



Human rights and democracy situation in Lebanon

Synthesis of events in 2003

Prepared for Canadian government policy makers in April 2004

Human rights and democracy situation in Lebanon Synthesis of events in 2003

This document was prepared for the:

Canadian government policy makers in April 2004

Printing History:

April 2004

First Edition

Contact:

Rassemblement Canadien pour le Liban (RCPL)
Division des droits de l'Homme – Human Rights Division
Place Élysée C. P. 132
Laval (Québec) H7W 4K2
Tel : (514) 205-4226
Email : info@rcplonline.org

Web site: www.rcplonline.org

Copyright © 2004 RCPL All rights reserved.

Note: This research document is prepared by the Rassemblement Canadien Pour le Liban (RCPL). All rights reserved. For reasons of security, no part of this document may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system or shared with individuals and organizations without the prior consent of RCPL.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2003 appeared to be one of further deterioration and little improvement. The only significant good news on the human rights front is the exchange of detainees between Hizbullah and Israel.

Otherwise, the remaining highlights can be characterized as follows:

- No change in the fate of the hundreds of Lebanese detainees in Syria
- Numerous bombs and skirmishes continue to plague the country, which threatens the security of citizens as well as regional instability
- Media and journalist are still harassed through "legal" mechanisms for press censorship
- Global agencies gave Lebanon lower rankings on almost every aspect, including press freedom, democracy and corruption

Lebanon is in dire need of help. Once a beacon of light in the Middle East, now it moves further away from democratic reforms. Canada should help Lebanon intensely, because it remains the ideal location to promote good governance and democracy in the Middle East. This is critical to prevent global terrorism and peace in the Middle East.

Table of contents

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS	5
1.1 MTV case.....	5
1.2 NTV case.....	6
2. FREEDOM OF OPINION, EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY	7
3. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND ILLEGAL TRIAL PROCEDURES	8
3.1 Illegal procedures against Lebanese nationals.....	8
3.2 Bruce Balfour, a Canadian detained in Lebanon.....	8
4. HARASSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	10
4.1 The Mughraby Case.....	10
4.2 The Samira Trad Case.....	10
5. TREATMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS	11
6. IMPARTIALITY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATICITY	12
6.1 The appointment of a new cabinet.....	12
6.2 The Baabda-Aley by-election.....	12
7. CORRUPTION	13
8. CITIZENS' SECURITY	14
9. LEBANESE DETAINEES IN SYRIA AND ISRAEL	16
9.1 Tragic death of Lebanese detainee in Syrian prisons.....	16
9.2 Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons.....	16
10. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS	17
11. WOMEN' S RIGHTS	18
12. HOMOSEXUAL'S RIGHTS	19
13. FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE	20
APPENDIX 1	21
REFERENCES	23

1. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Lebanon, once considered to have the most press freedom in the Middle East, saw its ranking collapse from 56 to 106 in the past year. This ranking is produced for 166 countries by Reporters Without Borders. In terms of events, the press freedom continued to be muzzled and showed no real improvement since last year. When compared to other countries in the region, Lebanon ranked significantly behind Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan [1]. In a survey that encompassed 193 countries, Lebanon was placed in the category of countries that do not have a free press like Afghanistan, China, Saudi Arabia, Iran and others. Although the Government did not censor broadcasts directly, direct political interference and interference in the judiciary constituted the major factors preventing journalists from freely expressing their opinions. During 2003, the Lebanese Government kept using several mechanisms to control the freedom of expression. Those included “legal” ones such as laws that prohibit attacks on the dignity of the head of state or foreign leaders, the 1991 security agreement between the Lebanon and Syria, which prohibits the publication of any information deemed harmful to the security of either state, and the prosecution of journalists and publishers that offend those laws before the Military Court or the Publications court, a special tribunal empowered to try such matters. As a result, journalists often exerted self-censorship on matters related to criticizing the Lebanese or Syrian authorities to avoid being tried for defamation of political figures or the country’s image or for “harming relationships with brotherly countries”. In the past year, at least two major media outlets were the target of political interference in judiciary or direct political pressures.

1.1 MTV case

On April 24, a three-member panel at the Court of Cassation headed by Judge Afif Shamseddine and acting in the capacity of a Publications Court of Appeals, issued a final verdict that MTV should remain closed after rejecting the case for formal errors. This verdict came after the station was found guilty of carrying out in favor of Gabriel Murr, who ran in a parliamentary in by-election in 2002. Although the article used to issue the verdict, bans election propaganda during the election process, the penalties it prescribes are only temporary and limited to the election period, which contradicts the sanctions applied to the station in the final verdict issued.

This verdict came despite the wide legal, political and popular reactions following the shut down of that station eight months ago. Most law experts considered the verdict as “political through and through”. The case was rejected on formal grounds and the court did not look into the substance. Chekib Kertbawi, former Bar chief, said there were “major legal errors in the verdict” while veteran legal expert Hassan Rifaii considered the case as being “unjustified from the start” and “an accumulation of errors one after the other” [2].

1.2 NTV case

On January 1, Lebanon' s public prosecutor, Adnan Addoum, banned the screening of a recorded television program on Saudi Arabia by New Television (NTV), a Beirut-based satellite television station. The ban that required the intervention of special Lebanese government forces was done on the grounds it offends the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the royal family [3].

New TV had planned to invite Saudi opposition figures to discuss the Saudi regime, political and economic conditions in Saudi Arabia, and also the use of U.S. military bases in the country in the event of a U.S.-led attack on Iraq. The prime minister Rafic Hariri, known for his close ties with the Saudi government was allegedly accused to use his power to shut down the station. It was reported that prior to requesting that the program not be aired, Information Minister, Ghazi Aridi, who ordered the ban had a meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, who has close contacts with Saudi King Fahd and other top Saudi officials. Saudi Arabia, has been providing for the past decade large financial help to Lebanon to ease the country' s serious economic problems [4].

Later, by the end of the year, the same television station was subjected to another ban, this time on the ground of criticizing top Lebanese and Syrian officials.

On December 17, Information Minister Michel Samaha suspended the broadcasting of news bulletins and political programs as well as the reading of newspaper headlines on New Television (NTV) satellite and terrestrial channels for two days. This decision came after the television station criticized in its news bulletin the director-general of the Surete Generale, Major General Jamil Sayyed, and the chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, Major General Rustom Ghazaleh. The latter was criticized by the station for having allegedly exerted indirect pressure, which contributed to the departure to Washington of former news broadcaster, Dalia Ahmad, to work for a news station founded by Central Intelligence Agency [5].

It was not until after the intervention of the Lebanese president Emile Lahoud that the station was reconnected and resumed satellite broadcasting, a step that added tension to the relationship between the president and the prime minister.

2. FREEDOM OF OPINION, EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY

The Lebanese constitution guarantees the right for the freedom of opinion, speech, expression, and associations. Although, less public demonstrations against the government politics occurred in the last year compared to the past year few years, however heavy pressure was still exerted on groups or individuals criticizing the policies of the Lebanese government, the Syrian “occupation” of Lebanon or calling for the application of UN resolution 520, which stipulates the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. In 2003, at least one prominent opposition figure was subject to legal proceedings for publicly criticizing the Lebanese government. This was the case of the exiled former prime minister and army commander, Michel Aoun, currently based in France.

In September 2003, Aoun was invited by the American Congress to give his testimony about the situation in Lebanon. Following his testimony where he criticized the current Lebanese government and the Syrian occupation to Lebanon, he was charged by the general prosecutor, Adnan Addoum, with infringing on state authority, exposing Lebanon to hostile military action, disturbing Lebanon' s ties with a neighboring country, endangering Lebanon' s national cohesion and fanning the flames of sectarian dissension. Such incidents constitute a clear violation of the Lebanese constitution that guarantees the freedom of opinion and speech as well as the international commitments of Lebanon as per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 19) and the International Covenant for Civil liberties and Political Rights (ICCP).

3. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND ILLEGAL TRIAL PROCEDURES

During the year 2003, there was a decrease in the number of people arrested for their political opinions. However, many opponents were still jailed, in accordance with previous sentences they have been charged with and where we registered several infringements on their rights to have a fair and legal trial also a new development emerged this year where illegal arrest was seen to acquire dangerous dimensions and to include not only Lebanese but also Foreign nationals such as from north America and mainly from east asia. Such incidents constitute a severe violation of articles 102 and 103 of the Lebanese Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP), as well as article 9 (2, 4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

3.1 Illegal procedures against Lebanese nationals

In addition to several separate incidents including the arrest of university students criticizing the government, it is worth mentioning here the case of two professionals who were released this year. These were the journalist Habib Younes and Dr. Toufic El Hindi who were charged of collaborating with the enemy following the crack down that included about 300 peaceful demonstrators in 2001. The infringement of their rights was documented in details in our previous reports and included their violent arrest without a legal warrant, their incommunicado uphold in the first days of their arrest, the lack of international standards of fair trial before the Military Court commonly known for being presided by a military judge and the heavy political interference it endures. Although there were allegations of torture or inhuman conditions during the preliminary interrogation to extract confessions, no transparent and objective investigation was made by the court before pronouncing the sentence against them. Such incidents

3.2 Bruce Balfour, a Canadian detained in Lebanon

There was also a high profile illegal arrest of a Canadian national, Bruce Balfour. On July 10, Bruce Balfour was arrested upon his arrival to the Beirut airport. Mr. Balfour, who was visiting Lebanon as the director of a reforestation in association with the Maranatha Evangelistic Association, was transferred to Roumieh prison, where he was held secretly without informing the Canadian embassy in Lebanon for more than 10 days. He did not have contact with his family or a lawyer. In sum, he was detained for 3 weeks without trial or formal charges. After a friend contacted his family in Canada and international pressure mounted, the general prosecutor in Lebanon issued a statement declaring his arrest on the ground of collaborating with the enemy and spying against Hizbullah.

It is known that the Lebanese law prohibits Lebanese nationals from entering Israel because the countries remain officially at war. Mr. Balfour was tried before the military court, which is renowned for its lack of respect of basic international standards for fair trials. Later, Mr. Balfour was acquitted of spying charges after 54 days in detention and delays in trial. He was charged only for inciting religious frictions. Along this process, Mr. Balfour later reported that the conditions of his arrest were inhuman especially in the first days and linked all the charges against him as religiously based because he is a Christian missionary.

4. HARASSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In 2003, human rights defenders and activists faced several arrest and harassment. At least two prominent human rights activists were arrested as a clear infringement of international standards guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders and article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulating that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. The first case was a prominent lawyer and human rights activist, Dr. Muhamed Mughraby, who was harassed and arrested as a result of political interference in judiciary. The second is Mrs. Samira Trad, known for her activism to help foreign workers illegally harassed and arrested in Lebanon. .

4.1 The Mughraby Case

In August 8, the Lebanese police arrested Dr. Muhamed Mughraby on apparently politically motivated charges of ' impersonating a lawyer' . Dr. Mughraby, lawyer and Human Rights activist in Lebanon, was held in a prison at the Justice Palace for several days, before his transfer to Roumieh prison. He was allegedly accused of illegally practicing law. According to the Legal Practice Organizational Code in Lebanon, a lawyer is penalized if he continues practicing, only after an irrevocable (mubram) decision barring him from such practice. In the present case, no such decision apparently existed against Dr. Mughraby, which made his arrest illegal and violated the Presumption of Innocence principle as stipulated in article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Furthermore, several members of his law firm assisting in his defense were apparently threatened not to represent him, otherwise they were in risk disciplinary actions against them. During his arrest, Dr. Mughraby described his prison conditions as inhuman. He was not allowed to meet in private with his associates at the detention centre, or exchange any documents with them without the prosecutor' s prior approval.

Such practices as well as the conditions that preceded and followed his arrest were clear indications of the political motivation behind his arrest; especially that Dr. Mughraby is a well-known human rights activist and a foe of corruption in the judiciary.

4.2 The Samira Trad Case

On September 2, Mrs. Samira Trad, an activist working to help foreign workers, was arrested and released a few days later. Mrs. Trad was arrested because she was critical of practices of the Lebanese government in regards to illegal arrests of many foreign workers in Lebanon.

5. TREATMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS

Latest statistics showed that more than 73,000 of foreign nationals had obtained a work permit in Lebanon for the year 2002. This number is much higher if we consider the illegal ones. At least 44% (32,000) of these workers came from Sri Lanka, mostly women working as domestic helpers.

Infringements of the rights of migrant workers in Lebanon have been reported at different levels and constitute grave violations of Lebanon's international commitments mainly articles 4, 5, 7 of the Universal Declaration of human Rights.

Description of the situation of foreign workers:

- a) Mistreatment and exploitation by the importing agencies by changing the work contract after the arrival of the worker to Beirut. This contract is often considered the legal one although it is often less favorable to the worker and tarnished with constraint.
- b) Mistreatment by their employers: overwork, verbal abuse, beating, confinement, food withheld, payment withheld, sexual abuse, etc...
- c) Unfair trial and harassment from the police and judicial system: Confiscation of their passport upon their arrival by the customs then by their employer or agency, mistreatment by the police, long periods of detention without a trial, unfair trials due to lack of appropriate legal counseling and absence of translator, etc...
- d) Exploitation of women workers as concubines and prostitutes by Lebanese or foreign "boyfriends" or "fixers" [6].

Due to the high rate of occurrence of such incidents that lead to death in several cases, it is of major concern that any delay from the Lebanese authorities to provide adequate legal and judiciary means to protect the rights of foreign workers without discrimination according to article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination".

6. IMPARTIALITY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATICITY

The year 2003 was marked by the hasty appointment of a new cabinet and the relatively impartial by-election of the Baabda-Aley district.

6.1 The appointment of a new cabinet

After less than 48 hours of consultations, a new cabinet was appointed on April 17th 2003, along lines of personal loyalties to political figures and family clans' leaders. This undemocratic criterion gave way to a continued conflict of interest between the cabinet members' public office and their personal agenda, leading to mutual accusations of corruption as well as the full paralysis of the decision-making process within the government.

6.2 The Baabda-Aley by-election

The Baabda-Aley by-election on September 14th 2003 was relatively impartial despite one violent incident and some irregularities [7]:

- A supporter of the Courant Patriotique Libre (CPL, opposition) was beaten up in the town of Kfarmatta.
- The electoral law requirement of secret balloting was not enforced, many voting centers having not been equipped with curtains. The minister of the Interior, Mr. Elias Murr, had in fact stated, prior to a previous by-election in the Metn district, that citizens are not bound to cast a secret vote.
- Some electoral lists were outdated. Deceased voters were still registered on these lists while citizens with valid electoral cards were not listed.
- Some citizens were allowed to vote on submission of any state ID instead of the mandatory electoral card.
- The location of a voting center was changed on Election Day, without any prior notice.
- Neither the list of candidates nor blank papers were made available in time to start voting operations in many of the polling centers.

7. CORRUPTION

Lebanese authorities have once again announced a war against corruption. Lebanon is rating by Transparency International as the most corrupted country in the Middle East. The Corruption Perceptions Index 2003 score is 3.0, which ranks 78th out of 133 countries.

There have been numerous scandals around hiring in state agencies and in the privatization process.

8. CITIZENS' SECURITY

While the situation in Lebanon is considered relatively stable, events occur on a regular basis which threatens the security of citizens. These are the works of non-governmental groups, including military wings of political groups, fundamentalist groups and Palestinian groups.

There are several places in Lebanon with the security and law is upheld by these groups, thus creating mini-states within states. These include large parts of Southern Lebanon, which are managed by Hizbullah. The Palestinian refugee camps are managed by numerous Palestinian groups.

The Lebanese authorities have attempted to increase their influence of certain areas; however, they usually react to adverse events.

The following is a list of events which demonstrates the clear need for Lebanese authorities to disarm all non-governmental groups:

- March: bomb explodes at the McDonald' s restaurant in Beirut
- March: bomb explodes at the British Cultural Center in Tripoli (North Lebanon)
- April 5: explosion was reported in a McDonald restaurant in ' Death River' residential district of Beirut -Lebanon. Another bombed car was discovered and dismantled by security forces, preventing a catastrophic explosion
- April: attempted assassination of the American Ambassador in Tripoli (North Lebanon)
- May 7: bomb explodes on a Dutch missionary in Tripoli, killing 1 person
- May: Palestinian guerillas belonging to the Fatah Movement were battling Islamic fighters in Ain-el-Helwi camp, Lebanon' s largest refugee camp
- June 16: missile attack on one of the radio and TV stations in Beirut F-TV owned by Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri
- July: gun battles between feuding groups in the Chatilla refugee camp
- July 23: police were intervening to stop a quarrel by clubs and daggers from spiraling into a shootout between Amal and a fundamentalist Islamic faction. The result was a shootout that wounded four people, and required a call to the army, which immediately closed of the neighborhood in Beirut
- September: Israel continues to violate Lebanese airspace and Hizbullah responds with missile attacks
- September 5: violent clashes between 2 prominent militias and political parties, Hizbullah and Amal, lead to the death of two people and caused the injury of several others

- October 8: clashes between Israel and Hizbollah killed young Lebanese twins by a Katyusha rocket aimed at Israel
- October 17: Hizbollah blocked a US diplomatic convoy at gun point
- October 27: Hizbollah mortar attacks on Israeli outposts in the disputed Shebaa farms followed by an Israeli aerial bombing response

Additional concerns in regards to security are the on-going presence and interference by Syria. Syria has over 15,000 troops, unknown amount of security agents and a large base of workers. Syria is the key decision makers in Lebanon on all significant fronts. The presence of Syria, is against the UNSC resolution 520, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, as well as the Taef Accord, which called for a permanent withdrawal within 2 years of the signing, in 1990.

The presence of Syria is seen as the main factor behind undemocratic elections, corruption, human rights abuses and the oppression of the press. Syria has not helped the Lebanese authorities disarm the non-governmental groups, and is even a major supplier of arms to the groups. This instability prevents Lebanon from recovering.

In 2000, Israel withdrew from Southern Lebanon, which created a vacuum that has been filled by the Islamic movement Hizbollah. Israel violates Lebanese airspace on almost a daily basis. Israel often clashes with Hizbollah. These clashes can ignite a powder keg which can lead to a regional war.

9. LEBANESE DETAINEES IN SYRIA AND ISRAEL

There were three main events in 2003 regarding Lebanese political detainees in Syria and Israel. First, the 12 detainees in Israel were all released following a German sponsored prisoner swap between Hizbullah and Israel. Unfortunately, the fate of detainees in Syria has not improved. The second event is the tragic death of a Lebanese detainee from torture in the Syrian prisons. The third is a testimony by Mr. Nizar Nayouf, a Syrian human rights activist, about 32 Lebanese detainees that he saw during his 9 years of detention in Syrian prisons (see appendix 1).

There are hundreds of cases of torture, mistreatment or arbitrary detention of Lebanese citizens that are detained in Lebanon and transferred to Syria. Below a brief description of the death of a Lebanese detainee in Syrian prisons.

9.1 Tragic death of Lebanese detainee in Syrian prisons

Mr. Joseph Hueiss, a Lebanese citizen, was kidnapped and transferred to Syria in 1992 following a traffic accident involving his taxicab and a military Jeep of the 62nd brigade of the Syrian army on the Dhour Shweir-Bologna road, East of Beirut. Since then, he was illegally detained with no trial and in inhumane conditions. His family was never allowed to visit him. During his years of detention, both Syrian and Lebanese governments kept denying his presence (as well as the presence of all other detainees) in Syrian jails. On June 19, Mr. Hueiss was handed over to his family in a closed box, six days after his death. His family was denied from making an autopsy. He was buried in the middle of the night.

9.2 Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons

No progress has been registered for the remaining detainees. Both the Lebanese and Syrian governments kept denying the presence of any Lebanese detainee in Syria while a non-exhaustive list reported about 300 detainees in Syrian jails (see RCPL's study about Lebanese detainees in Syrian jails, 2003). The Lebanese governmental committee created in 2002 to solve the problem of Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons has not made any concrete step toward solving this tragedy. It is thought that detainees in Syrian jails are held for their political opinions and are subjected to different ways of torture that might lead to death (see also case of Adel Ajouri who died under torture in Syrian jails).

10. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

No important progress has been observed for children's rights in 2003. Children in Lebanon are still entering the workforce at a very early age, which is detrimental to their health well-being, happiness, educational achievement and long term standard of living. More efforts should be invested to ensure children reasonable working conditions, satisfactory access to health care services, protection from economic exploitation, and psychological abuse.

11. WOMEN' S RIGHTS

Also no significant progress has been achieved to improve women's situation in Lebanon. In 2003, more work was still needed to protect women's rights mainly by increasing opportunities for women' s full participation in the political system and the development of programs for women's education in rural places.

12. HOMOSEXUAL'S RIGHTS

“Unnatural sexual intercourse”, interpreted as sodomy, is punishable by law (Penal code article 534) and condemned by society. Although the number of arrests exceeds the number of sentences by far, clause 534 is being systematically used to detain and ill-treat gays and lesbians who are already subjected to societal persecution. 2003 is no exception with state, religion and family teaming up against sexual minorities:

- Gay and Lesbian clubbers have been targeted after church authorities had repeatedly mentioned, early 2003, that homosexual acts are inherent to satanic rituals: on March 30th 2003, state agents raided the ‘Acid’ night club, known to offer a gay friendly environment, and arbitrarily arrested 10 people on devil worshipping allegations. They confiscated identification cards from almost 50 people and many individuals reported police brutality. In April 2003, Hezbollah (fundamentalist Shiite militia) agents detained five suspected gay men and handed them over to the police who arrested the suspects.
- Persecution also occurs at the hand of family members: a local newspaper reported on July 9th 2003 the cases of a gay man and a lesbian woman who were beaten up by their families after revealing their homosexuality. The woman was admitted in a hospital while the gay man was further slapped by a police officer while trying to file a complaint against members of his family.
- In July 2003, the coffee outlet Dunkin’ Donuts was accused of discriminating against gay customers for the second year in a row.
- In September 2003, a gay teacher reported to a local gay rights group that he was fired from his job because of his sexual orientation.

In a rare positive development, a local NGO coalition, the ‘Forum for human dignity in the penal code’, held a conference in May 2003 calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality [8].

13. FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

The Lebanese constitution guarantees the freedom of religion and 19 religions are officially recognized by the government. However, several attacks have been registered by armed groups against international missionaries such as the Dutch missionary center in Tripoli on May 7, killing one person. While those attacks were performed by armed non governmental groups, pressure on religious freedom were also obvious when Lebanese authorities considered pressing charges against An Nahar for an editorial letter addressed to God. This came after Islamic fundamentalists attacked publicly the editorial. For them, such a letter was considered blasphemous. Although, no sentence was pronounced on the subject, however, such incidents can be considered indicators of a decline in the religious freedom, which would require immediate in intervention from the Lebanese authorities to prevent any possible deterioration in this direction.

APPENDIX 1

The full list of detainees' name, birth and abduction dates as submitted by Mr. Nayouf to Mgr Nasrallah Sfeir in October 3, 2003:

1. Khadijeh Yehya Bukhary- 1940- Singer- abducted on April 28, 1992
2. Georges Aby Halloun- First Lieutenant- abducted on October 13, 1990
3. Michael Youssef al Hasbani-Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
4. Marwan Zoghbi- (dates not available)
5. Claude Hanna Khoury- 1964- Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on June 20, 1985
6. Fouad Asaker- Sergeant in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
7. Jean Michael Nakhleh- 1970- Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
8. Jacques Hanna Nakhoul- 1962- Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
9. Marwan Ryad Mechealani- 1964- Adjutant in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
10. Walid Mahmud Zarkout- married and has three daughters-Custom employee- abducted in 1982
11. Robert Bou Serhal- 1962- First Lieutenant- abducted on October 13, 1990
12. Antoine Zakhour Zakhour-1963- Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
13. Chamel Hussein Kanaan- 1959 Shebaa- Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on June 16, 1986
14. Tanios Charbel Zogheib- First Lieutenant- abducted on October 13, 1990
15. Boutros Khawand- was in the Palestine branch (235) related to the military intelligence on December 6, 1993, was interrogated by Brigadier Salah Zhgaibi and Brigadier Muhsen Hilal, then transferred to an unknown place in March the same year. It's thought that he has been transferred to branch 392 of the old Military intelligence headquarters, then to the new Military intelligence headquarters in the Baramka area, Kfarsousah section.
16. Father Alber Cherfan (Antonine) – abducted on October 13, 1990
17. Father Sleiman Abu Khalil (Antonine) - abducted on October 13, 1990
18. Tanios Kameel Haber- Soldier in the Lebanese Army- abducted on October 13, 1990
19. Drar Abd Kader- 1942- abducted on March 6, 1986
20. Gergy Malik Hanna- 1943- Professor in the Lebanese University- abducted on September 10, 1985
21. Raef Fouad Dagher- 1947 Majdalouna Chouf- abducted on June 6, 1990
22. Racheed Ahmed Khalil- 1965 Ghazieh- abducted in 1985

23. Georges Joseph Asmar- 1949- abducted by the Syrian National Party on February 9, 1985, who handed him later to the Syrians
24. Florence Michel Raad-1945- journalist- she was abducted by the Syrian National Party, then handed to Hizbullah, then to the Syrians
25. Elias Michel Abed El Nour- 1955 Msaitbe-abducted in Damascus airport on March 8, 1984
26. Victor Beni Farhat-1951 Ebel Sake- abducted on August 1985
27. Ziad Youssef Mourkos- Zakrit - Musician- abducted on November 21, 1984
28. Elie Abu Nader-40 yrs old- musician- abducted on November 21, 1984
29. Adel Kamal Dib- 1947 Aley- abducted by the Syrian National Party who handed him to the Syrians on January 17, 1984
30. Issam Haseeb Kehdi - June 8, 1954 Rayak- abducted by Amal party who handed him to the Syrians on October 26, 1983
31. Antoine Michel Mezher- 1949 Jel El Dib- abducted from Badaro Phone station, on January 16, 1976
32. Antoine Ghaleb Khazaka- 1961 Jdita - abducted by the Syrian National Party who handed him to the Syrians on June 21, 1982

REFERENCES

- [1] World Audit report 2004.
Freedom of the press 2003 – 173pp
- [2] Lebanonwire, 2003, Final verdict on MTV: shut down for good;
Court ruling sparks angry reactions
<http://www.lebanonwire.com/0304/03042408DS.asp>
Accessed April 1, 2004
- [3] Naharnet, January 3, 2003. Government Takes on NTV After MTV in Freedom
Battle
[http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/Newsdesk.nsf/Story/
2F3807C28A37871042256CA20032D4C7?OpenDocument&PRINT](http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/Newsdesk.nsf/Story/2F3807C28A37871042256CA20032D4C7?OpenDocument&PRINT)
Accessed April 1, 2004
- [4] Lebanon blocks TV criticism of Saudis
Saoud Dalal, Jan 1, 2003,
<http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030101-013113-8119r>
Accessed April 1, 2004
- [5] NTV hit by 2-day shutdown over news violations
Samaha suspends bulletins, political programs, headline readings
December 17, 2003
<http://www.lebanonwire.com/0312/03121718DS.asp>
Accessed April 1, 2004
- [6] Mc Dermott, 2003; Afro-Asian Migrants in Lebanon,
Report of the Committee on pastoral care of Afro-Asian migrant workers,
PCAAM, 22pp.
- [7] Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)
Press release on 14-09-2003
- [8] Helem (Lebanese Protection for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders)
www.helem.net