

Director Guita Hourani Meets with the Druze Community of Mexico

LERC Staff

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The Lebanese Emigration Research Center Liaison Officer for Mexico Mr. Antonio Trabulse organized a meeting with the Druze Community of Mexico for Dr. Guita Hourani to introduce the Lebanon Dialogue Initiative to them.

The meeting took place at the Centro Libanése in Mexico City. The meeting was presided by the president of the Community Mr. Salman Akabani Hneide. It was attended by members of the Druze community of whom we can mention Mr. Suleiman Al Hassan Akabni, Professor Anwar Said Said, Attorney Alberto Fouad Said, Mr. Faysal Abou El Hessen, Jose Louis Manderas Torbey among others.

Following a welcoming note by Mr. Akabani Hneide, Mrs. Martha Trabulse of the Mexican Lebanese Cultural Institute read Dr. Hourani's speech in Spanish. A question and answer session followed during which members of the Community expressed their interest in the Initiative and attested to its value. Professor Said took the word and stated that *"I read with great interest the LDC Initiative and I welcome this effort which brought me happiness and hope. This Initiative is complete and timely. Its importance is historical because it supports the ultimate search of humanity for harmony among people..."* He then went on to declare that Lebanon can achieve much in the Middle East in terms of its experience in conviviality, connectedness, dialogue and understanding especially if it becomes a secular state where by all will be equal before the law and public interest will be above private interest.

Attorney Said then took the floor to state that him and his family endorse the Initiative and then spoke of the role of the Scholar Boutros al Bustani in the renaissance of the 19th century especially in his understanding and conceptualization of what is a "country" that had humanity as its dimension and not religion or ethnicity. He then closed by saying that he hopes that we can achieve the Initiative's objective in the 21st century.

The meeting was interpreted by Mr. Jihad Radwan Radwan, a Druze from Souaida.