

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 14-8-2021

AUBMC appeals for urgent supply of fuel **before forced shutdown this Monday**

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) is facing imminent disaster due to the threat of a forced shutdown starting the morning of this coming Monday August 16, as a result of fuel shortages. This means that ventilators and other lifesaving medical devices will cease to operate. Forty adult patients and fifteen children living on respirators will die immediately. One hundred and eighty people suffering from renal failure will die poisoned after a few days without dialysis. Hundreds of cancer patients, adults and children, will die in subsequent weeks and very few months without proper treatment.

AUBMC is making an urgent appeal to the Lebanese government, the United Nations (UN) and its agencies the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and to all agencies and organizations able to help, urging them to supply the medical center with enough fuel before it is forced to shut down in less than 48 hrs.

This comes at a time when AUBMC is facing crises at all levels: shortage in drugs and medications, shortage in medical supplies, and the more recent scandalous electricity cuts and impossibility of electricity production with no meaningful fuel deliveries for days.

The American University of Beirut (AUB) has been rationing electricity and fuel across campus for weeks but is running out of both and will not be able to continue to supply its medical center.

The AUB and AUBMC administration considers the Lebanese Government and officials in the Lebanese state fully responsible for this crisis and unfolding humanitarian catastrophe, and for any incident of harm or death resulting from the inability to offer medical care at AUBMC as well as other hospitals and medical services providers in Lebanon who are facing the same reality.

When lives are lost because of a fully preventable lack of electricity and fuel, with family members watching and knowing that the fuel is already present in adequate supply within the country, it will be a moment of infamy, a moment unlike any that Lebanon has experienced since World War I and the famine which cost a third of the population of Mount Lebanon their lives. The AUBMC administration insists that all those in positions of responsibility immediately put aside all their disputes and work together to prevent this imminent disaster. A disaster no one deserves. Least of all the Lebanese and other inhabitants of this nation, whose unwarranted suffering does not deserve to be crowned with needless, pointless, irreversible tragedy.

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For more information please contact:

Simon Kachar, PhD
Director of News and Media Relations
Mobile: (+961) 3-427-024
Office: (+961) 1-374-374 ext: 2676
Email: sk158@aub.edu.lb

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 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 140 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 365-bed hospital.

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