



**Date: 30/04/2019**

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil tweeted the following:

Supporting the Army and Security Agencies was and will always be a priority. Talks about targeting them are just a figment of imagination of some who want to play heroes. A thorough review of the Budget and its figures confirm that the Budget does not target military staff or their rights; on the contrary, it has added necessary benefits.

The adoption of exceptional measures does not need the Budget Law; these decisions are taken by the Army Command. This is clearly mentioned in the Draft Budget and this is what I told to the delegation of the Army Command, which is responsible of conveying it.

Veterans are one of the pillars of this country and its resilience. They must know that their acquired rights are not targeted. The matters discussed are organizational measures pertaining to the pension file as a whole, in order to properly guarantee its sustainability. They are not sacred suggestions but the outcomes of consultations with the different blocks.”