

Howard Karagheusian Association Director Serop Ohanian Visits LERC

Nareg Krouzian, Akiki Grant Intern
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Mr. Serop Ohanian is the Lebanon Field Director of the Howard Karagheusian Association in Beirut, an independent NGO for child welfare in Lebanon. After an introduction to the Lebanon Emigration Database and Archive (LEAD) and a visit to Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, he sat down with LERC's Director Dr. Guita Hourani to discuss common interests.

Mr. Ohanian briefed Dr. Hourani about the Association's mission and vision, its current plan of action, and its overall task in providing medical services to the local community members. Mr. Ohanian emphasized the Association's non-partisan, non-religious and non-gender biased approach to serving the residence of the Bourj-Hammoud district.



Mr. Ohanian with Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab at the LERC Museum, (January, 2014)

In his briefing, Mr. Ohanian mentioned the influx of the Syrian-Armenian refugees to the district and the overwhelming medical and social need that this group of vulnerable people requires to survive their flight. He stated that the Association established the “Emergency Relief Assistance for Syrian Armenian Refugees” to respond to the extent possible to the needs of these refugees.

He also mentioned that there is an out-migration of Armenian-Lebanese from the district since the beginning of the 1975 war which has accelerated in the last few years due to the socio-economic situation in Lebanon.

In return, Dr. Hourani expressed the Center's interest in cooperating with existing institutions and researchers in the district to study the current migration in the community. She immediately appointed Mr. Nareg Krouzian, Akiki Grant Intern at LERC, to work with her and Mr. Ohanian in initiating an information gathering effort to identify those working in the field of migration in the district.

Mr. Ohanian was astonished by the information collected by -- and the research infrastructure of -- the Center and expressed interest in cooperating on any issues related to the Bourj-Hammoud district or the Armenian-Lebanese migration.