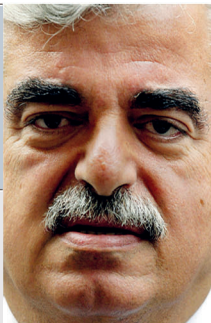


Lebanon unrest linked to Syria conflict

■ **Feb 2005:** Calls for Syria to end its 29-year presence in Lebanon intensify after former Prime Minister

Rafiq Hariri is killed by car bomb in Beirut. Last Syrian troops pull out in April

■ **Oct:** Preliminary findings of international investigation into Hariri's killing implicate high-ranking Syrian and Lebanese officials



■ **Feb 2012:** Syrian conflict spills over into Lebanese city of Tripoli in deadly clashes between Sunni Muslims and Alawites

■ **Jul:** UN's Special Tribunal for Lebanon issues arrest warrants for four members of Hezbollah over murder of Rafik Hariri. Hezbollah says it will refuse to allow their arrest

■ **Jul-Aug 2006:** Lebanese Hezbollah militia captures two Israeli soldiers, sparking 34-day war that kills over 1,000 Lebanese and 160 Israelis

■ **Oct 2008:** Lebanon and Syria establish full diplomatic relations for first time since both gained independence in 1940s

■ **Jun 2009:** Anti-Syrian coalition led by **Saad Hariri**, son of murdered former premier, defeats rival alliance led by Hezbollah. Hariri forms new unity government in November

■ **Jan 2011:** Government collapses after ministers from Hezbollah and its political allies resign – telecoms tycoon **Najib Mikati**

forms new government in June dominated by Hezbollah allies



■ **Oct 19:** Senior intelligence official **Wissam al-Hassan**, who led investigation into Hariri's murder, killed by car bomb in Beirut



■ **Oct 20-22:** Opposition blames attack on Syria. Lebanese troops launch major operation to quell violence after clashes across nation kill at least four people