

(Translated from Arabic)

**The Lebanese Republic
Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities**

Reference document

Subject: Request for information on the disappearance of Lebanese national Andre Morcos since 2017.

Registration number Dispatching authority and grounds for referral Date and signature

1271 **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Expatriates – Directorate of
International Organizations,
Conferences and Cultural Relations**

With reference to your communication No. 2157/8 dated 20 November 2019 addressed to the Directorate General of Internal Security Forces concerning the above-mentioned subject, please find attached the reply from the Directorate General No. 72/205SH8/1, dated 17 January 2020, for your information.

**Director of the Joint
Administrative Directorate,
Brigadier General Elias Al
Khoury**



**The Lebanese Republic
Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces
General Staff, International Communication Division**

No. 73/205SH8/1

Date: 17 January 2020

**To the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities
Joint Administrative Directorate**

Document reference: Communication No. 2157/8 from the Director of International Organizations, Conferences and Cultural Relations dated 20 November 2019.

Subject: Request for information on the disappearance of Lebanese national Andre Morcos since 2017.

With reference to the above-mentioned document, a copy of which is attached hereto,

Following a review, the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Court of Cassation indicated that the requesting authority should be provided with the attached information.

Kindly take note.

Based on the follow-up by the competent units, we wish to report as follows:

Andre Youssef Morcos: [REDACTED]

At 10.00 p.m. on 11 August 2017, [REDACTED] claimed at the Ghazir police station that his brother, Andre, had left his home in the district of Dora on 9 August 2017 and had not returned.

It later transpired that Andre was in Bouar, by the sea, at Jazirat Al Ahlam complex at the chalet of [REDACTED]. As he was leaving the chalet, he ran into four unknown persons, who were waiting for him in the garage of the complex. They forced him into a new black Range Rover and drove to an unknown location. His jeep, a black Range Rover, [REDACTED], remained inside the garage, according to the complex guard [REDACTED].

The Information Division conducted an investigation, record No. 1002/302 of 11 August 2017, in which several persons and witnesses were interviewed, as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He confirmed that Andre Morcos had been at the Jazirat Al Ahlam restaurant complex in Bouar on the afternoon of 9 August 2017. He had entered the chalet of his friend, [REDACTED], where he stayed until that night. As they were both leaving, each of them went to his own car, at which point four unknown persons in a black Range Rover jeep parked inside the complex car park forced Andre into the jeep with blacked-out windows and drove off to an unknown destination. Andre Morcos's car, a black Range Rover, with [REDACTED], remained in the car park. The incident occurred at about 10.30 p.m. Andre did not resist these people and there was no verbal altercation or shouting between him and the abductors.

This was the first time [REDACTED] had seen Andre Morcos at Jazirat Al Ahlam complex to visit Elias Mouawad.

The first time he saw the kidnappers and the driver of the jeep was when he approached them and asked them why they had stayed inside the car park for so long. The driver was bearded, dark-skinned and tall and wearing a black shirt and black "UFO" trousers. The witness did not see any military weapons in their possession. The driver replied that he was waiting for

someone to come up from the beach, gave him 5,000 Lebanese pounds to park there and asked him to go back to work.

The witness added that [REDACTED] had reacted normally after witnessing the abduction of his friend Andre and had not behaved abnormally in any way. They both initially thought that Andre Morcos had been arrested by one of the security services.

He confirmed that he did not know the abductors and had no connection with them at all.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

At around 1 p.m. on 9 August 2017, he went to his chalet at the Jazirat Al Ahlam restaurant in Bouar, where he received a call from Andre Morcos, a friend of his for more than 15 years, informing him that he would come to visit him at the chalet to have coffee and talk about the possibility of renting a chalet in the same complex.

Andre arrived at around 3 p.m. They talked about a number of things, including the Saudi princess [REDACTED], for whom Andre had previously worked as a hairdresser.

At around 10 p.m. Andre left to return to his house. [REDACTED] accompanied him to the outside courtyard, where their cars were parked, and they spoke briefly. Andre then headed towards his car and saw two people dressed in black, unknown to him. [REDACTED] could not make out their facial features because of the distance between them. They grabbed Andre by the hands, one on each side, and pushed him into a new black Range Rover parked in the car park near Andre's car and then left for an unknown destination while Andre's car remained in place.

[REDACTED] added that he thought that security agents had arrested Andre, so he had not informed any security authority about the matter, especially since, when he was being pushed into the jeep, Andre had not resisted and had not screamed or called for help. Finally [REDACTED] confirmed that he did not know the kidnappers and that he had no connection to them.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

At about 11 p.m. on 9 August 2017, [REDACTED] contacted his brother Andre via WhatsApp on his mobile phone [REDACTED] to ask him if he had received a rental allowance for the apartment of one of their relatives. Soon thereafter he contacted him again multiple times. However, Andre did not reply, so [REDACTED] went to his apartment in Dora and waited for him for a long time but Andre did not show up. [REDACTED] then returned home, thinking that Andre was spending the evening with one of his friends.

The next day he returned to his brother Andre's apartment, and again he was not there. He became suspicious, so he called his sisters [REDACTED]. The latter informed him that Andre had contacted her while he was visiting a friend in Bouar. He then contacted one of Andre's friends, [REDACTED], to see whether he had any useful information. [REDACTED] told him that Andre had been planning to visit [REDACTED] at his chalet in the Jazirat Al Ahlam complex. [REDACTED] then informed one of his relatives, an officer in the Lebanese army, who made some calls. As a result, he found out that [REDACTED] had been abducted by unknown assailants as he was leaving [REDACTED] chalet.

[REDACTED] went to the Ghazir police station and reported the unknown individuals, and anyone identified in the investigation, for the crime of abducting his brother, Andre Morcos.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

He has been friends with Andre Morcos for about 15 years. He had not seen him for more than two weeks before his abduction. However, he was in daily contact with him on his phone [REDACTED]. The last time he was in contact with him was on 9 August 2017 at around 2 p.m., when Andre asked him to accompany him to meet their friend [REDACTED] at a shopping centre. However, the meeting did not take place and was postponed to a later date. After that, Andre informed him that he was going to visit [REDACTED], a mutual friend of theirs, in Bouar.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

She has been acquainted with Andre Morcos for almost a year and communicates with him [REDACTED] through WhatsApp most of the time. She met him while she was with the fashion designer [REDACTED]. At the time, she was accompanied by her husband, [REDACTED].

She added that the last time she saw Andre was at [REDACTED] house, where he was accompanied by a person named [REDACTED].

Recently, she had been in contact with Andre on a daily basis to find a solution to some of her physical and social problems. They had agreed to meet on 9 August 2017 at the City Centre complex with a mutual friend, [REDACTED]. This meeting did not take place, however, as Andre informed her in a WhatsApp message that he would not be able to attend because [REDACTED] was not available. She later learned from [REDACTED] that Andre was missing.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has been one of his tenants for nearly seven years. He lives alone and regularly receives visits from a number of people whom [REDACTED] does not know.

He did not know Andre Morcos and this was the first time he had heard his name. He stated that he arrived at the complex on the night of 9 August 2017 and saw a black Range Rover with blacked-out windows and the engine running. He parked in front of the Range Rover. The driver of the Range Rover got out of his car and asked him if he would be long because he was blocking his way and he was waiting for someone at the beach and was about to leave. [REDACTED] replied that he would not be long. This exchange took place in the presence of the [REDACTED] guard of the complex, [REDACTED]. Indeed, after that he got in his own car, a Honda CRV, and left for the house of one of his relatives in [REDACTED].

He added that the driver of the Range Rover was in his forties, had tanned skin and a slight reddish-coloured moustache and beard. He did not notice whether there were other people inside the Range Rover as the windows were blacked out, and he could not identify the driver's accent.

Upon his return to the complex, at 11 p.m., he learned from the [REDACTED] guard, [REDACTED], that members of the security forces had arrested a person at the complex, who had been visiting [REDACTED], and that his black Range Rover was still parked in the complex car park, [REDACTED].

He confirmed that [REDACTED] was a quiet person who kept out of trouble and that he trusted the guard.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Andre Morcos's neighbour in Dora. She has a good relationship with him; he is a good person, has no quarrels with anyone and is a peaceful man.

She added that on 9 August 2017 at around 1 p.m., Andre sent her a voice message via WhatsApp on her mobile phone, inviting her to have coffee with him. She went to his apartment and, while she was with him, Andre made a phone call to a person named [REDACTED], who asked him to accompany him to a shopping centre to meet a woman she did not know.

She confirmed that she did not know about his friends, with the exception of [REDACTED], whom Andre visited regularly in Ashrafiyah, where he lives. She also confirmed that Andre did not talk to her about his personal affairs and did not tell anyone his secrets. He is like a brother to her and her family.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

He has known Andre Morcos for about 20 years, as he lives in the same neighbourhood as him. He considers Andre to be a peaceful person who has no disputes with anyone, to his knowledge.

He added that on 3 August 2017 Andre contacted him via WhatsApp while he was at home and asked him to check whether there was a black BMW parked in the neighbourhood. He was unable to see who was inside the car, as the windows were blacked out, or to note the licence plate number. He took photos of the car on his phone and sent them to Andre at his request. Andre did not tell him anything about the car.

He confirmed that the last time he saw Andre was on Monday, 7 August 2017, when Andre came to his apartment to ask him about a problem with the air conditioning. They had coffee together and then Andre returned to his apartment.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

He stated that he and Andre have been friends for about 25 years and they visit each other. To his knowledge, Andre does not have any problems with anyone. He added that Andre had recently had a friendship with a girl [REDACTED], a mutual friend of theirs. She came with Andre to spend the evening at his house. On one occasion, on 3 August 2017, Andre and [REDACTED] came to his house and he noticed that Andre was talking on the phone with someone he did not know and asking him about a car with blacked-out windows and two people inside, and whether it was parked under his house. He learned that Andre had been abducted from [REDACTED] on 11 August 2017.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

She has known Andre Morcos for about three years, having met him through [REDACTED]. She meets him daily to visit [REDACTED] at his home or to go to a café in the Dora neighbourhood and to visit the fashion designer [REDACTED] at his home in Rabia.

She communicates with Andre via WhatsApp on a daily basis as well as by phone. He used to tell her some of his secrets, including his strong relationship with the ruler of the State of Qatar, [REDACTED], for more than 20 years, and that he met the Saudi princess [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She confirmed what [REDACTED] said about Andre's conversation about a BMW car with blacked-out windows parked on the street where he lives.

She later learned from Andre Morcos's family that he had been abducted, but had no idea who the kidnappers were.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

She said that she had known Andre Morcos for about a year. She met him because she paid the rent for an apartment in Remeil owned by his father, [REDACTED], and occupied by [REDACTED], a friend of hers. She paid the rent on his behalf and in that way got to know Andre when he was at his parents' house. Her relationship with him strengthened, and Andre helped her when a dispute arose between her and [REDACTED], who threatened and blackmailed her.

She added that she had contacted Andre several times on WhatsApp to ask for his help, but that he sometimes blocked her number if she bothered him too frequently so she resorted to sending text messages in order to communicate with him.

The last time she contacted Andre was on 9 August 2017, but he did not answer.

She confirmed that Andre did not talk to her about his personal affairs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He knew Andre Morcos through his work as a taxi driver. He got to know him about seven months earlier in the area of Bourj Hammoud, where he lived. At the time, Andre asked him for his telephone number so that he could call him for a lift again later, when needed. Indeed, he asked him several times to take him to various places, all in the city of Beirut. Most of the time he was going to visit his friend [REDACTED], in Ashrafiyah.

Andre did not tell him about his personal affairs or his problems, and communicated with him via WhatsApp or text messages. He contacted Andre on the night of 9 August 2017 via WhatsApp to check how he was and he told him that he was at a friend's in Bouar.

He confirmed that he had learned of Andre's abduction from his brother, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He is acquainted with Andre Morcos as they live in the same neighbourhood.

On 31 July 2017, Andre asked him to assemble a closet on his balcony.

On 4 August 2017, he called Andre and informed him that the closet was ready for installation. Andre told him that he was not at home. The next day, Andre called him to let him know that he could come to install the closet because he was at home. Since then, he has not seen Andre and knows nothing about his personal life.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He is an electricity maintenance professional; [REDACTED].

He has known Andre Morcos for about a year, having met him through his work for [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and his work in the Dora area. On one occasion, Andre asked him to remove the power cable of the generator belonging to [REDACTED], as it was laying across the roof of his building. At the time, Andre asked him for his phone number so that he could call him when needed. Indeed, Andre called him several times to fix some faults.

He confirmed that the last time he saw Andre was a few months ago.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

She said she had known Andre Morcos for about four years. He was kind to her and helped her because she had diabetes.

She added that on 8 August 2017, Andre tried to contact her in the morning, but she did not answer because she was asleep and did not call him back later. Two days later she learned from one of his relatives that he had been abducted.

She added that Andre did not tell her about his personal affairs at all.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

She said that she had known Andre Morcos for about two years and that her relationship with him was normal. Andre was interested in doing her makeup, as he is a women's stylist. She added that it had been a long time – about a year and a half – since they had met, until he called her after midnight on 8 August 2017, asking her about [REDACTED], as he had tried to contact her but she had not answered.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fashion designer; [REDACTED].

He said that he met Andre Morcos in Saudi Arabia about 20 years ago with Princess [REDACTED] [REDACTED] when he dressed her and her daughters in his designs while Andre did their hair. They developed a friendship that gradually strengthened. They began to meet in Lebanon and exchange visits.

He made many friends through Andre Morcos.

He confirmed that he had no personal disagreements with Andre, and that they did not work together.

He learned that Andre had been abducted from his friend [REDACTED], who told him by phone the day after the abduction.

He confirmed that he had nothing to do with the matter and had no connection with the kidnappers.

In the review by the appeals prosecutor in Mount Lebanon, judge Ghada Aoun said that she was satisfied with the investigations that had been carried out. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were all released after

submitting proof of residence. The record was stamped in its present state and deposited with the prosecutor's office.

On 11 December 2018, we received communication No. 21382 from the Public Appeals Advocate in Mount Lebanon, judge Samer Lisha, dated 5 December 2018, enclosing letter No. 654/2017 of the investigating judge in Mount Lebanon, Ziad Makna, dated 3 December 2018, stating that the chamber decided on 3 December 2018 to draft a permanent investigation memorandum to the Information Division to clarify whether any new information was available to inform the investigation into the kidnapping of Lebanese citizen Andre Morcos, into which a preliminary investigation had been conducted, in accordance with report No. 1002/302 of the Investigation Branch dated 11 August 2017, and to conduct the necessary investigations to establish the identities of those suspected of being involved in the crime.
