

- Who holds the head of the municipality accountable?
- Presidential Immunity
- The Monthly interviews Amine El Bacha



LEBANON'S ARTESIAN WELLS

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A table with Arabic text at the top: "بمعنى أعلى نسبة نجاح في البريفيه" and "مدخل النهوض بالمدرسة الرسمية". Below the text is a grid with multiple columns and rows of numbers and text, likely representing exam results or school statistics.

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BEGGARS



The Lebanese have suddenly discovered that they are being murdered, this time on the road. Of course they do not remember the civil war which has supposedly ended as claimed by its lords and Lebanese who are celebrating its end. This issue is no longer between Muslims and Christians, but between Shia'a and Sunni. The iftar banquets are a testimony to this where the perpetrators of the "Black Saturday" massacre are feasting with the perpetrators of the Chekka massacre.

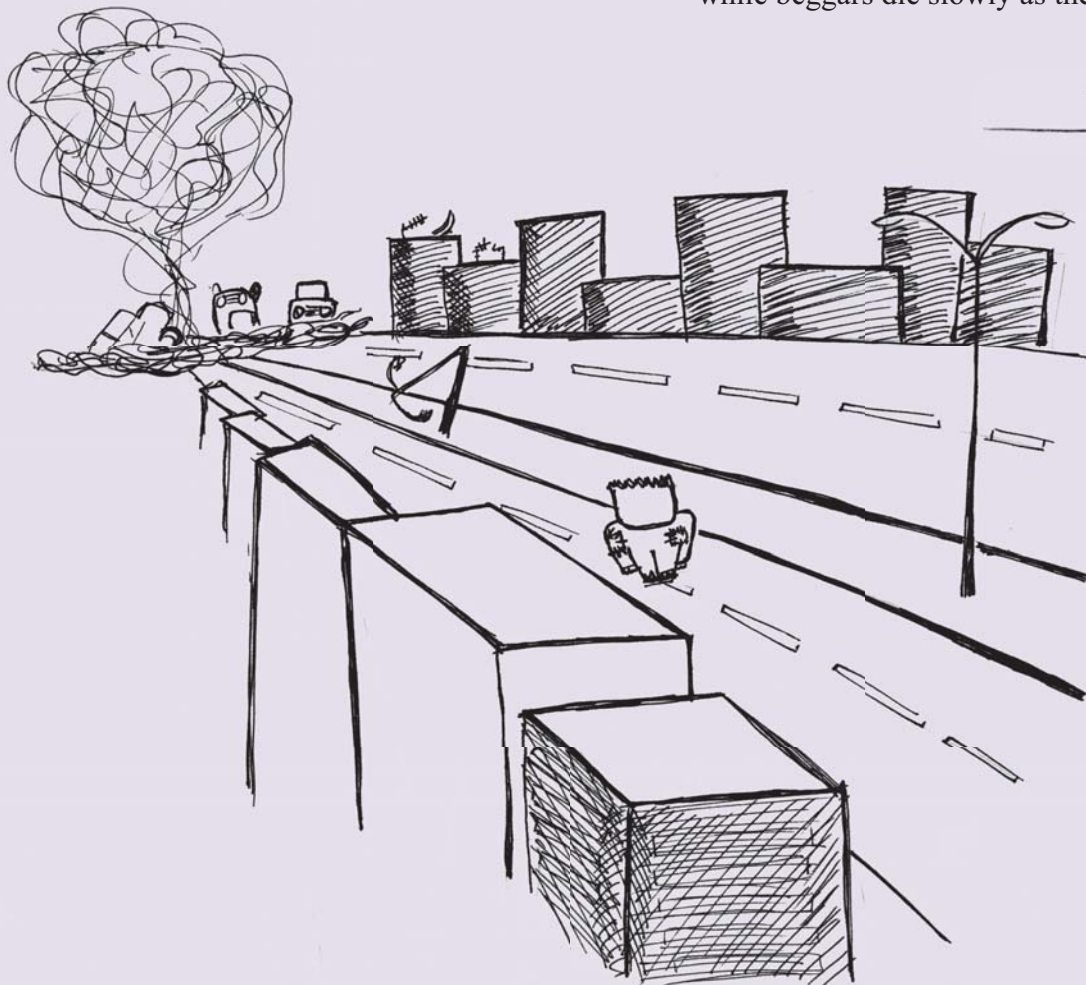
The Lebanese do not realize that they are being killed in the hospitals where surgeries are being carried out without medical justification and where mistakes exceed 25%, nor do they not realize they are being killed due to fraud in food and medical products and pollution.

Today they want an immediate solution to the traffic problem. They are oblivious to their political choice and to the lifestyle they opted for: it does not matter that used cars are being imported in pieces and glued together after undergoing plastic surgery; new cars are being recalled

from international markets except in Lebanon; hazardous roads; sporadic and claustrophobic construction on the highways; drunken drivers without license or who bought their license; policemen working as escort. And suddenly we are surprised that there are accidents! Of course when talking on the mobile phone at a speed of 150km/hr!

It is about time that we recognize that we have chosen an untimely death when we chose a life of beggary. We beg at the doors of the Zua'ama and our Zua'ama in turn are doing their bidding. And finally, we all beg for the establishment of a state and we beg for public schools and the Lebanese University and we beg for the road, the hospital, the medicine and the air and the water.

We are dying by choice and not due to nature's wrath as in Pakistan nor in Benin (central Africa) due to disease, hurling to our death like the whales in a mass suicide ceremony. Whales however, die in grandeur silence while beggars die slowly as they whine or celebrate.



Jawad N. Adra

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE... AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK

Artesian water wells in Lebanon

“The land of Lebanon is full of holes,” the Minister of Energy and Water Gebran Bassil said in reference to the high number of artesian water wells in Lebanon. The minister recently decided not to grant new licenses as the sector waits to be regulated (the minister cancelled the decision on Thursday, September 16) but this does not cancel the presence of tens of thousands of artesian water wells that pull out ground water for various purposes. Drilling such wells has become a profitable investment for those who pay the state low sums of money and then sell the water for high prices.

Water law

Water exploration laws are old and date back to the French era. Decree # 144/S of June 10, 1925 issued by General Serai “the high commissioner of the French republic in the states of Syria, Great Lebanon, the A’alawi nation and the Jabal al-Druze (Druze Mountain)” specifies the nature of public properties as “all things prepared, due to their nature, for everyone’s use or for the use of a public utility and they cannot be sold or acquired with time”. This definition includes:

- ⦿ Waterways of any kind within fixed boundaries at a maximum level before flooding
- ⦿ Ground running water and springs of any nature
- ⦿ All waterway banks, i.e. any piece of land along the waterways and which can be cleaned and preserved

Lakes and brooks

According to the text of the decree the state or the municipalities grants temporary licenses over its public properties that can be cancelled and for some sort of fee. Decree # 320 of May 26, 1926 issued by Henry de Jouvenel “French Senate member and high commissioner of the French republic for the states of Syria, Great Lebanon, A’alawi nation and Jabal al-Druze over the preservation and use of public properties’ water” states that it is prohibited to carry out the following works without a license by the ministry within the specified condition of Decree 144/S:

- ⦿ Prevent public water from flowing freely
- ⦿ Any form of trespassing of land borders of temporary or permanent waterway banks, swamps and lakes
- ⦿ Works related to exploration for ground water or surface water and controlling it
- ⦿ Prohibiting in general any activity, either permanent or temporary, that could affect the quantity of public property water or its flow

Decree #14438 of May 2, 1970 regulated the mechanism of water exploration and use allowing exploration work for underground water or surface water, regulating it or drilling

wells before obtaining a license from the Ministry of Energy and Water (then the Minister of Water and Electricity Resources). It set a maximum of LBP 100 for the annual fee deducted from the water exploration license added to it the works fees of these properties and LBP 50 in private properties. It also set the maximum limit for the annual fee for the use of water subject to licensing as follows:

- ⦿ Irrigation needs: 0.5 Lebanese cents for every cubic meter
- ⦿ For industrial needs and other needs: three Lebanese cents for every cubic meter

The fee was later amended to LBP 500,000 for the exploration license and LBP 100 for every cubic meter in case of irrigation needs and LBP 600 for every cubic meter in case of industrial needs. Despite raising the value of these fees but they remain low compared to the high revenue that investors obtain. The fee for one liter of water does not exceed 60 Lebanese cents only (one cubic meter of water is equivalent to 1,000 liters of water).

Licensed wells

There is no precise survey on the number of artesian water wells in the Lebanese territories and the amounts of water being extracted daily. The announced figures indicate the presence of around 43,000 wells, of which only 17,590 are licensed and 25,000 are not. The Ministry of Energy and Water receives between 150-200 license applications a month.

If the issue of unlicensed wells needs a greater campaign to control, regulate, and collect fees (such a campaign is difficult and complicated and perhaps reminds of the issue of the violations of maritime properties which remains unresolved) then the supervision of licensed wells is technically not possible due to their high number and presence across the Lebanese territories. Who then watches the meters and the amounts of water being withdrawn? The following Table 1 shows a list of well that have been licensed over the past years.

There are substantial amounts of water in Lebanon that can be invested and that reach 2,300 million cubic meters. However the mismanagement of such great water resource leaves the Lebanese suffering from scarcity of water and lack of its services for domestic use especially during the summer season and forces them to pay a high cost for this water. The drilling of wells by government institutions extracts ground water without providing the necessary need rather it has a high cost due to the drilling, maintenance and operation of the wells. Private companies on the other hand make high profits as a result of investing in the drilling of wells and selling the water for a high cost.

List of well that have been licensed over the past years (2000 – 2009)**Table 1**

Decree # and date	Location of well	Quantity of water/day (m3)	Annual license fee (LBP)	Purpose	License Owner
2773 - Oct 30, 2009	Tannourine Tahta (Spring water)	277	60,663,000	Industrial	Individual
2144 - June 30, 2009	Ain Frash - Akkar (Spring water)	35	7,665,000	Industrial	Individual
2059 - May 26, 2009	Chouifat	390	85,410,000	Industrial	Pepsi
1646 - Apr 2, 2009	Kfar Zebian	267	9,746,000	Agricultural	Individual
1402 - Feb 18, 2009	Aayoun Ourghosh (Spring water)	145	31,775,000	Industrial	Company
1274 - Jan 28, 2009	Baatoutah	360	78,840,000	Industrial	Sanine
1184 - Jan 8, 2009	Chouifat	360	85,410,000	Industrial	Pepsi
1183 - Jan 8, 2009	Abra, Shwan - Keserouane (Spring water)	64	5,074,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Individual
849 - Dec 6, 2008	Chekka	80	17,520,000	Industrial	Company (Sugar refining)
923 - Feb 7, 2008	Beit Mary	230	8,395,000	Agricultural	Individuals
917 - Feb 7, 2008	Chekka	692	151,548,000	Industrial	Lebanon Chemicals
17369 - Jul 4, 2006	Falougha - Baabda	217	47,523,000	Industrial	Individual
16711 - May 6, 2006	Jbaa (Spring water)	58	5,770,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Individual
16085 - Dec 31, 2005	Ballouneh	90	8,760,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Company
15890 - Dec 6, 2005	Saifi - Beirut	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Solidere
15615 - Oct 29, 2005	Qorneh - Akkar	30	6,570,000	Industrial	Individual
15493 - Oct 17, 2005	Tarshish (Sprind water)	25	2,738,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Individual
11063 - Sep 27, 2003	Chakra - Bint Jbeil	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
11062 - Sep 27, 2003	Aadeiseh - Marjaayoun	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
11061 - Sep 27, 2003	Falougha - Baabda	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
1119 - Oct 7, 2003	Ameiq - West Beqa'a (Spring water)	200	34,000,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Individual
9969 - Apr 12, 2003	Chouifat	1800	LBP 394,200,000 for 2002 to which late payments for the previous years were added bringing the total amount to LBP 1.06 billion.	Industrial	Cocca Cola
9188 - Nov 30, 2003	Haret Jandal - Chouifat	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
8399 - Aug 7, 2003	Jdeidet Marjaayoun	39	8,541,000	Industrial	Individuals
8200 - Jul 12, 2002	Beit Chabab	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
7946 - May 29, 2002	Sawanna - Marjaayoun	130	10,220,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Individual (Ex-Minister)
7845 - Apr 30, 2002	Deir Zahrani	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
7964 - Jan 25, 2002	Doueir - Nabatieh	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
5987 - Jul 30, 2001	Bachaali - Batroun	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
5973 - May 16, 2001	Kfar Melki	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
4219 - Oct 8, 2000	Haret Jandal - Chouifat	263	57,597,000	Industrial	Nada
4170 - Oct 18, 2000	Kfartieh - Keserouane	500	46,135,000	Agricultural, Industrial	Company
4050 - Oct 10, 2000	Aramoun - A'aley	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual
3714 - Aug 23, 2000	Maad - Jbeil	-	The value of licensing only was paid – LBP 500,000 – until the water is discovered	-	Individual

Water resources in Lebanon

Water resources in Lebanon are affected by several factors:

- ⊙ Lebanon's location to the east of the Mediterranean
- ⊙ The nature of its mountain and coastal topography

Therefore the size of these resources is governed by the quantities of rainfall and snow and what remains of them in the rivers, in the ground and in lakes in addition to what evaporates or gets lost in the sea.

The average rainfall varies from one year to another according to climate factors and to the region. It varies between 660 millimeters and 1,300 millimeters a year while the size of rain is estimated between 8,600 million cubic meters and 9,200 million cubic meters a year, half of which evaporates. There is approximately 3,000 million cubic meters of ground water of which 1,835 million cubic meters evaporate via springs or flows outside the borders while the rest, 1,165 million cubic meters, are stored. Accessible water that can be invested is estimated at 2,300 million cubic meters and is distributed as follows:

- ⊙ 820 million cubic meters as water from springs and rivers
- ⊙ 880 million cubic meters that can be stored using dams. Quantities that can currently be stored do not exceed 250 million cubic meters most of which in the Qaroun and Chabrouh dams while the plan specifies the building of 41 dams across Lebanon
- ⊙ Stored water using dams does not exceed 250 million cubic meters
- ⊙ 600 million cubic meters of ground water that can be invested

Main players

There are four government institutions that work in the water sector:

- ⊙ The Ministry of Energy and Water through the directorate general of water and electricity resources, the directorate general for investment and the four water institutions in each of Beirut, Mount Lebanon, the South, the North and the Beqa'a which are in charge of building dams, drilling wells, developing water sources and extending and maintaining networks. The cost of projects in the draft budget of 2009 was LBP 39 billion to provide additional water resources added to that the budgets of the four water institutions.
- ⊙ The Council for Development and Reconstruction with projects at the cost of USD 630 million from 1992 to 2009 focusing mainly on construction and maintenance of potable water networks.
- ⊙ Ministry of Agriculture through providing sources and irrigation networks.
- ⊙ Municipalities by funding the construction and maintenance of networks within them in addition to drilling, maintaining and equipping boreholes.

Often projects overlap between the four bodies especially between the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and the Ministry of Energy and Water when one of them executes a project that the other body was planning to implement.

Selling potable water an attractive market

As a result of "doubt" or "certainty" among most the Lebanese over the safety of the potable water that reaches them via water pipes from springs and wells linked to the government water institutions, those with financial capabilities and even those with a limited income buy bottled water, the price of which differs depending on the manner of it is bottled according to the company. However the rising demand for bottled water pushed a number of individuals and companies to enter the water market considering the high profit compared to the low sums of money they pay the state (60 Lebanese cents for the liter). The water is then being sold for more than double that price (400%) (there is of course a high cost for drilling a well, purchasing the means to bottle the water, pumping equipment and the cost of fuel and electricity but all that remain much lower than the selling price).

Although the Ministry of Energy and Water is the specialized body and the one with the power to license the use of wells for industrial purposes, the Ministry of Public Health-Health Engineering Authority is the body specialized in and with the power to extract potable water and selling it to the public.

Legislative Decree #108 of September 16, 1983 (to regulate the investment of water and bottled refreshment drinks) specified the characteristics and traits of this water and many other technical conditions.

The following Table 2 shows the license/decrees issued by the Ministry of Public Health for the bottling and sale of potable water in 2006-2007-2008-2009.

Decreases issued by the Ministry of Public Health for the bottling and sale of potable water in 2006-2009

Table 2

Location of Well of Spring	Amount of water allowed to fill/day (m3)
Baskinta	78
Bwarej	86
Nabi Chit	88
Kfar Zabad	86
Lahfed	87
Chebaa	43
Ksarnaba	60
Ain Dara	90
Yanouh	20
Nahr El-Dahab (Keserouane)	81
Masa (Zahle)	89
Ghassanieh	88
Abra and Shwan (Keserouane)	15
Dakweh (West Beqa'a)	62
Qorneh (Akkar)	30
Yamouneh	86

WHO HOLDS THE HEAD OF THE MUNICIPALITY ACCOUNTABLE?

In 1998, municipal and ikhtiyariah elections were held for the first time since 1963. Elections were held once again six years later in 2004 and more recently in May 2010. When evaluating the performance of municipal work in the overwhelming majority of municipalities in Lebanon (964 municipalities in 2010), there is no cause for relief. Indeed, most municipal councils have drowned in political, partisan, family or confessional feuds and many mayors have focused on achieving personal or “tribal” gains, thus obstructing municipal work. Too many employees were hired without having any actual work to perform. Thousands of billions of Lebanese pounds were spent on futile projects, that were either personal in nature or produced little or no revenue.

Mayors are seldom held accountable. This is due to one of two reasons: ignorance of the mechanisms of accountability and unwillingness to cause trouble with the “local authorities” and prioritizing political and family considerations over public interest.

Such flaws in the work of most municipalities force us to raise the following question: who holds the heads of municipalities accountable for their actions?

Disciplinary prosecution

Under the law of municipalities, the head of a municipality, his deputy or the member in charge of executive responsibility, is subject to disciplinary prosecution if he/she breaches his/her duties imposed by laws and regulations. Depending on the type of breach, such a prosecution does not prevent further legal action before competent civil or criminal courts.

Disciplinary sanctions are divided into two categories: The first category consists of warning and reprimanding. A decision to that effect is issued by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities or by the special disciplinary council (the council is formed upon the issuance of a decree by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, is headed by the president of the Higher Disciplinary Council and is composed of a mayor, an employee of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, holding a Grade Two position at least, and a government commissioner).


The second category consists of a suspension from work for a maximum period of one year or dismissal. The imposition of such a sanction requires a decision by the special disciplinary committee. The case can only be referred to the committee by a decision of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities following a complete

investigation of the issue at hand. The committee’s decisions can be appealed before the Shura Council (Council of State).

Penal sanctions

A criminal lawsuit cannot be launched against the head of a municipality, his deputy or a member of the municipality for a crime related to the performance of his/her duties, unless such an action has received prior written approval of the governor. If an indictment or preliminary judgment against one or all of the persons concerned is issued, he/she may be suspended from work, following a decision by the governor, until a final sentence has been issued. If the person concerned is subsequently found guilty, he is automatically dismissed from his post and the dismissal is announced by a decision of the governor. Prosecution takes place following an accusation, namely of the mayor since he represents the executive authority in the municipality.

There have been numerous violations in most municipal councils since 1998, but how many mayors or deputy mayors have been referred to the Court of Audit, the Department of Financial Prosecution or the special disciplinary committee? Their number is undoubtedly very limited and does not conform to the number of breaches, which calls for a probe into these irregularities.

In the final analysis, the citizen is responsible for holding the elected representatives accountable and his/her vote in the ballot box is meant to reflect his/her support or opposition. However, it is worth asking whether those votes are being cast based on public interest considerations or political, family and personal considerations? 

RESULTS OF OFFICIAL EXAMS

Rise in Percentage of Passing Students

This year's secondary and intermediary exams were distinguished with a higher passing rate than last year.

Secondary Certificate

Some 44,086 students applied for the secondary certificate in its four branches this year, of whom 41,796 sat for the exams while 2,290 others were absent. Of the participants, 30,803 students passed the exams representing a 74.77% success rate, compared to 67.34% in 2009, when 43,693 students applied, of whom 41,543 sat for the exams and 27,976 passed.

After taking into account the results of the second round, the total number of passing students in all four branches rises to 32,000 out of a total of 44,086 candidates. This represents a 72.58% success rate, distributed as follows:

- General Sciences: 5,282 candidates, of whom 4,456 passed, amounting to a success rate of 84.36%.
- Biology: 15,032 candidates, of whom 12,332 passed, amounting to a success rate of 82.03%.
- Economics and Social Studies: 21,021 candidates, of whom 13,269 passed, amounting to a success rate of 63.12%.
- Literature and Humanities: 2,751 candidates, of whom 1,943 passed, amounting to a success rate of 70.62%.

Table 1 depicts the distribution of candidates, participants and passing students according to the four branches and the muhafazat.

The distribution of candidates, participants and passing students according to the four branches and the muhafazat									Table 1
	General Sciences				Biology				
	Candidates	Participants	Passing	%	Candidates	Participants	Passing	%	
Beirut	623	523	457	87.38	1,628	1,422	1,176	82.70	
Mount Lebanon	2,333	2,228	2,010	90.21	5,865	5,610	4,851	86.47	
North	1,329	1,284	1,057	82.32	2,560	2,457	2,050	83.43	
South	284	283	266	93.66	1,855	1,831	1,595	87.11	
Nabatiyeh	378	373	325	87.13	981	960	856	89.16	
Beqa'a	335	326	286	87.73	2,143	2,060	1,685	81.79	
Total	5,282	5,017	4,401	87.72	15,032	14,340	12,213	85.16	
Second Round	575	492	55	11.17	1,966	1,670	119	7.12	
	Economics and Social Studies				Literature and Humanities				
	Candidates	Participants	Passing	%	candidates	Participants	Passing	%	
Beirut	3,012	2,732	1,651	60.43	325	251	180	71.70	
Mount Lebanon	8,672	8,280	5,036	60.82	715	668	516	77.29	
North	3,340	3,187	2,023	63.47	823	782	537	68.67	
South	2,428	2,330	1,613	69.22	265	249	219	87.95	
Nabatiyeh	1,265	1,210	795	65.70	193	185	147	79.45	
Beqa'a	2,304	2,163	1,183	54.69	430	402	289	71.89	
Total	21,021	19,902	12,301	61.80	2,751	2,537	1,888	74.42	
Second Round	6,590	5,876	968	16.47	519	442	55	12.44	

However, the high percentage of passing students does not include a higher number of distinctions. Indeed, in the biology branch, 620 students passed (or 4.21%) with honors and 2,242 students passed (14.92%) with merit.

The number of passing students and their ranks in the general secondary exams in the four branches**Table 3**

	Number of candidates	Honors	Merit	No rank	Number of passing students	Number of failing students
Biology	15,031	620 (5.07%)	2,242 (18.33%)	9,365 (76.60%)	12,227 (81.34%)	2,804 (18.65%)
General Sciences	5,282	415 (9.42%)	1,150 (26.11%)	2,839 (64.46%)	4,404 (83.37%)	878 (16.62%)
Literature and Humanities	2,739	0%	19 (1%)	1,865 (98.99%)	1,884 (68.78%)	855 (31.22%)
Economics and Social Sciences	21,026	6 (0.05%)	227 (1.84%)	12,082 (98.10%)	12,315 (58.57%)	8,711 (41.43%)
Total	44,078	1,041	3,638	26,151	30,830	13,248
Percentage		3.37 % (of passing students)	11.80 % (of passing students)	84.82 % (of passing students)	69.94 % (of candidates)	30.06 % (of candidates)

Source: Results of exams schoolnet website-Lebanon

The failing/passing students

Upon reviewing samples of the grades of passing students, we note that a certain percentage of them passed only after receiving extra grades or obtaining the minimum required pass average. The percentage of those we refer to as failing/passing students is distributed as follows:

- ⦿ General sciences: the averages of 8.6% of passing students ranged between 9.47-10.9
- ⦿ Biology: the averages of 18.4% of passing students ranged between 9.46-10.9
- ⦿ Economics and social sciences: the averages of 33% of passing students varied between 9.43-10.9.
- ⦿ Literature and humanities: the averages of 35.5% of passing students varied between 9.37-10.9.


Pass averages and degrees

Table 4 shows the maximum grades of each division and the required grades to pass or to receive merit and honors.

The maximum grades for each of the four division's and the required grades to pass or to receive merit and honors degrees**Table 4**

Division	Maximum grade	Passing grades without additional points	Passing grades with additional points (15 points)	Honors	Merit
General Sciences	570	285	270	As of 457	Between 399 and 456
Biology	560	280	265	As of 449	Between 392 and 448
Economics and Social Sciences	530	265	250	As of 425	Between 371 and 424
Literature and Humanities	480	240	225	As of 385	As of 336 until 384

A large number of passing students are preparing to join universities even though their grades are satisfactory at best. This illustrates a decline in the academic level of some university graduates, especially those graduating from universities that seek financial gain as opposed to a good academic reputation.

Almost 30,000 students are preparing to attend colleges and around 40,000 are preparing to become secondary students, while universities “pumped” around 30,000 graduates into the labor market. The question now is, what awaits these graduates: employment or unemployment? Do they all have the required qualifications in addition to their degrees? 

THE LEBANESE PRESIDENCY

Tasks, structure and expenses

Article 49 of the Lebanese Constitution stipulates that “The President of the Republic is the head of the state and the symbol of the nation’s unity. He shall safeguard the constitution and Lebanon’s independence, unity, and territorial integrity according to the provisions of the constitution.” The president of the republic has powers and functions specified by the constitution such as the promulgation of laws, negotiating international treaties, presiding over the Council of Ministers, the accreditation of ambassadors, referring draft laws to the Council of Ministers and to Parliament and submitting urgent matters, outside the agenda, to the Council of Ministers.

These tasks require the presence of an administrative and technical apparatus in the presidency.

Structure of the President’s office

Legislative Decree No.160 of June 12, 1959 set out the structure of the presidency as consisting of two chambers: a civil chamber managed by a director general with the title of ambassador, and a military chamber managed by an officer. The decree underwent several amendments most significantly by a draft law implemented by virtue of Decree No. 10618/75. Furthermore, Decree No. 2041 issued on August 27, 1959 specified the powers of the two chambers. This decree was amended by a draft law implemented by virtue of Decree No. 17096 issued on August 7, 1964 abolishing the civil and military chambers and replacing them with a directorate, which has the same powers and tasks as the two previous chambers. On this basis, Decree No. 46 was issued on October 28, 1998 to regulate the presidency’s directorate general.

Structure of the Directorate General

The directorate consists of five units:

- ⦿ The General Secretariat
- ⦿ Legislative and Administrative Affairs Unit
- ⦿ Budgetary, Financial, Economic, Social and Educational Affairs Unit
- ⦿ Technical Unit
- ⦿ Protocol and Public Relations Unit

Graph 1 illustrates the directorate general’s structure.

Tasks

Based on graph 1, and in order to facilitate understanding, we followed a numerical order for each unit, department directorate or division, to specify each one’s tasks:

21- Secretariat: Handling special tasks assigned by the president and drafting the president’s letters and correspondence.

22-Escort Branch: Registering the names of official visitors to the presidential palace in the visitors’ registers, registering appointment requests and informing visitors of the appointments set by the president and receiving those visitors, ensuring the president’s safety and escorting the president on his trips.

15- Research Office: Preparing studies upon the request of a head of unit or director general pursuant to the instructions of the president.

16- IT Office: Computerizing all data and files.

17-Complaints Office: Receiving and reviewing citizens’ complaints on different issues and referring them to the competent units.

19- Press and Audiovisual Media Division: Summarizing newspaper articles and news reports, analyzing foreign and domestic news and subscribing to magazines, newspapers and newsletters, and handling all other media-related issues.

20- Publication Division :Writing press releases and news reports.

12- Department of Personnel and

Administrative Affairs: Examining administrative cases raised before the presidency, keeping record of laws and decrees and ensuring their publication and distribution to the competent departments.

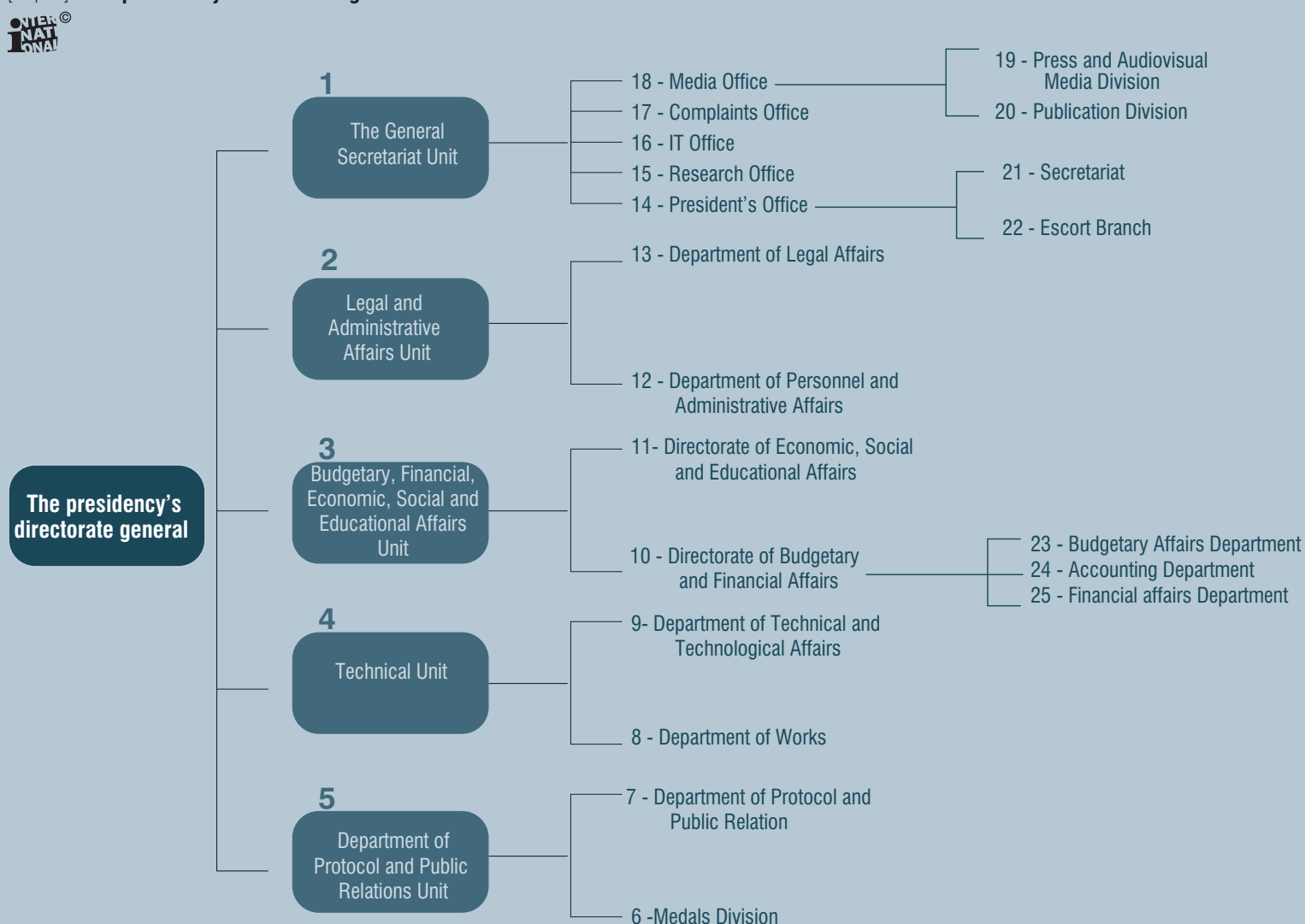
-Receiving and distributing incoming mail to the relevant units, receiving and registering outgoing mail, examining petitions and complaints and following up on the ones that have been referred to the competent divisions and departments.

13-Department of Legal Affairs: Examining bills and draft decrees referred to the presidency and referring them to the competent head of unit or director general.

23-Budgetary Affairs Department: Examining the draft budget of the State and its expenditures, following up on the State’s budget deficit and the situation of the treasury with the competent departments and with the Central Bank.

- 24- Accounting Department:** Preparing the draft budget of the presidency's directorate general, disbursing the accordingly allocated funds and paying the salaries of the presidency's staff.
- 25- Financial affairs Department:** Examining financial cases referred to the presidency, requesting data from the Central Bank, and following up on customs activities, their procedures of levying and collection of import duties.
- 11- Directorate of Economic, Social and Educational Affairs:** Examining economic, social and educational issues referred to the presidency and examining draft decrees, bills and other drafts related to the aforementioned matters.
- 8- Department of Works:** Examining artistic, scientific, professional or technical issues and projects, namely related to urban planning, blueprints and similar matters, referred to the presidency before referring them to the director general, and examining draft decrees and bills related to the aforementioned issues.
- 9- Department of Technical and Technological Affairs:** Providing equipment, tools and furniture for the Presidential Palace, supervising their maintenance and ensuring the cleaning of the Palace.
- 7- Department of Protocol and Public Relation:** Organizing the reception of ambassadors presenting their accreditation to the president, organizing appointments with the president, preparing the schedule of presidential visits inside and outside the country, organizing national and official functions, preparing letters and correspondence to kings and presidents, preparing the minutes of important visits to the Presidential Palace, publishing them when needed and archiving them.
- 6 -Medals Division:** Handling the distribution of medals and matters related to their reception.

[Graph 1] The presidency's directorate general's structure



Personnel of the Directorate General

The directorate's personnel were limited to 40 positions distributed as follows:

6- Grade one positions: Presidency's director general and five heads of units as shown in Graph 1.

13- Grade two positions: heads of authorities.

8- Grade three positions: heads of departments.

13- Grades four and five: editors and clerks.

The presidency's budget

The presidency's budget varies from one year to the other. In 1994, it reached LBP 4,577.6 million or 0.11% of the state's total budget compared to LBP 2,478.7 million in 1998 or 0.033% of the total budget. In 2004 it reached LBP 3,915 million (around USD 2.6 million) or 0.041% of the total budget compared to LBP 13,256.8 million in 2009 (around USD 8.9 million) marking a significant increase. In comparison to the expenditures of 2004, shown in Table 1, we can identify an increase of LBP 9,325 million or 238%.

Comparison of presidency expenses between 2004 and 2009			Table 1
Item	Expenses in 2004 (in LBP million)	Expenses in 2009 (in LBP million)	Difference (in LBP million)
Stationary	100	180	+ 80
Administrative requirements	300	1,075	+ 775
Liquid fuel	15	125	+ 110
Pesticides	15	15	-
Fertilizers, seeds and plants	110	110	-
Water	50	70	+ 20
Electricity	180	800	+ 620
Telecommunications	75	800	+ 725
Maintenance	65	335	+ 270
Mail	3	3	-
Advertisement	3	3	-
Publications	30	30	-
Holidays and representation	82	2,450	+ 2,368
Public relations	75	275	+ 200
Insurance	37	50	+ 13
Service, cleaning and wages	435	685	+ 250
President's allocations	150	150	-
Salaries of permanent employees	95	76	- 19
Advisors	950	800	- 150
Salaries of retired employees	170	614	+ 444
Family compensations, transportation compensations and bonuses	195	437	+ 242
Grants to private/special parties	45	45	-
Internal transportation and movement	2	2	-
External transportation and movement*	15	925	+ 910
Internal delegations and conferences	125	125	-
Delegations and conferences abroad	8	175	- 167
Various expenses	140	1,200	+ 1,060
Furniture and stationary	50	150	+ 100
Technical and other equipments	95	195	+ 100
Maintenance of technical equipments	102	285	+ 183
Maintenance of transportation means	113	400	+ 287
Other maintenance	85	655	+ 570
Total	3915	13,240	+ 9,325

Source: 2004 budget and the 2009 draft budget.

*Usually additional credit is allocated for this purpose, especially when the president frequently travels abroad.

Information International surveys

THE LEBANESE ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

60% believe the international investigation is politicized and unfair and 55% believe Nasrallah's documents are convincing

Since the assassination of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri on February 14, 2005, the Lebanese have been living the repercussions and consequences of the crime. Information International surveyed the Lebanese public opinion, between 12 and 16 August 2010, regarding this issue and many other major and more recent events.

1-The international investigation into the assassination of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri: 60% believe it is politicized and unfair

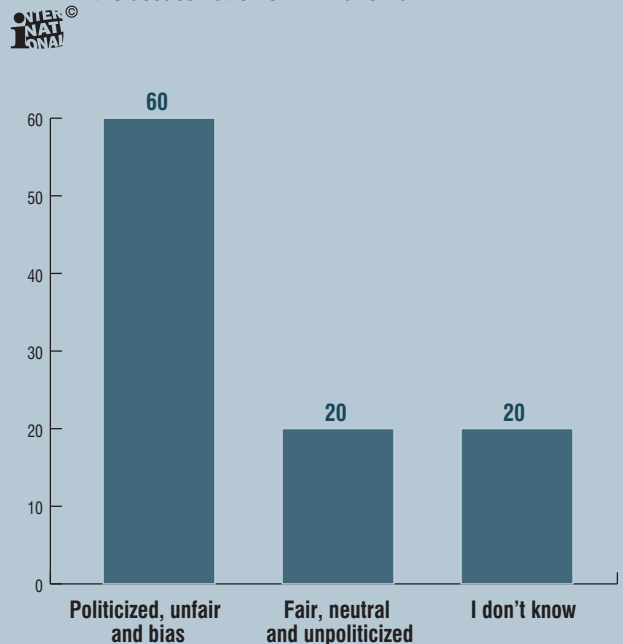
A majority of 60% of the surveyed population described the international investigation into the assassination of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri as politicized, unfair and bias. Opposing them was a 20% majority who described the investigation as fair, neutral and unpoliticized while 20% responded 'I don't know' (Graph 1).

The opinions varied according to religious confession. Thus, a majority of the Shia's population surveyed (84%) believed the investigation was politicized and unfair, which represents the highest percentage of respondents, whereas the lowest percentage of respondents who held the same belief belong to the Sunni confession (40%). The latter percentage, although the lowest, illustrates a change in the attitude of the Sunni with regards to the international investigation, proving less supportive than in previous years. A proportion of 25% of respondents, from various confessions including Maronites, Orthodox, Catholics, Armenian Orthodox, and Sunni responded 'I don't know'. This symbolizes a degree of hesitation and uncertainty concerning the course of the international investigation. Table 1 illustrates the opinions on the international investigation according to confession.

2-The continuation of the international investigation and the international tribunal (Special Tribunal for Lebanon): 43% in favor of amendment

In light of the abovementioned answers, a majority of 43% of respondents was in favor of amending the manner and method of work of the investigation for it to become fairer and more neutral, and a majority of 17% was in favor of doing away with it [the Special Tribunal for Lebanon] (thus 60% of respondents agree to some form of amendment, which is unsurprising as they had described the investigation as politicized and unfair). In contrast, a

[Graph 1] How do you describe the international investigation into the assassination of PM Rafic Hariri?

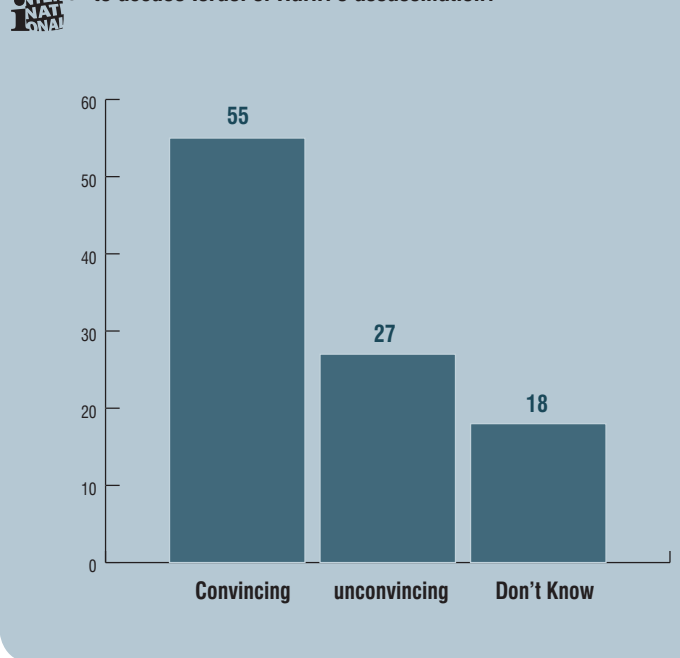


majority of 27% is in favor of the investigation pursuing in its current course and 13% of respondents answered 'I don't know'.

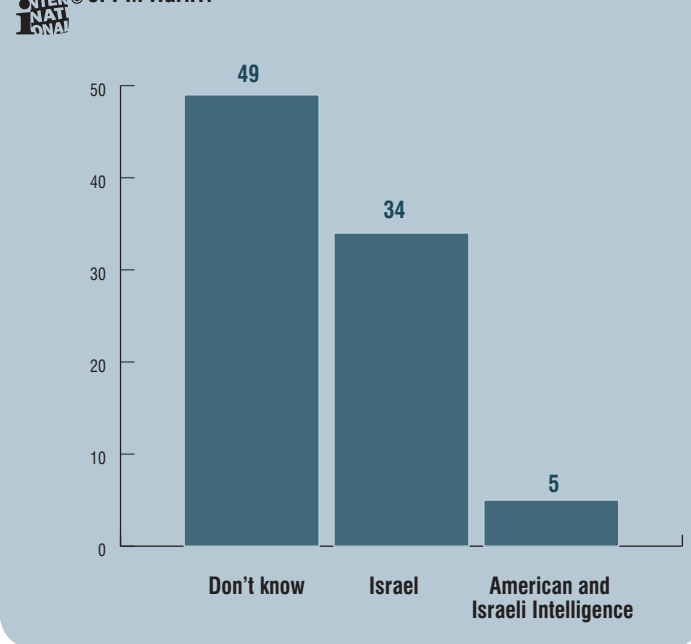
3-Nasrallah's documents: 55% found them convincing

After a series of speeches exposing his point of view on the international investigation and the international tribunal, the Secretary General of Hizbullah, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, presented video footage and transcripts of interviews with Israeli agents in a speech on August 9, 2010. According to him, this amounts to evidence of Israel's involvement in the assassination of Hariri. On this, the Lebanese were split: 55% considered the documents convincing enough to suspect Israel of assassinating Hariri while 45% considered it unconvincing or answered

[Graph 2] How do you describe the documents that Nasrallah presented to accuse Israel of Hariri's assassination?



[Graph 3] In your opinion, who is responsible for the assassination of PM Hariri?



'I don't know' (27% found it unconvincing and 18% answered 'I don't know'). (Graph 2)

The distribution of these opinions according to confession illustrates that a majority of Shia'a respondents (81%) were convinced of the documents presented, while only 39% of Druze respondents found them convincing. Sunni respondents were more or less equally split with 41% finding them convincing and 40% finding them unconvincing. About half of Christian respondents found them convincing while the other half found them unconvincing or answered 'I don't know'. Table 2 illustrates the answers of the respondents by confession.

4-Who was behind the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri: half of the respondents said they 'don't know'

Five and a half years after the assassination of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, about half of the respondents (49%) said they did not know who was responsible or did not want to blame any party for the assassination while 34% of respondents believe Israel was behind it and 5% blame the American and Israeli Intelligence (CIA and Mossad), (Graph 3).

Sample

The survey was conducted by telephone between 12 and 16 August 2010 and included a sample of 500 citizens spread across the different Qada'a of Lebanon according to the number of voters in each Qada'. They were also distributed according to confession as follows:

27% Sunni, 27% Shia'a, 6% Druze, 22% Maronites, 8% Orthodox, 8% Catholics, 4% Armenian Orthodox or Armenian Catholics, 1% Various and Minorities.

Opinion on the international investigation according to confession								Table 1
Confession/Opinion	Maronites	Orthodox	Catholics	Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholics	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze	
The investigation is politicized, unfair and bias	61%	54%	50%	58%	40%	84%	50%	
The investigation is unpoliticized, fair and neutral	20%	23%	19%	16%	34%	4%	36%	
I don't know	19%	23%	31%	26%	26%	11%	14%	

Opinion regarding the documents presented by Sayyid Nasrallah according to confession								Table 2
Confession/Opinion	Maronites	Orthodox	Catholics	Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholics	Sunni	Shia'a	Druze	
The documents were convincing enough to suspect Israel	49%	51%	38%	53%	41%	81%	39%	
The documents were unconvincing to suspect Israel	29%	26%	35%	10%	40%	7%	61%	
I don't know	22%	23%	27%	37%	19%	12%	0%	

INHERITANCE

Muslims: For the male twice the share of the female Christians: Females and males are perhaps equal

Once again, discrimination among the Lebanese is apparent. According to Article 7 of the Constitution they are “equal before the law” but the reality is different as they are governed by personal status laws that vary according to their confession, in the absence of a unified code. This inequality is evident in many subject matters, including that of inheritance.

Inheritance for Muslims

The inheritance law for Muslims discriminates between men and women in terms of distribution by giving the male twice the share of the female. Muslim male clerics justify this discrimination by saying that the responsibilities of men in Muslim societies exceed those of women due to their higher financial expenditures. For example, when it comes to marriage and furnishing the marital home, the woman is not required to pay anything (unless she wants to) but rather those expenses fall on the man. In addition, the male is responsible for looking after his parents. Although the change in lifestyles and increase in the cost of living has made the female an essential partner in sharing the burden of expenses when starting a family life, this does not change the reality on the ground.

The main principle at hand according to which “the male receives twice the share of the female” is subject to exceptions, which may result in completely opposite outcomes to those intended by the rule. Indeed, in some cases the woman does inherit only half of what the man inherits, but in other cases she inherits an equal share, other times she inherits while the man does not and occasionally she inherits twice his share.

Among the most significant Qur’an verses that govern inheritance are the following:

“Allah instructs you concerning your children: for the male, what is equal to the share of two females. But if there are [only] daughters, two or more, for them is two thirds of one’s estate. And if there is only one, for her is half. And for one’s parents, to each one of them is a sixth of his estate if he left children. But if he had no children and the parents [alone] inherit from him, then for his mother is one third. And if he had brothers [or sisters], for his mother is a sixth, after any bequest he [may have] made or debt. Your parents or your children - you know not which of them are nearest to you in benefit. [These shares are] an obligation [imposed] by Allah . Indeed, Allah is ever Knowing and Wise.” (Surat An-Nisa’ , 4:11)

“And for you is half of what your wives leave if they have no child. But if they have a child, for you is one fourth of what they leave, after any bequest they [may have] made or debt. And for the wives is one fourth if you leave no child. But if you leave a child, then for them is an eighth of what you leave, after any bequest you [may have] made or debt. And if a man or woman leaves neither ascendants nor descendants but has a brother or a sister, then for each one of them is a sixth. But if they are more than two, they share a third, after any bequest which was made or debt, as long as there is no detriment [caused]. [This is] an ordinance from Allah, and Allah is Knowing and Forbearing.” (Surat An-Nisa’ , 4:12)

Practical examples

- ⦿ If a deceased woman is survived by a husband and a daughter, the husband inherits a quarter and the daughter three quarters of the inheritance.
- ⦿ If a deceased woman is survived only by a husband, he inherits half of the estate and inherits only a quarter if she is survived by children either from him or from a previous marriage.
- ⦿ If a deceased woman is survived by a husband, a sister and a half brother, then the husband inherits half the estate, the sister the other half and the half brother inherits nothing.
- ⦿ If a deceased woman is survived by a husband, a mother and a father, then the husband inherits half the estate, the mother the third and the father the sixth.
- ⦿ If a deceased woman is survived by a husband, a sister, a half brother from the father’s side and a half sister from the mother’s side then the husband inherits half the estate and the sister the other half.
- ⦿ If a deceased man is survived by a wife, two daughters and a brother, then his daughters inherit two thirds, the mother the eighth and the rest goes to the brother.
- ⦿ If a deceased man is survived by a wife, a daughter, a mother and a father, then the daughter inherits half of the estate, the wife an eighth (1/8), the mother a sixth and the father gets the remaining sixth and anything remaining.

- ⦿ If a deceased man is survived by two daughters, a father and a mother, then each parent inherits a sixth of the estate and each daughter a third.
- ⦿ If a deceased man is survived by two daughters, a half brother from the father's side and a half sister from the father's side, then each daughter inherits a third. The half brother gets two thirds and the half sister gets one third of the remaining third. (For the Shia'a, the estate is divided equally between the two daughters).
- ⦿ If a deceased man is survived by a wife, a mother and a father then the wife inherits a quarter of the estate, the mother a third and the father the rest.
- ⦿ If a deceased man is survived by a son and six daughters, then the son inherits a third of the estate and the daughters two thirds.

It should be noted that in Islam, a murderer and a non-believer do not inherit, no matter their degree of kinship with the deceased.

There are differences in the details of the distribution of inheritance among the various Muslim confessions but the main difference between the Sunni and the Shia'a is that for the former, if a deceased man is survived by females then they get half of the estate and the other half goes to other relatives. For the latter however, the females inherit the totality of the estate.

“The main principle at hand according to which “the male receives twice the share of the female” is subject to exceptions”

Inheritance for Christians

A law issued on June 23, 1959 (Inheritance law for non-Muslims) established the means of distribution of inheritance by Christian confession.

The articles of this law stipulate that inheritance is to be distributed according to the following sequence:

- ⦿ To prepare and bury the deceased.
- ⦿ To pay off the debts of the deceased.
- ⦿ The minimum money available to implement the will of the deceased.

“Christians are subject to a totally different set of rules than Muslims, which inevitably results in discrimination and inequality between them. This situation is a clear violation of the Constitution for which the State is responsible.”

The rest is then distributed to the heirs according to the following rules:

- ⦿ First level: the children and their offspring.
- ⦿ Second level: the father, the mother, and the grandparents.
- ⦿ Third level: the brothers and sisters and their offspring.
- ⦿ The children of the deceased and their offspring inherit from their parents and grandparents without discrimination between males and females.
- ⦿ If the deceased does not have any offspring, the estate is equally divided between the parents.
- ⦿ If the deceased does not have any offspring, a father, a mother who themselves do not have any offspring, then the estate is divided between the grandfathers and grandmothers.
- ⦿ A sixth of the estate is left to the surviving parent or parents of the deceased if he/she has an offspring.
- ⦿ The surviving spouse of the deceased gets a quarter of the inheritance if he/she had children; half of the inheritance if the deceased is outlived by his father, mother, brother or sister; five sixth if the only heirs are his grandparents. If none of the aforementioned relatives are alive, then the surviving spouse of the deceased receives the whole of the inheritance.
- ⦿ If none of the heirs mentioned are found, then the estate goes to the State.

Article 9 of the law stipulates that religious differences do not forbid inheritance unless the heir's different religious confession forbids his inheritance.

Thus, Christians are subject to a totally different set of rules than Muslims, which inevitably results in discrimination and inequality between them. This situation is a clear violation of the Constitution for which the State is responsible. ●●

PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY

Impeachment and prosecution before the Chamber of Deputies

As the head of state responsible for safeguarding the Constitution and Lebanon's sovereignty (article 49 of the Constitution), the President of the Republic benefits from presidential immunity and thus cannot be prosecuted before an ordinary court. Indeed, article 60 of the Constitution stipulates that: 'In the performance of his functions, the President of the Republic may not be held responsible except when he violates the Constitution or in the case of high treason. However, his responsibility in respect of ordinary crimes is subject to the ordinary laws. For such crimes, as well as for violations of the Constitution and for high treason, he may not be impeached except by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the Chamber of Deputies. He is to be tried by the Supreme Council for the Prosecution of Presidents and Ministers (SCPPM), provided for in article 80'. When acting in a personal capacity, the President of the Republic shall abide by the Lebanese Penal Code. However, if he is charged with an offence, he is not tried before ordinary courts but before the SCPPM, following an accusation by the Chamber of deputies. This was confirmed by the Constitutional Council in its decision No. 2, dated November 24, 1999

The First Indictment Petition

On November 27, 2006, the 14th of March Members of Parliament (MPs) submitted the first indictment against a President to the Secretariat of the Council of Deputies, demanding to accuse the President of the following:

- ⦿ breaching paragraph "d" of the Constitution's preamble by depriving Lebanese citizens of their right to exercise their sovereignty in constitutional institutions,
- ⦿ breaching article 7 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality between citizens, when he deprived the citizens of the Metn division of their right to elect a new representative after the assassination of Pierre Gemmayel,
- ⦿ breaching article 24, which determines the distribution of parliamentary seats according to religions, sects and regions,
- ⦿ breaching article 34 by decreasing the number of deputies needed to form a quorum during the council of representatives' meetings,
- ⦿ breaching article 41, which requires elections to fill an empty parliament seat within two months of its vacancy,
- ⦿ breaching articles 36, 44, 49, 52, 57, 60, 69, 70, 74, 77, 79, 80-89, by undermining the authenticity of the decisions taken by the council of representatives as a result of the absence of one of its members, an absence thought to have been made intentional by the president.

In the petition, the MPs requested: the scheduling of a public parliamentary session to consider these accusations, the notification of the President in order to listen to both the defense and the prosecution, the creation of a commission of inquiry, the referral of the accused to appear before the SCPPM and the removal of the President from his position immediately after the issuing of the indictment.

This indictment remains in the drawers of the Secretariat of the Council of Deputies.


Presidential Immunity Before International Courts

According to customary international law, a president shall not be pursued before any criminal court in another country for any offence he committed or contributed to in the performance of his duties. This stems from the principle of state sovereignty and the idea that the president represents the nation so that any attack on him/her would constitute an attack on the nation's sovereignty.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirmed this in its decision issued on February 14, 2002, concerning the minister of foreign affairs in the Congo. The ICJ also considered that the immunity granted by international law remains valid before the courts of any foreign country, even if these courts have wider criminal jurisdiction based on international conventions they have ratified.

With the creation of the International Criminal Court (the Rome Statute), which has jurisdiction to rule on cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, etc, the scope of presidential immunity has been restricted and the official title of the perpetrators appearing before the court is being disregarded. Given that Lebanon has not signed the Rome Statute, these provisions are not applicable to the Lebanese president.

The End of Immunity

The President of the Republic enjoys this immunity only throughout his mandate. According to article 61 of the Constitution, should the president be impeached, he shall be relieved of his duties and no other president shall be elected until the Supreme Council pronounces a ruling on his case. 

THE “SOLIDERE” AREA: 770,000 M2

How large is the area owned by the Solidere company? A question to which the answer is apparently elusive, considering the changes made in the layout of Downtown Beirut over the past two decades following the company's inception in 1991.

Establishment

Law No. 117 issued on December 7, 1991, allowed the creation of Solidere. Article 1 of the law abolishes paragraph 6 of Article 5 of legislative Decree No. 5 (regarding the creation of the Council of Development and Reconstruction) and allows the Council to “directly or through any administration, public agency, municipality, limited liability company (SARL), mixed company (owned partly by the public sector and partly by the private sector) or real estate company created under the concept of Article 21 of the civil regulatory law, to execute any project assigned to it by the Council of Ministers in one of the damaged regions”. (The loopholes in this law are many but are not the subject of this article). Based on this law, the Council of Ministers agreed, by Decree No. 1 of February 18, 1992, to create a real estate company responsible for the reconstruction of the commercial center. Decree No. 2537 issued on July 22, 1992, allowed the creation of a real estate limited liability company (SARL) named the Lebanese Company for the Development and Reconstruction of Beirut Central District (Solidere).

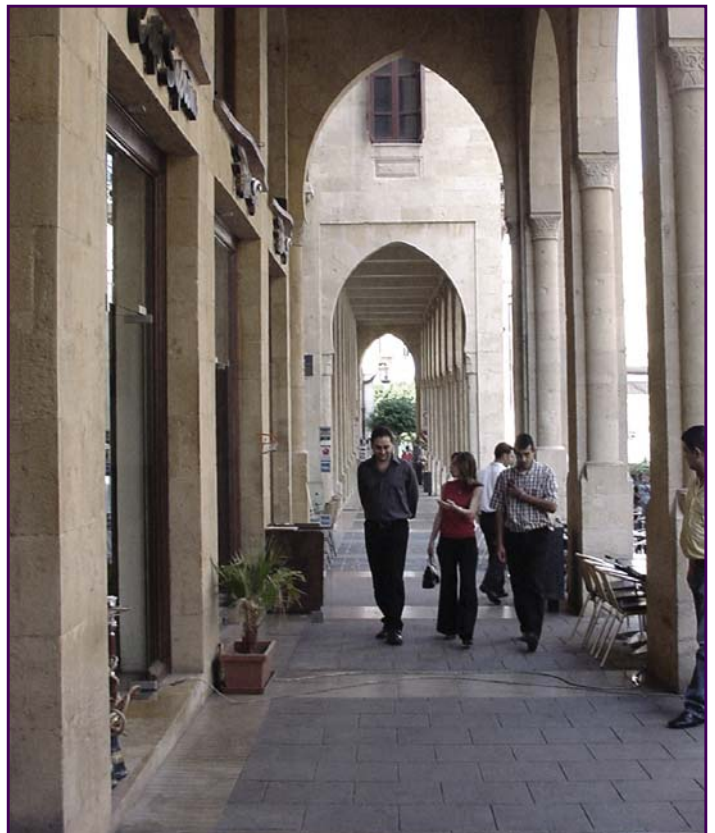
Area of Solidere

Based on the CDR's report concerning the number of real estate properties owned by Solidere, Decree No. 2236 (dated February 19, 1992) was issued and specified the number of the latter. They amount to 2,095 properties and are distributed as follows:

- ⦿ Mina' el-Hosn: 707
- ⦿ Zqaq el-Blat: 237
- ⦿ Bechoura: 352
- ⦿ Marfa': 463
- ⦿ Saifi: 331

The total area of these estates reached 701,474 square meters.

Under Decree No. 4803 of March 4, 1994, the amendment to the design and general guideline rules of Beirut's central district was ratified. Solidere gave up 106,000 square meters to the State, thus reducing its area to 595,474 square meters. Under Decree No. 5665 of September 21, 1994, the detailed scheme of Solidere's range was ratified and reached 571,000 square meters, while a 24,474 square meter area was pending a decision on whether it would be returned to the State or to Solidere. Eventually, an area of 20,700 square meters was returned to Solidere. Following later amendments (we were unable to prove the increase that took place with every decree), Solidere's area reached 770,000 square meters, reflecting an increase of 70,000 square meters of the original area with a value exceeding USD 1 billion. 🍷



NON-LEBANESE REAL ESTATE OWNERSHIP IN BEIRUT

For several years now, the Beirut Mouhafaza has been subject to increased non-Lebanese real estate ownership, mainly concentrated in the areas of Musaitbeh, Ashrafieh, Mina El-Hosn, Ras Beirut and others. The Beirut Mouhafaza has an area of approximately 18 million square meters, and is the smallest Lebanese Mouhafaza in terms of size. Non-Lebanese own around 1.04 million square meters or 5.84% of the total area. Table 1 shows the areas owned by non-Lebanese in Beirut, following the issuance of governmental decrees authorizing this ownership, which exceeded the legal limit. Ownership of apartments or estates measuring less than 3,000 square meters is not listed in the table.

Table 1 shows that Americans top the list of non-Lebanese acquiring properties in Beirut. They own 55,566 square meters, mostly used for American educational institutions such as the American University of Beirut and International College. They are followed by the Saudi Arabians who own 8,768 square meters. The rest are mainly foreign companies.

The most popular areas where Lebanese acquire property are Musaitbeh (101,625 square meters), Ashrafieh (90,824 square meters), Mina El-Hosn (79,122 square meters) and Ras Beirut (59,051 square meters). The following table 1 lists details of non-Lebanese ownership in the Beirut Mouhafaza.

Non-Lebanese real estate ownership in Beirut Mouhafaza				Table 1
Region	Name & Nationality	Area m2	Date	Purpose
Mina' Al Hosn	Beirut Trade II SARL	4,769	Jun 5, 2009 (Renewal of Decree No. 94 Mar 16 2007)	
Ain Al Mreissen	School of International College (USA)	37,175	May 11, 2009	Educational
Ras Beirut	Al Baraka SARL (Islamic Bank)	1,337	Apr 27, 2009	Real Estate
Ain Al Mreissen	American University of Beirut (USA)	2,762	Dec 23, 2008	Educational & health
Ras Beirut	American University of Beirut (USA)	2,000	Dec 16, 2008	Educational
Al Marfa'	Reem Marzouk Mohammed Al Qa'em (Kuwait)	47	Jul 20, 2008	Residential
Ain Al Mreissen	Mariam Nasser Sabah Al Nasser Al Sabah (Kuwait)	86	Feb 7, 2008	Real Estate
Al Musaitbeh	Embassy of China	180	Feb 7, 2008	Offices
Ain Al Mreissen	Qutaiba Youssef Ahmed Mohamed Al Ghanem (Kuwait)	49	Jan 18, 2008	Residential
Mina' Al Hosn	Valley Hills SARL	7,873	Jan 18, 2008	Real Estate
Ain Al Mreissen	Abdul Rahman Nasser Abdul Mohsen Al Said (Kuwait)	606	Jan 3, 2008	Real Estate
Ashrafieh	3687 Real Estate SARL	29,267	Dec 24, 2007	Residential & commercial
Ras Beirut + Ashrafieh	Mariam Omar Ziad Ja'afar Al A'askari (UAE)	165 + 232 (397)	Jan 13, 2007	Real Estate
Mina' Al Hosn	Adnan Hassan Haji Salman Al Baksami (Kuwait)	302,5	Oct 6, 2007	Residential
Rase Beirut + Ain Al Mreiseh	American University of Beirut (USA)	1,599	Jul 3, 2007	-
Mina' Al Hosn	Marina Tower SARL	57	Jul 2, 2007	Real Estate
Ras Beirut	Middle East Airlines SARL	21	Jun 12, 2007	Offices
Ashrafieh	Moa'awad Twins Lebanon SARL	5,480	May 21, 2007	Retain ownership
Ras Beirut	Saleh Bin Abdul Aziz Bin Rashid Al Rameezen (KSA)	243	May 21, 2007	Residential & corporate
Rmeil	Company Bisawi u. M.'s.	113	Apr 5, 2007	Retain ownership
Ashrafieh	Abdel Wahab Saleh Ali Alshaya (Kuwait)	1,072	Apr 5, 2007	Real Estate
Al Bashoura	987 Al Bashoura SARL	4,627	Apr 5, 2007	Residential & commercial
Ashrafieh	Rizk Hospital SARL	7,653	Mar 19, 2007	Retain ownership
Mina' Al Hosn	Beirut Trade II SARL	4,796	Mar 16, 2007	Real Estate
Ashrafieh	3687 Real Estate SARL	29,267	Sep 25, 2006	Residential & commercial

Non-Lebanese real estate ownership in Beirut Mouhafaza**Table 1**

Region	Name & Nationality	Area m2	Date	Purpose
Ashrafieh + Al Musaitbeh	Abdullah Jassim Darwish Fakhro (Qatar)	603 + 50 (653)	Aug 30, 2006	Residential
Ras Beirut	Mohammed Saleh Yousuf Behbehani (Kuwait)	21	Jul 19, 2006	Residential
Al Saifi	Fakhr Al Khaleej Insurance and Reinsurance SARL	123	Jul 15, 2006	Corporate
Ras Beirut	Mohammed Marzouk Al Qa'em (Kuwait)	94	May 15, 2006	Real Estate
Mina' Al Hosn	Lebanese Grand Hotels SARL	380	Jul 11, 2006	Increase investment for Phoenicia hotel
Al Bashoura	1523 Al Bashoura SARL	4,681	Jun 14, 2006	Real Estate
Al Marfa' + Al Saifi	Phoenician Village SARL	19,957 + 664 (20,621) 664	May 5, 2006	Real Estate
Al Saifi	State of Qatar	190	Apr 24, 2006	Offices
Al Saifi	Al Fajr Gulf Insurance and Reinsurance SARL	427	Apr 24, 2006	Offices
Ras Beirut	Abdullah Jassim Al Darwish Fakhro 81 (Qatar)	55	Dec 1, 2005	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	3164 Nayaland SARL	1,308	Nov 5, 2005	Real Estate
Mina' Al Hosn	Company Mediterranean Hotels Great Sh. M.'s.	232	Sep 27, 2005	Hotel
Al Musaitbeh	Lebanese Company for International Touristic Projects SARL	81	Sep 23, 2005	Warehouse
Ashrafieh	Fall Tower SARL (Ashrafieh)	3,164	Sep 7, 2005	Corporate
Ras Beirut	THE CARLTON ENTERPRISES SAL	8,758	Aug 27, 2005	Retain ownership - Corporate
Al Modawwar	Construction and real estate development company SARL	6,736	Jun 28, 2005	Retain ownership - Corporate
Al Musaitbeh	1544 Al Fardan Real Estate SARL	18,158	Jun 20, 2005	Retain ownership - Corporate
Al Musaitbeh	Hamad Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah (Kuwait)	220	Jun 20, 2005	Residential
Mina' Al Hosn	Al Hosn 400 SARL	8,888	Jun 20, 2005	Real Estate
Al Mazra'a + Rmeil	Omar Bin Saleh Suleiman Al Hamadi (KSA)	604 + 944 (1,548)	Jun 20, 2005	Real Estate
Ain Al Mreissen	Saif Bin Mohammed Al Nahyan (UAE)	107	Jun 20, 2005	Residential
Mina' Al Hosn	Development Company Interface Beirut Marina SARL	24,648	Jun 20, 2005	Touristic
Mina' Al Hosn	The global hotel investment company SARL	4,283	Feb 4, 2005	Touristic & residential
Al Musaitbeh	Osama Bin Farid Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Ahmad Al A'azim (KSA)	686	Sep 10, 2004	Residential
Al Saifi	Dubai Islamic Bank	3,453	Aug 24, 2004	Residential, commercial & touristic
Ashrafieh	Company for import and distribution of cars (Cedia) SARL	800	Aug 5, 2004	Corporate
Al Musaitbeh	Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Bulaihid (KSA)	90	Jul 17, 2004	Residential
Ashrafieh	Hamad Abdul Aziz Mohammed Alshaya (Kuwait)	192	Jun 30, 2004	Real Estate
Ras Beirut	College building SARL	3,400	Jun 30, 2004	Retain ownership
Ras Beirut	Embassy of Qatar	3,639	Jun 15, 2004	Offices
Zqaq Al Blat	Company Panamu Astaitis SARL	3,414	May 19, 2004	Residential
Al Bashoura	Landmark SARL	7,708	May 19, 2004	Touristic
Al Musaitbeh	Egypt - General Authority to fund the buildings and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs abroad	1,314	May 7, 2004	Offices
Ras Beirut	A'abta Bint Hamoud Al Rashid (KSA)	61	Mar 27, 2004	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Sayyed Haider Sayyed Mohammad Ridha Taqwa	22	Feb 25, 2004	Residential
Ras Beirut	Ibrahim Bin Hamad Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and Aisha Bint Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa (Bahrain)	139 (divided equally)	Jan 31, 2004	Residential
Ain Al Mreissen	Mua'ab Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (KSA) (purchase of shares in the company of the touristic projects) SARL	16 (belongs to O.I.Y from company shares)	Jan 12, 2004	Touristic
Ashrafieh	Fahed Bin Mohammed Saleh Al A'azal (KSA)	3,164	Jan 12, 2004	Residential
Ras Beirut	Ahmad Bin Nowiran Bin Khalaf Al Walad Ali Al Antari (KSA)	624	Dec 15, 2004	Residential
Ras Beirut	College building SARL	1,157	Nov 17, 2003	Offices
Al Mazra'a	Al Masaleh for real estate investment SARL	18	Oct 25, 2003	Corporate
Al Musaitbeh	Embassy of Oman	4,141	Oct 25, 2003	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Khalid Mutlaq Shafi Al Qahtani (KSA)	1,395	Oct 25, 2003	Residential



Non-Lebanese real estate ownership in Beirut Mouhafaza				Table 1
Region	Name & Nationality	Area m2	Date	Purpose
Ras Beirut	Dubai Islamic Bank	47	Oct 3, 2003	Offices, touristic & residential
Ashrafieh	Company for import and distribution of cars (Cedia) SARL	3,614	Oct 3, 2003	Corporate
Ashrafieh	Lebanese Swiss Insurance Company SARL	98	May 20, 2003	Retain ownership - Corporate
Mina' Al Hosn	Beirut Tower SARL	3,556	Sep 6, 2003 (Amendment of Decree No. 8223 Date of Jul 17, 2002)	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Omar Bin Sulaiman Bin Saleh Al Latif (KSA)	145	Aug 14, 2003	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Khalid Bin Ali Bin Mohammed Al A'siri (KSA)	113	Aug 13, 2003	Residential
Ain Al Mreissen	Al Jawhara Bint Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (KSA)	361	Jul 16, 2003	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Faisal Youssef Al Marzouq (Kuwait)	98	Nov 16, 2003	Residential
Ashrafieh	Beirut Leisure Center SARL	579	Nov 8, 2002	Real Estate
Ras Beirut	Gharamallah Radad Said Al Zahrani (KSA)	521	Nov 8, 2002	Hotel
Ras Beirut	Mutlaq Mohammad Al Mutlaq Al Mutlaq (KSA)	144	Oct 9, 2002	Real Estate
Mina' Al Hosn	1421 Real Estate SARL	5,600	Aug 7, 2002	Real Estate
Mina' Al Hosn	Beirut Tower SARL	3,555	Jul 17, 2002	Residential
Mina' Al Hosn	Abdullah SARL	259	Jun 14, 2002	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Sibline Soil Company	24	Jun 7, 2002	Industrial
Ras Beirut	Farouq Walid Abdel Latif Salah (Jordan)	34	Nov 21, 2001	Residential
Ras Beirut	A'awad Kazem Abed (Canada)	210	Nov 5, 2001	Commercial
Ras Beirut	Lebanese American University (USA)	49	Sep 1, 2001	Educational
Al Musaitbeh	Ali Abdel Aziz Bin O'omair Al O'omair (KSA)	82	Aug 2, 2001	Residential
Ras Beirut	Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Mohammed Abu Hamid (KSA)	59	Jul 21, 2001	Residential
Ras Beirut	The Islamic Republic News Agency of Iran (IRNA) (Iran)	46	Apr 5, 2001	Commercial
Al Mazra'a	Company Logicom (Middle East) SARL	44	Apr 5, 2001	Offices
Ras Beirut	American University of Beirut (USA)	798	Mar 29, 2001	Educational & health
Al Musaitbeh	Company Sekdr (Safwan Al Kuzbari & Co.)	68	Feb 17, 2001	Offices
Rmeil	Saba and Co. TMP Limited	166	Feb 2, 2001	Offices
Ashrafieh	Dareen International LLC	176	Feb 2, 2001	Commercial
Ras Beirut	John Stanley Dagelaitis (USA)	40	Feb 2, 2001	Right to benefit for life
Ras Beirut	Roberto Antonio Gusti (right of investment)	43	Feb 1, 2001	Residential
Ashrafieh	Maureen von Moss Lewis (Switzerland)	32	Jan 26, 2001	Residential
Al Saifi	Francisco Jose Popolani (Italy)	33	Jan 26, 2001	Residential
Ain Al Mreissen	American University of Beirut (USA)	379	Oct 24, 2000	Educational & health
Al Musaitbeh	Abdul Hakim Mohamed Hamaki (Germany)	42	Oct 18, 2000	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Business office Company outside the the mentioned country (Iran)	78	Oct 18, 2000	Offices
Ras Beirut	International College (USA)	41	Oct 18, 2000	Educational
Al Musaitbeh	Al Masahoun Al A'arab (Jordan)	103	Oct 18, 2000	Offices
Ashrafieh	Kuwait Lebanese Real Estate LLC	1,027	Oct 16, 2000	Residential, commercial & touristic
Ras Beirut	Kuwait Airways in Beirut (Kuwait)	65	Oct 16, 2000	Residential
Ain Al Mreissen	Company Realdank (Panama)	153	Oct 12, 2000	Residential
Ras Beirut	General Real Estate Company SARL (Sugivon)	66	Sep 6, 2000	Corporate
Rmeil	Embassy of Austria	100	Jul 25, 2000	Offices
Al Musaitbeh	Carozini Marcello Carmini Pietro (Italy) (right of investment)	79	Apr 25, 2000	Residential
Ras Beirut	The Middle East News Agency (Egypt)	34	Mar 13, 2000	Corporate
Ashrafieh	American Life Insurance Co.	66	Dec 17, 1999	Offices
Ain Al Mreissen	American University in Beirut (USA)	2,535	Dec 17, 1999	Educational & health
Rmeil	Metropolitan Bank Plc. M.'s.	100	Mar 15, 2000	Retain ownership
Al Marfa'	Arabian Reinsurance Company SARL	205	Dec 17, 1999	Offices

Non-Lebanese real estate ownership in Beirut Mouhafaza**Table 1**

Region	Name & Nationality	Area m2	Date	Purpose
Ain Al Mreissen	American University of Beirut (USA)	109	Dec 8, 1999	Educational & health
Ras Beirut	Mohammad Ehsan Othman (Afghanistan)	44	Nov 10, 1999	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Darwish Bin Ahmed & Sons - joint venture (UAE)	60	Nov 10, 1999	Offices
Al Musaitbeh	Tawfeek Company for Development and Investment Adcco Holding SARL	77	Oct 4, 1999	Offices
Ashrafieh + Rmeil	Embassy of the Netherlands	113 + 120 (233)	Jun 25, 1999	Residential & offices
Ashrafieh	Association Sisters of Jesus Christ (France)	46	May 21, 1999	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Rakti Production & Distribution LLC (UAE)	56	Mar 31, 1999	Offices
Ras Beirut	American Life Insurance Company (USA)	312	Mar 31, 1999	Offices
Mina' Al Hosn	Aphrodite Eli Piskales (Greece)	72	Mar 31, 1999	Residential
Al Marfa'a + Rmeil + Al Musaitbeh	BLC Bank SARL	437 + 275 + 39	May 7, 1999	Retain Ownership
Al Musaitbeh	Embassy of China	1,337	Mar 8, 1999	Residential
Ain Al Mreissen	Faisal Bin Fahed Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (KSA)	236	Feb 17, 1999	Residential
Al Musaitbeh	Odette Francois Giraud (France)	113	Oct 13, 1998	
Ain Al Mreissen	Company calico Properties Limited (UK)	91	Oct 8, 1998	Residential
Ras Beirut	Middle East Airlines Air Lebanese Sh. M.'s.	59	Jul 15, 1998	Offices
Al Marfa'	Al Ghalghoul Properties SARL	1,428	Jun 15, 1998	Commercial & entertainment
Ras Beirut	Embassy of Italy	63	Jun 15, 1998	Offices
Zqaq Al Blat	Haidar Mohammad Ridha Taqwa (Iran)	66	Apr 21, 1998	Residential & commercial
Al Marfa'	New Saifi Village Properties SARL	9,607	Jan 12, 1998	Offices & commercial
Al Marfa'	Saifi Gardens SARL	5,224	Jan 12, 1998	Offices & commercial
Al Marfa'	Al Makhlasiah Properties SARL	6,496	Nov 12, 1998	Showrooms
Al Marfa'	International Organizations SARL	3,645	Jan 12, 1998	Offices & commercial
Ras Beirut	Thomas son of Thomas Alcoverro (Spain)	33	Jan 9, 1998	Residential
Ras Beirut	Lebanese American University (USA)	1,660	Dec 18, 1997	Educational
Mina' Al Hosn	PREMIER EQUITY (CAYMAN) LIMITED (Cayman Islands)	8,216	Nov 26, 1997 correction of the Decree No. 11 090 - Date of Oct 1, 1997	Residential & touristic
Mina' Al Hosn	Mediterranean Company for Grand Hotels SARL	754	Oct 23, 1997	Corporate
Al Saifi	Gulf Company for Advertising & Public Relations LLC (KSA)	78	Aug 27, 1997	Offices
Ras Beirut	International College (USA)	493	Jul 30, 1997	Educational
Al Musaitbeh	Bank for Investment and Development	195	Jul 30, 1997	Real Estate
Al Saifi	Swiss Embassy	73	Apr 23, 1997	Offices
Al Musaitbeh + Ras Beirut	General Real Estate Company SARL "Sugivon"	88+14 (102)	Mar 15, 1996	Offices
Ras Beirut	EgyptAir	66	Dec 23, 1995	Residential
Al Bashoura	Global Company for wireless connections "Sita" (Belgium)	18	Sep 8, 1994	
Al Musaitbeh	... Abdul Karim Sha'aban	5	Jun 4, 1994	
Al Musaitbeh	Libyan Company for Foreign Investment SARL	2,925	Oct 28, 1993	
Ras Beirut	Lebanese Company for International Touristic Projects SARL	91	Jul 2, 1993	Offices
Al Mazra'a	Abdul Mu'uti Salim Mansur (Germany)	24	Jun 15, 1993	
Ashrafieh	Henry Claude Burion and mother Roberta Baldi (France)	46	Oct 5, 1991	
Ain Al Mreissen + Ras Beirut	International College (USA)	1,751 + 80 (1,831)	Apr 3, 1991	Educational
Ras Beirut	Beirut University College	3,073 + 13 + 36 (3,122)	Jun 13, 1905	Educational
Ras Beirut	Embassy of Bulgaria	1,232	Jan 21, 1991	Offices



Non-Lebanese real estate ownership in Beirut Mouhafaza				Table 1
Region	Name & Nationality	Area m2	Date	Purpose
Ras Beirut	Mary Land Company for Touristic Projects SARL	6,251	Oct 12, 1987	
Ain Mreisseh	American University of Beirut (USA)	505	Dec 28, 1982	Educational
Ras Beirut	Joumana Adolf Kurtzer (Germany)	52	Dec 28, 1982	
Al Musaitbeh + Ras Beirut	Embassy of Libya	120 + 49 (169)	Sep 20, 1982	
Rmeil	Federal Real Estate Company SARL	443	Sep 20, 1982	
Ashrafieh	Bank Sabbagh and the French to the Middle East (FranceBank) SARL	48	Sep 4, 1982	
Ashrafieh	Byblos Bank SARL	35	Feb 13, 1982	
Rmeil	Bankers Insurance SARL	77	Dec 30, 1981	
Al Musaitbeh	Embassy of Iraq	-	Dec 30, 1981	
Ashrafieh	Adolph Constantine Albert Hauhelman (Germany)	53	Feb 18, 1981	
Al Musaitbeh + Ras Beirut	Embassy of Libya	120 + 49 (169)	Oct 14, 1980	
Al Musaitbeh	Bahru Abdul Karim Sha'aban	24	Oct 14, 1980	
Ras Beirut	Bank of Credit and International Commerce (Lebanon) SARL	87	May 22, 1980	
Rmeil	Federal Real Estate Company SARL	614	Feb 1, 1980	Retain ownership
Ras Beirut	Nasser Mohammad Hassan Falamanki (Iran)	18	Dec 31, 1979	
Al Musaitbeh	Engineering House for design and technical consultancy (Shagher & Co.)	847	Dec 21, 1979	
Al Bashoura	Wajiha Said Al Tabrizi and her minor children: Nazik, Souza, Hassan, Mehieddin Al Tabrizi (Iran)	21	Dec 23, 1978	
Ras Beirut	General Real Estate Company SARL (Sugivon)	375	Nov 25, 1978	Retain ownership
Ashrafieh	NASCO Kara Oghlan & Co., Ltd. SARL	47	Nov 25, 1978	
Ras Beirut	Litex Bank SARL	54	Jun 16, 1978	
Ashrafieh	Western Eastern Compnay for Trade	22	Mar 18, 1978	
Al Mazra'a + Al Musaitbeh	Petroleum real estate and Business Company SARL	2,177 (718 + 1,459)	Mar 10, 1978	
Ain Mreisseh	Gulf International Company for Hotels and Tourism SARL	4,925	Mar 6, 1978	
Al Musaitbeh	Real Estate & Touristics Company Eden Rock SARL	221	Feb 23, 1978	
Al Musaitbeh	Rafik Al Mokhtar Constantine (France)	547	Feb 23, 1978	
Ras Beirut	Rania Botagy (Australia)	48	Feb 23, 1978	
Al Marfa'	Lebanese Company for Property Management SARL	1,330	Feb 23, 1978	
Al Mazra'a	Chiolotu Egidio Luciano (Italy)	30	Feb 23, 1978	
Al Musaitbeh	Bank of Egypt to Lebanon SARL	30	Feb 23, 1978	
Al Musaitbeh	Arab Libyan Tunisian Bank SARL	672	Dec 30, 1975	
Al Marfa'	Sayyed Kazem Sultan Bourhakimi (Iran)	205	Dec 30, 1975	
Al Musaitbeh	Friedrich Albert ... (Germany)	1,112	Dec 30, 1975	
Al Musaitbeh	Embassy of China	2,856	Nov 24, 1975	
Ras Beirut	Wartan Ivan Kachatorian (Iran)	1,054	Mar 12, 1975	
Ashrafieh	Berti Elias Azrak (Iran)	943	Mar 21, 1975	
Ras Beirut	Marinette Mireille Pierre Gauthier (France)	606	Mar 26, 1975	
Al Musaitbeh	General Real Estate Company SARL	648	Jan 31, 1975	
Ras Beirut	Egypt Bank in Lebanon SARL	606	Jan 31, 1975	
Ras Beirut	Petroleum, real estate and business company SARL	717	Jan 31, 1975	
Ras Beirut	Hirna Oloshova (Netherlands)	801	Jan 31, 1975	
Ras Beirut	George Mola Motel Matthew George Zacharia (UK)	765	Jul 25, 1974	
Al Marfa'	The Chess Manhattan Bank (USA)	1,066	Jun 15, 1974	
Ras Beirut	Ahmad Idriss Walad Manbahi (France)	612	Jun 15, 1974	
Ras Beirut	Toun Datothaji Mustafa Bin Datou Haroun (Malaysia)	1,195	Jun 15, 1974	
Al Musaitbeh	Al Jamil Construction SARL	2,102	Mar 15, 1974	
Ain Mreisseh	Al Tawfiq Tourism & Hotels SARL	4,881	Mar 15, 1974	Retain ownership
Al Musaitbeh	Company for Development of Tourism and Hotels SARL	25,692	Feb 19, 1974	
Ras Beirut	Lillian Walters, born Hajjar (UK)	715	Jan 30, 1974	
Ain Mreisseh	Na'im Ibrahim Attallah (UK)	1,698	Jan 30, 1974	
Ain Mreisseh + Ras Beirut	American University of Beirut (USA)	1,547 + 5 (1,552)	Nov 24, 1973	

Non-Lebanese real estate ownership in Beirut Mouhafaza

Table 1

Region	Name & Nationality	Area m2	Date	Purpose
Al Musaitbeh	Yolanda Hadat Oklo (Turkey)	2,461	Nov 24, 1973	
Al Mudawwar	Property Employment (Byblos) Company Limited	739	Nov 24, 1973	
Ashrafieh	Mohamed Sha'aban Ali	146	Nov 24, 1973	
Ras Beirut	Emaar Company LLC	3,266	Sep 24, 1973	
Ras Beirut	Elizabeth Kraus (Germany)	611	Sep 4, 1973	
Ras Beirut	Press Cooperation SARL	182	Jun 5, 1973	
Al Musaitbeh	Armenian Public Charity Association (Switzerland)	148	Mar 19, 1973	
Ras Beirut	Ibrahim Omar A'atwi (Turkey)	538	Mar 9, 1973	
Ashrafieh	National Insurance Company SARL	1,674	Jan 19, 1973	
Ashrafieh	General Union Insurance Company SARL	1,158	Jan 19, 1973	
Ras Beirut	Nawal Bashir A'ajami (Iran)	171	Dec 18, 1972	
Al Musaitbeh	Janet Hagop Anmahean (USA)	92	Jul 26, 1972	
Al Mazra'a	Iran Assadullah Fulladkar Maktabi (Iran)	245	Dec 28, 1971	
Ras Beirut	Ram Lal Anand and his wife Sahrda Anand (India)	431 (equally)	Nov 23, 1971	
Ain Mreisseh	Samira Yorgi Zarif (Turkey)	811	Oct 2, 1971	
Ras Beirut	Muhammad Ali, Abbas Ali, Mohammed Jamsheed, Ahmed, Yahya and Ramadan: children of Hussein Maktabi (Iran)	939 (divided equally)	Jun 29, 1971	
Mina' Al Hosn	Tamer Brothers Company SARL	831	Jan 4, 1971	
Ras Beirut	Muhammad Ali and Abbas Ali, Mohammed Jamsheed Ahmed and Yahya Ramadan my children Hussein (Iran)	1,141 (equally)	Dec 21, 1970	
Al Musaitbeh	Joseph and Maria Angelina Margarita ASCII (Italy)	309	Dec 21, 1970	
Ras Beirut	Khaor Sultan Zaher Dalal (Iran)	333	Dec 21, 1970	
Al Musaitbeh	Victor, Henry, Elvira and Awlis Caesar Pashini (Italy)	378	May 29, 1970	
Al Mazra'a	Company Srdol Finanza Anstalt (limited liability - its Vaduz)	Part # 1059 from estate # 37	May 15, 1970	
Al Mudawwar	Association of Armenian Messengers in America (USA)	332	May 15, 1970	
Al Musaitbeh	Tekar Inayatullah Esfahani (Iran)	2,551 (part 10 of the whole property)	May 15, 1970	
Ain Mreisseh	American University of Beirut (USA)	4,255	Jan 29, 1970	Educational
Mina' Al Hosn	Byblos Properties SARL	43	Oct 15, 1969	
Al Mudawwar	Badia'a Salim Zamli (Iran)	-	Oct 15, 1969	
Ras Beirut	John J. Kalprere (USA)	-	Oct 14, 1969	
Al Mazra'a	Embassy of Senegal	-	Oct 14, 1969	
Al Mazra'a	Oumaima Elias Qoronfol (USA)	-	Oct 14, 1969	
Al Mazra'a	Mariam Mohamed Ghazaleh (France)	-	Oct 14, 1969	
Ras Beirut	Hassan Maktabi & Brother Ali Company (a partnership)	1,468	Apr 9, 1969	
Al Musaitbeh	Carolyn Roland Alinder (UK)	2,219	24 آذار, 1969 24 Mar 1969	
Ras Beirut	Bellon safety of dairy products (United States of America)	-	Feb 26, 1969	
Rmeil	Salma Skahchmi (USA)	-	Feb 26, 1969	
Al Mazra'a	Leila Bezvin Hashmat Mo'ein (France) (purchase) The right of investment is attributable to Samiha Mou'ayed Al A'azam (Iran)	-	Dec 30, 1968	
Al Mazra'a	Nour AIDin Samih Mumtaz (Turkey)	-	Sep 19, 1969	
Al Mazra'a	Zainab Samih Mumtaz (Turkey)	-	Sep 19, 1968	
Al Musaitbeh	Mariam Rashid Al Laham (France)	-	Aug 1, 1968	
Al Musaitbeh	Assembly of the Evangelical Baptist Church (USA)	498	Aug 29, 1968	
Ashrafieh	Tawfiq Sheikh Mullah Mousa	-	May 20, 1968	
Al Musaitbeh	Embassy of Iran	1,903	Jan 10, 1968	
Ras Beirut	Henry Michel Haddad (France)	-	Dec 21, 1967	
Ashrafieh	Nadimah Tutunji (France)	-	Dec 7, 1967	
Ain Mreisseh	Hassan Maktabi & Brother Ali Company (a partnership)	1,805	Dec 7, 1967	
Al Musaitbeh	Company Lion Standard - U.S. joint stock company	561	Dec 7, 1967	
Mina' Al Hosn	Sisters of Charity Foundation Becanson (France)	7	Feb 21, 1967	
Al Mazra'a	Kathryn Babayan (Iran)	-	Sep 12, 1966	
Ras Beirut	Victoria Marie Dean (UK)	-	Sep 12, 1966	
Al Mazra'a	Lisa Babayan (Germany)	-	Sep 12, 1966	
Al Musaitbeh	Real Estate Employment Sheef SARL	20,524	May 9, 1966	
Al Mazra'a	Khaor Sultan Maktabi (Iran)	-	May 9, 1966	
Al Mazra'a	Al Asa'ad Standard (for the Near East) (USA)	718	May 9, 1966	



THE SYNDICATE OF PROFESSIONAL DIVERS IN LEBANON

The Establishment

The Syndicate of Professional Divers was established in Lebanon by virtue of the Ministry of Labor's decision number 1/391 on the 25th of July 1997. The main centre of the syndicate is located in Saida. Among the most important purposes of its establishment, one can mention:

- ⦿ Protecting the profession against foreign labor especially when foreign companies are involved in maritime projects in Lebanon
- ⦿ Helping its members to find work opportunities locally and internationally, as there are dozens of members working in various seas around the world.
- ⦿ Working to promulgate laws related to diving in coordination with all the ministries concerned, which has already resulted in the promulgation of decision number 1/295 concerning the diving organization in Lebanon and decision number 1/296 concerning the diving institutes in Lebanon. Both decisions were issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and led to the issuance of diving permits to members and institutes as of 1997.
- ⦿ Working to maintain a healthy environment in the work place by protecting the maritime environment from pollution emanating from resources on the beach and commercial ships. The syndicate has been a pioneer and leader in this field and has undertaken dozens of campaigns to stop pollution by liquid, solid, chemical and organic waste.

The Syndicate's Organization

The syndicate consists of the General Assembly, the Syndicate Council and the President of the syndicate.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly includes all the professional divers that are members of the syndicate and is managed by a Board of Directors composed of 10 members elected by the General Assembly every four years.



The Syndicate Council

The current Syndicate Council consists of 10 members:

- ⦿ Mohammad Assarji: President
- ⦿ Dr. Nasser Hammoud: Vice president and currently acting Manager of Environment and Health
- ⦿ Mohammad Kawsarani: Secretary
- ⦿ Hussein Salim: Treasurer
- ⦿ Abdel Nasser Darwish: Vice Treasurer
- ⦿ Dr. Maher Al Hajj: Public Relation
- ⦿ Adib Tuma: Consultant
- ⦿ Ali Mslmani: Technical and Technological consultant
- ⦿ Jamal Jalloul: Promotion and Media

The President

He is the president of the syndicate, the head of its council and its official representative before the authorities and specialized bodies. The syndicate is currently presided by Mr. Mohammad Assarji.

There are around 500 registered members in the syndicate located along the Lebanese coast, mainly working in the sea. They are scattered across various Lebanese ports from Al Abda in the north to Al Nakoura in the South.

The Syndicate's Activities

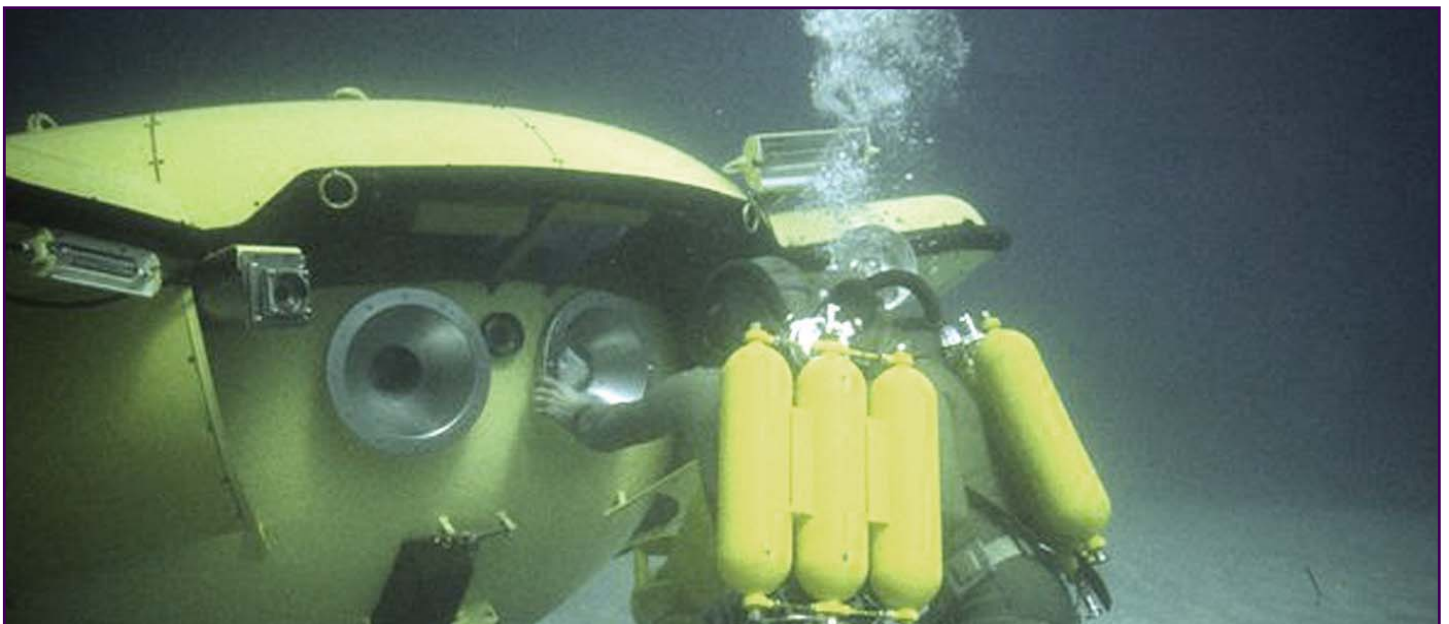
Since its establishment, the syndicate has been working towards achieving the goals it set out: protect the profession and help its members find or improve their work opportunities locally and internationally. Moreover, it provides an essential safeguard for a sound and healthy work environment, i.e. the sea, and for the health of its workers. The syndicate has accomplished many activities, among which:

- ⦿ The ability to integrate the Lebanese sea, containing ignored and unknown parts representing half of its territory, into the core of the Homeland, to consider it a main part of it and to shed light on its natural (cold, hot and sulfurous water springs), cultural (discovered sunk cities such as Saida, Yarmouta, Sour and Azza) and animal (fisheries and others) treasures and resources.
- ⦿ The stopping of fishing with dynamite and explosives by some fishermen. The most prominent campaigns were in 1998 and 2006.
- ⦿ The undertaking of dozens of campaigns, studies and sit-ins in order to stop sea pollution by solid waste produced by waste dumps and waste water. This chemical pollution is the direct result of factories scattered along the Lebanese coast.
- ⦿ The cessation of theft and looting of maritime sand from the seabed and beaches which in turn led to the complete prohibition, with the cooperation of 18 environmental associations, of the withdrawal of sand from the seabed.
- ⦿ The participation of the syndicate's rescue team in many rescue, search and floating operations especially of drowned persons.



The Syndicate and Politics

The divers' syndicate has never been involved in politics, neither directly nor indirectly, nor given any political party the opportunity to meddle with it or its work. Although the syndicate's elected council naturally includes politically affiliated members, this merely reflects Lebanon's political diversity. This affiliation is not in conflict with the syndicate's work and does not affect it as political opinions and choices remain strictly personal. 🌍



ADVENTIST EVANGELICAL SCHOOL IN BOUSHRIEH

Objective

The objective of the Adventist Evangelical Schools is to raise young people as whole individuals, educating body, mind and soul and refining both behavior and thinking. It prepares its students for a prosperous future by providing them with the tools that will enable them to face the challenges of the millennium. The schools believe that culture helps develop an individual's personality and provides skills and experience that will allow individuals to participate in building better communities, by equipping them with proper education in today's complex social and spiritual world, while remaining faithful to their duties towards their Creator, their country and their fellow men. The schools help students form good moral habits, walk on the right path of life, appreciate all that is noble and respect and conserve the environment. Being a Christian school, the Adventist Evangelical School in Boushrieh believes that one can only fulfill his/her purpose in life to the fullest when s/he realizes that, as a son of God, life should be filled with love, devotion and sacrifice.

Foundation

The network of Adventist Schools in Lebanon started its educational work in 1929 and continues to perform its mission of teaching and educating through schools scattered throughout Beirut and Mount Lebanon. The Adventist Schools in Lebanon belong to a worldwide educational system of internationally recognized schools and universities run by the Adventist Evangelical Church.

Initially, the Adventist Evangelical High School was founded as a training center for teachers. In 1932, work began on an elementary school, followed by intermediate and secondary schools. The school is located in Sabtieh– Sad Al-Boushrieh, and its campus, divided into several buildings, playgrounds, courts (football and basketball) and gardens, exceeds an area of 19,000 square meters, thus providing the perfect place for students to enjoy the stunning and healthy outdoors.

Curriculum and Education

The Adventist Schools in Lebanon are committed to the curriculum of the Lebanese Ministry of National Education. English is the main foreign language taught, along with Arabic. French is the second foreign language and is taught in kindergarten and first, second and third cycles.



Levels of study

Kindergarten: This section consists of three stages (nursery, first kindergarten, second kindergarten). A child can attend kindergarten when he/she turns three years old. The facilities are equipped with various modern educational means and games and students are supervised by competent and specialized teachers with extensive experience. They strive to give the child a positive and constructive foundation for entering elementary school by providing a balance between physiological, emotional and mental enrichment.

Basic Education - elementary school: this phase consists of the first cycle, comprised of 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade, and the second cycle, which includes 4th, 5th and 6th grade. The task of the elementary school is to provide the basic knowledge and skills necessary for the integration of children into a civilized society through the reinforcement of self-confidence and independence and the encouragement of civilized behavior and cooperative work. To achieve this objective, oral and written competencies are indispensable so the school works on enabling students with tools that enhance their communication and understanding skills. A special emphasis is placed on reading, developing their scientific and sportive skills, informing them about scientific, environmental and health principles, and teaching them the proper use of modern technologies. The school focuses on the development of the student's competencies in arts, mathematics, and sports in addition to the student's aesthetic and technical sense.

Basic education - stage II: this phase consists of 7th, 8th and 9th grade. The school works in the early stages on developing the students' different skills, and helps them identify any specific capabilities and interests they may have in order to develop them to allow them to pursue their higher education and engage in public life, all the while remaining loyal to the values of citizenship and national, humanitarian, civil and cultural identity.

Secondary education: In addition to preparing students for the official certificate examination, the school offers them the opportunity of learning the meaning of their rights and duties and the means of responsibly exercising them, and the ways to express their opinion within the boundaries of the law as responsible Lebanese citizens. Using awareness programs and career and academic guidance, it also helps students choose the proper field of higher specialization and provides them with the appropriate concepts and information in order to successfully enter the workforce.

The foreign curriculum (High School Program): This program provides an opportunity for foreign students, Lebanese students who hold a foreign nationality and those students who do not master the Arabic language to pursue their studies within a special program that grants them the qualifications they need to pursue their education, whether in school or university. This program is subject to the laws of the Ministry of Education.

Number of Students and Annual Fees

There are currently 400 students in the Adventist School. Their numbers vary from 25 to 33 per class.

The school's fees are determined at the beginning of every school year. The school can increase its fees in accordance with the percentage provided by the general laws and in cooperation with the Parents Committee. The fees are currently set between LBP3,000,000 and LBP4,500,000. A special policy, allowing a 10% to 15% reduction, applies to siblings.

Clubs and Associations

To train the students to spend their leisure time profitably and lead a physically and mentally healthy life, the school offers a variety of extracurricular activities under the supervision of specialists. They are organized in the form of clubs and associations and include: music, theatre and dance, basketball, football, drawing, computer and other clubs. Students also participate in several outdoor activities, such as entertainment tours and scientific visits.

Guidance and Consultancy

The school offers vocational, social, psychological and academic guidance for students throughout the school year to help them meet social and academic challenges and lead a fulfilling life after graduation. The school provides an opportunity for students in the secondary stages to meet with the representatives of universities on and off campus, and also provides access to the information needed to choose a specialization that best suits their abilities and interests. In addition, the school has a therapist (social worker) that follows up on students when needed.

Social Work

The school has a community service policy that seeks to enhance its students' community spirit for them realize their ability to make a difference in the lives of others. Each student in the secondary level is required to complete 60 hours of community service within a program supervised by the Public Relations Department of the school.

School Facilities

Library: The school library provides an opportunity for students to develop their research skills by allowing them to borrow and return books, and use the library's internet service. The library can also help consolidate the students' love for reading and enrich their general knowledge. The school encourages both students and parents to take advantage of the books available in the library and specifically encourages students to read on a daily basis, albeit for a short period of time.


Laboratories: the Adventist High School provides the students with an opportunity to work in the Science Lab, where the theoretical study is transformed into practical experiments. The school offers a computer room equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment in addition to internet access.

Activities

National week for reading: a literary/cultural festival is held where students and parents get involved in several activities that emphasize the importance of reading and its role in the development of one's general knowledge and character. This celebration comes as part of the year-long reading program sponsored by the school.

Awareness seminars: the school offers several awareness-raising sessions to inform parents on health, social, educational and medical issues. The objective of these seminars is to provide an opportunity for parents to explore the latest theories in these fields, which will help them serve as educators outside the classroom.

Special days: the school is committed to incorporating a number of special days in the academic calendar. These days are part of the United Nations calendar and cover a variety of subjects: International Day for the Elderly, World Water Day, Earth Day, etc. Students and teachers offer special presentations on these topics.

Theatre Club: The school's department of drama seeks to develop artistic awareness among students by performing Arabic and foreign language plays throughout the year. These works are considered an integral part of the educational curriculum. At the end of the academic year, students perform a play by the Rahbani Brothers in a bid to show appreciation to national artistic works. 



THE DECLINE OF CLINICAL MEDICINE

Dr. Hanna Saadah

Due to today's unprecedented bursts in technology and science, medicine has had to transform itself into a conglomerate of subspecialties in order to process the deluge of information coming its way. Modern scientific growth brought with it an ever-growing number of medical subdivisions and sub-sub-specialties.

As the rapid expansion of science created further medical subdivisions, the clinical arena became too huge and too diverse for the average consumer to comprehend. To further complicate matters, doctors were now able to offer their patients a vast array of procedures and tests, which inflated medical costs beyond what was customary and reasonable. Furthermore, as the numbers of narrowed subspecialties proliferated, subspecialists competed by learning more and more about less and less, which forced patients into seeking myriad doctors in order to take care of their myriad problems.

This clinical branching out not only increased medical expenses, it also reduced medical efficiency, patient satisfaction, personal comfort, and left many patients medically homeless. Not having a medical home with a personal physician who could competently address the patients' total, primary care needs proved disquieting and also encouraged further fragmentation. Thus, if a patient visiting a cardiologist complained about his stomach, he was referred to the gastroenterologist. And when at the gastroenterologist, if he complained about his joints, he was referred to the rheumatologist. And when at the rheumatologist, if he complained about his skin, he was referred to the dermatologist, etc.

After a few spins on the subspecialty merry-go-round—and without a personal, primary care physician in charge of the whole human being—miscommunications, mistakes, and costs spiraled more and more out of control. Meanwhile, the flourishing of subspecializations brought with it a devaluation of the primary care specialties. While reimbursements for subspecialty services, procedures, and tests increased, reimbursements for primary care services actually declined. As a result, medical students became disenchanting with primary care specialties and began to favor narrower subspecialties where they could earn more income and have better quality lives. This, in turn, decimated the ranks of the primary care specialists, who used to contain the patient and protect him from improperly squandering resources on subspecialty merry-go-rounds and on inappropriate self-referrals prompted by fears and misunderstandings.

Primary care specialists—who used to spend their valuable

time dissecting patients' needs, reviewing their medications, following the national medical guidelines, providing preventive services, returning phone calls, answering questions, educating, reassuring, aborting unnecessary emergency or urgent care visits, blocking improper self referrals, containing costs, and providing comfortable medical homes—found themselves unable to provide this high quality care because they had to see a larger number of patients in order to offset their rising overheads.

To manage this dilemma, primary care specialists began to depend on medical assistants and also started to refer their patients to multiple subspecialists—not because they did not know what to do but because they could not afford to spend the time to do what was needed. This tacit patient bumping added to the fragmentation of care, further increased its expensive inefficiencies, and further increased the use of subspecialty medical assistants in order to meet the rising demands. With the declension of proper supervision of these medical assistants, patients started to report that they rarely saw the physician in charge. This slippery primary care slope has now reached alarming proportions and continues unabated without an end in sight.

To further add to our current problems, non-evidence-based practitioners who blatantly repudiate scientific scrutiny increased their ranges and amplified their domains by providing what the medical profession was no longer able to provide—a medical home. Patients found themselves favoring those non-evidence-based practitioners who provided them with total care, compassionate support, one-on-one time, highly seasoned explanations, and lots of hope. An exponential growth in the use of non-evidence-based remedies, nutrients, vitamins, minerals, herbs, therapies, and procedures started to fill in the gaps that were once filled by master clinicians who specialized in primary care, practiced evidence-based medicine, knew their patients at an intimately personal level, and protected their patients' health and interests with their good counsels.

Fragmentation, an inevitable consequence of complexity, rises in proportion to the growth of disciplines and societies. Nevertheless, encouraging fragmentation at the expense of fundamental disciplines that have well served society is economically shortsighted and can only lead to dire consequences such as spiraling costs, inaccessibility, redundancy, waste, inefficiency, injustice, loss of faith in science, and the flowering of all kinds of unscientific ideas, beliefs, and treatments. 🍷



GALEN THE LEARNED PHYSICIAN

who assigned the brain as the center of intelligence

Antoine Boutros

In the third century BCE, the school of Alexandria dominated thought. That historical era witnessed the birth of a number of intellectuals such as Ptolemy Euclid, Archimedes and Galen. Scientists who contributed in making Alexandria the commercial and cultural hub of the world. No wonder its lighthouse was considered one of the seven wonders of the world radiating not only light but knowledge. However it saw also its demise with the spread of Christianity. After a major part of the library was ruined in a fire in the year 48 BCE, during the siege of Julius Caesar, one of the patriarchs shut it down in the third century AD and expelled its students. The library was transferred into a church and the philosophers were persecuted on charges of witchcraft. All that remains of it today is a damp basement, a temple that was built in honor of knowledge and some collapsing shelves.

In that era three medical schools dominated scientific knowledge: The first was the Pythagorean school, the second was the Escolapian school and the third was the Hippocratic school. The Escolapian school was based on charlatanism because of the wide range belief of its followers in the healing power of snakes, hence the adoption of the snake as the symbol of medicine. The Hippocratic medicine was based on logic and believed in the natural factors as the cause of diseases. As such Hippocrates is considered the “father of modern medicine”. Despite that, during his era, the Escolapian medicine dominated and was more organized and had branches in temples in no less than 300 cities around the ancient world.

One of the most famous centers was in the city of Pergamum (Bergama today, in Asia Minor or Turkey). In this city Claudius Galen was born in 129 BC and played an important role in the history and development of medicine and some say for the worst. Perhaps it would have been impossible for him to self liberate from the dominance of the Escolapian school in which he had inner belief, and it influenced his thoughts and attitude.


According to the norm of that time, Galen, or Galenus, as he was known during the Arab Muslim civilization, was home schooled until the age of 14. After that he moved driven by an inspiration to study medicine until he was 21. When he felt that the wise men of his hometown could no longer satisfy his thirst for knowledge he left for Alexandria where he studied Hippocrates and Aristotle until the age of 27. He then returned home to practice medicine. He became famous and was summoned to Rome and appointed at the Colosseum as a physician of the gladiators who battled themselves and lions in festivals for the pleasure of Caesar and the thirst of the Roman society for bloody entertainment. Since the Romans, despite their atrocities, did not allow the dissection of bodies, his work provided him a chance to

practice in unique cases and circumstances that were never accessible to his peers. Notably, he acquired his expertise by treating cases resulting from immediate violence.

A reminder at first that Aristotle, who used to conduct his experiments on animals after choking them, had concluded that the veins were empty channels and as such transported the soul. Whereas Galen dealt with living humans who were subjected to such violent massacres. The experience of seeing blood pouring out of the sudden opening of the carotid artery – which supplies the head and neck with blood – in the case of slaughtering or stabbing, was a traumatic experience with consequences. He deduced that the draining of the artery after it opens proved that the vein contained blood not air, thus refuting Aristotle’s dominant theory both medically and religiously.

Galen was the first physician to introduce clinical monitoring in laboratories. He personally dissected live animals and left behind more than 20,000 pages of experiments. He used to strip the vein and then tie it with ligature and the blood would stop pulsating. He would then open the vein and pass through a hollow tube, untie the ligature to find that blood, not air, came out, thus refuting the idea of the presence of the “soul” in the veins.

Galen’s ideas were in fact a mixture of theories of Pythagoras, Empedocles, Plato, Aristotle and Hippocrates. And in order to avoid embarrassment, especially in terms of specifically refuting Aristotle’s theory, he chose to reconcile between all of them on the one hand, and the results of his experiments on the other. He succeeded in that by using a simple intellectual trick that ruled in favor of the widespread concept from which he could not liberate himself.

And this is what we will be reviewing in the upcoming article. 



ASTRONOMICAL AND MAN MADE VISUAL ILLUSIONS

Tricking the brain is not as hard as it seems.

Dr. Samar Zebian

Have you been fortunate enough to see a prodigious full moon rising from the horizon? As a child I would chase after it on my bike but alas it was and remains yet another one of life's illusions. To be specific, it is the moon illusion- the moon close to the horizon appears distinctly larger than the same moon when it is high in the sky. Brain scientists and even medieval scholars studied the moon and other visual illusions to understand why/when/how the perceptual system fails to work in the usual way.

Notably, Ibn Al-Haytham, an 11th century polymath from Basra, offered an explanation in his seven volume treatise on optics/vision (*Kitab Al-Manazir*). Al-Haytham wrote the volumes when he was stripped of his worldly possessions and put under house arrest by Al-Hakim, the mad Caliph of Egypt. Al-Haytham's explanation of the moon illusion and his experimentally grounded treatise on optics seriously challenged several centuries of work and was the prevailing view for approximately 500 years. Although our understanding of this illusion has come a far way, current theories remain rather incomplete.

Illusions are also man/human-made (for the latest illusions Google "The Best Illusion of the Year" contest). Motion illusions are abundant and impressive. Have a close look at figure 2 before reading on.

The coils within the circles should be moving and the apparent motion is even stronger if you move your eyes around the image. However if you fix your eyes on the center of a circle the motion will slow down or stop because the illusory motion stops without eye movement. The apparent motion is an illusion. It is in our head and not in the image itself.

We are susceptible to many different illusions involving, size, shape, color, depth, speed, sound, touch, but facial illusions are especially interesting. Take for example Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* (see figure 3).

Besides being a brilliant artist, DaVinci developed an ingenious way to mesmerize people. He built in a visual illusion which created *Mona Lisa's* enigmatic smile. When you focus on her mouth a subtle smile might appear. However, if you look away from the mouth (e.g., at her eyes or at the background) a fuller smile appears. Neuroscientist Margaret Livingston argues that *Mona Lisa's* appearing and disappearing smile arises out of the way our visual system perceives an image. If the smile is looked at directly and thus falls on the center of the retina, only a small part of the image will be processed and it will be highly detailed and accurate. With this level of accuracy we do not see a pronounced smile. However, if *Mona's* smile is perceived with peripheral retinal neurons the mouth will be much less detailed and blurry. The blurry translucent image is interpreted as a smile by our brains. Da Vinci's innovative *sfumato* painting technique, which creates a translucent image, accentuates the illusion.

Our perceptions feel real and accurate but most of them are complex approximations and selective representations of the world. Our knowledge of visual illusions makes it clear that the visual system is not like a camera which creates a photocopy of the world. The visual system is infinitely more complex and selective.

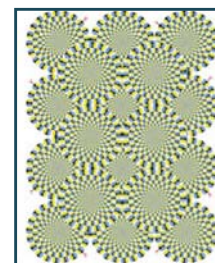


Figure 2:
Illusory Motion.

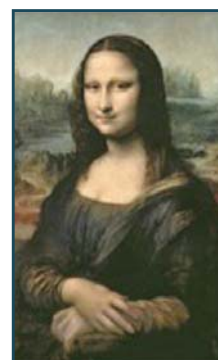


Figure 3:
DaVinci's *Mona Lisa*

Sabra, A. I., ed. (1983/2002), The Optics of Ibn al-Haytham, Books I-VI: On Direct Vision. The Arabic text, edited and with Introduction, Arabic-Latin Glossaries and Concordance Tables, Kuwait: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters
Scientific American Mind (July 2010). 169 Best Illusions.

The Monthly interviews

AMINE EL BACHA

Why do you seek inspiration in coffee shops? How does a coffee shop reflect a community?

For inspiration, I seek harmony. At a primary base, harmony exists between man and nature. This we can perceive in the shapes that join them. A circle, for instance, is the shape of the head as well as the shape of the sun and the moon. Man is a reflection of Nature. It is a part of the universe, and the universe is also a part of him. Shapes and bodies are, on a different level, a reflection of relationships, of ideas. This is what I perceive in coffee shops. When people gather and interact, the form of their gathering reflects their nature, their roots, their background. All these concepts are reflected in the bouquet of shapes and forms. I choose the coffee shop because it presented itself as an attraction to me since my boyhood, and because it is a condense form of shapes and human interaction. While trips to "Ahwit el Zeiz" (a coffee shop on 'Ain El Mreisseh'), was a habitual visit in my youth, trips to coffee shops in every city I travel such as Paris and Luxembourg, are a must.

How does music affect your creativity? What's your stance on Lebanese Music productions today?

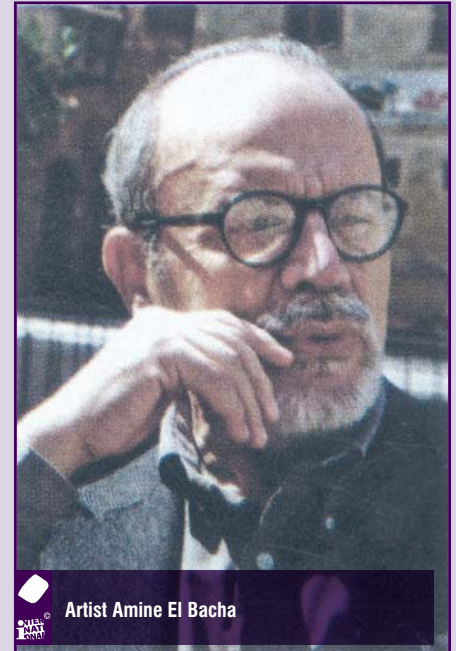
I quote the Italian composer Verdi when he was asked about his favorite musical piece: "There are two sorts of music. Good music, and bad music". This explains my take on music in general. Good music, I believe, is classical music for it extracts what is in the depth of each of us in the purest fashion and displays it without any pretense. However, for new music production, it doesn't affect me on any

level. I could tolerate today's so-called artists such as Feiruz and all the new sprouts, but I can't accept them as music. They do not inspire me.

What or who influenced you and your art the most? What about your teachers and apprentices?

As I have mentioned earlier, the main force that influenced me was Mother Nature. A distant memory: during my childhood, we had a house on the shores of Ain El Mreisseh. Our terrace had glass walls that received the wrath of the sea in winter storms. There was one particular storm that kept washing the sea against the glass walls repetitively and with ardor. I tried to picture the sea and drawing it while only hearing it, without knowing what it looked like in this storm. Another memory on how I felt nature's taste also involves painting the sea. For days I had mused about the sea's true color, it shifted from green to blue until a boat, painted in blue, sailed across, and I saw that the waves were really blue.

These experiences, I believe, are most important. They are needed before any academic engagement. This observation, this quest to find wonder and dream is essential to any artist. Once they have found their key, they proceed to polish their expression methods. This is how I interact with my students. I don't abide by any so-called "schools of thought". I seek their connection to their dream and their core, and I assist them in bringing out their best in their Art in the most refined methods.



Artist Amine El Bacha

How do you describe the Artist's relationship with money? How does performing to obtain money affect an Artist's freedom?

I personally paint to my freedom and only to my freedom and comfort. An artist needs to be in good health and in peace of mind so they can produce. If they have financial problems, I don't think their Art will be genuine as they will be troubled and preoccupied. The same applies to painting for the sake of payment. Custom painting according to a "client's" wishes is not art, and those who do it and call themselves artists are impostors. I know a few people who only paint when they need money. Whatever they create under these circumstances doesn't come from within and can hardly be qualified as Art.

When I'm asked to paint a certain topic, I do not let my visitor's preferences and visions affect my Art. I do not seek to please anybody. I only paint my own perception and

feelings. On a more specific note, I do not engage in a project if it doesn't inspire me. Usually, I find pleasure when I'm asked to paint a specific topic.

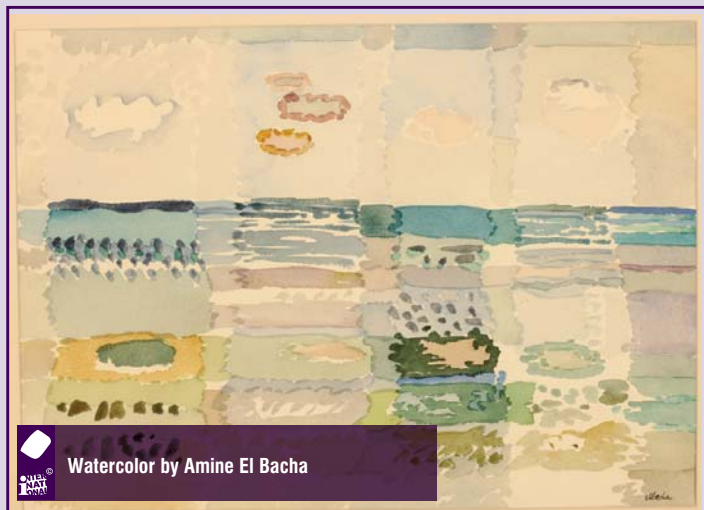
When competing also, if any of the criteria may clash with my vision, I do not embark on the journey. I have participated in many competitions, most were held in Italy. I created a piece for a friend, who asked for its size to be 3 meters by 8 meters. It now resides in his home, in Faraya.


Every Artist has faced some suffering. How is yours translated in your art?

Every human being suffers. Suffering is not restricted to Artists. However, not all those who suffer are artists. To me, suffering is a daily meal. I feel it when I go to my aisle to paint. It is inside of me, and doesn't always relate to current events as you might expect.


What can you tell us about your interaction with Photographer Rida Salem?

This sort of interaction started when I used to go to Bank Audi for financial errands, and wait for my turn in line. I used to look at their brochures, the pictures they used, and imagined ways to continue these pictures to ridicule them, insult them, or even add some perspective to them. Then I brought home those pamphlets and proceeded with the paintings for fun. I placed a shot of the Louvres Museum in the sea, deprived important men of their pants and turned political meetings into feasts. After a while, I contacted a friend of mine, Ghassan Kitmitto, whose photography I admire, and suggested that we collaborate. He took photographs of cities he visited. We printed them on aquarelle paper, and I painted around them. Our work was displayed in "Kitmitto – El Bacha, alchimie entre photographie et peinture contemporaine" L'Espace Photographique de Paris. It was a big success, and I was approached by photographer Rida Salem then. This is how we produced this collaboration. 🍷



 Watercolor by Amine El Bacha



 Watercolor by Amine El Bacha

Born in Beirut in 1932, Amine El Bacha studied at Alba from 1954 until 1957. He has traveled extensively throughout Europe, namely: France, Holland, Italy and Spain.

He participated in many group exhibitions including the Biennales of Paris (1959) and Alexandria (1962), the Sixth Biennale de Conches, France (1965), the Salon des Réalités Nouvelles at the Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris (1966, 1985), and Galerie Faris, Paris (1979) and many others.

His one-man shows include the French Cultural Centre exhibition, Beirut (1950); Dar el Fan, Beirut (1968, 1980); Sultan Gallery, Kuwait (1973, 1974, 1976, 1985); Huesco Museum of Fine Arts, Spain (1975); the Jordan National Gallery, Amman (1980); Galerie Faris, Paris (1981) and the Salon of the Sursock Museum, Beirut (1984).

Amine El Bacha has won several prizes, the Prize of the French Embassy at the Autumn Salon, Beirut (1958), the Lebanese Ministry of National Education Award (1959) and the Gold Medal of the Citta Eterna Prize, Rome (1976). He was also awarded the title II Premio Internazionale d'Arte, Ottrano d'Argento (1976).

POPULAR CULTURE

“**The Unlucky is unlucky, even if they hung a lamp at his door**”

...This proverb dates back to the conflicts between the Qaysien and Yemenis in Lebanon during the reign of Prince Haidar Shahabi. There was a village with a majority of Yemenis except for one man who was a Qaysi to the bone. One day, the Qaysis decided to attack the village and so they sent a message to their ally to leave the village with his family. Things happened fast and the leader of the Qaysis secretly sent one of his men with a lamp to hang in the house of his ally so no one would attack him. However, the lamp attracted attention and instead of protecting the man, the attackers attacked the man's home and stole all his belongings.

It is said that when Prince Haidar found out about the story he said: “the unlucky is unlucky, even if they hung a lamp at his door.”

This proverb continues to be used today.

“**Make your jaw visible and all the people would fear you**”

Of the stories of South Lebanon is that of a man named Salameh, or “safety”, who one day went to the leader of his time Abdel Latif Beik Al-Asaad and said to him: “My brothers took over the inheritance of our father after his death and they denied me of my rights.”

Abdel Latif Beik asked him: “Who are your brothers?”

He replied: “They are Tiger, Leopard and Lion.”

Abdallah Beik replied: Your brothers have those names and you are called Salamah and you expect your brothers to know you!... Go change your name to “Wolf” and you will get your rights!”...

The Sea and I

...There was a playground behind my home: an old olive tree that your grandfather called “Blessed”... it had thick curled branches, and we had a seat on which we sat to observe the sea from far behind the mountains of Broumana and Beit Mery... What is the sea? I asked my mother one day.

I don't know the sea and haven't seen the sea... ask your teacher about it! I would love to see the sea from nearby

You will grow up one day and will go to Beirut and see the sea. But I warn you from the sea ride. I hate the sea and its name. I warn you from the sea ride. And she cried.

I told you your grandmother went out of her mind one day when she mourned her son. She had a young son who rode the sea and went to Brazil. He died after two days and your grandmother went insane... since then, whenever the word “sea” was mentioned, she cried. She sang:

“Oh Sea, calm down your waves for our beloved are with you” She cried and cried. Since then, I never mentioned the word “sea” in her presence. But my eagerness to see the sea was increasing day by day.

In our geography class, our teacher told us that the sea was deep and wide like a valley with no borders and was filled with rain water and rivers. It has a beginning but no end. Children, the sea water could cover the face of the earth and we could all drown. The sea is lower than the mainland.

I didn't believe her. Our teacher was either mistaken, or she hadn't seen the sea from my seat under the blessed olive tree. The sea touches the sky at the horizon and it is higher than Broumana and Beit Mery! But it does not drown them. The issue of the sea has me confused. I want to see it with my eyes. Our teacher doesn't know anything about the sea...

Finally, I was to go to Beirut and I almost flew from happiness... after dinner at Khan Mahmoud Ahmad... I said to my father:

“Father, I haven't seen the sea, and I came with you to see the sea.”

“It is empty my son! It is green; its water is thick and dirty and it smells rotten!” ...What a shock! The sea your grandfather knew at the Beirut Port was not the same one I saw from my seat under the olive tree... when I went home, my mother asked me: “Did you see the sea Anis?”

“No, dad said it was empty, had a bad color and it smelled rotten!”

At sun set, I went to my seat under the blessed olive tree that was facing the sea and confirmed that my dad was mistaken: the sea was a wall, blue in color and touched the sky at the horizon. Its color was beautiful and it smelled good!

Myth #38

LEBANESE FLAG

Flag of France with a green cedar, or a flag devised by the rebels of Bchamoun?

The Lebanese have always sung for their flag, which took its current shape following Lebanon's independence in 1943. It is said that the red symbolizes the blood of the martyrs and the willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the nation. The white symbolizes the whiteness of the snow on the mountains of Lebanon, as well as peace and serenity. The cedar tree is taken from the mountains of Lebanon and symbolizes sacredness, eternity, resilience and tradition.



Myth: the Lebanese flag with the green cedar and red and white colors was created by the “Rebels of Bchamoun”.

Fact: The Lebanese flag originated from the French flag with the green cedar at the center.

In reality, the Lebanese people did not choose the shape or color of their flag. They made minor changes to it in 1943, the year Lebanon gained independence from the French mandate, in order to have a symbolic flag that would represent a legitimate nation with its own history.

In early September 1920 during a festival that took place in the Pine Palace in Beirut to announce the formation of the Greater Lebanon, which included Beirut and its surroundings (Saida, Sour, Marjeyoun, Tripoli, Akkar) and the Beqa'a (Baalbeck, Beqa'a, Rachaya and Hasbaya), General Henri Gouraud said in his speech addressed to the Lebanese people: “and thus you have chosen [France's] flag, the symbol of liberty, as your own, adding your national Cedar. And, hailing both flags as brothers, I say with you Long Live Lebanon and Long Live France.”¹

When the Lebanese constitution was adopted on May 23, 1926, it stated that the Lebanese flag was in fact the flag of France with the green cedar at the center of the white stripe.

In 1943, the rebels of Bchamoun (Speaker Sabri Hmadeh and some members of Parliament met in Bchamoun, after the arrest of President Bchara El-Khoury, Riad El-Solh, and some ministers and national figures who had formed a temporary government) replaced the blue stripe in the flag with a red one. The flag was thus composed of two red stripes and a white stripe in the center with the green cedar. Saadi Manla drew the flag and the members of Parliament present at that time approved it on November 11, 1943. On November 13, 1943, the 5th amendment of the constitution confirmed the existence of a new flag.

¹ - C'est pourquoi vous avez choisi son drapeau, qui est celui de la liberté, pour symbole de la vôtre, en y ajoutant votre cèdre national. Et, en saluant les deux drapeaux frères, je crie avec vous. Vive le Grand-Liban. Vive la France.

PAGES FROM THE LIFE OF MAY ZIADE

the nature of her relationship with Gibran, did she end up in a mental clinic and why?

A review of a story written by Salwa Al Haffar Al Kazbary from her book 'May Ziade or the Tragedy of Excellence' published by Naufal Group, Beirut, in 1987.

Who is May Ziade?

May Elias Ziade, or Mary, was born in Nazareth in 1886 from a Lebanese father who had emigrated from Keserwan and a Syrian mother born in Palestine. Her father, a professor of literature, moved her to Lebanon in the summer of 1899 to pursue her education at the school of the Sisters of Visit in Aintoura, where she spent 6 years alone in the monastery and then came back to Nazareth. She moved with her parents to Egypt in 1907. In Cairo, May sought to master the Arabic language while working on the translation of some western stories into Arabic, in addition to her activity in "Al Mahrousa Newspaper" that passed to her father. She wrote literary articles all the while teaching French and English and learning a number of other languages. She attended the Egyptian University in 1914 where she studied Arabic Literature, Islamic History and Philosophy. Her era was characterized by liberal Arab and renaissance writers such as Ahmad Lutfi Assayyed, Abbas Mahmud Al Ikad, Taha Hussein, Shibli Shmayl, Khalil Mutran and others.

Her Relationship with Gibran Khalil Gibran

The relationship between Gibran and May started when she first read his article entitled "My Birthday" and then his novel "The Broken Wings". In 1912, she took the initiative of sending him letters to introduce herself and discuss his opinions. Gibran replied happily and they began discussing intellectual and artistic issues in a refined literary style. He was a liberal seeking the "Absolute Abstract" while she was the captive of social and familial traditions.

Correspondence between both authors evolved from an intellectual relationship to an emotional one. Being shy and too proud to admit her love, May suddenly revealed it. Gibran's reaction was a cold and indifferent. Thus, she discovered that he only liked her as an author, originating from the East to which he had never returned. May decided to break off the correspondence, but this did not last. After 1925, Gibran's letters were characterized by a friendly tone.

Why was May committed to a mental clinic and was she really mad?

May was overwhelmed by her sorrows: she lost her father in 1929, Gibran the following year and her mother in 1931. Following a period of isolation, she traveled to London and Italy to pursue her literary career, but she didn't succeed. In the summer of 1935, her sadness was aggravated when her cousins living in Egypt demanded their share of her father's inheritance, knowing that Christian communities in Lebanon and the Arab World were subject to the provisions of the Islamic Shari'a in inheritance matters. She turned to her cousin, Dr. Joseph Ziade, in whom she had full confidence. But he disappointed her and plotted with her cousins to get their shares. He claimed custody over her and committed her to a mental clinic in 1936.

According to some of her friends and doctors, May perhaps suffered from depression and paranoia but this did not justify her cousin Ziade's excessive attitude towards her. To protest against this, she went on a hunger strike and was consequently forcibly fed. Her friends, especially Amin Rihani and Antoun Saade, intervened to transfer her to Rubeiz Hospital and launched a press campaign and judicial appeals for May to regain her rights and freedom. In spite of this, she couldn't leave Rubeiz Hospital because of the collusion between her cousin, Dr Ziade, and the Consul of Egypt. She returned to Egypt in 1939 and went through a similar ordeal until she was able to repossess her property.

May died in Cairo on October 19, 1941. This was written on her tombstone:

"This is the tomb of a young lady in whom people only saw kindness and happiness, while on the inside she was filled with pain and sorrow... she lived, suffered, struggled and finally died".



ATLAS OF PALESTINE 1948

To the people of Palestine...past, present, and future.

“A land without people for a people without land”, is one of the Israelis’ founding myths used to justify their cause. The Zionists, who believe in their right to have a homeland on the Promised Land, realized early on the importance of having good ties with the then imperial powers, which would later help them create their own state. In order to achieve this, they concentrated all their efforts to obtain the Balfour Declaration from the British Government in 1917. In 1947, UN resolution 181 partitioned Palestine into 2 nations (55.5% of the land was given to Israel, which later expanded to 78% of the territory through the use of force). The Jewish people knew that it would be impossible for them to build their land without expelling the natives from it. Thus, they started their ethnic cleansing plan and practiced severe hostility, aggression, terror and killings in order to make Palestinians flee their homes and villages. Indeed, entire villages and homes were burned to the ground in order to allow for Jewish settlement. This Israeli victory is what is commonly referred to as Al Nakba, or ‘catastrophe’. Later on, Palestine completely disappeared from the map while its people were displaced and fled to neighboring countries where they became, and some remain, refugees. In an effort to erase Palestine’s history, all the names of Arabic villages were changed into Hebrew names.

Dr. Salman Abu Sitta, the author of this book, says “The Atlas is a record for the Palestinians”. The book provides a detailed description of Palestine in 1948 - through the eyes of all the refugees who still see their homes, villages and lands - and in recent times. It also includes a prediction of the future, when refugees would be able to return to their lands. Abu Sitta bases his Atlas and supports his facts using documents, images and maps which date back to the 30 year British mandate. He starts with a general historical overview of the British mandate and the partition plan, followed by information and statistics on population, land ownership and infrastructure from the beginning of the mandate until 1948. He then mentions the process of transformation which turned Palestine into Israel following Al Nakba.

The 428 pages of the Atlas of Palestine provide information on around 1,300 towns and villages, 11,000 landmarks and 20,000 original Arabic place names. It contains 5,000 photographs (taken by the British Royal Air Forces’ Aerial survey in 1945 and pictures make up 50 % of the book)

intended to visually illustrate the information contained in the maps, which carefully draw around 15,000 square kilometers of 1948 Palestine (on the eve of Israel’s creation). The Atlas includes 61 maps describing and explaining the partition plan, delineating the landscape inhabited by the Palestinian population, the Palestinian borders and armistice line, illustrating the various phases of Israeli occupation and the 1948 ethnic cleansing, killings, and atrocities, and the stages, policy and process of expulsion and exile. There are also 52 tables that document and provide information on the 1920 to 1945 Jewish immigration to Palestine, population composition and land ownership.

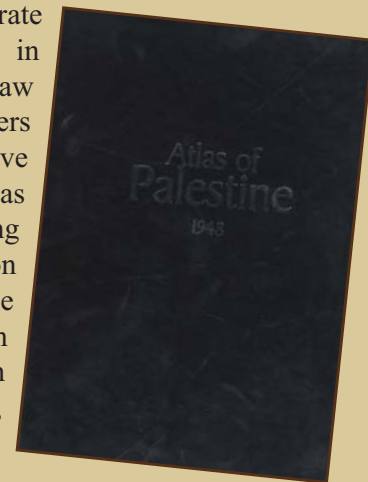


Table 3.2 on page 62 documents Israel’s war crimes including, atrocities, massacres and destruction which occurred between 1947 and 1956. For example, it is revealed that Jerusalem was attacked 12 times by Zionist groups. The first attack occurred on July 22, 1946 when attackers dressed as milkmen blew up King David Hotel killing 92 people. Attacks to destroy, bomb, torch, and kill continued until May 1948.

Map 3.31 on page 93 depicts the location of depopulated or destroyed Palestinian villages and towns, and the range of Israeli rural/urban expansion since Al Nakba. According to this map, most new Israeli construction occurred around Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. It is worth noting that according to the author, the sites of 90 % of Palestinian villages are still vacant and a further 7 % are on the edge of Israeli expansion.

The author notes that in May 1948 there were at least 1,113 Arab Palestinian villages and towns, and 183 Jewish settlements, located mostly in urban areas around the coast. But according to table 3.14 on page 86 and map 3.23 (a&b) on page 84, only 211 Palestinians villages and towns still existed in 1998.

Atlas of Palestine 1948 written by Salman Abu Sitta, and Published by Palestine land society in London

“FROM HEAD TO TOE” *

“From Head to Toe” introduces children to body parts and their basic movements using animal characters. The book links each animal drawing to a corresponding text describing the movement it can perform. It also uses “imitation”, a teaching method through which children learn to follow rules, accept challenges and control their bodies.

In each text, an animal explains a specific movement and asks the child “can you do this?” motivating him or her to answer “Yes, I can!” and imitate the movement in order to win the challenge. The animals include a penguin, a giraffe, a buffalo, a monkey, a dog, a cat, a crocodile, a camel, a donkey, an elephant, and a parrot.

The author, Eric Karl, is a painter with a degree in graphic design. The book contains colorful handmade collages that attract children’s attention.

*“From Head to Toe” was originally written in English by Eric Karl and was first published in Arabic by “Dar Al Elm” in 2002.



AL-KHWAIRY FAMILIES

The majority are Maronites from Keserouane

This family name derives from either:

- The word “Khoury”, meaning “priest”
- The “Khwair”, meaning the “low earth”

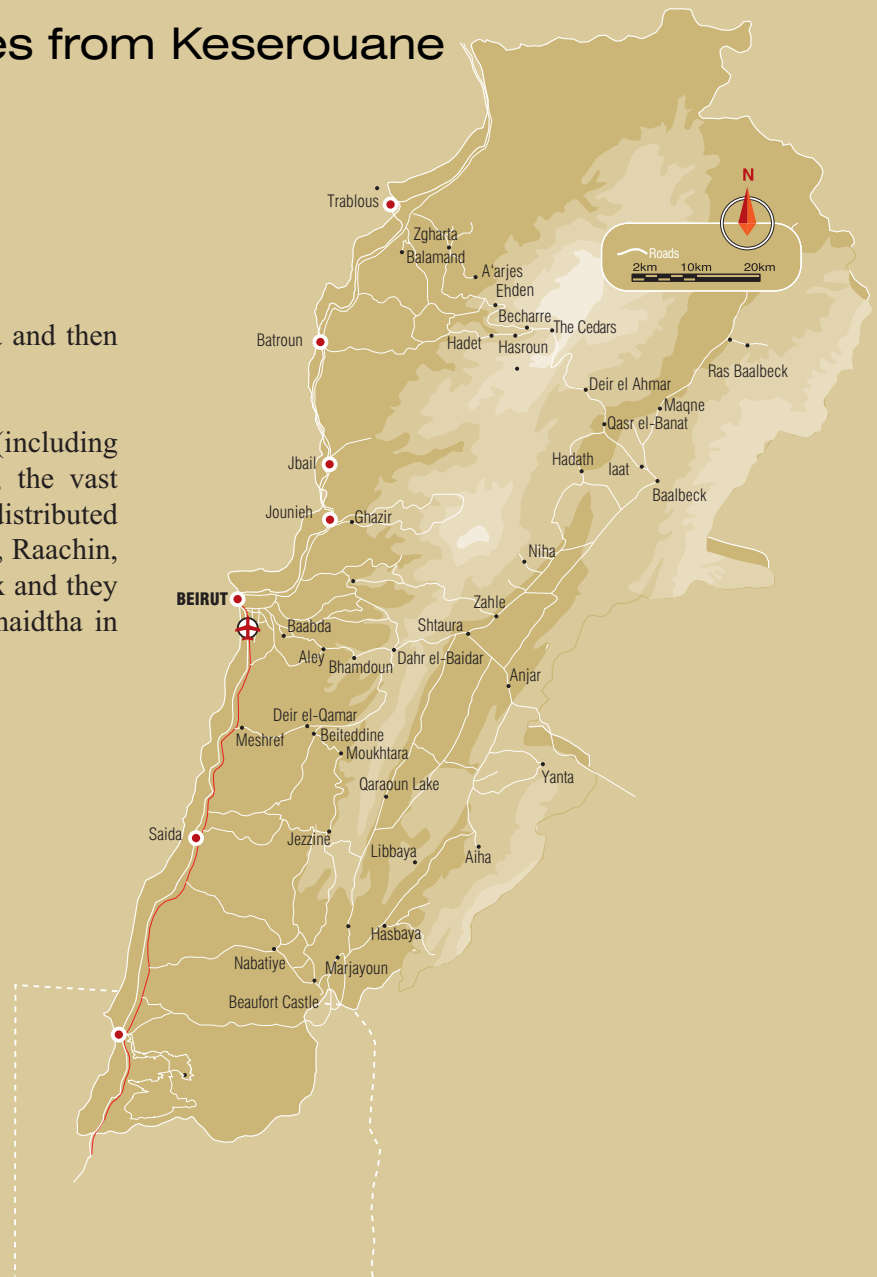
This family first resided in Beqaata in Baskinta and then moved to Aachkout and Delbeta.

The number of Al-Khwairy family members (including Khwairy at a lesser degree) is around 2,404, the vast majority of whom are Maronites (2,390) and distributed across villages in Keserouane especially Ghosta, Raachin, Beqaata and Aachkout. A minority are Orthodox and they do not exceed 14 members. They are from Mhaidtha in North Matn.

They live in the following regions:

Maronites

- Kahmaz (Jbeil): 615 members
- Ghosta (Keserouane): 340 members
- Raachin (Keserouane): 246 members
- Beqaata Aachkout (Keserouane): 210 members
- Aachkout (Keserouane): 204 members
- Delbeta (Keserouane): 132 members
- Sarieeta (Jbeil): 66 members
- Ghayneh (Keserouane): 59 members
- Wata Jouz (Keserouane): 56 members
- Ghabat (Jbeil): 53 members
- Aramoun (Keserouane): 49 members
- Rmeil (Beirut 1): 49 members
- Mina Hosn (Beirut 3): 42 members
- Mazarib (Jbeil): 38 members
- Chananeir (Keserouane): 32 members
- Ghabala (Keserouane): 29 members
- Bouchrieh (North Matn): 28 members
- Ghadir (Keserouane): 20 members
- Tehweetat El-Nahr (Baabda): 18 members
- Zouk Khrab (North Matn): 18 members
- Jal El Dib (North Matn): 17 members
- Sarba (Keserouane): 15 members
- Rashmaya (A'aley): 9 members
- Bekfaya (North Matn): 10 members



- Ain Roumaneh (Baabda): 10 members
- Haret Sakher (Keserouane): 8 members
- Zqaq Blat (Beirut 3): 6 members
- Rayfoun (Keserouane): 3 members
- Zouq Mosbeh (Keserouane): 3 members
- Ghazir (Keserouane): 1 member

Orthodox

- Mhaidtha (North Matn): 14 members

AAJALTOUN

Qada'a Keserouane

Etymology

Researchers trace the origins of the word “Aajaltoun” to the root word “Aajel,” meaning:

- ⦿ Rotation or wheel (circle)
- ⦿ To roll
- ⦿ A Calf.

A Phoenician word referring to either “Phoenician statue” or a “round area”

Many names appear in the Torah with the root word “Aajel,” like “Aajloun” a city in Eastern Jordan.

Location

The town of Aajaltoun is located in the Mohafaza of Mount Lebanon at an altitude of 850 meters above sea level. It lies 24 kilometers away from Beirut, 29 kilometers from the center of the Mohafaza, and occupies an area of 612 hectares. It can be reached via Ballouneh – Aajaltoun or Darayya – Aajaltoun.

Population

There are an estimated 3,742 registered residents in Aajaltoun, mainly Maronites living in 2,500 houses and occupying around 175 commercial shops.

Voters

In 2000, the number of registered voters was 2,399, of whom 1,329 cast their ballots. In 2009, the number reached 2,524, and 1,566 cast their ballots. They belong to the following families:

- ⦿ Sfeir: 306 voters
- ⦿ Ghosn: 123 voters
- ⦿ Harouni: 107 voters
- ⦿ Khalifah: 94 voters
- ⦿ Mdawar: 89 voters
- ⦿ Zoghbi: 88 voters
- ⦿ Mrad: 88 voters
- ⦿ Ghanem: 79 voters
- ⦿ Khazen: 78 voters
- ⦿ Abi Shaker: 72 voters
- ⦿ Kasisi: 65 voters

Local authorities

There is a municipal council currently headed by Clauvise Khazen and consisting of 12 members. There are also 2 mukhtars, Georges Fersan and Antoine Harouni, and a one-member ikhtiyariah body.



Education and Economy

The town has five schools, including Aajaltoun Public School for Boys and Girls and Mar Mansour Sisters for Charity, in addition to the Aajaltoun Foundation for Arts. There are also the Body Power club, the Sun City resort, and St. Georges hospital.

Economy

The town's main source of income is tourism. There are 4 hotels and 7 restaurants. A traditional festival is held every year at the end of August, when St. Zakhia is celebrated.

Archeological sites

These sites include: The Virgin Mary Church that dates back to 1647, owned by the Khazen family, the monastery of Mar Shalita, and the location where a plane crashed during World War I, near Maroula restaurant.

Challenges

The town faces a sewage system problem.

WALID JUMBLAT AND HEZBOLLAH

From “our aim is to be done with the Hezbollah militia” to “I do not see in the horizon anything but solidarity with the resistance in Lebanon”. Known for his political mood swings. He is Walid Bek Jumblat the son of Kamal Bek Jumblat, the heir of the Druze za’amah, he exploded and went to the maximum limit with the assassination of Rafik Hariri, he joined the Sunni-Christian and the Saudi-American alliance and he alienated himself from Hizbollah. As a result, his relations with Speaker Nabih Berri cooled and his ties with Hezbollah were ruptured and reached the extent of confrontation during the May 7, 2008 events.

Enmity

⊙ “There are 2 states in Lebanon today. An official state and another that is a resistance telling us that it is a state that should be preserved. With this comes money and weapons from foreign countries, and Iranian and Syrian regime on the account of the Lebanese state... (Future, May 27, 2006)

⊙ “The last war that took place was a preemptive war that Iran carried out through the Syrian regime and Hezbollah in order to obstruct the nuclear file...” (Al-Akhbar, September 12, 2006)

⊙ “(...) our audience is not like theirs... I will not agree with you [Nasrallah]. When you separate from this leadership and this regime in Syria we might engage in a dialogue to agree with you” (Al-Akhbar, September 25, 2006).

⊙ “The July 12 war was a real disaster that expanded the range of occupation...” He said: “Is the head of [former Israeli PM Ehud] Olmert what is wanted or is it that of [former Lebanese PM Fouad] Siniora? Are the Cheba’a Farms what is wanted or it the Lebanese government? Is a deterrence force for the Israeli aggression what is wanted or is it a deterrence force for the Lebanese government?” (Al-Akhbar, September 27, 2006).

⊙ “When some information was received that the car that targeted Minister Marwan Hamadeh had been rigged in Dahiyeh, I asked Marwan to forget the issue for the sake of the resistance. My eyes were blurred but

that blur has completely fallen after the assassination of Gebran Tueni and when Nasrallah declared his solidarity with the Syrian leadership I said enough. And yes, I accuse them of being behind some of the assassination if not all of them” (al-Akhbar, December 29, 2006).

⊙ “Hassan Nasrallah is not Lebanese, he takes his orders from the Syrian regime and from Iran and he has his audience, his weapons and his culture and it is completely opposed to our culture” (Al-Akhbar, December 29, 2006).

⊙ “If the issue for Hezbollah is absolute defense of the Syrian regime, the July war was haphazard, Hezbollah was being used by Iran and Syria to improve the negotiating conditions between Dan Halutz and ‘Dan’ Bashar Assad” (Al-Akhbar, January 23, 2007).

⊙ “Hezbollah aims to establish the state of wilayat al-faqih south of the Damascus line, and I believe there is an impossibility to coexist with this party (...)” (Future, February 13, 2008).

Reconciliation

⊙ “We confirm coexistence with our brothers from the honorable Shia’a confession and others, and we hope to resolve all conflicts through dialogue, and the weapons are not beneficial and do not give any result” (Al-Akhbar, May 17, 2008).

⊙ “The resistance is a continuation from Al-Qassam to Nasrallah, passing

through Kamal Jumblat and Gamal Abdul Nasser” (Al-Akhbar, July 28, 2008).

⊙ “I agreed with Rafik Hariri, when he was alive, when he rejected 1559, and we stressed on the Ta’ef. What Der Spiegel published is in itself a nuclear bomb, and Der Spiegel’s connection to Israel is known, and Israel wants Sunni-Shia’a sedition in Lebanon. But when the wise in Lebanon, headed by Saad Hariri, get together we spare Lebanon the incitement” (Al-Akhbar, March 29, 2009).

⊙ “Hezbollah’s weapons goes to the dialogue table in the right circumstances but the importance of these weapons is being confirmed to us day after day in light of the Israeli threats” (Al-Akhbar, November 11, 2009).

⊙ “Today we close a painful wound that, had it expanded, it would have almost destroyed the historical, fighting and struggling continuation between the mountain, the Dahiyeh and Beirut and taken the country to a cycle of violence that destroys coexistence in all of Lebanon” (Al-Akhbar, January 11, 2010, Jumblat’s reconciliation speech with Hezbollah).

⊙ “...I do not see in the horizon anything but solidarity with the resistance in Lebanon and with Syria... This is why I say we are with the Syrian leadership above all previous considerations in the face of the Israeli enemy” (As Safir, February 9, 2010).

August 2010 Timeline in Lebanon

A FOCUS ON THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON'S UPCOMING INDICTEMENT AND THE BURJ ABI HAIDAR CLASHES

Clashes in the south between the Lebanese army and the Israeli army; arrest of General Karam on espionage charges; Nasrallah's evidence on Israel's involvement in Hariri's assassination; Jumblat meets Feltman and visits the Iranian Embassy; Death of Fatah al-Islam leader; Adoption of end of service law for Palestinians; Burj Abi Haidar clashes and Beirut: a demilitarized city; Berri in favour of a distinction between indictment and international tribunal; Bellemare: no indictment decision in September

August was marked by three main events, the first of which was the clashes in A'adeisseh between the Lebanese army and the Israeli army that almost led to a war. The second was the several speeches given by the Hezbollah secretary general on the indictment decision, the international tribunal and the evidence he presented regarding Israel's potential involvement in Rafic Hariri's assassination. The third event was the clashes that occurred in Burj Abi Haidar between Hezbollah and Al-Ahbash and the ensuing calls for Beirut to become a demilitarized city. But the slogan soon faded away. Since Hezbollah played a role in these three events, it is worth wondering whether it has become responsible for the current security, military and political situation in Lebanon.

August 2: Celebration of Army Day (August 1) at the Ministry of Defense in the presence of the three presidents and Qatari Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifah Al Thani.

Qatar's prince meets Samir Geagea and his wife at the former's residence. He later meets General Michel Aoun in his home on a family visit and then attends a family dinner at the home of the President of the Republic in A'amcheet.

August 3: Announcement of a meeting between Speaker Nabih Berri and Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah at the latter's residence to discuss the outcome of the Syrian-Saudi-Lebanese summit.

Former President Emile Lahoud receives MP Walid Jumblat accompanied by his wife and his son Taymour, in the presence of the former's son Emile and his wife and his other son Ralph, at his residence in the first meeting of its kind between the two men in five years.

August 4 : The Lebanese army clashes with the Israeli army on

the southern border in the town of A'adeisseh following attempts by the Israeli army to remove a tree on the Lebanese side of the border. Two Lebanese soldiers, a Lebanese journalist and an Israeli officer were killed and an Israeli captain was injured in the clashes.

In a speech, Nasrallah reveals that members of the resistance were present in A'adeisseh and the south and were asked to exercise self restraint in the confrontation between the Lebanese army and the Israeli army. He declares his commitment to the Arab efforts seeking to appease the sensitive situation concerning the international tribunal.

August 5: Jumblat, accompanied by Minister Ghazi al-A'aridi, meets Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus. The Information Division arrests retired General Fayez Karam, in charge of the north in the Free Patriotic Movement, on charges of collaborating with Israel.

August 6: On a visit to Lebanon, the adviser of Iran's supreme leader,

Iranian supreme guide Ali Akbar Velayati, meets officials and Nasrallah and states that the international tribunal has become "a political tool in the hands of America and Israel".

The Ministry of Telecommunications and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority study the possibility of banning or regulating the BlackBerry service in Lebanon.

August 7: Protests and road blockings in a number of Lebanese regions to protest against power cuts. Syrian Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Abdul Kareem al-Ali meets MP Bahia Hariri in her residence in Majdelioun.

August 9: President Michel Suleiman visits the area of A'adeisseh, which witnessed clashes between the Lebanese army and the Israeli army, and launches a national, Arab and international campaign to arm the Lebanese army.

Former MP Jihad al-Samad hosts a lunch in the town of Bakhoun-Dinniyyeh in honor of the Syrian ambassador in the

presence of former Premier Omar Karami and a number of figures including the head of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc MP Mohammad Ra'ad.

August 10 : Speaking at a press conference, Nasrallah reveals footage of Israeli reconnaissance planes that were monitoring the roads used by former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, considering them to be evidence of Israel's involvement in his assassination. He also reveals the presence of an Israeli spy (Ahmad Nasrallah) who misled Hariri over Hezbollah's attempt to assassinate him in 1993.

August 11: PM Saad Hariri meets French President Nicholas Sarkozy in the latter's family home in the south of France.

The month of Ramadan begins.

Following the weekly meeting of the Change and Reform bloc, Aoun comments on the charges of espionage against General Fayez Karam stating that "an accusation [of this kind] is an exception for us while for others it is the rule".

August 12: International prosecutor Daniel Bellemare requests, through the prosecutor general's office, to be provided with the material revealed in Nasrallah's press conference. "Furthermore, the office of the prosecutor general invites Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah to use his authority to facilitate the investigation process led by it," according to a press release issued by the office.

The military council holds an urgent meeting, headed by Minister of Defense Elias Murr and attended by the army commander General Jean Qahwaji, to discuss the allegations against the army accusing it of covering up for Israel's agents. Murr states: "Enough is enough. Anyone who attacks an officer in the army with the slightest incorrect information will be arrested and questioned in order to find out who is really behind the accusations."

August 13: Jumblat meets the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman in Paris. Suleiman visits the Maronite patriarch in his summer residence in Deeman to inaugurate the 'Patriarchs' garden'.

Central Bank governor Riad Salameh announces, at the monthly meeting of the Banks Association, an annual increase in deposits by 10% and a surplus in the balance of payments of USD 1.4 billion.

August 14: Aoun meets a senior Hezbollah delegation in his house in Rabieh.

The Progressive Socialist Party's communications commission clarifies in a statement that the meeting in Paris between Jumblat and Feltman was a coincidence.

August 16: Hariri returns from his vacation on August 14 and hosts an iftar dinner on the same day in honor of Qoreitem's neighbors stating that "we want to know the truth and stability and everything else will occur when the time is right, and I will speak when I see there is a need for me to do so".

Lebanese army intelligence kills the alleged leader of Fatah al-Islam Abdul Rahman A'awad and his companion in an ambush in Chtoura.

August 17: Speaking at an iftar in Qoreitem, Hariri says: "Israel is the most prominent cause for any harm that happens to us."

A meeting that had taken place on Sunday evening in Beit al-Wasat between Hariri, his office's director Nader Hariri, his advisor Mustafa Nasser and Nasrallah's political adviser Hassan Khalil is uncovered.

Minister of Education Hassan Mneimneh announces the closure and merger of 78 public schools and three secondary schools because 71% of those institutions had less than 30 students.

August 18: Parliament holds a legislative session and adopts a

number of laws most notably a law on oil exploration and another granting Palestinians the right to benefit from a retirement pension under a special account.

Cabinet agrees to grant a license to Qatari Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifah Al Thani to own properties in A'aley covering an area of 46,407 square meters for him to build a residence.

The permanent military court sentences Osama Mohammad Ali to death for collaborating with Israel.

Public prosecutor Sa'eed Mirza receives an envelope from the head of Hezbollah's coordination unit Wafiq Safa with documents that include evidence of Israel's involvement in Hariri's assassination as presented by Nasrallah during his press conference, as a prelude for their delivery to Bellemare following the latter's request.

August 19: Cabinet meets at the President's summer residence in Beiteddine in the first meeting of its kind since August 21, 1978, under the presidency of Elias Sarkiss. Minister of Justice Ibrahim Najjar is designated to follow up on the false witnesses portfolio submitted by Hezbollah Minister Hussein al-Hajj Hassan.

Former President Amine Gemayel says that the adoption of the law concerning the Palestinians' right to retirement pension exceeded the principle of national consensus and the charter.

August 20 : The National Dialogue Commission meets at the presidential summer residence in Beiteddine in the absence of Aoun. Discussion continues on the issue of strategic defense. LF leader Samir Geagea proposes his blueprint on the matter and the next session is scheduled for October 19.

August 21: Hariri meets Syrian Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Abdul Kareem al-Ali at the Serail.

The sail of the Mariam aid ship to Gaza is suspended after Cypriot authorities

refused to grant it permission to dock at its ports as it was headed to the coastal strip of Gaza to try to break the Israeli siege.

The Syrian ambassador attends an iftar at the home of former MP Wajih al-Ba'arini in A'akkar.

Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir arrives in Deir al-Ahmar in Ba'albeck in the first such visit of a Maronite patriarch in 48 years.

August 24: An infectious eye virus (conjunctivitis) spreads across the country.

Lebanon witnesses an unprecedented and significant rise in temperatures, which reached 47 degrees in Beqa'a and 40 degrees on the coast.

August 25: Clashes breakout in Burj Abi Haidar between Hezbollah and Al-Ahbash causing the death of two Hezbollah members and a member of Al-Ahbash, in addition to material damages. Nasrallah announces that Hezbollah is not interested in the international tribunal and its findings and says he does not want to topple the government in the street.

Bellemare asks Hezbollah to complete the evidence file submitted to him.

Hariri, speaking at Dar al-Aytam al-Islamiya's iftar in Biel, welcomes the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian direct negotiations in Washington on September 2.

August 26: The Iranian Minister of Defense declares Iran's readiness to supply the Lebanese army with weapons if Lebanon so requests.

Cabinet discusses the Burj Abi Haidar clashes and forms a committee headed by Hariri to limit the dissemination of weapons in the country.

Hariri, speaking at an iftar in Qoreitem, says: "The widespread availability of arms in every street and neighborhood is no longer acceptable" stressing that the government "will take bold measures against this and let us see who will stand in the way of these decisions".

August 27: Hariri inspects the area of the clashes in Burj Abi Haidar.

Following a meeting headed by former PM Fouad Siniora, Al-Mustaqbal Movement bloc announces in a statement that anyone who carries a weapon, especially in the capital, is acting outside the law and should be dealt with as such. The bloc raised the slogan of Beirut a demilitarized city and pledged to defend it by all civil and peaceful means.

Suleiman speaking at an iftar in Ba'abda says: "It is not acceptable for any side, circumstance or event to push the Lebanese toward sedition."

August 28: Berri hosts an iftar at the Wahat al-Shaheed al-Lubnani institution and calls for taking advantage of the Saudi-Syrian cooperation in order to prevent sedition between the Lebanese, by distinguishing between the indictment decision and the international tribunal and stresses the need not to politicize the latter.

The Beirut development conference in Riviera Hotel calls for a demilitarized capital. MP Ammar Hourri criticizes the army's three-hour delayed intervention in the Burj Abi Haidar clashes while MP Nadim Gemayel blames "the army for what happened" saying "it is not fulfilling its duty".

Hariri speaking at an iftar in Qoreitem in honor of Beqa'a families says "it is unacceptable for the State to play the role of bystander while weapons are being spread across Lebanon".

State Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Rachid Qabbani leads Friday prayer in the Basta Faouqa mosque, which was damaged during the clashes between Hezbollah and Al-Ahbash, saying that "the bet on sedition is a lost one and there is no disagreement between the Sunni and the Shia'a".

The Minister of Education and Higher Education Hassan Mneimneh uncovers a network that has been forging official exams by impersonating the candidates and sitting the exams instead of them.

August 30 : Prime Minister Saad Hariri meets Assad over a suhour in Damascus.

Following discussions at the presidential residence in Beiteddine between Suleiman and Jumblat, an agreement on the return of the displaced to the town of Breeh in Chouf is announced.

August 31: Nasrallah meets the head of Al-Ahbash Sheikh Hossam Qaraqirah. Both men agree that the Burj Abi Haidar clashes were an isolated incident that no one should try take advantage of and call for the immediate compensation of those harmed.

PM Saad Hariri heads a meeting of the ministerial committee to treat issue of weapons spreading in the country. The committee decides to refer the issue to the Higher Council for Defense.

Jumblat visits the Iranian Embassy and meets Iranian Ambassador Ghazanfar Roknabadi.

The UN Security Council extends the mandate of UNIFIL for another year without amending its tasks.

September 1: A meeting of the Higher Defense Council, headed by Suleiman, declares the implementation of tighter measures regarding the possession and use of weapons across Lebanon, especially in Beirut and the UNIFIL zone. The meeting also stressed on establishing the needs of the army, the security forces and the armament plan.

Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare states to Now Lebanon website that he has not set September as the date for an indictment decision and asks Nasrallah to present the additional evidence that he said was in his possession, stressing that he will not rely on the testimony of Zuhair al-Siddiq.

On the 32nd anniversary of the kidnapping of Imam Moussa al-Sadr, Berri says he remains committed to the Ta'ef and rejects concerns emitted against the Shia'a, especially those considering them rebels, since "establishing a viable State in Lebanon is in the Shia'as' interests and is forms part of their beliefs".

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE ARAB WORLD

according to official figures

One of the reasons for the high percentage of people living in poverty in the Arab region is the continuous level of unemployment. In fact, even during the years when economies were growing and the GDP per capita seemed to be rising, unemployment was still high and rising. Over one in ten people were officially unemployed in the 1990s across the Arab world; this rate was estimated at about 9.4% in the year 2009, although some resources estimated it at 14%.

The impact of the 2008 World Financial crisis on the region's labor market is not adequately reflected in unemployment rate movements. This is due to the fact that a large number of expatriates and migrant workers in the Gulf States have residence permits that are linked to their employment contracts. Youth unemployment remains a real challenge in the Arab region. The youth unemployment rate was already as high as 21.4% at the beginning of the crisis, compared to a rate of 5.6% among adults, and this could have increased by up to 5% in 2009. Another persistent labor market issue in the region is the considerable gap between the sexes in terms of labor force participation and access to decent and productive employment opportunities. Although labor force participation among women has been increasing over the years, the female participation rate remains low and represents only a third of the male participation rate. Estimated at 25.4% in 2009, the female participation rate in the Arab region is the lowest among all regions.


Unemployment Rate among Arab countries

Table 1 presents 20 Arab countries, their population, labor force and unemployment rate.

Total population, Labor Force and Unemployment rate of each Arabic country in 2009			Table 1
Country (2009)	Population (million)	Labor Force (million)	% Unemployment rate
Egypt	78.8	25.8	9.44
Sudan	41.1	11.92	20
Algeria	34	9.6	12.4
Morocco	31.3	11.46	9.9
Iraq	28.9	8.2	40
Saudi Arabia	28.7	6.92	11.6
Yemen	22.9	6.64	35
Syria	21.8	5.77	9.2
Tunisia	10.5	3.73	15.7
Jordan	6.3	1.7	13.5
Libya	6.3	1.69	21
United Arab Emirates	4.8	3.17	12.7
Lebanon	4	1.48	10
Oman	3.4	0.97	5
Palestine	3.27	0.70	30.2
Mauritania	3.1	1.32	30
Kuwait	2.69	2.04	1.7
Bahrain	1.1	0.60	3.8
Qatar	0.83	1.2	0.5
Djibouti	0.72	0.35	59

Sources: CIA World Factbook, International Labour Organization, Arab Labour Organization and other internet resources.

Egypt is the largest Arab state in terms of population and has the biggest labor force (25.8 million). Djibouti's unemployment rate is the highest (59%), followed by Iraq (40%), Yemen (35%) and Palestine (30.2%). The lowest unemployment rate among the Arab countries is that of Qatar (0.5%), Kuwait (1.7%), and Bahrain (3.8%).

These are official figures, however they do not reflect the facts. For example, 10% of Lebanon's unemployment rate is much higher in reality. Various studies that take into account the annual number of graduates and emigrants and lay offs have arrived to a figure higher than 15%. 

REAL ESTATE PRICE INDEX IN LEBANON – AUGUST 2010

During the month of August, the real estate market in Lebanon witnessed an unprecedented state of stagnation and recession for this time of year. This is due to several reasons:

- The beginning of the month of Ramadan on August 11, which caused a drawback in businesses in general, as a result of the general atmosphere characterizing this month in Lebanon and the Arab world.
- The unstable security situation in the south following the clashes between the Lebanese army and the Israeli army. This raised concerns over a potential expansion of the conflict and the possibility of an open ended war.
- Instability in the region as a whole.

The increase in real estate prices, discouraged people from buying in the hope that prices would go down. But according to experts, the likelihood of a drop in real estate prices is slim and this is confirmed by the current state of affairs (prices are stable and sometimes even increasing, even though the market remains in recession). The reason behind the increase in real estate demand is the extensive availability of bank loans for real estate, since the latter are perceived as relatively safe investments with limited risks. What is certain is that the next 3 months will be crucial in determining price levels in the real estate market.

Tables 1 and 2 list the prices of a number of estates and apartments sold in August 2010.

Prices of some estates sold in August 2010 **Table 1**

Region	Area m2	Price (USD)	USD/m2
Beirut			
Zqaq El-Blat	1,200	6,840,000	5,700
Achrafieh	270	1,620,000	6,000
Sodeco	490	2,940,000	6,000
Ramlet El-Baida	500	5,500,000	11,000
Baabda			
Hadath	1,000	940,000	940
Baabda	1,100	1,804,000	1,640
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	800	1,976,000	2,470
Shbanieh	3,640	764,400	210
Matn			
Qornet El-Hamra	1,200	756,000	630
Broumana	2,400	960,000	400
Dbayeh	1,900	817,000	430
Baabdat	2,000	760,000	380
Mtayleb	1,100	1,265,000	1,150
A'aley			
Bhamdoun	1,250	156,250	125
A'aramoun	1,600	656,000	410
Sawfar	6,500	747,500	115
Bchamoun	1,410	169,200	120
Keserouane			
Faraya	4,530	588,900	130
Kfour	5,420	785,900	145
A'ashqout	2,100	168,000	80
Maaysrah	1,000	100,000	100
Qlayaat	1,800	495,000	275
Tabarja	3,720	1,785,600	480
Ghazir	3,000	840,000	280

Source: Information International August 2010

Prices of some apartments sold in August 2010 **Table 2**

Region	Area m2	Price (USD)	USD/m2
Beirut			
Zarif	200	660,000	3,300
A'aisha Bakkar	90	243,000	2,700
Achrafieh - Siofi	150	375,000	2,500
Gemayzeh	110	272,800	2,480
Achrafieh - Sassine	165	440,550	2,670
Borj Abi Haidar	200	300,000	1,500
Watwat	170	343,400	2,020
Tallet El-Khayat	250	1,525,000	6,100
Hamra - Wardieh	160	544,000	3,400
Tayouneh	150	300,000	2,000
Baabda			
Hazmieh - Brazilia	200	306,000	1,530
Hazmieh - Mar Taqla	220	440,000	2,000
Chiyah - Mouawad	160	288,000	1,800
Baabda	250	450,000	1,800
Ain El-Roumaneh	140	228,200	1,630
Mreijeh	120	96,000	800
Jamous	100	150,000	1,500
Chiyah - Abdel Karim El Khalil	140	140,000	1,000
Matn			
Horch Tabet	250	635,000	2,540
Antellias	145	179,800	1,240
Jal el Deeb	130	175,500	1,350
Mansourieh	210	262,500	1,250
Broumana	180	253,800	1,410
Beit Mery	200	300,000	1,500
Qornet Shehwan	180	216,000	1,200
Mtayleb	200	300,000	1,500
A'aley			
Doha el-Hoss	215	258,000	1,200
Doha el-Hoss	180	225,000	1,250
Bchamoun	200	246,000	1,230
Bchamoun	150	150,000	1,000
Doha A'aramoun	210	210,000	1,000
Chouifat	160	176,000	1,100
Keserouane			
Ballouneh	200	336,000	1,680
Zouq Mosbeh	150	135,000	900
Adonis	260	156,000	600
Adma	180	342,000	1,900
Sarba	168	258,720	1,540
Bwar	270	216,000	800

Source: Information International August 2010

TOWARD A LEBANESE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: AUGUST 2010

Contrary to what normally happens during the month of Ramadan, the price of food and consumer products did not witness an increase this year but rather stagnated, with the exception of vegetables, which witnessed a significant increase in price. Among the 100 food and consumer products we list every month, the price of 72 items remained unchanged, 14 items witnessed a decrease and 14 items a slight increase in price. This indicates a state of stagnation in the market. Table 1 shows the price of 100 food and consumer products in August 2010.

Prices of consumer and food products in August 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2010	Prices beginning of September 2010	% of price change
Oil			
Afia corn oil (3.5 liters)	12,750	11,250	11.7-
Mazola corn oil (3.5 liters)	12,950	12,950	0
Mazola corn oil (1.8 liters)	5,550	6,950	25.2+
Slim corn oil (2 liters)	7,000	7,000	0
Wesson corn oil (2 liters)	7,250	7,250	0
Ghandour soya oil (3.8 liters)	10,500	10,500	0
Alfa corn oil (4 liters)	11,800	11,250	4.6-
Al-Wadi Olive Oil (1/2 liters)	6,250	6,250	0
Ketchup and Sauces			
Libby's Ketchup (567 g)	2,960	2,960	0
Extra Ketchup (340 g)	980	980	0
Extra Ketchup (2.2 kg)	5,540	5,540	0
Dolly's Mayonnaise (500 ml)	3,950	3,950	0
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise (500 ml)	4,250	4,250	0
Al-Bsat Tahina (900 g)	6,490	6,490	0
Al-Bsat Tahina (450 g)	3,500	3,500	0
Taous tomato sauce (70 g)	660	660	0
Taous tomato sauce (425 g)	3,250	3,250	0
Tala tomato sauce (675 g)	3,000	3,000	0
Sugar and Salt			
Sugar (2 kg)	3,000	3,000	0
Al-Ousra Sugar (5 kg)	7,750	8,750	12.9+
Salt (700 g)	280	280	0
Box of salt (738 g)	1,250	1,250	0

Prices of consumer and food products in August 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2010	Prices beginning of September 2010	% of price change
Dairy Products			
Candia full cream milk (1 liter)	2,500	2,400	0
Candia full cream yoghurt (2 kg)	5,200	5,200	0
Bonjus labneh (1 kg)	3,750	3,750	0
Taanayel labneh (500 g)	5,400	5,400	0
Candia labneh (500 g)	5,200	5,200	0
Taanayel yoghurt (1 kg)	3,250	3,250	0
Smeds cheese (400 g)	4,250	4,250	0
Picon cheese (360 g)	3,500	3,500	0
Picon cheese (160 g)	1,700	1,700	0
Double-crème cheese (1 kg)	8,000	8,000	0
Fresh country cheese (1 kg)	8,450	8,450	0
Khashkawan cheese (1 kg)	11,750	11,000	6.4-
Lurpak butter (200 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Tatra butter (200 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Al-Maalaqtain margarine (2 kg)	7,950	7,950	0
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2kg)	25,850	25,850	0
Vegetaline margarine (2 kg)	14,950	14,950	0
Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,250 g)	18,950	18,950	0
Nido full cream milk (2,500 g)	23,100	23,100	0
Tatra full cream milk (1,800 g)	17,500	17,500	0
Cereals			
Khater white lentils (1 kg)	3,650	3,650	0
Khater chick-peas fahli (1 kg)	2,950	3,500	18.6+
Khater beans (1 kg)	1,990	1,990	0
Peeled wheat (1 kg)	1,950	2,100	7.7+
Pineal Lima Bean (1 kg)	3,750	3,750	0
Brown Fine Burgul (1 kg)	1,850	1,900	2.7+
Egyptian rice (1 kg)	2,250	2,250	0
American rice (1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Italian rice (1 kg)	3,250	3,250	0
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,100	1,250	0
Chtaura Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,000	1,100	10+
California Gardens beans (450 g)	1,250	1,250	0
Al-Wadi beans (450 g)	1,250	990	20.8-
Chtaura beans (480 g)	1,250	1,100	12-
Libby's corn (340 g)	1,540	1,540	0

Prices of consumer and food products in August 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2010	Prices beginning of September 2010	% of price change
Pasta			
Barilla spaghetti (500 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Antonio Amato spaghetti (500 g)	2,200	2,200	0
Monte spaghetti (500 g)	2,150	2,150	0
Meat, Fish and Eggs			
Zwan chicken (200 g)	2,500	2,200	12-
Zwan beef (200 g)	2,500	2,250	10-
Luncheon meat beef (198 g)	1,150	1,150	0
Al-Mona chicken (200 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Al-Taghzia beef (200 g)	1,925	1,925	0
Al-Taghzia chicken (200 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Geisha sardine (125 g)	1,400	1,400	0
Deli sardine (125 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Milo sardine (125 g)	990	990	0
Geisha tuna (200 g)	3,950	3,950	0
White Bell tuna (200 g)	2,150	2,250	4.6+
White Diamond tuna (200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Skipper tuna (185 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Eggs (30 eggs)	3,950	3,950	0
Beef (1 kg)	15,000	14,000	6.7-
Sheep (1 kg)	22,000	20,000	9-

Prices of consumer and food products in August 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2010	Prices beginning of September 2010	% of price change
Coffee and Tea			
Najjar coffee (1kg)	12,000	2,000	0
Brazil coffee (1 kg)	11,000	11,000	0
Al-Hisan tea (180 g)	2,400	2,600	8.3+
Nestle (250g)	2,500	2,500	0
Halvah and Jam			
Al-Wadi halvah (454 g)	3,850	3,850	0
Al-Bsat halvah (450 g)	3,000	3,000	0
Chtaura apricot jam (1 kg)	5,000	4,500	10-
Al-Wadi apricot jam (1 kg)	4,750	4,500	5.2-
Tissues and Detergents			
Mimosa tissues (500 g)	2,800	2,750	1.7-
Fine tissues (200 tissues)	1,350	1,350	0
Primo tissues (200 tissues)	1,200	1,200	0
Gipsy tissues (300 tissues)	2,550	2,550	0
Mimosa toilet papers (4 rolls)	2,250	2,250	0
Yes detergent (900 g)	2,300	2,270	1.3-
Clorox (1 liter)	1,500	1,500	0
Persil (4 kg)	18,200	17,000	6.6-
Ariel (4 kg)	18,000	18,200	1.1+
Fruits and Vegetables			
Orange (1 kg)	1,500	2,000	33.3+
Tomatoes (1kg)	1,000	1,500	50+
Cucumbers (1kg)	1,000	2,000	100+
Bananas (1kg)	1,250	1,250	0
Lemons (1 kg)	800	2,000	150+
Apples (1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Potatoes (1 kg)	800	1,000	25+

Source: Information International August 2010



Statistics from around the World

AIDS

- Every 16 minutes a person dies from AIDS.
- Every 12 minutes a person contracts AIDS.
- 35,375,779 people are living with AIDS around the world.
- People living with AIDS by region
- 5.7 million in South Africa
- 4.9 million in Asia
- 1.5 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- 1.9 million in North America and Europe
- 1.7 million in Latin America
- 380 thousand in the Middle East and North Africa
- 230 thousand in the Caribbean
- 74 thousand in Oceania
- 1.2 million in the United States
- 1 million in Zambia
- 2.5 million in India

A few more statistics...

- 11 million people diagnosed with AIDS are expected to die in India in the coming 20 years.
- 1 million people will avoid being infected with AIDS, if all males are circumcised in the next 10 years.
- 40% of new infections affect young people.
- 76% of young people (aged 15-24) living with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa are females.
- 50% of the people living with AIDS around the world are women.

Percentage of people aged between 0 and 49 infected with HIV:

- 18.1% in South Africa
- 3.1% in Nigeria.
- 1.1% in the Russian Federation.
- 0.6 % in the United States and Brazil.
- 0.1% in China.

Beirut International Airport

Rafic Hariri International Airport - Traffic August 2010 Monthly traffic decrease of 15.4% but overall 11% increase in eight months

Airport traffic decreased during the month of August compared with the month of July. By August 2010, passenger traffic reached 578,452 compared to 684,344 in July 2010 and 612,956 in August 2009, which represents decreases of 15.4% and 5.6% respectively. Thus, the number of arriving passengers decreased by 44%, and the number of departing passengers increased by 22%.

This decline may be due to a variety of factors including the Holy month of Ramadan, the security incidents that took place in Adeiseh between the Lebanese Army and the Israeli Army and the incidents of Borj Abi Haidar in Beirut, in addition to the general and ongoing state of political instability.

The total number of passengers from the beginning of the year until the end of August reached 3,692,357 compared to 3,324,348 during the same period last year, amounting to an 11% increase.

Airport traffic in August 2010 compared to July 2010 and August 2009.

Table 1

Traffic	Jul-10	Aug-10	Aug-09	% of change July-Aug 2010	% of change Aug 2009-Aug 2010
Arriving airplanes	3,234	3,158	2,996	-2.3	+5.4
Departing airplanes	3,235	3,162	3,009	-2.2	+5
Total # of airplanes	6,469	6,320	6,005	-2.3	+5.2
Arriving passengers	383,105	212,978	221,113	-44.4	-3.6
Departing passengers	297,439	363,267	389,736	+22.1	-6.8
Transit passengers	3,800	2,207	2,107	-42	+4.7
Total # of passengers	684,344	578,452	612,956	-15.4	-5.6
Imported goods (per ton)	3,944	3,338	3,262	-15.3	+2.3
Exported goods (per ton)	2,875	3,158	2,822	+9.8	+11.9
Total amount of goods (per ton)	6,819	6,496	6,084	-4.7	+6.7

Source: Information International and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Stats & Numbers

- **LBP 14,950 billion** were collected as VAT revenues between February 2002, when the VAT system was introduced, and 2009. The highest amount was collected in 2009 and amounted to LBP 2,890 billion compared to LBP 993 billion in 2002.
- **LBP 200 million** were spent to deport 250 foreigners, most of them African citizens, back to their countries after they had served their sentences.
- **LBP 750 million** were allocated as credit line to the Ministry of Labor to assign a third party to engage in the reconstruction of collapses on the passageways leading to the museum of Gebran Khalil Gebran in Bcharre.
- **LBP 130 million** were paid to buy ink for cameras, printers and fax machines at the Ministry of Information.
- **USD 978 million** is the value of foreign currency treasury bonds that mature to the Lebanese state in the remaining months of 2010, namely November and December 2010.
- **19,794** is the number of employees in Lebanon's banking sector in 2010, which represents an increase of 1,162 workers in one year. If we include the number of employees (188) who quit their jobs (either to move to another job or to retire), then the work opportunities secured by the banking sector reached around 1,350 in one year. The cost of workers in the banking sector reached LBP 1,100 billion in 2009.



The Ruler
Sculpture by artist Jamal Abdel Nasser

Publications

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
- 14- Municipal Elections 2010

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

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Back From Iraq

by Hanna Saadeh

Back From Iraq is the story of a soldier, Scott Thornton, who after spending two years in war-torn Baghdad, returns to Oklahoma City a shaken man only to learn that he has to go back to Iraq again. Changed by his traumatic experiences, he becomes repulsive even to his own family. “What have they done to my son?” says his father, Howard. “Scott never came back from Iraq. He never came back...” says Nancy, his wife.

The entire novel, which transpires over a period of four months in 2006, reaches into the deep, dark past of the 20th Century when Baghdad was a beautiful city and then races across the war-torn Iraq to the present day. The church and the cemetery frame the novel while Baghdad, Al-Qaeda, the US Armed Forces, the Oklahoma City Police Department, and the Department of Human Services are interlaced into a web of love, intrigue, terrorism, despair, and fear.

Transference—the mighty albatross of the unconscious mind—spreads its wings, soars high in the mental sky, and then alights upon the characters’ minds with mystifying consequences. A kidnapped, five-year-old girl is the linchpin that holds the plot together and the axis around which a heroic father, a libertine mother, a maverick military mentor, and a green-eyed, sainted maiden revolve. The bloody threads of Al-Qaeda are woven into the novel’s tapestry on fear’s foreboding loom creating a memorable quilt bursting with forbidden pulses.

“Once fear conquers your heart, the only means to overthrow it is to hurl yourself back into it, over and over, until it runs away from you instead of you from it. Waste no time reasoning with fear, Scotty; its only antidotes are reckless courage and blind faith.” These proverbial words of Peckford, Scott’s military mentor, provide the ideological scaffold from which the novel hangs as a tour de force of Fear and Peace instead of War and Peace.



Cover of "Back From Iraq" published by Al-Mualif in 2010

“Back From Iraq is an extremely accurate accounting of a returning combat veteran. Any one who reads this book will have some insight into why we are not the same persons we were before we went to war. A great thanks to the author for telling our story...”

J.G. Baughn
Owasso, Oklahoma
U.S. Navy
Vietnam Combat Veteran

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