



## 4.2 Internal Security Forces (ISF)

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The Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF), Lebanon's primary national police agency,<sup>272</sup> are composed namely of the Beirut police, judicial police, mobile gendarmerie and territorial gendarmerie.<sup>273</sup>

As of 2024, the Lebanese police number about 24 500 officials, down from 30 000 before the 2019 crisis, with 500 expected to retire each year.<sup>274</sup>

During the period between October 2019 to May 2024, over 1 000 ISF members reportedly left the service amid declining wages and 'forcibly renewed contracts'.<sup>275</sup>

According to the International Crisis Group reporting on August 2025, the ISF face significant challenges in carrying out law enforcement and maintaining public security due to chronic resource shortages, limited budgets, inadequate equipment, frequent political interference undermining impartiality, and the ongoing economic crisis, which impacts its operational capacity.<sup>276</sup> Within the ISF, widespread clientelism has further weakened institutional integrity, with recruitment and promotion often tied to political loyalty rather than merit, undermining professionalism and eroding public trust in law enforcement.<sup>277</sup>

- <sup>272</sup>

International Crisis Group, Supporting Effective Policing by Lebanon's Embattled Security Agencies, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

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Lebanon, Lebanese Internal Security Forces, information observed on 14 July 2025, [url](#)

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L'Orient Today, ISF's recent recruitment campaign, 13 March 2024, [url](#)

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L'Orient Today, 'If I come back I'll be sent to jail': Why solving ISF desertion problem is complicated, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

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International Crisis Group, Supporting Effective Policing by Lebanon's Embattled Security Agencies, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

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