

## LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

### LEBANON

#### TRANSLATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION INTO ENGLISH

##### I. Official Publications

Pursuant to articles 51, 56, and 57 of the Lebanese Constitution, all laws and decrees duly approved by parliament and issued by the President of the Republic (or laws that exhausted their legislative course despite the President's objection) must be published to become effective.<sup>1</sup> Since the Constitution does not designate where laws and decrees must be published, Law No. 646 of 1997<sup>2</sup> designates the *Official Gazette* as the place where laws and decrees must be published within a period not exceeding fifteen days from the date of their issuance.

- AL-JARIDAH AL-RASMIYAH [OFFICIAL GAZETTE], LOC Call No. KMP1.5 .L43.

##### II. Official Translations

Article 11 of the Constitution designates the Arabic language as the official national language and adds that the law shall regulate the instances in which French may be used.

Lebanese governmental entities may produce and publish translations of Lebanese laws. However, these are not considered official or binding versions under the Lebanese Constitution and laws.

##### III. Sources of English Translation

The sources where English translations of some Lebanese laws may be found are generally websites of government ministries or agencies that offer laws relevant to the activities of such ministries or agencies.

A well-established Lebanese publishing house, Sader Publishers, embarked on an ambitious program in 2005 to translate Lebanese laws into English in collaboration with the Ministries of Justice, Economy, and Trade, sponsored by the US Agency for

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Lebanese Constitution is available on the Lebanese Parliament website, at <http://www.lp.gov.lb/SecondaryAr.Asp?id=12> (last visited Feb. 29, 2012; in Arabic).

<sup>2</sup> OFFICIAL GAZETTE No. 28 (1997).

International Development (USAID) and AMIDEAST-Lebanon.<sup>3</sup> However, this program, which established its own website at <http://www.lebaneselaws.com>, seems so far to be dormant.

Another attempt at translating Lebanese laws into English has been undertaken by a respected firm, *le Bureau des documentation Libansises et Arabes*, which specializes in the translation of Lebanese laws into French. However, the output of their English translations has so far been minimal:

- L'ARGUS DE LA LÉGISLATION LIBANAISE: PUBLICATION DU BUREAU DES DOCUMENTATIONS LIBANAISES ET ARABES, LOC Call No. KMP1.85 .A74.

#### IV. Online Resources

Online sources that the Law Library of Congress was able to identify as containing English translations of Lebanese laws and other legal instruments are as follows:

- *Lebanese Constitution*, PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON, <http://www.bdl.gov.lb/circ/index.htm>.
- *Laws & Circulars*, THE CENTRAL BANK OF LEBANON, <http://www.bdl.gov.lb/circ/index.htm>, which includes circulars issued by the Central Bank to banks, financial institutions, brokerage firms, money changers, representative offices, leasing companies, auditors, card issuers, and mutual funds.
- LEBANESE CUSTOMS, <http://www.customs.gov.lb/customs/index.htm>, where the Customs Law is posted.
- *Legislation*, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY & TRADE, <http://www.economy.gov.lb/index.php/subCatInfo/2/19>, where the Copyright Law and the Patent Law are posted in addition to what is called a “Resolution” concerning industrial drawings and designs.

The above are samples of what a researcher might find on the various Lebanese government websites. There is no information as to what policies, standards, and criteria each site has for the posting of English translations. While most of the postings might be accurate and complete, some are not. For example, the last above-mentioned posting on the website of the Ministry of Economy and Trade gives the impression that it is an administrative resolution, whereas it is actually a portion of a legislative order issued under the French mandate.

There are also a few general websites that offer some English translations of Lebanese laws and other legal instruments, such as:

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<sup>3</sup> For a brief description of this program, see “Sader” Signs a Partnership-Collaboration Agreement with the UAE Ministry of Justice Sader Publishers to Build the Largest UAE Legal Database, SADER PUBLISHERS, [http://www.saderpublishers.com/newsx2\\_en.asp?id=10](http://www.saderpublishers.com/newsx2_en.asp?id=10) (last visited Feb. 29, 2012).

- *Legislation Lebanon*, THE WORLD LAW GUIDE, <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxweleb.htm>.

Prepared by Issam Saliba  
Foreign Law Specialist  
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