

Lebanon marks civil war anniversary

Mariam Saleh, Press TV, Beirut

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In commemoration of the Lebanese civil war which ravaged Lebanon from 1975 to 1991, UMAM center for documentation and research, in cooperation with United Nations Development Program launched the project “the bus takes the podium.”

The organizers chose a bus to represent a voyage in the collective memory of Lebanon and its people.

The refurbished bus is equipped with archives on the civil war, and will be touring all Lebanese areas. It has transformed into a virtual library where all the events of the internal fighting are found for everyone to see and learn about.

Foreign representatives have expressed their support of Lebanese people in learning from past events so as not to repeat them.

The Lebanese minister of foreign affairs who has personally witnessed the tragic events of the war told Press TV that this new bus could transform the connotation which is forced by the image of the torn bus in April 1975 to a scene of new hope that political differences do not lead to war.

On April 13, 1975 armed men believed to be members of the Christian right wing phalange militia opened fire on a bus carrying Palestinian refugees and Lebanese at a time when sectarian segregation had begun to split Lebanon in two.

The bus a massacre which to this day remains in the conscience of every Lebanese is being kept as an iconic image for all the Lebanese to remember.

This is the bus which witnessed the first spark of violence and has after 37 years become an emblem of the devastating war. Lebanese choose to remember it every year in order to come in terms with the past and learn from it.