



**AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY  
OF BEIRUT**

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Beirut, April 17, 2025

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Fifty Years of Amnesia: AUB commemorates the Lebanese Civil War in a yearlong series of events***

The American University of Beirut (AUB) launched *Fifty Years of Amnesia*, a series of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990). The initiative, organized by the Department of History and Archaeology in partnership with civil society organizations, student societies, artists, and activists, seeks to break the decades-long silence around one of the most formative and devastating periods in Lebanon’s modern history.

The official launch took place on April 14, 15, and 16, 2025, at AUB’s West Hall, marking the symbolic anniversary of the Ain el-Remmaneh bus incident that ignited the war. Over the course of a year—through April 2026—*Fifty Years of Amnesia* will feature exhibitions, lectures, workshops, concerts, and other public initiatives both on and off campus. These events aim to encourage critical reflection, historical dialogue, and collective remembrance in a country where the war remains unacknowledged and largely undocumented.

“While the Lebanese Civil War officially ended in 1990 with the Taif Accord, which ushered in a new political arrangement, there has been no state-sponsored effort to recognize the conflict’s complex legacies or to honor its many victims. Instead, Lebanon adopted an official policy of forgetting—a willful amnesia that has silenced discussions about justice, memory, and accountability,” the organizing committee noted, adding, “This is not just a commemoration; it is an invitation to remember, to question, and to engage. We hope to open space for all generations to confront the past and imagine a different future.”

Members of the public, students, artists, researchers, and institutions are invited to contribute to this initiative. Proposals for events or collaborations are welcome and may be submitted to [hiscarc@aub.edu.lb](mailto:hiscarc@aub.edu.lb).

**ENDS**

For more information please contact:

**Simon Kachar, PhD**

Executive Director of Communications

Lecturer – Political Studies and Public Administration Department

Founding Director – Good Governance and Citizenship Observatory

Fellow – Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs

Member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Research, Innovation, and Creativity Hub

T +961 1 37 43 74 Ext: 2676 | M +961 3 42 70 24

**American University of Beirut**

PO Box 11-0236, Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107 2020, Lebanon

T +961 1 35 00 00 – Ext 2650 | [communications@aub.edu.lb](mailto:communications@aub.edu.lb)

[aub.edu.lb](http://aub.edu.lb)

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 790 full-time faculty members and a student body of over 9000 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.

Stay up to date on AUB news and events.

[aub.edu.lb](http://aub.edu.lb) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#)