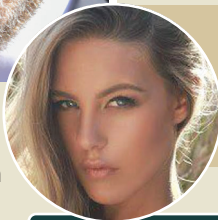


Lebanon's leaders grapple with mass protests

Lebanon's anti-government revolt – the largest since its independence – has moved from fury over the economy and corruption to demands for a sweeping overhaul of the country's political system



■ **Sep 30:** Revelations surface that Prime Minister **Saad al-Hariri** (above) gifted \$16m to South African model **Candice van der Merwe** (inset) in 2013



■ **Oct 17:** Demonstrations erupt after Hariri government announces imposition of new taxes, including charges on **WhatsApp** calls

■ **Oct 18:** Banks, schools, universities and other businesses shut down as nationwide protests escalate. Government backtracks by scrapping WhatsApp tax



■ **Oct 19:** Influential Hezbollah leader **Hassan Nasrallah** says he supports government but calls for “new spirit” to tackle economic crisis. Lebanese Forces party quits governing coalition



■ **Oct 21:** Hariri announces package of economic reforms but protests grow larger, with demands for his entire government to resign

■ **Oct 23:** Lebanese troops move in to open major roads in Beirut and other cities, scuffling in some places with demonstrators

■ **Oct 24:** Lebanese President **Michel Aoun** (below) says he is ready to open dialogue with protesters and hints at cabinet reshuffle

■ **Oct 25**
Despite

promises of reform, protesters dig in, saying incumbent officials are corrupt and must go

