



# ٧٥ استقلال

## 75<sup>th</sup> Independence

# يوبيل لبنان

## Lebanon's Jubilee



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## **Foreword of His Excellency the President of the Republic General Michel Aoun**

Independence was made real by men who entered history on the day where they stood in the face of injustice and led us to freedom. Over the ages, the nation has had a secure fence, immune with sacrifices and built with the blood of heroes. Soldiers of the military institution, you hold the hearts of the Lebanese citizens. You have protected the dignity of your families and lands and you have preserved the honor of your message as well as your belief that a nation that is not honored by martyrdom has no nobility and that an Independence with no torch of loyalty to be passed on from a generation to another does not exist.

Soldiers, you along with your brothers in other security institutions are the guarantee in the face of storms and challenges. You are the safety anchor for all Lebanese citizens who have given you confidence and entrusted you over their dreams, rights and expectations. Today, as we celebrate the 75th Independence Day, we place in your hands this national



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occasion, that holds deep significance in the souls of the people, so that you can revive the spirit of enthusiasm and preserve it as a beacon of freedom and a guarantee for Lebanon's message in its surroundings and in the world as well as its cultural and civilizational roots, extended over thousands of years.

I promise you that I will remain your trustworthy support and guardian. I, who have experienced military life and absorbed the higher significance of honor, sacrifice and loyalty. With you, we transform Independence into a hope and a promise to rise towards a tomorrow that will definitely shine with peace, prosperity and nobility, just as the Lebanese are expecting.

***General Michel Aoun***  
***The President of the Lebanese Republic***



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## Foreword of His Excellency the Minister of National Defense Yaacoub Riad el-Sarraf

We were raised listening to the story of Independence, the story of resistance and longing for freedom. It is a story of ancestors and fathers who have resisted and fought together, united under the banner of freedom and righteousness for the Independence to emanate after a very difficult revolution. The sun of freedom rose in 22 November 1943, so that this day is dated, not only for celebration, but also as a lesson for us and our children and as an occasion to enroot the spirit of patriotism and the love of the nation in the hearts of future generations. There is no nation without people who want to have such a nation. One who is without a nation is merely a refugee, lost in this land.

On this day, we hope that the 75th Independence Day will be an occasion for unity, dialogue, solidarity and prioritizing national belonging over any other interest or belonging, particularly in this delicate stage facing Lebanon amidst the crises taking our region by storm, aiming to shake our unity and cause divisions in our land.

To preserve our Independence and our identity, means that we deter any foreign hand that attempts to cause division. It also means that we turn our unity into an immune fort in the face of foreign greedy entities, attempting to infiltrate the nation's wall in order to weaken it. Lest we forget the existence of an enemy that does not hide its intention and greed in our land and resources. It is lurking for us, watching us and daily violating our sovereignty.

Inevitably, we have to highly appreciate the achievements of the military institution in preserving security and stability. We cannot but commend the consecutive accomplishments of our hero soldiers in the LAF. The Lebanese Armed Forces have proven to be an immune fort that will not allow anyone whatsoever to target the nation's security and stability.

All the reverence and appreciation to the martyrs who have protected the cedar with their blood so that it survives. You, who have entered history and gave us a lesson in belief and affection. You, who have offered the most noble aspects of sacrifice and selflessness and have offered your souls so that the nation survives and remains sovereign, free and independent.

On this day, in which the history and the future collide in the present, we have to realize that we are "the great people of Lebanon". Together, we can raise the nation and its economy and overcome all crises as well as put a halt to the culture of corruption that has expanded in the past years. The only way to accomplish that is if we had the intention and unity to seize the opportunity lying before us. We shall hold hands and never let go for the wellbeing of Lebanon.

In the end, May God grant our precious nation the blessing of security and safety and may He bless Lebanon with further development and prosperity. May each year of Independence bring the nation, its leader and the Lebanese Armed Forces further wellbeing.



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## **Foreword of LAF Commander General Joseph Aoun**

Independence is the outgrowth of a long journey of fight against occupation and holds in its deep meanings the values of patriotism and sacrifice. This is not merely a day for celebrations; it is a history of heroism and perennial stages.

The 22nd of November is a bright day in Lebanon's history where the Lebanese people, regardless of their affiliations, have come together for the sake of defending Lebanon as a sovereign, free and independent State and they accomplished what they sought thanks to their passion and belief in their country.

While we commemorate the 75th independence of Lebanon, we must join hands and cooperate as officials and citizens to preserve this patriotic achievement and to fortify this independence against all threats for our country deserves our loyalty and sacrifice.

## Order of the Day

### Fellow troops

We are celebrating on this day the diamond jubilee of our independence day with all the lessons and morals that we may draw from this glorious memory, particularly since Lebanon's steadfastness in the face of storms and adversities throughout a long part of its history proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the dawn of independence on the 22nd of November 1943 was not a mere intersection of convenient regional and international circumstances; It is in its core the outgrowth of the Lebanese people's fight against occupations and foreign mandates as well as their firm belief in this country and their tireless endeavour to reach a integrated national identity that is unique in its leading cultural and civilized model. Moreover, your Armed Forces, which have emerged from the womb of this independence, have demonstrated right through their journey up until this day that they are well fit to safeguard this trust since they willingly offered endless numbers of martyrs and injured troops at the altar of the country for the sake of defending its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### Fellow troops

History is a series of stages and some of these stages are in themselves a whole history. You have been writing with the blood of sacrifice bright pages in the history of modern Lebanon. You have been committed in your persistence and preparedness at the southern border in this time of serious changes and grave international conflicts to thwart the schemes of the Israeli enemy and brave its threats. You have confronted its attempts to lay its hands on our land and oil riches. I urge you to carry on in this journey armed with your sacred right to protect the land and the people in close coordination and cooperation with the UNFIL with the aim of implementing Security Council resolution 1701 in all its clauses. This commitment will strengthen your steadfastness and your capability to confront this enemy and expose its aggressive intentions in front of the whole world. I am well aware that you are eager to liberate Shebaa farms and the hills of Kfarshouba to continue your deployment in these areas as well as your deployment in the northern part of the occupied Ghajar town.

The other side of your sacrifices is summed up by your combat against terrorism which you have repelled from your land. You are now deployed at the northern and eastern border to secure this stretch of Lebanese land against any infiltration attempts made by terror groups and to prevent smuggling operations and illegal entry.

Be confident in knowing that the internal stability we are enjoying is the direct result of your continuous and tireless efforts exerted in terms of tracking down terror cells and dismantling them by launching proactive operations.

There will be no safe haven for troublemakers and the Armed Forces are determined to hunt them down and to protect the citizens against their wrongdoings and from the plague of drugs that is threatening our community.

### Fellow troops

The ambiguous situation that is engulfing the whole region in light of the serious prospective transformations will undoubtedly have repercussions over our country, not to mention the critical circumstances that Lebanon is currently witnessing. These factors make it inevitable to remain at the highest level of preparedness to counter the challenges of this stage in all its forms and shapes. Your steadfast pledge to perform your missions in a sense of competence, devotion and commitment turns you into a crossing bridge that enables the country to come across towards a promising stage where all State institutions perform their natural role and the process of reconstruction is set in motion on all the levels.

Just as the Cedar comes in the centre of the Lebanese flag, your Armed Forces conquer the heart of the nation and therefore I urge you to be the pulse of hope in the country's veins. Remain firm in your determination, steadfast in your heroism, strong thanks to the people's trust, proud in the legacy of your martyrs to prove once again that you are the country's solid fence, and the loyal defenders of independence.



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*Yarzeh on 21/11/2018  
Armed Forces Commander  
General Joseph Aoun*

## **Schedule of the Ceremony**

- 7:45 - The units participating in the parade complete their positioning.
- 8:20 - Arrival of all official guests.
- 8:30 - Arrival of the Lebanese Army Flag.
- 8:40 - Arrival of the Armed Forces Commander.
- 8:45 - Arrival of His Excellency the Minister of National Defense.
- 8:50 - Arrival of His Excellency the Prime Minister.
- 8:55 - Arrival of His Excellency the Speaker.
- 9:00 - Arrival of His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic  
(firing 21 blank artillery shells).
  - Placing a wreath of flowers before the memorial.
  - Parade of the forces.
  - An air formation displaying the Lebanese flag and the Army flag.
  - Displaying a short (8 minutes) movie produced by the Directorate of Orientation.
  - An air formation in the shape of the Lebanese cedar.
  - Preparation for the salute.
  - The Military Salute.
  - Offering congratulations.

## The journey of Independence

The Lebanese people have endured difficult stages in ancient history where they have suffered just as much as the Arab region different types of repression and injustice. Lebanon has been a fertile ground for conflicts and avidities and a passageway for successive armies which attempted to tame this region and control its riches. However, the Lebanese were also the pioneers when it came to leading struggles and liberation movements and never relinquished from demanding to be free and independent. This tendency towards reaching independence was shaped during the last part of the nineteenth century and with the beginning of the twentieth century through liberation organizations and movements, either covert or public. These movements were established in the diaspora and through the stances of the political elite and popular currents that spread throughout the different Lebanese regions. Then came World War I and all its repercussions and changes that affected the international and regional conditions and offered a convenient chance that paved the way towards reaching independence and establishing an independent State.

The Lebanese rushed to translate their aspirations into deeds when groups of Lebanese youth enlisted in the "Orient Legion" that the allies established in the Arab region in 1913 as a form of national struggle. Upon their enlistment, the Lebanese stated two conditions: They vowed to fight no one but the Ottoman forces and insisted that they joined the allied forces for the purpose of liberating Lebanon. The Lebanese groups soon turned into a special and unique case inside the Legion and in 1918 the Legion included among its units the first military company that later took part in the formation of the LAF.

The formation of other Lebanese military companies followed in succession and the Lebanese troops rushed to



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assist the Lebanese citizens who were burdened with the atrocities of coercion, wars and sieges. Since 1921, the Lebanese Sniper companies started assisting in development projects around the country set about in the mission of opening roads, building bridges, and establishing telephone, and telegraph centers, excavating ruins, fighting locusts in addition to their participation in rescue missions and reforestation efforts. These initiatives marked the beginning of a promising era of cordiality and appreciation between the Lebanese people and their Armed Forces.

Following the outbreak of World War II in 1939 and after the fall of France in the hands of the German forces and the scattering of its forces between those supporting the government of Vichy and the supporters of the Free French Forces, attempts were made to entangle the Lebanese military units in the French – French conflict. However, these attempts were futile since these units joined the allied forces primarily with the aim of liberating Lebanon and thus they were not ready to give up their original objective.

On 26 July 1941, 40 Lebanese officers summoned one another in the town of Zouk Mikael where they vowed their allegiance to the country and signed a document of honor in which they swore to serve no one but the Lebanese interests. They also vowed that they will only answer the orders of the Lebanese national government. The document was concluded with the officers' demand to receive an irrefutable promise from the official French authorities to gain the independence of their country in return of continuing to perform their military duties. General De Gaulle the leader of Free France agreed to these terms when he visited Beirut and gave a speech in which he promised to give Lebanon its sovereignty and independence.

## The history of independence

In 1943, Parliamentary elections took place in Lebanon and the Lebanese Parliament elected Cheikh Bechara el Khoury as President of the Lebanese Republic on the 21st of September. The President Charged Riayd el-Soleh with the duty of forming the government. Thus, the battle of independence entered its decisive moments since the government issued its famous ministerial statement that listed the independence government policy. Following these developments, the Parliament amended from the constitution all the clauses related to the mandate and the President of the Republic signed the said amendments.

The French authorities retaliated against these steps by ordering the imprisonment of the President, the Cabinet members and a number of MPs.

In the early hours of dawn, the Lebanese woke up to the news of imprisoning the President of the Republic and Prime Minister Riad Beik el Solh as well as ministers: Camil Chamoun, Adel Ousayran, Salim Takla and MP of Tripoli Abdul Hamid Karamah and kept them detained in the Citadel of Rashaya.

On the morning of 11 November 1943 in Beirut and successively in the other major cities one after the other, loud and unprecedented demonstrations broke out. Different Lebanese regions entered a state of popular turbulences, the streets and city squares broke out in protests.

A temporary government was formed with the support of the Lebanese officers and was named the "Revolution Government" and included ministers Habib Abi Chahla and Majid Arslan who headed to the town of Bshamoun along with Speaker Sabri Hamade. Groups of Lebanese joined the government and formed what resembled the National Guard. The French Mandate authorities retaliated by ordering Lieutenant Colonel Jamil Lahoud who was the First Sniper Regiment Commander at the time to launch an attack against the "Revolution Government". Lahoud refused to comply and declared his affiliation to the government and raised the Lebanese flag in the headquarters of his military unit deployed in Ayn el-Soha – Falouha.

Vis-à-vis these development and in light of the intensifying popular demonstrations, the French mandate authorities were forced to soften their stance by complying to the demands of the Lebanese people and thus it ordered the release of the statesmen from the prison of Rashaya on 22 November 1943 and declared the independence of Lebanon in its internationally recognized border.



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Le projet de révision de la Constitution de l'Etat Libanais a été voté par 48 voix contre 5 députés absents. Le projet a été voté par 48 voix contre 5 députés absents. Le projet a été voté par 48 voix contre 5 députés absents.

# UNE GRANDE BATAILLE

## AERO-NAVALE

CORPS DANS LE PACIFIQUE

### S'ENTENDRE

force, voici de nouvelles journées tumultueuses plus logiques à une politique de force véritable et elle.

dans le détail l'histoire de la guerre à notre Histoire, en tout cas, dans l'univers, la guerre doit être considérée comme le monde en guerre, le vieux littoral qui est celui que les pays ont ils vif l'espérance.

est cela? Reste-t-il quelque chose de plus qu'un nature des choses? L'opinion des responsables, ce n'est pas comprendre ce qu'ils ont fait, il fallait que l'Etat Liban ne pouvait instant qu'on faisait vis-à-vis plus tendre, il était

et sur nos places publiques de façon inattendue le mouvement, le ciel? Mais qu'on a cherché tout d'une pièce, insupportable se sont ils paraissent fou de les

nécessité d'une protection ne se transforme. N'est-ce pas à cela que nous appelons courageusement afin d'y répondre.

? D'abord que le ciel est advenu doit nous respecter, l'air, une belle théorie côté de la Méditerranée.

heront. L'hiver s'en est allé nous retrouver. Et pour le. Nous sommes...

# LE PROJET DE REVISION DE LA CONSTITUTION A ETE VOTE PAR 48 VOIX

5 DEPUTES ABSENTS N'ONT PAS PRIS PART AU VOTE

Mardi hier à 10 heures, la Commission a discuté le projet de révision de la Constitution et a voté par 48 voix contre 5 députés absents.

# LE JOUR

DIRECTEUR POLITIQUE CHARLES HELOU LE NUMERO 10 MASTERS JEUDI 25 NOVEMBRE 1948

## LE PEUPLE LIBANAIS ACCLAME LE CHEF DE L'ETAT ET LE GOUVERNEMENT

Des manifestations grandioses ont accueilli le Président de la République, le Président du Conseil et les Ministres à leur retour au Sérail



REPORTAGE DE CHAMRI ALGER TELEGRAPHISTE JOUR

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
L'Agence France Presse a communiqué hier à 10 heures, la Commission a discuté le projet de révision de la Constitution et a voté par 48 voix contre 5 députés absents.

Le Japon, dans les forces armées, a été déclaré neutralité de l'industrie de l'armement. Les Japonais ont été déclarés neutres de l'industrie de l'armement.

### LE DISCOURS

DEVANT LE PARLEMENT

combats qui sont actuellement en cours. L'Agence France Presse a communiqué hier à 10 heures, la Commission a discuté le projet de révision de la Constitution et a voté par 48 voix contre 5 députés absents.

# INFORMATIONS DOCUMENTS

## L'Indépendance du Liban

Le communiqué du Liban a été publié le 21 oct. Le Comité de la Libération Nationale a pris connaissance des récents rapports et propositions du Général Catroux concernant l'incident du Liban et constate que l'ordre règne dans le Liban. Le Comité a décidé de donner suite à la proposition de Catroux tendant au rétablissement dans ses fonctions de M. B. Khoury, Président de la République avec lequel le Commissaire mission est invité à négocier les mesures nécessaires au rétablissement de la vie constitutionnelle au Liban.

Monsieur Helou, Délégué Général et Plénipotentiaire de la vie constitutionnelle au Liban, a été nommé.

Le Comité a décidé, d'autre part, la mise en liberté des Libanais en fonction le 8 Novembre dernier.

Le Comité a confirmé sa décision d'ouvrir avec le Gouvernement Syrien les négociations nécessaires à la mise du mandat de la France et du régime de l'indépendance du Liban par les proclamations de 1941.

Dès le rétablissement de la vie constitutionnelle au Liban, les élections analogues seront entamées avec le Gouvernement du Liban. Le Général d'Armée Catroux, Commissaire d'Etat, a été nommé.

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Le Général d'Armée Catroux, Commissaire d'Etat, a été nommé.

Lebanon's Jubilee





The Citadel of Rachaya



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The Chamber where the Men of Independence were imprisoned

## The Lebanese Flag

On 11 November 1943, French army forces surrounded the Parliament and closed its doors in an attempt to forbid the MPs from attending a session. Speaker Sabri Hamadeh had previously sent a written invitation to attend an immediate session and the call to convene was answered by the MPs who managed to arrive to the Parliament despite the military siege and popular demonstrations. Some MPs had to climb in order to enter through the windows. The number of MPs amounted to seven including the Speaker and the Parliament took the immediate and unanimous decision of confirming its previous stances concerning the constitutional amendments and considering the French Mandate as null. Among the most important decisions taken during that session the amendment of the fifth article of the constitution and changing the Lebanese flag that was used during the French Mandate which consisted of the French flag with the Cedar in its center. The MPs also reached an agreement to adopt a new flag inspired from the Lebanese heritage. The new flag consisted of two horizontal triband of red, white and red charged with a Cedar on the white stripe. The first Lebanese flag was drawn on a paper taken out of a school notebook. The new flag was endorsed by the Parliament with the signature of the following Speaker Sabri Hamadeh, MP Saïd el-Mounla, MP Henri Faraon, MP Saeb Salam, MP Rachid Baydoun, MP Mohammad el Fadel and MP Maroun Kanaan.



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## Events to remember from our independence

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The LAF Band during the 1945 Independence Parade



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Military vehicles during the 1946 Independence Parade

## Events to remember from our independence



The Cavalry during the 1947 Independence Parade



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Armored Military vehicles during the 1947 Independence Parade



## Events to remember from our independence



Cadets of the Military School during the 1948 Independence Parade



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Infantry troops during the 1956 Independence Parade



## Events to remember from our independence

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Infantry troops during the 1965 Independence Parade



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Armored vehicles during the 1966 Independence Parade



## Events to remember from our independence

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Crews of anti-aircraft guns during the 1966 Independence Parade



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Cadets of the Military School during the 1970 Independence Parade

## Events to remember from our independence

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Infantry troops during the 1978 Independence Parade



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Infantry troops during the 1979 Independence Parade

## Events to remember from our independence



106-millimeter guns during the 1981 Independence Parade



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The LAF Band during the 1984 Independence Parade

## Events to remember from our independence

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Helicopters of the Air Force during the 1984 Independence Parade



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Troop carriers during the 1991 Independence Parade

## Events to remember from our independence

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Armored vehicles during the 1991 Independence Parade



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Artillery weapons during the 1993 Independence Parade



## Events to remember from our independence



Light Armored vehicles during the 1997 Independence Parade



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The Medical Brigade During the 1997 Independence Parade



## Events to remember from our independence

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Light -Armored vehicles during the 2005 Independence Parade



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Rocket launchers during the 2012 Independence Parade



## Events to remember from our independence

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The Naval Forces during the 2012 Independence Parade



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Mechanized Artillery during the 2017 Independence Parade

# Preserving the Independence and protecting it from the dangers of the Israeli Enemy

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## From the Independence to the early seventies

Since its early days, the LAF has faced several difficulties and challenges, mainly the establishment of the aggressive Israeli entity on the Palestinian land in 1948. In 5 June of the same year, the LAF fought the Malkiye battle in the South, where some of its units engaged in a fierce battle with Israeli forces. During this battle, the LAF was able to chase away the Israeli Forces, liberate the village and break the siege laid over thousands of troops from the Arab Salvation Army, despite the unequal balance of power. The LAF then carried on with its national missions in defending the country, which was embodied in several bright moments. Such moments include its outstanding role in the peaceful and quiet transition of power in 1952, following the protests and strikes that spread throughout the country and the resignation of President Bechara el Khoury, as well as preventing the spread of the civil war in 1958, preserving the country's unity and protecting the state and its institutions. In

the field of defense, the LAF instantly halted semi-daily Israeli attacks and aggressions, mainly the confrontations of Arqoub – Souk el Khan in 1970, in Kafra – Yater and Sultaniye bridge in 1972 and in Tyr in 1975, offering several martyrs and injured troops during these confrontations. In parallel, the LAF never failed to contribute to fields of development, rescue and backup through opening roads and establishing schools and infirmaries in Hermel and Akkar etc... as well as building shelters and reconstructing hundreds of damaged houses in the South due to the Israeli aggressions between the late sixties and the early seventies.



*Lebanon's Jubilee*



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## Since the 1975 security incidents up till the nineteen nineties

The strife incidents broke out in Lebanon for several reasons primarily the repercussions of regional conflicts on the internal scene and the emergence of the aggressive Israeli factor that aimed to destabilize the country's unity and the formula of coexistence that joins the Lebanese together. In light of the lacking of a unified political stance, the LAF's role in its national comprehensive sense was forced to be put aside and thus the LAF were unable to deter the strife. Accordingly, the bloody incidents continued for many years and the Israeli enemy took advantage of the situation to carry out its schemes. The enemy forces invaded Lebanon and wreaked havoc. Despite the gravity of the incidents, the comrades in arms of the LAF never stopped concurring and the bet remained on the ability of the LAF to regain their role. This feat was accomplished in the first part of the nineties through the document of National Accord that put an end to the absurd war and gave the LAF back their role in keeping peace and stability.



## **From the nineties up till this day**

When the LAF regained their security missions internally, the decision was taken to deploy half of LAF manpower at the primary confrontation scene with the Israeli enemy in the south and west Bekaa. Despite the disproportional balance of power, LAF performed their duties in defending the country and confronting the aggressions of this enemy with all the available capabilities particularly during the “Accountability” operation in 1993, the ‘Grapes of Wrath’ operation in 1996 as well as the aggression of Ansarieh in 1997. During these confrontations, LAF offered many martyrs and stood by the Lebanese citizens in the towns and villages adjacent to the confrontation lines. As a result of the unified national stance and LAF’s steadfastness and resistance in their posts, in addition to the accelerated attacks launched by the resistance in an unparalleled war of attrition, the Israeli Army was forced to debacle and retreat from the bigger part of the south and west Bekaa and thus we achieved the accomplishment of Liberation in the year 2000.

On 12 September 2006, the Israeli enemy launched its weapons of destruction in an all-out war that started in south Lebanon taking as an excuse the operation conducted by the resistance where two Israeli troops were kidnapped. The aggressions soon spread and engulfed all the Lebanese regions where the enemy targeted LAF posts of the Independent Works Regiment in Joumhour, the Navy posts of Wajeh – el-Hajar and el-Abdeh in Northern Lebanon. The aggressions resulted in the martyrdom of 47 troops and a large number of injured men. During this war, LAF units performed their defensive missions by confronting enemy airplanes and thwarting many landing and infiltration operations. On the morning of 14 August, at 8 o’clock, the Israeli aggression halted following the endorsement of resolution 1701 in the United Nations Security Council. This development marked the beginning of the return of the displaced to their lands and homes. LAF continued the process of deployment throughout the southern border and reached the Blue Line.



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Contributing to rebuild the infrastructure





Targeting military posts during the assault of 2006



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Marking points of the Blue Line at the borders with the occupied Palestinian territories





Confirming the points on the Blue Line



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Joint maneuvers with the UNIFIL

# Preserving the Independence and protecting it from the danger of terrorism

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The history of the LAF in fighting terrorism is packed with experiences and moments filled with honorable victories, starting with the Israeli enemy and its network of agents, reaching the extremist terrorist groups. The LAF confronted terrorist groups swiftly and firmly during all the battles it fought from 1999 until this date, in addition to performing preemptive security operations that resulted in dismantling most cells and terrorist networks. These accomplishments thwarted all terrorist schemes. These battles mainly include:

## **Donniye in 2000**

On 1999/12/31, an LAF patrol came under attack by an armed group belonging to the “Takfir wal Hejra” terrorist organization that was deployed at those times in the barren lands of Donniye – North Lebanon. Consequently, the LAF executed a wide military operation against this group that resulted in taking down the organization in a few days, offering an officer and 12 troops who martyred during the battle.

## **Nahr el Bared in 2007**

At the dawn of 2007/05/20, the terrorists of “Fateh el Islam” organization, that was mainly deployed in Nahr el Bared camp for Palestinian refugees – North Lebanon, launched a surprise attack on some LAF posts at the outskirts of the mentioned camp and Tripoli in order to establish a religious emirate in the North. However, the LAF regained control immediately as LAF units made a swift reaction that enabled them to retrieve their posts and take down some terrorists in addition to arresting others. The LAF also cordoned off the camp.

On 2 July of the same year, the vow taken by the LAF to the Lebanese people came true through accomplishing full field control over the last of the terrorist posts in Nahr el Bared camp, offering 171 martyrs and hundreds of injured troops during this vicious battle.



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Facing the terrorists in Nahr el Bared camp





During Nahr el Bared battle



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Victory over the terrorists



Honoring the martyrs of Nahr el Bared battle



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## Abra 2013

On 23/06/2013, armed groups affiliated to terrorist Ahmad el Assir attacked an LAF checkpoint in Abra – Sidon in a surprising manner, leading to the martyrdom of 2 officers and a soldier as well as the injury of others. The objective of this group was to hamper the LAF's prestige as the guarantee for stability and stirring sectarian tumult in Sidon as an introduction to drag Lebanon back into the turmoil of violence.

Consequently, the LAF Command took a decision of firm military action. During 2 days of vicious confrontations, the LAF was able to take down this group and arrest a large number of its members as well as take back Bilal Bin Rabbah Mosque and clean it from explosives and mines, after being taken by terrorists as an operation post and a storage room for their equipment and weapons. The LAF offered as a total 20 martyrs in addition to dozens of injured troops.



## **Ersal 2014**

On 02/08/2014, the LAF arrested one of the most dangerous wanted individuals in Ersal – Bekaa, named Imad Ahmad Jomaa. Suddenly, large numbers of armed individuals emerged and executed a large scale attack on all frontline military posts in parallel with targeting an ISF platoon in the mentioned village. However, the LAF made a swift and direct response and executed a well-planned attack operation through which it was able to break the siege of military posts and take back 2 posts that were occupied by the terrorists. The LAF then chased away the aggressors towards the barren lands of the region, resulting in a large number of killed and injured individuals among them.

## **Events of Tripoli 2014**

On 24/10/2014, following the arrest of Ahmad Salim Miqati, charged with executing assaults against the LAF and planning to execute terrorist operations as well as providing refuge for armed individuals and storing arms and explosives, several armed individuals supporting the latter assaulted LAF posts and troops, leading to the martyrdom of several soldiers including 2 officers. As a result, the LAF executed a wide military operation to put an end to the existence of armed individuals in Tebbeneh and other regions in Tripoli and Akkar. The armed individuals were chased away and a certain number among them was killed and captured. Their remaining members were still being chased away in barren lands and valleys in Akkar and Donniye. The LAF lost during this battle 11 martyrs including 3 officers.



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From the confrontations of Tripoli in 2014



## **The Dawn of the Outskirts 2017 and liberating the eastern mountain range from terrorists**

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The Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun made a clear decision ever since taking charge of the command on 2017/03/09: there is no place for terrorism in Lebanon and the LAF has no choice but to accomplish victory over it, regardless of the sacrifices.

As a preamble for the launch of the battle for liberating the outskirts, the LAF artillery and drones intensified their targeting of terrorist posts and movements. Moreover, land units executed specified attacks through which they were able to liberate several hills overlooking these posts. These efforts resulted in tightening the noose over terrorists, thus forming the firm base to set the Zero hour for the launching of the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation. At the dawn of 19 August, the LAF Commander General Joseph Aoun announced the beginning of the operation, addressing soldiers and citizens: “In the name of Lebanon and kidnapped soldiers and the blood of noble martyrs, and in the name of the heroes in the great Lebanese Armed Forces, I launch the Dawn of the Outskirts operation.” The President of the Republic General Michel Aoun attended the operations room of the command, where the LAF Commander and Chief of staff Major General P.S.C Hatem Mallak were present to receive him along with high ranked officers. From the operations room, General Aoun addressed the commanders of combat units at the front saying: “our minds and hearts are with you today, and the Lebanese people are looking up to you, awaiting your victory.”

LAF units executed a comprehensive attack against the terrorist ISIS organization, deployed in Ras Baalbek, Qaa and Fakiha under intensive fire coverage from drones and artillery. The military operations resulted in the destruction of terrorist posts and taking down a large number of them.

In the following days, LAF units carried on with an all-out attack against terrorist posts with different kinds of weapons and targeting any activity or movement made by the terrorists, thus forcing them to clearly announce their preparedness for a complete retreat outside the borders as well as revealing the fate of missing soldiers. The bodies of the martyr soldiers were retrieved in Wadi el Dobb in the barren lands of Ersal while the remaining



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terrorists retreated with their families outside the Lebanese territories.

On 28 August, the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun visited the President of Republic, General Michel Aoun in Baabda where they announced victory over terrorism after having accomplished all the objectives of the operation.

The LAF gave during the “Dawn of the Outskirts” operation 7 noble martyrs while others suffered multiple injuries. DNA tests performed over the retrieved bodies proved that they belonged to the 10 soldiers kidnapped by terrorists in August 2014.

In honor of these martyr soldiers, a major national ceremony was held in Yarzeh, headed by the President of the Republic General Michel Aoun and attended by Speaker Mr. Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Saad el Hariri alongside the LAF Commander General Joseph Aoun and the commanders of security units and families of martyrs and several official, religious and national figures.

Following the honoring ceremony dedicated to the martyrs after the entrance of their bodies into the square of the Ministry of National Defense, the President of the Republic decorated them with the medals of War, the Wounded and Military Valor. The Armed Forces Commander also handed over the Lebanese flag to all the families of the martyrs.





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## Building surveillance towers and deployment along the eastern borders

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**The Independence Medal**



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**Memorial of the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in the Ministry of National Defense**

