

# The Monthly

- The Ministry of Public Health
- The Lebanese banking sector
- Alice Mogabgab Gallery - Interview

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# REPUBLIC OF INFORMANTS



## 4 LEADER: REPUBLIC OF INFORMANTS

- 7 The UN Development Program (UNDP) in Lebanon
- 10 The Ministry of Public Health
- 15 Who benefited from the foreign donations to Lebanon in 2009?
- 21 Immunity of the Prime Minister and Ministers
- 23 The Lebanese banking sector
- 26 Gold in the world
- 28 Syndicate of Gold
- 30 Ahlia School
- 32 Overweight & Obesity by Dr. Hanna Saadah
- 33 7 seconds between birth and death by Dr. Samar Zebian
- 34 "The Prince of Medicine of His Time" Acknowledges the Brain as the Seat of Intelligence" by Antoine Boutros
- 35 Alice Mogabgab Gallery - Interview
- 37 Myth #40: Green Lebanon
- 38 Must-read books: Solidere; Legislation and Regulatory Texts
- 39 Must-read children's book: "No, I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato"
- 40 Lebanon Families: Audi families
- 41 Discover Lebanon: Qaaqaeiat Al-Jisr



Page 28



Page 42



Page 37

- 42 Hizbollah in the eyes of Christian Leaders
- 43 October 2010 Timeline in Lebanon
- 46 Sexual harassment in Egypt
- 47 Real estate index in Lebanon- October 2010
- 48 Food Price Index - October 2010
- 50 Facts about Bees and Honey Making
- 50 Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport - October 2010
- 51 Lebanon stats

# SQUEALERS AND BOUNCERS



“The secret expenditures” of Lebanon’s intelligence services are an eye opener for the following reasons:

“Secret expenditures” is a code for payoffs to informants or “human assets”.

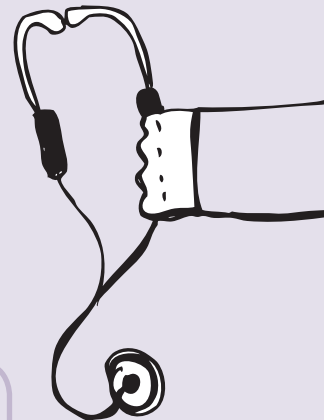
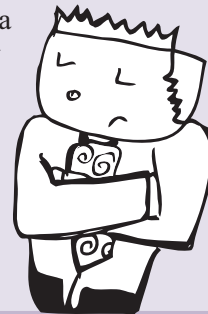
The expenditures exceeded USD 13 million in 2009 with a surge since 2008 of 100% and 39% for the Internal Security Forces and Military Intelligence respectively.

An assumption of a monthly per capita payment equivalent to the minimum wage (333\$ per month) will yield an estimated number of 50,000 informants or twice this number should the payoff be half the minimum wage.

Now, let us for the sake of this exercise, add the number of armed forces estimated to reach 90,000 and then the number of security guards deployed by the security companies in Lebanon which is approximately 8,000 and finally those armed men in various political parties (Hizbollah, Future, LF, SSNP and PSP and others) estimated at a minimum of 20,000. This will bring us to 168,000 armed men and informants without counting the retired armed forces personnel and those who wish to be deployed and are awaiting their turn.

This number represents 76% of all those employed by the public sector and 19% of the manpower in Lebanon’s private sector.

Yes “we” need armed forces; Yes “they” need informants; Yes we are followers of Zua’ama and perhaps “patriotic”. But let us simply ask what kind of a society are we? It seems that since 1943, Lebanon has gone through a metamorphosis to a militarized or militant society or simply a society of squealers and bouncers.



## Law Abiding Citizens

It has been propagated that the Lebanese are chaotic by nature and that they break the laws at will. This is propagated by many who wish to duck their responsibilities to enforce the law. The recent introduction of radars to curtail high speed drivers is so far a success. The drivers are abiding by the speed limit and the enforcement so far has been good. The drive from Tripoli to Beirut is a pleasure. The question now is: How long before we discover that the radar is Shia’a, the policeman is Sunni and the road is Maronite?

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