

Explosion in Lebanon

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Two large scale explosions occurred at the Beirut port of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, at around 6 pm on August 4, 2020, causing heavy casualties and property losses. The accident resulted in 190 deaths, more than 6500 injured, and numerous missing. This made 300000 people homeless. Search and rescues operations are still in progress. It is related to the 2700 tons of ammonium nitrate stored in the port since 2014. The explosion equivalent of the accident is between 300 and 1000 tons of TNT.

In fact, Lebanon's economy has been in a state of crisis all year round. The explosion caused Lebanon to lose at least 15 billion US dollars and 300000 people were left homeless because their houses were destroyed. On August 10, affected by the demonstrations caused by the big explosion, the Lebanese government announced the dissolution of the cabinet. Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced his resignation. With the approval of President Michel Aoun, Lebanon entered a state of a

caretaker government until it formed the new cabinet. On August 31, Mustafa Adib, Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, took over the post of prime minister. I want to show sympathy to the people living in the country. As a form 1 student in Hong Kong, we can never imagine a massive explosion killing many people happening around us. What's more important is, the victims there had no choice. It is never their fault to make this happen. It is how poor the government in disposing and handling chemicals. I am lucky that I was born in Hong Kong, receiving a quality education. This piece of news motivates me to look for the chemicals which are unstable in this situation. I am now interested in Chemistry more. I hope the survivors can rebuild their neighborhood. I hope the new prime minister can handle cases like this with extra care. Simply by resignation has no use but to escape from the reality. A true leader should take the responsibility to look after the citizens, doing his best at risk management.