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RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		17 March 2005
About the Board	LBN43437.FE	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Lebanon: Formalities of a marriage between a Sunni Palestinian woman and a Shiite Lebanese man; whether the authorization of the woman's family and parents is required for a permanent or temporary marriage; whether a temporary marriage performed between two parties without a witness or a civil or religious authority is legal and is religiously or morally valid (1998-Mar. 2005)	
Employment		
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	Several sources indicated that civil marriage is not permitted in Lebanon and that only religious marriages are allowed; however, civil marriages performed outside of Lebanon are recognized there (<i>Country Reports 2004</i> 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2; <i>Country Reports 1999</i> 23 Feb. 2000, Sec. 5; <i>International Religious Freedom Report 2004</i> 15 Sept. 2004, Sec. II; <i>L'Orient-Le Jour</i> 9 June 2004; <i>The Daily Star</i> 22 Jan. 2004). The <i>International Religious Freedom Report 2004</i> indicated that intermarriage is common in Lebanon (15 Sept. 2004, Sec. II), while the <i>Middle East Quarterly</i> indicated in September 2000 that these marriages were infrequent. In terms of marriages between Lebanese citizens and Palestinians, a survey conducted among Lebanese citizens showed that half of the respondents would not agree to marry a Palestinian (<i>The Middle East Quarterly</i> Sept. 2000).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	On 15 March 2005, a representative from the Embassy of Lebanon in Ottawa provided the following information during a telephone interview. A Shiite Lebanese man can marry a Sunni Palestinian woman without any problems in Lebanon, even though the woman is not Lebanese. For this marriage to be recognized, two male witnesses (who are not necessarily related to the couple) and a religious authority (a sheik in this case) must be present. If the parents do not approve of the marriage, the couple can still marry as long as the woman is at least 18 and has already been married and divorced. A woman who is over 18 and who is getting married for the first time must obtain the authorization of a male relative. The representative also said that there are no temporary marriages in Lebanon because all of the marriages are performed by religious authorities before they are registered with the government, which renders the marriage religiously and legally valid.	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News		
Information Sheets	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 additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.	
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure		

[References](#)

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004. 28 February 2005. "Lebanon." United States Department of State. Washington, DC. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41726.htm>> [Accessed 14 Mar. 2005]

Country Reports on Human Rights Practicess for 1999. 23 February 2000. "Lebanon." United States Department of State. Washington, DC. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/1999/420.htm>> [Accessed 14 Mar. 2005]

The Daily Star [Beirut]. 22 January 2004. Majdoline Hatoum. "Marriage, Lebanese-Style: What's Love Got to Do With it?" <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=1&article_ID=2966&categ_id=13> [Accessed 14 Mar. 2005]

Embassy of Lebanon in Ottawa. 15 March 2005. Telephone interview with a representative.

International Religious Freedom Report 2004. 15 September 2004. "Lebanon." United States Department of State. Washington, DC. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35502.htm>> [Accessed 14 Mar. 2005]

The Middle East Quarterly [Philadelphia]. September 2000. Simon Haddad. Vol. 7, no. 3. "The Palestinian Predicament." <<http://www.meforum.org/article/68>> [Accessed 14 Mar. 2005]

L'Orient-Le Jour [Beirut]. 9 June 2004. "Le mariage civil : une formule à bon prix." (Dialog).

Additional Sources Consulted

Ten professors of anthropology, sociology or women's studies who are specialists on Lebanon did not provide any information within the time constraints.

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Freedom House, Human Rights Watch (HRW), World News Connection (WNC).


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