

# Lebanese presidential candidates

Lebanon's opposition politicians are expected to continue to boycott parliament – denying the ruling coalition the necessary two-thirds quorum required to appoint their successor to President Emile Lahoud – until a consensus candidate is found

DECLARED CANDIDATES (*All Maronite Christian as required by Constitution*)

## GOVERNMENT



**Nassib Lahoud:** Well respected former MP and Ambassador to U.S. Widely supported by intelligentsia



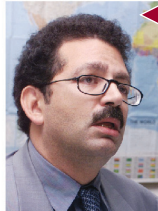
**Robert Ghanem**  
MP retained seat in 2005, uniquely with support from both sides of parliament



**Boutros Harb**  
Former MP with six-year plan to unite factions. Calls for dialogue of equals with Syria

## OPPOSITION

**Michel Aoun:** Former general and one-time prime minister, driven into exile by Syria in 1990 but now aligned with Damascus



**Chibli Mallat**  
Renowned independent human rights lawyer challenging factional status quo

If neither side is able to command a sufficient majority, either a middle-ground candidate must be agreed, or President could appoint Army chief **Michel Suleiman** head of interim cabinet to stop government taking executive powers

## COMPROMISE CANDIDATES



**Riad Salameh:** Central Bank governor since 1992, credited with stabilising economy despite war and political crises



**General Michel Suleiman**  
Has maintained Army neutrality and led popular fight against Islamists at refugee camp



**Jean Obeid:** Former advisor to Presidents **Sarkis** and **Gemayel**. Close to late Syrian President **Hafez al-Assad** and murdered Lebanese PM **Rafik Hariri**