

## ***Student Protestors Killed in Beirut***

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The ancient and recurring clash between the Sunni and Shiite Muslim sects which began 1,400 years ago has recently resulted in the death of several students in Beirut. For the last several months, anti-government (Shiite) protestors have been demanding veto power in the government and calling for early parliamentary elections. These actions were hoped to topple the cabinet of Prime Minister Fouad Seniora who is considered a “puppet” of the United States. Seniora has thus far rejected these demands and this refusal caused the Hezbollah-led opposition to a call for a national strike on Tuesday (01.23.07) following 54 days of “sit-in” protests. The attempted strike has produced several consecutive days of violence affecting all of Lebanon including the campus of Beirut Arab University.

On Thursday (01.25.07), a Sunni-Shiite dispute in the University cafeteria escalated into a riot. The neighborhood surrounding the campus is primarily Sunni and as the melee spread off the campus Shiite activists were called in for support. This produced a gang-type clash and several fires were ignited as the army moved in to contain the situation. The troops fired their guns into the air and released tear gas which resulted in a further escalation of the violence. Eventually, however, the military gained control of the area, but not before 4 students were killed and 35 people were injured.

Following the protest, both government and opposition leaders called for calm as fear of civil war looms. A curfew has been declared, but this has only deepened concerns. The last time Lebanon imposed a curfew was February 1996 to stop labor unions from holding anti-government protests. Hezbollah insists that the protests are necessary to change the oppressive government. However, during the violence, Seniora was meeting with world leaders in Paris and obtained 7.6 billion dollars to allow his U.S.-backed government rebuild after last summer's devastating Israel-Hezbollah war. Thus further violent clashes (and student deaths) in appear imminent in Lebanon.

We, The Frequency Mutineers, will continue to use our radio show and project website ([www.frequencyutineers.org](http://www.frequencyutineers.org)) to keep our listeners informed about student protests such as the ones described here. Additional information about the students killed in Beirut can be obtained from the World Peace Herald website ([www.wpherald.com](http://www.wpherald.com)). And this week's “Conscious Turntablism” is done to honor their memory.