

## Travel



# 22

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## MENA Tactical (UPDATE): Announcements issued in Lebanon, Iran, Iraq ahead of Hezbollah Secretaries-General funerals in Beirut on February 23; maintain heightened vigilance

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### Current Situation:

Authorities in **Lebanon**, **Iran**, and **Iraq** have announced traffic measures, commemorative events, and work suspensions for February 23, aligning with the official funeral in Beirut for former Hezbollah Secretaries-General Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Saifeddine.

#### Lebanon

#### Traffic arrangements

- Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) has announced traffic measures on February 22 and 23 to facilitate the smooth procession of scheduled funeral ceremonies in Beirut.
- Authorities stated that parking will be prohibited on February 22 from 09:00 (local time) on the following roads: Khaldeh-Ouzai-Sultan Ibrahim highway, the old Airport Road, the eastern and western sides of Sports City, and Ghana Street.
- Parking of vehicles will also be prohibited starting from 22:00 on February 22 on the following roads on both sides:
  - The road extending from al-Burair intersection to al-Rashidin/Salam intersection
  - The road extending from Bechara al-Khoury intersection towards Barbir
  - The road extending from under the Cola Bridge towards the Sports City
  - Habib Abi Shahla Street
  - The road extending from al-Rafai/al-Mazraa Corniche intersection
  - The road extending from the Cola intersection towards the new detour al-Mazraa Corniche
  - Salim Salam highway
  - Ghana Street (adjacent to the Sports City)
  - On both sides of the seafront in Sidon
- Parking of vehicles and passage of vehicles will be prohibited starting from 00:01 on February 23 on the following roads:
  - Imad Mughniyeh Avenue, from Hazmieh to Airport Road, including all by-roads leading to it.
  - Airport tunnels highway, from Khaldeh and under Khaldeh Bridge.
  - The road leading to the Airport Bridge from Khashoggi Mosque (under the tunnel) and from Shatila Roundabout.
  - The road leading from Salim Salam Highway towards Assad Highway.
  - The road leading from under the Cola Bridge towards Assad Highway.
  - All by-roads leading to the old Airport Road from Shatila towards Rafic Hariri International Airport.
  - All by-roads leading to Assad Highway.
- Authorities advised the passengers traveling to and from the Rafic Hariri International Airport to use the following roads to reach the airport:
  - Al-Ouzai Roundabout towards Al-Ahed Stadium
  - Al-Hadath through Choueifat to Cocody
  - Khaldeh through Choueifat to Cocody
  - Forum de Beirut via Corniche Al-Mazraa, UNESCO, and Ouzai towards Al-Ahed Stadium
  - Forum de Beirut through Sea Line to Ouzai
- Trucks will be prohibited from traveling on main roads between Bekaa and Beirut in both directions from the morning hours of February 22 until the morning hours of February 24. Additionally, trucks will be banned from using Al-Zahrani Highway throughout February 23.
- Further details along with a map highlighting the traffic arrangements can be found [here](#).
- Authorities advised individuals to adhere to the instructions and traffic arrangements to prevent any congestion on the roads.

## General Developments

- The German Foreign Office updated its travel advisory for Lebanon, advising against travel to and from Rafic Hariri International Airport on February 23 due to scheduled funeral processions.
- Similarly, the French Consulate in Beirut has advised its citizens to avoid the Airport Road and to limit their movements on February 23.

## Iran

- Iran's state news agency reported that ceremonies marking the slated funerals will be held at holy shrines, religious sites, prayer halls, and central mosques nationwide, including at the Imam

Khomeini Prayer Hall in Tehran after the Maghrib and Isha prayers, which will take place during the evening hours of February 23.

## **Iraq**

- The Governor of Baghdad, Abdul Muttalib al-Alawi, announced the suspension of official work for all departments affiliated with the Baghdad Governorate on February 23, on account of the slated funeral ceremony.

## **Bahrain**

- Anti-government groups have called for large-scale participation in the funeral ceremony of the Hezbollah leaders on February 23. The timings and location of the event remain unspecified at the time of writing.

Source: [Lebanon](#) ; [Iran](#) ; [Iraq](#) ; [Bahrain](#)

## **Recommendations:**

1. Those operating or residing in Beirut, including those traveling through Rafik Hariri International Airport on February 22-23 are advised to allot for disruptions to travel and seek alternative routes due to the slated road closures and traffic arrangements due to the slated funeral ceremony.
2. US, and Western nationals in general, operating or residing in the city, are advised to maintain a low profile due to prevailing negative sentiment toward the West by Hezbollah's support base.
3. Those operating or residing in Iran, Iraq, and Bahrain on February 23 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance and allot for disruptions due to the slated commemorative ceremonies.