

44 LAW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AT 4.3 BILLION DOLLARS TO NO AVAIL

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- THE LEBANESE AND CURRENT EVENTS
- ELECTRICITY DUES IN THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS
- THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS  
HAGOP HAVATIAN

# SYRIAN DEPOSITS IN LEBANESE BANKS: BETWEEN MYTH AND REALITY!



**4 SYRIAN DEPOSITS IN LEBANESE BANKS: BETWEEN MYTH AND REALITY!**

**6** LEBANON PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2013

**9** 44 LAW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AT 4.3 BILLION DOLLARS TO NO AVAIL

**16** ELECTRICITY DUES IN THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS

**17** THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

**20** THE LEBANESE AND CURRENT EVENTS

**22** AMELIEH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

**24** SYNDICATE OF FUEL STATION OWNERS

**26** GALLBLADDER ATTACKS BY DR. HANNA SAADAH

**27** THE DISCOVERY OF THE GENE BY ANTOINE BOUTROS

**28** THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS HAGOP HAVATIAN

**30** SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY

**32** EVANGELICAL CLERGYMAN

**33** AL MABARRAT ASSOCIATION

**35** POPULAR CULTURE

**36** MYTH #50: DYSLEXIA

**37** MUST-READ BOOKS: HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

**38** MUST-READ CHILDREN'S BOOK: "FOOD AND DRINK"

**39** LEBANON FAMILIES: HANEEN FAMILIES

**40** DISCOVER LEBANON: BZIZA

**41** SAAD HARIRI'S POSITIONS ON HEZBOLLAH WEAPON

**42** AUGUST 2011 TIMELINE

**46** MASDAR CITY



**Page 28**



**Page 6**



**Page 17**

**47** REAL ESTATE INDEX IN LEBANON - AUGUST 2011

**48** FOOD PRICE INDEX - AUGUST 2011

**50** GREEN CARD

**50** BEIRUT RAFIC HARIRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AUGUST 2011

**51** LEBANON STATS

# SAINTS, TRAITORS, VILLAINS, AND FOOLS WITH TWO AIRPORTS

**“...Historical self-deception is a luxury which only societies confident of their unity and solidarity can afford...Divided societies, on the other hand, cannot afford such fanciful indulgence. To gain the degree of solidarity that is needed to maintain viability, their best chance lies in getting to know and understand the full truth of their past, and to accommodate to its realities”.**

Kamal Salibi



In a country like ours, names of places and individuals are not mere words but deep expressions of emotions and memories. They become symbols and idols not to be taken lightly. Examining some names in our history would take us to an interesting path, especially when we trace how the egos of these individuals were transformed into legends and fantasies that are treated as historical facts, by which we live, and sometimes die.

In the 17th century, Fakhreddine II, we were told as children, was a “hero and the maker of Lebanon”. It is true that he faced an opposition force (“evil ones”) mainly Al-Saifa of A’akkar, who “collaborated” with the Ottomans and therefore he “reluctantly” killed a few of them and (forcefully) married their daughter. He went into exile to Tuscany “to plan for the liberation of Lebanon”, the school history book says.

In the 18th century, Haidar Al-Shehabi, Fakhreddine’s grandson, won the Ain Dara battle (1711) against Al-Alameddine and ascertained the rule of Al-Shehab. However, history books did not consider him a hero. Perhaps it is now a convenient time for some Lebanese tribes to rediscover him.

In the 19th century, there was Basheer Al-Shihabi II, “a just and powerful leader and another maker of modern Lebanon”. It is true that he rounded the “usual villains” who were “traitors conspiring against him and pierced his nephew’s eyes [not ears], but the man was great”.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, the number of “heroes” and “traitors” grew tremendously. Our children are now “learning”, how “great” or “miserable” Lebanon is because of “them”.

History books, not recognized by our schools, tell us a different story. Fakhreddine II and Bashir II were not the nation’s builders nor did they claim or even pretended to be. Lonely, daring and vain men doing what they know best: crush your opponent, bow to the powerful, bribe your way and survive. Fakhreddine was neither a rebel against the Ottomans nor was he trying to “unite Lebanon”, considering that some of his fiefdoms extended to what is now Syria and Israel. His luck or Fortuna changed when his friend passed away and his enemy became the advisor to the Sultan.

In Tuscany, Fakhreddine was almost a prisoner; perhaps an honorary guest and more accurately a decoy to fool the Turks into believing that a massive sea invasion of Syria (Lebanon) is under preparation, so they do not invade Tuscany first. His money, deposited in a bank called Monte di Pieta, is still unclaimed. His family, mother, sons and daughters suffered throughout their lives and he was killed in Istanbul.

Basheer II had one of his sons tell the Turks that his father is their ally and the other son tell Mohammad Ali that his father is actually fooling the Turks. He had his rivals, Basheer Jumblat and Basheer Qassim II, exiled and/or killed, and like them died in exile, penniless and homeless. Basheer is now remembered for his palace in Beiteddine, which was built for him, and Fakhreddine for the Beirut pines, which perhaps existed before him; at least we can believe that they had good taste.

One question remains: why did Basheer or Fakhreddine become more famous and prominent than Haidar or their opponents like Al-Saifa and many others. The truth is they had stronger alliances, encountered and tapped into major international events, and yes, good Fortuna, up to a point. All this came to mind when a colleague said that she will not fly from Hariri International Airport until its original name Beirut International Airport is restored. Another colleague advised her to wait until René Mouawad Airport in A’akkar is commissioned.

Al-Saifa would be thrilled to hear the news that their beloved A’akkar will have an airport, except they are no more. Lebanon’s fictionalized history will soon have two real airports. There are no saints and no villains, no heroes and no traitors but only lonely and vain men with big egos and innocent, ignorant, or opportunistic men who perpetuate the myths.

The question is, if Lebanon cannot afford historical self-deception, as stated by Kamal Salibi, can it afford two airports?

Let us all enjoy the flight and hope it is safe...

**In memory of the late Dr. Kamal Salibi, The Monthly republishes Jawad Adra’s article which was issued in issue number 57 of March-April 2007 and contained excerpts from Dr. Salibi’s writings.**

*Jawad N. Adra*

# SYRIAN DEPOSITS IN LEBANESE BANKS: BETWEEN MYTH AND REALITY!

The British Economist magazine in its July 2, 2011 edition reported that more than USD 20 billion were transferred from Syrian banks to Lebanese banks since last March. The magazine based its report on eyewitnesses and private cars drivers. The news provoked a number of reactions ranging between complete denial, confirmation that a transfer of only limited funds took place or total confirmation of the report. The current events troubling Syria for the past six months restirred the subject of Syrian deposits in Lebanese banks and the influence of these banks in Syria. Our Arab affairs seem to bewilder The Economist who referred to Zein Al-Abidine of Tunisia as a “durable president” in 2009 and adopted different criteria in its approach towards the economic affairs in Lebanon and the region while it put Berlusconi under fire. The Economist’s article reflects how lightly the western media approaches critical issues in our region.

## Syrian deposits in Lebanese banks

Since the end of the 1940’s Lebanese banks formed a haven for Syrian deposits in search for stability and better investment opportunities following the turmoil and military coups which troubled Syria until 1970. These deposits were encouraged by the economic and banking liberalization in Lebanon compared to the state-led economy which dominated the economic life in Syria. Precise figures of the size of Syrian deposits in Lebanese banks were not available since many Syrian capital owners and major financiers had obtained the Lebanese nationality therefore some of the owners of these deposits can be described as both Syrian and Lebanese. However, estimates put these deposits (for Syrians residing in Syria and who are not entitled for the Lebanese nationality) at around USD 5-6 billion at the beginning of 2005 after USD 500 million migrated to private banks in Syria, which were allowed to operate as of 2003.

Syrian deposits estimated at USD 2.5 billion and finally settled at USD 3.53 billion also migrated from Lebanese banks following the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on February 14, 2005, the complete withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon in April 2005, the hostility displayed against Syria in addition to facilitations provided by private banks in Syria – some are Syrian banks with Lebanese participation – and facilitations provided by banks in Jordan and Bahrain. The deposits belonged mostly to tycoons and magnates from Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia and Homs these deposits.

## Lebanese banks in Syria

It is known that before 2001 six government banks monopolized the Syrian banking sector (the largest being the Syrian Trade Bank). Private banks were not permitted to operate but Law # 28 dated March 29, 2001 allowed these banks to work. By establishing banks in the form of joint-stock companies non-Syrians do not own more than 49% of the bank’s capital. The percentage was later increased to 60% of the bank’s capital. Based on this percentage the state authorized the establishment of 16 private banks (until September 2011) including six banks with the participation of Lebanese banks:

- ◉ Bank of Syria and Overseas (licensed on April 30, 2003)
- ◉ Byblos Bank Syria (licensed on March 10, 2005)
- ◉ Banque Bemo Saudi Fransi (licensed on April 30, 2003)
- ◉ Audi Bank Syria (licenses on June 1, 2005)
- ◉ Fransabank (licenses on May 7, 2007)
- ◉ Orient Bank (Banque Libano-Francaise group) (licenses on April 10, 2008)

The above-listed banks were able to occupy a distinguished place in the Syrian banking market acquiring 22% of deposits and loans while obtaining 70% of deposits and 57% of loans in the private banking sector turning them into the backbone of this sector.

## The other private banks are:

- ◉ Syria Gulf Bank (licensed on April 13, 2006)
- ◉ The International Bank for Trade and Finance (licensed on April 30, 2003)

- ◉ Arab Bank-Syria (license on September 22, 2004)
- ◉ Jordan Bank-Syria (license on May 27, 2007)
- ◉ Baraka Bank-Syria (licensed on June 28, 2007)
- ◉ Syria International Islamic Bank (Islamic bank) (licensed on September 7, 2006)
- ◉ Cham Bank (Islamic bank) (licensed on September 7, 2006)
- ◉ Qatar National Bank-Syria (licensed on January 18, 2009)

In addition, there are two licensed banks that have not started operating yet: Al-Amman Bank (licensed on February 26, 2009) and Kuwait National Bank-Syria (licensed on February 2, 2011).

**Development of deposits in Lebanese banks**

Total deposits in Lebanese banks reached LBP 170,543 by the end of June 2011 compared to LBP 163,717 billion at the beginning of 2011 registering a LBP 6,826 billion increase or 4.17%. During the same period in 2010, bank deposits increased from LBP 146,302 billion to LBP 152,583 billion registering a LBP 6,281 billion increase or 4.29% as shown in Table 1. These figures refute what was reported of the inflow of USD 20 billion from Syrian banks to Lebanese banks because there is no trace of such funds in the movement of deposits and it is impossible for such substantial deposits to have entered Lebanon and then invested in real estate or trade. It is also impossible that they have been kept in homes and vaults in the banks.

(equivalent of USD 3.9 billion) but the figure dropped in May to SYP 177,791 million (USD 3.7 billion) marking a drop by USD 200 million.

Therefore, there cannot be talk about the exit of USD 20 billion at the time when total foreign currency deposits do not exceed USD 3.9 billion. Noteworthy is that total deposits in the Syrian pounds and in foreign currencies in Syrian banks reached SYP 1,267 billion by the end of May 2011 or USD 26.2 billion compared to SYP 1,387 billion or USD 28.9 billion at the beginning of 2011 marking a USD 2.7 billion drop or 10.3%. Provided that the statistics are accurate then USD 2.7 billion mostly in the Syrian pounds (it is illegal to take out funds in the Syrian pounds from Syria but the fact of the matter is that large amounts of the Syrian pound do exit to Lebanon where they are exchanged for foreign currencies in case of shortage of foreign currencies in Syria and the flourishing of the black market as was the case before 2005 and as the case today) exited the Syrian banking sector since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis and until the end of May 2011 and not USD 20 billion.

In light of above-mentioned facts it can be assumed that the major part of the Syrian deposits which migrated from Lebanese banks following Hariri’s assassination has returned to the Lebanese banks in the aftermath of the crisis in Syria since March 2011 and are estimated at USD 2.52 billion as previously mentioned. Therefore, Lebanese banks saw the entry of no more than USD 2.52 billion in Syrian deposits at best and not USD 20 billion.

**The growth of deposits in Lebanese banks between January and June 2010-2011 (in LBP billion)** Table 1

Month \ Year	January	February	March	April	May	June
2010	146,302	147,965	149,519	151,024	151,313	152,583
2011	163,717	163,342	165,392	168,108	169,157	170,543

Source: Compiled by the Association of Banks in Lebanon monthly newsletter

However, if we examine deposits by non-residents over the first six months of 2011 we can see that they increased from an equivalent of USD 18,485 million as of the beginning of 2011 to USD 19,904 million at the end of June marking a USD 1,419 million increase or 7.67%. These figures also refute what is being said about the inflow of USD 20 billion from Syria to Lebanon. Further, some reports say that the Syrian’s share of these deposits equal 20%, which is the equivalent of around USD 4 billion.

**Development of deposits in Syrian banks**

Statistics published by the Syrian Central Bank show that the total of deposits in foreign currencies in Syrian banks reached SYP 185,756 million by the end of 2010



# LEBANON PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2013

## BETWEEN THE MAJORITY RULE OR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Parliamentary elections are expected to take place in Lebanon between 20 April and 19 June 2013. To date, the legal form based on which the elections would take place is unknown. What is the system that will be used? Is it the majority rule system, proportional representation, or the merging of both? What is the size of the constituency that will be adopted? Is it the Qada'a, the Mohafaza or a constituency in between both? Knowing which electoral law will be used allows the forecast of a major part of the elections even before they take place. Since what is being repeated about "building the state", "transition to the state" and a "fair electoral system" are no more than slogans to be abandoned when they threaten the interests of the "za'amat", what is constant here is that the loss of this party only means the victory of the other and that there is no will to sacrifice for the sake of building a state.

There are several possibilities, of which the most important are:

- ◉ Keeping the current law based on which the June 2009 parliamentary elections took place.
- ◉ An electoral law based on proportionality and on the constituencies that were used in the 2009 elections.
- ◉ An electoral law based on proportionality in new constituencies in which several Qada'as can be merged into one constituency and the other Qada'as will be kept as a single constituency (as suggested by former Minister of Interior Zyad Baroud).
- ◉ An electoral law based on proportionality in new constituencies in five Mohafazat (Beirut, Beqa'a, North, Mount Lebanon, South) excluding the Mohafazat of Nabatieh, Akkar, Baalbeck and Hermel which are considered by some to be administrative

Mohafazat (Former Parliament Speaker Hussein al-Husseini was of that opinion).

Each of the listed possibilities leads to a different outcome as follows:

### 1. Proportionality based on the current constituencies:

The 2009 parliamentary elections were based on the electoral constituencies of 1960 with modification in the three Beirut constituencies. The majority rule system was also adopted whereby March 14 forces won 71 seats and March 8 won 57 seats. In case the same results are used and the elections are conducted based on proportionality, the outcome would have been 62 seats for March 14 and 66 seats for March 8, with a loss of 9 seats for March 14 as shown in Table 1:

Expected results had the elections been based on the 2009 constituencies but with proportionality representation					Table 1	
Constituency	Seats	Results based on current constituencies and the majority rule system (2009 elections)		Expected results based on current constituencies and proportionality system		
		March 14 seats	March 8 seats	March 14 seats	March 8 seats	
Beirut 1	5	5	-	3	2	
Beirut 2	4	2	2	2	2	
Beirut 3	10	10	-	8	2	
Matn	8	2	6	4	4	
Keserouane	5	-	5	2	3	
Jbeil	3	-	3	1	2	
Chouf	8	8	-	6	2	
A'aley	5	4	1	3	2	
Baabda	6	-	6	3	3	
Tripoli	8	8	-	6	2	
Koura	3	3	-	2	1	
Batroun	2	2	-	1	1	

Expected results had the elections been based on the 2009 constituencies but with proportionality representation					Table 1
Constituency	Seats	Results based on current constituencies and the majority rule system (2009 elections)		Expected results based on current constituencies and proportionality system	
		March 14 seats	March 8 seats	March 14 seats	March 8 seats
Zgharta	3	-	3	1	2
Bcharri	2	2	-	2	-
Akkar	7	7	-	5	2
Minnieh-Dinnieh	3	3	-	2	1
Zahle	7	7	-	4	3
West Beqa'a-Rachaya	6	6	-	3	3
Baalbeck Hermel	10	-	10	1	9
Saida	2	2	-	1	1
Jezzine	3	-	3	1	2
Zahrani	3	-	3	-	3
Sour	4	-	4	-	4
Nabatieh	3	-	3	-	3
Bint Jbeil	3	-	3	-	3
Marjeyoun-Hasbaya	5	-	5	1	4
Total (26 constituencies)	128	71	57	62	66

## 2- Elections based on Minister Baroud's proposition:

Baroud prepared a proposition for a new electoral law that focused on proportional representation and the redistribution of constituencies whereby some Qada'as were merged into one constituency (like Bcharri, Zgharta, Batroun, Koura or Saida, Jezzine and Zahrani) and while some Qada'as remained as one constituency like the Chouf, Matn and Zahle. If this law is adopted, March 14 and March 8 are each expected to have equal seats (64 seats) as shown in Table 2:

Expected results in case the elections are held based on proportionality and the constituencies as proposed by Baroud				Table 2
Constituency	Number of seats	Number of seats expected to be won by March 14	Number of seats expected to be won by March 8	
Beirut 1	9	5	4	
Beirut 2	10	8	2	
Jbeil and Keserouane	8	4	4	
Matn	8	4	4	
Baabda and A'aley	11	6	5	
Chouf	8	6	2	
Akkar	7	5	2	
Tripoli and Minnieh-Dinnieh	11	9	2	
Zgharta, Bcharri, Batroun and Koura	10	6	4	
Baalbeck and Hermel	10	1	9	
Zahle	7	4	3	
West Beqa'a-Rachaya	6	3	3	
Saida, Jezzine, Zahrani	8	2	6	
Nabatieh, Marjeyoun, Hasbaya	8	1	7	
Sour, Bint Jbeil	7	-	7	
Total (15 constituencies)	128	64	64	

### 3- Proportionality in the Mohafaza

Some of the MPs and politicians who closely observed the signing of the Ta'ef accord confirm that there was agreement to consider the five Mohafazat as electoral constituencies. The Nabatieh Mohafaza, or any other electoral Mohafaza to be established for administrative reasons for that matter, was considered an administrative Mohafaza and not an electoral Mohafaza. Had the 2009 elections been based on the five Mohafazat and on the proportionality system, March 8 forces are estimated to have won 68 seats while March 14 is estimated to have won 60 seats as shown in Table 3:

Expected results in case the elections had been held based on proportionality in the five Mohafazat			Table 3
Constituency	Seats	Number of seats for March 14	Number of seats for March 8
Beirut	19	13	6
Mount Lebanon	35	18	17
Beqa'a	23	8	15
North	28	18	10
South and Nabatieh	23	3	20
Total (5 constituencies)	128	60	68

Finally, the formulation of a new electoral law might seem difficult or perhaps impossible at the moment save for foreign interferences and settlements that would lead to a new law as was the case with the Doha meeting which produced the 2009 electoral law. In the absence of any settlement, it is most likely that matters will stay the same and the 2009 electoral law will remain in place. The results however will remain unclear until the picture of the new alliances - especially those of MP Walid Jumblat, Mohamad Al Safadi and Prime Minister Najib Mikati - becomes clearer, in addition to the extent to which Hizbollah, the Free Patriotic Movement and Future Movement can keep their positions.

#### The study guidelines

While preparing this article and the expected results, the following guidelines were used:

- For registered voters and voters and the results that each candidate received, the 2009 parliamentary election results were used.
- For the categorization of March 8 and March 14 forces, we relied on the same classification used in the 2009 elections despite the changes that took place on the political scene. Since then, a new government

has been formed headed by Najib Miqati, who, in addition to Mohamad Al-Safadi, Ahmad Karami, Nicola Fattouch, Walid Jumblat and six MPs, exited March 14 forces into "neutrality".

- Voting based on the proportional system has several ways. We have used the one that is based on dividing the number of voters over the number of seats to determine the electoral quotient. After that, dividing the number of votes that a certain bloc received over the quotient to determine the number of seats that it receives. The remainder is distributed (in case of additional seats) over the bloc that receives the most votes. An example is Beirut 1 whereby the number of voters reached 37,284 and the number of seats in this constituency is five. The electoral quotient is  $37,284/5 = 7,457$  votes. March 8 received 19,533 votes and won by  $19,533/7,457 = 2$  seats. There remain 4,619 voters not represented and March 8 received 16,791 votes and won  $16,791/7,457 = 2$  MPs and remains 1,877 voters not represented. Therefore the fifth seat goes to the larger list, which happens to be for March 14.

We did not rely on preferential voting in these forecasts, which could affect the choice of candidate on a certain list to show the degree of his popularity and perhaps in the order by which the contender's names are listed but it does not alter the scale of force between March 8 and March 14.



# 44 LAW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AT 4.3 BILLION DOLLARS TO NO AVAIL

Since 1991, and even more since 1993, consecutive Lebanese governments have endeavored to include what is known as law programs in the public budget.

## Definition

A law program consists of the allocation of financial credits (often substantial) to a certain project whereby the government is allowed a credit contract and to begin execution before the appropriations are available for payment in the budget. However, payment of the credit is divided annually and is listed in the public budget. Therefore, the contractor who is granted a funded commitment by the law program could complete his work within a year or two but it will be several years after the project's completion before he is fully paid leading to a hike in prices considering the delay in payment.

## Law programs

From 1991 until 2005 (no budget has been ratified since the 2005 public budget), consecutive governments endorsed 44 program laws (all ratified as part of the draft public budget articles except for one draft) at the value of LBP 6454.4 billion (or 4.3 billion dollars). They were distributed on several projects such as roads, public buildings and schools, the Lebanese University, forestation, water and electricity, parliament, Council for South Lebanon, Immigrants Fund, the airport, sports stadiums and ports as demonstrated in the following Table 1.

After a revision of the law programs, we conclude that:

- Governments headed by late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri ratified 38 law programs at the value of LBP 6112.8 billion, which were all listed within the draft public budgets. Their value represents 94.6% of the total value of program laws.
- The only law program that was ratified during Salim Hoss' time as prime minister was realized by virtue of a special law and not as part of the budget. It was allocated for sports stadiums at the value of LBP 40 billion and increased to LBP 71 billion only to drop to LBP 66 billion.
- None of the consecutive governments abided by the annual credit payments rather they sought to reduce the amount that was allocated at the time the year's budget was ratified while increasing it in the years that followed and so forth. For example, credit payments that were decided for the defense law program at the value of LBP 200 billion and that were distributed over four years (1992-1995) were amended and payment was postponed several times from 1992 until 2006. The delay meant that amount supposed to be paid over a period of four years was paid over a period of 15 years.

- The listing of payment appropriations within the public budget limited most funding to specific project by virtue of the law programs and also prevented the allocation of many new projects. The following table 1 shows the value of appropriations scheduled for payment annually and their amendments.

The allocation of credits for major projects over several years to limit budget deficit on the one and to find solution for public problems on the other did not realize its purpose. The budget deficit continued to increase year after year and many of the problems and crises are still present despite spending substantial amounts of funds to resolve them.

Where is the accountability for the poor performance? The allocation of LBP 200 billion for public schools and vocational schools did not improve them, the apportionment of LBP 1200 billion for electricity did not limit rationing and the allotment of LBP 1800 billion for roads did not improve most of them. The question here is how were all of these funds spent? Did their inclusion in the law programs increase their cost or is the issue linked to the absence of management and control and deep-rooted corruption and disorder?

The total of payment appropriations (billion LBP)		Table 1
	Payment appropriations scheduled in (billion LBP)	Amended appropriations in (billion LBP)
1992	30	30
1993	118	107
1994	303	251
1995	356.5	171
1996	270.5	136.81
1997	281.5	223
1998	272.5	253
1999	280.5	239.2
2000	203.5	184.3
2001	264.2	222.2
2002	146.150	307.650
2003	488.250	156.35
2004	548.6	352.350
2005	398.210	139.505
2006	409.860	634.505
2007	401.385	620.885
2008	361.285	395.785
2009	422	453.350
2010	562	575.6
2011	-	71
2012	-	132
2013	-	180
2014	-	261.5

Payment appropriations that were scheduled or amended as of 2006 were not paid but were postponed for later years. Appropriations that were actually paid have not been specified because the public budget has not been ratified since 2006 to date.

Payment appropriation scheduled annually (billion LBP) 1992-2000											Table 2
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Rehabilitation and development of Telecom: Article 49 of the 1991 budget	200	25	40	60	75	-	-	-	-	-	
Renovation and maintenance of army equipment: Article 18 of the 1993 budget	200	5	55	70	70	-	-	-	-	-	
Renovation of public schools: Article 18 of the 1993 budget	67	-	17	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tourism: Article 19 of the 1993 budget	20	-	1	12	7	-	-	-	-	-	
Economy-Wheat storage: Article 20 of the 1993 budget	17 (it was reduced to LBP 6.81 billion)	-	1	4	4	4	4	-	-	-	
Potable water projects: Article 21 of the 1993 budget	27	-	4	7	8	8	-	-	-	-	
Beirut International Airport: Article 19 of the 1994 budget	USD 400 million (LBP 680 billion)	-	-	50	70	70	70	70	70	70	
Internal Security Forces buildings: Article 21 of the 1994 budget	20 (increased to LBP 30 billion)	-	-	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	
Lebanese University: Article 22 of the 1994 budget	USD 250 million (LBP 425 billion)	-	-	10	35	50	50	80	40	40	
Government buildings (Council for Development and Reconstruction): Article 26 of the 1994 budget	52.5	-	-	25	27.5	-	-	-	-	-	
Potable, irrigation and waster water projects: Article 35 of the 1995 budget	356	-	-	-	45	118.5	115.5	67.5	9.5	-	
Infrastructure works in Tripoli: Article 46 of the 1995 budget	LBP 50 billion (it became 54 based on article 21 of 2001 budget law)	-	-	-	10	20	20	-	-	-	
Annexation and counting works in various regions: Article 20 of the 1997 budget	LBP 20 billion (it became LBP 40 billion based on article 5 of 2000 budget law)	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	5	
Construction and equipping of public schools: Article 22 of the 1997 budget	100	-	-	-	-	-	10	15	25	25	
Construction and equipping of public vocational and technical schools: Article 23 of the 1997 budget	100	-	-	-	-	-	10	15	25	25	
The national project for roads: Article 21 of the 1998 budget	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	22.5	11.7	
Construction and equipping of the Rachid Karami International Exhibition in Tripoli: Article 39 of the 1998 budget	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	8	
Construction, completion and rehabilitation of sports stadiums and the imposition of fees on hotel and apartment guests: Law #74 dated 31/3/1999	LBP 40 billion (it became 71 based on article 49 of 2002 budget law. It was lowered to 66 based on article 17 of 2004 budget)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	

Payment appropriation amended annually (billion LBP) 1992-2000										
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Telecom: Article 49 of the 1991 budget	200	25	75	85	15	-	-	-	-	-
Defense: Article 15 of the 1992 budget	200	5	30	50	15	13.5	10	11.5	11.5	11.5
Education: Article 18 of the 1993 budget	67	-	17	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tourism: Article 19 of the 1993 budget	20	-	1	12	-	-	4	3	-	-
Economy-Wheat storage: Article 20 of the 1993 budget	17 (it was reduced to 6.81)	-	1	4	1	0.81	-	-	-	-
Potable water projects: Article 21 of the 1993 budget	27	-	4	7	8	8	-	-	-	-
Beirut International Airport: Article 19 of the 1994 budget	USD 400 million (LBP 680 billion)	-	-	50	70	63	55	70	70	70
Internal Security Forces buildings: Article 21 of the 1994 budget	20 (increased to LBP 30 billion)	-	-	15	15	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanese University: Article 22 of the 1994 budget	USD 250 million (LBP 425 billion)	-	-	10	-	-	4	50	30	55
Government buildings (Council for Development and Reconstruction): Article 26 of the 1994 budget	52.5	-	-	25	-	10	12.5	5	-	-
Potable, irrigation and waster water projects: Article 35 of the 1995 budget	356	-	-	-	45	40.5	115.5	67.5	77.7	9.847
Infrastructure works in Tripoli: Article 46 of the 1995 budget	LBP 50 billion (it became LBP 54 billion based on article 21 of 2001 budget law)	-	-	-	10	9	-	11	6	6
Annexation and counting works in various regions: Article 20 of the 1997 budget	LBP 20 billion (it became 40 based on article 5 of 2000 budget law)	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	2
Construction and equipping of public schools: Article 22 of the 1997 budget	100	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	10	8
Construction and equipping of public vocational and technical schools: Article 23 of the 1997 budget	100	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	10	5
The national project for roads: Article 21 of the 1998 budget	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	6	6
Construction and equipping of the Rachid Karami International Exhibition in Tripoli: Article 39 of the 1998 budget	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	3
Construction, completion and rehabilitation of sports stadiums and the imposition of fees on hotel and apartment guests: Law #74 dated 31/3/1999	LBP 40 billion (it became 71 based on article 49 of 2002 budget law)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8

Payment appropriation scheduled annually (billion LBP) 2001-2010											Table 3
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Beirut International Airport: Article 19 of the 1994 budget	USD 400 million (LBP 680 billion)	70	70	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanese University: Article 22 of the 1994 budget	USD 250 million (LBP 425 billion)	40	40	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annexation and counting works in various regions: Article 20 of the 1997 budget	LBP 20 billion (it became LBP 40 billion based on article 5 of 2000 budget law)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction and equipping of public schools: Article 22 of the 1997 budget	100	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction and equipping of public vocational and technical schools: Article 23 of the 1997 budget	100	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The national project for roads: Article 21 of the 1998 budget	51	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water and electricity projects: Article 22 of the 2001 budget	1,200	20	45	75	150	150	155	155	135	120	195
Road works and maintenance: Article 23 of the 2001 budget	1,800	20	55	104	172	182	199	202	197	302	367
Lebanese University in Beqaa: Article 24 of the 2001 budget	5	0.5	1.5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bint Jbeil Serail: Article 25 of the 2001 budget	5.5	1	2	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saida Justice Palace: Article 26 of the 2001 budget	5	2.5	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripoli Justice Palace: Article 27 of the 2001 budget	4.6 (It became 10.750 based on article 17 of 2004 budget)	0.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forestation projects: Article 28 of the 2001 budget	25	5	5	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Expropriation and construction projects to organize Beirut's southern suburb: Article 29 of the 2001 budget	150	25	75	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The construction of the ISF academy: Article 30 of the 2001 budget	72	5	15	20	20	12	-	-	-	-	-
Tripoli railroads project at the Syrian border, Riyaq and Sergaya: Article 31 of the 2001 budget	30	6	9	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction of wave breakers in the Tripoli and Sour ports: Article 32 of the 2001 budget	10	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Construction of the Nabatiyeh Serail: Article 33 of the 2001 budget	2.5	1	1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Payment appropriation scheduled annually (billion LBP) 2001-2010											Table 3
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Council for the South for pay compensation funds for victims in liberated land: Article 34 of the 2001 budget	100	1	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exports support program: Article 19 of the 2002 budget	50	-	10	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing and picnic ports: Article 20 of the 2002 budget	120	-	1.5	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	23	-	-
Metn highway: Article 21 of the 2002 budget	40	-	1,250	18,750	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Demarcation and liberation of land: Article 22 of the 2002 budget	25	-	1.5	5	6	6	6.5	-	-	-	-
Sour-Naqoura road: Article 23 of the 2002 budget	10.5	-	0.5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Council for South Lebanon to pay compensation funds for victims: Article 19 of the 2003 budget	75 (It became 135 based on article 17 of 2004 budget)	-	-	15	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Central Fund for the Displaced to pay compensation funds for repairs, evacuation and reconstruction: Article 20 of the 2003 budget	75	-	-	15	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction of state security building: Article 18 of the 2004 budget	4.5 (It became 6.3 based on article 17 of 2005 budget)	-	-	-	2	2.5	-	-	-	-	-
Construction of a travel station in Tripoli: Article 19 of the 2004 budget	6	-	-	-	0.1	2.925	2.975	-	-	-	-
The purchase of Microsoft programs and systems use rights: Article 18 of the 2005 budget	5.142	-	-	-	-	1,285,500 (LBP)	1,285,500 (LBP)	1,285,500 (LBP)	1,285,500 (LBP)	-	-
Maintenance of the Lebanese University in Hadath: Article 19 of the 2005 budget	42	-	-	-	-	10	16	16	-	-	-
Ministry of Education and Higher Education building: Article 20 of the 2005 budget	19.4	-	-	-	-	0,4	6	8	5	-	-
Construction of border centers: Article 21 of the 2005 budget	9	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	-	-
Construction, completion and rehabilitation of sports stadiums and the imposition of fees on hotel and apartment guests: Law #74 dated 31/3/1999	LBP 40 billion (it became 71 based on article 49 of 2002 budget law. It was lowered to 66 based on article 17 of 2004 budget)	8	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Payment appropriation amended annually (billion LBP) 2001-2009										
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Defense: Article 15 of the 1992 budget	200	9	6	3.2	10	5.8	8	-	-	-
Beirut International Airport: Article 19 of the 1994 budget	USD 400 million (LBP 680 billion)	30	10	-	-	-	92	100	-	-
Lebanese University: Article 22 of the 1994 budget	USD 250 million (LBP 425 billion)	30	40	-	-	-	25	55	51	75
Infrastructure works in Tripoli: Article 46 of the 1995 budget	LBP 50 billion (it became 54 based on article 21 of 2001 budget law)	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annexation and counting works in various regions: Article 20 of the 1997 budget	LBP 20 billion (it became 40 based on article 5 of 2000 budget law)	4.5	7.5	5	-	1	4	4	4	-
Construction and equipping of public schools: Article 22 of the 1997 budget	100	15	15	-	10	5	17	5	-	-
Construction and equipping of public vocational and technical schools: Article 23 of the 1997 budget	100	10	5	10	15	5	10	15	-	-
The national project for roads: Article 21 of the 1998 budget	51	9.3	8	2	1.7	3	-	-	-	-
Construction and equipping of the Rachid Karami International Exhibition in Tripoli: Article 39 of the 1998 budget	20	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water and electricity projects: Article 22 of the 2001 budget	1,200	20	25	47	100	46	155	155	135	120
Road works and maintenance: Article 23 of the 2001 budget	1,800	20	15	-	42	24.5	199	202	197	302
Lebanese University in Beqaa: Article 24 of the 2001 budget	5	0.5	1.5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Bint Jbeil Serail: Article 25 of the 2001 budget	5.5	1	1	0.5	3	-	-	-	-	-
Saida Justice Palace: Article 26 of the 2001 budget	5	2.5	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripoli Justice Palace: Article 27 of the 2001 budget	4.6 (It became 10.750 based on article 17 of 2004 budget)	0.4	1.4	0.5	1,550	1.9	2	3	-	-
Forestation projects: Article 28 of the 2001 budget	25	5	2	-	2,5	0.750	3	4	3.5	4.250
Expropriation and construction projects to organize Beirut's southern suburb: Article 29 of the 2001 budget	150	25	20	-	-	-	55	50	-	-
The construction of the ISF academy: Article 30 of the 2001 budget	72	5	5	3.5	-	-	10	16.5	20	12
Tripoli railroads project at the Syrian border, Riyaq and Sergaya: Article 31 of the 2001 budget	30	6	9	4	-	-	6	5	-	-

Table 4

Payment appropriation amended annually (billion LBP) 2001-2009										Table 4
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Construction of wave breakers in the Tripoli and Sour ports: Article 32 of the 2001 budget	10	2	2	1	-	1	2	2	-	-
Construction of the Nabatiyeh Serail: Article 33 of the 2001 budget	2.5	1	1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Council for the South for pay compensation funds for victims in liberated land: Article 34 of the 2001 budget	100	1	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exports support program: Article 19 of the 2002 budget	50	-	10	20	20	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing and picnic ports: Article 20 of the 2002 budget	120	-	1.5	4	5.5	8.1	19.1	19.1	23	15.1
Metn highway: Article 21 of the 2002 budget	40	-	1.250	18.750	5	10	5	-	-	-
Demarcation and liberation of land: Article 22 of the 2002 budget	25	-	1.5	3	3	3	6.5	6	2	-
Sour-Naqoura road: Article 23 of the 2002 budget	10.5	-	0.5	2	4	-	2	2	-	-
The Council for South Lebanon to pay compensation funds for victims: Article 19 of the 2003 budget	75 (It became 135 based on article 17 of 2004 budget)	-	-	15	60	60	-	-	-	-
The Central Fund for the Displaced to pay compensation funds for repairs, evacuation and reconstruction: Article 20 of the 2003 budget	75	-	-	15	60	-	-	-	-	-
Construction of state security building: Article 18 of the 2004 budget	4.5 (It became 6.3 based on article 17 of 2005 budget)	-	-	-	2	2.5	1.8	-	-	-
Construction of a travel station in Tripoli: Article 19 of the 2004 budget	6	-	-	-	0.1	1.925	2.975	1	-	-
The purchase of Microsoft programs and systems use rights: Article 18 of the 2005 budget	5.142	-	-	-	-	1,285,500 (LBP)	1,285,500 (LBP)	1,285,500 (LBP)	1,285,500 (LBP)	-
Maintenance of the Lebanese University in Hadath: Article 19 of the 2005 budget	42	-	-	-	-	10	16	16	-	-
Ministry of Education and Higher Education building: Article 20 of the 2005 budget	19.4	-	-	-	-	0,4	6	8	5	-
Construction of border centers: Article 21 of the 2005 budget	9	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	-
Construction, completion and rehabilitation of sports stadiums and the imposition of fees on hotel and apartment guests: Law #74 dated 31/3/1999	LBP 40 billion (it became LBP 71 billion based on article 49 of 2002 budget law)	8	11	5	5	3	7	6	5	-

Payment appropriation amended annually (billion LBP) 2010-2014							Table 5
Laws and programs	Value (billion LBP)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Water and electricity projects: Article 22 of the 2001 budget	1,200	195	20	28	50	104	
Road works and maintenance: Article 23 of the 2001 budget	1,800	367	40	104	130	157.5	
Fishing and picnic ports: Article 20 of the 2002 budget	120	13.6	11	-	-	-	

# ELECTRICITY DUES IN THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS: MORE THAN LBP 320 BILLION

Palestinian camps in Lebanon are supplied with electricity from Électricité Du Liban (EDL). The camps have not paid their electricity bills for the past 45 years, ever since UNRWA stopped doing so.

## The Council of Ministers' Decision

The Council of Ministers tried to resolve the issue and collect the dues after installing meters at the entrance of the camps. This was approved by decision number 4, dated 10-9-2003, requesting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants to contact the United Nations with regards to collecting the electricity dues from Palestinian camps, and UNRWA's (the NGO entrusted to provide accommodations for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza) ongoing neglect of that topic. Based on the UN's negative reply, the council of ministers approved decision number 12 dated 6-11-2003 to bear the expenses of the electricity in the camps. However, the government did not execute this decision and the situation is lingering to date (September 2011).

## Ministry of Finance refuses to comply

Former Minister of Finance Rayya El Hassan refused to pay the government the electricity bills of the Palestinian camps and requested that UNRWA bear the expenses. However, the council of ministers, in a session on March 31, 2010 decided to postpone the subject until further notice and the discussion is still pending to date (September 2011).

## Cost

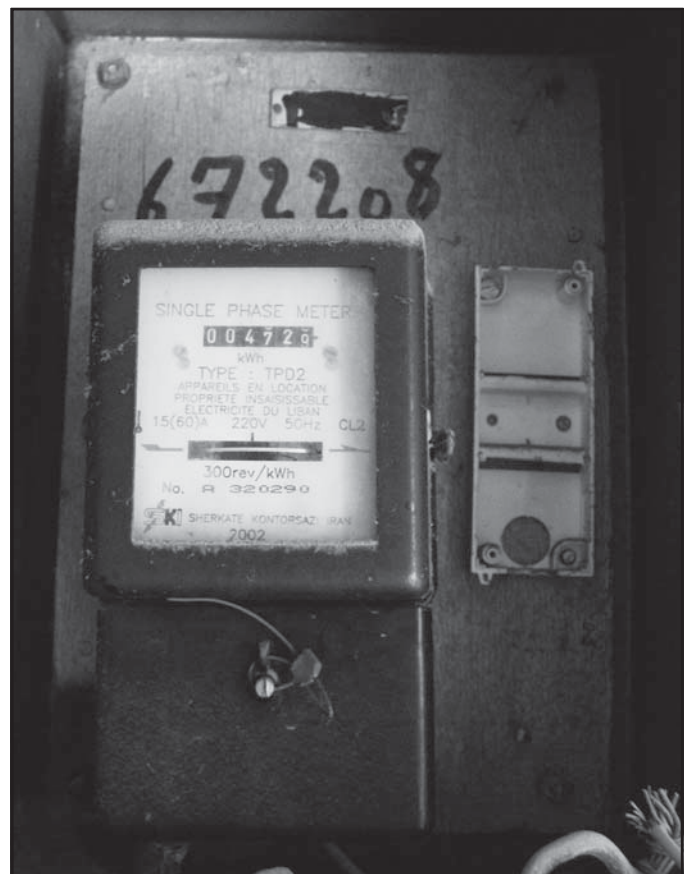
EDL, since May 2003, installed meters for average tension at the entrance of the camps to specify the capacity used in light of the absence of the meters in most of the homes and institutions in the camps. Electricity consumption in the Palestinian camps between 1966 and 2010, according to EDL, reached LBP 320 billion, as shown in Table 1:

Distribution of value of electricity consumption in the Palestinian camps from 1966 until 2010 Table 1

Year	Value (billion LBP)
1966 – May 2003	150
June 2003 – end of 2003	12.1
2004	23.9
2005	24.1
2006	24.9
2007	21.8
2008	20.2
2009	22.4
2010	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>321.4</b>

## Camps in Lebanon

There are 12 Palestinian camps in Lebanon. They are: Ain El Helweh (the largest), Nahr El Bared (destroyed), Beddawi, Waifel (Baalbeck), Borj Shmali, Bass, Rachidieh, Dbayeh, Borj Al Barajneh, Mar Elias, Chatila, Miyyeh w Miyyeh. The population in the camps is estimated at around 200,000.



# THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION: THE MINISTRY OF HALF OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

About half of the Lebanese people are, in one way or another, linked to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The degree of this relationship varies from one citizen to another, from a professor or student of public education to a teacher or student of private education, all highlighting the importance and role of this “sovereign” ministry.

## Establishment of the Ministry

The Ministry was previously called “The Ministry of General Knowledge” and was one of the seven ministries in the Lebanese Republic in 1926. Sheikh Bechara El Khoury, Prime Minister in 1927 (later on President of the Republic) was among the first ministers who took over this ministry after Minister Najib Amyouni. The ministry was known as “The Ministry of National Education” as of 1937, and as “The Ministry of National Education and Fine Arts” as of 1941.

## Duties of the Ministry

Article Seven of Decree number 5 dated on May 31, 1926 (the organization of the ministries of the Republic of Lebanon and the definition of its terms of reference) determined the tasks and duties of the Ministry of Knowledge as follows:

“This ministry shall be charged with organizing competent state education institutions, conducting its business, graduating teachers, taking care of their choice, controlling and preparing curricula, and insuring the necessary preparations for examinations and competitions and ensuring the aforementioned. The National School of Music, the Department of Archaeology and Antiquities and the National Library are all affiliated with the Ministry of Knowledge and Fine Arts”.

Article one of the Legislative Decree issued on February 6, 1953 defined the functions of the Ministry of National Education and Fine Arts as follows: “Stimulate the cultural movement and organize, promote and disseminate the cultural affairs, enhance the sporting spirit, the Scout, the protection of monuments and promotion of the arts”.

## The Ministry: three ministries together

In the first ministry formed by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on 31 October 1992, the ministry was divided into three ministries with the nomination of:

- Minister of State (Michel Edde) for Culture and Higher Education,

- Minister of State (Hassan Izz al-Din) for Vocational and Technical Education,
- And Mikhael Daher to the Minister of National Education and Fine Arts.

Law number 215 was issued on April 2, 1993 to form a new ministry called the “Ministry of Culture and Higher Education”. This law further stipulated changing the name of the “Ministry of National Education and Fine Arts” to the “Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports”, This law granted the new ministry responsibility over cultural activities and the affairs of higher education. Its authority shall consist of:

- Directorate general of culture and higher education
- Directorate general of antiquities (which was a subordinate to the Ministry of Tourism)
- Directorate of cinemas, theater and exhibitions affairs (previously a subordinate to the Ministry of Information);

The Minister of Culture and Higher Education shall exercise the custodial authority over the Lebanese University, National Music Institute and the National Council for Scientific Research.

Law number 211 was issued on April 2, 1993 to create the Ministry of Vocational and Technical Education; this new ministry shall be responsible for the affairs of vocational and technical education, public or private.

This ministry consists of the Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education.

## The three new ministries

The three ministries persisted until law number 247 was issued on August 7, 2000 (integration, abolition and establishment of ministries and councils) that created the “Ministry of Youth and Sports”, after separating the “General Directorate of Youth and Sports” from the “Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports”, which was re-named the “Ministry

of Education and Higher Education”. This law also repealed the “Ministry of Vocational and technical education” making it a part of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Moreover, the law amended the name of the “Ministry of Culture and Higher Education” to become the “Ministry of Culture”, which consists of the Directorate General of Culture and the Directorate General of Antiquities. The Directorate General for Higher Education was made a subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

To make things clear, the Ministry of National Education and Fine Arts is now formed of three ministries: the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Culture.

### Organization of the Ministry

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education was changed and modified over the past years, exhibiting separations, divisions, and reintegration. Today, the ministry is organized as follows:

- Directorate general of education
- Directorate general of higher education
- Directorate general of vocational and technical education

### Budget of the Ministry

The total budget of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the draft budget for 2010 was equal to LBP 1.293.3 billion (about USD 858 million) which represents 6.62% of the public total budget expenditures. These expenditures are distributed upon the most prominent following items:

- LBP 46 billion for the contributions to free private schools
- LBP 8.5 billion for the rental of school buildings for the secondary education
- LBP 16 billion for the rental of school buildings for the primary and intermediary educations
- LBP 374 billion for the salaries of staff in primary and intermediary educations
- LBP 169.5 billion for the salaries of staff in secondary education
- LBP 10 billion for the contractors in secondary education
- LBP 14.5 billion for the contribution to the Educational Center for Research and Development
- LBP 900 million for the contribution of in the UN program to support the administrative and informative capacities
- LBP 930 million for the contribution to the Education Development Project
- LBP 81 billion to support the funds of public schools,

including the fees of teaching hours, which accounts for LBP 51 billion and to support the program to reduce the dropout, which accounts for LBP 16.5 billion and LBP 13 billion to support the teaching of procedural materials

- LBP 238 billion for the salaries and wages of staff and professors of the Lebanese University and for the contribution to the mutual fund of university professors
- LBP 97.2 billion for the salaries and wages of employees in vocational and technical education, including salaries of contracting teachers
- LBP 67 billion for the cost of maintenance and operation of the Lebanese University in Al Hadath for the past several years (these funds are spent through the Council for Development and Reconstruction)
- LBP 2.3 billion for the maintenance and operation of the building of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Central (these funds are spent through the Council for Development and Reconstruction).

### Succeeding ministers

Since 1943, 83 ministers headed the Ministry of National Education (with its different names). It should be noted that most of them were Christian. The ministry was headed by only 26 Muslim ministers to date; with most of them taking over the ministry in the recent years, when the ministry was placed under the patronage of the Sunni community during the process of distributing some key ministries between the major confessions. The ministers, ordered according to the presidential eras are:

#### The era of President Bechara El Khoury (1943 - 1952)

Habib Abou Shahla (2) – Wadih Naim – Hamid Franjeh – Philip Takla (2) – Elias El Khoury – Hamid Franjeh – Riad El Soleh – Raif ABi Lamaa – Edward Noun – Emile Lahoud – Antoine Stephan – Bassil Trad (2) – Nazem Akkari

#### The era of President Kamil Chamoun (1952-1958)

Salim Haydar – Pierre Edde – Nicolas Salem (2) – Maurice Zouain – Salim Lahoud – Georges Akl – Georges Hakim – Fouad Ghosn – Charles Malek – Farid Kouzma – Clovis El Khazen

#### The era of President Fouad Shehab (1958-1964)

Mouhamad Safi El Din – Pierre El Gemmayyel – Fouad Botros – Gebran Nassas – Kamal Jumblatt – Mouhamad Safi El Din – Kamel El Asaad – Charles Helou – Gebran Nassas

**The era of President Charles El Helou (1964-1970)**

Edmond Kesbar – Ghaleb Shahine – Suleiman El Zein – Fouad Botros – Suleiman EL Zein – Jean Aziz – Joseph Najjar – Abdallah AL Yafi (2) – Joseph Abou Khatteer (2)

**The era of President Suleiman Franjeh (1970-1976)**

Ghassan Tueini – Najib Abou Haydar – Edward Hanin – Henri Edde – Albert Mouhayber – Edmond Rizk (2) – Majid Hamada – Moussa Kenaan – Philippe Takla – Kamil Chamoun – Adel Asayran

**The era of President Elias Sarkis (1976 – 1982)**

Asaad Rizk – Botros Harb – Rene Mouawad

**The era of President Amin Gemayyel**

Issam Khoury – Salim El Hoss

General Michel Aoun became prime minister after President Amine Genayyel's term ended, and no new president was elected. Brigadier General Nabil Koraytem headed the ministry and after he resigned, General Michel Aoun took over his post.

**The era of President Elias Al Hrawi (1989-1998)**

Omar Karami – Botros Harb – Zaki Mazboudi – Mikael Al Daher – Robert Ghanem – Jean Obeid

**The era of President Emile Lahoud (1998-2007)**

Mouhammad Youddéf Baydoun – Abdel Rahim Mrad – Samir El Jesser – Sami Minkara – Ghassan Salameh – Asaad Rizk – Khaled Kabbani

**The era of the current President Michel Suleiman (2008 - )**

Bahiya Al Hariri – Hassan Mnaymneh – Hassan Diab

**Remarks**

- The number in parentheses represent the number of consecutive times that the minister took over the office
- Ministers: Robert Ghanem - Jean Obeid - Mohamed Youssef Beydoun named Ministers of National Education, Youth and Sports
- Ministers: Abdul-Rahim Murad - Samir Jisr - Sami beak - Ghassan Salameh - Assaad Rizk - Khaled Qabbani - Bahia Hariri - Hassan Mneimneh and Hassan Diab named Ministers of Education and Higher Education

**The education sector in figures**

Based on the statistics of the Educational Center for Research and Development for the academic year 2009 – 2010, we realize that the education sector includes:

- 1,219,022 students
- 3,301 educational institutions
- 123,701 employees

Distributed as follows:

- Grade school education: The total number of students is 942,39; 285,399 of them are in public schools, 126,812 in free private schools and 497,530 in paid private schools. There are 2,807 schools: 1,365 public schools, 369 free of charge private schools and 1,703 paid private schools. The number of employees is 88,113, 38,723 of which are public schools, 6,773 in free private schools and 42,617 in paid private schools.
- Vocational and Technical Education: The number of students is equal to 95,781 students including: 37,317 students in public institutions and 58,464 students in private education institutions. The number of schools is equal to 456 schools: 105 public schools compared to 351 private education schools. The number of employees is 19,201 employees, including: 12,502 in private education schools and 6,699 employees in public schools
- University education: The number of students is 180,850: 72,813 students in the Lebanese University, and 108,037 students in 37 private universities. The Lebanese University has 5,266 employees whilst private universities have 11,161 employees. The number of graduates for that year is 29,747.

# THE LEBANESE AND CURRENT EVENTS:

**64% FOR PROPORTIONALITY, 61% FOR HIZBOLLAH'S ARMS, 67% FOR ELECTRICITY FUNDS ALLOCATION, 54% CONSIDER THE TRIBUNAL POLITICIZED**

There are many issues that concern the Lebanese public such as the government's status, the situation in Syria, the parliamentary elections law, Hizbollah's arms and the international tribunal.

Information International conducted a telephone poll with a sample of 500 Lebanese citizens on these issues between 25th and 27th August 2011. The sample was distributed based on confessional and regional representation and based on age and gender.

## **The government and the commitment to the ministerial statement: 45% no commitment**

45% of the respondents think that the government will not execute all what was included in its statement, 40% believed it would while 15% said they did not know.

On confessional distribution, 61% of the Shia'a, 22% of the Sunni, 33% of the Maronites, 46% of each of the Orthodox and Druze, and 35% of Catholic respondents think that the government will commit to the ministerial statement

## **The government and developmental accomplishments: 47% will make accomplishments**

47% of respondents believe that the current government is able to execute more economical accomplishments and developments than the previous governments did 41% do not, while 12% have no opinion.

Based on confessional distribution this 47% would comprise, 71% of the Shia'a, 27% of the Sunni, 43% of the Druze, 42% of the Maronites, 59% of the Orthodox, and 42% of the Catholics.

## **The government and administrative appointments: 49% not vindictive**

The government started since last July to make some limited administrative appointments and is being accused of vindictive intentions in this regard. The

majority of the respondents (49%) stated that the government is not vindictive, compared to 25% who refuted that and 26% who said they did not know.

## **Elections based on proportionality: 64% are for**

Some political forces are for the proportionality electoral law and others are against it, while others still did not make up their minds about it yet. According to the poll, the majority of the respondents (64%) are for the proportionality system in the new parliamentary electoral law, while 16% refuse it and 20% do not know (Graph 1). It is worth noting that 28% of the respondents believe that the government would develop a modern and democratic law for the elections, while 48% believe otherwise and 24% said they did not know.

## **Electricity: 67% for electricity fund allocation**

For the past few weeks, there have been discussions around providing the ministry of energy and water LBP 1,722 billion to improve electricity. 67% of the respondents are in support of this, while 26% are against it and 7% said they did not know.

## **Stance from Hizbollah arms: 61% are in support**

The Lebanese are divided on their stances on Hizbollah's arms. 61% of the respondents are with the arms until a solution is found in the region whereas 26% request the immediate disarmament of Hizbollah and 13% are not concerned.

On the confessional distribution, the vast majority of the Shia'a respondents (96%), and 41% of the Sunni are with keeping Hizbollah's arms, while 38% of Sunni are not. Table 1 shows the distribution of the percentages based on confession.

In comparison to a previous poll conducted by Information International between 11 and 15 August 2009, 60% of the respondents supported Hizbollah's arms compared to 26% who did not and 14% were supporting it until the liberation of Sheba'a Farms.

Stance \ Confession	% Maronite	% Orthodox	% Catholics	% Armenian Catholics and Orthodox	% Sunni	% Shia'a	% Druze
Immediate disarmament of Hizbollah	40	26	35	5	39	2	32
Keeping the arms until a solution is found in the region	50	59	46	47	41	96	58
Not concerned	10	15	19	48	20	2	10

**Lebanon International Tribunal: 54% politicized**

Since the assassination of Rafik Hariri in February 14, 2005 the international tribunal has been an important aspect of the political and confessional conflicts in Lebanon. More than half of the respondents (54%) reported that the tribunal was politicized. On the other hand, 26% disagreed stating that the tribunal was fair and not politicized, 3% were standing in the middle and 17% said they were not concerned.

Based on confession, the majority of the Shia'a (87%) believes that it is politicized compared to 30% of the Sunni. Table 2 shows the confessional distribution of the percentages.

Stance \ Confession	Maronites %	Orthodox %	Catholics %	Armenian Catholics and Orthodox %	Sunni %	Shia'a %	Druze %
Politicized	48	59	46	37	30	87	46
Fair and neutral	34	18	31	16	45	5	25
Not concerned	15	23	15	47	22	8	14
Midway between politicized and fair	3	-	8	-	3	-	15

In comparison to a previous poll conducted by Information International from 12 – 16 August 2010, 60% reported that the tribunal was politicized while 20% thought it was fair and 20% had no opinion and were not concerned.

Sunni (67%), followed by the Maronites (59%), Catholics (58%), Shia'a (41%), Druze (43%) and Orthodox (46%).

**The Situation in Syria, 57% in support of the current regime**

25% of the respondents reported that they were not concerned with the events in Syria. On the other hand, 57% supported the current regime (48% were in favor of political reform, while the rest supported the regime as it is). 18% preferred that the regime be completely dissolved. In comparison with a previous poll conducted by Information International between April 23 and May 3, 2011, results revealed that 56% were in support of the regime (3% supported it as is and 53% supported political reform within the same regime), 17% were in support of the dissolution of the regime, and 27% of the respondents said they did not know.

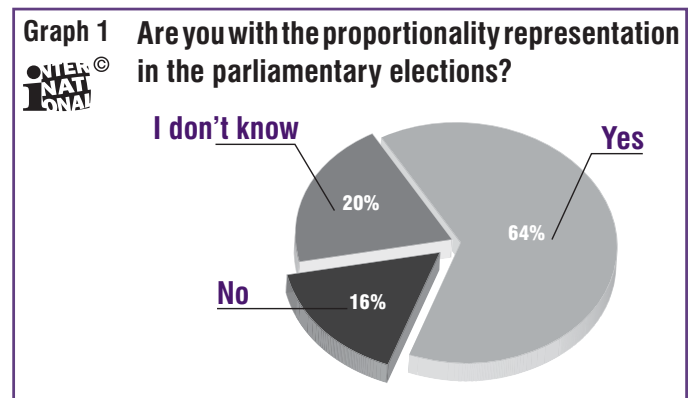
**Readings**

The following could be deduced from these polls:

- A split in stance with regards to the government with 47% for it and 41% against it.
- A vast majority is with the proportionality system in the upcoming parliamentary elections
- The majority are still with Hizbollah's arms
- More than half the respondents still believe that the international tribunal is politicized
- The majority are still supporting Syrian regime
- More than half the respondents are scared and concerned.

**The Lebanese between anxiety and stability: 54% are anxious**

54% of the respondents reported being anxious and uncertain about the situation these days, while 38% reported feeling secure and 8% said they did not know. On the confessional level, those most greatly concerned are the



# AMELIEH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## Objectives

According to the school administration, Amelieh College for Girls, as do the other schools of Amelieh Islamic Charitable Society, aims at serving the public, fighting illiteracy and ignorance, and treating social backwardness by making teaching a solid foundation for the education of male and female students at a high level of culture and responsibility. According to the high school's director Ms. Nahla Reda, the school motto is "No honor is like knowledge and no heritage is like literature". The school has aimed at uniting students from all regions and parties together, and teaching them how to accept the 'other'.

## Establishment

The Amelieh Islamic Charitable Society founded the Beirut Amelieh school for Girls in 1967. This school is part of a group of schools founded by the society. In 1928, the first Amelieh School was founded in Ras Al Nabee. The scope of the Society's activity expanded to the south, Bekaa and Beirut, founding a total of 48 schools throughout the country. The objective of the establishment of these schools at that time was to integrate the children of the poor and needy, and help teach and educate them, so they become productive members of society with a good set of morals and basic principles.

## The Campus

The building of Amelieh school for Girls is located in Ras Al Nabee region in Beirut, consisting of primary, middle and secondary sections in its two Education systems: English and French. The school has no nursery or kindergarten classes, since its students come from the society's nursery school which also teaches in French and English.

The school is primarily un-integrated, with the exception of the Baccalaureate classes (which welcomes boys to the classrooms), where the school aims to prepare the students for university life. The second baccalaureate includes general sciences, biology, economics and sociology. Students can opt to sit for the French or English Baccalaureate.

## Facilities and Utilities

The Amelieh school for Girls strives to provide a suitable scientific and cultural atmosphere for developing their students' skills, and providing them with the best practical training. It has a chemistry laboratory and biology laboratory.

The school's library has both local and foreign books that compliment the students' literacy and educational levels, aiding them in their studies, language development, and philosophy. The school considers computers as a necessity in this era; they have a computer lab that aims to teach students on the basics of a computer, and helping them keep up with technology .



Photo By: Mohamed Mashlab

### Educational curricula

The Amelieh school for Girls applies the official public educational system organized and implemented by the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The school has a special administrative team that coordinates between the various subjects taught, the French and English systems, and with other schools founded by the society.

### Number of students and educational and administrative body

The number of female students at the Amelieh school for Girls is about 512 students, with each class holding 18 to 22 students. The school has a total of around 72 faculty and staff employees.

### Tuition fees

The tuition fees at Amelieh school for Girls range between LBP 700,000 for the primary school, LBP 3,050,000 for the middle school and LBP 3,150,000 for the secondary school. It is worth mentioning that 100% of students receive substantial assistance other than grants that are given for outstanding students, orphans, and students unable to pay the tuition. The Amelieh Islamic Charitable Society bears the responsibility of these assistances and facilities with the support of others.

### Activities

The school undertakes different activities that contribute to building the students personalities and motivating them toward science, development and knowledge. Some of these activities are:

- ◉ Excursions and explorations that help students to explore Lebanese regions and identify their country's heritage.
- ◉ Activities and competitions that develop students' cognitive skills, and competitive spirit. The school was able to win first prize in a competition organized by the WHO (World Health Organization). The school also participates in the majority of environmental and educational activities organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Ministry of Environment
- ◉ The production of various school plays that target educational and cultural topics
- ◉ Encouraging art and artistic expression by hosting an annual art exhibition

In addition to activities that promote reading, and reading competitions. All their activities aim at encouraging students to work in groups

According to the school's administration, and although the school is derived from the Islamic charitable Organization, it does not discriminate on the basis of religion, and it believes in collective work. Thus, it works to integrate students from all backgrounds. The school's administration explains its willingness to help the poor be part of the community, get an education, whilst implementing modern teaching techniques that foster the student's responsibility, and encourage dialogue with and between students and parents to solve awareness, and create a model society that is based on love, understanding, and peace. 🌱



Photo By: Mohamed Mashlab

# SYNDICATE OF FUEL STATION OWNERS:

## THE MAJORITY OF STATIONS ARE NOT LICENSED

### 1- Syndicate establishment

The syndicate was established in 1954 and currently consists of approximately 1,000 stations (out of about 3,250 stations across Lebanon). Affiliation to the syndicate is mandatory for all legally licensed stations. The syndicate works for the protection of stations affiliated to it by following up with the Ministry of Energy on problems faced by station-owners since it represents the authority of the guardianship.

The syndicate of fuel station owners, as other syndicates, has a general committee and an administrative committee. The general committee includes all stations affiliated to the syndicate, amounting to nearly one thousand. The administrative committee, which emerges from the general committee, is elected every four years and consists of 12 members. Every six members are changed by draw every two years so they can elect a president and a new committee upon the appointment.

### Licensing conditions for stations

Decree number 5509 dated on the 11th of August 1994 defined the regulatory requirements for the pools of liquid oil products, transportation tanks, distribution stations and liquefied fuel storage and filling (butane and propane):

- ⦿ The total area of the property intended for the establishment of a petrol station should be equal to 1000 sqm and more
- ⦿ The distance between a station and another should not be less than 800 meters
- ⦿ The tanks of gasoline and diesel should be placed inside a room of concrete to prevent the leakage of oil products to the ground and to protect public safety
- ⦿ The property intended for the establishment of a station should benefit from an interface of not less than 30 meters
- ⦿ The location of the property should be on an easily accessible land and not at the crossroads in order not to cause accidents and threaten public safety
- ⦿ The station should not be located near schools and homes and should be separated from them by 50 meters and more
- ⦿ The oil changing hole (for the vehicles) should be

located inside the station and the same goes for washing vehicles in order to be monitored by the Ministry of Economy

- ⦿ The classification of the property on which the station will be constructed should be commercial in order to obtain a license for the station
- ⦿ The means for public safety protection should be available, such as fire extinguishers and therefore they should be distributed in several places in the station

These conditions and many others are not implemented which makes fuel stations in Lebanon ticking time bombs.

### Syndicate activities

- ⦿ The syndicate of fuel station owners was able to lift the royalty of the gasoline from LBP 800 to LBP 1,600. The syndicate is still pursuing the implementation of the resolution of the Council of Ministers to make the royalt equal to 7.5% of the gasoline tank.

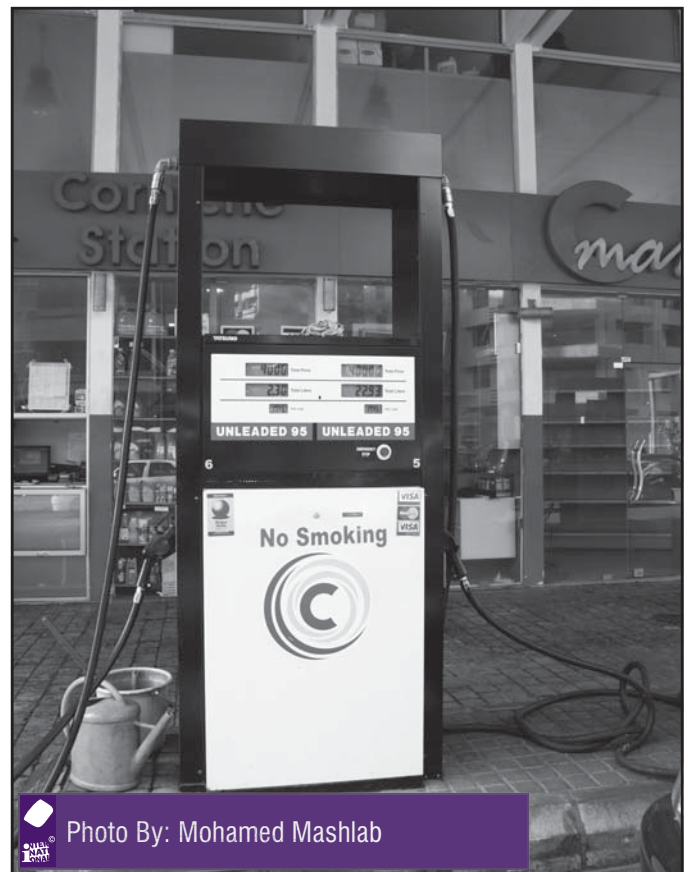


Photo By: Mohamed Mashlab

- The syndicate called on the Ministry of Energy to stop licensing stations that do not meet the legal requirements and to prosecute those operating without permits. The ministry has responded to this demand until parliament issues a law in this regard.
- The syndicate called on the Ministry of Labor to allow station-owners to recruit foreign workers (Egypt - Pakistan and others) after it was banned.
- The conciliatory role that the syndicate played between the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Finance after an issue caused by the abstention from signing the schedule of prices (an agreement between the Ministry of Energy and the syndicate of stations and oil companies to entrust said ministry with the preparation of the weekly prices schedule of petroleum substances according to the change in oil prices globally). Thus, the syndicate held meetings with the Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Minister of Finance, and the issue was settled and an agreement was reached according to which oil companies delivered gasoline to the stations thus preventing a voil crisis in the country.
- The prevention and combat of the smuggling of diesel fuel and gasoline. Large quantities enter the Lebanese market creating an unequal competition among stations taking into consideration that the contraband material is not subject to tax.
- The continuous calls by the syndicate on the regulatory authorities to organize extensive tours to control fraud by some stations (either on level of the counters safety or the quality of goods).
- The demand to change the classification of electricity meters after the counters that were installed for the stations were classified as industrial counters. EDL changed the classification and these counters became residential ones, which means that the price of kilowatt/hour was increased with the modification of the counters classification from industrial to residential.
- Calls by the syndicate to make the stations' profit rate on the prices moving scale.
- The necessity to prevent the establishment of car washers and oil changing holes outside the stations since they are included in the license granted to the station.

### The challenges faced by the syndicate of fuel station owners in Lebanon:

- The permanent claim to increase the percentage of royalty on diesel fuel. The station's royalty currently equals LBP 400 for each plate of diesel and about LBP 150 of them are paid, which is the difference of the exchange rate in addition to LBP 100 considered as the transportation difference. Thus, only LBP 150 remain for the station and they do not cover operating expenses.
- The establishment of some unlicensed stations or that do not meet the legal requirements and this happens in collusion with state bodies in charge of control.

### Stations, according to figures from the Ministry of Energy

According to figures from the Ministry of Energy and Water, the competent authority concerned with the subject of petrol and fuel stations: There are 3,250 stations in Lebanon, including 1,450 licensed stations, 700 stations with expired licenses and 1,100 unlicensed stations.



Photo By: Mohamed Mashlab



# GALLBLADDER ATTACKS

Dr. Hanna Saadah

Abdominal pain after eating is a frequent complaint and is caused by multiple diseases among which reflux of acidic stomach contents into the esophagus and gallbladder disorders are the two most common conditions. Confusion between

these two conditions is easy because gallbladder disorders may cause or worsen acid reflux and may partially respond to acid reflux therapy.

In making the diagnosis, symptoms are more important than laboratory or x-ray findings because many patients who have gallstones have no symptoms and require no treatment while many patients who do not have gallstones do have symptoms and do require treatment. The decision to treat and the choice of treatment are eminently dependent on the good judgment of the physician in charge.

Typical symptoms include upper abdominal pain, bloating, cramps, and nausea, all of which tend to subside when patients stop eating and to escalate after eating is resumed. The more fatty the food and the greater the amount eaten, the more severe the symptoms tend to become. The pain usually localizes around the stomach and gallbladder areas, which are in the mid-upper and right-upper abdomen, and is often referred to the right shoulder and back. Vomiting does not occur unless the attack is severe; nocturnal attacks are quite common especially after a late heavy meal. The attacks tend to be recurrent, stereotypical, and can have serious complications.

The most feared complications of gallbladder attacks are: a) inflammation of the bile ducts within the liver (cholangitis), which may lead to obstruction and jaundice and b) inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), which can cause necrosis of the tissues surrounding the pancreas. These severe complications occur usually after multiple warnings but may also present with the initial attack.

The investigation of the attacks involves liver and pancreas blood tests plus ultrasound and scan of the gallbladder. During the attack, the liver and pancreas enzymes may become elevated and tenderness in the right upper abdomen may be sharply increased by the examiner's palpating hand. The ultrasound may show stones or sludge and the scan may reveal that the gallbladder is no longer able to squeeze out its bile contents.

The diagnosis is made based on the combination of symptoms, blood tests, ultrasound findings, and scan results. Clinical judgment, which takes into consideration all these variables, decides on the best course of treatment for each individual patient. If all the variables are positive,

then surgical (laparoscopic) removal of the gallbladder is usually chosen. If, however, the ultrasound does not reveal stones, the blood tests are normal, and only the scan is positive, then medical therapies are usually tried first.

Medical therapies include reducing dietary fat, taking cholesterol-lowering medicines (statins), and taking bear bile acid tablets (ursodiol), all of which reduce the amount of cholesterol crystals in the bile ducts and gallbladder. The bile acts as a detergent, which dissolves the cholesterol made by the liver after it is excreted into the bile ducts. When the balance between bile and cholesterol is tilted in favor of precipitation instead of dissolution, cholesterol crystals form in the bile ducts and, while the bile is being stored in the gallbladder, these crystals turn into cholesterol stones. It is this abnormal crystallization of cholesterol that is responsible for the so-called gallbladder attacks.

Cholesterol lowering medicines (statins) reduce the manufacturing of cholesterol by the liver, which reduces the amount of cholesterol secreted into the bile ducts. Bear bile acid tablets (ursodiol) increase the amount of bile acids in the bile, which increases cholesterol dissolution. A low fat diet reduces the amount of cholesterol that the liver makes and excretes into the bile. When bile cholesterol is reduced or bile acids are increased, the balance is tipped in favor of cholesterol dissolution instead of precipitation and less cholesterol crystals are formed.

Removing the gallbladder increases the amount of bile flowing into the bile ducts, which increases cholesterol dissolution and reduces crystals. In spite of that, about 25% of patients may continue to have symptoms after their gallbladder is removed and may require additional medical therapy for full recovery. In such cases, either the cholesterol lowering medicines (statins) or the bear bile acid tablets (ursodiol) or a combination of the two may be required to tip the balance in favor of cholesterol dissolution instead of crystallization.

Based on my own research (POST CHOLECYSTECTOMY BILIARY PAIN AND DYSPEPSIA; RESPONSE TO 3-HYDROXY-3-METHYLGLUTARYL COENZYME A REDUCTASE INHIBITORS. J OKLA STATE MED ASSOC 1994, 87: 31518.) I favor the use of cholesterol lowering medicines first because they tend to work quickly and seldom have adverse effects. Most patients who need these medicines do not have high blood cholesterol, perhaps because they are effectively excreting all their excess cholesterol into the bile ducts where it turns into crystals. ●●



## THE DISCOVERY OF THE GENE

Antoine Boutros

**M**endel's experiments had significant scientific and economic implications. As a result of his knowledge of the laws of genetics and rules of hybridization, scientists were able to utilize the best of what nature offers us in resources by pairing the best of them and expanding their crops. Today, there are 200,000 kinds of highly developed plants, however we utilize only tenth of those. Furthermore what is being planted in the fields does not exceed 2000 kinds. Among those 2000 kinds, only 20 crops occupy 90% of the cultivated areas. As a result of hybridization, we now have new and previously unknown brands such as winter wheat for example, which is the result of a complex pairing between Russian and Argentinian brands. In other words, this new science allows us to restructure plants and consolidate other plants that have different and varied traits.

Nature has forms of life whose genes carry data that has not changed for hundreds of thousands of years and are transferred from one generation to the other. Similarly, there are now new forms with different data that are man-made and that are now coexisting with the older types but that are more useful.

If this transformation leads towards good benefits, it often takes a wrong direction and with that we find how far the science of genetics is complex and how far it has developed from the experiments on the pea seed to the consolidation of new and previously unknown plants by multinational scientists.

Experiments addressing the principles of post-Mendel genetics showed that the total domination or total isolation of one of the traits is not a certainty every time. One should not regard a being as being the outcome of independent traits with each one being defined by a singular gene. A single gene can affect a group of traits as a group of traits could be affected by several genes. The term "trait" is no more than an abstraction used to facilitate explanation or clarification.

In 1915, a major development led to a significant step in understanding the structure of the gene. Scientists concluded that the chromosome does not resemble a thread as previously thought; but more likely a necklace consisting of several beads (numbering in fact 1250 in every human chromosome). These beads, which are structured in a linear form, are the real bases of the mysteries of genetics.

The human cell consists of no less than 100,000 genes distributed on 46 chromosomes and the science of heredity became in fact the science of genetics. Then the term underwent another transformation. The gene no longer represents a structural hereditary unit with a defined length; rather it became an operational entity.

As for the structure of the gene, it is essentially the same in all living beings. It consists of serial particles of nucleic acids especially deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA) in some viruses and takes a linear shape forming part of the chromosome.

The DNA's particle consists of four bases or chemical letters representing the genetics information codes. The DNA's particle taken from the human cell includes 3.5 billion bases named genome and the ability to read it is key to knowing the genetics information. In comparison, a mouse's genome in its turn consists of 3.5 letters while that of a lizard consists of 30 times that much. In the world of botany, the corn's genome consists of 15 billion and the iris of 90 billion. Paradoxically, a human's DNA only differs from that of a chimpanzee by 1.6% or less than the difference between a chimpanzee and a gorilla. Further, human's genes are closer to those of the corn than those between one form of bacteria and another. 🍷

*Next article: How is information transferred from one cell to the other?*

THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWED  
**MR. HAGOP  
HAVATIAN**

on the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society

Managing Director of Hamazkayin, “Vahe Sethian” Publishing House and “Lucy Tutunjian” Art Gallery

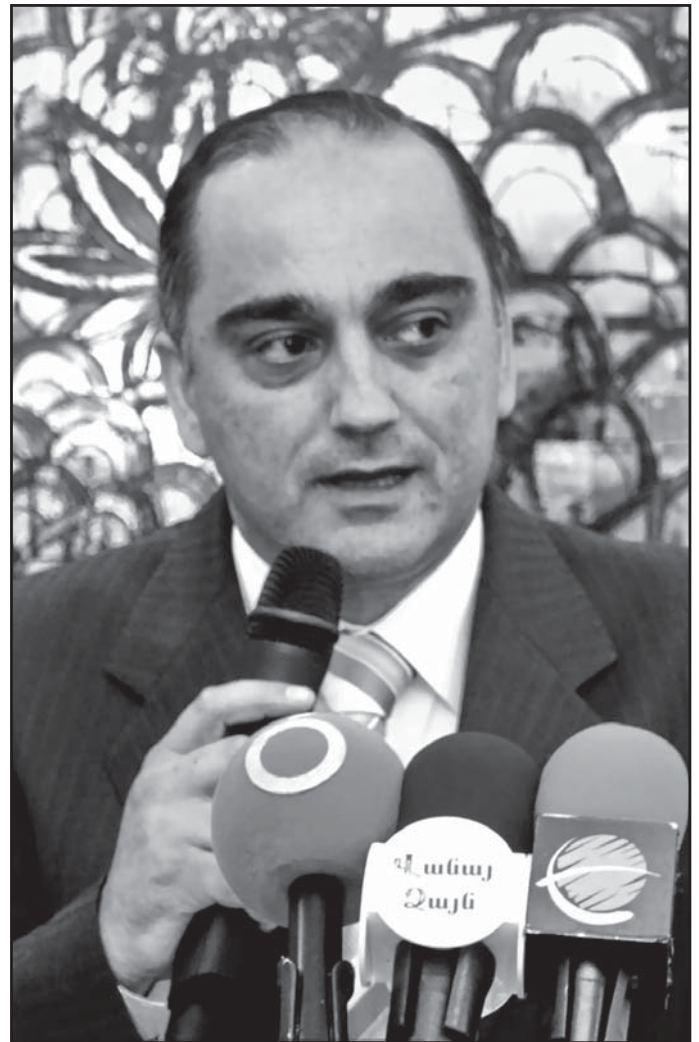
**We understand that your gallery is a branch of a large cultural society, can you tell us about the history of your society?**

The core of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society began to form following the repression and violence against the Armenian people starting in the early 1900's. The Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman and Turkish authorities in 1915, the collapse of the First Republic of Armenia in 1918, and the Soviet persecutions that followed caused the scattering of Armenians.

During this turmoil, a group of nine intellectuals, among whom were writer and educator Levon Shant, historian and critic Nigol Aghpalian, the former educational and cultural minister of the Republic of Armenia, Hamo Ohanjanian as well as stage director and art critic Kasbar Ipegian founded the Hamazkayin Publishing and Cultural Association in Cairo, on May 28, 1928.

Some of these intellectuals came to Lebanon and set the cornerstone of the society in Beirut. Seeing that a society's culture should be imbibed from early youth, Hamazkayin established Djemaran School Zouqaq el Blat. Through the years, this school contributed to the Armenian culture through its education. We are proud of many of our graduates, who grew up to be people of influence in their field of specialty, and contributors to the Armenian society.

After the school was established, the society sought further cultural development through building a publishing house and printing press in Zouqaq el Blat. Books of all sorts (school books, art books, books about the Armenian cause, etc.) were written and published, which helped us anchor the Armenian language and provide our children with education. After the Lebanese Civil war, the printing press was moved to Borj Hammoud, and we are still pursuing its development through printing various books for Armenian authors from around the world.



 **HAGOB HAVATIAN**

Since our society has spread through the Armenian Diaspora in seventeen countries around the world and Armenia, we elect the “central committee of Hamazkayin” every 4 years to back up Hamazkayin's development plans and take responsibility of all our activities. Since its establishment, Hamazkayin has assisted the branching of the society into various cultural and education centers, from schools, to art centers, to theaters, etc, targeting children and adults and thus elaborating cultural awareness and identity in the coming generations.

**When was the gallery established?**

Following one of the Committee's meetings, we saw that a gallery would compliment the publishing house's support of literature and art. The Hamazkayin gallery opened in November 2009, aiming to promote the works of artists with different backgrounds and styles, and be an engaging meeting place for art lovers.

As a new but continuously growing cultural center, the gallery also intends to build on the multifold and multifarious activities of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society. The objectives of the gallery are to:

- ◉ “Enliven the Lebanese-Armenian community through new and diverse cultural activities.
- ◉ Promote high-quality artistic creations in the community, Lebanon, and the world.
- ◉ Organize exhibitions of the works of artists with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds
- ◉ Promote the works of promising young artists in Lebanon and abroad.
- ◉ Acquaint the public in Lebanon with successful painters, photographers, sculptures, and other artists from Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora
- ◉ Increase awareness among the Lebanese people about the rich heritage and legacy of the Armenian culture
- ◉ Become a center for cultural and literary meetings and discussions, by organizing books presentations and other cultural events.”

### What are the conceptual and media criteria for the artists that participate in the exhibitions?

Any artist who wishes to display their work in Hamazkayin gallery has to send a portfolio and CV to the committee, which goes through the artist's work and evaluates it using specific criteria that define the work's quality. As for the media, we are open to painting, photography, sculpture. We also support book signings,

and the launching of musical albums and short movies.

### What are your plans for future development?

We are very pleased with what we have accomplished since the establishment of the gallery. We are proud to say that we have been able to accomplish our goals, and make them a reality.

### How do you describe the Armenian artists today? How do you interact with them?

Many Lebanese Armenian artists were recognized internationally. On a wider scale, I consider that many Armenian artists are known today for their work in Lebanon. They contribute to the development of the arts on the Lebanese and Armenian level.

### How do you describe the maintenance of the Armenian society's culture nowadays?

Although it has many benefits, globalization challenges a nation's cultural development nowadays. Despite that, we are working on maintaining the culture and education of Armenians. Hamazkayin will continue, as much as possible, to contribute to the nation's arts and to be a bridge between Armenia and Diaspora to encourage art and professionals.

We would like to thank all our sponsors especially the gallery's sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Garbis and Lucy Tutunjian and the sponsor of the newly established library Mr. and Mrs. Hovig and Maral Kurkjian and other donors who with their contributions, we can proceed with our publishing and other cultural projects.



# SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY IN LEBANON AND SYRIA

The Evangelical Church is distinct from other Christian churches because its establishment rests on the reformation and development of the Catholic Church. Martin Luther, a Christian priest born in Germany in 1483, played a leading role in launching this church across Europe and America to reach as far as the Middle East and Lebanon.

## Principles of the Evangelical Church

Evangelicals are those who follow the evangel and believe that God forgives our sins and that no living being can purchase forgiveness and salvation with money.

## Evangelicals in Lebanon

As early as 1819, Evangelical commissioners started flocking from America and Europe to Middle Eastern regions including Lebanon and Syria. It wasn't until 1840 that the Evangelism was recognized as a church within the confessional system of the Ottoman Empire. That same year, the first Evangelical church saw the light in Beirut (Zkak el Blat) and was followed by another in Hasbaya in 1852. Resolution 60 issued on 13-March-1936 by French Governor Damien De Martel recognized the various confessions present at the time except the Evangelical Church, which was not recognized as one of the Lebanese religious sects until 1938

## The Evangelical Supreme Council

The Supreme Council of the Evangelical Community in Lebanon and Syria was established in 1937. It is considered the ultimate Evangelical authority and it has the final word in the sect's civil and social affairs and the conditions of its members. The council is composed of a general board including representatives of all 15 Evangelical churches and 100 parishes in Lebanon and Syria. The board convenes to elect a president and a vice-president for its four-year term. The most recent electoral meeting was convened in its 71st session at the Supreme Council headquarters in Al Rabieh. Priest Selim Sahyouni won uncontested presidency, priest Samuel Hanna became vice-president, priest Makradej Kerkorian secretary, priest Jean Dagher treasurer, priest Charles Osta clerk and judge Fawzi Dagher became the legal consultant for the council in Lebanon and Naoum Aboud in Syria. The board serves for a four-year renewable term.

## Purpose of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council aims at strengthening the spiritual, ecclesiastical and social ties among the confession. It is the ultimate authority in all the issues and affairs stipulated in the personal status law and the highest and sole representative of the Evangelical confession before official and other authorities.

## Principles of the Supreme Council

The member churches in the Supreme Council and all the churches seeking membership shall believe and recognize that:

- ◉ God, the Father, Son and Holy spirit is one God in three distinct hypostases
- ◉ Jesus Christ the one Son of God incarnate for the salvation of men is perfect God and perfect man.
- ◉ The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, the reviving God of the church, the comforter of believers, the teacher and the guide to the righteous path.
- ◉ Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ who took our sins upon himself and was utterly crucified for them.
- ◉ The church recognizes only two sacraments (obligations) instituted by Jesus: Holy baptism and Holy Communion.
- ◉ Jesus shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. We shall believe in rising of the dead and eternal life for believers.
- ◉ The faith of all Evangelical churches is one in essence and the churches tolerate diversity of opinion among themselves to complement and enrich each other.
- ◉ The bible, Old and New Testaments, is the Inspired Word of God through the Holy Spirit and the ultimate and all-sufficient source of faith, doctrine, and tradition and the guide to salvation.

## Supreme Council Structure

The council is composed of a general board, an executive committee, a church office and other committees set up when needed.

**The general board** is the Supreme Council ultimate authority and it consists of member churches representatives. Presently, the board includes 49 members in addition to the confession's current and former MPs and ministers. The 49 members represent the all 15 churches of the council (5 new churches will soon join the council after meeting the required conditions) on the average of two representatives for 12 churches and 25 delegates for three churches (according to the size of each.)

- ◉ The Evangelical Presbyterian church or the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon which started operating in 1976 and became official in 1992 is among the largest and most important churches in Lebanon and Syria and is represented by 13 delegates in the supreme council. The Synod has 23 parishes in Lebanon and 20 in Syria alongside 7 schools in the former and 5 in the latter.
- ◉ The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East which was established in 1846 in Istanbul-Turkey and started operating in Lebanon in 1924 is represented by 8 delegates.
- ◉ The National Evangelical Church in Beirut to which the Evangelical Church facing the Government Palace is affiliated, is represented by 4 delegates.

#### **The other churches represented in the council are:**

- ◉ The council of the Church of God in Lebanon and Syria
- ◉ All Saint's Evangelical Episcopal Church in Beirut
- ◉ Council of the Evangelical Baptist Churches in Beirut
- ◉ The Evangelical Adventist Church in Lebanon
- ◉ The National Evangelical Union of Lebanon and Syria
- ◉ The Church of Evangelical Brothers on Lebanon and Syria
- ◉ The Council of the Evangelical Christian Church in Lebanon and Syria
- ◉ The Church of Evangelical Friends
- ◉ The Free Evangelical Church of Lebanon and Syria
- ◉ The Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Syria (only in Syria)
- ◉ The Evangelical National Church in Bludan (only in Syria)
- ◉ The French-speaking Evangelical Community Church (has recently joined the council)

- ◉ The German-speaking Evangelical Community church in Beirut (has joined the council as a member)

**The church office** is composed of the president, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer, the clerk and the legal consultants in Lebanon and Syria. Should the elected president be Syrian, vice president would be Lebanese and vice versa. As for the secretary, he is always from the president's country.

#### **The executive committee**

The executive committee is composed of members of the church office (7 members) and another 8 members elected by and from the general board for a 4-year term. Five out of these eight must belong to churches that are not represented in the church office and it is permissible to invite former presidents and former and current MPs and ministers to the committee's meetings as guests of honor. The committee assumes many rights such as arresting and dismissing religious judges, calling the general board for consultative meetings and monitoring the execution the general board decisions.

#### **Supreme Council presidents**

The council had four successive presidents since 1937 to date:

- ◉ Priest Moufid Abdel Karim (1937-1947) (died in office)
- ◉ Priest Dr. Fareed Awde (1948-1964)
- ◉ Priest Ibrahim dagher (1965-1983) (died in office)
- ◉ Priest Selim Sahyouni (1983- to date)

#### **Evangelical population**

Statistics conducted in 1932 revealed that there were 4,600 registered Evangelicals, divided into 1,869 residents and 2,731 immigrants. This figure soared to 22,170 in late 2010. The Evangelicals are distributed in Lebanon according to their registered birth place as follows:

- ◉ 8,300 in Beirut
- ◉ 6,400 in Mount Lebanon
- ◉ 1,650 in Nabatieh
- ◉ 1,520 in the South
- ◉ 2,100 in the North
- ◉ 2,200 in Beqa'a

The number of registered Evangelical voters reached 6,913 in 2009.

# EVANGELICAL CLERGYMAN

Evangelism is one of the diverse Christian confessionals but it differs from them in so many ways, particularly in the manner clergymen are recruited and prepared for the post.

## Who is entitled to become a clergyman?

Any Evangelical male has the right to become a clergyman provided that:

- ⦿ He is over 18 years old
- ⦿ He holds a Lebanese Baccalaureate Certificate II or preferably a University degree.
- ⦿ He has a recommendation from the minister of the Evangelical church he attends and which is usually located near his residence. Such recommendation is issued once the minister ensures that the student has good manners and does good deeds.
- ⦿ If the aforementioned are fulfilled, the student may join the Near East School of Theology located currently in Hamra-Beirut.

## Education/Studies at the faculty

Students holding a Lebanese Baccalaureate II pursue three years of theological education at the Near East School of Theology to obtain a Bachelor of Theology whereas University-degree holders obtain a Master of Theology. The courses emphasize on:

- ⦿ Humanities
- ⦿ Greek and Hebrew biblical languages
- ⦿ Principles and doctrines of other religions, particularly Islam.
- ⦿ History of the Church
- ⦿ Biblical science
- ⦿ Philosophy
- ⦿ Theology

Students may live on or off the premises of the faculty and are responsible for their residential and education fees. Low-income students who might need assistance in paying their fees can benefit from the financial aid program and the scholarships granted by the faculty or they can turn to the church, which referred them to the faculty in the first place for assistance.

## The degrees of clergymen

After finishing theological education and obtaining a Bachelor or a Master degree, students may want to perform a different profession like teaching. Otherwise, they may opt for becoming clergymen by submitting an application to the board of the Evangelical church, which had referred them to the faculty or to any other church of their choice. The board, known as the board of trustees and consists of the minister of the church and members of the parish, examines the application and in case of approval, the applicant becomes appointed as preacher and exercises

his right to preach, guide and counsel or decides to teach. This phase usually lasts between three to four years after which the preaching is evaluated. Thereafter, the student applies anew for the church board in the hope of becoming ordained. In case of approval, the board declares him an Evangelical Church priest in an ordination ceremony.

## Functions of the priest:

The Evangelical priest is in charge of the following:

- ⦿ Convening weekly instructional meetings with the clergy members
- ⦿ Conducting Sunday masses and weekly services
- ⦿ Meeting clergy members in his office and offering them psychological and social counseling.
- ⦿ Conducting funeral services
- ⦿ Performing marriage ceremonies

**Income of a priest:** The priest may resort to teaching and writing holy books and may receive financial aid and donations from the clergy members.

**Number of priests:** There are currently 100 Evangelical priests in Lebanon with an average of two or three priests appointed every year.

## Distinction from other sects of Christianity

Christian confessions require that a clergyman be either celibate (i.e. has no right to get married) or married (in the case of which he lives outside the monastery) whereas the Evangelical confession grants the priest the right to get married or to abstain from marriage if he so wishes noting that currently the greatest majority of Evangelical priests are married.

Contrary to other Christian confessions, the Evangelical confession does not adopt a hierarchy of Holy Orders (deacon, priest, bishop, patriarch) and all priests are equal although some might surpass others in terms of the size, the significance and the number of congregational members.

## The Conservative Movement

The aforementioned is solely applicable to the Ecumenical Movement, which is the largest in the Evangelical church. As for the Conservative Movement in the Evangelical church (Baptist Church), any student desiring to become a clergyman may admit himself to one of its affiliated faculties:

- ⦿ Baptist Theological Seminary in Mansourieh
- ⦿ Theological Seminary of the Christian Union Church
- ⦿ Mediterranean Department of Sacred Scripture

# AL MABARRAT ASSOCIATION: RELIGION AND SOCIETY

**A**l Mabarrat Association – founded and managed by the late Islamic authority Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah (died in July 2010) – is one of the few groups that are active both in religious work, through mosques and worship places, and in social work through health, education and care projects.

## Foundation

Al Mabarrat association was founded by virtue of establishment number 126/AD dated July 28, 1978 with Mabarrat Al Imam Al Khou'i being its first institution. Al Mabarrat established model academic schools and professional and technical institutes with the aim of providing an elite education all the while delivering an educative message. It also founded several worship places and cultural centers in addition to health and medical centers to service the local community.

## Al Mabarrat's message

Al Mabarrat started out as an Islamic, humane, educational and civilized project seeking human development and to instill the values of a faithful and decent human being who is educated, cultivated, mature and productive, open-minded and who also takes part in the making of the future. The association aims to care for orphans, special social cases and those with special needs in Lebanon. It relies on faith and hard work and it is driven by the belief that every orphan and child with special needs has the right to a decent and dignified life. The association provided the schools with a means to achieve this message in a fast-growing world in terms of discoveries, events and methods. It offers its students – especially those with special needs – educational services paving the way for their integration in the regular classes or continuing their education in special institutions. It also seeks, through its schools, to offer a new experience to the society in the framework of education and learning.

The association works simultaneously to develop the human spirit and mind through worship places and cultural centers. It also works to improve the health sector by establishing health and medical centers under the slogan of “good for health” as a continuation of its comprehensive human development message.

In addition, it works on professional development for workers while taking into consideration quality criteria in performance at all levels.

## Programs

The association manages several programs to be added to its list of institutions that are widespread. Among its most significant programs is the “Integrated Care Program for Capacity Development Program” for juvenile delinquents (children in danger of delinquency) at Mabarrat Al Imam Al Khou'i to help put them on the right track, provide schooling, vocational guidance courses and follow-ups with their families to facilitate their social integration.

It also initiated special programs for expatriate students who have returned to their homeland to integrate them in its classes, teach them their mother tongue in addition to programs for outstanding students, a program to “bring back to schools female drop outs” under the slogan of “no to exclusion, no to marginalization, every girl has the right to an education”. The program is expected to expand to include drop out boys as well.

Among other Mabarrat programs is a recruitment program for university and vocational school graduates with special needs by opening a recruitment office in Al Hadi Institution for Audio, Visual and Speech Disability in the framework of the “opportunity” project. The project acts as a link between graduates and enterprises. Another program founded by the association is a program to train the blind on the use of Information Technology in Braille. The program helps prepare them for work in technology-related fields including electronic archiving and Internet browsing using Braille and voice recognition software. The association also uniquely has a program for the “swift vocational training for working children” who

did not complete their basic education and who work in various shops. Other programs include a literacy program, which secures teachers for different levels for the public good in addition to the “Enabling the Mothers of Orphans Program” which targets those with vocational expertise that can be used to increase their income.

### Projects: The traditional and touristic village

Al Saha project resembles the meeting point of Arab and international heritages in one place where the luxury of the present fuses with the nostalgia to the past. It reflects the customs of the traditional Lebanese village by displaying more than 40,000 artifacts in Al Saha’s museum representing tools used by farmers and villagers in the past including an olive oil press and a traditional oven etc. in an attempt to revive the rich Lebanese heritage.

It is also a tourism project that actively contributes in boosting the tourism and cultural services sector including cultural, entertainment and social services. It also contributed in transforming the area (Airport Road), which lacks any tourism features, into a special attraction sight especially in the presence of Al Saha Hotel, which attracts visitors from different countries.

Al Mabarrat launched Al Saha project to contribute in boosting its human message in relation to the orphans, those with special needs and the poor and the needy since the project’s revenues go in full to the association’s institutions and orphanage. In addition to being a charitable organization, it provides employment for around 250 employees thus indirectly providing income for their families.

### Funding and expenses

It should be stressed that the association is independent and is not connected to any political party or country. It relies mainly on material and financial donations from individuals, institutions and companies in addition to government-sponsored projects such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and international organizations. In 1980, Al Mabarrat launched the “sponsor an orphan” project to finance programs for orphans cared for by the associations. Further, donation boxes are placed in homes and shops in Lebanon and abroad. The money is collected periodically. The association hosts a number of if tar dinners across Lebanon during Ramadan attended by more than 20,000 guests who donate to

the association on an irregular basis. The association also owns gas stations (Al Aytam stations) spread across Lebanon, a hotel, the touristic village restaurant located in the Airport Road, which all act as sources of funding. The association’s expenditures reach \$15 million a year.

### Al Mabarrat in number 2009-2010

- Caring for 4,000 orphans
- Teaching 21,500 students in academic and vocational schools
- Teaching 450 students with audio, visual and speech impairments in Al Hadi Institution
- The integration of 350 students with special needs in Al Mabarrat’s academic schools
- Nine managed care institutions
- 15 academic schools
- Three schools for special needs students
- Six vocational and technical schools
- Four health and medical centers
- 40 educational and religious centers (including 25 mosques)
- A high house for teachers
- Educational diagnostic center
- A nursing home

Even though its founder Sayyed Fadlallah passed away, the association continues its work with the same ardor and is now being managed by his brother Dr. Baqer Fadlallah and supervised by the former’s son Sayyed Ali Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah. 🌟



# POPULAR CULTURE

## Dinner on the Roof

### Listen O Rida!

... If you remember our old house, you will remember dinner on its roof. The roof of the old house was the temple of your grandfather Bou Najem...

At sunset, your grandfather used to climb to the sole roof of the house, as the roof is closer to the sky. The roof overlooks the mountains and valleys. Your grandfather enjoyed the trembling lights emitted from the mounds and valleys. He used to say: "The roof is more amiable! The surface opens the chest; makes you feel fresh." Your grandfather, at the arrival of summer, used to carry the bed up to the roof. When people from the neighboring quarter saw your grandfather's bed, they would say, "Summer is here", and if they saw that the bed is no longer on the roof, they would say, "Autumn is here". So, your grandfather's bed was like a barometer...

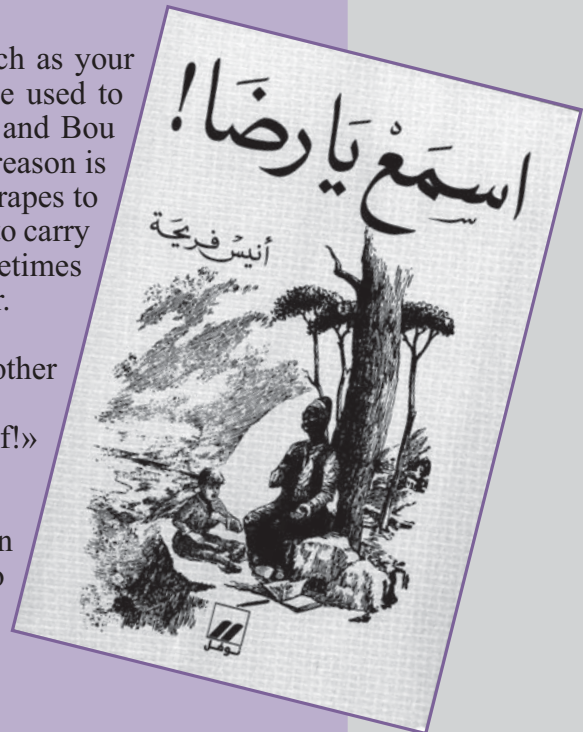
He was fluent in chanting psalms and hymns, and was keen to bring us together during the evenings; we are the "zaghaleel", in his temple on the roof, joining him in singing and chanting the Bible.

Your grandmother Sharifa hated the roof as much as your grandfather Bou Najem loved it ... for two reasons. She used to say, "Every year we need new mattresses and blankets... and Bou Najem never sets the bed aside or covers it." The second reason is carrying dinner, the abacus, the pitcher and the basket of grapes to the roof. After the hassle of the day, it was difficult for her to carry all of them to the roof, with the ladder being long and sometimes trembling under her feet, while she was carrying the dinner.

- ◉ "Have dinner and then go up to the roof", your grandmother would say.
- ◉ «Walaw! You are stringy with us on a dinner on the roof!» your grandfather would say...

He would say: "Bring dinner up, woman! Bring the cyclamen plant to eat "suhoor"! Bring the basket of grapes and figs to get cold! Come up and sit with me, sons!" We used to go up and set up our dinner with the pitcher and a basket of grapes and figs...

I was young, my pillow was my mother's lap, and the most delicious thing for me was to fall asleep to the sound of Byzantine music in the bosom of my mother after dinner on the roof...



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

# DYSLEXIA: THE READING BACKWARDS DISORDER?

**Myth:** Dyslexia is a reading backwards disorder

A common misconception among parents and even some educators is that dyslexia is a reading backwards disorder (Passer & Smith, 2010).

**Reality:** Dyslexia's Core Element Is Not Reading Backwards

Dyslexia is a learning disability characterized by a series of reading and writing difficulties. In fact, dyslexic individuals may experience difficulties in accurate and/or fluent word recognition (identifying real words), and spelling and decoding (pronouncing pseudowords) (Lyon et al., 2003).

As a result, dyslexic individuals typically read at significantly lower levels than the expected though they do have normal intelligence levels (IQ) and no general developmental disability (Lyon et al., 2003).

More to the point, dyslexia may also have some secondary consequences including problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experiences. These difficulties, in their turn, can obstruct the development of vocabulary and background knowledge (Lyon et al., 2003). Sometimes, there are also problems with understanding spoken language, word recall or expressing oneself orally (Wadlington, & Wadlington, 2005).

As part of dyslexia's symptomology, some patients show visual directional confusions between morphologically similar letters, such as reversing b and d, p and q, and n and u. They also have trouble in acquiring general logographic<sup>1</sup> strategy which helps them recognize common words, and difficulty in generalizing previously learned grapheme<sup>2</sup> to phoneme<sup>3</sup> rules (Frith, 1995; Habib, 2000). These individuals also may put letters in the wrong order, i.e. reading felt as left, act as cat, reserve as reverse. They may also put syllables in the wrong order, i.e. reading animal as aminal, enemy as emeny, etc. They may even omit letters, i.e. writing cat for cart, wet for went.

Dyslexic individuals also experience sequencing difficulties; referring to perceiving and remembering the sequence, i.e. difficulty remembering sequences, i.e. order of the alphabet, strings of numbers, and months of years.

Some patients may also have difficulties with handwriting, i.e. illegible writing, unfinished letter, irregular letter sizes and shapes. Also, they may experience difficulties with math.

Furthermore, many dyslexics may develop comorbid (cooccurring) deficits in other cognitive and academic areas (Habib, 2000); oral language acquisition (dysphasia), writing abilities (dysgraphia and misspelling), mathematical abilities (dyscalculia), motor coordination (dyspraxia), and attentional abilities (hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder) (Shankweiler, et al., 1995; B.A. Shaywitz, Fletcher, & S.E. Shaywitz, 1994; Fletcher & Loveland, 1986; Lindamood, 1994; Moats, 1994).

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1 Logogram is a written or pictorial symbol representing a whole word

2 Grapheme is a set of orthographic symbols representing phonemes

3 Phoneme is the smallest unit of speech distinguishing one word (or word element) from another, as the element p in "tap," which separates that word from "tab," "tag," and "tan."

# HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

## FROM THE ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT

In his book, “History of the Middle East from the Ancient Times to the Present” George Corm studies the Middle East from the pre-Islamic period up until the contemporary period based on the standards of language, culture, demography and economy and the social and political organizations. These objective criteria free his study from the subjectivity limited by comments of the historical eras or to the religious standard.

Corm starts by discussing the Middle East’s strategic geographic location and divides his book into three parts:

**Geography and History in the Form of Arab Ornaments:** Corm draws the Middle East as a crossroads of cultures; one succeeding the other, and as a myriad of civilizations and demographic complexities. To him, the concept of the Middle East does not refer to a defined geographical space or to a specific common history shared by the people of the region. He talks about the “Geology of Cultures” and the extraordinary cultural wealth while distinguishing between the major history periods starting with the “History of Mesopotamia” and “the Islamic conquests and Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties”, passing by “The History of Anatolia”, “The Crusades”, “The History of Iranian Empires” and ending with the “Egypt in the Middle East”.



**Modern Middle East:** Here, Corm highlights the causes of the progressive degeneration that affected the communities in the Middle East as of the end of the eighteenth century and the collapse of empires against the emerging renaissance in the west. He focuses on the evolution of the ‘Modern’ Middle East, since the European colonial domination in the nineteenth century until the occupation of Iraq in 2003, and presents as well three models of the reactions on this domination. The Turkish model was relatively successful in re-building a country on the remnants of the Ottoman Empire, on the basis of “the secular nationalism ideology of the officers of the Young Turks and on Ataturk’s legacy”. The Iranian model “was very influenced by European-style nationalism and distinguished by a contradictory mixture of conservativeness and progressiveness of the clergy and of the anti-imperialist and social revolutions until it ended with the Islamic Revolution in 1979”. Finally, the Arab Model (Egyptian Nazareth) was in some way influenced by the Kamali model (after the Turkish Leader Kamal Ataturk, the proportion) and the Yugoslav Communist experiment. The Arab Model was based on the popularity and symbolism of Jamal Abdel Nasser, it called for anti-imperialism, the struggle against the Zionist entity, in addition to Arab nationalism.

**Cognitive approach to the complex situation in the Middle East:** Corm mentions how the religious approach in historical writings throughout centuries has helped “make the Middle East a seriously weird region in the eyes of Europeans”.

In his approach in studying the Middle East, George Corm showed the four basic geographic corners of the history of the Middle East: Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Iran’s Supreme hills and Egypt. In doing so, he designated the most prominent geographical, linguistic and cultural areas on which the region was based and thus avoided making the Islamic faith the “exclusive civilization standard” used to define and interpret the events of the Middle East in the past two centuries.

He tries to explain reasons causing the rise of Islam in the Middle East and the resulting consequences as well as the issue of “Middle Eastern terrorism”. Moreover, he tries to provide answers to the following questions, “Are the causes of the decline of the Middle East civilizations anthropological or historical?”, “Is the Western influence on the Middle East a factor of Renaissance or an increasing decay factor?”

Corm considers the Middle East to be in “turmoil” since the nineteenth century and in a growing disorder as a result of dependency, and the political, cultural and demographic transformations it witnessed. “The Middle East today is a collection of states without a compass, and their divergent compositions do not allow any minimum stability”. Corm concludes that these countries failed to apply the concept of “the modern state” observed by West, writing that the solution is the enforcement of a modern democratic law that the West would implement in the Middle East. ●●

*This book is published by The Publications Company “Sharikat Al-Matbouat” - Beirut 2010.*

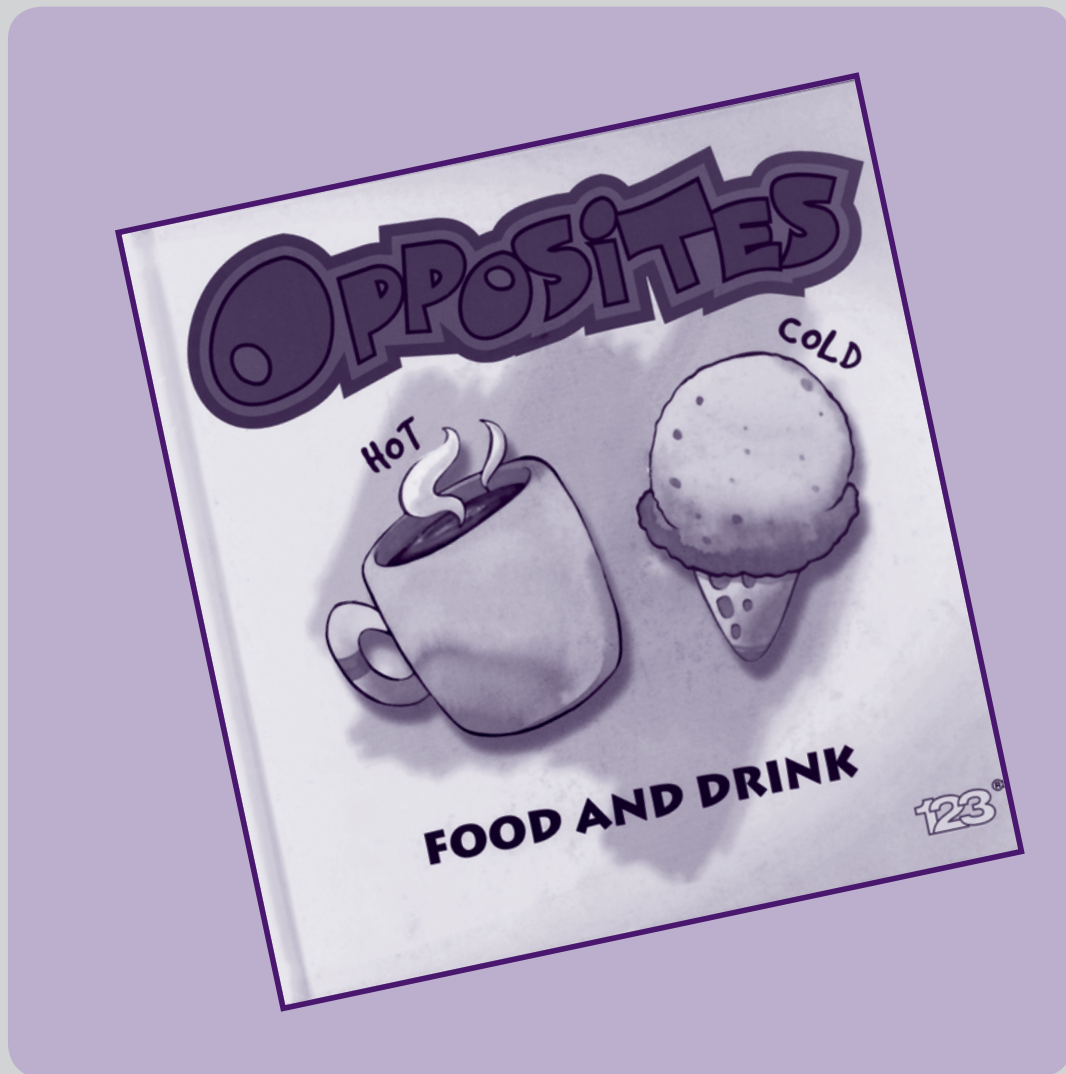
# “FOOD AND DRINK”\*

The book “Food and Drink” teaches children opposite adjectives that describe food and drink. It contains simple colored images that illustrate each adjective, which is put next to its opposite.

The text is kept to a minimum with only one word (the adjective) on each page. The font is large, clear and easy to read.

Adults can check children’s understanding of key adjectives related to food and drink by asking them to point at an image that reflects a certain adjective. For example, an adult can ask the child to show him/her a raw item of food or can point to an image and ask “is this frozen food?” The exercise can be used with pre-school students who cannot read yet. With children at elementary level, adults can make them read the adjectives or look at the image and choose the adjective that suits it best.

\*“Food and Drink” is part of the collection “Opposites” and was first published by “123 Publishing House Limited” in 2003. The collection includes: **Animals, People, Nature and Weather**



# HANEEN FAMILIES

Mostly Christians

The origin of Haneen families is from Aleppo, Syria. They were silk traders whose Ancestors came to Borj Al Barajni near Beirut probably at the end of the 16th century. Some of them then moved to Deir Al-Qamar where their ancestor, Tannous Haneen married the sister of Abi Assaf Gerges Baz. Abi Assaf Gerges Baz was later killed by Prince Bachir Shahabi in 1807 who took over his castle in Deir Al-Qamar. The Haneen family, with only 775 members (most of them being Maronites), is considered small. They are distributed as follows:

**Maronites:** 681 members distributed in:

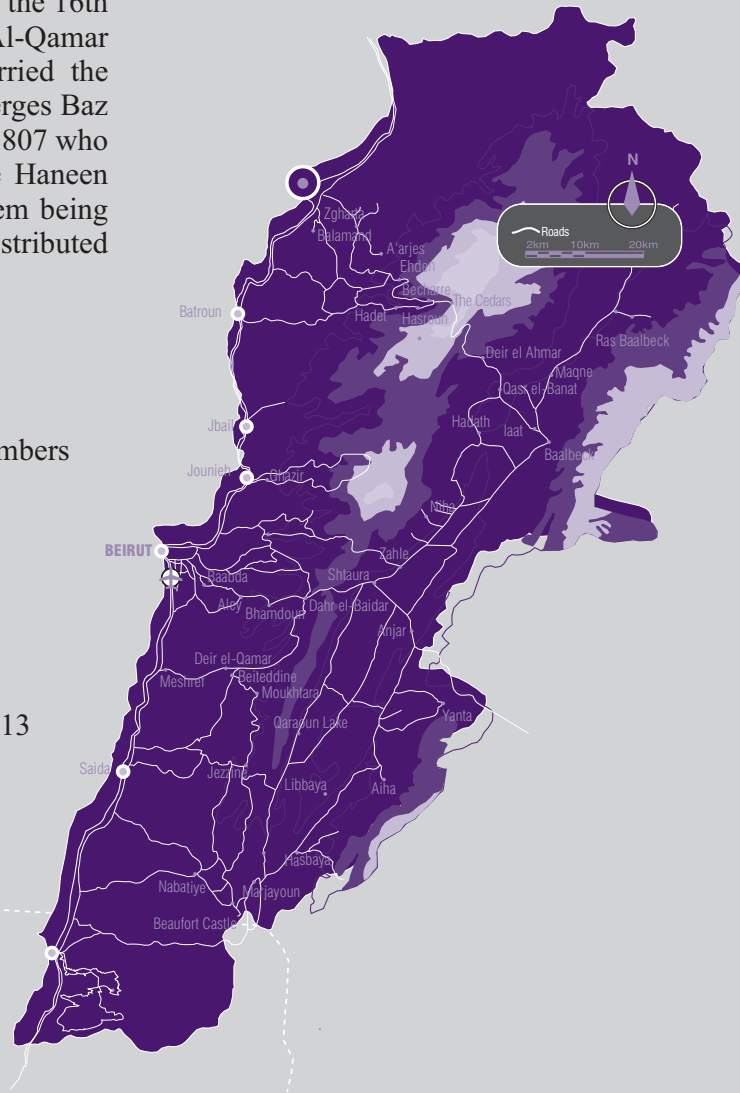
Mreijeh (Baabda): 298 members  
 Tahweetat Ghadeer: 120 members  
 Haret Hreik hay al Kneeseh (Baabda): 41 members  
 Deir Al-Qamar (Chouf): 36 members  
 Tahweetat Al-Nahr (Baabda): 32 members  
 Lailaki (Baabda): 31 members  
 Mina Al-Hosn (Beirut 3): 25 members  
 Chiyah Beir Al Abed (Baabda): 21 members  
 Mezyara (Zgharta): 15 members  
 Kfarshima (Baabda): 15 members  
 Borj Al Barajneh Hay Al Seyyad (Baabda): 13 members  
 Baabda: 11 members  
 Kbeyat (Akkar): 8 members  
 Hay Al-Mawarena (Sour): 6 members  
 Chiyah hay al Kneeseh (Baabda): 4 members  
 Hay Al Sayedah Al Gharbi (Zgharta): 3 members  
 Bachoura (Beirut 2): 1 member  
 Ajaltoun (Keserouane): 1 member

**Orthodox:** 89 members distributed in:

Choueit (Baabda): 34 members  
 Chekka (Batroun): 20 members  
 Ras Masqa Jnoubieh (Koura): 18 members  
 Fee'i (Koura): 10 members  
 Achrafieh (Beirut 1): 4 members  
 Anfeh (Koura): 3 members

**Catholics:** 3 members in Msaitbeh and Bachoura  
**Sunni:** 3 members in Msaitbeh

Note: There are members in Mreijeh (Baabda) who were Maronites but changed to Shia'a, they were included with the Maronites.



# BZIZA

Orthodox, Maronites and rich in archaeology

**Etymology:** There are two possible origins for the name:

- One references Anis Freiha's "Name of Lebanese Towns and Villages" where Freiha mentions that the word "Bziza" dates back to Syriac times, where the word "Baz" meant looting, robbing, and vandalizing. Following Freiha's deduction, the village name "Bziza" would mean "the stolen and looted village".
- The other traces the name back to the Syriac name "bet azziza", where the name "azziza" or "precious" is a name of a god of the Semites and "bet" means home or place; according to this line of study, the village name means: "home of the God, Precious".

**Location:** Bziza is located in the Qada'a of Koura in the Mohafaza of the North at an altitude of 410m above sea level. It lies 76km from Beirut, 5km from the qada'a and 25km from the center of the Mohafaza. It spreads across 488 hectares and can be reached via Chekka, Kfarhazir, Amioun, Dar Baachtar, Bziza or Kousba, Kfarsaroun, Bahboush, Bziza.

**Population:** The number of registered inhabitants at the town's Personal Status Register is estimated at 1,400 inhabitants. They are mostly Maronite (and 20% Orthodox, 10% Sunni and 5% Shia'a). There are around 200 houses and around 20 commercial shops in Bziza.

**Voters:** In 2000, there was 901 voters, of whom 331 cast their ballots. That number increased to 961 in 2005, of whom 401 cast their ballots. By 2009, the number of voters reached 1,031, of whom 520 cast their ballots.

The town's inhabitants are distributed in the following families:

## Maronites

**Obeid:** 90 voters, **Kassas:** 51 voters, **Khoury:** 30 voters, **Zoghby:** 32 voters, **Aoueit:** 12 voters, **Shalouhi:** 31 voters, **Issa:** 15 voters, **Yousef:** 26 voters, **Antoun:** 15 voters, **Suleiman:** 16 voters, **Dib:** 20 voters, **Eid:** 24 voters, **Abou Raad:** 9 voters, **Muslim:** 14 voters, **Alam:** 14 voters, **Saad:** 8 voters, **Mansour:** 12 voters, **Sheeban:** 4 voters, **Zein:** 3 voters.

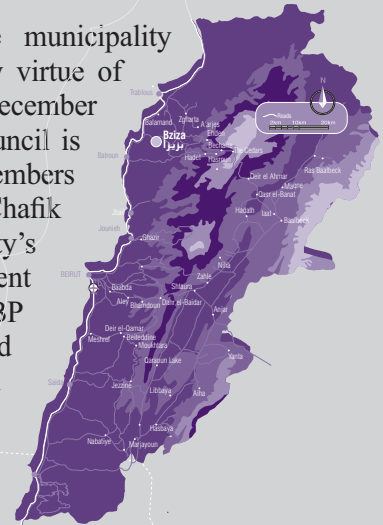
## Orthodox

**Jomhour:** 48 voters, **Farah:** 23 voters, **Saad:** 409 voters, **Ghattas:** 16 voters.

**Dahdah (Sunni):** 103 voters

**Issa (Shia'a):** 52 voters

**Local Authorities:** The municipality of Bziza was established by virtue of Decree No. 1255 dated December 30, 1963. The municipal council is currently composed of 9 members and is headed by Kabalan Chafik Aoueit. The municipality's budget from the Independent Municipal Fund reached LBP 48,883 million in 2005 and rose to LBP 55,924 million in 2006. In 2007, it decreased to LBP 55,697 million, LBP 98,620 million in 2008 and LBP 128,939 million in 2009. There is also a Mukhtar, Dighol Nadim Kassas, and a 3 member ikhtiyariah body.



## Educational institution

Bziza has one public school "Bziza Intermediate Public School" with 184 students and 28 teachers in 2009–2010. The town also has "Koura Technical School", a private technical school with around 100 students and 22 teachers.

## Civil organizations:

In Bziza there are:  
Bziza Youth Sports Club (established in 1992)  
Kalaa Association Club (established in 1992)  
A public library was established in February 2011

**Archeological sites:** There are important archaeological sites in Bziza such as the Roman temple (considered one of the smallest, and most attractive Roman temples in Lebanon, which was renovated by the French in the 1950's). There are also Roman structures and columns named "Sayidat Al Aawameed" or "Lady of the Columns" which are 5 meters high and have beautifully carved stones. There is also a 20 meter square courtyard which was a stage where rituals and prayers were performed.

An old mill in Bziza was the town's landmark. Today nothing remains of it but a few stones. There is also an old monastery named "Sayidat Al-Nahr" and a prophet Elia church which was built on a large Byzantine church. The town is the center of origin for "Iskandar Spring" which waters 15 towns and flows into the sea in Chakka.

**Economy:** The people of Bziza mainly count on business for their living.

**Challenges:** The town suffers from waste water problems, a lack of electricity and water. Inhabitants also suffer from the garbage dump that is around 300 meters from the residences.

# SAAD HARIRI'S POSITIONS ON HEZBOLLAH WEAPON-POSSESSION DURING AND AFTER HIS PREMIERSHIP

Following the 2009 legislative elections, Saad Hariri became the head of the government that was formed on November 2009 on the platform of “development and advancement”. Its ministerial statement read: “The government reaffirms the right of Lebanon, with its people, army and resistance, to liberate or reclaim Cheba'a Farms and Kfarchouba Hills ... using all legal and available means.” Hariri's embracing of the resistance and its arm-possession continued throughout his time as prime minister. However in January 2011, after the government was considered resigned due to the resignation of more than third of ministers, Hariri's position shifted from “appeasement” to attacking Hezbollah's arm-possession, which became the source of all of Lebanon's evils and misfortunes.


## Hariri's stance during his premiership

- ◉ “In Lebanon, we need to hold dialogue when it comes to Hezbollah's weapons”. (Now Lebanon website on February 12, 2010)
- ◉ “The Future Movement did not have reservations on the issue of Hezbollah's weapons because I am the prime minister of a national unity government, and we have to be realistic, we placed this controversial topic on the dialogue table.” (Now Lebanon on February 12, 2010)

## Hariri's stance post-premiership

- ◉ “...Even when we agreed in the ministerial statement on the people, army and resistance equation, it was because we believe that the state is all-embracing and the army is formed of all of the people's factions and groups, and the resistance is for the defense of the homeland in the face of Israel. A resistance in the service of the army and the people, and in the service of Lebanon, and Lebanon, with its army, people, constitution and state, is not subject to the weapons under the pretext of the resistance.” (Excerpts of Hariri's speech at Biel on February 14 to commemorate Hariri's assassination)
- ◉ “Yes we do not accept the weapons nor being subject to the weapons when it is aimed at the chests of the Lebanese men and women and becomes a means to extort them for their stability and security to choose wrong over right or when it becomes a means to pressure MPs to do the opposite of what the elector entrusted them to do and to break pledges they made when they ran for the elections.” (Above-mentioned occasion)
- ◉ “The weapon aimed at the chests of the Lebanese is that of strife, and strife in Lebanon only serves Israel which we, and we say it for the thousandth time, have no enemy but it.” (Above-mentioned occasion)
- ◉ “It is not right that after all of the bitter experiences Lebanon went through for some to work on categorizing this issue as an attempt to circumvent the resistance's weapon, because the fact of the matter is not that at

all, and what we care about and remains among our priorities is for no weapon from any side to be a means to onslaught civil peace and the democratic system.” (As Safir newspaper on February 19, 2011)

- ◉ “Let no one overbid against us in the issue of resistance. We have declared more than once that we separate between the resistance's weapon against Israel and the weapons used in the internal political struggle. And Rafik Hariri was the first to protect the resistance and to legalize its work against the Israeli enemy. And if we sit at the dialogue table, then matter will be clear with no place for ambiguity or evasion.” (As Safir on February 19, 2011)
- ◉ “We decided to simply tell you: “It is not working out.” And to simply tell you: “To own weapons does not mean you are right. Weapons may be a sign of predominance, but not necessarily a majority.” (As Safir on March 1, 2011)
- ◉ “I will not be a partner to a weapon in the face of the Lebanese ... and there will be no revival for the country in the presence of a party carrying weapons.” (Hariri in an interview with An Nahar on March 4, 2011)
- ◉ “Those who will go to freedom square on March 13 will not carry weapons, rather they will carry the Lebanese flag and the Lebanese stance which has become a source of expression of their national will.” (An Nahar on March 8, 2011)
- ◉ “It is impossible for a weapon to survive in the face of what is right and we will not accept the patronage of weapons.” (Excerpts from Hariri's speech on March 14, 2011)
- ◉ “We did not carry weapons, in your absence they held weapons against Beirut.” (Excerpts from Hariri's speech at the unveiling of Rafik Hariri's statue in front of the Grand Serail on April 1, 2011)
- ◉ “My platform is to end the weapons, not to return to the government.” (Excerpts from an address to Future Movement engineers at Biel on April 7, 2011) 

# FRANCINE DECLASSIFIES PARTS OF THE INDICTMENT REGARDING COMMUNICATION

Nasrallah: The convicted are “honorable resistance fighters”  
The Hariri and Hawi Assassinations, the attempted assassination of Al-Murr- Hamada, related.

August highlights are detailed as follows:

## August 2

- Clashes between the Lebanese and Israeli armies occur at “Al Wazzani”, with no casualties. This is a result of Israelis roaming into Lebanese territory.

- ‘Al Fiyadieh’ celebrates the Lebanese Army’s 66th anniversary, where 259 officers graduate.

Mikati visits Dar Al-Fatwa to greet the mufti Mohammad Rashid Qabbani on Ramadan and expressing his full acceptance of any dialogue.

- Ali Abdul Karim Ali, the Syrian Ambassador to Lebanon meets with Mohammad Rashid Qabbani at Dar Al-Fatwa. This is the Ambassador’s first visit to Dar Al-Fatwa since May 2009, when he was first assigned.

## August 3

- The Council of Ministers meets in the presidential palace for six hours discussing the country’s electricity issue and a law for the petroleum. Ghassan Beydoun is appointed director general of investment at the Ministry of Energy and Water. The statement regarding the meeting indicated the president’s wishes to complete an electoral law and administrative decentralization.

- The Future Movement starts its meeting with a moment of silence for the martyrs of the “Syrian revolution”. The movement expresses its full support of the protestor’s demands, calls the Syrian army to withdraw from the streets of Syria and charge the persons responsible for the fall of victims. The movement further considers that Nasrallah’s speech regarding the petroleum neglects the role of the government and institutions.

- After the “Change and Reform bloc” meeting, General Aoun supports

the law of proportionality in the parliamentary elections, emphasizing that the bloc cannot cover up an ugly past, and outlaws shall be punished and brought to justice.

- In Kaslik, 53kg of South American cocaine destined for distribution in Lebanon are confiscated. A Palestinian, Irish, and Dutch were held accountable.

- Berri meets Jamil Al Sayyed in their second publicized meeting after a long break.

## August 4

- A Legislative session for the parliament issues 25 projects and suggested laws

- Daniel Bellemare claims that he is investigating elements he personally received from Hezbollah representatives on 13th July 2011. Hezbollah denies that, saying that they delivered evidence to the public prosecutor, Said Mirza, and that they do not cooperate with the tribunal.

- The President meets Suleiman Franjeh and moves to the summer presidential palace in Beit El Dine

- A statement issued by the Security Council condemns the violence in Syria and the delegated deputy of Lebanon Caroline Ziadeh considers that the statement does not help solve the situation.

- Maura Connelly, the US ambassador to Lebanon met with the minister of labour Charbel Nahas at the ministry’s HQ in Al Musharfiel in the Southern Suburb of Dahieh, where Hezbollah has major influence.

## August 5

- On the second day of legislative meetings within the parliament, the law of maritime borders is set, in

addition to amending a penal code regarding the cancellation reasons in mitigation of crime honors.

- Samir Geagea: Lebanon’s refraining from voting at the Security Council is a terrible decision.

- Mikati: Lebanon’s stance at the Security Council is proof that Lebanon will not interfere with any country especially Arab countries.

- General Aoun suggests a law dealing with the Lebanese that sought refuge with Israel by placing members of Lahad’s army division on trial and allowing their families to return to Lebanon with no prosecution.

## August 6

- Amin Gemayel in the opening of the 29th general conference of the Lebanese Phalanges in a hotel in Brummana: “Lebanon is passing through a phase threatening the country’s security, and there is nothing stopping a war from erupting. Nobody wants to terminate Hezbollah, but we don’t want to be threatened by Hezbollah’s weapons”.

- Mikati welcomes an economic delegation from Russia including petroleum exploration companies.

- Patriarch Bechara al-Ra’i in Bcharri: “the Sunni want to obstruct the Shia’a, and the Shia’a want to do the same to the Sunni, and the people are suffering the consequences”.

## August 8

- The Lebanese minister of Foreign Affairs Adnan Mansour visits Syria and meets with President Assad and his deputy. The Syrian minister of Foreign Affairs expresses his gratitude for Lebanon’s stance at the Security Council and admires its resolve not to meddle in other countries’ affairs.

- ◉ The Maronite Patriarch Bechara al-Ra'i visits Saida. It was the first visit for a Maronite Patriarch to the city in 275 years. He continued his visit to Jezzine, and Al-Shouf, and met the president at the palace in Beit El-Dine HQ. Jumblatt was absent from the meeting due to his being in Turkey to meet with the Turkish PM, and the Foreign Minister.

- ◉ Armed clashes at the Ain al Hilweh camp between Fath al Islam, and Jundi al Sham. Numerous injured, two of which in critical condition. Security forces succeed in ending the clashes.

### August 9

- ◉ Berri at an iftar for "Wahat Al Shahid foundation" in Biel: "Disarming the Israelis not Hezbollah is an urgent national goal".

- ◉ Jumblatt in his weekly report in "Al-Anbaa" newspaper: "Mubarak's prosecution is a sign of the power of the people in their pursuit of freedom, dignity, justice, and democracy. And many should learn from the lesson."

- ◉ Protests against the Syrian government at martyr's square in downtown Beirut, in Ketermaya in Iqlim al Kharoub, Taalabaya, and Saadnayel in the Bekaa.

### August 10

- ◉ The international tribunal announces that it received from Said Mirza a report regarding the investigation into the 14th of February assaults, and that none of the four suspects have been detained. Judge Antonio Cassisi, head of the tribunal will take the report into consideration and execute the steps necessary, stating that Lebanon's participation in the tribunal is ongoing.

- ◉ Jumblatt meets Wiam Wahhab, and news regarding a soon-to-come visit to Syria circulates.

- ◉ Nightly protests in Majdel Anjar condemning the Syrian regime, and Hezbollah.

### August 11

- ◉ The legislative session for the parliament passed several laws including extending the rent law; but they postponed President Suleiman's request to give the Ministry of Electricity \$1.2 billion to insure the production of 700 megawatts of electricity. This infuriated General Aoun.

- ◉ Jumblatt and Ghazi Aridi return from Damascus after a short visit to Major General Mohammad Nassif, the president's vice president's deputy.

### August 12

- ◉ A bomb goes off in a parking lot in Antelias killing two shia'a that were holding it. The minister of interior and municipalities states that the causes for this disturbance are personal and financial.

- ◉ The Council of Ministers decided to raise the relationship with Palestine to the level of setting up an embassy.

- ◉ An iftar at the Presidential Palace hosted by the president. 281 guests were present, excluding General Aoun, Hariri, Jumblatt, Franjeh, and Arslan. The president stresses the importance of continuing dialogue.

- ◉ Fights outside the Syrian embassy in Lebanon between 200 supporters of the Islamic Jama'a in Lebanon supporting the Syrian people in wake of the massacres they are enduring, and supporters of the SSNP and communist parties that are supporting the Syrian regime.

- ◉ A delegation from the international tribunal meets in General Prosecutor Mirza's office Marwan Hmadeh, Elias Murr and May Chidiak. Murr and Hmadeh reported that the delegation informed them of the relationship between their attempted assassination and the assassination of Hariri, whilst none of which are related to the attempted assassination of May Chidiak.

### August 13

- ◉ The Supreme Defense Council in Lebanon, headed by President Michel Suleiman, took to execute a series of procedures (that remain classified), aiming to halt weapon smuggling, prevent bombings, help Syrian refugees, and the cooperation with UNIFIL.

- ◉ The Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon, Ghadanfar Roken Abadi: "Iran is ready to help in drilling for petroleum in Lebanon."

- ◉ The international investigation commission meets with George Hawi's family to inform them that Hawi's assassination is related to Rafik Hariri's.

- ◉ Hariri, in reply to the President: "The only way to start dialogue is to eliminate any illegal weapons in the country".

- ◉ Protests in Saida, Bekaa, and Ketermaya (Iqlim Al Kharoub) and Wadi Khalid in support of the Syrian people in the wake of the massacres.

### August 15

- ◉ Reports of five Fath al Islam prisoners escaping from Roumieh prison. Lebanese army intelligence succeeds in capturing one of them, and arresting officers for slacking off.

- ◉ Jumblatt at an iftar for "Al Irfan" in Al Somkanieh states that he prefers postponing the subject of proportionality in the electoral law and is supporting keeping the current electoral in order to maintain variety and uniqueness.

- ◉ Gunshots outside Franjeh's residence in Ehden. Three people following the Lebanese Forces and Al Marada are injured. Franjeh states that the people should not make a big deal about the case since the offenders are known. The Lebanese Forces condemns the incident.

- ◉ Lebanese judiciary releases custody of two charged with smuggling weapons into Syria through the Marina port (owned by Solidere), after Mirza falsified the claims.

### August 17

- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrives in Lebanon to meet with officials regarding the situation of Palestinians in Lebanon, the recognition of a Palestinian state, and the establishment of a Palestinian embassy. Abbas, at the presidential palace: “We don’t need weapons; we are in the safe arms of Lebanon”.

- Hariri, in reply to Iran’s describing the tribunal as politicized, and worthless: “Iran’s stance regarding the government proves the country’s siding with Hezbollah”.

- General Aoun, after his party’s meeting: “we won’t stay in the government without the electricity project”.

### August 18

- Daniel Francine uncovers parts of the indictment related to the Hariri assassination and the basic evidences are the cellular phone calls between those who carried out the assassination, which shows that they are members of Hezbollah.

- Nasrallah considers the indictment lacking any direct solid evidence, and that the suspects are “honorable resistance fighters”.

- Hariri: “Contrary to Nasrallah’s portrayal of the situation, the accused are individuals and not the Shia’a confession”. Hariri calls on Nasrallah to cooperate with the tribunal and turn in the suspects.

- Palestinian President Abbas launches the Palestinian embassy in the presence of Mikati. Abbas further meets, where he is residing, with Amine Gemayel and Samir Geagea.

- A legislative session for the parliament recognizes a decision regarding the salaries of judges and banned smoking in public places.

- Mohammad Rashid Qabbani meets with a Hizbollah delegation.

- Mikati at an iftar in honor of the Palestinian President declares Lebanon’s respect to international decisions especially with regards to

the tribunal.

- Gunshots in the village of Aayat in Akkar target iftar invitees at the residence of Sheikh Abdul Salam Al Harrash of the Muslim Scholars supported by Hezbollah. The Future movement condemns the incidence and the Lebanese Army captures some of the involved and Khaled Al Daher’s bodyguard.

### August 19

- The Council of ministers, headed by Mikati requests the opening of additional credits worth LBP 8,900 billion in compensation for the expenses in 2005, and that until the end of 2011

- French President Sarkozy informs President Suleiman and Mikati that France will reconsider its participation in the UNIFIL if another attack on its troops occurs.

- President Suleiman leaves for Monaco on a private vacation

### August 20

- Daniel Francine considers that the tribunal has the right to look into George Hawi’s assassination and the attempted assassination of Hmadeh and Murr in an attempt to link them to Hariri’s assassination. Francine asks Lebanon to provide the tribunal with the related case files.

- A Christian meeting in Diman headed by the Maronite Patriarch Ra’i to discuss the electoral law. Representatives of the Lebanese Forces, Phalanges, Free Patriotic Movement, and Al Marada were present. Georges Edwan states that the Lebanese Forces prefers ‘proportionality’.

- Protests in Britel, Tripoli, Saadnayel, and Majdal Anjar in support of the Syrian people, calling for the termination of Bashar Al Assad’s regime.

- One of the suspects in Hariri’s assassination, in an interview with Times magazine: “If I were guilty, Hezbollah would have handed me in and if the government wanted to arrest

me, it knows where to find me but it’s standing helpless. I won’t give myself in to a tribunal where the primary goal is to eliminate Hezbollah. During Hariri’s assassination, I was an hour and a half away from the crime scene”.

### August 22

- Hezbollah denies the interview that occurred with the Times Magazine, considering it a fabrication of the tribunal. Hariri blames officials for always hiding away when the blame comes close to Hezbollah. Mikati asks the Minister of Justice to find the truth. Times magazine defends the interview and its representative in Lebanon claims that someone else interviewed the suspect.

- Nihad Al Mashnouq at a symposium at Lamb House: “The decision for the assassination was set in Tehran, supported by Damascus, and executed in Beirut”.

- Sheikh Naim Kassem calls Saad Hariri to terminate his relationship with the tribunal.

- Samir Geagea: “Mostapha Badr Aldin cannot act without informing his superiors, especially since he led a group of 15-20 people and used 2,500Kg of explosives”.

### August 23

- Mirza meets with Times reporter Nicholas Blanford who insists the interview did occur, even though he wasn’t the one interviewing. The magazine’s editor-in-chief confirms the interview.

- Khalid Dahir holds a press conference in which he attacks the Lebanese Army, describing the Army’s General as “untrustworthy and a failure”. There is no peace of mind with regards to the intelligence agency’s corruption, which is tied up with the Syrian intelligence and executing Hezbollah’s plans. This came after the army’s interference capturing a number of Dahir’s supporters related to the gunfire occurring in Aayat 5 nights ago.

**August 24**

- The Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdel Aziz hosts Hariri for iftar in Mecca.

- Jumblatt in an interview with Al Safir: “It doesn’t matter with us (in his rejection of the electricity project) and I don’t care if my stance will affect the current political affiliations.”

- Genreal Aoun, after Free Patriotic Movement meeting: “what they are suggesting with regards to the electricity project is a blow to our dignity, so it is possible that the government will fall but our dignity remains.”

- A press conference for Hezbollah at the parliament where Mohammad Raad and lawyer Salim Jreissati refute the tribunal’s indictment, considering the telecommunication evidence to be worthless.

- A meeting for the Council of Ministers at the Beit el Dine palace headed by President Suleiman discussing the funding of the electricity project. The meeting comes to no final conclusion and the matter is postponed to the following day.

**August 25**

- No meeting is held at the parliament due to quorum absence (a minimal number of 65 MPs.)

- Mikati leaves to Jeddah for “Omra” and returns to Beirut without meeting with the Saudi king.

**August 26**

- A press conference at the parliament held by Hassan Fadlallah, minister of telecommunications Nicolas Sehnaoui and Imad Hoballah refuting the tribunal’s telecommunication evidence listed in Bellemare’s indictment.

- Samir Geagea meets a delegation from the municipalities of Jbeil, explaining that the situation in Lassa is uncomfortable and that he contacted the President and all those involved and the situation remains the same.

- The tribunal responds to Hezbollah through Herman Von Hebel: “the tribunal’s indictment is

just telling the story as it happened, but the evidence will be presented in court which will commence in mid-2012.”

**August 27**

- Hezbollah celebrates Quds day (coinciding with the last Friday of Ramadan) in Maroun Al Ras in South Lebanon. Nasrallah appears via TV screen to ensure that loyalty to Lebanon and Palestine means supporting Syria, emphasizing Lebanon’s stability and ensuring that the tribunal is worthless.

**August 29**

- President Suleiman visits Jumblatt at the Mukhtara upon Jumblatt’s invitation for dinner, and talks that Jumblatt asked Suleiman to abandon the electoral law of proportionality.

- Mikati and Mohammad Safadi visit Omar Karami in the presence of his son Faisal.

- MPs of the Future Movement meet at Khalid Al Daher’s residence in Tripoli to support him. Fatfat considers that the actions of some Lebanese army officers are unacceptable and reminiscent of Syrian practices.

- Samir Geagea, in a release for the Central News Agency: “the opposition will not get off the government’s case, and Hezbollah cannot enforce its politics or ideology on us”.

- Hezbollah buries a martyr of theirs Hassan Ali Smaha in Al Kurk (Zahle). Hezbollah statement issued mentions that the martyr fell while doing a “jihadist” duty. Talks that he fell while fighting alongside the Syrian army.

- Sami Gemayel: “Hezbollah is settling, just like the Jews”.

**August 30**

- Fitr is agreed to fall on Tuesday for the Sunni and followers of Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, and on Wednesday for the Higher Islamic Shiite Council and Hezbollah.

- Amine Gemayel requests that

the government clarify the truth of the telecommunications network in Tarshish which belongs to Hezbollah.

**August 31**

- Mohammad Rashid Qabbani leads the Eid prayers in the Mohammad Al Amin Mosque and mentions his support of the tribunal.

- Tripoli’s Mufti, Sheikh Malek Cha’ar leads prayer in Tripoli with the presence of Mikati. Cha’ar emphasizes his support of the tribunal and the Lebanese army, considering any unrest as a deviation from Rafik Hariri’s cause.

- A murder in Khraibeh (Bekaa) where Fayez Issa kills three of his sister’s children (the Kanaan family), two of their wives and one of their sons over a dispute involving 1000km2 of land.

- The International Security Council agrees to extend UNIFIL’s term in the South until 31st August 2012

**September 1**

- Amal Movement commemorates Moussa Sadr on the 33rd anniversary of their disappearance in Libya. Berri states: “the concept of a resistance is not to be debated, and we will not abide by any resolution except our defensive strategies; we also refuse to get involved in Syria’s situation, and follow the electoral law of proportionality.” Berri also called for the development of the Bekaa the reduction of the prison year.

- Minister of Interior and Municipalities Marwan Charbel visits Samir Geagea and confirms that the Lassa case is not liable for political discussion anymore, and that he will provide the Council of Minister by the end of September with a suggested proportionality electoral law.

On the 31st of August, and 1st of September 2011, newspapers did not print due to the Fitr Eid, and we relied on news agencies and television stations to report events and political statements on these two days.

# MASDAR CITY: NOT SO GREEN AND NOT READY!

As global warming is becoming a major environmental threat, Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, claims to be an Arab city that has taken a positive initiative toward this environmental problem and is trying to come up with and implement a future plan. This initiative was translated into “Masdar City”, a development built by the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company and designed by the British architectural firm Foster + Partners.

Allegedly, this will be the world’s first carbon-neutral, zero-waste city, powered primarily by solar energy and other renewable energy sources. Its construction was initiated in 2006 and expected to cost \$22 billion. It was to take around 8 years to be completed, with Phase 1 scheduled to be finished and habitable by 2009. However, due to the impact of the financial crisis, the cost of the project was reduced by 10-15 % (thus amounting to between \$18.7 and \$19.8 billion). The completion of Phase 1 was postponed, to be completed in 2015, and the final completion was delayed until 2025.

Masdar City covers 6 sq km (2.3 sq miles) and is located 17 km (11 miles) northeast of the city of Abu Dhabi, next to Abu Dhabi International Airport. It is expected to house some 40,000 people and hundreds of businesses, primarily commercial and manufacturing facilities specializing in environmentally friendly products. Thousands of workers are predicted to commute to it on a daily basis. It was designed to be a car-free pedestrian zone where the residents’ transportation would depend on driverless “travel pods” that run on magnetic tracks. It also includes an education facility, the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, which was developed in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It opened its doors in September 2009 and its students are the city’s first residents. It will also host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and various other R&D departments of international companies (Siemens, GE, BASF).

## Criticism

- ◉ “With entire economies based on selling oil and natural gas to fund massive, rapid growth and a per capita ecological footprint larger than the United States, the United Arab Emirates is currently one of the most unsustainable places in the world.”<sup>1</sup>
- ◉ The location of the City, close to an airport, may raise a question in terms of “sound pollution”.
- ◉ Transport within the city will no longer be done solely with the travel pods (called Personal Rapid Transit), instead electric buses and mass transit will be included in the mix. As one critic writes: “For all the technology — which isn’t cheap — the PRT has taken me to its one and only stop, maybe half a mile (800 m) from the starting point. For a lot less — and not much more time — I could have used a much older form of transport: my legs.”<sup>2</sup>
- ◉ It is a development similar to those already existing in Dubai, among which Dubai Media City, but trying to come up with a different edge. Thus, as a commercially driven enterprise, doubts can be cast concerning the true intentions behind the construction of this development. Some claim the real drive behind its establishment is for it to be another luxurious touristic symbol of Abu Dhabi and its wealthy people.
- ◉ One can also pause at the effect of downsizing the budget and the consequences this will have on the “energy efficient” city.

“Though the first phase of the project – the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology – was completed in the fall of 2010 and opened to students, its still easy to wonder whether clean-tech companies and expats will be drawn to Masdar, and whether the sustainable city will ever be able to sustain itself.”<sup>3</sup> ●●

1 <http://ecocity.wordpress.com/2008/03/06/can-foster-partners-masdar-city-in-uae-be-truly-sustainable/>

2 WALSH, Bryan. “Masdar City: The World’s Greenest City?”, in TIME, January 25, 2011.

3 WALSH, Bryan. “Masdar City: The World’s Greenest City?”, in TIME, January 25, 2011.

# REAL ESTATE INDEX – AUGUST 2011

This year, the month of August coincided with the month of Ramadan where the majority of the sectors lay back. This contributed, in addition to other factors mentioned in previous issues, to the stagnation of the real estate sector where the sale was very limited. As for the prices, they remained stable and did not decrease as one would expect in such cases, in the contrary, the prices of real estate and apartments are expected to increase due to the increase in the prices of construction material and man power.

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

**Prices of some estates sold in August 2011** Table 1

Region	Area m2	Price USD	USD/m2
<b>Beirut</b>			
Bachoura	2,100	12,600,000	6,000
Bchara Khoury	750	5,437,500	7,250
<b>Baabda</b>			
Aaraya	2,000	1,200,000	600
<b>Matn</b>			
Fanar	950	570,000	600
Kornet Shehwan	1,250	1,250,000	1,000
Zalka	1,100	2,475,000	2,250
Beit Mery	3,600	1,980,000	550
Ain Saadeh	4,000	1,600,000	400
Broumana	1,200	720,000	600
<b>A'aley</b>			
Rachmaya	4,100	328,000	80
Bhamdoun (village)	1,600	144,000	90
<b>Keserouane</b>			
Kfarhebab	1,000	600,000	600
Ghadras	1,500	330,000	220
Faitroun	2,500	625,000	250

Source: Information International – August 2011

**Prices of some apartments sold in August 2011** Table 2

Region	Area m2	Price USD	USD/m2
<b>Beirut</b>			
Achrafieh	150	390,000	2,600
Achrafieh (Rizk)	190	532,000	2,800
Borj Abi Haidar	160	400,000	2,500
Spears	175	449,750	2,570
Vedun (Dar Al Handasah)	220	836,000	3,800
Salim Slam	120	276,000	2,300
Sodeco	150	465,000	3,100
<b>Baabda</b>			
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	200	500,000	2,500
Hadath (Saint Therese)	170	306,000	1,800
Yarze	300	840,000	2,800
Baabda	175	350,000	2,000
<b>Matn</b>			
Jal Ed Dib	140	203,000	1,450
Mansourieh	160	272,000	1,700
Sin El Fil	170	425,000	2,500
Awkar	200	380,000	1,900
Beit Mery	150	195,000	1,300
<b>A'aley</b>			
Bachamoun (Schools)	160	192,000	1,200
Bchamoun	200	300,000	1,500
Doha Aramoun	140	175,000	1,250
Doha Hoss	300	630,000	2,100
<b>Keserouane</b>			
Sahel Alma	150	210,000	1,400
Sahel Alma	210	262,500	1,250
Zouk Mosbeh	170	195,500	1,150
Adma	250	425,000	1,700
Ghadir	150	195,000	1,300
Zouk Mkael	150	386,100	1,430

Source: Information International – August 2011



# FOOD PRICE INDEX OF 100 PRODUCTS: AUGUST 2011

The month of August can be considered as a stable month to the stability of 70 food items of the 100 we portray every month, the decrease of 13 food items, and the increase of 17 items. The biggest increase was recorded for the price of lemon (185.7%) and cucumber (140%). Despite the fact that the Month of Ramadan happened to be in August where the prices usually increased, this was not true this time to the fact that the prices increased before Ramadan. Table 1 lists the price of products in August 2011 compared to the prices in July 2011.

Price of products during August 2011 (in LBP) Table 1			
Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2011	Prices beginning of September 2011	% of price change
<b>Oil</b>			
Afia corn oil (3.5 liters)	16,900	16,950	+ 0.29
Mazola corn oil (3.5 liters)	16,850	17,250	+ 2.3
Mazola corn oil (1.8 liters)	8,850	8,250	- 6.8
Slim corn oil (2 liters)	8,500	8,500	0
Wesson corn oil (2 liters)	8,500	8,500	0
Ghandour soya oil (3.8 liters)	14,750	15,250	+ 3.4
Alfa corn oil (4 liters)	15,800	15,500	- 1.9
Al-Wadi Olive Oil (1/2 liters)	6,450	7,000	+ 8.5
<b>Ketchup and Sauces</b>			
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	4,500	0
Al-Bsat Tahina (900 g)	6,860	6,860	0
Al-Bsat Tahina (450 g)	3,600	3,850	+ 6.9
Taos tomato sauce (70g)	770	770	0
Taos tomato sauce (425 g)	3,425	3,425	0
Tala tomato sauce (675g)	3,250	3,250	0

Price of products during August 2011 (in LBP) Table 1			
Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2011	Prices beginning of September 2011	% of price change
<b>Dairy Products</b>			
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	4,250	+ 6.5
Taanayel labneh (500 g)	4,650	5,700	+ 22.5
Candia labneh (500 g)	4,500	4,950	+ 10
Taanayel yoghurt (1 kg)	3,500	3,700	+ 5.7
Smeds cheese (400 g)	4,450	4,450	0
Picon cheese (360 g)	3,850	3,850	0
Picon cheese (160 g)	1,950	1,950	0
Double-crème cheese (1 kg)	7,750	7,250	- 6.4
Fresh country cheese (1 kg)	9,000	9,500	+ 5.5
Khashkawan cheese (1 kg)	15,000	12,500	- 16.7
Lurpak butter (200 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Tatra butter (200 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Al-Maalqtain margarine (2 kg)	8,000	8,000	0
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2kg)	35,000	35,000	0
Vegetaline margarine (2 kg)	16,850	16,850	0
Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,250 g)	21,850	21,850	0
Nido full cream milk (2,500 g)	26,250	26,250	0
Tatra full cream milk (1,800 g)	20,000	20,100	+ 0.005
<b>Cereals</b>			
Khater white lentils (1 kg)	3,850	3,850	0
Khater chick-peas fahli (1 kg)	3,650	3,650	0
Khater beans (1 kg)	2,000	1,750	- 12.5
Peeled wheat (1 kg)	2,350	2,250	- 4.2
Pineal Lima Bean (1 kg)	3,850	3,850	0

Price of products during August 2011 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2011	Prices beginning of September 2011	% of price change
Brown Fine Burgul (1 kg)	1,800	1,800	0
Egyptian rice (1 kg)	2,250	2,000	- 11.1
American rice (1 kg)	1,750	1,750	0
Italian rice (1 kg)	2,750	2,750	0
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,450	1,450	0
Chtaura Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,450	1,450	0
California Gardens beans (450 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Al-Wadi beans (450 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Chtaura beans (480 g)	1,250	1,250	0
Libby's corn (340 g)	1,750	1,750	0
<b>Pasta</b>			
Barilla spaghetti (500 g)	2,200	2,200	0
Antonio Amato spaghetti (500 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Monte spaghetti (500 g)	2,250	2,250	0
<b>Sugar and Salt</b>			
Sugar (2 kg)	3,750	3,750	0
Al-Ousra Sugar (5 kg)	10,500	10,500	0
Salt (700 g)	275	275	0
Box of salt (738 g)	1,300	1,450	+ 11.5
<b>Meat, Fish and Eggs</b>			
Zwan chicken (200 g)	2,450	2,450	0
Zwan beef (200 g)	2,450	2,450	0
Luncheon meat beef (198 g)	1,900	1,900	0
Al-Mona chicken (200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Al-Taghzia beef (200 g)	1,950	1,950	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)	2,000	2,000	0

Price of products during August 2011 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand	Prices beginning of August 2011	Prices beginning of September 2011	% of price change
Eggs (30 eggs)	5,750	5,500	- 4.3
Beef (1 kg)	15,000	15,000	0
Sheep (1 kg)	22,000	22,000	0
<b>Coffee and Tea</b>			
Najjar coffee (1kg)	17,000	17,000	0
Brazil coffee (1 kg)	16,000	16,000	0
Al-Hisan tea (180 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Nestle (250g)	2,350	2,350	0
<b>Halvah and Jam</b>			
Al-Wadi halvah (454 g)	4,250	4,100	- 3.5
Al-Bsat halvah (450 g)	3,400	3,100	- 8.8
Chtaura apricot jam (1 kg)	6,000	6,000	0
Al-Wadi apricot jam (1 kg)	5,000	5,250	+ 5
<b>Tissues and Detergents</b>			
Mimosa tissues (500 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Fine tissues (200 tissues)	1,250	1,250	0
Primo tissues (200 tissues)	1,100	1,100	0
Gipsy tissues (300 tissues)	2,850	2,850	0
Mimosa toilet papers (4 rolls)	3,500	3,750	+ 7.1
Yes detergent (900 g)	2,290	2,200	- 3.9
Clorox (1 liter)	1,550	1,550	0
Persil (4 kg)	18,750	18,750	0
Ariel (4 kg)	19,000	18,800	- 1
<b>Fruits and Vegetables</b>			
Orange (1 kg)	1,500	1,500	0
Tomatoes (1kg)	750	750	0
Cucumbers (1kg)	500	1,200	+ 140
Bananas (1kg)	1,500	1,250	- 16.7
Lemons (1 kg)	700	2,000	+ 185.7
Apples (1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Potatoes (1 kg)	500	750	+ 50

Source: Information International

## Green Card

A Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) or “Green Card” recipient is defined by immigration law as a person who has been granted lawful permanent residence in USA.

- **1,042,625 people** became legal permanent residents of USA in 2010.
- **376,657** was the limit on preference immigration in 2010, including 226,000 visas for family-sponsored preferences and visas for employment-based preferences.
- **80,000** was the ceiling on refugee admissions for green card in US in 2010.
- **54.3%** of new legal permanent residents were adjustments of status (people already lived in the US).
- **45.7%** of new legal permanent residents were new arrivals to the US.
- **66%** of total legal permanent residents flow were family-sponsored immigrants, including family sponsored preference and immediate relatives of US citizens.
- **13%** of new legal permanent residents were refugee and asylee immigrant classes.
- **14%** of legal permanent residents flows were immigrants admitted under an employment-based preference.
- **4.8%** of legal permanent residents in 2010 were diversity immigrant classes.
- **40.5%** of LPRs came from Asian region, and 32% from North American region.
- **13%** of all people becoming legal permanent residents of US were born in Mexico, the 1st leading country of birth followed by China (6.8%), Philippine (5.6%), India (6.6%), and Dominican Republic (5.2%).
- **20%** of people who gained the green card in 2010 were residents of California.
- **54%** of people who became legal permanent residents of US in 2010 were females.
- **57%** of people who became legal permanent residents of US in 2010 were married.
- **31 years** is the median age of people becoming legal permanent residents of US.

Source: USA Immigration Statistics 2010

# Beirut International Airport

## Rafic Hariri International Airport – Traffic August 2011

Decrease of 19.1% and 3.7 million passenger in 8 months

The airport traffic decreased in the month of August 2011 compared to July 2011 by a total of 136,341 passenger or 19.1%. This was mainly due to the month of Ramadan and the events that were witnessed in the region. In comparison to the traffic that happened in August 2010, the figures were almost the same (with a decrease of 3,528 passenger of 0.6%).

The number of passengers over the last eight months reached 3,716,550 compared to 3,692,357 during the same period of last year, an increase of 24,193 passengers or a 0.65%. Table 1 shows this traffic.

**Airport traffic during the month of August 2011 compared to July 2011 and August 2010**

**Table 1**

Traffic	Jul-11	Aug-11	Aug-10	% of change July/August 2011	% of change August 2010 / August 2011
Arriving airplanes	3,310	3,026	3,158	- 8.6	- 4.2
Departing airplanes	3,312	3,029	3,162	- 8.5	- 4.2
Total No. of airplanes	6,622	6,055	6,320	- 8.5	- 4.2
Arriving passengers	361,851	261,866	212,978	- 27.6	+ 23
Departing passengers	343,207	308,752	363,267	- 10	- 15
Transit passengers	6,207	4,306	2,207	- 30	+ 95.1
Total No. of passengers	711,265	574,924	578,452	- 19.1	- 0.6
Imported goods (per ton)	3,750	3,214	3,338	- 14.3	- 3.7
Exported goods (per ton)	2,712	3,100	3,158	+ 14.3	- 1.8
Total amount of goods (per ton)	6,462	6,314	6,496	- 2.3	- 2.8

Source: Information International and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

# Stats & Numbers

- ◉ **LBP 527 million** is the credit value that has been allocated to the Ministry of Finance to pay Standard and Poor for analytical services in the year 2011 without specifying the method over which this company was awarded, the work that it did or the work plan.
- ◉ **LBP 10 billion** is the loan given by the government to the Lebanese Army in 2011 to cover the fuel expenses given the increase in the number of military vehicles, boats and military helicopters while the total amount spent in 2011 for this purpose reached LBP 80 million.
- ◉ **LBP 1 billion** is the amount given by the Lebanese government to the Higher Relief Committee to secure the various needs of Syrian refugees that came to North Lebanon.
- ◉ **LBP 2.6 billion** is a grant given by the Canadian government to Lebanon for the national program to target the poorest families, but the Lebanese people do not know who those target families are or how to allocate the money.
- ◉ **355 & 362** is the ranking of Bank Audi, and BLOM bank, respectively, among 1,000 banks worldwide. Bank Audi is the first in Lebanon.



Photo by: Alaa Sakr

## 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

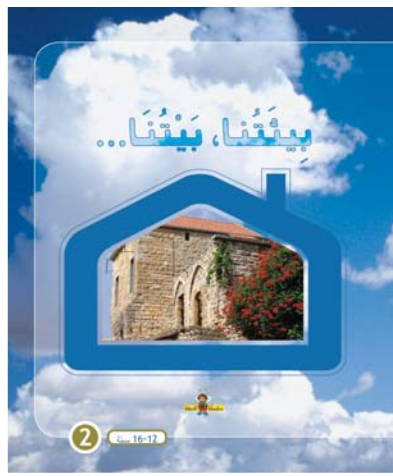
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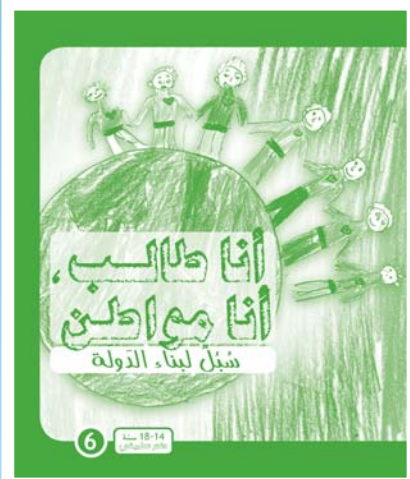


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