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RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		14 December 2009
About the Board	LBN103337.E	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Lebanon: Whether a person from Syria, who was not born in Lebanon, could obtain Lebanese citizenship	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References	In a telephone interview with the Research Directorate on 7 December 2009, the Consul at the Embassy of Lebanon in Ottawa stated that it is not possible for a Syrian who resides or works in Lebanon to become a naturalized Lebanese citizen. Lebanese citizenship is acquired by descent; it is passed on from a father to his child (US Mar. 2001, 117; Lebanon 7 Dec. 2009). The Consul stated that citizenship through naturalization can be acquired only by a decree signed by the President, but that this rarely occurs (ibid.). <i>Citizenship Laws of the World</i> similarly indicates that naturalized citizenship can be acquired only by a decree from the Lebanese Council of Ministers (US Mar. 2001, 117).	
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division		
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions	The Consul reported that there was a decree in 1994 whereby approximately 100,000 people, including Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis and others, became naturalized Lebanese citizens (Lebanon 7 Dec. 2009). However, he also noted that this has not happened again (ibid.). For further information on the naturalization of Syrians in 1994, see ZZZ103296.E of 17 November 2009.	
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research	<u>References</u> Lebanon. 7 December 2009. Embassy of Lebanon, Ottawa. Telephone interview with Consul.	
Media Centre		
News	United States (US). March 2001. Office of Personnel Management. Investigations Service. "Lebanon." <i>Citizenship Laws of the World</i> . < http://www.opm.gov/extra/investigate/IS-01.pdf > [Accessed 9 Dec. 2009]	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations	<u>Additional Sources Consulted</u>	
Proactive Disclosure	Internet sites, including: Embassy of Lebanon, Washington, DC, Factiva, Legislationline.org	

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