

# Lebanese War Factions Summary

## I - The Lebanese Front الجبهة اللبنانية (1977)

Phalanges الكتائب / Regulatory Forces النظامية (Pierre Gemayel)

National Liberation Party حزب الوطنيين الأحرار / Tigers النَمُور (Camil Chamoun)

Al - Tanzim التنظيم, formerly Movement of the Cedars حركة الأرز (Adwan / Mahfouz / Zouein)

Guardians of the Cedar حراس الأرز, (Etien Sakr, Said Akl)

Marada Brigade and Zgharta Liberation Army لواء المردة وجيش التحرير الزغرتاوي (Sleiman Franjieh)

Maroun Khoury Group, (in Dekwaneh) (حركة الشبيبة اللبنانية)

Free Army of Lebanon, (Colonel Antoine Barakat) (or Army of Free Lebanon)

South Lebanon Army, (Saad Haddad and Antoine Lahd)

Tyous (in Ashrafieh)

Zahliotes جماعة زحلة

Shuraya (Assyrians)

Lebanese Forces - Executive Command القيادة التنفيذية (LFEC) (1986 - 1991), (Elie Hobeika)

Free Tigers النَمُور الحر, Elias Hannache

N.B.: The Vanguard of the Maani Army (Movement of the Druze Jihad) – VMA (MDJ) طليعة جيش المعاني - حركة الجهاد الدرزي (Farid Hamadeh), a movement from the split of the Lebanese army, allied to the Front.

## II - LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT (LNM) الحركة الوطنية اللبنانية (1973)

Formerly the Front of National and Progressive Parties and Forces (FNPPF)

جبهة الأحزاب والقوى التقدمية والوطنية

or "Front for Progressive Parties and National Forces" (FPPNF)

And known in the 80s as The Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF)

جَمُول جبهة المقاومة الوطنية اللبنانية aka Jammoul

And it was known as the Lebanese National Salvation Front الجبهة الإنقاذ الوطني اللبناني between 1982 - 1985

Its military wing in the 70's was known as "The Common Forces" or more, "Joint Forces" القوات المشتركة

Amal (أمل) (Shiite) أفواج المقاومة اللبنانية (أمل)

Fursan Ali فرسان على 1967 – 1976 (Salaheddine Khalil, Ahmad Safwan, Shiite)

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) الحزب التقدمي الاشتراكي, with its military wing the “People’s Liberation Army (or Popular Liberation Forces, or Forces of the Martyr Kamal Junblat, or Tanukh Brigade)” – PLA (or PLF, or FMKJ) جيش التحرير الشعبي (أو قوات التحرير الشعبية، أو قوات الشهيد كمال جنبلاط، أو لواء تنوخ) (Druze), which was born in 1976 from the Popular Commandos Forces – PLF الكوماندوس الشعبية which was founded in 1974.

Hezbollah - The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon حزب الله - المقاومة الإسلامية في لبنان (Shiite)

Arab Democratic Party الحزب العربي الديمقراطي (Ali Eid, Alawite)

Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) الحزب السوري القومي الاجتماعي (Greek Christians)

Ba`th Party - Syrian Faction حزب البعث - القطر السوري; controlled as - Sa`iqa, a Palestinian faction.

Socialist Arab Lebanon Vanguard Party حزب طليعة لبنان العربي الاشتراكي, Lebanese regional branch of the Ba`th Party - Iraqi Faction حزب البعث - القطر العراقي; controlled the "Arab Liberation Front", a Palestinian faction. See below.

Lebanese Communist Party (LCP) الحرس الشعبي / الحزب الشيوعي اللبناني

Communist Action Organization in Lebanon (OACL) منظمة العمل الشيوعي في لبنان (1970)

Merger of the Organization of Lebanese Socialists\* and Socialist Lebanon.\*\*

\* *Organization of Lebanese Socialists (OLS) منظمة الاشتراكيين اللبنانيين (1968) (Nayef Hawatmeh, Muhsin Ibrahim) is the former Arab Socialist Action Party – Lebanon (ASAP–L) حزب العمل (1969), the Lebanese section of the Arab Socialist Action Party حزب العمل (1967), the right (?) wing faction of the Arab Nationalist Movement (ANM) حركة (1951 - 1967) after its disintegration, one of its founders being Georges Habash. Habash founded said right (?) wing, which had 6 sections for 6 countries, and founded said Lebanese section. But with Hawatmeh and Ibrahim, the Lebanese section rebelled and became the OLS.*

*Of note, the Palestinian section was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine الجبهة الشعبية also founded by Habash in 1967, see below.*

*Hawatmeh was the leader of Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (later renamed as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) in 1969, splintering off the PFLP, see below.*

*Ibrahim became the General Secretary of OACL, and General Secretary of the LNM.*

*\*\* Socialist Lebanon was a small group of Marxist intellectuals.*

Revolutionary Communist Group التجمع الشيوعي الثوري

**Arab Communist Organization منظمة الشيوعى العربى (1974)**

**Islamic Unification Movement (IUM) حركة التوحيد الإسلامى** \* known by **Islamic Unity Movement** and by **Tawheed**, (Sheikh Said Shaaban), a 1982 splinter of the Lebanese Islamic Group (Sheikh Fathi Yakan\*\*)

*\* Not to be confused with Arab Unification Party حزب التوحيد العربى founded in 2006 by Wiam Wahhab. Khalil Akkawi and Kanaan Naji left the IUM to set up their own groups, the Mosques' Committee and the Islamic Committee. These latter two groups formed together with the IUM an umbrella organization, Al-Liqa' al-Islami. Of note, Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO) حركة الجهاد الإسلامى (Jihad Mughniyyeh) is a pseudonym for a Hezbollah military faction, and not a Sunni faction; Other Shia groups included Jundallah (Soldiers of God), the Husayn Suicide Commandos and the Da3wah (Call) Party. But relation between all these Sunni and Shiite factions were excellent.*

*\*\* Yakan will found in 2006 the Islamic Labor Front; he was also the grandfather and main ideologue of The Islamic Group الجماعة الإسلامية, founded in 1964 as the Lebanese branch of the Muslim Brotherhood الإخوان المسلمون.*

**The Popular Nasserist Organization (PNO) التنظيم الشعبى الناصرى / National Liberation Army جيش التحرير الوطنى (1973) (Maarouf Saad)**

**Mourabitouns المرابطون (حركة الناصريين المستقلين)**, a Lebanese Nasserist Faction.

**Nasserist Correctionist Movement (NCM) الحركة التصحيحية الناصرية**

**Sixth of February Movement (6th FM) حركة السادس من فبراير**: minor Nasserist Movement

**24 October Movement حركة ٢٤ تشرين**: minor Tripolitan center – left movement founded in 1969.

**Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) (1975)**

**Kurdistan Workers' Party حزب العمال الكردستانى**

**Kurdish Democratic Party in Lebanon الحزب الديموقراطى الكردي فى لبنان** (1960)

**Lebanese Movement in Support of Fatah الحركة اللبنانية لدعم فتح** (1968)

**Fatah حركة التحرير الوطنى الفلسطينى** \* formerly the **Palestinian National Liberation Movement** (1959) (**Arafat**), led by Yasser Arafat (teknonym (kunya): Abu Ammar; true name: Mohammad al – Qudwa; revolutionary name: Yasser Arafat).

*\* Do not confuse with Fatah – The Revolutionary Council aka Abu Nidal Organization (ANO) فتح see below. فتح الانتفاضة (1974) - المجلس الثورى*

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) الجبهة الشعبية لتحرير فلسطين** (1967) George Habash. It formed by a merger of the Arab Nationalist Movement - affiliated "Heroes of the Return" (أبطال العودة), the Young Avengers (المنتقمون الشبان), and Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF) (1961 - 1967) (Ahmad Jibril). It will yield in 1967 - 1968 the PFLP - GC, DFLP (formerly PDFLP) and PPSF (PPSO), and in 1972 the PFLP - EO. PLF will be re-established in 1977 but by Abu Abbas who will splinter from Jibril's PFLP - GC. In 1983, PLF

was divided into three: one group led by Abu Abbas supported Yasser Arafat, one group led by Abd al - Fattah Ghanim supported Abu Musa (of Fatah uprising) and the third group led by Talaat Yaqub sought to remain neutral in this conflict. The "PLF / Abu Nidal Ashqar wing" emerged in Lebanon from the latter group.

**Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions (LARF) الفصائل المسلحة الثورية اللبنانية** (1979) (Georges Abdallah), from the break - up of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - External Operations (PFLP - EO).\*

*\* Joint Lebanese / Palestinian radical guerrilla faction, upon the death of its leader and founder Wadie Haddad - also a founder of ANM, see above -, in March 1978 (the break-up also gave the PFLP - SC (Special Command)).*

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP - GC) الجبهة الشعبية** (1968) (Ahmad Jibril), splintering off the PFLP.

**Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) جبهة النضال الشعبي الفلسطيني** (1967), formerly **Palestinian Popular Struggle Organization (PPSO)** (Samir Ghawseh), splintering off the PFLP.

**Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) الجبهة الديمقراطية لتحرير فلسطين**, formerly **Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP) الجبهة الشعبية** (قوات الدفاع الشعبي؟) (Hawatmeh). In May-June 1969, the Palestinian Revolutionary Left League and the Palestine Popular Liberation Organization (قوات الدفاع الشعبي؟) merged into PDFLP. It will split in 91 and clash in Damascus where it will win, and in Left Bank where it will lose to its splinter, FIDA.

**Popular Resistance Forces / Palestinian Liberation Army قوات المقاومة الشعبية / جيش التحرير الفلسطيني** (1968)

(Faraj Mrad) Included Ain Jalut عين جالوت (Egypt), Qadisiyyah القادسيّة (Iraq, transferred to Jordan where it will be controlled by Syria) and Hattin حطين (Syria) brigades, then there was the Yarmouk brigade for Syria as well, see below.

**Popular Liberation Forces (PLF) لواء اليرموك** **قوات التحرير الشعبية** aka **the Yarmouk brigade** were established by Syria within the framework of the PLA.

**Vanguard for the Popular Liberation War - Lightning Forces طلائع حرب التحرير الشعبية - قوات الصاعقة** aka **as - Sa`iqa الصاعقة (Thunderbolt)** (1966) was a Palestinian faction controlled by Syrian Baath, specifically Zuheir Mohsen.

**Arab Liberation Front (ALF) جبهة التحرير العربية** (1969), was a Palestinian faction controlled by Iraki Baath (Abdel Wahhab al Kayyali). A split in the organization, with a pro-Arafat / Oslo faction based inside the Occupied Palestinian Territories leaving the group to found the Palestinian Arab Front.

**Fatah Uprising فتح الانتفاضة**, also called 'Abu Musa Faction' (Abu Musa is Col. Said al - Muragha), officially referring to itself as the Palestinian National Liberation Movement - "Fatah" (حركة "فتح" (1983) التحرير الوطني الفلسطيني - "فتح")

**Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party الحزب الشيوعي الفلسطيني الثوري (1982)**

**Pasdaran (Iranian Revolutionary Guard) الحرس الثوري الإيراني**

### **TWO PALESTINIAN FRONTS IN LEBANON:**

**Rejectionist Front جبهة الرفض**, 1974 – dwindled as was in the late 80's - early 90's, now (2025) represented by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad: It included PFLP, PFLP – GC, DFLP, PPSF, as – Sa`iqa, ALF (references differ a bit).

**Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF) جبهة الإنقاذ الوطني الفلسطيني**, 1985 – 1991: It included PFLP, PFLP-GC, as – Sa`iqa, PPSF, PLF (Talaat Yacub wing) and Fatah al – Intifada, was allied to Syria, and opposed the PLO.