In 2013 International Alert and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies conducted a national survey on public perceptions of security and insecurity in Lebanon. Here, we highlight some of the key findings.

**KEY FACTS AND TRENDS**

- 51% think their area is safer than others.
- 12% of Lebanese feel safer when travelling outside of their city compared to 3 years ago.
- Over 70% of respondents feel particularly threatened by religious extremists and Syrian-related factions.
- 40% of Lebanese feel safer in the locality they live in compared to 3 years ago.
92% of respondents feel Lebanon as a whole is less safe today than 3 years ago.

People feel much safer when there is an Internal Security Forces (ISF) station nearby.

Sexual violence
- No ISF station: 70.3%
- ISF station: 29.7%

Political violence
- No ISF station: 65.4%
- ISF station: 34.5%

Assaults
- No ISF station: 66%
- ISF station: 33.9%
Crime in Lebanon is blamed on the following:

- 63% Poverty
- 45.8% Unemployment
- 21.5% Inefficient state security institutions
- 20.6% Sectarian discrimination
- 20.5% Easy availability of drugs
- 19.7% Easy availability of small arms
- 17.3% Political disputes

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

In general people feel that certain challenges are very serious for Lebanon as a whole, but less serious for the areas where they live.
Almost 60% of people would not live in a mixed area.

Almost 30% of people would live in a mixed area.

THREAT OF SMALL ARMS

1 in 5 people believe the easy access to small arms has a significant effect on insecurity.

Lebanon is ranked 28th out of 178 countries in the number of guns per capita, with 21 firearms per 100 residents.
Nearly half of respondents have witnessed people carrying small arms in their locality.

Who are these people?

- Political party cadres: 51%
- Personal security guards/bodyguards: 38%
- Hunters: 32%
- Ordinary citizens: 30%
- Members of local armed groups: 17%
- Security guards of organisations: 15%
- Criminals/smugglers: 7%

About International Alert

International Alert helps people find peaceful solutions to conflict. We are one of the world’s leading peacebuilding organisations, with nearly 30 years of experience laying the foundations for peace. We work with local people around the world to help them build peace, and we advise governments, organisations and companies on how to support peace.

In Lebanon we help to identify opportunities for more participative, representative and responsive governance, as well as more effective state institutions and security provision. We also help to ensure that international interventions to address the Syrian refugee crisis do not further contribute to conflict among communities or weaken state institutions.

The Promoting People-Centred Security Reform project aims to improve security institutions’ understanding of public perceptions of insecurity and help them to better respond to these needs. It also aims to help security agencies become more effective and transparent.

To find out more about our work, visit www.international-alert.org/lebanon

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