

# Lebanese woman assaulted by bodyguards after shaming lawmaker Gebran Bassil in public

Mon, 2021-06-14 21:54

BEIRUT: A video of a brawl between a Lebanese woman and Head of Free Patriotic Movement Gebran Bassil's bodyguards after she publicly told him 'shame on you' went viral on Sunday.

The woman was having lunch with friends in a newly-opened restaurant at Al Batroun, the birthplace of Bassil, Lebanese President's son-in-law and a strong political ally of Iran-backed party Hezbollah, when the altercation happened.

Once the woman, identified by media as Yasmine Al-Masri, saw Bassil at the restaurant she yelled at him saying the Arabic for "shame on you."

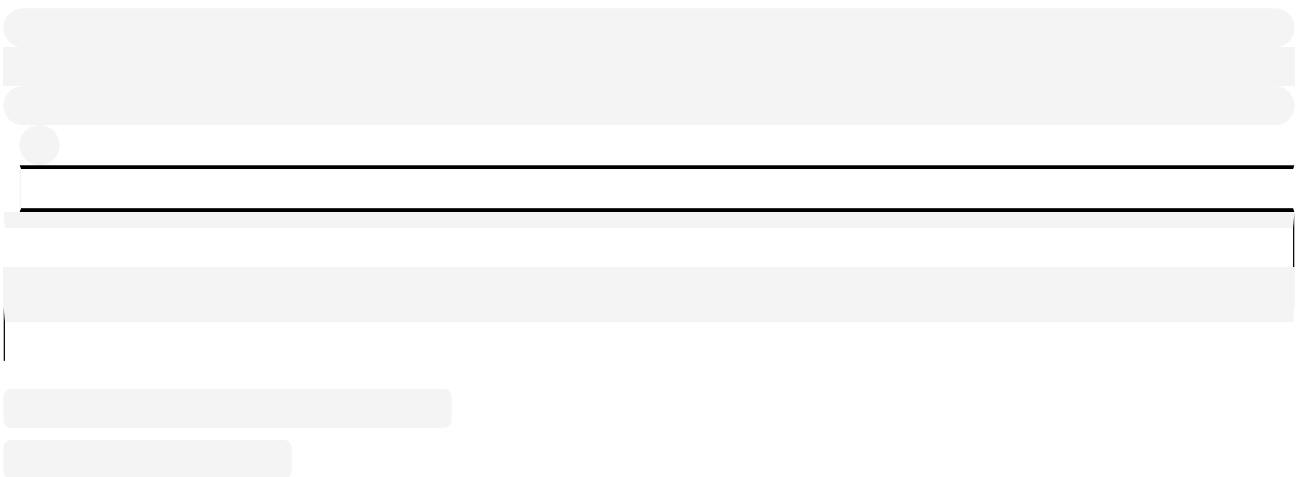
She is believed to have been provoked by his audacity showing up in public as if he is not one of the major instigators and those responsible for the country's political deadlock, economic collapse and corruption.

It was reported in different media outlets that Bassil's entourage instantly rushed toward Al-Masri, whacked her brutally and pinned her down to the floor. Meanwhile as the bodyguards were violently silencing and preventing her from shouting, Bassil made his way hurriedly to his car.

Arab News contacted the restaurant where the incident happened.



[View this post on Instagram](#)



A post shared by thawramap (@thawramap)

"The incident happened around lunchtime. She yelled at lawmaker Bassil and told him what means 'shame on you' for what you've been doing to the people... she reacted like any other independent citizen would do as to how dare he provocatively show his face in public," a waiter told Arab News. He declined to give his name due to the sensitivity of the issue and fear of losing his job.

In the video that Al-Masri recorded using her mobile phone, the footage showed the entourage escorting Bassil to his waiting car while her voice could be heard heatedly arguing with one of the bodyguards who walked toward her and battered her hand. The video footage was clearly flipped upside down after Al-Masri was attacked by the bodyguard and her phone got broken.

Revealing what happened, Al-Masri told MTV channel she yelled at Bassil once he entered the restaurant by telling him 'tfeh 3lek' [shame on you] maintaining that it is not a curse. "That is the least I could tell him. His bodyguard told me to keep my mouth shut and assaulted me. I stood up after I fell down due to the assault, grabbed my phone and followed the entourage wanting to film what they did," she told the MTV stressing that her friend called others for help because she was brutally attacked.

Towards Sunday afternoon the video showing the incident snowballed on social media especially Twitter and Instagram.

Bassil's media office claimed that he and his family were about to ride their car when a woman used foul language against him.

His entourage responded 'naturally, peacefully and modernly' to stop her from cursing, according to the media statement that confirmed the woman wasn't beaten.

Bassil told Free Patriotic Movement supporters and members that 'the era of leaving swearwords unanswered is over' and to respond accordingly.

In response to that, popular TV host Ghada Eid tweeted saying 'the era of leaving corruption unfought is over'.

Following the incident, a hashtag with Al-Masri's phrase [tfeh 3lek] became trending in Lebanon.

A twitter user called Hassan said 'This is the best trending topic in Lebanon this year so far'

Mariana tweeted 'By showing violent behavior, bullies try to hide their own weakness.'

Another user tweeted about Bassil saying 'Small Man with a Giant Ego'.

Samer Al Khoury tweeted 'so lovely how you [Bassil] always trend when it's an insult or corruption what a disgrace you are'.

International Lebanese artist Elissa said on twitter 'every hand that beats a woman should be broken'.



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Lebanon's Bassil rejects US sanctions as unjust and politically motivated  
Lebanese FM asks US for Bassil sanction files

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## [UK MPs debate Palestinian statehood, sanctions against Israel](#)

Author:

Mon, 2021-06-14 22:11

LONDON: British MPs on Monday debated implementing two petitions that call for economic sanctions against Israel and for the UK government to recognize the state of Palestine.

The petitions garnered over 100,000 signatures each, which according to British law means they must be considered for debate in Parliament.

Politicians from both sides of the aisle urged the government to push forward the two-state solution by recognizing the state of Palestine, but the majority of MPs that took part in the debate rejected the idea of sanctions against Israel.

Chairing the debate, Labour's Katherine McKinnell said: "I share the deeply held concerns for the plight of the Palestinian people. Colleagues who have visited the region will know that the desire of the Palestinians to live in dignity and in peace in a state of their own is unmistakable."

"Their aspiration for self-determination is one that we should wholeheartedly support. It's right for the Palestinian people, and it's right for the Israeli people."

She added: "However, I don't believe that sweeping sanctions of the kind proposed by the second petition would bring the prospect of a two-state solution any closer."

That petition, which currently has over 386,000 signatures, said: "The government should introduce sanctions against Israel, including blocking all trade, and in particular arms."

It added that Israel's "disproportionate treatment of Palestinians and settlements that are regarded by the international community as illegal are an affront to civilised society."

James Cleverly, the UK's minister for the Middle East and North Africa, reiterated the government's position on economic sanctions against Israel, saying: "While we don't hesitate to express disagreement with Israel whenever we feel it necessary, we're firmly opposed to boycotts or sanctions against Israel."

Cleverly also rejected the second petition's demand – that Britain immediately recognize a sovereign Palestinian state.

"There have, of course, been many calls over the years for recognition of Palestinian statehood," he said.

"The UK government position is clear: The UK will recognize a Palestinian state at a time when it best serves the object of peace. Bilateral recognition in itself cannot and will not end the occupation," he added.

"The UK government continues to believe that without a negotiated peace agreement, the occupation and the problems that come with it will continue."

Cleverly did, however, criticize Israel's continued assaults on Palestinian homes in the occupied territories.

"The UK position on evictions, demolitions and settlements is longstanding, is public, and has been communicated directly to the government of Israel. That is: We oppose these actions," he said.

Steve Baker, a Conservative MP, said he had made a "mistake" by deprioritizing the Israeli-Palestinian issue during a period of relative calm.

"The problem, of course, is that the conflict hadn't gone away and has since returned with a ferocity," he added.

Baker urged the government to actively pursue a two-state solution, a policy that he and other MPs pointed out has been endorsed by the government without ever being actively pursued.

“I voted to recognize the state of Palestine,” he said. “I think if we’re serious about a two-state solution, it’s important that this Parliament and parliaments elsewhere, governments elsewhere, recognize the state of Palestine.”

Labour’s Naz Shah said she had a message for Israel’s new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett: “Those who support you in the Knesset (Parliament), the mood music is changing, the world is waking up to Israel’s actions, and all those who want to see lasting peace in the region know that to achieve such peace we must end the occupation, injustice and oppression. This starts with recognizing a viable Palestinian state.”

She warned Bennett: “We won’t be silent in pushing for Israel to be tried in the International Criminal Court for war crimes if any more Palestinian blood is unjustly spilled under a perverted interpretation of a right to self-defense.”



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## Israeli military: Attempt to smuggle weapons along Jordanian border thwarted

Mon, 2021-06-14 21:21

Israel's military said on Monday it had stopped an attempt to smuggle weapons along the Jordanian border.

"IDF troops and the Israeli Police just thwarted a weapon smuggling attempt along the Jordanian border in the Arava area," the Israeli Defense Forces said. "Our troops confiscated weapons and apprehended a number of suspects."

An IDF reservist and a suspect were "moderately injured" and taken to hospital.

IDF troops & the Israeli Police just thwarted a weapon smuggling attempt along the Jordanian border in the Arava area. Our troops confiscated weapons & apprehended a number of suspects.

An IDF reservist and a suspect were moderately injured & were evacuated to a hospital.

– Israel Defense Forces (@IDF) [June 14, 2021](#)



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15-year-old Palestinian shot dead by Israeli soldiers

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## [At NATO, Turkey hails its revival of dialogue with Greece](#)

Author:  
Associated Press  
ID:  
1623692281761569100  
Mon, 2021-06-14 20:50

BRUSSELS: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday that a revival of dialogue with fellow NATO member Greece to resolve long-standing disputes will serve “stability and prosperity” in the region. Speaking on the sidelines of a NATO summit, Erdogan also lamented what he said was a lack of support by Turkey’s NATO allies in its fight against terrorism.

It was a veiled reference to Turkey’s disappointment with US military support for Syrian Kurdish fighters, who Ankara argues are inextricably linked to a decades-long Kurdish insurgency in Turkey.

Erdogan, who is vying to mend Turkey's battered relations with its Western partners, is holding a series of one-on-one meetings with NATO leaders, including US President Joe Biden.

The Turkish strongman has recently toned down his anti-Western rhetoric as he seeks foreign investments for his country, which has been troubled by a currency crisis and an economic downturn made worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Turkey is on the frontline in the fight against terrorism in all relevant international platforms, especially NATO," Erdogan said, adding that some 4,000 Daesh group fighters were "neutralized" in Turkish cross border operations.

"Turkey is the only NATO ally which has fought face-to-face and gave its young sons as martyrs for this cause," Erdogan said. "Unfortunately, we did not receive the support and solidarity we expected from our allies and partners in our fight against all forms of terrorism."

Last summer, a long-standing dispute between Turkey and Greece over boundaries and rights to natural resources in the eastern Mediterranean flared anew after Ankara sent research vessels into waters where Greece asserts jurisdiction.

Diplomats from the two countries have held two rounds of talks in recent months for the first time in five years, while the foreign ministers of Greece and Turkey also held reciprocal visits.

"I believe that reviving the channels of dialogue between (Turkey) and our neighbor and ally, Greece, and the resolution of bilateral issues will ... serve the stability and prosperity of our region," Erdogan said, in a video address to a think tank event on the sidelines of the summit.

Erdogan's talks with Biden are expected to focus on US support for Syrian Kurdish fighters, as well as a dispute over Ankara's acquisition of a Russian air defense system, which led to Turkey being removed from the F-35 fighter program and sanctions on defense industry officials.

Washington says the S-400 missiles, which Turkey purchased in 2019, pose a threat to NATO's integrated air defense and has demanded that Ankara abandons the \$2.5 billion system.

In April, Biden infuriated Ankara by declaring that the Ottoman-era mass killing and deportations of Armenians was "genocide." Turkey denies that the deportations and massacres that began in 1915 and killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians amounted to genocide.

In Brussels, Erdogan met with French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

After his meeting with Erdogan, Macron tweeted that he wants to "move forward" with Turkey.

It was their first meeting since a dispute between the two countries reached its peak in October, after Erdogan questioned Macron's mental health. Both men discussed Libya and Syria issues, the Elysee said. Macron has accused Turkey of flouting its commitments by ramping up its military presence in Libya and bringing in jihadi fighters from Syria.

During the discussion with Johnson, the two leaders agreed to "work toward the resumption of travel between the UK and Turkey," according to a Downing Street statement. Turkey has been pushing for a relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions to allow British tourists to come to Turkey this summer.



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NATO summit statement: 'We call on Iran to stop all ballistic missile activities' Macron says Turkey's Erdogan wants foreign mercenaries out of Libya

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## [Macron says Turkey's Erdogan wants foreign mercenaries out of Libya](#)

Author:

Reuters

ID:

1623691886701503400

Mon, 2021-06-14 16:49

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday said he had received assurances from Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan that he wanted foreign mercenaries to leave Libyan territory as soon as possible.

"We agreed to work on this withdrawal (of foreign mercenaries). It doesn't just depend on the two of us. But I can tell you President Erdogan confirmed during our meeting his wish that the foreign mercenaries, the foreign militias, operating on Libyan soil leave as soon as possible," Macron told a news conference at the end of a summit of NATO leaders in Brussels.

Macron was speaking after his first face-to-face with Erdogan in more than a year as tensions between the two NATO allies worsened especially over the conflict in Libya.

Turkey deployed troops to Libya under an accord on military cooperation signed with the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), helping it repel an assault by forces from eastern Libya. It also sent thousands of Syrian fighters to Libya.



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