

**Country/entity** Lebanon

**Region** Middle East and North Africa

**Agreement name** Tripoli Memorandum

**Date** 8 Sep 2008

**Agreement status** Multiparty signed/agreed

**Interim arrangement** Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Intrastate/local conflict

### **Lebanon's Political Crisis (2005 – )**

The current political crisis in Lebanon is characterized by the conflation of internal and external agendas, transforming Lebanon in a proxy battle ground between other countries in the region such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, while Syria-related security concerns continue to spill over into the country.

The assassination of Lebanon's President Rafiq Hariri on the 14 February 2005, in which the Syrian government was implicated, sparked public outrage in Lebanon and fuelled protests that would eventually lead to the withdrawal of Syrian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. This gave birth to the two oppositional groups March 14 Alliance and March 8 Alliance. Elections in May and June that year would usher in a new government, wherein March 8 Alliance, led by the Free Patriotic Movement, with support from Hezbollah, Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party would win 45 per cent of the seats. A year later, in July 2006, Hezbollah sparked a 34-day conflict with Israel following a rocket attack and the capture of three Israeli soldiers. Although both sides declared victory following the implementation of Resolution 1701, Hezbollah is widely considered to have been the relative victor. With its popularity boosted, and militarily emboldened, the parliamentary opposition announced the desire to form a unity government. Sceptical to the increased power that would grant the opposition, the Saudi-backed Lebanese government refused. In response the head of Hezbollah, Sayyed Nasrallah declared a deadlock in December 2006 to last until new parliamentary elections in 2009. Nasrallah also expressed an unwillingness to escalate the situation. Nonetheless, following a string of government crack-downs on Hezbollah, fighting broke out in May 2008 wherein Hezbollah militants took control of West Beirut. Fighting was eventually resolved with the Doha Declaration in 2008.

Uprisings against the Assad regime in Syria in 2011 further deepened the division between the two factions. In 2012, the two camps signed the Baabda Declaration, agreeing to the principle of neutrality towards Syria. However, in 2013 Hezbollah violated the agreement by giving the Syrian government military support. In 2016, Michel Aoun was appointed as president, breaking a two-year deadlock, and in May 2018 the first parliamentary elections were held in nine years. It took nine months to form the government, however, a renewed political deadlock ensued in November 2019 after the resignation of prime minister Hariri following unprecedented mass anti-government protests. Political turmoil continues to define Lebanon's internal politics with earlier mass protests breaking out in 2009, 2011 and 2015.

Close

Lebanon's Political Crisis (2005 – )

**Stage** Pre-negotiation/process

**Conflict nature** Inter-group

**Peace process** Lebanon peace process

**Parties** Arab Democratic Party (Jabal Mohsen); Sunni Militias (Bab al-Tabanneh)

**Third parties**

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**Description**

Six-point agreement resolving the local spill-over of violence related to the Cypress Spring (2005) and the armed excursion of Hezbollah in May 2008 towards the Siniora Government. Pre-negotiation agreement provides for reaching an agreement between local figures; holding a state-sponsored meeting between the players of the city; call on the army command to set a timeframe for IDP return; provision of temporary shelter for IDPs or rent allowances; speed up assessment of damages; call on the Prime minister to support financially.

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**Agreement document**

[LB\\_080908\\_Tripoli Memorandum.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**Groups****Children/youth**

No specific mention.

**Disabled persons**

No specific mention.

**Elderly/age**

No specific mention.

**Migrant workers**

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/  
national group**

No specific mention.

**Religious groups**

No specific mention.

**Indigenous people**

No specific mention.

**Other groups**

No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons**

Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive  
Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.  
4 – Provide temporary, alternative housing for those citizens whose houses are too deteriorated to allow their return, by giving them rent allowances until their houses are restored and their return is made possible.

**Social class**

No specific mention.

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## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## State definition

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## Governance

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Human rights and equality**

<b>Human rights/RoL general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Bill of rights/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Treaty incorporation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

<b>Citizenship</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Democracy</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

<b>Criminal justice and emergency law</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State of emergency provisions</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional Laws</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Other  
Page 1, All categories and factions in Tripoli form a single social fabric, which believes in the project of a strong, fair state.  
Tripoli is an ancient city with roots reaching deep into the recesses of history.  
Throughout the decades following Lebanon's independence, it has played its national role as a safe cradle of fraternal coexistence and a fertile soil for the freedom of opinion, thought and belief.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

## **Security sector**

### **Security Guarantees**

Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.

### **Ceasefire**

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, ... 1 – Reach an agreement among all leaders and figures regarding the definitive preservation of peace, security and stability, and abstain from having recourse to violence and weapons, regardless of the circumstances.

### **Police**

No specific mention.

### **Armed forces**

Page 1, It is the heir of a glorious heritage and has never experienced extremism and isolation; rather, it always was a symbol of moderation, openness and assimilation of others. Nowadays, Tripoli rejects all forms of strife and refuses to become a stage for settling old scores on its soil. It is looking forward to having security services, especially the army and the ISF, play an active and essential role as they represent a safety valve of stability and sustainable civil peace.

Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.

### **DDR**

No specific mention.

### **Intelligence services**

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### **Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces**

No specific mention.

### **Withdrawal of foreign forces**

No specific mention.

### **Corruption**

No specific mention.

### **Crime/organised crime**

No specific mention.

### **Drugs**

No specific mention.

### **Terrorism**

No specific mention.

## **Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** No specific mention.

**Vetting** No specific mention.

**Victims** Page 1, Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.  
4 – Provide temporary, alternative housing for those citizens whose houses are too deteriorated to allow their return, by giving them rent allowances until their houses are restored and their return is made possible.

**Missing persons** No specific mention.

**Reparations** Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations  
Page 1, 5 – Speed up the process of assessing human and material damages by the Higher Relief Council and all relevant institutions in order to allow for the urgent and speedy payment of compensations for the victims.  
6 – Call on the prime minister to provide all necessary compensations.

**Reconciliation** No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** Source: Now Media, Tripoli Memorandum, 9 September 2008, [https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/newspecials/the\\_tripoli\\_memorandum\\_signed\\_on\\_september\\_8](https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/newspecials/the_tripoli_memorandum_signed_on_september_8)

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