



Death penalty in Lebanon

1947-2004

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SUMMARY

Since 1947, the Lebanese authorities executed at least fifty-one men, either by hanging or firing squad.

In 1994 a new law (Law 302) reinstated the death penalty in Lebanon, ending a decade-long effective moratorium. Law 302 abrogated a judge's right to take mitigating circumstances into account when considering whether to impose a death sentence, and extended the number of offences for which the death penalty can be imposed. There has been increasing criticism of the death penalty law by judges and politicians since its introduction [2]. At least 17 people have been executed since then, two of them publicly.

The latest execution took place on January 17, 2004 when 3 men were executed - two by firing squad and one by hanging. These were the first prisoners to face the death penalty in Lebanon since President Emile Lahoud came to power in late 1998.

Below are the names of the 51 people who have been executed since 1947, listed by presidential term. Where such information is available, the names are listed along with the charges against them, the time and place of the execution, and the execution method used. Gaps in information are due to the disappearance of relevant files, lack of coordination between authorities in collecting information, or inappropriate methods of conservation which lead to the deterioration of hard copies with time.

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1. PRESIDENT: BECHARA EL-KHOURI

1.1 Prime Minister: Riad El-Solh

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Samir Mitri Latif	Murder: - Elias Estephan	Prison El-Raml, Beirut 11/12/1947	Hanging
Ali Hassan Ammar	Rape and murder of minor: - Ferial El-Hajj	Justice Palace, Beirut 9/10/1948	Hanging
Youssef Saadeh	Murder: - Gergi Abou Khalil	Justice Palace, Beirut 11/11/1948	Hanging
Victor Hanna Aouad	Triple murder in the course of robbery: - Antoinette Najjar - Joseph Aouad - Emilie Aintouri	Justice Palace, Beirut 11/11/1948	Hanging
Charles El-Bacha	Murder of his father and his brother	Justice Palace, Beirut 17/2/1949	Hanging
Antoine Khalil Saadeh	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad
Chebl Nassif Gergi El-Hajj Boutros	Murder: - Mansour Wakim	Justice Palace, Beirut 12/7/1949	Hanging
Adib Semaan el-Jadeh	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad
Maarouf Mohammed Mouwaffaq	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Abdel Hafiz Hassan Alameh	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad
Abbas Abdel Raouf Hamad	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad
Mohammad Ibrahim Chebli	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad
Mohammad Ahmad Zoghby	Armed insurrection against the government and public institutions	Bir Hassan, Beirut 7/7/1949	Firing squad
Melhem Al-Asas	Double murder: - Hanna Kossaifi - Doumit Kossaifi	1951	Hanging
Taan Zouaiter	Double murder: - Hanna Kossaifi - Doumit Kossaifi	1951	Hanging
Mostapha Mohammad Khawaja	Murder: - Ghazi Khawaja	1951	Hanging
Moussa Moussa	Murder: - Georgette Abou Bechara	1951	Hanging

1.2 Prime Minister: Sami El-Solh

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Jamil Wakim Younes	Murder: - Fouad Assaf El-Zogbi	Justice Palace, Beirut 21/6/1952	Hanging
Elias Saadallah Abou Khalil	Murder	Justice Palace, Beirut 6/8/1952	Hanging

2. PRESIDENT: CAMILLE CHAMOUN

2.1 Prime Minister: Saïb Salam

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Mehdi Abbas Hassan El-Chel	Murder of a minor: - Mohammad Houssein Abedallah	Justice Palace, Beirut 26/6/1953	Hanging

2.2 Prime Minister: Abdallah El-Liafi

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Mohammad Mahmoud El-Cheikh	Murder: - Mohammad Al-Abboud	Justice Palace, Beirut 3/12/1953	Hanging

2.3 Prime Minister: Sami El-Solh

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Khamiss Ahmad El-Bioui	Collaboration with Israel	Justice Palace, Beirut 3/2/1955	Hanging
Habib Ramzi El-Sayegh	Murder of a mother and daughter	Justice Palace, Beirut 6/6/1957	Hanging
Ramzi Fayad	Murder of a mother and daughter	Justice Palace, Beirut 6/6/1957	Hanging
Majid Mahmoud Safi	Murder	Justice Palace, Beirut 6/7/1957	Hanging

3. PRESIDENT: FOUAD CHEHAB

3.1 Prime Minister: Rachid Karameh

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Ibrahim El-Naboulsi	Triple murder: - Rachid Chlala - Botros El-Rayes - Georges Saad	Justice Palace, Beirut 16/4/1959	Hanging
Ibrahim Raja Abdel Razzak El-Azizi	Murder: - Fatima Abdel Razzak	Justice Palace, Beirut 10/2/1960	Hanging

3.2 Prime Minister: Saïb Salam

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Jamil Girgi Hanna Saad	Double murder: - Asaad Karam - Abdallah Saad	Justice Palace, Beirut 6/9/1960	Hanging
Wehbeh Hassan Daher Bayrem	Murder	Dbayeh 5/11/1960	Firing squad

4. PRESIDENT: SLEIMAN FRANGIEH

4.1 Prime Minister: Saïb Salam

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Gerges Hanna Lawlach	Murder		Hanging
Adel Ibrahim Halaoui	Murder: - Hajj Mostafa El-Khechen	Prison El-Kalaa, Saïda 27/6/1971	Hanging
Georges Toufic Raad	Murder: - Georges Tannous Rizk	Prison El-Kalaa, Saïda 28/7/1971	Hanging
Toufic Mohammad Ali Itani	Murder: - Hassan Jomaa Itani	Central prison of Roumieh 17/6/1972	Hanging

5. PRESIDENT: AMINE GEMAYEL

5.1 Prime Minister: Chafik El-Wazzan

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Ibrahim Tarraf Tarraf	Murder of a mother and child: - Matilde Helou - Marcel Bahout	Park Sanayeh 7/4/1983	Hanging

6. PRESIDENT: ELIAS HRAOUI

6.1 Prime Minister: Rafik El-Hariri

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Bassam Saleh El-Maslah	Rape and murder of minor: - Maryam Hassan - Mehsen	Justice Palace, Saïda 23/4/1994	Hanging
Abdelkarim Jij	Double murder: - Khalil Antonios - Ghassan Antonios	Seraglio of Baabda 4/5/1994	Hanging
Mohammad Salman Zaatar	Double murder: - Khalil Antonios - Ghassan Antonios	Police station Baabda 4/5/1994	Hanging
Chaker Mohammad Omran El-Breidi	Murder of three members of the Interior Forces of Security: - Chawke Aoun - Mostafa Hares - Nadim El-Moalem	Police station Chtaura, Bekaa 28/5/1994	Firing squad
Hassam Ali Nasser	Murder: - Omar Riad Abou El-Hesen	Central prison of Roumieh 12/1/1995	Firing squad
Ahmad Abdel Badih El-Hallak	Collaboration with Israel	Central prison of Roumieh 21/9/1996	Firing squad
Anis Chamel Zoubian	Double murder: - Rafik Mahmoud - Noura Hmadeh	Central prison of Roumieh 17/10/1996	Firing squad

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Khaled Mohammad Hamed	4 murders, in the assassination of the president of an Islamic charity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheikh Nizar El-Halabe - Ramadan El-Tabach - Nabil Daou - Bila Daou 	Central prison of Roumieh 24/3/1997	Hanging
Mounir Saleh Abboud	4 murders, in the assassination of the president of an Islamic charity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheikh Nizar El-Halabe - Ramadan El-Tabach - Nabil Daou - Bila Daou 	Central prison of Roumieh 24/3/1997	Hanging
Ahmad Mounzer el-Kassen	4 murders, in the assassination of the president of an Islamic charity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheikh Nizar El-Halabe - Ramadan El-Tabach - Nabil Daou - Bila Daou 	Central prison of Roumieh 24/3/1997	Hanging
Mohammad Mahmoud Kour	Murder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - El-Hajj Mahmoud Mansour 	Central prison of Roumieh 17/3/1997	Hanging
Hassan Jamal Attiyeh	Double murder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nasib Maalouf - Linda Maalouf 	Central prison of Roumieh 2/4/1997	Hanging
Wissam Nayef Issa	Double murder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charbel Antoine Skim - Marie El-Aam 	Tabarja Square 19/5/1998	Hanging
Hassan Nadi Habel	Double murder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charbel Antoine Skim - Marie El-Aam 	Tabarja Square 19/5/1998	Hanging

7. PRESIDENT: EMILE LAHOUD

7.1 Prime Minister: Rafik El-Hariri

Name	Charge	Date and place of execution	Method
Ahmad Mansour	Massacre of colleagues at the offices of Lebanon's Teachers Fund in Beirut's Unesco : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rachel Rahmeh- Mousa Shuweiri- Maroun Moussa,- Maria Tabet,- Suleiman Jamous,- Carlos Salameh,- Hugette Fighali- Sikaina Harkous	Central prison of Roumieh 17/01/2004	Hanging
Badih Hemada	Murder of three soldiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ali Hamzeh- Radwan Milhem- Ali Saleh	Central prison of Roumieh 17/01/2004	Firing squad
Remi Antoine Zaatar	Murder of two civil defense activists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michel Raad- Ziad Tannouri	Central prison of Roumieh 17/01/2004	Firing squad

8. ANALYSIS

No women have been executed to this date, although several have been sentenced to death. The age of those who were executed varied between 19 and 61, with the majority between 20 and 28.

The authorities that pronounced the death sentences are:

- The criminal Court
- The supreme court of appeal
- The Court of Justice
- The Military Tribunal

According to reports, four people have already had their death sentences agreed by the clemency committee. These people are: Fadi Ahmad Mereish, Jamal Deeb Amin, Abdou Bashir Al-Ashqar and Merhef Hasan Bsiss.

Death sentences have also been passed on: Medhat Hasan Khalil Ahmad, Maher Abdel-Hayy Al-Hosami, Yahya Riyad Al-Rayyis, Milad Mansour, Ahmad Hassan Al-Sharifi, Ilyas Gergi Al-Habr, Mohammad Abdel-Haleem Abara, Wissam Mohammad Bashir Mohammad Ali, Zayn Al-Abedeem Ibrahim Janbeen, Vasken Bisay Markaryan, Qassem Mohammad Qubaisi, Ali Mohammad Al-Qaddur, Khaled Nayyif Za'arour, Mohammad Ali Al-Asheq, Layla Laboura Balkakachi, Ghazi Maher Mohammad Badr, Medhat Hasan Khalil and Nour El-Din Yahya Dawoud [3].

9. CONCLUSION

RCPL believes that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as enshrined in articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- ***Article 3: 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.'***
- ***Article 5: 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'***

It is important that Canadian authorities take an immediate stance:

- To remind their Lebanese counter parts that the rights of the individuals as per article 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not being respected.

To ask the Lebanese authorities to abolish the death penalty and be a signatory of “The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (CCPR-OP2-DP)”. [4]

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