# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original ☒ Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov*, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Nicolas Ruiz
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 08.11.2026 Return: 08.16.2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Beirut, Lebanon Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Task Force on Lebanon
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Please see the attached itinerary
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: _____

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

**Signature of Traveler:** _____ **Date:** 09.25.26

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

**Name of Supervising Member:** Brian Mast, Committee on Foreign Affairs **Date:** 09.25.26

**Signature of Supervising Member:** _____

*last updated 7/2023*

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: American Task Force on Lebanon
2. Travel Destination(s): Beirut, Lebanon (BEY)
3. Date of Departure: 8/11/26 Date of Return: 8/16/26
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Nicolas Ruiz

   ***Note:*** You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

| | Total **Transportation** Expenses | Total **Lodging** Expenses | Total **Meal** Expenses | Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Traveler | $2,438.03 | $1,021.20 | $372.81 | $15.38 - Guided Tour of Byblos<br>$192.31 - Lebanese Armed Forces Security Detail |
| Accompanying Family Member | | | | |

6. ☒ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

**Signature:** _____ **Date:** 8/27/26

**Name:** Ambassador Edward M. Gabriel, Ret. **Title:** President and CEO

**Organization:** American Task Force on Lebanon

☒ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

**Address:** 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, STE 1050, Washington DC 20036

**Telephone:** 202 - 223 - 9333 **Email:** ed.gabriel@thegabriel.co

***Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.***

**If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.**

*last updated 7/2023*

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   American Task Force on Lebanon

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

   See separate page

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 11, 2026 Date of Return: August 16, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC (IAD)
   b. Destination(s): Beirut, Lebanon (BEY)
   c. City of return: Washington, DC (IAD)
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ■ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ■ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ■ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   See separate page

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ■ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ■ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ■ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ■ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ■ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): $100
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Beirut is the capital of Lebanon and is the location for meetings with government leaders.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Hotel Phoenicia City: Beirut Cost Per Night: $240
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Security and location
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☐ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

| ☐ Actual Amounts ☐ Good Faith Estimates | Total Transportation Expenses per Participant | Total Lodging Expenses per Participant | Total Meal Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $2200 Airfare | $960 | $400 |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item) | Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.) |
|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $500 | Ground transportation/security services |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | N/A | N/A |

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☐ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Edward M. Gabriel Digitally signed by Edward M. Gabriel Date: 2026.07.06 11:29:31 -04'00' Date: 7/6/2026

Name: Edward M. Gabriel Title: President & CEO

Organization: American Task Force on Lebanon

Address: 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste 1050, Washington, DC 20036

Email: philippe.nassif@atfl.org Telephone: 202-223-9333

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
*Chairman*
Mark DeSaulnier, California
*Ranking Member*

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

August 7, 2026

Mr. Nicolas Ruiz
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Lebanon,[1] scheduled for August 11 to 16, 2026, sponsored by American Taskforce on Lebanon.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently $525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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[1] Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at https://step.state.gov.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:eme

ATFL
American Task Force
On Lebanon

July 1, 2026

Nico Ruiz
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Nico,

The American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) invites you to attend an ATFL-sponsored trip to Lebanon from August 11 – 16 for a series of high-level meetings and focused site visits. Meetings may include top government and military officials in addition to key civil society and business leaders. Site visits will focus on current issues facing Lebanon's security as well as the Lebanese people at large who are facing multiple debilitating crises.

We anticipate a series of candid and in-depth discussions on topics concerning governmental reforms, regional security, US support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces, US humanitarian support for the Lebanese people and support for American universities in Lebanon, among other matters.

ATFL unites Americans of Lebanese heritage to promote a strong, reliable, and proactive bilateral relationship between the United States and Lebanon. ATFL sponsors beneficial exchanges for Congressional leaders who are interested in strengthening the US-Lebanon relationship. ATFL has planned the itinerary for meetings in consultation with US government leaders and the US Embassy.

The mission and objectives of ATFL shall always be in the best interest of the United States and will promote the national unity, independence, and prosperity of a democratic and pluralistic Lebanon.

In compliance with the House/Senate Committee on Ethics, ATFL will cover all participants' transportation, meal, and hotel costs for the duration of the trip. We will communicate with you individually to secure your air travel, hotel stay, and visa processing. We kindly request your response at your earliest convenience by no later by July 10, 2026, to steven.howard@atfl.org, clarifying any food allergies or other needs that require accommodating so that we may plan accordingly.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We look forward to continued outreach and cooperation on behalf of the US-Lebanon relationship.

Sincerely,

Ambassador (ret.) Edward M. Gabriel
President and CEO

American Task Force on Lebanon
1100 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1050 | Washington, D.C. 20036
p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

**ATFL Congressional Staff Delegation to Lebanon: August 11-16**

**House Ethics Sponsor Form - Additional Information**

**Q12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:**

The American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) unites Americans of Lebanese heritage to promote a secure, stable, free and sovereign Lebanon. ATFL sponsors beneficial exchanges for congressional leaders who are interested in strengthening the US Lebanon relationship. ATFL planned the itinerary for meetings with Lebanese government leaders and the US Embassy. Nonsectarian and nonpartisan, the American Task Force on Lebanon is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization of prominent Americans of Lebanese heritage, who educate for the strengthening of the historic US-Lebanon relationship. The mission and objectives of ATFL shall always be in the best interest of the United States and will promote the national unity, independence, and prosperity of a democratic and pluralistic Lebanon.

ATFL's leadership has specified three work priorities:

- To meet with the leadership of the Lebanese Armed Forces and other relevant security services to discuss Lebanon's plan for Hezbollah disarmament and Lebanese state sovereignty.

- To discuss the implementation of the Trilateral Framework between Lebanon, Israel, and the United States as well as next steps in diplomatic negotiations between Lebanon and Israel.

- To evaluate the current humanitarian conditions facing the Lebanese people as well as the impact of US assistance to Lebanon.

**American Task Force on Lebanon**
1100 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1050 | Washington, D.C. 20036
p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

ATFL
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On Lebanon

**ATFL Delegation to Lebanon List of Invitees**
**August 11-16, 2026**

**Reason for Invitation**

Participants are from offices who are members of committees of jurisdiction related to foreign affairs, national security, members of the US-Lebanon Friendship Caucus, or who represent districts with large Lebanese American populations.

**Invited Participants:**

Amelia Allert, Office of Rep. French Hill

Nancy Beaujeu-Dufour, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Peter Billerbeck, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Annica Burmester, Office of Rep. Debbie Dingell

Caroline Campbell, Office of Rep. Ronny Jackson

Alec Daman, Office of Rep. Bill Huizenga

Katie Gallagher, Office of Rep. Ron Estes

Megan Gallagher, Office of Rep. Brad Knott

James Gomez, Office of Rep. Jonathan Jackson

Max Harris, Office of Rep. Grace Meng

Rob Hoch, Office of Rep. George Latimer

Austin Johnson, Office of Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar

Samuel Jockisch, Office of Rep. Darin LaHood

Sara Katsnelson, Office of Rep. Brad Sherman

Courtney Kaufman, Office of Rep. Michael Lawler

Shine Lee, Office of Rep. Young Kim

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Mary Ellen Richardson, Office of Rep. Darin LaHood

Nico Ruiz, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Diego Sanchez, Office of Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Jane Scarborough, Office of Rep. Michael Baumgartner

Pragneya Sharma, Office of Rep. Ami Bera

Michael Spero, Office of Rep. Lisa McClain

Adam Stasiewicz, Office of Rep. Jefferson Shreve

John Stout, Office of Rep. Tim Burchett

Britt Van, Office of Kristen McDonald Rivet

Max West, Office of Rep. David Joyce

Gabriella Zach, National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

Anna Zimmerman, Office of Rep. Gabe Amo

**ATFL Delegation to Lebanon List of Attendees**
**August 11-16, 2026**

**Reason for Invitation**

Participants are from offices who are members of committees of jurisdiction related to foreign affairs, national security, members of the US-Lebanon Friendship Caucus, or who represent districts with large Lebanese American populations.

**House Participants:**

Rob Hoch, Office of Rep. George Latimer

Samuel Jockisch, Office of Rep. Darin LaHood

Nico Ruiz, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Max West, Office of Rep. David Joyce

American Task Force on Lebanon
1100 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1050 | Washington, D.C. 20036
p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

ATFL
American Task Force
On Lebanon

## Tuesday, August 11, 2026

**22:55** **Departure from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to London Heathrow Airport (LHR)**
Flight Info: Virgin Atlantic (VS) 22 (IAD-LHR): 10:55pm - 11:20am (+1 Day) (all travelers)

## Wednesday, August 12, 2026

**19:35pm** **Arrival to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY)**
Flight Info: Middle East Airlines (ME) 202 (LHR-BEY): 1:00pm - 7:35pm (all travelers)

**21:15- 22:30** **ATFL Welcome Dinner**
Location: Phoenicia Hotel
Purpose: To welcome the congressional staff delegation to Lebanon, preview the delegation schedule, and da ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.

## Thursday, August 13, 2026

**07:45-8:10** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Overview of the current political, economic, and social landscape in Lebanon to provide insights and context for their meetings and engagements throughout the day. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:10-08:45** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**09:00-10:30** **US Embassy Country Team Brief**
Location: Awkar
Purpose: This briefing will provide an opportunity for the delegation to meet with US Embassy officials in Lebanon to receive updates on current USG policy priorities in Lebanon.
Attire: Business


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p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

**10:30-11:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**11:30-12:30** **Meeting with Wassim Halabi, Adviser to the President of Lebanon**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political, security, and economic priorities, including state sovereignty, regional stability, reform efforts, and the U.S.-Lebanon relationship.
Attire: Business

**12:30-13:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:00-14:45** **Working Lunch with ADVISOR PM SALAM**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security priorities, the current status of US-Lebanon relations, and opportunities to strengthen diplomatic engagement and support for Lebanese sovereignty and stability.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:15** **Meeting with Ali Hamdan, Advisor to Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, parliamentary priorities, regional stability, reconstruction in the south, and efforts to advance reform and strengthen state institutions.
Attire: Business

**16:15-16:50** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:00-18:00** **Meeting with Central Bank Governor Karim Souaid**
Location: Hamra
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's financial and banking sector challenges, monetary stability, the path toward economic recovery, and the Central Bank's role in advancing reform and restoring confidence.
Attire: Business

**18:00-18:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:15-20:15** **Executive Time**


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p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

**20:15-22:15** **Dinner with Parliamentarians Hosted by MP Fouad Makhzoumi**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to engage with MP Fouad Makhzoumi and Lebanese parliamentarians on Lebanon's political landscape, reform priorities, and the perspectives of the Sunni community in national politics and state institutions.
Attire: Business Casual

**22:15-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Friday, August 14, 2026

**7:45-8:15** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Overview of the current political, economic, and social landscape in Lebanon to provide insights and context for their meetings and engagements throughout the day. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:15-09:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**09:00-10:00** **Meeting with Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Rodolphe Haykal**
Location: LAF HQ, Yarze
Purpose: This provides the delegation with an opportunity to discuss implementation of the ceasefire agreement and to learn more about the expanded operations of the LAF and identify areas where US support can strengthen the LAF and Lebanese state authority.
Attire: Business

**10:00-10:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:30-11:30** **Meeting with Director General of State Security Major General Edgar Lawandos**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss State Security's role in protecting Lebanese state institutions, supporting internal stability, combating corruption and security threats, and strengthening coordination among Lebanon's security services.
Attire: Business

**11:30-11:50** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00-13:00** **Meeting with Simon Karam**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, ongoing negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, and the implications for Lebanese sovereignty, stability, and regional security.

**13:00-13:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:30-14:45** **Lunch with Humanitarian & Civil Society Leaders**
Location: Beit el Kanz
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to meet with representatives from leading humanitarian and civil society organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross, International Rescue Committee, and Beit el Baraka, and learn more about their work supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening resilience across Lebanon.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:15** **Meeting with Minister of Finance Yassine Jaber**
Location: Beirut, Riad El Solh Square, Ministry of Finance Building, 6th Floor, Minister Office
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's economic and fiscal priorities, including financial sector reform, public debt, the state budget, international assistance, and measures to strengthen transparency, restore investor confidence, and support sustainable economic recovery.
Attire: Business

**16:45-17:45** **Humanitarian Site Visit with the Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Sayed**
Location: Beirut - Exact Site TBD
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to better understand the humanitarian challenges facing displaced and vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including shelter, basic services, and coordination between Lebanese institutions and international partners.

**17:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**19:30-20:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**20:00-22:00** **Dinner Hosted by ATFL Vice Chairman Nijad Fares**
Location: Broummana
Purpose: To provide an informal setting for delegation members and invited guests to exchange perspectives on Lebanon's political, economic, and regional priorities.
Attire: Business Casual

**22:00-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Saturday, August 15, 2026

**7:45-8:00** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Overview of the current political, economic, and social landscape in Lebanon to provide insights and context for their meetings and engagements throughout the day.
Attire: Smart Casual

**08:00-08:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**08:15-09:15** **Shia Opposition Meeting**
Location: Beirut - Exact Site TBD
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to better understand the humanitarian challenges facing displaced and vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including shelter, basic services, and coordination between Lebanese institutions and international partners.
Attire: Smart Casual

**09:15-10:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:15-11:45** **Lebanese Armed Forces Site Visit and US Security Assistance Briefing**
Location: Amchit
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to assess the impact of US security assistance on LAF readiness, border security, counterterrorism capabilities, and Lebanese state authority, while engaging with US military advisors and Lebanese counterparts on priorities for continued US support.
Attire: Smart Casual

**11:45-12:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00-15:15** **Cultural Visit and Lunch in Byblos**

Location: Byblos

Purpose: The delegation will visit Byblos, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city's history spans multiple civilizations, and the United States has supported cultural heritage preservation in the area. This visit will give staffers a firsthand look at the value of international preservation programs — how they can foster a unifying national identity in a pluralistic country and boost tourism in a country in need of economic rejuvenation.

Attire: Smart Casual

**15:15-15:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:30-16:30** **University Visit and Roundtable with Faculty and Students with American Universities**

Location: Central Administration Building, Lebanese American University - Byblos

Purpose: This visit will provide an opportunity for the delegation to see firsthand the impact of US assistance to American institutions of higher education in Lebanon, specifically the American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University, through a roundtable discussion with faculty and US scholarship recipients. Participants will include LAU President President Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah and Provost Dr. Greg Heileman.

Attire: Smart Casual

**16:30-17:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:15-18:15** **Visit to the Sursock Museum**

Location: Gemmayze

Purpose: This visit aims to educate participants on Lebanese society and sociocultural dynamics through engagement with Lebanon's cultural heritage sector and insight into the role of arts and cultural institutions in preserving national identity, fostering resilience, and strengthening social cohesion.

Attire: Smart Casual

**18:15-18:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:30-20:00** **Executive Time**

**20:00-20:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***


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**20:15-22:15** **ATFL Closing Dinner and Briefing**

Location: Em Sharif Cafe

Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to reflect on key takeaways from the visit, discuss implications for US-Lebanon policy, and identify follow-up priorities after the delegation returns to Washington. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor; and Matthew Audi, Government Affairs Associate.

Attire: Smart Casual

## Sunday, August 16, 2026

**04:30** **Checkout from Hotel**

**05:00** **Depart Hotel for Beirut Airport (BEY)**

**08:10** **Depart Beirut (BEY) for Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD)**

Flight Info: MEA 201 (BEY-LHR) 8:10am - 11:15am // VS 21 (LHR-IAD) 5:55pm - IAD 8:55pm



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# Final Agenda: ATFL Staff Delegation

## Tuesday, August 11, 2026

**22:55** **Departure from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to London Heathrow Airport (LHR)**
Flight Info: Virgin Atlantic (VS) 22 (IAD-LHR): 10:55pm - 11:20am (+1 Day) (all travelers)

## Wednesday, August 12, 2026

**19:35pm** **Arrival to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY)**
Flight Info: Middle East Airlines (ME) 202 (LHR-BEY): 1:00pm - 7:35pm (all travelers)

**21:15- 22:30** **ATFL Welcome Dinner**
Location: Beirut Venue, Main Level of the Phoenicia Hotel
Purpose: To welcome the congressional staff delegation to Lebanon, review the schedule and key objectives for the visit, and provide initial context on Lebanon's political, security, and economic landscape. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Smart Casual

## Thursday, August 13, 2026

**07:45-8:10** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Elyssar, GF Level
Purpose: To preview the day's meetings and engagements, review the schedule and key objectives, and provide relevant political, economic, and social context to help frame the delegation's discussions throughout the day. ATFL participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:10-08:45** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***


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**09:00-10:30** **US Embassy Country Team Brief**
Location: Awkar
Purpose: This briefing will provide an opportunity for the delegation to meet with US Embassy officials in Lebanon to receive updates on current USG policy priorities in Lebanon.
Attire: Business

**10:30-11:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**11:30-12:30** **Meeting with General Wassim Halabi and Other Advisers to President Joseph Aoun**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political, security, and economic priorities, including state sovereignty, regional stability, reform efforts, and the U.S.-Lebanon relationship.
Attire: Business

**12:30-13:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:00-14:45** **Working Lunch with Ambassador Claude Hajal, Sateh Arnaout, Lamia Moubayed, and Other Advisors to the Prime Minister Nawaf Salam**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security priorities, the current status of US-Lebanon relations, and opportunities to strengthen diplomatic engagement and support for Lebanese sovereignty and stability.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:30** **Meeting with Ali Hamdan, Advisor to Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, parliamentary priorities, regional stability, reconstruction in the south, and efforts to advance reform and strengthen state institutions.
Attire: Business

**16:30-17:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:00-18:00** **Meeting with Central Bank Governor Karim Souaid**
Location: Hamra
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's financial and banking sector challenges, monetary stability, the path toward economic recovery, and the Central Bank's role in advancing reform and restoring confidence.


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Attire: Business

**18:00-18:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:15-20:15** **Executive Time**

**20:15-22:15** **Dinner with Parliamentarians Hosted by MP Fouad Makhzoumi**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to engage with MP Fouad Makhzoumi and Lebanese parliamentarians on Lebanon's political landscape, reform priorities, and strengthened state institutions.
Attire: Smart Casual

**22:15-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Friday, August 14, 2026

**7:45-8:15** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Elyssar, GF Level
Purpose: To preview the day's meetings and engagements, review the schedule and key objectives, and provide relevant political, economic, and social context to help frame the delegation's discussions throughout the day. ATFL participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:15-09:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**09:00-10:00** **Meeting with Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Rodolphe Haykal**
Location: LAF HQ, Yarze
Purpose: This provides the delegation with an opportunity to discuss implementation of the ceasefire agreement and to learn more about the expanded operations of the LAF and identify areas where US support can strengthen the LAF and Lebanese state authority.
Attire: Business


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**10:00-10:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:30-11:30** **Meeting with Director General of State Security Major General Edgar Lawandos**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss State Security's role in protecting Lebanese state institutions, supporting internal stability, combating corruption and security threats, and strengthening coordination among Lebanon's security services.
Attire: Business

**11:30-11:50** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00–13:00** **Meeting with the Minister of Public Works and Transportation Fayez Rasamny**
Location: Ministry of Public Works & Transporation
Purpose: To provide the delegation with an overview of recent efforts to modernize port of entry operations and strengthen customs enforcement. Participants learn about the newly installed cargo-scanning systems and discuss their role in improving inspections, facilitating legitimate trade, combating corruption and smuggling, and preventing the illicit movement of narcotics, weapons, and other prohibited goods through Lebanon's ports of entry.
Attire: Business

**13:00-13:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:30-14:45** **Lunch with Humanitarian & Civil Society Leaders**
Location: Beit el Kanz, Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to meet with representatives from leading humanitarian and civil society organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross, International Rescue Committee, and Beit el Baraka, and learn more about their work supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening resilience across Lebanon.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:15** **Meeting with Minister of Finance Yassine Jaber**
Location: Beirut, Riad El Solh Square, Ministry of Finance Building, 6th Floor, Minister Office
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's economic and fiscal priorities, including financial sector reform,


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public debt, the state budget, international assistance, and measures to strengthen transparency, restore investor confidence, and support sustainable economic recovery.
Attire: Business

**16:45-18:30** **Humanitarian Site Visit with the Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Sayed**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to better understand the humanitarian challenges facing displaced and vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including shelter, basic services, and coordination between Lebanese institutions and international partners.
Attire: Business

**18:30-19:30** **Executive Time**

**19:30-20:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**20:00-22:00** **Dinner Hosted by ATFL Vice Chairman Nijad Fares**
Location: Broummana
Purpose: To provide an informal setting for delegation members and invited guests to exchange perspectives on Lebanon's political, economic, and regional priorities.
Attire: Smart Casual

**22:00-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Saturday, August 15, 2026

**08:15-09:15** **Meeting with Independent Figures & Activists**
Location: Elyssar, GF Level Beirut
Purpose: To hear from independent figures & activists advocating for state sovereignty, strong government institutions, and an alternative political vision for Lebanon.
Attire: Smart Casual

**09:15-10:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:15-11:45** **Lebanese Armed Forces Site Visit and US Security Assistance Briefing**
Location: Amchit

Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to assess the impact of US security assistance on LAF readiness, border security, counterterrorism capabilities, and Lebanese state authority, while engaging with US military advisors and Lebanese counterparts on priorities for continued US support.
Attire: Smart Casual

**11:45-12:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00-15:15** **Cultural Visit and Lunch in Byblos**
Location: Byblos
Purpose: The delegation will visit Byblos, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where they will receive a guided tour of the historic site. The city's history spans multiple civilizations, and the United States has supported cultural heritage preservation in the area. This visit will give staffers a firsthand look at the value of international preservation programs—how they can foster a unifying national identity in a pluralistic country and boost tourism in a country in need of economic rejuvenation.
Attire: Smart Casual

**15:15-15:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:30-16:30** **University Visit and Roundtable with Faculty and Students with American Universities**
Location: Lebanese American University - Byblos
Purpose: This visit will provide an opportunity for the delegation to see firsthand the impact of US assistance to American institutions of higher education in Lebanon, specifically the American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University, through a roundtable discussion with faculty and US scholarship recipients. Participants will include LAU President President Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah and Provost Dr. Greg Heileman.
Attire: Smart Casual

**16:30-17:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:15-18:15** **Visit to the Sursock Museum**
Location: Gemmayze
Purpose: Participants will receive a guided tour of the Sursock Museum to learn about Lebanon's cultural heritage and artistic traditions. The visit aims to educate participants on Lebanese society and sociocultural dynamics through engagement with Lebanon's cultural heritage sector and insight into the role of arts and cultural institutions in preserving national identity, fostering resilience, and strengthening social cohesion.
Attire: Smart Casual

**18:15-18:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:30-20:00** **Executive Time**

**20:00-20:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**20:15-22:15** **ATFL Closing Dinner and Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to reflect on key takeaways from the visit, discuss implications for US-Lebanon policy, and identify follow-up priorities after the delegation returns to Washington. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor; and Matthew Audi, Government Affairs Associate.
Attire: Smart Casual

## Sunday, August 16, 2026

**04:30** **Checkout from Hotel**

**05:00** **Depart Hotel for Beirut Airport (BEY)**

**08:10** **Depart Beirut (BEY) for Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD)**
Flight Info: MEA 201 (BEY-LHR) 8:10am - 11:15am // VS 21 (LHR-IAD) 5:55pm - IAD 8:55pm


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# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☑ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: American Task Force on Lebanon
2. Travel Destination(s): Beirut, Lebanon (BEY)
3. Date of Departure: 8/11/26 Date of Return: 8/16/26
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Nicolas Ruiz

   ***Note:*** You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

| | Total **Transportation** Expenses | Total **Lodging** Expenses | Total **Meal** Expenses | Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Traveler | $2,438.03 | $1,021.20 | $372.81 | $15.38 - Guided Tour of Byblos<br>$192.31 - Lebanese Armed Forces Security Detail |
| Accompanying Family Member | | | | |

6. ☑ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

**Signature:** _____ **Date:** 8/27/26

**Name:** Ambassador Edward M. Gabriel, Ret. **Title:** President and CEO

**Organization:** American Task Force on Lebanon

☑ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

**Address:** 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, STE 1050, Washington DC 20036

**Telephone:** 202 - 223 - 9333 **Email:** ed.gabriel@thegabriel.co

***Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.***

**If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.**

*last updated 7/2023*

ATFL
American Task Force
On Lebanon

July 1, 2026

Nico Ruiz
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Nico,

The American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) invites you to attend an ATFL-sponsored trip to Lebanon from August 11 – 16 for a series of high-level meetings and focused site visits. Meetings may include top government and military officials in addition to key civil society and business leaders. Site visits will focus on current issues facing Lebanon's security as well as the Lebanese people at large who are facing multiple debilitating crises.

We anticipate a series of candid and in-depth discussions on topics concerning governmental reforms, regional security, US support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces, US humanitarian support for the Lebanese people and support for American universities in Lebanon, among other matters.

ATFL unites Americans of Lebanese heritage to promote a strong, reliable, and proactive bilateral relationship between the United States and Lebanon. ATFL sponsors beneficial exchanges for Congressional leaders who are interested in strengthening the US-Lebanon relationship. ATFL has planned the itinerary for meetings in consultation with US government leaders and the US Embassy.

The mission and objectives of ATFL shall always be in the best interest of the United States and will promote the national unity, independence, and prosperity of a democratic and pluralistic Lebanon.

In compliance with the House/Senate Committee on Ethics, ATFL will cover all participants' transportation, meal, and hotel costs for the duration of the trip. We will communicate with you individually to secure your air travel, hotel stay, and visa processing. We kindly request your response at your earliest convenience by no later by July 10, 2026, to steven.howard@atfl.org, clarifying any food allergies or other needs that require accommodating so that we may plan accordingly.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We look forward to continued outreach and cooperation on behalf of the US-Lebanon relationship.

Sincerely,

Ambassador (ret.) Edward M. Gabriel
President and CEO

American Task Force on Lebanon
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p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

# PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   American Task Force on Lebanon

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

   See separate page

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 11, 2026 Date of Return: August 16, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC (IAD)
   b. Destination(s): Beirut, Lebanon (BEY)
   c. City of return: Washington, DC (IAD)
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☐ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   See separate page

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☐ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): $100
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Beirut is the capital of Lebanon and is th location for meetings with government leaders.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Hotel Phoenicia City: Beirut Cost Per Night: $240
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Security and location
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

| ☐ Actual Amounts<br>☒ Good Faith Estimates | Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant | Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant | Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $2200<br>Airfare | $960 | $400 |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item) | Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.) |
|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $500 | Ground transportation/security services |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | N/A | N/A |

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Edward M. Gabriel Digitally signed by Edward M. Gabriel Date: 2026.07.06 11:29:31 -04'00' Date: 7/6/2026

Name: Edward M. Gabriel Title: President & CEO

Organization: American Task Force on Lebanon

Address: 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste 1050, Washington, DC 20036

Email: philippe.nassif@atfl.org Telephone: 202-223-9333

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

**ATFL Congressional Staff Delegation to Lebanon: August 11-16**

**House Ethics Sponsor Form - Additional Information**

**Q12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:**

The American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) unites Americans of Lebanese heritage to promote a secure, stable, free and sovereign Lebanon. ATFL sponsors beneficial exchanges for congressional leaders who are interested in strengthening the US Lebanon relationship. ATFL planned the itinerary for meetings with Lebanese government leaders and the US Embassy. Nonsectarian and nonpartisan, the American Task Force on Lebanon is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization of prominent Americans of Lebanese heritage, who educate for the strengthening of the historic US-Lebanon relationship. The mission and objectives of ATFL shall always be in the best interest of the United States and will promote the national unity, independence, and prosperity of a democratic and pluralistic Lebanon.

ATFL's leadership has specified three work priorities:

● To meet with the leadership of the Lebanese Armed Forces and other relevant security services to discuss Lebanon's plan for Hezbollah disarmament and Lebanese state sovereignty.

● To discuss the implementation of the Trilateral Framework between Lebanon, Israel, and the United States as well as next steps in diplomatic negotiations between Lebanon and Israel.

● To evaluate the current humanitarian conditions facing the Lebanese people as well as the impact of US assistance to Lebanon.

**American Task Force on Lebanon**
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**ATFL Delegation to Lebanon List of Invitees**
**August 11-16, 2026**

**Reason for Invitation**

Participants are from offices who are members of committees of jurisdiction related to foreign affairs, national security, members of the US-Lebanon Friendship Caucus, or who represent districts with large Lebanese American populations.

**Invited Participants:**

Amelia Allert, Office of Rep. French Hill

Nancy Beaujeu-Dufour, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Peter Billerbeck, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Annica Burmester, Office of Rep. Debbie Dingell

Caroline Campbell, Office of Rep. Ronny Jackson

Alec Daman, Office of Rep. Bill Huizenga

Katie Gallagher, Office of Rep. Ron Estes

Megan Gallagher, Office of Rep. Brad Knott

James Gomez, Office of Rep. Jonathan Jackson

Max Harris, Office of Rep. Grace Meng

Rob Hoch, Office of Rep. George Latimer

Austin Johnson, Office of Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar

Samuel Jockisch, Office of Rep. Darin LaHood

Sara Katsnelson, Office of Rep. Brad Sherman

Courtney Kaufman, Office of Rep. Michael Lawler

Shine Lee, Office of Rep. Young Kim

Mary Ellen Richardson, Office of Rep. Darin LaHood

Nico Ruiz, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Diego Sanchez, Office of Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Jane Scarborough, Office of Rep. Michael Baumgartner

Pragneya Sharma, Office of Rep. Ami Bera

Michael Spero, Office of Rep. Lisa McClain

Adam Stasiewicz, Office of Rep. Jefferson Shreve

John Stout, Office of Rep. Tim Burchett

Britt Van, Office of Kristen McDonald Rivet

Max West, Office of Rep. David Joyce

Gabriella Zach, National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations

Anna Zimmerman, Office of Rep. Gabe Amo

**ATFL Delegation to Lebanon List of Attendees**
**August 11-16, 2026**

**Reason for Invitation**

Participants are from offices who are members of committees of jurisdiction related to foreign affairs, national security, members of the US-Lebanon Friendship Caucus, or who represent districts with large Lebanese American populations.

**House Participants:**

Rob Hoch, Office of Rep. George Latimer

Samuel Jockisch, Office of Rep. Darin LaHood

Nico Ruiz, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Max West, Office of Rep. David Joyce

ATFL
American Task Force
On Lebanon

## Tuesday, August 11, 2026

**22:55** **Departure from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to London Heathrow Airport (LHR)**
Flight Info: Virgin Atlantic (VS) 22 (IAD-LHR): 10:55pm - 11:20am (+1 Day) (all travelers)

## Wednesday, August 12, 2026

**19:35pm** **Arrival to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY)**
Flight Info: Middle East Airlines (ME) 202 (LHR-BEY): 1:00pm - 7:35pm (all travelers)

**21:15- 22:30** **ATFL Welcome Dinner**
Location: Phoenicia Hotel
Purpose: To welcome the congressional staff delegation to Lebanon, preview the delegation schedule, and da ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.

## Thursday, August 13, 2026

**07:45-8:10** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Overview of the current political, economic, and social landscape in Lebanon to provide insights and context for their meetings and engagements throughout the day. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:10-08:45** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**09:00-10:30** **US Embassy Country Team Brief**
Location: Awkar
Purpose: This briefing will provide an opportunity for the delegation to meet with US Embassy officials in Lebanon to receive updates on current USG policy priorities in Lebanon.
Attire: Business


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**10:30-11:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**11:30-12:30** **Meeting with Wassim Halabi, Adviser to the President of Lebanon**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political, security, and economic priorities, including state sovereignty, regional stability, reform efforts, and the U.S.-Lebanon relationship.
Attire: Business

**12:30-13:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:00-14:45** **Working Lunch with ADVISOR PM SALAM**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security priorities, the current status of US-Lebanon relations, and opportunities to strengthen diplomatic engagement and support for Lebanese sovereignty and stability.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:15** **Meeting with Ali Hamdan, Advisor to Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, parliamentary priorities, regional stability, reconstruction in the south, and efforts to advance reform and strengthen state institutions.
Attire: Business

**16:15-16:50** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:00-18:00** **Meeting with Central Bank Governor Karim Souaid**
Location: Hamra
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's financial and banking sector challenges, monetary stability, the path toward economic recovery, and the Central Bank's role in advancing reform and restoring confidence.
Attire: Business

**18:00-18:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:15-20:15** **Executive Time**


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**20:15-22:15** **Dinner with Parliamentarians Hosted by MP Fouad Makhzoumi**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to engage with MP Fouad Makhzoumi and Lebanese parliamentarians on Lebanon's political landscape, reform priorities, and the perspectives of the Sunni community in national politics and state institutions.
Attire: Business Casual

**22:15-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Friday, August 14, 2026

**7:45-8:15** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Overview of the current political, economic, and social landscape in Lebanon to provide insights and context for their meetings and engagements throughout the day. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:15-09:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**09:00-10:00** **Meeting with Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Rodolphe Haykal**
Location: LAF HQ, Yarze
Purpose: This provides the delegation with an opportunity to discuss implementation of the ceasefire agreement and to learn more about the expanded operations of the LAF and identify areas where US support can strengthen the LAF and Lebanese state authority.
Attire: Business

**10:00-10:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:30-11:30** **Meeting with Director General of State Security Major General Edgar Lawandos**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss State Security's role in protecting Lebanese state institutions, supporting internal stability, combating corruption and security threats, and strengthening coordination among Lebanon's security services.
Attire: Business

**11:30-11:50** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00-13:00** **Meeting with Simon Karam**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, ongoing negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, and the implications for Lebanese sovereignty, stability, and regional security.

**13:00-13:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:30-14:45** **Lunch with Humanitarian & Civil Society Leaders**
Location: Beit el Kanz
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to meet with representatives from leading humanitarian and civil society organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross, International Rescue Committee, and Beit el Baraka, and learn more about their work supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening resilience across Lebanon.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:15** **Meeting with Minister of Finance Yassine Jaber**
Location: Beirut, Riad El Solh Square, Ministry of Finance Building, 6th Floor, Minister Office
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's economic and fiscal priorities, including financial sector reform, public debt, the state budget, international assistance, and measures to strengthen transparency, restore investor confidence, and support sustainable economic recovery.
Attire: Business

**16:45-17:45** **Humanitarian Site Visit with the Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Sayed**
Location: Beirut - Exact Site TBD
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to better understand the humanitarian challenges facing displaced and vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including shelter, basic services, and coordination between Lebanese institutions and international partners.

**17:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**19:30-20:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***


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**20:00-22:00** **Dinner Hosted by ATFL Vice Chairman Nijad Fares**
Location: Broummana
Purpose: To provide an informal setting for delegation members and invited guests to exchange perspectives on Lebanon's political, economic, and regional priorities.
Attire: Business Casual

**22:00-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Saturday, August 15, 2026

**7:45-8:00** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Overview of the current political, economic, and social landscape in Lebanon to provide insights and context for their meetings and engagements throughout the day.
Attire: Smart Casual

**08:00-08:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**08:15-09:15** **Shia Opposition Meeting**
Location: Beirut - Exact Site TBD
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to better understand the humanitarian challenges facing displaced and vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including shelter, basic services, and coordination between Lebanese institutions and international partners.
Attire: Smart Casual

**09:15-10:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:15-11:45** **Lebanese Armed Forces Site Visit and US Security Assistance Briefing**
Location: Amchit
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to assess the impact of US security assistance on LAF readiness, border security, counterterrorism capabilities, and Lebanese state authority, while engaging with US military advisors and Lebanese counterparts on priorities for continued US support.
Attire: Smart Casual

**11:45-12:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00-15:15** **Cultural Visit and Lunch in Byblos**
Location: Byblos
Purpose: The delegation will visit Byblos, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city's history spans multiple civilizations, and the United States has supported cultural heritage preservation in the area. This visit will give staffers a firsthand look at the value of international preservation programs — how they can foster a unifying national identity in a pluralistic country and boost tourism in a country in need of economic rejuvenation.
Attire: Smart Casual

**15:15-15:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:30-16:30** **University Visit and Roundtable with Faculty and Students with American Universities**
Location: Central Administration Building, Lebanese American University - Byblos
Purpose: This visit will provide an opportunity for the delegation to see firsthand the impact of US assistance to American institutions of higher education in Lebanon, specifically the American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University, through a roundtable discussion with faculty and US scholarship recipients. Participants will include LAU President President Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah and Provost Dr. Greg Heileman.
Attire: Smart Casual

**16:30-17:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:15-18:15** **Visit to the Sursock Museum**
Location: Gemmayze
Purpose: This visit aims to educate participants on Lebanese society and sociocultural dynamics through engagement with Lebanon's cultural heritage sector and insight into the role of arts and cultural institutions in preserving national identity, fostering resilience, and strengthening social cohesion.
Attire: Smart Casual

**18:15-18:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:30-20:00** **Executive Time**

**20:00-20:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***


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**20:15-22:15** **ATFL Closing Dinner and Briefing**

Location: Em Sharif Cafe

Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to reflect on key takeaways from the visit, discuss implications for US-Lebanon policy, and identify follow-up priorities after the delegation returns to Washington. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor; and Matthew Audi, Government Affairs Associate.

Attire: Smart Casual

## Sunday, August 16, 2026

**04:30** **Checkout from Hotel**

**05:00** **Depart Hotel for Beirut Airport (BEY)**

**08:10** **Depart Beirut (BEY) for Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD)**

Flight Info: MEA 201 (BEY-LHR) 8:10am - 11:15am // VS 21 (LHR-IAD) 5:55pm - IAD 8:55pm



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# Final Agenda: ATFL Staff Delegation

## Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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**19:35pm** **Arrival to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY)**
Flight Info: Middle East Airlines (ME) 202 (LHR-BEY): 1:00pm - 7:35pm (all travelers)

**21:15- 22:30** **ATFL Welcome Dinner**
Location: Beirut Venue, Main Level of the Phoenicia Hotel
Purpose: To welcome the congressional staff delegation to Lebanon, review the schedule and key objectives for the visit, and provide initial context on Lebanon's political, security, and economic landscape. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Smart Casual

## Thursday, August 13, 2026

**07:45-8:10** **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Elyssar, GF Level
Purpose: To preview the day's meetings and engagements, review the schedule and key objectives, and provide relevant political, economic, and social context to help frame the delegation's discussions throughout the day. ATFL participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

**08:10-08:45** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***


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**09:00-10:30** **US Embassy Country Team Brief**
Location: Awkar
Purpose: This briefing will provide an opportunity for the delegation to meet with US Embassy officials in Lebanon to receive updates on current USG policy priorities in Lebanon.
Attire: Business

**10:30-11:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**11:30-12:30** **Meeting with General Wassim Halabi and Other Advisers to President Joseph Aoun**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political, security, and economic priorities, including state sovereignty, regional stability, reform efforts, and the U.S.-Lebanon relationship.
Attire: Business

**12:30-13:00** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:00-14:45** **Working Lunch with Ambassador Claude Hajal, Sateh Arnaout, Lamia Moubayed, and Other Advisors to the Prime Minister Nawaf Salam**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security priorities, the current status of US-Lebanon relations, and opportunities to strengthen diplomatic engagement and support for Lebanese sovereignty and stability.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:30** **Meeting with Ali Hamdan, Advisor to Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, parliamentary priorities, regional stability, reconstruction in the south, and efforts to advance reform and strengthen state institutions.
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Location: Hamra
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's financial and banking sector challenges, monetary stability, the path toward economic recovery, and the Central Bank's role in advancing reform and restoring confidence.


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Attire: Business

**18:00-18:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**18:15-20:15** **Executive Time**

**20:15-22:15** **Dinner with Parliamentarians Hosted by MP Fouad Makhzoumi**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to engage with MP Fouad Makhzoumi and Lebanese parliamentarians on Lebanon's political landscape, reform priorities, and strengthened state institutions.
Attire: Smart Casual

**22:15-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

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Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss State Security's role in protecting Lebanese state institutions, supporting internal stability, combating corruption and security threats, and strengthening coordination among Lebanon's security services.
Attire: Business

**11:30-11:50** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**12:00–13:00** **Meeting with the Minister of Public Works and Transportation Fayez Rasamny**
Location: Ministry of Public Works & Transporation
Purpose: To provide the delegation with an overview of recent efforts to modernize port of entry operations and strengthen customs enforcement. Participants learn about the newly installed cargo-scanning systems and discuss their role in improving inspections, facilitating legitimate trade, combating corruption and smuggling, and preventing the illicit movement of narcotics, weapons, and other prohibited goods through Lebanon's ports of entry.
Attire: Business

**13:00-13:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**13:30-14:45** **Lunch with Humanitarian & Civil Society Leaders**
Location: Beit el Kanz, Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to meet with representatives from leading humanitarian and civil society organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross, International Rescue Committee, and Beit el Baraka, and learn more about their work supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening resilience across Lebanon.
Attire: Business

**14:45-15:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**15:15-16:15** **Meeting with Minister of Finance Yassine Jaber**
Location: Beirut, Riad El Solh Square, Ministry of Finance Building, 6th Floor, Minister Office
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's economic and fiscal priorities, including financial sector reform,


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public debt, the state budget, international assistance, and measures to strengthen transparency, restore investor confidence, and support sustainable economic recovery.
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**20:00-22:00** **Dinner Hosted by ATFL Vice Chairman Nijad Fares**
Location: Broummana
Purpose: To provide an informal setting for delegation members and invited guests to exchange perspectives on Lebanon's political, economic, and regional priorities.
Attire: Smart Casual

**22:00-22:30** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**22:30** **Return to Hotel**

## Saturday, August 15, 2026

**08:15-09:15** **Meeting with Independent Figures & Activists**
Location: Elyssar, GF Level Beirut
Purpose: To hear from independent figures & activists advocating for state sovereignty, strong government institutions, and an alternative political vision for Lebanon.
Attire: Smart Casual

**09:15-10:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**10:15-11:45** **Lebanese Armed Forces Site Visit and US Security Assistance Briefing**
Location: Amchit


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Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to assess the impact of US security assistance on LAF readiness, border security, counterterrorism capabilities, and Lebanese state authority, while engaging with US military advisors and Lebanese counterparts on priorities for continued US support.
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**12:00-15:15** **Cultural Visit and Lunch in Byblos**
Location: Byblos
Purpose: The delegation will visit Byblos, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where they will receive a guided tour of the historic site. The city's history spans multiple civilizations, and the United States has supported cultural heritage preservation in the area. This visit will give staffers a firsthand look at the value of international preservation programs—how they can foster a unifying national identity in a pluralistic country and boost tourism in a country in need of economic rejuvenation.
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**15:30-16:30** **University Visit and Roundtable with Faculty and Students with American Universities**
Location: Lebanese American University - Byblos
Purpose: This visit will provide an opportunity for the delegation to see firsthand the impact of US assistance to American institutions of higher education in Lebanon, specifically the American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University, through a roundtable discussion with faculty and US scholarship recipients. Participants will include LAU President President Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah and Provost Dr. Greg Heileman.
Attire: Smart Casual

**16:30-17:15** ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

**17:15-18:15** **Visit to the Sursock Museum**
Location: Gemmayze
Purpose: Participants will receive a guided tour of the Sursock Museum to learn about Lebanon's cultural heritage and artistic traditions. The visit aims to educate participants on Lebanese society and sociocultural dynamics through engagement with Lebanon's cultural heritage sector and insight into the role of arts and cultural institutions in preserving national identity, fostering resilience, and strengthening social cohesion.
Attire: Smart Casual


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Location: Beirut
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Attire: Smart Casual

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# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov*, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Nicolas Ruiz
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 08.11.2026 Return: 08.16.2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Beirut, Lebanon Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Task Force on Lebanon
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Please see the attached itinerary
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: _____

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

**Signature of Traveler:** _____ **Date:** 09.09.2026

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

**Name of Supervising Member:** Brian Mast, Committee on Foreign Affairs **Date:** 09.09.2026

**Signature of Supervising Member:** _____

*last updated 7/2023*

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

**This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.**

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date.** Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Nico Ruiz

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

**I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: _____

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Office Address: 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20002

Telephone Number: 703.647.0178

Email Address of Contact Person: nico.ruiz@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

**NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.**

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: *travel.requests@mail.house.gov*.

*last updated 7/2023*

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Nico Ruiz
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Beirut, Lebanon
4. a. Date of Departure: August 11, 2026 Date of Return: August 16, 2026

   b. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

   I am the staff director of the Western Hemisphere subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over global human rights and international religious freedom (IRF) issues for the Foreign Affairs Committee. This trip will be critical in understanding Lebanon's confessional system of government (one of the few in the world) and issues relating to religious freedom for Middle Eastern religious minorities, especially in light of current U.S.-brokered efforts to achieve piece between Israel and Lebanon.
9. **Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

## ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

**Signature of Employing Member:** _____ **Date:** 07.10.2026

Michael Guest, Mississippi
*Chairman*
Mark DeSaulnier, California
*Ranking Member*

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

August 7, 2026

Mr. Nicolas Ruiz
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Lebanon,[1] scheduled for August 11 to 16, 2026, sponsored by American Taskforce on Lebanon.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently $525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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[1] Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at https://step.state.gov.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:eme