

## LEBANON, 1920-2020 ONE HUNDRED YEARS SINCE GREAT LEBANON

Robert Sacy\*

\* *Professor of Pediatrics Beirut University, Head of pediatric Programm at Quarantina governemental Hospital, President of an NGO ASSAMEH BIRTH AND BEYOND, Thesaurer UMEMPS, President LAPS*

Lebanon was called in the bible land of milk and honey, Switzerland of the Middle-East, Pearl of the Middle-East, and Land of Gods.

Pope Jean-Paul 2 said about Lebanon, It is more than a country, it is a message.

Everyone enjoy living there because of the country natural beauty active financial market. good climate, rich culture, active financial market.



Lebanon was considered as one of the four richest country in the world.

Our health private sector was the most advanced in the area, and Beirut was known as the hospital of the Middle-East.

According to UNICEF, our vaccination coverage was the best in the area and in order we were the 23rd country to have best vaccination system worldwide.

What happened in those 100 years.

Lebanon is composed of 18 religious communities around 50 per cent of the population is Christian and the rest muslim. This is one of the reasons which led to destruction of this paradise.

Around Lebanon 2 countries Israel known for many as Palestine who was never convinced with the coexistence of different religions going against Israel policy.

Syria who has never admitted that Lebanon was an independent country and has considered it as a part of Syria.

Palestinians invasion by Israel has caused an arrival of half a million of Palestinians to Lebanon, and very quickly they wanted to open the borders with Israel for attacks.

This added later to war of others on our land and destroyed a little bit more everyday this land of GodsCivil war started.for a period of 20 years with 100000 death, and huge destruction of downtown of Beirut.

After war we were invaded by one and a half million of Syrian refugees, which achieved to destroy completely our health system our schools and educational system and all our health system.

Thanks to United Nations organizations like UNHCR, or UNICEF, UNRWA and others, a little push was given to our health system which was deteriorating every day a little bit more.

30 years after the end of the civil war, we were still not able to built a country and a state.

Our leaders were all lords of war and economic connections were opened between them.

And, one day on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October people went in the streets to protest against corruption ans asking for a change of system and of leaders.

Banks were almost in bankruptcy.

People could not withdraw only limited amounts of money per month and Lebanese pound was devalueted going from 1usd equal 1500 LP to 1 Usd equal 8000 LP.



More then 50 per cent of the lebanese population live under the level of poverty under 5000LP per day.

Health system was unable to adapt and medical equipments are not available anymore on the market.

There is actually in Lebanon 45000 deliveries of lebanese babies and 75000 deliveries of Syrian refugees.

Then arrived the Covid 19, immediately the ministry of health closed the borders and we were safe for the first 2 month.

Then for economic resons air traffic was resumed and we passed from 3 case per day and 20 death in 2 month to an active phase with around 500 cases everyday and around 10 death everyday with a total of 23000 case in a 5 month perids.

This was not enough, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August in few seconds a blast destroyed almost the middle of Beirut.

The disaster was worst in one minute then 20 years of war.

200 death, 6000 wounded 300 houses completely destroyed. more than 100000 houses has suffered from severe destructions.

Thousand of societies were destroyed by the blast which was described as the 3<sup>rd</sup> more important blast in the world after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

5 major hospitals in achrafieh area were almost completely destroyed.

Saint-George University Hospital, Beirut Quarantina Governemental Hospital, Wardieh Rosary sisters hospital, Geetawi university hospital and Hotel-Dieu de France and Rizk hospital were partially destroyed.

On that famous night, more than 700 wounded people were in each E.R. of available hospitals in the suburbs of Beirut.

3 major pediatric departments completely closed including NICU and PICU.

Same thing with dialysis centers cardiac cath centers.

Hospital of the Middle –East is just a souvenir in our minds and thanks to International solidarity we are trying to rebuilt our health system basing on local NGO'S and with the help of International agencies, Rotasry clubs, Foundation.... With a total absence of the state and of any support from our government who is unable even to pay salaries of his employees.

Human International solidarity is our only hope and all our young and active population is unfortunately going towards emigration looking for a brighter future.

