

Levantine Arabic transcript:

الحكومة اللبنانية:

سارة: في عنا مثلا الجمهورية اللبنانية، فيا اكيد رئيس، الرئيس منتخب من بقية النواب، مجلس النواب يعتقد عبارة عن ما بتذكر مية و كم مقعد اكيد من عدة طوائف لانو لبنان متعدد الطوائف، عندك المقعد السني و المقعد المارون، المقعد الاكيد الشيعي، الاحزاب يعني، و اكيد هالنواب مين بينتخبها، الشعب، و الانتخابات بتصير كل اربع سنين مرة، منتخب نواب لكل محافظة، اه، في خمس محافظات بلبنان، انا من محافظة شمال لبنان. و رئيس الجمهورية ينتخب كل ست سنين و قابل للتجديد، يعني اذا ضلو ست نين ممكن يتجددلو ست سنين كمان او ممكن يتغير حسب، اكيد الشي بيرجع لمجلس النواب لانو مجلس الوزراء تقريبا نحنا عنا هيك نظام بلبنان.

وفاء: و ايمتى الانتخابات الجاي؟

سارة: انا بتذكر انا اخر مرة انتخبت هديك الصيفية فالانتخابات يمكن هلا بعد تلت سنين و نص اربع سنين، هديك السنة انتخبنا، عدي اربع سنين، منعمل الانتخابات النيابية، بس اكيد بضل في انتخابات بلدية هي بتصير بعقد سنويا، او كل سنتين، ما بتذكر مضبوط. بكون مثل في مختار عن كل منطقة، او محافظ بقولولو، عرقتي.

English translation:

“Lebanese Government”

Sarah: For example, we have the Republic of Lebanon. Of course, there is also a president. The president gets elected by the House of Representatives. I think the House of Representatives is about a hundred and something seats for the different religious groups, since Lebanon has many different religions. There is the Sunni seat, the Maronite seat, the Shi'a seat. These representatives are elected by the people of the country. We have elections for representatives once every four years. We elect representative for each district. There are five different districts in Lebanon. I am from the northern district, which is in the north of Lebanon. The president gets elected for six years, and he can run for elections again after six years -- so if there is a president for six years, he can run for six years more, or there might be other people running for elections, depending on the House of Representatives and the minister's council. This is the system we have in Lebanon.

Wafa: When are the next elections?

Sarah: I remember the last time I voted was last summer, so after three years we will have elections for new representatives. Of course there is also a city council election, which takes place every one or two years, I don't actually remember. There is *mokhtar*¹ for every area, or some times it is called *mohafeth*.²

¹ *Mokhtar*. The head of the area or village, based on his social and material status.

² *Mohafeth*. Mayor.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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