

In the summer of 2006

Lebanon was subjected to an intense bombardment targeting buildings, bridges and roads. Lebanese residents and migrants, visitors and vacationers were suddenly faced with a war that would endanger them physically and test them emotionally. By providing an objective insight, this report aims to capture the impact of the war as it unfolded, the evacuation that took place and the personal experiences encountered.

Like other foreign nationals, the Lebanese expatriates called upon the embassies of their countries of immigration to assist them in departing Lebanon and escape hostilities.

With the exhaustive journey by land or sea to Syria, Cyprus, Turkey and Jordan, countries that provided a safe haven, these migrants returned home worrying about families left behind and a country under siege.

The study brings forward the age-old phenomenon of Lebanese migration illuminated by true stories and first hand accounts of Lebanese migrants coming under-fire. It questions them on how the highly charged thirty four days of war:

- Played a part on their decision to leave.
- Had an effect on their psyche and health.
- Had an impact on their decision to permanently return to Lebanon.

The circumstances leading up to the war are placed within a historical context and the report provides a summary of key findings where appropriate policies are recommended.

Guifa Hourani

Emigration · Remigration · Evacuation

A STUDY BY GUIFA HOURANI



EMIGRATION REMIGRATION EVACUATION



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**EMIGRATION, REMIGRATION
EVACUATION AND RETURN**

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The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon:

EMIGRATION, REMIGRATION, EVACUATION AND RETURN

A Preliminary Study by
Guita G. Hourani

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About the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC)

Established in April 2003 as an initiative of Notre Dame University (Lebanon), the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) promotes the interdisciplinary study of contemporary and historical migration to, from and through Lebanon. Working with local and international scholars using traditional, alternative and ITC-based methodologies, LERC supports original research and intellectual exchange among experts, students and others with an interest in international migration and national development. The focus of LERC's work involves relationships within the network of Lebanese diasporic communities worldwide and the role of Lebanese migrants and remittances in the continuing development of the home country.

The ultimate aim of LERC is to become the world's principal center of research and chief repository for archival and other material related to Lebanese migration. The Center is also intended to serve as a forum for meetings and discussions between scholars and students of migration, actual migrants and returnees, and local officials, businessmen and members of the general public. LERC is working to achieve these goals by:

- ▲ Creating a dynamic platform of research and other activities to bridge the divide between the constructs of academic inquiry and the realities of policy, community and commerce.
- ▲ Examining Lebanese migration in the context of the history of Lebanon and of host countries and in the framework of worldwide migration.
- ▲ Studying the role of the financial, human and social capital of Lebanese migrants in the development of Lebanon, as well as the significance of remittances entering the country.
- ▲ Investigating the integration, assimilation, acculturation and ethnicity of Lebanese overseas.
- ▲ Exploring the role of class, gender, language, religion, identity, nationalism and other factors in the Lebanese migration experience at home and abroad.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I Introduction: Lebanon Overview	13
1.1 Lebanon Before the War	13
1.2 Life in Lebanon before the Summer 2006 War: Advantages and Disadvantages	13
1.2.1 Advantages	14
1.2.2 Disadvantages	16
1.3 Concluding remarks	19
CHAPTER II Objectives and Methods	21
CHAPTER III Lebanese Migration Overview	25
3.1 Background: The ‘Environment of Insecurity’ and Lebanese Emigration	25
3.2 The ‘True Promise’ vs. the Promising Summer	29
CHAPTER IV Emigration, Re-Migration and Evacuation	39
4.1 Leaving Lebanon	39
4.2 Australia’s Evacuation Operation	42
4.3 Brazil’s Evacuation Operation	43
4.4 Canada’s Evacuation Operation	44
4.5 France’s Evacuation Operation	46
4.6 Germany’s Evacuation Operation	48
4.7 Mexico’s Evacuation Operation	49
4.8 Nigeria’s Evacuation Operation	49
4.9 Sweden’s Evacuation Operation	50
4.10 Switzerland’s Evacuation Operation	51
4.11 The United Kingdom’s Evacuation Operation	51
4.12 The United States’ Evacuation Operation	52
CHAPTER V Safe Havens	59
5.1 Designation of Safe Havens	59
5.2 The Role of Cyprus	59
5.3 The Role of Syria	61
5.4 The Role of Turkey	63
5.5 The Role of Jordan	64
CHAPTER VI Evacuation Operations Raised Immigration Issues	67
6.1 Introduction	67
6.2 Loyalty of Dual Citizens Living in Their Country of Origin	68
6.3 Taxing Dual Citizens Living in Their Country of Origin	68
6.4 Abolishing Dual Citizenship	69
6.5 Paying for Evacuation	69
6.6 Temporary Protected Status for Lebanese Stranded Outside of Lebanon	71
CHAPTER VII Results of LERC’s Questionnaire	75
7.1 Introduction	75
7.2 Demographic Profile	77
7.2.1 Gender	77
7.2.2 Age	77

7.3	Socio-Economic Characteristics	77
7.3.1	Current Occupation	77
7.4	Years of Migration, Geographical Residency and Reasons for Migration	79
7.4.1	Years of Migration	79
7.4.2	Residency Abroad by Region	79
7.4.3	Reasons for Migrating	79
7.5	Location in Lebanon, Purpose of Visit during the Summer of 2006	81
7.5.1	Location in Lebanon When the War Started	81
7.5.2	Reasons for Visiting Lebanon	81
7.6	Residency Status outside of Lebanon	82
7.7	Departure from Lebanon following the Onset of the Summer 2006 War	83
7.7.1	Date of Departure	83
7.7.2	Reasons for Departure	83
7.7.3	Means of Departure	83
7.7.4	Destination after Departure	85
7.7.5	Travel Companions	85
7.7.6	Citizenship, Residency and Visa Value	86
7.7.7	Evaluating Evacuation	86
7.8	Feelings at Leaving Because of the Summer 2006 War	86
7.9	Physical and Psychological Impact of the Summer 2006 War	87
7.9.1	Physical Injury	87
7.9.2	Psychological Damage	88
7.9.3	Loss of Life	89
7.9.4	Property Damage	89
7.9.5	Financial Losses	90
7.10	Return and Conditions for Return	90
7.10.1	Number of Times Resettled in Lebanon and Left Again	90
7.10.2	Reasons for Returning to Lebanon following the Summer 2006 War	92
7.10.3	Considering Permanent Return	92
7.10.4	Conditions for Permanent Return to Lebanon	93
7.11	The Gendered Experience of Migration	93
7.11.1	Marital Status	93
7.11.2	Experiences Exclusive to Being Female	93
7.11.3	Psychological Impact	95
7.11.4	Impact of the War on Ability to Function	95
7.12	In Their Own Words	96
CHAPTER VIII Key Findings		101
8.1	Introduction	101
8.2	Key Findings and Policy Recommendations	101
CHAPTER IX Arabic Summary		105
CHAPTER X Appendices		117
Appendix 1: Israeli Air Strikes Targeting Lebanon		117
Appendix 2: The Australian Government Decision to Deploy Australian Defence Force to Support the Evacuation of Australian Nationals from Lebanon		118
Appendix 3: France’s Evacuation Plan “Operation ‘Baliste’”		119
Appendix 4: United Kingdom Evacuation Route and Logistics		120
Appendix 6: Senator John E. Sununu’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Bill		124
Appendix 7: LERC’s Survey Questionnaire		126

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BCIS	Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.
BDL	Banque du Liban (Central Bank of Lebanon)
DoD	Department of Defense (USA)
DoS	Department of State (USA)
EOI	Environment of Insecurity
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GoL	Government of Lebanon
HRC	Higher Relief Commission (Lebanon)
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service (USA)
IOM	International Organization of Migrants
NEO	Noncombatant Evacuation Operation
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
ODM	Office fédéral des migrations (Switzerland)
OSAC	Overseas Security Advisory Council (USA)
RAF	Royal Air Force (UK)
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UK	United Kingdom
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
US	United States of America

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION: LEBANON OVERVIEW*Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous¹***1.1 Lebanon Before the War**

Emigration is as Lebanese as tabbouleh, the dabkeh, or the country's famous cedars and, much like these cultural icons, it is an experience shared by all, either directly or indirectly, cutting across those lines which otherwise divide the country: divisions of confession, class and geography; education, culture and gender; and political ideology and orientation. Emigration from Lebanon has often been triggered by violent conflict. Yet, the underlying causes that encourage people to leave the country on a medium-term or permanent basis are much more complex than those resulting in temporary movements of population. In this chapter, we will examine aspects of the situation in Lebanon immediately prior to the outbreak of the Summer 2006 War and consider their impact on social stability, political reform and economic development. Using the traditional 'push/pull' dichotomy, a brief overview of the causes of Lebanese emigration will be dealt with in following chapters.

1.2 Life in Lebanon before the Summer 2006 War: Advantages and Disadvantages

Lebanon is a country of contradictions. After the end of its lengthy civil war (1975-90), it gradually began to resume its former role as the proverbial 'Switzerland of the Middle East.' The bright future foreseen by many experts on the region depended upon the country's 'natural assets': namely, its location at the heart of the Eastern Mediterranean; its attractive beaches and mountain resorts; its historical primacy in key economic sectors, including entertainment, communications and financial services; and, most importantly, the diversity and flexibility of its population. It is this 'natural asset,' the irresistible optimism, adaptability and resourcefulness of the Lebanese people, which is now threatened because of war-related migration and disappointed expectations.

The qualities of the Lebanese people and the advantages of Lebanon's location and topography stand in stark contrast to the inherent weaknesses of the country's social fabric. The basic contradictions and conflicts that led to the 16-year Lebanese civil war were never really addressed dur-

ing reconstruction in the 1990s or the consolidation period that followed, which culminated in the resumption of Lebanon's independence after the end of Israeli occupation in 2000 and Syrian occupation in 2005. Acute poverty and social injustice, confessionally-based client/patron systems, and the lack of an independent judiciary and public bureaucracy have all intensified the feelings of insecurity, alienation and disappointment that permeate Lebanese society.

1.2.1 Advantages

Despite the role of civil strife and regional conflict in its history, Lebanon has continued to attract foreign investors, tourists, students and journalists in recent decades. Its hybrid culture, containing elements of both East and West, is easily accessible to those arriving from different parts of the world, including the rest of the Middle East, Europe and North America. Beirut is the only city in the Arab world whose cosmopolitan character is truly organic, which goes a long way toward explaining the tenacity of the Lebanese success story—despite all odds.

After the Civil War

The Lebanese civil war, which lasted from April 1975 to October 1990, is often described as a watershed of sorts with respect to the country's development. The popular perception is that most of the acute challenges now facing the country either did not exist or were more easily mastered 'before the war.' However, despite the fact that post-war reconstruction was hindered by the lengthy Israeli and Syrian occupations, the larger cities and tourist centers largely recovered their pre-war allure rather quickly. The laissez-faire nature of the economy and social welfare system limited the impact of the government and labor unions on key reconstruction industries, including building and building materials, banking, capital markets and transportation. Lebanon still enjoyed the most liberal investment climate in the entire region. Government regulation of working conditions, expenditures for social welfare and public education were and are minimal. The high performance of the confessional and privately-financed schools and universities, welfare services and cultural institutions continued to be augmented by external funding from international governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as diaspora remittances. By early 2006, Lebanon seemed poised to take full advantage of its re-entry into the global market.

Comparative Advantage

With the exception of water, sand and quarries, Lebanon has no significant natural resources. Its 'natural assets,' however, are numerous since both history and geography have placed the country in an enviable position. Located at the edge of the European Union, Lebanon acts as a bridge between the Arab world and the West. The state-of-the-art Rafiq Hariri International Airport and Port of Beirut are poised to become significant regional logistical hubs. The Lebanese population is the most diverse in the entire Arab world, which is predominantly Sunni Muslim. Per capita, Lebanon has the largest Christian and Shi'ia Muslim populations of all Arab countries, while its considerable Druze and Armenian communities overlap with co-religionists and co-ethnics in various neighboring countries. This diversity has prevented the country from being dominated by a monolithic ideological or religious regime, a fate all too common in the rest of the Middle East. 'Tolerance by default' has also served to create a relatively liberal social and economic climate. Many booming economic sectors, including the media, entertainment, banking, education and tourism, naturally gravitate to Lebanon for this reason.

‘Paris of the Middle East’

Travel & Leisure magazine recently named Beirut as one of the “Top 10 Cities in the World.” According to New York Magazine, Lebanon was “experimenting with becoming a cosmopolitan Middle East democracy” with a maximum of freedom in the days before the Summer 2006 War. Despite the various limitations on freedom of expression inherent to being a metropolis located in the Middle East, Beirut had achieved much in its attempt to regain its status as the—again proverbial—‘Paris of the Middle East,’ a cultural focal point for Lebanese citizens and foreigners from around the world. Most of the recreational and cultural opportunities available in any major European city were available, at times in a somewhat subterranean fashion, in Lebanon’s capital and in many of its other tourism centers. But after only three months on the newsstands, the British-based Time Out Beirut was forced to close up shop as the 2006 war began; a notice posted on its website somberly told readers: “Beirut’s favourite entertainment and listings magazine is now suspended. Lebanon is being, once again, used as a battleground for a war that neither its government nor its people want. They are killing our city.”

Ties around the World

Lebanese have been leaving their homeland in significant numbers for over 120 years and have established large diaspora communities on all six of the globe’s inhabited continents. Not only have these expatriates contributed extensively to the progress and well-being of Lebanon, but their global economic reach has also helped to integrate the Lebanese economy into the international marketplace. Because of the diversity of its population, Lebanon has always enjoyed strong cultural, economic and political ties with many European and neighboring Middle Eastern countries, which have historically supported the interests of their own respective confessional groups. During the civil war and the post-war reconstruction period, these historical ties led to an influx of financial support, albeit largely along confessional lines. Today, the political and security interests of the European Union, United States, Saudi Arabia and Iran have intensified economic links between Lebanon and its regional and global neighbors.

After Hariri’s Assassination

The 14 February 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri initiated a wave of change that is still ongoing. Massive demonstrations and civil disobedience, overwhelmingly peaceful in nature, put an end to three decades of foreign occupation, a process which began with Hezbollah’s military defeat of Israeli occupation forces in the south in 2000 and ended with the peaceful withdrawal of Syrian occupation forces in the late spring of 2005. In May and June of 2005, Lebanon held its first genuinely democratic parliamentary elections since the beginning of the civil war and Hezbollah set a new precedent by joining the coalition government formed after the voting was over. Hezbollah’s two ministries, Labor and Water and Electricity—both largely secular in nature—are closely linked to the privatization and deregulation of the economy, which are seen as essential if Lebanon is to open up to the global market. The ongoing United Nations-sponsored investigation into the murder of Hariri has also encouraged strong measures toward the introduction of the rule of law, including an independent court system and transparency and accountability in public administration.

Spring of Reconciliation

In March 2006, almost exactly one year after the assassination of Rafiq Hariri, Lebanon's principal political and confessional leaders began a series of top-level consultations aimed at reconciling their differences. These all-party deliberations, known as the 'National Dialogue,' were meant to address issues related to Lebanon's independence and sovereignty that arose once foreign occupation forces had finally withdrawn. The ultimate goal was to establish a new basis of understanding in order to fully implement the Taif Agreement of 1989, the accord that had ended the civil war, leading to a fully secular political system based upon the rule of law and with a set of protections for all confessional groups in the country. Although this process had not been completed prior to the outbreak of the Summer 2006 War, the very fact that Lebanon was taking this coordinated path in the direction of unity and cohesion instilled a feeling of hope and anticipation among many, both within the country and abroad.

The 2006 Economic Boom

In terms of economic activity, the year 2006 promised to be Lebanon's best since the last full year of peace and independence in 1974. Rafiq Hariri International Airport was booming after a slight drop in passenger frequency because of the political crisis following its namesake's death in the spring of 2005. Both the volume of merchandise and the number of containers passing through the Port of Beirut had increased by around 15% by mid-year compared to the first two quarters of the previous year. The traditionally crisis-resistant capital markets were showing record growth and the banking sector was profiting from investment from the Gulf states, flush with windfall profits from exceptionally high oil prices. The construction industry was benefiting from a surge in investment in high-end residences and hotels, and the Beirut property market was red-hot. The de facto deregulation of the building materials sector, including sand, gravel and stone, contributed to this success story. Despite attacks on the lives of various prominent journalists, including May Chidiac, Gibran Tueni and Samir Qassir, Beirut remained the Arab world's media and advertising industry hub owing to its highly liberal environment. Even the notoriously crisis-ridden agricultural sector was profiting from the good reputation of Lebanese foods and beverages worldwide, not to mention the growing interest in local wines. Along with the rest of the tourism and recreation industry, tours of Bekaa wineries were experiencing their best year since 1974, when tourism alone made up 20% of the Lebanese economy.

1.2.2 Disadvantages

The root causes of the Lebanese civil war continued to fester during the boom years of reconstruction. Despite a rapid increase in wealth throughout the country, the distribution of resources continued to be unjust and acute poverty remained rampant. Confessional and clan-based patron/client networks continued to make up the foundation of the Lebanese political system—benefiting many, but excluding the less fortunate from any significant gains. *Wasta*, the generic Arab word for influence peddling, persisted in permeating every walk of life.

Absence of a 'Peace and Reconciliation' Process

Many countries around the world have initiated a national dialogue process aimed at uncovering atrocities committed during periods of prolonged civil conflict. South Africa's 'Peace and Reconciliation Commission' is seen as an international model of 'good practice,' one that has inspired

similar approaches in various countries in South America, as well as in Northern Ireland. By comparison, the excesses committed during the Lebanese civil war were never investigated, the perpetrators never brought to trial, the victims' dignity never restored through any national initiative. On the contrary, the Lebanese General Amnesty Law of March 1991 exonerated those guilty of politically-motivated war crimes committed prior to its ratification. Yet, as the international human rights organization, Amnesty International, observes: "Amnesties and similar measures of impunity for crimes under international law are prohibited under international law." The UN's Human Rights Committee criticized the 1991 Lebanese Amnesty Law, stating: "The Committee notes with concern the amnesty granted to civilian and military personnel for human rights violations they may have committed against civilians during the civil war. Such a sweeping amnesty may prevent the appropriate investigation and punishment of the perpetrators of past human rights violations, undermine efforts to establish respect for human rights, and constitute an impediment to efforts undertaken to consolidate democracy."²

Incomplete Implementation of the Taif Agreement

Signed on 22 October 1989, the Taif Agreement resulted from negotiations held in the Saudi Arabian city of Taif including all surviving members of the Lebanese Parliament of 1972 under the leadership of the Shi'ia speaker of the House, Hussein El-Husseini. This accord focused upon measures to end the civil war, including the introduction of a wide spectrum of political reforms and the removal of foreign troops from Lebanese soil; at the same time, it highlighted the responsibility of Lebanon and Syria to protect each others' interests. Two of the core political reforms that appear in the Taif Agreement have been fully ignored: the abolition of confessionalism and the introduction of a bicameral parliament. According to the Taif Agreement, section II, paragraph G: "Abolishing political sectarianism is a fundamental national objective." With the exception of "top-level positions, which shall be shared equally by Christians and Muslims," religion was to cease being a factor in decisions to hire or promote individuals in the following government sectors: "the military, security, public and joint institutions, and in the independent agencies." Confessionalism was to be replaced by meritocracy. Section II, paragraph A.7 of Taif calls for the establishment of a non-confessional House of Representatives and a Senate, the latter being given a specific mandate to protect the interests of all confessions. Despite the centrality of both of these provisions to the Taif Agreement, neither seems likely to be implemented any time soon. Indeed, the new 2006 Draft Parliamentary Electoral Law,³ which was presented to the Council of Ministers in June of this year, has as its framework a confessional lower house and no upper house.

Corruption as a Way of Life

According to Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index 2005," Lebanon ties Rwanda for 83rd place in the world, scoring only 3.1. Iceland, Finland and New Zealand share first place, with scores almost three times as high (9.7), while Bangladesh and Chad are at the bottom, ranked 158th (1.7). Significantly, corruption is perceived to be worse in Lebanon than in many other Arab countries, including Morocco, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Tunisia and Jordan—and slightly worse than Sri Lanka. Corruption in Lebanon takes on a different character than it does in other developing countries. Because of confessionalism's dominant role in Lebanon, *baksheesh* (bribes) and *wasta* (influence peddling) are utilized to service extensive and complex networks of family, village and sectarian ties, without which access to government posi-

tions, permits and services is virtually impossible. Confessionally-colored clientalism and patronage are partly fed, interestingly enough, by the generous funding supplied to Lebanon by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Confessionalism in the Public Sphere

Confessionalism permeates all levels and all spheres of government activity in Lebanon, yet, it does not stop there. Originally introduced to Mount Lebanon in the nineteenth century, with the establishment of the semi-autonomous Lebanese Mutasarrifiyya by the Ottomans, the confessional system of government was expanded to include all of present-day Lebanon after World War I, during the period of France's mandate over the country. Today, not just parliamentary seats, but virtually all government positions are determined by confession, as well as a broad cross-section of those in the private sector. Either by law or tradition, positions in the courts, military, secret service, public bureaucracy and local administration are allocated according to membership in one of Lebanon's 18 official confessional groups: the Alawites, Anglicans, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, Armenian Catholics, Armenian Evangelicals, Chaldean Catholics, Druze, Evangelical Community in Syria and Lebanon, Greek Orthodox, Jews, Maronites, Melkite Catholics, National Evangelicals, Roman Catholics, Shi'ia Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Syrian Catholics and Syrian Orthodox. The failure of the state to root out confessionalism in the period following Lebanon's civil war has had further dire consequences. Many professional associations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and other representatives of civil society now consider it necessary to divide their leadership and administrative positions along confessional lines.

Incomplete Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004)

Of the eight points included in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, the following three had not been implemented by the outbreak of the Summer 2006 War:

- i) "the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias";
- ii) "extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory";
- iii) "free and fair electoral process in Lebanon's upcoming presidential election conducted according to Lebanese constitutional rules devised without foreign interference or influence."⁴

Point one not only required that the military wing of the Shi'ia political party, Hezbollah, be either disbanded and disarmed or integrated into the Lebanese army, but also meant the complete disarmament of the Palestinian refugee population, both outside and inside of their camps. Had point two been realized in a timely manner, as was foreseen by the UN Security Council, the Summer 2006 War might easily have been avoided. Finally, point three was never implemented since the president's mandate was extended in 2004, however, there is a new presidential election scheduled for the late spring of 2007.

Foreign Intervention

Major Middle Eastern and European powers have been interfering in Lebanese politics throughout the country's history. The roots of modern intervention may be traced to 1535 and the Capitulation Agreement between the Ottoman sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, and France.

According to this and similar agreements, which were made over the centuries with various European states, foreign residents living in the Ottoman Empire (which included Lebanon) were subject to the laws of their respective countries of origin. This protection of European Christians abroad was gradually extended to include members of various Christian sects resident in the empire. Today, numerous foreign powers exert both overt and covert influence over Lebanese affairs. The European Union's EuroMed Agreement aims specifically at reforming the Lebanese administrative system, as well as promoting good governance in the business sector. The United States, as well as many European powers, openly promotes a Western free market economic model, along with a European brand of liberal democracy, goals actively assisted by the efforts of a wide variety of Western governmental and non-governmental organizations. The two major Middle Eastern powers with the most influence on Lebanese society are the Sunni-dominated Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the overwhelmingly Shi'ia Islamic Republic of Iran. Although Syria is only a second-tier power in the Middle East, its geographic proximity and historical ties with Lebanon cause it to exert significant control over some developments in the country. Finally, Israel has exerted both coercive power and significant behind-the-scenes influence since its inception as a uni-confessional state in 1948.

Lack of Civil Society Skills

Delayed gratification, long-term commitment to voluntarily-set goals, peaceful resolution of conflicts, accountability of public servants and tolerance for religious, cultural and ideological diversity: these are some of elements of a functioning civil society and they are as important in economics as they are in politics. While the Lebanese are well-known at home and abroad for their entrepreneurial abilities, their civil society skills in the public/political sector remain underdeveloped. Two incidents during the months immediately prior to the Summer 2006 War are indicative of this problem: first, the 'cartoon riots' on 5 February, which caused serious damage to the building housing the Danish and Austrian embassies in Beirut; and, second, the violent demonstrations on 1 June in various predominantly Sunni and Christian neighborhoods of Beirut. The late winter firebombing of the Danish embassy in Achrafieh, a largely Orthodox Christian quarter of the Lebanese capital, was a response to the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed by the Danish newspaper, *Jyllands-Posten*. In the late spring of 2006, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International (LBCI) aired a parody of the Hezbollah leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, in its satirical program "Bas Mat Watan," a title with two meanings: 'a nation's smile' and 'a nation that died.' Immediately following this broadcast, some Hezbollah sympathizers went on a rampage, attacking shops and automobiles in those parts of Beirut bordering on the southern, predominantly Shi'ia suburban areas, known locally as the Dahiya. Waving their characteristically yellow and green militia flag, the demonstrators chanted "God, Nasrallah and all of the southern suburbs." Both violent incidents sent chills through the mixed, cosmopolitan population of the Lebanese capital.

1.3 Concluding remarks

In the period leading up to the Summer 2006 War, the situation in Lebanon was showing very clear signs of improvement, both in terms of economics and in terms of structural reform: for example, the already vibrant NGO sector was expanding rapidly and a new electoral law, despite its

obvious deficiencies, promised to lay the foundation for a truly democratic voting process. The Lebanese diaspora was also showing renewed interest in the country after more than a decade of disappointed expectations. Foreign investment was increasing rapidly, although development outside of Beirut was very uneven and many economic sectors and regions of the country remained in crisis. Lebanese schools and universities were attracting students from throughout the Arab world. Finally, the tourism industry was pulling in foreign vacationers from not only the Gulf states, but also from Europe and North America. Lebanon was fashionable.

The outbreak of hostilities on 12 and 13 July caught the entire country by surprise. Many in Lebanon saw themselves as an unwilling third party in an unwanted war. The detrimental effects of the conflict with Israel immediately became apparent. As the war progressed, numerous Lebanese feared that the unresolved conflicts and crises that had plagued the country for decades might lead to a new civil war circumscribed by the international conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Alarm at the prospect of a new wave of sectarian violence appears to have been one of the factors that convinced many Lebanese to leave the country. Suppressed tensions between the various confessional and ideological camps erupted into the open during the first months of reconstruction after the Summer 2006 War. Apprehension and anxiety have led many of those who returned to Lebanon after the civil war to abandon the country for good. This hemorrhaging of the best and the brightest is undermining Lebanon's ability to recover from the war and deal with its fundamental problems. Lebanon is a country of contradictions and almost unlimited potential. At the moment this potential is being squandered on a grand scale.

Notes

1. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous is a professor of Political Science at the Faculty of Political Science, Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Notre Dame University, and an adjunct associate researcher at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center.
2. See [<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde180052005>].
3. See [http://www.elections-lebanon.org/docs_2_1_1_e.aspx?lg=en].
4. See [<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/498/92/PDF/N0449892.pdf?OpenElement>].

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

At the conclusion of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel in mid-August 2006, LERC decided to gather information for a preliminary study of the war's impact on expatriate visitors to Lebanon, particularly their decisions to leave and to return home. Using a media survey and a specially-designed questionnaire, LERC was able to determine who was evacuated, how many of them were assisted in their departures, the vital roles played by neighboring countries and some of the main issues that emerged in the countries of immigration in relation to this massive evacuation operation. The resulting report will serve as an important reference for policy-makers, researchers, journalists and students in Lebanon and abroad, and will supplement the ongoing field assessments presently being conducted by Lebanese and foreign governments, and local and international organizations, as well as specific reports on the evacuation by these same authorities which were still unavailable to us at the time of writing.

Strictly speaking, the exodus from Lebanon was an 'assisted departure' and not an 'evacuation,' which implies that all noncombatant (civilian) nationals, including embassy staff, are being withdrawn from a country. So although this report and many of the sources cited in it use the terms 'evacuation' and 'evacuees,' their use should not be understood as indicating that this is the official terminology favored by all of the governments that helped their citizens to leave Lebanon.

Due to the nature of LERC's mandate and to time constraints, we restricted our study to Lebanese migrants and expatriates—including foreign nationals of Lebanese descent—who were in Lebanon during the assault and who emigrated because of it. Obviously these were not the only people, in addition to the Lebanese themselves, who endured the horrors of war in Lebanon during the summer of 2006, nor the only ones with stories and experiences to share. We do hope, therefore, that other academic researchers and institutions will undertake broader studies that include the mass departure and, in some cases, return of the foreign students, employees, laborers and tourists of many nationalities who were present during the hostilities. As we laid the groundwork for this study, much of what we read about the feelings of foreign nationals as they exited Lebanon was both empowering and reassuring. The majority did not want to leave and promised to return when the conflict was over in order to support the Lebanon that they love, a land that is diverse, hospitable, open and cultured.

In a nutshell, this study is not about the internally displaced, the externally displaced, or the foreign nationals who were in Lebanon during the war. It is about Lebanese expatriates who were either permanently or temporarily in the country between 12 July 2006 and 14 August 2006. The period between the day that Hezbollah crossed the Blue Line into Israel kidnapped two Israeli soldiers, and the day the ceasefire was introduced.

The methodology used in this study is fourfold. First, we consulted official national and international accounts of the evacuation of Lebanese citizens, including those with dual nationality. National records included reports from the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Social Affairs; international records included reports issued by embassies, foreign parliaments and international organizations. International organization such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) International Organization of Migration (IOM), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were approached through e-mail and facsimile. We also requested information in text followed up with telephone calls from all embassies involved in the evacuation of their nationals, particularly those with sizeable Lebanese diasporas. We were especially interested in any evacuation reports released to the general public that might detail the number of evacuees, their destinations and profiles, including statistics on their status—whether they held dual citizenship, left using visas and so on.

Second, we reviewed news stories in six major Lebanese newspapers: an English-language publication, *The Daily Star*; a French-language paper, *L'Orient Le Jour*. Four Arabic-language dailies, *An-Nahar*, *Al-Anwar*, *As-Safir* and *Al-Mustakbal* were chosen for their expert local coverage. We gave particular attention to accounts of the evacuation process and to human interest stories describing the ordeals suffered in Lebanon by evacuees. We extracted the personal stories and comments of Lebanese expatriates as they were leaving the country from these sources.

Third, we also examined international coverage of the evacuations focusing upon major—and sometimes local—newspapers in those countries that are home to the majority of Lebanese migrants and their descendants, namely, the United States, Canada, Australia, the Gulf states, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. We undertook this research to pinpoint the most important issues that arose in response to the evacuation of Lebanese dual nationals back to their host countries.

Fourth, since it seemed unlikely that foreign embassies and other government agencies would be able to respond in time with the data that we had requested, we developed a questionnaire and sent it to a sample of expatriates who had been evacuated or left unassisted while the war was still in progress or in the month that followed (when travel became easier). We were interested in learning about their wartime experiences, their willingness to revisit and the circumstances that would encourage their permanent return. The questionnaire was initially drafted in English and then translated into French and Arabic.

Participants in the survey met all of the following qualifications:

- ▲ **Status:** Lebanese living abroad, that is, either expatriates with dual citizenship or Lebanese with permanent foreign residence status; foreign citizens of Lebanese descent; and recent permanent immigrants to Lebanon (for example, the spouses of Lebanese citizens).
- ▲ **Departure:** Those who left unassisted or were evacuated from Lebanon between 12 July and 12 September 2006 and either stayed abroad or left and returned.
- ▲ **Age:** Those aged over 15.
- ▲ **Gender:** Both men and women, although question 27 highlighted the situation of women.

Respondents were assured of anonymity in order to encourage them to be frank. Responses to the questionnaire were keyed into the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and were aggregated. Needless to say, the respondents to the survey did not constitute a true sample of the total number of persons who were evacuated or left unassisted. Consequently, although the work that we have done is serious, it is not fully representative or exhaustive and the results are not conclusive.

LERC sent out hundreds of questionnaires via e-mail to potential respondents fitting the profile stated previously and asked them to respond within three days. This time frame only allowed sixty evacuees to respond, of which 48 came complete. These responses were then aggregated, analyzed and presented in Chapter 7. The duration of the survey lasted 21 days, from 15 September to 5 October 2006.

It is important to note that the attention given to the wartime experience of women in this survey is not intended to disparage or disprove the particular needs of children and men or the physical and psychological impact of the war on them.

CHAPTER III

LEBANESE MIGRATION OVERVIEW

3.1 Background: The 'Environment of Insecurity' and Lebanese Emigration

Since the start of the civil war in 1975 and even after its end, Lebanon has experienced several conflicts that have led to extensive upsurges in migration from the country. When peace ensues, however, many Lebanese emigrants return to visit, others to live permanently, while still others wait patiently to see what will transpire before coming home. We have no way of knowing the full number of Lebanese emigrants, re-migrants, or returnees active during this period, much less their profiles, because even general statistics on Lebanon's population are lacking. Although some projected data is available, it is sufficient neither in scope nor in detail. However, "what exists suggests a pattern of an elevated outflow of young and educated Lebanese males... [and] an increase in female migrants with a similar profile."¹

During the last 30 years, little scholarly literature has appeared on Lebanese emigration. However, two studies were published in 2001 and 2003 that shed some light on the subject. The first was an article by Dr. Anis Abi Farah, a professor at the Lebanese University, and the second was a survey conducted by the Université St. Joseph in Lebanon. Both sources give the total number of emigrants between 1975 and 2001 as approximately 900,000,² however, neither reports on the number of returnees and re-migrants.

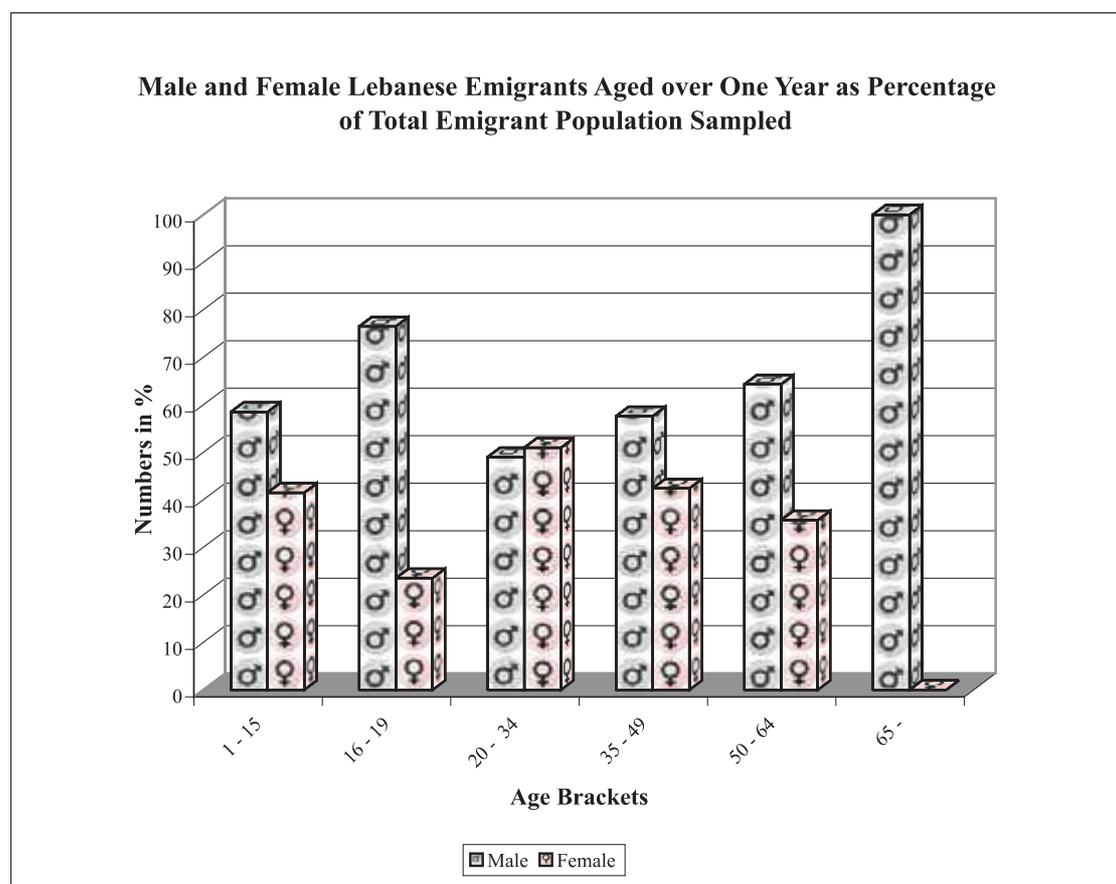
"Migration, whether permanent or temporary, has always been a traditional response or survival strategy of people confronting the prospect, impact or aftermath of disasters [whether natural or man-made]." Graeme Hugo, "Environmental Concerns and International Migration," *International Migration Review* 30, no. 1 (1996) :105-31.

The Université St. Joseph survey has discovered that, of the approximately 900,000 emigrants who left between 1975 and 2001, 41.3% cited unemployment as the main reason for emigrating, while 21.1% attributed their exodus to family reunification, 22.4% to the civil war and the general situation, and 10.9% to economic conditions.³

Political scientists and economists agree that political instability and geopolitical insecurity are stumbling blocks to economic growth. Political instability generates mistrust toward policy-makers and institutions, which affects, in turn, private sector behavior with respect to business start-ups and capital investment. Furthermore, such instability is capable of directly disrupting productivity, market performance and economic exchanges.⁴

The St. Joseph survey showed that of the estimated 900,000 Lebanese emigrants, 54.4% left between 1975 and 1990, 18.4% between 1991 and 1995, 26.6% between 1996 and 2001, and 0.7% at an undetermined time. This means that the total percentage of those who left after the war's end (18.4% + 26.6% = 47.0%) was almost equal to the percentage that left during the war itself (54.4%).⁵ Indeed, the period between 1991 and 2001 witnessed several conflicts and acts of aggression that created an environment conducive to mass departure. As one author notes: “[F]ierce battles erupted along the country’s southern border with Israeli in 1993 (‘Operation Accountability’) and 1996 (‘Operation Grapes of Wrath’).... In addition to these large scale battles, there were many lesser campaigns involving Hezbollah fighters... [until] the Israeli pull-out from the southern security zone in July 2000.”⁶ Moreover, as well as open conflict, there were also many undeclared ‘political wars’ exacerbated by “Syrian Suzerainty” and internal divisions between those who favored Syria hegemony over Lebanon and those who opposed it.⁷

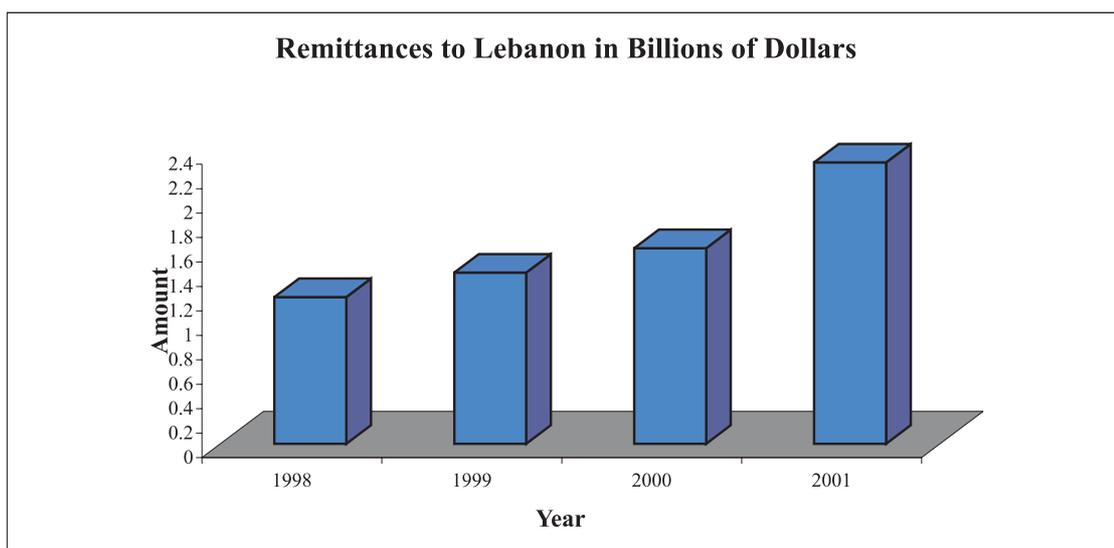
Slightly more males (57.2%) emigrated from Lebanon between 1975 and 2001 than females (42.8%). Most of these emigrants were between the ages of 20 and 34 (49% male; 51% female) or 35 and 49 (57.6% male; 42.4% female).⁸



Source: A. Abi Farah, “The Lebanese Migrants between 1975 and 2001” [Arabic], *As-Safir*, 3 December 2001, 7.

The majority of those who have migrated over the last thirty years continue to maintain family, social and business ties with Lebanon. Many emigrants and their descendants visit Lebanon on holidays, particularly during the summer. These ties “were and continue to be vital in linking Lebanese residents with their transnational emigrants and *vice versa*.... [These emigrants] are also responsible... for much of the prosperity of the tourist industry through their repetitive visits. However, the most valuable output of these networks is the immense monetary transfer (remittances) that the emigrants send to their families....”⁹

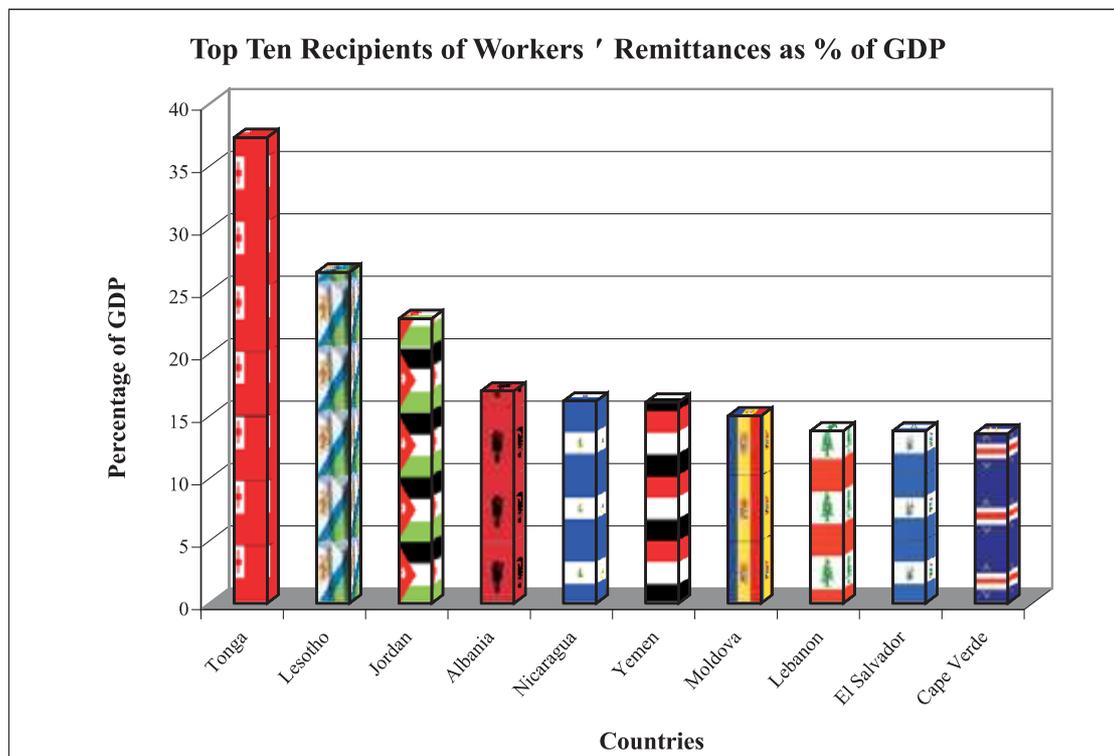
The remittances of Lebanese expatriates “constitute 22% of household incomes in Lebanon and 88% of ... savings,”¹⁰ significantly easing constraints on the budgets of recipients. They also contribute to the recipients’ ability to consume goods and services, invest in education, purchase land and make financial investments, for example, in government bonds. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Lebanon’s *per capita* income from workers’ remittances was \$575 for 2001. This meant that the country was one of the top ten recipient countries in the world when calculations were made on a per capita basis.¹¹



Source: “Expatriates’ Remittances Have Become Key to the Lebanese Economy, Averaging \$1.63bn Yearly, Reaching Nearly 14% of GDP in 2001 and Growing Faster Than Other Growing Sources of Foreign Currency,” *Saradar Weekly Monitor*, no. 15, 31 March-5 April 2003, 9.

Put another way, in 2001, remittances represented 13.8% of Lebanon’s gross domestic product (GDP), making the country the eighth largest recipient of remittances in the world when they are calculated as a percentage of GDP.¹²

As is readily apparent, expatriate remittances to Lebanon vitally strengthen the Lebanese economy. From 1998 to 2001, remittances rose steadily to average \$1.63 billion annually; they represented 7.4% of GDP in 1998, 8.5% in 1999, 9.7% in 2000 and 13.8% in 2001. Yet, they do not represent Lebanon’s main source of hard currency, which is the tourism sector.¹³



Source: IMF, Balance of payments yearbook, 2003

Expatriate's Remittances and the Lebanese Economy				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Remittances (\$bn)	1.2	1.4	1.6	2.3
% of MENA	6.5	7.5	8.3	9.8
% of Developing Countries	2	2.2	2.5	3.2
% of GDP	7.4	8.5	9.7	13.8
% of Imports	17	22.6	25.7	31.6
% of Exports	181.6	206.8	224.1	258.7
% FDI	600	560	537	924
% of Tourism Receipts	98.3	208	215.6	274.8
% of FC Deposits	6	6.7	6.4	7.9
% NR FC Deposits	27.3	29.8	29.1	41

Source: "Expatriates' Remittances Have Become Key to the Lebanese Economy, Averaging \$1.63bn Yearly, Reaching Nearly 14% of GDP in 2001 and Growing Faster Than Other Sources of Foreign Currency," *Saradar Weekly Monitor*, no. 15, 31 March 5 April 2003, 9.

3.2 The 'True Promise' vs. the Promising Summer

Before the outbreak of war, the summer of 2006 was being projected as the best season for tourism in Lebanon's history. The capital, Beirut, "was enjoying a vitality it hadn't seen since the early seventies."¹⁴ After a year marked by protests and assassinations, as well as the withdrawal of Syrian military and security forces, optimism was high that a World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimate was correct and that the large number of vacationers expected that summer would generate US\$4.4 million in tourist receipts.¹⁵

Enthusiasm about Lebanon was infectious. Only a short while before July 12, Warren Singh-Barlett, *Wallpaper's* Middle East editor, wrote: "I love Beirut because it's the most improbable city in the world; when you think of where it is, when you think of the deep divisions in Lebanese society, when you think of the wildly different ways of living life here—it doesn't make sense, it shouldn't work. But it does. There's a kind of anarchy here that's beautiful. It's creative; it's so different to any place in the Middle East."¹⁶ For the first time, *Travel & Leisure* magazine selected Beirut as one of top ten best cities to visit in 2006.¹⁷

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: "They Broke Lebanon's Spirit"

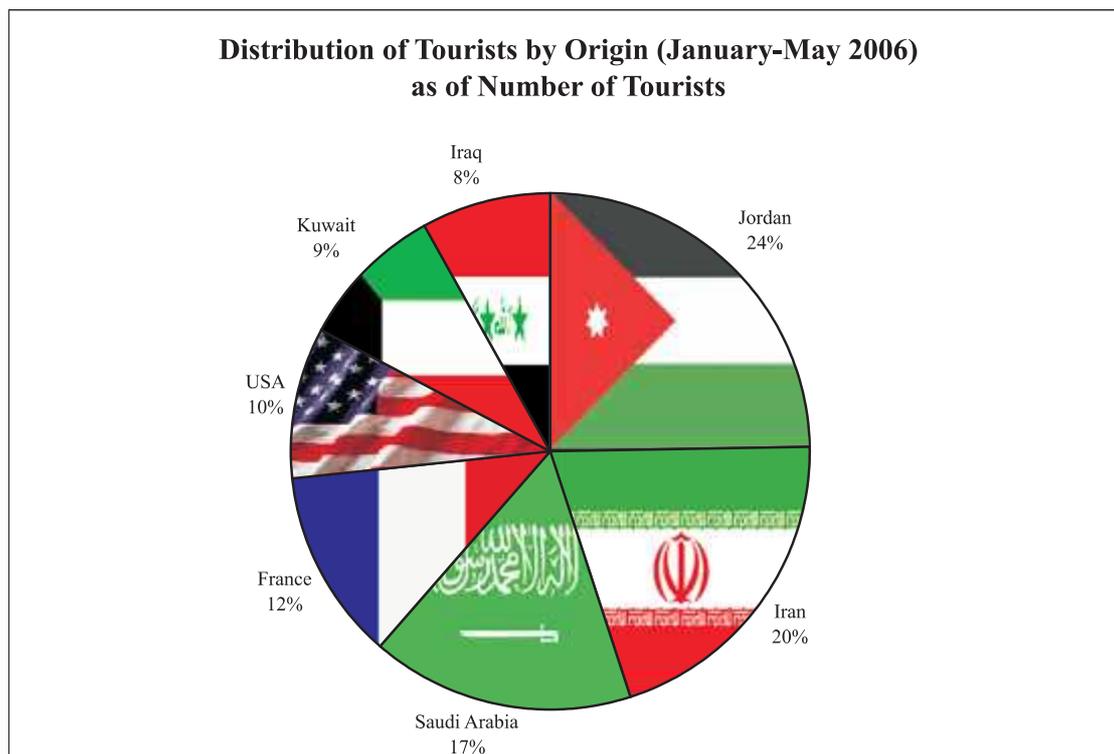
"Sleeping on the floor and along the sidewalk near the airport [in Syria], many evacuees are 'angry' at how their lives have taken a drastic turn for the worse. Now everyone in Lebanon has turned into a refugee.... [This war] a grave mistake. They broke Lebanon's spirit, after we tried so hard to rebuild ourselves and stand proud on our feet... [We were] dragged into a war we didn't need."

Source: Rym Ghazal, "The Road to Damascus is Paved with Risk," *The Daily Star*, 20 July 2006.

The WTTC report projected that the tourism industry would generate 175,000 jobs in Lebanon for the year 2006, accounting for 10.6% of the country's total employment, as well as acting as a "catalyst for construction and manufacturing."¹⁸ It also noted that exports represented a significant share of the travel and tourism sector's contribution to GDP in Lebanon. In 2006, it was estimated that the sector would make up 11.9% of total Lebanese exports or US\$1,487.4 million.¹⁹ The report further observed that capital investment in the sector was assessed at US\$4,381.7 million or 12.1% of all investment in 2006,²⁰ while total government expenditures related to the sector were expected to reach US\$263.4 million or 9.1% of all government spending.²¹

Between 1 January and 12 July 2006, 739,109 tourists entered Lebanon; 279,396 of them arrived after 1 June.²² Many of these tourists were Lebanese expatriates or the descendants of Lebanese emigrants who were on something of a pilgrimage to the home country: some came to acquaint their children with the extended family; some to purchase property; some merely wanted a sunny vacation on the beach; others wanted to rediscover the country after a long stay abroad; and still others wanted to see whether they could move back permanently.

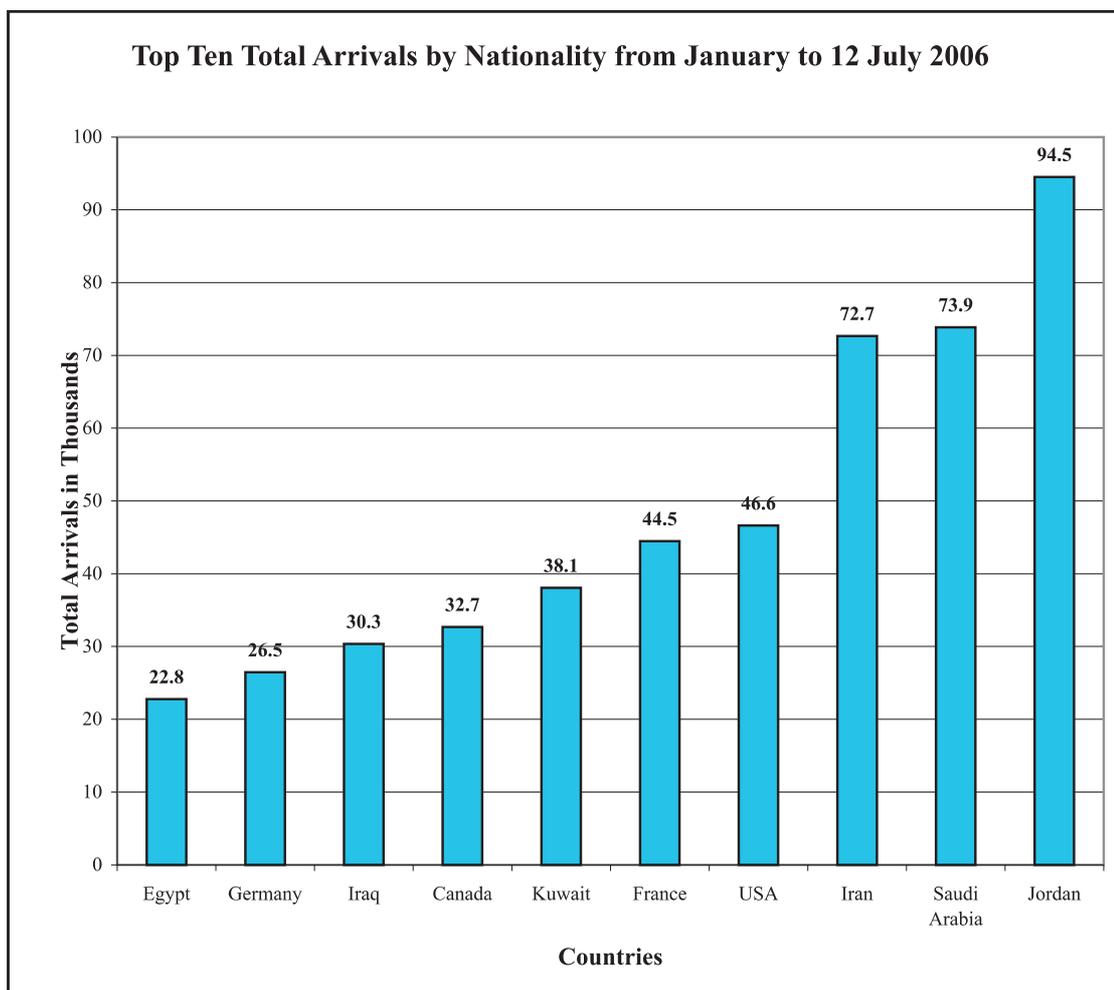
Vacationers from other Middle Eastern states made up the majority of tourists, 306,781 since the start of the year.²³ They preferred Lebanon to many other holiday destinations around the world: "This is the place where all the Arabs come to be free, this is where they come to think. This is where they come to play. This is where they come to try new ideas. And then if they like them, they take them home with them. Beirut makes things possible."²⁴



Source: Lebanese Ministry of Tourism, Department Studies - Research and Documentation, 2006.

But Lebanon’s ‘promising summer’ was aborted by the ‘True Promise,’ which was the name that Hezbollah gave to its operation to cross the Israeli border and return with Israeli soldiers, intending, it announced, to exchange them for Lebanese prisoners in Israel. The operation took place on 12 July 2006. Israel’s response was swift and, according to Hezbollah, quite unexpected. Rather than agreeing on a prisoner exchange, the Israeli government authorized an air raid on the runways of Beirut’s international airport, followed by further air attacks on major highways and roads, essential infrastructure and telecommunication networks.²⁵

Air travel to and from Lebanon stopped immediately. Interviewed in Australia, Khaled El Houli of Hoppers Crossing told the press how his brother and his family were stranded in Lebanon. El Houli said that he had “planned a visit to Lebanon this Christmas for the first time in years, this was suppose to be our year, but now there is no chance.” His wife, Nesren El Houli observed, “Nobody saw this [the war] coming. Lebanon was more secure than it had been for a long time and people who were too afraid to go before chose this year [to visit].” Her husband added, “People are pretty frustrated that after years of rebuilding Lebanon, now, within one week, after one incident, the country is being ruined again—the infrastructure, the economy, the beauty of the place. It’s just really sad.”²⁶



Source: Lebanese Ministry of Tourism, Department Studies - Research and Documentation, 2006.

Israel imposed an air and naval blockade on Lebanon and began a series of massive air raids targeting the south of the country and Beirut's southern suburbs in particular, although no place seemed safe. Neither Hezbollah nor Israel was prepared to yield to diplomatic efforts to arrange a cease-fire. Lebanon was "being once again used as a battleground for a war that neither its Government nor its people want[ed]."²⁷

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Women and Children Trapped in Lebanon

"Daniel Kahwaji of Coquitlam said his wife, Joelle, and their three young children are trapped in Beirut. He said they're hiding in the basement of an apartment building, but can hear the air raids and feel them shaking the building. They had gone to Lebanon to help her brother get ready for his wedding. Kahwaji was to have joined them in August. He said he's been watching the rescue efforts on television with an increasing sense of desperation.... 'I was actually debating that maybe I should go there and see if I could find my way out with my family.'"

"Lamia Mardaha's 13-year-old daughter traveled alone to Lebanon last month to visit a

sick grandparent. Mardaha said Noyana Zeaiter is trapped in Sidon, in the south of Lebanon, separated from Beirut by roads made impassable by bombings.... Mardaha said she may have to go to Lebanon herself to get her daughter back safely.”

Source: “B.C. Parents Consider Personal Rescue Missions to Lebanon,” *CBC News*, 21 July 2006, 10:28 am PT.

Lebanon’s refugee crisis began a few days after the commencement of hostilities. Ultimately, almost one million people would flee their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs. Some left behind dead family members or neighbors; all of them abandoned their property—and hope. Travel became difficult, even dangerous, as Israel targeted highways, bridges and roads, cars, trucks and convoys, in an effort to inhibit Hezbollah’s ease of movement. As transportation routes became unusable, many foreigners and Lebanese migrants and returnees understood that they risked being trapped in a war zone and began calling their governments for assistance in leaving the country.

Infrastructure Damages		
Public Infrastructure	\$974	million
Transport	\$484	million
Roads & Bridges	\$429	million
Airports	\$55	million
Power	\$244	million
Generation	\$80	million
Transmission & Distribution	\$164	million
Telecommunications	\$116	million
Water and Waste Water	\$80	million
Schools & Hospitals	\$34	million
Other (Military Establishments)	\$16	million
Private Infrastructure	\$2,638	million
Private Housing, Agriculture and Commerce	\$2,406	million
Industrial establishments	\$220	million
Other	\$12	million
Grand Total	\$3,612	million

Source: Preliminary assessment by the Council for Development and Reconstruction, August 2006. Table provided by the Economic Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon.

Foreign governments frantically scrambled to secure “air bridges,” or planes that would move in swiftly to take their nationals out by air,²⁸ and “safe passage” for the transport of nationals by boat to Cyprus (and, later, Turkey), where they would board aircraft and be repatriated to their respective countries.²⁹ Both options required the cooperation of Israel, owing to the air and sea blockade that it had imposed. The assisted departure of foreign nationals from Beirut began on 17 July. For the southern part of Lebanon, governments sought a “humanitarian corridor” in order “to ensure an immediate humanitarian access to the worst affected persons and to enable the evacuation of those wishing to leave.”³⁰ Over 46 countries helped their nationals to leave Lebanon.

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Youngsters Think Bombs Are Fireworks

Linda Habib, a Nova Scotia woman who was seven-months pregnant and visiting her family in Beirut accompanied by two toddlers, “told CBC News she’s still waiting to hear from the Canadian Embassy about when she can leave Lebanon. ‘It’s too much stress for me and I can’t wait any longer. Sometimes I tell [the children that the bombing] is fireworks.’ Once, she added, they asked if it was Canada Day.... In Halifax, Mike Habib [Linda’s husband] can only offer his prayers. ‘I still believe in the system,’ said Mike, a storeowner in Halifax.”

Source: “Pregnant Mother in Lebanon Asks: What About Me?,” *CBC News*, 21 July 2006, 5:44 pm AT.

“Ali Sousan of Windsor, Ont., who was in the country with his family for the summer, said they hid in an underground bunker for 14 days. Sousan told his grandson the bombs were like fireworks on Canada Day.”

Source: “Evacuees Pack Beirut Port after Talks Fail to Bring Ceasefire,” *CBC News*, 27 July 2006, 3:33 pm EDT.

According to unofficial estimates, some 230,000 people left³¹ Lebanon at this time, either by land via Syria and Jordan or by air and sea via Cyprus and Turkey.

On 11 August 2006, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved UN Resolution 1701, which ended the hostilities once the Lebanese and Israeli parties to the conflict consented to its implementation. The air and sea blockades were lifted almost a month later, on 8 September.

In Lebanon, the war killed 2,023 persons, injured 3,740 and displaced about one million. Damage to the Lebanese civilian infrastructure included three airports, three seaports, 80 bridges, four electricity stations and equipment used by media and telephone networks³² (See Appendix 1). The war also damaged Lebanon’s economy, in part because of the fatal blow that it struck to the summer tourist season, badly frightening vacationers, visitors and returnees. The cost of the war to Lebanon has been estimated at US\$15,297,480,000.³³ As the Lebanese prime minister noted on 15 July 2006, only a few days after the conflict started, Lebanon had become a disaster area on all levels.³⁴

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Worried Parents Urge Their Children to Leave

“Malene Friis, a Lebanese-born Danish national, is being evacuated.... ‘I am really annoyed that I have to go; I have friends here, and a boyfriend. But you have to go if they say they’re getting you out.... My parents are worried and I don’t know what will happen here or if I’ll be able to get out later.’”

Source: “Terrified Foreigners Search for Quickest Way Out of Beirut,” *The Daily Star*, 17 July 2006.

However, one of the most frightening effects of the war continues to be the increase in Lebanese emigration, particularly among the young and educated and, more importantly, young families. This is due to the fact that what has been destroyed in the *material* environment can be rebuilt fairly soon after the end of hostilities, but the *non-material* environment needs far more time for reconstruction. Furthermore, what is being lost in terms of human capital through migration is irreplaceable and cannot be easily regenerated. One indication of the scope of the new wave of migration is the fact that Lebanon’s Security General issued 38,000 passports between 13 and 28 July—a massive number in only two weeks.³⁵ Many of those who had either renewed their pass-

ports or obtained new ones “were awaiting the opportunity to leave to the Gulf where they had family members or to fill in asylum applications once the foreign embassies announced their willingness to receive refugees.”³⁶

Migration to other countries for the purpose of residence is a complex phenomenon caused by “mixed and overlapping motivations.”³⁷ It can be triggered by political unrest; economic instability; social, ideological, or religious conflicts; or a combination of all of these factors. In Lebanon, migration is often the result of what has been called an “environment of insecurity” (EOI), which has “two primary components. The first relates to the *material* environment of insecurity, which is characterized by poverty, deprivation, and armed conflict. The second refers to the *non-material* environment of insecurity, characterized by fear of persecution, discrimination, and practical constraints, such as language barriers.”³⁸ In Lebanon, the *material* environment of insecurity is characterized by protracted conflicts, whether internally instigated or externally supported, and the *non-material* environment of insecurity is increasingly characterized by fear or the perception of threats to freedom of movement, of thought, of conscience and religious conviction, and of expression, as well as the right to information, the right of petition and the right to assemble and to associate.

When people are faced with an EOI they “have two options (1) status quo and (2) exit.” Since the end of the Summer 2006 War in particular, the option chosen by many has been the latter one, even though the war’s socio-economic ramifications have not yet become apparent and its political ones are only now coming into view. According to Dr. Ibrahim Sirkeci, “following heated conflict (i.e., war) the EOI facilitates a steady and continuous outflow of migration because people feel insecure, so the environment of insecurity stays as a reality in perceptions even if not in reality. This would lead to further migrations.”³⁹

The protracted conflicts that have ravaged Lebanon since 1975 have spurred Lebanese international migration, which has been facilitated by the existence of emigrant communities established in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in North and South America, in Africa, in the Gulf states and in Europe. Advances in transportation and communication technology have strengthened transnational networks between these migrant communities and family members in Lebanon and have made the migratory process easier for prospective emigrants.

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Bint Jbeil and Dearborn Connected by Blood
 “Akeel Saad, a 71-year-old US citizen from Michigan who was visiting his family in Lebanon was critically injured and hospitalized after his family home in Bint Jbeil was struck. His cousin Samar Saad from Dearborn, Michigan said that hundreds of US citizens from Dearborn are stuck in Lebanon.”

Source: F. Stockman and A. L. Butters, “Desperate Choices Inside Lebanon,” *The Boston Globe*, 16 July 2006.

The Summer 2006 War perfected Lebanon’s ‘environment of insecurity.’ It caused many of those Lebanese who had returned to the country to re-migrate; it discouraged potential returnees from considering re-migration; it provoked a new generation of young, educated Lebanese into emigration; it deterred Lebanese emigrant families and their descendants from visiting the country;

and it gave pause to those Lebanese emigrants who were planning to invest in Lebanon in the short and medium terms.

This latest war has rekindled the fear in the hearts of those who lived through violent conflict before and who migrated because of it. It has traumatized the children and grandchildren of migrants and left them with horrifying and nightmarish memories, marking them as their parents were marked. This war aimed, however, at killing more than Lebanon's *material environment*; its object was to kill the country's spirit and its euphoria at "experimenting with becoming a cosmopolitan Middle East democracy."⁴⁰

The saga of Lebanese emigration has been summarized by author Ahmad Beydoun. In his 1989 book, *Bint Jbeil Michigan*, he speaks of the fear that gripped him when he first read about Lebanese villages that had vanished completely during World War I owing to famine and emigration. He said that the memory of this fear had returned when he realized that Bint Jbeil Liban was dwindling fast, while Bint Jbeil Michigan was prospering just as rapidly.⁴¹

Notes

1. Guita Hourani, "Emigration and Remittances: The Case of Lebanon," paper presented at the Mediterranean Forum on Migrations, "A Challenge for the City: Integration, Security and Quality of Life in the Mediterranean Area," Institute for Mediterranean Studies, University of Lugano, Lugano, Switzerland, 30 September-1 October 2005; see [<http://www.ism.unisi.ch/forummigrazioni06.pdf>].
2. There are no published studies measuring emigration from Lebanon since 2003.
3. Choghig Kasparian, *L'Entrée des jeunes libanais dans la vie active et l'émigration des libanais depuis 1975: Vol. III* (Beirut: Presses de l'Université Saint Joseph, 2003), 14.
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In safe hands: US marines help to evacuate US citizens.



Helping hands.



Assisted departure by road.



Geared up to evacuate by air.



First went the aged, the infirm and the sick.



Setting sail towards safe haven.



Evacuees waiting patiently.



Anxious evacuees waiting to board.

Photographs by: Mr. Ghassan Balesh

CHAPTER IV

EMIGRATION, RE-MIGRATION AND EVACUATION

4.1 Leaving Lebanon

Shock and disbelief were the first reactions of many in Lebanon listening to news broadcasts on the morning of 12 July. Not only had Hezbollah conducted an operation on Israeli soil and returned to Lebanon with two captive Israeli soldiers, but Israel had reacted swiftly and fiercely—making the country’s only airport one of its first targets on the following day. While some phlegmatically assumed that the conflict would be short-lived and that international flights would resume in a few days, many visitors and vacationers wanted to leave as quickly as possible and began to consider their options. This sense of urgency increased dramatically over the next few days, with foreign embassies in Beirut being flooded with telephone calls from terrified nationals. As the bombs continued to fall, foreign governments struggled to address the dilemma of their stranded nationals and began to devise plans to assist their departures from Lebanon by land and sea, well aware of the challenges posed by the Israeli air and naval blockades and the growing destruction of roads and bridges connecting Beirut to the rest of the country and to Syria.

Most of the foreign nationals in Lebanon at the time were Lebanese with dual citizenship who were either visiting the country temporarily or had returned permanently. Their numbers were so staggering that many of their host countries later said that their assisted departure from Lebanon had the largest evacuation of non-combatants by sea ever undertaken. Many embassies had contingency plans in case of the outbreak of hostilities, but almost none were prepared to deal with the huge number of dual nationals present in Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War. This was particularly true of the most popular countries of immigration: Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden and the United States.

This is how the *Chicago Tribune* described the situation seven days after the assault began: “Most of those who left aboard the *Orient Queen*... were summer visitors, Americans with roots in Lebanon who had come to visit relatives and enjoy Lebanon’s beaches but instead found themselves caught up in a war. Beirut’s airport has been bombed repeatedly, and the roads and ports also have been hit, paralyzing traffic and prompting the U.S. Embassy to instruct citizens to stay at home and not to attempt to leave the country unassisted.”¹

Countries Involved in the International Rescue Efforts during the Summer 2006 War in Lebanon		
1. Armenia	16. France	31. Poland
2. Australia	17. Germany	32. Portugal
3. Austria	18. Greece	33. Romania
4. Bangladesh	19. India	34. Russia
5. Belgium	20. Ireland	35. Saudi Arabia
6. Brazil	21. Italy	36. Slovakia
7. Britain	22. Japan	37. Slovenia
8. Bulgaria	23. Jordan	38. Spain
9. Canada	24. Kazakhstan	39. Sri Lanka
10. Chile	25. Kuwait	40. Sweden
11. China	26. Malaysia	41. Switzerland
12. Croatia	27. Mexico	42. Thailand
13. Czech Republic	28. Netherlands	43. Turkey
14. Denmark	29. Norway	44. United Arab Emirates
15. Egypt	30. Philippines	45. United States

Source: Diverse media and internet lists.

The nationals of some of these countries of immigration had higher expectations of immediate assistance from their governments than the citizens of others: so it was for those panicked Americans, Australians and Canadians who badgered their respective embassies for assistance in departure and criticized them for their slow response to the escalating crisis in Lebanon. These civilians were unaware of the complex communications and logistical preparations needed to organize, manage and implement mass assisted departures safely. The governments' problems were compounded by the large number of evacuees (in the thousands), the distance between Lebanon and the countries to which citizens were to be evacuated, and the ongoing hostilities, which endangered the lives of evacuees and threatened to halt the rescue operations at any moment.

Evacuation operations are a very complex and dangerous undertaking, especially under air and sea blockade and while roads and bridges are still being destroyed. The publication of evacuation information cannot be too detailed in case of sabotage. Military vessels must be found to escort and protect civilian ships. Negotiations and coordination are needed between the warring parties, international organizations and the countries designated as hubs or staging posts both prior to and during the evacuation. It should be emphasized that the evacuation from Lebanon was very difficult and required serious preparations.

Strictly speaking, the exodus from Lebanon was an 'assisted departure' and not an 'evacuation,' which implies that all noncombatant nationals, including embassy staff, are leaving a country. So the terms 'evacuation' and 'evacuees,' when used in this report, must be read with that in mind. However, some of the elements of a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) were present in the assisted departure of foreign nationals from Lebanon. By definition, an NEO is "an operation conducted to relocate designated non-combatants threatened in a foreign country to a place of safety."² In implementing an NEO, the operation has to be safe, quick and limited.

According to an American government publication, “NEOs usually involve swift insertions of a force, temporary occupation of an objective, and a planned withdrawal upon completion of the mission. During NEOs, the US Ambassador is the senior authority for the evacuation and is ultimately responsible for the successful completion of the NEO and the safety of the evacuees.”³

Evacuation operations “are characterized by uncertainty and may be directed without warning; situational awareness and correct appraisal of the changing political and military environment are key factors in noncombatant evacuation planning. Alternative plans should be developed for permissive, uncertain, and hostile environments.”⁴

Evacuations and assisted departures like the one organized during the Summer 2006 War involve numerous actors in the home countries: the ministries of foreign affairs and defense or their equivalent, and dozens of local, regional and national agencies. One of their first tasks when planning the evacuation is to identify and secure what is termed an Intermediate Staging Base and/or a Temporary Safe Haven.⁵ Before the evacuation plans could be implemented, governments had to decide on locations for these bases or havens in coordination with the countries involved. Some chose to evacuate their nationals via Cyprus or Turkey; others chartered busses to take their citizens to Syria. Most flew citizens home from those points. More than 45 nations assisted the departure of nationals, either by evacuating themselves or asking other nations to help.

Elected officials, government spokesmen and other experts around the world all attempted to reassure their respective publics that citizens would return home safely. In Australia, Prime Minister John Howard said the federal government was doing everything it could, 24-hours a day, to draw up an “evacuation plan for thousands of Australians trapped in Lebanon.” According to the reckoning of his embassy, “about 25,000 Lebanese-Australian dual nationals are living in Lebanon, along with 3,000 Australian visitors.”⁶

Back in Beirut, the American embassy’s public affairs officer, Juliette Wurr, reminded nationals stranded in Lebanon that “what’s most important for us is to make sure we can get Americans out safely. Safety and security must be a primary concern.”⁷

Martin Collacott, a former Canadian ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, struck a more somber note: “Canadians who choose to live in areas where there could be turmoil of one sort or another must accept that this may entail risks and that there are limits to what our government can do to assist them in some circumstances.... In the case of Lebanon today, there are a number of factors that make evacuation plans particularly challenging. One is the sheer number of Canadian citizens in the country, possibly as many as 50,000.”⁸

Later, once the assisted departure of Canadian nationals had begun, the Canadian foreign minister, Peter Mackay, would remark that the evacuation “has been an enormous challenge, but it is working. People have been taken out of harm’s way and given safe passage back to Canada.”⁹

Just prior to the evacuations, embassies made official announcements explaining the process on Lebanese television and radio, and in the press and on websites; they told nationals where to assemble for registration, the documents that they would need and how much luggage they would be allowed as they left Lebanon.

A foreign passport or visa was a necessity. At times, this meant very painful separations for those leaving loved ones behind. “In this complicated world of evacuation and dual nationality, where a passport can buy you safety, buy you the chance to escape; it can equally tear families apart, giving impossible choices. One small document brings one family to the safety of the marble hall in Nicosia and leaves other half in fear in a basement in Beirut.”¹⁰

Most refugees and many foreign nationals left the country via Lebanon’s only available land route, Syria. As Israel continued its bombardment of the villages, towns and cities of Lebanon, the roads to Syria, whether through the Bekaa valley or through the coastal city of Tripoli, became jammed with refugees fleeing for their lives.¹¹ For most of the war, the Beirut-Tripoli-Arida road to the north of Lebanon and thence to Syria “was been kept open by Israeli authorities at the request of Turkey to provide a safe passage for evacuation.”¹²

Lebanese emigrants, nationals and returnees were not the only ones who fled to Syria, Jordan, Cyprus and Turkey: residents of the GCC countries, Iraqis and Palestinians, Europeans and other Westerners, and tens of thousands of foreign laborers made the perilous land journey to Syria or embarked by plane or boat to Cyprus or Turkey. Initially, the Syrian government, which did its utmost to facilitate border crossings, announced that Iraqis escaping the conflict in Lebanon would be given only 48 hours in Syria before transiting to other countries; however, it later changed its mind and allowed Iraqis to stay longer.¹³

According to *Al-Arabia*, 24,000 Lebanese, 27,000 Arabs of various nationalities (mostly GCC tourists), 6,500 Westerners, 19,000 thousand Syrians and 28,000 others (their nationalities were not recorded) entered Syria between 13 and 18 July—in other words, in the first week of the war alone.¹⁴

4.2 Australia's Evacuation Operation

Alarmed by the rapid escalation of the conflict, Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer was quick to “urge ... Australian citizens to leave Beirut as fighting intensified.”¹⁵ Many Australians managed to leave by land to Syria despite the risk of being injured along the way as Israeli fighter planes continued to bomb highways, access roads and bridges.

On 19 July 2006, the Australian government decided to evacuate its nationals from Lebanon and to send members of the Australian Defense Force (ADF) to assist in the evacuation process (See Appendix 2). Already thousands of Australians and Lebanese-Australian dual citizens had begun to register with their embassy in Beirut in order to make their presence known and to receive instructions on how to proceed during the crisis. As soon as the evacuation announcement was made, they began preparing themselves for departure according to the embassy’s specifications.

By 24 July, Foreign Minister Downer was able to announce that “[a]pproximately 8,000 places have been made available to Australians on evacuation vessels” and that “[t]o date, around 3,700 Australians have departed with the assistance of the Government.”¹⁶ He also added that “[t]he Government remains deeply concerned about Australians in the south of Lebanon who

may not be able to depart because of the difficult security situation. The Australian Embassies in Beirut and Tel Aviv are making every effort to arrange the safe evacuation of these Australians. A bus convoy is being arranged to convey Australians from the Sidon area to Beirut today, though this is subject to security conditions. We are also working closely with other governments and hope Australians may be able to leave the city of Tyre on a ship planned to depart today.”¹⁷ Lyndall Sachs, Australia’s ambassador to Lebanon, noted that the embassy was not only busy evacuating people, but also “issuing a large number of emergency passports.”¹⁸

The Australian evacuation operation, which was christened ‘Operation Ramp,’ would ultimately involve the deployment to Beirut, Cyprus and Turkey of 120 ADF personnel comprised of “22 members [of] supporting embassy staff and a Task Force of 96 personnel that included a command element, two evacuee processing teams, liaison officers, movement officers, health specialists and linguists.”¹⁹

Operation RAMP “achieved the evacuation of over 5,300 Australians and 1,350 approved Foreign Nationals. This required 17 Australian chartered ships, 22 Australian chartered aircraft and over 470 bus movements, all achieved in a short period of time, at very short notice.”²⁰

The majority of the evacuees were taken to the Cypriot port of Larnaca or to Mersin in southern Turkey. The Australian government announced that it would cover the evacuation expenses, including airfares, of citizens and residents fleeing the conflict in Lebanon. About a month after the war was over, the estimated cost of the Australian rescue operation stood at \$25 million Australian dollars.²¹

4.3 Brazil's Evacuation Operation

It is estimated that about 70,000 Lebanese²² hold dual Brazilian/Lebanese nationality. Brazil has been a favored destination for Lebanese emigrants since the beginning of the twentieth century²³ and many Brazilians of Lebanese descent continue to have family and business ties with Lebanon and to visit the country regularly because of them. Consequently, many Lebanese-Brazilians, as well as other Brazilian nationals, found themselves in Lebanon when the hostilities commenced and some asked the Brazilian embassy in Beirut for assistance. The embassy began by organizing land convoys to Syria and through to Turkey; from there, evacuees were able to return home on Brazilian air force planes. Brazilian commercial airlines also participated in the mission on a voluntary basis.²⁴

On 17 July, the Brazilian embassy assisted 122 of its citizens in leaving Lebanon by land for Adana, Turkey, via Syria. Once in Adana, Brazilian military and civilian planes again transported them back home. Four days later, another group of 52 Brazilians took the same route, while 45 others arrived in Adana from Damascus. On 23 July, 85 Brazilians left Damascus for Adana, where they boarded an air force plane to Brazil. On 24 July, 10 buses carrying a total of 305 Brazilians traveled from the Bekaa valley to Damascus, while another 73 Brazilian nationals boarded a Canadian ship destined for Turkey, where they and seven others took the third air force flight back to Brazil. In the days that followed, buses continued to transport more Brazilians from the Bekaa to Syria for flights home.²⁵

According to Roberto Khatlab, a researcher specializing in Lebanese-Brazilian migration at LERC and the author of several books on the subject, “The total number of government-assisted evacuees was 2,950 Brazilians, Lebanese-Brazilian bi-nationals, Lebanese with family ties to Brazilians, and some Argentinians, Paraguayans and Colombians.”²⁶

Khatlab affirmed that “evacuation from Lebanon was the biggest exterior Brazilian evacuation since World War II. The Summer 2006 War evacuation was by land from Zahle in the Bekaa to Damascus in Syria, and from Beirut to Adana in Turkey; it was also seaborne from Jounieh to Turkey; and airborne from Syria and Turkey. The FAB [Brazilian air force] and private companies made all of the flights from Lebanon to Brazil completely free of charge. The total cost reached one million dollars.”

Khatlab said that about a thousand Brazilian tourists managed to leave through Syria on the second day of the conflict with the help of their respective travel agencies.

During the Summer 2006 War, “four Brazilians from the same family were killed on 13 July as a result of Israel’s air strikes in Lebanon.”²⁷ Khatlab said that Akil Merhi, 34 years of age, his wife, Ahlem Jaber, 28 years, and their children, Hadi, 8, and Fatmeh, 4, were killed in Srifa in southern Lebanon. They were in the country on vacation.

Four others were also killed, added Khatlab. Rodrigo Ayman Daher, 35, died in Tyre, having left his wife and children in Brazil while visiting his parents. Bassel Termos, 4, died in Talloussa; Dib Baraka, 62, died in Sultan Yacoub; and Ibrahim Saledh, 17, a Hezbollah militant, died in the battle of Maroun er-Ras.

By 20 August, Brazil had evacuated more than 3,000 Brazilians from Lebanon and helped about 350 citizens from other Latin American countries to travel home.²⁸

Will those who have left return? “Mohamed Abdouni, from Sao Paulo, lived in Lebanon for nine years with his wife, his five children and his father. Abdouni considers staying in Brazil a very good option: ‘My kids are going to school here [Brazil] and I will dedicate myself to my business in Brazil. I can’t come back now. It is very dangerous....’ Journalist Daniela Rabah, 20, [said] her parents stayed in Lebanon but sent her to Brazil because they were afraid she would be hurt.”²⁹

According to Khatlab, most of those who were evacuated did not want to leave, but felt that it was the best decision because of the war. Many of them, he added, have already returned to Lebanon.

4.4 Canada’s Evacuation Operation

At the outbreak of the Summer 2006 War, it was estimated that over 50,000 Canadians, mostly dual citizens, were in Lebanon; 30,000 of them had registered with the embassy. Their assisted departure from Lebanon would represent “the largest evacuation in Canadian history.”³⁰

It began on 19 July, when the first chartered ships left Beirut for Cyprus. Some Canadians had already boarded ships arranged by other countries and were in Cyprus when Prime Minister Ste-

phen Harper announced that he would fly aboard a government plane from Paris, where he was meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, to the island of Cyprus to check on the evacuation. On his return trip to Canada, he took 88 evacuees back with him in the aircraft.³¹

Canada's foreign affairs ministry had announced on 17 July that the Government had "leased six ships from Cyprus to collect Canadians who want out of strife-torn Lebanon... [and that] after they drop off their passengers in Cyprus, three airliners will fly Canadians home from the island."³² Upon arriving in Cyprus, "the Canadians had their travel documents checked by Cypriot immigration officials, then went to a processing centre, where Canadian officials checked their identification."³³ Evacuees waiting for flights back to Canada rested in a basketball stadium in Larnaca, equipped with food, drink, fans and folding beds.³⁴

As they disembarked in Cyprus or landed on Canadian soil, Lebanese-Canadians told reporters about the ordeals that they had suffered. But their relief at leaving Lebanon was tempered by anxiety over the fate of those still there. As one person said, "I feel very relieved that I'm with the Canadians, at the same time, I left my family behind. They've been in a shelter for ten days and I was with them.... I've never felt this bad in my whole life."³⁵

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Summer Wedding Turned Into Mass Funeral
 "Mohammad el-Akhras, 23, went to Lebanon this summer for a wedding, but on July 16th a bomb landed near the family home in Aitaroun in southern Lebanon, collapsing the structure and killing 11 people. His brother, Montreal pharmacist Ali el-Akhras, was killed, as was Ali's wife and their four young children. Mohammad's mother and uncle—also Canadian citizens—were killed as well, along with three other members of the extended family who lived in Lebanon. Mohammad, who returned to Montreal on Wednesday [23 August], said what his family has gone through is 'unimaginable.' Ali's father, Ahmed, was badly injured but survived the attack. He is recovering in a Montreal hospital."

Source: "Lebanese-Canadian Survivor Back from 'Unimaginable' Tragedy," CBC News, 24 August 2006, 11:52 pm ET.

Following the successful rescue of about 1,000 Canadian citizens from war-torn Tyre on 24 July,³⁶ the Canadian government announced that nationals would no longer have to pre-register with the embassy for evacuation: starting 25 July, "anyone showing up at the port of Beirut with a valid Canadian passport will be offered safe passage."³⁷

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Not Without My Husband
 "Canadian evacuee Rada Awada, who had to leave her husband with his elderly parents because there was no room left in the car" [as she and her four young sons left their village in the southern part of Lebanon to Beirut],... said she wouldn't take the children and board a Canadian-chartered ship at the port of Beirut. 'I can't leave him behind because I know he's in a dangerous situation. I can't live without him.'"

Source: "Evacuees Pack Beirut Port After Talks Fail to Bring Ceasefire," CBC News, 27 July 2006, 3:33 pm EDT.

A “dual-nationality British woman who had decided not to take the chartered flight back to the UK arranged through the **Sovereign** base at Akrotiri... instead base[d] herself in a tourist hold on the outskirts of Larnaca.” She was “four months pregnant. Her husband, though Lebanese, was entitled to accompany her, he has decided to stay at their small hotel in Beirut.... ‘We have put our life savings into the hotel, it is all we have. This year has been a good year and we were looking forward to the summer when we were fully booked. Our future seemed secure; we have a child on the way.... My husband was worried that if he left, people would come and loot the hotel, destroying all we had made. It has happened before.... We just want peace and we want to be normal people, leading normal lives.... I could not believe it when Israel bombed the airport.... Everything became chaotic. It’s a not just us—it’s our staff too. We have maids from the Philippines, how will they survive with no money and nowhere to live? It looks like paradise here, but I’m in hell. I fear he [her husband] won’t make it and I just pray he survives....”

“In the corner of the lobby, a young woman with two young children is sobbing. I ask [someone]... what is the problem? ‘She had to leave her husband behind and does not want to get on the plane to Germany; she wants to stay here....”

Source: Lauren O’Hara, “It All Boils Down to One, Small Document,” *Cyprus Mail*, 22 July 2006.

Turkey put aside a dispute with Canada over the latter’s recognition of the Armenian genocide and its support for Israel’s current war on Lebanon and facilitated the entry of Canadian nationals into the country for flights back home. Canada and the other evacuating countries had requested assistance from Turkey after an appeal launched by President Tassos Papadopoulos of Cyprus, where facilities for receiving refugees were stretched to the maximum, who “called on the EU ... to help Cyprus in handling the influx of foreign nationals fleeing Lebanon.”³⁸

The evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon “cost taxpayers \$85 million. The government won’t officially divulge what the running total is, nor will it reveal how many people returned to Lebanon after the fighting stopped in mid-August.”³⁹ As of 27 July, it was estimated that “11,712 Canadians had left Beirut or the southern Lebanese port of Tyre.”⁴⁰

4.5 France’s Evacuation Operation

On 15 July, the French Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin, announced that France would evacuate those of its citizens wishing to leave Lebanon by means of civilian and military maritime and air transport. ⁴¹ France’s minister of foreign affairs, Philippe Douste-Blazy, said that some evacuees would be taken to Cyprus before flying home, while other would be taken by bus, car, or carpool to either Damascus or Amman, where they would board commercial flights to France. ⁴²

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Catastrophic Departure Twice

“Odette et Pierre sont français et vivent au Liban depuis 45 ans. Ce couple recevait, comme chaque année, ses enfants et petits-enfants. ‘Nous avons déjà été rapatriés lors de l’invasion de 1982.... Quand nous étions rentrés, tout était détruit,’ dit-elle. Évoquant l’évacuation en 1982, elle parle ‘de ce même départ en catastrophe, ce même arrachement....Mais maintenant, je ne sais pas pourquoi, c’est encore plus triste, plus éprouvant.’”

Source: “Le ferry affrété par la France rapatrie un premier groupe de 1250 Européens,” *L’Orient Le Jour*, 18 July 2006.

The French military had been ordered to assist in the evacuation. Arrangements were made to have helicopters positioned on French ships to airlift citizens from Lebanon, while a plan had been worked out with Air France to bring the evacuees from Larnaca to Paris.

Three days after the prime minister's announcement, France contracted a ferry company to evacuate its citizens. According to the French foreign ministry, the first ship was scheduled to carry 800 French, including 300 children, and 400 nationals from other EU countries, including Germany, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Spain, Finland, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. Another 50 spots were reserved for Americans.⁴³ The French embassy asked its nationals to gather at the Lycée Français in Beirut and wait for departure to Cyprus from the port.⁴⁴

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: "Heavily Pregnant" Daughter Left Behind

"A French embassy official said that many [of the evacuees] have had to leave family members and relatives behind. The saddest case was one French-Lebanese mother who arrived with her daughter, who also had French citizenship because she married a Frenchman. But the other daughter, who was heavily pregnant, had Lebanese citizenship, so she was unable to board. The mother was devastated because she had to leave behind her pregnant daughter, who may now have to give birth in the middle of the bombings."

Source: Constantine Markides, "Dealing with the Flow of Evacuees," *Cyprus Mail*, 23 July 2006.

According to *L'Orient Le Jour*, official French estimates put the total number of French citizens living in Lebanon at the outbreak of war at 14,000; another 6,000 were visiting. Some 90% of these citizens held dual nationality.⁴⁵ By 2 August 2006, a total of 11,000 French citizens had been evacuated.⁴⁶

The participation of four warships in the evacuation represented the most important element of 'Opération Baliste' (see Appendix 3), which was the name given to the French government's contingency plan at the outset of the conflict on 12 July.⁴⁷

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Déjà Vu

"Joumana qui retourne à Paris avec son époux Sami, deux de ses enfants et sa mère âgé, passe chaque année une partie de ses vacances au Liban. 'Mon mari n'a pas mis les pied ici depuis que nous nous sommes installés en France il y a dix-sept ans,' [Sami exclame]. 'Pour une fois que j'ai décidé de rentrer au Liban, voilà ce qui arrive! Il faut qu l'on soit fixé, le Liban n'est pas et ne sera jamais la Suisse.... Il y aura toujours quelqu'un qui voudra faire la guerre. J'aurais pu rester à la montagne, mais je ne peux pas vivre en circulant uniquement dans un périmètre de quelques kilomètres. Après dix-sept ans d'absence, j'aurais voulu redécouvrir le Liban.'"

Source: "Le ferry affrété par la France rapatrie un premier groupe de 1250 Européens," *L'Orient Le Jour*, 18 July 2006.

According to Joël Godeau, the French consul general, priority was given to children, the elderly and pregnant women during the evacuation.⁴⁸ Naya Najm, a Parisian of Lebanese descent, who was seven months' pregnant and on vacation with her two-year-old child, said that "she was very scared when the war started" and that she "wanted to leave to Syria, but the road was being

bombed.”⁴⁹ Najm was evacuated by boat by the French embassy, which had informed its citizens that such evacuations would “take place regularly until all who want to leave have done so.”⁵⁰

France also assisted in the evacuation of Belgian nationals, who numbered about 1,800.⁵¹ Some 1,200 Lebanese-Belgians live permanently in Lebanon, most having dual nationality, and another 600 Belgian tourists or business people were in the country at the time of the assault.⁵² Upon arriving in Cyprus, the Belgian evacuees were flown back to Brussels by a Belgian Airbus C310.⁵³

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: “I Will Never Leave Lebanon”

“Claudia, française elle vie depuis un an à Beyrouth où son époux travaille dans une multinationale. Elle en colère: ‘Je ne me suis jamais sentie en danger au Liban. C’est terriblement triste de voir un peuple aussi entreprenant et généreux endurer autant. Les Libanais tiennent depuis des années à reconstruire leur pays. Avec toute cette destruction, il leur sera difficile de se relever,’ lance-t-elle avant d’éclater en sanglots... ‘Quoi qu’il arrive, je ne quitterai jamais le Liban. Ma vie est ici. Et puis, si tout le monde part, pour qui laisserons-nous le pays?’”

Source: “Le ferry affrété par la France rapatrie un premier groupe de 1250 européens,” *L’Orient Le Jour*, 18 July 2006.

4.6 Germany's Evacuation Operation

German nationals were no different than any other panicked foreigners once the war began. “Get us out of this hell!” Hanan Haag, a Lebanese-German national, screamed in a phone call to the DPA [Department of Political Affairs], appealing for help in reaching the German Embassy in Beirut in order to leave the country. ‘Me and my four children hid for two days inside a bathroom inside our home from the shelling,’ she said. ‘Living here is too much.’ Tears running down her face, Hanan said: ‘I want to go back home to Stuttgart ... my husband is there, I want to live in a peaceful country.’⁵⁴

From the outset, German embassies in Cyprus, Turkey, Syria and Jordan were all ordered to assist in the evacuation of German nationals from Lebanon. Some German nationals and dual citizens took buses to Syria or Jordan and were flown home from there. Others reached Larnaca in Cyprus, returning to Germany by chartered flight or military plane.⁵⁵

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Foreign Passport “Is Life”

“Osman and his family are from Germany, they proudly flashed their German passports to me. ‘These have saved our lives,’ he says.... He told me that people tried to push them back [at the port] because his wife was wearing a headscarf. ‘But this,’ once again he holds up his passport, ‘This is life.’ ... What will happen to your family in Lebanon? I ask Osman. He bites his lip, ‘I pray to Allah for them. We left them all the money we could, but soon money will be no use. They do not have this.’ Once more he clutches his German passport to his chest.”

Source: Lauren O’Hara, “It All Boils Down to One, Small Document,” *Cyprus Mail*, 22 July 2006.

By 22 July, the German foreign ministry spokesman, Martin Jaeger, was reporting that the government “had evacuated 4,200 Germans from Lebanon since the Israeli offensive began but was

struggling to reach those in the south of the country.” He did note, however, that they had managed to remove some 600 Germans from the south, which had suffered the most from Israel’s bombardment.⁵⁶

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Dream of Evacuation Dies with Family

“The Srour family’s dream of evacuating to Germany died yesterday afternoon on a south Lebanon road when an Israeli bomb struck their car, killing the head of the family and one of his sons.... The Srour family left their village... sick of the bombing and convinced they’d be on a boat to Cyprus by evening. An Israeli bomb struck Mahmoud Srour, 8, and his family a few hundred yards from the Najem hospital. They were hoping to reach the safety of central Lebanon from the village of El Mansouri, 7 ½ miles from Tyre.”

Source: Thanassis Cambanis, “For Fleeing Lebanese Families, Road to Safety Exact Heavy Toll,” *The Boston Globe*, 24 July 2006.

4.7 Mexico's Evacuation Operation

The Mexican embassy in Lebanon remained in close contact with the local Mexican community from the war’s onset and worked hard to track down Mexican tourists in the country as well.⁵⁷ Much like other embassies, it advised all nationals to exhibit “extreme caution” and to avoid leaving their homes or unnecessary travel, particularly to the southern suburbs of Beirut and the south of the country.⁵⁸

According to the Mexican government, nationals present in Lebanon when the conflict began “expressed their desire to leave the place as soon as the conditions to exit were in place and the transportation was available. The Exterior Relations Secretariat (SRE) and the Embassy of Mexico in Lebanon analyzed the options for the evacuation, paying special attention to the security questions of the operation.”⁵⁹

Some Mexicans were evacuated to Cyprus aboard a ship provided by the Greek government. The Mexican foreign ministry instructed embassy personnel in Greece to travel to Cyprus to receive these Mexican citizens and to provide them with consular and logistical assistance to help them to continue their journey to Mexico or to other destinations.⁶⁰

On 19 July, 121 Mexicans were also evacuated to Syria and then Turkey in a convoy of 5 buses. Accompanying the buses was Mexico’s ambassador to Egypt, Jaime Nualart, embassy employees and medical personnel. Upon arriving at the border between Syria and Turkey, the evacuees were met by personnel from the Mexican embassy in Turkey, who provided services similar to those given in Cyprus. The Mexican government expressed its appreciation to both Syria and Turkey for their efforts, especially for facilitating entry into their respective territories.⁶¹

4.8 Nigeria's Evacuation Operation

According to the Nigerian minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Nigerian nationals in Lebanon during the outbreak of hostilities “were initially evacuated to a town near the bor-

der with Syria” before arrangements were made to take them to “much safer ground in Damascus.” Those who wished to return to Nigeria were repatriated from there. Speaking early in the crisis, the minister added: “Nigerians should know that the Government is taking all steps to ensure the provision of assistance to its nationals in Lebanon who request ... it. There are some Nigerians who have said that they do not desire to leave yet. Their situation is being monitored through the head of the Nigerian community in Beirut.” He emphasized that the Nigerian government was taking “every necessary action to assist its citizens in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East where their welfare may be in danger.”⁶²

The Nigerian embassy also assisted African nationals from Ghana, Senegal and Ethiopia, countries without a diplomatic presence in Lebanon, who found themselves stranded in the country.⁶³ Ultimately, the foreign affairs minister announced that Nigeria had evacuated about 480 out of 5,000 Nigerians present in Lebanon, in addition to 80 non-Nigerians, 25 of whom were citizens of Benin and the rest from other African countries.⁶⁴

4.9 Sweden's Evacuation Operation

On 1 August, while the war in Lebanon was still raging, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that 8,027 Swedish citizens, as well as other nationals resident in Sweden, had been assisted in leaving Lebanon since the start of hostilities. According to the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Hans Dahlgren, the vast majority of them, 7,573, returned home on aircraft chartered by the ministry: “This means that Sweden has undertaken the largest evacuation of Swedes ever.”⁶⁵

Although Sweden has only a consulate in Lebanon, rather than an embassy, the sea evacuation was completed in just four days, from 16 July to the morning of 20 July. The consulate contacted Swedes and instructed them to gather at a particular hotel, where they boarded buses for the port. Two boats were involved in the sea evacuation, one carrying 1,600 passengers and another with 300.⁶⁶

According to Nina Ersman, spokeswoman of the Swedish foreign ministry, “text messaging has been a major tool in the Swedish evacuation operation. In the last week [before the evacuation began,] we sent out five text messages to everyone in Lebanon who was registered with a Swedish mobile network.”⁶⁷ After the tsunami of 2005, Sweden was prepared for the Lebanese crisis of 2006.

Jan Sjöberg, the press officer at Telia Sonera mobile operator in Sweden, explained that the company’s mobile subscribers in Lebanon were sent an SMS as early as 14 July to tell them that an evacuation would be taking place. “The GSM technology allows us to do this. We have roaming agreements with two operators in Lebanon. Around 300 of our customers who were in Lebanon would have got the message as soon as they turned on their phones. We also told them that all calls and text messages to Sweden would be free.”⁶⁸

Ersman also commented “that the operation had been ‘enormously hard work’ for the Swedish officials sent to the region.... Some 200 Swedish personnel were sent to key locations in the re-

gion, such as the Lebanese capital, Beirut, Damascus in Syria, Larnaca in Cyprus and ports in Turkey, to organize the evacuation.”⁶⁹

Stockholm would later be the venue for a meeting organized by the Swedish government and the United Nations that was attended by representatives of more than 40 countries and raised \$940 million to address Lebanon’s severe humanitarian and reconstruction needs in the wake of the Summer 2006 War.

4.10 Switzerland's Evacuation Operation

On 28 July, a little more than two weeks after the start of the war, Switzerland’s Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) released a communiqué announcing that the Swiss embassy in Beirut had assisted approximately 900 people wishing to leave Lebanon. “Ten percent of them were foreign nationals living in Switzerland. About one hundred of the remaining 800 who have received help from the Embassy are foreign nationals directly related to a Swiss national.”⁷⁰

The communiqué indicated that “all Swiss nationals who have been trying to leave South Lebanon since 14 July are now in a safe zone. Only a dozen people have decided to remain in the region. The Swiss Embassy in Beirut remains in contact with them.”⁷¹

On the day that the war started, “891 persons were registered with the Swiss Embassy, 662 of whom had Swiss-Lebanese dual nationality.... The DFA provided direct assistance to about 650 people, who were mainly Swiss nationals visiting relatives as well as tourists and business people.”⁷²

Switzerland was also mindful of the difficulties faced by Lebanese citizens hoping to travel to Switzerland or to extend their stay if already present there. On 26 July, the Swiss Federal Office of Migration (ODM) issued a directive regarding the delivery of visas to Lebanese citizens in Lebanon and the status of Lebanese citizens in Switzerland. In the latter case, cantonal authorities were informed that they could, exceptionally and by requesting a tax payment, extend until 30 September 2006 all expired business, visitor and tourist visas.⁷³

4.11 The United Kingdom's Evacuation Operation

On 16 July, the government of the United Kingdom confirmed that contingency planning was underway for the evacuation of British nationals and entitled personnel from Lebanon. The military was mobilized for ‘Operation Highbrow,’⁷⁴ which began the following day. An estimated 22,000 British nationals were in Lebanon as the war began, 10,000 of whom held dual Lebanese-British nationality.⁷⁵

Tony Asfour, a Lebanese-British who had left his homeland 13 years earlier for Newcastle, was vacationing in Lebanon with his family when the war broke out. Asfour, his wife and three children were evacuated by the British embassy on 20 July. Like many Lebanese forced to leave under very difficult circumstances, Asfour worried about family members who stayed: “My

strongest emotion is for peace. I want peace for everyone. My concern is for the people I left behind... the difficulty is leaving people behind.”⁷⁶

The *HMS Illustrious* and the *HMS Bulwark* were swiftly ordered to head towards the Lebanese coast to join other ships in the area that had already begun assisting British nationals in their departure (See Appendix 4). The evacuation by sea was expected to take around a week to complete. The British air force also played a part at this early stage; among those it evacuated from Beirut was Javier Solana, the EU foreign policy commissioner.⁷⁷

The first large-scale evacuation of British nationals began when the *HMS Gloucester* entered Beirut’s harbor to pick up the initial group of evacuees, about 180 ‘priority cases,’ particularly those with medical conditions, pregnant women and children.⁷⁸ As the evacuees “boarded the warship, some spoke of a mixture of relief and regret to be leaving the country.”⁷⁹ Once the vessel was underway, according to the ship’s captain, Commander Mike Patterson, the evacuees would be given “their own bunks to sleep in and we have been able to keep them in family groups.”⁸⁰ The *HMS Gloucester* was headed for Cyprus,⁸¹ where this first group of evacuees would be airlifted home.

“We are happy to be going,” said Maria Noujeim. “We’ve been very scared. It’s a shame because it’s such a lovely country.”⁸² When the ship arrived in the UK, it was met by a woman named Nadia Hamza, from north-west London, who “broke down in tears as she spoke of how she has not heard from her three young children who were on a month-long holiday with her ex-husband in Soor [Tyre].”⁸³ Hamza’s ex-husband had phoned her a few days earlier to tell her that all was well, but she had heard nothing since then. She was terrified and had come to the dock to see if her children, Ahmed, 6, Mohammed, 5, and four-year-old Dalia, were among the first wave of evacuees to return to the UK. Sadly, they were not.⁸⁴

Despite the large number of British passport holders in Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War, British officials did not expect a massive exodus: “[T]he majority of British citizens in Lebanon have dual nationality and most of them stayed during the civil war. The Embassy’s main headache is 86 Britons known to be in the southern parts of Lebanon that are under heavy Israeli bombardment.”⁸⁵

By 25 July, the UK’s military evacuation was almost completed. Approximately 4,500 people had been assisted in leaving Lebanon, including about 2,000 UK citizens.⁸⁶

4.12 The United States’ Evacuation Operation

The United States embassy in Beirut initially advised citizens to remain where they were, to stay indoors and to avoid fleeing to Syria since the roads were not safe. Americans were urged to register with the embassy, via the internet if possible, and to await further information. On 16 July, some Americans were given embassy assistance in leaving Lebanon. Only five days later, however, the US embassy “moved from a registration-based system to an open system in which any American citizens seeking evacuation from Lebanon should present themselves at the port at the Dbayeh Bridge in Beirut, specifically the Mobile Forces Barracks (Marina Khoury).... The

initial screening will involve verification of American citizenship and eligibility for travel... a security screening will also be conducted. Once these steps are completed, evacuees will be taken by bus to the port and then go through Lebanese immigration procedures before boarding the ship.”⁸⁷

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: The Youngest Lebanese Emigrant

Scot and Laura Gabriel of Methuen were happy to learn that the Department of Homeland Security had granted their Lebanese newly-adopted son humanitarian parole, an extraordinary measure used during emergencies. Scot Gabriel said, “We’ll be truly elated when she [his wife], the baby, and my father and my mother-in-law get on American soil. We’re naming him Logan, because Logan Airport is where they want to be more than anywhere else in the world.”

Source: David Abel, “Students Get Home from War in Beirut,” *The Boston Globe*, 20 July 2006.

American citizens who wished to leave Lebanon were told to bring along “sufficient amounts of food and water to sustain them during the day... [in addition to] all travel documents (passports, green cards, etc.), cash, credit cards, and other important documents.”⁸⁸ Evacuees would be allowed “one small carry-on suitcase, maximum weight 15 kg (33 pounds). Also suggested is a change of clothes for two to three days, medications, toiletries, water, and snacks.”⁸⁹

On 27 July, the American embassy was granted ‘ordered departure’ status due to ongoing security concerns. The family members of embassy staff and non-emergency employees were told to leave Lebanon, but essential personnel remained on duty to perform vital political, humanitarian and consular tasks.

Some American lawmakers and relatives of Americans in Lebanon complained that the US government was slow in providing assistance to Americans stranded in Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War. However, about a week into the conflict, Brigadier General Michael Barbero, deputy director for regional operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff noted that “the military had few assets off the coast of Lebanon when the crisis erupted, and the Marines aboard the *Nashville* had to be withdrawn from an exercise in Jordan. We started moving assets as soon as we heard that a need had been established.... The violence presents its own set of difficulties. Military planners are trying to balance speed, safety, and security, and there is little room for error. This is a war zone, and we have to get it right the first time. We’re not going to rush to failure. It’s a balance, and we think we’re achieving the right balance.”⁹⁰

Another controversy erupted in the US when the government considered implementing a 1956 law that required persons benefiting from an assisted departure reimburse the State Department. In an attempt to defuse the situation, Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, said: “No U.S. citizen will not be boarded because they left their checkbook or credit card at home. We need to get people out of harm’s way first, and that’s what we’re going to do.”⁹¹ Ultimately, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice settled the question by declaring that the payment requirement would be waived.⁹²

American embassies in Beirut, Nicosia and Ankara cooperated with several US military units to help American citizens leave Lebanon via Cyprus and Turkey on government-chartered ships.⁹³ In Cyprus, the American government rented the state’s fair grounds and two exhibition halls to

put up its nationals⁹⁴ until they flew home on chartered aircraft. Between 16 July and 2 August, approximately 15,000 Americans departed from Lebanon.⁹⁵

Nabil Ali Maatouk, 32, said goodbye to his wife, Nahed, and sons, Ali, 10, Mohammed, 8, and Hassan, 6, as they embarked on the ship heading to Cyprus and then home to Boston. “Maatouk, whose family has deep business ties in Lebanon, stayed behind in Beirut because he could not yet evacuate his mother. His mother’s U.S. passport had expired, he said, and he had to stay with her until she got a new one so that she too could leave for the United States.” Maatouk’s children were very afraid: “They asked, ‘Are we dying or what?’” Nahed explained, “They don’t know anything about war. They live in America, where it is safe.”⁹⁶

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94. "Cyprus Cannot Host Tens of Thousands of Evacuees," *Cyprus Mail*, 22 July 2006.
95. "Lebanon Situation Update," Fact Sheet (Revised), Office of the Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, 2 August 2006; see [<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/69225.htm>]. Kara Murphy, "The Lebanese Crisis and Its Impact on Immigrants and Refugees," Migration Policy Institute, 1 September 2006; see [<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=419>].
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CHAPTER V

SAFE HAVENS

5.1 Designation of Safe Havens

Some of the countries closest to Lebanon became ‘safe havens,’ either through official agreements made by foreign governments or unofficial action by Lebanese refugees. Safe havens are destinations for noncombatants who leave an area independently or by assisted departure during a domestic or other credible emergency.¹ These ‘evacuees’ receive all assistance in these safe havens until they can be repatriated, whether to the country that they left or to their own home country. During the 2006 Summer War, Syria, Cyprus, Turkey and Jordan served as safe havens for Lebanese refugees and foreign nationals, including foreign laborers. All four of these states received deep expressions of gratitude from the governments of Lebanon and of evacuating countries.

5.2 The Role of Cyprus

Early in the Summer 2006 War, the island of Cyprus, which is about 200 kilometers west of Lebanon by sea, became a safe haven for evacuees fleeing the conflict and a base of operations for foreign governments. The latter decision was made public following an announcement by the Cypriot foreign ministry indicating that Cyprus was prepared to support a joint EU-coordinated mass evacuation of Europeans stranded in Lebanon and to permit its seaports to be used for that purpose.² The ports received military and other vessels, including cruise ships, that were employed or chartered to evacuate foreign and dual-nationality citizens who were fleeing the violence in Lebanon. Although the Cypriot government and people were very hospitable and cooperative, they were soon overwhelmed by the tens of thousands of evacuees who arrived on their shores unexpectedly, needing food, shelter, medical attention and other assistance.

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Children Lose Their Innocence

A girl tugs at the skirt of Lauren O’Hara, a journalist with the *Cyprus Mail* and “throws her Barbie doll on the floor. ‘Dead!’ she shouts, then skips off to chase her brother.... I look with raised eyebrows towards her mother. ‘Yes, she saw dead bodies, we all did.’”

Source: Lauren O’Hara, “It All Boils Down to One, Small Document,” *Cyprus Mail*, 22 July 2006.

The Cypriot government “volunteered 25 schools in the Larnaca and Limassol districts to temporarily shelter those arriving from Lebanon.”³ The telecommunications company, CyTA, “offered 1,000 £3 phone cards to be given to foreign citizens and refugees arriving in Cyprus” so that they could contact their families and assure them of their safety.⁴

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Stranded in Cyprus without Resources

Doros Polycarpou, president of KISA, “said he knew of a case of a Lebanese man who’d left his home town in southern Lebanon two weeks before the bombing started. He could feel the tension and wanted to get out before anything happened. Now he can’t go home because his home has been destroyed and there’s nothing left for him to go back to. He didn’t know where to turn to when he got here and when his money ran out ended up sleeping in the park for several days until another Arab man took him in and suggested he appeal to the social welfare services. We’ve been waiting for two days now for them to respond to his welfare application. We’re hoping he’ll get anything. Even just a little money so that he can afford to buy something to eat.”

Source: Alexia Saoulli, “Woman Deported Back to Lebanon,” *Cyprus Mail*, 2 August 2006.

Evacuees arriving in Cyprus were received by Cypriot government officials and employees, as well as representatives of their own governments. According to Garth Hunt, Australia’s high commissioner in Cyprus, “Officials from various Governmental and non-Governmental agencies were at the waterfront to help us when we landed. Also organizations like the Cyprus Tourism Organization gave us extremely valuable help in finding emergency accommodation for the evacuees in a very short period of time, and this when Cyprus is in its peak tourism season. And finally Cyprus took a very positive and flexible approach in the procedures and in processing the evacuees.”⁵

The Cypriot government made it clear to those governments wishing to use its territory as a base of operations that all evacuees were the exclusive responsibility of their respective governments and that those governments had the obligation to ensure that their citizens and all those who had been brought into the country under their responsibility were transported out of Cyprus. This condition applied to all governments without exception.⁶ Cyprus was willing to be a transit center, but did not wish to be put in the position of offering temporary protected status to large numbers of evacuees.⁷

Cyprus processed tens of thousands of foreign nationals from the onset of the evacuation operations to 26 July. On that date, Omiros Mavrommatis, who was coordinating the evacuation program for the Cypriot foreign ministry, said that “Cyprus had handled around 40,000 evacuees and that around 30,000 had left the island. Mavrommatis said that it was difficult to determine the exact number that had left as many had paid for their own air tickets off the island on any available flight to their destination.... ‘We are now handling around one or two thousand a day compared to 10,000 a day last week....’”⁸

Almost a week earlier, on 20 July, the Cypriot government had held an inter-ministerial meeting to address concerns about the strain on resources exerted by the growing number of refugees and evacuees inundating Cyprus. After the meeting, “the Cyprus Government requested that other EU countries open their borders to evacuees from Lebanon, as well as sending aircraft to Cyprus so that their nationals can immediately depart upon arrival.”⁹ Finland was the first country to re-

spond “positively to the request, announcing that it ... [would] contribute 200,000 euros for a transport operation.”¹⁰

The speedy departure of foreign nationals concerned the Cypriot authorities for more than one reason. As one journalist observed, “under normal conditions, the Larnaca airport can admit 16-18 parked aircraft in the airport, but in recent days [due to the evacuation efforts] there have been an average of 30 planes stationed at the airport at any one time.”¹¹

5.3 The Role of Syria

The Israeli destruction of runways at Beirut airport on the second day of the war meant that the road to Syria was initially the only real option open to Lebanese citizens, foreign vacationers and guest laborers wishing to flee the country quickly. However, as Israeli warplanes stepped up their attacks to target almost every road and bridge in Lebanon, reaching and crossing the frontier with Syria became increasingly perilous. When bombs struck the eastern Masnaa border checkpoint on the Damascus road, refugees began clogging the northern Abboudieh checkpoint on the coastal road (via Tripoli), as well as using unofficial and unmonitored secondary roads and tracks to cross into Syria.

Syrian border officials struggled to cope with the heavy influx of Lebanese and foreign nationals. According to a press report: “Twenty times the normal traffic congested one entry point leading from Lebanon to Syria, officials said—hundreds of cars backlogged, thousands of people trying to cross through, many with no idea where they will go next. Makeshift processing centers have been set up to cope with crowds. Refugees are asked to fill out registration cards, and officials then are helping them to find shelter. Some Syrian families are hosting Lebanese refugees to demonstrate solidarity. The processing centers have become a place where people search for news of missing relatives. Outside, scraps of paper with the names and local phone numbers of refugees searching for family members are pasted to walls.”¹²

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Left Without Personal Papers

A woman who took refuge in Syria said, “I grabbed my baby and my little boy, ran to the house of my mother and we left... We took a taxi across Lebanon and stopped over a few times before arriving here. I did not even bring my documents with me, no money, nothing.”

Source: Annette Rehl, “Syrian Government Takes Over Summer Youth Camps to Shelter Lebanese,” UNCHR, 3 August 2006; see [<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/news/opendoc.htm?tbl=NEWS&id=44d21b4b2>].

The crossings were facilitated when the Syrian authorities waived the “normally lengthy visa process for all citizens, including US nationals ... taking flight across the border.”¹³ The majority of those who returned to their countries through Syria were GCC nationals vacationing in Lebanon for the summer; some of them had their own cars and were able to drive directly home via Jordan, others waited for one of the extra flights scheduled by airlines in response to the crisis. However, many other foreign nationals also chose this route, including Americans, Greeks, Chinese, Poles, Filipinos, Germans, Mexicans, Belgians, Algerians, Egyptians, Tunisians, Ethiopians, Slovaks, Russians, Danes, Czechs, Australians and Nigerians.¹⁴

The July issue of *Syria Today* reported Syrian government authorities as saying that “more than 100,000 people—around a quarter of them Lebanese—have escaped overland into Syria since Israel began pounding Lebanese targets.”¹⁵ Ultimately, according to the UNHCR, “the number of Lebanese sheltered in Syria peaked at an estimated 180,000.”¹⁶

The UNHCR noted the sympathetic response of the Syrian public to the influx of Lebanese and the donations by the inhabitants of Damascus and other Syrian cities of money, clothes, toiletries and food to the camps housing the refugees.¹⁷ Moreover, “the response of Syrian citizens in the villages has been the same as in the relatively wealthy capital: they have been overwhelmingly generous in opening their homes, mosques, convents, community centres and public schools to the thousands of Lebanese refugees.”¹⁸

The manager of the Boor Said School, which is operated by Al-Ghaeb, a non-governmental organization, told the UNHCR that everything given to refugees at the camp established there had been provided by “private donors, organisations, shops and restaurants” and that Lebanese arriving at the school had been “receiving three meals a day, provided by the best restaurants in town.”¹⁹ Khaled Erksoussi, vice-president of the Damascus branch of the Red Crescent, commented on the spontaneity of Syrians in volunteering to help: “All the sponsors came to us first, we didn’t have to approach them.” He added that the Red Crescent had a disaster response unit that could “build a 5,000-capacity camp in 48 hours” if the need arose.²⁰

The UNHCR said that most Lebanese arriving in Syria were women with children, all of them distressed, frightened, or traumatized. They were “given addresses of places to stay, including private homes, schools and other organized shelters”²¹ as they crossed the border from Lebanon. The UNHCR counted 39 refugee shelters in Damascus, 20 of which were public schools; however, the Syrian government later moved Lebanese refugees staying in schools to youth pioneer camps to avoid delays in the start of the academic year (mid-September).²²

A displaced Lebanese man at the Boor Said School camp, who wished to remain anonymous, told the UNHCR that he and his family had “left Zweah in southern Lebanon ten days ago. Israeli airplanes were striking our villages and we just had to leave. We walked and we walked for two days until we reached Sour.... Then we took a bus straight to Damascus’ Like the other 600 Lebanese crammed into the school, he’s wondering if his home has been destroyed and if he’ll ever return.”²³

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: My Breast Milk Has Dried Up

A woman who took refuge in Syria said that she and her family “fled from their home near the northern Lebanese city of Baalbek by taxi just three days after the conflict began. ‘We had no time to pack....’” She added that she “was so traumatised that she cannot produce milk to feed her youngest child.”

Source: Annette Rehr, “Syrian Government Takes Over Summer Youth Camps to Shelter Lebanese,” UNCHR, 3 August 2006; see [<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/news/opendoc.htm?tbl=NEWS&id=44d21b4b2>].

Fatima Taleb, from a village near Baalbeck, who was sheltered in the Zabadany camp, just northwest of Damascus, said, “For the moment it is good to be here, the children have space to play and the Syrians are so generous. They supply us with everything we need. But we ... [have

started] getting worried and bored. We sit here and cannot do anything. We want to go back home as soon as possible.”²⁴

Lebanon’s tourist season was decimated by the Summer 2006 War, but Syria’s tourism season was badly affected as well, even though GCC, Western and some Lebanese nationals filled almost every hotel in major cities. Imad Mansour, the public relations manager at the Damascus Meridien, told *Syria Today*: “The real high season is ruined. No-one will come to the Middle East, especially Europeans, and airlines are having hundreds of cancellations from tourists who planned to come to Syria.”²⁵

In addition to helping Lebanese refugees and other foreign nationals during the crisis, Syria played another important role. As the Israeli government tightened its air and sea siege on Lebanon, medical, food and other supplies had to come into the country via the Syrian land route.

On 22 August, UNHCR spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis announced in Geneva that more than 146,000 Lebanese had officially returned home from Syria and that additional unknown thousands had taken unofficial routes.²⁶

5.4 The Role of Turkey

At the start of the war on Lebanon, the Turkish government quickly established a 24-hour emergency desk to handle inquiries before embarking on a number of other actions to assist affected individuals.²⁷ As it became increasingly apparent that Cyprus was struggling under the burden of evacuations from Lebanon, Turkey was asked to provide relief by allowing some countries, including those in nearby Eastern Europe, to route their nationals from Lebanon to the port of Mersin, on the country’s southern Mediterranean coast. Some of these evacuees were subsequently flown out of Adana’s Incirlik Airbase, located near Mersin, like the approximately 1,000 American citizens who arrived at the port on the *USS Trenton* on 23 July.²⁸ Others boarded commercial flights from Adana’s civilian airport. The Turkish government also gave orders that restaurants and public transportation meet the needs of refugees at Ankara’s expense.

By 26 July, Turkish authorities were reporting that a total of 8,742 persons had entered Turkey via Mersin. These included Lebanese nationals in addition to citizens of Canada, Australia, France, Sweden, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Moldova, the US and numerous other countries.²⁹

Turkey cooperated with the Canadian government in the evacuation of its citizens despite differences between the two countries owing to the latter’s “decision to recognize the Armenian genocide claims and Ottawa’s moral support for Israel in the current Lebanese fighting, a view strongly opposed by Ankara.”³⁰ However, according to the Turkish press; these differences did not prevent the Turkish authorities and even Turkish citizens from rushing “to help [with] the evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon and to provide them with all kinds of assistance before they left for their homeland.”³¹ The *Montreal Gazette* was quoted as noting that, rather than putting obstacles in the way of Canadian evacuees, the “port of Mersin and the nearby airport in Adana were instead opened wide for Canadians coming off chartered ships.”³²

Turkey also needed to evacuate its own citizens from Lebanon. On 23 July, Turkey began “the largest evacuation operation of its history, during which some 1,200 Turkish citizens.... [were] evacuated from Lebanon and brought to ... Mersin by the Iskenderun ferry, which belongs to the Turkish Naval Forces.”³³ According to *Dar Al-Hayat*, Lebanese-Turkish dual citizens gathered in a parking lot in downtown Beirut in preparation for their sea voyage home.³⁴

As of 1 August, a total of 12,326 foreigners had been evacuated from Lebanon through Turkey.³⁵ Turkey evacuated 1,200 of its own citizens and their dependents by sea to Mersin and another 800 by land via Syria. The Turkish embassy in Beirut issued 2500 visas during the 33 days of war: the majority of them went to Lebanese citizens.

5.5 The Role of Jordan

Jordan was also inundated by the flood of refugees and vacationers fleeing the Summer 2006 War in Lebanon. Not long after the conflict began, King Abdullah of Jordan ordered the country’s Public Security Department (PSD) to “facilitate the entry to Jordan of Lebanese and foreigners fleeing the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.”³⁶

On 3 August, the *Jordan Times* reported that the Jordanian prime minister, Marouf Bakhit, had said that some “15,000 Lebanese citizens and 1,000 vehicles” had entered the country since the start of the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. The article did not specify the number of other foreign nationals who had arrived in Jordan either independently or in buses chartered by embassies before leaving Amman for their homelands. Prime Minister Bakhit emphasized Jordan’s “support” for Lebanon and “referred to a directive by His Majesty King Abdullah to supply Lebanon with gasoline from Jordan’s strategic reserve in addition to the air bridge launched between Amman and Beirut to channel assistance. He said Jordan’s ‘reasonableness and moderate policies had put the country in a position to offer real help to Lebanon away from slogans and outbidding.’”³⁷

Notes

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2. “Govt. Steps Up Lebanon Evacuation Plans,” *ABC News Online*....
3. Constantine Markides, “Our Primary Goal is Getting People Home,” *Cyprus Mail*, 22 July 2006.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Constantine Markides, “Australia Thanks Cyprus for Evacuation Help,” *Cyprus Mail*, 6 August 2006.
6. Alexia Saoulli, “New Deportation Sparks Uproar,” *Cyprus Mail*, 3 August 2006.
7. Alexia Saoulli, “Woman Deported Back to Lebanon,” *Cyprus Mail*, 2 August 2006.
8. Jean Christou, “EU: Be Prepared for Worse to Come,” *Cyprus Mail*, 26 July 2006.
9. Markides, “Our Primary Goal is Getting People Home.”
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13. Obaida Hamad and Dalia Haidar, "Friends in Need," *Syria Today*, July 2006; see [<http://www.syria-today.com/pkg05/index.php?page=search&ex=2&dir=search&lang=1&StartSearch=1&Keywords=refugees>].
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19. "UNHCR Distributed Relief Aid to Needy Displaced Lebanese in Syria," UNCHR, 26 July 2006; see [<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/news/opendoc.htm?tbl=NEWS&id=44c7b9784>].
20. Hamad and Haidar, "Friends in Need."
21. Rehl, "Syrian Government Takes Over Summer Youth Camps."
22. *Ibid.*
23. "UNHCR Distributed Relief Aid to Needy Displaced Lebanese."
24. Rehl, "Syrian Government Takes Over Summer Youth Camps."
25. Hamad and Haidar, "Friends in Need."
26. "Lebanon: Returnee Situation," UNHCR, 22 August 2006; see [<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/teis/vtx/lebanon-crisis?page=briefing&id=44eae2d310>].
27. "Turkey's Role in Evacuations from Lebanon to Turkey, Other Humanitarian Efforts," *Diplomacy Monitor*, 3 August 2006; see [<http://diplomacymonitor.com/stu/dm.nsf/dn/dnED744C95DED3A9A7852571C00013A860>].
28. "Turkey Runs Largest-Ever Evacuation Operation," *The New Anatolian*, 25 July 2006; see [<http://www.thenewanatolian.com/print-11544.html>].
29. "Turkey Becomes Main Evacuation Route," *The New Anatolian*, 27 July 2006; see [<http://www.thenewanatolian.com/tna-11696.html>].
30. Turkey Brushes Aside Differences with Canada in Evacuation Effort," *The New Anatolian*, 28 July 2006; see [<http://www.thenewanatolian.com/tna-11783.html>].
31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*
33. "Turkey Runs Largest-Ever Evacuation Operation."
34. "The Second World War" [Arabic], *Dar Al-Hayat*, 6 July 2006.
35. "Turkey's Role in Evacuations from Lebanon to Turkey."
36. "King Issues Orders to Facilitate Entry of Foreigners Fleeing Lebanon," *Jordan Times*, 23 July 2006; see [<http://www.jordanembassyus.org/07232006001.htm>].
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CHAPTER VI

EVACUATION OPERATIONS RAISED IMMIGRATION ISSUES

6.1 Introduction

Although foreign governments and nationals sympathized with the people of Lebanon and Lebanese dual citizens caught up in the Summer 2006 War, the massive evacuation operations at that time raised many important issues directly related to the already complex and controversial question of immigrants' rights.

Controversy began when the general public in some countries, Australia and Canada, for example, learned the stunning truth about the number of their own nationals trapped in Lebanon when the war broke out: 20,000 Australians and 50,000 Canadians. Most of them were 'hyphenated' Lebanese who were in the country temporarily to visit friends and relatives; some had economic ties to the country in addition to social and religious ones.

The links that bind emigrants to their countries of origin are not exclusive to Lebanese; they are typical of migrant communities all over the world and are important to both host countries and home countries for a variety of social, cultural, economic and developmental reasons.

Yet, the evacuation or assisted departure from Lebanon of dual citizens in particular led to considerable and sometimes acrimonious debate in many parts of the world during and after the event. While this preliminary report is not the place for an exhaustive discussion of the topics that arose in the context of that debate, we can offer an overview of the following five, which seem to us to be the most urgent and important:

- ▲ Loyalty of dual citizens.
- ▲ Taxing dual citizens who reside in their countries of origin.
- ▲ Abolishing dual citizenship.
- ▲ Paying for evacuation.
- ▲ Temporary Protected Status.

It is worth while mentioning that these ongoing and simmering debates are brought to the surface once a crisis occurs. Hence, anti immigration advocacy groups find it opportune to reassert their views.

Again, this overview is meant to illustrate what has transpired; opinions expressed in some of the quotations below are not endorsed by LERC.

6.2 Loyalty of Dual Citizens Living in Their Country of Origin

The Summer 2006 War made more Canadians realize that an unexpectedly high number of their fellow citizens enjoy dual nationality and that some of these dual nationals are immigrants who actually live in their country of origin, rather than Canada, their host country. This realization caused some to wonder how 'Canadian' these dual nationals really were and which national allegiance would take precedence in case of a conflict. Where do the loyalties of such citizens really lie? As Immigration Watch Canada put it: "What are the consequences for this country [Canada] of the divided loyalty of large groups of Canadians who call themselves dual citizens?" Are these people "Canadians only in emergencies such as health-care problems and crisis evacuation? In other words, is dual citizenship another in a long list of immigration abuses?"¹

Arthur Weinreb, the associate editor of the *Canada Free Press.com*, offered this background to the debate: "The issue was set off by Conservative MP Garth Turner, who questioned whether the taxpayers of Canada should be paying to bring to Canada those who, although citizens of this country, are essentially permanent and full-time residents of Lebanon and not visiting tourists who just happened to get caught up in the current Middle East conflict."²

While Weinreb described these dual citizens as "citizens of convenience,"³ he also indicated that Canadians might just have to accept the ambiguity of dual citizenship: "Those that argue that a citizen is a citizen have a valid point. If Canada means anything, then Canadian citizenship has to have some meaning as well and it would be dangerous to have different classes of citizenship.... [A]ny way you look at it, we cannot have different classes of Canadian citizenship."⁴

6.3 Taxing Dual Citizens Living in Their Country of Origin

Another issue that came up for discussion in Canada was the contribution of dual citizens to the national economy as workers, consumers, and, especially, taxpayers. One source described the difference between Canadian immigrants living in Canada and those living in their home countries in the following manner: "Most long-term Canadians have supported the Canadian economy by working and living here for most of their lives, whereas others who have come and left have most likely done so only temporarily, but seem to expect their share and anything else they can get from Canada's social infrastructure."⁵

One Canadian Member of Parliament (MP), Yasmin Ratansi, raised the issue of taxing Canadian dual citizens living abroad: "We should do our tax treaties with other countries and see if we can

ensure that the tax is collected so that Canadians holding dual citizenship pay tax.”⁶ John Williamson, federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, agreed: “If you don’t want to pay taxes to the government of Canada, you give up your citizenship.”⁷

6.4 Abolishing Dual Citizenship

Weinreb suggested that one way to solve the problems of loyalty, taxation and use of Canadian social services, “is to abolish the notion of dual citizenship. Anyone who becomes a Canadian citizen must relinquish any other citizenship that they have. Conversely, any Canadian citizen who becomes a citizen of another country would cease to be a Canadian citizen. This would effectively prevent Canadians from permanently residing in other countries, contributing nothing to the Canadian economy, but being able to demand Canadian services when it is convenient to do so.”⁸

Many Lebanese dual citizens holding Australian, Canadian and American nationality criticized the governments of their host countries for a sluggish response to the crisis in Lebanon and for failing to evacuate nationals with sufficient speed. While his government was receiving this condemnation, noted Piers Akerman, an Australian blogger, a “stressed and overworked team at the hard-pressed Australian Embassy in Beirut [was] pulling out all stops to arrange evacuation aboard a ferry chartered at extortionate cost to all Australian taxpayers. It is absolutely unreasonable in such circumstances to expect the Government to be able to organize a sea-lift.”⁹ In his view, Lebanese-Australians forgot that Australia is a world away from Lebanon “just as their obligations to this nation seem to have slipped their attention.”¹⁰ He added: “While it may be convenient for these gentlemen to keep a foot in both nations, how inconvenient is it for Australians to foot the bill for them to enjoy this privilege?”¹¹

The executive director of the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations, Mazen Chouaib, who hails from Lebanon, noted that “[i]t might be worth debating Canada’s responsibilities abroad,” but indicated that he feared that such a discussion at the present time might “lead to a reclassification of Canadian citizenship, creating different classes of citizens in Canada.”¹²

6.5 Paying for Evacuation

Perhaps the single issue that raised the most controversy was the decision by many governments to pay the full cost of evacuating of nationals from Lebanon. Citizens generally arrange and pay for their own departures in response to natural or man-made disasters. In the case of the Summer 2006 War, however, the conflict broke out so suddenly and escalated so quickly that government-assisted departure became the only way to ensure that foreign nationals escaped to safety, particularly owing to the air and sea blockade and the danger and difficulty of traveling by road. Thus, while possessing the right to bill nationals for evacuation, especially after repatriation, when all evacuees presumably have access to funds, Canada, Australia and the United States all chose to waive evacuation fees early in the war.

Once the total cost of these assisted departures began to be calculated, however, the decision to charge the taxpayer for the evacuation of dual citizens residing outside of the country and often paying no taxes themselves generated a considerable outcry in Canada. Conservative MP Garth Turner fired the opening salvo by asserting that Canadian taxpayers had the right to be angry at footing the bill for the evacuation. He argued that the rules of citizenship needed to be “re-vamped,” possibly by having citizenship expire after a certain period if a Canadian citizen chose to reside elsewhere.¹³

While the war in Lebanon was still escalating, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Canada “would spare no expense to protect and to secure the safety of any Canadians who wanted to come to Canada.”¹⁴ However, he soon followed this statement with another saying that “Canada will re-examine the practice of paying to rescue its citizens who have made their lives in other countries.”¹⁵

Liberal MP Dan McTeague noted that Canada had helped to rescue Canadians stranded in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, but that no debate had ensued at that time. Why, he asked, was the rescue of Canadians in Lebanon an issue, but not the rescue of Canadians in the United States? McTeague asserted: “There is no such thing as degrees of citizenship or classes of citizenship.”¹⁶

Support for his view was echoed by Bill Siksay, the New Democratic Party citizenship and immigration critic, who noted that “there is no distinction in Canadian citizenship for people who are resident in Canada and those who live elsewhere.”¹⁷ He added, “When there is trouble around the world, I think the Canadian government should do all in its power to assist Canadian citizens. And if that means helping people who are Canadian citizens who haven’t been in Canada for a while, then I still think we absolutely have to help those people.”¹⁸

According to Immigration Watch Canada, Canadians are curious to know why so many immigrants come to Canada and then return to their home countries once they have obtained citizenship. Some wonder if the real reason that they seek citizenship, but reside only temporarily in the country, is to obtain the social benefits provided by the federal and provincial governments. The Summer 2006 War gave rise to such questions as: “Is it legitimate for them [Lebanese and other dual citizens] to expect the Canadian Government to come running immediately to their aid if they hardly ever set foot in Canada or make negligible contributions to Canada’s social infrastructure?”¹⁹

The debate begun by Garth Turner may not subside soon as other Canadian lawmakers continue to take a stand on these sensitive issues, particularly the notion of ‘second class citizenship.’ A Liberal MP, Omar Alghabra, was so deeply troubled by Turner’s comments that he issued a statement saying that Turner was “effectively questioning the authenticity and loyalty of Canadians who reside in Lebanon and is advocating that they be treated as second-class citizens.”²⁰ Alghabra asked that Turner withdraw his comments for being offensive to “dozens of parliamentarians and in fact millions of Canadians who hold dual citizenship either by choice or by birth. It is unfortunate that Mr. Turner chose to voice his unsupportive opinions at a time when tens of thousands of Canadians are desperate and in grave danger.”²¹

Another MP, Borys Wrzesnewskyj, agreed that “Turner should apologize for adding to the anguish of the Lebanese-Canadian community and Lebanese-Canadians in Lebanon by inferring they are any less Canadian....” He observed that any effort to classify citizenship “is an incredibly slippery slope to step onto, and thankfully our Charter of Rights and Freedoms treats every Canadian equally whether they are Canadian by birth or by choice. There can’t be different classes of citizenship.”²²

Lebanese-Canadians are not the only or even the largest group of dual Canadian citizens living in their country of origin: Hong Kong is home to approximately 180,000 people with Canadian citizenship.²³ This may help explain why the evacuation of Lebanese-Canadian dual citizens resonated so strongly in the Far East. The online *Asia Pacific Bulletin* addressed this issue on 26 July, saying: “Given their numbers and the variety of their living circumstances overseas, the complex problems posed by the Canadian Diaspora are daunting—one reason that Canada has never developed specific policies for this community. The Government of Canada bears a responsibility for the safety and well-being of its citizens. If an earthquake and tsunami occurred in the South China Sea, seriously affecting Hong Kong, could the more than 200,000 Canadians caught in the disaster receive Government help? If a war erupted across the Taiwan Strait, would the Canadian Government be able to evacuate Canadians who wished to leave the war zone?”²⁴

The *Bulletin* suggested that “Canada needs to develop a Diaspora strategy to better prepare for the reality that Canadians have become more internationally mobile as globalization and modern transportation and communications systems change traditional working and living patterns.”²⁵

The *Bulletin* also called on the Canadian government to consider the contributions of dual citizens to Canada: “The issue goes beyond immigration questions and calls for a broad Government approach covering aspects from immigration and citizenship, human resources and the labour market to international trade, national security and defence. It also calls for recognition of the benefits that the Canadian Diaspora can offer the country. Overseas Canadians can be a key element of international business strategies and public diplomacy, such as providing contacts abroad and being unofficial ambassadors for the country.”²⁶

6.6 Temporary Protected Status for Lebanese Stranded Outside of Lebanon

Lebanese residents, expatriates, visitors and immigrants actually present in Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War were not the only Lebanese affected by it. Many others were out of the country for reasons ranging from family visits to business meetings to medical treatment. Some of them were in a quandary because their visas were about to expire, yet, they could not go home.

Simply doing nothing was not an option. If their status in their host countries became illegal, they would face deportation and future entry restrictions. They were obliged, therefore, to seek legal remedies with government officials in those countries.

In the United States, two American senators, Richard Durbin (Democrat) and John E. Sununu (Republican and of Lebanese descent) decided to address the dilemma of Lebanese whose

American visas were about to expire by introducing a “bipartisan bill (see Appendix 6) to provide 12-month temporary protected status for thousands of Lebanese citizens visiting the US on temporary visas.”²⁷

Temporary protected status or TPS “does not lead to permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship. When the TPS designation of a country is terminated, beneficiaries revert to the same immigration status they maintained before they were granted TPS.”²⁸ However, while they have TPS, foreigners in the US are able to work for the length of time indicated on the employment authorization document that they receive.

THE HUMAN FACE OF WAR: Lebanese Family Visiting the US Stranded

The office of Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts “cited the case of a Medfield family whose relatives are visiting from Lebanon. Georgette Akrouche’s mother and 13-year-old sister traveled from the Jezzine region of Lebanon to visit her at her Medfield home, expecting to stay for two months. ‘The day that they got here, the next morning everything was messed up,’ Akrouche said in an interview. With their visas expiring at the end of September, Akrouche’s relatives will have to return to Lebanon.”

Source: Michael Grynbaum, “Bill Seeks Protected Status for Lebanese in US,” *The Boston Globe*, 2 August 2006.

In order to “obtain TPS, eligible aliens report to [the] BCIS [Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services], pay a processing fee, and receive registration documents and a work authorization. The major requirements for aliens seeking TPS are proof of eligibility, e.g., a passport issued by the designated country, continuous physical presence in the United States since the date [the] TPS went into effect, timely registration, and being otherwise admissible as an immigrant. The regulation specifies grounds of inadmissibility that cannot be waived, including those relating to criminal convictions and the persecution of others.”²⁹

The American Congress occasionally enacts a TPS statute for the citizens of countries enduring “civil unrest, violence, or natural disasters” owing to “concerns ... [about] the safety of nationals from these troubled places who are in the United States.” At such times, “aliens or persons who are not citizens or nationals of the United States” may receive “a temporary relief from removal” under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). These aliens are mostly “immigrants, refugees and asylees (all admitted for, or adjusted to, legal permanent residence), and non immigrants (admitted for temporary reasons, e.g., students, tourists, business travelers).”³⁰

The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee with other American civil and human rights organizations wrote to Congress to support TPS for the citizens of Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.³¹

The Summer 2006 War was not the first time that TPS has been granted to Lebanese citizens. In 1991, Congress granted TPS in the United States to foreign nationals from several countries, including Lebanon, lasting from March 1991 to March 1993. Previous to 1991 and since 1976, nationals of Lebanon were “handled sympathetically as a group, getting EVD [Extended Voluntary Departure] on a case-by-case basis.”³²

It should be stated here that on July 31, 2006, the Durbin, Sununu et al. (S 3765 bill) was blocked due to insufficient time to consider the proposed bill. Chances are that even if the bill is

brought to the floor again after the upcoming November elections, it may not pass because the urgency for it has decreased with the end hostilities in Lebanon.

Notes

1. "Lebanon: The Immigration Connection," Immigration Watch Canada, 20 July 2006; see [http://www.immigrationwatchcanada.org/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=615].
2. Arthur Weinreb, "Canadian Evacuation of Lebanon: Time to End Dual Citizenship," *CanadaFreePress.com*, 21 July 2006; see [<http://www.canadafreepress.com/2006/weinreb072106.htm>].
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. "Lebanon: The Immigration Connection," *Immigration Watch Canada*, 20 July 2006; see [http://www.immigrationwatchcanada.org/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=615].
6. "Lebanon Evacuation Cost \$85-Million: Report," *The Globe and Mail*, 9 September 2006; see [<http://ww.the.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.200609>].
7. Ibid.
8. Weinreb, "Canadian Evacuation of Lebanon."
9. Piers Akerman, "Warzone Whingers Suddenly Australian," 19 July 2006; see [http://blogs.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/piersakerman/index.php/dailytelegraph/comments/warzone_whingers_suddenly_australian/].
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Weinreb, "Canadian Evacuation of Lebanon."
13. "Lebanon Evacuation Cost \$85-Million: Report."
14. "Ottawa to Review Help for Non-Resident Citizens," *The Globe and Mail*, 26 July 2006; see [<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060726.wxpassports26/BNSStory/National/home>].
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. "Lebanon: The Immigration Connection," Immigration Watch Canada, 20 July 2006; see [http://www.immigrationwatchcanada.org/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=615].
20. "M.Ps Alghabra and Wrzesnewskyj Denounce Remarks that Imply Second Class Citizenship," 20 July 2006; see [<http://www.arab2000.net/wnewsDetails.asp?id=36775&cid=25>].
21. Ibid.
22. "Ottawa to Review Help for Non-Resident Citizens."
23. "Lebanon: The Immigration Connection."
24. "Lebanon Evacuation Shows the Need for a Canadian Diaspora Strategy," 26 July 2003; see [www.asiapacificbusiness.ca/apbn/pdfs/bulletin269.pdf].
25. Ibid.

26. Ibid.
27. Michael Grynbaum, "A Bipartisan Bill Seeks Protected Status for Lebanese in US," *The Boston Globe*, 2 August 2006; see [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/08/02/bill_seeks_protected_status_for_leb].
28. "Durbin and Sununu Introduce Bill to Offer Protection for Lebanese People," Office of Senator John Sununu, 1 August 2006; see [<http://www.sununu.senate.gov/pressapp/record.cfm?id=260298&&year=2006&>].
29. "Temporary Protected Status: Current Immigration Policy and Issues," US Department of State, 4 November 2004, 3; see [<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/41113.pdf#search=%22temporary%20protected%20status%20and%20lebanese%22>].
30. Ibid., 1.
31. "Sign-On Request for Lebanon and Gaza Protected Status," Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee; see [<http://www.adc.org/index.php?id=2947>].
32. "Temporary Protected Status: Current Immigration Policy and Issues."

CHAPTER VII

RESULTS OF LERC'S QUESTIONNAIRE

7.1 Introduction

Data on the Lebanese (residents or migrants) who left Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War or immediately after the lifting of the Israeli air and sea blockades (specifically, between 12 July and 12 September) were collected through a self-administered questionnaire that was developed in English and then translated into French and Arabic. The questionnaire was composed of 27 specific questions, nine of which targeted women, and a final open-ended question that allowed respondents to express themselves more fully.

In order to track down potential respondents, LERC contacted individuals on its mailing list and asked them for their own recommendations—or those of family, friends and acquaintances—of Lebanese who met the following criteria:

- ▲ **Status:** Lebanese living abroad, that is, either expatriates with dual citizenship or Lebanese with permanent foreign residence status; foreign citizens of Lebanese descent; and recent permanent immigrants to Lebanon (for example, the spouses of Lebanese citizens).
- ▲ **Departure:** Those who left unassisted or were evacuated from Lebanon between 12 July and 12 September 2006 and either stayed abroad or left and returned.
- ▲ **Age:** Those aged over 15.
- ▲ **Gender:** Both men and women, although question 27 highlighted the situation of women.

LERC sent out hundreds of questionnaires to potential respondents fitting this profile and asked them to respond within three days. Sixty persons met the deadline, filling in the questionnaire personally and returning it to the Center. The vast majority of respondents filled in and returned the questionnaire electronically, but four filled it in by hand and sent it by mail (2) or by fax (2). The duration of the survey was 21 days, from 15 September to 5 October 2006.

Of the 60 questionnaires meeting the deadline, 12 were disregarded as incomplete. Late responses were also rejected when tabulating the results. Answers to the questions posed in the survey were keyed in the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and were aggregated, put in graphic format and then analyzed. The survey did not ask for any personal information

that could identify respondents, including religious, sectarian, or political affiliations. The results shown below are anonymous.

Although the size of the sample is small when compared to the total number of Lebanese expatriates who were evacuated or who left voluntarily during the Summer 2006 War, we feel that the responses give some sense of what these Lebanese experienced and of whether or not they are likely to return. Needless to say, the respondents to the survey did not constitute a true sample of the total number of persons who left with or without government assistance. Consequently, although the work that we have done is serious, it is not fully representative or exhaustive and the results are not conclusive.

The importance of this survey is that it was completed almost immediately after the respondents departed, while their experiences were still fresh in their minds. This reduced the likelihood of the distortion of data owing to forgetfulness, confusion about events, or the political coloring of memory in response to subsequent developments.

This questionnaire traces the history of respondents, beginning with their first migration, age, gender, family status and current occupation. It examines why they were in Lebanon in the summer of 2006, where they were residing when the war started, and when and why they decided to leave. It collects information on their immigration status (i.e., citizenship, residency, valid visas) and their assisted or independent departure. Respondents were also asked about their own physical and emotional health and the health of their families as a consequence of the war. We wanted to know whether their homes or businesses were damaged, how they felt as they were leaving, whether they will return to Lebanon permanently or as visitors and what the conditions are for their future return.

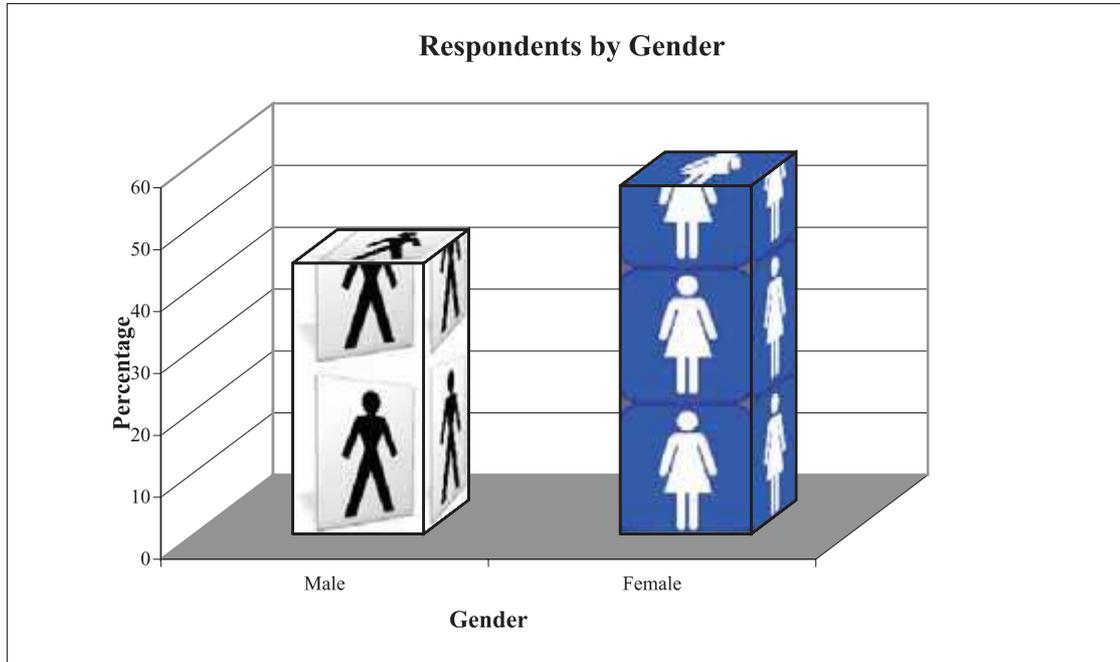
The section of the questionnaire specific to women included nine questions clustered around the following themes: marital status, difficulties encountered in leaving Lebanon and the psychological effects of the war.

Both males and females were asked to respond freely in the open-ended question that completed the survey and a few did so.

What follows are the results of the survey's most important questions, which are presented graphically and followed by commentary. In the section specifically concerning the experience of women, some of the results (for 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, 27.5, 27.6 and 27.9) are not illustrated in a graphic format or discussed because they were answered in the negative. Hence, none of the women surveyed, whether married or single, experienced difficulty in convincing husbands, fathers, or male heads of family to leave/evacuate. Similarly, none were denied assistance in evacuating, refused entry into a country after the evacuation, or sought a change in legal status after arriving at their destinations. Most importantly, none of the women gave a positive response to the question asking whether she had some gender-specific fear about returning to Lebanon. The sample of respondents is insufficient, of course, to draw any conclusions on the questions asked. The full text of the questionnaire appears in Appendix 7.

7.2 Demographic Profile

7.2.1 Gender



7.2.1

More women (56.3%) than men (43.8%) completed the questionnaire. This cannot be taken as indicative, however, of the actual percentages of women and men who left or were evacuated or of any greater interest on the part of women in answering the survey. Many factors may have been in play here, but determining them was not one of the objectives of the survey.

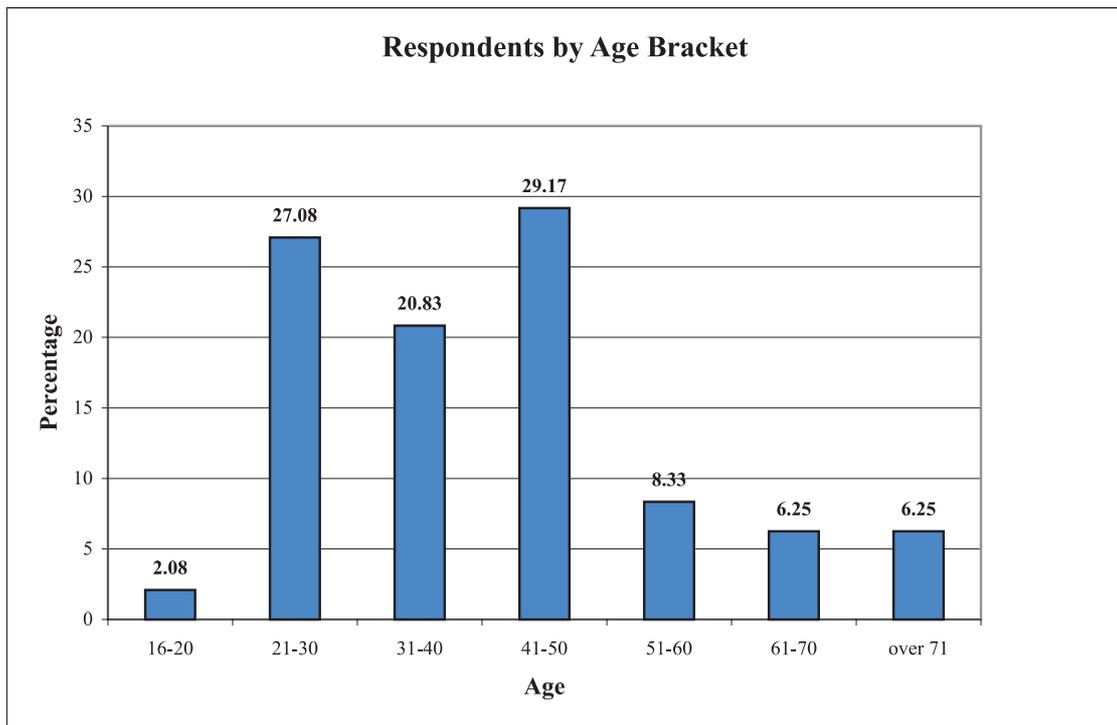
7.2.2 Age

A slight majority of respondents were between the ages of 41-50 (29.2%), while the next two largest groups were aged 21-30 (27.1%) and 31-40 (20.8%). In descending order, the rest of the respondents were aged 51-60 (8.3%), 61-70 (6.3%), over 70 (6.3%) and 16-20 (2.1%).

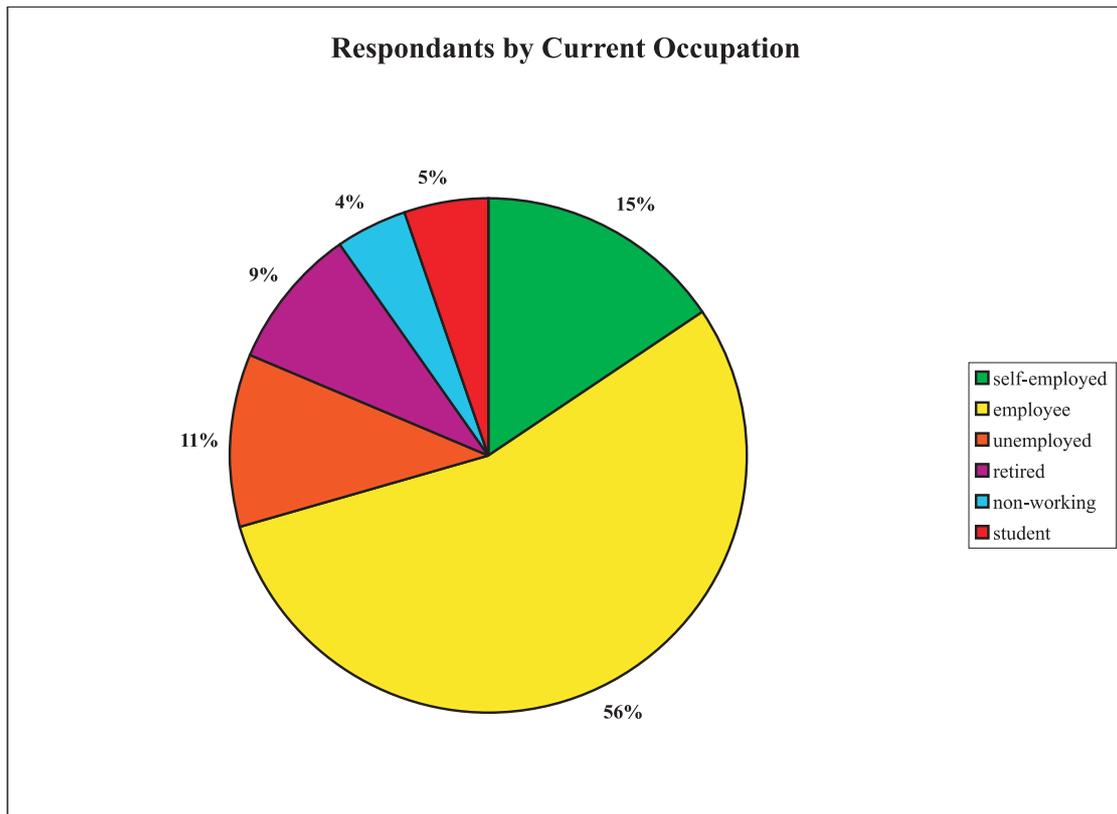
7.3 Socio-Economic Characteristics

7.3.1 Current Occupation

Of the total number of respondents, 56% were employees and another 15% were self-employed. The rest were either unemployed (11%), retired (9%), not working (4%) or still students (5%).



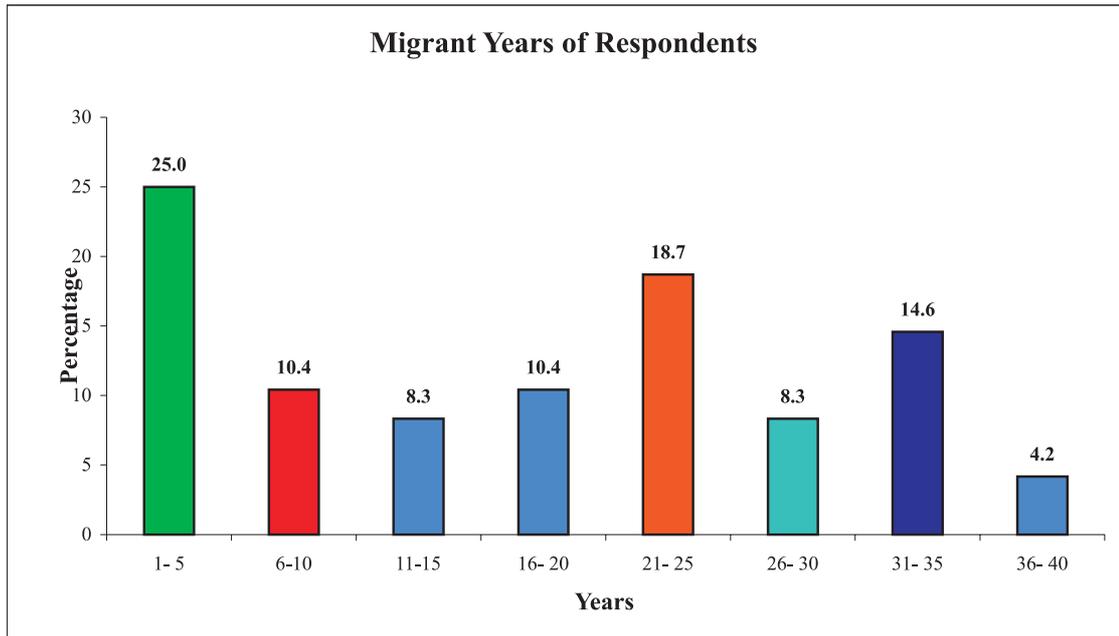
7.2.2



7.3.1

7.4 Years of Migration, Geographical Residency and Reasons for Migration

7.4.1 Years of Migration



7.4.1

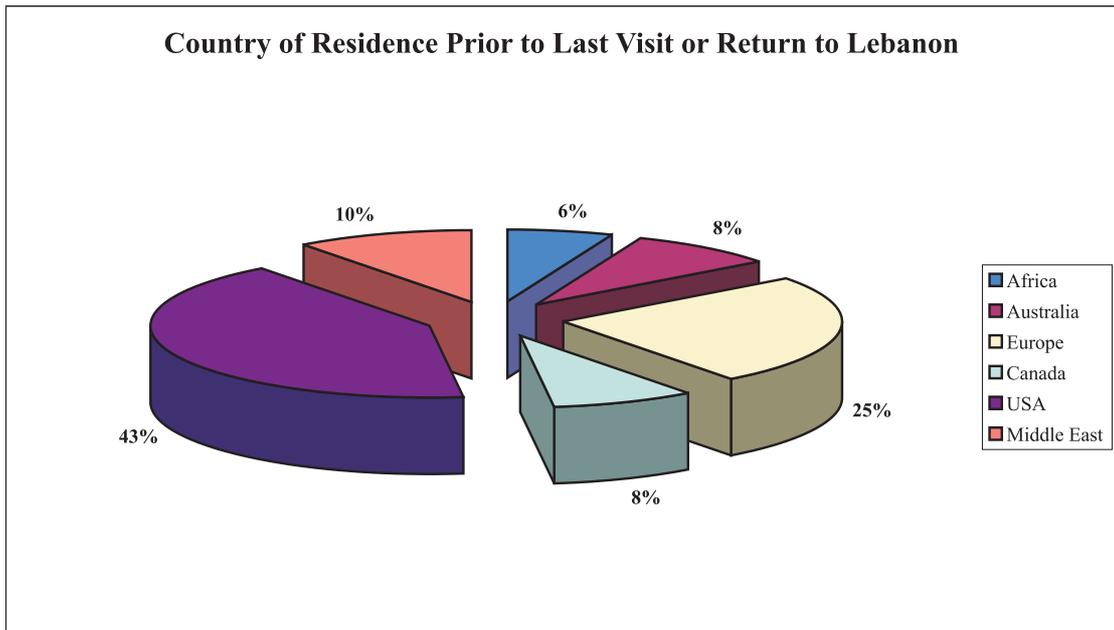
Most of those who participated in the survey originally left Lebanon either 1-5 years ago (26%) or 21-25 years ago (19%), in the last years of the civil war. The rest of the survey sample was fairly evenly distributed: 10% have been migrants for 6-10 years, 8% for 11-15 years, 10% for 16-20 years, 8% for 26-30 years and roughly double, 15%, for 31-35 years. Only 4% of respondents have been migrants for 36-40 years.

7.4.2 Residency Abroad by Region

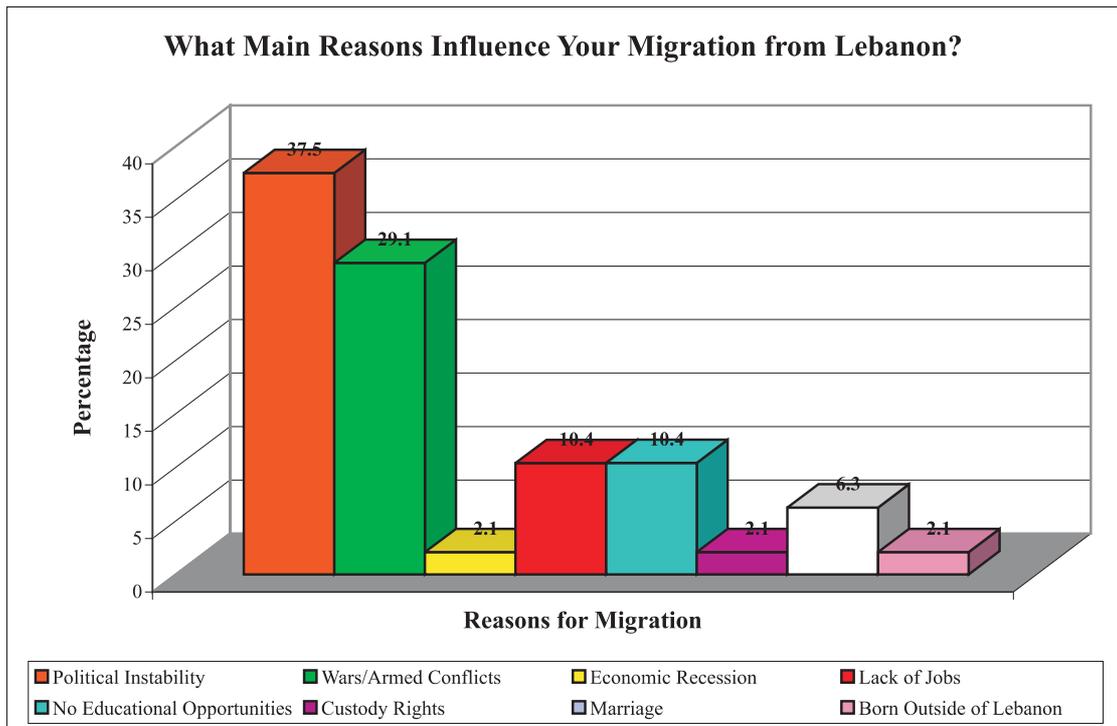
The largest number of respondents (43%) currently live in the United States, with Europe being the second most popular destination (25%). The balance of those surveyed live elsewhere in the Middle East (10%), in Australia (8%), Canada (8%), or Africa (6%).

7.4.3 Reasons for Migrating

When asked why they had initially emigrated from Lebanon, 37.5% of those surveyed indicated that political instability in the country was a reason, followed by 29.1% who cited the wars and armed conflicts that had ravaged the country. This question allowed respondents to give more than one answer, and the majority chose the two just given. Only 2.1% blamed the economic recession in Lebanon for pushing them out, but another 10.4% specifically faulted the lack of job opportunities. Education was another important reason for emigration, with 10.4% leaving to fulfill their educational needs, especially those interested in pursuing Ph.D.s and specialized fields of study. Marriage was a factor in 6.3% of migrations, custody rights cases in another 2.1% and, finally, 2.1% of respondents were born abroad.



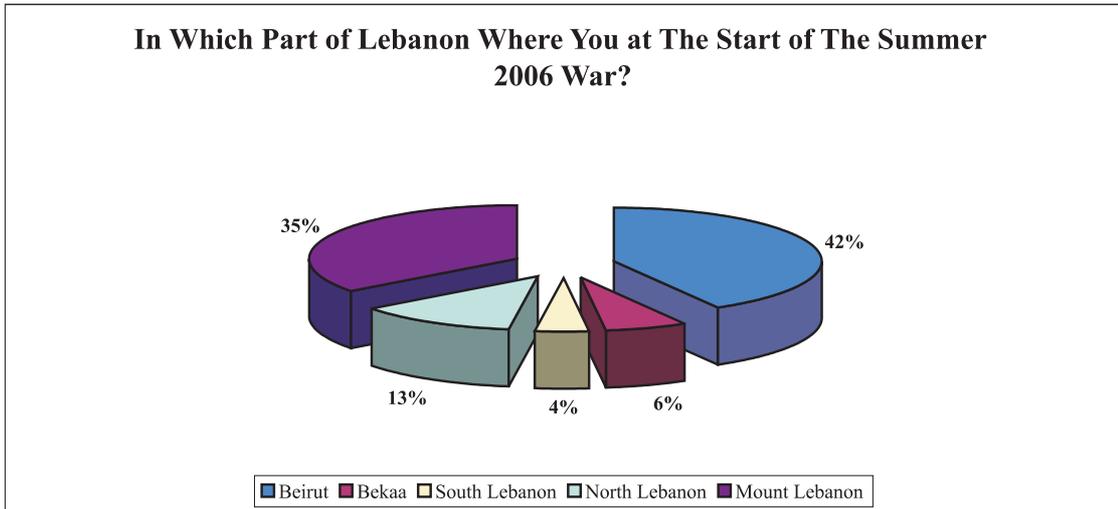
7.4.2



7.4.3

7.5 Location in Lebanon, Purpose of Visit during the Summer of 2006

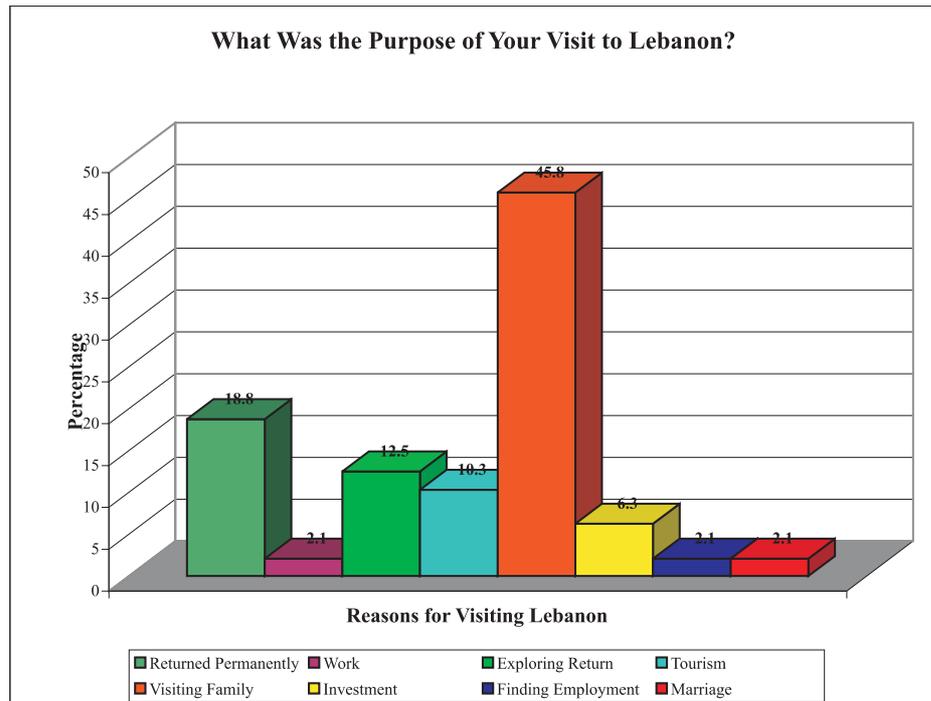
7.5.1 Location in Lebanon When the War Started



7.5.1

Most respondents were located in Beirut (42%) when the Summer 2006 War started, with the rest divided between Mount Lebanon (35%), North Lebanon (13%), the Bekaa (6%) and the South (4%), in that order.

7.5.2 Reasons for Visiting Lebanon

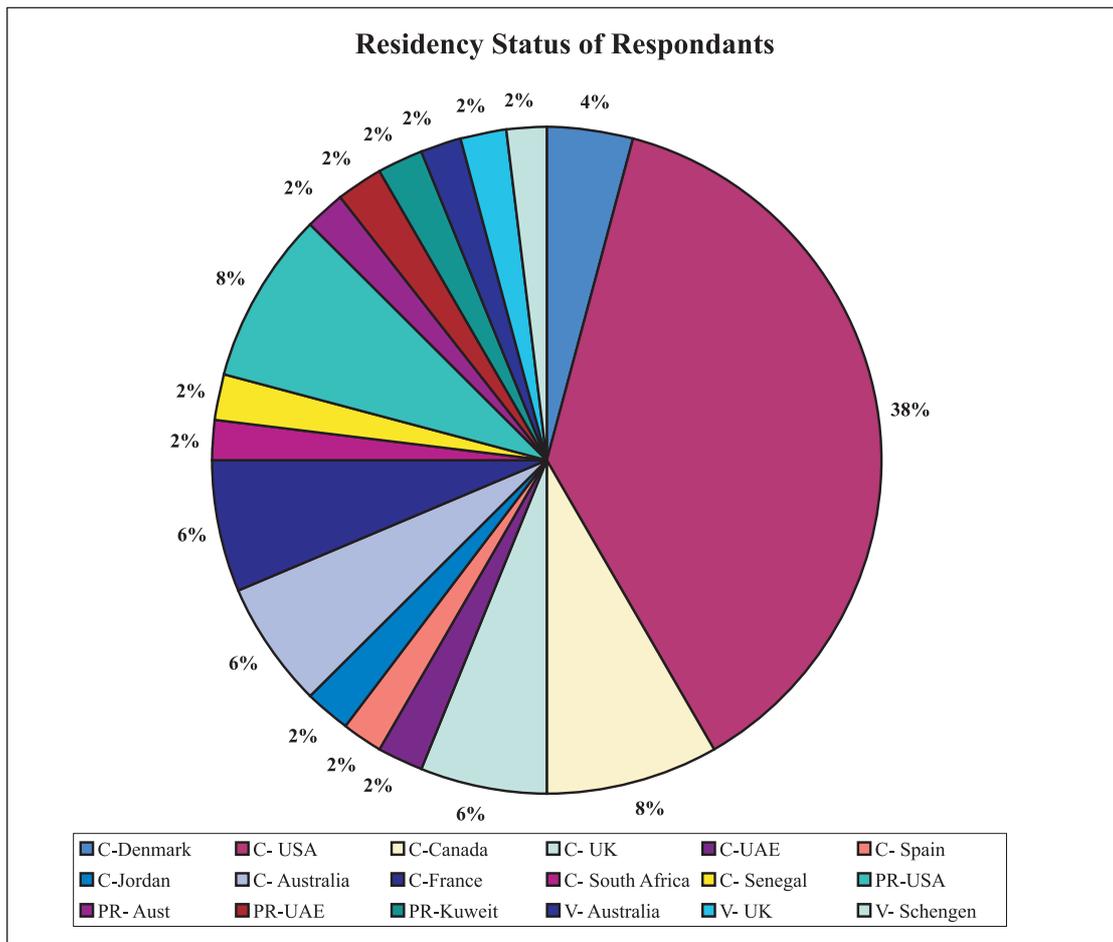


7.5.2

Almost half of the respondents (45.8%) revealed that they had been in Lebanon to visit family when war broke out. Another 18.8% had returned to the country permanently, while the next largest percentage, 12.5%, had come to Lebanon to explore the possibility of doing the same themselves. Smaller numbers had been in the country for tourism (10.3%), to invest (6.3%), to work (2.1%) or find a job (2.1%), or to get married (2.1%).

7.6 Residency Status outside of Lebanon

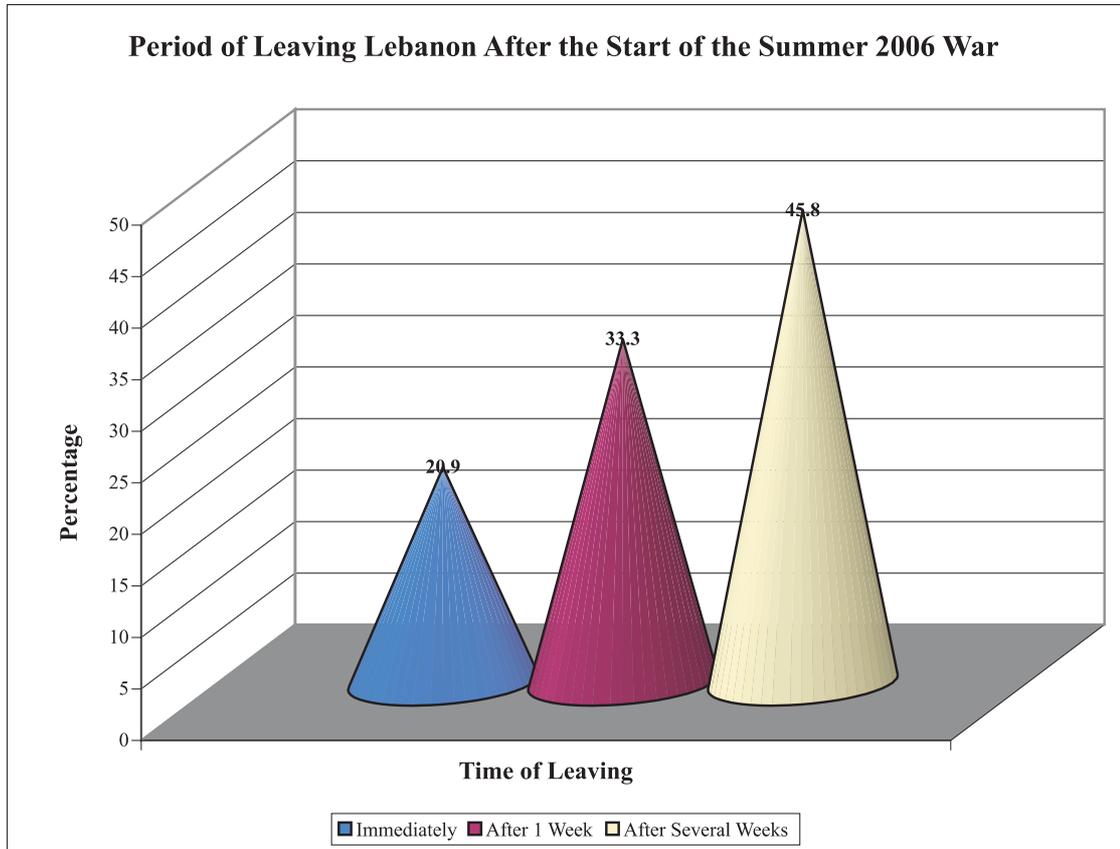
Since most respondents were based in the United States, it is not surprising that the majority of them had either American citizenship (38%) or permanent residency status (8%). The next largest group had Canadian citizenship (8%), followed by groups of British, Australian and French nationals (6% each), and a number of Danish citizens (4%). The remainder had citizenship or other status in Spain, South Africa, Senegal, Kuwait, or the UAE.



C= Citizenship; PR= Permanent Residency or its equivalent; and V= Visa

7.7 Departure from Lebanon following the Onset of the Summer 2006 War

7.7.1 Date of Departure



7.7.1

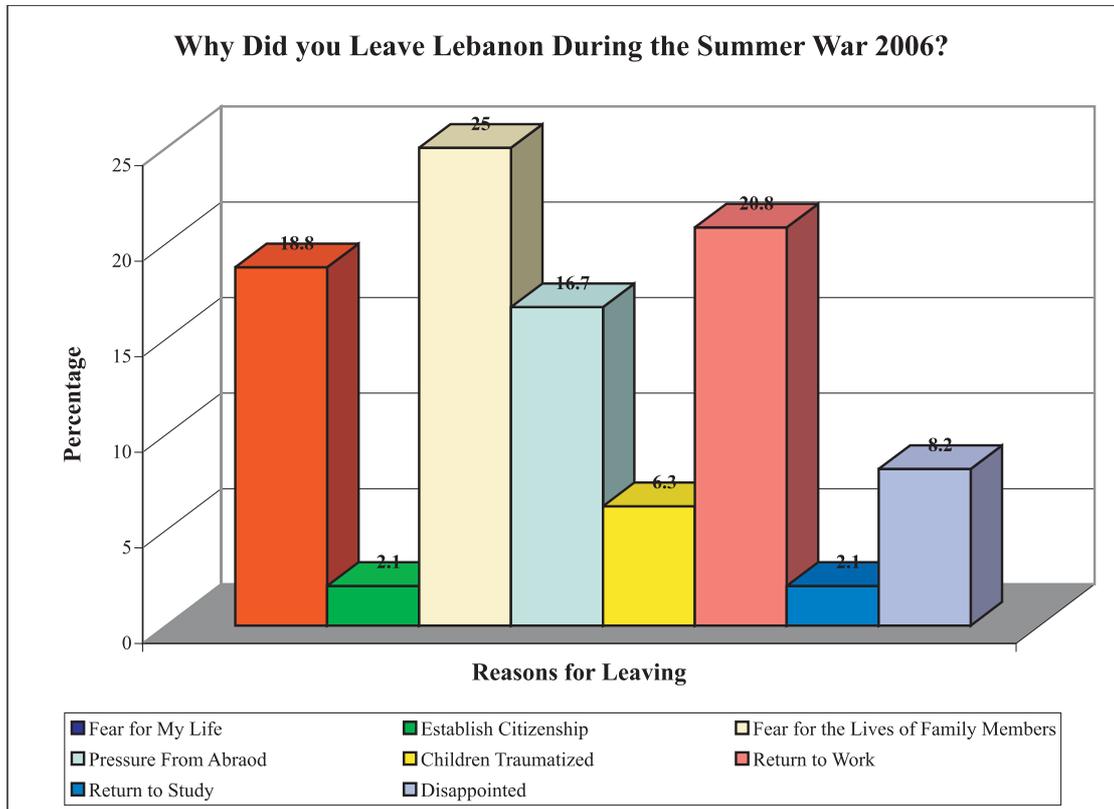
Most respondents (45%) left Lebanon during the first week of the war. Another 33.3% left after one week and 20% waited a few weeks before departing.

7.7.2 Reasons for Departure

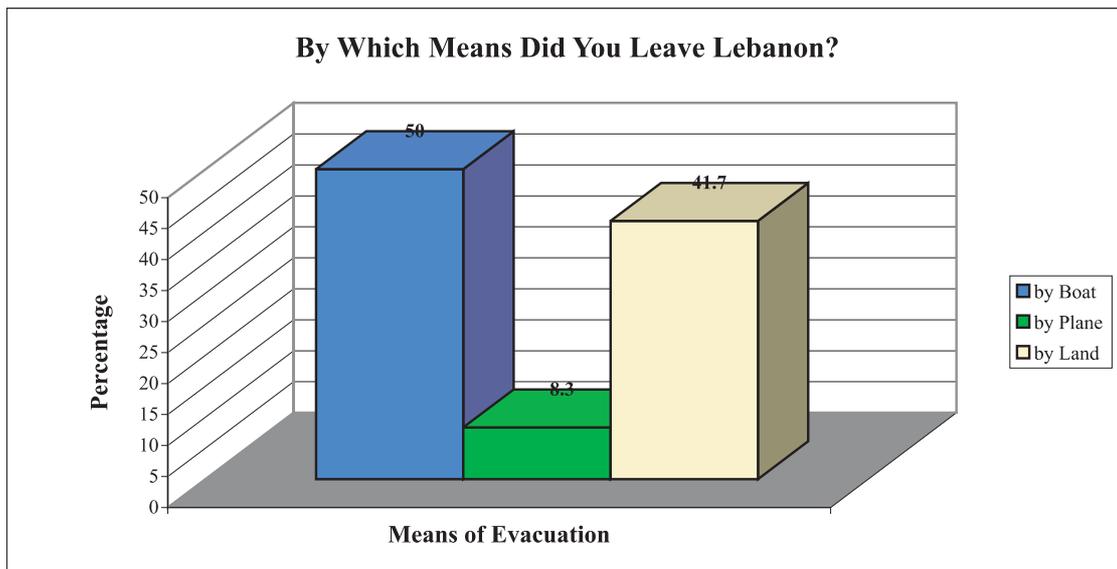
Reasons for departure varied somewhat. The majority (25%) left because they feared for the lives of family members, while some departed because they feared for their own lives (18.8%) or because their children were being traumatized (6.3%). Many left because of pressure from abroad (16.7%). About one-fifth (20.8%) had to return to their host countries to work. Of the remainder, 8.2% left because they were disappointed by the outbreak of war, 2.1% to establish citizenship abroad and another 2.1% to study.

7.7.3 Means of Departure

Fifty percent of respondents were evacuated by sea, while another 8.3% were evacuated by air. The remainder, 41.7%, left Lebanon by land, either through independent or assisted departure.

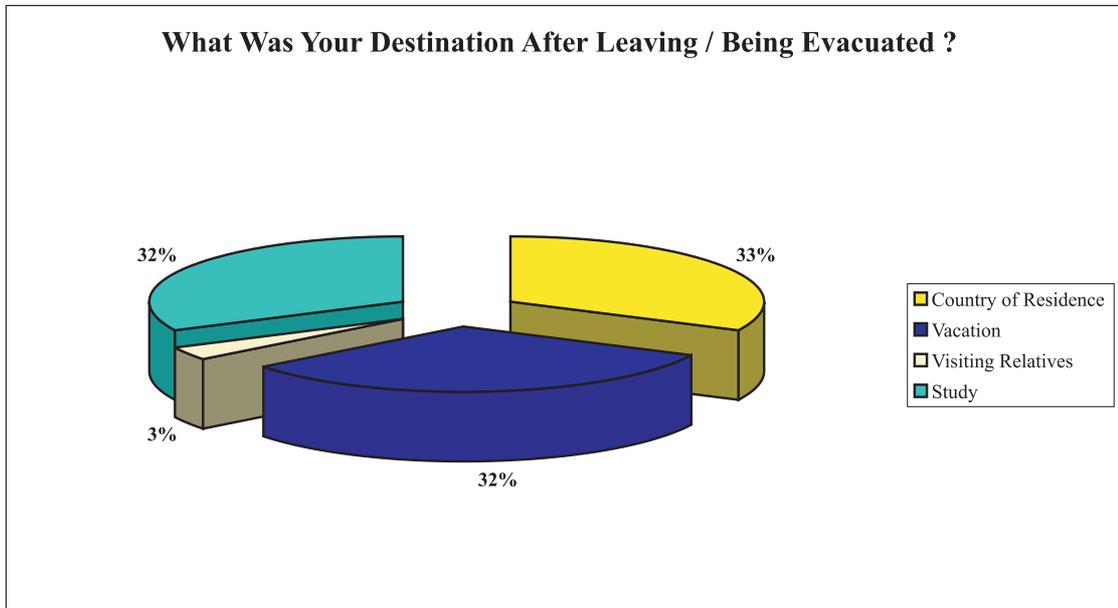


7.7.2



7.7.3

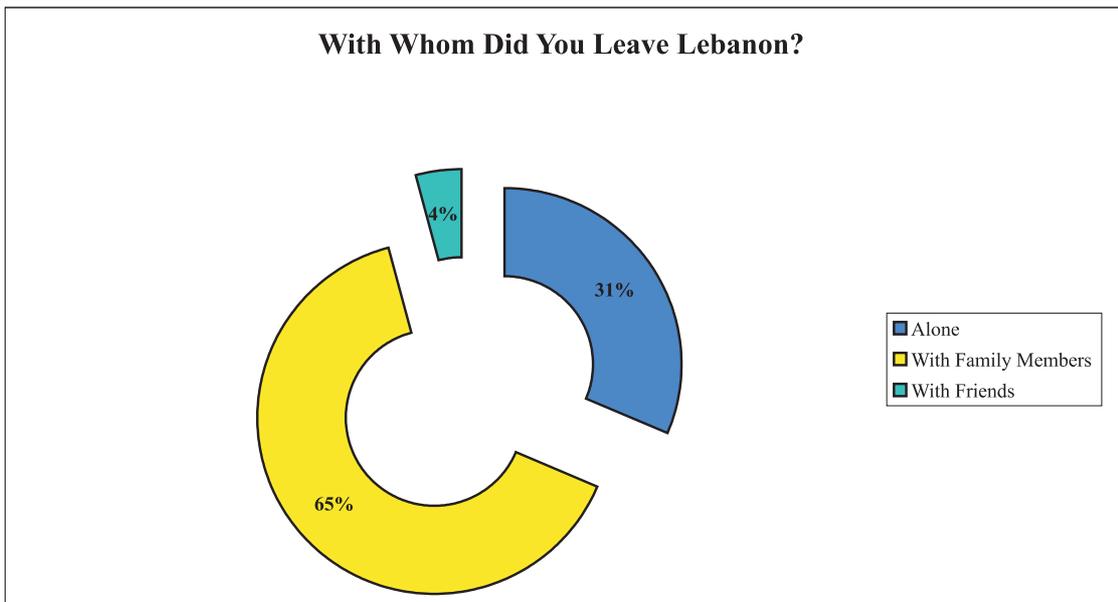
7.7.4 Destination after Departure



7.7.4

After leaving Lebanon, roughly equal numbers of respondents returned to their countries of residence (33%), went on vacation in other countries (32%), or resumed their studies (32%). A small number (3%) went to visit relatives in other countries.

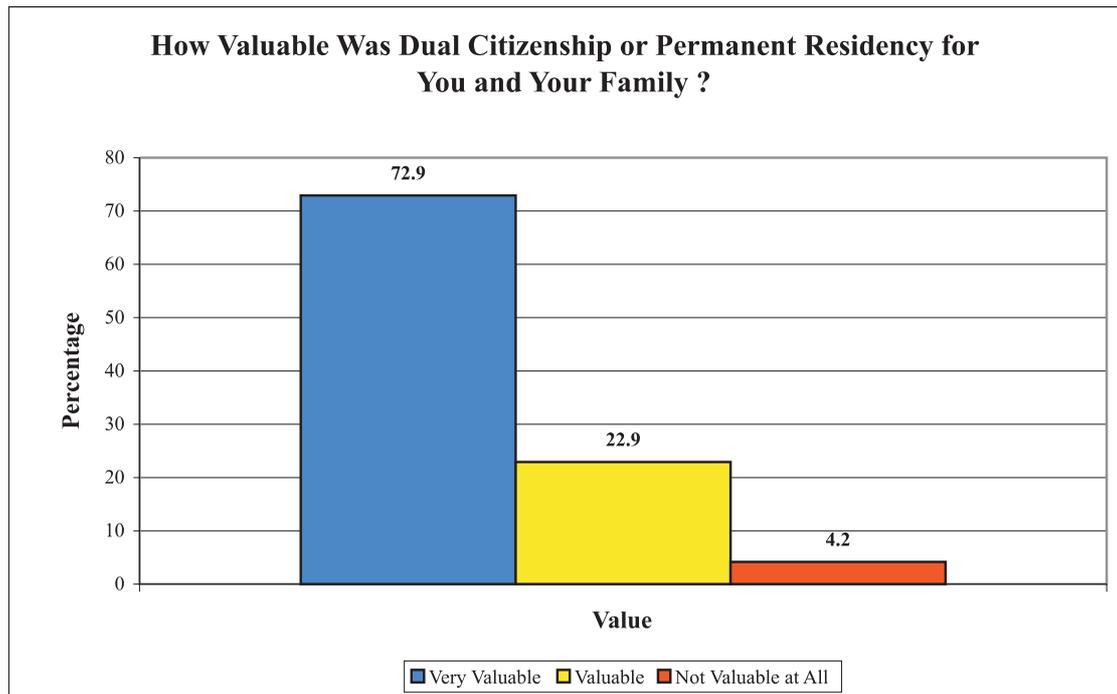
7.7.5 Travel Companions



7.7.5

Approximately two-thirds of those surveyed (65%) said that they left with family members, while 4% left with friends and 31% left alone.

7.7.6 Citizenship, Residency and Visa Value



7.7.6

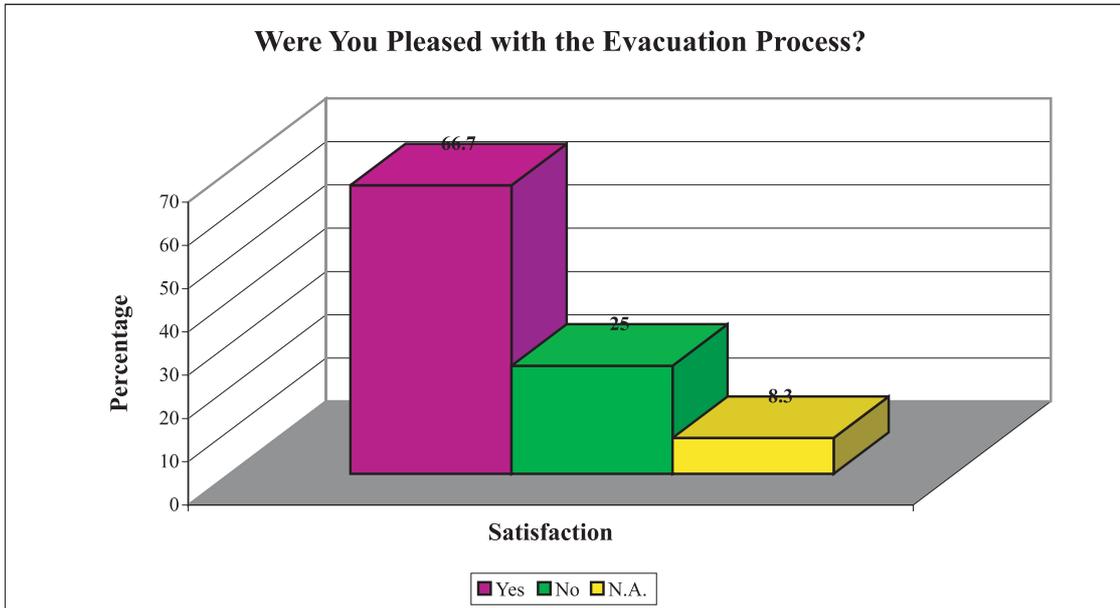
Almost all respondents agreed that their dual citizenship, permanent residency, or long-term visas had been very valuable (72.9) or valuable (22.9%) to both themselves and family members when confronted with the crisis in Lebanon. Only 4.2% said that they were not valuable.

7.7.7 Evaluating Evacuation

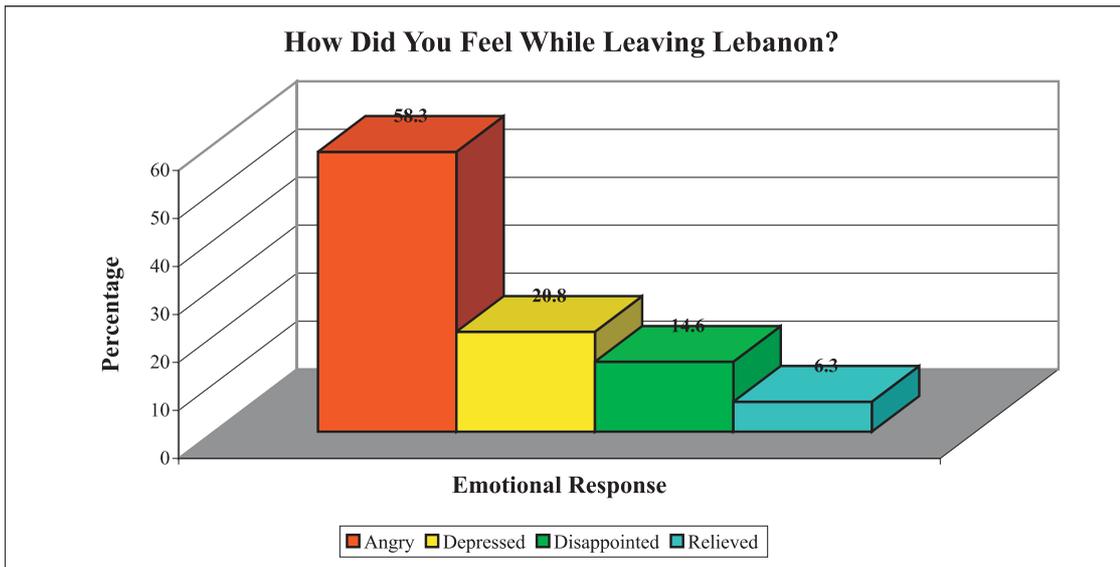
Most respondents were pleased with the evacuation process (66.7%), but a significant number (25%) were not. Another 8.3% indicated that the question did not apply to them because they left on their own.

7.8 Feelings at Leaving Because of the Summer 2006 War

The sentiments expressed by respondents at being forced to leave Lebanon were not surprising: 58.3% said that they felt angry, 20.8% were depressed, 14.6% were disappointed, and 6.3% said that they were relieved to be able to escape the war. Respondents were able to submit multiple answers to this question. Most of them checked angry and disappointed almost equally.



7.7.7

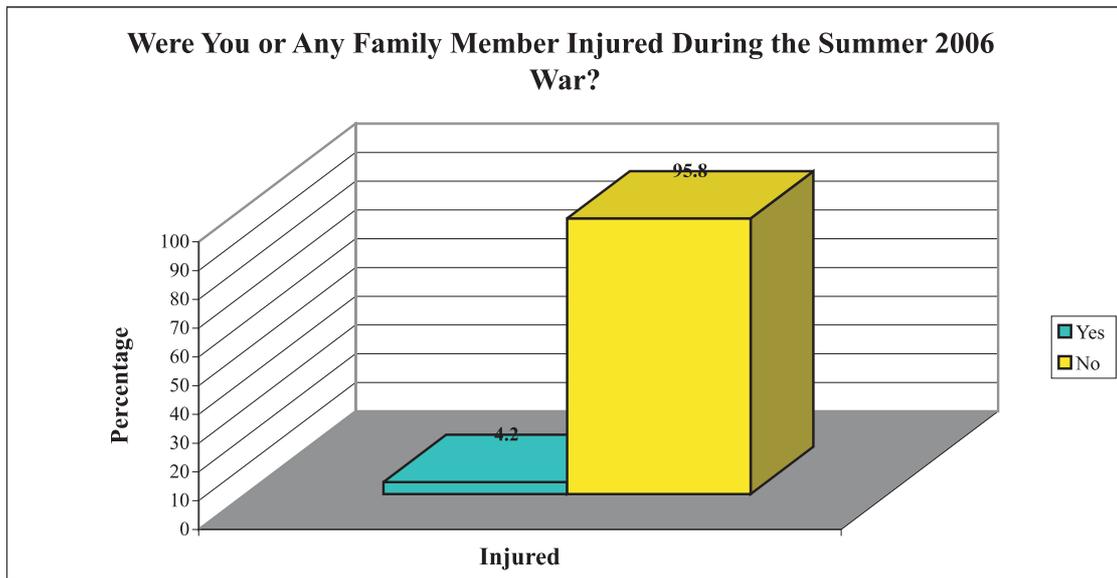


7.8

7.9 Physical and Psychological Impact of the Summer 2006 War

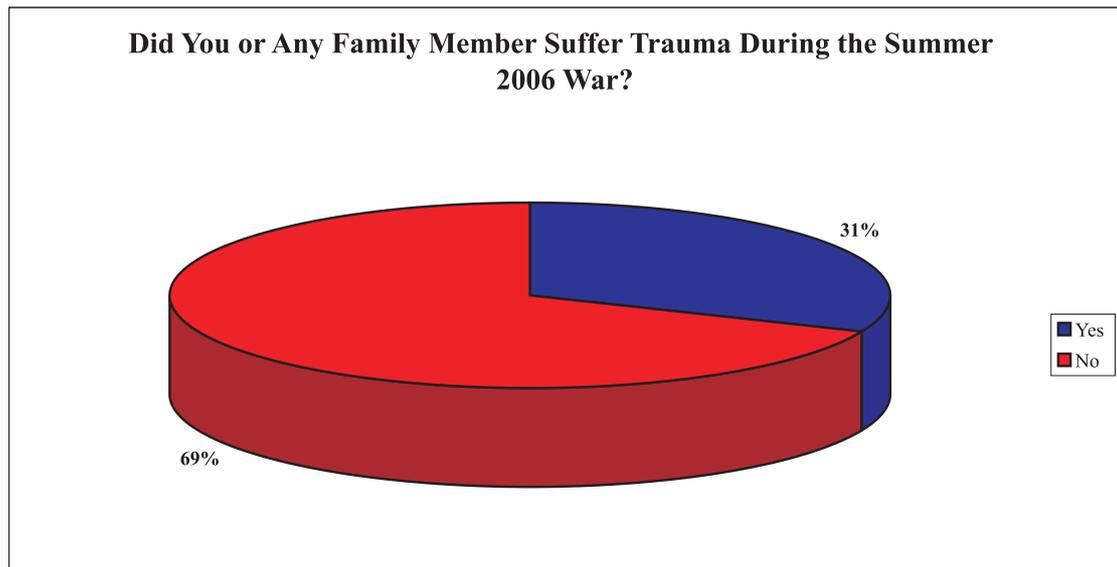
7.9.1 Physical Injury

Most respondents, 95.8%, indicated that neither they nor anyone in their immediate families had sustained physical injuries. A small proportion, 4.2%, said that they did.



7.9.1

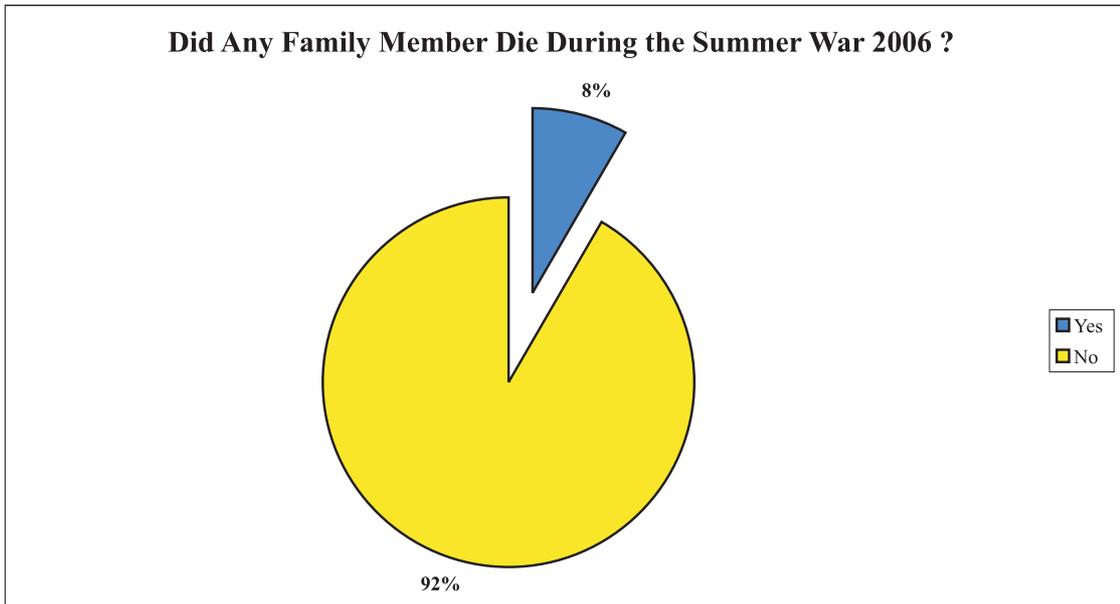
7.9.2 Psychological Damage



7.9.2

Slightly more than two-thirds of respondents said they or their family members had not been traumatized by their experience (69%), but the remainder (31%) indicated that trauma had occurred. Some indicated in their remarks that, while not traumatized, they did feel greatly stressed. One woman who did feel that she had suffered trauma wrote that “any sudden noise or movement triggers relapses of what [I] had endured [during the war].” She said that she did not leave her house for a week after returning home to France and that she spent most of her time watching television and consulting internet sources to follow up on what was occurring in Lebanon.

7.9.3 Loss of Life

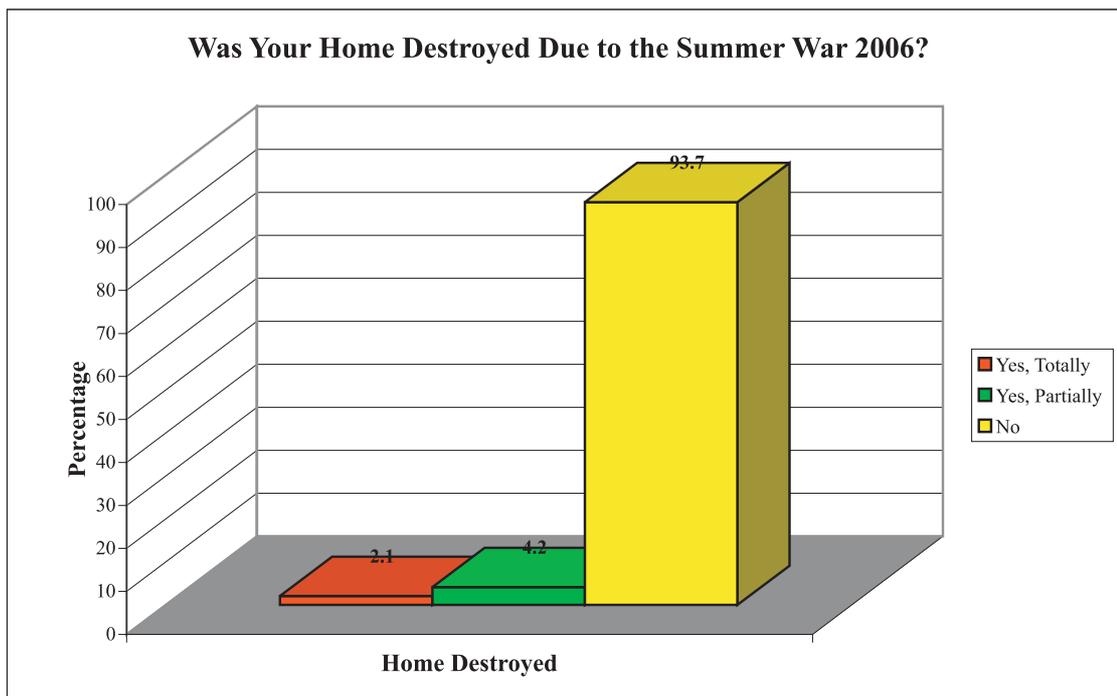


7.9.3

Of those surveyed, 8% lost family members during the war, while the majority, 92%, did not.

7.9.4 Property Damage

7.9.4.1 Home Damaged



7.9.4.1

The vast majority of respondents (93.7) suffered no damage to their homes during the war. A small number (2.1%) saw their homes totally destroyed, while others (4.2%) indicated that they had been partially damaged.

7.9.4.2 Business Damaged



7.9.4.2

Slightly more respondents indicated that their businesses had been partially damaged (6.25%), although most said that no damage occurred (78.5%). The question was not applicable to 6.25% of those surveyed who indicated that they did not have a business in Lebanon.

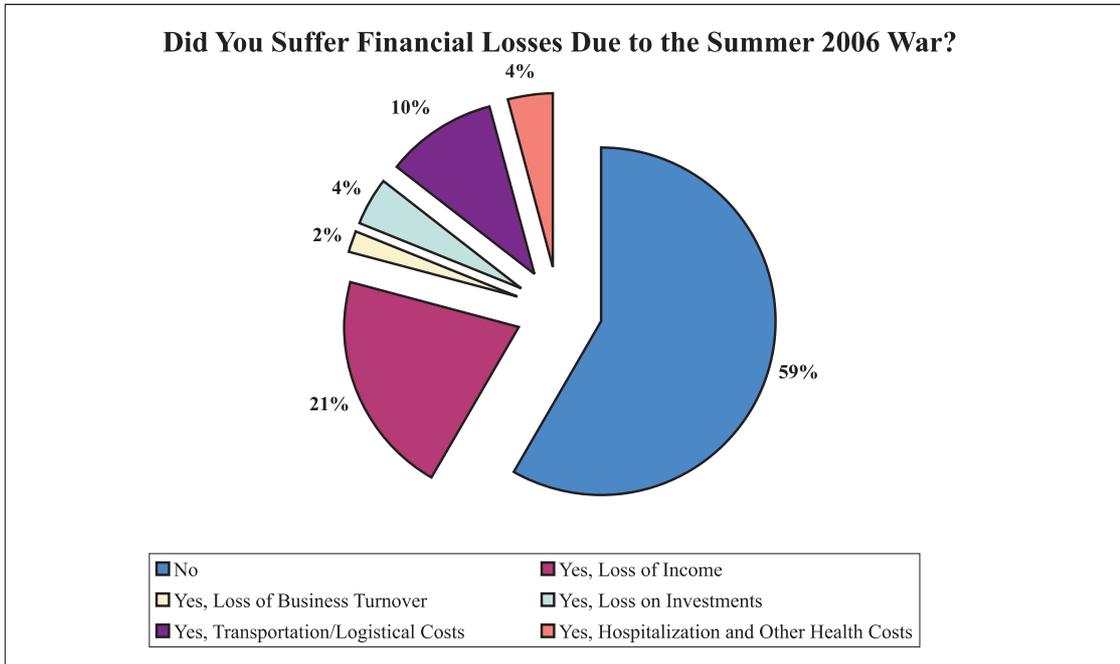
7.9.5 Financial Losses

While 59% of respondents indicated that they had not sustained any financial losses because of the Summer 2006 War, others lost income (21%); money due to unforeseen transportation and other costs (10%) or medical expenses (4%); value of investments (4%); and business turnover (2%).

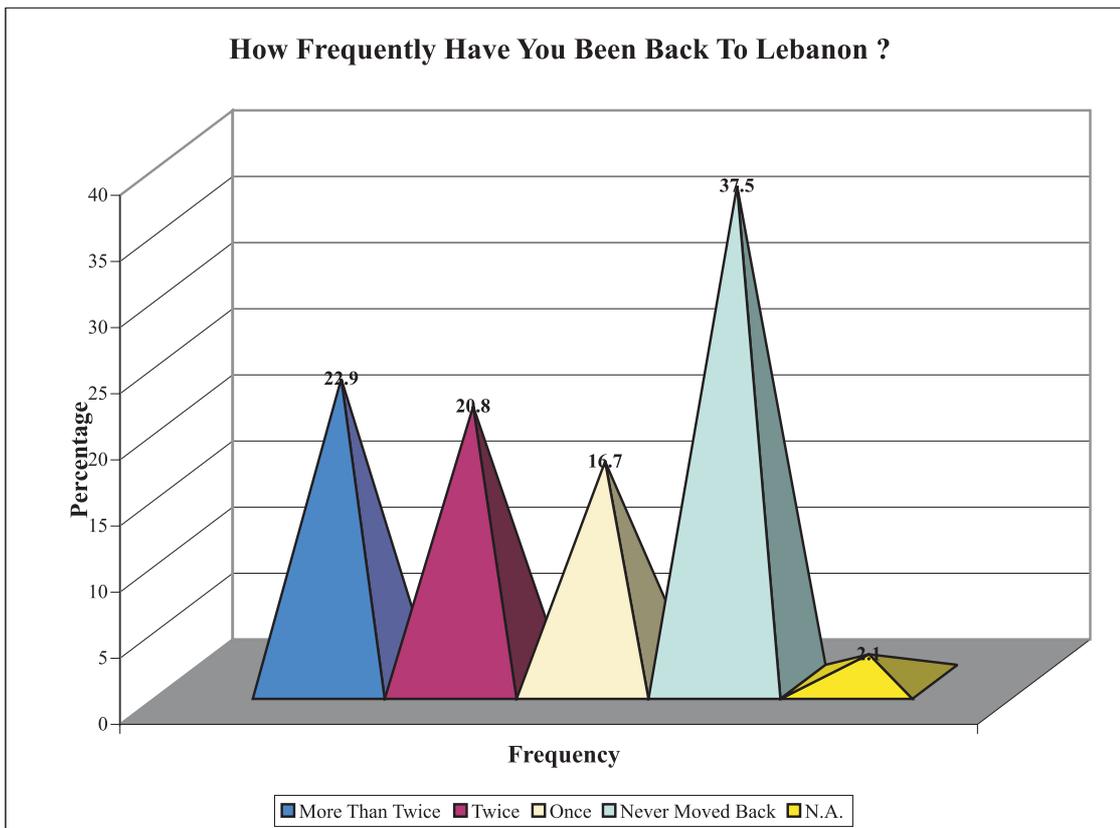
7.10 Return and Conditions for Return

7.10.1 Number of Times Resettled in Lebanon and Left Again

The survey respondents proved to be a very mobile group since the majority of them have tried to resettle in Lebanon at some point since their original departure. Since 1975, 22.9% of them have moved back to the country more than two times before leaving again, 20.8 have moved back twice, and 16.7 have moved back once. A significant proportion, 37.5%, have never returned to Lebanon to stay. Only 2.1% said that the question did not apply to them.

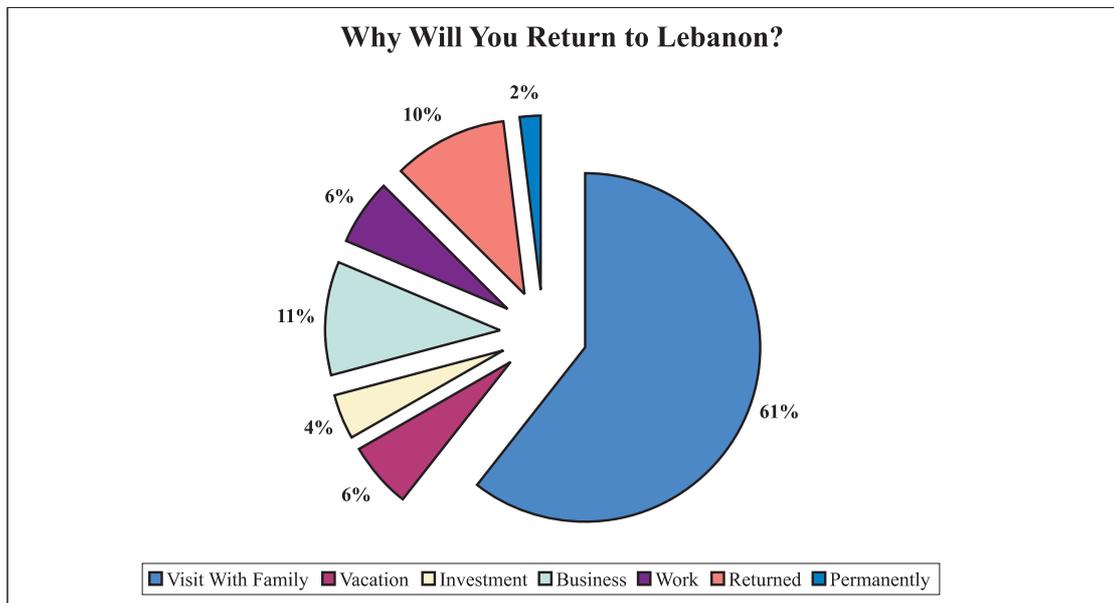


7.9.5



7.10.1

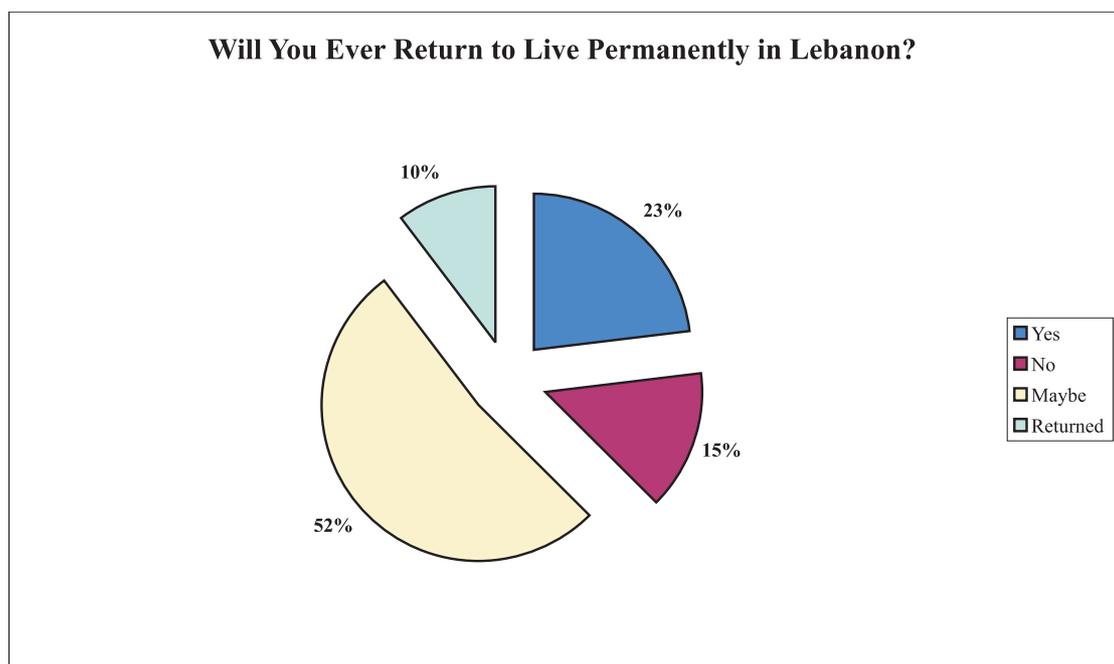
7.10.2 Reasons for Returning to Lebanon following the Summer 2006 War



7.10.2

When asked whether they would return to Lebanon in the future and the reason for their return, 61% of those surveyed said that they would go back to visit their families, 11% said for business, 6% for work, 6% for holidays and 4% for investment. Another 10% said they that have returned already and 2% indicated that they were planning return permanently.

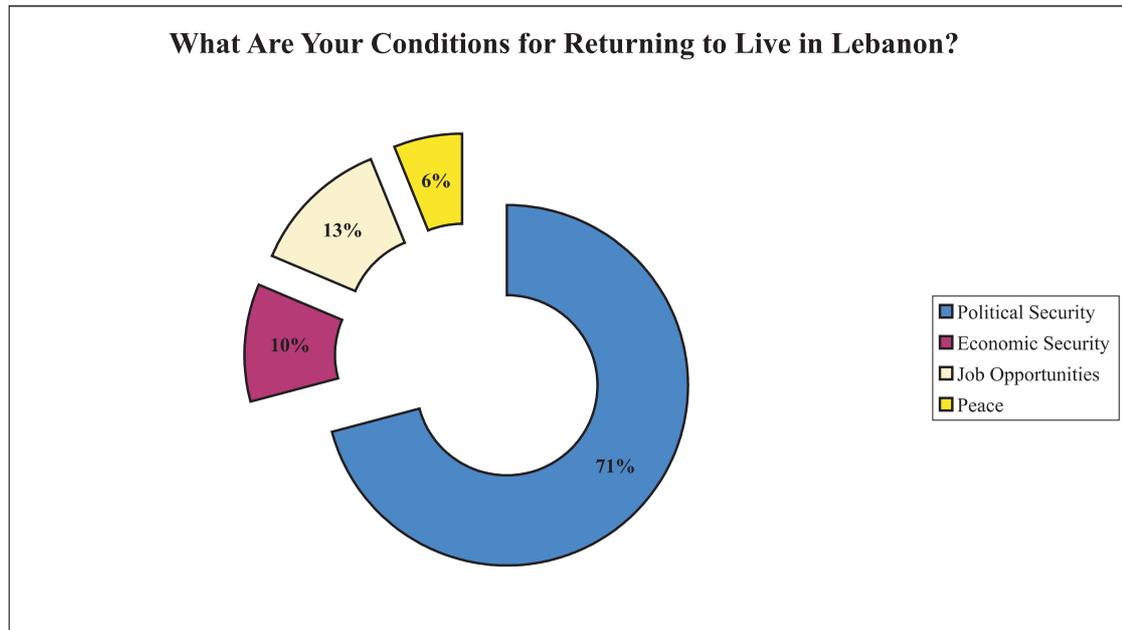
7.10.3 Considering Permanent Return



7.10.3

When asked if they would consider returning to Lebanon permanently, 52% of respondents indicated that it was a possibility, 10% said that they have already returned, 23% said they will return some day and 15% said they will never return.

7.10.4 Conditions for Permanent Return to Lebanon



7.10.4

When asked to identify their conditions for permanent return to Lebanon, 71% said political stability and security, 10% said economic security, 13% said job opportunities, and 6% said peace.

7.11 The Gendered Experience of Migration

This section was designed to help LERC assess the experience of women in the war and the conflict's impact on their health. Again, it should be noted that this attention to the wartime experience of women is not intended to disparage or disprove the particular needs of children and men or the physical and psychological impact of the war on them.

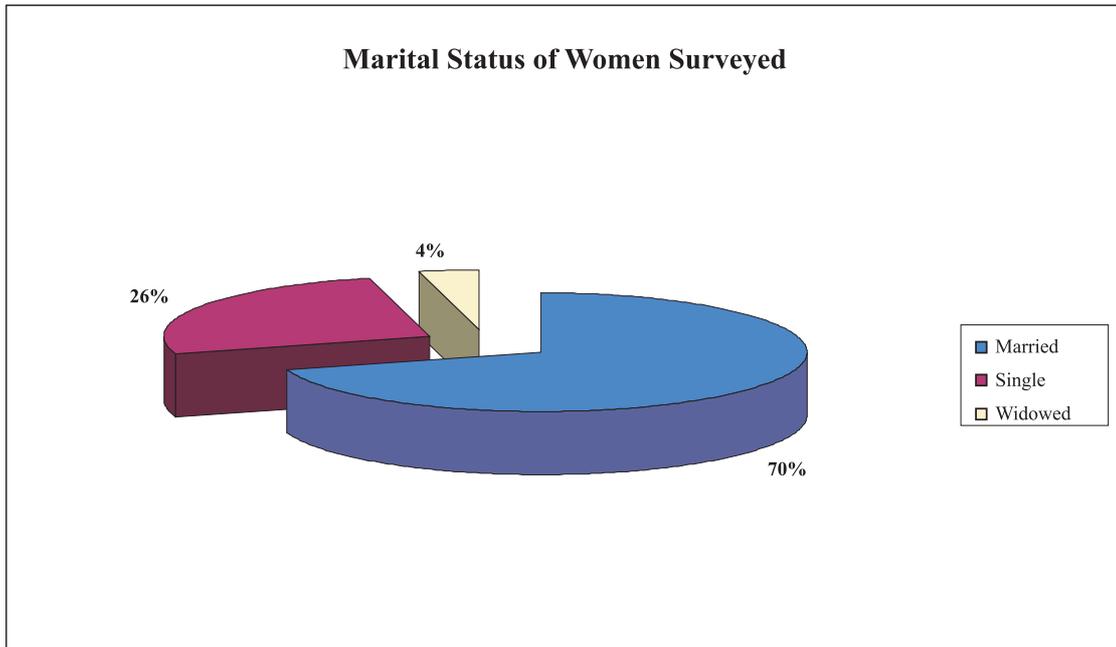
7.11.1 Marital Status

The majority or 70% of women surveyed were married, while 26% were single and 4% were widowed.

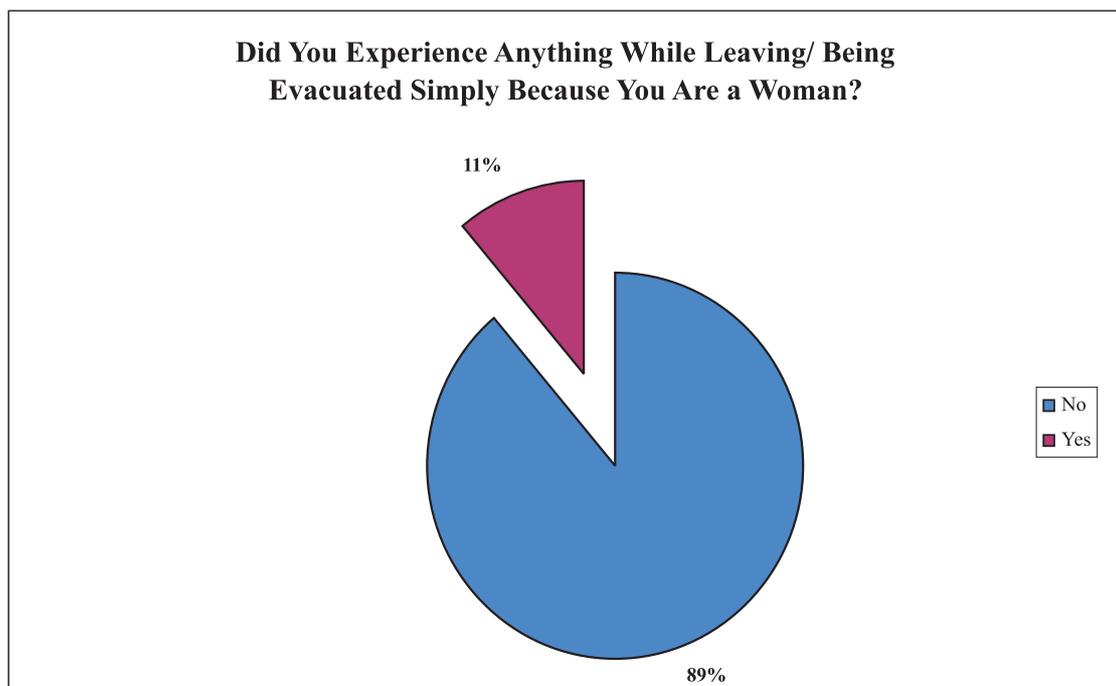
7.11.2 Experiences Exclusive to Being Female

Most women (89%) said that they did not have any experience that could be ascribed to gender alone, however, 11% indicated that they had met with some kind of a dilemma that was relevant to gender. One woman said that she was faced with the probability of not being able to take her husband with her when departing because he did not have the proper papers. Another woman

was unable to reach any of the evacuation sites because she was stranded in the south of the country. Both problems were solved and all were evacuated.

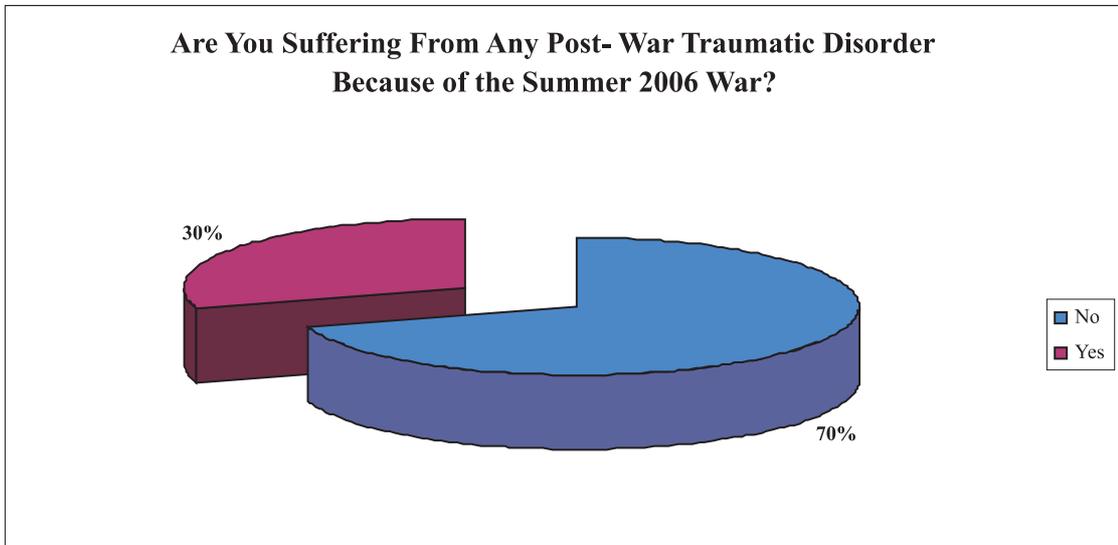


7.11.1



7.11.2

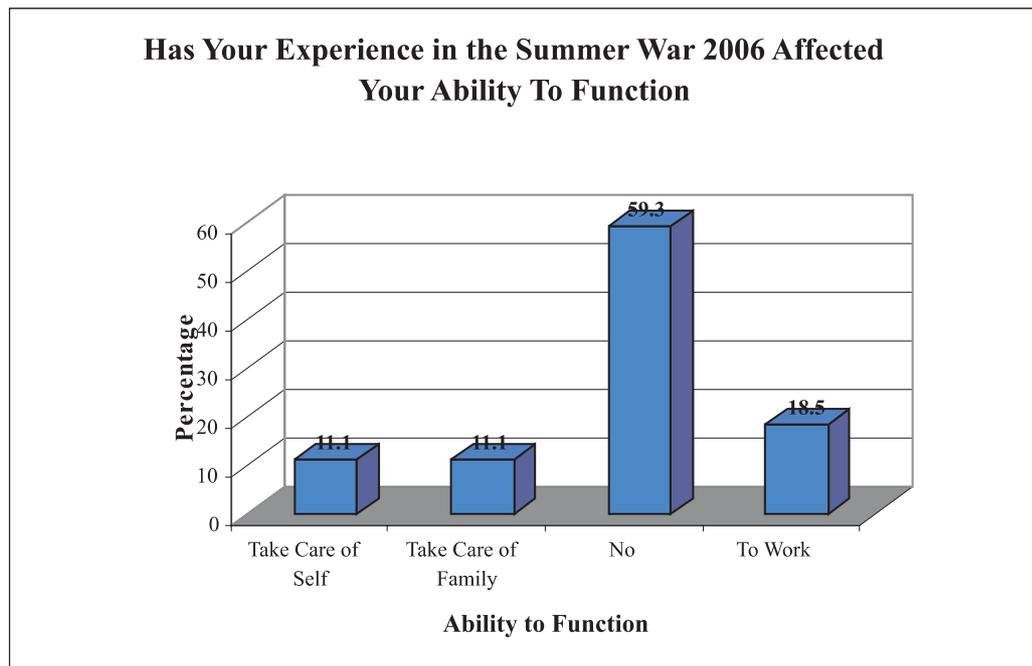
7.11.3 Psychological Impact



7.11.3

This question was not meant to measure the presence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which would require a proper medical evaluation, but merely to gain some insight into the impact of the Summer 2006 War on women's ability to cope and function. Most of the women (60%) said that they did not feel significant residual stress following their departure, but 30% indicated that they did.

7.11.4 Impact of the War on Ability to Function



7.11.4

Most women (59.3%) felt that the war had not affected their ability to function; however, some (18.5%) said that it had affected their ability to do their jobs, while others indicated that it had affected their ability to take care of their families (11.1%) or even themselves (11.1%).

7.12 In Their Own Words

At the end of the questionnaire, we left an open-ended question in which we asked respondents to share their thoughts or relay their stories. What they have expressed is presented below with minimal corrections to spelling and grammar:

On the Conditions for Permanent Return

“The war itself may affect the decision to return in the short term. However, in the long term, the most important element that affects the decision to return is political stability. Political stability drives forth economic stability, which may then create economic prosperity. Most of the Lebanese abroad are convinced that Lebanon can return to be the Switzerland of the ME in less than a couple of years if a viable political system is implemented. An equitable political system, equilibrated and based on an authentic representation of the people in the central power, would absolutely attract most of the Lebanese to return, whether to live permanently or to invest, or even to visit frequently. There is no problem, in my consideration, to revisit Lebanon, for a short period like vacations....” (*Lebanese-American*).

Painful Memories, Fear of Losing Lebanon and Hope for Return

“It’s very sad to see injustices in this world where human rights are violated and one’s people and country living in constant danger and under threat. This war reminded us of the terror suffered in 1982 where I lost my husband who died instantly due to the brutal non-stop Israeli bombing that affected even the basement floors, where civilians were hiding. Many of my family members and relatives including me who were hiding suffered severe wounds because of shrapnel from cluster bombs. We came to understand very well the feeling of losing one’s house and becoming a refugee in your own country. This time people returned quickly and we somehow envy them!! This is so because in Mount Lebanon, we were only allowed to return for some compensation 10 years after we were displaced. That was crazy, mad and it was a miracle that we stayed alive!! So this war brought back very painful memories. The only thing we could save from under the rubble of our totally destroyed house was an incense burner. This was displayed along with our story at the Immigration Museum in Australia by the Lebanese Community who held an exhibition about Lebanese migrants and put together their stories.

Now in 2006, in the 21st Century, you still find it hard to believe that human beings can carry out these crimes especially against children. Anyone with humane feelings and true faith is totally against what happened.

Even so my daughters and son are always thinking of investing in Lebanon, always visiting Lebanon and keeping in contact with all our old friends, family and relatives. In Australia we always try to explain to people coming from different nationalities about Lebanon, many of whom don’t know anything about Lebanon and think of it as a desert.

If we decide to go to Lebanon we will manage to live our lives like others living there. We always pray hard to God to keep Lebanon for the Lebanese and to enable us to visit at any time, for we worry about losing it. I hope all politicians leave Lebanon to migrate so they in turn can learn to appreciate the country better." (*Lebanese-Australian*)

Willing to Return and to Invest

"This war has made me and my family more attached to Lebanon. We are now planning on coming back next summer and we hope in the future to be able to invest in some property so that we can reside there at least semi-annually." (*Lebanese-American*)

Leaving Lebanon, Return to Birthplace and Changing Life Course

"War is evil and wicked. There are never winners in war. The summer 2006 war caused me to question my life making me realize how valuable life really is. That is why I wanted to make a change for I realized that the only person who has the power to change my life is me. War was a trigger for me. It sent me searching for bigger and better chances to make my existence more fulfilling and meaningful. Yes, that meant leaving Lebanon and going back to where I was born and came from, South Africa. People always go back to where they came from—be it for a holiday, or for good, or as their final resting place. For me, this terrible war made me ask myself fundamental questions and go in search of their answers. My life has taken a turn that I never thought possible. As they say, drastic circumstances call for drastic measures. Someone said to me that I made a bold move to come back to South Africa. Yes, it was bold, but I think that I was also courageous. What is the difference? Well, bold is just bold while courage is fear mixed with faith. It has taken me both to be where I am." (*South African of Lebanese descent*)

Political and Economic Instability Are Discouraging

"Certainly the experience that I endured last summer will affect any revisit with my family. The current political instability and economic situation are very discouraging to say the least. However, I do sincerely hope that the situation will stabilize and UN forces together with the Lebanese army can control the southern borders and hopefully prosperity and peace will endure. I don't see myself returning permanently to Lebanon in the near future since my kids will probably be better off in the US for their education and the normal process of life. Maybe in 25-30 years I will return to Lebanon, when it is time for me to retire." (*Lebanese-American*)

Ashamed for Leaving, Eager to Return as a Tourist and to Assist in Reconstruction

"When the war first began I had only one thought in my mind and that was to leave Lebanon as soon as possible because I was afraid for my family and for myself. I have family in France who were really worried while I have been frustrated by what's been happening to this country for centuries.

For two days I called thousands of times trying to reach the embassy. But the moment they called me at night to say the 5 of us were leaving for France I no longer felt eager to go and immediately felt ashamed and sorry. Ashamed and sorry for having been so scared, for having wanted so badly to leave, to be amongst the ones who had the privilege to go, to run away, to abandon my country and my people when others were forced to stay.

During these 4 days of war I experienced, I became really frightened and this fear made me decide that for a long time I no longer wanted to return. Like I said, these thoughts suddenly left my mind the minute the embassy called. I am now thinking of the day I will return, likely just after the end of the “war,” to help and rebuild the country and its true Lebanese people.

Not confessions, nor political interests, just the true Lebanese people who have suffered and are suffering from the geopolitical interests of world leaders for ages now. Today I hope to return to Lebanon as soon as it is possible, maybe even to spend several weeks, touring and visiting family as before, and helping to rebuild in any way.” (*French of Lebanese descent*)

Lost Faith in the Country

“It is quite a humiliating experience, when you have to leave everything behind, put your entire world into one backpack. Even more humiliating is when you have to wait for hours at the borders until some illiterate and useless bureaucrat, smoking and drinking coffee, signs your papers over his big belly. It is also humiliating to arrive at your destination to find a plastic bag with a sandwich, a carton of milk, another of juice, and a cookie for the road ahead, handed to you by a young military boy, with good will in his heart but pity in his eyes.

You then get the surprise of your life as you are treated decently as a human being: a host government giving you health insurance, medication, insurance against accidents, and an allowance.

Meanwhile, my government is too busy bickering over petty things, everyone trying to be “God,” while scooping as much of this country’s richness as possible.

How possible is it that a country is turned into an enormous dumpsite, the air almost unbreathable, the people becoming more poisoned and poisonous than the air we breathe?

I hope I can regain my faith in this country, but seeing how it was demolished because of one person’s miscalculation, and seeing this person treated like God, I doubt it.” (*Lebanese-Dutch*)

Broken Faith

“I would love to come back to Lebanon and invest, open a business or find a good job since I live alone abroad and would like to be with my family in Lebanon on a permanent basis. I find it more difficult now than ever because of the situation. I didn’t get to see my family as the war started just after 5 days of my arrival, and I had to leave immediately because of the fear of further complications. I am disappointed and sad for Lebanon and the Lebanese.” (*Lebanese working in Saudi Arabia for 40 years*)

Finding an Option Other than Lebanon

“Since the Summer 2006 War, I have started considering more varied options as to what I would like to do after I finish my studies. Looking for a job in my field is not focused on Lebanon only. A look at other countries of interest has been brought to my attention in addition to Lebanon.” (*Lebanese student studying in the US*)

Federal System May Encourage Migrants to Return

“I think that Lebanese should understand that the one and only solution to their political problems lies in adopting a federal regime where each political group can bring forward its political

and economical choices without hurting other communities; we are very different in Lebanon and we cannot continue to exist under the same roof without being faced with similar wars and other major issues that may come up sooner or later. Let us be reasonable and avoid more bloodshed by living separately but in peace and then I think that all emigrants will return permanently and start investing in Lebanon.” (*Lebanese working in Kuwait*)

Migrants Children Find Alternative Country to Lebanon

“I was hoping that my generation would be the last to witness or live a war in Lebanon. My disappointment now is that my children who are 25 and 23 have seen and experienced a real war in Beirut, and are afraid this might affect their future choices, whether they would prefer to stay in Lebanon or not, since they have access to other nations without a hassle.” (*Lebanese-Senegalese living in Nigeria*)

Children of Lebanese Women Are Not Accepted

“I may consider returning to Lebanon to live but until the Lebanese government and general public politically, legally and socially accept the children of Lebanese women as equal to the children of Lebanese men, I'd rather not live there permanently but consider living there semi-permanently.” (*American born to a Lebanese mother*)

Conditions to Invest and Return

“When I left Lebanon Israeli warplanes were targeting the roads. My kids and I actually saw the damage right in front of us. This proved an extremely dramatic experience for my kids to go through. However, we will never give up on our country, and we do plan to return soon on a visit. We are of course concerned about the current political instability, but we can only hope that the parties involved will somehow reach an agreement. I was raised during the war. We as Lebanese have been through many hard times in the past, but we refuse to think that this is the end. We are hopeful of being able to invest in Lebanon and we always keep an eye out for opportunities to move back. This may not happen in the near future but at least we know this is where we will retire!” (*Lebanese-American*)

Discouraged by the Situation and by Lack of Financial Opportunities to Rebuild Business

“I am looking at the financial implications of restarting my business, which requires me to start from zero and take a huge financial decision to re-invest in Lebanon. I had 20 employees that I cannot re-employ while the future of the economy and the political environment are not encouraging. The main problem is financial assistance in Lebanon, which is practically zero.” (*Lebanese-British*)

Will Return if Opportunities Present Themselves

“I like Lebanon and the Lebanese and if I find good opportunities to go back I will. I have a house there. I have friends and family. Mostly it's the diversity and the type of life and freedom I find in Lebanon that is rare elsewhere. I hope the Lebanese can sustain a formula to survive and live together, and that a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem is internationally implemented.” (*Lebanese working in the UAE*)

Will Return Semi-Permanently

"I have strong roots and attachments to Lebanon and always hope to return some day if not on a full time basis at least for part of each year." (*Lebanese-Canadian*)

Returned

"I went through a truly decent experience with the Australian evacuation because my wife and daughter are Australians. The evacuation was very well organized. We left Beirut by boat to Cyprus for an overnight stay at a famous resort. The Australian government granted everything. The following day we traveled to Singapore then unto Sydney with MEA, no charge fees. A few days later I heard that the Aussie evacuation had cost around 55 million Australian dollars.

The Center link, which is the Social Security Department, offered each family accommodation—a commission house (granted by the municipalities) for each family which wanted to stay as resident—with a sum of 10,000\$ for the furniture. But you must stay more then 2 months to enjoy this privilege. Sincerely I preferred to come back and to restart my life in Lebanon and to consider Australia as a country of retirement." (*Lebanese-Australian*)

Will Return

"The war made no impact on my determination to return to Lebanon. I will return (as long as my mother lives in Lebanon) whenever I can do that..." (*Lebanese working in the USA*)

When you Realize What Lebanon Is...

"Wherever you go, nowhere is going to give you the taste of that first feeling, the first realization of what is your country!" (*Lebanese working in the UAE*)

CHAPTER VIII

KEY FINDINGS

8.1 Introduction

Protracted conflicts and recurrent political and economic instability are major problems in themselves, however, in a developing country like Lebanon, they also impede progress and growth because they encourage significant emigrant outflows, hamper expatriate return and reduce the potential capital—financial, human and social—that migrants transfer to the country, whether through their permanent or semi-permanent return or through frequent visits.

The Summer 2006 War has not ended for hundreds of thousands of Lebanese in Lebanon and abroad. It will change the course of many lives by creating a new ‘push’ factor to compel those residing in the country to leave and a ‘pull’ or deterring factor to discourage those migrants living elsewhere from returning. Already, it has reduced visits to Lebanon by non-Lebanese. At the time of writing—more than six weeks after the ceasefire—many countries are still advising against travel to Lebanon. The UK is telling its citizens that “essential travel to Lebanon” can take place, but it continues to “advise against all travel south of the Litani River”¹ (See Appendix 5). New Zealand’s warning is stronger still: it “advise[s] against all travel to Lebanon as there is extreme risk to your safety.”² Similarly, the United States has issued a travel warning “to alert American citizens that non-emergency employees and adult family members have been authorized to return to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, but the Department continues to urge U.S. citizens to defer all non-essential travel to Lebanon. This Travel Warning also alerts U.S. citizens to the ongoing safety and security concerns in Lebanon.”³

As the war’s impact on Lebanon continues to be felt in coming years, LERC will monitor the outflow of emigrants from Lebanon and will make this information available through its publications and on its website.

8.2 Key Findings and Policy Recommendations

Based on our research for this study and on answers received in our survey of Lebanese who left or were evacuated during the war, we were able to identify a number of key findings and their implications for Lebanese government policy.

Key Findings	Policy Recommendations
The majority of expatriates emigrated from Lebanon due to protracted political instability and wars.	The Lebanese government must find long-term solutions to internal and regional instability and work to prevent war in order to curb emigration.
The Summer 2006 War created a new ‘push’ factor leading to another wave of emigration and re-migration.	The Lebanese government must establish confidence in the stability of the country and implement urgent economic reforms to facilitate job creation, particularly for the young and educated, to curb emigration.
The Summer 2006 War was devastating to the Lebanese expatriates who had returned permanently or semi-permanently to Lebanon, as well as to Lebanese migrants who were visiting the country.	The Lebanese government must reach out to Lebanese expatriates to inspire confidence in the country’s future and to offer tangible and valuable incentives for return to the country and for investment in it.
Migrants and returnees make sizeable contributions to Lebanon through visits, investments, in-kind contributions and, especially, remittances.	The Lebanese government must recognize the potential role of migrants and returnees for the country’s development and devise appropriate policies to encourage their participation.
Migrant’s children in their twenties and thirties are looking for alternatives to returning to Lebanon.	Policy planning must focus on the possible contribution of young and educated expatriates to Lebanon, whether through human or social transfers.
A good number of migrants are willing to return to Lebanon and are optimistic regarding the country’s future.	The Lebanese government, as well as civil society organizations, must capitalize on these sentiments by devising policies attractive to migrants.
Expatriates place more emphasis on political stability than on economic or job opportunities.	The Lebanese government must recognize that macro-political factors are vital to potential and returning migrants. It must work to stabilize Lebanon’s political situation in a way that positively affects the economic cycle, providing an additional incentive to this constituency.
The majority of migrants were found to be indecisive about returning.	Special attention needs to be paid to the many personal, family and social factors that bolster return. The government can introduce tax deferrals for retirement and pension plans and other incentives to encourage Lebanese emigrants to return to the country and/or invest in it.
Expatriates value their second nationality because it provides them with a more secure and stable environment.	Lebanon must openly recognize dual citizenship and develop and sign relevant bilateral agreements with other countries, such as the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). ⁴ The government must also introduce laws extending the rights of Lebanese citizenship to all Lebanese emigrants and their descendants and permitting absentee voting ⁵ to strengthen emigrant attachment to Lebanon.
Forty percent of the women surveyed said that the war negatively affected their ability to take care of themselves, their families, or their jobs.	Introduce counseling and other support services for women, children and men who have lived through armed conflict.

Key Findings	Policy Recommendations
One-third of all persons surveyed said that they or members of their immediate families were traumatized because of the war.	The Lebanese government, NGOs and civil society must help people—and especially children—to deal with the psychological disorders that follow war.
Dual citizens who reside in their home countries are subject to double taxation.	Lebanon must sign bilateral agreements with other countries to end double taxation. ⁶

Notes

1. “Foreign Office Amends Travel Advice for Lebanon,” UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 14 September 2006; see [<http://diplomacymonitor.com/stu/dm.nsf/dn/dnEDD45754DEOC6EE3852571E900493F71>].
2. “Lebanon,” Government of New Zealand, 12 September 2006; see [<http://safetravel.govt.nz/countries/lebanon.shtml>].
3. “Travel Warning: Lebanon,” US Department of State, downloaded 3 October 2006; see [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_2123.html].
4. The BIT aims at protecting the investments of citizens of foreign countries and assists the country where the investments are made to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for private investment and, thus, strengthening the development of its private sector.
5. Nassib Ghobril, “Expatriates’ Remittances and the Lebanese Economy: Brain Drain or Economic Gain?” lecture presented at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, NDU, April 21, 2004.
6. Ibid.

CHAPTER IX ARABIC SUMMARY

وقع حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦ على الهجرة من لبنان: الهجرة، معاودة الهجرة، الإجراء، والعودة

دراسة مبدئية

غيثا ج. حوراني^١

مختصر الدراسة

مقدمة

تبحث هذه الدراسة في الظروف التي أدت إلى إعادة الهجرة ونزوح الآلاف من السكّان اللبنانيين وإجراء المهاجرين العائدين للزيارة في صيف ٢٠٠٦. وتستعرض أيضاً عمليات إجلاء المدنيين من المواطنين الأجانب واللبنانيين المزدوجي الجنسية بناء على طلبهم، من قبل السفارات والمنظمات الدولية، وكذلك دور الملاذات الآمنة التي استعملت في عمليات الإجراء، كقبرص وسوريا والأردن وتركيا.

إضافة إلى ذلك، تكشف الدراسة النقاب عن التداعيات التي برزت في دول الهجرة الكبرى بسبب إجراء هذه الأعداد الكبيرة للمواطنين حاملي الجنسية المزدوجة: إلغاء الجنسية المزدوجة، تغريم تكلفة الإجراء للذين أجلاوا، إخلاص المزدوجي الجنسية لبلدان اغترابهم، منح ما يسمّى "الوضع المحمي المؤقت" للبنانيين الذين صدف ان كانوا في دول أجنبية في أثناء الحرب وهم غير قادرين على العودة الى لبنان. علاوة على ذلك تقدّم الدراسة، من خلال الاستفتاء، معلومات عن اللبنانيين الذين غادروا تلقائياً أو عبر سفاراتهم لجهة تأثير الحرب على قرارهم بالمغادرة، وتأثير الحرب على صحتهم الجسدية والنفسية وعلى ممتلكاتهم وأعمالهم واستثماراتهم، إضافة إلى الشروط التي يضعونها لإعادة النظر في العودة إلى لبنان للإقامة الدائمة أو للزيارة. وتستخرج الدراسة مرويات شخصية من الاستفتاء حول رأي المجليين والمغتربين ومشاعرهم، وتنتهي بخلاصة محدّدة ومقترحات لسياسات يمكن الدولة والمجتمع المدني العمل بها.

أهمية المغتربين اللبنانيين للاقتصاد العائلي والاقتصاد العام

«الهجرة، أكانت دائمة أم مؤقتة، تبقى في حد ذاتها إستجابة طبيعية أو إستراتيجية لبقاء الشعوب بحيث تتصدى فيها لاحتمال حصول الكوارث ولوقوعها ونتاجها، أكانت هذه الكوارث طبيعية كالفيضانات والهزات الأرضية، أم من صنع الإنسان، كالحروب مثلاً».

أكثرية اللبنانيين الذين اغتربوا خلال السنوات الثلاثين المنصرمة ما زالوا يرتبطون بلبنان من خلال صلوات عائلية واجتماعية وعلاقات عمل، وبينهم كثيرون، مع المتحدرين منهم، يزورون لبنان في مناسبات عائلية وفي الأعياد وفي فصل الصيف. هذه الصلوات هي الآن السبب الرئيسي للازدهار الملحوظ الذي يشهده قطاع السياحة، وذلك عبر زيارات المغتربين الموسمية المتتالية إلى لبنان. ومهما يكن من أمر، فالأهم في هذا التواصل هو التدفق المالي الدائم أو ما يسمّى بالتحويلات المالية التي تتلقاها عائلات المغتربين المقيمة.

هؤلاء المغتربون لا ينقلون الرأسمال الاقتصادي وحده، بل الرأسمال الاجتماعي، والإنساني أيضاً الذي يعتبر بمجمله بمثابة دعم أساسي لتنمية لبنان. أمّا الرأسمال الاقتصادي فهو مجسّد في التحويلات المالية التي تناهز ٢٢٪ من دخل الأسرة اللبنانية ونسبة ٨٨٪ من ادخاراتها. وتساعد هذه التحويلات في زيادة قوة اللبناني الشرائية واستهلاكه للسلع والخدمات، فضلاً عن إنفاقه في مجال التعليم والطبابة وفي شراء الأراضي والاستثمارات المالية، ومنها امتلاكه سندات خريفة.

وعليه، ووفق صندوق النقد الدولي، يقدر مدخول الفرد في لبنان نتيجة تحويلات المغتربين بنحو ٥٧٥ دولاراً أميركياً للعام ٢٠٠١، وبهذه النسبة يكون لبنان على رأس الدول التي تتلقّى التحويلات عبر العالم. ومن هذا القبيل تشكل التحويلات مصدراً حيوياً للاقتصاد اللبناني، سيّما أنّها تناهز ١٣.٨٪ من الناتج المحلي العام (GDP). ويصنّف لبنان في المرتبة الثامنة ضمن لائحة البلدان العشرة الأولى بالنسبة إلى حجم تحويلات المغتربين، وذلك على أساس نسبة الناتج المحلي العام لسنة ٢٠٠١.

«الصيف الواعد» و«الوعد الصادق»

كثيرون توقعوا أن يكون صيف لبنان ٢٠٠٦ أهمّ المواسم السياحية في تاريخ السياحة اللبنانية على الإطلاق، وبيروت العاصمة كانت تتمتع بحيوية لم تشهدها منذ السبعينات. فبعد عام على الاغتيالات وانسحاب القوات السورية والتظاهرات التي شهدتها الساحة السياسية الداخلية، بدأ العام ٢٠٠٦ مع بريق أمل كبير بموسم سياحي واعد. وقبل تاريخ ١٢ تموز، كتب وارن سين-بارليت، وهو محرر صحيفة «ميدل ايست وال بيبر»، بأنه «أحبّ بيروت لأنها المدينة الأكثر احتمالاً لتغير الأوضاع في العالم، فحين تفكّر أين تتواجد، أو تتأمل في الانقسامات العميقة التي يعاني منها المجتمع اللبناني، أو في طرائق العيش المتناقضة والغريبة هنا والتي لا يمكن أن يتماشى بعضها مع بعض لكنّها كذلك، تجد أنّ هناك نوعاً من الفوضوية هنا وهذا جميل، وهذا إبداع، وهي تختلف عن أيّ مكان في الشرق الأوسط».

ووفق المنظمة العالمية للسياحة والسفر، كان من المفترض أن يجني لبنان في هذا العام من قطاع السياحة

٤.٣٨١.٧ مليون دولار. وبيروت كانت مصنفة من ضمن المدن العشر الأولى الأكثر استقطاباً للزوار في العام ٢٠٠٦، إضافة إلى أنها رُشحت مع عشر مدن عالمية أخرى للفوز بجائزة "ترافيل أند ليجير وارلد اورد" السنوية (وكانت مرتبتها تحديداً التاسعة بين المدن العشر الأخرى). وتوقع تقرير المنظمة العالمية للسياحة من جهته أن القطاع السياحي في لبنان سوف يخلق ١٧٥.٠٠٠ فرصة عمل لهذا العام، ممّا سيشكل ١٠.٦٠٪ من نسبة إجمالي العاملين في الوطن، بمعنى آخر إن واحداً من تسعة من الوظائف سيكون في مجال القطاع السياحي وحده.

من جهة أخرى، كان هذا القطاع سيشكل نسبة مهمة من حجم الاستيراد في لبنان. فبالنسبة إلى مجمل الاستيراد اللبناني للعام الحالي، كان من المتوقع أن يساهم قطاع السياحة والسفر بنسبة ١١.٩٪ من الناتج المحلي العام أو ما يقارب ١٤.٨٧٤.٤ مليون دولار.

ابتدأ عام ٢٠٠٦، بحسب وزارة السياحة، بدخول حوالي ثلاثة أرباع مليون سائح إلى لبنان في النصف الأول من السنة. ولقد سجل وصول ربع مليون منهم بين أول حزيران و١٢ تموز، ما كان يبشر بصيف مريح للبنانيين الذين يعتاشون من السياحة، ولخزينة الدولة التي تجني دخلاً مهماً من الاصطياف والسياحة. فلبنان يستقطب المصطافين العرب الذين يفضلون لبنان على غيره من البلدان، لأنهم يشعرون أنه يمكنهم فيه التأمل والتفكير في جو من الحرية، وأن يخلقوا ويختبروا الأفكار الجديدة، فإذا ما نجحت يأخذونها معهم: بيروت تصنع المعجزات^٤.

إلا أن "الصيف الواعد" تلاشى أمام "الوعد الصادق". فما إن خطف حزب الله الجنديين الإسرائيليين متخطياً حدود "الخط الأزرق"، حتى ردت إسرائيل بغارات جوية دمّرت خلالها مدارج المطار الدولي في بيروت وقطعت أوصال المواصلات والاتصالات في لبنان واقتحمت دباباتها الحدود، فهجرت ما يقارب المليون لبناني من قراهم وبلداتهم، على الأخص في البقاع والجنوب وضاحية بيروت الجنوبية.

نتيجة لذلك بدأ العائدون اللبنانيون، والمغتربون الذين جاؤوا للزيارة، والمصطافون والسياح، يتصلون بسفاراتهم لمساعدتهم على المغادرة أو يرحلون بوسائلهم الخاصة عبر المعابر البرية، الطريق الوحيدة الباقية ولو أنها تشكل خطورة للعابرين بسبب الغارات الجوية، خصوصاً لتعذر السفر بحراً وجواً، لأن إسرائيل كانت قد فرضت حظراً جواً وبحرياً محكماً على لبنان.

غادر لبنان ما يقارب ٢٣٠.٠٠٠ لبناني بسبب حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦، ومن المحتمل أن تنتج هجرة جديدة، بسبب الدمار الذي لحقته بالاقتصاد وفرص العمل في لبنان، والأخطر من ذلك الضرر الذي لحقته بعامل الثقة للاستثمار فيه، أيًا يكن نوع هذا الاستثمار، شخصياً كان أم بشرياً أم اقتصادياً.

يعنى أحمد ببيضون في كتابه بنت جبيل، حيث يتكلم على خوفه حينما قرأ للمرة الأولى عن القرى التي أزيلت من الخريطة خلال الحرب العالمية الأولى عن طريق تجويع الأهالي ودفعهم إلى الهجرة. قال إن ذاكرة الخوف تلك

استعادها مجدداً بسبب ما تشهده اليوم مدينة بنت جبيل-لبنان من دمار وركود، مقارنة بنظيرتها في الولايات المتحدة "بنت جبيل-مشيغن" التي تنمو بسرعة، بسبب هجرة أبناء بنت جبيل-لبنان إليها^٥.

المساعدة على الإجلاء

عمليات مساعدة الرعايا الأجانب المدنيين على الرحيل من لبنان مهمة صعبة ومعقدة في آن، فضلاً عن أنها خطيرة، وقد حصلت نتيجة لوضع يمكن أن يهدّد حياة الرعايا الأجانب، فتقرّرت مساعدتهم على الرّحيل أو ترحيلهم إلى مكان آمن. ولتحقيق تلك الغاية، يفترض أن تكون هذه العمليات سريعة، آمنة ومحدّدة. لقد قامت أكثر من ٤٥ دولة بمساعدة رعاياها الذين كانوا في لبنان في بداية الحرب على الرّحيل. العدد الكليّ للذين غادروا بوسائلهم الخاصة، أو بواسطة مساعدة سفاراتهم، غير متوافر حتى الآن. إلا أنّنا تمكّنا من الحصول على المعلومات التالية: ساعدت الولايات المتحدة الأميركية ١٥.٠٠٠ من رعاياها، وفرنسا ١١.٠٠٠، وكندا ١٢.٠٠٠، والسويد ٨.٠٠٠، والدانمارك ٤.٠٠٠، وفنزويلا ٤.٠٠٠، وألمانيا ٤.٠٠٠، والبرازيل ٣.٠٠٠، وبلجيكا ١.٢٠٠، وسويسرا ٨٠٠، وانكلترا ٤.٥٠٠. كما رصدنا معلومات تفيد أنّ كلفة إجلاء الرعايا الأوستراليين بلغت ٢٥ مليون دولار أوسترالي، في حين أنفقت كندا ٨٥ مليون دولار كنديّ.

ولقد لعبت كلّ من قبرص وسوريا وتركيا والأردن دوراً مهماً في المساعدة على هذه الاجلاءات كمناطق آمنة. إذ بذلت هذه الدول جهوداً كبيرة لاستقبال الرعايا الأجانب ورعايتهم ومساعدتهم على العودة إلى ديارهم.

والجدير بالذكر هنا أنّ الأكثرية الساحقة من الرعايا الأجانب كانت من اللبنانيين المغتربين حاملي الجنسية المزدوجة، وأنّ عمليات الإجلاء هذه اعتبرت الأكبر في تاريخ الإجلاء البحريّ لبلدان الولايات المتحدة، كندا، أستراليا، المملكة المتّحدة، السويد، تركيا وغيرها.

الأجوبة عن الإستمارة

قام مركز دراسات الانتشار اللبنانيّ بتحضير استمارة وإرسالها إلى الذين غادروا بوسائلهم الخاصة أو الذين تمّت مساعدتهم من قبل سفاراتهم للخروج من لبنان خلال حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦. وتوصّل المركز، من خلال الردود التي وردته، من تكوين فكرة عن الذين رحلوا وتأثير الحرب عليهم وما إذا كانوا سيعودون إلى لبنان وتحت أيّة شروط.

الوجه الديموغرافيّ

الجنس

أشار الاحصاء إلى أنّ أكثرية الذين أجابوا ٥٦.٣٪ كانوا من النساء، بينما ٤٣.٨٪ بينهم من الرجال.

الأعمار

الأكثرية أو ما يعادل ٢٩.٩٪ من الذين أجابوا راوحت أعمارهم بين ٤١-٥٠ سنة، بينما ٢.١٪ راوحت أعمارهم

بين ١٦ و ٢٠، ونسبة ٢٧٪ كانوا بين ٢١ و ٣٠، ٢٠.٨٪ بين ٣١ و ٤٠، و ٨.٣٪ بين ٥١ و ٦٠، ٦.٣٪ ما بين ٦١ و ٧٠، ونسبة مماثلة أي ٦.٣٪ تمثلت بأكثر من ٧٠ سنة من العمر.

الوضع الوظيفي

لحظت الدراسة أن ٥٦٪ من الذين أجابوا عن الإستمارة هم موظفون، و ١٥٪ من العاملين ضمن فئة المهن الحرة أو رجال أعمال، و ١١٪ يبحثون عن عمل، ٩٪ من المتقاعدين، ٤٪ لا يعملون، ٥٪ من الطلاب.

معلومات عن الإغتراب الأولي

عدد سنوات الاغتراب

٢٦٪ أدلوا بأنهم مغتربون منذ سنة إلى خمس سنين، ١٥٪ ما بين سنة وعشر سنوات، ٨٪ اغتربوا منذ ١١ إلى ١٥ سنة، ١٥٪ كانوا من المهاجرين ما بين ١٦ و ٢٠ سنة؛ ١٩٪ غادروا منذ ٢١ إلى ٢٥ سنة ماضية، ٨٪ غادروا منذ ٢٦ إلى ٣٠ سنة ماضية، ١٥٪ غادروا ٣١ إلى ٣٥ سنة ماضية، و فقط ٤٪ غادروا منذ ٣٦ إلى ٤٠ سنة ماضية.

مكان الاغتراب

أكثرية الذين أجابوا عن الإستمارة تقيم في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وفي أوروبا، ٦٪ في أفريقيا، ٨٪ في أستراليا، ٢٥٪ في أوروبا، ٨٪ في كندا، ٤٣٪ تقيم في الولايات المتحدة و ١٥٪ في الشرق الأوسط.

أسباب الاغتراب (١٩٧٥-٢٠٠٥)

٣٧٪ ذكروا أن الظروف التي دفعتهم إلى الاغتراب كانت عدم الاستقرار السياسي، ٢٩.١٪ قالوا إن الأسباب كانت الحروب والصراعات المسلحة التي عصفت بلبنان، ٢٠٪ قالوا إن الركود الاقتصادي في لبنان هو الذي دفعهم إلى المغادرة؛ ١٠.٤٪ عزوا غريبتهم إلى ندرة فرص العمل، و ١٠.٤٪ قالوا إن السبب هو عدم قدرة لبنان على تلبية حاجاتهم التعليمية؛ أما ٢.١٪ فأشاروا إلى أن السبب كان دعاوى حقوق رعاية الأطفال بعد الطلاق، ٦.٣٪ بسبب الزواج، و ٢.١٪ أنهم ولدوا خارج البلاد.

سبب التواجد في لبنان خلال صيف ٢٠٠٦

التواجد في لبنان حين اندلعت الحرب

٤٢٪ من الذين اجابوا كانوا يقطنون في بيروت حينما بدأت حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦؛ ٦٪ منهم كانوا يقيمون في منطقة البقاع، ٤٪ في جنوب لبنان؛ ١٣٪ في شماله؛ و ٣٥٪ في جيله.

أسباب زيارة لبنان

نصف الذي أجابوا تقريباً، أو ٤٥.٨٪ تحديداً، عزوا سبب مجيئهم لزيارة عائلاتهم، ونسبة ١٨.٨٪ منهم عادوا

إلى لبنان بشكل دائم ومستمر. أما الذين جاؤوا في سبيل العمل فبلغوا ٢.١٪، بينما ١٣.٥٪ جاؤوا لاستكشاف إمكان العودة الدائمة و١٠.٣٪ عادوا للسياحة، ٦.٣٪ للاستثمار في لبنان، ٢.١٪ للبحث عن عمل، ونسبة مماثلة أي ٢.١٪ لعقد زواجهم.

الوضع القانوني بالنسبة إلى الإقامة خارج لبنان

نسبة ٣٨٪ يحملون الجنسية الأمريكية، و٨٪ يحظون بإقامة دائمة في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية؛ ٨٪ يحملون الجنسية الكندية، ٦٪ الجنسية البريطانية، كذلك الأسترالية، والفرنسية ٦٪ وتأتي نسبة ٤٪ لحاملي الجنسية الدانمركية و ٤٪ لباقي البلدان.

الرحيل من لبنان عقب حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦

تاريخ الرحيل

٤٥.٨٪ من الذين أجابوا قالوا إنهم تركوا لبنان خلال الأسبوع الأول أو فور اندلاع الحرب، بينما ٣٣.٣٪ منهم تركوا بعد مضي أسبوع على بدء الأعمال العسكرية و ٢٠.٩٪ انتظروا أسابيع عدة قبل أن يرحلوا.

أسباب الرحيل

نسبة ١٨.٨٪ عزوا سبب رحيلهم إلى حالة الخوف على حياتهم، أما ٢٥٪ فقد خافوا على حياة أفراد عائلاتهم، و١٦.٧٪ بسبب الضغط الممارس عليهم من قبل العائلة الموجودة خارج لبنان، ونسبة الذين رحلوا لسبب تعرض أولادهم لصدمة نفسية ٦.٣٪، والذين غادروا للعودة إلى أعمالهم ٢٠.٨٪، ٢.١٪ لمتابعة دراستهم، و ٨.٢٪ بسبب إصابتهم بخيبة أمل من الوضع برمته، و ٢.١٪ للحصول على الجنسية.

وسائل الرحيل والرضى عن عمليات الترحيل

حوالي ٥٠٪ تم إجلاؤهم بواسطة السفن و ٨.٣٪ بواسطة الطائرات، ٤١.٧٪ برّاً، أما بوسائلهم الخاصة واما عبر سفاراتهم. ٦٦.٧٪ من المستطلعين قالوا إنهم مسرورون وراضون عن عملية الإجلاء بينما ٢٥٪ خالفهم الرأي، في حين أن ٤.٣٪ لم ينطبق عليهم السؤال المطروح، لمغادرتهم بوسائلهم الخاصة.

وجهة الرحيل

عقب الاجلاء، ٣٣٪ ممن غادروا توجهوا إلى بلدان إقامتهم الأصلية، بينما غادر ٣٢٪ لتمضية عطلتهم في بلدان أخرى، وآخرون أو ٣٢٪ عادوا لمتابعة دروسهم و ٣٪ ذهبوا لزيارة أقرباء لهم في بلدان أخرى. وقد غادر ٦٥٪ برفقة أفراد من عائلتهم، في حين أن ٤٪ غادروا مع أصدقائهم و ٣١٪ بمفردهم.

أهمية الجنسية الأجنبية

٧٢.٩٪ من المستطلعين قالوا إن الجنسية الثانية أو الإقامة الدائمة أو تأشيرة السفر الطويلة الأمد التي كانوا

حاصلين عليها مسبقاً من بلدان أجنبية كانت مفيدة جداً لهم في هذه الظروف الصعبة، و ٢٢.٩٪ اعتبروها أنها مفيدة، في حين أعلن ٤.٢٪ أنها لم تكن مفيدة.

الشعور في أثناء المغادرة بسبب حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦

أبدى ٥٨.٣٪ غضبهم لمغادرة لبنان، و ٢٠.٨٪ قالوا إنهم محبطون، و ١٤.٦٪ إن أملهم خاب، بينما نسبة الذين أبدوا ارتياحهم لاغتنامهم فرصة الابتعاد لم تتجاوز ٦.٣٪.

التأثير الجسدي والنفسي لحرب صيف ٢٠٠٦

الإصابات الجسدية

٩٥.٨٪ من المستطلعين لم يصابوا مباشرة، لا هم ولا أحد أفراد عائلتهم، جراء الحرب. بينما ٤.٢٪ تعرضوا لإصابات.

الإصابات النفسية

نسبة ٦٩٪ لم يعانون من أي اضطراب نفسي، لكن كثيرين قالوا إنهم تعرضوا لضغط نفسي كبير، بينما قالت نسبة ٣١٪ أو ثلث المستطلعين، إنها تعرضت لاضطرابات نفسية، هي أو أحد أفراد عائلتها.

الوفاة

نسبة الذين فقدوا أفراداً من العائلة كانت ٨٪، أما ٩٢٪ منهم فلم يتعرض أحد منهم للموت.

تضرر الأملاك

تضرر المنازل والأعمال

٢.١٪ من الذين سُئلوا وأجابوا فقد منزلهم كلياً خلال حرب صيف ٢٠٠٤، بينما تعرضت منازل ٤.٢٪ لضرر جزئي و ٩٣.٧٪ لم يتعرض منزلهم لأي ضرر.

الذين تضرر عملهم بشكل جزئي بلغت نسبتهم ٦.٢٥٪، في حين قال ٨٧.٥٪ إن عملهم لم يتعرض لأي أذى، والباقيون، أي ٦.٢٥٪، لم تكن لديهم أصلاً أعمال في لبنان.

خسائر مالية واقتصادية

٥٩٪ من المستطلعين قالوا إنهم لم يعانون أية خسائر اقتصادية في حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦ وبسببها، في حين أن الذين خسروا مدخولاً مالياً وصلت نسبتهم إلى ٢١٪، و ٢٪ خسروا عائدات أعمالهم، و ٤٪ خسروا في مجال الإستثمار، و ١٠٪ خسروا أموالاً بسبب اضطرابهم لشراء بطاقات سفر جديدة ودفع بدل إقامة في الفندق، إلى ما هنالك، و ٤٪ خسروا بسبب اضطرابهم للاستشفاء.

العودة وشروطها

عدد مرّات العودة الدائمة إلى لبنان والمغادرة مجدداً

٢٢.٩٪ قالوا إنهم قد سبق وعادوا إلى لبنان للقامة الدائمة وغادروه أكثر من مرّتين منذ تاريخ اغتربهم، ٢٠.٨٪ رجعوا مرّتين ومن ثمّ رحلوا، بعدما كان من المفروض ان يستقرّوا نهائياً في لبنان، بينما عاد مرّة واحدة ورحل مجدداً ١٦.٧٪ منهم، أمّا ٣٧.٥٪ فلم يعودوا أبداً للاستقرار في لبنان، ٢٪ لم ينطبق عليهم السؤال، لأنهم أجنب متزوجون من لبنانيين (أو لبنانيّات).

أسباب العودة إلى لبنان عقب حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦

حين سئل المستطلعون عما إذا كانوا يرغبون بالعودة إلى لبنان بعد حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦، وعن سبب قرارهم بالعودة، أجاب ٦١٪ منهم إنهم سيعودون لزيارة العائلة، و٦٪ لتمضية العطلة، و٤٪ للاستثمار، و١١٪ لإنشاء أعمال، و٦٪ للعمل، بينما كان ١٠٪ قد عادوا إلى لبنان في أثناء تعيّنهم للاستثمار، وقال ٢٪ إنهم سيعودون إليه بشكل دائم.

في احتمال العودة الدائمة

٥٢٪ قالوا إن هناك إمكاناً لعودتهم الدائمة، بينما قال ١٠٪ إنهم عادوا، و٢٣٪ إنهم سيعودون يوماً، مقابل ١٥٪ قالوا إنهم لن يعودوا.

شروط العودة الدائمة

اشتراط ٧١٪ لعودتهم الدائمة أن تنعم البلاد بالأمن والاستقرار السياسي، وقال ١٠٪ إنهم سيعودون مع تحقق أمن اقتصادي و١٣٪ قرّنوا عودتهم ببروز فرص عمل، و٦٪ سيعودون إذا تحقّق السلام.

عمليات الإجلاء حرّكت موضوعات إغترابية

بالرغم من أن الدول الأجنبية وشعوبها تضامنت مع لبنان ومع اللبنانيين حاملي الجنسية المزدوجة في هذا النزاع المدمر، إلا أن عمليات المساعدة على الرحيل/الترحيل أبرزت مسائل مهمّة عدّة حرّكت الجماعات المناوئة للاغتراب وزوّدتها بأسباب للتكلّم عن موضوعات قديمة-حديثة حول حقوق المغتربين وواجباتهم.

الجدل بدأ حينما صدم المواطنون الأستراليون والكنديون تحديداً، لمعرفةهم بوجود ٢٠.٠٠٠ أسترالي و٥٠.٠٠٠ مواطن كندي بأكثرية من أصول لبنانية في لبنان عند بداية الحرب في تمّوز ٢٠٠٦. وأنّ تكلفة الترحيل البالغة الملايين كانت من أجل مساعدة اللبنانيين-الاستراليين واللبنانيين-الكنديين الذين كانوا إمّا في إجازة وإمّا يزورون أصدقاءهم وعائلاتهم.

العديد من المغتربين، بخاصّة الجيلان الأوّل والثاني، يبقون على صلات عائلية، اقتصادية واجتماعية بوطنهم الأصلي. هذه الصلات التي تربط المغترب ببلده الأوّل ليست استثنائية في لبنان، فهي ظاهرة نموذجية لجاليات

مغترية حول العالم كله، ومهمّة للبلد المضيف والبلد الأول في آن معاً، في ما يعني العلاقات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية والتنموية. وتنبغي الإشارة إلى أننا ندلّ إلى هذه الموضوعات المطروحة لكي نضيء على جزء من النقاش منذ اتخاذ قرار الإجلاء. أهم هذه الموضوعات:

- ▶ إلغاء الجنسية المزدوجة؛
- ▶ إخلاص الرعايا حاملي الجنسية المزدوجة لبلد اغتربهم؛
- ▶ تحميل الرعايا المزدوجي الجنسية ضرائب بلد هجرتهم، إذا ما أقاموا مدةً طويلة في وطنهم الأول.
- ▶ تحميل المواطن قسطاً من كلفة الإجلاء.
- ▶ وضع حماية مؤقتة (Temporary Protected Status).

ومن الجدير بالذكر أنّ هذه المسائل تظهر دائماً عند كلّ قضية لها علاقة بالمغتربين ويكون لها طابع داخليّ وسياسيّ في كلّ من بلدان الاغتراب وليست محصورة بالوضع اللبناني، على الرّغم من أنّ عمليات الإجلاء كانت ضخمة ومكلفة، ما أثار حفيظة المناوئين للهجرة.

ملخص عن نتائج أساسية للدراسة ومقترحات لسياسات يمكن الدولة والمجتمع المدنيّ من العمل بها

المقترحات	النتائج
على الدولة اللبنانية ان تجد حلولاً جذرية وطويلة الأمد لتقليص النزاعات السياسية والحروب في سبيل الحدّ من الاغتراب.	أكثرية اللبنانيين من الذين اغتربوا كان اغتربهم بسبب عدم الإستقرار السياسيّ والنزاعات الممتدة المسلّحة.
على الدولة اللبنانيّة أن تخلق بيئة ثقة من خلال الاستقرار السياسيّ في لبنان وأن تستنيط وتنفّذ سياسات اقتصادية تسهّل خلق فرص عمل للشباب، وبالأخصّ المثقّف والمهنيّ منهم، للحدّ من الاغتراب، بخاصّة هجرة الأدمغة والكفاءات.	إنّ حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦ نتجت عنها أسباب دفع جديدة سوف تقود الى موجة اغتراب وإعادة اغتراب جديدين.
على الدولة اللبنانيّة أن تعمل على استعادة الثقة بلبنان ومستقبله وان تؤمّن حوافز ملموسة وقيّمة للبنانيين المغتربين، لتحفيزهم على العودة إلى لبنان وعلى الاستثمار فيه، من حيث الاستثمار الماديّ أو العمليّ أو الاجتماعيّ.	إنّ حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦ كانت كارثيّة على اللبنانيين العائدين للإقامة الدائمة او شبه الدائمة، وعلى اللبنانيين المغتربين الذين كانوا يزورون لبنان.

المقترحات	النتائج
يجب أن يصار إلى تشمير الدور التنموي المحتمل للمغتربين وللعائدين اللبنانيين وإدراجه في سياسات الحكومة الإنمائية على كل الأصعدة.	إن المغتربين اللبنانيين والعائدين منهم يساهمون مساهمة فعالة في الاقتصاد اللبناني عبر استثماراتهم، ومساهماتهم العينية، وخصوصاً عبر تحويلاتهم المالية.
الدور الإنمائي الذي يمكن أن يؤديه هؤلاء المغتربون المشقّفون أو الشباب في لبنان، ينمى من خلال دمج تحويلاتهم الاجتماعية ومهاراتهم ومن خلال السياسات والتخطيط في لبنان.	إن أولاد المغتربين الذين تراوح أعمارهم بين العشرين والثلاثين يبحثون عن خيارات بديلة من العودة إلى لبنان.
على الدولة اللبنانية والمجتمع المدني والقطاع الخاص أن يستثمروا هذه الرغبة وهذا التفاؤل بوضع آليات استقطاب للمغتربين كي يعودوا إلى لبنان.	عدد من المغتربين يرغب في العودة ومتفائل بشأن مستقبل لبنان.
على الدولة اللبنانية أن تعمل بكل جهدها وإمكاناتها للحد من التداعيات وعدم الاستقرار السياسي في لبنان، ما يؤثر إيجاباً على الاقتصاد الذي بدوره يجذب المغتربين.	يؤكد المغتربون ضرورة الاستقرار السياسي أكثر ممّا يشددون على الاقتصاد وفرص العمل كحافز لعودتهم.
يجب على الدولة والقطاع الخاص والمجتمع المدني إغارة هؤلاء اهتماماً كبيراً، خصوصاً لما يتعلق بتسهيل بعض الأمور الشخصية والعائلية والاجتماعية لتعزيز العودة، وإصدار إعفاءات ضريبية وتسهيلات للتقاعد وغيرها من الحوافز، لكي يتشجع المغتربون على العودة إلى الوطن.	أكثرية المغتربين لا يعرفون بعد ما إذا كانوا سيعودون إلى لبنان أم لا، أي أنهم لم يقرروا بعد.
على الحكومة اللبنانية أن تعترف بثنائية الجنسية علناً وأن تسعى إلى عقد اتفاقات ثنائية مع دول أخرى في ميادين "المعاهدة الاستثمارية الثنائية"، وأن تسعى كذلك إلى وضع قوانين تسمح للمغتربين اللبنانيين باسترجاع جنسيتهم اللبنانية، وإلى إعطاء اللبنانيين المقيمين أو العاملين خارج لبنان حق الاقتراع الغيابي في الانتخابات البرلمانية، بهدف توطيد علاقتهم بوطنهم الأول لبنان.	يعوّل المغتربون كثيراً على جنسيتهم الثانية ويعطونها قيمة عالية، لما توفره لهم من حقوق، خصوصاً لجهة ما تقدّمه من بيئة آمنة ومستقرة.
يجب وضع قواعد وإنشاء مراكز للصحة النفسية للنساء والأطفال والرجال الذين عاشوا الحروب وتأثروا سلبياً بها.	إن أكثر الذين أجابوا عن استمارة الأسئلة كانوا من النساء. ولقد تأثر حوالي الأربعين في المئة منهنّ تأثيراً سلبياً بالحرب، فمنهن من لم يستطعن القيام بواجباتهن تجاه أنفسهن أو أولادهن، ومنهن من لم يستطعن القيام بعملهن.

المقترحات	النتائج
التداعيات النفسية، ومنها ارتجاجات رضية أو الاضطرابات النفسية، مألوفة في أثناء الحروب والنزاعات المسلحة وبعدها. على الدولة والمؤسسات غير الحكومية والمجتمعات المدنية أن تساعد هؤلاء الناس لمواجهة تلك الرضات، خصوصاً إذا ما أصابت الأطفال والشبان والشابات.	ثلث مجموع الذين أجابوا عن الاستمارة قالوا إنهم، هم أو أحد أفراد عائلتهم، يعانون من مشاكل نفسية نتيجة حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦.
على لبنان أن يوقع معاهدات ثنائية مع بلدان أخرى لتجنب ازدواجية دفع الضرائب من قبل المغتربين والعائدين ذوي الجنسية الثنائية.	وضع ضرائب على ثنائيي الجنسية، إذا ما عادوا أو أقاموا فترة طويلة في بلدهم الأول.

خلاصة

هدفت الدراسة إلى التقاط وتوثيق تأثير حرب صيف ٢٠٠٦ على اللبنانيين المغتربين، الذين كانوا قد عادوا إلى لبنان للإقامة الدائمة أو للزيارة، مباشرة أو بعد الحرب وقبل ان تتلّون آراؤهم بمسائل ما بعد الحرب. الدراسة ستستكمل بدراسة معمّقة أخرى حول الأمن السياسي والاجتماعي والاقتصادي وتأثيره على قرار الاغتراب وحول التواصل بين اللبنانيين المغتربين والمقيمين. وقد كُلف مركز دراسات الانتشار اللبناني في جامعة سيّدة اللوزية القيام بهذه الدراسة المعمّقة من قبل الإتحاد الأوروبي- المتوسطي للبحث التطبيقي في الهجرة الدولية، الذي تموله المفوضية الأوروبية عبر برنامج يورو-ميد، وسوف يتمّ نشر هذه الدراسة في مطلع عام ٢٠٠٧.

مراجع

١. قامت بهذه الدراسة الأنسة غيتا حوراني، مديرة مركز دراسات الانتشار اللبناني في جامعة سيّدة اللوزية في لبنان. وكانت قد عملت كمستشارة في التنمية الدولية لدى كل من البنك الدولي ومركز التنمية العالمية والملحقية الثقافية الكويتية، وكباحثة في مراكز أبحاث عدّة منها مركز المعلومات الاردني والمركز اللبناني للدراسات في واشنطن. وهي تشكر نسيب عون لمراجعته الملخص العربي لهذا البحث، وعبدو القاعي لتفقيحه الاستمارة باللغة الفرنسية، وجورج مغامس لتفقيحه النصوص باللغة العربية.

٢. Hugo Graeme, "Environmental Concerns and International migration" *International Migration Review*, Vol. 30: 1996, pp. 105-131.

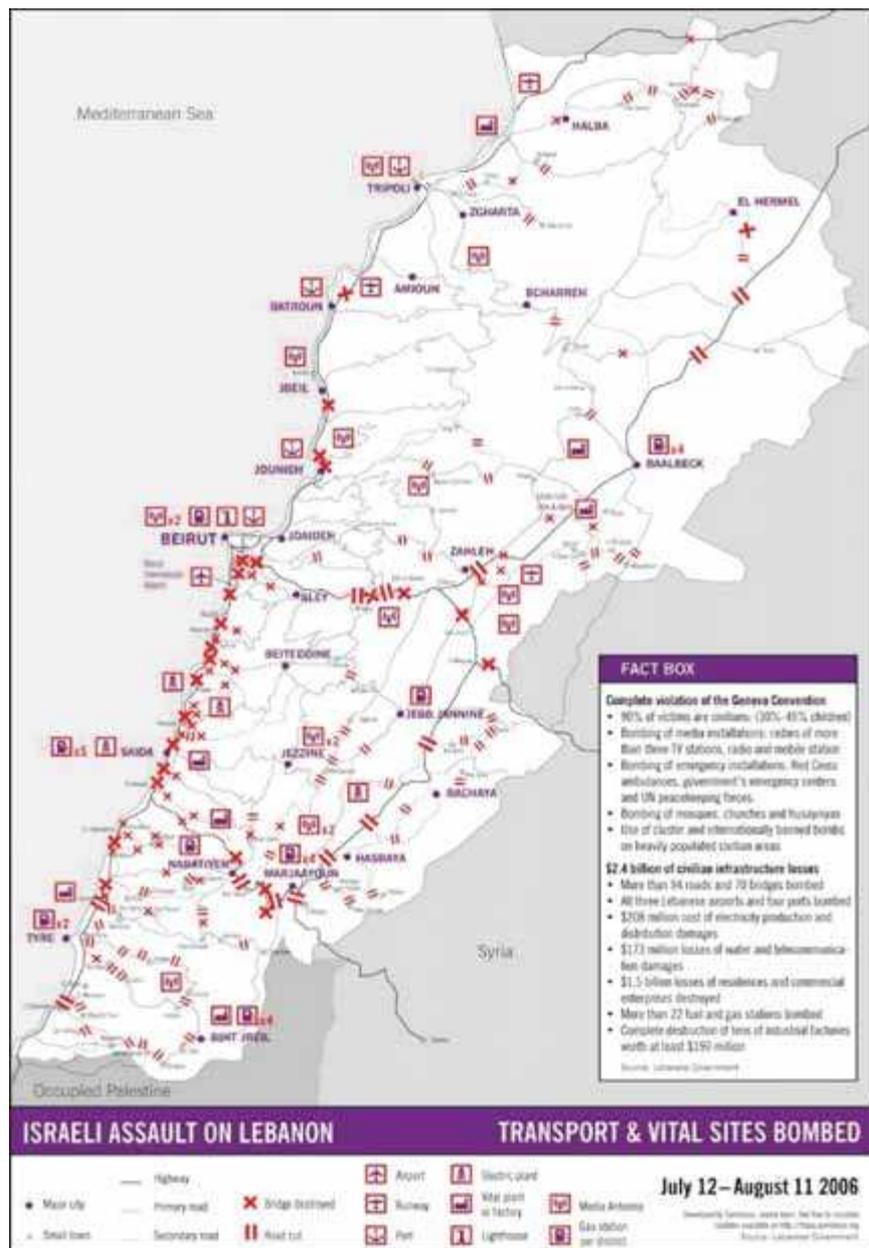
٣. Liesl Schillinger, "Life before Wartime: Beirut as a Case Study in the Fragility of Cosmopolitanism", *New York Magazine*, August 7, 2006, [http://nymag.com/news/intelligencer/18484/].

٤. المرجع نفسه.

٥. Jabbour Douaihi, "De Bint Jbeil à Jbeil Michigan: Visite à nos cousins d'Amérique", *L'Orient-Le Jour*, September 7, 2006. Ahmad Beydoun, *Bint Jbeil-Michigan*, (Arabic), Dar an-Nahar, 2006, p. 77.

CHAPTER X APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Israeli Air Strikes Targeting Lebanon



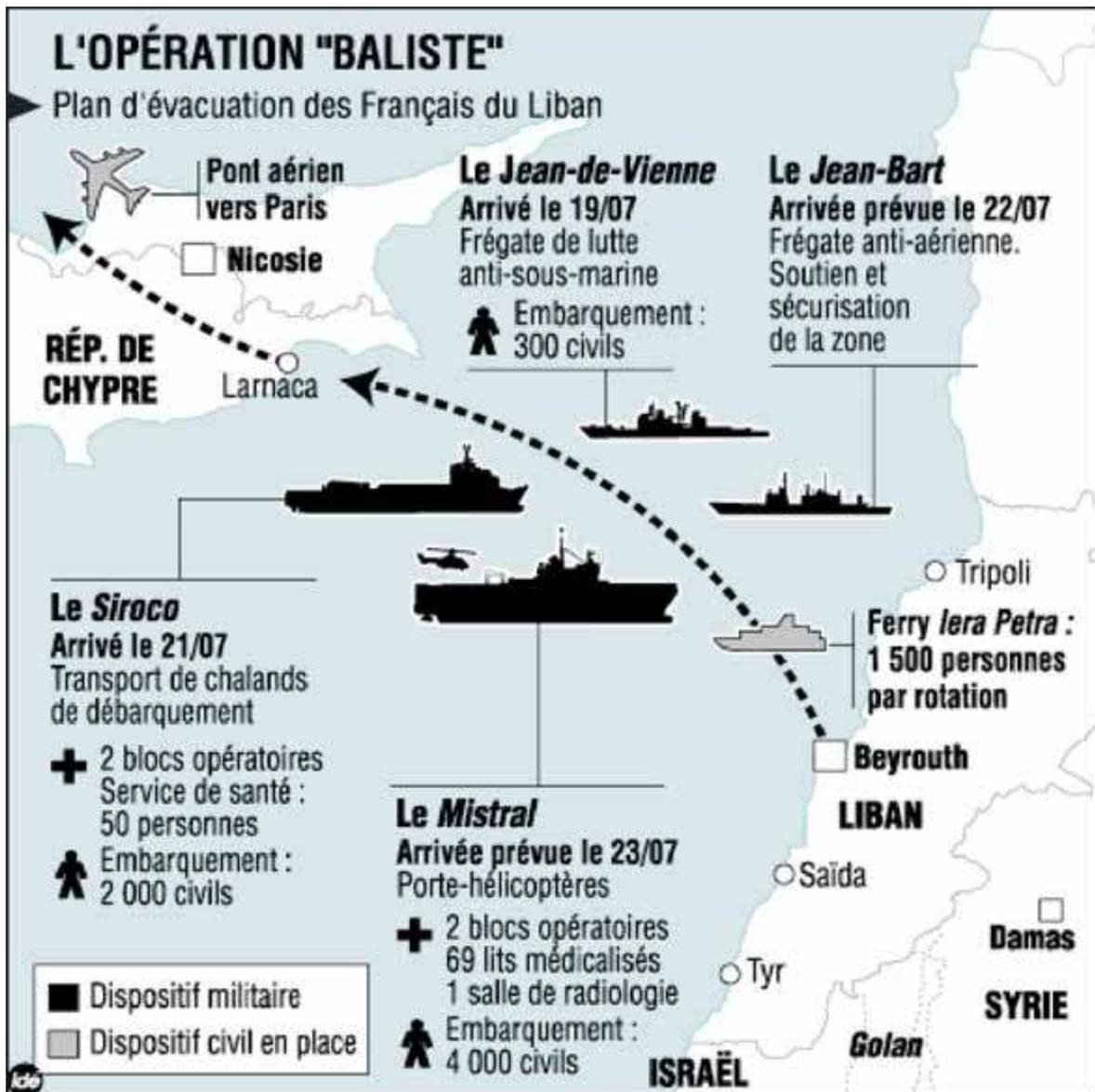
Source: Samidoun, last checked October 18, 2006, see [http://maps.samidoun.org/transport_vitalsites_aug11.jpg]

Appendix 2: The Australian Government Decision to Deploy Australian Defence Force to Support the Evacuation of Australian Nationals from Lebanon

	<h1>MEDIA RELEASE</h1> <p>THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON Minister for Defence</p>
Wednesday, 19 July 2006	109/2006
DEFENCE SUPPORT TO LEBANON EVACUATIONS	
<p>The Australian Government has decided to deploy Australian Defence Force specialist staff to support the evacuation of Australian nationals from Lebanon as part of a coordinated Australian Government response.</p> <p>The safety of Australians in Lebanon remains the Australian Government's priority. The Australian Defence Force has been engaged in planning with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to support the evacuation of Australian nationals. This deployment reflects the ADF's ability to respond with essential capabilities when directed.</p> <p>A team of 19 personnel departed Sydney today to travel to Beirut and Cyprus to assist Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff. This team will arrive in Beirut in the next 48 hours.</p> <p>Two additional evacuee processing teams, a command element, and importantly liaison officers, totaling approximately 65 personnel will depart tomorrow to support evacuation operations. The ADF deployment includes movements officers, health specialists, linguists and evacuee processing teams.</p> <p>This deployment supports Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade management of the evacuation of Australian nationals from Lebanon.</p> <p>For a free subscription to Defence Direct, the Minister for Defence's monthly e-newsletter....</p>	

Source: Australia's Ministry of Defense, last checked October 18, 2006, see [<http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/defencedirect/spt/subscribe.html>]

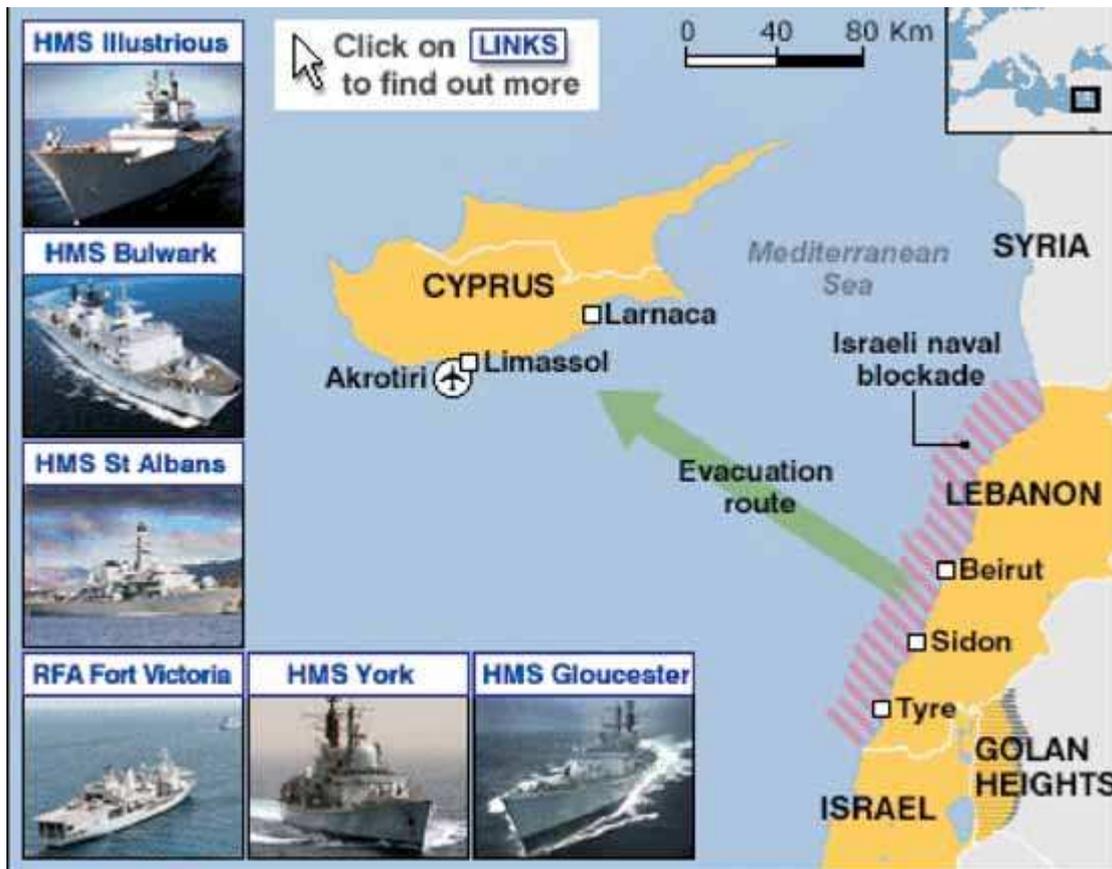
Appendix 3: France's Evacuation Plan "Operation 'Baliste'"



Source: Le Figaro, last checked October 18, 2006, see [http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/20060718.WWW00000359_GRA02_en_images_des_dizaines_de_milliers_de_personnes_a_evacuer.html].

Appendix 4: United Kingdom Evacuation Route and Logistics

The UK has been evacuating British nationals from Lebanon amid continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah forces in the south of the country.



The Logistics

- ▲ The government says it is in contact with all of the estimated 12,000 British nationals and 10,000 dual nationals in Lebanon.
- ▲ From initial responses, it estimated that about 5,000 of them wanted to leave, but the Foreign Office believes the figure may now be nearer 4,000. It believes most dual nationals opted to stay, and many ex-pats now living in Lebanon also wanted to remain.
- ▲ People have registered after phoning or e-mailing Foreign Office officials and giving contact detail.
- ▲ They were told to stand by for short-notice evacuation before the large-scale phased evacuation began on Wednesday.
- ▲ Britons were advised to listen to English-speaking radio and television and to check the Foreign Office website for updates.
- ▲ The Foreign Office announced on Friday that the scheduled evacuations would end on Saturday.

The Operation

The government is not revealing many details for security reasons, but it has confirmed that at least five warships - HMS York, HMS Gloucester, HMS Bulwark, HMS Illustrious, HMS St Albans - plus RFA support vessel Fort Victoria are in the area.

RAF Chinook helicopters have been used to ferry evacuees onto HMS Illustrious, which is acting as a command centre in the Mediterranean, from where they were then flown on to British bases in Cyprus.

The Foreign Office advice in full (14KB)

The first sea evacuation took place on Tuesday when around 180 of the “highest priority” Britons were taken to Limassol in Cyprus on board HMS Gloucester, which was granted a brief “window” to sail through the Israeli blockade around the port of Beirut.

They were stepped up on Wednesday, when similar arrangements allowed HMS Bulwark to dock in Beirut, and on Friday HMS St Albans and a chartered ferry took over the role.

HMS Gloucester and HMS York have been operating a “shuttle” service between Lebanon and Cyprus.

Beirut’s airport and main roads are closed and ports blockaded, and sea evacuation is considered the best option at the moment - although only with co-operation from Lebanon and Israel.

The British ships are ferrying evacuees to Cyprus, some 150 miles away, via the ports of Larnaca and Limassol - journeys of up to 10 or 11 hours.

A rapid deployment team from the Foreign Office is meeting them and supervising onward travel, either back to the UK or in some cases to temporary shelter at RAF bases.

Most of the evacuees have now returned to the UK on flights chartered by the Foreign Office.

Source: “Evacuation from Lebanon”, BBC News, last checked October 18, see 2006, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/5190816.stm]



September 14, 2006

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH

The purpose of the FCO is to work for UK interests in a safe, just and prosperous world. We do this with some 16,000 staff, based in the UK and our overseas network of over 200 diplomatic offices.

'We advise against all but essential travel to Lebanon. On 12 July 2006 two Israeli soldiers were kidnapped on the border between Israel and Lebanon. This led to a major outbreak of violence, including major Israeli strikes across Lebanon in which buildings, roads and bridges have been destroyed and hundreds of people killed and thousands injured. Following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1701, a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon came into effect on 14 August 2006. While this has largely been observed so far, the security situation remains uncertain, and there remains much unexploded ordnance in Southern Lebanon and the Northern Beka'a valley region.

'If you are in Lebanon you should exercise extreme caution and register with the British Embassy. You should keep abreast of the latest developments by listening to BBC and other English language broadcasts, and heed local advice.

'There is a serious risk of danger from unexploded bombs being accidentally detonated. This risk is greatest in the south of Lebanon, where the most ordnance fell. You should heed local advice in areas which have not been declared safe from unexploded ordnance.

'Israeli warplanes have struck all crossing points on the border with Syria apart from the one at al-Arida on the coast. While these crossings are now passable, there remains a risk of increased tension. The blockade of Lebanon's ports and airports has now been lifted and Beirut airport has reopened to regular scheduled services.

'There is a high threat of terrorism in Lebanon, with a risk that Western and British interests may be targeted.

'You should carry identity papers with you at all times.'

Notes for Editors

We have amended your travel advice from 'against all travel' to advising 'against all but essential travel' now that there is a ceasefire in place and the blockade has been lifted. However we continue to advise against all travel south of the Litani river. We also advise travellers to exercise extreme caution.

FCO Travel Advice can also be obtained on the following telephone number: 0845 850 2829.

FCO Travel Advice is kept under constant review. This advice is based on our latest assessment of the situation in Lebanon.

وزارة الخارجية تعدل نصائح السفر إلى لبنان

الخميس ١٤ سبتمبر (أيلول) ٢٠٠٢

راجعت وزارة الخارجية اليوم نصائح السفر المتعلقة بالسفر إلى لبنان. ننصح حالياً بعدم السفر إلى لبنان إلا للضرورة، لكننا مازلنا ننصح بعدم السفر نهائياً إلى المناطق الواقعة جنوب نهر الليطاني.

ملخص نصائح السفر حالياً كما يلي:

"ننصح بعدم السفر إلى لبنان إلا للضرورة. تم اختطاف جنديين إسرائيليين على الحدود بين إسرائيل ولبنان يوم ١٢ يوليو (تموز)، وهو ما أدى لاندلاع أعمال عنف كبيرة، بما في ذلك ضربات شديدة شنتها إسرائيل على مواقع في أرجاء لبنان نجم عنها تدمير المباني والطرقات والجسور، ومقتل المئات من المواطنين وجرح الآلاف منهم. وعقب تبني قرار مجلس الأمن رقم ١٧٠١ دخل وقف إطلاق النار بين إسرائيل ولبنان حيز التنفيذ في ١٤ أغسطس (آب) ٢٠٠٦. وبينما هناك بشكل عام احترام لوقف إطلاق النار هذا حتى الآن، يبقى الوضع الأمني غير مستقر، وما زال هناك قنابل لم تنفجر في جنوب لبنان وشمال منطقة البقاع.

"إذا كنت متواجداً حالياً في لبنان يتعين عليك توخي الحيط والحذر، وأن تسجل بياناتك لدى السفارة البريطانية في بيروت. كما يتعين عليك الاستمرار بالإطلاع على آخر التطورات بالاستماع إلى إذاعة بي بي سي وغيرها من قنوات البث باللغة الإنجليزية، والسعي للحصول على مشورة محلياً.

"هناك مخاطر جمة تشكلها القنابل التي سقطت ولم تنفجر، والتي تنفجر بالصدفة. وهذا الخطر يزداد شدة في جنوب لبنان حيث سقطت فيه غالبية القنابل. يتعين عليك السعي للحصول على المشورة المحلية في المناطق التي لم يتم تطهيرها من القنابل التي لم تنفجر.

"أصابت الطائرات الحربية الإسرائيلية جميع المعابر على الحدود مع سوريا، فيما عدا معبر واحد في العريضة على المنطقة الساحلية. وبينما يمكن الآن المرور عبر هذه المعابر، إلا أن هناك خطراً ازدياد حدة التوتر. تم الآن رفع الحصار المفروض على الموانئ والمطارات اللبنانية، وأعيد افتتاح مطار بيروت أمام الرحلات الجوية المجدولة.

"هناك خطر كبير للتعرض للإرهاب في لبنان، مع خطر احتمال استهداف المصالح الغربية والبريطانية.

"يتعين عليك أن تحمل معك في جميع الأوقات الأوراق التي تثبت شخصيتك."

ملاحظات للمحررين

قمنا بتعديل نصائح السفر من "عدم السفر نهائياً" إلى "عدم السفر إلا للضرورة" إلى لبنان الآن بعد دخول وقف إطلاق النار حيز التنفيذ ورفع الحصار المفروض على لبنان. إلا أننا مازلنا ننصح بعدم السفر نهائياً إلى المناطق الواقعة جنوب نهر الليطاني. كما أننا ننصح المسافرين بممارسة أقصى درجات الحيط والحذر.

يمكن الإطلاع على التفاصيل الكاملة بشأن نصائح السفر إلى لبنان من خلال صفحة نصائح متعلقة بالسفر (باللغة الإنجليزية) على الموقع الإلكتروني لوزارة الخارجية.

كما يمكن الحصول على النصائح المتعلقة بالسفر بالاتصال بالرقم ٠٨٤٥ ٨٥٠ ٢٨٢٩.

تم مراجعة النصائح المتعلقة بالسفر بشكل مستمر. النصيحة المقدمة هنا تستند إلى آخر تقييم لنا للوضع في لبنان.

Source: British Foreign & Commonwealth Office, last checked October 18, 2006,

see [http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1156399715633&a=KArticle&aid=1158047885920].

Appendix 6: Senator John E. Sununu's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Bill



DURBIN AND SUNUNU INTRODUCE BILL TO OFFER PROTECTION FOR LEBANESE PEOPLE

Contact: Barbara Riley
Tuesday, August 1, 2006

[WASHINGTON, DC] – In response to the crisis in Lebanon, U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and John Sununu (R-NH) today introduced bipartisan legislation, the Lebanese Temporary Protected Status Act of 2006, which would make Lebanon eligible for temporary protected status (TPS) for an initial twelve-month period. The Durbin-Sununu bill would allow Lebanese nationals currently in the United States to remain here because ongoing hostilities make it unsafe for them to return to Lebanon.

“Innocent civilians are bearing the brunt of Hezbollah’s provocative actions,” Durbin said. “At this delicate moment in U.S.-Arab relations, giving temporary protected status to Lebanon will send a positive signal about U.S. concern for the suffering of innocent Lebanese civilians. This is an affirmative step that Congress can, and should, take to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon.”

“The war brought upon Lebanon has cost hundreds of civilian lives,” said Sununu, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “Americans understand that Lebanese residents temporarily residing in the United States should not be compelled to return to a dangerous war zone. Congress must act quickly to ensure that otherwise well-intentioned immigration laws do not force Lebanese nationals to leave the country, or have their immigration status placed in legal limbo.”

Durbin and Sununu said temporary protected status can be granted to nationals of another country who are currently present in the U.S. if returning to their country would pose a serious threat to their personal safety because of ongoing armed conflict, the temporary effects of an environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. TPS allows eligible nationals of designated countries to remain in the U.S. legally until TPS expires.

TPS does not lead to permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship. When the TPS designation of a country is terminated, beneficiaries revert to the same immigration status they maintained before they were granted TPS.

An alien is not eligible for TPS if he has committed a felony or two or more misdemeanors or if the Department of Homeland Security determines that he poses a threat to national security. The Department of Homeland Security may withdraw an alien's temporary protected status if it is determined that the alien was ineligible for TPS at the time such status was granted to the individual.

Durbin and Sununu said that in the current climate, it is unsafe for Lebanese nationals to return to Lebanon. The United Nations estimates that 700,000 people have been displaced from their homes. According to Catholic Relief Services, many of those who have been displaced have taken refuge in mosques, churches and schools. The stocks of basic food and relief items, including much needed medicines, are dwindling.

Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) are also original cosponsors of the legislation.

Source: Senator John E. Sununu's website, last checked October 18, 1006, see [<http://www.sununu.senate.gov/pressapp/record.cfm?id=260298&&year=2006&>].

Appendix 7: LERC's Survey Questionnaire

Lebanese Emigration Research Center



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The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Lebanon: Evacuation, Re-Migration, Emigration, Return

Questionnaire

This questionnaire has been sent to you personally; please respond to it in person and do not forward it to anyone else. Published survey results will not associate names of interviewees in any way. The results are anonymous. Please return the completed form to ghourani@ndu.edu.lb. We would be very grateful if you would complete and return this questionnaire within three days (3 days). Copyright © LERC All rights reserved. No part of this questionnaire may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of LERC. Participants will receive a copy of the final report.

This self-administered questionnaire is composed of 27 specific questions and one open ended question. It is part of an academic research study undertaken by the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University in Lebanon.

You are not asked for any personal information that could be used to identify you. The initial survey data will be analyzed and the results published in a report on migration from Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War.

The report discusses the circumstances that led to the remigration and emigration of thousands of Lebanese residents and migrants during the Summer 2006 War. It also reviews the non-combatant evacuation operations undertaken by embassies and international organizations. Furthermore, it addresses the decisions of foreign governments in granting extended visas, refugee status and temporary protected status to those Lebanese who were abroad during the Summer 2006 War. Moreover it will canvas the opinions of the Lebanese who have left concerning the impact of the Summer 2006 War on their decision to leave, as well as the conditions required for them to consider returning to the country.

Only those who are 16 years of age and above and who left or were evacuated from Lebanon in the period between July 12 and September 12, 2006 are requested to fill out this questionnaire.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Guita Hourani
Associate Director

- 1. Where were you residing prior to your last visit or return to Lebanon?**
 - Africa (specify country)
 - Australia
 - Europe (specify country)
 - Canada
 - USA
 - Middle East (specify country)
 - Latin America and Caribbean Islands (specify country)
 - Asia and Far East (specify country)

- 2. How long have you been a migrant?**
 - (Please specify)

- 3. What was the purpose of your visit to Lebanon? (Multiple answers are accepted.)**
 - Moved back permanently (specify date)
 - Exploring the possibility of permanent return
 - Tourism
 - Visiting family
 - Investment
 - Finding employment
 - Marriage
 - Buying property
 - Selling property
 - Other (specify)

- 4. How many times have you been back to Lebanon permanently or semi-permanently and left again since 1975?**
 - I have moved back more than twice
 - I have moved back twice
 - I have moved back once
 - I have not moved back

- 5. What were the main reasons for your migration from Lebanon? (Multiple answers are accepted.)**
 - Political instability
 - Wars and/or armed conflicts
 - Economic recession
 - Lack of job opportunities
 - Lack of educational opportunities
 - Other (specify)

- 6. In which part of Lebanon were you living when the Summer 2006 War started?**
 - Beirut
 - Bekaa

South Lebanon
North Lebanon
Mount Lebanon
Nabatiyyeh

- 7. When did you decide to leave?**
Immediately
After one week
After several weeks
When did you leave (specify date)
- 8. What residency status other than Lebanese do you have?**
Citizenship (specify country)
Permanent residency (specify country)
Visa (specify country and type)
Other (specify)
- 9. How did you leave Lebanon? (Multiple answers are accepted.)**
Evacuation by boat
 Specify country that evacuated you
 Where you were evacuated to
Evacuation by plane
 Specify country that evacuated you
 Where you were evacuated to
Evacuation by land
 Specify country that evacuated you
 Where you were evacuated to
Left by myself
 Specify country you left for
 Specify means of transport
- 10. What was your destination upon evacuation/leaving Lebanon?**
Country of residence
Vacation (specify country)
Visiting relatives (specify country)
Other (specify country and reason)
- 11. Did you leave alone or with members of your family?**
Alone
With members of family
With friends
Other (specify)
Please elaborate

- 12. Why did you leave during the Summer 2006 War? (Multiple answers are accepted.)**
Fear for my life and safety
Fear for the lives of my family members
My family abroad feared for my life and safety
Children were traumatized
Return to work
Return to study
Disappointed with the situation
Other (specify)
- 13. Did you or anyone in your immediate family who left sustain any injury during the Summer 2006 War?**
Yes
No
Please elaborate
- 14. Do you or anyone in your immediate family who left suffer from trauma because of the Summer 2006 War?**
Yes
No
Please elaborate
- 15. Did any of your immediate family members die during the Summer 2006 War?**
Yes
No
Please elaborate
- 16. Was your home destroyed because of the Summer 2006 War?**
Yes
Totally
Partially
Somewhat
No
Other (specify
Location (specify village/town/city)
Please elaborate
- 17. Was your business destroyed by the Summer 2006 War?**
Yes
Totally
Partially
Somewhat

No
Other (specify)
Location (specify village/town/city)
Please elaborate

- 18. Did you suffer financial losses because of the Summer 2006 War?** (Multiple answers are accepted.)

No

Yes

Loss of income
Loss of business turnover
Loss on investments
Destroyed physical property
Agricultural/crop losses
Equipment and vehicle losses
Transportation/logistical costs
Hospitalization and other health costs
Other (specify)

- 19. How valuable was dual citizenship or permanent residency for you and your family as you left Lebanon during the Summer 2006 War?**

Very valuable

Valuable

Not valuable at all

Other

- 20. Were you pleased with what your country of emigration did to assist you in leaving?**

Yes

No

Other

- 21. How did you feel when you were leaving Lebanon?** (Multiple answers are accepted.)

Angry

Depressed

Hopeless

Disappointed

Relieved

Happy

Indifferent

- 22. Would you consider returning to Lebanon on a temporary basis?** (Multiple answers are accepted.)

Visit with family

Visit with friends
 Vacation
 Investment
 Business
 Study
 Other (specify)

23. Will you ever return to live permanently in Lebanon?

Yes
 No
 Maybe
 Other (specify)
 Why?

24. What are your conditions for returning? (Multiple answers are accepted.)

Political security
 Economic security
 Job opportunities
 Other (specify)

25. Specify your age bracket:

Sixteen to 20 years of age
 Twenty-one to 30 years of age
 Thirty-one to 40 years of age
 Forty-one to 50 years of age
 Fifty-one to 60 years of age
 Sixty-one to 70 years of age
 Over 70 years of age

26. What is your current occupation?

Self-employed (specify)
 Employee (specify)
 Student or pupil (specify)
 Unemployed
 Retired
 Non-working (specify)
 Other (specify)

27. Are you:

Male
 Female

27.1 Are you

- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Single
- Single mother

(If you are **female**, please answer the next seven questions. If you are a male, please skip to question 28)

27.2 Did you experience anything when leaving/being evacuated that was particularly positive or negative because you were a woman?

- No
- Yes
- Why (specify)

27.3 Did you have difficulty convincing your husband, father, or siblings to take you with them when leaving?

- No
- Yes
- Why (specify)

27.4 Were you threatened with denial of evacuation?

- No
- Yes
- Who denied you evacuation (specify)
- Why (specify)

27.5 Were you refused entry to a country after you left Lebanon?

- No
- Yes
- Which country (specify)
- Why (specify)

27.6 Have you applied for new legal status because of the Summer 2006 War? (Multiple answers are accepted.)

- Extended visa
- Asylum
- Temporary Protected Status or the like
- Permanent residency
- Citizenship

27.7 Are you suffering from any post-war traumatic stress disorder because of the Summer 2006 War?

- Yes
- No
- Other (specify)

27.8 Has your experience in the Summer 2006 War affected your ability to:

- Work
- Take care of self
- Take care of family
- Study
- Other (specify)

27.9 Do you have any fear specific to being a woman with regard to returning to Lebanon?

- No
- Yes
- If yes, specify

28. If you have a personal story or opinion to share with us regarding your experience or views about the Summer 2006 War and its impact on your decision to revisit, invest, or open a business in Lebanon or to return permanently, we would be interested in knowing what you have to say. Please use as much space as you consider necessary. This is a free style section.

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