

COUNTRY FACT SHEET

LEBANON

November 2007

Research Directorate
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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1. GENERAL

Official name

Lebanese Republic.

Geography

With a total area of roughly 10,400 km², Lebanon is located in the Middle East between Israel and Syria. Lebanon has 225 kilometres of coastline on the Mediterranean Sea and has mild to cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Areas with mountains are prone to winter snows.

Population and density

Population: 3,925,502 (July 2007 estimate).

Density: 383.8 people per km² (mid-2005).

Principal cities and populations (2003 estimate)

Beirut (capital) 1,171,000; Tarabulus (Tripoli) 212,900; Saida (Sidon) 149,000; Sur (Tyre) 117,100; An-Nabatiyah at-Tahta (Nabatiyah) 89,400; Jounieh 79,800; Zahle 76,600; Baabda 58,500; Ba'albak (Ba'albek) 29,800; Alayh 26,700.

Languages

Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian and Kurdish.

Religions

Muslim 59.7% (Shia, Sunni, Druze, Ismaili, Alawite), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Copt, Protestant), and other 1.3%.

In 1994, estimates indicated that Shia Muslims constituted roughly 29% to 32% of the Lebanese population, Maronites 25% to 28%, Sunni Muslims 16% to 20% and Druze 3.5%.

Ethnic groups

Arab 95%, Armenian 4% and other 1%. A significant number of Christians in Lebanon self-identify as Phoenician instead of Arab.

Demographics (2007 estimate, unless otherwise indicated)

Population growth rate: 1.198%.

Infant mortality rate: 23.39 deaths/1,000 live births.

Life expectancy at birth: 73.15 years.

Fertility rate: 1.88 children born/woman.

Literacy: 87.4% of people 15 years of age and over can read and write (2003 estimate).

Currency

Lebanese pound (LBP).

1, 572.44 LBP = 1 Canadian dollar.¹

National holidays

2007: 1 January (New Year's Day), 20 January (Muharram, Islamic New Year), 29 January (Ashoura), 9 February (Feast of St Maron), 22 March (Arab League Anniversary), 31 March (Mouloud/Yum an-Nabi, birth of Muhammad), 6-9 April (Greek Orthodox Easter), 9 April (Easter, Western Church), 17 May (Ascension Day, Western Church), 10 August (Leilat al-Meiraj, ascension of Muhammad), 15 August (Assumption), 13 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 1 November (All Saints' Day), 22 November (Independence Day), 20 December (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 25 December (Christmas Day).

2008: 1 January (New Year's Day), 10 January (Muharram, Islamic New Year), 19 January (Ashoura), 9 February (Feast of St Maron), 20 March (Mouloud/Yum an-Nabi, birth of Muhammad), 22 March (Arab League Anniversary), 24 March (Easter, Western Church), 25–28 April (Greek Orthodox Easter), 1 May (Ascension Day, Western Church), 30 July (Leilat al-Meiraj, ascension of Muhammad), 15 August (Assumption), 1 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 1 November (All Saints' Day), 22 November (Independence Day), 8 December (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 25 December (Christmas Day), 29 December (Muharram, Islamic New Year).ⁱ

Head of state

President Emile Lahoud (since 24 November 1998).

Head of government

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora (since 30 June 2005).

Form of government

Lebanon is an independent parliamentary republic with important offices filled based on religion. The president, a Maronite Christian, is elected by the National Assembly for a six-year term and is not eligible for re-election. The prime minister, a Sunni Muslim, is chosen by the president in consultation with the National Assembly. The Speaker of the National Assembly is to be a Shia Muslim.

Legislative structure

The parliament is a unicameral assembly called the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale, Majlis Alnuwab). The assembly has 128 seats which are allocated on the basis of sectarian proportional representation. According to law, Maronite Catholics have 34 seats, Sunni Muslims 27 seats, Shia Muslims 27 seats, Greek Orthodox 14 seats, Druzes 8 seats, Greek-Melkite Catholics 8 seats, Armenian Orthodox 5 seats, Alawites 2 seats, Armenian Catholics 1 seat, Protestants 1 seat, and others 1 seat. Members serve four-year terms.

ⁱ Some dates may vary by one or two days due to the lunar calendar. In 2008, the Islamic New Year is celebrated twice to mark the beginning of Islamic years 1429 and 1430.

Administrative divisions

Lebanon has 8 governorates (also known as *mohafazah*):

Aakar, Baalbek-Hermel, Beirut, Beqaa, Liban-Nord, Liban-Sud, Mont-Liban and Nabatiye.

Judicial system

Lebanon has 56 single-judge courts and 11 courts of appeal to deal with civil and criminal matters. There are four courts of cassation, three of which are for civil and commercial cases, and one for criminal cases. The State Consultative Council deals with administrative cases and the Court of Justice addresses security matters that affect the state. The Constitutional Council rules on the constitutionality of laws and the Supreme Council, if need be, hears cases against the president and prime minister.

Lebanon has a system of religious courts to address personal status matters such as marriage, death and inheritance.

Elections

In Lebanon, voting is compulsory for males 21 years of age and older. For females aged 21 years and older with an elementary education, voting is authorized.

Parliamentary elections were held in rounds from 29 May 2005 to 12 June 2005. The results were: Rafik Hariri Martyr List 72 seats, the Resistance and Development Bloc 35 seats and the Free Patriotic Movement 21 seats. The Rafik Hariri Martyr List includes the following political parties: Future Movement 36 seats, Progressive Socialist Party 16 seats, Lebanese Forces Party 6 seats, Qornet Shehwan Gathering 6 seats, Tripoli Bloc 3 seats, Democratic Renewal 1 seat, Democratic Left 1 seat, and independents 3 seats. The Resistance and Development Bloc includes: Amal 15 seats, Hezbollah 14 seats, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party 2 seats, and others 4 seats. The Free Patriotic Movement includes: the Free Patriotic Movement 14 seats, the Skaff bloc 5 seats, and the Murr bloc 2 seats.

A presidential election was held in the National Assembly on 15 October 1998 in which Emile Lahoud was elected. On 3 September 2004, the National Assembly voted 96 to 29 in favour of extending Lahoud's term for three years. Please consult the section on "Political Background" for details on the upcoming presidential election.

Defence

In February 2007, compulsory military service was cancelled. The age of eligibility for voluntary military service is 18 to 30 years of age. As of November 2006, the Lebanese armed forces had 72,100 personnel:

Army:	70,000
Air Force:	1,000
Naval Force:	1,100

There were also roughly 13,000 Internal Security Force members.

In 2006, the defence budget was roughly 1 trillion Lebanese pounds (619,830,675 Canadian dollars).²

In January 2007, there were approximately 12,000 members of the United Nations (UN) Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) monitoring the security situation.

Media

Article 13 of the 1926 Lebanon Constitution affirms freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

The principal daily newspapers in Arabic are: *al-Nahar* (independent), *al-Anwar* (independent), *al-Safir* (independent), *al-Amal* (Phalangist), *al-Hayat* (independent), *al-Dunia*, *al-Liwa*, *al-Mustaqbal* (founded by Rafik Hariri), *al-Sharq*, *al-Nida* (communist) and *al-Jarida* (independent). Other newspapers are: *The Daily Star* (independent) in English, *L'Orient-Le Jour* (independent) in French and *Le Soir* in French.

The primary domestic news agency is Wakalat al-Anba al-Wataniyah (National News Agency). Radio Lebanon (Idhaah Lubnan, Radio Liban), which broadcasts in Arabic, Armenian, English and French, is a government-run radio station.

In 2003, there were roughly 1,300,000 television receivers, 300,000 personal computers and 400,000 Internet users.

Student movements

Student movements and political groups in Lebanon are dominated by subdivisions of the main political parties.

United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and Country Rankⁱⁱ

Value: 0.774/1.

Rank: 78 out of 177 countries.

United Nations Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Country Rankⁱⁱⁱ

This information was not included in the UN's *Human Development Report 2006*.

Population below the national poverty line

28% (1999 estimate).

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)^{iv}

ⁱⁱ The HDI is a composite measurement of human development in a country, based on life expectancy, levels of literacy and education, and standard of living. Values are as follows: 0.800 and higher (high human development), 0.500-0.799 (medium human development) and 0.500 and under (low human development). Countries are ranked in descending order by their HDI value.

ⁱⁱⁱ The GDI adjusts the rating of the HDI to reflect inequalities between men and women.

^{iv} The Transparency International CPI is based on composite survey data from 16 polls and 10 independent institutions. The data reflects the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country

Score: 3/10.

Rank: 99 out of 180 countries surveyed.

Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)^v

This information was not included in Transparency International's 2007 report.

[Information compiled from: Country Analyst 24 Oct. 2007; *Europa* 2007 2007, 2756-2785; Lebanon 24 Oct. 2007; *ibid.* 23 May 1926; *PHW* 2007 2007, 701-709; *TI* 26 Sept. 2007; UN 2006; US 6 Sept. 2007]

2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Lebanese politics are currently polarized between the governing coalition, which is opposed to Syrian involvement in Lebanon, and the opposition coalition of Christian political parties and Hezbollah.³

Assassination of Rafik Hariri

Former prime minister of Lebanon, Rafik Hariri, was assassinated on 14 February 2005 in Beirut.⁴ Syrian and Lebanese intelligence personnel were suspected of involvement.⁵ The cabinet of pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami resigned a few weeks after Hariri's assassination.⁶

In late February 2005, protesters in Beirut demonstrated against Syrian involvement in Lebanon and called for the withdrawal of Syrian forces.⁷ In March 2005, protests also occurred in favour of Syrian involvement in Lebanon.⁸ Facing international pressure, in addition to pressure from within Lebanon, Syria agreed to remove its troops from Lebanon.⁹ In April 2005, Syria stated that it had completed the withdrawal of all of its forces and personnel.¹⁰

National elections occurred in June 2005. Anti-Syrian political parties won the majority of seats in parliament and Fouad Siniora was named prime minister.¹¹ Please consult the "General Information" section for detailed election results.

In September 2005, Lebanese authorities laid charges against four pro-Syrian generals in connection with the Hariri assassination.¹² The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) voted, in May 2007, to establish a tribunal to bring the suspects to trial.¹³

War between Hezbollah and Israel

In July 2006, Hezbollah forces captured Israeli soldiers in a cross-border incident, starting a war between Israel and Hezbollah.¹⁴ The conflict caused extensive damage in Lebanon and roughly 1,000 civilians were killed.¹⁵ The war ended on 14 August 2006 with a UN-sponsored ceasefire.¹⁶ Following the war, Lebanon was left with a

analysts. Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (highly clean). According to their score, countries are ranked in order from least corrupt (1) to most corrupt (163).

^v The Transparency International GCB is a public opinion survey used to gauge people's perceptions of corruption within their own state. Scores range from 1 (not at all corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt).

weakened government, a fractured sense of unity, significant numbers of internally displaced persons and considerable damage to its infrastructure.¹⁷

Current political climate

In November 2006, Shia opposition ministers left the Lebanese cabinet.¹⁸ Hezbollah claimed that the Lebanese government was not following through with power-sharing arrangements made in the 1990s.¹⁹ In December 2006, pro-Hezbollah protests occurred in Beirut.²⁰ In late 2006, street fighting increased between government supporters and those in favour of the opposition.²¹

Since the assassination of Rafik Hariri in 2005, several anti-Syrian politicians have been killed.²² The most recent assassination was that of member of parliament Antoine Ghanem in September 2007.²³ Syria has denied involvement in the assassinations.²⁴

Please consult the section on "Future Considerations" for information on the upcoming presidential election.

3. POLITICAL PARTIES

Leading coalition:

Rafik Hariri Martyr List: The anti-Syrian²⁵ Rafik Hariri Martyr List won 72 out of 128 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.²⁶ Out of the 72 seats, 3 were won by independent candidates and the remainder were won by the following political parties:²⁷

Future Movement (Tayyar al-Mustaqbal): The Future Movement was established by former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri based on objections to Emile Lahoud's extended presidential term.²⁸ The party is now led by the late former prime minister's son, Saad Hariri.²⁹ The Future Movement won 36 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.³⁰

Progressive Socialist Party (Al-Hizb al-Taqaddumi al-Ishtiraki / Parti socialiste progressiste): Established in 1949, the Progressive Socialist Party is predominantly Druze and supports socialism and democracy within the framework of the constitution.³¹ The party won 16 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections³² and is led by Walid Jumblatt.³³

Lebanese Forces Party: A political extension of the Lebanese Forces, the Lebanese Forces Party was founded in 1990 and banned by the government in 1994.³⁴ Despite the ban, the Lebanese Forces Party is active and is led by Samir Geagea who was in prison from 1995 to 2005.³⁵ The Lebanese Forces Party won 6 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections³⁶ and Geagea was subsequently released from prison.³⁷

Qornet Shehwan Gathering: Established in 2001, the Qornet Shehwan Gathering is a Christian political organization that draws its membership from the Maronite, Orthodox, Greek Catholic and other Christian communities.³⁸ The

party supports full Lebanese sovereignty and the creation of a Palestinian state.³⁹ The Qornet Shehwan Gathering is led by its unofficial patron Cardinal Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir⁴⁰ and won 6 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁴¹

Tripoli Bloc: The Tripoli Bloc won 3 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁴²

Democratic Renewal: Democratic Renewal won 1 seat in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁴³ Nassib Lahoud is the party leader.⁴⁴

Democratic Left: The Democratic Left won 1 seat in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁴⁵

Other coalitions:

Resistance and Development Bloc: The Resistance and Development Bloc won 35 out of 128 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁴⁶ Out of the 35 seats, 32 were won by the following parties and 3 were won by "others":⁴⁷

Amal: Amal, which is an acronym for Afwaj al-Muqawa al-Lubnaniyya (Groups of the Lebanese Resistance),⁴⁸ was established in 1975 as a Shia political and military group.⁴⁹ Amal, which has mostly been disarmed,⁵⁰ won 15 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁵¹ Nabih Berri is the leader of Amal and is also Speaker of the National Assembly.⁵²

Hezbollah: Hezbollah, which means Party of God in Arabic, was established in 1982 by Iran-educated Shia clerics.⁵³ The party is a Shia Muslim organization that operates in both the political and military spheres⁵⁴ and is led by Hasan Nasrallah.⁵⁵ Hezbollah secured 14 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁵⁶ Please consult the section on "Armed Groups and Other Non-State Actors" for information on its military wing.

Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party (Parti socialiste nationaliste syrien, PSNS): The Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party was founded in 1932 and supports the establishment of a "Greater Syria" state to include Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Palestine.⁵⁷ The party secured 2 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections⁵⁸ and is led by Jibran Arajji.⁵⁹

Free Patriotic Movement: The Free Patriotic Movement coalition secured 21 out of 128 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁶⁰ The following political parties belong to the Free Patriotic Movement:⁶¹

Free Patriotic Movement: The Christian-led and backed Free Patriotic Movement party supports full Lebanese sovereignty and independence.⁶² The party won 14 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁶³ It is led by former Lebanese Army general Michael Aoun.⁶⁴

Skaff Bloc: The Skaff Bloc secured 5 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁶⁵

Murr Bloc: The Murr Bloc won 2 seats in the 2005 parliamentary elections.⁶⁶

Other coalitions and political parties:⁶⁷

Ahbash; Al-Baath (Baath Arab Socialist Party); Al-Karal; Al-Karamah (Dignity); Al-Kataeb (Phalanges libanaises, Phalangist Party); Al-Kitla al-Chaabi-Elias Shaft (People's Front Elias Shaft); Al-Tayyar al-Watani (Free National Current); Al-Wa'ad (National Secular Democratic Party - Pledge); Al Huriya (Freedom); Al Irada al-Chaabia (Popular Will); Al Jabhar al-Nidal al-Watani (National Defence Front); Al Karal al-Chabbi (Popular Decision); Al Karamah al-Wataniyah (National Dignity); Al Karamah wah Tajdid (Dignity and Renewal); Al Kitla al-Chaabi-Fouad el Turk (People's Front - Fouad Turk); Al Tawafoc al-Watani (National Understanding); Al Wifac wal Tajdid (Consensus and Renewal); Al Wifah al-Matni (Metn Accord); Arab Democratic Party; Arab Socialist Union, Baalbeck-Hermel al-I'tilafiah; Bloc national libanais (National Bloc); Hizb al-Ahrar al-Watani (National Liberal Party, Parti national libéral); Ii'tilafiah; Kataib Corrective Movement; Lebanese Popular Congress; Lubnan (Lebanon); Nasserite Popular Organization; National Lebanese Front; Parti communiste libanais (Lebanese Communist Party); Tashnag (Armenian Revolutionary Federation); Tawhid Islami (Islamic Unification Movement); Union chrétienne démocrate libanaise (Lebanese Christian Democratic Union); Wahdal al-Jabhal (Mountain Union).

4. ARMED GROUPS AND OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS.

Hezbollah: Hezbollah, which means Party of God in Arabic, was established in 1982 by Iran-educated Shia clerics.⁶⁸ Hezbollah seeks "the establishment of a Shiite theocracy in Lebanon, the destruction of Israel, and the elimination of Western influences from the Middle East."⁶⁹ There are roughly 1,000 primary Hezbollah operatives and a reserve force of 3,000 to 10,000 personnel.⁷⁰ Hezbollah is particularly influential in southern Lebanon.⁷¹ The military leader of Hezbollah is Nabil Qaouk.⁷²

Fatah al-Islam: Fatah al-Islam is a militant Sunni Muslim group with reported Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian membership.⁷³ Although Fatah al-Islam surfaced in November 2006, it became well known for its May 2007 confrontations with the Lebanese Army at the Narh al-Bared refugee camp.⁷⁴ At the outset of the fighting, Fatah al-Islam had roughly 150 to 200 armed personnel.⁷⁵ The leader of Fatah al-Islam is Shaker Absi.⁷⁶

Other armed groups and non-state actors:⁷⁷

Independent Nasserite Movement, Islamic Jihad, Popular Liberation Army, South Lebanon Army, Waad Party.

5. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The presidential term of General Emile Lahoud ends on 24 November 2007.⁷⁸ In order to elect a president, the Lebanese National Assembly must approve a candidate with a two-thirds majority in the first round or, if necessary, a simple majority in later rounds.⁷⁹ The presidential vote also requires a quorum of two-thirds of members of the National Assembly.⁸⁰

On 25 September 2007, opposition members of the National Assembly boycotted the presidential vote.⁸¹ This prevented a new president from being elected.⁸² A second vote was scheduled for 23 October 2007.⁸³ This vote was delayed "to allow more time for rival groups to agree on a compromise candidate."⁸⁴ The next presidential vote is scheduled for 12 November 2007.⁸⁵

Roughly 40 members of the National Assembly belonging to the anti-Syrian majority are being held at a Beirut hotel under tight security until the presidential vote takes place.⁸⁶ There are suspicions that Syria has been orchestrating the killings of anti-Syrian politicians in order to weaken the anti-Syrian majority in parliament.⁸⁷ UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon has "warned Lebanese parties against rearming and conducting military training" and encouraged the election of a new president.⁸⁸

¹ XE.com 26 Oct. 2007.

² XE.com 8 Nov. 2007.

³ Freedom House 2007.

⁴ *PHW 2007* 2007, 706.

⁵ *PHW 2007* 2007, 706.

⁶ *PHW 2007* 2007, 706; BBC 9 Oct. 2007.

⁷ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2763.

⁸ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2763.

⁹ *PHW 2007* 2007, 706.

¹⁰ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2763.

¹¹ BBC 9 Oct. 2007.

¹² BBC 9 Oct. 2007.

¹³ BBC 9 Oct. 2007.

¹⁴ US 6 Mar. 2007, Introduction.

¹⁵ HRW Jan. 2007.

¹⁶ US 6 Mar. 2007, Introduction.

¹⁷ *PHW 2007* 2007, 706.

¹⁸ AI 2007.

¹⁹ Freedom House 2007.

²⁰ Freedom House 2007.

²¹ Freedom House 2007.

²² *Gulf Times* 24 Sept. 2007.

²³ BBC 9 Oct. 2007.

²⁴ *Haaretz* 2 Oct. 2007.

²⁵ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.

²⁶ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.

²⁷ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.

²⁸ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.

²⁹ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.

³⁰ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.

³¹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.

³² *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.

³³ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.

³⁴ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.

³⁵ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.

³⁶ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.

³⁷ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.

³⁸ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.

³⁹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.

- ⁴⁰ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.
⁴¹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁴² *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁴³ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁴⁴ IFES Election Guide n.d.
⁴⁵ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁴⁶ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁴⁷ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁴⁸ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.
⁴⁹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁵⁰ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.
⁵¹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁵² *PHW 2007* 2007, 708.
⁵³ MIPT 30 Sept. 2007.
⁵⁴ BBC 13 July 2006.
⁵⁵ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.
⁵⁶ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁵⁷ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.
⁵⁸ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁵⁹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.
⁶⁰ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.
⁶¹ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁶² *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775.
⁶³ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁶⁴ *PHW 2007* 2007, 707.
⁶⁵ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁶⁶ *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774.
⁶⁷ Compiled from: *Europa 2007* 2007, 2774-2775; *PHW 2007* 2007, 707; *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 372-375.
⁶⁸ MIPT 30 Sept. 2007.
⁶⁹ MIPT 30 Sept. 2007.
⁷⁰ MIPT 30 Sept. 2007.
⁷¹ AP 4 Oct. 2007.
⁷² *PHW 2007* 2007, 708.
⁷³ CFR 8 June 2007.
⁷⁴ BBC 10 Sept. 2007.
⁷⁵ BBC 10 Sept. 2007.
⁷⁶ CFR 8 June 2007.
⁷⁷ Compiled from: *Europa 2007* 2007, 2775, *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 375.
⁷⁸ *Daily Star* 20 Sept. 2007.
⁷⁹ AFP 23 Sept. 2007.
⁸⁰ Reuters 22 Oct. 2007.
⁸¹ Reuters 22 Oct. 2007.
⁸² *Washington Post* 26 Sept. 2007.
⁸³ AP 2 Oct. 2007.
⁸⁴ Reuters 22 Oct. 2007.
⁸⁵ Reuters 22 Oct. 2007.
⁸⁶ AFP 23 Oct. 2007.
⁸⁷ AFP 23 Oct. 2007.
⁸⁸ *Gulf Times* 25 Oct. 2007.

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