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Hamid Franjeh in the memories of Bishop Joseph Mahfouz (4 of 4)

**The retirement of the great leader at an early age due to illness but did not grow grass on the road to his home
Was the idea of the Maronite League and magnanimity prevented him from voting for his son against his nephew!**

Missed the great national leader, Hamid Franjeh for more than a quarter of a century, to keep his memory and knew him from when Asroh and remained reluctant to recognize the passing of time, they see him as the true dimension, national leader of clean stop, a successful talks and insight and good attitudes and civil peace and coexistence, which is in Their closer to the concept of the symbol is the concept of political men. One of those who knew him closely and believe in his person and his qualities and Bishop Joseph Mahfouz, the Lebanese Maronite monk and former Bishop of Brazil, which ravaged Lebanon as strong winds shift, "Hamid your" in the hope that its missing and paradise lost. They met, "Al Nahar" I asked him some of what he knew of the Grand National, which raise the level of parliamentary life in the political history of Lebanon today, was testimony:

"While 1957 was not comfortable for Lebanon and Hamid Franjeh. He visited Cairo before July 23, 1957 the invitation of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser to attend the commemoration of the Revolution. Turning with the Egyptian President to draft the planned unity between Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Hamid Franjeh opposed the idea, saying This unit was premature and rallying around potential crises. Subsequent days have demonstrated sincerity expectations. At the domestic level is your Hamid leader of the opposition after his election as secretary-general of the National Union Front, which was rejected in a timely manner confidence of the Government of the peace Sami new and recognizes Dr. Charles Mark Ministry Foreign Affairs, at a time when the regional conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union is worse, and Syria was one of the main points of the task that was going on around this conflict, and thus threats exchanged between the parties. It was not the advent of the new U.S. envoy to the Middle Louis Anderson, but the situation is tense. This has had serious repercussions conflict in Lebanon. You feel Hamid began in the summer, especially following the incident that became his last legs Maziarp forces, no longer bear the intellectually and physically, despite the tenacity, this atmosphere. On the morning of 2 October of 1957 the sudden burst artery Carotid in the neck, prompting the family doctor, Dr. Zion to take him to the American University Hospital in Beirut. Since then medical specialties in Lebanon a few or semi-rare, as well as the hospitals lack the necessary machinery to deal with such emergency situations minute, it was decided to call three doctors With jurisdiction in this area, Paris, London and New York, while the two presidents, each of the Eisenhower and Khrushchev private

medical team ready to go to Beirut, if necessary.

The French doctor first come, and after inspection decided not to undergo surgery, but subject to treat your Hamid keep the time period during which improved gradually returning to normal, the doctor returned to his country. The British doctor, after a disclosure is to hold an urgent surgery, and he signed Zion and the wife of Dr. Hamid Franjeh Ms. Bret confused, but they returned and the green is in front of the doctor's insistence. During the preparations and the start of the operation the doctor arrived in the U.S., after briefed on the matter said: "How you serve to make the delicate and dangerous in the absence of the necessary equipment? You immediately transferred to London."

This, without hiding his opposition to the operation as a French doctor. Hamid Franjeh and transfer to London to leave the operating room, which is suffering from paralysis on the right side. Do you play much played dirty Bhrovh underlined the political future of the black leader most Lebanese politics terms produced in the twentieth century? Is Hamid wrote Franjeh mere coincidence? Or are there other things ... The potential is still behind the scenes or faded and faded in the hideouts days?

Early retirement

Noting that what happened to the wounded, Hamid Franjeh U.S. President Eisenhower in 1960, no American subjects doctors to undergo surgery for the treatment, but for three weeks, then left the hospital completely healthy to continue his activities as before, leaving the last day of his era. This is what happened three years after the incident, Hamid Franjeh, Valtbeban French and American were right. But Ms. Brett did not lose heart, her husband went to Paris to be subjected to physical treatment, hoping to recover after several months. But Hamid Franjeh partial paralysis of the injured, or on the right side, while the left remained sound, especially the hand which allows him to serve its needs, including play in the post-table with friends, including my brother, Father Elias.

Franjeh returned to Lebanon in the early sixties, a strength to walk, but the support of a crutch. Under the terms in a clear voice and despite the respite was raised when something falter in his mouth to speak. The memory remained sharp enough to remember that the figures and dates and people like at the age of young people. When I visit him we would sit long Mtrgin to various subjects, especially memories of the stage that each of us lived in France.

The Hamid Franjeh religious exercise and religious duties well as in the past. Has allowed the pastor of Beirut Maronite Bishop Ignatius then increase to my brother, Father Elias Balzbihp that celebrates the divine Franjeh in the house at will last.

The retirement of the great leader and the parent roll to his family was proud of them. Changed its life, how and how many times he returned to the house and sitting with his wife and their six children and young Idaabhm Imazham, despite constant concern for political issues and parliamentary and ministerial and international agreements. As his wife, Mrs. Bert heroic, yes heroic, protecting the rest of her children accompanied her husband in good times and bad times with honesty and sincerity, especially after long years incapacitated, the near him, not days fail to meet their obligations to

secure him a comfortable and happy and informing him. His wife and staffing guard day and night, throughout the year, and I am witness to what had been its duties so, the reception of visitors and reported to him, smile and openness. And treated his illness has made him patiently, as it did not leave his lips smile days has been the face always Dhaha.

Fulfillment of a stronger policy

Under Hamid your situation about a quarter of a century resident with his family in a street in Beirut from the museum with a broken relationship. Did not grow grass on the road to the house remained open to all visitors, most of them. They come from all regions, so that we find in this house is a microcosm of Lebanon, Ptaddh and wealth and its problems. But these problems were addressed in the spirit of this house different from those prevailing elsewhere, as everybody knows that was not the area where sectarian arguments. Hamid Franjeh remained as it was before the injury, the national leader who is respected by all. In the Independence holidays, Christmas and New Year and Easter, especially on the sixth day of the month of August, the Presentation Day, which coincides with the anniversary of his birth, most members of the House and all the leaders and notables of Beirut, Muslims and Christians go to his house to congratulate him. Among those who visited him in a Christmas independence political rival, Dr. Charles Malik, as there was opposition politicians in the past and then came recognize the validity of its positions. Has also remained close friends a number of Islamic personalities, whether in Beirut or Sidon, Tripoli, or others. It was also meant friends, those who were reluctant to recognize the passing of time, including three men from the church, in the exemplary friendship and devotion: Monsignor John, Father Maroun al-Abdullah Dagher and my brother, Father Elias Mahfouz, was Franjeh he meets all the same joy.

He informed the daily course of events to read newspapers and evening news bulletins tracks, analyzes the events in favor of the opposition and sometimes at other times expressing his opinion without masks solutions offered by the brain through the yoke and insight. Remember when he appointed his brother Suleiman and interior minister in the government that will oversee the elections Algnep in 1968 under President Charles Helou, the conflict has been raging in a timely manner, particularly in Mount Lebanon between the triple alliance, which included parties, battalions and the National Liberal and National Bloc on the one hand and approaches which Shihabi The Front is parliamentary democracy and its allies, on the other hand, contact Hamid Franjeh then the director of public security, Mahmoud al-Banna, telling him: "I wish to inform that my brother Solomon unwavering principles of our house, and fill the position and act as a statesman and be neutral Mitrfa far from the enticements In this delicate situation. " Note that the Minister Suleiman Franjeh had belonged initially with the then Saeb Salam and full-Assad to what was called a radical anti-Shihabip center and its organs. The night of the election results, Mount Lebanon, which claimed the triple alliance the majority of seats, particularly in the Keserwan where the meteor suffered defeat in their own backyard, Hamid Franjeh went without a date, despite the intensification of the disease to the home of former President Fouad Chehab in Jounieh. It can

not be a short drive, sent to President card with one of the soldiers Molchin foresees the protection of the house with his presence. President to provide the speediest in the car, Vpadrh Hamid Franjeh: "Your Excellency, the President Jarret important days and you had cabinets politics, Vhamid Franjeh remains to your side and will remain as it was in the past." What best meet alone conquers politics and individual gains and faces hidden.

"This is my son and that my son ..."

There are other incidents show magnanimity Hamid Franjeh and fly. After the election of Suleiman Franjeh Zaghrata Vice President of the Republic on 17 August 1970, it was necessary to hold parliamentary elections to fill the sub-center parliamentary vacancy, the President nominated his son, Tony nominated, while his son, Hamid Franjeh Kaplan, Vaandmt battle the same household. When the election date draws Hamid Franjeh to Zaghrata accompanied by his wife to cast their polled their votes Bret. As Trgela of the car in front of the polling station, Hamid Franjeh turned to his wife, saying: "Why are we here, Bret, this is my son and then my son! Come back home" and lock back without lqtra. "

Hamid Franjeh and a great gentleman and humble at the same time. Was almost the only Lebanese leader who directed his supporters to reject the Beirut airport to his meeting and received large numbers and vital to his hometown, after his return from abroad. Enter the VIP lounge was awaiting the arrival of his driver to accompany him in his private car simply to his home in Beirut. As had been refusing to mass popular receptions and festivals personal outside the town. We all respect him because he was respected by all, if necessary, although he did not provide Bnzerath never angry words acute and polite, if not all of the national road took the rectum. One day, he was told that there will propose renamed serious beautiful in Beirut, which was rejected categorically, as he had refused to receive any decoration to a Lebanese.

Maronite League

Hamid Franjeh is absolutely the idea of establishing "the Maronite League." When the Patriarch is unable to carry out a broad responsibility, because of advanced age and ill he needed after the bed, he was appointed the Vatican church committee to manage the affairs of community, led by Bishop Paul Almaoci membership Almataranin Boutros Khoury, Abdullah al-Dib. Bkirki day went to a delegation of elders, "the National Front" and "constitutional bloc" to put to the Apostolic mentioned the idea of setting up a million of the Maronite church as property. Seriously discussed the subject of different aspects to halt the search at a Maronite mission that was not then the same day. Then kick Hamid Franjeh offering secular establishment of the Association of Maronite Patriarch Babh related to matters backed by various political and especially economic and social development. Thus was born the idea of "the Maronite League" in Lebanon and recognized by the Lebanese state does not remain. The credit goes to Hamid Franjeh's good opinion.

Last journey

Hamid Franjeh did not leave his family and the western part of the Lebanese capital throughout the war that erupted in April 1975. That war and dragged him from the scourge of divisions was a disaster for him, but a painful blow. It has been confirmed, which led the battle to build the unity of the Lebanese, that he has devoted his life and energy has disappeared. And said to his sons and his close associates: "Do not try to blame you to parts of the past, would have Gelkm solve the problem of reunification of the Lebanese, and you find that you are an appropriate means for that." A quarter of a century ago proved true greatness Hamid Franjeh, which are acquired from the disease, distress and pain. It also confirmed that the pain is the shortest way to guide human creator. On Sept. 5 of 1981, died Hamid Franjeh, the Lebanese war was raging, before seeing the collapse of the Lebanese pound to Erth. Ms. Bret phoned me and my brother, Father Elias. Vtugena immediately to his home in West Beirut then. After reading the prayer, my brother was forced to return to the house, because he was suffering from severe pain following a car crash. If Ali was to do what it would take time for me and on his behalf. Fraafqat body from the house to the church of Mar Charbel in the vicinity of where Alaonescu celebrated with the father Abdullah Dagher Balzbihp divine amid a large crowd, led by Archbishop Nasrallah Sfeir, the Maronite Patriarch Antonios representative Boutros Kheris, the Roman Catholic Patriarch Maximos V Hakim, the pastor of Beirut Maronite Bishop Ignatius increase and some priests.

After prayers in a large convoy went to Ehden, at the request of the family accompanied the body of Hamid Franjeh his stomach in the car. We are surprised by the time Njub the streets of Beirut divided Paljmua large crowd on his death. Hamid necessary Franjeh his twenty-five years, it is natural to forget it all.

Reminded the crowd that Bhamid your forties and fifties, as if he died suddenly at the top, Vmoslema Beirut have all the dictates of their duty when the motorcade passed, as well as leader Walid Jumblatt, who put all his energies to the late great honor. When we went through in the features us Ashrafiya, which was brought by Sheikh Pierre Gemayel, we feel as if the district Hamid Franjeh us. Audiences continued along the road leading to the north, in Jounieh and Byblos and Batroun and other coastal towns. Lebanese reactions proved that they did not forget Hamid Franjeh, The grief of ordinary people, candor and Afoith, to recall the memory She did that all the time that they recognize the rocky road Hamid Franjeh throughout his political life was exactly the path of harmony, progress and salvation.

As we reached the bridge buried in the car with us officer from the Al Franjeh, and then we went to the Ehden through towns and villages in northern sons gathered along the road to perform the last tribute to the late great. When reached Ehden Square, where President Suleiman Franjeh ahead amid huge crowds and tears in his eyes, Trgelt of the car and embraced each other after, people recognize the great leader's coffin wrapped in Lebanese flags and sending the palms. At that moment I remembered what I wrote a newspaper on the funeral of President Fouad Chehab friend Hamid Franjeh, in April 1973: "the burden of military school boys, in the coffin of Mount Lebanon," On that day the children and the neighborhood Zaghrata Inuun them under heavy because Another

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Original Arabic text:



[+ Suggest a better translation](#)

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children, victims of terrorism.

D. Charles Rizk Allah

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