

ORDER No. 319 REGULATING THE STATUS  
OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN LEBANON

Country: Lebanon

Date of entry into force: August 2, 1962 (19620802)

This legislation includes amendments up to and including:

Article 1

Individuals who are not Lebanese nationals and who are currently in Lebanon must resolve their status with respect to their residence. They belong to one of the following five categories: (1) Foreign nationals who are residents pursuant to transit visas or temporary resident visas affixed to their passport. (2) Foreign nationals who hold passports and who are residents pursuant to residence cards permitting residence for a specific period that were not issued by the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et des Émigrés or by the Direction de la Sûreté générale on the basis of their passports. (3) Foreign nationals who do not hold identity papers from their country of origin and who reside in Lebanon pursuant to residence cards issued by the Direction de la Sûreté générale or to identity cards issued by the Direction générale de l'Administration des Affaires des réfugiés palestiniens au Liban. (4) Foreign nationals authorized to enter Lebanon on presentation solely of their identity cards and residing in the country pursuant to temporary or permanent residence cards. (5) Foreign nationals who hold identity documents from their country of origin or from organizations on which they depend and who reside in Lebanon pursuant to temporary documents stamped by the Services de la Sûreté générale.

Article 2

The persons referred to in the preceding article have until September 30, 1962 to obtain from the Services de la Sûreté générale a visa or permit in accordance with the regulations that reflects their membership of one of the categories set out in the said article.

Article 3

The duration of the residence of the foreign nationals belonging to the first and second categories shall be determined and extended pursuant to the provisions of Order No. 10.188 dated July 28, 1962.

Article 4

The Direction générale des Forces de Sécurité Intérieure and the Direction de la Sûreté générale shall take all necessary steps to provide foreign nationals belonging to the third and fourth categories, prior to September 30, 1962, with temporary or permanent residence cards showing their family name, given names, place and date of birth, nationality, address in Lebanon and the identity of persons under 15 years of age accompanying them.

#### Article 5

Residence cards issued to Syrian nationals by the Direction générale du Recensement et de l'État civil shall remain valid for the period of residence of the persons holding them as well as for their spouses and their children under fifteen years of age until such cards are changed or gradually cancelled by the Direction de la Sûreté générale between September 30, 1962 and September 30, 1963.

#### Article 6

A temporary residence receipt issued to any person who applies for a residence card and who belongs to the third category shall remain valid for the period of residence of the holder thereof as well as for his wife and the members of his family until a final decision is made concerning that person.

#### Article 7

A temporary residence card shall be issued to any Syrian national who so requests, on presentation of the identity card of the Syrian Service de l'État civil or any other document that replaces it.

#### Article 8

A permanent residence card shall be issued to any Syrian national who provides evidence that her or she has a domicile or permanent employment in Lebanon.

#### Article 9

A temporary residence card valid for a period not exceeding three months shall be issued to any Jordanian national who entered Lebanon on presentation of his or her identity card. The duration of this person's residence shall be extended in accordance with the provisions of article 3 of this Order.

#### Article 10

The duration of the period of residence of foreign nationals belonging to the fifth category shall be determined and extended in accordance with the instructions to be issued later by the Directeur de la Sûreté générale.

Texts of legislation as promulgated on 2 August 1962

LAW REGULATING THE ENTRY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS INTO,  
THEIR RESIDENCE IN AND THEIR DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON

Country: Lebanon

Date of entry into force: July 10, 1962

This legislation includes amendments up to and including:

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Any physical person who is not of Lebanese nationality shall be considered to be a foreign national under this Law.

Article 2

Subject to international agreements and special legislation, foreign nationals shall be governed by the provisions of this Law with respect to their entry into, their residence in and their departure from the country.

Article 3

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Consular Corps are not subject to the provisions of this Law. However, honorary consuls are not subject to the special regulations governing residence, entry and departure only.

Article 4

Foreign nationals who hold a transit or residence visa or a residence card may travel anywhere on the territory of Lebanon with the exception of areas to which access is prohibited by the appropriate authorities.

CHAPTER II – ENTRY INTO LEBANON

Article 6

No foreign national may enter Lebanon unless he or she passes one of the posts of the Sûreté Générale and on condition that he or she has the regulatory documents and visas as well as a passport in which a transit or residence visa has been affixed by a representative of Lebanon abroad, by an authority responsible for the interests of Lebanese nationals abroad or by the Sûreté Générale. No Lebanese national may enter Lebanon unless he or she passes one of the posts of the Sûreté Générale. The entry into Lebanon of persons who are not Lebanese nationals and who are not required to be in possession of a passport shall be recorded at the border by the Services de la Sûreté Générale. The application of this paragraph shall be regulated by an order of the Ministre de l'Intérieur. Any foreign national wishing to enter Lebanon in order to pursue a career or to work there is required to obtain in advance authorization from the Ministère du

Travail et des Affaires Sociales, although this requirement shall not apply to artists, who shall obtain authorization from the Direction de la Sûreté Générale.

#### Article 7

By order made on the proposal of the Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et des Émigrés, the requirement that entry and residence visas be obtained may be cancelled for the nationals of certain countries wishing to reside in Lebanon as tourists for a period not exceeding three months.

### CHAPTER III: TRANSIT AND RESIDENCE

#### Article 8

A person holding a transit visa is authorized to enter Lebanon only once and to remain there for a period not exceeding fifteen days.

#### Article 9

The Direction de la Sûreté Générale is authorized in exceptional cases to convert a transit visa into a residence visa.

#### Article 10

Residence visas may be granted for one or more journeys but their validity shall not exceed a maximum period of six months, which begins to run on the date on which the visa is obtained.

#### Article 11

The Direction de la Sûreté Générale is authorized to extend a residence visa successively for a period not exceeding one year, which begins to run on the date on which the holder enters Lebanon.

#### Article 12

Residence cards for a period of one year or permanent residence cards that are valid for three years and renewable may be issued by the Direction de la Sûreté Générale to foreign nationals wishing to reside in Lebanon for one year or more. The holder of an annual or permanent residence card may enter and leave Lebanon on any number of occasions.

#### Article 15

The Direction de la Sûreté Générale may impose on foreign nationals a requirement that they obtain an exit visa when State security so requires.

#### Article 17

A foreign national shall be deported from Lebanon if the presence of that foreign national is considered to be a threat to public security. The Directeur de la Sûreté Générale is required immediately to submit to the Ministre de l'Intérieur a copy of his or her decision. Deportation shall be effected either by notification of the person affected of the order to leave Lebanon within the time set by the Directeur de la Sûreté Générale or by having the person deported taken to the border by the Forces de la Sécurité Intérieure.

#### Article 18

The Directeur de la Sûreté Générale may, with the approval of the Procureur général, arrest and keep in custody any person who is to be deported and may do so for the period of time required to complete the travel formalities.

### CHAPTER VI – TRANSIT VISAS

#### Article 19

The Directeur de la Sûreté Générale is authorized to issue to foreign nationals who do not hold any travel document a transit visa to permit them to travel to the country to which they wish to go in either of the following situations: (1) where the foreign national is a refugee or a stateless person; (2) where the foreign national is the national of a country that does not have a representative in Lebanon.

#### Article 20

A transit visa shall be valid for a period not exceeding three years, the precise period to be determined at the discretion of the Direction de la Sûreté Générale.

#### Article 21

A holder of a transit visa is not authorized to return to Lebanon if he or she is not also the holder of a permit to return to Lebanon.

#### Article 23

It shall be possible to issue a joint transit visa for the father of a family, his spouse and those of his children who have not attained the age of fifteen.

#### Article 24

The validity of a transit visa shall be cancelled in the event that the holder of the visa enters the territory of a country on which a representative of the nation of which he or she is a national is located.

### CHAPTER VII – EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN LEBANON

#### Article 25

No foreign national who is not an artist may work or practise a profession in Lebanon if he or she does not have a permit issued by the Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Sociales in accordance with the laws and regulations in effect.

### CHAPTER VIII – POLITICAL ASYLUM

#### Article 26

Any foreign national who is the subject of a prosecution or a conviction by an authority that is not Lebanese for a political crime or whose life or freedom is threatened, also for political reasons, may request political asylum in Lebanon. The definition of political crime contained in articles 196 and 197 of the Penal Code shall be taken into consideration. The provisions of articles 30 to 36 of the Penal Code respecting extradition shall remain applicable.

Article 27

Asylum shall be granted pursuant to an order made by a committee the membership of which is as follows: Ministre de l'Intérieur, chair; the Directeurs de la Justice, des Affaires Étrangères et de la Sûreté Générale, members. In the event that the number of votes cast for and against is equal, the chair shall have a casting vote. An order made by this committee is not admissible in law and may not be subject to any claim, even that of abuse of power.

Article 28

A special card shall be issued by the Direction de la Sûreté Générale to a political refugee. This card shall contain all the information concerning the identity of the refugee and the conditions to which the refugee shall be subject.

Article 29

The committee may refuse to grant asylum or may cancel it at any time or limit it by requiring the person, for example, to remain in a specific place.

Article 30

A person who has obtained asylum in Lebanon may not engage in any political activity.

Article 31

In the event that a former political refugee is deported, he or she may not be removed to the territory of a country where his or her life or freedom is threatened.

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