The LIC Newsletter

Issue 5 | December 2022

A Message from the President

Friends,

Lebanese Parliament remains deadlocked and unable to fill the presidential vacancy after months of deliberation and discussion. Despite weekly sessions, members of the reformist and sovereigntist factions have failed to coalesce behind a single candidate while Hezbollah and its resistance coalition have been casting blank ballots and leaving the session to cause a loss of quorum. Hezbollah and its allies have also called for bypassing the normal electoral process and beginning negotiations between various parliamentary blocs under a so-called “dialogue,” in contradiction of the Lebanese constitution.

Transfer of power in a democracy like Lebanon should be peaceful and orderly, and not subject to the whims and desires of illiberal groups. This continued presidential vacancy threatens to accelerate the collapse of already affected state institutions and continue to prolong the pain felt by all Lebanese citizens.

To break the gridlock and fill this vacancy, the reformists and sovereigntists must increase effective consultations among themselves to put forward a single, clear choice. This candidate needs an open path to salvage Lebanon, return it to prominence in the Arab and international communities, and address the tragedies suffered by the Lebanese people: tragedies caused by the absence of governance for the people and the continued domination of the mafia-militia alliance.

The Speaker of the Parliament needs to perform his constitutionally set duties and keep the presidential election session open by preventing a loss of quorum caused by the departure of certain MPs. Lebanon is in desperate need of leaders—a President, Speaker, Prime Minister, and overall government—who are committed to its sovereignty, proper governance for all Lebanese people, structural and long-lasting reforms, and the fight against corruption.

Last May, the Lebanese people sent a clear message by electing reformists and sovereigntists to Parliament. It is the duty of those elected to follow through on their commitments and provide real, lasting results for the Lebanese people.

For Lebanon,

Dr. Joseph Gebeily
President

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay better connected with instant updates from the LIC on our social media platforms! We would greatly appreciate it if you would follow us and share with friends.

Twitter   Facebook

Latest News from Lebanon, from the U.S., & from the U.N.

From Lebanon

Why Can't Lebanon Elect a President? The country has been without a president for over a month, its legislators unable to agree on a new head of state. Read more

Lebanon Detains Hezbollah Supporter In Probe Of Irish U.N. Peacekeeper’s Killing. The man was suspected of firing shots at a UNIFIL vehicle that was travelling through southern Lebanon. Read more

What Led To The Lebanon And Israel Maritime Border Deal? The agreement was one of the few instances in which all of Lebanon’s various political groupings came to a consensus on anything. Read more

Lebanon-Israel Maritime Border Agreement, the complete text of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel. Read more

Lebanon Parliament Passes 2022 Budget That Falls Short Of IMF Reform. Parliament endorsed a rate of 15,000 pounds to the dollar, while the market rate sat at around 37,000. Read more

People In Lebanon Are Robbing Banks And Staging Sit-Ins To Access Their Own Savings. Banks froze most accounts three years ago amid an economic collapse. Read More

Amid Vaccine Shortages, Lebanon Faces Its First Cholera Outbreak In Three Decades. The Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon says it's boosted water surveillance and testing. Read more

From The U.S.

U.S., Saudi Arabia, And France Call On Lebanese Officials To Elect A President Without Delay. The three countries voiced their support for Lebanon’s sovereignty, security, and stability. Read more

US Extends Its Best Wishes To The People Of Lebanon On Independence Day. We will continue to stand with the people of Lebanon and support their ambition for a better future. Read more

Chairman Robert Menendez And Ranking Member Jim Risch Call For Accountability Of Lebanese Elite. Both urge the Biden administration to use all available leverage to ensure that Lebanese lawmakers select a new president. Read more

U.S.-Lebanon Friendship Caucus Colleagues Urge Lebanon Parliament to Name President Before Constitutional Deadline. Read more

House Passage of H.Res. 558. A Bipartisan Resolution Urging EU to Designate Hizballah in its Entirety as a Terrorist Organization. Read more

U.S. State Dept - Near Eastern Affairs Denounces The Attack On UNIFIL. The tragic death of an Irish peacekeeper is reflective of the rapid decay of the Lebanese state. Read more

President Biden Applauds The Israel-Lebanon Maritime Boundary Dispute. It will secure the interests of both Israel and Lebanon. Read more

U.S. Congratulates the Governments of Lebanon and Israel for Finalizing Their Agreement. This historic achievement will advance security, stability, and prosperity for the region. Read more

U.S.-Lebanon Friendship Caucus Statement on the Maritime Border Agreement Between Israel and Lebanon, Representatives LaHood, Dingell, and Issa hail the agreement as a positive step that will ease serious economic challenges for the people of Lebanon. Read more

Statement By Secretary Blinken: Historic Agreement Establishing a Permanent Israel-Lebanon Maritime Boundary. Read more

Chairman Menendez Applauds Israel-Lebanon Maritime Deal, ensuring that this agreement will contribute to peace and stability in the region. Read more

U.S. Sanctions Hezbollah's Accountants, Weapons Facilitator. The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control took action against two individuals and two companies based in Lebanon. Read more

USAID Administrator Samantha Power Announces More Than $72 Million In Additional Humanitarian Assistance. The funding’s announcement was during a visit to Lebanon. Read more

USAID Administrator Samantha Power Announces More Than $50 Million For Higher Education. The fund will be for Lebanese and refugee students living in the country. Read more

U.S. Military Provides Huey Helicopters Worth More Than $24 Million. Teams worked closely with the LAF to ensure that these aircraft will enhance the operational capacity of the LAF in providing security. Read more

U.S. Visits To Lebanon

USAID Administrator Samantha Power travels to Lebanon from November 8-10. Read more

U.S. Congressional Delegation Headed By Rep Mark Takano Visits Lebanon. The delegation stressed the importance of electing a president. Read more

U.S. Former Under Secretary Of State For Political Affairs And Global Fellow At Wilson Center David Hale In Lebanon. He stated that Lebanon's path to financial and economic restoration is relatively straightforward and clear. Read more

From The United Nations

International Support Group for Lebanon (ISGL) Calls on the Members of Parliament to Elect, Without Delay, a New President. ISGL concerned with continued lack of cooperation regarding presidential vacancy. Read more

Irish Soldier Killed On U.N. Peacekeeping Mission In Lebanon. UNIFIL offers deepest condolences over death of UN peacekeeper. Read more

Secretary-General Welcomes The Announcement Of Maritime Agreement. He strongly believes this development can promote increased stability in the region. Read more

UNIFIL Urges To Maintain Stability Along The Blue Line. UNIFIL head of mission urges senior defense officials to back up maritime agreement with concrete actions. Read more

UN Humanitarian Relief Funds Allocate U.S. $9.5 Million To Contain The Spread Of Cholera. UN allocates $9.5 million in emergency funding to support cholera containment efforts. Read more

WHO Requires US $10.2 Million To Respond to the Rapid Cholera Outbreak in Lebanon. WHO's priority is to limit the spread and transmission of the cholera outbreak. Read more

UNIFIL Provided Fuel And Food To The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). UNIFIL delivered food, diesel fuel, and medical supplies to LAF in South Lebanon. Read more

UNHCR's Filippo Grandi ends His Visit with a call To Increase Lifesaving Support To Lebanese And Refugees And Find Solutions For Syrian Refugees. Grandi appealed to the international community to sustain its crucial support and pledged to continue to work toward long-term solutions. Read more

Reports

UN Secretary-General's Latest Reports on 1701 and 1559

Quarterly Report 1701 - November Read here

Semi Annual 1559 - October Read here

USAID Report -Understanding Remittances As A Coping Strategy Amidst Lebanon's Crises Opportunities And Challenges For Aid Actors Read full report

Word Bank Report -Lebanon Economic Monitor, Fall 2022: Time For An Equitable Banking Resolution Read full report

LIC Activities

U.S. Meetings

LIC's leadership team and grassroots members continue to interact with U.S. administration officials and congressional members to discuss the situation in Lebanon and U.S. foreign policy.

LACC Delegation Meets with U.S. Administration and Congress

A delegation from the Lebanese American Coordinating Committee (LACC), including LIC President Dr. Joseph Gebeily, Mr. Ferris Wehbe of Our New Lebanon (ONL), Mr. Milad Zohrob of Assembly for Lebanon (AFL), and Mr. Fadi Zakaria of Lebanese American Renaissance Partnership (LARP), visited Washington, DC, and held meetings with members of the US administration and Congress.

The delegation presented a position paper to the US officials urging support for a Lebanese president through his committed governmental reforms to the sovereignty of the nation and to dignity of his people.

LACC Delegation with Congressman Darell Issa and Congressman Darin LaHood.

LACC Delegation with Senator Chris Murphy.

Events

LIC President Attends Lebanese - American Event for Congressman Takano

On October 1, LIC President Dr. Joseph Gebeily, Mr. Ferris Wehbe of Our New Lebanon (ONL), and other regional LIC members attended an event for Congressman Mark Takano in California. In his speech, Dr. Gebeily stressed the importance of a sovereigntist, reformist president who will respect the rule of law and restore the country's institutions.

Dr. Gebeily with Ferris Wehbe and Congressman Takano.

Statements

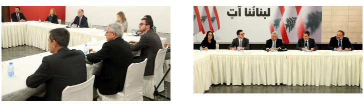
LIC Statement on the Attack on the UNIFIL Read more

LIC Statement on the Lebanon-Israel Maritime Border Agreement Read more

Visits to Lebanon

LIC President Dr. Joseph Gebeily visited Lebanon in November, where he met with Lebanese political and security leaders, members of parliament, civil society groups, economists and bank executives, and U.S. and UN diplomats.

LIC President with UNSCOL Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Joanna Wronecka.



LIC President with US Congressional Staff Delegation.

Grassroots

About the LIC Grassroots

The LIC is proud to be the largest U.S.-based grassroots organization of Americans of Lebanese descent. We have more than 1,000 members comprising 30 chapters across the country. These chapters conduct the work of the LIC at a local level, interacting with the community, celebrating special occasions, and building a community of active and interested Lebanese Americans.

Here is a brief overview of a few of our chapters' recent four-month activities:

LIC Participates in Moawad Foundation Annual Dinner in Washington DC

LIC President Dr. Joseph Gebeily, LIC Grassroots Director Mrs. Zeina Yammine, and LIC Washington DC chapter head Mr. Samer Naoum attended a dinner hosted by the René Moawad Foundation in Washington, DC. During the gathering, the LIC delegates had the opportunity to interact with LIC friends Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congressman Darin LaHood.

LIC President with Congressman Darin LaHood during René Moawad Foundation's Annual Dinner.

With Senator Jeanne Shaheen during René Moawad Foundation's Annual Dinner

LIC San Diego Chapter President Attends Rep. Darrell Issa Event

LIC San Diego Chapter President Camilia Shammas attended an event hosted by Representative Darrell Issa, co-chair of the U.S.-Lebanon Friendship Caucus. The event occurred shortly after a grassroots campaign in support of a letter signed by Issa calling for U.S. engagement regarding the Lebanese presidential election.

Representative Darrell Issa with LIC San Diego Chapter President, Camilia Shammas.

LIC President and Rhode Island Chapter meets Chairman David Cicilline

LIC President Dr. Joseph Gebeily, Rhode Island LIC Chapter President Jacob Mitri, and other members of the Rhode Island chapter met with Representative David Cicilline to discuss U.S. foreign policy regarding Lebanon and the Middle East. The meeting occurred shortly before Cicilline was elected Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism.

Dr. Gebeily and Congressman David Cicilline.

LIC Peoria Chapter President meets Congressman Darin LaHood

In a meeting with Congressman Darin LaHood, LIC Peoria Chapter President Tony Rantisi and other local residents discussed the presidential election in Lebanon as well as American foreign policy toward the country and the rest of the Middle East.

Congressman Darin LaHood and LIC Peoria Chapter President, Tony Rantisi.

LIC Holds its Annual Remembrance Mass across the US

Fifteen LIC chapters across the country held annual Remembrances Masses in September and October to honor those who gave their lives for the country during the Lebanese Civil War.

From the mass in Florida.

From the mass in New Jersey

From the mass in Los Angeles, CA.

From the mass in Tampa, FL.

LIC Organizes a Retreat for its Chapters from all Around the U.S.

LIC chapter members and volunteers attended an LIC Virtual Retreat on October 15. The retreat, hosted by LIC Grassroots Director Mrs. Zeina Yammine and LIC President Dr. Joseph Gebeily, built ties across chapters and fostered discussion on logistics, operational structures, and funding opportunities to ensure a successful organization.

LIC Grassroots Director Tours the Nation

LIC Grassroots Director Mrs. Zeina Yammine launched a tour of several LIC grassroots chapters across the country. Yammine visited Michigan, New Jersey, California, Florida, and Illinois to learn about each chapters' activities and challenges, interact with members, and build cohesion across chapters. Yammine will continue her tour throughout the year.

LIC Grassroots Director Zeina Yammine on tour.

WWW.LICUS.ORG
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 300, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 505-4542 Fax: (202) 318-8409 E-mail: LIC@LICUS.ORG

Copyright © 2021 Lebanese Information Center US, All rights reserved.
licus.org

Our mailing address is:
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 3300
Washington, DC 20004

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
why did I get this?   unsubscribe from this list   update subscription preferences
Lebanese Information Center · 1101 Pennsylvania Ave NW Ste 300 · Washington, DC 20004-2582 · USA