

Elias Michel Murr



PROFILE

Elias Murr was born in Bteghrine in 1962. He holds a Master's degree in Law.

Elias Murr was the Minister of Interior and Municipalities from 2000 till 2004, the President of the Arab Interior Ministers Council from 2002 till 2004, the Interim Foreign Affairs Minister in 2005, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense in six consecutive Lebanese governments until 2011. In 2011, Murr was a member of the Lebanese National Dialogue Committee. In October 2013, Murr was appointed as the Interpol Foundation President.

Elias Murr played a major role in the execution and the implementation of the 1701 resolution of the United Nations. In parallel with his political endeavors, Murr spent the past twenty years at the helm of "Group Murr".

Elias Murr also owns Al Joumhouria News Corporation and Al Joumhouria Pan Arab, the publisher of one of the Middle East's leading daily newspapers founded in 1924, and of several other thematic periodicals.

Under his leadership, Al Joumhouria newspaper became the first Lebanese newspaper to embrace new media, by developing proprietary mobile applications, push notifications, and developing an award-winning website (PAN ARAB AWARD) for its digital edition.

Elias Murr is an honored officer of the National Cedar Legion and the holder of the Grand Cross of the Order of Spain.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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APPOINTMENTS

- Chairman of the Board and President of the Interpol Foundation for a safer world (21 October 2013);
- Chairman of the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law according to Decree no. 9 dated 27/4/2010;
- Member of the National Dialogue Committee dated 28/2/2010;
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense according to Decree no. 3839 dated 9/10/2009 until 12/1/2011;
- Minister of National Defense according to Decree no. 18 dated 11/7/2008 until 9/10/2009;
- Minister of the Interior and Municipalities (interim) according to Decree no. 290 dated 13/9/2008;
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense according to Decrees no. 14953 dated 19/7/2005, no. 14323 dated 19/4/2005 until 11/7/2008;
- Minister of the Interior and Municipalities (2000 – 2004) according to Decrees no. 4336 dated 26/10/2000, no. 10057 dated 17/4/2003 until 26/10/2004;
- President of the Lebanese Interior Security Council (2000 – 2004);
- President of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (2002 – 2004);
- Minister of Foreign Affairs (interim) according to Decree no. 14361 dated 28/4/2005;
- Minister of Defense (interim) (2000 – 2004);
- Attorney at Law – Beirut Bar (1982);
- Mayor of Bteghrine – Mount Lebanon (1982 – 1996)
- Chairman of Group Murr, which deals in major activities through affiliate companies acting mainly into the financial field, real-estate, construction, properties development, tourism, public works, journalism and publishing.
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Balamand. The University of Balamand is a non-profit and independent institution of higher education. It was founded in 1988 by Patriarch Ignatius IV, Patriarch of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church. The University of Balamand has 12 faculties and welcomes students from all over the world.

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEES

- Chairman of the ministerial committee to develop the educational sector on 22/4/2010;
- Vice President of the ministerial committee to study the draft law for petroleum resources in the water on 7/4/2010;
- Chairman of the committee to study the plans and tourism projects on 24/3/2010;
- Vice President of the ministerial committee in charge of setting up a mechanism for nomination in the administrative departments and public institutions on 11/3/2010;

- Vice President of the committee to develop and modernize the laws and regulations in force which would preserve the forest wealth on 13/1/2010;
- Chairman of the ministerial committee to study the convention on judicial cooperation in criminal matters between Lebanon and France dated 23/6/2010;
- Vice President of the Committee to treat the spread of arms among citizens in all Lebanese regions, especially in the city of Beirut, and to find solution for this phenomena dated 25/8/2010;
- Chairman of the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law dated 21/6/2010;
- Chairman of the ministerial committee to study the draft structure of the Directorate General for Higher Education in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education dated 29/9/2010;
- Chairman of the ministerial committee to study the draft law to amend certain provisions for Legislative decree no. 115 dated 12/6/1959 (the establishment of the Central Inspection) dated 29/9/2010;
- Chairman of the ministerial committee to study the draft law aiming to regulate the Court of Accounts as of 29/9/2010;
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities:
 - New Municipalities Act Project;
 - New Administrative Decentralization Act Project;
 - New Civil Defense Act Project;
 - New Road Safety Act Project.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Cooperation convention on the security and civil defense levels with the states and international Organizations:

* **Switzerland:**

- Convention on the readmission of persons with unauthorized stays;
- Convention on cooperation in the event of natural disaster, crisis or serious accident.

* **Cyprus:**

- Convention on the readmission of persons with unauthorized stays;
- Convention on cooperation in combating organized crime and illicit use and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

* **Austria:**

- Cooperation in the police field;
- Convention on the readmission of persons with unauthorized stays.

* **Belarus:**

- Cooperation Convention on crime prevention.

* **Brazil:**

- Convention on delinquent's extradition (preliminary phase);
- Judicial Cooperation in repressive matters;
- Judicial Cooperation in civil matters;
- Cooperation in certain consular matters pertaining human aspects.

*** Ukraine:**

- Convention of the readmission of persons with unauthorized stays.

*** Cuba:**

- Convention on cooperation in combating organized crime and illicit use and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

*** Saudi Arabia:**

- Convention on delinquent's extradition.

*** France:**

- Convention pertaining the financing of the military trainees;
- Cooperation in the field of Defense;
- The conditions of the French participation in the direction of Senior Trainers in the Humanitarian Demining for the Lebanese Armed Forces;
- Launching positions and Milan Anti Tanks Missiles.

*** Bulgaria:**

- Judicial Cooperation in repressive matters;
- Cooperation in police matters;
- Convention of delinquent's extradition (preliminary phase);
- Convention to retrieve sentenced persons;
- Convention on the readmission of persons with unauthorized stays.

*** Greece:**

- Cooperation Convention on fight against crime, particularly terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime;
- Convention on the readmission of persons residing illegally on the territory of their states;
- Convention of delinquent's extradition (preliminary phase).

*** People's Republic of China:**

- Cooperation in repressive matters;
- Cooperation in fighting crime.

*** Romania:**

- Convention on the readmission of their own national and aliens;
- Convention on cooperation in combating organized crime and illicit use and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- Convention for the mutual recognition of driving licenses.

*** Italy:**

- Cooperation in family matters (Preliminary phase);
- Convention on cooperation in combating organized crime.

*** Morocco:**

- Convention for the mutual recognition of driving licenses.

*** Jordan:**

- A bilateral cooperation agreement in the field of civil protection and rescue;
- Convention on cooperation in combating illicit use and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

*** Russia:**

- Agreement to avoid the occurrence of crime and to protect the public system order;
- Convention to combat financial crimes.

*** United States of America:**

- Memorandum of understanding on the status of the UNTSO;
- An Agreement between the Lebanese Republic and the United States of America on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction over sea;
- Convention related to the acquisition and exchange of gear, equipment and services, with the Ministry of Defense of the United States of America, for the implementation of logistic cooperation between the two countries;
- Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LAO) LE – B – WAD;
- Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LAO) LE – B – WAC;
- Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LAO) LE – B – WAL;
- Office of Defense Cooperation Beirut – Lebanon.

*** United Nations:**

- Join the UN Agreement on fighting corruption;
- Memorandum of understanding on relocation of UNIFIL's international civilian personnel;
- Memorandum of understanding on the status of the UNTSO;
- Memorandum of understanding for the processing of cases of asylum seekers applying for refugee status with UNHCR office in Lebanon;
- Cooperation Conventions on administrative development and human support;
- Memorandum of understanding signed on 28/8/2001 with the United States Agency for International development and the Center for Legislative Development at the State University of New York – Albany. Within the frame of this convention the following concrete achievements have been performed:
 - The municipal guide;
 - The citizen local guide;
 - The rules of establishment and implementation of the municipal budget;
 - The municipal budget plan;
 - The Computerizing of the municipalities (internet and intranet).
- Convention signed on 30/4/2002 with the International Labor Organization represented by the ILO Regional office for Arab States Beirut-Lebanon, executing the International Program to protect working children and to combat and eliminate child labor;
- Memorandum of understanding signed on 20/3/2002 with the foreign and commonwealth office represented by the British Embassy in Beirut and the ILO to Train ISF and civil defense troops to battle against child labor and abuse in public places;
- Loan conventions between the Lebanese Republic and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):
 - Loan of 80 million \$ for the first Municipal Infrastructure project.
 - Loan of 65 million \$ for the Urban Transport Development project.

- Loan of 93.5 million \$ from the French Agency for Development, the French Cultural Ministry and the Italian Government (\$62 million) and from the World Bank (\$31.5 million), for cultural heritage and urban development project, in order to promote the economical development of 5 old cities: Tripoli, Byblos, Sidon, Tyre and Baalbek, and to protect archeological sites in Lebanon.

THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Elias Murr, as President of the Interpol Foundation, launched 7 global security projects which aim at making the world a safer place:

1. Vulnerable Communities
2. Counter-Terrorism
3. Vehicle Crime
4. Cultural Heritage
5. Illicit Markets
6. Cybercrime
7. Illicit Drug Trade

* Ministry of National Defense:

- Cooperation Convention signed on 2/3/2005, with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the establishment of "Simulation Groups" in order to develop the higher military in Lebanon;
- Convention related to the acquisition and exchange of gear, equipment and services, with the Ministry of Defense of the United States of America, for the implementation of logistic cooperation between the two countries;
- Cooperation Convention with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs related to the terms and conditions governing the French participation in the development of self-habilitation of military ranger's troops;
- Cooperation Convention with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the establishment of "JANUS SIMULATION" in order to develop the higher military education in Lebanon;
- Convention related to the technical arrangements between the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese Army;
- Convention related to the Water Borders Surveillance made with the United States;

* Nations Interim Force in Lebanon:

- Cooperation Convention between the French Army and the Lebanese Ministry of Defense;
- Military Technical Cooperation agreement between the Russian Federation and the Lebanese Republic;

* The most important operational achievements carried out under the Ministry of Defense:

- Implementation of the UN resolution no. /1701/ in all military, security and Logistic aspects;

- Deployment of 15000 soldiers from the Lebanese Army in South Lebanon (1701);
- Deployment of 10000 soldiers from the Lebanese Army along the Northern and Eastern Borders to prevent all kinds of illegal matters (1701);
- Participation and Help in the issuance of UN resolution no. /1701/;
- Fight against terrorism and annihilate the terrorist organization “Fatah Al- Islam” in “Nahr al-Bared Camp” in 2007.

HONOR DISTINCTION

Officer of the National Cedar Legion.

Holder of the “Grande Croix de l’Ordre de l’Espagne”.

ACTIVITIES

License of private Helicopter pilot

License of private Airplane pilot

License of seas navigation – yacht master

License of scuba diving

Alpine Skiing

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date and place of birth: 30/01/1962 – Btehrine, Lebanon.

Civil Status: Married with Three children.

EDUCATION

1982: Master’s degree in law.

1978 – 1981: Law degree

1970 – 1978: Collège du Léman – Geneva – Switzerland

LANGUAGES

Speaks: Arabic, French and English