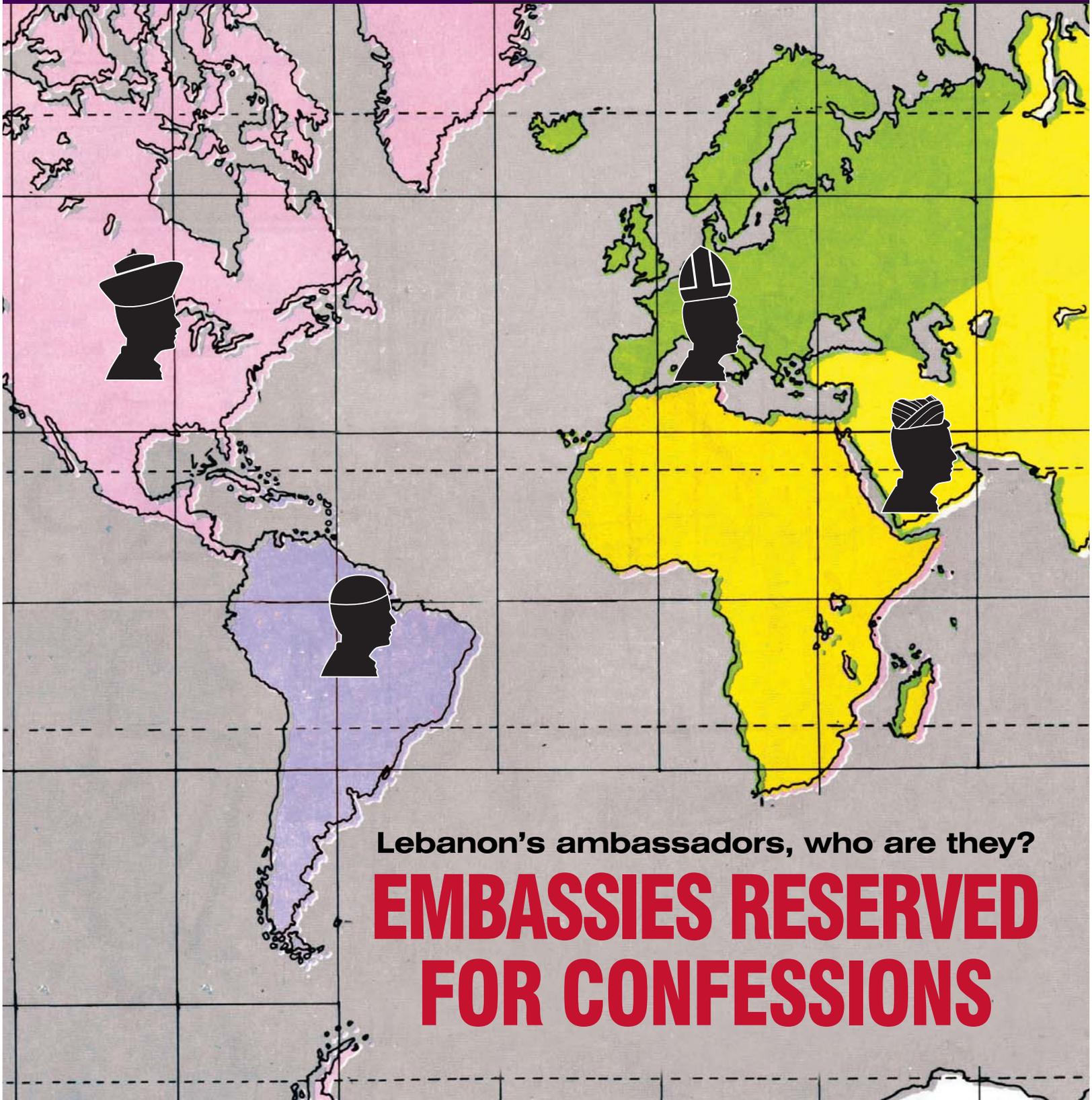


The Monthly

www.iimonthly.com • Published by Information International sal

- Civil Service Board Report for 2008
- Municipal and Ikhtiyariah elections in Northern Lebanon
- The Monthly interviews Chargé D'affaires of Kazakhstan to Lebanon Yerzhan Kalekenov



Lebanon's ambassadors, who are they?
**EMBASSIES RESERVED
 FOR CONFESSIONS**

INDEX

4 LEADER: Embassies reserved for confessions

- 10 Civil Service Board Report for 2008: An absence of 'national belonging
- 12 Grade One salaries
- 14 Cost of Tele Liban
- 16 Municipal and Ikhtiyariah elections in Northern Lebanon
- 24 Association of Lebanese Industrialists
- 25 Farmers Syndicate
- 27 Irfan (i'rfan) Monotheistic Organization
- 29 Near East School of Theology
- 31 Antibiotic Overuse & Abuse by Dr. Hanna Saadah
- 32 The Church modernized the calendar by Antoine Boutros
- 33 Phoenicia in the Roman era by Dr. Hassan Salameh Sarkis
- 34 The Monthly interviews Chargé D'affaires of Kazakhstan to Lebanon Yerzhan Kalekenov
- 36 Popular culture
- 37 Myth #31: The First Law School in the World
- 38 Must-read books: About This Man Called Ali
- 39 Must-read children's book: "Gilgamesh, the Hero of Mesopotamia"
- 40 Lebanon Families; Franjeh
- 41 Discover Lebanon: Sindianet Zeidan
- 42 Franjeh to Patriarch Sfeir
- 43 January 2010 Timeline in Lebanon
- 45 Decision of barring 500 Iraqi candidates to escalate political crisis of Iraq
- 46 The Next Haiti Could Be the Middle East



47 Real estate index in Lebanon-
January 2010

48 Food Price Index - January 2010

50 Hunger in the world

50 Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport -
January 2010

50 Lebanon stats

AN EYEWITNESS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Son: Daddy, what is your job?
Father: Sniper
Son: Where?
Father: At the Matthaf
Son: How are you paid?
Father: The za'im of the militia pays per head
Son: And how does he know you tell him the right number?
Father: I do not lie!

Anonymous

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BANKING CONTROL COMMISSION (BCC) OF LEBANON IN 2010

It is proposed that an official merger of the BCC with the Association of Banks be finally declared.

BRIBERY IN A LAND REGISTRY DEPARTMENT IN NORTHERN LEBANON

"I normally take USD 300, but for you, I'll only take LBP 300,000."

THE IRAQ INQUIRY

Twenty seats for the families of dead British soldiers in Iraq, attending the inquiry with Tony Blair.

Is there a seat for Iraq's over a one million killed and injured, and its over 4 million refugees?

LEBANON'S PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES-BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Most private universities in Lebanon, more specifically the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese American University and the Saint Joseph University, do not have Arabic language as an obligatory course in their curriculums. The Ministry of Education and Higher Learning does not require these institutes to have minimum credit numbers for Arabic. Students, however, can take as an elective one Arabic language course, Arabic Appreciation or creative writing in Arabic.

This is what we call nation building!

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES-FLIGHT 409-DEPARTING FROM BEIRUT

Politicians everywhere, holding press conferences and flying in helicopters. Director generals, rescue workers, Civil Defense teams and hospital administrations are eclipsed by ministers who have taken center stage in the media which is the way it is in politics and disasters! Is it too much to ask for one spokesman? And By the way, where is Hamdi Shawq (D.G. Civil Aviation) and Walid Ammar (D.G. Ministry of Health)?

Lebanon's ambassadors, who are they?

EMBASSIES RESERVED FOR CONFESSIONS

The appointment of ambassadors takes confessions into consideration -as is the case with all government positions that are classified grade one, especially in the judiciary and military. For example, high-profile ambassadorships are reserved for certain confessions and are only be transferred in exceptional cases. More importantly, 'confessional custom' dictates that the foreign minister is a Shia'a, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's secretary general is a Sunni and the director general of immigrants is a Shia'a.

Tasks of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

By law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants is responsible for Lebanon's foreign policy affairs in terms of preparation, coordination, execution and following up on the affairs of emigrants.

Establishment of the Ministry of Emigrants

The Ministry of Emigrants was established by Law # 213 dated April 2, 1993 and the name of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants was changed into Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The law specified the tasks of the Ministry of Emigrants as "activating the role of Lebanese expatriates community, sponsoring the affairs of emigrants and working to strengthen ties between the expatriates and Lebanon, developing cooperation between them and affiliated bodies in addition to participating in international activities related to emigration affairs."

The law set the ministry's personnel at 114 employees including 24 attaches abroad who eventually were added to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following a political and legal crisis.

Law # 247 dated August 7, 2000 abolished the Ministry of Emigrants and annexed the Directorate General of Emigrants to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which regained its previous name Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants.

Structure and personnel

The ministry's personnel is formed of the diplomatic corps (diplomatic and consular) and the administrative corps. The central administration consists of the following units:

- ◉ Directorate of Political and Consular Affairs
- ◉ Directorate of Economic Affairs
- ◉ Directorate of Emigrants
- ◉ Directorate of Protocol
- ◉ Directorate of International Organizations, Conference and Cultural Relations
- ◉ Directorate of Administrative and Financial Affairs
- ◉ Legal Consultations, Research and Documentation Center
- ◉ Inspection
- ◉ Archives
- ◉ Codes
- ◉ Chamber
- ◉ Press Office

The number of posts in the diplomatic corps are 272 distributed as follows:

- ◉ **Grade One:** Secretary general, ambassador, director or delegated minister (69 posts)
- ◉ **Grade Two:** Advisor or general consul (69 posts)
- ◉ **Grade Three:** Secretary, attache or deputy consul (134 posts)

(There is a decree that specifies the number of posts at 116 but it neglected to include a number of positions under this ranking after the establishment of new embassies or consulates)

As for the administrative corps the number of posts are 197:

- ◉ **Grade Two:** 5 posts
- ◉ **Grade Three:** 29 posts
- ◉ **Grade Four:** 108 posts
- ◉ **Grade Five:** 55 posts

Number of ambassadors

Lebanon has 59 ambassadors abroad (11 of whom are of Grade Two). Table 1 shows their distribution according to confession, country and date of appointment. There are also 14 vacancies.

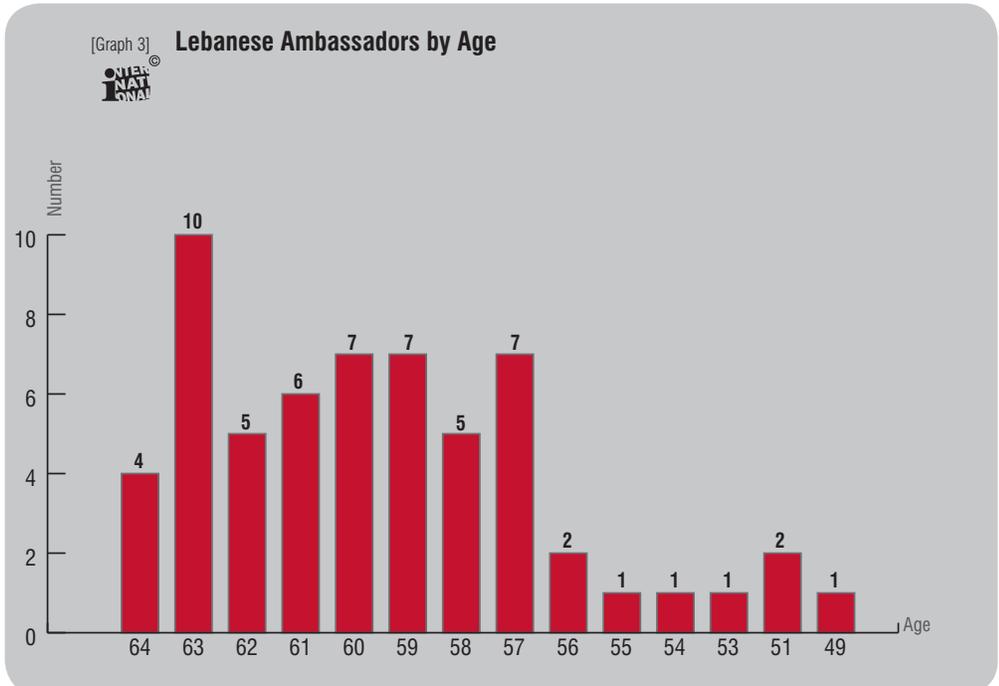
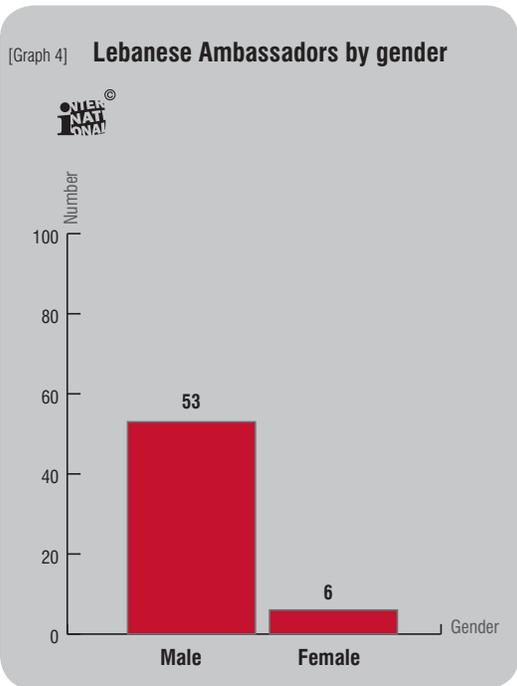
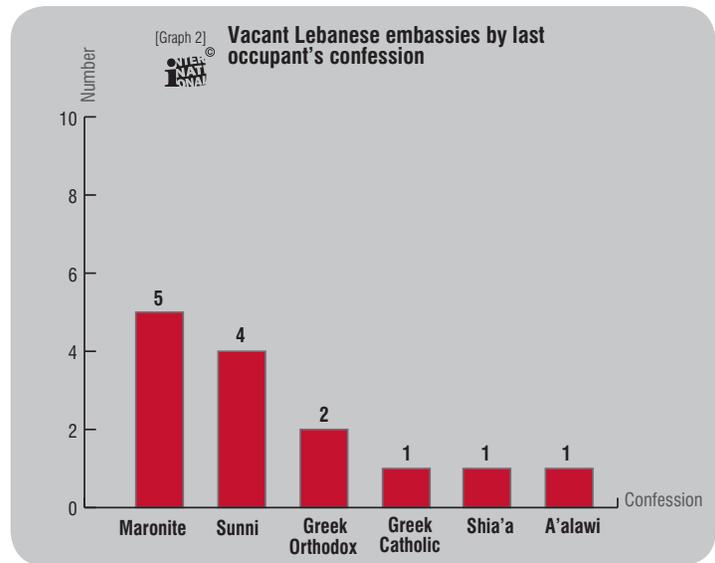
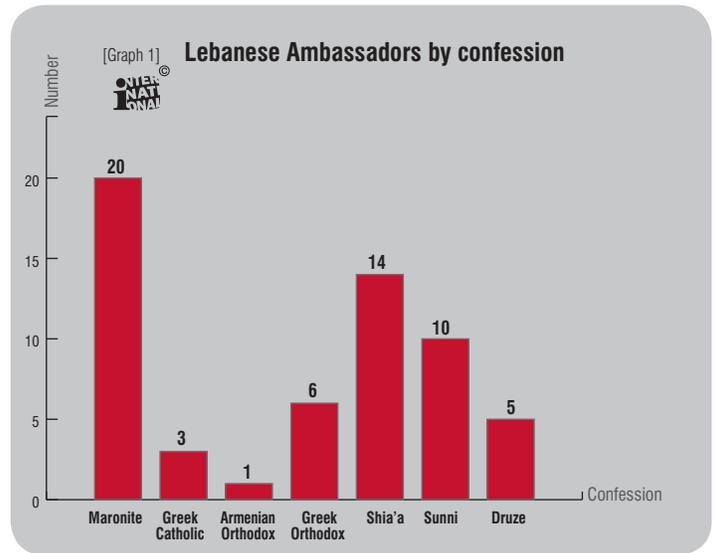
There are 30 Christian ambassadors: 20 Maronites, six Greek Orthodox, three Catholics and one Armenian Orthodox. There are also 29 Muslim ambassadors: 14 Shia'a, 10 Sunni, and five Druze. (Graph 1)

The 14 vacancies are distributed on the following confessions according to the last the confession of the last ambassador to occupy the post (it is not necessary for the post to be reassigned based on the previous confessional distribution): Five Maronites, two Catholics, one Greek Orthodox, four Sunni, one Shia'a and one A'alawi. (Graph 2)

Therefore, the confessional distribution of the 63 embassies is: 25 for the Maronite confession, five Catholic, seven Greek Orthodox and one Armenian Orthodox adding up to 38 posts for Christians. The Muslims have 35 posts: 15 for the Shia'a, 14 for the Sunni, five for the Druze and one for the A'alawi.

According to age requirements, 14 ambassadors will retire this year and next year and 18 ambassadors will retire in the next four years. (Graph 3)

According to gender, females have only six postings while males have 53 posts. (Graph 4)



Lebanon's ambassadors according to confession and country

Table 1

#	Name of Ambassador	Current Post	Date of Birth	Retirement Date	Date Appointed	Previous Post
Maronite						
1	Boutros Jirjis Asaker	France and Non Resident in Andorra	1949	2013	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
2	Silvie Edward Dagher Fadlallah	UNESCO	1948	2012	21-Jun-07	France
3	Cahrbel Youssef Aoun	Jordan	1950	2014	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
4	Victor Youssef El Zamtar	Indonesia	1948	2012	21-Jun-07	Kongo
5	Charbe Boutros Wehbe	Venezuela	1953	2014	21-Jun-07	Consul General in Los Angeles
6	Melhem Mesto	Rome and non Resident in Malta	1947	2011	25-Oct-03	Bulgaria
7	Kozhaia Toufic El Khoury	Austria and Non Resident in Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, UN and International Agencies in Vienna	1951	2015	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
8	Aziz El Khoury Jirjis El Kazi	Bahrain	1947	2011	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
9	Najla Victor Riachi (Latin married to Amb. Asaker)	UN in Geneva	1961	2025	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
10	Chukri Fathallah Abboud	Spain	1947	2011	21-Jun-07	Tunisia
11	Michline Jean Baz (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Gabon and Non Resident in Cameroon	1952	2016	21-Jun-07	Belgium
12	Charbel Mansour Isthepan	Hungary	1950	2014	21-Jun-07	Sudan
13	Saad Youssef Zakhia (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Congo	1957	2021	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
14	George Chakib El Khoury	Vatican City and Non Resident in Portugal and the Order of Malta	1952	----	9-Oct-03	Non Career Diplomat- Former Director of Military Intelligence
15	Shehade Kozhaia El Moallem	Serbia	1946	2010	20-Nov-04	Central Administration
16	Michel Youssef El Khoury	Syria	1949	2013	10-Mar-09	Cyprus
17	Gibraeil boutros Jaara (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Armenia and Non Resident in Georgia and Turkmenistan	1947	2011	6-Sep-03	Central Administration
18	Youssef Youssef Sadaka (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Ukraine	1955	2019	20-Nov-04	Central Administration
19	Mansour Ghnatiou Abdallah (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Liberia	1953	2017	6-Dec-03	Embassy in Liberia
20	Fares Eid Eid (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Paraguay	1950	2014	22-Apr-04	Central Administration
Catholics						
1	Michel Touma Katra	South Africa	1949	2013	21-Jun-07	Lebanese Embassy Advisor in South Africa
2	Jean Wadih Maacaron (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Cuba	1956	2020	21-Jun-07	Consul General in Malbourne
3	Michline Abi Samra	Bulghariva	1951	2015	30-Oct-03	Central Administration
Armenian Orthodox						
1	Wazkan Kora Bet Kolkian	Kazakhstan	1959	----	21-Jun-07	Non Career Diplomat
Orthodox						
1	Suleiman Chafic El Rassi	China and Non Resident in Northern Korea	1946	2010	13-Aug-03	Cuba
2	Jean Jirji Daniel	Australia and Non Resident in New Zealand	1949	2013	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
3	Gebzan Michel Soufan	Greece and Non Resident in Albania	1950	2014	21-Jun-07	United Nations-Geneva
4	Farid Chukrallah Abboud	Tunis	1951	2015	21-Jun-07	United States of America
5	Antoine George Chdid	United States of America	1951	2015	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
6	Michel El Haddad	Senegal and Non Resident in Gambia	1951	2015	26-Sep-00	Central Administration
Shia'a						
1	Hasan Hussein Meselmani	Colombia	1947	2011	21-Jun-07	Indonesia
2	Enaam Toufic Osseiran	Britain and Non Resident in Ireland	1954	2018	21-Jun-07	Switzerland
3	Hussein Ahmad Rammal	Switzerland and Non Resident in Liechtenstein	1948	2012	21-Jun-07	South Korea
4	Issam Abdel Hasan Mustapha (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	South Korea	1947	2011	21-Jun-07	Ivory Coats
5	Ali Abbas Ajami (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Ivory Coast	1952	2016	21-Jun-07	Consul General in Detroit

Lebanon's ambassadors according to confession and country

Table 1

#	Name of Ambassador	Current Post	Date of Birth	Retire- ment Date	Date Ap- pointed	Previous Post
6	Mohamed Ahmad Al Harakeh	Japan and Non Resident in Philip- pines	1950	2014	21-Jun-07	Consul General in New York
7	Adnan Hasan Mansour	Belgium, Luxembourg and European Commission	1946	2010	21-Jun-07	Iran
8	Iman Kamel Younis (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Nigeria	1959	2023	21-Jun-07	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9	Afif Hussein Ayoub	Oman	1953	2017	13-Aug-03	Qatar
10	Hasan Youssef Saad	Qatar	1954	2018	13-Aug-03	Central Administration
11	Zein Al Sayyed Ali El Mousawi	Iran	1950	2014	21-Jun-07	Embassy in Germany
12	Mohamed Nasrat Saadallah Hekmat Al Assad	Sweden and Non Resident in Finland	1949	2013	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
13	Mohamed Chibli Al Theeb	Romania and Non Resident in Moldova	1951	2015	14-Oct-03	Central Administration
14	Ghassan Abdel Sater	Sierra Leone	1951	2015	1999	

Sunni

1	Zaydan Ahmed Al Saghir	The Netherlands	1947	2011	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
2	Wafic Mohamed Rhaeime	Pakistan	1953	2017	6-Sep-03	Embassy in Iraq
3	Bassam Abdel Kader Naamani	Kuwait	1953	2017	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
4	Mohamed Chakib Hajjar (Designate)	United Arab Emirates-Abu Dhabi	1948	2012	Jun-09	Central Administration
5	Ahmed Ramiz Nadim Dimachkiyeh	Germany	1949	----	21-Jun-07	Non Career Diplomat
6	Ahmed Ibrahim El Chammat (Advisor, Civil Service Ranking, 2nd Category)	Sudan	1952	2013	21-Jun-07	Central Administration
7	Nawwaf Abdallah Slam	United Nations in New York	1953	----	21-Jun-07	Non Career Diplomat
8	Marwan Abdel Hamid Zein	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	1947	----	21-Jun-07	Non Career Diplomat
9	Khaled Mohamed Ahmed Ziadeh	Egypt and the Arab League and Non resident in Kenya	1952	----	21-Jun-07	Non Career Diplomat
10	Nazih Youssef Achour	Libya	1950	2014	2005	Central Administration

Druze

1	Nuhad Hamoud Mahmoud	Mexico	1947	2011	13-Aug-03	Central Administration
2	Hassan Fouad Abi Akar	Yemen and Non Resident in Ethiopia and Eritrea	1948	2012	21-Jun-07	Embassy in Rome
3	Khaled Suleiman Salman	India and Non Resident in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand	1947	2011	21-Jun-07	Nigeria
4	Assem Salman Jaber	Russia and Non Resident in Belarus	1946	2010	13-Aug-03	Central Administration
5	Hicham Suleiman Hamdan	Argentina	1953	2017	11-Sep-00	Central Administration

59 Total

The date of appointment which we considered is the issue date of the decree of appointments to the diplomatic corps and not the date of the Council of Ministers decision to proceed with those appointments which was issued earlier.

Vacant

#	Name	Confession	Country	Remarks
1	Michel El Khoury	Maronite	Cyprus	Appointed in Syria
2	Khodr Habib	Alawi	Ghinia	Resigned on December 2, 2008 and ran for Parliament
3	Bassam Ali Torbah	Sunni	Algeria	Retired in 2008 and Non Career Diplomat appointed in June 20, 2007
4	Hikmat Hares Awwad	Maronite	Iraq	Retired in 2009
5	Elias Ghosn	Orthodox	Turkey	Moved to the Central Administration
6	Hasan Salim Berro	Shia'a	Ghana	Retired in 2009
7	Khaled Kilani	Sunni	Malisia	Retired in 2009
8	Victor Bitar Ghanem	Maronite	Uruguay	Retired in 2009
9	Hikamt hares Awwad	Maronite	Poland	Retired in 2009
10	Mustapha Hasan Mustapha	Sunni	Morocco	Retired in 2009
11	Masoud El Maalouf	Catholics	Canada	Retired in 2009
12	Fouad El Khoury Ghanem	Maronite	Barzil	Retired in 2009
13	Murad Elias El Jammal	Catholics	Chile	Retired in 2008
14	Jad El Hasan	Sunni	Czech Republic	Moved to the Central Administration



Salaries and compensation funds of ambassadors

Grade 1 or Grade 2 employees (very limited number) can be appointed to the posts of ambassadors. Law 63, issued on December 31, 2008 – which increased the minimum wage – determined the salaries of the grade one and two employees of the Foreign Service as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Diplomatic corps salaries-Grade One (In USD)		Table 2
Grade	Salary starting January 1, 1999	Salary after increase starting May 1, 2008
1	2,600	2,880
2	2,740	3,027
10	3,860	4,203
11	4,000	4,350
20	5,260	5,673
21	5,400	5,820
22	5,540	5,967

Note: Each employee is promoted one grade every two years with a salary increase of USD 147.

Diplomatic corps salaries-Grade Two. (In USD)		Table 3
Grade	Salary starting January 1, 1999	Salary after increase as of May 1, 2008
1	2,000	2,390
2	2,120	2,516
10	3,080	3,524
11	3,200	3,650
20	4,280	4,784
21	4,400	4,910
22	4,520	5,036

Note: Each employee is promoted one grade every two years with a salary increase of USD 126.

As for Grade Three employees, salaries were set at USD 1,800 for Level One posts, increases to USD 2,900 for Level 11 and to USD 4,055 for Level 22. The value of the level in this ranking was set at USD 105.

In addition to salaries, ambassadors receive resident's allowances ranging from 175%-310% of the salary depending on the country of residence (310% in Japan, 230% in France and Western Europe, 190% in Canada, the United States, Iran and Kuwait and 175% in Saudi Arabia and the UAE) . The government also grants the diplomatic corps personnel a housing allowance of USD 900 a month for single employees and USD 1,200 for married employees in countries where the percentage of hardship (immigration) allowance is 190% and less. The

“The cost of salaries and compensations for Foreign Service employees reached LBP 62 billion according to the 2009 budget.”

government allocates USD 1,200 for single employees and USD 1,600 for married employees in countries where the percentage of hardship allowance does not exceed 180%. Compensation funds for families can reach up to USD 400 for the wife and USD 200 per child. The government also provides housing, a driver, a chef and compensation for a car for all heads of diplomatic missions abroad. The cost of salaries and compensations for Foreign Service employees reached LBP62 billion according to the 2009 budget.

Reserved embassies for confessions

An examination of the confessions of a number of ambassadors in major countries has led us to conclude that these high-profile ambassadorships are reserved for specific confessions as follows:

In Europe:

- Lebanese ambassador to France (Maronite)
- Lebanese ambassador to Britain (Shia'a)
- Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland (Shia'a)
- Lebanese ambassador to the Vatican (Maronite)

In Asia:

Lebanese ambassador to Japan (Shia'a)

In the Middle East:

- ⊙ Lebanese ambassador to Saudi Arabia (Sunni)
- ⊙ Lebanese ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League (Sunni)
- ⊙ Lebanese ambassador to Iran (Shia'a)

Others:

- ⊙ Lebanese ambassador to Russia (Druze)
- ⊙ Lebanese ambassador to the United States (Greek Orthodox with some exceptions since the post was also occupied by Maronite and Sunni ambassadors)
- ⊙ Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations in New York (Sunni)

“An examination of the confessions of a number of ambassadors in major countries has led us to conclude that these high-profile ambassadorships are reserved for specific confessions”

Foreign and Arab diplomatic mission in Lebanon: 70 embassies

During the civil war, some embassies closed their doors in Lebanon and used their ambassadors in Syria, Cyprus or Egypt as non-resident ambassadors to Lebanon. After the end of the war, most of these embassies reopened their doors while a few continued to rely on diplomatic representatives in Syria or Cyprus (such as Hungary, Serbia, Bahrain and Sweden). Furthermore, others have non-resident ambassadors in Lebanon serving their interests in other countries for example, Pakistan has a non-resident ambassador for Cyprus while Mexico has a non-resident ambassador in Lebanon for the UAE.

Here are the 70 countries that have diplomatic representation in Lebanon:

France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Norway, Britain, Russia, Indonesia, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Ukraine, Poland, Pakistan, Korea, Vatican, Venezuela, Malta's Knights, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Qatar, Oman, Cuba, Romania, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Argentine, India, Holland, Finland, Kuwait, Sudan, Armenia, Philippine, Algeria, Mexico, European Union, Czech, Chili, Bulgaria, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Japan, Uruguay, Azerbaijan, Canada, Australia, United States, Brazil, Tunisia, Nigeria, Columbia, Iraq, Mexico, Paraguay, Cyprus, Austria, Lithuania, Iran, Eritrea, Mauritania, Slovakia, Malaysia, China, Gabon and Bolivia.



Civil Service Board Report for 2008

AN ABSENCE OF 'NATIONAL BELONGING'

“The phenomenon of corruption represented in widespread bribery and the overpowering of favoritism, tyranny and nepotism in Lebanon can perhaps be referred, in our opinion, to chronic flaws represented in the loss of “the sense of national belonging” and the rampant attachment to the sectarianism, confessionalism and regionalism as a doorway for more power and influence and senior administrative posts without relying on the principles of merit, efficiency and worthiness therefore weakening the administration...”

With these words the head of the Civil Service Board (CSB), Monzir al-Khatib, prefaced an assessment report for 2008 that was submitted before his retirement in January 2010 after 11 years as CSB president. The introduction's conclusion offered an even more accurate description of the state of affairs in the Lebanese administration, saying that: "... It is no longer possible to continue with this growing number of ministries and public agencies in a country of Lebanon's size; this will only create more frustration and failure.”

1-Council of Ministers violates CSB decision

A decree regulating the CSB stipulates that if the board and ministries disagree the issue should be presented to the Council of Ministers for a final decision. The Council's decisions have usually been in favor of the minister involved, subsequently limiting the role and tasks of the CSB in the appointment, promotion and dismissal of employees. In 2008, the cabinet violated the decisions of the CSB in a number of issues. We were able to obtain the specifics of 11 violations:

- ⦿ The minister of education and higher learning asked for the installation of trained secondary level teachers in the Directorate General of Education
- ⦿ The minister of public health asked to contract a dentist to work in Mustoussaf Trablous al-Markazi (Trablous Central Clinic)
- ⦿ The minister of public health asked to amend a title in a contract from “information portal” to “programmed”
- ⦿ A decree mandated an employee of the Ministry of Finance-Directorate General to travel to France for further education as a form of settlement
- ⦿ The Ministry of Public Health asked to hire 11 laborers
- ⦿ The Ministry of Information requested that the monthly allowance of a contractor assigned to manage the National News Agency be amended
- ⦿ The minister of culture proposed that the salary of a contractor be specified, contrary to the opinion of the CSB
- ⦿ The Ministry of Education and Higher Learning requested the installment of trained secondary level teachers in the Directorate General of Education
- ⦿ The National Archives Institute requested that, as an exceptional form of settlement, an employee participate in a paid training course in France
- ⦿ The Ministry of Education and Higher Learning

requested that trained technical education teachers in the Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education be installed. The CSB did not receive the decree for their appointment and installation.

- ⦿ The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities proposed dismissing an employee of the Beirut municipality after reaching retirement age, contrary to the opinion of the CSB.

2-Facts

- ⦿ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the CSB to look into allowing female employees in the diplomatic corps to receive compensation for the relocation of their families if they were relocated as the case with their male colleagues. The CSB remarked the following:
 - ⦿ Female candidates for Grade 3 posts “must be single”
 - ⦿ The government offers travel expenses to and from Lebanon for authorized employees and their families once every two years for those who have an annual two-month leave and once every three years for those who have an annual one-month leave.
 - ⦿ A female employee can get compensation and travel expenses for her disabled husband and children if she provides for the family, she is either a widow, her husband is unable to provide for them or if he has been away for at least a year with no information on his whereabouts.
- ⦿ The bylaws of the National Institute for Administration and Development stipulate that any appointed employee must sign a contract pledging to stay in service for at least 10 years. A premature resignation requires the person in question to return the paid salaries to the Institute. The resignation of a female employee due to marriage before the expiration of the deadline forced the CSB to issue a decree to collect LBP 7,730,680 from her.
- ⦿ The minister of social affairs is, by law, the trustee over the Public Corporation for Housing (PCH) and the ministry's director general is the government's commissioner at the PCH. However, after the post of social affairs director general became vacant, the director of social services was designated acting director general for social affairs. He does not however have the right to attend the meetings of the PCH board or receive compensation funds in case of attendance.
- ⦿ It is not permitted to increase compensation funds for specific contractors: The CSB authorized the Ministry of Public Health to sign contracts with 50 individuals and

to appoint four of them to carry out additional tasks on overtime, paying each LBP 2 million. The CSB remarked that the increase in compensation was unjustified and would push other contractors to ask for equal treatment.

3-Contests

The contests department at CSB's management organized 40 contests in 2008 for all public administrations and the

municipalities within its jurisdiction and also conducted more than one contest to appoint and sign contracts with contenders from non-public agencies. The number of candidates in these contests reached 13,860, of whom 3,607 succeeded: 8,911 female candidates (2,135, or 24% of whom succeeded) and 4,949 male candidates (1,472, or 29.7% of whom). Table 1 shows the most significant public administrations for which contests were held.

Public administrations for which a contest was held	Number of accepted candidates	Number of participants	Number of successful candidates	Males	Females	% of successful candidates
Ministry of Public Works and Transportation	334	286	108	82	26	37.70%
Rafik Hariri University Hospital	354	334	113	40	73	33.80%
Secondary education-Beirut	136	123	33	22	11	26.80%
Secondary education-Ba'abda	214	197	54	33	21	27.40%
Secondary education-Metn	27	24	7	2	5	29.20%
Secondary education-Zgharta	8	8	3	3	-	37.50%
Secondary education-Saida	97	94	31	22	9	33%
Secondary education-Zahle	59	58	27	22	5	46.50%
Cooperative of Government Employees	984	834	57	15	42	6.80%
Ministry of Economy and Commerce	22	22	4	2	2	18.20%
Beirut municipality	888	690	131	46	85	19%

Source: CSB report for 2008

4-Public sector workers

The number of workers in public administrations, public agencies and municipalities covered by the CSB reached 18,616 fulltime employees, workers and contractors, listed in Table 2.

Employees, workers and contractors	Fulltime employees	Contractors	Workers	Employees who will not be replaced after retirement, temporary employees and contracts
Public administrations	8,763	2,716	2,168	248
Public agencies and independent authorities within the CSB's jurisdiction	1,585	674	254	-
Municipalities within the CSB's jurisdiction	782	71	1,355	-

5-End of service

286 employees who have reached the retirement age (64 years old), as did 656 school teachers, six Grade One employees, 16 Grade Two and 45 Grade Three employees.

6-Assessment

The CSB had issued Circular #3 on August 7, 2003, demanding that all public administrations carry out performance reviews of their employees. The CSB report later remarked that the administrations that abided by the decision and the number of employees who were assessed was very limited. Some administrations also assessed the work of their employees but did not submit the results to the CSB. The number of employees whose performance was appraised reached 1,468:

Lebanese Customs Administration: 389 employees; **Southern Lebanon muhafaza:** 370 employees; **Ministry of Telecommunications:** 368 employees; **Central Inspection Board:** 187 employees; **CSB:** 68 employees; **Higher Performance Appraisal Committee:** 31 employees; **Beqa'a muhafaza:** 14 employees; **Joint Administrative Directorate at the Ministry of Interior:** four employees

The report's introduction describes corruption, bribery and nepotism in the Lebanese administration in light of the absence of "national belonging"; however, the content does not disclose names or facts, but merely offers a general idea of the state of the administration. When will the truth of what goes on finally be uncovered? 

Approved with a recommendation to cross out UNDP

The Ministry of Finance asked the CSB Research and Guidance Department for approval to create a Cash Flow Administration Bureau at the General Finance Directorate's Treasury and Public Debt Directorate. The project allowed for 12 employees and specified its role and tasks as cash flow management, following up on the directorate of treasury and public debt and coordinating between departments. The project explained that the bureau will "draft studies and reports and collect and analyze statistics... under the supervision of a UN development project at the Ministry of Finance to follow up financial and administrative reform in the ministry". The CSB approved the bureau but recommended eliminating the phrase "under the supervision of a UN development project at the Ministry of Finance", because department heads should carry out such supervision.

GRADE ONE SALARIES

From LBP 2.7 million, to LBP 25 million

Administrative appointments of Grade One employees in the public sector have become a priority for state officials due to the fact that 40% of these posts are vacant. These positions, which are monopolized by the zua'ama of confessions, are considered prestigious due to their many perks. Furthermore, directors often stay years in their posts if they stay in the good graces of the political or religious authority that backed them.

As the search for appointments remains underway, it is worth examining the salary scales and compensations for this group of public servants, which appear to be very low when compared to what is being paid to workers in the banking sector and large service companies.

The main problem in the salary scale of civil servants is the huge gap between the salaries of public sector administrations and agencies. The salaries of Grade One employees in public administrations (ministries, directorates, etc.) are fixed and considered relatively low. In comparison, the salary scales of Grade One employees in the so-called 'public agencies' and commissions are not only higher but differ amongst them. The salary scale of Grade One-Level One in administrations start at LBP 2.7 million a month while those of some public agencies reach LBP 15 million and even LBP 25 million in addition to huge differences in compensation funds.

Public agencies include: Central Bank of Lebanon, Council for Development and Reconstruction, National Social Security Fund, National Council for Information, public hospitals, Educational Center for Research and Development, Elyssar, Central Fund of the Displaced, Casino du Liban, Port Authority of Beirut, INTRA Investment Company, Ogero and Middle East Airlines. For an example to these discrepancies please refer to Table 3.

1- Grade One salaries in public administrations

Law 63 issued on December 31, 2008 increased the minimum wage for the public sector, employees of the Lebanese University, municipalities, governmental agencies and administrations that are not covered by the labor law in addition to compensation for increases in the cost of living. It set the salary scale for Grade One employees at LBP 2.7 million for Level One employees, with the cost of each level increase of LBP 105,000, and up to LBP 4,905,000 for Level 22 employees. Table 1 shows the salary scale for the personnel of public

administrations. The employees and their families also benefit from healthcare and other forms of compensation. They are also compensated for attending committee meetings after work hours.

Salary scale of Grade One employees in public administrations		Table 1
Level	Salary after increase as of May 1, 2008 (in LBP)	
1	2,700,000	
2	2,805,000	
3	2,910,000	
4	3,015,000	
5	3,120,000	
6	3,225,000	
7	3,330,000	
8	3,435,000	
9	3,540,000	
10	3,645,000	
11	3,750,000	
12	3,855,000	
13	3,960,000	
14	4,065,000	
15	4,170,000	
16	4,275,000	
17	4,380,000	
18	4,485,000	
19	4,590,000	
20	4,695,000	
21	4,800,000	
22	4,905,000	

Source: Law 63 of 2008

The salary scale for Grade One employees at the Civil Service Board, Central Inspection Board and the Public Disciplinary Board is higher than that of public administrations. The salary scale for Level 1 employees starts at LBP 3.1 million and goes up to LBP 5,305,000 for Level 22. The cost of each level increase is LBP 105,000 as demonstrated in Table 2.

Salary scale for Grade One employees at the Civil Service Board, Central Inspection Board and the Public Disciplinary Board Table 2

Level	Salary after increase as of May 1, 2008 (in LBP)
1	3,100,000
2	3,205,000
3	3,310,000
4	3,415,000
5	3,520,000
6	3,625,000
7	3,730,000
8	3,835,000
9	3,940,000
10	4,045,000
11	4,150,000
12	4,255,000
13	4,360,000
14	4,465,000
15	4,570,000
16	4,675,000
17	4,780,000
18	4,885,000
19	4,990,000
20	5,095,000
21	5,200,000
22	5,305,000

Source: Law 63 of 2008

The salary scale of Grade One employees in the Foreign Service corps is set at USD 2,880 for Level One up to USD 5,967 for Level 22 (to be added to other compensation funds, resident allowances. Salaries and compensations for workers in the Foreign Service will be discussed later in another article)

2- Grade One in public agencies and commissions

Some public agencies and commissions rely on a series of salaries or fixed allowances that are generally higher than those allocated for Grade One personnel in public administrations. Table 3 shows examples of salaries for Grade one employees.

Grade One administrative appointments are necessary and productive when qualifications are the criteria for selection, not nepotism. Administrative reform is also essential and is the doorway to reevaluating salary scales in the administration as a whole. A legislator's usage of different names for an institution or a body might serve in increasing the salary scale in comparison to the public administration's personnel and inevitably will create conflict in the tasks and jurisdictions. 

Note: The salary scale of Grade One-Level One employees becomes that of Level 22 by adding the level's value x 21 to the salaries of the Level One. For example the salary of a Grade One-Level One Employee in the Cooperative of State Employees is LBP 2.7 million becomes 2.7 million + (21 x 105,000) = LBP 4,905,000.

Salary scale of Grade One employees in public agencies and commissions Table 3

Name of institution or body	Monthly salary (LBP)	Value of level (LBP)	Notes
Banking Control Commission (a president and four members)	25 million		
Investment Development Authority of Lebanon	4,700,000	158,000	
National Archives Institute (Level One)	2,700,000	105,000	
Cooperative of Government Employees (Level One)	2,700,000	105,000	
President of the Public Authority for the Economic Zone in Tripoli	8,000,000	-	Receives LBP 350,000 in compensation funds for attending every session by the board after work hours on condition that the number of monthly meetings does not exceed five. This is a new body created by Law 18 dated September 5, 2008.
Director of the Public Authority for the Economic Zone in Tripoli	4,500,000	150,000	
President of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority	15 million		Appointed for five years non-renewable or extendible years
Member of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (four members)	13.5 million		Appointed for three non-renewable or extendible years
Secretary-general of the National Council for Scientific Research (Level One)	3,020,000	162,000	
Director general of the Economic and Social Council	5 million	105,000	
National Institute of Administration (Level One)	3,100,000	105,000	
Railway and Public Transportation Authority	2,700,000	105,000	

Source: Compiled by Information International based on Law 63, decrees related to public agencies and information from other bodies whose salary scales are not determined by decree.

COST OF TELE LIBAN SINCE 1977

USD 193 MILLION

Electricity, overstaffing in public administrations and institutions, the high rental cost for some government buildings, high public debt interest rates and the continued maintenance of Tele Liban are all just excuses for squandering public funds. Public debt gradually reached USD 50 billion in December 2009. In its previous issue The Monthly focused on the cost of the ESCWA building, and will now look into of the cost of Tele Liban.

Establishment

Tele Liban is one of the first television stations in the Arab world. The Lebanese Company for Television, founded by Wissam Izeddine in 1959, began operations after the completion of its complex in Tallit el-Khayat. It first started broadcasting on Channel 7 in French and Channel 9. In 1961, the Tele Liban the Orient (the Lebanon and Orient Television) company was created in Hazmiyeh and broadcast on channels 5 and 11.

The two stations however suffered losses and were damaged after the breakout of the Lebanese war. Consequently, the Lebanese government merged both companies into a single enterprise, Tele Liban, by Decree #100 on June 30, 1977. The new company was owned by both the private and public sectors, on condition that the state contributed to 50% of its capital.

Cost

Article 41 of Law 382 dated November 4, 1994 (the Audiovisual Information Law) revoked Tele Liban's exclusive right to broadcast over all channels, giving it the right to broadcast over all V.H.F channels. It will share broadcasting over UHF channels with licensed stations. In return for this revocation, the company was exempted from paying fees that are imposed on other media outlets until 2012 when its monopoly will expire.

The partial state ownership of Tele Liban since 1977 and complete ownership since 1995 has invited substantial costs reaching up to USD 193 million by the end of 2009. Here is a breakdown of the amount calculated according to the exchange rate of the mentioned year:

- ⊙ LBP 15 million (equivalent to USD 5 million) cost of owning 50% of company's shares 1977
- ⊙ LBP 500 million (equivalent to USD 944,000) cost of raising capital in 1988
- ⊙ LBP 5 billion (equivalent to USD 5.7 million) cost of increasing capital in 1991
- ⊙ LBP 18.6 (equivalent to USD 11.6 million) cost of purchasing the remaining 50% of the company's shares in 1995
- ⊙ LBP 41.4 billion (equivalent to USD 26 million) cost of increasing capital in 1995
- ⊙ LBP 271 million (equivalent to USD 322,000) advance from the treasury to pay salaries and wages in 1990
- ⊙ LBP 3,481 million (equivalent to USD 2.1 million) to improve broadcasting in 1994
- ⊙ LBP 9 billion (equivalent to USD 5.9 million) to pay overdue salaries and wages in 1997
- ⊙ LBP 2.5 billion (equivalent to USD 1.6 million) to pay wages and salaries in 1997
- ⊙ LBP 580 million (equivalent to USD 385,000) to rehabilitate the news studio for satellite broadcasting in 1998
- ⊙ LBP 7,526 million (equivalent to USD 5 million) in return for broadcasting state activities from April 1998 until December 1998
- ⊙ LBP 2,461 million (equivalent to USD 1.6 million) to pay the salaries for December 1998 and to cover the wages of actors and cost of programs
- ⊙ LBP 3,283 million (equivalent to USD 2.1 million) to pay salaries for April 1999 and other expenses
- ⊙ LBP 2,295 million (equivalent to USD 1.5 million) to pay salaries for May 1999 and other expenses
- ⊙ LBP 3,400 million (equivalent to USD 2.25 million) to pay salaries for July and August in 1999 and other expenses
- ⊙ LBP 6,683 million (equivalent to USD 4.43 million) to pay salaries for September, October, November and December in 1999 in addition to other expenses
- ⊙ LBP 727 million (equivalent to USD 482,000) to pay end of service indemnities for retiring employees for 1997, 1998 and 1999
- ⊙ LBP 1,869 million (equivalent to USD 1.2 million) to pay salaries for January 2000 and other dues
- ⊙ LBP 1,869 million (equivalent to USD 1.2 million) to pay salaries for February 2000
- ⊙ LBP 2,413 million (equivalent to USD 1.6 million) in return for coverage of state media activities from April until June 2000
- ⊙ LBP 559 million (equivalent to USD 371,000) equipment for satellite broadcasting in 2000

- ⊙ LBP 3,620 million (equivalent to USD 2.4 million) in return for coverage of media and advertising activities for the state from July until December 2000
- ⊙ LBP 2 billion (equivalent to USD 1.33 million) to pay salaries for August and September 2000
- ⊙ LBP 4 billion (equivalent to USD 2.65 million) to pay salaries for December, January and February in 2001
- ⊙ LBP 24 billion (equivalent to USD 16 million) to pay for an advance from the treasury
- ⊙ LBP 210 million (equivalent to USD 139,000) to pay wages for June 2001
- ⊙ LBP 211 million (equivalent to USD 139,000) to pay wages for July 2001
- ⊙ LBP 420 million (equivalent to USD 279,000) to pay wages for August and September 2001
- ⊙ LBP 19.5 billion (equivalent to USD 13 million) an advance from the treasury
- ⊙ LBP 632.4 million (equivalent to USD 419,500) to pay wages for October, November and December in 2001
- ⊙ LBP 2,533 million (equivalent to USD 1.68 million) to pay wages and salaries for 2002
- ⊙ LBP 2,533 million (equivalent to USD 1.68 million) to pay wages and salaries for 2003
- ⊙ LBP 422.2 million (equivalent to USD 280,000) to pay wages and salaries for January and February 2004
- ⊙ LBP 500 million (equivalent to USD 331,600) to pay wages and salaries for March and April 2004
- ⊙ LBP 500 million (equivalent to USD 331,600) to pay wages and salaries for May 2004
- ⊙ LBP 2,576 million (equivalent to USD 1.7 million) to pay wages and salaries from June until December 2004 (LBP 368 million a month)
- ⊙ LBP 2,672 million (equivalent to USD 1.77 million) to pay wages and salaries from January until August 2005 (LBP 334 million a month)
- ⊙ LBP 332.4 million (equivalent to USD 225,000) to pay wages and salaries for September 2005
- ⊙ LBP 3,328 million (equivalent to USD 227,000) to pay wages and salaries for October 2005
- ⊙ LBP 3,328 million (equivalent to USD 227,000) to pay wages and salaries for November 2005
- ⊙ LBP 331 million (equivalent to USD 219,500) to pay wages and salaries for December 2005
- ⊙ LBP 4 billion (equivalent to USD 2.65 million) to pay wages and salaries for 2006
- ⊙ LBP 4 billion (equivalent to USD 2.65 million) to pay wages and salaries for 2007
- ⊙ LBP 4 billion (equivalent to USD 2.64 million) an advance from the treasury to pay dues for the private sector in 2007
- ⊙ LBP 4 billion (equivalent to USD 2.65 million) to pay wages and salaries for 2008
- ⊙ LBP 7 billion (equivalent to USD 4.65 million) to pay wages and salaries for 2009
- ⊙ LBP 20 billion (equivalent to USD 13.3 million) to pay due debts to the National Social Security Fund
- ⊙ LBP 3,8 billion (equivalent to USD 2.52 million) in dues to the Beirut municipality
- ⊙ LBP 5 billion (equivalent to USD 3.32 million) in dues to the Ministry of Finance
- ⊙ LBP 2.3 billion (equivalent to USD 1.53 million) for electricity and water bills
- ⊙ LBP 2,269 million (equivalent to USD 1.5 million) in scholarships and in compensation funds for families
- ⊙ LBP 45 billion (equivalent to USD 30 million) in compensation funds for dismissed employees in February 2001

The previously mentioned figures show that the average cost shouldered by the state to own and operate Tele Liban since 1977 (partial ownership) and since 1995 (full ownership) has reached LBP 283 billion, equivalent to USD 193.6 million. These expenses are contrasted by Tele Liban's decreasing popularity, especially when compared to other television stations and with the state's limited successes by owning the company. State ownership of Tele Liban has only served to create another opportunity exploited to promote the interests of the ruling political and confessional class. ●●

Tele Liban: Closure and reopening

In February 2001, the Council of Ministers decided to close down Tele Liban and pay LBP 45 billion worth compensation funds to employees under the pretext of cutting down on expenses. The decision came amid Tele Liban's increasing expenses caused by the high salaries for most employees, the large personnel (510 employees) and political reasons linked to a conflict then between the president and prime minister.

Under the decision, Tele Liban was to resume broadcasting on May 25, 2001 after it had been restructured. It resumed operations after some 100 employees were gradually hired at a monthly cost of LBP 210 million compared to LBP 1.5 billion prior to Tele Liban's closure. However the cost started increasing due to more employment or due to a rise in salaries, wages and compensations. Current monthly cost is estimated at LBP 580 million.

Note: For more details on the infringements made against Tele Liban, please refer to the Monthly issue 66 of Jan 2008

Municipal and ikhtiyariah elections in Northern Lebanon

234 MUNICIPALITIES AND 602 MUKHTAR

The upcoming municipal and ikhtiyariah elections in the muhafaza of the north will be an opportunity for political forces that lost in the June 7 parliamentary elections to compensate for their failures while those that won will fight to consolidate their victory.

The battle will be especially fierce and significant in cities such as Trablous due to the presence of multiple political, religious and partisan forces and the difficulty to recreate the previous alliance of the parliamentary elections in light of a different political reality. Other major battles are expected to take place in Zgharta, Batroun, Anfeh and Chekka. Just like parliamentary polls had a special significance in Zahle, the upcoming elections in the north will have a similar weight since the results will unveil the real power of the zua'ama and political movements, especially Al-Mustaqbal Movement.

There are more than 770,000 voters in the muhafaza of the north (of whom probably 400,000 will cast their ballots or 52%). The muhafaza also has 234 municipalities so far (unless new ones were created on the eve of the elections) representing 24.7% of municipalities in Lebanon. They include 2,639 members representing 23.2% of total municipal members in addition to 602 mukhtar or 25% of total mukhtar in Lebanon.

The revenues of the Independent Municipal Fund for 2007 reached LBP 41.3 billion forming 19.6% of total revenues. Tables 1 and 2 show the distribution of municipalities and the number of members according to each qada'a.

Number of municipalities, members, mukhtar and revenues according to the qada'a Table 1

Qada'a	Number of municipalities	Number of members	Number of mukhtar	Independent Municipal Fund for 2007 (LBP)
A'akkar	100	1,125	215	12,295,096
Trablous	3	60	65	12,981,530
Miniyé-Danniyé	33	380	90	5,220,183
Zgharta	29	327	67	3,215,101
Batroun	24	255	76	2,690,720
Koura	34	351	55	2,988,508
Bcharré	11	141	34	1,925,063
Total	234	2,639	602	41,316,201

Source: Compiled by Information International based on the official Gazette

A'akkar					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of mukhtar	Revenues of the Municipal council Independent Fund (thousands LBP)
Halba	6,503	2,933	15	4	421,466
Bebnine	10,415	6,427	18	6	791,757
Borj	1,320	672	9	1	80,488
Borj El-Aarab	666	148	9	1	49,283
Berqayel	6,036	3,553	15	4	424,749
Bzal	1,457	984	12	1	96,722
Bezbinda	2,268	937	12	1	128,587
Bqerzla	2,608	919	15	2	223,177
Beit Mellat	2,139	522	12	2	124,358
Biret	4,154	2,340	15	3	263,387
Beino	2,965	724	15	2	183,850
Qboula	384	103	15	1	183,850
Tikrit	4,069	2,187	15	3	253,379
Tall Biré	1,439	947	12	1	83,048
Tall Aabbas El-Gharbi	2,069	981	12	2	119,345
Tall Meaayan	1,871	1,152	12	2	109,264
Tleil	1,059	404	9	1	57,410
Jebrayel	1,826	448	12	1	92,004
Jdeidet	2,195	832	12	2	119,486
Jdeidet El-Qaitaa	1,828	1,272	12	2	129,685
Mchaylhet El Hakoura	1,399	164	12	1	72,167
Hmairé	555	239	9	1	33,132
Hayssa	1,756	1,137	12	1	123,469
Deir Jannine	767	284	9	1	38,312
Zouq El-Hosniyé	1,617	1,011	12	2	74,795
Rahbé	6,133	1,693	15	4	315,627
Zouarib	762	283	9	1	45,899
Sfinet Ed-Draib	347	147	9	1	21,327
Sayssouq	470	238	9	1	28,614
Chadra	3,307	1,449	15	2	173,895
Charbila	737	244	9	1	42,244
Cheikh Taba	1,635	716	12	1	98,114
Cheikh Mohammad	1,714	749	12	1	106,203
'Aabboudiyé	1,348	774	12	1	95,395

A'akkar					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal council Independent Fund (thousands LBP)
Aakkar El-Aatiqa	6,831	4,236	15	4	473,919
Aandqet	3,762	1,925	15	2	201,078
Aaiyat	2,133	1,068	12	1	137,009
Aaidamoun	1,884	1,039	12	1	145,920
Cheikhlar	270	116		1	
Fnaydeq	8,937	5,586	18	4	715,226
Qbaiyat	8,932	4,607	18	7	483,187
Karm Aasfour	771	200	9	1	61,705
Beit Ghattas	172	71		1	
Kaoucha	828	662	9	1	53,913
Majdala	1,083	740	12	1	86,192
Mazraat Baldé	1,192	717	12	1	80,328
Machta Hassan	2,258	1,040	12	2	128,675
Machha	2,286	1,453	15	4	129,927
Michmich	7,658	4,632	18	3	527,059
Minyara	4,016	1,507	15	1	244,503
Nfissé	604	219	9	1	31,762
Nahri Oua Boustan El-Harch	191	127	9	1	10,613
Qoubbet Chamra	430	239	9	2	37,104
Mqaihlé	1,785	1,223	12	1	130,394
Mar Touma	607	327	9	1	39,182
Deir Dalloum	177	24	9	1	42,645
Zouq El-Moqachrine	644	186		1	
Khreibet Ej-Jindi	1,419	754	12	1	86,012
Chane	983	718	9	1	77,587
Zouq El-Hadara	674	263	9	1	49,510
Qraiya	719	343	9	1	43,135
Souaisset	1,158	827	12	1	91,249
Aain Tinta	439	286	9	1	25,956
Koueikhat	361	303	9	1	21,421
Aaouaainat	884	408	9	1	36,949
Beit El-Haj	340	231	9	1	28,442
Dinbou	4,078	2,023	15	3	330,789
Machta Hammoud and Jabal El Mansoura	2,651	1,447	15	2	169,840
Khirbet Char	564	400	9	1	37,345
Aain Ez-Zeit and Kfar El Ftouh	826	526	9	1	59,340
Ouadi El-Jamous	2,680	1,561	15	2	252,589
Douair Aadouiyé	396	242	9	1	26,796
Hrar	2,306	1,581	12	2	151,971
Aain Yaaqoub	1,281	564	9	1	78,361
Daousa	721	503	9	1	49,518
Khirbet Daoud	631	457	9	1	40,644
Qabaait	1,864	1,227	12	2	147,268
Houaich	1,451	942	12	2	107,089

A'akkar					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal council Independent Fund (thousands LBP)
Kouachra	1,060	693	9	1	74,115
Memneaa	1,024	358	9	1	51,750
Dibbabiyyé	591	361	9	1	37,289
Qarqaf and El-Aamara	1,518	914	12	1	107,844
Mhammaret	1,239	780	12	1	100,248
Aayoun El-Ghizlane	380	196	9	1	23,226
Daouret	1,689	1,011	12	1	116,212
Tshea	1,136	693	9	1	73,975
Sfaynet El-Qaïtaa	1,161	709	9	1	82,455
Qantara	761	370	9	1	43,626
Illat	832	452	9	1	54,137
Dahr Laissine	485	159	9	1	28,230
Darine	573	243		1	
Zouq El-Hbalsa	539	274		1	
Rihaniyet	513	320	9	1	37,065
Srar	543	279		1	
Saadine	362	155		1	
Habchit	999	615		1	
Sammaqiyé	948	648		1	
Chaqdouf	186	64		1	
Cheikh Zennad	922	594		1	
Hokr El Cheikh Taba	401	189		1	
Aabdé	271	135		1	
Idbil	1,065	430		1	
Aaridé	855	417	9	1	58,535
Aamaret El-Baykat	512	303		1	
Aayoun	994	417		1	
Hokr Ed-Dahri	292	222		1	
Ghazaylé	267	143		1	
Beit Younes	885	640		1	
Tall Hmayra	794	494		1	
Qornet	1,882	1,310		2	
Qleiaat	1,699	1,148	12	1	101,037
Haouchab	781	437		1	
Kroum El-Aarab	369	237		1	
Kfar Harra	266	94		1	
Kneissé	539	326		1	
Tall Abbas Ech-Charqi	431	196	9	1	30,719
Massaaoudiyé	807	537	9	1	56,901
Mqaiteaa	1,337	833	12	1	99,304
Talbibé	438	175		1	
Noura	374	263		1	
Hedd	137	25		1	
Haytla	712	331		1	
Ouadi El-Haour	394	255		1	
Akroum	1,518	935	12	1	97,223
Hnaider	1,769	1,025		1	
Beit Ayoub	861	585		1	
Tallet Chattaha	672	215	9	1	32,794



A'akkar					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal council Independent Fund (thousands LBP)
Daghlé	306	172		1	
Beit El-Haouch	174	80		1	
Rmah	742	281		1	
Saidnaya	1,040	643	9	1	77,195
Sahlé	875	527		1	
Fraydes	225	135		1	
Qarha	1,151	711		1	
Qiné	966	637	9	1	55,064
Kfar Toun	2,044	1,333	12	2	49,609
Hayzouq	1,030	566	9	1	66,090
Majdal	619	418		1	
Mrah El-Khaoukh	437	276		1	
Mounjez	943	445		1	
Mounsé	556	336	9	1	35,450
Ouadi Khaled	4,946	2,834		6	
Khirbet Ej-Jird	389	181		1	
Berbara	203	117		1	
Qloud El-Baqié	140	75		1	
Dahr El-Qanbar	239	172		1	
Haicheh and Karm Zibdine	995	745		1	
Rameh and Germanya	908	603		1	
Rajm Issa	347	239		1	
Khat El Petrol	417	277		1	
Aouadeh and Fard	471	319		1	
Aamayr	223	169		1	
Aarqa	194	115	9	1	12,213
Bssatine	113	90		1	
Various Confessions	875	783			
Total	224,046	120,647	1,125	215	12,295,096

Ballots from polling station 317 in the town of Qachlaq were cancelled after they were delivered to the vote-counting committee in unsealed envelopes

Candidates: Wehbi Khalil, Khalil Qashtaia Rachid, Michel Daher, Mohammed Tamer, Hussein. Ahmed Merhi, Abdullah Raouf Hanna, Abdel Rahman Mohammed Abdel Rahman, Joseph Jibrayil Mikhail, Bilal Hassan Al-Murad, Abdel Ilah Wajih Zakaria, Maher Mohammed Abdullah, Haitham Shaaban Hamdan, Nafith Lotfallah Ouraq, Mohammed Omar Hawshar, Mohammed Dib Dandashi, George Elias Saoud, Ali Mohammed Tleiss, Amine Iskandar Iskandar Ibrahim

Batroun					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Batroun	6,248	3,268	15	4	392,679
Ijdabra	317	239	9	1	18,162
Eddé	603	475	9	1	31,089
Bcheaali	1,456	825	9	1	78,266
Boqsmayia	877	585	9	1	42,694
Tannourine El-Fauqa	5,996	3,348	18	3	553,459
Tannourine Et-Tahta (Ouadi Tannourine)	1,831	1,004		2	
Ouata Houb	1,004	681		1	
Chatine	1,325	766		1	
Hamat	2,283	864	12	1	128,761
Hardine	1,151	275	12	1	81,211
Douma	3,082	1,196	15	2	161,660
Ras Nahhach	1,371	878	9	1	72,415
Zané	744	444	9	1	38,083
Selaata	380	268	9	1	64,744
Chikka	4,737	2,676	15	2	396,182
Aabrine	1,766	1,113	12	1	89,390
Koubba	845	449	9	1	43,780
Kfar Hilda	1,071	334	9	1	54,598
Kfar Aabida	1,228	916	9	1	73,187
Kfour El-Aarbi	1,594	575	12	1	78,627
Heri	712	423	9	1	87,836
Assia	905	520	9	1	47,112
Kfar Hay	624	416	9	1	33,387
Chibtine	935	637	9	1	48,859
Bechtoudar	323	204		1	
Beit Chlala	668	283		1	
Thoum	430	284		1	
Toula	417	250		1	
Jebbla	266	187		1	
Jrane	519	369	9	1	25,792
Jrabta	125	80		1	
Hadtoun	367	222		1	
Helta	407	262		1	
Daael	162	93		1	
Daraiya	456	296		1	
Douq	215	141		1	
Deir Billa	759	417		1	
Racha	222	138		1	
Rachana	179	141		1	
Ram	218	161		1	
Rachkidé	112	77		1	
Rachkida	433	347		1	
Smar Jbayl	430	283		1	
Bijdarfil	816	611		1	
Sghar	210	140		1	
Sourat	392	214		1	
Dahr Abi Yaghi	138	105		1	
Aabdelli	746	420		1	
Aartiz	168	116		1	
Aalali	140	94		1	

Batroun					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Aoura	184	142		1	
Ghouma	307	174		1	
Mrah Ez-Ziyat	123	92		1	
Ftahat and Harbouna	122	87		1	
Kfar Hatna	331	240		1	
KfarShlaimane	95	42		1	
Kfifane	852	572		1	
Kour	983	702	9	1	48,747
Mar Mama	136	99		1	
Mehmarch	524	383		1	
Mrah El-Hajj	187	78		1	
Mrah Chdid Oua Deir Chouah	169	134		1	
El-Bqaeaa Oua Masrah	107	55		1	
Nahlé	76	57		1	
Niha	1,015	364		1	
Ouajh El-Hajjar	516	251		1	
Qandoula	66	45		1	
Employees	292	287			
Total	58,488	32,914			2,690,720

Bcharré					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Bcharré, Hay El Saydeh, Hay El Mqadmeen, Hay Mar Saba and Mar Yohanna	13,729	5,740	18	7	679,903
Berhalioun	1,168	451	9	1	66,975
Bazaaoun	2,487	934	12	2	129,615
Bqaa Kafra	3,082	1,631	15	2	151,265
Bqerqacha	2,555	1,175	12	2	127,002
Hadath Ej-Jebbé	2,293	533	12	2	113,180
Hadchit	4,977	2,007	15	3	236,018
Hasroun	4,033	1,395	15	2	204,107
Tourza	2,194	284	12	1	95,879
Qnat	1,474	519	12	1	76,467
Aabdine	870	514	9	1	44,652
Breissat	322	121		1	
Blaouza	1,552	281		1	
Beit Menzer	384	141		1	
Dimane	1,257	325		1	
Bane	1,616	284		1	
Qnayouer	177	52		1	
Mazraat Bani Saab	468	168		1	
Mazraat Aassaf	336	124		1	
Meghraoubla	423	233		1	
Quadi Qannoubine	1,011	189		1	
Employees	88	82			
Total	46,496	17,183	141	34	1,925,063

Koura					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Amiou-western and eastern	7,011	2,574	15	4	349,151
Ijd Aabrine	784	532	9	1	40,406
Enfé	4,591	2,853	15	2	251,217
Batroumine	1,213	437	9	1	63,767
Btouratij	822	504	9	1	52,632
Bednayel	389	294	9	1	22,267
Barsa	1,226	462	9	1	76,168
Bziza	1,031	520	9	1	55,697
Bechmizzine	2,061	781	12	1	105,528
Bsarma	1,344	470	9	1	66,213
Bterram	1,979	570	12	1	96,587
Bkeftine	393	169	9	1	20,835
Dar Baaechtar	2,281	1,002	12	2	113,392
Dar Chmizzine	364	148	9	1	18,759
Deddé	3,726	2,210	15	2	206,031
Ras Masqa-northern	321	222	9	1	142,359
Ras Masqa-southern	762	284		1	
Rechdibbine	851	435	9	1	46,759
Aafsdig	839	398	9	1	45,662
Ain Aakrine	1,104	632	9	1	54,123
Fiaa	1,466	751	12	1	81,432
Kelhatt	1,174	551	9	1	67,242
Kaftoun	445	220	9	1	20,744
Kfar Hata	1,009	568	9	1	52,652
Kfar Hazir	2,365	1,074	12	2	119,815
Kfar Saroun	744	333	9	1	45,080
Kfar Aaqqa	3,503	1,659	15	2	180,775
Kfar Kahel	711	291	9	1	38,995
Kafraiya	1,234	868	9	1	114,410
Kousba	4,630	1,990	15	2	237,471
Majdel Ouel Zakzouk	628	395	9	1	36,381
Metrit	875	143	9	1	43,653
Btaaboura	684	238	9	1	32,836
Bdebba	907	332	9	1	46,182
Nakhlé	694	403	9	1	43,287
Behsas	155	48		1	
Bnehran	402	228		1	
Barghoun	314	211		1	
Haret El-Khassa	331	107		1	
Zgharta El-Mtaouile	174	132		1	
Zakroun	248	177		1	
Dahr El-Aain	189	89		1	
Aaba	781	282		1	
Badbhoun	178	99		1	
Bhabbouch	590	279		1	
Dhour El Hawa	267	213		1	
Employees	247	240			
Total	58,037	27,418	351	55	2,988,508



Miniyé-Danniyé					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Miniyé	19,649	10,154	21	10	1,108,050
Nabi Youcheaa	5,397	3,349		4	
Behneen	3,730	1,973	15	2	255,767
Oua Mazraat 'Artousseh					
Rihaniyet	425	298		1	
Beddaoui	6,012	3,311	15	4	423,849
Wadi El Nahleh	865	578		1	
Deir Aammar	4,758	3,205	15	3	296,843
Borj El-Yahoudiyé	555	316	9	1	34,819
Terbol	271	97		1	
Merkebta	1,103	537	9	1	56,677
Sir	5,252	2,592	15	4	303,194
Bakhaaoun	6,451	3,751	15	5	396,556
Bqaa Sefrine	2,750	1,529	15	4	186,428
Bqarsouna	2,508	1,537	15	2	161,771
Beit El-Faqs	1,556	1,115	12	2	93,500
Deir Nbouh	784	509	9	1	54,224
Sfiré	4,449	2,736	15	4	303,663
Tarane	1,593	1,127	12	2	109,524
Aassoun	2,142	951	12	2	131,268
Karm El-Mohr	1,422	278	9	1	62,015
Kfar Habou	2,647	1,117	9	2	133,863
Kfar Chellane	535	304	9	1	40,459
Mrah Es-Srayj	952	530	9	1	59,407
Nimrine Oua Bkaouza	1,666	1,065	12	2	114,157
A'ain El Tineh	638	482	9	1	37,833
Qarsaita	2,383	1,710	15	2	163,887
Aazqai	1,486	1,021	12	2	100,928
Harf Es-Sayad	433	290	9	1	28,947
Aaymar	885	277	9	1	43,391
Btermaz	1,767	1,271	12	2	113,995
Beit Haouik	519	352		1	
Hazmiyet	300	194		1	16,107
Izal	1,733	1,155	12	2	125,658
Haql El-Aazimé	1,253	539	12	1	65,112
Haouaret	574	296		1	
Kharnoub	283	130		1	
Debaael	802	502		1	
Raouda	484	331		1	
Zaghartaghriine	608	189		1	
Qattiné	1,234	726	12	2	74,373
Behouaita	465	124	9	1	20,875
Qarhaiya	818	525		1	
Qraïne	179	100		1	
Qemmamine	480	304		1	
Kfar Bibnine	927	688	9	1	61,838
Kahf El-Malloul	517	144		1	
Mrah Es-Sfire	730	350	9	1	41,205
Ouatié	360	281		1	
Empoyees	379	351			
Total	97,709	55,291	380	90	5,220,183

Tripoli					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Trablous Et-Tabbaneh	46,394	21,641	24	12	10,315,851
Trablous Et-Tell	6,409	2,564		4	
Trablous El-Haddadine	29,106	14,000		8	
Trablous Bab	10,473	4,867		4	
El-Hadid				2	
Trablous Er-Remmaneh	4,453	1,829		4	
Trablous Ez-Zahrieh	7,080	2,511		4	
Trablous Es-Souayqa wil Jissrein	17,241	8,429		5	
Trablous El-Qobbe	20,115	9,159		6	
Trablous El-Mhatra	4,008	1,916		2	
Trablous En-Nouri	10,645	4,917	4		
Mina	35,378	16,074	21	12	2,379,322
Qalamoun	4,242	2,365	15	2	286,357
Empoyees	517	488			
Total	196,061	90,760	60	65	12,981,530

Zgharta					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Zgharta/ El Say-deh El-Shar-qyieh/ El Saydeh El-Gharbiyeh/ El Salib El-Jnoubi/ El Salib El-Shmeli/ El Maasir	21,064	12,370	21	11	1,050,916
Aardat	2,091	1,185	15	2	176,888
Harf 'Ardeh	1,023	667		1	
Beit Aoukar	283	168		1	
Beit Aabaid	144	55		1	
Ayto	1,020	369	9	1	46,148
laal	847	382	9	1	43,564
Bhairé	881	405	9	1	40,915
Beslouqit	713	167	9	1	30,751
Bnechaai	365	115	9	1	17,863
Toula Al Jebbeh	944	456	9	1	59,376
Aslout	296	99		1	
Daraiya	1,161	336	9	1	61,853
Bchannine	167	121		1	
Ras Kifa	699	224	9	1	32,436
Rachaaïne	3,304	2,146	15	3	170,824
Sebaal	2,971	772	15	2	141,098
Seraal	1,398	321	9	1	61,855
Aarbet Qozhaiya	728	299	9	1	35,622
Aarjis	793	178	9	1	33,771
Aalma	2,141	1,241	12	2	11,082
Aintourine	974	132	9	1	46,422
Qarah Bach	818	204	9	1	35,865

Zgharta					
Town	Number of voter 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007
Karm Saddé	1,158	504	9	1	55,338
Kfar Hata	582	306	9	1	34,921
Kfardlaqous	1,334	593	9	1	56,910
Kfarzaina	929	342	9	1	45,826
Kfarsghab	3,266	561	9	1	146,539
Kfarfou	502	169	9	1	27,522
Kfaryachit	708	267	9	1	31,600
Mejdlaiya	1,156	425	9	1	59,539
Mazraat Et-Teffah	1,254	457	9	1	60,758
Miziara	3,030	1,193	18	2	233,052
Harf Miziara	692	421		1	
Hmais	546	169	15	1	206,134
Miriata	1,863	1,212		2	
Khadiriyé	1,729	1,081	1		
Aachach	1,289	638	9	1	57,770
Haret El-Four	1,606	1,154	9	1	101,943
Ijbaa	158	52		1	
Asnoun	500	207		1	
Boussit	312	197		1	
Hailan	1,611	817		1	
Kfarhoura	545	518		1	
Kfarchakhna	280	87		1	
Kefraya	149	93		1	
Mazraat El-Fraydes	231	115		1	
Mazraat En-Nahr	280	137		1	
Hraiqis	501	305		1	
Mazraat Houqa	436	84		1	
Empleyees	184	183			
Total	71,656	34,699	327	67	3,215,101

A'akkar	
Town	Confession
Halba	Greek Orthodox, Sunni and other confessions
Bebnine	Sunni
Borj	Sunni
Borj El-Arab	Sunni
Berqayel	Sunni
Bzal	Sunni
Bezbina	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Bqerzla	Maronite
Beit Mellat	Maronite
Biret	Sunni
Beino	Greek Orthodox and other confessions
Qboula	Greek Orthodox
Tikrit	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Tall Biré	A'alawite
Tall Aabbas El-Gharbi	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Tall Meaayan	Sunni and A'alawite
Tleil	Various Christians
Jebraiel	Greek Orthodox
Jdeidet	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Jdeidet El-Qaitaa	Sunni
Mchaylhet El Hakoura	Greek Orthodox
Hmairé	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Hayssa	Sunni and A'alawite
Deir Jannine	Maronite
Zouq El-Hosniyé	Sunni
Rahbé	Greek Orthodox and other confessions

A'akkar	
Town	Confession
Zouarib	Greek Orthodox
Sfinet Ed-Draib	Maronite
Sayssouq	Maronite
Chadra	Greek Orthodox and other Christians
Charbila	Greek Orthodox
Cheikh Taba	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Cheikh Mohammad	Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Maronite
'Aabboudiyé	Sunni and A'alawite
Aakkar El-Aatiqa	Sunni
Aandqet	Maronite
Aaiyat	Sunni
Aaidamoun	Sunni, Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Cheikhlar	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Fnaydeq	Sunni
Qbaiyat	Maronite
Karm Aasfour	Greek Orthodox, Maronite and A'alawite
Beit Ghattas	Maronite and A'alawite
Kaoucha	Sunni
Majdala	Sunni
Mazraat Baldé	Sunni and Maronite
Machta Hassan	Sunni
Machha	Sunni
Michmich	Sunni
Minyara	Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Greek Catholic and Evangelical
Nfissé	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Nahri Oua Boustan El-Harch	Greek Orthodox
Qoubbet Chamra	Sunni
Mqabilé	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Mar Touma	Sunni
Deir Dalloum	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Zouq El-Mogachrine	Greek Orthodox
Khreibet Ej-Jindi	Sunni
Chane	Sunni
Zouq El-Hadara	Sunni
Qraiyat	Maronite
Souaisset	Sunni
Aain Tinta	Sunni
Koueikhat	Sunni
Aaouaainat	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Beit El-Haj	Sunni
Dinbou	Sunni
Machta Hammoud and Jabal El Mansoura	Sunni
Khirbet Char	Sunni
Aain Ez-Zeit and Kfar El Ftouh	Sunni and A'alawite
Ouadi El-Jamous	Sunni
Douair Aadouiyé	Sunni
Hrar	Sunni
Aain Yaaqoub	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Daousa	Sunni
Khirbet Daoud	Sunni
Qabaait	Sunni
Houaich	Sunni
Kouachra	Sunni
Memneaa	Maronite
Dibbabiyyé	Sunni, Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Qarqaf and El- Aamara	Sunni
Mhammaret	Sunni
Aayoun El-Ghizlane	Sunni
Daouret	Sunni, Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Tshea	Sunni and Maronite
Sfaynet El-Qaitaa	Sunni
Qantara	Sunni and Maronite
Ilal	Sunni and Maronite
Dahr Laissine	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Darine	Sunni and A'alawite

A'akkar	
Town	Confession
Zouq El-Hbalsa	Sunni
Rihaniyet	A'alawite
Srar	Sunni and A'alawite
Saadine	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Habchit	Shia'a
Sammaqiye	Sunni and A'alawite
Chaqdoun	Sunni and Maronite
Cheikh Zennad	Sunni
Hokr El Cheikh Taba	Greek Orthodox
Aabdé	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Idbil	Greek Orthodox and Greek Catholic
Aaridé	Sunni
Aamaret El-Baykat	Sunni and A'alawite
Aayoun	Sunni
Hokr Ed-Dahri	Sunni and A'alawite
Ghazaylé	Sunni and A'alawite
Beit Younes	Sunni
Tall Hmayra	Sunni and A'alawite
Qornet	Sunni
Qleiaat	Sunni
Haouchab	Sunni and A'alawite
Kroum El-Aarab	Sunni
Kfar Harra	Greek Orthodox
Kneissé	Sunni
Tall Aabbas Ech-Charqi	Sunni and A'alawite
Massaoudiyé	Sunni and A'alawite
Mqaiteaa	Sunni
Talbibé	Sunni and A'alawite
Noura	Sunni
Hedd	Maronite
Haytla	Greek Orthodox and A'alawite
Ouadi El-Haour	Sunni
Akroum	Sunni
Hnaider	A'alawite
Beit Ayoub	Sunni
Tallet Chattaha	Maronite
Daghlé	Sunni and Shia'a
Beit El-Haouch	Sunni
Rmah	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Saidnaya	Sunni
Sahlé	Sunni
Fraydes	Sunni
Qarha	A'alawite and Shia'a
Qiné	Sunni
Kfar Toun	Sunni and Maronite
Hayzouq	Sunni
Majdal	Sunni
Mrah El-Khaoukh	Sunni
Mounjez	Maronite
Mounsé	Sunni
Ouadi Khaled	Sunni and A'alawite
Khirbet Ej-Jird	Maronite
Berbara	A'alawite
Qloud El-Baqié	Maronite
Dahr El-Qanbar	Sunni and A'alawite
Haicheh and Karm Zibdine	Sunni
Rameh and Germanya	Sunni
Rajm Issa	Sunni
Khat El Petrol	Sunni
Aouadeh and Fard	Sunni
Aamayer	Sunni
Aarqa	Sunni
Bssatine	Sunni

Batroun	
Town	Confession
Batroun	Greek Orthodox, Sunni, Maronite and other confessions
Ijdabra	Maronite
Eddé	Maronite
Bcheaali	Maronite
Boqsmaiya	Maronite
Tannourine	Maronite and other confessions
El-Faouga	Maronite
Tannourine Et-Tahta (Ouadi Tannourine)	Maronite
Ouata Houb	Maronite
Chatine	Maronite
Hamat	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Hardine	Maronite
Douma	Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Maronite
Ras Nahhach	Sunni
Zané	Maronite
Selaata	Maronite
Chikka	Greek Orthodox, Maronite and other confessions
Aabrine	Maronite
Koubba	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Kfar Hilda	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Kfar Aabida	Maronite
Kfour El-Aarbi	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Heri	Maronite and Sunni
Assia	Maronite
Kfar Hay	Maronite
Chibtine	Maronite
Bechtoudar	Maronite and Sunni
Beit Chlala	Maronite
Thoum	Maronite
Toula	Maronite
Jebila	Maronite
Jrane	Maronite
Jrabta	Maronite
Hadtoun	Maronite
Helta	Maronite
Daael	Shia'a
Daraiya	Maronite
Douq	Maronite
Deir Billa	Maronite and Shia'a
Racha	Maronite
Rachana	Maronite
Ram	Maronite
Rachkidé	Maronite
Rachkida	Shia'a
Smar Jbayl	Maronite
Bijdarfil	Maronite
Sghar	Maronite
Sourat	Maronite
Dahr Abi Yaghi	Maronite
Aabdelli	Maronite
Aartiz	Maronite
Aalali	Maronite
Aoura	Maronite
Ghouma	Maronite
Mrah Ez-Ziyat	Maronite
Ftahat and Harbouna	Maronite
Kfar Hatna	Maronite
KfarShlaimane	Maronite
Klifane	Maronite and Sunni
Kour	Maronite
Mar Mama	Maronite
Mehmarch	Maronite and Greek Orthodox
Mrah El-Hajj	Maronite

Batroun	
Town	Confession
Mrah Chdid	
Oua Deir	Maronite
Chouah	
El-Bqaeaa Oua Masrah	Maronite
Nahlé	Maronite
Niha	Maronite
Ouajh El-Hajjar	Greek Orthodox
Qandoula	Maronite

Bcharré	
Town	Confession
Bcharré, Hay El Saydeh, Hay El Mqadmeen, Hay Mar Saba and Mar Yohanna	Maronite
Berhalioun	Maronite
Bazaoun	Maronite
Bqaa Kafra	Maronite
Bqerqacha	Maronite
Hadath Ej-Jebbé	Maronite and other confessions
Hadchit	Maronite
Hasroun	Maronite
Tourza	Maronite
Qnat	Maronite
Aabdine	Maronite
Breissat	Maronite
Blaouza	Maronite
Beit Menzer	Maronite
Dimane	Maronite
Bane	Maronite
Qnayouer	Maronite
Mazraat Bani Saab	Maronite
Mazraat Aassaf	Greek Orthodox
Meghraoubla	Maronite
Ouadi Qannoubine	Maronite

Koura	
Town	Confession
Amioun- west-ern and eastern	Greek Orthodox and other Christians
Ijd Aabrine	Maronite and Sunni
Enfé	Greek Orthodox, Maronite and Sunni
Batroumine	Greek Orthodox
Btouratij	Sunni
Bednayel	Sunni
Barsa	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Bziza	Maronite and other confessions
Bechmizine	Greek Orthodox and other confessions
Bsarma	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Bttram	Greek Orthodox and other confessions
Bkeftine	Greek Orthodox and other confessions
Dar Baaechtar	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Dar Chmizine	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Deddé	Sunni, Greek Orthodox and other confessions

Koura	
Town	Confession
Ras Masqa-northern	Sunni
Ras Masqa-southern	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Rechdibbine	Maronite
Aafsiq	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Ain Aakrine	Maronite
Fiaa	Greek Orthodox
Kelhatt	Greek Orthodox
Kaftoun	Greek Orthodox
Kfar Hata	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Kfar Hazir	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Kfar Saroun	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Kfar Aaqqa	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Kfar Kahel	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Kafraiya	Maronite and Sunni
Kousba	Greek Orthodox, Maronite and other confessions
Majdel Ouel Zakzouk	Maronite
Metrit	Maronite
Btaaboura	Greek Orthodox
Bdebba	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Nakhlé	Maronite and Sunni
Behsas	Maronite
Bnehran	Shia'a
Barghoun	Sunni
Haret El-Khassa	Maronite
Zgharta El-Mtaouile	Shia'a
Zakroun	Maronite
Dahr El-Aain	Greek Orthodox and Maronite
Aaba	Greek Orthodox and other confessions
Badbhoun	Sunni
Bhabbouch	Maronite and Shia'a
Dhour El Hawa	Various confessions

Miniyé-Danniyé	
Town	Confessions
Miniyé	Sunni, Greek Orthodox, other confessions
Nabi Youcheaa	Sunni
Behneen	
Oua Mazraat 'Artousseh	Sunni
Rihaniyet	Sunni
Beddaoui	Sunni
Wadi El Nahleh	Sunni
Deir Aammr	Sunni
Borj El-Yahoudiyé	Sunni
Terbol	Greek Orthodox, Maronite
Merkebt	Greek Orthodox
Sir	Sunni and various Christians
Bakhaaoun	Sunni and Shia'a
Bqaa Sefrine	Sunni
Bqarsouna	Sunni
Beit El-Faqs	Sunni
Deir Nbouh	Sunni
Sfiré	Sunni
Tarane	Sunni
Aassoun	Sunni and Greek Orthodox
Karm El-Mohr	Maronite
Kfar Habou	Greek Orthodox and other confessions
Kfar Chellane	Sunni

Miniyé-Danniyé	
Town	Confessions
Mrah Es-Srayj	Sunni
Nimrine Oua Bkaouza	Sunni
A'ain El Tineh	Sunni
Qarsaita	Sunni
Aazqai	Sunni
Harf Es-Sayad	Sunni
Aaymar	Maronite
Btermaz	Sunni and Maronite
Beit Haouik	Sunni
Hazmiyet	Sunni
Izal	Sunni
Haql El-Aazimé	Greek Orthodox
Haouaret	Maronite
Kharnoub	Greek Orthodox
Debaael	Sunni
Raouda	Sunni
Zaghartaghriine	Maronite
Qattiné	Sunni and various Christians
Behouaita	Maronite
Qarhaiya	Sunni
Qraïne	Greek Orthodox
Qemmamine	Sunni
Kfar Bibnine	Sunni
Kahf El-Malloul	Maronite
Mrah Es-Sfire	Sunni and Maronite
Ouatié	Sunni

Zgharta	
Town	Confession
Zgharta/ El Saydeh El-Sharqiye/ El Saydeh El-Gharbiyeh/ El Salib El-Jnoubi/ El Salib El-Shmeli/ El Maasir	Maronite
Aardat	Maronite and Greek Orthodox
Harf 'Ardeh	Maronite
Beit Aoukar	Maronite
Beit Aabaid	Maronite
Ayto	Maronite
laal	Sunni
Bhairé	Maronite
Beslouqit	Maronite
Bnechaai	Maronite
Toula Al Jebbeh	Maronite
Aslout	Maronite
Daraiya	Maronite and Greek Orthodox
Bchannine	Maronite
Ras Kifa	Maronite and Greek Orthodox
Rachaaïne	Maronite and other confessions
Sebaal	Maronite
Seraal	Maronite
Aarbet Qozhaiya	Maronite
Aarjis	Maronite
Aalma	Maronite and Sunni
Aintourine	Maronite
Qarah Bach	Greek Orthodox
Karm Saddé	Maronite
Kfar Hata	Maronite and Sunni
Kfardlaqous	Maronite
Kfarzaina	Maronite

Zgharta	
Town	Confession
Kfarsghab	Maronite
Kfarfou	Maronite
Kfaryachit	Maronite
Mejdlaiya	Maronite and Greek Orthodox
Mazraat Et-Teffah	Maronite
Miziara	Maronite
Harf Miziara	Maronite
Hmais	Maronite
Miriata	Sunni
Khadiriyé	Sunni
Aachach	Maronite and Sunni
Haret El-Fouar	Maronite and Sunni
Ijbaa	Maronite
Asnoun	Maronite
Boussit	Greek Orthodox
Hailan	Greek Orthodox and Sunni
Kfarhoura	Maronite
Kfarchakhna	Maronite
Kefraya	Maronite
Mazraat El-Fraydes	Maronite
Mazraat En-Nahr	Maronite
Hraiqis	Maronite and Sunni
Mazraat Houqa	Maronite

Tripoli	
Town	Confessions
Trablous Et-Tabbaneh	Greek Orthodox, Sunni, A'alawite and other confessions
Trablous Et-Tell Haddadine	Sunni, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Catholic, Maronite, Armenian Orthodox, Maronite, Armenian Orthodox, Latin and other confessions
Trablous Bab El-Hadid	Sunni
Trablous Er-Remmaneh	Greek Orthodox, Sunni and Maronite
Trablous Ez-Zahrieh	Sunni, Armenian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Latin, Evangelical and other Christians
Trablous Es-Souayqa wil Jissrein	Sunni
Trablous El-Qobbe	Sunni, Armenian Orthodox, Shia'a, A'alawite, Maronite, Greek Orthodox
Trablous El-Mhatra	Sunni
Trablous En-Nouri	Greek Orthodox, Sunni, Maronite
Mina	Sunni, Armenian Orthodox, Armenian Catholic, Latin, Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Greek Catholic, Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Druze, other Christians and confessions
Qalamoun	Sunni



Association of Lebanese Industrialists

MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ARE CHRISTIAN FROM METN AND KESROUANE

The Association of Lebanese Industrialists is preparing for the first round of elections for new board of directors beginning of March. The current board is headed by Minister of Tourism Fadi Abboud who was elected on April 8, 2006. His term in office expires next April.

The elections are expected to either see consensus among runners, turn into a no contest vote for one of the announced candidates (Fadi Gemayel, Charles A'arbeed, Nicolas Nahhas, Ne'imeh Afram, Nicolas Abi Nasr) or turn into a challenging electoral battle due to the numerous political affiliations among members.

Establishment

The Association of Lebanese Industrialists was established in 1943 and includes industrialists from across Lebanon. Membership in the association is not mandatory.

Structure

The general assembly is the higher authority and includes 569 members. It meets once a year or when there is a necessity. The assembly elects the board's 24 members for a four-year term. For its part, the board elects ten members of the bureau:

- ⦿ President
- ⦿ Two vice presidents
- ⦿ Secretary general
- ⦿ treasurer
- ⦿ External relations officer
- ⦿ Four other members

General assembly by region

Among the assembly's 569 members, 212 are from the Metn or 37.2% and 84 from Kesrouane. Members from both areas form 52% of total assembly members. Other members are distributed as follows:

- ⦿ Beirut, Jisr el-Wati and Naba'a: 90 members
- ⦿ Beirut's southern suburbs: 85 members
- ⦿ Chouf: 14 members
- ⦿ Muhafaza of the north: 35 members

“If voters from Metn and Kesroune agree on specific candidates their votes will decide the outcome of the elections since they form a majority. Furthermore, in the case where Christian members unite they will have a decisive vote since they are also a majority.”

- ⦿ Muhafaza of the south and of Nabatiyeh: 19 members
- ⦿ Muhafaza of the Beqa'a: 30 members

General assembly by confession

The majority of assembly members are Christians forming 69.6% of members while Muslims form 30.4%.

The elections are significant due the association's prestigious economic status in Lebanon and due to the competing candidates. If voters from Metn and Kesroune agree on specific candidates their votes will decide the outcome of the elections since they form a majority. Furthermore, in the case where Christian members unite they will have a decisive vote since they are also a majority. 

FARMERS SYNDICATE

Vocal opposition for an agricultural Lebanon

The agriculture sector is an essential foundation of many countries' economies, and Lebanon is no exception. The Lebanese agriculture sector however has been reeling under the weight of many problems, including a large work force and low income. The number of workers in the agriculture sector is estimated at 300,000, 25% of the Lebanese workforce, which is a significant percentage when coupled with a low contribution to the GDP of only 5.2% in 2005. This explains the creation of a number of agricultural syndicates and gatherings for specific areas or that specialize in specific crops, all in order to improve working conditions for farmers and develop the sector. The Monthly will focus on the Syndicate of Farmers in Lebanon that was established in 1994 and includes farmers from across Lebanon, is specialized in all kinds of cultivations and offers healthcare services to members.

Establishment

The Syndicate of Farmers in Lebanon was formed by Decree # 1/374 on September 6, 1994 following divisions among members of the Syndicate of Farmers in the South. One of the members, Hassan Abbas, founded and heads the Syndicate of Farmers in Lebanon. He said the disagreements and subsequent division were caused by political considerations.

The Syndicate of Farmers in Lebanon aims to protect workers in the agriculture sector from exploitation by employers and farming companies that market fertilizers, medicines and seeds. It also tries to include farmers in the social security fund and lobbies against laws that harm their interests.

Membership

Prospective members have to be a Lebanese worker in the agriculture sector. Members must apply to the syndicate's management which reviews applications. Applicants must pay LBP 9,000 upon application and LBP 2,000 as membership fee. The syndicate formed a solidarity fund offering medical aid to members who have to pay LBP 14,000 a month to get coverage. The fund covers the difference between what the Ministry of Public Health pays to the hospital and what the farmer owes. Both the member and his family benefit from the fund.

Structure

The syndicate is formed by a general authority, a management group (syndicate board), a council for muhafazat and branches, a council for delegates and a president.

1- General authority

It consists of all actual members and holds regular annual meetings. It elects the management group, reviews reports and discusses completed projects and those underway in addition to the syndicate's budget and the amendment of bylaws. As of February 2, 2008

the syndicate had 6,000 members, with 1,200 new farmers joined the body in 2007, according to syndicate statistics.

2-Management

The syndicate council consists of 12 members elected by the general authority for four years in a session that requires over half of its attendance. The council drafts the budget, the final accounts and annual reports and sets wages and salary scales in addition to appointing and dismissing employees. It meets at least once a month and can hold special meetings at the request of the president.

The council currently includes include Hassan Abbas as president, Moussa Mdeihli as vice president, Joudi Ammar as secretary in addition to members Abbas Tahhan, Elie Harb, Qassem al-Bay, Qasem Khalifeh, Salem Chamoun, George Macha'alani, Mohammad Abou Karroum, Arkan al-Achqar and Mohammad al-Zahran.

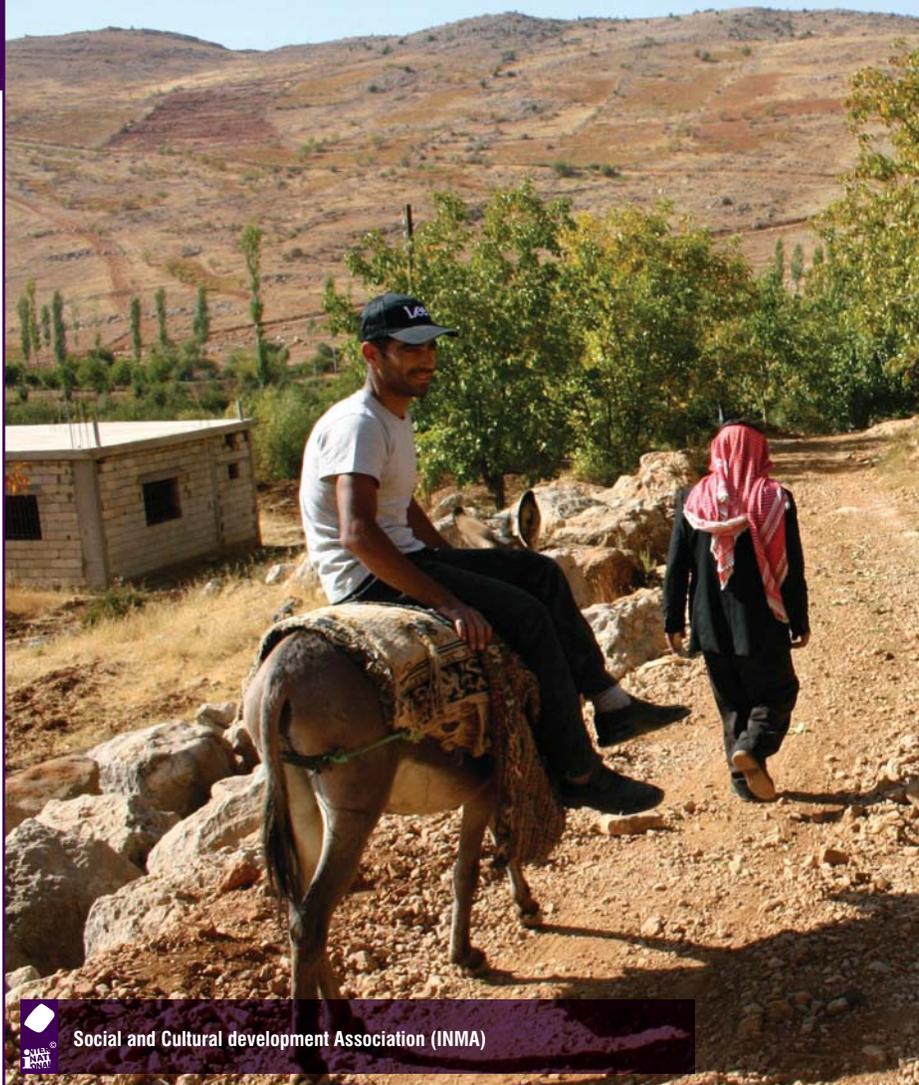
3-President

The syndicate president is elected by the management for a period of four years. He heads both the general authority and the syndicate council, supervises the work of committees and signs on all correspondence and financial transactions. Hassan Abbas has served as syndicate president since its establishment to date.

4-Council of delegates

The syndicate relies on the work of delegates that are deployed across Lebanon, acting as middlemen between the farmers and the syndicate. Abbas said that through the delegates the syndicate can easily assess the needs of the farmers. The delegates have the authority to collect membership fees and facilitate healthcare services for the farmers.





Social and Cultural Development Association (INMA)

In addition to the delegates, the syndicate includes a number of branches consisting of delegates and that form the muhafaza council. The branches and muhafaza council coordinate with management regarding the affairs of the farmers.

Syndicate work

One of the syndicate's most significant works was the establishment of the solidarity fund in 1996 and the agricultural co-op to import medicines and seeds and deliver them to farmers at cost price in addition to marketing the farmer's produce in Lebanon. The syndicate publishes a periodical called "The Earth" that covers syndicate news and agricultural news. In 2002, the syndicate submitted a memorandum to the Lebanese government demanding that agricultural workers be covered by the social security fund. The government approved the request but has yet to outline a draft law.

As of 2008, the syndicate started distributing 10,000 sets of stationary to the children of members. It is also assessing whether it can pay financial compensation to farmers who stop work due to medical treatment in case they are a daily wage.

The syndicate and politics

The syndicate opposes partisanship and preferential treatment by region or sect. President Abbas says that what distinguishes the syndicate is that membership was not influenced by politics or sectarian alignments. He says members belong to various confessions and Lebanese regions. Abbas says it is in the best interest of the syndicate to maintain an opposing position

regardless of who is in power. He said the government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora followed an economic policy based on "the policy of the World Bank and the International Trade Organization which liberate the markets for the foreign products, barter social facilitations, imposes taxes, cancels support for agriculture and farmers and privatizes production sectors such as the electricity, water and telephone". He adds "we call on this government or any government, regardless who is in power, to amend these directions in order to be more fair and in touch with the affairs of workers and farmers".

In order to improve the agriculture sector, Abbas says that "in building the economy, the state must take into consideration that Lebanon is a productive and service-oriented country, provide support for the agriculture sector, protect the markets and reduce production costs by delivering primary materials to the farmers at a reduced price on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture".

The Syndicate of Farmers in Lebanon was capable, in a short period of time, to reach a number of its goals. Despite being a non-compulsory syndicate, the number of members increases year after year, and subscription fees are paid regularly.

Despite the presence of the Syndicate of Farmers, workers in the sector do not have a united body of representation since there were 12 other agricultural syndicates across Lebanon as of December 2007. 🌱

Schools in Lebanon

IRFAN (I'RFAN) MONOTHEISTIC ORGANIZATION

Establishment

The Irfan Monotheistic Organization was established in 1971 in order to “contribute to the spread of knowledge and culture and to consolidate the foundations of morals and virtue in society”. It also sought to develop Lebanese society, villages and remote areas, especially Mount Lebanon, the Western Beqaa, Hasbaya and the south, which lacked basic services such as education and healthcare.

The institution was established under the patronage of a group of Druze clergymen from the Chouf, the blessing and guidance of the spiritual body and the support of Kamal Jumblat. The institution is managed by two general administrative bodies that oversee its education, social and religious services.

Irfan started as a charity organization with a mission to provide education, medical and social relief services to underprivileged citizens, to care for future generations and create a scientific renaissance in society.

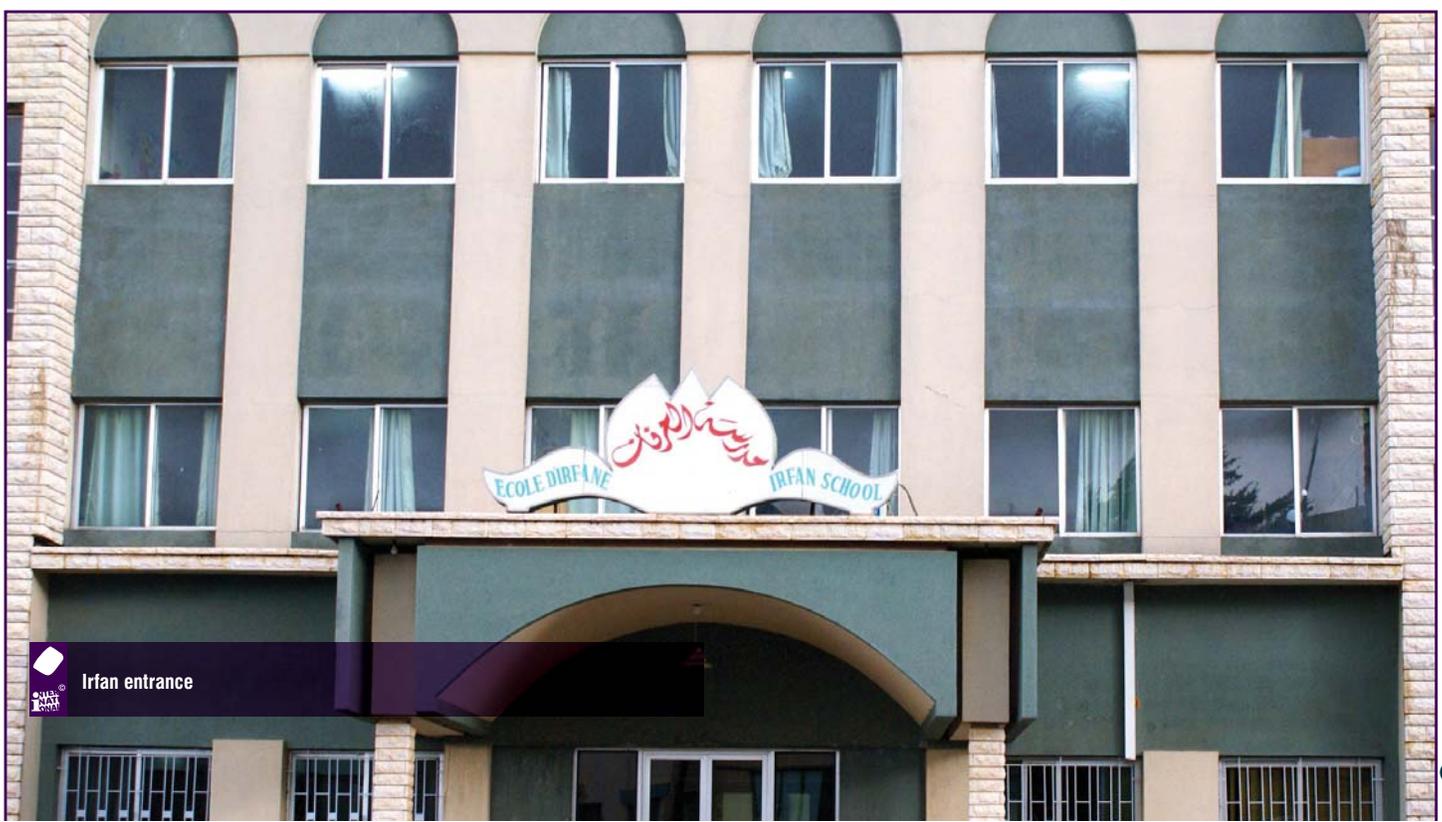
Irfan schools: Establishment and development

One of its first schools was established in 1973 in Semqaniye and took in students from 50 villages and

towns in the Chouf. In 1993, a new complex was built and added to the Irfan secondary school in Semqaniye. In 1978, the Irfan Roueissat-Saoufar School was established, covering several villages in A'aley, Jerd and Metn. The Irfan School in Dahr el-Ahmar-Rachaya was established in 1979 and takes in students from 20 villages in the Beqa'a. In 1987 the Irfan School-Hasbaya during the occupation of the south and took in students from the villages of Hasbaya where residents lived in difficult circumstances. The Irfan-Basateen School was formed in 1988 after the end of the civil war in the mountain. It takes in students from the Gharb and Shehar areas in the qada'a of A'aley.

There are around 5,000 students enrolled in the aforementioned five centers which include nine schools licensed by the Ministry of Education. Irfan owns four partially free schools and five private schools.

The private schools have a special budget while the semi-free schools have fixed fees and receive financial support from the government.



Mission statement

Education: Irfan's administration is oriented toward carrying out advanced education projects, expanding its work and cooperation with a number of education and social bodies in Lebanon and abroad. Irfan created a general administration to manage the schools in addition to sub-departments to oversee administrative, financial, religious and education affairs.

Religious and cultural: Since its establishment, Irfan has focused on the cultural, religious and spiritual upbringing of its students. It created a religious department and published a series of books on education for elementary and intermediate levels to promote monotheism, spirituality, worship, tolerance and righteousness. It dedicates two hours a week for religious lessons in each class in addition to organizing seminars and related activities.

The institution encourages cultural and intellectual activities and participates in dialogue forums in Lebanon and abroad.

Social: The institution cares for the underprivileged and provided free or partially free education for thousands of students annually. It has paid special attention to social care by providing support and shelter for students in its centers, especially in the Social Care Center in A'ain w Zein-Chouf which opened in 2001. The institution collaborates with the Ministry of Social Affairs to provide social services. It has also provided employment opportunities in light of the difficult circumstances the country has been going through. The institution's schools employ around 500 teachers and other staff, 150 medical workers in the Irfan Hospital in addition to workers in administrative, financial, technical and social fields.

The Heritage and Science Museum

In 2001, the organization opened the Heritage and Science Museum in the Irfan-Semqaniye Secondary School. It now contains a rich collection of sculptures and paintings. The organization plans to expand the museum once it sets up its own cultural center.

Future plans

The organization has made the financial and technical development of its education, health and social programs its top priority by focusing on future projects. Here is a list of some of its top future projects:

- ⦿ Introduce secondary level classes in all Irfan schools.
- ⦿ Expand vocational and technical learning in regions where Irfan schools are present. The organization acquired a license for vocational education in December 2005.

- ⦿ Open a section for higher learning, especially in the organization's center in the Chouf.
- ⦿ Complete projects related to sports, cultural and artistic activities in schools (build stadiums, libraries and modern laboratories).
- ⦿ Set up a religious, cultural, heritage and scientific center to carry out studies and raise awareness with the aim to reach Lebanese residents and expatriates.

The Irfan Friends Society

The Irfan Friends Society, headed by Walid Jumblat, was established in 2004 and includes public figures, who are capable of supporting the organization morally, financially and socially. Its goals include:

- ⦿ Support the organization in fulfilling its goals and its cultural and national work.
- ⦿ Contribute to social and humanitarian work by providing scholarships and financial aid to Irfan graduates.
- ⦿ Support Irfan in its relations with official authorities in order to boost its resources originating from contracts with the state.
- ⦿ Strengthen Irfan's ties with non-governmental and international organizations to help modernize and equip its centers.

Activities

- ⦿ Cultural seminars
- ⦿ Sports activities and tournaments between Irfan schools and cultural competitions with other schools. Other activities aim to promote citizenship and Islamic-Christian dialogue.
- ⦿ In 1993, private education institutes in Lebanon and Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, the Islamic Maqassid and A'amliyah schools created a group to support private learning and cooperate to achieve joint national, education and humanitarian projects. It published a booklet on religious celebrations in Lebanon five years ago that was distributed in their schools to help students understand and respect their significance. In 2005, they established a union for education organizations in Lebanon which now includes 15 institutions.
- ⦿ Irfan's religious learning department prepares a series of books on monotheistic education that are taught in the organization's schools and other schools in the mountain. These books can be taught in schools belonging to other confessions since they focus on the general concept of religion and higher values.
- ⦿ Seminars and meetings to discuss monotheistic cultures and enrich students and teachers intellectually. ●●

Universities in Lebanon

NEAR EAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Establishment

In 1930, missionaries in the Near East proposed to unite theological schools in Athens and in Beirut in order to strengthen theological education in the region. The Near East School of Theology (NEST) was thus established in 1932 with the merger of the School for Religious Workers in Beirut and the School of Religion in Athens. Evangelical theological education in the Near East dates back to 1835. A number of missionaries and small schools have worked in the region, training pastors and workers for the Evangelical Church.

Mission statement

The NEST is a theological training institute that graduates pastors and church workers for the Evangelical churches in the East. It also trains pastors for other churches such as the Armenian Evangelical Church in Lebanon and Syria, the Anglican Church and the Lutheran Church in Jordan and Palestine. Due to its ancient ties with the Church around the world, the NEST has attracted students from Africa, Armenia, Iran, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway and other places. It also enjoys strong ties with the American church since it was established by an American missionary. Furthermore, professors and scholars from Europe and the United States give courses at NEST.

Who does NEST train?

NEST trains any person who is qualified to be a pastor of a church. It offers the following courses:

- ⦿ Systematic Theology Studies
- ⦿ Practical Theology Studies
- ⦿ Church History
- ⦿ Bible Studies - Old and New Testaments
- ⦿ Train students to become counselors and communicators

Students with high school degrees require four years to complete their studies while those with an undergraduate degree require three years. The school prefers students with college degrees because it wants to train knowledgeable pastors who have university experience.

The school contains a small chapel where faculty members pray at noon daily and a church where mass is held on Sunday and on important occasions. Lectures are also held in the church.

The teaching language is English because the founders were American and European. Furthermore, theological references and sources related to the Bible are in English.

Majors

NEST is an undergraduate and graduate theological seminary offering the following degree programs:

- ⦿ B.Th. (Bachelor of Theology) – with emphasis in pastoral studies.
- ⦿ B.Th. in Christian Education – intended for pastors with a special emphasis on teaching.
- ⦿ B.A. in Christian Education – A Haigazian University degree offered jointly with the NEST.
- ⦿ M.Div. (Master of Divinity) – A program intended to prepare for pastoral ministry.
- ⦿ M.A.C.E. (Master of Arts in Christian Education) – A graduate program intended for those wishing to prepare for professional educational ministry in churches or schools.
- ⦿ S.T.M. – A post M.Div./M.A. research degree in a variety of fields.
- ⦿ Diploma in theological studies – A non-degree program for persons interested in theological studies.

Number of students

In recent years, the school had 25 to 30 students, compared to 36-42 students ten years ago. About a third of students come from abroad. Before the civil war, the number of students reached between 60 and 100. The political situation in the Middle East, and specifically in Lebanon, affects the number of students coming from abroad.

NEST provides accommodations for foreign students and a number of Lebanese who would otherwise live away from the school.

Faculty and administration

The school employs nine professors and 16-18 administrative employees in addition to five workers. Most professors are Lebanese, although some are Syrian, American, Dutch, French or Swiss depending on the semester.



Tuition fees

Students pay LBP 250,000 per credit at the rate of three credits per course. Post-graduate students must complete 90 credits to graduate, compared to 121 credits for undergraduates. NEST is a higher learning institute certified by the Lebanese government, and follows Lebanese higher learning law.

Scholarships

Almost all students benefit from 50% to 100% scholarships. For example most African students receive full scholarships because they come from mainly poor backgrounds. NEST's expenses are funded by partners and churches abroad.

Traits

- ⦿ NEST is the only institute in Lebanon to teach theology in English.
- ⦿ It is accredited by the Lebanese government as a higher learning institute and its diplomas are recognized around the world
- ⦿ NEST contains a library with more than 42,000 volumes in English, Arabic, Armenian, French and German in addition to rare manuscripts in Syriac, Arabic and Armenian.
- ⦿ It provides a space for intellectual interaction between Lebanese and foreign professors
- ⦿ It is the only institute in the Orient headed by a woman. There are only 30 theology schools worldwide headed by women. This testifies to how NEST in Lebanon does not discriminate based on gender.
- ⦿ NEST tries to unite churches. This is why ecumenicalism was born in this institute and spread its roots.
- ⦿ NEST planted the first seeds for the Christian-Islamic dialogue that is being promoted nowadays in the country.
- ⦿ Although it is an Evangelical institute, NEST is keen to open up to other churches and to Islam, since they all live in one country. This is a policy that the institute is proud of.
- ⦿ NEST boasts a Christian-Islamic Thought Forum that discusses theological topics over which there is disagreement.

Student exchange

NEST cooperates with the American University of Beirut, Haigazian University and the Lebanese American University. Students who have a baccalaureate degree are sent to those universities to take liberal arts courses. As part of the student exchange program, foreign

students study for a year at the institute in Lebanon. In the past ten years, some 45 European and American students have come to Lebanon as part of the exchange program.

Activities

- ⦿ Trips to ancient monasteries and archeological sites in Lebanon
- ⦿ Sports and events at a modern stadium on campus
- ⦿ Community action activities that include visits to the children's cancer center or the elderly homes.
- ⦿ Spiritual activities in which students visit other theological schools in Lebanon, the patriarch, a bishop or a Muslim scholar. 🌿





ANTIBIOTIC OVERUSE & ABUSE

Is prevalent especially during the season of acute respiratory infections and may have dangerous consequences.

Dr. Hanna Saadah

Ever since their inception in the early part of the last century, antibiotics have been overused and abused all over the world. However, antibiotic abuse has become more prevalent with time and is increasingly causing serious personal and ecological health-related problems.

Antibiotics are agents that kill or inactivate bacteria but lack activity against viruses and fungi. When used appropriately, these anti-bacterial agents can be life saving but when used indiscriminately they can endanger life and the ecology.

The commonest disorders that invite antibiotic abuse and overuse are the acute respiratory infections that present as head and chest colds. These combination syndromes, which encompass head congestion, runny nose, cough, sore throat, discolored sputum, discolored nasal discharge, and mild fever are caused by viruses and do not respond to antibiotics. With very few exceptions, bacteria, which primarily cause localizing infections such as sinusitis or pneumonia, are incapable of the rapid, widespread invasion of the entire respiratory tree that viruses seem to accomplish so effortlessly.

Nevertheless, secondary bacterial infections, which are bacterial infections that develop on top of the primary viral illness, can occur in vulnerable individuals such as smokers, asthmatics, or those who have seasonal allergies, chronic lung diseases, or otherwise weak lungs or sinuses. Such antibiotic-responsive infections should be suspected in these individuals but appropriate medical evaluations should be undertaken before antibiotics are prescribed. Situations that might be caused by secondary bacterial infections include the following:

- a) High fever and shortness of breath—suggest bacterial pneumonia.
- b) Yellow nasal discharge or yellow sputum beyond the second or third week of the viral respiratory illness—suggest bacterial bronchitis or sinusitis.
- c) Severe sore throat that occurs in isolation with no associated nasal or bronchial symptoms—suggests streptococcal infection.
- d) Cough that persists beyond the third week of a respiratory viral illness—suggests smoldering bacterial sinusitis or bronchitis.
- e) Ear ache, especially if unilateral and severe—suggests bacterial ear or eardrum infection.

Some of the serious consequences of antibiotic overuse and abuse include the following:

a) Bacterial resistance, which means that the bacteria, because of repeated antibiotic exposures, have evolved defenses that protect them from the deadly actions of antibiotics. Such evolved, antibiotic-resistant bacteria often cause life-threatening treatment failures. A patient with pneumonia who should promptly respond to penicillin deteriorates while on treatment, ends up on the respirator, and may die because no antibiotic can be found that can cure the infection. Another patient who has a staphylococcal skin infection may become septic while on treatment because the skin bacteria manage to invade the blood and cannot be stopped. Etc...

b) Bacterial epidemics, which mean that bacteria that used to attack one person at a time have become so immune to the antibiotics that they now attack many persons at the same time. Such epidemics in hospitals and intensive care units have caused many deaths and are hard to stop unless the contaminated hospital ward or intensive care unit are closed and antibiotic use is temporarily suspended.

c) Antibiotic colitis is a condition where the protective, normal bacterial flora of the colon is displaced by aggressive bacteria that invade the colon, contaminate the environment, and spread to others who are not taking antibiotics. If untreated, antibiotic colitis may destroy the colon and cause death.

Under mounting antibiotic pressure, displacement of our environmentally friendly bacteria by unfriendly, destructive bacteria has been occurring globally over the past one hundred years. These unfriendly bacteria have spread through sewage to underground waters and have contaminated our entire ecosystem. The consequences of this ongoing, antibiotic coup d'état are yet to be fully understood.

Bacteria, because of their ability to multiply rapidly, are capable of evolving resistance to our antibiotics at a much faster rate than we can develop new antibiotics. This race between bacteria and man is nearing its end and, from all signs, bacteria will be the sure winners unless we learn to use antibiotics more responsibly.



THE CHURCH MODERNIZED THE CALENDAR

Antoine Boutros

Early in civilization the lunar calendar dominated events. When hunting was the mode of life and the regulator of food gathering the moon's cycles were imperative for calculating time. Celebrations were also scheduled according to the moon's cycles.

Five thousand years ago, the Babylonians and the Egyptians realized that a year consisted of more than 365 days but did not include enough lunar months rather it had 11 days less. The Egyptians then divided the year into 12 months, 30 days a month adding five days to the last month of the year.

During the rule of the Pharaohs, farmers realized that the Nile's tide coincided with the rising of the Star Sirius, which was nicknamed the Precursor of Flood. The Egyptians intercepted it and noticed it rose from the eastern horizon at the dawn of the first day of the first month of the year. They drew a link between Sirius and solstice and set a calendar that relied on the Nile River which began with the start of the tide. They also set a lunar calendar to register civil events. Finally, they invented the calendar that documented daytime and nighttime still used today.

Considering that the lunar year consists precisely of 365.25 days instead of 365 days (with a difference of an entire day every four years) Julius Caesar reformed in the year 45 BC by adding a day to each fourth year. He followed the system of rotating months between 30 days and 31 days except for February which remained 29 days. When Augustus Caesar took over the reigns of power he was angry that the month that carried his name "August" was only 30 days long not 31. In order to maintain his prestige as an emperor he decided to take one day from February and add it to his month (except in the Leap Year when February remains 29 days long).

In all cases Julius Caesar's measures did not take into consideration the precise differences between the calendar and astronomy. Consequently, the difference in 1577 reached 12 days and Church holidays fell on different days than scheduled. In 1582, the Church adopted the Gregorian calendar, after Pope Gregory 13th, who cancelled 10 days from October during that year in order to reconcile between the ancient calendar and astronomy. Four days were added to February taken from dividable years. It was also decided that decade years will be considered Leap years only when the year is dividable by four which means that 1600 was a Leap Year but not 1700, 1800 and 1900. Therefore the difference between the calendar and astronomy did not exceed one day every 3000 years.

However, this calendar met with some opposition, especially by Protestant nations and it was not adopted by Britain until 1752 because the British believed the Pope wanted to take 11 days from their lives and cause their early death. British cities witnessed loud protests against this injustice.

In modern times, historian Will Durant proposed dividing the year into 13 months, 23 days a month. He suggested a holiday without specifying a date (or two holidays in the Leap Year) at the end of the year. As such, the calendar becomes useful to all the months forever because each day of the week falls on the same dates over the months and years. His suggestion was dismissed and Durant commented saying that his idea perhaps upset and puzzled the saints.

Islam adopted the Islamic New Year based on the lunar year (354 days and the approximately the sixth of a day). As such 29.5 days make up a month. The problem was solved by following 29 days and 30 days consecutively. The fractions (eight hours and 48 minutes a year) are then added together into 11 days every 30 years and are added to the 30th year.

In the 7th century, the calendar was divided into BC and AD by Priest Bede. He used the sequence of years between two cycles as follows: Year 1 before Christ and year 1 after Christ. We say that the Third Millennium started in 2000 but in reality it started in 2001 because the start of the calendar marks the birth of Christ as Year One while in reality it is Year Zero. The years are marked after not before his birth.

Just like Augustus Caesar refused that August be numbered 30 days only, Bede refused that the birth of the Savior be marked by the Year Zero.

This is not a unique story representing false ingenuities. The Irish bishop Usher determined the start of the universe in 4004 before BC precisely on October 10. He reached the calculation of years by summing up the sequence of prophets in the Old Testament in the Bible. It remains absurd how he persuaded himself that the exact date could be located. At the time he could not be blamed but nowadays we know the age of earth is millions of years.

Let to he who has given life but took away reason be praised. 🍷



PHOENICIA IN THE ROMAN ERA

Dr. Hassan Salameh Sarkis

After the disintegration of the Seleucid Empire, General Pompey's mission was to curb piracy supported by coastal cities, which was where their ships were built and the slaves they captured sold. He also set out to suppress local militias that controlled Tripoli and Byblos in addition to the regions of Apamea (Qala'at al-Mudfiq) Ammân, Jerash, Aleppo, Northern Syria, Harrân, Euphrates and Palestine among others.

The Roman institutions were incapable at that time of managing the affairs of a so immense Empire, let alone the insatiable ambitions of their generals. As a result, the aging Roman Republic succumbed to civil wars that ended with the victory of Octavian over his colleague Marcus Antonius and the latter's Egyptian ally Cleopatra the Seventh at the naval battle of Actium in 31 BC. Following his victory, a very shrewd Octavian, with the help of a rich friend, managed to bribe the Senate into awarding him a number of titles as "Principes" (i.e. "the First" among the Romans), "Imperator", (i.e. the "Victorious General of the army"), "Pontifex Maximus" (i.e. "Chief Priest"). Those titles enabled him to have full powers in all political, military and religious affairs. In January of the year 27 BC, the Senate gave Octavian the title of "Augustus", (i.e. "the Venerable", "the Holy", "the Endowed with fullness of Sacred Force"), an appellation that gives to its bearer the traits of divinity. With that, Augustus ushered in a new era and led an Empire that lasted for four centuries before it was divided into two parts by Theodosius I the Great at the end of the 4th century.

Augustus laid the foundations of a policy that was to be adopted by all of his successors. Under the prevailing "Pax Romana" or "Roman peace", Phoenicia completed its radical cultural transformation that began during the Hellenistic era. While Latin was widespread among the administration and army circles, in official documents and among the habitants of "colonies" occupied by veteran warriors (such as the Beirut colony which was established to settle veterans of the 5th Macedonian legion and the 8th Gallian legion that originally included Baalbek and the Orontes river sources), Greek remained the basis for culture, learning and language of communication among well heeled class members. It even replaced Latin in some sectors. As an outcome to these cultural transformations, some local languages, such as Aramaic, completely disappeared from official documents and the use of its dialects was confined to verbal communication among members of some social classes.

In order to encourage the locals to adopt the new culture, the Romans focused their attention on architecture. Emperor Augustus was aware of Baalbek's economic and religious significance, and therefore established a great project transforming it into a forefront to promote and highlight Rome's image, its grandeur and power among visiting tradesmen and pilgrims in order for them to recount what they witnessed back home. The plan was part of the state policy to consolidate Roman control over the region. And during about four centuries, successive emperors financed work on the Baalbek religious complex, which never was completely achieved.

One of the most important political initiatives that contributed to deepening the feeling of the local populations to belong to the same civilization and to adopt Roman customs, traditions and names, was when Emperor Caracalla in 212 gave all free residents of the empire the Roman Citizenship.

Thanks to the financial contribution of religious and civic authorities, buildings were constructed in the region's cities and were decorated in Greco-Roman style. While local quarries provided the finest limestone, red or grey granite and porphyry were imported from Egypt, and green and white marble from Italy and Greece. Local and foreign notables also competed to decorate their cities with statutes, triumphal arches, public baths, theaters, aqueducts to draw water and hippodromes for horse chariots racing. Some cities hosted games, in which athletes from across the Empire competed.

Without undermining the requirements of traditional forms of worship and rituals, shrines and temples were built on the ruins of local chapels and decorated based on Greco-Roman rules of art and architecture. Monumental tombs and marble sarcophagi that were imported from the land of the Greeks and decorated with sculptures inspired by Greek mythology and epics filled necropolis, or cities of the dead, along the roads of entrances to cities. Beirut distinguished itself from the cities of the province of Syria-Phoenicia by being a pure Roman colony that enjoyed the same rights as Italian cities. Before 196 AD, it was a center for the publication and archiving of imperial decrees related to oriental provinces. This allowed the responsables of the archives to use them when teaching laws. In a lack of historical evidences about the establishment of a law school in Beirut, the oldest source mentioning it dates back to the 3rd century. The school only received official recognition in the beginning of the 5th century and was considered equal to the schools in Rome and Constantinople. In 551, a devastating earthquake, accompanied by a massive tidal wave, destroyed a number of coastal cities including Beirut, and the famous school was relocated to Sidon. The fact that there is no clear indication in the historical sources to the location of the Beirut school before the 5th century is noteworthy. It seems that it formed a part of the annexes of the Resurrection Cathedral which was erected in the area which is now situated between the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. George, the Greek Catholic Cathedral of St. Elias and the Frankish (Crusader) Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. This latter church was turned after the Crusader era into the Al-Umari Grand Mosque. 

The Monthly Interview

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN TO LEBANON YERZHAN KALEKENOV

Old diplomatic relations exist between Lebanon and many countries of the world. In recent years, Lebanon has developed new relations with modern states including the Republic of Kazakhstan where it has opened an embassy in 1993. In turn, Kazakhstan has established a diplomatic delegation in Lebanon as a prelude to the embassy. On the relations between Lebanon and Kazakhstan and the conditions of this modern state, The Monthly has met in a dialogue with the current Charge D'affaires of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Lebanon, Yerzhan Kalekenov.

When and how did diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Kazakhstan start?

Diplomatic relations started in 1992. Lebanon was among the first Arabic countries to develop diplomatic relations with Kazakhstan and to open an embassy there. Unfortunately, in light of the financial circumstances, the Lebanese embassy had to close. In 2007, it reopened its doors and appointed Vazken Garabet Koulakian as ambassador. In 2003, the Honorary Consulate of Kazakhstan was established in Lebanon headed by the General Manager of Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), Youssef Kanaan, and in 2006, it became a Diplomatic Delegation.

One of the most important events in the history of the diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Kazakhstan is the visit of the assassinated Lebanese PM Rafiq Al Hariri to Kazakhstan in 2003 during which an agreement was signed for an economical, political and cultural cooperation between the two countries. In 2004, the Parliamentary Delegation headed by the President of the Parliament of Kazakhstan visited Lebanon and met with the Prime Minister and President of the Council of Representatives. In 2007, HE President of Kazakhstan visited Jordan and Egypt where a number of Lebanese companies, like CCC, was present and who was participating in projects in Kazakhstan.

Why didn't a Kazakhstan Embassy open in Lebanon?

The last few years have been difficult for the whole world because of the global economical crisis. As a result, we had to postpone some of our projects including opening an embassy in Lebanon. We had the intention to open an embassy in Lebanon and other countries as well, but these projects got postponed till the near future. We also postponed in Oman, Syria and other Arab countries in addition to western countries such as Brazil and Argentina.

What tasks and activities were you involved in before arriving to Lebanon?

I graduated from the faculty of oriental languages from the University of Almaty (the ex-capital of Kazakhstan) in 1984. I studied Arabic language and afterwards I taught for almost 2 years in schools before moving on to teaching in the University of Almaty. From 1988 to 1990 I was a translator in the army. From 1993 onwards, I entered the Kazakhstani diplomatic track starting as a consular attaché for the consular, cultural and educational affairs in the Kazakhstan embassy in Egypt between 1996 and 1998. Then, I went back to Kazakhstan and worked at the Ministry of Exterior. From 2002 until 2007, I worked in the embassy in Saudi Arabia as second secretary responsible for the cultural affairs as well as for the Hajj and Umrah for Kazakh pilgrims. Afterwards, I returned to Kazakhstan, and from October 2008 until now, I am here in Lebanon.

How many Kazakhs are currently in Lebanon?

There are basically around 50 or 55 Kazakh women married to Lebanese, Syrians and Egyptians. Some met when the Lebanese men were studying in Moscow, and afterwards as I mentioned before, some met the CCC workers in Kazakhstan. However, I cannot give you the correct figure because some do not inform us of their



Charge D'affaires of the Diplomatic Delegation of Kazakhstan to Lebanon Yerzhan Kalekenov

presence in Lebanon. As for Kazakh students, there are none currently. There were 2 who have graduated 2 years ago from Al Daawa University in Tripoli where they studied Islamic Studies.

How many Lebanese are currently in Kazakhstan?

I think there are between 50 and 60, mostly CCC workers and business men. Last year, I gave out around 200 visas, half of them to CCC workers, which I think is the yearly average of visas.

Do Lebanese tourists go to Kazakhstan?

There are not a lot of Lebanese tourists who go to Kazakhstan mostly because of the difficulty of obtaining a visa since we ask for an invitation from Kazakhstan. The second reason is the absence of direct flights to Kazakhstan from Beirut. There are transit flights

via Istanbul by Turkish Air and via Abu Dhabi or Dubai by Etihad Airways to Astana or Almaty or Aktobe. From Beirut, it takes around 6.5 hours though Istanbul to Almaty or Astana and though Abu Dhabi or Dubai, it takes around 7 hours.

What is the capital of Kazakhstan at present?

The capital is Astana which was previously changed from Almaty in 1967 because of demographic, security, and geographic reasons. Almaty is located on the mountains and witnesses earthquakes between 2.0 and 3.0 on the Richter scale on a daily basis. Moreover, its south east border to China creates a security problem. Demographically, the Kazakh mostly inhabited the south during the Soviet Union period and started moving to the north and the middle afterwards. Therefore, we changed the capital to the center of the country.

How many staff members do you have in the delegation?

We are only two altogether, my secretary and me. I am responsible for everything from political to consular affairs.

What do you like most about Lebanon?

I like the Lebanese for their good-heartedness, open-mindedness and respectfulness. I also like Lebanon's history and natural characteristics. The natural scenery is beautiful; the mountains and archeological sites like Baalbek, Tripoli, Sidon, and Tripoli. I also enjoy going swimming and skiing in the Arz with the family. As for the Lebanese cuisine, fattoush, hummus, tabbouleh, and Sultan Ibrahim fish are my favorite.

What did you like least about Lebanon?

It is very difficult to drive around in the car in Lebanon.

When was the Republic of Kazakhstan established?

It was established in 1991 after the division of the Soviet Union. The liberation of Kazakhstan was announced on December 16, 1991 which became its national holiday. After that, diplomatic relations were established with all the nations and especially the Arab nations, and Kazakhstan was acknowledged by all nations, big and small. The first major decision by the president was to give up the nuclear weapons for Kazakhstan was a nuclear testing site for the Soviet Union. In 1992, Kazakhstan joined the United Nations and from 1995, it became part of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). This year, Kazakhstan heads the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and in 2011 it will head The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the OIC. Kazakhstan has good relations with USA, Russia, China, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey and Iran and the other Arab nations such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, Jordan and Libya. There is a lot of cooperation with Turkey as it is the first country to open an embassy in Kazakhstan. In the Arab nations, there are embassies in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Jordan. There is a consulate in Syria and a Diplomatic Delegation in Libya as is the case in Lebanon. There is the possibility of opening embassies in other Arab nations in the future.

Kazakhstan has common borders with Russia, the Caspian Sea, Turkestan, China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

What are the area and population of Kazakhstan?

The area is 2.724 million square meters or 5 times the area of France ranking 9th on the world map. Moreover, Kazakhstan has a population of 15 million.

What are the major religions in Kazakhstan?

Hanafi and Sunni Muslims are the majority making up 60% of the Kazakhs. The other 40% are Russian and Ukrainian Christians. In addition, there are more than 130 national divisions in Kazakhstan with the most important being Kazakhs followed by Russians, Uzbeks, Krgs, Belarus, Koreans, Germans, Ugurs, and some Tatars, Circassians, Chechens, Polish, Ingush, and others.

Is Arabic a widely used language in Kazakhstan?

Arabic is not widely used in Kazakhstan; however, there are universities who teach it in addition to other oriental languages. The majority speak the Kazakhstani language and Russian. English is gaining its popularity as it is the universal language.

What is the nature of the political system?

Kazakhstan is a presidential republic; there is a president elected by the people every 7 years with the possibility of period extension, and a parliament with a cabinet of ministers and a senate elected every 5 years. There are 67 senates and 77 representatives.

What is the average individual income in Kazakhstan?

On average, the individual income is \$8,450.

What are the sources of income in Kazakhstan?

Mostly petroleum and gas as it produces around 80 million tons annually. The production will increase in the future with the entrance of western companies such as Chevron, British Petroleum (BP), Mobil and Agip. Kazakhstan is also rich in agricultural products such as wheat as it has produced around 18 million ton in 2009 in which 7.5 million tons are for domestic use and the remaining are for exportation to Iran, Russia, the neighboring countries, Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and UAE.

How is tourism in Kazakhstan?

There are a lot of touristic opportunities depending on what a tourist prefers. One can visit a lot of historical sites in the south and in the west in addition to the mountains, hills, deserts, and over 40 thousand lakes and 4 thousand rivers. One can swim in the Caspian Sea or ski in the Almaty Mountains for 8 months a year. Hunting fish and birds is also one of the many popular sports.

Any other subjects you would like to discuss?

I would like to mention that Kazakhstan has a very old history; and "Kazakhstan" in the Turkish language means "independent or free." It is the land where the prominent philosopher Al Farabi was born. In addition, it is the site of the Baikonur Cosmodrome, the world's largest operational space launch facility. Kazakhstan is culture and technology at the same time, and Kazakhs are very hospitable people. There is an old proverb that says: "No matter how poor a Kazakh, he is ready to take off his only clothes to his guest." 

POPULAR CULTURE

“Do not blame the absent until he comes”

After the Ottoman Empire and its army disintegrated, one soldier took refuge in the house of an old lady in a remote region in the Western Beqa'a. After some time, the soldier married the old lady but one night he left without any explanation. The woman however did not want to believe that he had abandoned her and kept repeating the phrase: “do not blame the absent until he comes”.

“He is full of himself”

(literally translated 'he sees himself')

Until the start of the 18th century, glass mirror was not widespread among the Lebanese and was a rare commodity. This is why when one of the rich Lebanese bought a mirror, he carried it with him wherever he went and stared at it in public with pride. This is how the saying “he is full of himself” came about.

“Where he sh...t, there they hanged him”

A veterinarian called Zeidan lived in Deir el-Qamar during the era of Emir Haidar al-Chehabi. A man who owned a limping camel one day sought Zeidan for treatment. Zeidan made fun of the man and said the camel needed shoes. So he gave him the shoes and took his fees. When the emir found out, he chastised Zeidan in public and asked him to return the man his money. After a few days, the emir became ill and was said to be on his death bed. Zeidan then swore to his wife he will sh...t on the emir's grave to avenge his wounded pride. When the emir died, Zeidan decided to carry out his promise. One night, he snuck into the graveyard where the emir was buried only to get caught by the guards and taken to the new emir, Melhem. The new emir sentenced Zeidan to death because he did not confess the real reason why he went to the late emir's grave at night. At the emir's orders, Zeidan was hanged over Emir Haidar's grave. When one of the town's women informed Zeidan's wife that her husband was hanged over the emir's grave, she screamed saying “Where he sh...t, there they hanged him”.

compiled from Salam Al Rasi- The complete works, Beirut, Dar Nawfal.

“... And this was how the world changed

The dream of Bou Jreiss, Bou Youssef, Bou Hammoud and Bou Ali Hussein and the rest of our village's men had come true. Their village was connected to a narrow road, with many junctions and twists, penetrating the pine forest in A'ain el-Mehnaideh and ending in Hammana! The people rejoiced and celebrated, while the pious sheikhs felt dejected and pessimistic: tomorrow the soldiers will come to us! And tomorrow the foreigners will come to us and the village will be ruined like A'aley and Bhamdoun were!

... And the world changed, and people [who do not live in the village] started coming to us: relatives of the village's residents. We have figs, grapes, and we have rooftops and we have generosity and cheerfulness, so people from Beirut started coming to us: relatives of the village's residents. Houses were free and vegetables were free and figs and grapes were given abundantly as gifts. Thus Khalil Effendi, the clerk at Beirut's old serial, sent his family to spend the summer. One Saturday night, he arrived, and seemed worried, as he sat to smoke his arguileh on the rooftop. When the rest arrived: Bou Youssef, Bou Mrad, Bou Jreiss and Omm Chaker etc. He told them a major piece of information that will shock them: “El-Maskoub and the Germans are at war!” But the composure of the village [residents] was not to be easily shaken by something so trivial! “So what!” War! War! The war has broken out. The British and the French will help El-Maskoub and the higher state will help the Germans! “So what!!” And the world changed. People woke up one morning to find a Turkish officer with soldiers in the square! The sheikhs' prophecy had come true: “tomorrow the soldiers will come to us”. So the war broke out! Early spring... The wrath of God fell on us! Locusts, locusts, oh Ridha, no one had heard of anything more frightening... After three days our green village had turned into a dusty-colored wasteland... Hunger was unbearable, Ridha. People ate peels, roots, grass, leaves and flowers. They ate the barley that they found behind the mule and the donkey! It was said they ate dogs, cats and donkeys! Listen to me and don't believe me son! ... Hunger took over our village, and death ... death had no more meaning.

... Your grandfather said to me one day: Son, you have grown, and the world is a big place and you must grow with it. The village is small and you have grown and must grow with the world. Pack your things and go to school, the big school away from our small village. God be with you son! But I have one plea: Do not forget the village! And the world changed, and I grew with it... So I left the village with those who left: to the far corners of the world.”

Sources translated as: Jammal, Farouq. Omar Al Ze'ini, Hikayat Sha'eb. Beirut: Dar Al Afaq al jadida.

Myth #31

THE FIRST LAW SCHOOL IN THE WORLD

The Roman's ruled the area called by historians 'Phoenicia' from 64 BC until 395 AD. One major development during the Roman Empire was the application of its legal system, which continues to serve as a basis of legal practice in many countries today. Roman law was the legal system of the ancient Roman Empire, which was based on a common legal system eventually used throughout the empire. Beirut, known as Berytus in Roman times, was an important city particularly due to its school that both taught and displayed Roman laws.



Myth: Beirut is home to the first law school in the world that dates back to the Phoenician Era.

Fact: There is no evidence that the first Law School in the world was built in Beirut, yet historians and scholars have evidence that law schools did exist in Beirut and Rome as early as the late third century. Berytus was regarded as the best-known center of legal studies and training in Latin language and literature from the 3rd through the 6th century A.D. The careers of many important persons in Late Antiquity (circa 300 to 600 AD) began with a legal education in Berytus.

According to a law book written in 1881 by Oxford University professor Thomas Holland (*The Institutes of Justinian*), law schools did exist in Rome and Beirut (then Berytus). These law schools were recognized in state documents as early as 250 AD. It is not until the era of the Severan dynasty that there is recorded proof of there being law students in Berytus. It has also been suggested that the site of legal studies was originally Tyre in the time of the Severan dynasty and over time, the schools in Berytus outstripped those in Tyre and grew in reputation so that by the 3rd century they were well established in Berytus. Accordingly, the school was most probably founded by Septimius Severus and became the most famous provincial school of Roman law between the 3rd and 6th centuries AD.

Even though details of what exactly went on in the law schools is lacking, Beirut's school of law was widely known at the time. Many young men from different backgrounds came to study law in Berytus. There was also a lot of intertwining of religious practice and legal training. As such the law tended to become more interested in questions of religion, which is indicated in the opening word of Justinian's codification of the laws.

Two of Rome's most famous jurists, Papinian and Ulpian, both natives of 'Phoenicia', taught at the law school under the Severan emperors. When the Emperor Justinian I assembled his Pandects (*Digest*) in the 6th century, a large part of the body of laws (two-fifths from Ulpian alone) was derived from these two professors and jurists. Justinian recognized the school as one of the three official law schools of the empire. Thus, the greatest work of Roman law was compiled with the guidance of several professors from Berytus.

Unfortunately, the law school in Beirut, called by Justinian *legum nutrix* (mother of law), was destroyed twice by earthquakes, in 348 and again in 554. The law school was eventually rebuilt in the 600s.

Recent archeological findings indicate the law school is most probably where the Parliament is now (around Nijmeh Square). The evidence that supports this is the finding of a Civil Basilica*, which during Roman times was used as a courtroom or assembly hall.

Therefore, although there is no evidence that the first law school was built in Beirut, historic documents do confirm the existence of the some of the first law schools in Rome and Beirut, although without any accurate dates when they were built and which law school was built first.

* A public building of ancient Rome with a central nave divided by an apse at one or both ends and two side aisles formed by rows of columns, which was used as a courtroom or assembly hall.

Must-Read Books

ABOUT THIS MAN CALLED ALI**The purple life of an Arab artist**

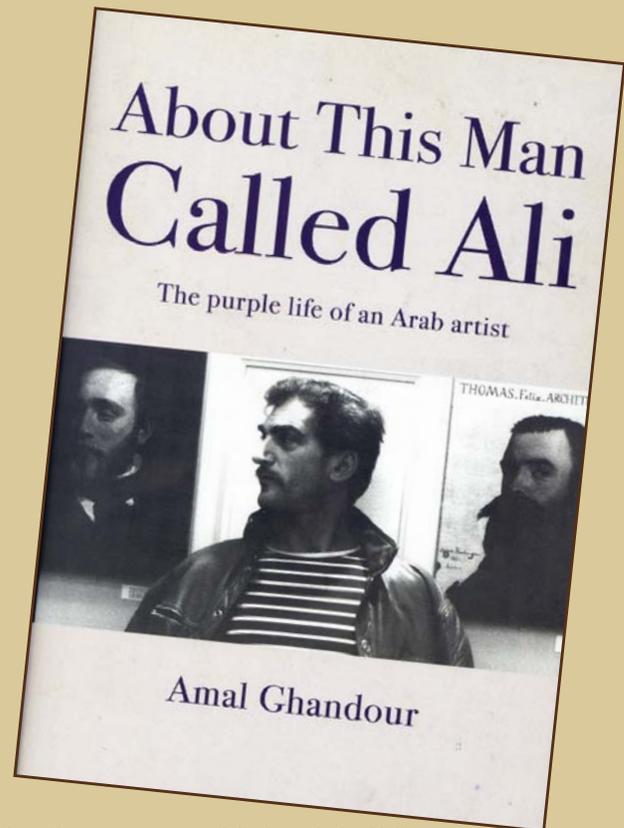
About This Man Called Ali is a fascinating, brilliant take on the life of 20th century Syrian painter Ali al-Jabri, extensively researched by Jordanian-Lebanese writer Amal Ghandour.

Ali al-Jabri was born in 1942 into a socially-prominent Syrian family originally from Aleppo. His childhood was spent aside characters such as his grandfather, Ihsan al-Jabri, chamberlain to King Feisal Ist of Syria, the son of Sharif Hussein of Hizaj, and his father Majeddine al-Jabri, Syria's minister of public works during the '50s, or the husband of his maternal aunt Wasfi Tal, the Jordanian prime minister who was assassinated in 1971. Despite being thrust into such a politically fertile environment, Jabri never exhibited any such ambitions. His inherent sensibility was apparent from a very young age, as was his limitless creativity.

Jabri was a somewhat troubled youth, torn between what was expected of him and what he wanted to do. His relationship with his mother would be of significant importance to him, something that would later be discernible in some of his early works. Familial problems exerted a particularly heavy toll on him, one he carried with him during his college years in California. That is where his first real exposure to the art world took place, where Jabri made his bones as an artiste and may have discovered his homosexuality. Upon failing Stanford, Jabri's parents made him to continue his college education in the UK, at university in Bristol. He was forced to stay with a morbidly conservative couple for a few months while he was punished, another factor in his innate disregard for intolerance.

Jabri explored the boundaries of his sexuality, his creativity and his identity while in Bristol. Upon graduating from university, he went to London in order to work at the Jordanian embassy, but spent much of his time at the British Museum, extensively exploiting the treasure trove of art in it. But Jabri was always looking for more. He relished the comfort, the affection that only family can provide, which may partly be why he returned to the Arab world. A lack of money had forced him to abandon his lifestyle, and exploring his roots might have been a tempting option. He was an ardent supporter of his Arab identity, and found no conflict between it and his homosexuality. As a liberal, Jabri felt no sympathy for Gamal Abdelnasser, whom he viewed as a sophist playing on the uneducated masses.

Arab culture was Jabri's first love, and he did everything he could for it. He was one of the premier Arab artists that sought to elevate Petra's glory, and he used his talents exceeding well to that end. He drew up plans for urban



development, would sketch buildings on the verge of demolition by municipal authorities, and his painting of Oum Kalthoum is generally conceded as being his masterpiece. The old port-city of Aqaba in the south of Jordan survives in his drawings. He became a member of the board of the Petra Preservation Trust, a part of Jordan's cultural heritage that held particular meaning for him. People who knew him speak highly of his charisma, his tolerance, and, above all, his creativity.

Jabri was murdered in his apartment in Amman in 2002, before a tour in Germany with a group of other Arab artists. He had just been offered to host a one-man show in Berlin. His burial site is located in his beloved Petra.

But About This Man Called Ali is more than just the epic tale of a troubled artist. It recounts the decline of a distinguished family and the fluctuations of a tumultuous region. The repercussions of the events that occurred in the Arab world since the Ottoman era and more specifically the phase of Gamal Abdel Nasser, the birth of Fatah and break out of conflicts in Jordan and their impact on Ali and the region are well documented. The author takes you by hand from the very beginning on an exciting journey where you sometimes run, sometimes jog and eventually slow down to catch your breath only to find yourself (the reader), Ali (the artist) and Amal Ghandour (the writer) as one in a tragedy of art, love and politics in a troubled region.

Must-Read Children's books

“GILGAMESH, THE HERO OF MESOPOTAMIA”*

“Gilgamesh, the Hero of Mesopotamia” retells the renowned epic of Gilgamesh, a story that dates back 4,000 years, originally written in Acadian and Sumerian languages.

The King of Uruk, the hero of the epic “Gilgamesh”, is one part human and two parts god. He has a perfect figure and strength, yet he spreads terror amongst the people of his city who complain to the gods about Gilgamesh’s abusive actions. The gods then decided to create a half-human, half-animal creature named Enkidu matching Gilgamesh in strength so that they would fight eternally, distracting him from his people. However, after a long fight, Gilgamesh and Enkidu become friends. Wanting to leave a glorious trace in history, they decide to embark on a journey to a cedar forest (many scholars believe that this is a reference to Lebanon) and cut all the trees as challenge to an enormous demon guarding it. After killing the demon, the goddess Ishtar asks Gilgamesh to marry her but he rebukes her offer. An angry Ishtar, seeking revenge, sets off the Bull of Heaven against Gilgamesh and Enkidu, who manage to kill it. Angry over the Bull’s death, the gods decide to kill only Enkidu and spare Gilgamesh, because he is two-thirds god. Upon Enkidu’s death, Gilgamesh becomes more aware of his own mortality and embarks on a quest to find the source of eternal life, and the meaning of his own. Will he discover them in his journey?



The moral of the tale is that human beings should enjoy life and focus on doing good deeds instead of wasting time searching for immortality, money, power and glory. The book is recommended for the secondary level and above.

*“Gilgamesh, the Hero of Mesopotamia,” part of the collection “The Heroes,” was written by Touma Al-Khoury. It was published in its sixth edition by “Bayt Al-Hikma” in Beirut in 2005.

Lebanon Families

FRANJIEH

A single confession based in one region

A number of members of the Franjeh family have played a significant role in the establishment of modern Lebanon. Some prominent members are Qabalan Franjeh, his two sons, Hameed, a minister and MP, and Suleiman, an MP, minister and president (1970-1976). Suleiman Franjeh's son Tony (assassinated on June 13, 1978) was also a prominent actor on the Lebanese political stage. Suleiman Franjeh's grandsons are MP and minister Suleiman and former MP Samir Hameed Franjeh. The family is considered medium sized in terms of numbers since the overwhelming majority is confined to the North and belongs to the Maronite confession.

Origins

Franjeh is the Arabic feminine of 'Franji', a word referring to the residents of Europe. By the end of the 13th century, as the Crusaders started to lose control over the Orient, including Lebanon, groups of "Franja" (crusaders) settled in the town of Ehden where one of the leaders married a local girl who became referred to by town residents as the "Franjeh" i.e. the wife of the Franji. Following the death of her husband, their children were nicknamed the "children of the Franjeh". The family branches include the families of Antoine, Abu Shibil and Hleiss.

Number and registries

There are an estimated 2000 members of the Franjeh family (also written Franjiet, but members who use this particular spelling are very limited in number). Family members are distributed according to their original registries and their confessions in the following regions:

Maronite

- ⦿ Zgharta (Hay Ma'assir) 910 members
- ⦿ Zgharta (Hay El-Salib El-Jnoubi) 460 members
- ⦿ Zgharta (Hay El-Salib El-Shmeli) 180 members
- ⦿ Zgharta (Hay El-Saydeh El-Gharbi) 62 members
- ⦿ Zgharta (Hay El-Saydeh El-Charqui) 108 members
- ⦿ Bazaoune (Bcharré) 75 members
- ⦿ Beirut (Achrafieh and Rmeil) 30 members

- ⦿ Qbaiyat (A'akkar) 14 members
- ⦿ Ouata El-Jaouz (Kesrouane) 10 members

Latin Christians:

- ⦿ Bachoura, Rmeil and Achrafieh (Beirut): 27 members
- ⦿ Kfar Chima (Ba'abda): six members



Discover Lebanon

SINDIANET ZEIDAN- QADA'A A'AKKAR

Etymology

There are no credible references to the origins of the town's name, also known as the town of Sindiané (oak tree). It is probable that the town was called Sindianet Zeidan in reference to its oak trees. Furthermore, the Zeidan families (or Reidan) could have once lived in the area, but not anymore.

Location

Sindianet Zeidan is located in qada'a A'akkar in the north (new A'akkar muhafaza) at an altitude of 500-700 meters above sea level, 130 kilometers away from Beirut and 45 kilometers away from Trablous. It covers an area of 300 hectares. It can be reached via A'abda-Halba-Beera or via Qabaait-Gharbiyeh.

Population

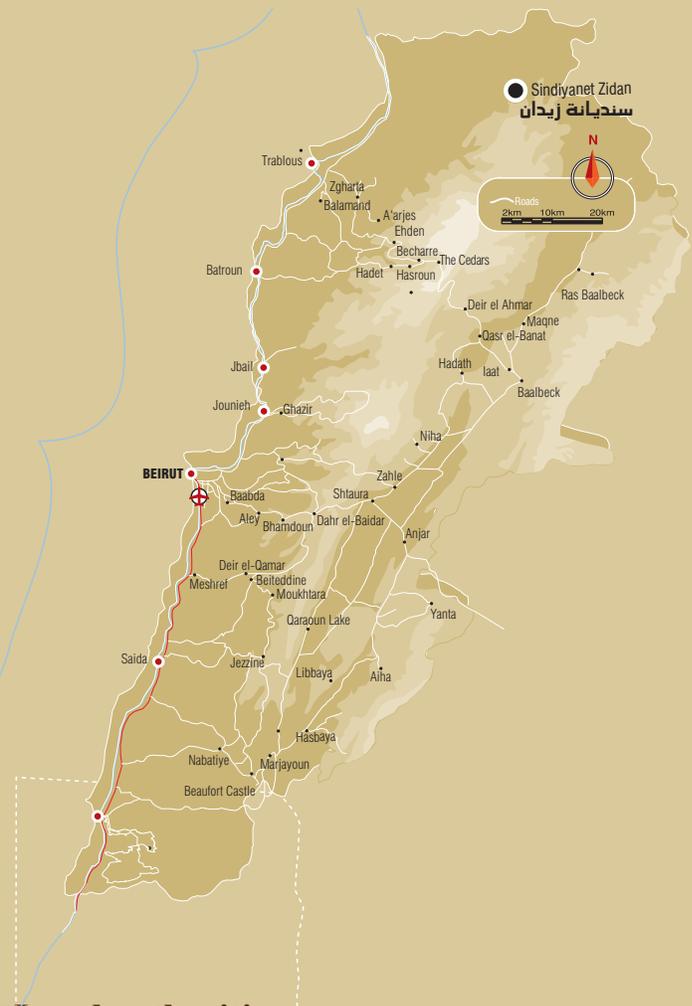
An estimated 1,600 people are registered in the town's registry, with a majority of Sunni. The town has around 300 houses.

Voters

The number of voters in 2000 reached 711 compared to 832 in 2004 and 1,040 in 2009 of whom 643 (62%) cast their ballots. The increase in the number of voters over the years indicates an increase in the percentage of youth among voters between 2000 and 2009 of up to 46%.

Sunni:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ⊙ Qassem: 153 voters | ⊙ Othman: 25 voters |
| ⊙ Hamad: 150 voters | ⊙ Ahmad: 23 voters |
| ⊙ Mohammad: 90 voters | ⊙ Abdel Latif: 17 voters |
| ⊙ Meri'i: 71 voters | ⊙ Saeed: 16 voters |
| ⊙ Fayyad: 67 voters | ⊙ Al-Hajji: 14 voters |
| ⊙ Hamza: 54 voters | ⊙ Mustapha: 10 voters |
| ⊙ Khaled: 52 voters | ⊙ Idan: six voters |
| ⊙ Kenjo: 44 voters | |
| ⊙ Abbas: 39 voters | |
| ⊙ Mahmoud: 36 voters | |
| ⊙ Salim: 36 voters | |
| ⊙ Mkheiber: 33 voters | |
| ⊙ Abu Hamdeh: 28 voters | |



Local authorities

The town has a 12-member municipal council, established by Decree #572 dated July 6, 2004. The revenues from the Municipal Council Independent Fund reached LBP 77.2 million in 2007, compared to LBP 95 million in 2003 and LBP 58.4 million in 2004.

Education

The town has one public school and a project is currently underway to build a new complex funded by Prime Minister Saad Hariri. The school had 72 students in 2005-2006, compared to 57 in 2006-2007. It also employs nine faculty members.

Economy

Town residents rely mainly on agriculture and animal and livestock breeding. There are a number of crafts and commercial shops that provide limited employment opportunities.

Franjeh to Patriarch Sfeir:

FROM “SFEIR IS A FATHER TO EVERYONE” ... TO “HE IS AN EMPLOYEE AT THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES”

“Suleiman, you are the patriarch” is a slogan chanted by Minister Suleiman Franjeh’s supporters who see him as the embodiment of a Christian authority keen to preserve the interests of the confession, and the nation. Franjeh, who in the past has declared his commitment to Bkirki and confidence in its policies, lashed out at the patriarch on a several occasions, asking him to limit his role to that of a religious authority and to be the leader of all Maronites, not just of one group against another.

Reconciliation

“We had begun to cooperate with his Eminence on the national level a while ago, completing, under his fatherly patronage over us since our birth, and his support of our national work. After all this, there had to be a visit to Diman to take the blessing and discuss with his Eminence our current affairs... the meeting was great as usual.” (*An Nahar August 7, 1995*)

“There were matching opinions. A majority come to this enclave to voice their concerns. We are also here to express our point of view and I consider our master a national reference for every confession. It is our duty to visit him to explain our point of view and of course our master listens to everyone and to our causes. We addressed the matters and the mood was very good. Certainly our master has his own worries and we have others, but there are many common points and we are able to do so much under his sponsorship.” (*An Nahar January 23, 2001*)

“We do regard ourselves as far from Patriarch Sfeir... some people saw that we returned to Bkirki, even though Bkirki is our natural position.” (*An Nahar February 16, 2001*)

“The patriarch is the first and last religious reference.” (*An Nahar July 14, 2004*)

“If our master complains, then who do we complain to? We complain to him, and it is his duty to help us achieve unity. Our concern is for the patriarch to solve the problem and not just describe it. And I believe that there is not a problem that he cannot solve if he puts his mind to it.” (*Al-Akhbar November 28, 2006*)

“We are all the children of the Church and you are a father for everyone.” (*Agencies December 26, 2008*)

Enmity

“Sfeir is an employee at the French and American embassies.” (*An Nahar January 18, 2008*)

“I cannot hand over my fate and the fate of my children to a 90-year old man, who forgets what he says an hour later. This is what some of the clergy are saying and are asking us to have patience.” (*Al Mustaqbal January 26, 2008*)

“If Patriarch Sfeir works in politics we will respond with politics. This is our position. No one wants to depose him or is seeking to. Bkirki’s prestige must be preserved by both sides. We are obliged to maintain

Bkirki’s status and Bkirki must also uphold its status... Bkirki must not exhibit itself and must make [its] calculations.” (*An Nahar January 19, 2008*)

“It appears that the master of Bkirki was turned on after seeing all those women in Bkirki.” (*An Nahar December 2, 2008*)



January 2010 Timeline in Lebanon

AIRPLANE CRASH, VISITS ABROAD BY HARIRI AND ARMS OUTSIDE THE CAMPS WILL NOT BE ELIMINATED

An airplane crash on January 25th off the coast of Na'ameh south of Rafic Hariri International Airport that killed all 90 passengers aboard the Ethiopian Airline flight was one of the most significant events of the month. Among the passengers 54 of the passengers were Lebanese, and the bodies of 23 victims bodies were had been found recovered by February 8th. Other important events included:

January 4

President Michel Suleiman arrived in Paris on a private visit and met with French counterpart Nicholas Sarkozy. MP Walid Jumblat visited Wi'am Wahhab in Jehliyah in the presence of figures from of the opposition, notably Elie Skaff, Minister Jebran Bassil, a delegation from Hezbollah delegation in addition to and Minister of Interior Ziad Baroud. Jumblat said in a statement: "When those on the top reconcile we become like the fish they catch in the bulk of the sea."

January 6

The first cabinet session in the Grand Serail occurred, in which when the explosion in a Hamas center in the southern suburbs was discussed. Hariri stated: "We want a relationship of trust and openness with Syria for the best interest of both countries and both people."

Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faisal said after meeting President Bashar Assad in Syria: "The Lebanese file is moving forward, why discuss it?"

January 7

Hariri visited Jordan in his third trip abroad since his government won a vote of confidence, having visited after Saudi Arabia and Syria, ever since his government won a vote of confidence. Announcement It was announced that the contract of the director of the investigation department at the Special

Tribunal for Lebanon, Najib Caldas, will expire on February 28.

January 11

Reconciliation between Hezbollah and the Progressive Socialist Party in Choueifat publicly reconciled.

Hariri visited Turkey

A delegation from the American Congress delegation, headed by former presidential candidate Senator John McCain, left Lebanon after a two days its arrival day visit.

January 12

Jumblat visited General Michel Aoun in Rabiye in the presence of with MPs and ministers from both sides. They stressed that the meeting was frank and established a new stage to complete the file of the displaced.

January 13

The resignation of David Colbert, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon's registrar, was announced only 181 days after he was appointed to replace Robin Vincent. The given reason for the resignation was that he received a job offer at the New York-based International Center for Transitional Justice.

January 14

Speaker Nabih Berri called for the launching of a commission to abolish political sectarianism in

implementation of a mandatory constitutional text and according to an interim plan and unanimous decisions.

Assad visited Saudi Arabia and met King Abdullah. They both expressed relief following "to the positive environment in Lebanon".

An explosion in front of Mohammad Hazimeh (probably aimed at a Hezbollah official) in Kfarkila injures three people.

January 15

Baroud said in a statement: "We are still within the legal grace period to hold municipal and ikhtiyariah elections. The ministry is working to be fully prepared."

January 16

The opening of the Arab International Forum for the Support of the Resistance at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut opened.

Hariri arrived in the United Arab Emirates on an official visit.

Jumblat, in an interview with Agence France Presse: "Three quarters of the road is now open and normalized between me and Syria. The final step is linked to the right timing." He highlighted to sticking points with Damascus: a personal speech against Assad on February 14, 2007; and a statement in the Washington Post that the Syrians saw as an insult to their

regime. He said he did not regret his positions over the past four years.

Fatah al-Intifada secretary general Abou Moussa, on his first visit to Saida since 1982, said: “A decision on the Palestinian weapons inside Lebanon is an internal Palestinian decision that has nothing to do with any other force.” He absolutely rejected the notion of Palestinian disarmament outside the Palestinian camps because they have “goals and visions that are different from [the goals and visions of armsarmed forces] within the camps”.

January 19

The US special envoy to the Middle East, George Mitchell, arrived in Lebanon and left the following day. He said: “We will not impose naturalization [f of the Palestinians] and we will work for peace on all tracks and for the normalization of ties.”

January 2

The Cabinet decided to extend the work of municipalities for technical reasons and amended articles in the

municipalities’ law, such as reducing the term to five years instead of six.

January 21

Hariri visited France and stated: “Israel does not need pretext to launch an aggression on Lebanon and it is uninterested in peace.”

January 22

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner declared during Hariri’s visit to Paris: “The danger on Lebanon is not from Israel but from Hezbollah through a military adventure it might engage in for the benefit of Iran.” Samir Geagea in an interview with the Lebanon Files website: “If it weren’t for the equal distribution of position on confessions to guarantee everyone’s presence and participation then the Christians [will be lost].”

January 23

Hariri met with Sarkozy in Paris and said he is in constant contact, via telephone, with Assad.

Suleiman said: “We will not allow a postponement of the elections because of personal whims.”

January 25

Clashes on Saturday January 23 between leftist demonstrators and security forces in front of the Egyptian Embassy in Beirut

January 26

An Ethiopian airplane carrying 90 passengers (including the crew) crashed minutes after take-off from Beirut Airport during the early morning carrying 90 passengers, including the crew. There were no survivors.

A joint press conference took place at the Bristol Hotel for from the leaderships of the Free Patriotic Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party to announce a work plan for the return of displaced to their original mountain areas.

January 28

On an official visit to Cairo, Hariri said Hariri on an official visit to Cairo said: “Hezbollah is part of the forces ushered by the elections, it is with us in the Council of Ministers and it is a partner in the government of national unity.”

January 29

The case of the kidnapping of Sheikh Mohammad al-Majzoub from Majdal A’anjjar, announced Tuesday the evening of the 26th, was closed after it turned out that he was discovered he was hiding in the home of the notary of Lala’s municipality notary Kamal Handous for reasons that remain still unknown. The sheikh and his friend were arrested for questioning.

Spanish General Alberto Asarta Cuevas takes took over the command of UNIFIL from Italian General Claudio Graziano after a three-year mission in Lebanon.

January 30

The Council of Ministers extended the mobile phone contracts for six months that can be renewable renewed for an extra three months twice in a row. It also approved a minimal 20% quota for the participation of women in the municipal elections.

A meeting at MP Suleiman Franjeh’s home with former President Emile Lahoud and General Michel Aoun.

Radhia Achouri, spokesperson for the Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) Danielle Bellemare announced that “until now no date has been set for the start of trial sessions”.

February 1

A meeting at the Bristol Hotel of March 14 leaders in the presence of Hariri called for commemorating the assassination of Rafik Hariri on February 14.

Note: The events are dated according to when they appeared in the newspapers.



DECISION OF BARRING 500 IRAQI CANDIDATES TO ESCALATE POLITICAL CRISIS OF IRAQ

Iraq Leader Questions Election Bans

Wall Street Journal, Ben Lando, Friday January 22, 2010

“Iraq’s president called for a review of the government panel that disqualified more than 500 candidates from parliamentary elections slated for early March, in an attempt to defuse an uproar ahead of the polls.

... American and other Western diplomats have been alarmed by the commission’s large-scale ban, worried it could delegitimize the voting.

Underscoring Washington’s concern, U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, the Obama administration’s point man on Iraq, was expected to visit Baghdad to help broker a compromise.

“We’ve made our concerns known to the full range of Iraqi leaders and political factions regarding the need for a transparent vetting process,” said a

U.S. official in Baghdad.

While both Shiite and Sunni candidates were disqualified by the panel, Sunni politicians accused the government of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki and other prominent Shiites of using the commission to ban Sunnis and other powerful politicians, seen as electoral threats...

... “They want to bring sectarianism back in order to take power again,” said Saleh Mutlaq, one of the best-known of the banned politicians. He is a Sunni and a popular secular politician, allied with former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Mr. Mutlaq, an agronomist, was a member of the Baath Party until 1977, when he said he had a falling out with the party and returned to farming.

Mr. Maliki’s government has denied any political motivation behind the panel’s decisions.

Candidates have three days to appeal, but it is unclear when that countdown began and how long any appeal process could take...

... Mr. Talabani on Thursday questioned the authority of the panel that issued the bans, called the Accountability and Justice Commission.

“I myself am not satisfied with the banning decision,” Mr. Talabani said at a news conference, the Associated Press reported. “We have sent a letter to the Supreme Appeal Court asking whether this committee that issued the decision is legitimate or not.”

Barred Politicians Mostly Secular, Iraqi Says

New York Times, Nada Bakri, January 21, 2010

“The two biggest secular coalitions were hit hardest by this month’s decision to bar about 500 candidates from parliamentary elections in March, a top election official said Thursday, as efforts to resolve what has become a political crisis intensified.

The decision infuriated Sunnis and deepened their fears of being excluded from the political process...

The head of the independent electoral commission responsible for organizing the vote, Faraj al-Haidari, said that the list of those disqualified that was compiled by the Accountability and Justice Commission had candidates from all religious backgrounds and political affiliations. Secular candidates represented the largest number of

disqualifications, according to the list published in local newspapers, divided almost evenly between Sunnis and Shiites, Mr. Haidari said.

“You could say it’s 50-50,” he said.

The commission barred 72 candidates from Iraqiya, the coalition led by Ayad Allawi, a former prime minister; Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi; and Saleh al-Mutlaq, a leading Sunni lawmaker who was himself barred, Mr. Haidari said. It also disqualified 67 from another predominantly secular coalition, Iraq Unity, led by Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani, said Jinan Mubarak, a candidate from the group.

In an early effort to resolve the crisis, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. suggested that the list of the disqualified

be set aside until after the elections, so that only those on the list who won would have to be examined for Baathist ties, according to Iraqi officials.... Electoral officials have questioned the feasibility of such an idea.

Mr. Hashimi has contested the legality of the commission, which is headed by Ali Faisal al-Lami, who until last August was in an American-run prison in Iraq on suspicions that he was involved in bombings that singled out Americans in Iraq, and Ahmed Chalabi, once one of Washington’s top allies here, who is now believed to have close ties with Iran.

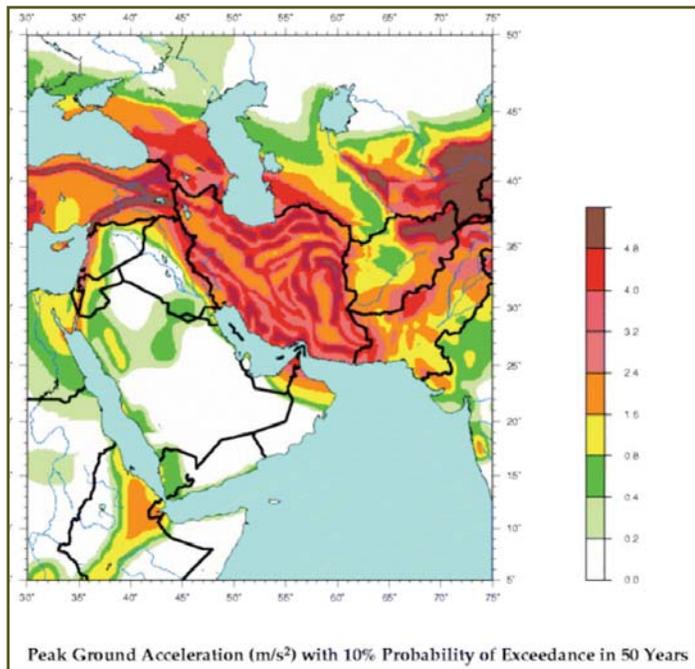
The commission took over the responsibilities of a de-Baathification committee in 2008, but its members were never approved by Parliament...”



THE NEXT HAITI COULD BE THE MIDDLE EAST

The recent earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, scored a 7.2 on the Richter scale, and caused the deaths of reportedly over 150,000 people. The general consensus is that Haiti will take years to even begin to recover. The thought of such a catastrophe striking close to home is frightening; unfortunately, it may be all too real.

An earthquake occurs during the movement of two (or more) tectonic plates, generally above their intersection. Unfortunately, since the Arabian Peninsula forms a tectonic plate in itself, the countries on its borders, such as Turkey, Iran, Lebanon and Israel, are at high risk of earthquakes. The following map shows the speed that land in the area is moving, a reliable indicator of seismic activity.



Source: United States Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazard's Program

And the similarities between the pre-existing conditions in Haiti and these countries, notably Lebanon, seem to spell trouble. A large portion of local populations is urbanized, living in the capital, coastal city (which poses the risk of tsunamis). Poor infrastructure poses a problem. If Lebanon's sewer system can't even absorb rainfall, how is it supposed to cope with the mandatory flooding that would accompany an earthquake, or a tsunami? Many buildings don't follow international earthquake preparedness codes. The mountain ranges and hills surrounding both capital cities could potentially cause mudslides, which are potentially highly dangerous (a mudslide in Guatemala in 2005 killed 1400 people, wiping away entire villages).

The dangers posed by a potential earthquake in the Middle East are significant, and they have been substantiated by numerous geologists. According to the UN, Iran is the number one country

in the world for earthquakes, in every parameter: intensity, frequency, and number of casualties. An earthquake in the unfortunately named Bam, Iran caused the deaths of around 30,000 people in December 2003. Another in February 2005 killed about 500 people in the Zarand area of Iran. The BBC claims that experts detect a small earthquake every day in Iran. A geophysicist at Tehran University, Dr. Bahram Akashesh, estimates that there is a 90% chance that an earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter scale or higher would hit Tehran, home to over 12 million people (his odds of that earthquake being a 7.5, or around the same intensity as the Haiti quake, are 50%).

A major step forward in preparing for earthquakes is making sure that both private homes and public buildings, like schools, have the structural integrity to resist a quake. A general standard for building codes in developed countries that pose a high risk of earthquakes, like Japan, is the capacity to resist a 6.0 Richter scale quake. Unfortunately, countries like Iran and Lebanon (unlike Israel and Turkey) lack both the funding and the political willpower to enforce these potentially life-saving construction requirements.

A less expensive (and a lot less efficient) way that these countries also prepare for earthquakes is general training of the population. Experts say that this can save up to a third of the lives that would be lost in a quake. This involves emergency first-aid training, general information about the safest locations to be during an earthquake ("far away from the earthquake"), and ensuring that teams of first-response personnel are adequately prepared and equipped. This less funding intensive solution could potentially be applied in places like Lebanon and Iran. Training programs are actually underway in Iran, although some personnel decry the lack of adequate funding.

Two issues however prevent these governments from wanting to adequately prepare their citizens for an earthquake. One is that doing so could spark general discontent stemming from the government's incapacity to fund general reconstruction. Another is that people in the area tend to adopt a fatalistic philosophy ("As God wants"), and therefore believe that whatever is supposed to happen will happen, so preparation is not only pointless, and may even border on sacrilegious.

It seems apparent that an immediate reaction to Haiti, for all governments presiding over countries at risk of earthquakes, would be to buckle down and begin preparations. Unfortunately nothing seems to be happening, despite the alternative being too terrible to imagine.

REAL ESTATE INDEX IN LEBANON- JANUARY 2010

Real estate circulations in January 2010 were stable, as they usually are during this month every year. While the circulation movement was very limited real estate prices did not drop for two main reasons. First, property for sale in high demand areas (Beirut and nearby suburbs and in some summer destinations) has been rare; and second construction materials, especially those imported, are expensive due to their high cost internationally or due to a rise in the Euro exchange rate. Consequently, apartments maintained previous pricing with indicators that the prices of small apartments (\$150,000-\$300,000) will increase by 5%-10% in the coming months while more expensive apartments will remain stable or witness a limited drop. Tables 1 and 2 list the prices of land and real estates sold in January 2010.

Prices of land sold in January			
Location	Area (m2)	Price (USD)	USD/m2
Beirut			
Corniche Mazra'a (back street)	350	1,470,000	4,200
Ra's El-Naba'a	1,200	7,200,000	6,000
Msaitbé	1,100	8,745,000	7,950
Sioufi	650	1,950,000	3,000
Sassine	500	3,850,000	7,700
Hotel Dieu	370	1,313,500	3,550
Ba'abda			
Mar taqla	880	1,540,000	1,750
Hadath (Antoniyeh)	530	392,200	740
Ba'abda	1,600	1,232,000	770
Hazmiyeh	3,400	3,060,000	900
Metn			
Jal El-Deeb	500	875,000	1,750
Zalqa	600	720,000	1,200
Broummana	1,000	350,000	350
Bahr Saf	2,400	960,000	400
Rabiyé	2,100	5,250,000	2,500
Qornet Chehouane	900	774,000	860
Ba'abdat	1,100	473,000	430
Mansouriyet	1,100	693,000	630
A'aley			
Choueifat (Saida old road)	1,420	213,000	150
Khalde	1,100	660,000	600
A'aramoun	900	360,000	400
Bchamoun (Yahoudiyeh)	700	203,000	290
Saoufar	1,500	75,000	50
Kesrouane			
'Adma	1,000	600,000	600
Kaslik	1,300	3,510,000	2,700
Qleiaat	1,500	165,000	110
Balloune	850	229,500	270
Faraya	8,000	1,040,000	130
Faqra	700	350,000	500
Faytroun	1,200	120,000	100

Source: Compiled by Information International-January 2010.

Prices of some constructed real estate sold in January 2010			
Location	Area (m2)	Price (USD)	USD/m2
Beirut			
Clemenceau	150	510,000	3,400
Raouche	170	510,000	3,000
Ramlet El-Baida	250	1,000,000	4,000
Tariq Jdeedeh	100	110,000	1,100
Salim Slem	100	200,000	2,000
Ra's El-Nab'a	150	300,000	2,000
Mariott	220	880,000	4,000
Raouche	200	620,000	3,100
Saqiyet El-Janzeer	120	384,000	3,200
Hamra	210	567,000	2,700
Qoreitem (highway)	250	875,000	3,500
Ba'abda			
Mar Taqla	200	400,000	2,000
Hadath (Hay El-Amrican)	270	351,000	1,300
Ba'abda	300	630,000	2,100
Yarze	250	575,000	2,300
Yarze	220	418,000	1,900
Haret Hreik	100	100,000	1,000
Borj El-Barajneh	120	120,000	1,000
Hadath (mechanic)	140	154,000	1,100
A'ain El-Roummaneh	150	172,500	1,150
Louayzé	350	507,500	1,450
Metn			
Horsh Tabet	300	990,000	3,300
Mansouriyet	270	297,000	1,100
Mansouriyet	100	120,000	1,200
Broummana	250	250,000	1,000
Broummana	180	270,000	1,500
Borj Hammoud	110	88,000	800
Aoukar	200	200,000	1,000
Raboueh	120	120,000	1,000
Antelias	150	198,000	1,320
Beit Meri	200	300,000	1,500
Dekouané	130	130,000	1,000
A'aley			
Bchamoun (Yehoudieh)	250	300,000	1,200
Daouhet El-Hoss	150	150,000	1,000
Khaldeh	145	101,500	700
Daouhet A'aramoun	250	212,500	850
Choueifat	120	84,000	700
A'aley	130	111,800	860
Kesrouane			
Sahel A'alma	140	161,000	1,150
Adonis	120	120,000	1,000
Haret Sakhr	210	239,400	1,140
Balloune	190	142,500	750
Kaslik	200	220,000	1,100
Zouk Mousbeh	150	136,500	910

Source: Compiled by Information International-January 2010

TOWARD A LEBANESE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: JANUARY 2010

The prices of most of the 100 items listed in the index were stable in January. The prices of 64 items, those of 24 products dropped while the prices of 12 items increased. Merchants and supermarket owners fear a drop in consumerism that would last for more than the first two months of the year. In such an event the markets would become stagnant and witness a significant drop prices which would cause severe losses in light of the fierce competition in the Lebanese markets.

Prices of products in January 2010 (In LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of January 2010	Prices beginning of February 2010	of price change
Oil				
Afia corn oil	(3.5 liters)	11,370	11,370	0
Mazola corn oil	(3.5 liters)	13,250	12,500	5.60
Mazola corn oil	(2 liters)	6,750	6,750	0
Slim corn oil	(2 liters)	7,250	7,250	0
Wesson corn oil	(2 liters)	8,250	8,000	-3
Ghandour soya oil	(3.8 liters)	10,500	10,500	0
Alfa corn oil	(4 liters)	12,985	11,500	-11.4
Afia corn oil	(3.5 liters)	9,200	9,200	0
Ketchup and Sauces				
Libby's Ketchup	(567 g)	2,875	2,875	0
Extra Ketchup	(340 g)	1,500	1,500	0
Extra Ketchup	(2.2 kg)	5,550	5,550	0
Dolly's Mayonnaise	(500 ml)	3,650	3,850	+5.4
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise	(500 ml)	4,250	3,750	-11.7
Al-Bsat Tahina	(900 g)	8,950	8,950	0
Al-Bsat Tahina	(450 g)	4,690	4,690	0
Taous tomato sauce	(425 g)	495	495	0
Tala tomato sauce	(675 g)	2,625	2,625	0
Libby's Ketchup	(567 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Fruits and Vegetables				
Orange	(1 kg)	750	750	0
Tomatoes	(1kg)	1,100	1,250	+13.6
Cucumbers	(1kg)	1,200	800	-33.3
Bananas	(1kg)	1,000	1,000	0
Lemons	(1 kg)	500	500	0
Apples	(1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Potatoes	(1 kg)	850	700	17.6-

Prices of products in January 2010 (In LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of January 2010	Prices beginning of February 2010	of price change
Dairy Products				
Candia full cream milk	(1 liter)	2,450	2,600	+6.1
Candia full cream yoghurt	(2 kg)	4,800	4,800	0
Bonjus labneh	(1 kg)	3,750	3,900	+4
Taanayel labneh	(500 g)	5,000	5,250	+5
Candia labneh	(500 g)	5,000	5,000	0
Taanayel yoghurt	(1 kg)	2,575	2,575	0
Smeds cheese	(400 g)	4,100	4,100	0
Picon cheese	(360 g)	3,525	3,525	0
Picon cheese	(160 g)	1,725	1,725	0
Double-crème cheese	(1 kg)	6,400	6,400	0
Fresh country cheese	(1 kg)	7,500	6,000	-20
Khashkawan cheese	(1 kg)	11,000	11,000	0
Lurpak butter	(200 g)	2,450	2,500	+2
Tatra butter	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Al-Maalaqtain margarine	(2 kg)	10,100	10,100	0
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine	(2kg)	25,610	24,250	-5.3
Vegetaline margarine	(2 kg)	13,950	13,950	0
Nido full cream milk (bag)	(2,250 g)	19,050	19,250	+1
Nido full cream milk	(2,500 g)	23,100	25,250	+9.3
Tatra full cream milk	(1,800 g)	17,600	17,600	0
Sugar and Salt				
Sugar	(2 kg)	3,000	2,750	-8.3
Al-Ousra Sugar	(5 kg)	7,250	7,150	-1.3
Salt	(700 g)	500	500	0
Box of salt	(738 g)	950	1,100	+15.8

Prices of products in January 2010 (In LBP) Table 1

Item and brand		Prices beginning of January 2010	Prices beginning of February 2010	of price change
Cereals				
Khater white lentils	(1 kg)	2,700	2,700	0
Khater chick-peas fahli	(1 kg)	3,000	3,100	+3.3
Khater beans	(1 kg)	1,750	1,750	0
Peeled wheat	(1 kg)	1,800	1,500	-16.6
Pineal Lima Bean	(1 kg)	3,000	3,000	0
Brown Fine Burgul	(1 kg)	1,800	1,640	-8.8
Egyptian rice	(1 kg)	2,050	2,000	-2.4
American rice	(1 kg)	2,100	2,100	0
Italian rice	(1 kg)	2,300	2,300	0
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,200	1,200	0
Chtaura Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,100	950	-13.6
California Gardens beans	(450 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Al-Wadi beans	(450 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Chtaura beans	(480 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Libby's corn	(340 g)	1,450	1,400	-3.4
Pasta				
Barilla spaghetti	(500 g)	2,050	2,050	0
Antonio Amato spaghetti	(500 g)	2,850	2,850	0
Monte spaghetti	(500 g)	2,150	2,150	0
Halvah and Jam				
Al-Wadi halvah	(454 g)	4,250	4,250	0
Al-Bsat halvah	(450 g)	4,200	4,200	0
Chtaura apricot jam	(1 kg)	6,400	6,400	0
Al-Wadi apricot jam	(1 kg)	5,500	5,500	0

Prices of products in January 2010 (In LBP) Table 1

Item and brand		Prices beginning of January 2010	Prices beginning of February 2010	of price change
Meat, Fish and Eggs				
Zwan chicken	(200 g)	2,200	2,250	+2.2
Zwan beef	(200 g)	2,200	2,200	0
Luncheon meat beef	(198 g)	1,450	1,750	+20.6
Al-Mona chicken	(200 g)	1,900	1,900	0
Al-Taghzia beef	(200 g)	1,750	11,750	0
Al-Taghzia chicken	(200 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Geisha sardine	(125 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Deli sardine	(125 g)	990	950	4
Milo sardine	(125 g)	990	990	0
Geisha tuna	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
White Bell tuna	(200 g)	2,100	2,150	+2.4
White Diamond tuna	(200 g)	2,050	2,050	0
Skipper tuna	(185 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Eggs	(30 eggs)	8,050	7,000	-13
Beef	(1 kg)	13,000	12,000	-7.7
Sheep	(1 kg)	20,000	18,000	-10
Coffee and Tea				
Najjar coffee	(1kg)	12,250	12,250	0
Brazil coffee	(1 kg)	10,500	10,500	0
Al-Hisan tea	(180 g)	2,450	2,450	0
Nestle	(250g)	2,200	2,100	-4.5
Tissues and Detergents				
Mimosa tissues	(500 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Fine tissues	(200 tissues)	1,250	1,200	4-
Primo tissues	(200 tissues)	1,200	1,200	0
Gipsy tissues	(300 tissues)	2,350	2,450	+4.2
Mimosa toilet papers	(4 rolls)	2,400	2,400	0
Yes detergent	(900 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Clorox	(1 liter)	1,450	1,450	0
Persil	(4 kg)	18,200	17,900	-1.6
Ariel	(4 kg)	18,450	18,250	-1

Source: Information International



Hunger and Malnutrition around the World

Hunger is considered the most extreme manifestation of poverty, where individuals or families cannot afford to meet their most basic need for food. Hunger can have other consequences than starvation and famine. Most poor people who battle hunger deal with chronic undernourishment and vitamin or mineral deficiencies, which result in stunted growth, weakness and heightened susceptibility to illness.

- The World Health Organization estimates that **1/3 of the world** is well nourished and that another 1/3 is malnourished
- **840 million people** in the world are clinically malnourished.
- **50,000 people** die each day as a result of malnutrition.
- **1.02 billion people** across the world are hungry.
- **16,000 children** die each day from hunger-related causes.
- **143 million children** under the age of 5 in the developing world are underweight because of poor nutrition, **3 million** of whom die each year from that cause.
- Countries in which a large portion of the population battles hunger daily often lack the social safety nets available in developed nations.
- According to the World Health Organization, poor nutrition and calorie deficiencies cause nearly **1 in 3 people** to die prematurely or have disabilities.
- Pregnant women, new mothers who breastfeed infants, and children have the highest risk of undernourishment.
- Malnutrition can severely affect a child's mental development. Children who have stunted growth due to malnutrition score significantly lower on math and language tests than well-nourished children.
- Virtually every country in the world has the potential to growing sufficient food on a sustainable basis.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has set the minimum requirement for caloric intake per person per day at 2,350. Worldwide, there are 2,805 calories available per person per day. Fifty-four countries fall below this requirement; they do not produce enough food to feed their populations, nor can they afford to import enough to make up the gap. Most of these countries are located in sub-Saharan Africa.

Beirut International Airport

Traffic at Rafic Hariri International Airport-January 2010 14.4% drop from December and 20% increase from 2009

Traffic at Rafic Hariri International Airport dropped in January 2010 compared to December 2009. The number of passengers (arrivals-departures-transit) reached 369,694 in January compared to 431,999 in December marking a 14.4% drop. In comparison to January 2009, traffic increased by 20% or by 62,567 passengers to 307,127 in January 2010.

Airport traffic in January 2010 compared to December 2009 and January 2009

Table 1

Traffic	December 2009	January 2010	January 2009	% of change December/January	% of change January/January
Arriving airplanes	2,703	2,557	1,989	-5.4%	+28.5%
Departing airplanes	2,692	2,577	2,008	-4.2%	+28.3%
Total # of airplanes	5,395	5,134	3,997	-4.8%	+28.4%
Arriving crews	21,055	20,196	16,310	-4%	+23.8%
Departing crews	20,975	20,324	16,248	-3.1%	+25%
Total # of crews	42,030	40,520	32,558	-3.6%	+24.4%
Arriving passengers	232,169	157,174	125,009	-32.3%	+25.7%
Departing passengers	196,913	208,514	179,127	+5.9%	+16.4%
Transit passengers	2,917	4,006	2,991	+37.3%	+34%
Total # of passengers	431,999	369,694	307,127	-14.4%	+20.3%
Imported goods (per ton)	3,749	2,971	2,693	-20.7%	+10.3%
Exported goods (per ton)	2,739	2,320	2,374	-15.3%	-2.2%
Total amount of goods (per ton)	6,488	5,291	5,067	-18.4%	+4.4%

Source: Information International and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Stats & Numbers

- **LBP 60 billion** were earmarked as diesel subsidies to help residents in the mountains and remote areas with domestic heating in wintertime. The Council of Ministers decided to aid in the purchase of “red diesel” tanks by LBP 3000 each from December 24, 2009 until March 15, 2010. Government support is to stop once the price of the tank drops to LBP15,000. Oil companies and gas station owners, however, benefit from this support by keeping it in storage to sell it later after the subsidies cease. This enables them to benefit from the difference in pricing between the subsidized diesel and its price after the government funding stops in March 15 which defeats the purpose.
- **3,755 traffic accidents** in Lebanon in 2009 killed 473 people and wounded 5,272, compared to 4,770 accidents in 2008 in which 478 people were killed and 6,882 wounded.
- **1,527 cars** were stolen in Lebanon 2009, at the rate of 55 cars a month, of which 875 cars were retrieved and 652 remain unaccounted for. In 2008, 1,707 cars were stolen of which 795 were retrieved and 912 remain at large.
- **USD 728 million** was the profit made by three of the largest Lebanese banks in 2009 (compared to USD 6,211 million in 2008 marking a 18.9% increase) amounting to 60% of total profit made by the banking sector. The figure is distributed as follows: BLOM registered USD 293 million in profit marking a 16.5% increase from 2008; Bank Audi registered USD 289 in profit marking a 21.4% increase from 2008 and Byblos Bank registered USD 1,461 million in profit marking 19.8% increase from 2008. The three banks hold USD 511 billion worth of deposits or 54% of total bank deposits.



Photo by Waddah Joma'a - 2006

Other publications by Information International:

- 1-Salaries and Remunerations in the Public Sector
- 2-Public Seaside Properties
- 3-Lebanon's Parliamentary History 1920-2000
- 4-Taxes and Fees
- 5-Lebanon in Figures 1992-2002
- 6-Lebanon in Figures 2003-2004
- 7-Lebanon in Figures 2005-2006
- 8-Lebanon's MPs and Lebanese Parliamentary Elections 1960 - 2009
- 9- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-North District
- 10- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beirut District
- 11- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Mount Lebanon District
- 12- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beqa'a District
- 13- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-South and Nabatiyeh District

Other publications by INMA (in Arabic):

- 1-"I am Responsible, All of Us are Responsible"
- 2-"Our Environment is Our Home"
- 3-"My Society is My Responsibility"
- 4-"My Society is My Responsibility" Workbook
- 5-"I am a Student, I am a Citizen: Ways Towards State Building"
- 6-"I am a Student, I am a Citizen: Ways Towards State Building" Workbook
- 7-"Lebanon Wars, why?"
- 8-Discrimination in Lebanon

INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL

INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL sal
 المعلومات الدولية
 للمعلوماتية



To subscribe:

Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor, Martyrs Square
 Beirut Central District
 Telephone: 961-1-983008/9 961-3-262376
 Fax: 961-1-980630
 info@iimonthly.com
 www.iimonthly.com
 www.information-international.com
 © Information International SAL All rights reserved
 License No. 180/2003
 Responsible Director: Hala Saghbini

Visual Documentation of Tripoli

“**T**ripoli-Al-Sham, A Tour by Postcards” is a new book by Badr El-Hage published recently by Kutub Ltd. in Beirut. The book contains over 400 post cards, mostly from El-Hage’s personal collection, covering a period of time from 1900 until 1960.

This project is significant in that it is the first visual documentary book using postcards for the city of Trablous, rich in its architectural heritage, dating back to the Mamluks, its citadel and beautiful markets.

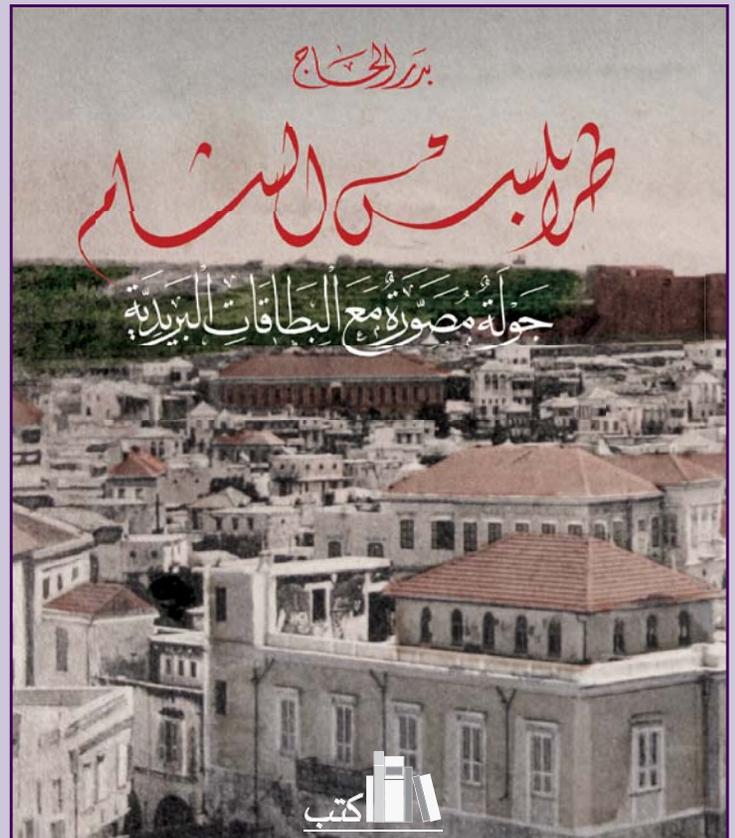
At first glance, when reading the book, the reader is overwhelmed with melancholy at the sight of the city’s disfigurement by the hideous buildings that have swept the green plains around Trablous. After quick comparison between the photographs of buildings erected on the banks of Abu Ali River and those of their demolition in public works on the riverbed after the 1956 flood, we are struck by the extent to which those in charge of the project ignorantly destroyed the most beautiful buildings that had survived the disaster.

In brief, Trablous as displayed in the post cards has having taken a turn for the worse. Residents of Trablous have lost many beautiful buildings and green fields. For example, in the Tal square, the Ottoman-era Serail was demolished and the Inja theater collapsed. In the area extending from Bahssass and the Abdel Hamid Karami square, there is no sight of the groves of citrus and orange, with their beautiful scent, or the old olive trees that were once abundant. They have disappeared into only a few square meters of green land.

The author confesses that he was unable to document all the main and important locations in the city because he did not find any cards displaying those locations during his 20 years of collecting postcards as a hobby.

The author also mentions that he relied solely on postcards as a means for visual documentation of Trablous and opted not to use available photographs, saving them for another project that will show pictures of the city since the mid-19th century.

El-Hage divided the book into regions and locations, either in Trablous or in El-Mina according to available postcards. For example, postcards of the citadel, the Tal and El-Mina, the Abu Ali riverbed, roads, the old city and others were



displayed in a chapter on their own, accompanied by a brief historical account, since the aim was not to write the city’s history but to offer a visual documentation of Trablous in the first half of the 20th century.

El-Hage acknowledges the work of tens of photographers and publishers of postcards of the city. He zooms in on the cards he considered to be the first of the city that were taken by the photographer Michel David who worked from a studio in the Tal square. The author also specifies the approximate dates of the postcards based on the period that the photographer or the publisher were active, or based on the printing technique of the cards that can be attributed to a certain period of time.

The book is undoubtedly a very rich architectural record. Despite the radical change that the city has undergone, the published postcards are testament to the lost reality of what are now mere memories, immortalized by the lenses of photographers.