

3. Mohammed al-Bashir (b. 1983) is an associate of A. al-Sharaa who held various positions in the so-called "Salvation Government of Syria" in Idlib.
4. The conference date was announced one day in advance. As a result, many political figures were unable to participate.
5. On March 13, 2025, the interim declaration was ratified.
6. *Here and elsewhere – the listed organizations are banned in Russia.*
7. *Here and elsewhere – the listed organizations are banned in Russia.*
8. Al-Khasibi (d. 969 CE) is considered one of the leading Alawite scholars. His family was closely connected to the eleventh Shiite Imam, Hasan al-Askari. His mausoleum, considered one of the most important religious shrines of the Alawite sect, was destroyed by jihadists in March 2025.

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OLGA BIBIKOVA. LEBANON AFTER THE 2025 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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Olga Bibikova,

PhD(Hist.), Senior Research Associate,

Center for Interdisciplinary Research,

INION RAN

e-mail: olbibikova@mail.ru

ORCID: 0000-0002-9140-8372

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Abstract. After 26 months of power vacuum, Lebanon finally has a new president. During this time, 13 parliamentary sessions were held where pressing issues pertinent to the national development were discussed. However, the country remained without a president. Against the backdrop of the upheavals that occurred in the Middle East during this time, there was a significant shift in the political balance of Lebanon. It became clear that the country needed a reboot of its system

of public administration that was falling apart. The elections showed a change in the balance of power in the Lebanese parliament. The positions of parliamentarians who supported Hezbollah were weakened.

On January 9, 2025, General Joseph Aoun, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, was elected President of the Republic of Lebanon. He received 99 votes out of 128 in parliament, but only in the second round of voting¹. In the first round, held earlier that same day, he had received only 71 votes. His fate was likely decided during the recess between the sessions.

As is known, Lebanon is home to 18 recognized religious sects, but the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian². Members of parliament are elected by popular vote, but according to religious community quotas: 64 Muslims (27 Sunnis, 27 Shiites, 8 Druze, and 2 Alawites) and 64 Christians (34 Maronites, 14 Greek Orthodox, 8 Greek Catholics, 5 Armenian Orthodox, 1 Armenian Catholic, 1 Protestant, and 1 additional Christian seat, usually filled by an Assyrian Nestorian) [2]. Therefore, selecting a candidate is always extremely difficult. This time too, the president was elected on the 13th attempt.

Commentators noted that this choice came after the army played a key role in brokering a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. Thirty deputies from Hezbollah and the Shiite Amal Movement cast blank ballots. The presidency had been vacant for over two years (since October 2022) because the Lebanese parliament could not achieve a quorum and candidates failed to secure the necessary votes. According to Lebanese political analysts, Joseph Aoun's candidacy was supported by the United States and Saudi Arabia. Within the military, Aoun is known for his honesty and impartiality. It is known that when an international conference on Lebanon, initiated by France, was held in Paris in October 2024 and succeeded in raising €800 million, Aoun secured €200 million for the Lebanese army. This was crucial as the economic crisis had severely impacted not only soldiers' salaries but also their basic nutrition.