



# iimonthly

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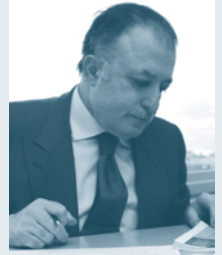
## DECLINING support to politicians and **81%** supports the **LEBANESE ARMY and SECURITY FORCES**



Page 3	Lebanese Political Parties: A Sudden Increase in 2006
Page 8	A High Trust in Lebanese Army and Security Forces Equal Support to March 8 and 14 Less Support to both Aoun and Hizbullah's Arms
Page 15	The Lebanese Military Forces: 88,000 whose Salaries Represent 87% of the Total Military Budget
Page 18	Lebanon's Rising Security Bill
Page 19	The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority: Violating the Constitutional Council's Decisions
Page 20	Violating the Law in Time of Upheaval
Page 21	The Security Council and Chapter VII
Page 24	Sit-ins in Downtown Beirut 100 days = 100 companies closed
Page 26	The Year 2006 in Review An increase in associations, a decrease in number of visitors and economy out of the political crisis
Page 28	Government Pays "Salaries" of "Islamic Courts" and the quarter value as "grants" to "Christian Courts"
Page 29	The Shia'a Confession: from Marginalization to Mainstream Politics
<b>Page 32-33</b>	<b>Discover Lebanon</b> Bdebbba - Mazra'at As-Siyyad
<b>Page 34-35</b>	<b>Historical Documents</b> The Events of 1840 that Led to the Massacre of 1860
<b>Page 36-37</b>	<b>Case Study</b> The American University of Beirut From 16 students in 1866 to 6,944 students in 2006
<b>Page 38-39</b>	<b>Industry &amp; Crafts</b> Lebanese Jewels Towards more rewarding destinations
<b>Page 40</b>	<b>Interview</b> IliMonthly Meets the Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon Irfan Acar
<b>Page 41</b>	<b>Arab Countries</b> Education in Saudi Arabia 55% of Higher Education Students are Females
<b>Page 42</b>	<b>Arab Countries</b> Educational Sector in Iraq Low enrollment of Women and a Deterioration of the Sector

# AWORD

## Saints, Traitors, Villains, and Fools with Two Airports



*"...Historical self-deception is a luxury which only societies confident of their unity and solidarity can afford... Divided societies, on the other hand, cannot afford such fanciful indulgence. To gain the degree of solidarity that is needed to maintain viability, their best chance lies in getting to know and understand the full truth of their past, and to accommodate to its realities".*

*Kamal Salibi*

In a country like ours, names of places and individuals are not mere words but deep expressions of emotions and memories. They become symbols and idols not to be taken lightly. Examining some names in our history would take us to an interesting path, especially when we trace how the egos of these individuals were transformed into legends and fantasies that are treated as historical facts, by which we live, and sometimes die.

In the 17th century, Fakhreddine II, we were told as children, was a "hero and the maker of Lebanon". It is true that he faced an opposition force ("evil ones") mainly Al-Saifa of A'akkar, who "collaborated" with the Ottomans and therefore he "reluctantly" killed a few of them and (forcefully) married their daughter. He went into exile to Tuscany "to plan for the liberation of Lebanon", the school history book says.

In the 18th century, Haidar Al-Shehabi, Fakhreddine's grandson, won the Ain Dara battle (1711) against Al-Alameddine and ascertained the rule of Al-Shehab. However, history books did not consider him a hero. Perhaps it is now a convenient time for some Lebanese tribes to rediscover him.

In the 19th century, there was Basheer Al-Shihabi II, "a just and powerful leader and another maker of modern Lebanon". It is true that he rounded the "usual villains" who were "traitors conspiring against him and pierced his nephew's eyes [not ears], but the man was great".

In the 20th and 21st centuries, the number of "heroes" and "traitors" grew tremendously. Our children are now "learning", how "great" or "miserable" Lebanon is because of "them".

History books, not recognized by our schools, tell us a different story. Fakhreddine II and Bashir II were not the nation's builders nor did they claim or even pretended to be. Lonely, daring and vain men doing what they know best: crush your opponent, bow to the powerful, bribe your way and survive. Fakhreddine was neither a rebel against the Ottomans nor was he trying to "unite Lebanon", considering that some of his fiefdoms extended to what is now Syria and Israel. His luck or Fortuna changed when his friend passed away and his enemy became the advisor to the Sultan.

In Tuscany, Fakhreddine was almost a prisoner; perhaps an honorary guest and more accurately a decoy to fool the Turks into believing that a massive sea invasion of Syria (Lebanon) is under preparation, so they do not invade Tuscany first. His money, deposited in a bank called Monte di Pieta, is still unclaimed. His family, mother, sons and daughters suffered throughout their lives and he was killed in Istanbul.

Basheer II had one of his sons tell the Turks that his father is their ally and the other son tell Mohammad Ali that his father is actually fooling the Turks. He had his rivals, Basheer Jumblat and Basheer Qassim II, exiled and/or killed, and like them died in exile, penniless and homeless.

Basheer is now remembered for his palace in Beiteddine, which was built for him, and Fakhreddine for the Beirut pines, which perhaps existed before him; at least we can believe that they had good taste.

One question remains: why did Basheer or Fakhreddine become more famous and prominent than Haidar or their opponents like Al-Saifa and many others. The truth is they had stronger alliances, encountered and tapped into major international events, and yes, good Fortuna, up to a point.

All this came to mind when a colleague said that she will not fly from Hariri International Airport until its original name Beirut International Airport is restored. Another colleague advised her to wait until René Mouawad Airport in A'akkar is commissioned.

Al-Saifa would be thrilled to hear the news that their beloved A'akkar will have an airport, except they are no more. Lebanon's fictionalized history will soon have two real airports. There are no saints and no villains, no heroes and no traitors but only lonely and vain men with big egos and innocent, ignorant, or opportunistic men who perpetuate the myths.

The question is, if Lebanon cannot afford historical self-deception, as stated by Kamal Salibi, can it afford two airports?

Let us all enjoy the flight and hope it is safe...

*Jawad N. Adra*

# Lebanese Political Parties: A Sudden Increase in 2006

Lebanon saw a surge of new political parties and movements over the past year, with dialogue, democracy and Arab identity as the most adopted objectives.

“For ten years, granting a ‘Factual Certificate’ was ruled by the political mood and personal considerations.”

## Founding a Party

In Lebanon, there is no particular law pertaining to the establishment of political parties. In fact, founding a party falls under the Law of Associations promulgated on August 3, 1909, adopted under the Ottoman era. This means that any association, having obtained a ‘Factual Certificate’ (known in Arabic as E’elm Wa Khabar) by the Ministry of Interior, can become a political party.

Article 2 of the Law of Associations stipulates: “The establishment of an association does not require a license at first. However, the founders of the association are bound, according to Article 6 of this Law, to report the establishment of their association to the government”. Thus, founding an association is a simple procedure.

However, during the past years, the Lebanese government has been breaching this law by transferring the ‘Factual Certificate’, presented by the founders of an association to the General Security, for further investigation before approving its foundation.

For ten years, granting a ‘Factual Certificate’ was ruled by the political mood and personal considerations.

## The New Circular

On May 15, 2006, Ahmad Fatfat, who was then the acting Minister of Interior and Municipalities, issued Circular no. 10/am 2006, stipulating the re-activation of the Law of Associations. Since then, procedures to establish a political party or association are as follows: the founders submit to the Ministry of Interior an application to obtain a ‘Factual Certificate’. It should contain some basic documents such as the name of the association and its address, its internal code, the birth certificates of its founders as well as their judicial records. The ministry will then investigate the application and give the founders a ‘Factual Certificate’ stipulating that it has been officially informed of the establishment of the association. However, the ministry holds the right to refuse to grant a ‘Factual Certificate’ if the application presented by the founders is incomplete, or if the declared objectives of the association are based on illegal grounds.



## Political Associations and Parties in 2005-2006

30 associations and political parties were founded in 2006, compared with 5 associations in 2005. Table no.1 lists these associations.

**Political Parties and Associations Established in Lebanon in 2005 and 2006**

**Table 1**

Name of political association or party	Number and date of the Factual Certificate	Date of application	Location	Founders	Objectives
The National Unity Voice – The Third Force	181/ad of 23-9-2005	3-5-2005	Beirut	Salim Ahmad al-Hoss - Amir Mohammed Souheil Hamwi - Issam Hussein Ne'aman - Michel George Sassine - Hayane Salim Haidar - Emile Gerjes Najem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidating national unity</li> <li>- Promoting democracy</li> </ul>
Salim al-Hoss Foundation For Democracy Development	196/ad of 3-10-2005	12-5-2005	Beirut	Issam Mounkez Sleiman - Talia A'ajaj al-Qarawi - Kamel Asa'ad Mhanna - Wadad Salim al-Hoss - Amir Mohamed Souheil Hamwi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing democratic practices</li> <li>- Organizing and consolidating the practice of rights and freedoms in society</li> </ul>
The Lebanese Forces Party*	257/ad of 1-11-2005	29-10-2005	Beirut	Samir Farid Geagea - Majed Edde Fa'ek Abi Lama'a - Joseph George Sarkis - Elie Karam Keyrouz - George Jamil Adwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserving the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and its role in the Arab world</li> <li>- Building a free and self-conciliated society</li> <li>- Promoting democracy</li> </ul>
Al-Kayan – Tajamou'a Loubnan Al Wahed	277/ad of 14-11-2005	14-11-2005	Al-Marwanieh	Issam Mohamed Abou Darwish - Salim Mohamed Dib - Joseph Milad Youssef Mitri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidating the structure and integrity of the Lebanese State, institutions, people and land</li> <li>- Implementing a comprehensive administrative reform</li> <li>- Fighting poverty</li> <li>- Establishing elementary schools</li> </ul>
Democratic Left Movement	295/ad of 23-11-2005	12-11-2005	Beirut	Nadim Sleiman Abdel Samad - Elias Hanna Atallah - Hikmat Nassif al-Eid - Amine Mohamed Wehbe - Jihad Hussein Sadeq - Hannah Mikhayel Asa'ad Saleh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing a democratic, free, just and balanced society</li> <li>- Promoting freedom of belief and thought</li> <li>- Establishing a secular state</li> </ul>
Al-Hiwar Min Ajel Loubnan Al Wahed Association	93/ad of 15-3-2006	27-12-2005	Al-Marj	Mohamed Ali Abou Hamdan - Salam Amine Al A'ouwar - Ahmad Mohammed Al E'arrah - Nabih Masa'ad Ghanem - Ali Ibrahim Al Qaq - George Salim Abdel Ahad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing an honest and transparent dialogue between the Lebanese</li> <li>- Dealing with development problems</li> </ul>
Reform and Development Movement Party	94/ad of 15-3-2006	25-2-2006	Beirut	Asa'ad Ahmad Harmouche - Hussein Cherif Hamadeh - Bassam Ibrahim Hammoud - A'azzam Ahmad Ayyoubi - Ibrahim Naji al-Masri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting national belonging</li> <li>- Redressing the Lebanese System</li> <li>- Modernizing the electoral law</li> </ul>
The Lebanese Environment Party	104/ad of 27-3-2006	17-3-2006	Beirut	Antoine Sarkis Daher - Amer Salaheddine Mala'eb - Habib Elias Ma'alouf - Nasima Abdo Chibani - Bassam Sami al-Kuntar - Majed Hassan Ba'albaki - Zubayda Ali al-Yahfoufi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing environmental issues</li> <li>- Drafting a comprehensive strategy for development</li> <li>- Promoting the practice and culture of democracy</li> </ul>
Arab Movement Association	114/ad of 6-4-2006	30-3-2006	Beirut	Chaker Chawkat al-Birjawi - Bechara George Wazir - Daoud Hikmat Abdel Samad - Salim Abdel Fattah Akkawi - Haidar Kamel Mhaydleh - Mohamed Ali Abdel Karim Sinno - Sobhi Mohammed Dib Haidar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserving Lebanon's sovereignty and Arab identity</li> <li>- Fostering democracy and dialogue</li> <li>- Maintaining Lebanon's cooperation with Arab countries</li> </ul>
The Lebanese Peace Party	121/ad of 21-4-2006	7-4-2006	Jbeil	Roger Jean Eddeh - Mohamed Ali Akl - Salma Jean Saba - Mekardij Agob Pauldakian - Khalil Chafic Kharma - Maurice Chekrallah al-Hajj Chahine - George Alain Léon Jean Camiliari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fostering Lebanon's peace as a living example of the interaction of civilizations</li> <li>- Working for Lebanon's freedom and promoting justice as a basis for a state of law and institutions</li> </ul>
The Green Hunters Party	128/ad of 15-4-2006	14-11-2005	Sin El Fil	Ayman Taha Sueid - Mustafa Ahmad Haidar - Walid Rachid Rasamni - Boulos Albert A'aris - Nazih Joseph Abi Sama'an - Rameh Gerjes ash-Sha'aer - Nabil Wadih al-Ma'alouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting environmental awareness</li> <li>- Defending social traditions and preserving cultural principles</li> </ul>
The Republican Union Party	148/ad of 26-4-2006	12-4-2006	Kaslik	Ra'if Sarkis al-Hashem - Alain Massa'oud Renno - Maya Kamil al-Boustani - Nabil Ahmad Fares - Adel Hussein al-Mawla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working for the prevalence of democracy and national unity</li> <li>- Increasing productivity and preserving the rights of the working class</li> </ul>
Towards Citizenship	151/ad of 28-4-2006	18-1-2006	Naccache	Sahar Adib Franjeh - Wassim George Abou Rjayleh - Joseph Anis Ma'alouf - Sophia Fouad Bitar - Roudy Ramzi Ja'afar - Chadi Salim Atallah - Gilbert George Doumet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing the youth with the appropriate consultancy and training to raise awareness on democracy</li> </ul>
The Free Patriotic Movement Party	163/ad of 2-5-2006	25-4-2006	Jdeideh	Michel Na'im Aoun - Edgar Fouad Ma'alouf - Rayya Daouq - Pierre Gerjes Raffoul - Issam Nkoola Abou Jamra - Ramzi Rustom Kanj - Na'im Sa'id Nakad - Khalil A'aref Hamadeh - Nadim Masa'oud Lteif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insuring the sovereignty and the independence of the Lebanese state</li> <li>- Consolidating democracy</li> <li>- Enabling the Lebanese Diaspora to practice its political rights in Lebanon</li> </ul>

The Free Lebanese Movement	168/ad of 3-5-2006	6-4-2006	Trablous	Ala'a Mohammed Issa Abou al-Nasr al-Yafi - Ahmad Wafik ash-Sha'ar - Zein A'alia Tah Kabbara - Ali Khalil Khalil - Imthithal Bachir al- Akkawi - Nazih Fawzi Khodor Agha - Marcel George Traboulsi - Bassam Fawzi Khodor Agha	- Promoting citizenship - Practicing democracy - Preserving inherited culture - Establishing a modern state
The Liberation Party	182/ad of 11-5-2006	11-5-2006	Trablous	Amir Rachad al-Miknas - Omar Hassan Hammoud - Ayman Ahmad Raouf al- Qadiri - Mohamed Nizar Jaber - Othman Mohamed Bakhach	- Promoting politics based on Islam whether in society, life or governance - Finding Islamic solutions for political, social and economic problems
The Independents	190/ad of 15-5-2006	18-4-2006	Baskinta	Faraj Nasr Harb - Razi Wadih al-Hajj - Moussa Abdo Bou Doumet - Tony Roukos Abi Karam - Ahlam Kamal Al Khazen	- Reinforcing dialogue between the Lebanese - Dealing with educational and cultural issues
Al Haraka Al Machrikiyyah	195/ad of 17-5-2006	7-4-2006	Dekweneh	Karim Fares Touma - Elie Abdo Abi Moussa - Mikardij Nizar Boughosyan - Diab Joseph Al Qa'ai - Antoine Bachir Sa'ab	- Consolidating national belonging and co-existence - Developing the Lebanese democracy in order to build a free society where justice and security prevail
The Green Movement	199/ad of 18-5-2006	24-4-2006	Ghobeireh	Sa'id Mohamed A'alahem - Youssef Habib al-Khoury Chidiac - Nayla Ali Nahle - Manal Sa'id Mazra'ani - Mohamed Haidar Harb - Mohamed Reda Amad al-Zahrán - Rabih Sami Hatoum	- Reinforcing coexistence and encouraging dialogue between the different cultures - Turning Mount Lebanon into a green oasis - Working on promoting and raising environmental awareness
Talia'at Loubnan Al-A'rabi Al Ishtiraki **	238/ad of 2-6-2006	31-5-2006	Beirut	Abdel Majib Mohamed Tabib Rafei - Jihad George Karam - Omar Mohamed Chibli - Wassef Habib al-Harake - Hassan Khalil Gharib - Hani Mohammed Chea'aib - Karam Mohamed as-Sahili - Rafik Nassib al-Fakih	- Eliminating political sectarianism while promoting the concept of citizenship among the Lebanese - Supporting Arab causes
Marada Party	245/ad of 7-6-2006	31-5-2006	Zgharta	Sleiman Antoine Franjeh - Raymond Youssef A'rajeh - Albert Bachir Al Jawkhdar - Wissam Wadih Issa - Elie Antoine Smaya	- Lebanon is a country for all its citizens - Fostering a free democratic system - Rejecting all projects aiming at settling Palestinians - Encouraging the participation of all Lebanese living abroad in Lebanon's political affairs
The Christian Democratic Party	268/ad of 13-6-2006	7-6-2006	Bkenneya	Jocelyne Michel Najem - Charles Edwar Sarkis - Shirine Edwar Sarkis - Charbel Farid Bou Gebrayel - Walid Joseph Sa'adeh	- Consolidating national belonging and promoting religious openness - Cooperating with the Christian Democratic parties in the world for the support of Lebanon
Central Bureau for National Coordination	312/ad of 27-6-2006	21-6-2006	Sin El Fil	Najib Salim Zwein - Asa'ad Murad al-Rafi' - Youssef Tannous Mhanna	- Lebanon is a country for all its citizens - Rejecting settlement of Palestinians - Fighting sectarianism and implementing secularism
The National Front to Support the Resistance	330/ad of 3-7-2006	15-5-2006	Chiyah	Yehya Mohamed Tamer Ghaddar - Akram Fouad A'azouri - George Salem al-Hajjar - Philippe Tarios Abi Fadel - Walid Mostapha Qasab (others)	- Drafting a strategy for intellectual and cultural dialogue on national issues - Drafting a strategy of interaction with Arab countries
The Reform and Progress Bloc	365/ad of 1-8-2006	29-6-2006	Beirut	Mohamed Khaled al-Daouq - Elias Kamel al-Batal - Mohamed Amin al-Sawhani - Elizabeth Kamil Rbeiz - Abdel Rahman Mohammed Ounsi	- Consolidating democracy and freedom - Promoting humanitarian principles
The Lebanese Social Democrat Hentchak Party	411/ad of 5-9-2006	24-8-2006	Beirut	Ohannes Agfourian - Karabid Bafsarlian - Haroun Chakhardamian - Masak Pauladian - Mardiros Jamkoujian - Iskandar Kouchakirian	- Developing and increasing the effectiveness of the democratic system - Fighting corruption - Consolidating Lebanese-Armenian bonds
The Islamic Labor Front	487/ad of 9-10-2006	19-5-2006	Trablous	Sheikhs: Mahmoud Fathi Yakan - Hashem Sa'id Minkara - Bilal Sa'id Jrad - Mahmoud Hassan al- Basnoun - Zuheir Othman Al Jueaid - Abdel Nasser Abdallah Jabri	- Encouraging humanitarian work and creative initiatives - Emphasizing cultural, intellectual, political and national dialogue
Movement for Justice and Development	522/ad of 21-10-2006	5-10-2006	Beirut	Khalil Ahmad Ayas - Khaled Mohamed Daher - Mohamed Safouh Yakan - Sheikh Mohammed Shehadeh Nasser - Sheikh Ahmad Sami Itani	- Working on promoting a temperate and balanced way of thinking - Working on establishing an Arab cooperation based on mutual respect and consolidating Muslim cooperation
Iqlim Al Kharroub National Gathering	528/ad of 31-10-2006	8-8-2006	A'anout (Chouf)	Refa'at Mohamed Sa'ad - Ghaleb al-Hajj Shehadeh - Adel Ali Abdallah - Amer Hassan Machmouchi - Salem Abdel Kader Ramadan - Kamal Abdel Rahman Damaj - Pierre Emile al-Azzi - Ola Mohammed al-Khatib - Maroun Fayez al-Boustani	- Expressing the Iqlim's national stands - Drafting strategies and studies related to the basic services and needs of the Iqlim
Civil Society Movement	529/ad of 1-11-2006	16-5-2006	Kaslik	Sami Philip Farah - Mohamed Ahmad Ouarabi - Paul Tawfic Rizk - Zein al-A'abdein Qobeyssi - Loubna Nawfal Nawfal - Lina Mostapha Makkouk - Sa'ad Kiwan Kiwan - Michel Abdel-Masih	- Preserving Lebanon's independence and sovereignty - Reaffirming Lebanon's Arab identity - Fostering democracy, transparency, justice and secularism
A'akkar Development Movement	541/ad of 8-11-2006	29-6-2006	Trablous	Duraid Abdel-Rahman Kanj - Moussa Ne'ameh Salloum - Ali Ahmad Darwish - Duham al-Hussein Dandashi - Mustafa Ahmad Abdel-Aziz - Rouba Fouad al-Haddad	- Achieving social justice and balanced development - Promoting dialogue and democracy



Lebanese Tawheed Movement	549/ad of 17-11-2006	28-6-2006	Beirut	Youssef Salem Bou Diab - Najji Masoud Hamadi - Salman Hassib Sayegh - Wi'am Maher Wahhab - Carine Moutaz Nassar - Baha'a Nadim Abdel-Khaleq - Youssef Amin Daou	- Defending Arab and national causes - Preserving Lebanon's adherence to its environment - Fighting corruption
National Coexistence Bloc	558/ad of 21-11-2006	11-10-2006	Beirut	Adnan Khodr Troublousi - Bader Rashid al-Tabsh - Tah Iffat Naji	- Lebanon's belonging to its Arab environment - Organizing political, social, cultural and development activities
Lebanese Democratic Association for Secularism (Jadal)	564/ad of 29-11-2006	20-4-2006	Saida	Hussein Najib Safieddine - Rami Mohamed Abou A'alfeh - Rafik Mohamed Rida al-Amin - Hassan Ali Fouad as-Sou'oudi - Faten Ghazi Faqih - Mohamed Walid A hmad al-Assi - Pierre Geryes Ibrahim	- Consolidating Lebanon's cultural democracy - Spreading the principles of secularism
Free Lebanon Youth Movement	568/ad of 5-12-2006	8-11-2006	Trablous	Khaled Ahmad Mourad - Ala'aeddine Shukri Qarh Wenly - Bashar Ali Zakaria - Claude Fawzi ash-Sheikh - Baria'a Shukri Qarh Wenly - Mohamed Nabil Saidawi	- Building a state able to protect its citizens from attacks against their life, money and dignity

\* The Lebanese Forces Party was founded according to Factual Certificate no. 178/ad issued on September 10, 1991 (Fouad Malek and Richard Jraysati are two of the founders). However, the Factual Certificate was withdrawn from the founders according to Decree no. 4908 dated March 31, 1994 after the explosion of the Saydet Al-Najat Church.

\*\* "The Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party in Lebanon" - under the leadership of Abdel Majid al-Rifai'i - has become a licensed party according to Factual Certificate no. 715/ad issued on August 13, 1970. However, this certificate was annulled by Decree no. 2231/ad issued on February 20, 1992, (Al Rifai'i fled to Iraq in the midst of the Ba'ath Syrian-Iraqi commandments crisis, driving the pro-Syrian government of Lebanon to support the Ba'ath party of Syria) which also included the dissolution of other private political associations.

Source: Lebanese Ministry of Interior

## Political Parties from 1926 to 2004

From 1926 to 2004, 67 political parties were founded in Lebanon, some of which remained active while others weakened or were dissolved when their founders passed away. The Factual Certificate was taken away from 21 political parties and associations according to Decree no. 2231, issued February 20, 1992. Table no. 2 shows the main Lebanese parties founded between 1926 and 2004 and which are still active.

Active Political Parties Founded from 1926 to 2004

Table 2

Name of party	Number and date of License	Head of the party (or prominent member in the foundation)
Progressive Socialist Party	789 of 17-3-1949	Kamal Jumblat
Lebanese Phalange Party	2333 of 18-8-1949	Pierre al-Gemayel
Lebanese National Bloc Party	946 of 18-3-1953	Raymond Eddeh
The National Liberal Party	876 of 8-9-1958	Kamil Chamoun
Jama'a Islamiya	224 of 18-3-1964	Fathi Yakan
Lebanese Communist Party	714/ad of 13-8-1970	Nicolas Chawi
Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party	864/ad of 22-9-1970	Ibrahim Na'im Issa al-Dawi
The Syrian Social Nationalist Party	841/ad of 21-9-1970	Abdallah Nicolas Sa'adeh
Amal Movement (Al-Mahroumin)	31/ad of 13-3-1981	Imam Moussa Al-Sader
The National Secular Democratic Party (Wa'ad Party)	13/ad of 21-1-1991	Elias Joseph Hbayka
The Lebanese Democratic Party	39/ad of 3-4-2002	Talal Irsilan

Source: Lebanese Ministry of Interior



In total, 81 licensed political associations and parties operate on the Lebanese territory today, without mentioning unlicensed parties like Hizbullah.

Although the procedure of founding a political party or association has become easier, there is still a crucial need to promulgate a law which would organize and monitor the foundation and activity of political parties.

For years, confessional and political squabbling determined which political party or association is to be licensed or not.

Below is a sample of decrees illustrating this fact:

### Decree No. 1120

The Ministry of Interior,  
According to Decree No. 7996 dated November 4, 1961;  
According to Article 3 of the Law of Associations;  
Taking into consideration that the association known as "The Socialist Ba'ath Party in Lebanon" is bonded to a non-Lebanese leadership due to its internal structure and the grading in its general assembly;  
Taking into consideration that this association is a party, not a movement or a front, which prevents the acknowledgment of its bond with a foreign assembly as it is the case for some other associations;  
Being aware of the party's establishment of secret cells inside Lebanon which jeopardize the internal security of the country;  
Opposing the "one party" motto adopted by the party as it contradicts the concepts of "diversity" and "front";  
All of that being opposed to the democratic grounds of the Lebanese system;  
Mindful of the security requirements;  
Decides to:  
Article One: Prohibit the granting of a Factual Certificate to the association known as "The Socialist Ba'ath Party in Lebanon;"  
Article Two: Publish and announce this decision whenever necessary.  
Beirut on December 4, 1963  
Signature: Kamal Jumblat

### Decree No. 4908

The President of the Republic of Lebanon,  
According to the Constitution;  
According to the Law of Associations issued on August 3, 1909 and its amendments, in particular Article 3;  
According to the Factual Certificate No. 178/ad of September 10, 1991, stipulating the establishment of an association called the "Lebanese Forces Party" in Beirut;  
According to the proposal of the Minister of Interior;  
And after the agreement of the Council of Ministers on March 23, 1994;  
Decides to:  
Article 1: Withdraw the Factual Certificate No. 178/ad of 10/9/1991 stipulating the establishment of the "Lebanese Forces Party" in Beirut and dissolve the in-question association.  
Article 2: Publish and announce this decision whenever necessary.  
Ba'abda on March 23, 1994  
Signature: Elias Hrawi  
Issued by the President of the Republic  
The Prime Minister  
Signature: Rafik al-Hariri  
The Minister of Interior  
Signature: Bshara Merhej

### Decree No. 190

The President of the Republic of Lebanon,  
According to the Lebanese Constitution;  
According to the Law of Associations;  
According to Decree No. 19801 dated June 13, 1958 stipulating to withdraw the Factual Certificate No. 789 dated March 17, 1949 given to the association known as "The Progressive Socialist Party";  
Taking into consideration that this association no longer exists;  
Taking due note of the proposals made by the Council of Ministers;  
Decides to:  
Article 1: Annul Decree No.19801 dated June 13, 1958;  
Article 2: Publish and announce this decision whenever necessary.  
Beirut on December 5, 1958.  
Signature: Fouad Chehab  
This Decree has been issued by the President of the Republic [Fouad Chehab]  
The Prime Minister  
Signature: Rachid Karame  
The Minister of Interior  
Signature: Raymond Edde

### Decree No. 211/E

The President of the Republic of Lebanon  
According to Decision No. 1 dated January 2, 1934 and Decision No. 1 dated January 3rd, 1936 issued upon the orders of the Higher French Commissioner;  
According to Article 2, 6, 12 of the Law of Associations dated Rajab [Islamic Calendar] 27, 1327;  
According to Article 3 of the in-question law which was amended by the May 26, 1982 law;  
Taking into consideration that the association known as "The Syrian Nationalist Party" has been secretly founded and is operating illegally on the territory of the Republic of Lebanon;  
Taking into consideration that the objective of the in-question association is prohibited and illegal as it jeopardizes national order and security, and taking due note of the proposal of the Secretary of State;  
Decides to:  
Article 1: Dissolve the association known as "The Syrian Nationalist Party"  
Article 2: Publish and announce this decision whenever necessary.  
Beirut on May 17, 1936.  
Signature: Emile Edde  
Secretary of State  
Signature: Dr. Ayoub Tabet

# A High Trust in Lebanese Army and Security Forces

## Equal Support to March 8 and 14 Less Support to both Aoun and Hizbullah's Arms

While politicians are engaged in squabbling and disputes over power sharing arrangements and other controversial issues, the Lebanese are looking for peace and security. At least, this is what an opinion poll conducted by **Information International** in February 2007 showed.

The first part of the opinion poll focused on the Lebanese people's stands towards the forces of March 8 and 14, Hizbullah's weapons, latest security developments, rearmament of political parties, the role of the military forces, causes and solutions to the current crisis, as well as their most preferred candidates for the presidency and the premiership.

### Political Belonging

The Lebanese are politically divided between the opposition (March 8 and Free Patriotic Movement) and the pro-government (March 14 forces). 38.3% of respondents reported to belong to the March 14 forces against 27.5% with the March 8 and 12.9% with the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM or Michel Aoun's party), totaling to 40.5% of the respondents belonging to the opposition.

The Lebanese political arena registered this month the entry of a new movement – the March 11 – with only 3.1% of supporters.

18.2% of Lebanese reported not to belong to any movement or party (graph no.1).

These numbers indicate that the Lebanese are equally divided between the March 8 and March 14 forces and that around the quarter of respondents do not support any of them. Only 5.6% of respondents reported to have changed their political belonging in light of political developments. (1.3% were with the FPM, 1.8% were with the March 14 and 0.6% with the March 8). **The respondents' strong adherence to their political affiliation highlighted a wide rupture among the Lebanese despite the fact that around 58% said they did not trust any of the March 8 and March 14 forces** (see *Ii Monthly* issue no.54).

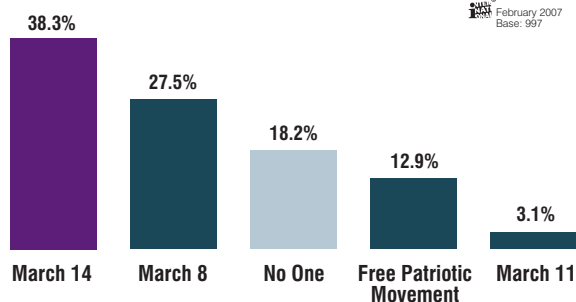
The respondents' positions toward the different political movements by confession showed that the majority of Maronites, Catholics, Sunni and Druze were with the March 14 forces, while the majority of Shia'a and Orthodox and a large number of Maronites and Catholics belonged to the March 8 and the FPM (table no.1).

**Distribution of Respondents' Positions by Confession Table 1**

Movement	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze
March 8	10.5%	5%	4.1%	10.8%	75.8%	3.5%
March 14	41.2%	32.5%	38.8%	67.7%	3%	84.2%
Free Patriotic Movement	23.2%	33.8%	22.4%	0.4%	8.2%	1.8%
March 11	4.8%	1.3%	6.1%	1.1%	3.7%	-
No one	20.3%	27.4%	28.6%	20%	9.3%	10.5%

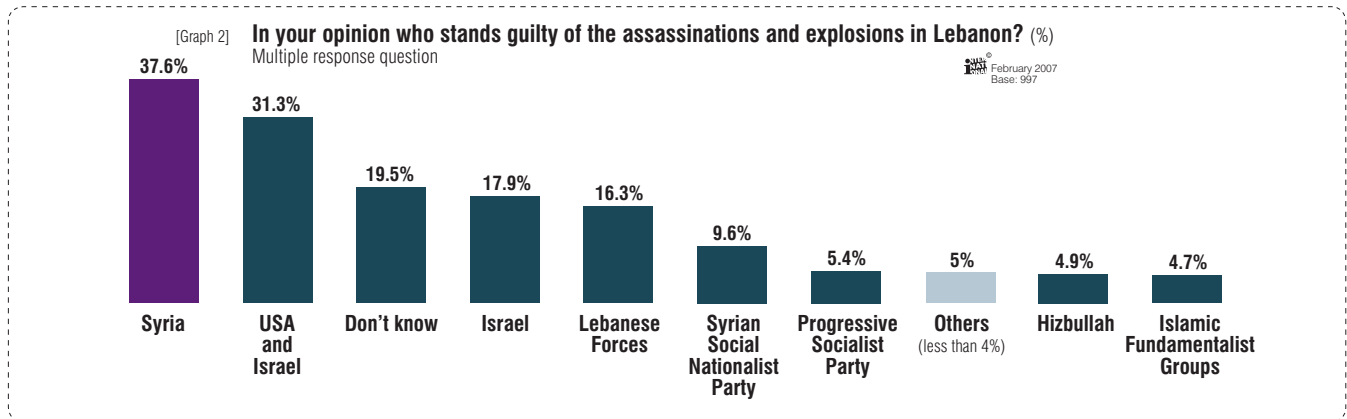
Source: Information International – February 2007

[Graph 1] Which group do you belong to? (%)



### Responsibility for Explosions and Assassinations

The wide division in political affiliation was also highlighted in the people's opinions about the parties behind the series of explosions and assassinations. 37.6% of respondents said they believe that Syria was perpetrating these crimes, against 17.9% who accused Israel and 31.3% who accused both the United States and Israel.



16.3% of respondents held the Lebanese Forces Party responsible for assassinations and explosions, while 9.6% accused the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, 5.4% accused the Progressive Socialist Party, 4.9% said Hizbullah and 4.7% said Islamic fundamentalist groups (graph no.2).

## Hizbullah's Arms

Last month, the Lebanese Army confiscated a truck full of arms belonging to Hizbullah in the area of Hazmieh in Matn.

51.2% of respondents voiced their support to the confiscation of the arms, while 37.1% opposed this measure, and 11.7% said they did not know whether it was a positive step.

The distribution of the answers by confession showed that more than 70% of respondents in each confession supported the confiscation, except for the Shia'a, as only 6.3% supported this measure against 88.5% who were against the confiscation (table no.2).

Confession Position	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze
Support the confiscation	69.3%	70%	71.4%	67.7%	6.3%	87.7%
Against the confiscation	16.2%	18.8%	14.3%	19.7%	88.5%	8.8%
Do not know	14.5%	11.2%	14.3%	12.6%	5.2%	3.5%

Source: Information International – February 2007

As to the distribution of respondents by political belonging, 95% of respondents from the March 14 Forces supported the confiscation, against 3.3% of respondents from the March 8 and 35.7% of respondents from the FPM (table no.3).

Belonging Position	Belonging				
	March 8	March 11	March 14	Free Patriotic Movement	Neutral*
Support the confiscation	3.3%	32.3%	95%	35.7%	45.3%
Against the confiscation	95.3%	25.8%	1.8%	44.2%	20.4%
Do not know	1.5%	41.9%	3.1%	20.2%	34.3%

\*Neutral are respondents who do not support any group, political party or force.

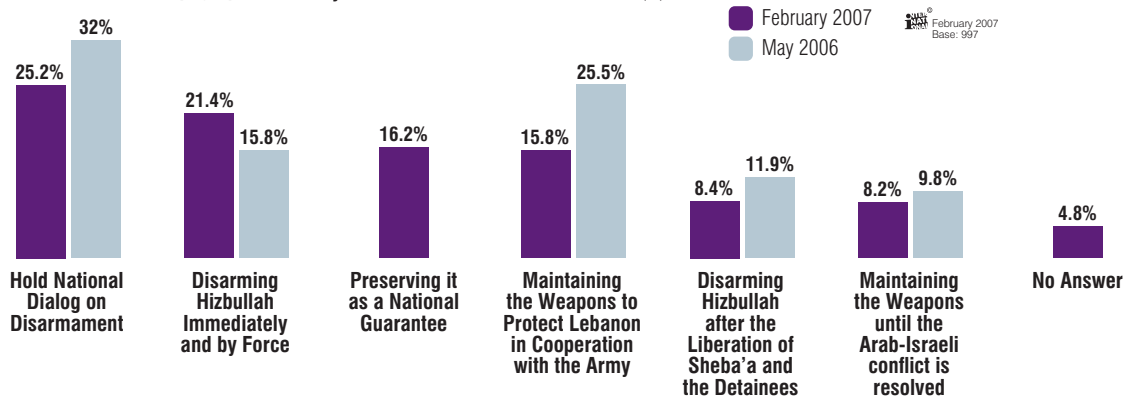
Source: Information International – February 2007

As to the people's positions toward Hizbullah's arms, the majority of respondents (25.2%) said national dialogue should be held on disarmament, against 21.4% who said Hizbullah should be disarmed immediately and by force. On the other hand, 16.2% said the arms should be preserved as a national guarantee, while 15.8% said it should be preserved to defend Lebanon in cooperation with the Army. 8.4% of respondents said Hizbullah should be disarmed after Israel withdraws from the Sheba'a Farms and liberates the detainees, 8.2% said Hizbullah should keep its arms until the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved and 4.8% said they did not know (graph no.3).

In a poll conducted by *Information International* in May 2006, answers came as follows: 15.8% supported Hizbullah's immediate disarmament, 32% called for dialogue on this issue, 25.5% said the arms should be preserved until a solution is reached to protect Lebanon from Israel. 11.9% said Hizbullah should keep its arms until the liberation of Sheba'a Farms and the detainees, while 9.8% said the weapons should be maintained by the group until the Arab-Israeli conflict is settled.

These figures highlight a decrease in the support to Hizbullah's weapons.

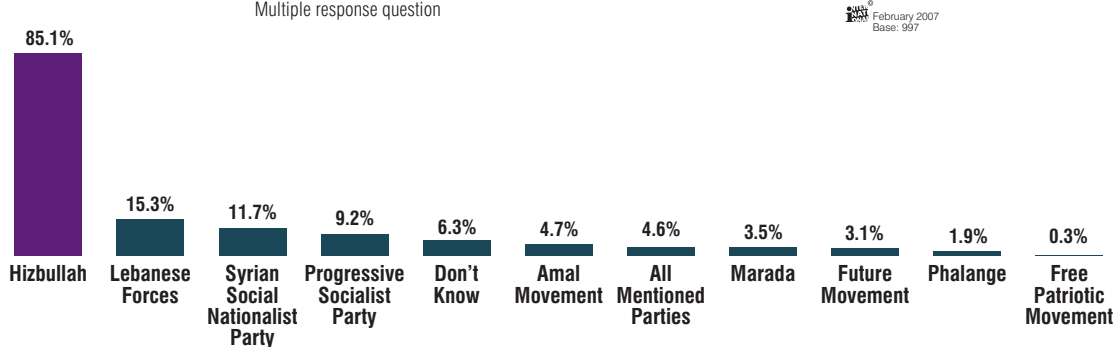
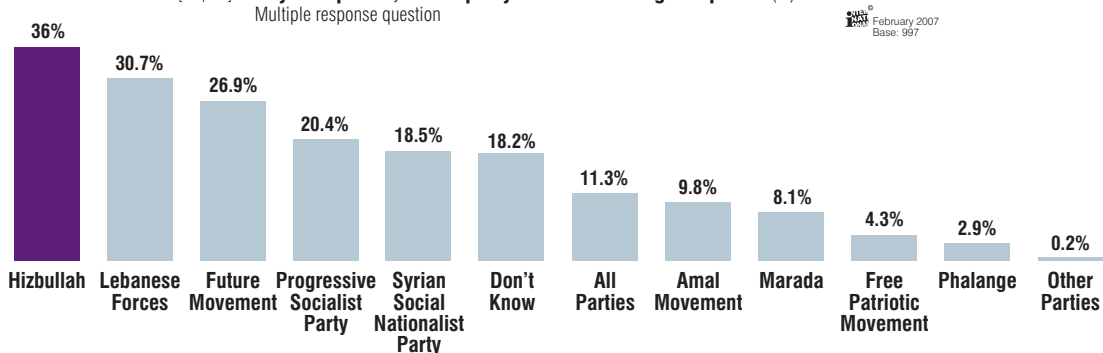
[Graph 3] What is your stance in Hizbullah's arms? (%)



## Armament of Political Parties

Talks about some parties' armament have recently started as each party is accusing the other of training its members and buying weapons. When asked about the party that owns the largest number of weapons, the overwhelming majority (85.1%) named Hizbullah, while 15.3% named the Lebanese Forces Party, 11.7% said the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, 9.2% said the Progressive Socialist Party, 4.7% said Amal Movement, 3.5% said Al-Marada Party, 3.1% named the Future Movement, 1.9% said the Phalange Party and 0.3% said the Free Patriotic Movement (graph no.4).

As to the party that is currently receiving arms, 36% of respondents said Hizbullah, 30.7% said the Lebanese Forces, 26.9% named the Future Movement, 20.4% said the Progressive Socialist Party, 18.5% named the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, 9.8% said Amal Movement, 8.1% said Al-Marada, 4.3% said the FPM, 2.9% said the Phalange, while 11.3% said all abovementioned parties have started to rearm (graph no.5).

[Graph 4] In your opinion, which party owns weapons in large quantities? (%)  
Multiple response question[Graph 5] In your opinion, which party is still receiving weapons? (%)  
Multiple response question

## Trust in Security and Military Bodies

81.1% of Lebanese voiced their trust in security and military institutions (43.3% have a high trust, 37.8% trust the military bodies to a certain extent, compared with 17.9% that have little trust or do not trust them at all). 1% said they did not know (graph no.6).

## Responsibility for Street Clashes

On the 23rd and 25th of January 2007, several people were killed and dozens injured in street clashes in Beirut and surrounding areas. 34.3% of respondents held the pro-government forces responsible for these clashes against 33.4% who accused the opposition. 17.1% accused both the opposition and the pro-government forces, while 7% held Arab and Lebanese media institutions responsible for instigating the clashes. 1.6% said the security forces were responsible as they did not use force to stop the rioters and 6.6% said they did not know.

## Causes of the Current Crisis

More than half of the respondents (56.5%) believe that Lebanon's crisis is the result of foreign interference against only 7.6% who believe that it is caused by internal problems. 15.2% of respondents blame the crisis on regional reasons and 19.8% on the intertwinement between local and regional causes (graph no.7).

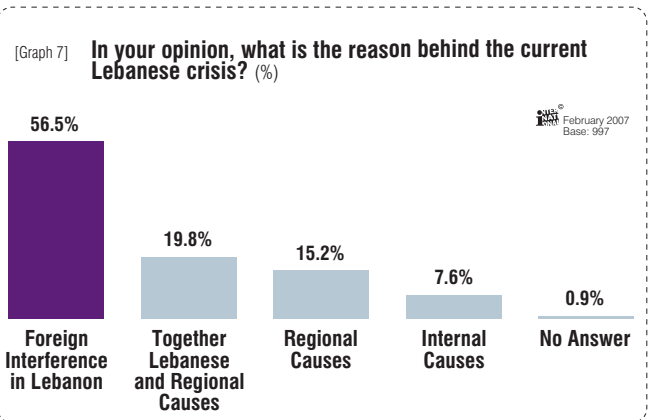
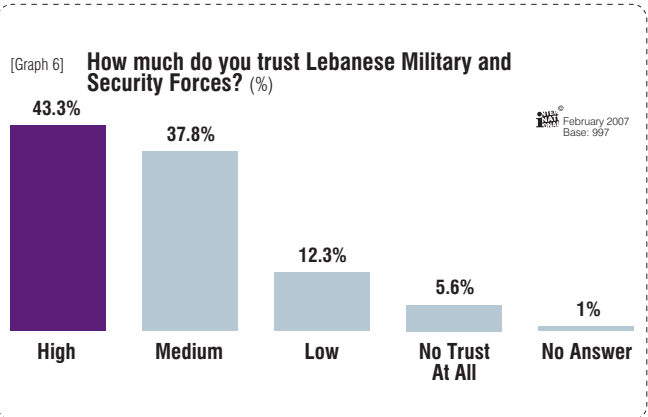
## Solution to the Crisis

The quarter of respondents (25.1%) said the resignation of President Emile Lahoud would end the crisis in Lebanon, while 22% said the solution resided in the government's resignation and 20.8% said the resumption of national dialogue. 18.3% called for early parliamentary elections, 8.5% for the resignation of both Lahoud and the government and 5.3% said they did not know (graph no.8). The distribution of these positions by confession is shown in table no.4.

Table no.4 highlights confessional considerations in the answers of respondents, as the majority of Shia'a (48.7%) said the solution resided in the resignation of the government, while the majority of Sunni (46.5%) and Druze (50.9%) said that Lahoud's resignation was the solution.

## Most Preferred Candidate for Presidency

Michel Aoun is still at the top of the most preferred presidential candidates, as he is supported by 29.4% of respondents. The second on the list is Boutros Harb, with 10.8% of supporters. Riad Salameh comes third with 9.3%,



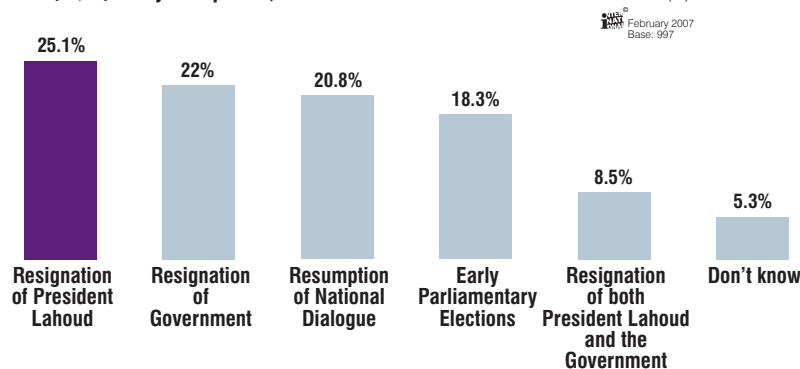
**Solutions Proposed to End the Crisis by Confession Table 4**

Solution	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze
Government resignation	19.3%	16.3%	12.2%	4.1%	48.7%	3.5%
President Lahoud resignation	28.5%	20%	18.4%	46.5%	1.9%	50.9%
Resignation of Lahoud and government	12.7%	18.8%	6.1%	4.5%	5.9%	10.5%
Early parliamentary elections	11%	20%	20.4%	9.7%	33.1%	1.8%
Resumption of national dialogue	22.4%	18.8%	32.7%	29.4%	7.4%	28%
Do not know	6.1%	6.1%	10.2%	5.8%	3%	5.3%

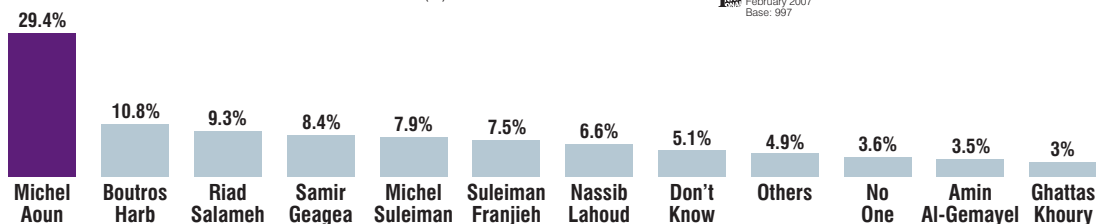
Source: Information International - February 2007

“More than half of the respondents (56.5%) believe that Lebanon's crisis is the result of foreign interference against only 7.6% who believe that it is caused by internal problems.”

[Graph 8] In your opinion, what is the solution to the current crisis? (%)



[Graph 9] Who is your most preferred candidate for the presidency after the end of Lahoud's term? (%)



Samir Geagea 8.4%, Michel Suleiman 7.9%, Suleiman Franjeh 7.5%, Nassib Lahoud 6.6%. Amin al-Gemayel was supported by 3.5% of respondents and Ghattas Khoury by 3% (graph no.9).

A comparison between the current results and a previous poll conducted by *Information International* in August 2006 shows a decrease in the popularity of Michel Aoun, who had received 45% of support. However, Boutros Harb and Suleiman Franjeh maintained the same position, while the level of support for Samir Geagea and Riad Salameh increased. Table no.5 shows the level of support for each figure by confession in 2006 and 2007.

Level of Support for Each Figure by Confession in 2006 and 2007

Table 5

Candidate	% of current supporters (Feb 2007)	% of supporters in Aug 2006	% of supporters in May 2006	Currently (February 2007)						August 2006					
				Maronite	Orthodox	Catholic	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze	Maronite	Orthodox	Catholic	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze
Michel Aoun	29.4%	45%	46.8%	26.8%	41.3%	22.4%	6.3%	54.6%	3.5%	39.9%	39.7%	51.6%	16.4%	81.4%	13.3%
Boutros Harb	10.8%	10.9%	14%	9.6%	13.8%	10.2%	20.4%	1.9%	15.8%	10.6%	13.2%	9.7%	21.3%	0.5%	20%
Riad Salameh	9.3%	4.6%	5.3%	10.1%	8.8%	16.3%	11.5%	4.8%	14%	3.2%	7.4%	9.7%	8.2%	1.8%	6.7%
Samir Geagea	8.4%	6.4%	3.4%	17.5%	5%	10.2%	10.4%	0.4%	5.3%	15.4%	10.3%	9.7%	2.9%	-	6.7%
Suleiman Franjeh	7.5%	7.1%	3.4%	6.1%	1.3%	4.1%	1.1%	17.8%	1.8%	10.6%	5.9%	3.2%	2.9%	10.9%	2.2%
Nassib Lahoud	6.6%	8.4%	11.9%	4.4%	3.8%	8.2%	12.6%	1.9%	17.5%	7.4%	10.3%	-	15.9%	0.5%	22.2%
Others	22.9% (including Amin al-Gemayel 3.5% - Ghattas Khoury 3%)	9.8%	14%	19%	21%	16.4%	23.2%	13.4%	38.5%	6%	10.3%	6.4%	16%	2.3%	24.4%
Do not know	5.1%	7.8%	1.2%	6.5%	5%	12.2%	14.5%	5.2%	3.6%	6.9%	2.9%	9.7%	16.4%	2.6%	4.5%

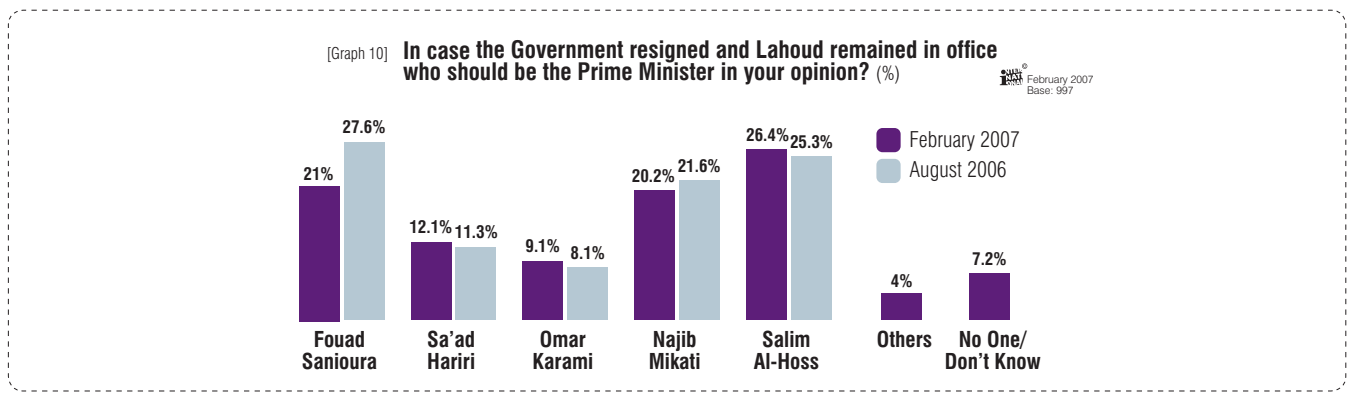
Source: Information International – February 2007

## Most Preferred Candidate for Premiership

In case a change in the government occurred and Lahoud remained in office, the majority of respondents (26.4%) chose Salim al-Hoss to form a new government, while 21% chose Fouad Sanioura, 20.2% Najib Mikati, 12.1% Sa'ad Hariri, 9.1% Omar Karami and 4% named other figures. 7.2% of respondents said they did not know who to choose (graph no.10). These answers are distributed by confession as shown in table no.6

Most Preferred Candidate for the Premiership by Confession							Table 6
Most preferred candidate for the premiership	Confession						
	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze	
Salim al-Hoss	15.8%	21.3%	22.4%	9.7%	56.5%	12.3%	
Fouad Sanioura	22.8%	15%	26.5%	35.3%	1.9%	52.6%	
Najib Mikati	26%	43.8%	20.4%	15.6%	13.4%	12.3%	
Sa'ad Hariri	10.5%	8.8%	12.2%	27.9%	1.9%	1.8%	
Omar Karami	10.1%	1.3%	2%	3.7%	17.8%	1.8%	
Others	6%	1%	4.2%	3.7%	1.1%	15.7%	
Do not know	8.8%	8.8%	12.3%	4.1%	7.4%	3.5%	

*Source: Information International – February 2007*



In the poll conducted by *Information International* in August 2006, Fouad Sanioura ranked first with 27.6%, followed by Salim al-Hoss with 25.3%, Najib Mikati 21.6, Sa'ad Hariri 11.3% and Omar Karami 8.1%.

In case Lahoud resigned and a new president was elected, the level of support to Sanioura decreased to 17.7% and that of Sa'ad Hariri increased to 17.5%.

“The majority of respondents (26.4%) chose Salim al-Hoss to form a new government, while 21% chose Fouad Sanioura.”



## Conclusion

The opinion poll shows the following:

- ⦿ The Lebanese are equally divided between the March 8 and March 14 forces. They remained loyal to their political affiliations despite developments that shook the country over the past months and despite their declining trust in both March 8 and 14.
- ⦿ The United States, Israel and Syria are at the top of parties accused by the Lebanese of being behind explosions and assassinations.
- ⦿ More than the half of respondents approved the confiscation of the truck containing weapons of Hizbullah in February 2007.
- ⦿ The level of support to Hizbullah has decreased against an increase in calls for its disarmament whether by force or dialogue.
- ⦿ Hizbullah is at the top of groups which according to the Lebanese own and receive weapons, followed by the Lebanese Forces and the Future Movement.
- ⦿ Military and security bodies are trusted by the majority of Lebanese (81.1%).
- ⦿ The majority of Lebanese believe that the current crisis in Lebanon was the result of foreign interference.
- ⦿ The quarter of respondents believe that the solution to the crisis was the resignation of President Emile Lahoud. Around the same percentage believe that the solution resided in the resignation of the Cabinet and resumption of dialogue.
- ⦿ Michel Aoun remains the most preferred candidate for the presidency despite a decrease in the level of respondents' support to him.
- ⦿ Salim al-Hoss ranked first among the most preferred candidates for the premiership, indicating a yearning towards appeasement. ♦♦

### Description of the sample

The opinion poll was conducted between February 22-28, 2007 on a sample of 1,000 citizens in different Lebanese areas, with a proportional distribution according to the number of residents and the electoral size of each confession in each qada'a.

Males represented 58.3% of respondents and females 41.7% distributed by age categories as follows:

24% between 18-24 years old  
23.7% between 35-44 years old  
7.5% between 55-64 years old  
The margin of error was  $\pm 1.8\%$

27.3% between 25-34 years old  
12.3% between 45-54 years old  
5.2% over 65 years or did not specify

# The Lebanese Military Forces: 88,000 whose Salaries Represent 87% of the Total Military Budget

Ideally, military forces are meant to preserve peace and security of a country as well as along its borders. In Lebanon, the efficiency and role of the military forces is permanently questioned by whoever feels politically marginalized. In the 1990s, Fouad Sanioura was opposed to expanding the military budget but now he is advocating it. *li Monthly* approaches this matter in order to form a better understanding regarding the staff and expenses of the military forces.

## The Size of the Lebanese Military Forces

The Lebanese military forces include four main bodies: the Lebanese Army, the Internal Security Forces, the General Security and the State Security. There are other military forces with specific tasks, such as the Customs Security Forces assigned to prevent any smuggling operations, and Parliament's police in charge of the parliament house's security. Table no.1 shows the number of working staff in each of the four main military bodies, as specified in the related decrees.

In total, the four main Lebanese military forces employ 89,423 soldiers and armed forces.

Staff Members Employed within the Lebanese Military Forces					Table 1
Military Body	Decree No. 3771 dated 22-1-1981	Decree No. 1460 dated 15-7-1991	Decree No. 9610 dated 13-12-1996	Decree No. 13317 dated 31-10-1998	
Rank	Army	Internal Security Forces	General Security	State Security	
General	1	-	-	-	
Major General	8	7	1	1	
Brigadier General	60	47	20	6	
Colonel	148	96	38		
Lieutenant Colonel	358	165		43	
Major	390	263	110		
Captain	600	384	90	71	
First Lieutenant and Lieutenant	1,204	756	210		
First Adjutant	1,828	1,150	-	400	
Adjutant	2,660	2,608	-		
Sergeant First Class	3,259	4,169	-	700	
Sergeant	5,797	5,294	-		
Corporal First Class and Corporal	9,818	5,633	-	1,704	
Soldier First Class and Soldier	20,156	-	-	-	
Civil Servants	3,148	702	-	-	
Chief Warrant Officer	-	449		150	
Warrant Officer	-	671	525		
Policemen or Police officers	-	7,803	-	-	
First Class Chief Inspector	-	-	900	-	
First Class Inspector	-	-		-	
Chief Inspector	-	-	1,250	-	
Inspector	-	-		-	
Third Class Inspector	-	-	2,500	-	
Police Commissioner	-	-		-	
University Graduates and Administrative Staff	-	-	40	227	
Technicians	-	-	74	500	
Wage earner	-	-	125	100	
Agent	-	-	11 (including 1 judge)	2 (judges)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,428</b>	<b>30,197</b>	<b>5,894</b>	<b>3,904</b>	

Source: Information International based on the decrees of the specified years



There are other military forces in Lebanon working within the following bodies:

- Airport Security Staff (56)
- Military Squad Staff (40)
- The Army's Directorate General of Administration Staff (350)
- The Army's General Inspectorate Staff (82)
- Secretariat of the Military Council Staff (15)
- Parliament's Police Staff (460)

It is noteworthy that while the Lebanese Army counts as many as 60,000 members, the other three main military bodies have 12,000 job vacancies. This disparity in the number of working staff increased after the July-August 2006 war, when the Ministry of Defense called upon volunteers, to gather a squad of 15,000 soldiers to be deployed in South Lebanon.

There is a lack of staff within the Internal Security Forces, which has been recruiting volunteers and contractors; it has managed to increase its staff number to 22,000 members. The Internal Security Forces hopes to recruit around 8,000 additional members in the next couple of years.

According to these facts, the final number of military recruits in the main military bodies amounts to 88,000 members.

## The Cost of the Lebanese Military Bodies

The expenses of the Lebanese military bodies consist of salaries, wages, indemnities, social privileges and daily consumption expenses, such as electricity, fuel, and communication.

In the 2005 budget, an estimated 1.262 billion LBP were allocated to the military bodies to cover their expenses, compared to 1.288 billion LBP in 2001 and 973 billion LBP in 1995.

Table no. 2 illustrates the distribution of these amounts by military body, highlighting the share of salaries.

According to table no.2, the military expenditure dropped from 17.3% of the total budget's expenditure in 1995, to 13% in 2001 and to 12.6% in 2005.

**The Distribution of the Military Forces Expenses by Body (in thousands of LBP)**

**Table 2**

Military Body	Year	1995	2001	2005
The Ministry of National Defense (salaries, wages and related sums)		665,379,090 (540,307,240)	886,755,200 (771,909,500)	852,267,250 (750,126,500)
The Internal Security Forces (salaries, wages and related sums)		236,543,060 (199,243,060)	305,723,280 (251,579,780)	325,290,500 (270,926,500)
The General Security (salaries, wages and related sums)		51,678,000 (44,286,000)	69,885,000 (59,550,000)	80,358,000 (63,911,000)
The State Security (salaries, wages and related sums)		20,104,937 (15,742,937)	26,342,750 (21,280,000)	29,756,000 (22,733,000)
Total (salaries, wages and related sums)		973,705,087 (799,579,237)	1,288,706,230 (1,104,319,280)	1,264,883,750 (1,107,697,000)
Total Budget Expenditure		5,630,000,000	9,900,000,000	10,000,000,000
Percentage From Budget Expenditure		17.3%	13%	12.6%

Source: Laws of the General Budget for the years 1995, 2001 and 2005

However, the amounts allocated to the military bodies increased by 30% between 1995 and 2005 (from 973 billion LBP to 1,262 billion LBP) – graph no. 1. This growth in military expenditures was due to the hiring of new staff members and to an increase made on salaries and indemnities as stipulated in Law 718 dated November 5, 1998. It is also expected that this expenditure will further increase in 2006 due to the additional number of staff enrolling in the army (15,000 members) and the Internal Security Forces (7,000 members).

Even though 87% of the total expenses of the military bodies are deployed to pay salaries, wages, indemnities and social privileges, the military expenditure remains a real burden, especially as it is mainly financed by debts, not incomes.

### The Cost of the Military Retirement System

All public servants have retirement salaries, including military servants. However, unlike civil public servants, the retired military personnel benefits from large indemnities as fixed in the military and financial dispositions from 1975 till 2003, granting each retiring military servant a one time indemnity amount in addition to a monthly retirement salary. Table no. 3 below shows that 692 billion LBP were taken from the 2005 budget to cover the retirement system’s expenses.

Military Body	Purpose	Retirement Salaries	End of Service Indemnities
Lebanese Army		325	115
Internal Security Forces		105	65
General Security		38.5	20
State Security		15.5	8
Total		484	208

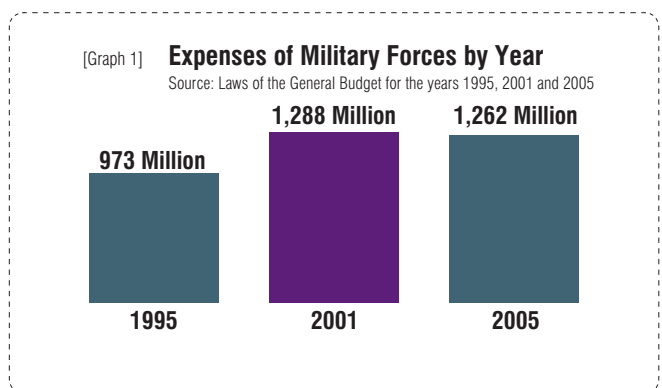
*Source: Budget Law 2005*

A high level of security in a country would result in economic prosperity. However, in Lebanon, the security system is tightly related to politics which is capable of destabilizing it.

The absence of political accord leads to the following question: Are 88,000 military members and 2,000 billion LBP annually enough to insure stability and security in Lebanon?

The purpose of the military forces in Lebanon should be reconsidered to best serve the security needs of the country. How much is needed to build a strong and powerful national army to defend Lebanon from any possible attacks? How many internal security forces are needed to protect the Lebanese citizens? And how can we make the forces more efficient?

*Note: The real amounts spent by these military bodies remain different from the figures shown in table no.2, as these are only estimates fixed in the Budget Law for the mentioned years.*



“In Lebanon, the security system is tightly related to politics which is capable of destabilizing it.”

# Lebanon's Rising Security Bill



**Sit-in in downtown Beirut**  
December - 2006



**Security measures around the capital**  
December - 2006

Lebanon is going through a security problem since February 14, 2005, the day when former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated. This situation deteriorated in the wake of the July-August 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon which led to social and economic crises and to an increase in the "security bill".

## State Security

Internal tension led to an increase in the Internal Security Forces (ISF), which led the ISF to conclude contracts with around 5,800 soldiers and recruit around 2,500 others, including 100 officers. Although the ISF does not provide the exact value of this additional cost, the lowest estimated number is 60 million USD per year.

Moreover, the deployment of around 15,000 Lebanese Army troops in the South and along the border in line with the UN Security Council resolution forced the army to call for around 10,000 reserve troops. The estimated cost reached around 80 million USD, which means that the security tension is costing the government an additional 140 million USD per year in salaries, compensations, missions and transport.

## Private Security

Security instability forced many citizens and private institutions to adopt several security measures, including:

- ⊙ **Hiring private security companies:** the demand for security personnel increased by an estimated rate of 50% and those companies are now facing a lack of sufficient staff, since the Lebanese young men prefer to join the army, which provides them with more benefits
- ⊙ **Buying private electrical generators:** to avoid power cut in case of security problems
- ⊙ **Relocating:** several families left their homes and moved to other areas they consider safer, so they were forced to buy or rent new apartments, in addition to paying transportation expenses
- ⊙ **Increasing phone calls:** from mobile and land lines, which raised phone bills by an average of 20% to 30%
- ⊙ **Adopting safety measures:** some families changed their window glasses, overlaid their doors and surveillance cameras were installed in some residential buildings and private companies. ●●

# The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority: Violating the Constitutional Council's Decisions

The Lebanese government decided in January 2007 to create an independent Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), hoping that it "would become a model of good governance to serve as an example for other public sector institutions in Lebanon" and pave the way for privatizing the sector. However, the creation of the authority came in violation of decisions made by the Constitutional Council.

## The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

Article 6 of the Telecommunications Law no. 431 of July 22, 2002 stipulated the creation of an authority with a president and four members, who should be appointed for a five-year term by a Cabinet decree in line with a proposal from the minister of telecommunications.

On January 4, 2007, the Cabinet appointed the TRA members, whose names were published in the official gazette on February 21, 2007.

Regardless of the legitimacy of this decree which was not signed by President Emile Lahoud, *Ii Monthly* will address the constitutionality of the committee which proposed the names of the members.

Last year, the Cabinet decided to assign a "higher evaluation committee" to choose the authority's members and president, despite the fact that Law no. 431 does not stipulate the creation of such committee.

The committee was formed of the president of the civil service council, Mounzer al-Khatib, a university professor, Dr. Randa Antoun, the director general of telecommunications investment, Abdel-Mon'em Youssef, the director general of construction, Naji Andraous and Deputy Ghazi Youssef. The Cabinet appointed the authority's members according to the committee's final report.

## Violation of Constitutional Council Decision No. 4/2001

The appointment of members came in violation of the Constitutional Council's decisions, which have a power on *resjudicats* and are binding to all public, judicial and administrative authorities, as stipulated in Article 13 of the Law pertaining to the creation of the Council.

In 2001, the Constitutional Council issued decision no.

4/2001 that canceled Law no. 363 (provisions pertaining to the appointment of first and second grades employees), which entrusted a 6-member committee to choose the persons who would be appointed in first and second grade positions.

The Council canceled this law because it considered that the committee's decisive power would hamper the role of the Council of Ministers set in Article 65 of the Constitution.

Consequently, the members' appointment has overstepped Cabinet's constitutional authority.

Moreover, Article 13 of the Law pertaining to the creation of the council states that any decision made by the latter should be binding to each of the legislative, executive and judicial powers. As a result, Parliament cannot issue a new law similar to another that was previously cancelled by the Constitutional Council. Moreover, courts should not make judgments of same content as those previously canceled by the Council and the Cabinet should not issue decrees similar to other decrees annulled by the Council.

The Shura Council was the first authority to stress this rule in its decision no. 71 of October 25, 2001, which stated that the Constitutional Council's decisions are abiding to the judiciary and public authorities.

Moreover, Cabinet's decision to create the committee violated the Council's decision no. 5/2001, because it hampered the Cabinet's role in appointing first grade employees.

## Violation of Constitutional Council Decision no. 2/1999

One of the members appointed by the committee was Deputy Ghazi Youssef. In response to comments by President Emile Lahoud, Minister of Telecommunications Marwan Hamadeh explained that Youssef was chosen for his "deep knowledge of this issue, as a former secretary general of the higher council for privatization and financial expert and not as a member of Parliament".

However, the appointment of a deputy in the committee represents a constitutional breach as it contradicts the principle of separation of powers and the Constitutional Council decision no. 2/1999.

Consequently, any concerned person (for example a person who applied for a position in the committee and was not accepted) has the right to challenge the deputy's membership before the Shura Council. ●●

# Violating the Law in Time of Upheaval

Lebanon's opposition forces took to the streets on December 1, 2006, and announced an open-ended sit-in in Riad al-Solh and Martyrs' squares in an attempt to force the government to hold early parliamentary elections and form a "national unity Cabinet".

However, the opposition escalated its movements on January 23, 2007 by organizing a general strike, blocking main roads and burning tires. Several "confessional" fights also erupted on that day forcing the opposition to end the strike. Two days later, four people were shot dead in clashes near the Lebanese Arab University in Beirut. Snipers were seen on television channels shooting at civilians and Lebanese Army soldiers from rooftops of nearby buildings. The clashes also involved setting cars on fire and attacking the offices of a political party. Consequently, the Lebanese Army imposed a curfew in the capital during the night of January 25-26.

## Are Ongoing Sit-ins in Beirut Legal?

In the first days of the sit-in, commercial shops, restaurants and some banks in downtown Beirut closed. Some roads leading to the Beirut Central District were also blocked. However, life in downtown returned to normal in a short period of time, but some roads remained closed.

According to Article 750 of the Lebanese Penal Code, "any person who vandalizes or destroys public squares and roads shall be sentenced to a maximum of six-month imprisonment and to a fine ranging between 100,000 LBP to 1 million LBP or to one of these two sentences".

Based on the aforementioned, if the State Prosecutor determined a destruction of public squares and roads, it should press charges against all the people involved in the destruction. As to commercial shops which were afflicted by financial losses during the first days of the sit-in, they can file a lawsuit before the relevant judicial courts against the organizers of the sit-in in order to receive compensations.

Article 346 of the Penal Code stipulates that "any gathering or crowd in public roads or places is considered a gathering of riots. The people involved shall be sentenced to imprisonment ranging from one month to one year if the gathering was formed of a minimum of 7 people and was held in protest against a decision or measure adopted by public authorities".

This article applies on the opposition, since the sit-in was held in protest of the government's policies.

However, Article 347 exempts acts that were perpetrated before the government issued a warning. Consequently, Article 346 cannot be implemented unless the opposition is officially warned to end the sit-in.

## Is Blocking Roads Legal?

Article 751 of the Penal Code stipulates that "any person, who blocks a public road without a permission from the relevant authorities or puts anything on the road that blocks it partially or totally, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of six months and to a fine ranging from 100,000 LBP to 1 million LBP or to one of these two sentences".

During the general strike of January 23, the opposition blocked the main roads in all Lebanese areas without taking the government's permission. This means that Article 751 can be applied in this case. The State Prosecutor should have arrested all those who blocked roads on that day by burning tires or pressed charges against the organizers.

## Shooting at Civilians


Television videos showed snipers shooting at civilians from the rooftop of buildings located near the Lebanese Arab University. Four people were killed during those clashes which broke out on January 25. Article 549 of the Penal Code states: "Intentional killing by means of ill-treatment or with cruelty constitutes murder and shall be sentenced to death". The killing of the four people was intentional because snipers intentionally shot at civilians.

Article 75 of the Lebanese Law of Weapons and Artillery can also be applied on this case, as it states that "anyone who shoots fire in crowded places, using a licensed or unlicensed weapon, shall be sentenced with imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years and to a fine ranging between 500 LBP and 1,000 LBP\* or to one of these two sentences. The weapon will be confiscated in both cases".

## Shooting at the Lebanese Army

Snipers shot at the Lebanese Army and ambulances were seen rushing some soldiers to hospitals. According to Article 24 of the Lebanese Military Judicial Law, the specialized military courts should look into crimes committed against a military person, except those committed against a recruit outside his work". Some people were arrested during the clashes and were referred to the Military Court. The Military Investigating Judge pressed charges against them for committing crimes against people, hitting the government and its dignity, attacking government civil and military institutions, instigating confessional disputes and possessing arms. The sentence for these crimes can reach death penalty.

It is true that these incidents constitute criminal acts; however, they occurred in a period of upheaval and deep divisions among the Lebanese people. Consequently, it might be difficult to give the appropriate legal description of the developments or implement the laws fully.

In fact, each party is accusing its rival of instigating a coup. Who will hold opposition and pro-government forces accountable for their acts? Law or history? 

\* The Budget Law no. 98/91 raised all fines, multiplying them by 100.

# The Security Council and Chapter VII

International peace and security are of the main objectives set in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. The UN Security Council was formed with the aim to maintain peace and security among nations in line with Chapters VI, VII, VIII and XII of the Charter. However, when international conflicts threaten peace and security, the Council interferes under Chapter VII, imposing sanctions on the relevant states.

## The Difference between Chapter VI and VII

Chapter VII of the UN Charter includes articles 39 to 51 and is related to actions with respect to threats and breaches to peace and acts of aggression.

Procedures adopted by the Security Council in this regard can represent economic sanctions, military intervention and an embargo on arms. However, such procedures would only follow measures of pacific settlement of disputes under Chapter VI, which includes articles 33 to 38. In fact, article 33 stipulates that “the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice”.

Consequently, all UN member-states should seek to resolve their disputes with peaceful means and in a way that does not threaten international peace and security. In case peace was threatened or breached, the Security Council may interfere under Chapter VII, “make recommendations or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security” (article 39).

## Conditions of the Implementation of Chapter VII

The Security Council acts under Chapter VII only when it determines the existence of any threat or breach to international peace and security or any act of aggression.

“All UN member-states should seek to resolve their disputes with peaceful means and in a way that does not threaten international peace and security.”

## I- Threat to International Peace and Security

Defining the notion of “threat to international peace and security” is crucial because it represents the basis for the interference of the Security Council in any conflict. Surprisingly, there is not any text in the UN Charter that defines this threat.

However, a look on the Security Council resolutions gives a hint about cases when international peace and security were threatened. For example, unfriendly (but not aggressive) relations between states might threaten peace, as well as behaviors and positions inside a state which can have international repercussions. Moreover, activities of an armed militia inside a state against another country are also seen as a threat. Sometimes, assassinations are considered as a threat to international peace and security.

The Security Council uses the expression “threat to international peace and security” always followed by “acting under Chapter VII”. However, there were some exceptions, such as Resolution 1422 of July 12, 2002 pertaining to the International Criminal Court, and which stated “acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations” without mentioning that the case represents a threat to international peace and security. In addition, Resolution 1737 of December 23, 2006 and which imposed sanctions on Iran, stated: “Mindful of its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security” and then, “Acting under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations”, also without specifying that the case represents a threat to international peace and security.

In other cases, the Security Council talks about a threat to international peace and security without mentioning that it is acting under Chapter VII, such as Resolution 1701 issued on August 11, 2006, which called for a “full cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hizbullah”.

## II- Breach to International Peace and Security

The UN Charter did not give a definition to the “breach to international peace and security”. However, Resolution



54 of July 15, 1948 pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict described the failure of the parties to implement a cease-fire as a breach to international peace and security that necessitates an immediate interference of the Security Council under Chapter VII. Resolution 660 of August 2, 1990 also said that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a breach.

### III- Acts of Aggression

The Charter does not define the “act of aggression”. However, on December 14, 1974, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 29/3314, which defined the word “aggression” as follows: “the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations as set out in this Definition”. The following are some examples of aggression, according to article 3 of the Resolution:

- ⦿ “Bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State;
- ⦿ The blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State;
- ⦿ An attack by the armed forces of a State on the land, sea or air forces, or marine and air fleets of another State;
- ⦿ The use of armed forces of one State which are within the territory of another State with the agreement of the receiving State, in contravention of the conditions provided for in the agreement or any extension of their presence in such territory beyond the termination of the agreement;
- ⦿ The action of a State in allowing its territory (a group of territories), which it has placed at the disposal of another State, to be used by that other State for perpetrating an act of aggression against a third State;
- ⦿ The sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State of such gravity as to amount to the acts listed above, or its substantial involvement therein”.

In conclusion, the Security Council acts under Chapter VI when it sees that an ongoing conflict may endanger international peace and security and recommends appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment, in line with article 36. In case it determines any threat or breach, the Council may decide to act under Chapter VII to restore peace and security.

## Forms of Interference under Chapter VII

Acting under Chapter VII, the Security Council can impose sanctions, which may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations, economic and military embargo, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of state-members. International tribunals are also formed in some cases.

### I- Imposing Sanctions and Military Embargo

When a threat or breach to international peace and security is determined, the Security Council makes recommendations or decides to adopt measures stipulated in article 41 of the Charter.

Before the beginning of the Cold War, the Security Council did not issue but two resolutions with economic sanctions: Resolution 232 of December 16, 1966, which prohibited the import of some goods from Southern Rhodesia and Resolution 418 of November 4, 1977, which banned the import of weapons to South Africa.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world saw an increase in the number of resolutions imposing sanctions. The following is a list of some countries on which sanctions were imposed by the Security Council:

Iraq: Security Council Resolution 661 of August 6, 1990 prevented all member-states from importing any goods or products originating in Iraq and Kuwait and exported after the date of the resolution. Moreover, the resolution stipulated that all member-states should not make available to Iraq or any commercial, industrial or public utility undertaking in Iraq or in Kuwait, any funds or any other financial or economic resources. The Security Council also issued Resolution 986 on April 14, 1995, adopting the oil-for-food program to allow the Iraqi government to use oil revenues to buy food and other necessities for its people, but without breaching the economic sanctions imposed on the country by Resolution 661.

Libya: The Security Council imposed sanctions on the Libyan government after it was held responsible for the explosion of the Pan Am airplane in 1988. Resolution 748 of March 31, 1992 “denied permission to any aircraft to take off from, land in or overfly the Libyan territory”.

- Somalia:** In 1991 and after President Siad Berri was overthrown, a civil war broke out and claimed the lives of thousands of civilians. As a result, the Security Council issued Resolution 733 of January 23, 1992, and prevented all states from delivering any kinds of weapons or military equipment to Somalia.
- Liberia:** Fighting in Liberia erupted at the end of 1989. Hundreds of people had died by the beginning of 1990 in confrontations between the government forces and militants who claimed to belong to an opposition group called the National Patriotic Front for Liberia (NPFL) and which was headed by a former government official. Consequently, the Security Council issued Resolution 788 on November 19, 1992, imposing a complete and general embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to the country.
- Haiti:** On June 16, 1993, the Security Council issued Resolution 841, imposing an embargo on arms and oil. Another resolution – 917 – was issued on May 6, 1994, and extended the embargo to reach all goods and products, except for food and medical supplies.
- Yugoslavia:** The Security Council decided to impose economic sanctions on the Republic of Yugoslavia according to Resolution 757 of May 30, 1992.
- Côte d'Ivoire:** Following confrontations between insurgents and government forces in Côte d'Ivoire, the Security Council issued Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, which decided that “all States, for a period of thirteen months from the date of adoption of this resolution, shall take the necessary measures to ensure and prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer... to Côte d'Ivoire of arms or any related material”.
- Iran:** In response to its nuclear program, the Security Council imposed sanctions on Iran under Resolution 1737 of December 23, 2006.

## II- Military Intervention

- Iraq:** When President Saddam Hussein refused to comply with Resolution 660 of August 2, 1990, which called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the Security Council issued Resolution 678 on November 29, 1990. The resolution allowed member-states cooperating with Kuwait to take all adequate measures to achieve the implementation of resolution 660 if Iraq does not withdraw its forces before January 15, 1991. Again, Saddam Hussein refused to comply and a military intervention against Iraq was launched on January 16, 1991.

- Somalia:** Resolution 794 issued on December 3, 1992 called on member-states to “provide military forces, make additional contributions in cash or in kind and make the necessary arrangements for the unified command and the forces involved”, in the wake of the absence of a legitimate government due to internal conflicts.
- Haiti:** Under Resolution 940 of July 31, 1994, the Security Council allowed member-states to form a multi-national force under a unified command and control to restore the legitimately elected leftist President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and authorities of the Government of Haiti and extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti. For the first time in the history of the Security Council, military intervention was used to restore a democratically elected regime.

## III- International Tribunals

Political and military measures adopted by the Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security are sometimes accompanied by the creation of criminal courts. The Security Council has so far formed two international tribunals under Chapter VII.

**The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda:** On November 8, 1994, the Security Council issued Resolution 955 stipulating the creation of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to prosecute those who committed genocides there in 1994, when around 800,000 people from the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups were killed. The tribunal was formed in order to judge people responsible for the acts of genocide and other serious violations of the international law performed in the territory of Rwanda.

**The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia:** Following many massacres and confrontations between the Croats and Muslim Serbs in Yugoslavia, the Security Council issued Resolution 808 on February 22, 1993, which called for the creation of an international tribunal to prosecute those responsible for violations of the International Humanitarian Law and which occurred in former Yugoslavia since 1991. The court was formed to look into grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws or customs of war, genocides, and crimes against humanity. It can try only individuals, not organizations or governments. ●●

# Sit-ins in Downtown Beirut

100 days = 100 companies closed, most of which temporarily

On December 1, 2006, Lebanon's opposition forces launched an open sit-in in Riad al-Solh and Martyrs' Squares in downtown Beirut, calling for early parliamentary elections and a national unity Cabinet with a veto right.

Pro-government forces replied to the action saying that the opposition was free to remain in the streets for months but they would not give it the veto right. For its part, the opposition announced it would not end the sit-in until its demands are fulfilled.

Hundreds of tents were erected and downtown became surrounded by barbed wires and stone blocks. Restaurants, shops and night clubs became difficult to reach. Some of them strived to survive, but many others could not burden financial losses and closed down.

“100 restaurants and shops have shut their doors and around 800 people lost their jobs since the beginning of the sit-in”

It is true that many shops and restaurants, which have closed in downtown Beirut and moved to other areas, such as Jounieh, Ashrafieh, Verdun and Hamra, have done the same over the past couple of years under different circumstances. This fact highlights an economic problem that further deepened with the current sit-in.

*Ii Monthly* surveyed the situation in downtown Beirut after the passing of 100 days since the beginning of the sit-in. The survey showed that 100 restaurants and shops have shut their doors and around 800 people lost their jobs since the beginning of the sit-in. Table no.1 and 2 list the institutions that closed by street and type.

**Distribution of Closed Restaurants and Pubs by Street Table 1**

Name of Restaurant or Pub	Street
Al-Bakawat	Bishop Toubia Aoun
Al-Balad	Hussein al-Ahdab
Buddha Bar	Al-Emir Bashir
Casper and Gambini's	Al-Emir Bashir
Crepaway	Bishop Toubia Aoun
Don Edwardo	Youssef al-Rami
Famous Pizzaz	Al-Ma'arad
Il Parlamento	Al-Omari Mosque
Al-Halabi	Al-Amir Bashir
Karmna	Al-Ma'arad
Kiub'z	Al-Ma'arad
La Piazza	Nejmeh Square
Massaya Beirut	Al-Omari Mosque
Mémoires de Chine	Bishop Toubia Aoun
Le Relais de L'entrecôte	Al-Ma'arad
Zamann	Hussein al-Ahdab
Scoozi	Al-Ma'arad
Starlet	Al-Emir Bashir
Coyote's	Al-Omari Mosque
Motion	Al-Markazieh Building
La Tabkha	Al-Bezrkan
T.V.	Bishop Toubia Aoun
Momo's	Uruguay
Garden Café	Mustapha Al-O'akad
Cinneo	Abdel-Malak

Name of Restaurant or Pub	Street
Maralima	Souk Abul-Nasr
Souvlaki	Ministry of Finance
Citron Sucré	Al-Emir Bashir
La Maison du Café	Abdallah Bayham
Fratello	Nejmeh
Dunkin Donuts	Souk Abul-Nasr
Famous Shawarma	Ministry of Finance
Spot 3	Al-Omari Mosque
Second Cup	Hussein al-Ahdab
Sea Sweet	Al-Emir Bashir
Marquise	Bishop Toubia Aoun
Taboo	Al-Emir Bashir
Paddy's	Bishop Toubia Aoun
Subway	Riad al-Solh
Al Hallab	Al-Ma'arad
Capital Café	Hussein al-Ahdab
Trocadero	Al-Ma'arad
Adon club - Story	Ministry of Finance
Crom	Al-Markazieh Building
Maki	Uruguay
Al Andalus	Ministry of Finance
La Concha	Al-Omari Mosque
Bsat el-Rih	Al-Emir Bashir
Diwan al-Akaber	Al-Markazieh Building

Source: Compiled by Information International

Distribution of Closed Shops by Street

Table 2

Name of Shop	Street	Type
Izzat Daouk and sons	Al-Emir Bashir	Cosmetics
Catimini	Al-Dabagha Mosque	Children clothing
Petit Bateau	Youssef al-Rami	Children clothing
Baline	Al-Emir Bashir	Shoes and bags
Puma	Al-Emir Bashir	Shoes
Liberto	Al-Emir Bashir	Women and men clothing
Pointure	Al-Emir Bashir	Shoes
Adaymi	Al-Azarieh	Shoes and clothing
Banzalini	Weygang Street	Men clothing
Veron	Al-Ma'arad	Shoes
Mouzannar	Al-Ma'arad	Jewelry
Diamonti	Azmi Beik	Jewelry
A-Look	Uruguay	Optical
Zone	Al-Dabagha Mosque	Gadgets
Mister Shoes	Al-Azarieh	Shoes
Yassayan	Riad al-Solh	Jewelry
Lynne	Al-Ma'arad	Women clothing
Sami Production	Riad al-Solh	Photography
Sarafian	Parliament	Jewelry
Prime	Souk Abul-Nasr	Books and music
Skin	Ministry of Finance	Accessories
Trois Pas	Saad Zaghloul	Children clothing
Tamari Shoes	Al-Azarieh	Shoes
Vivace	Bishop Toubia Aoun	Shoes
Members Only	Azmi Beik	Shoes and clothing
Viril	Al-Emir Bashir	Men clothing
Addict	Parliament	Women clothing
Osé' et Sidoux	Nejmeh Square	Lingerie
Bisou Store	Al-Emir Bashir	Women clothing
Advanced Car Rental	Al-Emir Bashir	Car rental
Finikia	Argentine	Jewelry and watches
Hakim	Fosh	Mosaic
Momento	Al-Ma'arad	Watches and gifts
Per Amore	Uruguay	Jewelry and watches
Eyenet	Al-Emir Bashir	Optical
Number One	Ministry of Finance	Music
Librairie du Liban	Al-Emir Bashir	Books
La Casa del Habano	Al-Emir Bashir	Cigar
Art Jewels	Al-Ma'arad	Jewelry
Zess	Ministry of Finance	Shoes
Guess	Al-Emir Bashir	Clothing
Zilli	Fosh	Clothing
Elegance	Souk Abul-Nasr	Textile
Azar	Weygang Street	Jewelry
Asha	Ministry of Finance	Jewelry
Rock Shoes	Abdel-Hamid Karami	Shoes
Chidiac	Bazerkan	Gifts
Bariq	Sa'ad Zaghloul	Jewelry
Damas	Abdel-Malak	Jewelry and watches
Sharkiyat	Uruguay	Handicrafts
Nancy	Souk Abul-Nasr	Bags, watches and accessories
B&G	Azmi Beik	Gifts and accessories
FedEx	Riad al-Solh	Shipping
Centro Citta	Parliament	Bags and accessories
Eve Hair Extensions	Parliament	Hair and beauty center
Sinno	Ministry of Finance	Clothing
Pantera	Argentine	Clothing
Sapphire	Parliament	Gem stones
Mon Shoe	Nejmeh Square	Shoes
6 Parkings		

Source: Compiled by Information International

Shots of closed shops in downtown Beirut  
Beirut - March 2006

The number of institutions in SOLIDERE reached 825 in 2006, according to the company's guidebook. The institutions are distributed as follows:

- ⦿ 51 banks and financial institutions
- ⦿ 12 educational and cultural institutions
- ⦿ 10 embassies and foreign delegations
- ⦿ 17 ministries and public institutions
- ⦿ 25 health and medical institutions
- ⦿ 3 hotels
- ⦿ 16 insurance companies
- ⦿ 19 law firms
- ⦿ 102 restaurants and night clubs
- ⦿ 230 offices with other type of work
- ⦿ 315 shops
- ⦿ 25 service companies (travel agents – airlines)

*Note: Some of the shops and restaurants mentioned in tables no. 1 and 2 have completely closed while the majority have temporarily closed due to the current circumstances in downtown Beirut.*

# The Year 2006 in Review

An increase in associations, a decrease in number of visitors and economy out of the political crisis

After discussing in the previous issue the situation of some sectors in 2006, *li Monthly* focuses in Part 2 on Lebanon's foreign trade, stock market, banking sector, public debt, the gross domestic product, the balance of payments, the price index, traveling movement, licensed construction areas, students and exams and new political parties and civil associations.

## Foreign Trade

The balance of trade in 2006 recorded a deficit of 7,097,060,000 USD or a rate of 311% compared with 7,460,000,000 USD in 2005.

The value of imports reached 9,379,586,000 USD against 2,282,526,000 USD of exports. (In 2005, imports amounted to 9,340,000,000 USD and exports to 1,880,000,000 USD) graph no 1. The limited increase in the imports was due to the July-August 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon and the state of economic stagnation the country has been going through over the past two years. Surprisingly, the United States ranked first in the list of Lebanon's import countries, replacing Italy, which occupied this post for several years. Lebanon's export country in 2006 was Switzerland. Table no.1 shows top countries for Lebanese exports and imports in 2006.

**Top Countries for Lebanese Exports and Imports in 2006**  
(in millions of USD) Table 1

Country	Imports	Exports
United States of America	1016.1	52.6
France	761.1	39.1
China	751.6	45.5
Italy	709.9	27.1
Germany	659.8	22.2
England	406.6	31.5
Egypt	379.1	47.9
Switzerland	212.9	451
Saudi Arabia	296.3	146.2
Syria	177.9	175.7
Russia	260.6	8.6

Source: Directorate General of Customs 2006

## Stock Exchange and Banking Sector

- **Stock exchange:** The value of stocks traded in 2006 reached 2032 million USD compared with 923 million USD in 2005 or an increase of 120%. The size of stocks increased from 89.75 million stocks to 134.85 million stocks or an increase rate of 50%.
- **Deposits:** Bank deposits at the end of 2006 amounted to 93.073

billion LBP, compared with 87.611 billion LBP at the end of 2005, or an increase rate of 6.2% against 4.1% in the previous year. This increase constitutes a positive sign, taking into consideration the instability that prevailed over the country in the summer.

- **Bank loans:** Bank loans granted to the private sector reached 25.930 billion LBP, including 81.6% in foreign currencies. Loans increased by 6% compared with the previous year, while they rose by 1.9% in 2005. Loans granted to the public sector reached 31.193 billion LBP with an increase of 4496 billion LBP. Loans in foreign currencies represented 51.6% of the total value of loans.
- **Exchanged checks:** 9.985 million checks amounting to 48.975 billion LBP were exchanged among Lebanon's banks compared with 10.810 million cheques of 50.716 billion LBP in the previous year. 77.8% of cheques were in foreign currencies.

## Public Debt

The value of the public debt at the end of 2006 reached 60.880 billion LBP or 40.4 billion USD (without mentioning the loans of 7 billion USD by Arab funds). The debt increased by 2895 billion LBP in 2006 compared with 3987 million LBP in 2005.

49.6% of the total debt is in Lebanese Pounds while 50.4% is in foreign currencies.

The decrease in the public debt resulted from the government's failure to pay its dues to contractors and entrepreneurs and to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

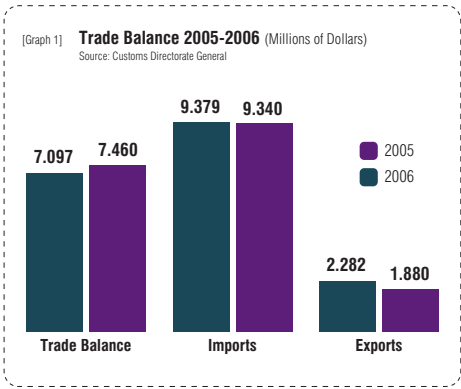
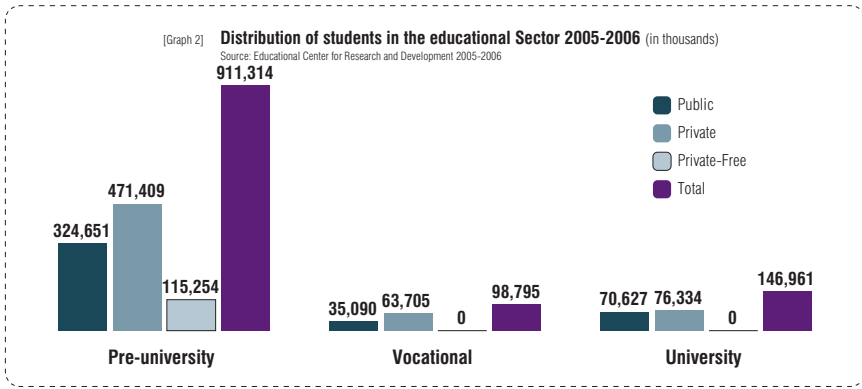
It is also due to its failure to present the Budget Law to Parliament for approval.

## Gross Domestic Product

With the absence of official numbers, there were different estimates on the economic growth in 2006. Some estimates showed that economy remained stagnant, while others showed that growth ranged between -1 and -2%. Bank Audi estimated the growth at -5%. In May 2006, the National Accounts Committee reported the GDP in 2003 to reach 29,846 billion LBP (19.8 billion USD). Based on these estimates and numbers, the GDP in 2006 reached 21 billion USD.

## Balance of Payments

Despite the big deficit in the balance of trade which reached 7,115 million USD, the balance of payments recorded a surplus of 2,795 million USD.



### Price Index

According to the Central Administration of Statistics, average prices rose by 5.6% in 2006. Food products rose by 14.9%, transportation and communications by 5.6%. Other estimates indicate that prices rose by 11% to 13%.

### Traveling

The number of people coming to Lebanon reached 1,464,487 in 2006, compared with 1,579,004 people in 2005 or a decrease rate by 7.2%. The number of people who left Lebanon in 2006 reached 1,275,119 persons compared with 1,600,749 people in the previous year. Aircraft movements also decreased, reaching 32,980 movements against 38,198 movements in 2005.

### Licensed Construction Areas

The areas of construction zones licensed by the Orders of Engineers and Architects of Beirut and the North reached 9,683 million square meters in 2006, compared with 8,819 million square meters in 2005 or an increase by 9.8%.

### Students and Exams

The number of students registered in the different

educational levels (elementary, intermediate, secondary, university and vocational) and sectors (public and private) reached 1,157,070 students, compared with 1,155,347 students in the previous academic year. Graph no.2 shows the distribution of students by educational level and sector.

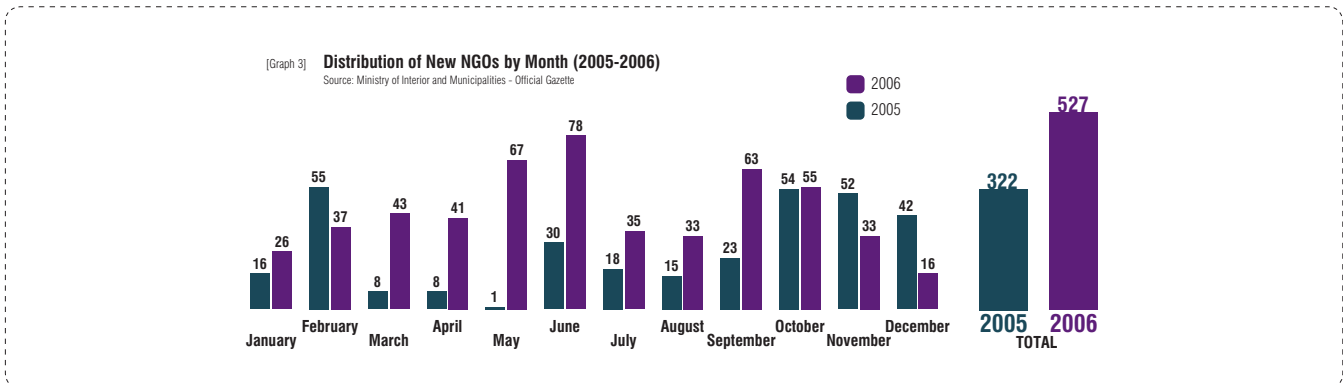
- 61,767 students participated in the official exams of the intermediate level (Brevet) and 46,210 students passed, or a passing rate of 74.8%.
- 40,141 students participated in the official exams of the secondary levels and 31,039 students passed, or a passing rate of 77.3%.

### New Political Parties

The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities gave a license to 30 political parties and associations, mainly the Free Patriotic Movement, Al-Tahrir (Liberation) Movement and Marada Movement.

### Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

527 licensed NGOs were founded in 2006. The number of new NGOs by month is shown in graph no.3.



# Government Pays “Salaries” of “Islamic Courts” and the quarter value as “grants” to “Christian Courts”

In the wake of the Ottoman Empire's control over Lebanon and which extended over 400 years, Islamic courts and Muslim religious men were considered part of the government. The latter was considered by the attorneys an Islamic government with Islam as its state religion while Christian confessions and religious men were seen as minorities, hence not part of the state. During the formation of the Lebanese State, Muslim religious men and their courts remained part of the state, as they followed the Muslim Prime Minister and received their allowances, salaries and expenses from the government's treasury.

## Islamic Courts

Islamic courts and Muslim religious men, who receive allowances, compensations and salaries from the government, are distributed among the four Islamic confessions: Sunni, Shia'a, Druze and A'alawi. Table no. 1 shows the distribution of expenses in 2005 according to the courts of each confession. Those expenses are part of the budget of Premiership.

- *li Monthly* concludes from this table that allowances, salaries, wages and remunerations and their supplements represent 83.4% of the expenses.
- These salaries and allowances are distributed among the heads of confessions (4.2 million LBP for each head of confession, with an increase of 7% every two years). The Mufti Al-Ja'afari and the Mufti of Trablous (Tripoli) receive the amount of 3.7 million LBP each. The other muftis receive the amount of 3.3 million LBP, while the Fatwa muftis receive 3 million LBP. Judges of religious courts receive the amount of salaries stipulated in Law no. 716 of November 5, 1998 and their salaries start from 1,900,000 LBP (first grade) and reach 5,050,000 LBP (grade 22). The remaining amounts of money are allocated to the courts' workers and employees.

**Distribution of the Islamic Courts' Expenses in Each Confession according to the 2005 Budget (Amounts in thousands of LBP)**

**Table 1**

Islamic Institution	Confession	Expenses	Including allowances, wages, salaries and supplements
Dar al-Ifta'a	Sunni	1,292,674	850,100
Sunni Religious Courts	Sunni	3,203,000	2,338,000
The Higher Islamic Shia'a Council	Shia'a	671,600	387,714
Al-Ifta'a Al-Ja'afari	Shia'a	1,232,663	1,073,000
Ja'afari Shia'a Courts	Shia'a	3,049,583	2,488,216
Sheikh al-Akl (Druze spiritual leader) and the Druze Religious Council	Druze	563,200	470,000
Druze Religious Courts	Druze	969,636	755,420
The A'alawi Islamic Council	A'alawi	590,870	477,716
Government's Registration fees and contributions to the mutual fund of religious courts' judges and to the mutual fund of legal assistants in religious courts	Sunni, Shia'a and Druze	4,960,000	4,960,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,533,226</b>	<b>13,800,166</b>

Source: The 2005 state budget law no. 715 of February 3, 2006

- *li Monthly* also concludes that the share of the courts of the Sunni confession reaches the amount of 4,495,674 thousand LBP, while that of the Shia'a confession courts reaches 4,953,846 thousand LBP, or a difference of 458,172 thousand LBP.
- Expenses are not limited to wages, salaries, operational expenses (electricity, water, telephone, rents and mail) but also include equipment and building expenses. For example, an amount of 27 million LBP was dispersed in October 2006 to furnish the conference room of the members of the Higher Islamic Religious Council in Dar Al-Fatwa. Another 413 million LBP were dispersed to furnish and equip the headquarters of the Higher Islamic Shia'a Council in Hazmieh.

## Christian Courts

Christian courts are not part of the government apparatus; hence, heads of Christian confessions do not receive allowances and wages from the government. The latter only pays contributions through the Ministry of Justice budget to Christian spiritual courts. In 2005, the contributions reached the amount of 4,540,000 thousand LBP. In other words, Christian courts receive from the government only 27% of the amount received by the Islamic Courts.

Government's financing of Islamic and Christian spiritual courts contributes to promoting confessionalism, as it forces the Lebanese to refer to their religious courts to settle personal affairs while the government claims that it seeks to eliminate confessionalism.

Endorsing a law that allows non-compulsory civil marriage through civil courts could represent a means to reach a balance between those who refer to religious courts and those who want to resort to civil courts in order to avoid confessional obstacles.

# The Shia'a Confession: from Marginalization to Mainstream Politics

The Islamic Shia'a confession is one of the three largest Lebanese confessions, along with the Sunni and the Maronite. The Shia'a endured marginalization and persecution during the past decades, from the era of the Ottoman power and the French colonial period to the Independence. After the end of the civil war and the adoption of the Ta'if Accord, the confession gained an important role in the Lebanese equation. Some people say that the Shia'a population "grew in size and role and is prevailing over the other confessions". However, such suggestion is nothing but a sweeping statement representative of Lebanon's deep confessional problems.

## Origin

The Shia'a believe that Ali bin Abi Taleb, the cousin of Prophet Muhammad and the husband of his daughter Fatima, is the true caliph of the Prophet and consider the first three ruling Sunni caliphs (Abi Bakr as-Siddiq, Omar bin Abi Taleb and Othman bin A'ffan) a historic occurrence and not attached to faith. The Shia'a are divided into different factions, but in Lebanon, they all belong to the Ja'afari confession, which believes in 12 Imams, the first being Imam Ali and the last, Imam al-Mahdi al-Mountazar, who was born in 868 and has been hidden by God (referred to as occultation) to later emerge to fulfill his mission.

## Shia'a Traditions

The Shia'a confession stipulates that every adult Shia'a should follow (imitate) a high religious authority and implement its teachings in religious and daily affairs. The Shia'a chooses the religious authority based on the level of identification with the latter. The authority can be from the person's own country or any other country. The Shia'a high authorities have always preferred to reside in the Iraqi city of Najaf, where Imam Ali was buried. The city of Qum in Iran is also the residence of Shia'a religious scholars from all over the world. Many Shia'a authorities have marked the history of the confession, such as: Sayyed Mohsen al-Hakim, Sayyed ash-Shirazi, Sayyed Abu Qassem al-Khawa'ai, Sayyed Mohsen al-Amin, Sayyed Abed Hussein Sharafeddine, Sayyed al-Brojerdi

and Sayyed al-Qulbaikani. Today, the most imitated Shia'a authorities are: Sayyed Ali Khamane'i (Iran), Sayyed Ali as-Sistani (Iraq) and Sayyed Mohamed Hussein Fadlallah (Lebanon).

## The Shia'a in Lebanon

The Shia'a came to Lebanon in the 7th Century A.D. when the companion (Sahaba) of the Prophet Abu Dharr al-Ghafari arrived in the country and resided in Jabal A'amel in the South, where he started to preach Shia'a Islam. The Shia'a started to spread quickly in Jbeil and Kesrouan. However, the Shia'a were persecuted in the reign of Salaheddine al-Ayoubi and later the Mamluks. In 1309, they were massacred by the Mamluks in the areas of Kesrouan and Jbeil. Survivors fled toward the South and the Beqa'a, which constitute today the main cities of Shia'a conglomerations.

## Imam Moussa As-Sadr

It is difficult to talk about the Shia'a in Lebanon without talking about Imam Moussa as-Sadr, who had an important role in the life of the Shia'a here. The Imam came from Iran in 1960 and resided in Sour (Tyre), where he succeeded Sayyed A'abdel-Hussein Sharafeddine. As-Sadr contributed to the creation of several political, cultural and social Shia'a institutions and established the Higher Islamic Shia'a Council in 1967. On May 5, 1974, he announced the creation of Amal al-Mahroumin Movement (hope for the deprived), which constituted the Shia'a military and political movement before the creation of Hizbullah. Imam Moussa as-Sadr disappeared in August 1978 during a visit to Libya. Evidence on his life or death was never uncovered.

## Figures

According to the electorate lists of 2005, the number of Shia'a voters reached 793,081 or 26.2% of the total number of voters. The number of registered Shia'a is estimated at 1.2 million, while the actual number of residents is 1.05 million. Thus, the Shia'a population constitutes the largest confession in Lebanon, compared with 1.02 Sunni.

## The Shia'a and the Power

Following Lebanon's independence in 1943, the Constitution granted the seat of the head of Parliament to the Shia'a. Speaker Sabri Hamadeh was the first who occupied this post. However, this rule was "breached" for a short period of time, when Habib Abu Shahla (Orthodox) occupied this position between October 22, 1946 and April 7, 1947.

Article 44 of the Constitution stipulates that the term of the Speaker is one year. However, constitutional amendments in 1990 extended the term to four years. Table no.1 lists the Shia'a figures who presided over Parliament.

Table no.1 shows that Nabih Berri might become the only Speaker who occupied this post for almost 17 years.

**Shia'a Figures who Presided over Parliament by Date Table 1**

Speaker of the House	From	To
Sabri Hamadeh	21-9-1943	22-10-1964
	9-6-1947	20-3-1951
	20-10-1959	8-5-1964
	20-10-1967	9-5-1968
	22-10-1968	20-10-1970
Ahmad al-Asa'ad	5-6-1951	30-5-1953
Adel Osseiran	13-8-1953	15-10-1959
Kamel Al-Asa'ad	8-5-1964	20-10-1964
	9-5-1968	22-10-1968
Hussein al-Husseini	20-10-1970	16-10-1984
	16-10-1984	20-10-1992
Nabih Berri	20-10-1992	expected till 6-2009

Source: Parliament elections

The number of seats occupied by the Shia'a in Parliament was always representative of the confession's demographic size. Table no.2 shows the distribution of Shia'a seats in Parliament.

As to the Shia'a representation in the Cabinet, it was not always proportional to the confession size. Sometimes, the Cabinet did not include any Shia'a minister, such as the Cabinet of Hussein al-Ouaini (February 14, 1951 to June 7, 1951) and the quartet government (Rashid Karami quartet Cabinet, October 14, 1958 to October 14, 1959). However, the Shia'a share in all Cabinets after the Ta'if Accord was equal to the Sunni and Maronite shares.

In public administrations and institutions, the number of

**Distribution of Parliamentary Seats for the Shia'a Table 2**

Parliament	Number of Deputies	Number of Shia'a Deputies	Number of Sunni Deputies	Number of Maronite Deputies
The fifth Parliament (September 21, 1943 until April 8, 1947)	55	10	11	18
The seventh Parliament (June 5, 1951 until May 30, 1953)	77	14	16	23
The eighth Parliament (August 13, 1953 until August 11, 1957)	44	8	9	12
The ninth Parliament (August 12, 1957 until May 4, 1960)	66	12	14	20
The tenth Parliament (July 18, 1960 until February 19, 1964)	99	19	20	30
Parliaments since the Ta'if Accord in 1992	128	27	27	34

Source: Parliament electoral laws

Shia'a first-grade servants reaches 32 people, or 22% of the total number of first-grade positions. Some of these positions are considered as key posts, such as the director general of the General Security, the president of the Lebanese University, the director general of the ministry of social affairs, the director general of political and refugee affairs at the ministry of interior, the president of the Court of Audit, the director general of the National Social Security Fund, the president of the Council of the South, the first deputy of Banque du Liban (central bank) governor and the president of the Higher Customs Council. The number of Shia'a judges in 2006 reached 129, or 21.2% of the total number of Lebanese judges.

## The Higher Islamic Shia'a Council

Paragraph 1 of Law no. 72/67 of December 19, 1967 states: "A council, affiliated with the Islamic Shia'a confession in the Republic of Lebanon, shall be created under the name of the Higher Islamic Shia'a Council and shall organize the affairs of the confession, defends its rights and preserves its interests and institutions".

The council has three committees:

- **The general committee**, which includes a number of Shia'a personalities, mainly: religious men, former and current muftis and judges of religious courts, former and current deputies and ministers, civil judges,

university teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers and state employees of the second and first grades. The general committee elects the executive committee.

- **The executive committee**, which includes 12 civil members, in addition to Shia'a deputies and ministers.
- **The religious committee**, which includes 12 religious men elected by Shia'a religious men.

The executive and religious committees elect for a 6-year period the president of the council and his two vice presidents, the first being a religious man and the second a civil person. Imam Moussa as-Sadr was the first president of the Council. Following his disappearance in 1978, Sheikh Mohamed Mahdi Shamseddine occupied the post as vice president until March 1994. Then, article 12 of the Council law was amended and Imam Moussa as-Sadr became "the founding president of the Council for life". Shamseddine was elected as president and Sheikh Abdel-Amir Qabalan a vice president. Qabalan assumed the role of Shamseddine following the latter's death in 2000.

However, article 17 of the Council law states that "if the presidency became vacant, the first vice-president should assume the role, until the election within two months of a new president. However, the elections shall not be held if the remaining term of the council does not exceed 6 months". In fact, Sheikh Shamseddine assumed the duty of the president as a vice-president for 16 years and Sheikh Qabalan has been assuming this role for 7 years. It is also noteworthy that the term of the executive and religious committees can be extended if the general committee failed to convene.

In addition to the Higher Islamic Shia'a Council, there were two other official Shia'a institutions.

- Al-Ifta'a al-Ja'afari, which includes the Mufti al-Ja'afari al-Mumtaz and the Muftis of Ba'albeck, Zahleh, Jbeil, Saïda, Sour (Tyre), Marja'ayoun, Nabatiyeh, towns of Nabatiyeh and Bint Jbeil.
- Ja'afari Religious Courts, which look into the Shia'a affairs.

These institutions are affiliated with the Premiership and receive annual approbations from the general budget. In

2005, approbations reached 5 billion LBP, distributed as follows:

- The Higher Islamic Shia'a Council: 671.600.000 LBP
- Al-Ifta'a al-Ja'afari: 1.232.663.000 LBP
- Ja'afari Religious Courts: 3.049.583.000 LBP

## Shia'a Institutions

The Higher Islamic Shia'a Council owns several social, educational and health institutions, mainly:

- Az-Zahra' Hospital in Beirut
- The Islamic University in Lebanon in Khaldeh
- Dispensaries in different Lebanese areas
- Philanthropic organizations

## The Shia'a and Iran

The Shia'a confession is characterized by its relation with Iran, which goes back to the 16th century. At the time, Shia'a religious men used to travel to Iran to teach the principles of their confession to the followers of the newly established Safawi State.

This relation was also consolidated during the reign of the Shah of Iran, who always sought to appear as the defender of the Shia'a. With the Islamic Revolution and the victory of Ayatollah al-Khomeini in 1979, relations between the Islamic Republic and the Shia'a entered into a golden phase. In the beginning of the 1980s, members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards arrived in the Beqa'a and Hizbullah was created at the end of 1982. As a result, Iran became omnipresent in the daily life of the majority of Shia'a, through its social institutions and its continuous support to Hizbullah.

The Islamic Revolution introduced the comprehensive reign of al-Faqih, which was welcomed by some of the Shia'a in Lebanon. Obeying the Wali of al-Faqih (Sayyed Ali al-Khamane'i) became the duty of all Shia'a. However, this issue remains controversial in Lebanon, as some of them believe that the Faqih presence as a religious authority is neither necessary nor justified. ●●

# Bdebba

## Ruins from Different Eras

### Etymology

The word Bdebba has Syriac origins and is formed of two parts "Bet Dibba". "Bet" means "place" and "Dibba" means "bear". Hence, Bdebba is the house of the bear.

### Location

The town of Bdebba is located in the Qada'a of Koura in the North governorate at an altitude of 275 meters above sea level. Bdebba is 72 kilometers away from Beirut and 11 kilometers away from the capital of the North, Trablous. The town extends over an area of 187 hectares and can be reached via the following road: Amioun-Bshemzin- Bitram or Dahr al-Ain- Btouratij- Bdebba.

### Population

The estimated number of registered residents reaches around 1,200 people, with the majority (81.5%) belonging to the Orthodox confession and a minority of Maronites (11%). There are around 80 houses and 2 small shops in the town.

### Voters

The number of voters reached 859 in 2004, compared with 872 in 2000. They are distributed in the following families according to the 2004 municipal elections:

Khoury: 150 voters	Sa'adeh: 50 voters	Ne'ameh: 30 voters
Daher: 72 voters	Chikhani: 43 voters	Armesh: 25 voters
Jabbour: 60 voters	Moussa: 35 voters	Barakat: 20 voters
Jreih: 50 voters	Abu Sa'ab: 30 voters	Sleiman (Orthodox): 20 voters

Other families include: Hajj, Nassar, Ibrahim, Chakkour, Youssef, Fayyad, Qormesh, Ya'acoub, Tannous, Itani, Ghazi, Razzouk, Maik, Gerges, Derkhashadorian, Allawi, Tarraq, Boustani, Sassine and Sleiman (Maronites).

### Local Authorities

A municipality was created in Bdebba in line with decision no. 818 of December 30, 2003. The municipal council is formed of 9 members and is headed by Zafer Khoury. The town also has a mukhtar and a mayoral council. Revenues from the independent municipal fund in 2004 reached 34.8 million LBP compared with 60 million LBP in 2003 and 49 million LBP in 2002.

### Educational and Social Institutions

There are no public or private schools in Bdebba and students go to schools in nearby towns.

### Archeological and Cultural Sites

Bdebba is famous for ruins that date back to the Phoenician period. Those include ancient caves and sarcophagi. Ruins from the Crusades era were also discovered in the town.

### Economic Activities

Residents depend on agriculture, in particular on the cultivation of olive, almond, grapes and fig. Emigrants to Africa and the Gulf send money to their families in the town.

### Problems facing the Residents

Residents of Bdebba find difficulty in selling their agricultural products in light of the economic crisis in the country. They also suffer from lack of water especially in the summer.



# Mazra'at As-Siyyad

## Two Ancient Churches and One Mosque

### Etymology

"Mazra'at As-Siyyad" was named after the Shia'a Siyyad (Masters) of family al-Husseini. The family's ancestor, Sayyed Hussein al-Husseini, was the first who resided in the town after he restored an ancient monastery bestowed to him by Sheikh Nawfal Ibrahim al-Khoury during the Mamluk era.

### Location

"Mazra'at As-Siyyad" includes the towns of Abboud, Mazra'at al-Rmeileh, As-Sarbineh and Bolhos. The town is located in the Qada'a of Jbeil in Mount Lebanon. It is 58 kilometers away from Beirut and stands at an altitude of 1,250 meters above sea level. "Mazra'at As-Siyyad" extends over an area of 665 hectares and can be reached via the following road: Nahr Ibrahim- Qartaba- Mazra'at As-Siyyad.

### Population

The number of registered residents is approximately 3,000 people distributed in around 220 houses. Residents are of Maronite majority, with a small minority of Shia'a.

### Voters

The number of voters in 2005 reached 1,250 people, compared with 1,188 voters in 2004. They are distributed in the following families:

Al-Husseini: 232	Abi A'akar: 106	Za'arour: 44	Bou Salman: 25	Karkaba: 125
Obeid: 85	Barakat: 34	Ziadeh: 21	Abu Gharios: 122	Gharios: 58
Karam: 25	Al-Khoury: 12			

Other families include Salameh, Medawar, Ma'atouk, Bou Yazbek and Aouad.

### Local Authorities

"Mazra'at As-Siyyad" has a municipal council formed of 9 members and headed by Daniel Gharios, in addition to a mayoral council with 2 members and a mukhtar, Gerges Naja Obeid.

### Educational and Social Institutions

There are no educational institutions in Mazra'at As-Siyyad and students go to nearby schools. However, the town has several clubs and associations, such as Mazra'at As-Siyyad Cultural, Sports and Social Club and an agricultural cooperative.

### Archeological and Cultural Sites

Archeological sites in Mazra'at As-Siyyad are limited to some historical religious sites, including: Mar Abda Church founded by Gharios family in 1708, Saydet al-Najat Church and Mazra'at As-Siyyad Mosque which was built in line with a decision by Mutasaref Wasa Basha (1883-1892).

### Economic Activities

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the town, which has an arable land and many resources. Residents also depend on permanent jobs, as there are 15 small commercial and industrial companies, in addition to a medical center and two hotels, the Shangrella and the Monte Carlo.

On September 8, the town celebrates Eid Saydet al-Najat and on August 31, Eid Mar Abda. A traditional dinner is held annually to celebrate the latter.

## “History Repeats Itself”

### The Events of 1840 that Led to the Massacre of 1860

*Mount Lebanon was the venue for continuous conflicts between Maronites and Druze, nurtured by foreign interference and ambitions. Each confession was used as a tool to meet the interests of powerful countries, leading to death, destruction and emigration.*

*In his book, Fifty-three Years in Syria, Henry H. Jessup depicts the situation that prevailed over the Mountain on the eve of the massacre of the summer of 1860.*

**E**ven now I find it difficult to recall the scenes and events of the Syrian massacres of 1860 without a shudder. Every event was so branded into my memory that it seems but yesterday that this beautiful land was grimed with fire and sword, pillage and carnage.

Mount Lebanon is a range of mountains extending 100 miles along the seacoast, and some thirty miles into the interior. The Damascus Road, in those days a mere mule track, afterwards a French diligence road, and now an “Abt System” Railway, divides the Lebanon into two provinces, the Northern, chiefly Maronite Catholic, and the Southern, Druse, mixed with Maronites and Greeks. The Druses are neither Moslem nor Christian, but a peculiar, secret, mystic sect, having no priesthood and no assemblies for worship, claiming to be Unitarians, or believers in one God, infinite, indefinable, incomprehensible and passionless, who has become incarnate in a succession of ten men, the last of whom was the mad Egyptian caliph, Hakim b’amr Allah, who was assassinated a.d.1044. They are more of a political than a religious society, and the national spirit is intense. The Druse nation can neither increase nor decrease. It is lawful to pretend to believe in the religion of any sect among whom they dwell. Among the Moslems they are Moslems, among the Jews, Jews, among the Greeks they are Greeks, among the Romanists they are good papists, and among the Protestants they are evangelical Biblical Christians. In politics they look to the English for protection, and have always favoured the American schools. They are courteous, hospitable, industrious, temperate and brave. The okkal, or initiated class, use neither tobacco nor liquors of any kind. Any one leaving their sect for Christianity would be disinherited.

They live in Lebanon, in Wady Et Teim, northwest of Mount Hermon, and in Hauran.<sup>(1)</sup> They number in all between 75,000 and 100,000. They have several feudal families in Lebanon, the Jumblatts, the Arslans, the Telhooks, the Bu-Nakids, the Abdul Meleks, the Hamadys, the ’Amads, etc. Said Beg Jumblatt was called Kess ed Druse, “The Purse of the Druses,” Khattur el Amad, the “Sword of the Druses,” and Sheikh Hassein Telhook, the “Tongue of the Druses.” As a national body they are compact, united and bound to obedience in peace and war.

The Maronites of Northern Lebanon are a Romish sect, in abject obedience to their priests, bishops and patriarch, at that time an illiterate people with a well-trained priesthood. The sect is of great antiquity and for centuries maintained its independence in the heights of Northern Lebanon against Moslems, Greeks and Bedawin Arabs. In the twelfth century,

during the Crusades, they accepted the primacy of the Pope and have ever since been devoted to Rome. The patriarch was, in the beginning of modern missionary work in Syria, the unscrupulous enemy of light and of God’s Word, claiming the right to arrest, imprison and even put to death any Maronite reading the Bible or leaving the sect. He caused the death of Asaad es Shidiak in 1829, the first Protestant martyr in Syria in modern times. These Oriental hierarchs are avaricious, haughty, and full of political intrigue, encouraging their people to oppress other sects. Their policy is to keep the people in ignorance, educating only those in training for the priesthood.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century the Druses called to the government of Lebanon, the Mohammedan family of Shehab, a branch of the Beni Koreish, and allied by blood and marriage with the line of the prophet Mohammed. The Shehab emirs had ruled Hauran ever since the taking of Damascus by their ancestor, Khalid, surnamed the “Sword of God.” In the twelfth century Sultan Nouredin gave them the petty principality of Hasbeiya and Rasheiya at the foot of Mount Hermon.

They long remained firm friends of the Druses and placed the feudal system of the Druse begs on a firm basis.<sup>(2)</sup>

But, in 1756, two of the Shehab emirs were converted to Christianity and became Maronites, and several others followed their example. This fact increased the ambition of the Maronite patriarch to crush the Druses and bring all Lebanon under his sway. The ruler of all Syria including Lebanon, at this time, was the infamous and cruel tyrant Jezzar Pasha of Acre, whose pastime was burning out the eyes, mutilating and impaling men obnoxious to him and his minions. Nofel Effendi Nofel, one of the most learned and excellent men of modern Syria, told me, in 1865, that his grandfather was publicly impaled by Jezzar, a sharp stake being driven through his body from below and out of his mouth, and he was left to die of this horrible torture.

He was the Nero of modern Syria, and degraded and corrupted the people by extinguishing all self-respect, and dividing them into hostile factions, each anxious by fawning and cringing to gain his favour. Colonel Churchill says that he inaugurated that unscrupulous policy, which continued to 1860, of keeping the Lebanon in a constant state of weakness and paralysis.

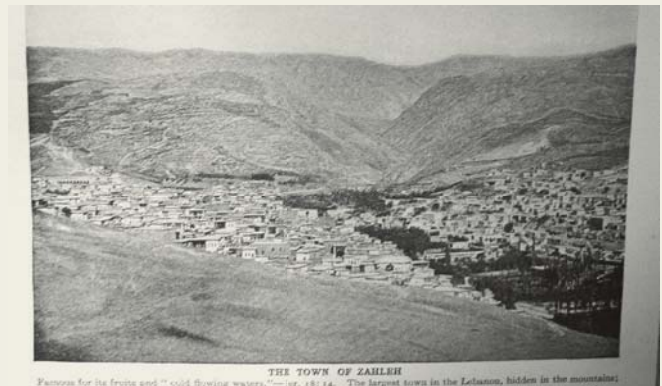
Up to the time of Jezzar Pasha in Acre, and the Emir Beshir Shehab in Lebanon, there had been no “fanning of religious animosities” in Lebanon. Druses and Christians lived together in perfect harmony. During the wars of the feudal chiefs, Druse and Christian together fought promiscuously on rival sides. The Emir Beshir Shehab who ruled from 1789 to 1840, although a Maronite never thought of rallying the Maronites in a crusade against the Druses. He felt that the Druses were the most important element of his power, and never in all his wars called for aid from the Maronites. The Christian sects, Maronite and Greek, now prospered and increased in wealth and security, in striking contrast to the condition of their coreligionist in the great towns and on the plains, who were under direct Turkish rule. The city Christians were allowed to live as they paid the tribute.

If suspected of having money they were forthwith robbed. A Christian was not permitted to ride even a donkey. He must dress only in black. He could not have his seal engraved in Arabic, that language being too noble for his usage; his name was engraved in Hebrew or Greek. If his house was noticed as higher than that of his Mohammedan neighbour it was pulled down. His corpse might not be carried before the door of a mosque. The Christians sought relief by bribing prominent and influential Mohammedans to befriend them.

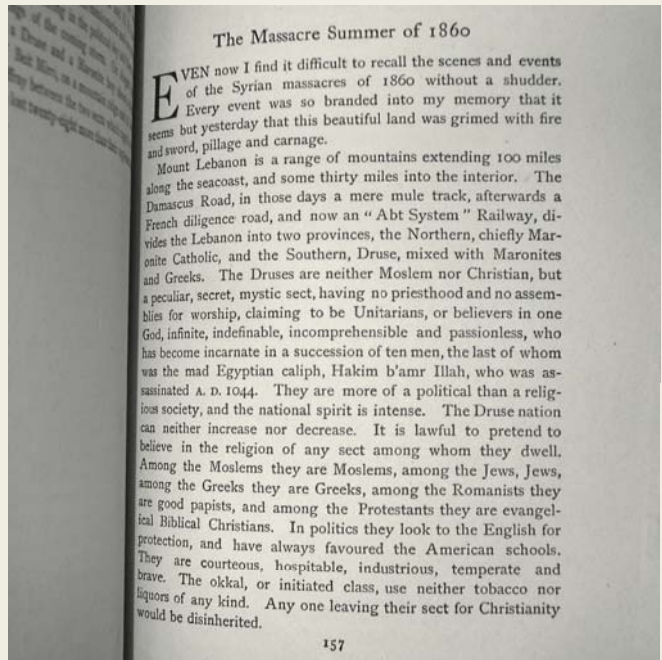
In 1831 Syria passed under the dominion of Mohammed Ali viceroy of Egypt, and his son Ibrahim Pasha, and he enforced the equality of all sects before the law. The Moslem aghas, effendis and kadis conspired to nullify his liberal laws and after the battle of Nezib in which Ibrahim Pasha destroyed the Turkish army, he executed some scores of these fanatical Moslem agitators. Christians were admitted into the local councils and allowed liberty of dress, person and property. Commerce increased and the country prospered.

But in the summer of 1840, the allied fleets of England, Austria and Turkey bombarded the Syrian seaports and drove Ibrahim Pasha back to Egypt. As he had enforced a military conscription on all sects, the Maronites refused to yield and consequently they welcomed the fleets. In six months Syria was restored to the Turks, and everything went back to its old condition of oppression, extortion, and misrule. The Emir Beshir Shehab surrendered and was banished to Malta. The Emir Beshir Kasim Shehab succeeded him as governor of Lebanon and soon alienated all the Druse sheikhs by his haughty and arrogant treatment and his threats to put them under the iron rule of the Maronite patriarch. This patriarch now issued an Irlam or circular, virtually abolishing the ancient and feudal rights of the Druses. Colonel Hugh Rose, British commissioner, in a despatch at this time states that "the Maronite clergy show a determination to uphold their supremacy in the mountains at the risk of a civil war." At the same time the Druses were ordered by the Emir Beshir at the instigation of the patriarch, to close the Protestant schools which had been opened in their villages. The bishop boasted that ere long the Maronites would drive the Druses out of the country. Under the old emir, religious toleration had been sternly prohibited, and as we have seen in the sketches of King, Bird and Goodell, the early efforts of Protestant missionaries were promptly crushed. Any one who was known to hold intercourse of any kind with Englishmen or Americans was immediately put under the ban of excommunication. The idea was sedulously impressed on the minds of Maronites and Greeks, that the English were free masons and infidels, and as such, outcasts from the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. On the arrival of the British fleet off the coast in 1840, a decree was issued throughout the mountain that whoever went down to look on the ships should have his eyes put out. But the presence of the English army and imperial commissioner, on Syrian soil, broke the spell. The Druses everywhere welcomed the English, asked for schools and wanted to be taught, enlightened, civilized. This increased the bitter hatred and animosity of the patriarch and his priests and monks against the Druses, and their efforts, to stir up discord and strife in the mixed districts south of the Damascus Road.

On September 14, 1841, an affray took place at Deir el Komr, arising out of the shooting by a Maronite of a partridge on a shooting preserve of the Druse chief, Nasif Beg Abu Nakad. The Druses lost thirty-two killed and wounded and the Maronites thirteen, and a Druse army was suddenly mustered and surrounded Deir el Komr, and only the prompt interference of Colonel Rose, H. B. M. Consul-General, who happened to be in the town, prevented a general war. The Druses now prepared for was in self-defense, and the Maronite patriarch announced that he and his clergy was ready to head the Maronites and exterminate the Druses. The Druses also entered into a compact with the Turks and were guided by their secret instructions. On October 18, the Druse army attacked Deir el Komr and kept up the fight three days, burning houses, and the Abu Nakads burned the neighboring Maronite villages, slaughtering the inhabitants.



THE TOWN OF ZAHLEH  
Famous for its fruits and "cold flowing waters."—Jer., 1814. "The largest town in the Lebanon, hidden in the mountains."



- (1) It is not correct to say "the Hawran," the Arabic form of Auranitis. In Ezekiel 47:16, there is no definite article. It is simply Hawran.  
 (2) See Churchill's "Druses and Maronites," p.20

# The American University of Beirut

## From 16 students in 1866 to 6,944 students in 2006

Within the section dedicated to address the higher education sector in Lebanon, *liMonthly* will present in two parts a profile on the American University of Beirut, which is one of the oldest universities in Lebanon and the Middle East. Last year, the AUB celebrated its 140th anniversary. Part 1 addresses the university's establishment, educational system, number of students and graduates, the administrative and educational bodies, as well as tuition fees and financial aid.

### Establishment

The American University of Beirut was established in 1866 with 16 students after it received a charter from the State of New York under the name of the "Syrian Protestant College".

During a ceremony held in 1871 to inaugurate the first building of the AUB present campus, Dr. Daniel Bliss, the founding father, outlined the principles of the college, saying "this College is for all conditions and classes of men without regard to color, nationality, race or religion". In 1920, the Board of Regents of the State University of New York changed the name of the institution from the Syrian Protestant College to the American University of Beirut.

The first classes were held temporarily at the house of Abdel-Fatah Agha Hamad in Zqaq al-Blat. The university then moved to Ras Beirut when Mikha'eil al-Gharzouzi granted it three plots of land there. Since then, the University started to expand, establishing new faculties and introducing new specializations, as shown in Table no. 1.

Faculties, Institutes and Specializations at the American University of Beirut	
Year	Faculty/ Specialization
1867	Faculty of Medicine
1871	Faculty of Pharmacy and Preparatory School. (The latter became independent in 1960 under the name of the International College)
1900	School of Commerce (later incorporated into the Faculty of Arts and Sciences)
1905	American University Hospital and School of Nursing
1910	School of Dentistry
1951	Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
1952	Faculty of Agriculture
1954	Faculty of Health Sciences
1992	Specialization in Computer Science, IT, communications and management of construction companies (decree no. 2165 of January 25 1992)
2000	Suliman S. Olayan School of Business

Source: Information International based on the AUB Administration

Today, AUB has six faculties: Faculty of Agricultural and Foods Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Suliman S. Olayan School of Business,

Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine which includes the School of Nursing.

### Situation and Educational System

Located in Bliss Street in the area of Ras Beirut, the AUB has become one of the country's landmarks. The university extends over an area of 295,431 square meters and is considered the second largest campus in Beirut after the Lebanese University complex in Hadath.

The campus includes 81 buildings containing conference and meeting rooms, 3 main museums, 4 libraries and research centers, 6 dorms (4 for females and 2 for males), residential buildings for foreign teachers and directors, sports courts, wide green spaces, a post office, a computer center, a stationary, a two-story cafeteria, in addition to a university hospital. Moreover, AUB has a farm and agricultural research centers in the Beqa'a and which extend over an area of one million square meters. The university adopted the American educational system, which divides the academic year into 3 semesters (fall, spring and summer) and is based on credits. It has also adopted English as the main language.

The university offers a Bachelor and Masters' degree in all specializations, in addition to a teaching diploma for graduates of Education, a PhD in disciplines of Arts and Sciences, as well as Masters and PhDs in the following medical specializations: Human Morphology, Biochemistry, Internal Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Radiation Oncology.

### Number of Students and Graduates

Around 6,944 students were enrolled at AUB in 2005-2006, compared with 7,089 in 2004-2005 and 6,619 students in 2003-2004 and 6,400 students in 2002-2003. In 2005-2006, the number of foreign students reached 1,307 (or around 19% of the total number of students) compared with 975 foreign students in 2002-2003 (graph no.1), distributed as follows: 148 Syrians, 53 Saudis, 151 Palestinians, 155 Jordanians, 28 Kuwaitis, 19 Egyptians, 15 Bahrainis and 10 Iraqis.

The number of graduates in 2004-2005 reached 1,703 people, compared with 1,161 graduates in 1991-1992, around 1,320 graduates in 1992-1993 and 1,256 graduates in 2000-2001 (graph no.2).

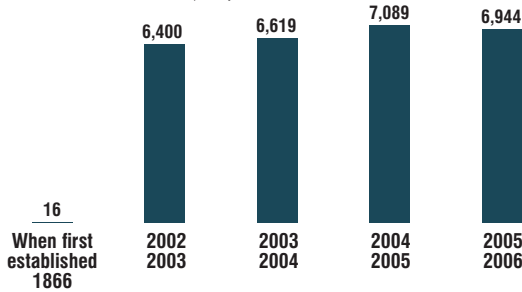
### Administrative and Educational Bodies

The number of members of the administrative and educational bodies reached 1,131 people in 2005-2006, including 813 teachers, half of whom are full-time teachers. Graph no. 3 shows the number of administrative and educational bodies' members by academic year.

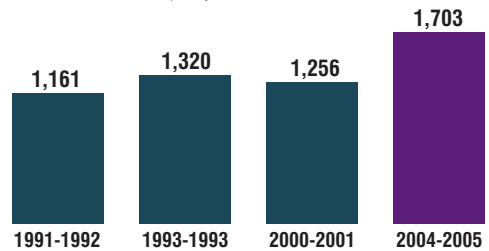
### Tuition Fees

Tuition fees at AUB are high compared with tuitions in other Lebanese

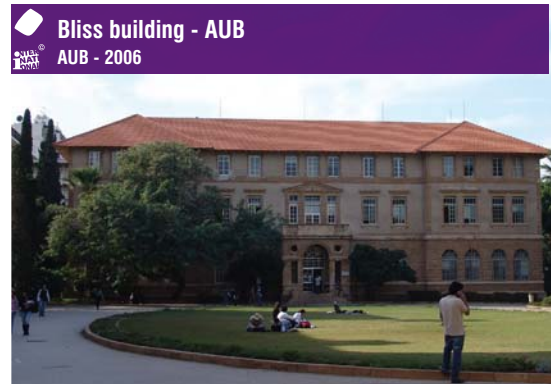
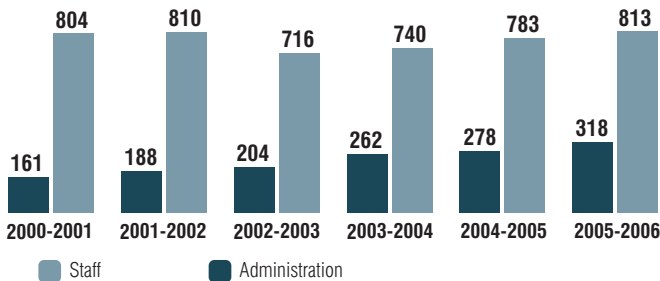
[Graph 1] **Number of Students at AUB (by year)**  
Source: Compiled by Information International from the AUB administration



[Graph 2] **Number of Graduates at AUB (by year)**  
Source: Compiled by Information International from the AUB administration



[Graph 3] **Number of Administration and Staff Members at AUB (by year)**  
Source: Educational Institute for Culture and Development



higher educational institutions. However, students pay for only 12 credits per semester. Any additional credits are free of charge. This allows the students to have the maximum number of credits per semester, thus completing their major faster and saving money. Table no. 2 shows the cost of one credit per major and the number of credits required. (Amounts in LBP)

**Cost of One Credit per Major and the Number of Credits Required**

**Table 2**

	Number of credits required for completion	Cost per credit if less than 12 credits are taken in one semester	Tuition fee if 12 or more credits are taken in one semester	Cost per credit for higher studies
Freshman Program	30	614,000	7,314,000	-
Human and Social Sciences	90	590,000	7,104,000	752,000
Sciences Specializations	90	636,000	7,526,000	779,000
Financial and Economic Sciences	90	721,000	8,665,000	814,000
Faculty of Management	90	737,000	8,858,000	860,000
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences	96-139	711,000	8,496,000	868,000
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture	141-174	791,000	9,404,000	912,000
Faculty of Medicine	89*	17,205,000 per semester		884,000
Faculty of Health Sciences	96-103	733,000	8,807,000	863,000
School of Nursing	114	622,000	6,801,000	716,000

\* Students at the Faculty of Medicine should have a degree in biochemistry (3 years) and should complete 89 credits in the first and second years of medicine. The students should also get an internal training at the university hospital (AUH) in the third and fourth year.

Source: Information International based on the AUB Administration

## Financial Aid

AUB dedicates 8% of its annual budget, which amounts to 155 million USD, to financial aid. In the 2005-2006 academic year, 2,913 students (35%) received financial aid from the university. The value of the aid ranges between 10 to 80% of the tuition fees. The financial aid is granted to students based on their social, economic and academic status.

*In Part 2, li Monthly addresses the characteristics of the American University of Beirut, surveys the students on their enrollment at AUB and their stands toward politics and confessionalism.*



# Lebanese Jewels

## Towards more rewarding destinations

Within the section dedicated to Lebanon's production industry, *li Monthly* will address in this article the jewelry industry in Lebanon, which is in continuous progress, unlike other industrial sectors.

### History

The jewelry industry started in Lebanon as a family business, with the establishment of jewel shops and factories by some Lebanese families, such as Mouawad, Zoughaib, Nsouli, Chaar, Moukarzel, Azar, Mouzannar, Tabbah and Hanna and Armenian families like Ouzounian, Tufenkjian, Boghassian, Hagopian and others.

### Situation

According to the 2005-2006 guidebook of Lebanese industrial institutions, the number of jewel factories reached 114 factories with 15,000 workers and employees working in the sector. Lebanese jewelers are famous for their delicate work and their products are exported to Arab and foreign countries.

In fact, the balance of jewel trade recorded a surplus in 2006, as shown in Graph no.1 and Table no.1.

**Percentage and Rank of Jewels in the Total Value of Imported and Exported Goods in 2005 and 2006**

**Table 1**

Year	Rank of jewels in Imports	Percentage of jewels in total imports	Rank of jewels in exports	Percentage of jewels in total exports
2005	7th	5.3%	3rd	11.9%
2006	11th	3%	1st	26%

*Source: Ministry of Economy and Trade*

**Value of Imports and Exports by Country of Origin and Destination in 2005 (amounts in million USD)**

**Table 2**

Country	Total value of imports	Value of imported jewels	Total value of exports	Value of exported jewels
India	139.3	37.6 (diamond)	20.3	-
Hong Kong	8.3	0.5 (diamond and other jewels)	5	0.5
Switzerland	422.3	312.5 (gold, diamond and watches)	125	118.7
Qatar	19.4	-	36.2	2.2
Oman	21	-	7.2	0.4
United States	548	-	58	9.3

*Source: Ministry of Economy and Trade*

The Lebanese also import jewels and raw material from Italy, Belgium and Turkey.

Lebanese jewelers participate in local and international exhibitions due to the increase in the demand of Lebanese products. During the Dubai 2005 Watch and Jewelry exhibition, the Lebanese came in the fifth position by number of participants (25 participants) after Italy, Hong Kong, India and Turkey.



**Jewelry shop in downtown Beirut**  
Beirut - March 2006



**Local jewelry designs (Diamonds Forever - Downtown Beirut)**  
Beirut - March 2006

“Lebanese jewelers participate in local and international exhibitions due to the increase in the demand of Lebanese products.”



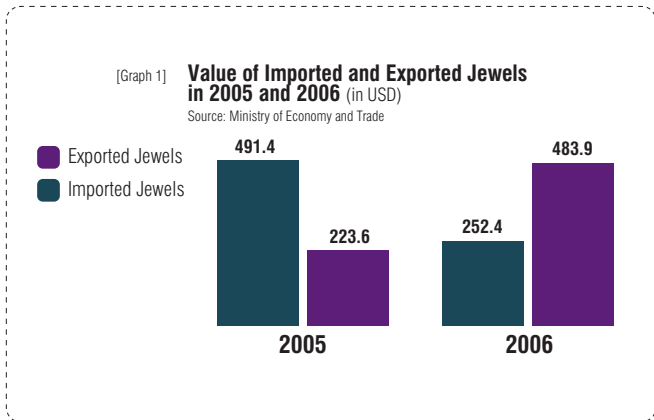
**Gemstones (Diamonds Forever - Downtown Beirut)**  
Beirut - March 2006

Major exhibitions are also held in Lebanon, such as the International Jewelry, Watches and Luxury Goods Exhibition.

### Problems and Solutions

The main problem facing the sector today is security and political instability in the country. In fact, jewelers depend largely on Arab tourists.

This reality led many owners of jewel factories to move to Arab countries, where the demand is higher. In this context, the Dubai Metal and Commodity Center (DMCC) announced the opening of investment opportunities to Lebanese jewelers and merchants by providing them with production units inside the center. ●●





## liMonthly Meets the Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon

Turkey plays an important role in key issues in the Middle East. Its presence in the region was reinforced after the participation of Turkish troops in the international peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon and the recent visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the country. *li Monthly* interviewed Turkish Ambassador Irfan Acar about Turkish-Lebanese relations and Turkey's stands toward various issues.

### How are the relations and cooperation between Lebanon and Turkey?

Turkey and Lebanon enjoy excellent relations. These relations are deeply rooted in history. Geographical proximity, cultural affinity and interaction resulted in close relationship between the two peoples over centuries. Bilateral relations have intensified over the past few years. The two countries have been exchanging mutual visits at all levels between politicians as well as official departments and private sector. These contacts have particularly intensified since the visit of the late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri to Turkey in 2004. Subsequently, Turkish Prime Minister, H.E. Erdogan visited Beirut in 2005. Mutual visits at prime ministerial and other levels have been taking place on a regular basis. Meanwhile, considerable progress has been made as regards establishing the legal framework of our relationship in the economic field. "Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments" and "Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income" have entered into force in 2006. Negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement are ongoing. We believe that signing this agreement will further develop our commercial ties. Bilateral trade increased by 12% in 2006 despite the war and the difficult times Lebanon has undergone. Our trade volume reached 360 million dollars, and we believe there is potential to increase this volume further during the years to come.

### What is the extent of Turkey's contribution to peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon?

Following the UN Resolution 1701, Lebanese Government requested Turkey's participation within UNIFIL. Turkey attaches great importance to the maintenance of peace and stability in Lebanon. With this intention, Turkey decided to send a construction and engineering company and a frigate to take part in the Maritime Task Force. They began their duties as of mid-October 2006. Some 500 Turkish personnel take part in UNIFIL. Turkish contingent is conducting its duties in close cooperation with the relevant authorities.

### What is the extent of Turkey's contribution to the reconstruction efforts?

During and after the war, Turkish Government, Turkish Red Crescent and a number of NGOs delivered approximately 20 million USD worth of emergency humanitarian aid to Lebanon. During the Stockholm Conference, held on August 31, 2006, Turkey pledged 10 million USD for early recovery efforts. In this framework, Turkey is providing 70 fully equipped schools and 2 comprehensive health clinics. During the Paris III Conference, Turkey has further pledged 20 million USD in grants to help Lebanon. Thus, the amount of assistance from Turkey to Lebanon reaches a total of 50 million USD. This contribution is a sign of Turkey's solidarity with the Lebanese people and her commitment to peace and stability in Lebanon.

### What do you think about the signing of Exclusive Economic Zone delimitation agreement between Lebanon and Cyprus?

Our views on this issue were made public with a statement of Turkish Foreign Ministry on January 30, 2007. Since 2003, the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus has intensified its efforts to sign bilateral agreements concerning maritime jurisdiction areas with the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey declared that the delineation of continental shelf as well as the exclusive economic zone in a semi-enclosed sea like the Eastern Mediterranean could only be possible through arrangements to be made among all the countries concerned and by observing the rights and interests of all the parties. The Greek Cypriot Administration does not represent the Island as a whole. Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus also has rights and authority over the maritime areas around the Island of Cyprus. The Cyprus problem remains unresolved. The best way to opt should be to sign such agreements when a settlement to the Cyprus problem is reached. We explained our position to the Lebanese officials and we have agreed to deal with this matter in the context of the excellent relations that unite our two countries.

### How is Turkey's accession to the European Union (EU) proceeding?

One of the foreign policy priorities of Turkey is accession to the EU. Turkey is a democratic country, where the common values of the EU, respect for human rights, the rule of law and free market economy have been upheld and promoted. Our relations with the community go as far back as 1963, to the signing of the Ankara Agreement, which established the legal basis of the Association between Turkey and the EU. In 1996, Customs Union, constituting a very important step towards Turkey's full integration with the EU, entered into force. Turkey was given candidate status in the Helsinki Summit of 1999. Following a number of reform packages, Turkey was declared to have met the Copenhagen political criteria in the Brussels Summit of 2004. Negotiations, which are the latest stage before accession, have started on October 3, 2005. Considerable progress has also taken place in Turkey in the field of economy from structural reforms to fiscal and budgetary discipline. Over the past few years, Turkey has been the fastest growing economy in the EU zone. In the last five years, Turkey's economy has grown 40%. Today our Gross National Product is approaching 400 billion USD, thus ranking Turkey in the top 20 largest economies of the world. Obviously, accession to the Union is a long process. This has been the case for all present members in the past. Turkey, for its part, is conducting its work as regards negotiations. We are convinced that Turkey will become an EU member following the successful conclusion of all chapters. The EU will also benefit from Turkey's accession to the Union, with its ever growing economic potential and political weight in our region and beyond. ●●

# Education in Saudi Arabia

## 55% of Higher Education Students are Females

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is at the top of the countries which achieved major steps in the educational sector due to the Saudi leadership's awareness of the importance of education and the availability of petrodollars to implement related projects. In less than 15 years, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) witnessed a remarkable decrease in the level of illiteracy and a wide spread of educational institutions of different stages.

### Number of Students

In 2005, the Saudi population officially reached 23 million people, including 17 million Saudis and 6 million non-Saudis, while the population in 1974 was estimated at 7 million people, including 6.2 million Saudis. The number of students in the different educational levels (elementary, intermediate, secondary, academic and technical) and in civil and state sectors reached 5,055,232 students, or 22% of the total population. The number of Saudi students reached 4,400,000, or 26% of the total Saudi population.

### General Education

General education (pre-university) students reached 4,406,610, including 2,312,602 female students. The overwhelming majority is distributed in public schools (92.5%), and 7.5% of students are distributed among private schools.

396,670 employees work in the kingdom's 22,357 public and private schools.

### Higher Education

There are 581,523 students in public and private higher education institutions. 83,819 students are below the baccalaureate degree, 485,225 at the baccalaureate and 12,407 students who are pursuing a higher education. The number of female students is 319,535 or 55% of the total number of students. The high percentage of female students indicates the progress achieved by the Kingdom in promoting women's status and role in the society. The number of graduates reached 74,506 with 57.6% of female graduates. Graduate students are distributed according to their specialization as shown in table no.1.

The number of the teaching body is 21,918 teachers, including 7,427 females or a rate of 34% of whom 38.8% are non-Saudis.

**The Distribution of Graduates in Higher Education by Specialization**  
Table 1

Specialization	Baccalaureate	Higher Education
Islamic Studies	4,887	293
Human Sciences	9,246	119
Social Sciences	1,274	60
Economy and Administration	2,501	316
Education and Teaching	31,495	975
Life Sciences	3,423	149
Engineering	1,733	64
Medicine	1,142	51
Agriculture	469	19

Source: KSA Ministry of Education - Statistics on Education and Training, 2004-2005

### Vocational Education

The government granted a special attention to technical studies and vocational training due to the increasing demand on those fields. The following institutions undertake vocational education:

- The Public Institution for Vocational Studies and Training. Twenty faculties are dedicated to higher education; ten industrial institutes are dedicated to secondary industrial education; 5 institutes are dedicated to secondary education for technical supervisors; 3 institutes for secondary agricultural studies and 16 institutes for commercial studies with morning and evening shifts.
- The Ministry of Health, which supervises health institutes and faculties for men and women (12 institutes and 7 faculties for boys and 13 institutes and 6 faculties for girls).
- The Royal Committee of Jubail and Yanbu, which supervises two intermediate industrial faculties in Jubail and Yanbu.

There are 69,099 vocational education students, who are distributed among the aforementioned institutes and faculties as follows:

- Industrial Secondary Institutes: 11,590 students
- Agricultural Secondary Institutes: 303 students
- Commercial Secondary Institutes: 7,794 students
- Technical Supervisors Institutes: 2,987 students
- Health Ministry Institutes: 3,784 students
- The Royal Committee of Jubail and Yanbu: 4,821 students
- Vocational Institutes: 33,099 students
- Health Faculties for boys and girls: 4,721 students

Saudi Arabia welcomes yearly during the holy Hajj season, which falls between 1-10 Dhu al-Hijjah (12th month in the Islamic calendar), which coincided the last year the end of December, large numbers of pilgrims who pay this Islamic duty. The number of pilgrims increased in a remarkable way over the past years, as it reached 1,865,234 pilgrims in 1995 and increased to 2,130,594 pilgrims in 2005, including 1,557,447 pilgrims from outside Saudi Arabia. In 2006, the number of pilgrims was 2,378,636 of which 1,654,407 pilgrims were from outside Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government is deploying huge efforts to contain these large numbers of pilgrims, who gather in the same place at the same time in line with this religious duty. 🌍

# Educational Sector in Iraq

## Low enrollment of Women and a Deterioration of the Sector

The educational sector in Iraq, similar to all other sectors, suffers from chaos and instability. Iraqi citizens are reluctant to send their children to school, fearing that they would be killed or kidnapped. Moreover, the schools are afflicted by many problems. What is the current situation of the Iraqi educational sector?

### Numbers

The number of students in pre-university level reaches 6,168,154 students who are distributed among 16,795 educational institutions where 311,137 teachers work. The following table no.1 shows the distribution of students by educational levels.

Educational Level	Number of Students	Number of Schools	Number of Teachers
Kindergarten (4-5 years)	90,966	645	5,865
Elementary (6-11 years) <sup>(1)</sup>	4,334,609	11,368	211,136
Secondary (12-18 years) <sup>(2)</sup>	1,571,288	4,269	83,358
Vocational (15-24 years)	89,902	275	7,467
Substitute Education <sup>(3)</sup>	5,196	53	408
Institutes (18-24 years) <sup>(4)</sup>	76,193	185	2,903
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,168,154</b>	<b>16,795</b>	<b>311,137</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The elementary level extends over 6 grades.  
<sup>(2)</sup> The secondary level extends over 6 grades and includes the intermediate level from the first till the third grade. The student then can shift to a technical specialization. The preparatory level extends from the fourth to the sixth grade and then the student can pursue university studies.  
<sup>(3)</sup> The substitute education provides irregular education and is dedicated to the youth who dropped out of the elementary level. Schools that provide such education are distributed in Baghdad, Arbil, Ninawa, Al-Basra, Diyala, Dahuk and As-Sulaymaniyah.  
<sup>(4)</sup> Institutes: Students who completed the third grade of the intermediate level can pursue their studies in these institutes to become teachers. Institute studies extend over five grades.

*Source: Educational Statistics in Iraq 2004*

“The educational sector is facing several problems, some of which were inherited by the past era and others are new.”

### Problems

The educational sector is facing several problems, some of which were inherited by the past era and others are new. The problems include among others:

- ⊙ The adoption of old educational methods, in which theoretical or rhetorical issues prevail over practical and applicable studies which do not meet employment requirements.
  - ⊙ The decrease in the number of children in the kindergarten (3-5 years), as they do not exceed 1.2% of all Iraqi children of that age, which raises the rate of failure in the early grades of the elementary school.
  - ⊙ 21% of girls are not pursuing elementary education (from 6 to 11 years). The rate increases in the mountains and reaches 33%. Poverty and insecurity also contributed to the decrease of number of students in the elementary school, thus raising the illiteracy level.
  - ⊙ 42% of young men and 30% of young women pursue an education in the secondary school. While the rate of secondary school students in the cities reaches 47%, that of the rural population do not exceed the 16%. This difference is considered a major problem which causes a wide cultural and economic gap between the residents of both areas.
  - ⊙ The lack of a skillful teaching body due to the absence of continuous training.
  - ⊙ The lack of necessary equipment and services in most of Iraqi schools. For example, in the elementary level, 33% of schools do not have water, 30% of schools do not have electricity and 50% do not have air conditioning equipment. Toilets do not have the minimum level of hygiene. Moreover, congestion in classes makes learning or teaching very difficult.
- In addition to the current problems, the population growth will represent a serious issue in the future, as the number of students will reach 10 million in 2015. In fact, there are no plans or capacities to contain such amount of students.

## Stats & Numbers

issue 57 - March/April 2007

**3,250 billion LBP** is the net increase in the public debt in 2006, compared with 3924 billion in 2005. Consequently, the public debt has increased by 5.6% in 2006 compared with 7.3% in the previous year.

**11,140 billion LBP** is the value of Lebanese treasury bonds due in 2007. The value of treasury bonds in foreign currencies reaches 1470 billion USD, and that of bonds in Lebanese Pounds amounts to 8,937 billion LBP.

**25,558** is the total number of permanent positions in the public administration, of which 15,612 positions (61%) are classified as vacant.

**12.3 million LBP** is the annual rental fee for 7,300 square meters of maritime public properties in Batroun, north of Lebanon. 5,200 square meters of this area are maritime public properties filled up with earth. The Lebanese government has approved a demand for the renting of the space by a touristic company during a Cabinet session on January 12, 2007.

**130 million LBP** is the value of a study aimed at finding a solution to rock erosion in the Matn area of Jdeideh. The Council for Development and Reconstruction is assigned to grant the concession for the study.

**850 thousand** square meters of land and real estate were allowed by the government to be bought by non-Lebanese in different areas of Lebanon. Ownership applications were submitted in October and December 2006 this fact indicates a confidence in the country's future.

**Mother's Day?**  
Nejmeh Square - Beirut 2006



**Lebanon 2005-2007: Slogans and Photos**

Photo by Waddah Joma'a

### Other publications by Information International and INMA (in Arabic):

- 1- Salaries and Remunerations in the Public Sector
- 2- Public Seaside Properties
- 3- Lebanon's Parliamentary History 1920-2000
- 4- Taxes and Fees
- 5- Lebanon in Figures 1992-2002
- 6- Lebanon in Figures 2003-2004
- 7- "I am Responsible, All of Us are Responsible"
- 8- "Our Environment is Our Home"
- 9- "My Society is My Responsibility"
- 10- "My Society is My Responsibility" Workbook
- 11- "I am a Student, I am a Citizen: Ways Towards State Building"

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