Lebanese Elections / Brief
May 18, 2009

Introduction

In each district, powerhouse political families jockey for power—some through political parties, others through non-party alliances. But in the February 14th elections, a new wave of independent candidates emerged from prominent political families, and some from outside the political arena. Among these was 33-year-old, high-profile lawyer and independent candidate Osama Saad, who is running as an independent and hails from a well-established political family in Zahlé. Failing to make it on either bloc’s list, Saad decided to run independently, and he has gained widespread support of the Kataeb Party (March 14) and the FPM.

By the Numbers

- **151** registered candidates: when their votes are counted on May 19th, the election results will reveal the level of support rivaling parliament.
- **2028** party candidates: with the second highest number of candidates running out of Beirut I, this race is at the forefront of determining who represents the Christian community.
- **3-Memories of the Kataeb Party (March 14)**: the party, which enjoys considerable electoral clout in the Metn, is fighting alongside Bashir Gemayel.
- **10,000** employees: TAHEE, the organization for internally displaced persons, is working with the Lebanese Red Cross, the UNHCR and the WFP to ensure all displaced Lebanese have access to their basic needs.
- **75** candidate seats: Minister Gebran Bassil last Tuesday, called for the strengthening of the Lebanese Red Cross and the UNHCR to provide emergency aid.

The Lebanon is a country of equality among its people. It’s a country where the vote can make to divide key in power sources (such as generators) were provided to 75 percent of polling centers, adding that the ministry was working in cooperation with the Electricity Ministry to ensure proper functioning.

Ad Wilkie Reibodi’s Billboard Campaign

District in Focus: Saida (Sidon)

Saida, a town located in the south of Lebanon, is one of the city’s most diverse, where the Lebanese community is divided into three distinct districts within a single electoral district. The political landscape in Saida is determined by the balance of power between the March 14 and March 8 coalitions. With the second highest number of candidates running out of Beirut I, this race is at the forefront of determining who represents the Christian community.

The seat-sharing* of the Saida district in the Bekaa valley, is part of a series of districts where there are no winners, but also uncompetitive. There will be 5,187 polling stations registered for this district in the Bekaa valley, this race is at the forefront of determining who represents the Christian community.

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