

Key players in Lebanon's political standoff

Lebanon's three highest offices are allocated by religion – the President must be a Maronite Christian, the Speaker a Shia Muslim, and the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim. The current crisis was sparked after the Cabinet approved plans for a UN tribunal on the killing of ex-premier Rafik Hariri



■ Emile Lahoud: Lebanese President. Staunchly pro-Syrian – has ruled approval of tribunal at emergency Cabinet session as unconstitutional due to boycott by all five Hezbollah-backed Shia ministers

■ Nabih Berri: Speaker of Parliament. Pro-Iranian Hezbollah ally and leader of **Amal Movement**.



Speaker is only politician who can call parliamentary session to ratify tribunal



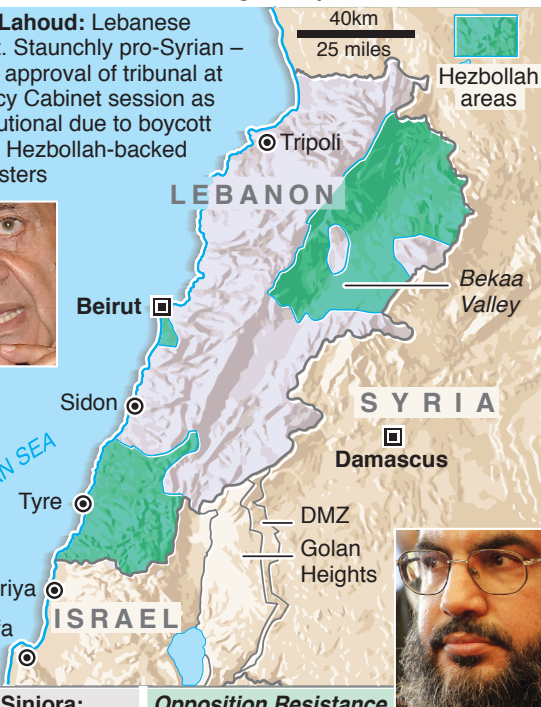
■ Fouad Siniora:

Prime Minister. Anti-Syrian **March 14 Bloc** has **72 seats** in **128-seat** parliament. Siniora has backing of the West, Saudi Arabia and Egypt

■ Saad Hariri: Son of Rafik Hariri, and **Future Movement** leader – largest group in March 14 bloc – **36 seats**

■ Walid Jumblatt: Druze leader of anti-Syrian **Progressive Socialist Party** – **16 seats**

■ Mainly Christian Kataeb Party (Phalange) of assassinated Industry Minister **Pierre Gemayel** – **6 seats**. Other parties – **14 seats**



Opposition Resistance and Development Bloc – 35 seats

■ Hassan Nasrallah: Shia leader of **Hezbollah** claims balance of power has changed in its favour, wants more decisive say in government – **14 seats**

■ Amal Movement – 15 seats. Other parties in bloc – **6 seats**



■ Michel Aoun: MP and leader of **Free Patriotic Movement**. Most popular Christian political leader in Lebanon. Anti-Syrian **Aoun Alliance** – **21 seats**