

LERC Liaison Officer, The Netherlands, Visits the Lebanese Embassy in The Hague

***By Wassim Beaineh, LERC Liaison Officer Netherlands
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Ms. Abir Ali, Chargé D’Affaires, and Mr. Wassim Beaineh, LERC Liaison Officer in the Netherlands.

The Lebanese Emigrants Research Center (LERC) Liaison Officer in the Netherlands Wassim Beaineh visited on February 23, 2017, the Lebanese Embassy in The Hague.

Chargé D’Affaires at the Lebanese Embassy Abir Ali was provided with a general overview, regarding the vision and mission of the LERC at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). She also learned about its work in maintaining the connection with the Lebanese diaspora. Ali was impressed by the efforts of the LERC in studying the contribution of Lebanese emigrants to their ancestral birthplace and to their new adopted countries.

Ali briefed Beaineh about the Lebanese community in the Netherlands, which today totals around 2,500 distributed across the country. The presence of the Lebanese has increased since 2009, the year when the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) was established. The STL, based in Leidschendam, south of the Netherlands, is investigating and prosecuting those responsible for the February 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri as well as the deaths of 21 other political figures. A significant number of Lebanese lawyers, translators, and judges currently work for the STL.

Both the LERC in the Netherlands and the embassy will jointly exert efforts to research Lebanese migration as well as to study the contribution of Lebanese businesses to the Dutch economy, the results of which will be shared through the LERC.