



# New England Americans for Lebanon

118 Ten Hills Road, Somerville, MA 02145-1033  
neal-ma@attbi.com Tel/Fax 617 - 776 - 7499

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## **A Christmas Message**

During the Christmas season, the prevailing message heard around the world is one of peace, love, and hope. But not in today's Lebanon.

In today's Lebanon where most people, and especially the four hundred families of MTV and RML, have been praying and hoping for love and justice, that message does not exist. The message the Lebanese people hear daily is one of corruption, hatred, and belittlement. That message comes loud and clear from the puppet regime installed in Beirut by the Syrian dictatorship.

In his inauguration speech of a sports complex, ex-Interior Minister Michel El Murr not only defamed the opposition leaders, but also blatantly lied when he said that democracy is practiced and security is provided in Lebanon. He totally ignored the daily crimes occurring on the streets of the nation under his son's watch, such as the recent gunning of a judge on his bench in the Justice Palace of Beirut, and the murder of an American nurse working in a clinic in Sidon. We would also like to remind Mr. El Murr that his "Crown Prince" Elias El Murr, the Interior Minister, had no reaction to the kidnapping and beating of a Lebanese journalist by Hizbollah. No one in the government dared answer Hizbollah's challenge to the State when they said they are "the institutions" and they are "the nation".

According to Michel El Murr and his Syrian masters, the practice of democracy consists of illegally forbidding peaceful demonstrations, beating up, intimidating, arresting and imprisoning students, protecting the Syrian occupant, pointing the finger at others and accusing them of dictatorship and corruption when one is the prime example of both in what is today Lebanon's worst period in history. This democracy means the automatic inheritance from father to son of government positions and deputyships. This democracy means the appointment of Presidents of the Republic, Prime Ministers, and so on by the Syrian regime and where parliament has no choice but to confirm. This democracy means silencing opposition media outlets and journalists. This democracy means the open and shameful influence they exercise on the judiciary, which leads us to the latest ruling in the MTV-RML case, in which the wishes of the Lahoud-El Murr duo were fulfilled to never reopen the TV and radio stations whose owners defeated Lahoud-El Murr in the Metn bi-elections.

While the three presidents and their cronies in the government enjoy the holidays in and outside of Lebanon in their lavish palaces, villas, and hotel suites paid for by money pilfered from the Lebanese treasury, the Lebanese people including the four hundred families of MTV and RML were given by way of the court ruling another Christmas message from "today's Lebanon".

Long Live Free Lebanon