

Lebanese historian, scholar Nicolas Ziadeh dies

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Nicolas Ziadeh, a prominent historian, author and teacher has died, obituaries published in several Beirut newspapers said.

The papers said Ziadeh, 99, died on Thursday and was buried Friday. The cause of his death was not mentioned. His death was not believed to be related to the three-week-long violence that has afflicted Lebanon since Hezbollah militias and the Israeli army renewed fighting on July 12.

A historian, Ziadeh, was born in Damascus, Syria, to Palestinian parents in 1907. He was the editor of a historical revue, and published more than 40 books in Arabic dealing with Arabic-Islamic civilization and culture.

Ziadeh taught history at the American University of Beirut from 1949 to 1973, and was a visiting professor on several campuses in the United States, Nigeria, Lebanon and India, where he lectured on history of Syria and North Africa.

He also translated a number of historical works from English and German to Arabic, including British historian Arnold Toynbee's Mother Earth.

Between 1947 and 2000, Ziadeh delivered nearly 2,000 short broadcasts on a variety of historical subjects for the British Broadcasting Corporation and other networks.

Ziadeh is survived by two sons, Raed and Bassem who live in London.

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