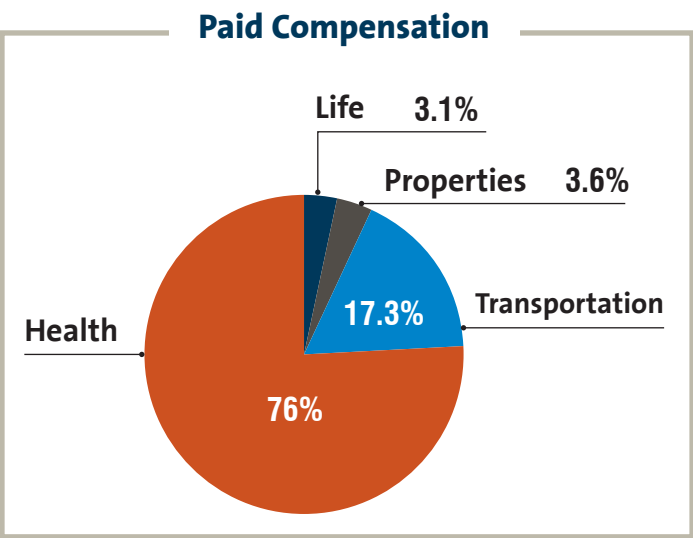
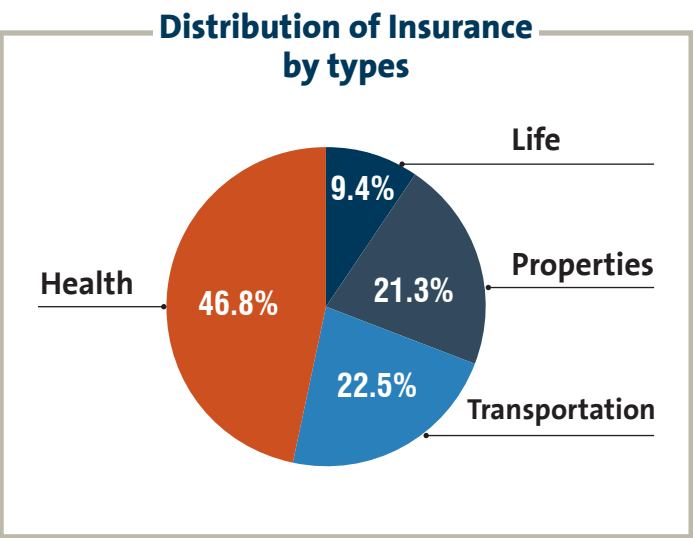
According to the type of insurance, the categories were distributed as follows:

- Health insurance: USD 403 million, 46.8% of the total categories, the highest percentage.
- Property insurance: USD 193 million, 22.5%.
- Transportation insurance: USD 183 million, 21.3%.
- Life insurance: USD 81 million, 9.4%.

Paid Compensation

The total amount of paid compensation was USD 514 million, distributed across the following types of insurance:

- Health, which accounted for the largest portion of compensation, reached USD 390 million, 76% of the total compensation.
- Transportation: USD 90 million, 17.3%.
- Property: USD 18 million, 3.6%.
- Life: USD 16 million, 3.1%.



Public Sector

REAL ESTATE SURGE IN LEBANON

A 190% INCREASE IN SALES VALUE IN 2024

Lebanon witnessed a decline and losses in most economic and productive sectors during the war, except for the real estate sector, which defied this trend. The real estate market saw a significant increase, with the value of properties sold reaching approximately USD 2.9 billion compared to USD 1 billion in 2023, a rise of 190%. Additionally, the number of transactions related to the sector increased by 53.6%.

This increase can be attributed to four main reasons:

- 1- The ongoing banking crisis and the resort of investors to the real estate sector.
- 2- The decline in property values and the expectation of price increases after the war.
- 3- The return of real estate departments to work after frequent closures last year.
- 4- The gradual increase in the exchange rate of the US dollar from 38,000 Lebanese pounds at the end of 2023 to 89,500 pounds since February 2025.

Table.

Month	Number of Transactions	Value (Million USD)
January-February	3,331	184
March	3,312	216
April	2,718	180
May	3,589	253
June	3,440	260
July	3,303	231
August	4,290	339
September	2,447	187
October	3,126	380
November	2,500	304
December	4,326	358
Total	36,382	2.892 Billion USD

Source: Information International, based on sales figures from real estate departments.



Public Sector

2024
A CHALLENGING YEAR
FOR RAFIC HARIRI
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In 2024, the traffic at Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut (including arrivals, departures, and transit passengers) saw a significant decline compared to 2023 and previous years, as a natural result of the war in Lebanon from October 8, 2023, to November 27, 2024.



In 2024, the number of passengers reached 5,624,402, compared to 7,103,349 passengers in 2023 and 6,349,969 passengers in 2022, a decline of 1,478,947 passengers, or 20.8%. Similarly, the number of aircraft movements (take-offs and landings) decreased by 18.4%. November recorded the lowest traffic of the year, with 151,073 passengers, while July recorded the highest, with 751,034 passengers.

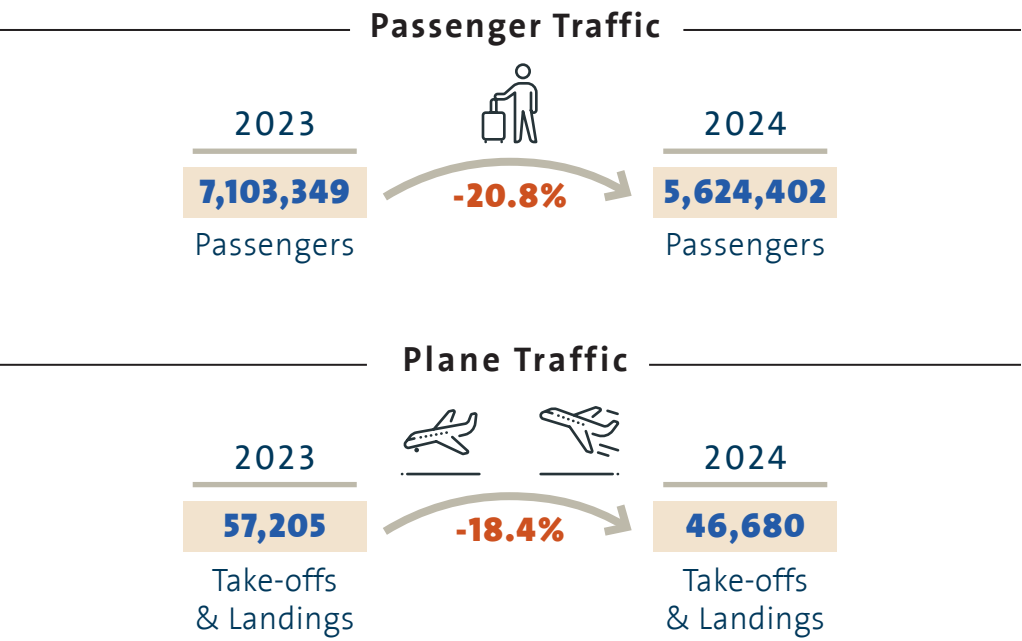


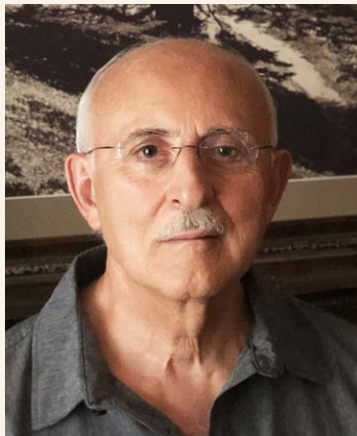
Table: Monthly airport traffic in 2024.

Month	Arrivals	Departures	Transit	Total	Landings	Take-offs
January	201,269	249,684	36	450,989	1,923	1,925
February	204,128	208,786	97	413,011	1,684	1,689
March	214,951	193,473	201	408,625	1,829	1,830
April	251,442	260,489	316	512,247	2,059	2,060
May	267,480	240,202	210	507,892	2,151	2,143
June	406,396	300,362	443	706,758	2,751	2,758
July	411,320	339,250	464	751,034	2,832	2,832
August	248,049	420,978	187	669,214	2,657	2,658
September	209,510	273,152	1,475	484,137	1,981	1,986
October	41,312	147,747	10	189,068	1,186	1,186
November	72,197	78,863	13	151,073	726	723
December	224,644	145,216	50	369,910	1,560	1,551
Total	2,762,698	2,858,202	3,502	5,624,402	23,339	23,341

Source: Information International, based on airport traffic.

FATHERLAND (3)
MISS FATIMA HUSSEIN

By Dr. Hanna Saadah



The High School

The next morning, I felt an urge to visit my high school and check if Miss Fatima Hussein was still teaching there. I was thirty-two then, which meant that she would be fifty-two. I remembered her words to me after graduation: “When you become a doctor, come visit me. I would be an old woman then and might need your medical help.”

The walk from home to school when I was a student used to take me 45 minutes and since I was most eager to see what changes had taken place during the past fifteen years, I decided to go on foot. I passed through the town’s center where, when I was a child, the only taxis were horse-pulled carriages, and where the sidewalk photographers snapped shots of passersby, offering each photograph for just one Lira. The change that shook me the most was noise. In contrast to the rhythmic gallop of the horse-pulled carriages, there was a chaotic congestion of cars flooding the streets and honking their horns in frustration. Armed men and vehicles were posted at every corner, and cars were parked on the sidewalks, leaving

little room for pedestrians who spilled into the roads, crisscrossed between the honking cars, and slowed down the already stifled traffic.

When I got close to the Tripoli Girls School—where I had gone till third grade—nostalgic soap aromas filled my nostrils as I passed the small soap factories along the way. I stood by the school gate and was surprised to see boys and girls of all ages frolicking in the schoolyard. They still looked about the same as when I was among them, but the supervising teachers seemed much younger than they used to be. It took me a while to realize that, at thirty-two, I was already older than many of the teachers standing among the kids. “Relativity must not be an attribute of the human mind,” I thought, as I turned to leave.

Leaving the Tripoli Girls School, I passed through the commercial parts of town where all the groceries, grains, and meats arrive to be distributed by the wholesalers. There were trucks loaded with chicken, goats, sheep, vegetables, fruits, nuts, charcoal, gas jars, and fresh-water bottles from the mountain

springs. Ironsmiths were welding and cutting their ironworks and copper artisans were hammering their wares into pots and trays. The Friday flea market was busting with all imaginable items and the stench of animal dung, human throngs, and fresh agricultural products caused me to hurry on through and begin my ascent up the residential hill where the air was cleaner and the traffic was more domestic. I used the long, winding stairs, my usual short cut, and arrived at my high school just before noon.

The high iron-gate with ‘*Tripoli Boys School*’ emblazoned on it was closed shut and there was a soldier with a machine-gun standing guard. I cautiously approached and greeted him with, “Good morning, Sir.”

“Good morning to you,” he replied with a smile.

“May I go in for a look? I graduated from this school fifteen years ago.”

He smiled at me as if I were a foreigner and then added, “Where do you live now?”

“In America.”

“And how long have you been gone?”

“Seven years.”

“So, you really don’t know what happened to your school?”

My heart stood still as I imagined some catastrophic massacre that befell my teachers. I must have turned pale because he did not wait for my reply and simply added, “Your

school was turned into barracks when the Syrian army came in two years ago to enforce the peace.”

“Barracks?” I gasped. “You mean there are no teachers or students inside?”

“They all went to the Girls School down town.”

“Oh!” I exclaimed. “So that’s why it was full of boys and girls of all ages.”

I thanked him and began my long descent back, resolving to stop at what used to be the Tripoli Girls School to see if they would let me take a peek. “*Surely, the teachers would know if Miss Fatima Hussein is still there,*” I thought. As I approached, my heart began to pound as if it were dreading what it was about to hear. “*Something could have happened to her. She could have been killed in an explosion or kidnapped for ransom or sniped like my brother. She could have gotten married and left town.*” I thought of all possible scenarios and could not settle down my mind until I reached the school gate and greeted the guard with, “Good afternoon, Sir.”

“Good afternoon to you,” smiled the middle aged, plump man.

“I just found out that the Tripoli Boys School was turned into barracks. I graduated from there in 1963. I was wondering if any of my old teachers could still be here?”

“Fifteen years is a long time, Sir. I think the only one remaining is Mr. Sansour. He is the principal now.”

“Oh, good. Could I see him, please?”

“Sure, his office is in that building on the ground floor. He should be there now.”

As I walked, I tried to remember how everything used to look when I was in third grade. So much had been renovated, which blurred the original views, but there was still a déjà vu familiarity to the surroundings, a nostalgic remembrance perceivable through the mind’s recalling eye. As I mused, time scurried, unnoticed, and before I realized it, I found myself at the principal’s office. The door was open wide, there was no secretary, and Mr. Sansour was at his desk working on papers. He had grown white with years, but was still in good form. I knocked. He peered at me through his eyeglasses and said, “Yes. May I help you?”

I walked up to his desk, put out my hand, and smiled, “I’m one of your students from long ago, Sir. You taught me chemistry.”

His knowing eyes studied me as his mind strained to recall my name. “Ssss. Salem. Salem Hawi. How good of you to stop by. You’re a doctor, I hear,” he said as he stood up and warmly shook my hand. “Are you going to stay in America or have you decided to return to us? We need you here a lot more than they need you there. You know that most of our doctors have left because of the war.”

“It’s not safe, Sir. This is my first visit in seven years and a lot has changed.”

“Changed for the worse, unfortunately. Please sit down and tell me about you. I’m sorry about your brother Nadir. He was my student too. What a senseless death. How are your parents handling it?”

We talked for a long while, and several times I attempted to ask him about Miss Fatima Hussein, but could never bring myself to phrase the question. I had to overcome my fear of bad news, first. We talked about our 1963 class: I told him what I knew of the whereabouts of some of my classmates and he told me that Mahmoud had died a few years earlier of pancreatic cancer. I found myself becoming more and more disturbed as more bad news about people I knew unfolded. Dr. Rowda became a double amputee when a missile exploded between his legs while he was having a drink on his balcony last summer. I could sense that he had more to tell me but, seeing the weariness on my face, he paused as if to give me a chance to change the topic. It was during that lull that I summoned up the courage, took in a deep breath as if I were preparing to dive from a high cliff, and asked him with downcast eyes, “Is Miss Fatima Hussein still unmarried?”

(to be continued)

AL-MUAISRAH:

A SHIITE VILLAGE IN THE HEART OF MARONITE KESERWAN

Al-Muaisrah is a village in the Keserwan District, which gained attention during the last war between Lebanon and Israel following an Israeli airstrike on September 26, 2024. The attack resulted in a massacre that claimed the lives of 18 people, injured 6, and left 8 others missing, all of whom were displaced from the south. Interestingly, while the residents of this village are Shiite, the overwhelming majority of the district’s population is Maronite.

Etymology

In his book *“The Names of Lebanese Cities and Villages and Their Meanings,”* Anis Freiha states that *“Muaisrah”* is a diminutive form of *“Ma’sara,”* meaning a place for pressing olives or grapes, and that the term has Syriac origins. It is possible that the village once had a small olive press.

Location

Al-Muaisrah is situated in the Keserwan District. It is bordered to the north by the village of Bezhel and the Ibrahim River, which separates it from the Jbeil District; to the south by the villages of Zaytoun and Az-Zaytri; to the east by Bezhel and Az-Zaytri; and to the west by the Ibrahim River. It is 38 kilometers from Beirut and lies at an altitude ranging between 20 meters and 650 meters above sea level. The village spans an area of 422 hectares and can be accessed via the Jounieh–Ibrahim River–Al-Muaisrah road.

Population

The estimated number of registered residents in Al-Muaisrah is approximately 1,300, all belonging to the Shiite community. The village contains around 500 houses.

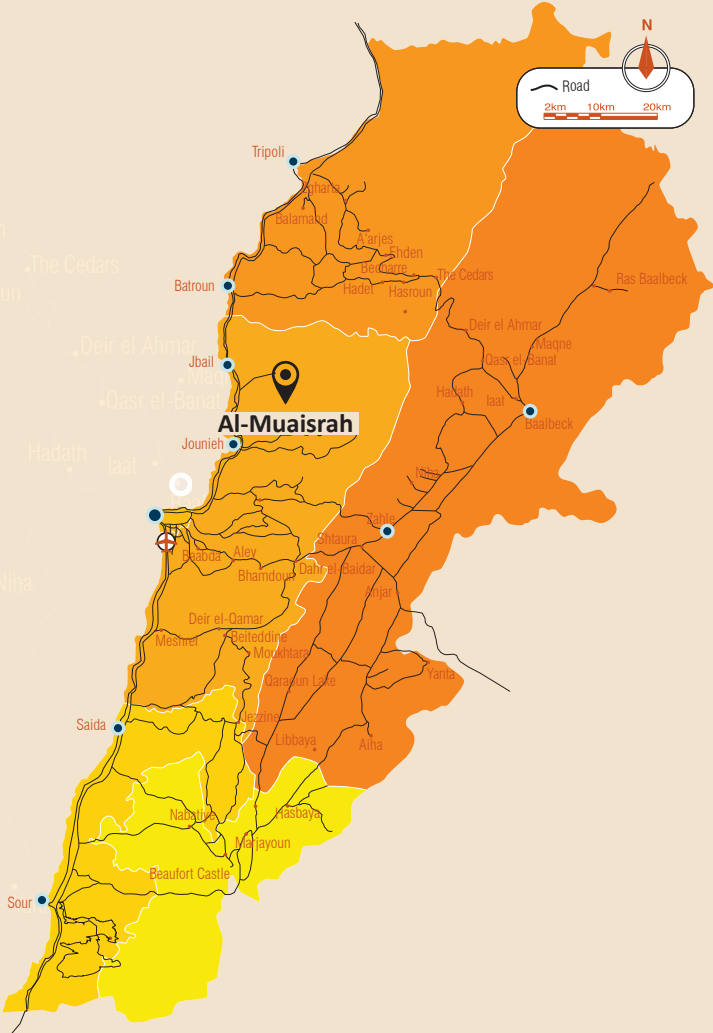
Voters

The number of registered voters was 538 in the year 2000, with 285 casting ballots. By 2009, the number increased to 687, with 465 participating in the election. In 2014, there were 739 registered voters, and by 2024, the number had reached 863. Around 80% of the village’s population belongs to a single family, the Amro family, with 710 registered voters. Other families in the village include:

- Abu Haidar – 47 voters
- Merheb – 34 voters
- Mer’i – 29 voters
- Salloum – 22 voters
- Shawani – 21 voters

Local Authorities

Al-Muaisrah has a municipal council established by Decision No. 557 on September 16, 2002, consisting of 9 members. Additionally, there is a *mukhtar* (village chief) and 3 municipal committee members.



Educational Institutions

Al-Muaisrah is home to several educational institutions, the most notable being:

- Lycée Libanais-Français – A private school with 1,074 students and 87 faculty and administrative staff.
- Judge Dr. Youssef Amro Public High School – Enrolling 143 students, with 26 teachers and administrators.
- Imam Ali School – Operated by the Al-Imdad Association, a private tuition-free school with 192 students and 12 teachers and staff members.

Economic Life

The village’s residents primarily rely on agriculture and employment in various sectors to sustain their livelihoods.

THE QASHOUAS

A MAJORITY ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY IN THE ALEY DISTRICT

Etymology

The word Qashoua has two possible explanations. It either comes from Qash’ (to remove darkness and reveal light), or it could mean “a man who does not stay committed to something”. The family’s ancestor may have been one who does not settle on any matter, always wavering and unstable.

Number of Individuals

The number of individuals from the Qashoua families is approximately 1,040, the majority of whom are Roman Catholics from the Aley district.

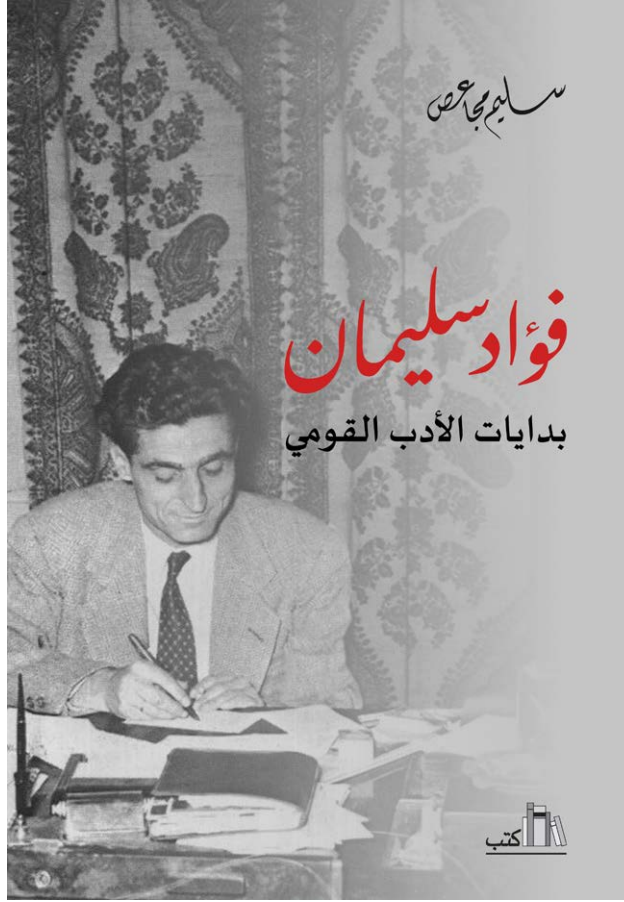
Distribution by Sect and Area

- | | |
|---|---|
| 550 Roman Catholics: | 85 Maronites: |
| - Bmakin (Aley): 235 individuals | - Beit Mellat (Akkar): 72 individuals |
| - Kfarshima (Baabda): 145 individuals | - Dar al-Murayseh (Beirut): 8 individuals |
| - Ain al-Sayyida (Aley): 45 individuals | - Al-Bashoura (Beirut): 5 individuals |
| - Aley: 43 individuals | |
| - Souk El Gharb (Aley): 30 individuals | 72 Greek Orthodox: |
| - Ain El Rummaneh (Aley): 27 individuals | - Souk El Gharb (Aley): 65 individuals |
| - Ainab (Aley): 12 individuals | - Ain El Rummaneh (Aley): 7 individuals |
| - Qmatieh (Aley): 8 individuals | |
| - Bahmadoun Station (Aley): 5 individuals | |
| 330 Sunnis: | |
| - Shhim (Shouf): 258 individuals | |
| - Bhanin (Akkar): 62 individuals | |
| - Daraya (Shouf): 10 individuals | |

FOUAD SULEIMAN

BIDAYATT AL-ADAB AL-QAWMI

Recently published by Kutub publishing house, "Fouad Suleiman, Bidayatt al-Adab al-Qawmi" (the Beginnings of National Literature), by Dr. Salim Mujaes, who republished what was omitted, either intentionally or inadvertently, from Suleiman's literature and his interesting intellectual journey that shaped his life, in a style that relies on the historical sequence of his writings while linking his individual literary journey with the process of the renaissance in which Suleiman had a major contribution to establishing its literature and methods, illuminating its concepts, and proclaiming its truth. 8vo, 142 pp., with an index.



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