

One year after Hariri, Lebanon in torment

The murder of Rafik Hariri transformed Lebanon's political landscape and led to the withdrawal of Syrian troops. But stability remains elusive, with the country still polarized between anti-and pro-Syrian camps

Feb 14, 2005: Former prime minister **Rafik Hariri** (top) killed in massive truck bomb blast in Beirut

Mar 1: Prime Minister **Omar Karami** resigns after two weeks of massive anti-Syrian and anti-government demonstrations

Mar 8: Some 500,000 rally in Beirut to show support for Syria. Karami reinstated three days later

Apr 7: **UN Security Council** condemns Hariri's killing and sets up international commission "to assist Lebanese in investigation" into murder

Apr 14: Karami resigns again after failing to form government. Pro-Syrian **Najib Mikati** named successor

Apr 26: Last Syrian troops withdraw from Lebanon after 29-year presence

Jun 2: Journalist **Samir Qasir** – critic of Syrian influence in Lebanon – assassinated in car bomb attack

Jun 21: Former Communist Party leader **George Hawi** killed by car bomb

Jun 30: Anti-Syrian alliance led by Hariri's son **Saad** (below) wins control of parliament in elections. Hariri ally **Fouad Siniora** (centre) chosen as prime minister. Militant **Hezbollah** – closely tied to Syria – takes seats in government for first time

Sep 2: Four pro-Syrian generals charged in

connection with Hariri's murder

Oct-Dec: Initial reports by UN investigation find evidence pointing to involvement by both high-ranking Syrian and Lebanese officials in killing

Dec 12: Anti-Syrian MP and journalist **Gibran Tueni** killed in car bomb attack

Feb 14, 2006: Massive demonstrations expected to mark first anniversary of Hariri's assassination

