



AUB'S OSB *Online Celebrates* **128 NEW GRADUATES** OF THE COMBATING TRADE- BASED FINANCIAL CRIME (CTBFC) – PROGRAM



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The Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), in collaboration with key regional stakeholders, hosted its Online Graduation Ceremony on the afternoon of Friday, August 28, 2026, at the AUB campus in Beirut.

The event celebrated a major milestone for regional compliance and financial integrity, honoring a total of 128 new graduates from the Combating Trade-Based Financial Crime (CTBFC) program including 36 graduates from the Arabic track.

Developed by MENA FCCG in collaboration with AUB and the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC) – MENA Chapter, the CTBFC Program is an empowering voyage in understanding and combating financial crimes associated with international trade. The CTBFC Certificate is comprised of two levels. Level I (Understanding International Trade) delivers a comprehensive yet easily comprehended knowledge of trade instruments flows, parties, and an introduction to key associated risks while Level II (Combating TBFC) offers a highly interactive case study immersion to offer participants a method for both learning and applying their knowledge in a true-to-life scenario involving all aspects of TBFC.

More than 40 graduates attended in person, alongside an esteemed gathering of institutional partners, corporate leaders, and regulatory experts.

A key highlight of this year's cohort was the graduation of 20 officers from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF). Their participation marks the successful continuation of a strategic collaboration that began with a specialized masterclass last year, reinforcing the importance of public-private partnerships in countering trade-based financial crime across the region.



DEAN YUSUF SIDANI, DEAN OF THE SULIMAN S. OLAYAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The ceremony brought together distinguished guests and regional leaders, including:

- **General Ziad Kaed Bay**
(Internal Security Forces)
- **Dr. Ali Zbeeb**
(Beirut Bar Association)
- **Dr. Wissam H. Fattouh**
Secretary General
(Union of Arab Banks)
- **Mr. Malek Costa**
Head of Compliance
(Blom Bank)
- **Abeer Tadros & Hashem Taha**
(MENA FCCG - CTBFC SMEs)

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CTBFC GRADUATES CELEBRATE AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

Representatives from major corporate stakeholders, including Dar Al-Handasah and Arabia Insurance, were also in attendance, underscoring the growing regional commitment to building robust anti-financial crime capability.

"This graduation is a celebration of the hard work and resilience shown by our candidates across both the English and Arabic cohorts," noted Lama Sahli, AUB CTBFC Program Manager. "We are proud to see our online platform continuing to unite public and private sector leaders in a shared commitment to financial integrity."

The graduation concluded with a networking cocktail reception and live music, allowing graduates, faculty, and industry leaders to celebrate their shared commitment to elevating compliance standards across the financial ecosystem.

"Following last year's historic first in-person ceremony for online graduates, seeing this program grow to 128 graduates this year demonstrates the remarkable momentum we have built together with AUB," stated Mr. Michael Matossian, Founder, MENA FCCG & Chief Compliance Officer, Arab Bank. "My deepest compliments to the AUB leadership, Dean Yusuf Sidani, and Dr. Fouad Zablith for their vision and dedication. Together, we are not just delivering education; we are advancing trade-based financial crime literacy and setting a new benchmark for compliance excellence across the MENA region and beyond." Mr. Matossian added.

Upon successfully obtaining the AUB Certificate in CTBFC, participants are eligible to take the MENA FCCG – GCFFC endorsed Certification exam to earn the

designation Certified TBFC Specialists. The Certification is set for launch during Q1 2027. (Click <http://menafccg.com/ctbfc-certificate/> for further information on the Certificate/Certification).

As a Certified TBFC Specialist, participants are able to demonstrate mastery in the Trade Based Financial Crime (TBFC) field, apply advanced training and up-to-date tools and technical strategies, connect with TBFC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from MENA FCCG, and acquire new and updated industry intelligence while demonstrating their commitment to superior professionalism, upholding industry standards, and continued learning.

MENA FCCG extends its warmest congratulations to the leadership at AUB OSB, the faculty, and all 128 graduates of the Class of 2026.

ABOUT MENA FCCG:

MENA FCCG is an industry-driven, voluntary initiative, currently consisting of 12 leading financial institutions from eight MENA countries. It seeks to bring collective action in the fight against money laundering and terrorist finance in the region. Both the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) and London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) are Strategic Partners. The Group has a strategic alliance with GCFFC, Wolfsberg Group, Crime Stoppers International, GASA, RUSI, K2 Integrity, ACAMS, and United Nations. The Group was officially launched in September 2016 with the inaugural meeting in Bahrain. Visit www.menafccg.com.

In November 2021, the Group officially launched a Europe Chapter at an inaugural meeting in London. The Chapter aims to extend MENA FCCG's objectives to Europe by bringing together compliance professionals of Arab banks operating in Europe to enhance financial crime literacy and support implementation of best practices. The Arab Bankers Association serves as a strategic partner with Themis Services as a Strategic Alliance.

MEMBER BANKS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



EU CHAPTER STRATEGIC PARTNERS



ALLIANCES

