

## 2 Killed, 3 Wounded in Clashes between Lebanese Forces, Marada in Koura

Contributed by Naharnet  
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Two people were killed and three wounded in clashes that broke out at dawn Wednesday between the Lebanese Forces and Marada Movement in the town of Bsarma in the northern Lebanese province of Koura.

Lebanese Forces (LF) supporter Pierre Ishaq and Youssef Franjeh, head of Marada's Bsarma office, were killed in the fight.

LF sources said the clashes erupted when supporters of Suleiman Franjeh's Marada Movement in Bsarma tore down banners the LF had put up for a ceremony commemorating the LF Sept. 21.

They said that when LF members came back to replace the shredded banners they were "surprised by an armed ambush that targeted them followed by heavy gunfire."

Marada sources, in return, accused the LF of assassinating Youssef Franjeh.

They said Lebanese Forces members provoked the fight with Youssef Franjeh when they tried to put up banners near Marada's office in Bsarma.

"This action was a deliberate provocation aimed at dragging our members into a fight so the assassination of official Youssef Franjeh could be carried out," one Marada source said.

He said that Pierre Ishaq was killed and three bodyguards of LF official Farid Habib were wounded in self-defense.

Meanwhile, press reports said security forces raided the house of Syrian Social Nationalist Party member Ghassan Ghazi -- suspected of causing the Bsarma clashes -- and arrested him.

The force -- made up of police and army troops -- confiscated a collection of weapons from his house.

Beirut, 17 Sep 08, 08:30

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&38C35C48FE17D3A6C22574C7001D9C58>

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12:50pm Franjeh: What a coincidence that Youssef Franjeh was killed in the shooting attack, only two months after he announced on O.T.V. that he had opened fire on Samir Geagea during the Ehden Massacre.

12:45pm Marada Movement leader Suleiman Franjeh gave the government a 15-day to 1-month ultimatum to reveal the truth behind the shooting incident in Bsarma-Koura

8:00am Marada sources: This action was a deliberate provocation aimed at "dragging our members into a fight so the assassination of (Marada) official Youssef Franjeh could be carried out."

8:00am Marada sources: Lebanese Forces members provoked the fight with Youssef Franjeh when they tried to put up banners near Marada's office in Bsarma.

7:18am Security forces raided the house of Syrian Social Nationalist Party member Ghassan Ghazi -- suspected of causing the Bsarma clashes -- and arrested him. The security forces also confiscated weapons from his house.

7:15am The victims were identified as Pierre Ishaq and head of Marada in Bsarma known as Abu Joe. The 3 wounded were members of the Lebanese Forces

7:05am Press reports said the clashes took place after midnight when Marada supporters in Bsarma began tearing down banners belonging to the Lebanese Forces. When LF members came back to replace the banners they were taken by surprise by the shooting.

7:00am 2 people were killed and 3 wounded in clashes between the Lebanese Forces and Marada Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party in Koura.