

Lebanese Journal of Nursing

E-Version

Issue 3-2020



To better view this email, right click on the area of photos (marked by X) then click on "Download Pictures" or view it in a web browser

Word of the President

When the World Health Organization declared 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse", little did they know that it was the perfect name for the year. Indeed, 2020 has truly and perfectly been the year of nursing staff. Undeniably, the Covid-19 pandemic has reached alarming levels and has resulted in an unprecedented rate of spread, infecting millions and causing the death of thousands of people, including nurses who were on the frontline fighting the virus. Despite all the difficulties that emerged during the past months, nothing was able to undermine your determination. You kept sacrificing despite the modest potential of resilience compared with that of the developed countries. With your great perseverance and dedication, you highlighted Lebanon amongst the countries that have won the war against the pandemic. By the end of 2020, it turned out that nursing deserved the title allocated to it. In terms of health, nursing was the most prominent agent that played a leading, progressive and heroic role, and took all the focus and the attention of society.



President
Dr. Myrna Abi Abdallah
Doumit

However, on top of the health crisis, the economic and financial crisis in Lebanon has caused serious repercussions on the national health sector. Unfortunately, it has led to an increase in the immigration of nurses, and this is what worries me, the Order of nurses and all concerned people about the future of the profession and the healthcare in Lebanon.

My dear colleagues,

After all the woes and difficulties that Lebanon had to face, the blast in the port of Beirut has brought more sufferings and deaths. Again, nurses have always been the first in making sacrifices and confronting difficulties in a heroic manner. We lost co-workers who were at the highest level of commitment and zeal, yet we persevered and became more determined. Our will to live and fight for our mission was enhanced in these fateful circumstances.

Yes, despite all the work you honestly and whole-heartedly undertake, your rights, your earnings, and your working conditions are still subject to violation. The order prioritizes this matter among its concerns and has continuously and effortlessly reminded and claimed the fulfillment of the rights and fairness of the nurses on all platforms and on all occasions, and not just be content with slogans of gratitude and praise. Fighting together is our battle. Always be there for your Order that represents your voice and expresses your opinions. Our union is our strength. This profession is ours. The patient and the society are our responsibility. We won't fail.

My beloved from Lebanon and all over Lebanon,

We hope that right prevails and truth prevails. We hope to convince everyone that preserving our health can only happen through protecting nurses and the best evidence to that is experience. Being successful takes great self-confidence and capability. We trust you and we have great confidence in your potential. Do not let desperation seep into your souls, for together we must accomplish a better future. Hope will remain and the profession will persist for the sake of each person in Lebanon.

I wish you health and wellness

Beirut and the Profession in Mourning



It was supposed to be a normal day. However, fate was stronger and no one could have expected what happened. On the 4th of August 2020, at exactly six o'clock and seven minutes, a devastating blast rocked the port area of Lebanon's capital, Beirut. Besides the thousands who were injured, approximately 200 people died, including five nurses from Beirut hospitals: Lina Abu Hamdan, Jessy Kahwaji Daoud, Jessica Bezdjian, Mireille Germanos, Jacqueline Jibreen, and Sahar Fares the paramedic nurse from Beirut's fire department.

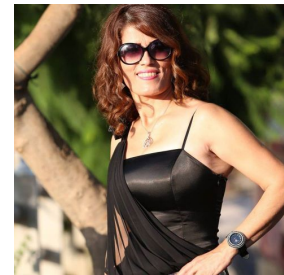
Horrified by the disaster, the President of the Order of Nurses issued an urgent statement postponing the movement that was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 5, calling all nursing staff to immediately join their work centers to treat the wounded and injured. On the next day, the President and the Director of the Order inspected the destroyed hospitals in order to check on all the wounded and all the nurses.



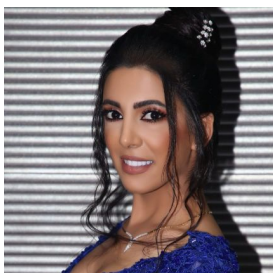
Jessica Bezdjian



-Jessy Kahwaji



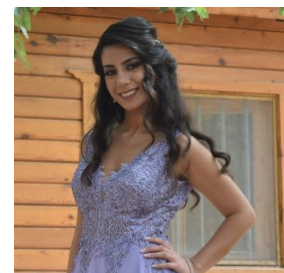
Lina Abou Hamdan



Sahar Fares



Jaqueline Jebrine

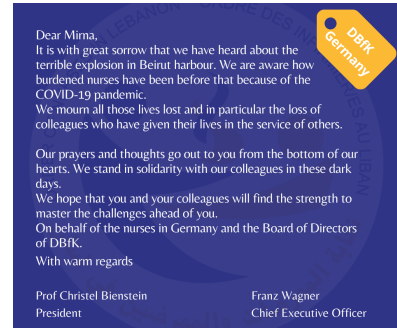
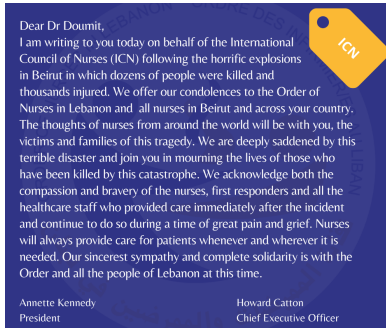


Mireille Germanos

In an emotional gesture expressing grief, and days after the tragedy, the funerals took place, the Order organized a commemorative event in the garden of the municipality of Sin El Fil to honor the nursing martyrs who died in the Beirut blast. At exactly six o'clock and seven minutes the farewell was inaugurated with a moment of silence. All nursing staff working in different institutions, from all over Lebanon, participated to show grief and respect to the heroes. At the end, a very touching speech given to parents and relatives, accompanied the distribution of commemorative plaques. [Photo Gallery](#)

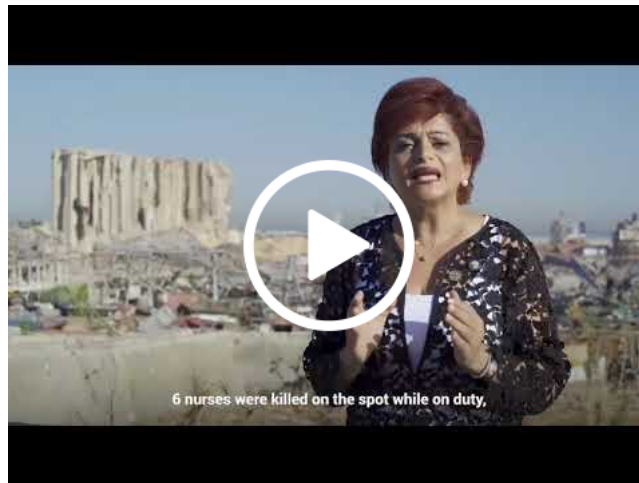


nursing associations and unions. The messages included condolences for the losses, a wish of recovery for the injured, and an appreciation of the efforts made by nursing staff in all hospitals to rescue the wounded and injured.



The Order Collects Financial Contributions and Distributes them to the People Affected by the Blast

The Order called the international community to collect financial contributions that would compensate part of the losses that nurses faced whether they were physical damages or material ones. In cooperation with the International Council of Nurses, and an Association for Palliative Care in England, and friends abroad, the Order was able to collect an amount of money that was distributed to the affected people who submitted the required documents within the specified deadline. This gesture, despite its modesty, was well received by the nurses who appreciated the Order's support in such difficult circumstances.



The Martyrs of the Beirut Explosion to be considered Army Martyrs

The President, through the Council of Ministers, demanded considering the martyrs of the Beirut explosion, especially the martyrs of duty among the nursing staff, as army martyrs. A decision was recently issued by the Council of Ministers to support the families of the martyrs.

The Release of a Documentary Chronicling the Heroism of Nursing on August 4

In a remarkable step, and to transform the memory of the Beirut blast into a lesson learned by the nurses and the society, the Order released a documentary about the incidents that took place in the hospitals of Beirut on August 4, where the heroes were the nurses. The documentary was broadcasted on the international and local media. It included live moving testimonials from nurses and shed light on the role they played in the major crisis as well as their crucial role in the health sector.



Nursing Against COVID-19

The Order at the Decision table regarding COVID-19

With the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis in Lebanon, the President joined the Emergency Committee of the Cabinet of Ministers, and had an active participation in all the steps, decisions and recommendations made by the Committee. The Order was assigned the task of inspecting all the buildings that could be designated as quarantine centers. A report was also issued highlighting the required needs. In addition, the Order participated in developing a guide for municipalities and the Ministry of Health regarding the requirements needed for isolation rooms. On the other hand, and under the supervision of the Internal Security Forces Directorate, the Order regularly participated in the meetings and activities of the Committee dedicated to increasing readiness of prisons and detention centers to anticipate the spread of the pandemic among prisoners.

The Order Manages Quarantine Centers in Cooperation with the WHO

With the support and financing of the WHO, the Order managed to take charge of the supervision of quarantine centers by providing resources and training. Also providing the nursing personnel to take care of the patients and to educate them.



The Order Confirms Providing a Safe Working Environment

The President seized every opportunity to stress on all health institutions to provide the necessary quantity of personal protective equipment for the nursing staff in order to protect them and prevent the spread of the virus among patients and in the community. A letter was addressed to His Excellency the Minister of Public Health and to the President of the Syndicate of Private Hospitals to stress the need to protect the health care workers. The Order emphasized that nurses must report any problem or complaint related to risk containment protocol within the health institutions, so to address the matter in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health.

School Nurses against COVID-19

As the Ministry of Education decided to open schools for some grades, the Order emphasized the essential role of school nurses with the necessity of not opening any educational institution without providing a sufficient nurse to student' ratio. It also highlighted the fact that everyone should adhere to the nurses' instructions allowing them to communicate with students, to educate and to guide them. Moreover, the Order called on the Ministry of Education to instruct the schools on the importance of having the

students health.

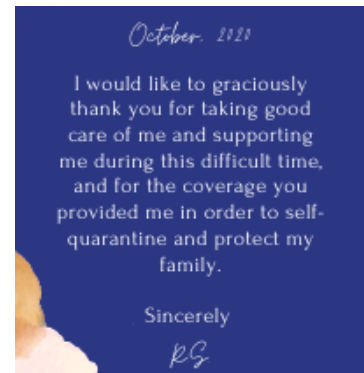
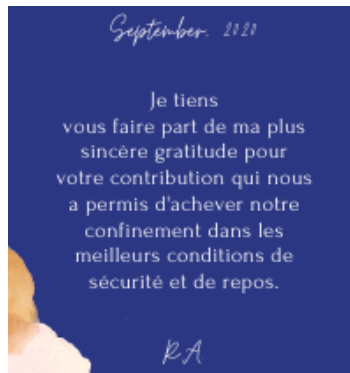
A Martyr of the Nursing Profession

In the midst of the battle against the pandemic, which shifted from the lockdown stage to the outbreak stage, the nursing body lost one of its defenders, the nurse Zeinab Haidar. The President acknowledged her work on behalf of all the nurses in Lebanon for being the martyr of the profession and demanded to be given a medal of appreciation according to the Cabinet Decision No. 38 on 07/21/2020.



The Order Allocates a Hotel to Quarantine Nurses

Since the first COVID-19 case appeared, the Order realized the risk on nurses and took the initiative to sign a memorandum of cooperation with the "LDS-Charities" organization, which funded the stay of the asymptomatic nurses infected with COVID-19 in a four-star hotel in Hamra district of Beirut. To date, the hotel received a number of nurses who stayed for a minimum of 10 days each. All the needs and means of communication such as the Internet, television etc. were provided during the quarantine.



Offering Wedding Dresses for Nurses

To support the nurses, encourage them and thank them for fighting COVID-19, Lebanese designer Saiid Kobeisy offered wedding dresses for the bride and her mother from his fashion house. This generous gesture was for 5 nurses who are getting married in 2020. An advertisement was launched by the fashion house on social media and it was shared with all nurses of the Order who were asked to register their names. The 5 winning nurses were chosen by a draw which took place at the Order's head office. Congratulations!

Free Car Rental for Nurses

The Syndicate of Private Tourism Car Rental Agencies in Lebanon has provided cars for nurses working in COVID-19 isolation units in order to facilitate their transportation without the risk of infecting their families.



Psychological and Moral support for Nurses

In cooperation with Embrace Organization, the Order of Nurses organized a series of virtual conferences for nurses via Zoom application to educate them on the topic of mental health, as well as to support and help them, especially to face the challenges they are going through due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the challenges they are facing from the economic difficulties, the work pressure, and the impact of Beirut Port explosion. This gesture had a positive feedback as it was considered a step forward in the professional work.

Specialized Scientific Conferences

Upon the request of the Crisis Cell in Saida, the Order organized specialized scientific workshops remotely in the Saida region and its vicinity, for nurses who work with the COVID-19 patients. These workshops were presented by Dr. Angela Massouh and specialized professors Hera Tachjian, Christine Yammine and

Ongoing Campaign for Nurses' Rights

In the context of the campaign launched by the Order to defend and claim the rights of nurses' rights, and after the events of October 17, 2019 and the deterioration of the economic and financial situation, the Order took several initiatives and measures reaching the decision of holding a one-day warning strike. Moreover, The President didn't spare any opportunity nor platform to stress on the importance of securing rights of nurses because of the crucial role they play in the health care system and society.

Visits to Officials

The President of the Order visited President Michel Aoun and handed him a letter containing the requests of the nurses. She wished that he would, along with the concerned parties, act to ensure the acquisition of nurses' rights, so they will be able to continue their work, especially in fighting the coronavirus. For the same purpose, she met with the Speaker of the Parliament and the Prime Minister. She asked them to help solve the problems that the health sector is facing and the repercussions of the economic situation on the nurse workforce. She highlighted that the burden would impact the quality of care and health in general, and that it threatens the future of the nurses. The President had many meetings and proceedings with the concerned Ministers about the danger of the degradation of the nursing sector and the brain drain. Requests came as follows:

- **Ensure a safe, favorable work environment.**
- **Provide financial and moral** support for workers in the sector.
- **Stop applying article 50** of Labor Law (i.e. stop the dismissal of nurses).
- **Ensure the medical requirements for the nurses' personal protection** to prevent the transmission of the infection
- **Consider a quarantine period as paid** and as a sick leave.
- **Pay salaries, transportation allowances and allocations** on time.
- **Keep** the nurses in their country, **encouraging and rewarding them.**

The Order decided to consider the nurses' rights as its first priorities, for it is a strategic, rescuing process for the coming years. That's because the economic and financial situation negatively affects the profession that can no longer take injustice.

The Emigration Issue on the Parliamentary Health Committee Table

The President participated in the meeting held by the parliamentary Health Committee that aimed at discussing the situation that the health sector in Lebanon has reached. She expressed her concern about the fate of the nursing profession, emphasizing that nurses don't emigrate willingly but are forcibly dismissed from their work. She asked for the declaration of a state of sanitary emergency to fight the challenges, protect nursing rights and not link them to the receivables of hospitals.



Nursing Workforce Migration

Recently, the migration of competent, and experienced nursing workforce looking for

The President Meets Her Predecessors

Upon an invitation by President Dr. Myrna Doumit, an exceptional meeting,

The Order Warns of Dismissal Cases

With the high incidents of individual and collective dismissal of nurses under the

has increased. In a statement, the Order raised its voice and emphasized that maintaining the current status is a strategic danger that can't be easily addressed. That's because the sector is going against the global orientations that declared their need for 9 million nursing personnel; whereas, in Lebanon, nurses are dismissed under many pretexts and excuses.

and members of the Council's office, was held. It aimed at discussing the novelties and challenges faced by nurses and how to hold on and fight for the rights. The attendees denounced what is happening to the nursing staff and confirmed that they wouldn't stop claiming their rights. Should their attempts fail, further steps would be considered.

of hospitals, the Order warned that keeping on such procedures would lead to catastrophic repercussions on the future of health and the future of the profession. Also, the Order raised the voice and considered that giving unpaid leaves to the employees while delaying their payment of their salaries, and forcing them to work for half or no salary is an unfair dismissal. The Order had many positions in this regard, too.

Meeting at the Ministry of Economy and Trade

During a visit to the Director General of the Ministry of Economy and Trade Mohamad Abou Haidar, the President and the Director of the Order presented the harsh, unfair living conditions that the nursing staff is suffering from. They stressed the importance of involving nurses in any economic plan that aims at improving the standard of living and the economic situation and to meet the necessities of life.



The Order Declares a Strike: No Nursing Care on August 5

After several meetings held with the concerned parties in order to reach a solution to the crisis that the health sector is suffering from, and in light of escalating dismissals, arbitrary procedures and the non-payment of the nurses' salaries and benefits, the Order decided to declare a strike on August 5, 2020. This action suspending the work of all those practicing the profession in all health institutions, except for those working in health emergencies. At the same time, colleagues were called for a stand for demands at the Order of Nurses premises at 10 o'clock, during which the President would give a speech determining the Order's position to rescue the nursing sector. All necessary arrangements were made in coordination with the relevant authorities. However, in the wake of the explosion on August 4, the strike was postponed.



Activities and Initiatives

The Order Honors Director General of the Ministry of Public Health

Upon reaching his legal retirement age, the Order honored Director General of

Myma Adr Abdallah Doumit, the Council's members and the Director of the Order, visited him. The President gave a speech highlighting health programs that Dr. Ammar worked on and that serve the Lebanese citizens in general and nurses in particular. From his part, Dr. Ammar expressed his pride in his relationship



with the Order, pointing out the achievements the Order had made in cooperation with the Ministry. He promised to continue supporting nursing and its rights. Finally, a commemorative plaque was presented to Dr. Ammar in the name of the Order.

Orders of Liberal Professions: National Rescue Visions

Along with the Presidents of liberal professions, Dr. Doumit launched the national rescue plan to address the Lebanese crisis. The plan included practical steps to reestablish a Government whose first priorities would be: promoting social security, developing the coronavirus fighting-plan, and carrying out reforms in the state administrations.



The Order Discusses the Draft Law Regulating Home Nursing Services

In the presence of former President Elie Aaraj and the Director of the Order Nathalie Richa, a number of nurses working in the home nursing services sector discussed in the Order's head office a draft law that aims at regulating this sector. The discussion was about the definition of home nursing services, the rules that should be followed, and the role of the Order in organizing this sector within clear frameworks that ensure the patient's safety.



NCLW Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Order



The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), represented by its President Claudine Aoun Roukoz, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Order about gender mainstreaming in the Order's work, programs, and activities, for an appropriate gender-based policy formulation in the institutions.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine for School Nurses

With the opening of schools and nurseries, the Order took the initiative and asked for the approval of the Minister of Public Health to secure the seasonal flu vaccine for nurses who are working in schools and nurseries, given their role and the seriousness of health conditions during the coronavirus crisis.



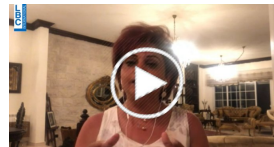
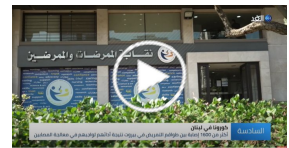
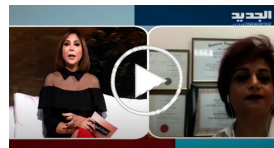
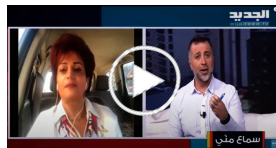
The Order Congratulates 2019-2020 Graduates



Upon their success in the colloquium exam, the Order congratulated the nursing graduates, holders of academic degrees and technical licenses, who will engage in the job market. They amounted to a total of 1,200 graduates, which promises a better future and contradicts the shortage pretext used by health institutions. Finally, it wished them lasting success in their career.

The Order remains the home and refuge for all nurses. It will pursue its work and activities for their sake and for the sake of the profession. Finally, the Order wishes for all its colleagues a 2021 better than the past years and that it bears hope, peace, love and success.

The Order on Media Platforms



Scientific Articles

Elsevier: [Public health imperatives in countering drug related health threats and vulnerabilities in contemporary Palestinian refugee camps](#) by Marie Claire Van Hout, Elie Aaraj and Wadih Maalouf -

Soins infirmiers: [Le secteur infirmier au Liban face à un désastre inouï](#) par Rima Sassine Kazan, Roula Azar Douglas, Nathalie Richa

[Facteurs associés à la Qualité de vie liée à la santé des personnes âgées souffrant d'insuffisance cardiaque](#) par Soha Zeineddine and Joelle Narchi Seoud

Upcoming Scientific Events



ICN Congress

Nursing Around the World

2-4 November 2021

The virtual meeting place of the world's nurses

[Register Here](#)

[Submit an Abstract](#)

Social Media

