

For Immediate Release



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AUB Mourns Alumnus and Former Press Syndicate President Mohammad Baalbaki

The American University of Beirut (AUB) and its Scholarship Fundraising Committee have issued a statement mourning former Press Syndicate President Mohammad Baalbaki, one of the most inveterate and renowned alumni of the university, who passed away on Wednesday March 22, in the morning.

Born in Beirut in 1921, Baalbaki studied at the Islamic Makassed College and the Sharia College before joining AUB, where he was the editor-in-chief of Al-Urwah Al-Wuthqa student society's magazine. He graduated with a BA in Arabic literature, with distinction, in 1942.

A year before his graduation, Baalbaki began his journalistic career outside the university. After graduating, he returned to AUB and taught Arabic history and literature for seven years. His students included Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim, Ghassan Tuani, Monah Solh, Bahij Tabbara, Said Fawwaz, Abdurrahman Solh, Jibran Hayek, Major General Ahmad Al-Hajj and others.

Baalbaki was involved in the editing and establishment of well-known newspapers and magazines. He was also known for struggling for the freedom of speech and faith. These are core values that AUB has been championing since it was founded a century and a half ago.

In 1948 the Lebanese Press Syndicate was established. Mohammad Baalbaki was elected its president in 1982. He was unanimously re-elected nine times consecutively.

In the decades after his graduation, Baalbaki maintained his strong relationship with AUB, his Alma Mater, as a devoted son, and he took part in the actions and initiatives that sought to shield it during the long Lebanese war. After the destruction of College Hall in a bomb attack in 1991, Mohammad Baalbaki was among the prominent figures who called for supporting the university to rebuild College Hall. He was also an active member of the Worldwide Alumni Association of

AUB (WAAAUB) and the Scholarship Fundraising Committee, often recalling that he was a recipient of scholarships during his university studies. In July 2016, during a meeting of AUB alumni around the world on campus, the university honored Mohammad Baalbaki as one of its oldest alumni.

Mohammad Baalbaki has received a great number of awards, medals and decorations, including the Lebanese honorary golden merit award, the Lebanese National Order of the Cedar-Commander's rank, the French Medal of Merit, Officer's rank, and a medal from the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

The American University of Beirut represented by its President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, and its administrative and teaching bodies, convey their deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Mohammad Baalbaki.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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