VACANCIES IN GRADE 1 POSTS

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- AFTER THE SURGE IN BANK DEPOSITS, LEBANON'S CENTRAL BANK IS THE BANKS' ONLY REFUGE
- THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS SANDRA DAGHER

CONSTRUCTION IN LEBANON



Lebanon 5,000LL | Saudi Arabia 15SR | UAE 15DHR | Jordan 2JD | Syria 75SYP | Iraq 3,500IQD | Kuwait 1.5KD | Qatar 15QR | Bahrain 2BD | Oman 2OR | Yemen 15YRI | Egypt 10EP | Europe 5Euros

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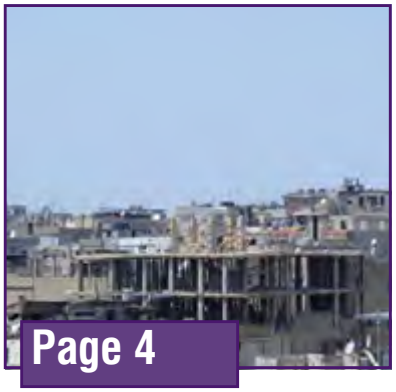
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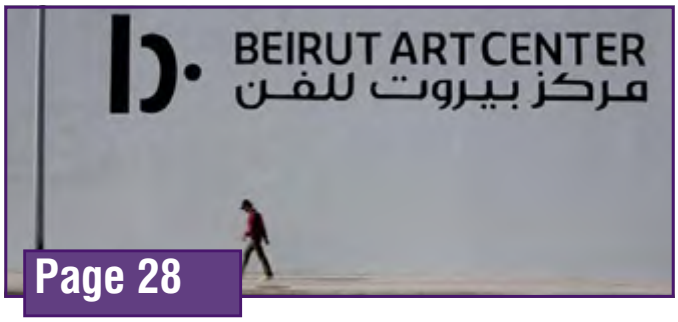
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ZAKI AL ARSOUZI AND ANTOUN SAADEH, WHEN THEY TALK OR CRY



The "conventional wisdom" decreed, during the Turkish-Syrian rapprochement, that the case of Iskenderun commonly known in this part of the world as the "usurped province", ought not to be discussed. So the two parties, the Ba'ath Party and the SSNP, the former founded by Zaki Al Arsouzi and the latter by Antoun Saadeh, who always campaigned for the case of Iskenderun, remained silent. They even praised the "wisdom" in making a deal with Turkey to spite their local rivals. Suddenly and apparently after being satisfied with its human rights records on the Kurdish question, Turkey declared its concern regarding human rights in Syria. And simultaneously, these two parties started to remember Iskenderun again. Neither party deliberated on the problems of ideologies, strategies and national interest. Is the land more important than the people? How do you deal with a neighbor who declares friendship but has taken a land that you feel is rightly yours? Neither party felt it was high time to launch a critique of their ideas and their conduct since their foundation.

Zaki Al Arsouzi grew up in Sunjunq Iskendeun, during the Ottoman era. He taught in Antioch and Konia and was a director of education in Arsouz as reflected in his name. In the late 1920s, he founded a library by the name "Al Ba'ath Al Arabi" and in 1938, he founded a political movement that he also called "Al Ba'ath Al Arabi." In 1945, he co-founded with Michel Aflaq and Salaheddine Al Bitar, the Ba'ath Party, which played and is still playing a role in the history of this region. Arsouzi is recognized by the Syrian Ba'ath Party as "the founder" while Aflaq is treated as "a pariah." Interestingly, Arsouzi demanded of those wishing to become members of the Ba'ath Party "to write or translate a book contributing to the renaissance of the Arab culture."

On the other hand, Antoun Saadeh stressed the importance of music and painting as well as Palestine and Iskenderun in the makeup of a nation. He also criticized Arsouzi for advocating nationalism based on religion and semitism.

Bluntly speaking, these two men didn't like each other. Arsouzi ended up in Wadi Qandeel, Latakiyyah, not far from his beloved Iskenderun, which the French annexed to Turkey, and near Samra where a popular TV series, "Al Daiy'ah Day'ah" or "the lost village", is being filmed. Antoun Saadeh was killed in 1949.

So what?
We end up with two important parties who have miserably failed and defiantly refuse to retire. Neither one wants to share with us their glories or their failures. The SSNP is now more Lebanese than the Phalanges, criticizing discussions of "internal Syrian affairs", and praising the inauguration of diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Syria with the establishment of two embassies. The Ba'ath Party does not tell us why it has reached its current status in both Iraq and Syria.

More importantly, where is the scale of values of these two parties and what have they lately contributed to art, culture and the wellbeing of their people?

What if?
If Arsouzi and Saadeh meet again, they might perhaps have a friendly talk and share a tear or two pondering not over "a lost village" but over "a lost nation."

Jawad N. Adra

CONSTRUCTION IN LEBANON
RAMPANT VIOLATIONS AND LEGISLATION TO JUSTIFY THEM

Illegal construction is spread throughout many areas in Lebanon, and particularly in the South and Southern Suburb of Beirut (Dahieh). Houses and buildings were built on private and public property without permits and the security forces were mere bystanders.

The search for the causes behind this political, social and economic phenomenon leads to one result: these buildings, similarly to the ones that preceded them, have become a reality and it is difficult to get rid of them in light of partisan and confessional protection. How are construction permits issued and how is the law violated?

The permit requirement

Article 1 of Construction Law No. 646 dated December 11, 2004 (amending Legislative Decree No. 148 dated September 16, 1983), stipulates that permits are compulsory: "the construction, conversion and renovation of all types of buildings cannot proceed without the prior obtainment of a permit granted according to the laws in force and based on the approval of the competent technical administrations following their examination of the request. The permit request and the building maps must be signed by the architect in charge according to the regulations in place at the Syndicate of Architects and it must be registered at one of the Syndicates of Architects (in Beirut or Trablous) (…) The permit is compulsory for all types of buildings even those belonging to public administrations and municipalities, except those related to the army…"

The areas (m2) of licensed constructions

The Syndicates of Architects in Beirut and Tripoli both grant building permits (they become legal only after the approval of the urban planning departments) and the licensed areas vary from one year to the other. It should be indicated that these permits are implemented either directly after their obtainment or a while after, and they are rarely unimplemented. Table 1 details the areas of licensed constructions in the last few years. It emerges that 2010 recorded the highest areas, increasing by 22.7% from 2009 and in the past 11 years (2000-2010) the increase has been 162%.

Areas of licensed constructions between 2000 and 2010 — **Table 1**

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Areas of licensed buildings (1,000 m2)	6,727	6,894	7,895	8,807	9,171	8,819	9,683	9,038	16,068	14,361	17,625

Source: Syndicate of Architects of Beirut and Tripoli

Authorizing the displaced to build

In order to facilitate the return of the displaced, Law No. 322 was issued on March 24, 1994, and allowed the displaced to build without complying with the provisions of the Construction Law all the while respecting a certain number of conditions:

- The applicant for a permit must be a displaced and this must be proved by a statement issued by the Ministry of the Displaced.
- The building must be constructed on an estate he/she owns that must have existed prior to the issuance of this law and must not result from a screening process that followed the issuance of this law.
- The total number of floors, whatever the text allowing the building, must not exceed 2 floors above ground level. In addition, the area of each floor must not exceed 120m2, including the balconies.
- The license is exempt from fees, including the registration fees of the Syndicate of Architects, which are given to the owner of the estate by an architect of the General Directorate of Urban Planning.

The law also allows the displaced to construct according to what he/she previously owned prior to destruction, without any additions or changes. If the building previously trespassed on public property, this violation should be removed.

This law was to be in place for only 2 years. In practice however, the law was violated in most cases as permissions were granted by the Ministry to individuals who were not really displaced. In addition, construction did not abide by the abovementioned conditions and what used to be small and modest houses in villages were replaced by big houses and buildings with several floors. In order to overcome these violations, the duration of the law was amended 5 times, the last of which was by virtue of law No. 110 dated June 26, 2010, for a period of 2 years.

Settlement of building violations

In order to address the large number of building violations that occurred during the Lebanese civil war, law No. 324 dated March 24, 1994, was issued. It specified a variety of ways "to settle" the various types of violations, some by way of payment of fines and others, if they trespassed and could not be settled financially, by way of demolition. However, the enforcement of this law in practice was both partial and limited to certain areas only, namely cities. It remains to be said that this so called "settlement law" was an obligatory and convenient means for applicants who violated the Construction Law to obtain official real estate documentation.

Building violations are numerous and include:

- Building on private property that meets the zoning requirement but the construction was done without obtaining a permit. This is the most common type of violation.
- Building on private property that does not meet the zoning requirement by exceeding the authorized built up area and was done without obtaining a permit.
- Building on private property that does not meet the zoning requirement and trespasses on public or private properties and was done without a permit.
- Building on public property without a permit.
- Building on private property with a permit but the implementation exceeds what was provided in the license (in term of area, design, planning). This is a violation that occurs by bribing those monitoring the building works.



Building violations in Ouza'i
Photo by: Mohamed Mashlab

Monitoring construction: whose responsibility is it?

The municipal police is supposed to do whatever is in its power to monitor building works, review the legality of the permit and ensure compliance with the provisions of the permit. However, the problem is the lack of human resources and so this task has been undertaken by the Internal Security Forces (ISF) or the police. This has not prevented flagrant violations in various regions. There is also consensus about the security forces allegedly accepting bribes to facilitate illegal building works.

When Zyad Baroud was appointed Minister of Interior and Municipalities in 2008, he issued a decree in which he asked the ISF not to follow up on building works and to leave this matter to the municipalities. This lead to a chaotic situation and the spreading of building violations due to favoritism and the incompetence of the municipal police. As a consequence, the Minister retracted his decision once tens of violating buildings were erected.

Latest violations

For political and electoral reasons, political figures in Saida asked the Director General of the ISF to resort to their members in the area of Baysariyyeh near Sarafand not to stop the building works that the residents of Hay Yareen were undertaking (they were displaced from their town of Yareen, near the border with Israel in 1978 and they built their houses on public property in the town of Baysariyyeh). The residents of the South and the Southern Suburb of Beirut used this as an excuse to conduct unlicensed building works, either on their private properties, on public property or by erecting additional floors to their houses. The number of violations increased in number and in kind and is estimated between 4000-7000 housing units (between the end of March and the end of May 2011).

A number of these illegal buildings, especially those close to Beirut Airport, present a danger to the safety of flights, which pushed politicians to grant their approval to the security forces to remove these violations whereas the majority remained intact. Those political forces who publicly refused the violations and trespasses and ordered the security forces to have them removed were secretively supporting these unlicensed buildings, especially by issuing statements like: “violations are everywhere in Lebanon, in the South, in Dahieh and in the Solidere area.”

Following the accentuation of this wave and the threatening of citizens in Lebanese regions to resort to building works without licenses, the Director General of the ISF requested (without having the authority to do so) the municipalities to grant building permits not exceeding 120m2, with the exception of the Mohafaza of the Matn.

It is obvious that each political group in one way or another is either supporting the illegal construction or looking the other way. Zua’ama of the Sunni would point to the Dahieh calling for the demolition of illegal buildings while supporting encroachment and appropriation of public land in A’akkar and by Solidere (Beirut Central District). On the other hand, Shia’a Zua’ama point to Solidere and A’akkar to justify what has taken place in the Dahieh. Private interest groups and individuals have taken advantage of this polarization and millions of dollars are being made illegally, while usurping public land and endangering lives and the environment.



Building violations in Ouza’i
Photo by: Mohamed Mashlab

VACANCIES IN GRADE 1 POSTS: 65 VACANCIES OR 43%

WILL THE GOVERNMENT BREAK THE CONFESSIONAL MONOPOLY OF POSITIONS?

Following the formation of the new government headed by Najib Mikati and its obtaining confidence (68 votes), it is now meant to start working on solving the issues and crises from which Lebanon and the Lebanese suffer. These problems are numerous and include public debt and high interest rates, drafting of the draft budget laws for 2011 and 2012, electricity and water problems, traffic jams, rise in unemployment, emigration, decline in the purchasing power, pollution, inefficient public administration as a result of political interference and the absence of a will to reform the public sector. Being homogeneous, this government is supposed to find solutions to these problems and reach a consensus on filling the administrative vacancies, especially those of Grade 1 posts, based on merit.

By July 10, 2011, there were 65 vacancies in Grade 1 posts, out of 151 jobs, which amounts to 63%. They are distributed by confession as follows: Maronites: 16 vacancies; Orthodox: 6 vacancies; Catholics: 5 vacancies; Sunni: 13 vacancies; Shia'a: 15 vacancies; Druze: 4 vacancies; Minorities: 1 vacancy (President of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority). There are an additional 5 new vacancies and it is unknown how they will be confessionally distributed. They are: the Mohafez of A'akkar, the Mohafez of Baalbeck and Hermel, the Director General of the Tripoli Special Economic Zone, the Director General of the Authority of Establishment and Management of Industrial Centers and the Director of Liban Telecom.

This confessional distribution is considered contrary to article 95(3)(b) of the constitution, which stipulates that "the principle of confessional representation in public service jobs, in the judiciary, in the military and security institutions, and in public and mixed agencies are to be cancelled in accordance with the requirements of national reconciliation; they shall be replaced by the principle of expertise and competence. However, Grade One posts and their equivalents are exempt from this rule, and the posts must be distributed equally between Christians and Muslims without reserving any particular job for any confessional group but rather applying the principles of expertise and competence."
Tables 1-6 illustrate the vacant positions by confession.

Will the new government respect the constitution and rotate and redistribute vacant Grade 1 posts among the various confessions as a prelude to the redistribution of all Grade 1 posts without assigning a specific post to a specific confession as it is currently the case?

Vacant positions for the Maronite confession - 16 positions — Table 1

Position	Notes
President of the Supreme Judicial Council	Vacant since the retirement of Ghaleb Abdallah Ghanem on 2-1-2011
Director General of Customs - Ministry of Finance	Vacant since the retirement of Asaad Ghanem on 20-1-2010
Member of the Supreme Council for Customs	Vacant since the retirement of Jean Halabi in 2006
President and Director General - General Organization for Housing	Vacant since the retirement of Antoine Chamoun in May 2007
Director General of Civil Defense - Ministry of Interior	Vacant since the retirement of Darwich Hbeika on 7-2-2011
Director General of Tenders	Vacant since Diab Younes ended his services based on his request on 3-6-2005 and currently occupied by Dalal Barakat
CEO and Director General of National Archiving	Vacant since the retirement of Fouad Obeid on 21-4-2010
Director General of the Presidency of the Republic	Vacant since the retirement of Naji Abi Aasi on 16-4-2011
Director General of Antiquities	Vacant since the resignation of Fredrick Husseini on 17-3-2010
General Inspector - Government Commissioner at the Supreme Disciplinary Authority	Vacant since the retirement of Raphael Harb in July 2006
Vice-President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction	Vacant since the passing of Alain Kerdahi in January 2011
Director General of Lebanese Standards and Specifications Authority	Vacant since the exemption of Antoine Semaan from his duties on 14-6-2006
Director General of Grain and Sugar Beet	Vacant since the retirement of Antoine Khoury in 2008
President of the National Institute of Administration	Vacant since the return of Elie Assaf to the Presidency of the Republic on 10-1-2008
Director General of Petroleum	Vacant since the arrest of Nicolas Nasr in 1999
Director General of the National Employment Office	Vacant since the retirement of Moussa Jadoun in August 2003

Vacant positions for the Orthodox confession - 6 positions — Table 2

Position	Notes
Beirut Governor - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Vacant since the resignation of Yaacoub Al-Sarraf in July 2005 when he was appointed Minister of the Environment
Director General of the Ministry of Public Works	Vacant since the retirement of Ratib Saliba in 2007
Head of Staff Department - Civil Services Council	Vacant since the retirement of Georges Ghelmieh in 2007
President of the Supreme Disciplinary Authority	Vacant since the retirement of Nicolas Dayaa in 2009
Secretary General for the Center for Development and Reconstruction	Vacant since the end of Ghazi Haddad's mandate in 2009
Director General Head of Technical Division at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers	Vacant

Vacant positions for the Catholic confession - 5 positions — Table 3

Position	Notes
President of the Economic and Social Council	Vacant since the end of the council's mandate
Director General of Roads and Buildings	Vacant since the resignation of Fadi Nammar in November 2010
Director General - Head of Technical Affairs Branch in the Presidency of the Republic	Vacant since the retirement of Robert Sayegh in February 2007
Director General of Agriculture	Vacant since the exemption of Louis Lahoud from his position on 7-6-2006
Chairman of the Commission of the Beirut Stock Exchange	Vacant since the resignation of Fadi Khalaf in 2009 after his election as Secretary General of the Arab Stock Exchange

Vacant positions for the Sunni confession - 13 positions — Table 4

Positions	Notes
Director General of Urban Planning	Vacant since the retirement of Joseph Abdel Ahad in 2005. There is a possibility that this position will return to the Sunni confession after it was occupied by Saad Al Dine Khaled
President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction	Vacant since the end of the council's mandate in 2009 and Nabil Jesr continues in his position
Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Vacant since it has been occupied by proxy by Bassam Naamani in 2008
Director General of Civil Status - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Vacant since the retirement of Nada Kasti on 1-6-2011
Mount Lebanon Governor	Vacant since Adnan Doumiati was exempted from his position in 2002
Director General of the National Institute of Administration	Vacant since the retirement of Walid Khatib in July 2008
Director General of the Foundation for Promoting Investments - Presidency of the Council of Ministers	Vacant since the end of the council's mandate in January 2009 and Nabil Itani continues in his position
President and General Manager of Ogero	Vacant since the exemption of position in Mohamad Hamdan of his October 2005
Member of the Supreme Council for Customs	Vacant since the retirement of Oussama Baba on 17-1-2005
Director General of Aviation	Hamdi Shawq resigned in December 2010
Director General of the Legal and Administrative Affairs at the Presidency of the Republic	Vacant since the retirement of Farouq Kabalan in Sep 2006
Member of the Supreme Disciplinary	Vacant since the retirement of Rahif Ayoubi in 2008
Director General of Protocol and Public Relations at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers	Vacant

Vacant positions for the Shia'a confession - 15 positions — Table 5

Position	Notes
President of the Lebanese University	Vacant since 20-2-2010 but Zuhair Chokr has taken over the position to which he was assigned on 21-2-2006 for 5 years
President of the Supreme Council for Customs	Vacant since the retirement of Akram Chdeed on 1-6-2011
Director General of Economy and Finance	Vacant since the exemption of Fadi Makki from his position and his placement at the disposal of the Council of Ministers. He later resigned.
Director General of Social Affairs	Vacant since the retirement of Naamat Kenaan in June 2005
Director General of General Security	Vacant since the retirement of Wafik Jezzini on 4-12-2010
Director General of Political Affairs and Refugees at the Ministry of Interior	Vacant since the retirement of Atallah Hisham in 2005
General Inspector of Education	Vacant since the retirement of Reda Saadeh in July 2009
Vice President of the Council of Development and Reconstruction	Vacant since the end of the council's mandate in 2009. The vice president was Yassir Berri and he continues in his position
Director General of the Litani River Authority	Vacant since the retirement of Nasser Nassrallah on 7-4-2004
Director General of Vocational and Technical Education	Vacant since the retirement of Yousef Dia on 18-4-2008
Director General of the Economic and Social Council	Vacant since the retirement of Farouq Yaghi on 12-4-2011
Chairman of the Executive Board of the National Office of the Drug	Vacant since the end of services of Kassem Hmadeh on 13-1-1999
Director General - Chief of Legal Affairs Branch Division at the Office of the Council of Ministers	Vacant since the retirement of Othman Dalloul in 2007
Director General of Investment	Vacant since the retirement of Hassaan Hashem in 2008
Secretary General of the Parliament	Vacant since the retirement of Adnan Daher in 2005. However, Daher occupies it by proxy.

Vacant positions for the Druze confession - 4 positions — Table 6

Positions	Notes
South Governor	Vacant since the retirement of Malek Abdel Khalek on 1-7-2010
Director General of the Displaced	Vacant since the retirement of Khaled Abdel Samad in 2002
Chairman and Director General of the Railway and Public Transportation Authority	Vacant since the retirement of Redwan Bou Nasrelddine in June 2009
Lebanese Army Chief of Staff	Vacant since the retirement of Shawki Masri in April 2011

These positions have become vacant following the resignation, exemption, end of services, or retirement of the person officially holding the position. However, these positions are occupied by proxy or by the continuance of services, as is the case of Ogero, the Administration of Tenders, the Ministry of the Displaced, the Mohafez of Beirut or the Mohafez of the South.

AFTER THE SURGE IN BANK DEPOSITS, LEBANON'S CENTRAL BANK IS THE BANKS' ONLY REFUGE

Following the considerable increase in the size of bank deposits, and in light of the limited availability of credit, the Central Bank of Lebanon becomes the refuge for banks to deposit their funds and liquidity surpluses to obtain revenues that will enable them to carry on and make more profits. Without this refuge, the banking sector would become bankrupt and close down.

Size of deposits and credits

At the end of 2010, bank deposits in the Lebanese banking sector reached LBP 163,700 billion, which amounts to USD108.6 billion, compared to LBP 118,600 billion at the end of 2008. This represents an increase of LBP 45,100 billion or 38%.

Credits to the public and private sectors reached, respectively, LBP 44,200 billion and LBP 45,700 billion, which represents 55% of deposits. Thus, banks deposit their funds at the Central Bank and receive certificates of deposit as a solution to the liquidity surplus problem. The Central Bank relies on these certificates as a way to control the liquidity in the market.

Deposits at the Central Bank

Bank deposits continued to increase at the Central Bank in the last few years. At the end of 2010, they reached LBP 60,700 billion, which represents 37% of the total of its deposits. Table 1 illustrates the development of banks' deposits at the Central Bank compared with the development of these banks' total deposits at the end of the stated years.

Banks' deposits compared with Central Bank deposits **Table 1**

Year	Banks Total Deposits (LBP thousands of billion)	Bank Deposits at the Central Bank (LBP thousands of billion)	% of Central Bank deposits compared with banks total deposits
1992	12	625.1 (LBP billion)	5.2
1994	20.3	2.8	13.8
1996	30.7	3.5	11.4
1998	46.1	6.6	14.3
2000	57.5	7.2	12.5
2001	61.1	10.6	17.3
2002	64.8	11.8	18.2
2003	74.8	28.1	37.5
2004	84.1	29.7	35.3
2005	87.6	30.7	35
2006	93.1	29.1	31.2
2007	102.6	29.6	28.8
2008	118.6	38.8	32.7
2009	145.9	53.2	36.4
2010	163.7	60.7	37.1

Source: Monthly news letter of the Association of Banks in Lebanon

Note: these deposits include:

1- The compulsory and non compulsory reserve in LBP.

2- The compulsory and non compulsory deposits in foreign currencies.

3- Certificates of deposit issued by the Central Bank.

The Central Bank's absorption of liquidity, either by way of compulsory reserves or certificates of deposit, may be an essential way to control liquidity but when it increases to the point where it represents 37% of the total of deposits, it becomes a threat to the banking sector as a whole. This enables banks to progressively generate profit and find ways of using their liquidity but on the other hand, it increases the state's interest rate, which in turn increases debt and negatively affects the economy. This is a double edged sword, which will eventually threaten both Lebanon's economy and the whole banking sector.

THEY GET PAID AND DON'T WORK!

In Lebanon, corruption and waste are present across all ministries and administrations where political patronage and confession are used as a cover. The examples are numerous and this article is but a sample of this issue. It looks at the employees of the Executive Council Projects of the city of Beirut and the Executive Council of major projects , which were merged with the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR). However, the latter refused to enroll them and thus they continue to get paid without working.

The Executive Council Projects of the city of Beirut

The Executive Council Projects of the city of Beirut was established by a draft law implemented by virtue of Decree No. 11985 dated February 4, 1963. Its task is to implement projects funded by exceptional resources of the municipal budget. The Council enjoys a separate legal personality and financial and administrative independence. It is linked to the Mayor of Beirut and run by a board of directors composed of a president and two members. Decree No. 12305 dated March 20, 1963 (and its amendments), stipulates that the Council has a body of 70 employees, as illustrated by Table 1.

Staff of the Executive Council Projects of the city of Beirut — **Table 1**

Category	2	3	4	5	Total
Management	1	1	-	1	3
Diwan-Bureau	1	1	7	4	13
Accounting Department	1	-	5	1	7
Cases department	1	2	3	1	7
Technical department	2	8	7	2	19
Acquisition department	1	6	13	1	21
Total	7	18	35	10	70

Source: Decree on the Council's organization and its amendments

Executive Council of major projects

The Executive Council of major projects was established by Decree No. 6839 dated June 15, 1961. The Council studies and implements projects that are assigned to it by decisions of the Council of Ministers. It enjoys a separate legal personality, financial and administrative independence and is linked to the Minister of Public Works and Transportation. The Council is headed by a board of directors composed of a president and two members. Decree No. 10766 dated October 2, 1962 (on the Council's organization), stipulates that the Council has a body of 152 employees in addition to a Director General (Category 1), as illustrated by Table 2.

Staff of the Executive Council of major projects — **Table 2**

Category	2	3	4	5	Total
Administrative Directorate General	-	3	18	8	30
Accounting Department	1	2	14	2	19
Cases department	1	2	3	1	7
Technical department	6	26	38	9	79
Acquisition department	-	6	7	4	17
Total	8	39	80	24	152

Source: Decree on Council's organization and its amendments

Merger

Article 15 of Law No. 247 dated August 7, 2000 (merger, annulment and establishment of ministries and councils), stipulated that the CDR, the Executive Council of major projects and the Executive Council Projects of the city of Beirut were to be merged into one institution, "the Public Association for Development and Reconstruction." This article was later amended by Law No. 295 dated April 3, 2001, which stated that the Executive Council of major projects and the Executive Council Projects of the city of Beirut were to be merged with the CDR. The employees of both Councils were entitled to quit and they would receive all their remunerations in addition to a bonus equivalent to 6 months salary. The cases of employees and contractors in the three councils would be studied in light of their needs and qualifications and the surplus employees would be placed at the disposal of the President of the Council of Civil Service.

Paid without working

The laws were not implemented and no case studies of employees of the three councils were performed. The employees of the CDR stayed in their positions and those of the other two councils were not merged, which led to the resignation of some especially those that were close to the retirement age (64). The rest continued to get their salaries without working, from 2000 until today. This issue has yet to be solved and it has prohibited the government from benefiting from some of those employees. There are no exact figures on their cost but estimations point to **around LBP 4.5 billion per year, which amounts to some LBP 45 billion that have gone to waste.** This is only one example. There are hundreds and maybe thousands of similar cases of employees who go to work and leave within minutes because they have nothing to do, or go to work, drink coffee and make phone calls at the expense of the government. The issue is not only that these employees have continuously been getting paid for doing nothing but also that their skills and capacities have not been put to use and no one is benefitting from them. This can be described as a form of disguised unemployment.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF RAFIC HARIRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

EXCLUSIVE TO ONE COMPANY MANAGED BY AN MP

Of the big projects that were launched in 1994 was a project to develop and rehabilitate Beirut International Airport to accommodate 6 million passengers per year by 2010 and 16 million by 2035. A contract was made with MEAS (Middle East Airport Services) to maintain and operate the airport based on a contract with many loop holes.

Establishment of MEAS

MEAS was established on March 24, 1998, after transferring a number of employees from MEA (Middle East Airlines) to MEAS as part of a reform plan of MEA. MEAS is a private company fully owned by MEA, which in turn is owned by the Central Bank of Lebanon.

Maintenance and Operation Contract

The Lebanese government entrusted the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) to choose a company to handle the maintenance and operation of Beirut International Airport and the contract was made with MEAS, which was established for this purpose. While preparing for the maintenance and operation bid in April 2008, the CDR indicated the following:

- MEAS has been maintaining and operating Rafic Hariri International Airport for 10 years, which has made its employees experienced in this field.
- Should the bid not be awarded to MEAS, allowing the awarded company not to employ MEAS staff would cause a social crisis at this critical stage that Lebanon is going through. Therefore, the CDR suggested placing a condition that would obligate the wining company (if it is not MEAS) to employ MEAS staff (291 employees with salaries reaching LBP 363 million per month). This is a crippling condition on any company wishing to enter the bid.

At the bidding stage, no company applied for the bid except MEAS and Kuwaiti Kharafi Group, which was rejected because its experience in the maintenance and operation of airports was allegedly insufficient. Many cast doubt on this decision given that MEAS is incapable of competing with Kharafi Group. Thus, the council of ministers requested that the CDR hold another bid and extend the contract that ends on December 31, 2008, for another year. The contract was renewed and remains in force in the absence of a new bid and competition, which could have lead to a decrease in prices.

Cost of Maintenance

The cost of maintenance and supervision reached USD 20.4 million in 2009 and was distributed as follows:

- USD 12.5 million: cost of maintenance and operation (as in 2008).
  USD 2.7 million: cost of living between 1-5-2008 and 31-12-2009, due to an increase in wages based on Decree No. 500 dated October 16, 2008.
- USD 4.5 million: reserve to cover the cost of spare parts and consumer products.
- USD 700,000: cost of monitoring the maintenance contract signed with Dar Al Handassa Sha'er and partners (engineering company).

The value of the 2006 contract was USD 17 million.

A tender based on the specifications of one maintenance and operation company at such a high cost is not justifiable.

There are legal opinions related to the legality of MP Youssef Ghazi assuming the responsibility of CEO and General Manager of MEAS. On one hand, it is considered legal and on the other it is considered illegal given that MEAS is a public sector company that is indirectly owned by the Central Bank and therefore an MP cannot run it.

"At the bidding stage, no company applied for the bid except MEAS and Kuwaiti Kharafi Group, which was rejected because its experience in the maintenance and operation of airports was allegedly insufficient."

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION:
BUDGET OF LBP 542 BILLION AND 2,200 STAFF

The Ministry of Public Works and Transportation is one of the large service providing ministries given the variety of its functions, powers, budget and staff. This is why political forces fight over it in order to provide services to their areas and supporters.

Establishment

The government formed after independence in 1943 included a Ministry of Public Works headed by Minister Salim Taqla.

Tasks

Decree No. 2872 dated December 16, 1959, stipulated the tasks of the ministry as follows: "to handle issues related to roads, buildings, water, electricity and the various means of transportation." After the issuance of law No. 20/66 dated March 29, 1966, which provided for the establishment of a Ministry of Water and Electricity, the General Directorate of Water and Electricity and the General Directorate of Concession Monitoring and Investment Interests were removed from the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation and replaced by the General Directorate for Water and Electricity Processing and the General Directorate for Investment in the Ministry of Water and Electricity.

Establishment and abolition of the Ministry of Transportation

By virtue of Law No. 214 dated April 2, 1993, the Ministry of Transportation was created and the name of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation was amended to the Ministry of Public Works. The new ministry was formed after separating the General Directorate of Civil Aviation and the General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation from the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation and appending them to the Ministry of Transportation, with their staff and equipment. By virtue of Article 4 of Law No. 247 dated August 7, 2000, the Ministry of Transportation was abolished and the General Directorate of Civil Aviation and the General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation were reintegrated to the Ministry of Public Works, which was renamed the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.

Structure

The Ministry of Public Works and Transportation is composed of:

- The Directorate of Joint Administration
- The General Directorate of Roads, Buildings and Regional Directorates
- The General Directorate of Urban Planning
- The General Directorate of Civil Aviation
- The General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation

These directorates include 2,200 staff. Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 illustrate the structure and staff of each directorate.

The General Directorate of Roads and Buildings

The General Directorate of Roads and Buildings handles issues related to roads and government buildings (except those related to the Army, the Internal Security Forces, LibanPost and Telecommunications). Table 1 illustrates the structure and staff of this directorate.

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Roads, Buildings and Regional Directorates — Table 1

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
General Directorate	1	-	-	2	2	5
The Bureau-Diwan	-	-	2	6	2	10
IT Department	-	-	3	6	2	11
Directorate of Roads	-	2	2	6	2	12
Design and Program Authority	-	1	1	4	3	9
Department of Statistics	-	-	6	9	-	15
Department of Design	-	-	4	3	-	7
Department of Technical Regulations	-	-	4	4	-	8
Research Authority	-	1	1	5	3	10
Department of Technical Research	-	-	8	9	-	17
Department of Projects	-	-	4	10	-	14
Department of Acquisition	-	-	5	12	-	17
Construction Authority	-	1	1	4	2	8
Department of Implementation	-	-	2	3	-	5
Department of Follow-up	-	-	3	3	-	6
Maintenance Authority	-	1	1	5	2	9
Department of Operations	-	-	4	10	-	14
Department of Works	-	-	3	6	-	9
Department of Machines and Equipment	-	-	3	23	4	30
Department of the Environment and Road Safety	-	-	5	7	1	13
Laboratory Department	-	-	5	10	1	16
Total of the Directorate of Roads	-	6	63	132	18	219
Directorate of Buildings	-	2	-	4	1	7
Research Authority	-	1	1	4	2	8

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Roads, Buildings and Regional Directorates	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
Department of Regulations	-	-	6	5	-	11
Department of Building Projects	-	-	4	10	-	14
Research Department	-	-	10	8	-	18
Implementation Authority	-	1	1	5	2	9
Department of Construction	-	-	3	5	-	8
Department of Maintenance	-	-	3	5	-	8
Total of Directorate of Buildings	-	4	28	46	5	83
Regional Directorates (there are 4, one in each Mohafaza: Matn, Beqa'a, the North and the South)	-	4	8	29	13	54
Department of Road Implementation	-	-	20	37	-	57
Department of Road Maintenance	-	-	17	28	-	45
Department of Building Maintenance	-	-	12	24	-	36
Acquisition Division	-	-	4	20	-	24
Administrative Division	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total of Regional Directorates	-	4	61	138	13	216
Grand Total of the General Directorate of Roads, Buildings and Regional Directorates	**1**	**14**	**157**	**330**	**42**	**544**

Table 1

The General Directorate of Urban Planning

The General Directorate of Urban Planning organizes the design of cities and villages, decides on the use of lands and grants building licenses. Table 2 illustrates the structure and staff of this directorate.

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Urban Planning	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
General Directorate	1	-	-	2	1	4
The Bureau-Diwan	-	-	5	15	4	24
Secretariat of the Higher Council of Urban Planning	-	-	1	5	1	7
IT and Documentation Department	-	-	5	6	-	11
Urban Planning Research Authority	-	1	-	3	1	5
Department of Design of Urban Planning	-	-	11	23	2	36
Mapping Department	-	-	8	31	2	41
Department of Programs and Coordination	-	-	3	6	1	10
Department of Private Annexation and Separation	-	-	4	11	1	16
Department of Public Annexation and Separation	-	-	4	11	1	16
Municipal Projects Authority	-	1	-	3	1	5
Department of Acquisition	-	-	2	8	1	11

Table 2

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Urban Planning	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
Department of Roads and Buildings	-	-	6	14	1	21
Department of Architectural, Mechanical and Electrical Safety	-	-	4	8	1	13
Department of Urban Planning of the Mohafaza of the Matn and its divisions (5 divisions)	-	-	25	83	8	116
Department of Urban Planning of the Mohafaza of the North and its divisions (5 divisions)	-	-	16	55	7	78
Department of Urban Planning of the Mohafaza of the South and its divisions (5 divisions)	-	-	12	41	4	57
Department of Urban Planning of the Mohafaza of Nabatieh and its divisions (5 divisions)	-	-	7	22	2	31
Department of Urban Planning of the Mohafaza of the Beqa'a and its divisions (5 divisions)	-	-	13	44	5	62
Grand Total of the General Directorate of Urban Planning	**1**	**2**	**126**	**391**	**44**	**564**

Table 2

The General Directorate of Civil Aviation

Decree No. 1610 dated July 26, 1971, specified the tasks of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation as follows: "monitoring aerial transport, ensuring the safety of air navigation, securing communication with civil aviation, issuing of investment related technical regulations for aircrafts and monitoring their implementation, managing civil airports and collecting fees from them, and dealing with all issues related to civil aviation." Table 3 illustrates the structure and staff of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation.

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
General Directorate	1	-	1	2	3	7
Directorate of Technical Investment	-	1	-	3	2	6
Civil Aviation Authority	-	1	-	2	7	10
Department of Regional Control	-	-	6	40	-	46
Department of Airport Control	-	-	6	20	5	31
Department of Flight Information	-	-	3	13	-	16
Communications Authority	-	1	-	2	6	9
Department of Aerial Communication	-	-	5	44	-	49
Department of Observational Communication	-	-	5	28	-	33

Table 3

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation — Table 3

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
Department of Interception of Communications	-	-	5	8	-	13
Technical Equipment Authority	-	1	-	2	2	5
Research Department	-	-	3	3	-	6
Implementation Department	-	-	3	6	-	9
Maintenance Authority	-	1	-	7	8	16
Department of Guidance Devices	-	-	5	-	-	5
Radar Division	-	-	1	8	-	9
Landing Gear Division	-	-	1	4	-	5
Assistance Devices Division	-	-	1	4	-	5
Department of Wireless Communications	-	-	1	-	-	1
Broadcasting Division	-	-	1	8	-	9
Interception Division	-	-	1	8	3	12
Station Division	-	-	1	8	2	11
Department of Wire Communications	-	-	5	-	-	5
Automatic Transfer Division	-	-	1	16	-	17
Telephone and Delicate Devices Division	-	-	1	4	4	9
Department of Electric Devices	-	-	2	18	1	21
Department of Maintenance Monitoring	-	-	2	2	-	4
Directorate of Airports	-	1	-	2	2	5
Presidency of Beirut International Airport	-	5	-	9	10	24
Department of Airport Safety	-	-	1	141	-	142
Department of Facilities and Traffic	-	-	1	1	-	2
Traffic Division	-	-	1	23	-	24
Facilities Division	-	-	1	20	-	21
Department of Public Services	-	-	1	2	-	3
Devices Division	-	-	1	3	57	61
Cleaning Division	-	-	1	1	-	2
Department of Equipment Maintenance	-	-	1	1	-	2
Agriculture Division	-	-	1	2	-	3
Maintenance Division	-	-	2	5	-	7
Airport Research Authority	-	1	2	5	1	9
Meteorology Authority	-	1	-	3	11	15
Department of Forecasts	-	-	1	-	-	1
Surface Forecasts and Observational Information Division	-	-	13	24	-	37
Higher Forecasts Division	-	-	13	12	-	25
Department of Observational Monitoring	-	-	1	-	-	1
Surface Monitoring Division	-	-	2	20	-	22
Higher Monitoring Division	-	-	2	8	-	10
Department of Climates	-	-	1	-	-	1
General Climates Division	-	-	4	8	-	12
Agricultural and Water Climates Division	-	-	2	4	-	6
Safety of Civil Aviation Authority	-	1	1	2	2	6
Department of Flight Safety	-	-	1	1	-	2
Structures Division	-	-	2	2	-	4
Engines Division	-	-	2	2	-	4
Equipment Division	-	-	2	3	-	5
Department of technical investment in aircrafts	-	-	4	3	-	7
License Division	-	-	3	1	-	4
Research and Studies Authority	-	1	-	3	2	6
Department of Technical Training	-	-	2	3	1	6
Department of Projects	-	-	2	1	-	3
Economics Department	-	-	1	-	-	1
Economic Studies Division	-	-	1	1	-	2
Statistics Division	-	-	1	4	-	5
Department of International Organizations	-	-	2	-	-	2
Authority of Aerial Transport	-	1	-	2	2	5
Department of Aerial Transport Research	-	-	1	1	-	2
Department of International Agreements	-	-	2	-	-	2
The Bureau-Diwan	-	-	1	8	4	12
Administrative Division	-	-	1	6	-	7
Cases Division	-	-	1	1	-	2
Legal Studies Division	-	-	1	1	-	2
Accounting Division	-	-	1	4	-	5
Revenues Division	-	-	1	4	-	5
Storage Division	-	-	1	6	-	7
Publication Division	-	-	1	2	-	3
Grand Total	**1**	**16**	**147**	**615**	**136**	**915**

The General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation

This directorate handles all issues related to land and maritime transportation, monitors ports and public maritime properties and issues concerning railways and transportation to Beirut and its suburbs. Table 4 illustrates the structure and staff of the directorate.

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation — Table 4

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
General Directorate	1	-	-	1	1	3
The Bureau-Diwan	-	-	4	12	8	24
Maritime Transportation Authority	-	1	-	2	1	4
Department of Equipment and Maintenance	-	-	2	3	1	6
Maintenance of Lighthouses Division	-	-	1	5	14	20

Structure and staff of the General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation — Table 4

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
Department of Maritime Navigation						
Maritime Commercial Affairs' Division	-	-	1	1	-	2
Navigation and Licenses Division	-	-	1	2	-	3
Beirut Port Division	-	-	1	15	1	17
Trablous Port Division	-	-	1	15	1	17
Secondary Ports' Division	-	-	-	9	1	10
Land Transportation Authority	-	1	-	-	-	1
Department of Land Transportation	-	-	1	2	1	4
Maritime Preparation and Training Authority	-	1	-	-	-	1
Department of Maritime Preparation and Training	-	-	1	5	1	7
Public Maritime Properties' Authority	-	1	-	-	-	1
Department of Investment and Monitoring of Public Properties	-	-	1	3	1	5
Total	**1**	**4**	**15**	**78**	**32**	**130**

The General Directorate of Joint Administration
The directorate is composed of: Cases Authority, Accounting Authority, Department of Supplies and Employees

The staff of this directorate amounts to 47, distributed as follows: Grade 2: 3 posts, Grade 3: 10 posts, Grade 4: 31 posts, Grade 5: 3 posts

Budget

In the 2010 draft budget law (which was not yet ratified at the end of June 2011), the Ministry's budget reached LBP 542 billion, which represents 2.77% of the state's total budget expenditures. The budget is distributed as follows:
Contribution to the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) to expand and renovate Rafic Hariri International Airport, of which LBP 98 billion were used to repay a loan to Hochtief: LBP 108 billion; Road construction: LBP 107 billion; Building construction: LBP 32.5 billion; Railway projects construction (Trablous-Syrian borders and Riyaq-Sirghaya): LBP 2 billion; Sour Port: LBP 1 billion
Roads in Hasbayya/Rashayya: LBP 1 billion; Saida Port: LBP 500 million; Expanding and equipping the Sultaniyyah-Saida road: LBP 14 billion; Studies, consultancies and monitoring: LBP 13.4 billion; Acquisitions to build roads: LBP 1.5 billion. Building maintenance: LBP 11.5 billion; Road maintenance: LBP 175 billion; Maintenance of technical equipment at the General Directorate of Civil Aviation: LBP 1.6 billion; Equipment for public pools: LBP 200 million; Contribution to the Railways and Transportation Authority: LBP 12 billion; General Directorate of Joint Administration: LBP 1.5 billion; General Directorate of Roads, Buildings and Regional Departments: LBP 13.7 billion; General Directorate of Urban Planning: LBP 6.4 billion; General Directorate of Civil Aviation: LBP 24.5 billion; General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transportation: LBP 14.7 billion

The expenses of these directorates include expenditures on supplies, services, salaries, wages and pensions.

Ministers

Since independence in 1943 and until the formation of the last government on June 13, 2011, there have been 81 Ministers of Public Works and Transportation.
Bechara El Khoury's mandate: Salim Taqla (2), Ahmad Al Assa'ad, Gabriel Murr (4), Ahmad Al Assa'ad (2), Edouard Noun, Philippe Boulos, Ahmad Al Husseini, Sami El Solh, Bassil Trad (2), Nazem Akkawi.
Camille Chamoun's mandate: Khaled Chehab, Pierre Edde, Gabriel Murr (2), Na'im Moghabghab (2), Jamil Makawi, Emile Boustani, Mohammad Sabra (2), Salim Lahhoud, Khalil Al Hibri.
Fouad Chehab's mandate: Farid Trad, Pierre Gemayyel, Georges Naccache, Othman Al Duna, Kamal Jumblatt, Pierre Gemayyel, Georges Naccache.
Charles Helou's mandate: Georges Naccache, Pierre Gemayyel, Georges Naccache, Najib Alameddine, Kamal Jumblatt, Fouad Al Bizri, Suleiman Franjieh (2), Raymond Edde (2), Rene Moawad, Pierre Gemayyel.
Suleiman Franjieh's mandate: Henri Edde, Kamal Khoury, Sabri Hamadeh, Najib Alameddine, Fouad Ghosn, Georges Saadeh, Zein Maki, Adel Osseiran, Majid Arslan.
Elias Sarkis's mandate: Amine Al Bizri, Boutros Harb, Elias Hrawi.
Amine Gemayyel's mandate: Pierre Khoury, Walid Jumblatt, Mahmoud Tay Abou Dor'am, Edgard Maalouf (Michel Aoun's government).
Elias Hrawi's mandate: Walid Jumblatt, Nadim Salem, Shawki Fakhouri, Mohammad Bassam Mortada, Ali Harajli (2), Omar Masqawi (Minister of Transportation) (3).
Emile Lahoud's mandate: Najib Mikati (3), Yassin Jaber, Adel Hamiyyeh, Mohammad Safadi.
Michel Suleiman's mandate: Ghazi Al Aridi (3).

In Ahmad Al Daouq's gorvernment formed during the mandate of President Fouad Chehab, Minister Georges Naccache was the first minister to hold the title Minister of Public Works and Transportation, while his predecessors were Ministers of Public Works.
Minister Omar Masqawi was named Minister of Transportation.
The numbers in brackets () indicate the number of times a minister held his post consecutively.

"ZERO WASTE":
A PRIORITY BEFORE THE DISASTER

A few years ago, we started hearing the phrase "Zero Waste". What is the meaning of this phrase and how is it translated on the ground in Lebanon and the Arab world?

Zero Waste
The concept of Zero Waste first appeared in 2002 and is aimed at redesigning the manner in which materials are produced through a complete change in society's approach to productions. It is a design principle that includes the manufacturing of products in a way that enables them to be reused, repaired or recycled. The concept is based on the reorganization of production and distribution systems to prevent the generation of waste.

Objectives
The concept does not aim to completely eliminate waste, rather its objectives are:

- Clean production: it aims to gradually eliminate the production and use of toxic waste by redesigning products and their manufacturing methods
- To protect the environment from the treatment of waste and to limit emissions in the air, water and soil resulting from the use and treatment of waste
- To economize sustained substances: to limit the consumption of materials in general and the residues that will be eliminated

Benefits of Zero Waste
Zero Waste includes the following benefits:

- The development of local economies by increasing employment opportunities and focusing on valuable resources
- The minimization of global emissions of heating gas, which is the cause of global warming
- The limitation of imports as a result of the reuse of materials
- Economic development and environmental tourism

Situation in Lebanon
The adoption of the Zero Waste principle is not being discussed by officials in competent administration such as the Ministries of Industry, Environment and Economy or Municipalities. The principle of burning or burying waste rather than recycling it is the common practice. The size of waste in Lebanon is estimated at around 4,000 tons a day, of which 1,600 tons or 40% are recyclable. However, only 200 tons are being recycled daily. Therefore, failure to recycle leads to the destruction of the main source of production, increases land-filling and overburdens landfills creating a need to find new locations for landfills.

Situation in the Arab world
The situation in Arab States does not differ from that in Lebanon because waste is still being treated by using incinerators and land-filling. The waste that is being recycled only constitutes 3% to 4% of total recyclable waste, especially in rich countries where the waste includes a lot of recyclable materials.

The waste crisis continues and its dangers are spreading in Lebanon and the world. New concepts and ideas to limit this disaster are emerging but actual treatment continues to fall short of meeting expectations.



Sour disposal

POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS AND THE REIGN OF ZUA'AMA IN LEBANON

Political assassinations are a common phenomenon in most countries, especially in developing countries where they, along with military coups, form an alternative to elections and a means to hold power and get rid of opponents.

Lebanon has witnessed many political assassinations in order to get rid of the Za'ama in place. Despite the fact that it hasn't always been clear whether assassinations succeeded in achieving their objectives, it is said, for example, that the assassination of Kamal Jumblatt was aimed at provoking a split between the Druze and the Christians and massacres similar to that of 1860 wanted to maintain the already existing tension in Lebanon, an objective that might have been achieved. As for the assassination of Rafic Hariri, it is thought that its puporse was the withdrawal of Syria from Lebanon and the creation of a Sunni-Shia'a conflict. It is possible that in the decades to come top secret documents will reveal the truth about the assassinations. However, in most cases, assassinations only get rid of the person and not the political Za'ama that remains through the children or siblings (in the absence of children), and after every assassination we hear slogans such as "the martyr is alive in us" or "the martyr never dies" and voices are raised demanding the continuation of the martyr's path through his sons, daughters, wife (when the children are still young) or brothers.

The Jumblatt family Za'ama: from Bachir in the 12th century to Walid in the 21st century

The Jumblatt family is considered the most significant Druze Za'ama along with the Arslan family. It is one of the families that faced numerous assassinations and executions over the years.

Sheikh Kassem Jumblatt died in A'akka prison (during the reign of Ahmad Basha Jazzar) in 1793. He was succeeded by his son, Sheikh Bachir, who went into enmity with the ruler of Mount Lebanon, Amir Bachir Al-Chehabi, and the slogan "Chouf does not fit two Bachirs" was raised. Sheikh Bachir Jumblatt was executed in A'akka prison on October 11, 1825, during the reign of Wali Abdallah Basha. He was succeeded by his son Said who died on May 11, 1861, after he was accused of plotting the bloody Druze-Maronite incidents of 1860. He left two sons behind, Nassib and Najib. The latter died in 1893 at the age of 34 and in turn left two sons behind, Fouad and Ali, who were raised by their uncle Nassib. Nassib was appointed the Qa'emaqam of Chouf in 1884. This marked the beginning of the return of the Jumblatt family to Za'ama and authority after the 1860 events. During the French mandate, a conflict emerged between Nassib and his nephew Fouad, who was appointed Qa'emaqam of Chouf in 1919. In 1921, conflict broke out in Syria between the French and the opposition and expanded to Lebanon where Shakib Wahab headed the opposition to the French while Fouad Jumblatt supported them. The killing of the Mokhtar of Al-Zaarourieh (a Christian) in Wadi Aainial in Chouf by Wahab's group led Fouad Jumblatt to head to Wadi Aainial accompanied by police officer Youssef Kesbar the enemy of Shakib Wahab. There, on August 6, 1921, Fouad Jumblatt and Kesbar were ambushed and Jumblatt was killed (some believe that the target was not Jumblatt but Kesbar). Journalist Iskandar Riachi considered the killing of Jumblatt the first political assassination in Lebanon's modern history. His brother Ali succeeded him but Sett Nathira Jumblatt, Fouad's wife, accepted this on condition that her son Kamal, who was four years old at that time, would succeed to the position once he grew older. Kamal Jumblatt was elected MP in 1943 and was re-elected several times. He also held several ministerial positions. Kamal Jumblatt was assassinated on March 16, 1977, at the age of 60 at the peak of his conflicts with Syria, which was accused of the assassination. His assassination caused a series of massacres between the Druze and the Christians. As soon as he was assassinated, the political Za'ama was transferred to his son Walid Jumblatt who was 28 at the time.

Islamic-Sunni Za'ama: from Riad Al-Solh to Rafic Hariri

The Sunni confession's Za'ama was distributed between several families: Salam, Solh, Karami, Yafi, Oueini, Hoss, Da'ouk, Hafez, Wazan, Mounla and recently Hariri, Mikati and Safadi.

Three Sunni prime ministers were assassinated:

The first was Riad Al-Solh, son of Za'im Reda Al-Solh, who was 58 years old and was assassinated on July 16, 1951 (he was no longer PM at the time but was an MP), by a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party in response to the execution of their Za'im Antoun Saadeh in 1949 during Solh's premiership. He did not have any male children and his daughters were young. His daughter Alia later played a role in the political scene but never assumed any political functions. His other daughter Leila was appointed Minister of Industry in 2004.

The second was PM Rachid Karami, son of Za'im Abdel Hamid Karami. He was assassinated during his premiership on June 1, 1987, at the age of 66. Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces, was accused of the assassination. Karami was a bachelor and his brother Omar was elected MP several times and was appointed Prime Minister twice (1991 and 2004).

The third assassination, the consequences of which we are still experiencing, targeted PM Rafic Hariri who was assassinated on February 14, 2005, at the age of 61. Syria and Hezbollah were accused of the assassination. He was succeeded by his son Saad Hariri who was elected MP and became prime minister in 2009-2010.

Nazem Qadri, MP of the Western Beqa'a-Rachaya and minister, was assassinated on September 21, 1989, at the age of 75. He was succeeded by his son Ziad in 2009, who was elected MP of the Western Beqa'a – Rachaya, and Syria was accused.

Another assassination is that of Saida MP, Maarouf Saad, who was targeted on February 26, 1975 (he died on March 6, 1975). This was one of the reasons behind the outbreak of the civil war and the Lebanese army was accused of the assassination. His son Moustapha succeeded him and was the victim of an attempted assassination. He was elected MP in 1992 and after his death in 2002, his brother Ousama succeeded him.

Maronite confession: from Tony Franjieh to Pierre Genayyel

Before Lebanon's independence in 1943 and during the first decade following independence, the Maronite Za'ama was distributed between President Bechara El-Khoury and Emile Edde along with a significant role for MP and Minister Hamid Franjieh. However, the Za'ama of Bechara El-Khoury, Lebanon's first president following independence, declined after he left the presidency in 1952. Emile Edde's Za'ama also regressed and he was succeeded by his son Raymond. Other Maronite Za'ama came to light, such as President Camille Chamoun who succeeded El-Khoury in the Lebanese presidency in 1952, Pierre Gemayyel, founder of the Lebanese Phalanges, and President Suleiman Franjieh. While Pierre Gemayyel and Camille Chamoun survived attempted assassinations, their children did not and neither did MP and Minister Tony Franjieh, son of President Suleiman Franjieh, who was assassinated at the age of 37 with his wife and daughter and 29 of his supporters in his home in Ehden on June 13, 1978. The Phalanges, led by Bachir Gemayyel, were accused of planning and implementing the crime in a bid to eliminate the Maronite opposition. However, Tony Franjieh's son, Suleiman who was 13 years old at that time, survived as he was at boarding school at the time. Suleiman succeeded his father's Za'ama as of 1991.

The second assassination targeted President Bachir Gemayyel who was assassinated on September 14, 1982, 21 days after his election as president. He was 35 at the time. He was succeeded by his brother Amine who accused the Syrian Social Nationalist Party for standing behind the assassination. His wife Solange succeeded him given that his son Nadim was only 4 months old. Solange was elected MP of Achrafieh in 2005. In 2009, Nadim was elected MP for the Maronite seat in Achrafieh.

The third assassination targeted President Rene Moawad in 1989, who was 64 years old. His wife Nayla succeeded him in parliament and became Minister of Social Affairs in 2005. In 2009, her son Michel ran for parliament but didn't make it.

The fourth assassination targeted Dany Chamoun, president of the National Liberal Party and son of Camille Chamoun, on October 22, 1990, along with his wife and two children. Elie Hobeika and Syria were accused of the assassination, which resulted in the return of Dany's brother, Dory Chamoun, from abroad to continue the Za'ama.

Other assassinations include that of MP and former minister Elie Hobeika in January 2002 at the age of 46. His son Joseph succeeded him in presiding the Wa'ad Party. MP and Minister Pierre Gemayyel was also assassinated on November 21, 2006, at the age of 34 and his brother Sami succeeded him.

Of the orthodox confession, journalist and MP Gebran Tueni was assassinated on December 12, 2005, at the age of 48. He was succeeded by his father Ghassan Tueni in the 2009 election. His daughter, Nayla Tueni, took his seat for the Orthodox confession in Achrafieh.

Assassinations mainly targeted young Druze, Maronite and Sunni Zua'ama.

Assassinations targeting religious figures, such as the assassination of Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled in 1989, the disappearance of Imam Moussa Sader in Libya in 1978, the assassination of Sheikh Nizar Halabi, Sheikh Ahmad Assaf, Sheikh Hamid Takeiddine and Sheikh Sobhy Saleh, which are political assassinations by definition, were not included in this article

MEDICAL ERROR:

BARELY ADDRESSED BY THE LAW AND CONSIDERABLE JUDICIAL DELAY

We occasionally hear of patients dying during surgery or treatment as a result of "a medical error" and some of these "errors" end up in court after the victim (or his family) sues the doctor or hospital.

Medical error

Doctrine and jurisprudence in Lebanon define a professional error as an error committed by a professional during the performance of his/her functions where they go beyond the professional conduct normally applicable. As for a medical error, it encompasses both law and medicine. Medical responsibility is indispensable and one cannot imagine the existence of the medical profession without assigning to it a specific responsibility that deters doctors from committing negligent and unwarranted mistakes. This has become even more necessary given the advances in science and medicine, and the fact that they go beyond treatment and prevention and now encompass other fields such as cosmetic surgeries and artificial inseminations. The use of new methods and modern equipment have reduced the probability of medical errors occurring and increased the chances of success so that medical failures have become a rare phenomenon.

There are 2 types of medical errors:

- Medical errors of a human nature that emanate from the doctor
- Medical errors of a technical nature that relate to medicine as a profession

Proving a medical error

Proving a medical error is difficult and the onus lies on the injured patient (or his parents) who has to obtain the evidence and prove that the error was caused by the doctor. Then, the judge examines the causal link between the alleged error committed and the facts. However, the problem lies in the fact that the judge requests expert reports (from doctors) that are more often than not in favor of the doctor, as they usually support their fellow colleagues. This leads to the lack of unveiling of errors and an absence of responsibility and liability.

Reasons behind medical errors

Various reasons may explain medical errors, among which:

- The incompetence and lack of experience of the doctor, which leads to a misdiagnosis and wrong treatment.
- The unavailability of medical equipment, especially in remote clinics and hospitals.
- The ignorance and laziness of doctors and this applies to both new and old doctors equally.

Tiredness and exhaustion of the doctor.

Medical Ethics Law in Lebanon and medical error

Law No. 288 was issued on February 14, 1994, and it is known as the Medical Ethics Law. It is composed of 64 articles, a number of which mention a doctor's responsibility towards his patients. Thus, article 27 stipulates:

- When treating a patient, a doctor must be humane and friendly, and must provide him/her with attention and care.
- If a doctor agrees to treat a patient, he/she must ensure the continuation of the treatment, either personally or in collaboration with a qualified individual. This must be done with the utmost precision and consciousness and according to the latest scientific developments, which the doctor must be aware of.
- If a patient suffers from an incurable disease, the doctor's duty is to ensure that the former bears the least physical and psychological pain and receives the best treatment possible to keep him/her alive.
- A doctor is prohibited from willingly causing the death of a patient. He/she is required not to resort to over-treatment to prolong the patient's life.

The Medical Ethics law does not adequately deal with the issue of medical errors. Article 28 stipulates: "a doctor's duty is to ensure that the best treatment possible is given rather than focusing on the result of the treatment." This absolves him of any liability unless it is proven that he committed an error. However, as previously noted, a lot of errors occur in Lebanon but are not uncovered. In addition, judicial proceedings often take a long time to reach a decision in these cases.

Statistics from around the world

In Lebanon, the Doctor's Syndicate receives around 250 complaints related to medical errors every year. After examination, an estimated 40 complaints turn out to be medical errors. The Syndicate then offers a solution, which the plaintiff either approves or rejects and decides to resort to the courts.

The number of deaths caused by medical errors around the world:
USA: between 60,000-90,000
France: 15,000
Britain: 40,000
Saudi Arabia: 1,200-1,500 (declared deaths)
Jordan: 80 (declared deaths)
Egypt: 50,000 (declared deaths)

NOTARIES' IMMUNITY

There are 226 notaries in Lebanon. They are selected by virtue of a competition held by the Ministry of Justice when need be, whether in the event of a vacancy or to create new positions. The notary is appointed by decree while his/her duties legally end once he/she reaches the age of 64.

Definition

Article 2 of the notaries' regulations and notary laws issued in 1994 defines a notary as "a public officer entrusted, within the limits of his/her competences, with the duties mentioned in this act and other laws as well as with acts required to be witnessed by the interested party. He/she is linked to the Ministry of Justice, does not receive any salary or compensation from the state and receives fees from the interested parties in accordance with the provisions of this act."

Immunity

The notary's immunity does not differ from the immunity of any other regular employee. However, it is described in a special legal provision. In practice, the law distinguishes between acts arising from the exercise of the notary's duties and those not resulting from them. Article 16 of the notaries' regulation provides for this immunity whereas articles 12, 13, and 14 mention financial and administrative inspection.

The criminal prosecution of a notary with regards to acts arising from the exercise of his/her duties is subject to an authorization from the Minister of Justice. He/she is prosecuted before the competent courts for each violation of the principles of the profession, especially for negligence in writing legal instruments or maintaining accounts. In such cases, he/she is liable to pay a fine ranging between LBP 100,000-500,000.

If a notary commits an intentional violation, he shall be punished by imprisonment from 2 months to 2 years and/or a fine ranging between LBP 500,000 to 2 million. This does not preclude the prosecution of the notary by the victim to seek compensation for the damage resulting from the fraud or mistake. Neither does it preclude disciplinary prosecution of the notary. As for the crimes that are not related to the profession, there is no need to obtain permission from the Minister of Justice and thus the notary is tried before ordinary courts.

Examples of prosecution

A notary is prosecuted before criminal courts. Here are some cases for which notaries were prosecuted:

- In the case of notary S.A, the seventh chamber of the Criminal Court of Cassation issued Decision No. 101 dated February 22, 2005, in which it held that notary S.A violated the principles that should be followed in the exercise of his duties when he agreed to sign the contract in front of him without waiting for the payment of the fees, and following which he sent the contract to be registered. Therefore, his act constituted an offense as stipulated in Article 16 of Law No. 337 dated June 8, 1994, concerning notary regulations.

- On November 16, 2006, the Criminal Court of Cassation sentenced a notary in Saida to 2 months imprisonment along with a fine of LBP 1 million. His sanction was reduced by virtue of article 254 of the Penal Code to 1 month imprisonment and a fine of LBP 1 million to be paid in cash. The same sentence was imposed for a second violation of article 19. The sentences were merged and the prison sentence was annulled by virtue of article 169 of the Penal Code. Thus, he only had to pay the fine of LBP 1 million. This was due to negligence in failing to obtain the permission of the competent authority when he performed duties outside his constituency knowing that the notary's jurisdiction is not absolute but is restricted to the scope of his constituency.

A notary is subject to administrative and financial inspection by one judge or more, or by the staff of the Ministry of Justice (Category 3) under the supervision of the Director General of the Ministry of Justice by virtue of a decision rendered by the Minister of Justice. The latter is entitled to request that the central inspection committee appoint financial inspectors to undertake a financial inspection of the notaries' departments.

All inspection reports are submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The Minister of Justice determines the applicable sanction: a warning, a blame, detention for a maximum of 6 months or referral to the employees' disciplinary board with a suspension not exceeding 6 months.

SYNDICATE OF RENTAL CAR AGENCIES IN LEBANON:

200 AGENCIES AND 15,000 CARS

Establishment

The Syndicate of Rental Car Agencies was established by Decree No. 1/10 dated January 22, 2001, of the Minister of Labor. Its head office is in Beirut. There are around 200 rental car agencies in Lebanon that have around 15,000 private legally registered cars.

Membership conditions

Agency owners have the right to become syndicate members so long as they fulfill the following requirements:

- Hold the Lebanese nationality
- Benefit from all their civil rights
- Are over 18 years old
- Have not been convicted of a felony or offense
- Have an investment license from the Ministry of Tourism or something that proves that he/she is investing in a rental car agency.

To obtain a license to open a rental car agency, a number of conditions must be satisfied:

- Application to the Ministry of Tourism signed by the applicant
- Summary of the project
- Economic and financial feasibility study
- Identification that proves that the applicant is Lebanese and over 21
- Judicial record of the applicant that proves he/she has not been convicted of a crime or felony
- Diploma in tourism or certificate of experience (not less than 5 years)
- Document with the name of the agency that the Ministry of Tourism will approve
- Document that proves that the agency is registered at the commercial court and shows its type, which is to exclusively deal with car renting.
- Pictures of the agency's location, which is to be of a minimum of 60m2 and on the ground floor. There should also be parking space for the cars, maximum 70m2 away from the agency.
- Rent contract if the owner is renting and ownership document if the owner owns the space.
- Cash guarantee of LBP 32 million from a known bank. This amount is doubled for foreign agencies.
- Document proving the ownership of at least 30 small cars of the current year model that are fully insured.
- A pledge witnessed by the notary that the owner of the agency will register 30 cars within one month from obtaining the license and employ at least 5 employees within 3 months from obtaining the license (and submitting judicial records of each employee).
- Photographs showing the interior decoration and the outside board.
- Stamps of LBP 1,000 and LBP 25,000

With regards to foreigners becoming Syndicate members, special laws apply, especially article 92 of the Labor Law, which states that foreigners may become members of the Syndicate if they meet certain conditions. The foreigner should have a work permit and a valid residency.

Structure

The Syndicate is composed of 2 bodies:

- **The General Assembly:** it includes all the agencies that are members of the Syndicate (currently 50). It is responsible for all matters related to the Syndicate including:
  - Election of the Board of Directors
  - Amendment of the internal system
  - Budgeting
  - Approving the budget's final account
  - Reporting the syndicate's expenditures
  - Reporting the dismissal of Board members

- **The Board of Directors:** it is elected by the General Assembly for 4 years with 8 members (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and 4 members). Half of them are dismissed by ballot after 2 years and their substitutes are elected. The rest stay until the end of the 4 years. The Board of Directors consists of Advisory Committees that help the Board in its functions.

Activities

Despite the fact that not all the agencies are registered, this has not stopped the Syndicate from accomplishing some activities. The most important activities of the Syndicate between 2005 and 2008 are:

1- Creating a website for the Syndicate that is informative about the sector.

2- Coordinating with the office of international thefts to follow up on stolen cars.
3- Working on facilitating the issues of rental car agencies at the airport to reduce the fees of parking facilities.
4- Coordinating with the Ministry of Tourism and the tourism police to track cars that are illegal and do not have licenses from the Ministry.
5- Working with the security forces and motor vehicles registration to monitor the license plates under trial and foreign plates when they are used in the renting sector.

Challenges

The Syndicate suffers from many challenges, which it has taken to the specialized authorities to solve. They are:

- Illegal agencies that do not have licenses from the Ministry of Tourism and are publicly practicing the profession without paying the fees and taxes and without meeting the standards imposed on them. They jeopardize the sector's professionals who pay considerable amounts of money to get the license and operate legally.

- Some people illegally get cars with white plate numbers (private cars) or temporary plate numbers and rent them out to the public. This is especially true of luxurious cars that are rented with a driver. Some car exhibitions rent out cars and leave a negative impact on the professionals in the sector, which results in losses.

- Some agencies that are licensed to function in certain regions in the Qada'a open branches in Beirut and its suburbs without obtaining prior permission to do so and therefore cause competition in the sector, which incurs high expenses and illegal competition.

- Specifying the duration of rent to 3 years and this is a short period of time. As a result, loans are more difficult to settle and interests increase.

- Strictness in giving out licenses and implementing the terms of reference in addition to reconsidering all the licenses given on special conditions. This is because some of the agencies still do not meet the legal requirements.

- Obliging licensed agencies to place a special sign board.

- Canceling the LBP 100,000 fee that the agencies have to pay when settling the mechanics yearly fees.

- Finding a solution for fines (speeding and parking meters tickets) given that the client does not pay them and the violation is registered on the license plate number. The agencies thus have to pay them. One solution is to quickly inform the agency of the violations in order to make the client pay them.

- In some cases, the official papers of the car are lost since they are at the client's disposal in the car. New papers have to be issued and this costs the agency a lot of money. The Syndicate proposes having another paper that can be kept with the client while the originals stay with the agency.

- Issuing a decree that would exempt cars that are subject to reduced customs from paying mechanics fees if the car is stolen or destroyed (the theft or destruction would have to be registered at a police station).

The car rental sector is promising in a country like Lebanon, where tourism is a main economic pillar. However, it is a sector that is not given much attention, especially in terms of the flexibility of the laws, although it creates employment opportunities.



Car Rental Agency
Photo by: Mohamed Mashlab

JESUS AND MARY SCHOOL

Objective

According to the school's administration, the Jesus and Mary School seeks to endow its students with an education that will enable them to play a constructive and responsible role in society. It brings them up with a moral and spiritual education inspired from the catholic Christian traditions in order to provide them with maturity, wisdom and a sense of responsibility in their relationships with others. The aim is for them to become committed Christians and active citizens working for the sake of justice, peace and love.

Establishment

The Jesus and Mary School was established in November 1965 with the collaboration of Archbishop Elias Farah and Jesus and Mary Sisters. The school was registered with the Lebanese Ministry of Education under No. 171 and its ownership was transferred from the Association of Jesus and Mary Sisters to the Maronite Archbishopric of Antelias on October 19, 2002, by virtue of Decree No. 8939.

The school is located on a small hill in Al Rabwa region, Cornet Shehwan. It only has one branch and includes six buildings that include the central administration and the five educational levels.

Structure

The Jesus and Mary School is an educational group where members, educators, students, employees, officers, parents and friends cooperate in order to create a high-quality educational atmosphere. In addition to the essential educational departments for each level, the school includes the following departments and sections:

- The Christian Center of Education: it develops the Christian education program and prepares spiritual activities.
- The Bureau of Spiritual Supervision: it helps students become acquainted with the reality of their faith and their churches' heritage.
- The Health and Prevention Department: it supervises the annual medical examination of students, the preparation of their health file and the comprehensive health awareness sessions.
- Orientation and Guidance Department: its follows up with the students in order to support them in their personal and social journey. It includes a group of specialists in psychology, sociology, speech and movement therapies.
- IT Department: it works to keep the school equipped with the most modern technology.

The school also contains several clubs:

- The Instructors' Club: it collaborates with the school's administration and the parents' club to serve the students, the school, the church and the nation.
- The Parent Club: it takes care of student affairs and watches over their interests in collaboration with the school administration.
- The Alumni Club: it brings the alumni and graduates together.
- Jesus and Mary Friends: it works with the school to implement developmental and social projects.

The curriculum and education

The Jesus and Mary School includes five educational levels from the pre-school level and kindergarten to the secondary level. Moreover, it follows the official Lebanese educational system and teaches three languages: Arabic, French and English. The school has established a twinning project with Notre Dame de Mongré in Lyon, France, on the academic, spiritual and cultural levels. Thus, students in the first secondary class travel at the beginning of the summer with teachers and officials to this institution where they attend classes. They end their trip with a pilgrimage to Lourdes to take care of patients and elderly people. It should be noted that the school teaches catechism in all its educational levels.

Administration, education and student body

The school includes around 180 employees distributed among the educational and administrative bodies. There are 1,500 students distributed among the different educational levels. Their numbers vary within the same class between 25 and 35.

Equipment

The Jesus and Mary School is interested in scientific, educational and sports' research and tests; therefore, it puts all the necessary equipment at the disposal of its students, among which:

- Scientific laboratories equipped with modern technical and scientific tools
- Computer centers
- Internet connection in all rooms
- Audio-visual centers
- Libraries
- A music center and studio where songs, anthems and plays are recorded.
- Sports center (auditorium) with a 1,000 seat capacity and 3 playgrounds for volleyball, basketball and tennis. All kinds of activities such as parties, festivals and fairs take place there.
- A theater that can accommodate 304 individuals.

Activities

Exploration trips: these trips are organized and prepared by the course coordinator and professor where students visit the facility on which they have collected theoretical information.

Christmas concert: the organization of the Christmas concert is considered a tradition bringing together students, parents and friends and in which around 1,000 students participate and sing in different languages. It is held for 2 consecutive evenings and attended daily by around 1,000 visitors.

Jesus and Mary fingerprints: every year, at the beginning of summer, the school organizes an educational festival within which students prepare extensive research presented in fairs, plays, music and dancing. All the school's students participate in this festival, which creates an artistic, educational and recreational atmosphere.

The environment club: it includes a group of students from different ages and classes who gather weekly with activists in the environmental field. They have a nursery where they plant seeds. They olso take care of the school's gardens, get acquainted with forests and contribute to their protection.

The theater club: it provides an overview concerning the principles of acting from around the world as well as acting exercises during and after the school and prepares a play performed at the end of each academic year.

Model United Nations: it is a reduced model of the United Nations in which a number of international schools participate. It trains students of first and second intermediate to peacefully solve important issues and problems. Through this program, students get acquainted with the international organization, its structure and role; they learn how to interact with other students from different Lebanese regions, gain communication and diplomacy skills and are granted excellence certificates.

Saint Claudine Day, the patron saint of the school: on this occasion, the school organizes a mass for the education and administrative staff, students and parents during which the teachers are honored.

Jesus and Mary publications:

- Scales of Justice: a story by student Roumi Ghanem in which she combines love and life, passion and persistence.
- Perpetual Sunshine: poems by student Rose-Marie Touq about Gebran, the Lebanese army, the nation and God.
- Citizenship, education and lifestyle: a group of articles in Arabic, French and English written by students of the secondary school on citizenship, religion, the environment, family and school issues.

2006 Youth Colloquium: on November 21, 2006, students from the Jesus and Mary School, Chouf National College, Ali Bin Abi Taleb School, Al Kawthar Academy for Girls and Zahrat Al Ehsan School gathered and wrote a pledge of six axes to say yes to stability and dialogue, the respect of humanity and living in a free and sovereign Lebanon. In 2007, these schools visited Lebanese spiritual figures and presented the Colloquium document to them. In 2008, the Evangelical School of Beirut joined this group and on the Day of the Flag, students organized a special meeting with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri in the Parliament's premises to present the Colloquium document.

Formation on life: a group of specialists and professionals participate in this program and seek to find communication spaces between students, their environment and their families. Thus, they achieve harmony between the education offered at the school, the students' private lives and future projects. This program includes workshops for all levels on health and healthy nutrition, the respect of the body, self-knowledge, openness to others, duties and civil rights, Lebanese culture, adolescence and change, meeting God through others, social and religious institutions, etc.

The social program: a social and human program supervised by a specialized working team in cooperation with non-governmental local institutions. The school played a leading role in the launch of this program in order to achieve the vision of Director Reverend Joseph Tannous. It helped the students get involved in social work to ease the pain of others. It should be mentioned that no student can graduate without accomplishing 35 hours of social work (for example visiting the elderly, orphanages and humanitarian institutions).



THE THERAPEUTIC TRIAL

Dr. Hanna Saadah

Scientific advances have made our medical world more complex and less affordable. Before the scientific explosion took medicine by surprise, a good clinician could diagnose and treat most disorders while limiting expense and still managing to eke out a decent living. Incentives were properly posited to save money because a clinician, who could get a patient well without overstretching the patient's budget, was in more demand. However, under the relentless scientific pressures of the past fifty years, incentives have been reversed, making medicine unaffordable for so many and rendering medical debts a common cause of bankruptcy.

In order to dilute the unaffordability of medical care and to allay the burdens of medical debt, insurance companies took the lead in becoming the major conductors of the health orchestras. Although initially successful, the rising cost of insurance has made the premiums less affordable for more consumers and has caused the frequently rejected claims to become a major burden to those who can still afford insurance. To maintain their robust solvency, insurance companies have developed an infinite number of stratagems designed to underpay for medicines, tests, and visits, leaving the patients saddled with large out-of-pocket expenses. As things currently stand, the unaffordability of care is taxing the uninsured and the insured alike and that pattern is causing a global medical crisis.

Since the right-to-health-care is an unalienable right and since our consciences would never countenance the undue suffering that those who cannot afford health care are subjected to, it is our humane duty to find a reasonably affordable solution for the current crisis. While experts are doing their best to temper this dilemma, medicine is facing a great shortage in primary care specialists, which is spiraling up the cost because patients are forced to seek multiple subspecialists for their multiple ailments. Subspecialists tend to be disease-and-procedure oriented and therefore tend to consume more of the health money than primary care specialist who tend to be holistic, frugal, preventive, and available, thus providing a medical home for their patients. A simple phone call to a primary care specialist may abort an emergency department visit or a subspecialist consultation. An apprehensive young woman who calls her primary care specialist for acute chest pain and asks for a referral to a hospital or a cardiologist is told, after a few pointed questions, that she has shingles and is treated promptly with little cost. Examples such as these abound in every primary care office, saving the patients unnecessary visits and costs.

One of the cost saving strategies little used these days is the Clinical Therapeutic Trial because it violates the current ethos of Investigate Before You Treat. Thus, a patient presents with backache and, upon examination, is suspected of having a leaking disc. One could immediately resort to an MRI, which costs several thousand dollars and is seldom useful, or else give a therapeutic trial with cortisone. If the patient recovers, which is the usual outcome, an expensive and unnecessary test will have been averted. Another patient presents with abdominal pain and is suspected of having diverticulitis. A therapeutic trial with an antibiotic leads to recovery and the patient is not referred to a gastroenterologist for colonoscopy. Examples of the cost effectiveness and potency of therapeutic trials are as infinite as the diseases and symptoms that provoke them. So, why has the therapeutic trial fallen out of favor?

Those who have the knowledge and confidence to use therapeutic trials as their modus operandi have to be well-rounded primary care specialists who, after years of experience, have become highly seasoned, master clinicians. Master clinicians are dying off and are not being replaced because we are producing more and more subspecialists, whose modus operandi is to Investigate Before You Treat and seldom resort to the therapeutic trial as a means of cutting cost and improving efficiency. Consequently, too much of our health money is wasted on fruitless tests that carry more potential harm than benefit. Things are being made even worse nowadays by hospitals who, by acquiring physicians, encourage spending and testing because it brings the hospitals more income. Moreover, the primary care specialist is often punished—for spending the time needed to design and execute a therapeutic trial—by poorly reimbursing his cost-effective time. It is short sighted to pay more for doing than for thinking.

This spiral of over-testing and over-doing will continue in its upward trend as long as the incentives are posited to encourage instead of discourage it. A change in direction can only occur if doctors who are capable of saving money while still upholding quality are encouraged, rewarded, and valued. For that awakening to occur, our current medical crisis may have to reach tsunami proportions. Even though the US is ranked 37th in quality of health care by the World Health Organization and even though we spend three times more per caput than any other industrialized nation, we have so far been unsuccessful in rearranging our incentives to reverse this deadly trend.



YOUR FACIAL MUSCLES, YOUR EMOTIONS AND THE EVOLUTIONARY GLUE THAT TIES THEM TOGETHER IS STRONGER THAN BOTOX.

Samar Zebian

It is fashionable, especially in the urban social sphere in Lebanon, to greet someone with exaggerated warmth and enthusiasm; kisses, lots of smiling, intonation and heightened facial and body expression are common. A good way turn people off is to offer an honest and undramatized greeting. These observations are from a person who finds these spontaneous theatrics laborious. I've long wondered, whether you could possibly feel better (even temporarily) or like someone more if you smile and greet them enthusiastically? The question could also be asked in a more Darwinian way, do uninhibited facial expressions intensify our emotions and do repressed expressions mask our emotions?

Let's break down the issue into parts. Scientists LOVE to break things down. Part 1: what happens to our brain when we observe another person smiling? Part 2 is the crux of the issue and it has to do with the nature of the relationship between one's emotions and facial expressions, or more precisely the position of one's facial muscles. If social smiling is a healthy cultural ritual, regardless of whether it is fake or not, than the muscular formation of a smile, in and of itself, should trigger newly formed positive emotions. Beginning with part 1 and after we recognize facial expressions, mimicry occurs and it involves the automatic and subtle tendency to adopt the facial expressions of the interlocutor. Mimicry can be invisible to the naked eye and therefore we observe mimicry using an Electromyography (EMG) which records electrical activity produced by skeletal muscles in the face. This is how we observe covert smiling. Significantly, mimicry helps us recognize others' emotions by mirco-simulating their expressions and this in turn facilitates greater understanding between interlocutors.

Moving on to the second part and the crux for understanding the degree to which facial expressions affect emotional processing, researchers have taken advantage of a naturally occurring experiment. Millions of men and women are voluntarily opting for Botox-the mildly poisonous and temporary fountain of youth. Botox is a chemical injection which temporarily paralyzes the muscles that cause wrinkles and frown lines. Capitalizing on this natural experiment, researchers compared Botox users to a randomly selected group of non-Botox users. Both groups were asked to read and comprehend happy, sad, and angry sentences. The Botox group took longer to read and understand the sad and angry sentences leaving the comprehension of happy emotions unaffected. Moreover and before treatment, the Botox group did not take longer to comprehend a different set of sad sentences.

Adding to this emerging story, Botox users were asked to mimic angry faces while their brains were being scanned under an fMRI (brain imaging device). The brain scans of Botox users showed significantly lower brain activity in emotion related brain circuits, namely the amygdala, hypothalamus and parts of the brain stem. Together these findings tell a coherent story. Botox users' limited ability to frown impaired their ability to comprehend written expressions of negative emotions and it depressed their mimicry ability which gets in the way of apprehending the negative emotions of others.

Thus far the evidence suggests that we do not experience and comprehend emotions fully unless we can express them facially (setting aside the complex issue of non-facial expressions of emotion). This might suggest that facial expression is necessary and sufficient for emotional processing. However this strong conclusion is problematic because individuals with congenital facial paralysis, those unable to convey facial expressions, retained the ability to detect, discriminate, and imagine emotions. As such facial feedback is only one means by which we comprehend and experience emotional expression.

Getting back to our contagious urban greeting rituals, it would seem that smiling is good for you even if you are not in the mood. It certainly facilitates communication. Anyways, you can't fully stop your brain from smiling back because of mimicry. However, there is at least one more complexity. Although faking a smile won't hurt you, the habitual suppression of emotions is not healthy- especially negative emotions such as disgust and anger. So, if we want to put all the pieces back together again, the evidence suggests that the next time you run into an acquaintance you can go with a real or fake smile- UNLESS you are angry or disgusted and in that case it might be better to look away and fake a cell phone call. Now you know more about the tight connections between the facial muscular system and emotions and also why non-Botox users carry cell phones and also why Botox users smile even when it might not be appropriate.

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WHAT A MIRACLE?

WHAT IF WE COULD WATCH A VIDEO OF THE CELL WHILE IT DIVIDES ITSELF AND REPRODUCES? WHAT WE SHALL SEE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING SPECTACLES.

Antoine Boutros

We shall see something like an urgent delivery taking place. As if an urgent message arrives and suddenly all activities in the cell stop as if a plant closed down and its workers left. Then gradually, a strange thing happens: the cell's nucleus begins to decay and two other nucleuses appear each having its independent nucleus.

Moreover, if we get the chance to watch a video on the activity of a cell during this same period but filmed in spaced snapshots, with an amplifying measure (a million times or more) and with a timing equal to one second in the video for each minute of the cell's life, this film would provide an inflated visual of the normal frequency of the event recorded at an accelerated pace. We will then see liquid boiling and full of turbulent bubbles with rectangular objects that looks like peanuts running rapidly as if they were racing cars out of the driver's control and generate energy.

Then suddenly the nucleus which was lying in an overall serenity curdles into a group of small threads, and then every thread is longitudinally divided into two parts, every one of which is attracted as if by a magical force to one of the two new cells. What is seen is in fact the process of copying the information contained within the cell and its transfer into a new edition of the new cell that was just formed.
Each cell carries the details of the individual's life and capable of copying its information as it proliferates thus a complete genetic program is transferred from the individual to his/her descendants, preserving therefore the continuity one generation after another.

A cell is best compared with an industrial complex in permanent movement consisting of numerous elements responsible for providing communication, producing energy and construction works.
The nucleus consists of three parts;, first an external protective membrane, second, a center filled with material called cytoplasm which is responsible for providing the cell with the energy and protein necessary for its work . The racing objects we saw through a microscope are located in this part of the cell and called mitochondria; they are in fact the energy plants. Protein production is related to elements called ribosome also located this part of the cell. Third, the cell consists of a circular nucleus.

The nucleus itself which plays the role of the cell's brain, consists of three layers: first, a porous membrane providing communication between them and the surrounding cytoplasm; second, a material called chromatin, meaning the color or the dye. Scientists gave it this name when they noticed that every time they were adding dye to the microscope glass slides to increase the visibility, this material absorbed this color. Third, there is one nucleolus or more.

When the cell is divided, it forms threads called chromosomes and whenever the cell is divided, a new group of chromosomes is formed without increasing in numbers. Thus, the chromosomes are divided longitudinally and not horizontally (mitosis). However, if we replace a normal cell with a reproductive one, we notice another confusing fact. When the cell is being fertilized and about to be divided and split, the chromatin begins to curdle and the chromosomes to be formed as if the division process is going to take place. At this moment, a strange thing happens. The cells are effectively divided but the chromosomes remain undivided. Instead, each chromosome looks for a partner among the other chromosomes and is divided. In this way, the cell division into two parts is completed and a fixed number of chromosomes remain the same in the new cell despite their unity; thus every cell has its own and complete number of chromosomes (meiosis), thus preserving the laws of nature that the number of chromosomes per cell to remain stable. As a result of this kind of division, every newborn gets one set of the chromosomes from his/her father and another one from his mother. He/she will then pass half of these chromosomes to his/her descendants.

THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS

SANDRA DAGHER

Located off Corniche El Nahr Building, the Beirut Art Center niches in a previous warehouse, redesigned to host various contemporary art exhibitions in a large and airy space, consequently taking art exhibitions to a new level. The Monthly interviews Sandra Dagher, co-founder, for inquiries about the center.

Why did you choose an industrial area to open your gallery? What is the concept behind your center?

We are not strictly a gallery. The project was initiated in 2004 and aimed to create a non-profit, non-commercial space for art exhibition. At that time, I had a gallery of my own and I met with artist Lamia Joreij and we discussed the need to have a space for today's artists, local and international, to display their work because many galleries today are constrained by commercial issues. We witnessed a lot of creativity amongst Lebanese artists and we thought that it is important to maintain such creative initiatives and provide them with a platform to be shared.

Following this trail of thought and extensive research, the Beirut Art Center was opened in January 2009 in Jisr El Wati, which we selected because it is an industrial zone equipped with buildings with big spaces. We were looking for an exceptionally large space for our center to give it a 'museum' feel and a unique architectural interior. With this structure of 2 floors shaped by high ceilings, irregular divisions and numerous rooms, we consider the center to be a unique experience that may hold several exhibitions simultaneously while still having enough space to host activities. We also have a coffee shop on the second floor for visitors.

We hold about 2 exhibitions per year and we host 2 other exhibitions per year for other institutions that do not have enough space. Our artists are from Lebanon and around the world. Not only do we provide a space for exhibition, we also organize events and activities.

What sort of activities?

We organize parallel events to the exhibitions we hold, such as: screenings, which include programs organized around specific themes; talks and round table discussions, which include discussions and ideas shared by artists, critics, historians etc.; concerts and performances by alternative artists underrepresented in traditional theaters and concert halls.



Beirut Art Center

We will participate in "the Meeting Points", a biennial event organized by the Young Arab Theater Fund, where a selection of artworks produced by Arab and International Artists are exhibited.

We are also interested in Art education and organize several activities in this regard.

Are there specific criteria of the Art that you choose to exhibit?

We do not have any restraints concerning the genre, quite the contrary, we are seeking richness and variety. However, we prioritize 'new media' used in arts, such as videos and installations, because they are not widely exhibited around galleries in Beirut due to the lack of space and necessary equipment. We think that it is

important to provide these artists with a space to display their work and for the public to access and experience this new direction in Art.

What are the main topics that Lebanese artists tackle?

There are a wide range of personal and social topics. It is difficult to pinpoint them. But we see a lot of topics that re-emerge in direct and indirect ways, such as the war, memory, identity, history, etc. through various media such as painting, photography, installations, etc.

Can you tell us more about the educational side of your project?

We took an interest in the educational/documentation area of the Arts so we organized an outreach program in collaboration with schools and universities that exposes youth to the Arts through guided tours to increase their knowledge of contemporary art and cultural practice.
We also organize workshops throughout the year on various contemporary subjects and their interpretation through different disciplines such as photography, video, multimedia, art history and art theory in particular. These workshops may be thematic or relevant to exhibitions currently in our center. Sometimes the artists give the workshops themselves.

We have a bookshop that offers a collection of Art and literature books and there is also the mediathèque project, which has a documentation and archiving function. It is a station equipped with a comfortable seat and a computer with a search engine that includes our database, which we are constantly updating to include more artists, art and events. You can also make use of the headset to watch videos. This mediathèque is the first of its kind in Lebanon and we are developing this project for it to become a reliable research tool for students and researchers.

Being a non-profit center delving into new grounds, do you find difficulties in your projects? What are the steps you are taking to grow?

Of course, there are plenty of challenges, primarily concerning funds. We have donors and contributors but due to our meager income, we constantly find challenges when we are starting projects.
Another challenging aspect of this center is the difficulty of promoting the Arts amongst the public. Although we do have a good and growing number of people who follow our events and exhibitions, visiting a gallery is not yet an activity your average Lebanese citizen would do on a weekend. Arts are perceived as restricted to a certain group of people. Coming to our center is a new and educational experience and we are striving to popularize exhibitions and Art.

Beirut Art Center has created a digital multimedia library, a unique resource on contemporary art production in the region, which is open and accessible to all. It contains images, videos, sound pieces, and texts by artists, writers and theorists. It also includes video and sound archives of the parallel events at Beirut Art Center. This material is collected and listed in an electronic database that is available for consultation through two computer stations located in the upstairs area of the center.



ORTHODOX PATRIARCHS (34-2011)

171 PATRIARCHS FROM BOUTROS AL RASOOL TO IGNATIUS HAZEEM

Since the foundation of the Orthodox confession in 34 AC, there have been 171 patriarchs. The first patriarch and founder of the confession was St Boutros (Peter). Some of these patriarchs left their traces in the life of their Church and community while others didn't leave anything behind and history merely remembers their names and the date of their appointment.

Patriarchs

The Orthodox confession is affiliated with the Church of Antioch. which was founded by Boutros Al Rasool in 34 AC. Table 1 lists the patriarchs of the Orthodox confession.

Patriarch	Mandate
Boutros Al Rasool	
Avodios	
Ignatius Theophorus	Most probably died between 106 and 108
Heron	
Cornelius	
Erotos	142-
Theophilus	Died in 181
Maximinus	Died March 190 or 191
Seraphion	191-212
Askalibithus	212-218
Philippos	218-231
Zibnos	231-238
Papilas	238-250
Vavinos	250-252
Dimitrianus	252-260
Boulos Al Samisati	260-268
Dominos	268-271
Timoteos	271-279
Cyril	279-303
Tiranus	304-314
Phitalius	314-319
Philogonus	319-324
Iphsatasius	325-330
Paphlinos	330-331
Aphlalios	Short term
Aphronius	332-333
Phlacilus	333-344
Estephanos	342-344
Leonidas	344-358
Aphloxius	358-359
Ananius	359
Milatius	360-361
Aphoius	361-376
Milatius	378-381
Philaphianus	381-404

Patriarch	Mandate
Porphirus	404-414
Alexandros	414-424
Theodotos	424-428
Youhanna	428-441
Dominos the Second	441-449
Maximus	451-455 (dismissed)
Basilios	457-458
Akakius	458-459
Martirius	458-471
Boutros Al Qassar	464-465
Youlianos	471
Youhanna the Second	477
Estephanos the Second (also named the Third)	477-481
Calanthion	481-485
Balathios	490-498
Flavius the Second, dismissed and exiled to Petra	418-512
Soueros Al Antaki (fled to Egypt)	512-518
Boulos the Second (forced to retreat)	519-521
Aphrasius	521-526, died during an earthquake
Aphram	527-545
Lathominus	545-559
Anastasius Al Sinayiti, fled to Constantinople	559-570
Gregorius	570-593
Anastasios the Second	593-598
Anastasios the Second	559-660. died at the hands of the Jews
Gregorius the Second	610-620
Anastasios the Third	620-628
Makdonius	628-631

Patriarch	Mandate
Athnasius Al Jamal Al Yacoubi	
Makdonius	632-640
Georgius the First	640-655
Makarios	656-681
Theophanes the First	681-687
Sebastian or Estphanos the Third	687-690
Georgius the Second	690-695
Alexandros the Second	695-702?
Estephanos the Forth	742-748
Theophilactus	748??
Theodoros the First	767-787
Youhanna the Forth	798-811
Ayyoub the First	811-826
Nicolas the First	826-834
Semaan the First	834-840
Elias the First	840-852
Theodosius the First	852-860
Nicolas the Second	860-871
Estephanos	781
Nicolas the Third	871-879
Mikhael the First	879-890
Zakharia	890
Georgius the Third	902-917
Ayyoub the Second	917-939
Ephstratius	939-960
Christophorius the First	960-966
Theodoros the Second	966-977
Agapius the First	977-995
Youhanna the Fifth	995-1000
Nicolas the Third	1000-1003
Elias the Second	1003-1010
Georgius the Forth	1010-1015
Makarios the First Al Fadel	1015-1023

Patriarch	Mandate
Alphithirius Al Taqi	1023-1028
Theodoros the Third (Jerjes)	1034-1042
Basilios the Second	
Boutros the Third	?-1056
Youhanna the Sixth	1057-1062
Amilianos	1062-1075
Theodosius the Second	1075-1084
Nikiphorus the First	1084-1088
Youhanna the Seventh	1088-1106
Youhanna the Eighth	1106-1137
Lucas the First	1137-1155
Youhanna the Nineth	1155-1159
Aphtimius the First	1159-1164
Makarios the Second	1164-1166
Athnasios the First or the Second	1166-1180
Theodosios the Third	1180-1182
Elias the Third	1182-1184
Christophorus the Second	1184-1185
Theodorus the Forth (Balsamoun)	1185-1199. He decided on Constantinople as his seat after the Romans took control of Antioch. He was famous for his knowledge and grace, and allowed the use of the Syriac language in all churches.
Youakim the First	1199-1219
Dorotheros the First	1219-1245
Semaan the Second	1245-1260
Aphtimius the Second	1260-1268
Theodosius the Forth	1268-1276
Theodosius the Fifth	1276-1285, he supported the union between the Greek and Latin Churches in Lyon.
Arsanius the First	1285-1293, he was close to the Armenians and was considered an outsider to the Church.
Theonisius the First	1293-1308
Morqoss the First	1308-1342
Ignatius the Second	1342-1353
Mikhael the Second	1353-1386
Bakhomius the First	1386-1393
Nilos the First	1393-1401
Mikhael the Third	1401-1410
Bakhomius the Second	1410-1411
Youakim the Second	1411-1426
Morqoss the Second	1426-1436
Thorothius the Second (Ibn Al Sabouni)	1436-1454
Mikhael the Forth	1454-1462
Morqoss the Third	1462-1476
Youakim the Third	1476-1483
Gregorius the Third	1483-1497
Thorothius the Third	1497-1511
Dorothius the Third	1511-1523
Mikhael the Fifth	1523-1541
Dorthius the Forth	1541-1543
Youakim the Forth	1543-1576
Mikhael the Sixth	1577-1581
Youakim the Fifth	1581-1592
Youakim the Sixth	1593-1604
Dorothius the Fifth	1604-1611
Athnasius the Third	1611-1619
Ignatius the Third	1619-1634
Aphtimius the Third	1635-1636
Aphtimius the Forth	1636-1648
Makarios the Third	1648-1672
Neophitus the First	1674-1684
Athnasius the Forth	1686-1694
Cyril the Third	1694-1720
Athnasius the Forth	1720-1724
Sylvester the First	1724-1766, during his mandate the Church was divided between Catholic Melchites, led by Patriarch Cyril Tanus, and Orthodox, led by him.
Philimon the First	1766-1768
Daniel the First	1767-1791
Aphtimius the First	1792-1813
Seraphim the First	1813-1823
Methodius the First	1823-1859
Erothius the First	1859-1885
Jerasemus the First	1885-1891
Aspiridion the First	1892-1898
Melatius the Second Al Doumani	1899-1906, he was the first Arab patriarch since all the previous ones were Greek. The school of Balamand was established during his mandate.
Gregorius the Forth Hawad	1906-1928, he was known as the Patriarch of the East, the Father of Christians and the Imam of Muslims.
-	-
Alexander the Third Tahhan	1930-1958
Theodosius Abou Rjeily	1958-1970
Elias the Forth Moawad	1970-1979, he is the sixth Arab patriarch and was one of the most prominent patriarchs, characterized by his work, openness and especially his attendance of the Islamic Summit in Lahore (Pakistan) in 1974.
Ignatius the Forth Hazeem	1979-present. He is the current patriarch. He was born in 1920 and has accomplished a lot, namely the development of the University of Balamand making it one of the finest Lebanese universities.

Source: Church of Antioch, Dr Assad Rostom, Al Maktaba Al Bolissiyyah 1988.

CLERICS OF THE ORTHODOX CONFESSION

The Orthodox confession is the second largest Christian confession in Lebanon in terms of numbers, following the Maronite confession (330,000 individuals representing 6.78% of the registered population). It is present in most Lebanese regions and especially in the following (by size): A'akkar-Beirut-Koura-Zahel-A'aley-Trablous-Baabda-Batroun-Marjayoun. In Syria, they are located in Tartous, Latikiyyah, Hama, Halab and the Patriarch lives in Damascus. There are also some Orthodox immigrants in Europe and America.

Clerics of the Orthodox confession follow a different path to that of Catholic and Maronite clerics. There are no Orders and the Bishop has absolute authority within his archbishopric.

Path of Clergymen

There are different paths: clerics in monasteries and clerics in archbishoprics in addition to that of Bishops at the head of archbishoprics.

Clerics in monasteries

In Lebanon, there are 14 Orthodox monasteries, each under the authority of a Bishop depending on their geographical location in the archbishopric. Anyone wishing to become a cleric may become part of the monastery provided he has completed 18 years of age and received the approval of the head of the monastery and the Bishop. During his presence in the monastery, he follows a religious education and he cannot enter the Theology Institute except in rare circumstances. He is to perform prayers and special works in the monastery, in contrast to monks in the Catholic confession. In addition, he rarely leaves the monastery (to teach...) and a student in the monastery must, similarly to those of the Catholics confession, make the three vows of poverty, chastity (he does not marry) and obedience. He lives in the monastery and receives some money from the monastery to pay for his needs. There are currently an estimated 100 monks, ranging from deacons to priests according to the approval of the head of the monastery and the bishop of the archbishopric to which they belong. Among those monks, some might be elected to the Holy Synod (which encompasses the Patriarch and bishops of the archbishoprics in Lebanon, Syria and in immigration amounting to 18 bishops) provided he has obtained a Theology degree. In addition, the Holy Synod may choose a priest from an archbishopric to become a bishop provided he is unmarried and has a Theology degree. A bishop, unlike in the Catholic confession, does not retire at the age of 75 but remains a bishop for as long as he lives.

Clerics in archbishoprics

There are 18 Orthodox archbishoprics: 6 in Lebanon (Beirut-Mount Lebanon-Saida, Sour and Marjayoun-Trablous and Koura-A'akkar and its surroundings-Zahle), 6 in Syria, which is also where Patriarch resides, 4 in America and 1 in each of Western Europe, Iraq and Kuwait.

A bishop heads each archbishopric with absolute authority. Any young male from the Orthodox confession wishing to become a cleric must have completed 20 years of age, secondary education and inform a priest of his wish to become a cleric. The former then informs the bishop, or the student may himself approach the bishop, who considers the matter after obtaining some information and following up on the applicant. He then approves or refuses the request. In the case of approval, the applicant must enroll at the Institute of St Youhanna (John) Al Dimashqi, which is one of the departments at the University of Balamand in Northern Lebanon, where he studies for 4 years following which he obtains a Licence (Bachelor of Arts) in Theology. During his studies, the student resides in the Institute and the bishop who approved his application is financially in charge of him (residence, education, personal spending). There are currently 60 students at the Institute, 40 of which are at the undergraduate level and 20 at the postgraduates (Masters) level (some of the latter are deacons and priests).

Education

At the St Youhanna Al Dimashqi Institute, students study the following topics over their 4 year stay:

- The Bible
- Beliefs and religions
- English
- Philosophy
- Theology
- History of the Church, especially that of the Orthodox Church
- Church Heritage
- Teachings of the Fathers
- Liturgy, meaning the means of performing religious ceremonies
- The study of the concepts and beliefs of the Islamic confessions and Islamic history

The student may continue his education in order to obtain a higher degree (Masters or PhD). There are students who decide to continue their educaiton in institutes and universities in Greece.

Clergymen

After completing his education, a student may retreat form the religious path provided he obtains the permission of the bishop to do so. It is up to the bishop who sent the student to the Institute to decide whether the student is fit to continue in the priesthood path based on his evaluation of the student's ability to perform ecclesiastical work. The bishop also decides when the student becomes a deacon, which is the first stage in the priest's path, but this normally happens 3-4 years after the student's graduation. It is also up to the bishop to raise him to the priest level. This usually occurs 7-10 years after becoming a deacon and some remain at this level for the rest of their lives. To reach the position of bishop, one must be elected as such by the Holy Synod. Deacons and priests work based on the bishop's assignment or at the service of Orthodox churches belonging to archbishoprics. There may be more than one cleric in a parish as this depends on the size of the parish and the bishop's evaluation. For example, there are 11 parishes and 25 clerics in the archbishopric of Beirut. Clerics who work with the bishop or in a parish may marry provided the marruage occurs prior to him becoming a deacon. It is estimated that 80% of parish priests are married while 20% are single.

In limited circumstances, the bishop may appoint someone as deacon without his prior obtaining of a Theology degree, depending on that person's skills and potential.

Income of clerics

As previously mentioned, clerics living in monasteries live at the latter's expense. Whereas clergymen who serve a bishopric or a parish obtain what they need from the parish. In most cases, they are married and have families and sometimes, the parish secures a residence for the cleric. The parish's income stems from various sources:

- Parish properties (lands, buildings and other)
- Contributions from wealthy individuals (namely children of priests)
- Contributions to the church from marriages and funeral ceremonies
- Assistance offered by the bishop of the archbishopric to some poor parishes that do not have enough income to sustain its priests

Clerics are allowed to work provided this "does not contradict his Christian principles." Usually, clergymen resort to teaching and writing.

The St Youhanna Al Dimashqi Theology Institute

The Institute was founded in 1832 and went through a period of closing and opening until it officially opened in 1971. It is currently (since 1988) a department of the University of Balamand that receives students wishing to become clerics in the Orthodox Church be it in Lebanon, Syria or other countries where the Orthodox confession is present. The Institutes provides several courses and grants degrees in the following specializations:

- Bachelors in Theology, which includes 4 specializations: the Bible-Education-Parishes-Liturgy and Church Music. The education period is 4 years.
- Bachelors in Religious Studies: education includes the Bible-History of the Church-Theoretical Theology-Orthodox Liturgy-Parish Theology-Modern and Medieval Languages-Philosophy and Social Sciences. The education period is 3 years.
- Master in Theology, which includes 2 specializations: Parish Theology-Study of the New Testament. The education period is 3 years.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

SOS Children's Villages are not ordinary care centers; they are a program that tries to assist children deprived of or are at the risk of losing parental care and helps them reach a stable and productive life. What are the factors that found these villages? The Monthly meets with Mrs. Viviane Zeidan and Mrs. Lina Sarkis to inquire about the inner workings of SOS and its goals.

Establishment

The first SOS Children's Village was founded in Imst, Austria, in 1949, in the aftermath of the Second World War. Hermann Gmeiner was devastated by the large number of orphaned and abandoned children. He believed they urgently needed love, security and a home. The idea to import the SOS villages to Lebanon was conceived in 1964 when a group of concerned activists started planning for the project with the assistance of Helga Zundel. The first SOS Children's Village was founded in 1969 in Bhersaf-North Lebanon, and it was followed by other villages in Sefrai-South Lebanon in 1981, Kfarhay-North Lebanon in 1995 and Ksarnaba-Beqaa in 2006. Today, under the leadership of Mr. Helmut Kutin, there are 500 SOS Children's Villages spread out in 133 countries.

Structure and Division

Each village includes 8 to 10 houses, where 7 to 8 children are cared for by one Mother. Each Mother first undergoes an internship for 3 months in the SOS villages, followed by several training workshops. Throughout the training, she is known as an Aunt. The Aunts help the Mothers and replace them when the latter go on holiday. After completing all the training required, the Aunt becomes a full-time Mother. The job is complex and requires a certain kind of exclusiveness and dedication. A Mother cannot just decide to quit her job. The children at SOS have gone through a phase of loss and cannot be subjected to further disruption because the whole purpose is to establish a stable caring home for them. This is why the selection criteria are rigorous. Candidates are mostly ladies who do not have any sort of commitment in their regular lives, be it in the form of a family or a husband. SOS becomes a major part of the Mother's life.

It is important to note also that each village is headed by a director who moves into the village with his family. His importance is to play the Father role and to present the example of a Lebanese family.

Admission and Life

Children remain in SOS's care until they become adults. The ages of the children who live in the villages vary between 0 and 14. Afterwards, they move to Youth Houses as they continue their secondary education. SOS sees that they receive the best education. They receive support throughout their academic years (college and graduation) and are assisted to find a job. SOS retreats when they are confident their protégés are standing on their own and ready to start their life. Even after they are no longer responsible for them, they remain in touch.

Concerning admission, SOS has limited vacancies on their premises so they have to accept children on a priority basis. The top priority is for children who have lost both parents, those who have lost a mother follow. Since priorities also include maintaining the family and its independence, SOS has conceived many types of interventions to assist families who can potentially take care of themselves without admitting their children into the villages, through the Family Strengthening Program.

"The houses and family life are very similar to any other home. This is why children find it easy to connect with their school friends and then find it easy to integrate themselves into society at a later stage."

Social Integration

SOS facilities are open to society and its activities. Schools in the area are selected for the children to attend. SOS children participate in school events, friends' birthday parties and their friends can come visit them. The houses and family life are very similar to any other home. This is why children find it easy to connect with their school friends and then find it easy to integrate themselves into society at a later stage.

Relationship with the biological family

Sometimes SOS receives 4 or 5 brothers and sisters. They make sure they live under the same roof so they don't feel separated. If the child has a living parent, SOS facilitates the maintenance of their relationship. Concerning the extended family, the children are to visit them on a regular basis.

Psychological and special needs care

Many specialists monitor the children's schooling in addition to psychologists and other professionals who ensure the best upbringing possible. Care for children with special needs is only provided in two cases: if the child joined the community at an early childhood stage and the symptoms appeared later, and if the child has brothers and sisters who are to be admitted. Children with special needs require specialized centers and personnel.

Extracurricular Activities

Taekwondo trainers, music instructors and art teachers provide classes for children who are interested. SOS also has a choir that includes about 20 children from each village. This choir has a yearly "official" presentation.

Restoring Families

Family re-habilitation steps are based on nurturing the parents' abilities to support themselves. The main reason that pushes parents to place their children under the custody of SOS is that they feel they are incapable of providing food, shelter, education and health care. These cases manifest themselves in different forms. The situation most recurrent is the death of the father, which renders the mother incapable of providing for her children. SOS attempts to assist the family by re-habilitating their home if needed, sending the children to school and assisting the mother in learning a profession so she can provide for her children. The goal is to guide these families towards independence and social integration.

Professions for Mothers

Some workshops, such as hair styling, sewing and other handcraft skills, are provided by companies and individuals who support SOS. The mother's capacity and the area of residence are considered. One mother, for example, needed a cow to start a small dairy project so SOS helped her purchase a cow. Other mothers lean towards working on a piece of land they own and selling the crops while some start up "Saj" kiosks. With regards to sewing classes, SOS has custom made folklore dolls based on a design donated exclusively for SOS Lebanon by fashion designer "Papou Lahoud". These dolls are hand made by SOS's own handicraft atelier and sold in several Artisanat shops in Lebanon.

Post-War Family Strengthening Program (PWFSP)

This program was established following the 2006 July war after several families were affected by destruction and death. The war didn't only leave orphans behind, it also deprived people of their shelter, their job and left some in a state of shock and horror. SOS's intervention helped war victims find a job, repair their homes when possible and deal with their trauma.

"SOS attempts to assist the family by re-habilitating their home if needed, sending the children to school and assisting the mother in learning a profession so she can provide for her children. The goal is to guide these families towards independence and social integration."

POPULAR CULTURE

Our holiday is better!

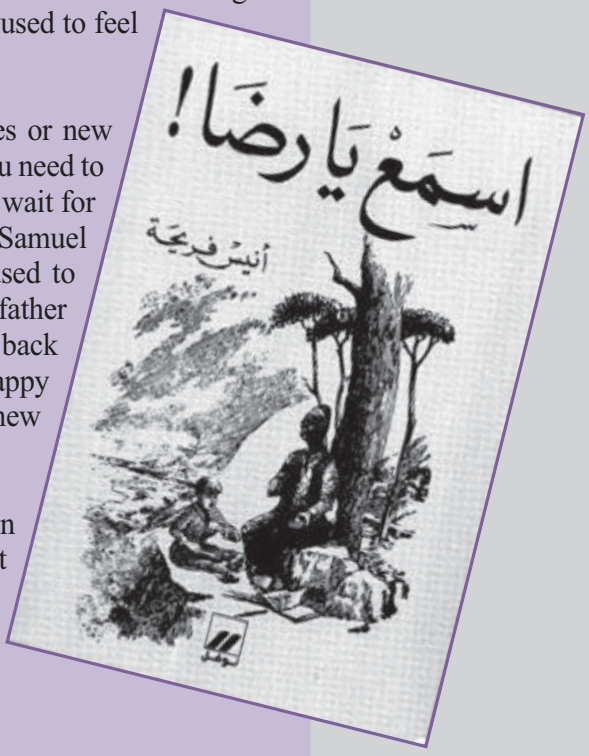
Listen O Rida!

You ask me if Christmas was better in our days and I can tell you it was! Not only Christmas but all our holidays were nicer.

The youth of today do not know anything about holidays because for you everyday is a holiday… You do not know holidays because you have not experienced deprivation… Before we came back form the mountains we celebrated the Elevation of the Cross. In the morning you went to Amer's shop and saw the fireworks he makes… You forgot about the holiday until you saw the fireworks at night and then you joined in the celebration…

We used to wait for the day of Elevation of the Cross for 364 days because it is a beautiful holiday with a beautiful meaning. Yesterday night was Christmas Eve and you did not even wait for it. We used to wait for Christmas Eve for 364 days. Yesterday was Christmas Eve and how did you feel O Rida?

…Do you think your Christmas is better? No! Our Christmas was a holiday of joy and happiness because we waited for it, and Christmas is all about watching and waiting! When we used to sit at the table and my mother would bring out the food: a rib, a turkey or a stuffed chicken, we really used to feel it was a holiday!



You do not know the joy it brings to have new clothes or new shoes. You go shopping with your mother every time you need to buy clothes, any day of the week… We used to have to wait for Christmas to get new clothes. During the holiday week, Samuel Hashem, the owner of famous stores in Bab Idriss, used to come with a basket of shoes that my father ordered. My father used to go to Beirut once a year and he would come back with new brightly colored clothes. We used to be so happy just before Christmas because it was the holiday of new clothes and new shoes.

I let Rida fall asleep and my thoughts went wandering on the memories of holidays, old holidays we used to wait for 364 days of the year.

Sources translated from: Anis Freiha, Isma'a ya Rida - First Edition 2006, Dar Nawfal, Beirut

MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER VS. SCHIZOPHRENIA

MYTH: People with Multiple Personalities Are Schizophrenics

A widespread misconception is that schizophrenia and multiple personality disorder (also referred to as Dissociative Identity Disorder) are the same.

FACT: People with Multiple Personality Disorder ARE NOT Schizophrenics

In reality, Schizophrenia and Multiple Personality Disorder are two different mental disorders. Both are part of two different families of psychological disorders.

Multiple Personality Disorder is a form of dissociative disorder involving the breakdown of normal personality integration. This breakdown leads to significant alterations in memory or identity (DSM IV-TR, American Psychiatric Association, 2000). A person is diagnosed with Multiple Personality Disorder when he/she has two or more separate but coexisting personalities.

A person with multiple personality disorder has a primary personality, the host personality, which appears more often than the other personalities and may or may not be aware of the presence of the other personalities. The different personalities may differ in age, gender, behaviors and even physiology. They may experience changes in right- and left-handedness, voice pitch, allergic reactions, physical heath, menstrual periods, and farsightedness versus nearsightedness (Passer & Smith, 2010).

Schizophrenia is the most peculiar and perplexing disorder (Passer & Smith, 2010). It incorporates severe disturbances in thinking, speech, perception, emotion, and behavior (DSM IV-TR, American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Schizophrenia is a member of the family of psychotic disorders, involving some loss with reality, bizarre behaviors and experiences; patients with schizophrenia misinterpret reality and exhibit disordered attention, thoughts and perception. The patients withdraw from social life, communicate in strange or improper patterns, neglect grooming and behave in a disorganized fashion (APA, 2000).

Schizophrenic patients experience delusions; false beliefs that are persistent even when faced with evidence that normally would be adequate to annihilate these beliefs. They also experience hallucinations; false perceptions that have a persuasive sense of reality. These hallucinations can be auditory, visual or tactile.

This myth most likely is the result of confusion in terminology. In the early 20th century, Swiss psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler coined the term “schizophrenia” to refer to “split mind”. By Schizophrenia he referred to people suffering from a “splitting” within and between their psychological functions, especially emotion and thinking. Many writers soon misinterpreted his definition; the split in psychological functioning was misinterpreted as split in identity or personality.

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American Psychiatric Association (2000). The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, text revision (DSM IV-TR). Washington, DC: Author.
Passer, W.M., & Smith, E.R. (2010). The bran and behavior Psychology: In the Science of Mind and Behavior (5th edition). New York McGraw-Hill International Edition.

THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OR "THE SECOND BUREAU"

A RULER IN THE BACKGROUND (1945-1982)



"A reference that constitutes an important document on an essential part of Lebanon's history."
This is how journalist Nicolas Nassif's book, "The Second Bureau, a ruler in the background", can be described. It focuses on the role played by the military intelligence, better known as "the Second Bureau", in Lebanon's political life. The book comprises 702 pages divided in 5 chapters.

Chapter 1: In this part, the author discusses the establishment of the military intelligence in 1945 during Fouad Chehab's mandate as Army Commander. The latter appointed Captain Emile Bustani as head of the Bureau who remained in this post until 1949. He was succeeded by First Lieutenant Elias Al Haswani who held the position until 1952. During this period, the first features of the security and political role of the Second Branch or Second Bureau were put in place. First Lieutenant Moussa Kanaan then took over the presidency of the Bureau, followed by Antoine A'arqati.

Chapter 2: This chapter was dedicated to the most important phase in the work of the Second Bureau during the mandate of Captain Antoine Saad, which lasted about 12 years (1952-1964) and witnessed a number of important events such as the accession of the Army Commander Fouad Chehab to the Presidency of the Republic, the intrusion into the parliamentary elections and the SSNP's attempted military coup at the end of 1960, in addition to events in the region. Saad died in 1977 at the age of 67, and as the author writes: "Antoine Saad was feared in Lebanon's political life as of the second half of Fouad Chehab's mandate, although his influence was not minimal during the first half of the mandate."

Chapter 3: This part discusses the role of the Second Bureau during Gaby Lahhoud's mandate. He was Antoine Saad's assistant and succeeded him on September 1, 1964, and remained until November 23, 1970. This was also a golden age in the work of the Bureau during which Lebanon witnessed a number of events during the presidency of Charles Helou, Fouad Chehab's successor, constituting a continuity of the previous period. Following the accession of Suleiman Franjieh to the presidency in 1970, Gaby Lahhoud left the Army at the age of 39 and traveled to Spain where he started a business career. According to the author, following the election of Elias Sarkis, a Chehabist, as President of the Republic in 1976, Lahhoud came back to Lebanon and became his consultant. In 1982, President Amine Gemayyel complied with Lahhoud's request to return to the post of Army Commander but this was opposed by the Lebanese Front. Thus, he returned to Spain where he remains to this day (he is currently 80 years old).

Chapter 4: The author dedicated this part to the Second Bureau's work during Major Joul Bustani's mandate (January 21, 1971, until April 29, 1977) during President Suleiman Franjieh's presidency, which is described as the Bureau's elimination and downsizing era. The author writes about the details of the pursuit of the Bureau's officers, their exile and the trials they were subjected to. This era was important in that it witnessed an increase in Palestinian military influence in Lebanon and the breakout of the civil war in 1975.

Chapter 5: This part discusses the Bureau's work during the mandate of its last strong leader, Major Jony Abdo, whose mandate lasted from April 29, 1977, until December 14, 1982, during the whole duration of Elias Sarkis's presidency. This chapter also encapsulates Jony Abdo's stories on the important events that Lebanon witnessed throughout this period, namely the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982 and the election and assassination of President Bashir Gemayyel, in addition to the relationship with Syria and Palestinian factions.

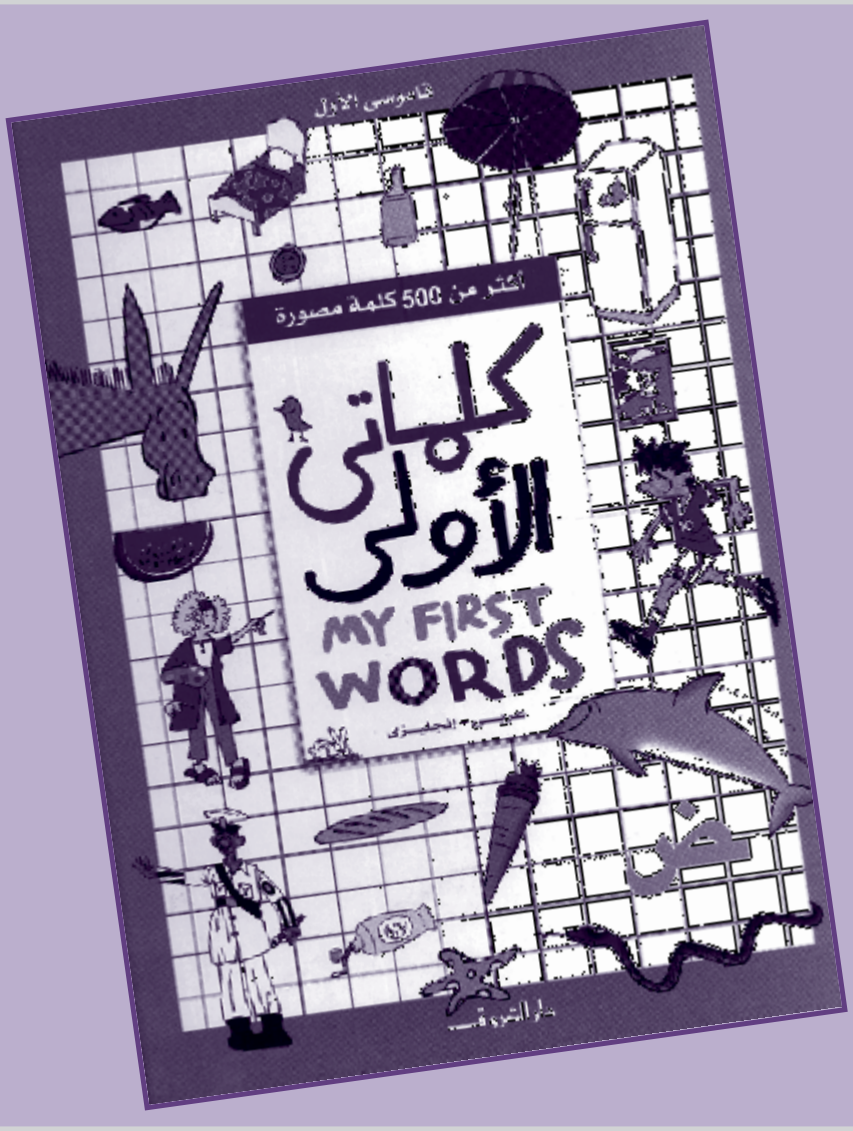
"The Second Bureau, ruler in the background" was published by Dar Moukhtarat in December 2005.

"MY FIRST WORDS"

"My First Words" is a picture-dictionary book that teaches English and Arabic words to children. The words are illustrated with vivid and colorful images and are grouped by theme such as street, classroom, living room, bedroom, supermarket, fruits, seaside and the country.

Each word (French or English depending on the version) is joined by its Arabic translation and is linked to the corresponding image. The method helps children derive the meaning of a difficult word from its image as well as memorize new words faster.

The book can be used at the pre-school level. For instance, adults can read a word and encourage children to search for its corresponding image in order to check their knowledge and teach them the pronunciation of words. At the elementary level, students can be asked to read and learn the vocabulary related to a particular theme to improve their essay writing skills. They can also be asked to memorize words from a specific theme and write an auto dictation to improve their spelling. Students can also use the vocabulary in the book to write an essay about a specific theme. Last but not least, it can be used as a dictionary to translate words and/or check their meaning.



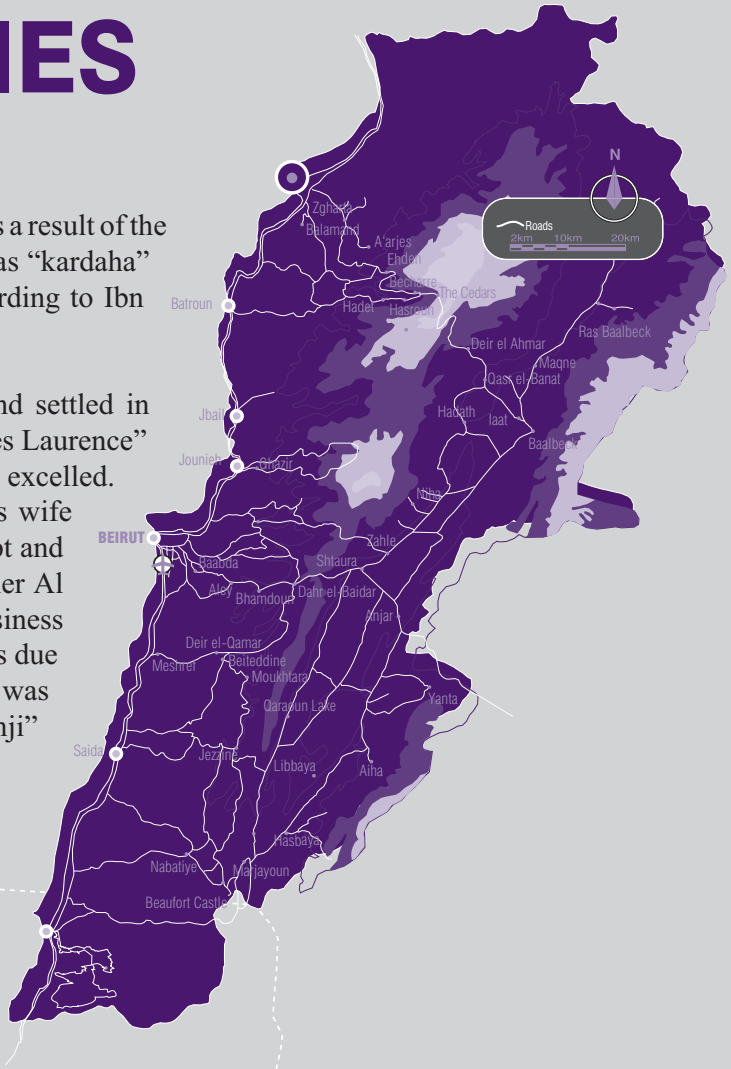
"My First Words" was written by Amira Abou Almajd and illustrated by Waleed Taher. The fourth edition of the book was published by Dar Al Shoorooq in Beirut in 2005.

KURDAHI FAMILIES

Christians from Jerusalem

"Kurdahi" and "Al Kurdahi" are families that carry their name as a result of the work or profession they exercised, which is known in Arabic as "kardaha" or the manufacture and repair of weapons and artillery. According to Ibn Manthour, "kardaha" means humiliation.

This family was Christian and bore the name "Laurence" and settled in Jerusalem, Palestine. In the 16th century, a man called "Georges Laurence" left to Cairo in Egypt and worked in jewelry making where he excelled. He got married there and had a boy who died along with his wife due to a chronic illness. As a result of his sadness, he left Egypt and went to A'akka in Palestine (during the era of Omar Al Thaher Al Zeidani). In A'akka, jewelry making was an unsuccessful business so he started working in the manufacture and repair of weapons due to the numerous ongoing wars during that period. Thus, he was named "Al Kardahi" in Arabic, which translates to "Al Kardahji" in Turkish, but the Arabic name became popular.



Georges remarried in A'akka and had several children. Many died but Jabour survived and in turn had a boy named Youssef who became one of Ahmad Basha Al Jazzar's writers. When Al Jazzar traded the property of Youssef and his children, Habib, Jerjes and Jabour, Youssef and his son Habib traveled to Austria, Jerjes came to Lebanon and Jabour stayed in A'akka. All this occurred during the 18th century.

In Lebanon, the Kurdahi family is composed of around 650 members distributed across several regions. They all belong to the Christian confession, they are primarily Catholics and Maronites.

Catholics: 308 members, distributed as follows:
- Al Shebbanieh (Baabda): 60 members
- Jezzine: 52 members
- Al Medwar (Beirut 2): 49 members
- Al Moukhtara (Chouf): 35 members
- Sed El Bouchrieh (Northern Matn): 30 members
- Hay Al Masihiyyine (Nabatieh): 20 members
- Al Saifi (Beirut 1): 14 members
- Al Jdeideh Hay Al Oyoun (Marjayoun): 11 members
- Al Bashoura (Beirut 2): 8 members
- Al Achrafieh (Beirut 1): 7 members
- Ras Beirut (Beirut 3): 6 members
- Al Rmeil (Beirut 1): 6 members
- Deir Meimas (Marjayoun): 4 members
- Hay Al Catholic (Sour): 3 members
- Ghazir Al Jameh (Keserouane): 3 members

Maronites: 285 members, distributed as follows:
- Faitroun (Keserouane): 110 members
- Sarba (Keserouane): 60 members
- Jbeil: 80 members
- Al Damour (Chouf): 18 members
- Haret Hreik Hay Al Kanisseh (Baabda): 14 members
- Deir Al Qamar (Chouf): 3 members

Orthodox: 36 members, distributed as follows:
- Al Moukhtara (Chouf): 7 members
- Al Achrafieh (Beirut 1): 23 members
- Al Naccache (Northern Matn): 6 members

Protestants: 10 members, distributed as follows:
- Qob Elias Al Fouqa (Zahle): 6 members
- Al Wastani (Saida): 4 members

AL NASIRIYYAH

Water never reached it

Etymology

Researchers trace the origin of the name to many possibilities:

- The distortion of the word "nusrata" from Syriac and Aramaic, which means: songs, especially lullabies.
- "Nasrayé" also from Syriac, which means: those originating from Nasrah (Nazareth) in Palestine.

Location

Al Nasiriyyah is located in the Qada'a of Zahle in the Mohafaza of Beqa'a at an altitude of 1,040m above sea level. It lies 64km from Beirut, 16km from Zahle and spreads across 167 hectares. It borders with the towns of Sar'een Al Tahta, Nabi Sheet, Yahfoufa and Janta in the Qada'a of Ba'alback and the town of Ali Al Nahri, Massa and Riyaq in the Qada'a of Zahe. It can be reached via Zahle-Ableh-Riyaq.

Population

The number of registered inhabitants at the Personal Status Register of the town of Al Nasiriyyah is estimated at 1,120. They mostly belong to the Shia'a confession (85%), with a minority of Orthodox, Maronite, Catholic and Sunni (15%). There are 130 houses and a number of shops as well as a dairy factory, a workshop for cooling agricultural products and 18 cow farms.

Voters

In 2000, the number of voters was 546, of whom 299 cast their ballots. The number increased to 578 voters in 2005, of whom 334 cast their ballots. By 2009, the number of voters reached 749, of whom 513 cast their ballots. They are distributed in the following families:

Shia'a: 629 voters, distributed as follows:

- Al Tarshishi: 359 voters
- Zeinelddine: 72 voters
- Al Moussawi: 43 voters
- Al Dalbani: 29 voters
- Ali Ahmad: 17 voters
- Ahmad: 46 voters
- Ayyoub: 18 voters
- Al Radi: 20 voters
- Saideh: 10 voters
- Zein: 13 voters

Catholics: 52 voters, distributed as follows:

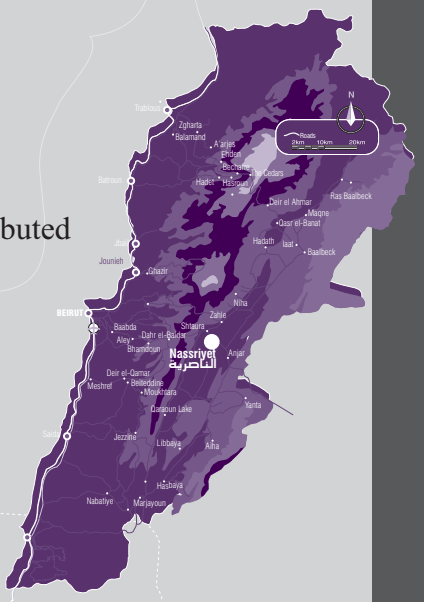
- Tannous: 25 voters
- Akroush: 17 voters
- Zarqa: 10 voters

Orthodox

- Debs: 38 voters
- Maronites
- Feghali: 20 voters

Sunni

- Al Raji: 10 voters



Local authorities

There is no municipal council in Al Nasiriyyah. Local power lies in the hands of the Mokhtar, Mr Ahmad Al Tarshishi, and a 3 member ikhtiyariah body.

Educational institution

There is one school in the town called "Al Nasiriyyah Intemediate Public School", which is a mixed school. In the 2005-2006 academic year, it had 346 students. The number decreased to 331 students in the 2006-2007 academic year and to 281 in the 2009-2010 academic year. The educational staff amounts to 27 teachers, of whom 25 are retired teachers. There are also 5 administrative staff.

Economy

The locals mostly depend on the dairy factory and the cow farms in addition to the cooling workshop and agriculture in general.

Archeological sites

There are no archeological sites in the town.

Problems

The main problem faced by the town is the lack of water. This forces the inhabitants to buy water from tanks. The town also lacks a sewage network and suffers from poor roads in addition to a high unemployment rate. It may be classified as one of the poorest Lebanese towns.

SHIFTING OPINIONS REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL:
NASRALLAH, JUMBLATT AND TABBARAH

In the last 6 years, Lebanon has witnessed a number of crises and conflicts that divided the Lebanese on various topics such as the resistance, the relationship with Syria and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The latter has been an important subject of concern since its establishment. Stances regarding it have not been consistent as some political forces and parties changed their opinions with the development of events.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

From the beginning, Hezbollah and its Secretary General were opposed to the establishment of the tribunal. They called for the establishment of an Arab Tribunal, more negotiations and meetings so that the decision to set it up would emanate from a national consensus. This would avoid any attempts to usurp it. However, since fingers pointed to the party as a suspect, it fiercely opposed the tribunal to the point where it doubted its honesty and decisions. Here are some of the opinions:

"Hezbollah is open to the establishment of an international tribunal provided that it is fair, unpoliticized and does not set conditions on Lebanon." (An Nahar, 24-2-2005)

"The international tribunal cannot carry on as a means to uncover the murderers of Rafic Hariri and as a way to achieve justice. It must be abolished. We must return to the Lebanese judiciary by way of Lebanese consensus in order to solve this issue as soon as possible." (Al Akhbar, 22-9-2010)

Walid Jumblatt

As a main figure of the March 14 movement, one of its founders and most daring members, Walid Jumblatt called for the establishment of the international tribunal to investigate the assassination of Rafic Hariri and those of others. He went to the furthest limits of enmity with Syria and criticism of Hezbollah. But he soon realized the international game and found that there was no way out of improving Lebanon's relationship with Syria and supporting the resistance. Here are some of his opinions:

"We will endorse the international tribunal if we find it is necessary according to the investigation or the Lebanese judiciary." (During an interview on Al Arabia TV on 1-11-2005)

"We will not rest until an international tribunal is established. It will punish those involved in the crime, from officers of the Syrian intelligence to others who we cannot prosecute in Lebanon." (An Nahar, 12-2-2005)

"When we asked for an international tribunal, we were in a state that overwhelmed our psychological and emotional states following the assassination of Rafic Hariri. However, when they could not ratify the international tribunal in Lebanon and it had to fall within Chapter VII of the UN Security Council, we entered the UN game, where we remain. The international tribunal remains politically tied to Resolution 1559 and some see it as a means to implement the Resolution." (Al Akhbar, 19-8-2010)

Baheej Tabbarah

While his friends were demanding the acceleration of the establishment of the international tribunal under Chapter VII, he had a different opinion. He believed there should be a minimum consensus among the Lebanese so that the tribunal could take its course in the right way.

"Given the size of the crime and the necessity of uncovering the truth, the way the international investigation is handling the assassination of Rafic Hariri should lead to the establishment of an international tribunal. This is especially so given that UN Security Council Resolution 1663 pointed to the penetration of the Syrian and Lebanese intelligence services in Lebanese institutions, which makes it hard to imagine a scenario where the crime was committed without their knowledge. This information stems from the Security Council based on Chapter VII and this is why it has become necessary to take a decision regarding the tribunal, which will prosecute the perpetrators of the assassination (…)" (An Nahar, 12-1-2005)

"The tribunal's reputation is at stake. I have already said that the evidence presented by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah cannot be overlooked by the international investigation. I think that this information should be looked into so that the investigation examines all the targets, especially Israel. Voting on the tribunal immediately will improve the investigation's image after it has been tinted with the false witnesses file and others, which gave an impression that it was politicized. Excluding Israel would be offensive to Rafic Hariri." (As Safir, 14-8-2010)

THE INDICTMENT WAS ISSUED WITHOUT ITS CONTENT; 4 ARREST WARRANTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF HEZBOLLAH

A new government is formed with the majority belonging to March 8 forces and a Shia'a gives up his ministerial seat to a Sunni; March 14 forces: "we will confront the Hezbollah-Syria government"; Al Rai in favor of amending the Ta'if and Nasrallah in favor of developing order; Suleiman Franjieh: "my son Toni will be a candidate in the 2013 elections"; Professors at the American University of Beirut refuse Wolfensohn's honoring; Hariri: One way Ticket and Aoun: On Way in; A weapon free Trablous after casualties; First free internet in Sioufi Gardens; Nasrallah: "the US intelligence services recruited Hezbollah members"

June 2

- During a speech on the occasion of the commemoration of Imam Khamenei's death, Nasrallah calls for avoiding the amendment of the Ta'if and focusing on the development of the Lebanese system by way of consensus instead.
- The US Ambassador to Lebanon, Maura Connelly, visits the Director General of the Internal Security Forces, Major General Ashraf Rifi, and they discuss the incident at the Ministry of Telecommunications.
- Berri calls for a parliamentary session to be held on June 8 and distributes the session's agenda amid discussions regarding its constitutionality in the presence of a caretaker government. The March 14 forces declare their boycott of the session.
- After visiting Salim Al Hoss, Jumblatt states: "the country cannot go on without a government and we cannot afford to amend the Ta'if."

June 3

- A Christian meeting takes place in Bkirki, headed by the patriarch, in the presence of 37 leaders and MPs. They discuss issues of concern to the confession including the sale of lands to immigrants and the distribution of portfolios in the state.
- Walid Jumblatt hosts a political-family dinner in his residence in Beirut and Amine Gemayyel is among the invitees.
- A meeting is held at the Directorate of Intelligence of the Lebanese Army for military attachés working in embassies in Lebanon.
- Judge Daniel Bellemare submits a request to judge Fransen to stop giving Major General Jamil Al Sayyed the documents he requested in the "false witnesses case."

June 4

- Judge Daniel Fransen grants judge Bellemare until June 24 to deliver the documents to Major General Jamil Al Sayyed.
- Sit-ins in front of mosques in Trablous and Beirut in support of the Syrian people and opposing the regime while other gatherings take place close by in support of the regime.

June 6

- Fouad Siniora: "a parliamentary session is unconstitutional in the presence of a caretaker government."

June 7

- The Lebanese Forces' conference continues its meetings and draws up 225 out of its 303 articles.
- 7 fatalities and 9 wounded following an explosion caused by a gas leek at a petrol station in Corniche Al Nahr.

June 8

- Death of composer, founder and director of the Conservatoire and conductor of the Lebanese Orchestra Walid Gholmieh.
- At a lecture at the Issam Fares Institute, the Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon, Ali Awad Al Asseiri, declares: "the problem is not the Ta'if but the fact that it is not being implemented."
- Aoun: "there is no progress in the government formation process and the disruption comes from the top."
- The operator at the Justice Palace receives a phone threat and a detainee escapes.

June 9

- The parliamentary session is postponed due to the lack of quorum. Mikati and Aoun hold a meeting discussing the mechanism of formation of the new government.
- The removal of 250 building violations in the Southern Suburb of Beirut (Dahieh).
- The arrival of 2,150 Syrians to parts of Northern Lebanon in 4 days.
- In a talk with As Safir, the President of the Physicians' Syndicate, Sharaf Abou Sharaf, states: "65% of Lebanon's doctors do not receive more than LBP 2 million a month."
- The Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon, Riad Salameh, travels to Washington and follows up on the merger of the Lebanese Canadian Bank with Société Générale.
- In a talk with OTV, MP Suleiman Franjieh: "my son Toni will be a candidate in the 2013 elections."

- MP Mohammad Kabbara: "the tanks of President Assad are headed towards the town of Jisr Al Shaghour to commit another massacre and we are not being neutral."
- A petition is signed by 95 professors of the AUB refusing to honor the former president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, as the latter supports Israel.

June 10

- Syrian President Bashar Al Assad meets with MP Walid Jumblatt in the presence of Minister Ghazi Al Aridi. Al Assad: "Get over your differences and form a government quickly."
- In a meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee of Parliament, the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Alain Bifani, holds "the Future movement" responsible for the loss in accounts. The Minister of Finance requests the presence of all the Finance Ministers before the Committee and retreats from this decision the following day.
- The former Minister and leader in the Syrian Ba'ath Party, Shibli Al Aisami, is kidnapped a few days after returning from the US where he resides.

June 11

- Aoun to Al Dunia station: "the ball is not in my court and I am hoping that the government will be formed soon."

June 13

- Quoting a judicial source, Al Liwa' newspaper writes: "the indictment regarding Rafic Hariri's assassination will be released between June 20 and July 5."
- The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Ra'i uncovers that Washington and Riyadh advised Hariri to stay outside Lebanon as there was a plan to assassinate him in May.
- Aoun visits Mlita in the South following an invitation by Hezbollah.
- Hezbollah denies what was said by A'akkar MP, Mu'een Al Mar'abi, that the party spread weapons in A'akkar.

June 14

- A new government is formed headed by Najib Mikati with a majority of Ministers belonging to the March 8 forces and Aoun holds the Christian majority. In his first stance, Mikati declares: "do not judge on the intentions or the individuals but on the performance." Minister Talal Arslan refuses his appointment as Minister of State and attacks Mikati.

June 15

- Following its weekly meeting, the Future movement bloc headed by Fouad Siniora declares: "we will responsibly oppose the government." It warns of vengeful actions and is awaiting the ministerial statement."

June 16

- The Cabinet meets for the first time to compose a committee to draft the ministerial statement. President Michel Suleiman refutes the allegations of Syrian interference in the government formation stating that the government is 100% Lebanese.
- Following its meeting, the General Secretariat of March 14 declares: "we will confront the Assad-Hezbollah government."

June 17

- The former ministers deliver the portfolios to the new ministers.
- A night protest in Trablous negating the hand over of Mohammad Walou to Syria, which led to his release by the General Security.
- Ma'an Karami: "Minister Faisal Karami's nephew is the 6th Shia'a and the Karami legacy does not accept the charity of the Amal movement."

June 18

- The French Foreign Ministry declares: "Lebanon and the former PM's security are a priority for France, so is that of other politicians."

June 20

- Clashes in Trablous between Bab Al Tabbeneh and Ba'al Muhsin result in 6 deaths after the arrival of PM Mikati to Trablous.
- Meetings of the March 14 forces in Paris headed by Saad Hariri to plan the means of confronting the new government.
- Siniora in response to Aoun: "he must issue himself with a travel ticket so he can rest and let us rest." This comes as a response to Aoun's statement that Hariri left with a one way ticket.
- MP Walid Jumblatt visits Minister A'ala Terro in Barja and continues to Jiyyeh where he meets with mufti Mohammad Ali Al Jouzou after the latter made several accusations against Jumblatt.

June 21

- The Ministry of Telecommunications in cooperation with the municipality of Beirut inaugurates the first free internet garden in Sioufi (Beirut).
- In a talk with An Nahar, President Michel Suleiman states: "the new government will try and it may succeed depending on its performance" and "there is no upset with March 14."

June 22

- In a talk with France 24, Amine Gemayyel states: "we met in Paris to address the means of confronting Hezbollah's government and its extension abroad."

- The Estonian Foreign Minister meets with leaders to discuss the issue of the kidnapped Estonians.
- Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutro Al Rai declares from Rome: "I wish the new government success."
- During a meeting of the committee in charge of drafting the ministerial statement, Mikati states: "the three entities must collaborate: the army, the people and the resistance."
- Major General Michel Aoun: there is only "one way in" and something is being prepared for a large part of Roumieh prisoners.
- Questions of official examinations are leaked and investigations are launched.

June 23

- Internal Israeli discussions on the possibility of an attack and a war against Hezbollah.
- Syrian President Bashar Al Assad receives Minister Tala Arslan.
- A delegation of Dar Al Fatwa visits the Office of the Palestinian Liberation Movement in Beirut in a bid to mend the two parties deteriorating relationship.
- Société Générale acquires some of the assets of the Lebanese Canadian Bank.
- Meetings of the committee drafting the ministerial statement overlook the provision regarding the International Tribunal as it requires more consultations.
- In a talk with An Nahar, Minister Elie Skaff: "opening an office for the Marada movement in Zahle is a wrong move."
- After meeting with Mufti Qabbani, MP Ahmad Fatfat declares: "the army intelligence in the North is bias."

June 24

- A meeting is held in Ain Al Tineh, the official residence of Speaker Nabih Berri, unites him with Major General Jamil Al Sayyed for the first time.
- Dar Al Fatwa announces its refusal of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence as it contradicts the teachings of Islam. This comes after the Committee of Administration and Justice in Parliament initiates its review of the law.

June 25

- In a speech, the Secretary General of Hezbollah Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah states: "the US intelligence at the embassy in Beirut recruited two members of Hezbollah. They are not close to me and do not hold any sensitive information. They are not related to Mughnieh or to the International Tribunal." He did not specify who recruited the third member. The embassy responds by saying these are baseless accusations.
- Information is revealed stating that the indictment will be issued within days.
- Author Amine Maalouf is elected member of the French Academy. This makes him the first Lebanese writer to enter the Academy.
- Mikati: "we will respect our commitments if there is no unanimous decision on their annulment."
- The declaration of the results of a competition involving 250 members of the General Security sparks criticism. The General Security responds by saying it was based on merit and confessional balance.

June 27

- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad receives the Lebanese Foreign Minister, Adnan Mansour, and wishes success to the new government.
- A meeting of scholars in Saida condones the oppression by Syrian regime.

June 28

- The International Tribunal comments on the date of issuance of the indictment saying "there is no set date" amid growing media speculation on the imminence of its release.
- Michael Williams declares: "talk about the imminent issuance of the indictment is mere speculation."

June 29

- After meeting with Nabih Berri, MP Michel Murr states: "there are 3 reasons that push me to grant confidence to the government."
- The Lebanese Forces celebrate the accomplishment of their manifesto in Me'rab. In his speech, Geagea attacks the "government of extinct Arab States."

July 1

- Lebanon's Attorney General Said Mirza receives the indictment from a delegation of the International Tribunal and keeps it confidential based on the Tribunal's request. It allegedly entails 4 arrest warrants against Hezbollah members and the names declared are: Mostapha Badreddine, Salim Ayyash, Assad Sabra and Hassan A'neissi. Saad Hariri in a statement to the Lebanese people: "there is no excuse for anyone to run away from this responsibility", stressing that exaggeration and intimidation will not break national will.
- A meeting of the Council of Ministers headed by President Michel Suleiman goes over the ministerial statement in its final version in preparation for its discussion in Parliament. The provision of the statement regarding the International Tribunal reads: "respect of international decisions, concern over unveiling the truth regarding the assassination of Rafic Hariri and his colleagues. The Intenational Tribunal's path must be followed as it was allegedly established to achieve justice."

THE LEBANESE MUHAJIROUN

The term Diaspora refers to the migration or scattering of the Jewish people. However, in Arabic, this term is translated into "muhajiroun" or "mughtariboun". The Lebanese have witnessed three such waves of migration so far.

The first wave of migration occurred towards the end of the 19th century, when Lebanon was under the Ottoman rule. It is claimed that it was mainly the Christian population that was leaving the country, often in a clandestine manner as emigration was allegedly prohibited by the rule. Indeed, according to Paul R. Magosci:

"The vast majority of immigrants were illiterate or semi-literate Christians from what is today Lebanon. The Christian community had become aware of Western cultures and values during the second half of the nineteenth century, when American, British, French, Italian, and Russian missionary schools were established in the Ottoman province of Greater Syria (Syria and Lebanon). These schools were mostly concentrated in towns and cities, and their graduates, who were more sectarian than nationalistic, influenced the thinking of the majority of the Christians living in the villages.

The early Christian immigrants were motivated to leave their homeland for several reasons: fear of the renewal of the bloody Christian-Druze conflict that ended only in 1860; a desire to avoid military conscription; and displeasure with their poor economic status."[1]

However, it is said they were unorganized and would board any boat without knowing where they would end up. It is estimated that during this first wave, some 350,000 Lebanese left the area, a lot of them ending up in Latin America (Brazil and Argentina). It is important to note that at that time, there were no borders between Lebanon and Syria, meaning that one could not always differentiate between "Lebanese", "Syrians" and "Palestinians".

One topic that is seldom discussed is the treatment of the Shia'a during the Ottoman era, who were perhaps more oppressed than the Christians. The latter were in fact trusted by the Ottomans. According to Stefan Winter, author of *The Shiites of Lebanon under Ottoman Rule, 1516-1788*, "Ottoman archives offer up little information on the alleged persecution of Shiite scholars in this period. However, some idea of the Ottomans' perception of the Jabal 'Amil Shiites[2] may be garnered from incidental references in little known scholarly texts touching the "abdominal rule of Shiism"[3] and "Jabal 'Amil (…) that quarry of Shiism and fountainhead of heresy"[4], depicts the Ottoman rulers' attitude towards this community. He adds: "The execution of Zayn al-Din ibn 'Ali[5] in 1558 thus remains the only instance where the Ottoman state may have specifically targeted an 'Amili scholar on account of his confessional affiliation."[6] As for why they did not emigrate at an early stage, it remains unascertained but this might be due to their lack of means.

The second wave, which was a bit more organized, took place after World War I and World War II. The stimulus for leaving was poverty and the urge to join family members abroad who had reportedly become successful. This desire to leave was also exacerbated by the conflicts surrounding the country, namely the Arab-Israeli conflicts. This migration movement also encompassed a young generation who was seeking education and employment opportunities abroad, thus constituting a labor migration.

The third wave was rendered necessary by the civil war that broke out in Lebanon in 1975 and lasted for a period of 15 years.

The continuous outflow

Many decided not return to Lebanon after the end of the war, either because they had established themselves abroad and obtained foreign citizenship or because the situation in the country was still seen as unstable. However, those living abroad maintain ties with their homeland and the influx of Lebanese during the winter and summer vacations is proof of that. The financial remittances that relatives receive from their family members living abroad (estimated between $3-6 billion annually) also demonstrates this continuous bond. One should also mention the effect of the advances in telecommunication and media technologies, which enable those living abroad to be kept well informed about their country and facilitate communication with their families.

Finally, it is estimated that somewhere between 20,000 to 30,000 Lebanese still leave the country annually depending on the availability of visas. It is important to distinguish and bear in mind emigration to the US, Canada and Australia, which is most likely to be long term, with labor migration to Gulf countries or educational migration to Europe, which are more likely to be short term and for a specific purpose.

1. MAGOSCI, Paul. *Encyclopedia of Canada's Peoples*, University of Toronto Press, 1999, p. 1242.
2. The Shia'a from what is today South Lebanon.
3. WINTER, Stefan. The Shiites of Lebanon Under Ottoman Rule, 1516-1788, Cambridge University Press, 2010, p. 22.
4. *Ibid* 3.
5. Also known as Al Shahid Al Thani or the Second Martyr.
6. *Ibid* 3, p. 23.

REAL ESTATE IN LEBANON – JUNE 2011

During the month of June, the real estate sector witnessed an unprecedented stagnation due to three reasons:

1- The situation in Lebanon, the governmental vacuum and the repercussion of the indictment concerning Rafic Hariri's assassination.
2- The unstable situation in the region, especially in Syria, which reflected on Lebanon with a state of apprehension.
3- The lack of clarity in the market's trend (increase or decrease) as a result of the two previous factors.

Despite this stagnation, prices remained stable with minimal decreases in the prices of expensive estates in a bid to make the maximum profit out of fear of a further decrease in prices.

Tables 1 and 2 list the prices of a number of estates and apartments sold in June 2011.

Prices of some estates sold in June 2011 — Table 1

Region	Area m2	Price USD	USD/m2
Beirut			
Jeitawi	750	2,925,000	3,900
Achrafieh (near Sassine)	580	4,350,000	7,500
Tareeq Al Jdeedeh	430	1,935,000	4,500
Sanayeh	640	5,760,000	9,000
Matn			
Beit Mary	1,060	583,000	550
Naccache	700	665,000	950
Broumana	1,270	825,500	650
A'aley			
Rachmiya	1,400	98,000	70
Sawfar	3,200	256,000	80
Bhamdoun-Mansourieh	4,650	348,750	75
Keserouane			
Aachquot	1,025	338,250	330
Adma	950	1,140,000	1,200
Kfour	1,800	450,000	250
Faitroun	1,000	210,000	210
Kfar Zebian	1,250	287,500	230

Source: Information International – June 2011

Prices of some apartments sold in June 2011 — Table 2

Region	Area m2	Price USD	USD/m2
Beirut			
Sanayeh	200	740,000	3,700
Mar Elias	150	420,000	2,800
Karakas	180	522,000	2,900
Achrafieh (Sassine)	220	902,000	4,100
Achrafieh (Sioufi)	270	769,500	2,850
Sodeco	170	680,000	4,000
Aaisha Bakkar	200	500,000	2,500
Dannawi	140	280,000	2,000
Tellet al Khayet	250	1,200,000	4,800
Badaro	210	462,000	2,200
Baabda			
Hazmieh	240	552,000	2,300
Hazmieh	250	425,000	1,700
Yarzeh	450	1,125,000	2,500
Rweis (Hay Al-Abiad)	150	180,000	1,200
Chiyah	170	238,000	1,400
Haret Hreik	190	237,500	1,250
Hadath	250	362,500	1,450
Hadath	130	130,000	1,000
Matn			
Antellias	140	175,000	1,250
Mansourieh	170	275,400	1,620
Broumana	180	252,000	1,400
Jal El Dib	200	240,000	1,200
Sin el Fil	175	490,000	2,800
A'aley			
Doha Hoss	150	127,500	850
Bchamoun (schools)	110	148,500	1,350
Doha Aramoun	120	150,000	1,250
Keserouane			
Adma	240	552,000	2,300
Adma	210	350,700	1,670
Zouk Mikayel	260	234,000	900
Qleiaat	180	90,000	500
Sahel Alma	200	300,000	1,500

Source: Information International – June 2011

FOOD PRICE INDEX OF 100 PRODUCTS: JUNE 2011

In June 2011, and similarly to previous months, the price of most of the consumer goods remained stable due to two reasons:

Stability of prices worldwide
The stagnation on the Lebanese market due to the political crisis that Lebanon is going through and the fear of its consequences. This is making traders limit their profits in order to decrease or stabilize the prices to create some movement in the market. During the month of June, the price of 61 goods were stable and the price of 23 goods increased (especially that of oil), while the price of 16 good decreased. Table 1 lists the price of products in June 2011.

Price of products during June 2011 (in LBP) — **Table 1**

Item and brand	Prices beginning of June 2011	Prices beginning of July 2011	% of price change
Oil			
Afia corn oil (3.5 liters)	14,500	14,900	2.7 +
Mazola corn oil (3.5 liters)	13,750	16,000	16.3 +
Mazola corn oil (1.8 liters)	7,450	8,250	10.7 +
Slim corn oil (2 liters)	7,500	7,750	3.4 +
Wesson corn oil (2 liters)	7,500	8,000	6.7 +
Ghandour soya oil (3.8 liters)	12,000	13,000	8.4 +
Alfa corn oil (4 liters)	14,500	14,500	0
Al-Wadi Olive Oil (1/2 liters)	7,000	6,450	7.8 -
Ketchup and Sauces			
Libby's Ketchup (597g)	1,500	1,500	0
Extra Ketchup (340 g)	980	980	0
Extra Ketchup (2.2 kg)	5,500	5,500	0
Dolly's Mayonnaise (500 ml)	3,950	3,950	0
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise (500 ml)	4,300	4,300	0
Al-Bsat Tahina (900 g)	6,860	6,860	0
Al-Bsat Tahina (450 g)	3,500	3,500	0
Taous tomato sauce (70g)	770	770	0
Taous tomato sauce (425 g)	3,425	3,425	0
Tala tomato sauce (675g)	3,250	3,250	0
Dairy Products			
Candia full cream milk (1 liter)	2,450	2,450	0
Candia full cream yoghurt (2 kg)	3,000	3,000	0
Bonjus labneh (1 kg)	3,990	3,990	0
Taanayel labneh (500 g)	4,650	4,650	0

Price of products during June 2011 (in LBP) — **Table 1**

Item and brand	Prices beginning of June 2011	Prices beginning of July 2011	% of price change
Candia labneh (500 g)	4,500	4,500	0
Taanayel yoghurt (1 kg)	3,500	3,500	0
Smeds cheese (400 g)	4,450	4,500	1.1 +
Picon cheese (360 g)	3,850	3,850	0
Picon cheese (160 g)	1,950	1,950	0
Double-crème cheese (1 kg)	5,750	5,750	0
Fresh country cheese (1 kg)	8,250	9,000	9 +
Khashkawan cheese (1 kg)	13,750	15,000	9 +
Lurpak butter (200 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Tatra butter (200 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Al-Maalaqtain margarine (2 kg)	8,500	8,000	5.9 -
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2kg)	33,000	33,000	0
Vegetaline margarine (2 kg)	16,750	15,750	5.9 -
Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,250 g)	21,850	21,850	0
Nido full cream milk (2,500 g)	26,250	25,500	2.8-
Tatra full cream milk (1,800 g)	18,500	18,500	0
Cereals			
Khater white lentils (1 kg)	3,750	3,650	2.7 -
Khater chick-peas fahli (1 kg)	3,650	3,650	0
Khater beans (1 kg)	1,750	1,750	0
Peeled wheat (1 kg)	2,350	2,350	0
Pineal Lima Bean (1 kg)	3,500	3,500	0
Brown Fine Burgul (1 kg)	1,800	1,800	0
Egyptian rice (1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
American rice (1 kg)	2,100	1,750	16.7 -
Italian rice (1 kg)	2,750	2,100	23.6 -
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,340	1,450	8.2 +
Chtaura Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,100	1,450	31.8 +
California Gardens beans (450 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Al-Wadi beans (450 g)	950	1,100	15.8 +
Chtaura beans (480 g)	1,150	1,250	8.7 +
Libby's corn (340 g)	1,750	1,750	0

Price of products during June 2011 (in LBP)			Table 1
Item and brand	Prices beginning of June 2011	Prices beginning of July 2011	% of price change
Pasta			
Barilla spaghetti (500 g)	2,300	2,300	0
Antonio Amato spaghetti (500 g)	2,200	2,200	0
Monte spaghetti (500 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Sugar and Salt			
Sugar (2 kg)	3,100	3,200	3.2 +
Al-Ousra Sugar (5 kg)	9,250	9,750	5.4 +
Salt (700 g)	350	275	21.4 -
Box of salt (738 g)	1,400	1,300	7.1 -
Meat, Fish and Eggs			
Zwan chicken (200 g)	2,550	2,450	3.9 -
Zwan beef (200 g)	2,550	2,450	3.9-
Luncheon meat beef (198 g)	1,800	1,900	5.5 +
Al-Mona chicken (200 g)	2,100	2,250	7.1 +
Al-Taghzia beef (200 g)	1,925	1,925	0
Al-Taghzia chicken (200 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Geisha sardine (125 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Deli sardine (125 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Milo sardine (125 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Geisha tuna (200 g)	3,600	3,600	0
White Bell tuna (200 g)	2,500	2,500	0
White Diamond tuna (200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Skipper tuna (185 g)	1,750	2,000	14.2 +
Eggs (30 eggs)	5000	6,000	20 +
Beef (1 kg)	14,000	14,000	0
Sheep (1 kg)	23,000	22,000	4.3 -
Coffee and Tea			
Najjar coffee (1kg)	16,000	17,000	6.2 +
Brazil coffee (1 kg)	14,000	16,000	14.3 +
Al-Hisan tea (180 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Nestle (250g)	2,350	2,350	0
Halvah and Jam			
Al-Wadi halvah (454 g)	4,250	4,250	0
Al-Bsat halvah (450 g)	3,150	3,150	0
Chtaura apricot jam (1 kg)	5,750	5,750	0
Al-Wadi apricot jam (1 kg)	4,500	4,500	0

Price of products during June 2011 (in LBP)			Table 1
Item and brand	Prices beginning of June 2011	Prices beginning of July 2011	% of price change
Tissues and Detergents			
Mimosa tissues (500 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Fine tissues (200 tissues)	1,350	1,250	7.4 -
Primo tissues (200 tissues)	1,200	1,100	8.4 -
Gipsy tissues (300 tissues)	2,750	2,750	0
Mimosa toilet papers (4 rolls)	3,250	3,250	0
Yes detergent (900 g)	2,200	2,290	4+
Clorox (1 liter)	1,500	1,500	0
Persil (4 kg)	18,750	18,250	2.7-
Ariel (4 kg)	16,000	19,000	18.7+
Fruits and Vegetables			
Orange (1 kg)	1,500	1,500	0%
Tomatoes (1kg)	500	500	0%
Cucumbers (1kg)	500	500	0%
Bananas (1kg)	1,500	1,500	0%
Lemons (1 kg)	500	400	20% -
Apples (1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0%
Potatoes (1 kg)	600	600	0%

Source: Information International



Statistics from around the World

Schizophrenia

- Men above 18 years old and women above 25 years old is the average age of the onset of the illness.
- **2.2 million** people in the USA; **285,000** people in Australia and over **280,000** people in Canada have the disorder.
- **250,000** is the number of diagnosed cases in Britain.
- About **1 in 4,000** is the number of people who will be diagnosed as having schizophrenia worldwide (the incidence rate).
- 30 years following the diagnosis of schizophrenia:
  - **25%** completely recover
  - **35%** significantly improve and become relatively independent
  - **15%** improve but still require an extensive support network
  - **10%** are hospitalized and do not improve
  - **15%** die (mostly suicide)
- People with Schizophrenia:
  - **6%** are homeless or live in shelters
  - **6%** are in prisons
  - **5% - 6%** live in hospitals
  - **10%** live in nursing homes
  - **25%** live with a family member
  - **28%** are live independently
  - **20%** live in Supervised Housing (group homes, etc.)
- **Over 15** new medications for the treatment of schizophrenia are currently in development by different biotech and pharmaceuticals companies.

Source: Schizophrenia Facts and Statistics (http://www.schizophrenia.com/szfacts.htm)

Beirut International Airport

Rafic Hariri International Airport – Traffic June 2011

During the month of June 2011, traffic at Rafic Hariri International airport increased compared to the traffic registered during May and even that of June 2010 by, respectively, 23.3% and 4.1%. Since the beginning of the year until the end of June, the number of passengers has reached 2,430,361 compared to 2,429,561 during the same period last year, which indicates stability in the figures. The numbers increased by 800 passengers or 0.033%. Table 1 shows the airport traffic during the month of June 2011 compared to the month of May 2011 and June 2010.

Airport traffic during the month of June 2011 compared to May 2011 and June 2010. **Table 1**

Traffic	May-11	Jun-11	Jun-10	% of change May and June 2011	% of change June 2010 / June 2011
Arriving airplanes	2,511	2,655	2,871	+ 5.7	-7.5
Departing airplanes	2,493	2,670	2,862	+7	-6.2
Total No. of airplanes	5,004	5,325	5,733	+6.4	-7.1
Arriving passengers	216,283	305,439	299,162	+41.2	+2.1
Departing passengers	199,905	207,916	195,570	+4	+6.3
Transit passengers	4,276	5,159	3,185	+20	+62
Total No. of passengers	420,464	518,514	497,917	+23.3	+4.1
Imported goods (per ton)	3,537	3,414	3,422	-3.4	-0.2
Exported goods (per ton)	2,786	2,632	2,960	-5.5	-11.8
Total amount of goods (per ton)	6,323	6,046	6,382	-4.4	-5.2

Source: Information International and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Stats & Numbers

- **2,106,277** is the number of nights that tourists spent in hotels and furnished apartments in Lebanon during 2010. The total amount of their expenses in this sector was estimated at $ 126 million. These numbers reveal that the real number of tourists that enter Lebanon annually are much lower than the official published numbers.
- **LBP 69 billion** is the amount of the decrease in customs revenues between March 2010 and March 2011, which points to a decline in imports and the economy in general.
- **1,676,372** is the number of credit cards available in Lebanon at the beginning of 2011. The amount of payments and withdrawals made by these cards reached $ 7.4 billion.
- **LBP 1,655 billion** is the budget's deficit in the first quarter of 2011, in comparison with LBP 861 billion during the same period last year, thus representing an increase of LBP 794 billion or 92%.
- **LBP 6,800 billion** is the amount of housing loans at the end of 2010, compared with LBP 2,665 billion at the end of 2008, thus representing an increase of LBP 4,135 billion or 155%.



Rafting in A'assi

Publications

Publications by Information International (in Arabic):

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 in Figures 2007-2008
9- Lebanon's MPs and Lebanese Parliamentary Elections 1960 - 2009
10- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-North District
11- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beirut District
12- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Mount Lebanon District
13- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beqa'a District
14- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-South and Nabatiyeh District
15- Municipal Elections 2010

Publications by Kutub (in Arabic):

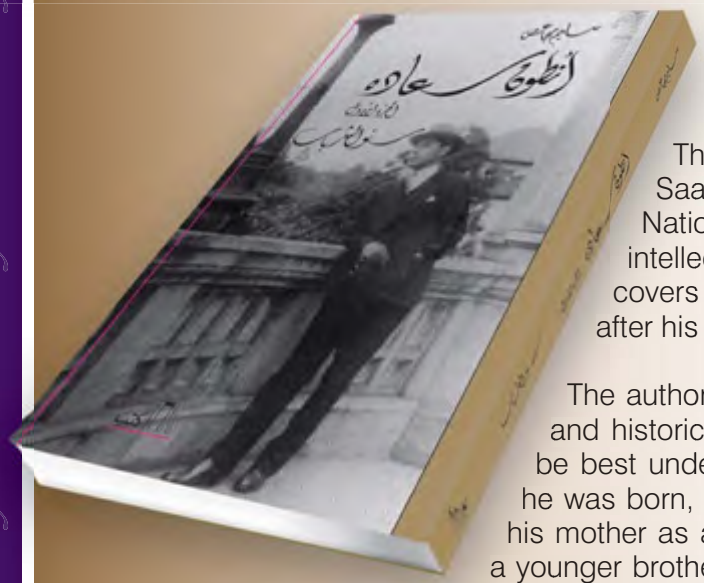
1- Trablous Al-Sham
2- Jeniyat Al-Nabi
3- Mokhber Al-Konsoliya
4- Antoun Saadah 1932-1949
5- Antoun Saadah, A Biography, *Volume 1. The Youth Years*

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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Antoun Saadeh

By Salim Mujais

KUTUB

This is the first volume of the biography of Antoun Saadeh, the founder and leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the originator of the greatest intellectual modernist revival in the Near East. This volume covers his life from his birth until his return to his homeland after his first immigration to Latin America.

The author has endeavored to elucidate the personal, social and historical background against which Saadeh's youth can be best understood. The details of the cultural milieu to which he was born, the family tragedies he endured from the death of his mother as a child, to the tragic death of a young cousin and a younger brother, the calamitous famine that struck his homeland during the First World War that he experienced, are all tackled because they are an integral part of his human experience and the framing of his personal and intellectual growth. In this effort, the author has uncovered details and facts that contradict traditional views, and has scrutinized interpretations and opinions that do not do justice to the truth. An important methodological aspect of the present work is the avoidance of telescoping the youth of Antoun Saadeh through the prism of his adult achievements. The unique aspects of his life do not need to overshadow what he has in common with his compatriots, and the excellence of his intellectual achievements do not need to ignore the great cultural debt he owes his father. Indeed, it can be argued that Antoun Saadeh's greatness is that he transcended the common human experiences that he shared with his compatriots to forge a blueprint for a more noble life, and he took the great cultural heritage of his father to greater depth and firmer elaboration. The luminous life he led needs no embellishment for his greatness is inherent to his true self.

This book was first published by Kutub in English in 2004. This is the first Arabic edition (2011).



Sadara **a new essential service for municipalities**

It consists of a specialized team of consultants offering technical solutions to municipalities.

Municipalities that are unable to accomplish their goals and face their problems by themselves are numerous. This is due to procedural and organizational reasons that they are unaware of or that they are aware of but don't know how to solve or that they are aware of and know how to solve but don't have the capacity to. This created the need for expertise and consultations to help municipalities take decisions and implement them. As an answer to this need, Sadara was established and it offers advice and technical solutions to Lebanese municipalities.

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