

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

**Research Response Number:** LBN35537  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Date:** 12 October 2009

Keywords: Lebanon – LBN35537 – Arab Democratic Party – Alawis – Tripoli – Akkar – Rifaat Ali Eid – Khodr Munif Habib – Badr Wannous – Jabal Mohsen

This response was prepared by the Research & Information Services Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. This research response may not, under any circumstance, be cited in a decision or any other document. Anyone wishing to use this information may only cite the primary source material contained herein.

---

**Questions**

- 1) Please provide information on Rif'at Ali Eid, his position within the ADP and whether he was a candidate in the June 2009 elections?
- 2) Who was the ADP candidate in Akkar?
- 3) Please provide information on Khodr Munif Habib and Badr Wannous.
- 4) Did conflict break out in the Alawi community after the June 2009 elections?
- 5) Was there a bomb explosion in Jabal Mohsen on 13 August 2009?
- 6) Please provide any other information you deem relevant.

**RESPONSE**

- 1) Please provide information on Rif'at Ali Eid, his position within the ADP and whether he was a candidate in the June 2009 elections?

**Rif'at Ali Eid and his position within the ADP**

According to a number of news reports, Rif'at (also Rifat and Rifaat) Ali Eid is the son of Ali Eid. Ali Eid founded the Arab Democratic Party (ADP) in the mid-1970s, and remains the nominal leader of the ADP and the Alawi community in Tripoli. Two articles sourced from *NOW Lebanon* suggest that Ali Eid still leads the party and community, but Rif'at Ali Eid appears to be the spokesman and figurehead for both the ADP and the Alawi community:

- A 23 May 2009 article on pre-election tensions in Lebanon, sourced from *NOW Lebanon*, names "Rifaat Eid" as the son of Ali Eid; according to this report, Ali Eid founded the ADP and "leads both the Arab Democratic Party and the Alawi community of Tripoli's Jabal Mohsen neighborhood" (Nash, M. 2009, 'Pre-election violence expected to continue but remain isolated', *NOW Lebanon*, 23 May – Attachment 1).

- On 23 April 2009, *Ya Libnan* described “Refaat Ali Eid” as the “Democratic Alawi Movement leader” (‘Thursday News Briefs’ 2009, *Ya Libnan*, 23 April [http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/the\\_bad\\_and\\_in.php](http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/the_bad_and_in.php) – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 2).
- An August 2008 report from *NOW Lebanon* refers to “Rifaat Eid, eldest son of Ali Eid, head of the Alawi Democratic Arab Party”, but also states that: “Because of his father’s ill health, Eid is now the nominal head of the 30,000-strong Alawi community in Jabal Mohsen”. Eid is also quoted claiming that: “I have 8,000 votes. It would be a stupid thing to make me unhappy” (Ghaddar, H. 2008, ‘A family matter’, *NOW Lebanon*, 14 August <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=54721#> – Accessed 6 October 2009 – Attachment 3).

A *Mideast Monitor* report from August 2008 states that Rifaat Eid leads the ADP, that the party is backed and armed by Syria, and that “the vast majority of Alawites feel that their alignment with Syria and Hezbollah is the only way to guarantee their survival in these difficult times”:

The ADP is back on the scene in Tripoli, now led by Eid’s son, Rifaat (who has apparently severed relations with his exiled Syrian namesake and supports Syrian President Bashar Assad). As Lebanon’s political crisis deepened and security conditions deteriorated, the ADP steadily built up a militia, presumably with help from the Syrians. The exact timeline is unclear, but its rearmament accelerated after the uprising by the Sunni jihadist Fatah al-Islam in the nearby Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp during the summer of 2007.

...In the face of such hostility, the vast majority of Alawites feel that their alignment with Syria and Hezbollah is the only way to guarantee their survival in these difficult times. For the time being, the ADP appears to be at least as militarily powerful as its adversaries. According to a security source close to the opposition, its militia is estimated to have between 1,000 and 2,000 men. Moreover, it is well equipped, and occupies a strategic high ground overlooking the whole city of Tripoli (Yazbeck, R. 2008, ‘Return of the Pink Panthers?’, *Mideast Monitor*, vol. 3, no. 2, August [http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808\\_2.htm](http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808_2.htm) – Accessed 22 August 2008 – Attachment 4).

### **Eid and the June 2009 election**

According to election results sourced from the Lebanese newspaper *L’Orient-Le Jour*, Rifaat Eid ran against Badr Wannous for the Alawite seat in Tripoli in the June 2009 election; this source lists Rifaat Eid as an independent candidate (‘Lebanon: Results of Parliamentary Elections’ 2009, Arab American Institute website, (source: *L’Orient-Le Jour*), 9 June <http://www.aaiusa.org/issues/4002/lebanon-results-of-parliamentary-elections#> – Accessed 6 October 2009 – Attachment 5).

Nonetheless, a June 2009 research paper on the then-upcoming elections in Lebanon sourced from the library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a German institution focusing on political and labour movement history, places the ADP as part of the opposition March 8 coalition (Wählisch, M. 2009, ‘Elections in Lebanon: At the crossroad of peace and stability’, Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation website, June <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/06400.pdf> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 6).

A June 2009 report from *Al-Ahram Weekly* on the election campaign and candidates in north Lebanon notes that the opposition March 8 coalition “failed to come up with a united list” of candidates in Tripoli, and that opposition candidates “are running individually”. This report also names “Rifaat Eid” as a candidate among those “the most likely to get the majority of votes”, according to pre-election polls (Abdel-Latif, O. 2009, ‘Premiership in play’, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, No. 950, 4-11 June <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/950/re6.htm> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 7).

The full list of candidates in the Tripoli District in the June 2009 elections is provided on the Lebanese government’s ‘Elections 2009’ website, along with the election results. According to this source, Badr Kamel Mohammad Wannous won the Alawi seat with 55,415 votes, ahead of Refaat Ali Eid with 16,172 votes. Five other Alawi candidates stood in the election in Tripoli, none of whom received more than 725 votes (‘Tripoli District’ 2009, Elections 2009 website <http://www.elections.gov.lb/Elections-Results/2009-Real-time-Results/نتائج-الاقضية-لكافة-الانتخابات/Tripoli.aspx> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 8).

For further background on the ADP, see Question 5 of *Research Response LBN35208*, of 20 August 2009 (RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response LBN35208*, 20 August – Attachment 29).

## 2) Who was the ADP candidate in Akkar?

According to election results sourced from Lebanese newspaper *L’Orient-Le Jour* Moustapha Ali Hussein (listed here as ‘Opposition’) ran against Khodr Habib for the Alawi seat in Akkar in the June 2009 elections (‘Lebanon: Results of Parliamentary Elections’ 2009, Arab American Institute website, (source: *L’Orient-Le Jour*), 9 June <http://www.aaiusa.org/issues/4002/lebanon-results-of-parliamentary-elections#> – Accessed 6 October 2009 – Attachment 5).

An article sourced from the *Mideast Monitor*, dated August 2008, provides further information on Moustapha Ali Hussein. He was elected to parliament in 2005 as the Future Movement candidate for Akkar, but: “MP Hussein eventually withdrew from Hariri’s Future Movement last year and joined the opposition. He accused March 14 of subjecting Lebanon to American ‘tutelage,’ while visiting Damascus and warmly praising Assad” (Yazbeck, R. 2008, ‘Return of the Pink Panthers?’, *Mideast Monitor*, vol. 3, no. 2, August [http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808\\_2.htm](http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808_2.htm) – Accessed 22 August 2008 – Attachment 4).

A 26 March 2009 report from *Al-Manar TV* states that the MP Mustafa Ali Hussein is the “head of the Lebanese Popular Movement”, and that “he would run for the Alawite seat in the Akkar district” in the June elections. The report does not provide any information on the “Lebanese Popular Movement”; no further information was located on this group (‘MP Mustafa Hussein Declares Candidacy in Akkar District’ 2009, *Al-Manar TV*, 26 March <http://www.almanar.com.lb/NewsSite/NewsDetails.aspx?id=79113&language=en> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 9).

On 16 April 2009, *NOW Lebanon* reported that “the opposition announced its list yesterday in Akkar, which is composed of Mikhail Daher, Wajih al-Baarini, Mohammad Yehya, Saoud Youssef, Karim al-Rassi, Joseph Chahda and Mustapha Ali Hussein”. The article does not specify the party affiliation of any of the opposition candidates (‘Tripoli list may soon be released, investigations into Monday’s ambush continue’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 16 April

<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=89065#> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 10).

The full list of candidates in the Akkar District in the June 2009 elections is provided on the Lebanese government's 'Elections 2009' website. Khodor Munif Habib won the Alawite seat with 76,769 votes from Mustapha Ali Hussein, who gained 36,691 votes. Three other Alawite candidates stood for election, Mohammad Tamer Tamer, Abdel Rahman Mohammad Abdel Ra and Haythem Shaaban Hamdan, none of whom gained more than twenty votes ('Akkar District' 2009, Elections 2009 website <http://www.elections.gov.lb/Elections-Results/2009-Real-time-Results/الاقضية-لكافة-الانتخابات-نتائج/Akkar.aspx> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 11).

### **3) Please provide information on Khodr Munif Habib and Badr Wannous.**

#### **Badr Wannous**

According to a brief biography of Wannous on the Arab Decision website, he was elected as a Deputy for the second district of North Lebanon (Tripoli) in the 2005 elections, and has served on the “the Public Works, Transportation, Water and Energy Committee” and the “Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee” between 2005 and 2009 ('His Excellency Deputy Badr Kamel Mohammad Wannous' 2009, Arab Decision website, 7 July [http://www.arabdecision.org/show\\_cv\\_3\\_4\\_3\\_1\\_3\\_577737018.htm](http://www.arabdecision.org/show_cv_3_4_3_1_3_577737018.htm) – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 12).

A 24 April 2009 report from *Naharnet* notes the announcement of the “Tripoli Coalition List” for the June 2009 elections, which featured Badr Wannous as the Alawi candidate. The list also contained incumbent government minister Mohammed Safadi and “[f]ormer Premier Niqab Miqati” along with two other Sunni candidates, one Orthodox, and one Maronite candidate. The report also notes that “several residents of mostly Alawi area of Jabal Mohsen blocked the road leading to the area with stones and earth mounds to protest Wannous' inclusion in the ‘Tripoli Coalition List’” ('Miqati Announces Tripoli's Coalition List, Jabal Mohsen Residents Protest' 2009, *Naharnet*, 24 April <http://elections.naharnet.com/news/360> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 13).

A report from the *Mideast Monitor*, from August 2008, describes Wannous as a “marginal Alawite”, and notes that: “The vast majority of Alawites have sided with Lebanon's mainly Shiite and Christian opposition bloc against the Sunni dominated March 14 coalition. In the face of growing sectarian and political polarisation in Lebanon, it became virtually impossible for any Alawite public figure to defy this consensus” (Yazbeck, R. 2008, ‘Return of the Pink Panthers?’, *Mideast Monitor*, vol. 3, no. 2, August [http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808\\_2.htm](http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808_2.htm) – Accessed 22 August 2008 – Attachment 4).

The full list of candidates in the Tripoli District in the June 2009 elections is provided on the Lebanese government's 'Elections 2009' website. Badr Kamel Mohammad Wannous won the Alawi seat with 55,415 votes, ahead of Refaat Ali Eid with 16,172 votes. Five other Alawi candidates stood in the elections, none of whom received more than 725 votes ('Tripoli District' 2009, Elections 2009 website <http://www.elections.gov.lb/Elections-Results/2009-Real-time-Results/الاقضية-لكافة-الانتخابات-نتائج/Tripoli.aspx> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 8).

#### **Khodor Habib**

On 21 April 2009, *Ya Libnan* reported that Future Movement leader Saad “Hariri announced ‘Akkar Future’ electoral list: Hadi Hubeish – Maronite, Riad Rahhal and Nidal Tohmeh – Greek Orthodox, Naim Mereibeh, Khaled al-Daher, Khaled Zahrman – Sunnies and Khodr Habib – Alawites” (‘Tuesday News Briefs’ 2009, *Ya Libnan*, 21 April [http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/tuesday\\_news\\_br\\_38.php](http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/tuesday_news_br_38.php) – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 14).

A 22 April 2009 article sourced from the 14 March Official website lists these candidates as the “March 14 list of candidates in the district of Akkar” (‘Hariri Announces March 14 List in Akkar’, Derides March 8’ 2009, 14 March Official website, 22 April <http://www.14march.org/news-details.php?nid=MTMxNjQ4> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 15).

In an undated 2009 statement sourced from the website of the Kataeb party, Khodr Habib reportedly “condemned the return of security tensions and explosions to Mount Mohsen and Tabbaneh areas”. The report follows:

Future bloc member, MP Khodr Habib, condemned the return of security tensions and explosions to Mount Mohsen and Tabbaneh areas. Wishing a speedy recovery to all injured people, he wondered, “how some parties are ready to mess with security stability at any moment they choose!”

He added that such incidents make them sure of the presence of hidden terrorist hands which are aiming at stirring sectarian strives to shake political and security statuses; but the explosion has come this time as desperate and failing attempt to effect negatively the Syrian-Saudi summit and abort Inter-Arab reconciliation which would have a positive impact on the new government formation.

Finally, renewing Lebanese trust in Army and Interior Security Forces, he called upon security forces to be decisive in treating such issues and hit by “iron-hand” to control all terrorists and terrorism acts. He summed up by calling upon all citizens to be cautious and have self control not to drift behind discords and preserve civil peace and coexistence (‘Statement by MP Khodr Habib’ 2009, Lebanese Kataeb website <http://www.kataeb.org/enbreakDetails.asp?newsid=5501> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 16).

On 29 June 2009, *Naharnet* published a list of the blocs and independent MPs in the new Lebanese parliament, and named both Khodr Habib and Badr Wannous as part of the 30-member “Lebanon First Bloc”, led by the Future Movement’s Saad Hariri (‘Lebanon’s 2009 Parliament: 13 Blocs, 11 Independent MPs’ 2009, *Naharnet*, 27 June <http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/Newsdesk.nsf/Story/46E1A78A62F96720C22575E0002813ED?OpenDocument&PRINT> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 17).

#### **4) Did conflict break out in the Alawi community after the June 2009 elections?**

#### **5) Was there a bomb explosion in Jabal Mohsen on 13 August 2009?**

No reports were located stating specifically that there was conflict or violence within the Alawi community in Tripoli or Akkar following the June 2009 elections. The only report indicating intra-Alawi tensions is the abovementioned April 2009 *Naharnet* article on protests against the inclusion of Badr Wannous on the ‘Tripoli Coalition List’ for the June 2009 elections. Nonetheless, a number of recent reports of violence in Jabal Mohsen were located, including an October 2009 grenade attack on a coffee shop, an August 2009 rocket-

propelled grenade attack on a house and a shell attack on a house in April 2009. It is not clear from the reports on these incidents who the perpetrators were, but suspects (other than Sunni militants in Bab Al-Tebbaneh) mentioned in reports include Palestinian groups in Lebanon, Egypt and Iran. A May 2009 article from *NOW Lebanon* quotes allegations from Lebanese MP Mohammad Kabbara that Rifaat Eid and the ADP had been instructed by Syrian military intelligence “to spread violence and chaos in order to sabotage the upcoming parliamentary elections”; no subsequent reports of widespread ‘violence and chaos’ were located (for the anti-Wannous protest, see: ‘Miqati Announces Tripoli’s Coalition List, Jabal Mohsen Residents Protest’ 2009, *Naharnet*, 24 April <http://elections.naharnet.com/news/360> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 13; for the grenade and shell attacks, see: ‘Eight hurt in north Lebanon grenade blast’ 2009, *Middle East Online*, 8 October <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=34810> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 18; and: ‘Inerga shell thrown in Jabal Mohsen Thursday night’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 24 April <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=90226#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 21; for accusations of responsibility for the attacks, see: Sakr, E. 2009, ‘Palestinian groups deny involvement in Tripoli attacks’, *Daily Star*, 12 October [http://www.lebguide.com/lebanon/news/redirect.asp?link=http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1ANDcateg\\_id=1ANDarticle\\_id=107418](http://www.lebguide.com/lebanon/news/redirect.asp?link=http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1ANDcateg_id=1ANDarticle_id=107418) – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 20; for the ADP allegations, see: ‘Kabbara says Syrian Intelligence meddling in Tripoli elections’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 15 May <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=93528#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 22).

On 13 August 2009, *Reuters* reported that a bomb explosion in Jabal Mohsen wounded three people “including a boy who sustained serious injuries”, and that the bomb “went off near the house of Rifat Ali Eid”. A *Naharnet* report from 15 August 2009 notes that the government-aligned “Future News said the Jabal Mohsen blast could have resulted from the explosion of a canister used to weld cars”; subsequent reports from *NOW Lebanon* report the reactions of local politicians to the bomb explosion, including the Alawi MP for Akkar, Khodr Habib (for reports on the bomb explosion, see: ‘Blast wounds three in North Lebanon’ 2009, *Reuters*, 13 August <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-41735120090813> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 23; and: ‘3 People, Including Child, Injured in Jabal Mohsen Explosion’ 2009, *Naharnet*, 15 August <http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/newsdesk.nsf/0/867D4504E8586EEBC2257611002A1407?OpenDocument> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 24; for the reaction of Khodr Habib to the bombing, see: ‘Habib calls for security services to reveal outcome of investigations into Jabal Mohsen incident’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 18 August <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=109534#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 25).

Extracts from the sources referred to in the above introduction follow, under the headings ‘[Intra-Alawi tensions, violence](#) in Jabal Mohsen in 2009’ and ‘The August 2009 [bomb explosion](#) in Jabal Mohsen’.

### **Intra-Alawi tensions, violence in Jabal Mohsen in 2009**

The only report located that referred to intra-Alawi violence was the abovementioned *Naharnet* article from 24 April 2009 which states that “several residents of mostly Alawite area of Jabal Mohsen blocked the road leading to the area with stones and earth mounds to protest Wannous’ inclusion in the ‘Tripoli Coalition List’” (‘Miqati Announces Tripoli’s

Coalition List, Jabal Mohsen Residents Protest' 2009, *Naharnet*, 24 April  
<http://elections.naharnet.com/news/360> – Accessed 9 October 2009 – Attachment 13).

As noted in Question 3 above, a report from the *Mideast Monitor*, from August 2008, describes Wannous as a “marginal Alawite”, and notes that: “The vast majority of Alawites have sided with Lebanon’s mainly Shiite and Christian opposition bloc against the Sunni dominated March 14 coalition. In the face of growing sectarian and political polarisation in Lebanon, it became virtually impossible for any Alawite public figure to defy this consensus” (Yazbeck, R. 2008, ‘Return of the Pink Panthers?’, *Mideast Monitor*, vol. 3, no. 2, August [http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808\\_2.htm](http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808_2.htm) – Accessed 22 August 2008 – Attachment 4).

Several pre-election articles sourced from *NOW Lebanon* refer to actual or threatened violent incidents in Jabal Mohsen:

- A 24 April 2009 article states that: “An Inerga shell was thrown at the balcony of civilian house in Qobbeh in Jabal Mohsen, Tripoli Thursday night. The incident was followed by intensive gun shooting. The culprits remain unidentified” (‘Inerga shell thrown in Jabal Mohsen Thursday night’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 24 April <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=90226#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 21).
- A 15 May 2009 article reports claims from Lebanese MP Mohammad Kabbara that the ADP had been instructed by Syrian military intelligence “to spread violence and chaos in order to sabotage the upcoming parliamentary elections”, and “to escalate tensions in Tripoli and to instigate conflicts between residents of Jabal Mohsen and Tripoli” (‘Kabbara says Syrian Intelligence meddling in Tripoli elections’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 15 May <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=93528#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 22).
- A 23 May 2009 article on pre-election tensions, sourced from *NOW Lebanon*, quotes Rifaat Eid claiming that “there will be more clashes with his Sunni neighbors in Bab al-Tabbaneh”, and that “gunfire over successive days in mid-May between the frequently hostile neighborhoods left two injured” (Nash, M. 2009, ‘Pre-election violence expected to continue but remain isolated’, *Now Lebanon*, 23 May – Attachment 1).

There have been reports of violence in the Jabal Mohsen neighbourhood since the June 2009 elections. A 25 August 2009 report from the *Daily Star* states that: “Last week a 4-year-old was wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Tripoli’s Jabal Mohsen neighbourhood”; and that: “Media reports said residents were subsequently on high alert, and took up arms following the incident” (Galey, P. 2009, ‘Sectarian rivalry simmers beneath calm Tripoli’, *Daily Star*, 25 August – Attachment 28).

Three articles from the past week report on grenade attacks in Jabal Mohsen and Bab Al-Tabbaneh:

- An 8 October 2009 report from *Middle East Online* states that: “Eight people were wounded, one seriously, in a grenade explosion targeting a coffee shop... in the Jabal Mohsen neighbourhood” of Tripoli. This attack “was followed shortly afterwards by a

second grenade explosion in the nearby district of Bab Al-Tebbaneh”, in which no one was injured (‘Eight hurt in north Lebanon grenade blast’ 2009, *Middle East Online*, 8 October <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=34810> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 18).

- Also on 8 October 2009, *NOW Lebanon* reported that on the day following the attack on the coffee shop, “unidentified assailants targeted Jabal Mohsen with two Energa grenades, generating property loss”; and that: “Following the attack, residents of Jabal Mohsen took to the streets to protest the recurrence of such incidents in their region”. This report also quotes “the National News Agency”, which stated that “the violence was followed by the explosion of two hand grenades on Haret al-Saydeh and near the Imam Ali mosque as well as by an Energa Grenade on Souk al-Qameh in the Bab al-Tabbaneh neighbourhood” (‘Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh targeted by three Energa grenades after first day of violence’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 8 October <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=118747#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 19).
- A 12 October 2009 article in the *Daily Star* reports that Palestinian groups in Lebanon denied any involvement in the violence in Tripoli, and that “Democratic Arab Party...had accused Egypt of attempting to hinder the Syrian-Saudi rapprochement by provoking the incident”, a claim denied by the Egyptian Embassy. The report also states that “Tripoli MPs stressed on Sunday that the incidents did not reflect domestic political disagreements since none of Tripoli’s parties had an interest in destabilising the security situation in the northern port city” (Sakr, E. 2009, ‘Palestinian groups deny involvement in Tripoli attacks’, *Daily Star*, 12 October [http://www.lebguide.com/lebanon/news/redir.asp?link=http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1ANDcateg\\_id=1ANDarticle\\_id=107418](http://www.lebguide.com/lebanon/news/redir.asp?link=http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1ANDcateg_id=1ANDarticle_id=107418) – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 20).

### **The August 2009 bomb explosion in Jabal Mohsen**

On 13 August 2009, *Reuters* reported that a bomb explosion in Jabal Mohsen wounded three people “including a boy who sustained serious injuries”, and that the bomb “went off near the house of Rifat Ali Eid” (‘Blast wounds three in North Lebanon’ 2009, *Reuters*, 13 August <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-41735120090813> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 23).

*Naharnet* also reported on the explosion in Jabal Mohsen on 15 August 2009; this report quotes a “security official” who names the injured parties, and states that “[t]he army has launched an investigation”. The report also notes that the government-aligned “Future News said the Jabal Mohsen blast could have resulted from the explosion of a canister used to weld cars” (‘3 People, Including Child, Injured in Jabal Mohsen Explosion’ 2009, *Naharnet*, 15 August <http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/newsdesk.nsf/0/867D4504E8586EEBC2257611002A1407?OpenDocument> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 24).

Three follow up articles from *NOW Lebanon* report the reactions of local politicians to the explosion, including the Alawite MP for Akkar Khodr Habib:

- On 18 August 2009, *NOW Lebanon* reported that Khodr Habib “issued a statement on Tuesday in which he called for the security services to reveal the outcome of the investigations into the Jabal Mohsen bomb explosion”. The article quotes Habib

claiming that: “Some parties are spreading rumours and fear among the residents to keep tension in the area” (‘Habib calls for security services to reveal outcome of investigations into Jabal Mohsen incident’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 18 August <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=109534#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 25).

- A 13 August 2009 report quotes “Economy Minister Mohammad al-Safadi”, a Tripoli MP of the ruling 14 March coalition, who claims “that de-stabilising the security in Lebanon serves the interests of those harmed by civil peace” (‘Safadi: De-stabilizing security serves the interests of those harmed by civil peace’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 13 August <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=108779#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 26).
- Another 13 August report quotes “MP Samir al-Jisr”, who reportedly “condemned Thursday’s explosion in Tripoli’s neighbourhood of Jabal Mohsen and ‘all acts that would encourage similar conduct’” (‘Jisr condemns explosion in Jabal Mohsen’ 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 13 August <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=108831#> – Accessed 12 October 2009 – Attachment 27).

#### **6) Please provide any other information you deem relevant.**

No other information relevant to intra-Alawi tensions since the June 2009 election was located.

#### **List of Sources Consulted**

##### Internet Sources:

##### **Region-specific sources**

*Naharnet* website <http://www.naharnet.com>

*NOW Lebanon* website <http://www.nowlebanon.com>

*The Daily Star* website <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/>

*The Middle East Times* website <http://www.metimes.com/>

The Middle East Research and Information Project website <http://www.merip.org/index.html>

*Ya Libnan* website <http://yalibnan.com>

##### **Search Engines**

Ask.com <http://www.ask.com/>

Exalead <http://www.exalead.com/search>

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

##### Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

## List of Attachments

1. Nash, M. 2009, 'Pre-election violence expected to continue but remain isolated', *NOW Lebanon*, 23 May. (CISNET Lebanon CX226807)
2. 'Thursday News Briefs' 2009, *Ya Libnan*, 23 April  
[http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/\\_the\\_bad\\_and\\_in.php](http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/_the_bad_and_in.php) – Accessed 12 October 2009.
3. Ghaddar, H. 2008, 'A family matter', *NOW Lebanon*, 14 August  
<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=54721#> – Accessed 6 October 2009.
4. Yazbeck, R. 2008, 'Return of the Pink Panthers?', *Mideast Monitor*, vol. 3, no. 2, August  
[http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808\\_2.htm](http://www.mideastmonitor.org/issues/0808/0808_2.htm) – Accessed 22 August 2008.
5. 'Lebanon: Results of Parliamentary Elections' 2009, Arab American Institute website, (source: *L'Orient-Le Jour*), 9 June  
<http://www.aaiusa.org/issues/4002/lebanon-results-of-parliamentary-elections#> – Accessed 6 October 2009.
6. Wählisch, M. 2009, 'Elections in Lebanon: At the crossroad of peace and stability', Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation website, June  
<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/06400.pdf> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
7. Abdel-Latif, O. 2009, 'Premiership in play', *Al-Ahram Weekly*, No. 950, 4-11 June  
<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/950/re6.htm> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
8. 'Tripoli District' 2009, Elections 2009 website  
<http://www.elections.gov.lb/Elections-Results/2009-Real-time-Results/الاقضية-لكافة-الانتخابات-نتائج/Tripoli.aspx> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
9. 'MP Mustafa Hussein Declares Candidacy in Akkar District' 2009, *Al-Manar TV*, 26 March  
<http://www.almanar.com.lb/NewsSite/NewsDetails.aspx?id=79113&language=en> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
10. 'Tripoli list may soon be released, investigations into Monday's ambush continue' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 16 April  
<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=89065#> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
11. 'Akkar District' 2009, Elections 2009 website  
<http://www.elections.gov.lb/Elections-Results/2009-Real-time-Results/الاقضية-لكافة-الانتخابات-نتائج/Akkar.aspx> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
12. 'His Excellency Deputy Badr Kamel Mohammad Wannous' 2009, Arab Decision website, 7 July  
[http://www.arabdecision.org/show\\_cv\\_3\\_4\\_3\\_1\\_3\\_577737018.htm](http://www.arabdecision.org/show_cv_3_4_3_1_3_577737018.htm) – Accessed 9 October 2009.

13. 'Miqati Announces Tripoli's Coalition List, Jabal Mohsen Residents Protest' 2009, *Naharnet*, 24 April <http://elections.naharnet.com/news/360> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
14. 'Tuesday News Briefs' 2009, *Ya Libnan*, 21 April [http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/tuesday\\_news\\_br\\_38.php](http://yalibnan.com/site/archives/2009/04/tuesday_news_br_38.php) – Accessed 9 October 2009.
15. 'Hariri Announces March 14 List in Akkar , Derides March 8' 2009, 14 March Official website, 22 April <http://www.14march.org/news-details.php?nid=MTMxNjQ4> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
16. 'Statement by MP Khodr Habib' 2009, Lebanese Kataeb website <http://www.kataeb.org/enbreakDetails.asp?newsid=5501> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
17. 'Lebanon's 2009 Parliament: 13 Blocs, 11 Independent MPs' 2009, *Naharnet*, 27 June <http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/Newsdesk.nsf/Story/46E1A78A62F96720C22575E0002813ED?OpenDocument&PRINT> – Accessed 9 October 2009.
18. 'Eight hurt in north Lebanon grenade blast' 2009, *Middle East Online*, 8 October <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=34810> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
19. 'Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh targeted by three Energa grenades after first day of violence' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 8 October <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=118747#> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
20. Sakr, E. 2009, 'Palestinian groups deny involvement in Tripoli attacks', *Daily Star*, 12 October [http://www.lebguide.com/lebanon/news/redirect.asp?link=http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&NDcateg\\_id=1&NDarticle\\_id=107418](http://www.lebguide.com/lebanon/news/redirect.asp?link=http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&NDcateg_id=1&NDarticle_id=107418) – Accessed 12 October 2009.
21. 'Inerga shell thrown in Jabal Mohsen Thursday night' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 24 April <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=90226#> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
22. 'Kabbara says Syrian Intelligence meddling in Tripoli elections' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 15 May <http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=93528#> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
23. 'Blast wounds three in North Lebanon' 2009, *Reuters*, 13 August <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-41735120090813> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
24. '3 People, Including Child, Injured in Jabal Mohsen Explosion' 2009, *Naharnet*, 15 August <http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/newsdesk.nsf/0/867D4504E8586EEBC2257611002A1407?OpenDocument> – Accessed 12 October 2009.

25. 'Habib calls for security services to reveal outcome of investigations into Jabal Mohsen incident' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 18 August  
<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=109534#> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
26. 'Safadi: De-stabilizing security serves the interests of those harmed by civil peace' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 13 August  
<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=108779#> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
27. 'Jisr condemns explosion in Jabal Mohsen' 2009, *NOW Lebanon*, 13 August  
<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=108831#> – Accessed 12 October 2009.
28. Galey, P. 2009, 'Sectarian rivalry simmers beneath calm Tripoli', *The Daily Star*, 25 August. (CISNET Lebanon CX232383)
29. RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response LBN35208*, 20 August.