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Charbel warns of Sunni-Shia strife

Interior Minister Marwan Charbel on Thursday warned against a Sunni-Shia strife in Lebanon.

“If the unrest in the northern city of Tripoli continues, it will be the starting point for the biggest strife in the history of Lebanon,” the National News Agency also quoted Charbel as saying.

Asked about the issue of Islamist detainees arrested without charge, Charbel said that the trials of the Islamist detainees would expedite as soon as the construction of court hall in the central prison of Roumieh is completed.

He also said that the construction is expected to finish in September.

Deadly clashes broke out on Saturday in Tripoli between Islamists and the army as young demonstrators, sympathizers of the revolt in Syria, tried to approach the offices of the pro-President Bashar al-Assad Syrian Social Nationalist Party.

The clashes followed the arrest of Lebanese citizen Shadi al-Mawlawi by the General Security at a social services center that belongs to Finance Minister Mohammad Safadi. After his arrest, 100 young men blocked the northern and southern roads into Tripoli.

The ensuing sectarian clashes left nine people dead and some 50 wounded.

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