

## RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LEBANESE DIASPORA AND THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

For a constructive dialogue\*, two items should be read before meeting:

- The Lebanese Diaspora and the international relations by Professor Phares
- The complete story of the WLCU by Anis Garabet, Eng.

>What is the WLCU?

>What is the Lebanese Diaspora?

>Who are we?

- what is our mission statement? (refer to by-laws and constitution)
- what are our duties?
  - to make the WLCU efficient and widely representative
  - to keep the Lebanese heritage alive
  - lobbying for independence & sovereignty of Lebanon
  - to keep in contact with Lebanon
- what are our rights?
  - as a non-resident (full Lebanese citizen)
  - descendants to keep their Official Lebanese identity paper
  - right to own real state (invest, etc.)
  - to participate in the Lebanese elections and political life

>What is the Lebanese Republic?

- The Lebanese people
  - with all social aspects
  - with educational institutions (universities, etc.)
  - with professional institutions (naqabet, order, unions, etc.)
  - with political parties
- The public institutions:
  - Lebanese army, security (issues of military services).
  - Ministries of culture, education (legalization of diplomas issues, recognition of specialities, etc.), health, economy, and finance (tax accord between Canada and the Lebanese government).
  - Municipalities (issues of environment)
  - Ministry of foreign affaires and emigration
- The Lebanese power:
  - President, Prime Minister, Ministers, Speaker, Deputies (opposition

included), Ambassador and Consuls...

(any special relations with any of the above positions)

Do we need to be recognized from the Lebanese People as a sole representative of the Lebanese Diaspora?

If yes, how?

Do we have to present our credentials after every election and wait for approval?

If yes, why? If no, why? At what price? For which objective?

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In our dialogue, it is important to lobby our government (where we live) and or another international organization for the well being of the Lebanese people. For example: The Arabic League, the European Union, the Francophonie, The United Nations, etc.

What do we want to achieve in our dialogue with the Lebanese Republic:

- our right as a full citizen for the Lebanese Diaspora
- the well being of our people: freedom of expression, human right, the right to be different, multicultural, etc.
- interaction between resident and non resident on all levels (from social to cultural to business).
- charity activity in Lebanon
- etc. etc.

Do we need a representative in Lebanon, to be in contact with the Lebanese people and Lebanese govt.?? Any idea about cost ?

Who will conduct the dialogue?

It is very important to set guidelines for the dialogue (as you are doing now), to approve it by the congress (NO HIDDEN AGENDA), to delegate responsibility and the negotiator is accountable to the world council. Also the negotiation should be conducted between people of the same ranking.

**RED LINE:** Any negotiator should keep in mind that we are an INGO, that our physical existence is outside the Lebanese territories, and the interest of the Lebanese Diaspora should come first.

*\*Dialogue between 2 groups: is an exchange of ideas or opinions on a particular issue esp. political or national issue, with a view to reach an amicable agreement or settlement*