

LEBANON'S POPULATION INCREASE: 62,000 INDIVIDUALS PER YEAR

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THE SECRET

The Lebanese behavior had been a riddle that had puzzled anthropologists, economists and politicians until the day when, out of the blue, someone discovered the reasons behind what his colleagues deemed a peculiar demeanor vacillating between joy and anxiety: a joy resulting from the gains achieved and an anxiety of losing them. After lying deep and sound in slumber, the dormant Lebanese people(s) finally woke up to a new reality: electricity being supplied uninterrupted with very affordable bills, roads being maintained, traffic controlled, parking lots available, public transportation organized, drinkable water provided, contaminated water purified and waste recycled.

It is true that since 1993 over USD 11 billion has been spent on electric power in addition to USD 2 billion on garbage collection, USD 615 million on water purification, and USD 1.8 billion in road rehabilitation, but the money has eventually yielded undisputed fruitful results.

The USD 940 million paid out for rehabilitating and establishing schools and universities and the USD 1 billion granted for teachers and scholarships did not go down the drain after all as the Lebanese University and the public education are upgrading their academic level and scoring epic results. As for the public health care expenses borne by the government, they are being shouldered thanks to real-estate interests and taxes. Accommodation is now affordable for everyone, immigration rates are sliding down and politicians are disclosing their bank accounts to restore credibility with their voters. They even abstained from running “private affairs” while in office, which curbed corruption in public administration and made Lebanon the fiercest rival of Sweden in terms of transparency and efficiency.

Our fellow expatriates are returning home and our green policies have paid off, for the air is fresh, the sea clean and the mountains lush. No more quarries and no more heavy tolls on our rivers, mountains and beloved Mother Nature.

The number of cancer patients and drug addicts is decreasing and even the pubs and nightclubs in Beirut are starting to play “ear friendly” music. The Lebanese have learned to address each other with the utmost respect and everybody’s wearing a big smile and savoring happiness and tranquility. People have finally realized that there’s more to life than smoking “Nargile” or spending a day at the over-crowded ABC mall and instead, most families are now opting for the public parks

dispersed throughout the city. Villages are reviving their old glories and looking after their squares, woods and brooklets, and libraries are packed with avid readers eager to quench their insatiable thirst for knowledge. As for the TV channels, they have adopted a new policy preventing the airing of vicious political talk shows or degrading music videos and instead, have committed themselves to broadcast social comedies and tragedies and historical documentaries that stirred the envy of both Al-Jazira and the BBC.

Furthermore, the number of candidates running for elections headed downwards, and many seats fell vacant, for people chose to distance themselves from shouldering big responsibilities. As if Lebanon has become Heaven on earth!

Although these “achievements” delighted the Lebanese, something seemed to disturb their happiness and prevent them from relishing this bliss. Scientists struggled to explore the roots of this anxiety until finally their colleague shouted: “Eureka!” The reasons for anxiety lie in the much-desired remaining wishes the politicians have failed to fulfill. These are:

- Special Tribunal for Lebanon protocol
- Disarmament of Hezbollah
- Settlement of the false witnesses’ file
- Toppling of the Syrian regime

At this moment, the strange enigma was unfolded and people realized the roots of this anxiety and shouted all together: “Now we got it!”

Jawad N. Adra



DENATURALIZATION OF THE NATURALIZED

60 SHIA'A, 37 SUNNI AND 49 SYRIAC ORTHODOX

Many persons were granted Lebanese nationality by virtue of Decree No. 5247, dated June 20, 1994. The Muslims greeted the 1994 naturalization decree with great support while the Christians challenged its adoption. Bickering over this decree and its demographic repercussions lingered until October 2011 when two decrees stipulating nationality withdrawal from certain persons were issued.

Distribution of the naturalized according to their religion

The number of naturalized persons was 157,216. However, after enforcing the said decree and the addition of foreign wives and children, the number amounted to 202,257 by 11-3-2006 and was estimated around 217,000 by the end of 2011.

The naturalized were distributed according to their religions as follows:

Muslims: 159,011 persons representing 78.5% of the total number naturalized

- ◉ Sunni: 119,532 persons or 59% of naturalized Muslims
- ◉ Shia'a: 27,188 persons or 13.4% of naturalized Muslims
- ◉ Alawi: 7,954 persons or 4% of naturalized Muslims
- ◉ Druze: 4,337 persons or 2.1% of naturalized Muslims

Christians: 43,516 persons representing 21.5% of the naturalized

- ◉ Greek Orthodox: 10,736 persons or 5.3% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Armenian Orthodox: 99,977 persons or 5% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Greek Catholic: 6,617 persons or 3.3% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Syriac Orthodox: 5,568 persons or 2.8% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Maronite: 2,725 persons or 1.4% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Armenian Catholic: 2,526 persons or 1.2% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Syriac Catholic: 1,313 persons or 0.6% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Chaldean: 1,141 persons or 0.5% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Latin: 1,135 persons or 0.5% of naturalized Christians
- ◉ Others: 1,778 persons or 0.9% of naturalized Christians

Distribution of the naturalized according to their registration place

A majority of 32,016 persons or over one quarter of the total naturalized population (25.7%) was registered in the Mohafaza of North Lebanon, while Beirut draws near this percentage with 21,750 registered naturalized citizens or around 25.5%.

Many statements (mostly Muslim) were made in favor of the naturalization decree while counter-statements (mostly Christian) slammed it for disturbing the Lebanese religious balance since the number of naturalized Muslims exceeded by far that of Christians, noting that many citizens, including Palestinians and Syrians, were ineligible for citizenship and did not fulfill the required conditions. Some of those were even indicted and sentenced to prison.

The Maronite League challenged the said Decree by appealing against it at the Shura Council. The Shura Council issued on 7- 5- 2003 (9 years after decree issuance) Decision No. 484 which referred the naturalization file to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to remit the decree for reconsideration and revoke the decisions that had granted citizenship to non-entitled citizens or to those who had acquired it through fraudulent and illegal means.

Delay in decision implementation

Apparently the nine years that the Shura Council took to settle the controversy raised by the decree were not long enough, so the Ministry of Interior delayed in implementing the Council's decision for another seven years until finally Interior Minister Ziad Baroud formed a committee to reconsider all naturalization files in accordance with Decision 1/423 dated 28-4-2010.

Two decrees revoking citizenship

The investigations conducted by the said committee lead to the issuance of two decrees: Decree No. 6690, dated October 28, 2011 and stipulating the denaturalization

of 53 persons and Decree No. 6691 issued on the same date and withdrawing nationality from 123 persons. Thus the overall number of revocations equals 176 and seems too small compared to that of the naturalized masses. It is noteworthy that this number might increase to 250 upon addition of the wives and children who were granted citizenship through their husbands or fathers since denaturalizing a person applies equally to those to whom he had passed citizenship.

First decree

Decree 6690 revoked the Lebanese citizenship of 53 Palestinians who were registered as refugees with UNRWA (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency) when they were naturalized. These Palestinians included 34 Shia'a and 19 Sunni at the Cazas of Saida, Sour and Nabatieh. Table 1 shows their distribution according to region and religious community.

Number	Sect	Place of registration
9	Shia'a	Shaytieh- Sour
5	Shia'a: 4- Sunni: 1	Berghlieh- Sour
7	Shia'a: 4- Sunni: 3	Bsatin- Sour
4	Shia'a	Mansouri- Saida
3	Sunni	Wastani- Saida
2	Sunni	Bisariye- Saida
1	Sunni	Deir El-Zahrani- Nabatieh
3	Shia'a	Shawkin- Nabatieh
3	Sunni	El-Njarieh- Saida
1	Sunni	Habbouch- Nabatieh
4	Shia'a	Kharayeb- Saida
4	Shia'a	Naqoura- Sour
2	Sunni	Yarin- Sour
2	Shia'a	Qana- Sour
2	Sunni	-

Second decree

Decree 6691 revoked the Lebanese citizenship of 123 persons. Some of them (100) were Syrians, Turks, Iranians, Egyptians, and Armenians of known origins and not of "veiled (unknown) nationality" (Maktumi al-Qaid) as stated in their naturalization decree. Others (20) were registered as Palestinian refugees and the remaining two had gained citizenship through the provision of false documents.

The citizens deprived of their citizenship belonged to the following religious community:

- Syriac Orthodox: 49
- Shia'a: 26
- Sunni: 18
- Greek Catholic: 12
- Armenian Orthodox: 7
- Greek Orthodox: 6
- Maronite: 5

Table 2 shows the distribution of the persons deprived of their nationality according to religious community, place of registration and origins.

Number	Sect	Original nationality	Place of registration
35	Syriac Orthodox	Turk	Maalaka- Zahle
4	Maronite	Syrian	Maalaka- Zahle
1	Greek Orthodox	Syrian	Maalaka- Zahle
1	Syriac Orthodox	Syrian	Maalaka- Zahle
1	Greek Catholic	Syrian	Maalaka- Zahle
1	Syriac Orthodox	Turk	Jdita- Zahle
1	Greek Catholic	Turk	Saidat El-Najat- Zahle
2	Syriac Orthodox	Turk	Housh El-Zaraani- Zahle
1	Maronite	Unknown	Housh El-Zaraani- Zahle
7	Syriac Orthodox	Turk	Al Midan Al-Gharbi- Zahle
2	Greek Orthodox	Syrian	Al Midan Al-Gharbi- Zahle
1	Greek Catholic	Syrian	Ferzel Al-Tahta- Zahle
1	Syriac Orthodox	Turk	Housh El-Oumara- zahle
4	Shia'a	Iranian	Sarafand- Saida
1	Shia'a	Unknown	Hzarta
1	Shia'a	Syrian	Qnarit- Saida
4	Shia'a	Iranian	Teffahta- Saida
1	Shia'a	Syrian	Kfarhata
1	Shia'a	Syrian	Zrariyi- Saida
6	Shia'a	Iranian	Zrariyi- Saida
1	Armenian Orthodox	Armenian	Anjar
4	Greek Catholic	Syrian	Sayyidit Al-Najat - Saida
2	Syriac Orthodox	Turk	Sayyidit Al-Najat - Saida
6	Armenian Orthodox	Armenian	Sayyidit Al-Najat - Saida
3	Greek Orthodox	Syrian	Terboul
3	Sunni	Egyptian	Saida
2	Sunni	Turk	Majdal Anjar

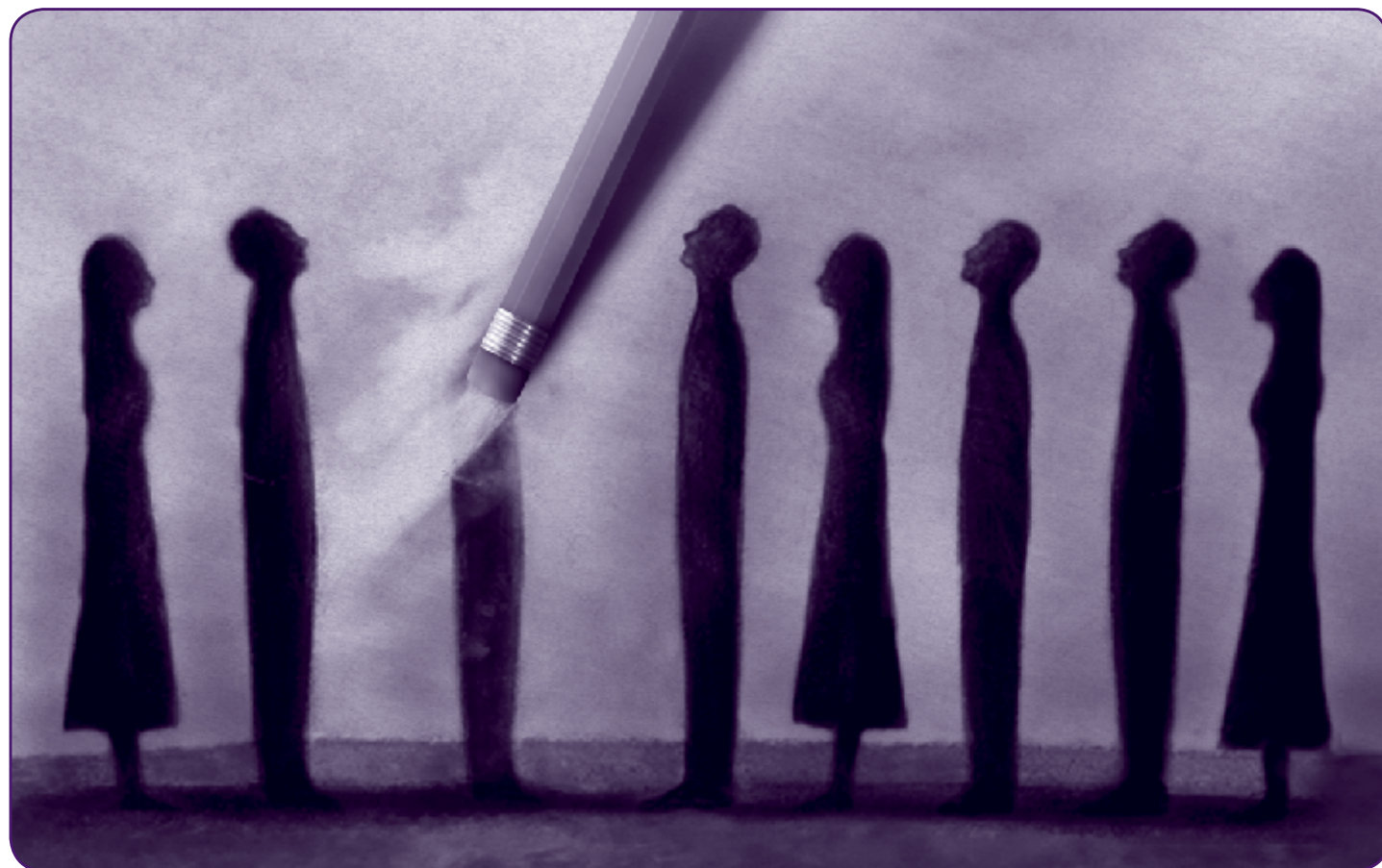
Withdrawal of citizenship from the Palestinians and others Table 2

Number	Sect	Original nationality	Place of registration
1	Greek Catholic	Turk	Hay El-Barbara-Zahle
5	Sunni	Syrian	Qeb Elias el-Tahta
2	Shia'a	Palestinian	Berghlieh
3	Sunni	Palestinian	Njarieh
4	Sunni	Palestinian	Ghoubeiri
5	Shia'a	Palestinian	Haret Hreyk
1	Sunni	Palestinian	Habboush
1	Shia'a	Palestinian	Ghoubeiri
3	Greek Catholic	Palestinian	Dekwaneh
1	Greek Catholic	Palestinian	Baabda

“Many parties rejected the two decrees revoking citizenship from 176 persons. Some were calling for the cancellation of the naturalization decree altogether rather than restricting revocations to Syriac Orthodox Christians”

Stance on nationality withdrawal

Many parties rejected the two decrees revoking citizenship from 176 persons. Some were calling for the cancellation of the naturalization decree altogether rather than restricting revocations to Syriac Orthodox Christians. Others believed that a close examination of the 1994 decree would prove that tens of thousands did not fulfill the prerequisites for acquisition of nationality. Thus, it seems unfair to withdraw nationality only from the few hundred mentioned in the two decrees and to strip them of the rights they enjoy as regards marriage, accommodation, possession and residence, especially that they have been naturalized for almost 17 years. Furthermore, a number of the naturalized have been dead for years now and did not live long enough to witness the fate awaiting them and their children. Who is to be held accountable then? The naturalized? Those who granted them the nationality? The judiciary for their delay in resolving the issue? The Interior Ministry for procrastinating implementation? Or are they all accomplices in this crime? 🍷



LEBANON'S POPULATION INCREASE:

62,000 INDIVIDUALS PER YEAR AND EQUAL NUMBERS OF MEN AND WOMEN

How many Lebanese are born per year? Are there more male or female newborns? How many die annually and what is the population growth rate?

Lebanese population

The Lebanese population is estimated at around 4.9 million at the beginning of 2012.

2011 population increase

Since the beginning of 2011 until the end of September, Lebanon has witnessed 75,186 births of which 36,583 are females and 38,603 are males. On the other hand the number of deaths has reached 18,627 including 8,575 females and 10,052 males. Thus, the population has grown by 56,559 people, of which the females constituted 49.5% and the males 50.5%. If the growth continues at this rate, an increase of seventy six thousand people might be recorded by the end of the year.

Population increase (1997-2010)

The average birth rate between the years 1997 and 2010 has reached 81,812 per year against an average of 19,736 deaths, bringing about an increase of 62,076 people.

Table 1 shows the numbers of births and deaths and the ensuing population increase since 1997 till 2010. It can be noted that there were fewer female births than male births while the opposite applied for male mortality rates, which exceeded female deaths, thus yielding equilibrium between the two genders. It is also worth mentioning that the population decreased between the years 1993 and 2006 compared to the earlier period but increased again from 2007.

Year	Male births	Female births	Total births	Male deaths	Female deaths	Total deaths	Population increase
1997	-	-	80,120	-	-	18,913	61,207
1998	-	-	83,915	-	-	19,620	64,295
1999	43,289	42,666	85,955	11,464	8,649	19,813	66,142
2000	-	-	87,795	-	-	19,435	68,360
2003	36,533	35,169	71,702	9,467	7,720	17,187	54,515
2004	38,167	36,212	74,379	9,840	7,905	17,745	56,634
2005	37,498	36,272	73,770	10,029	7,983	18,012	55,758
2006	36,992	35,798	72,790	10,556	8,231	18,787	54,003
2007	40,991	39,905	80,896	11,688	9,404	21,092	59,804
2008	42,799	42,024	84,823	11,628	9,420	21,048	63,775
2009	46,100	44,288	90,388	12,231	10,029	22,260	68,128
2010	48,364	46,854	95,218	12,363	10,563	22,926	72,292

Source: Information International based on the Central Administration for Statistics

GRADE 1 POSTS

VACANCIES AND MONOPOLIES

With its archaic apparatuses, poor performance and high cost, Lebanon's public administration exposes a dilemma that defies all possible solutions. In the backdrop of overlapping political and sectarian factors, this sector becomes an additional burden to the Lebanese at a time when it should stretch its hands to help out the people.

The administrative status has been drastically deteriorating in the past few years due to the vacancies arising from resignation or retirement and the failure to fill them up owing to fights over key posts. Despite the attention devoted in the ministerial statement to this issue, the government is crawling at a snail's pace in the public appointments process and only 8 people have been appointed since it first took office while the other 61 Grade 1 posts remain vacant.

Grade 1 posts

There are around 149 Grade 1 posts and their equivalents. These posts are distributed over public administrations and agencies and state-owned companies. Appointment to, and firing or transferring from public posts is usually regulated by virtue of ministerial decrees (except for state-owned companies such as Intra Investment Company, Finance Bank, MEA, and Casino du Liban), noting that the Prime Minister appoints the Higher Relief Commission Secretary General.

Religious representation in public posts

Article 95 of the Lebanese Constitution stipulates that the principle of religious representation in public service jobs is to be cancelled with the exception of Grade 1 posts, which are to be distributed equally between Muslims and Christians without reserving any particular job for any religious group. However, nobody's abiding by Article 95 and some posts have become strictly reserved to certain religious groups. The posts are distributed as follows:

69 posts for Christians

- 44 Maronite posts of which 17 are vacant
- 11 Greek Orthodox posts of which 5 are vacant
- 11 Greek Catholic posts of which 5 are vacant
- 3 Armenian Orthodox posts

73 posts for Muslims

- 30 Muslim posts of which 13 are vacant
- 32 Shia'a posts of which 11 are vacant
- 10 Druze posts of which 3 are vacant
- 1 Alawi post

To these 142 posts, another 7 were added but we are yet to know which religious group will dominate them. The

posts are the following:

Mohafez of Akkar- Mohafez of Baalbeck and Hermel- Director General of Tripoli's economic zone- Director General of the committee for the establishment and management of industrial zones- Director of Liban Telecom- Director of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (Dr. Imad Hobbalah is currently the chairman of the TRA after the resignation of former chairman Dr. Kamal Shehadeh).

Monopolized posts

Certain sects monopolize certain Grade 1 posts and thus deny employees of different religious groups any rights to these posts. A few exceptional cases were recorded in 1998 when the Shia'a were granted the General Directorate of General Security in return for State Security and in 1992 when the Sunni were given the Prosecutor Judge's post after it was commonly reserved for the Maronites.

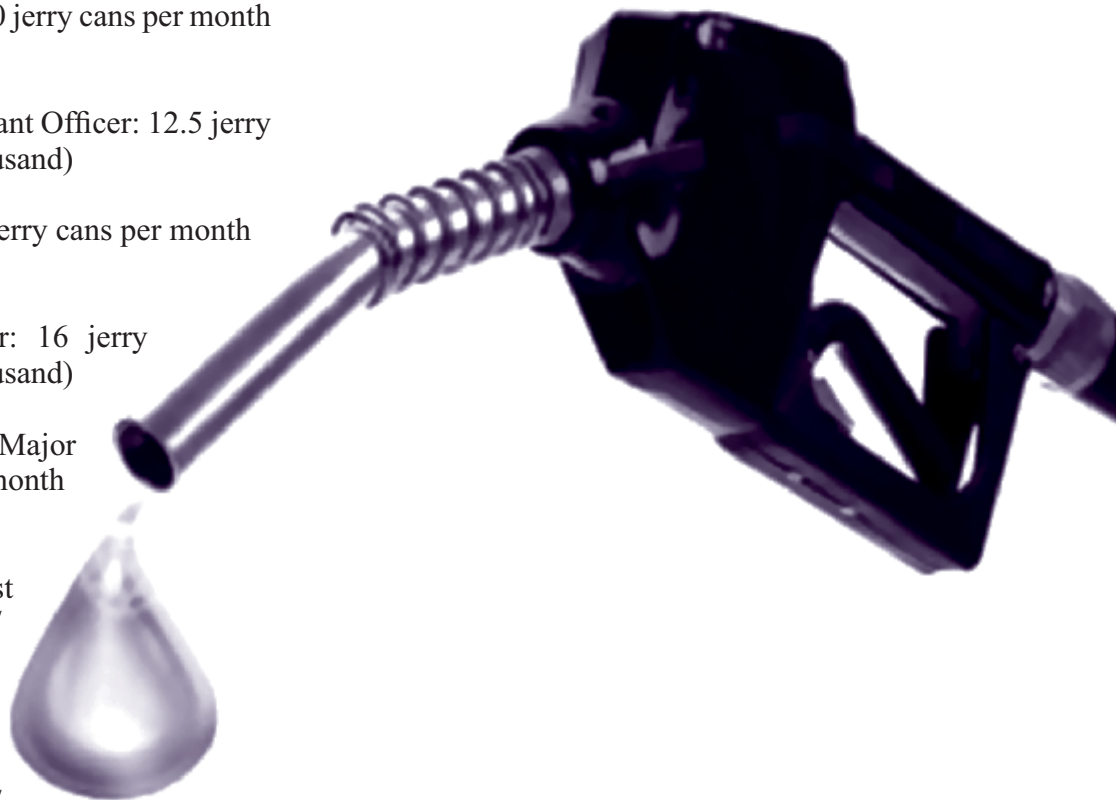
Among the major posts monopolized by particular religious communities are the following:

- **Maronite posts:** Governor of the Banque du Liban, Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Head of the Supreme Judiciary Council (vacant), Director of Casino du Liban, Director of Electricité du Liban, Head of the Central Inspection Committee.
- **Greek Orthodox posts:** Head of the Central Fund for the Displaced, Mohafez of Beirut (vacant).
- **Greek Catholic posts:** Director General of State Security, Director General of the Roads and Buildings in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (vacant), Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture (vacant).
- **Sunni posts:** Director General of Internal Security Forces, Head of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, Head of the Civil Service Board, General Prosecutor Judge, MEA Director, Mohafez of Mount Lebanon, Head of Ogero.
- **Shia'a posts:** Head of the Lebanese University, Director General of General Security, Head of Accounting Diwan, NSSF General Director, Chairman of Intra Investment Company.
- **Druze posts:** Director General of Health, Chief of the Lebanese Army, Mohafez of the South (vacant)

MILITARY FUEL: LBP 18 BILLION

Contrary to common belief, members of the army, internal security forces, general security and state security are not highly paid. As a matter of fact, their salaries pale in comparison with the high risks they encounter and they are among the lowest paid in the public sector, especially as the nature of their work forbids them from accepting bribes as most of the other public employees do. However, military members, particularly officers, are granted many other benefits including fuel coupons that allow them to have free gasoline jerry cans from army-affiliated gas stations according to the following:

- ◉ Officer using a military vehicle: 7 jerry cans per month (LBP 224 thousand)
- ◉ Officer using a personal car: 20 jerry cans per month (LBP 640 thousand)
- ◉ Warrant Officer or Chief Warrant Officer: 12.5 jerry cans per month (LBP 400 thousand)
- ◉ Retired Director General: 18 jerry cans per month (LBP 576 thousand)
- ◉ Retired Commanding Officer: 16 jerry cans per month (LBP 512 thousand)
- ◉ Retired Brigadier General or Major General: 12 jerry cans per month (LBP 384 thousand)
- ◉ Retired Lieutenant/ First Lieutenant/ Captain/ Major/ Lieutenant Colonel/ Colonel: 8 jerry cans per month (LBP 265 thousand)
- ◉ Retired Warrant Officer/ Chief Warrant Officer: 2.5 jerry cans per month (LBP 80 thousand). (Only ISF Warrant and Chief Warrant Officers benefit from the jerry cans unlike their counterparts in the army, general security and state security.)



The 2010 draft budget put the cost of liquid fuels provided for the armed forces (including fuel for military vehicles) at LBP 118.1 billion distributed over the following branches:

- ◉ Lebanese Army: LBP 65 billion
- ◉ Internal Security Forces: LBP 42 billion
- ◉ State Security: LBP 2.650 billion
- ◉ General Security: LBP 8.5 billion

2013 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

THE MUSLIMS VOTE FOR THE CHRISTIANS AND VICE VERSA

Many formulas are being discussed for the 2013 electoral law in Lebanon. Some propose a proportionality-based law according to new electoral districts, others support proportionality in Lebanon as one district while a good few prefer the adoption of the current law. Former Deputy Speaker Elie Ferzli suggested an electoral law enabling each sect to vote for its own MPs so that the Maronites elect their 34 deputies while Sunni voters determine their 27 Sunni seats and likewise the Shia'a.

Many, including journalist Paula Yacoubian, believe that such proposals instigate confessionalism counter-suggesting that Muslim voters bring Christian deputies to the Parliament while Christian votes secure Muslim parliamentary seats so as to surpass sectarian divides and promote integrity and religious fusion.

There were 3,266,074 registered voters in 2009 of whom 60.3% were Muslims, 39.5% Christians and 0.13% Israelis. The voters who actually cast their ballots were estimated at 1,657,194 apportioned between Muslims (62.3%) and Christians (37.7%). The following table 1 shows the number of voters and parliamentary seats according to confession.

Voters and seats according to religious confession			Table 1
Confession	Voters	Parliamentary seats	
Sunni	889,161	27	
Shia'a	872,237	27	
Druze	183,775	8	
Alawi	25,019	2	
Total	1,970,192	64	
Maronite	713,098	34	
Greek Orthodox	245,903	14	
Greek Catholic	161,783	8	
Armenian Orthodox	87,427	5	
Armenian Catholic	19,075	1	
Evangelical	6,913	1	
Syriac Orthodox	7,619	-	
Other Christians	49,771	1	
Total	1,291,589	64	
Israeli	4,293	-	
Overall total	3,266,074	128	



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR LEBANESE WOMEN

LARGE EXPENSES AND LITTLE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Lebanese government has endeavored over the past two decades to establish many ministries and administrations in order to improve the country and revive society. On the other hand, the Civil Society took the initiative of establishing hundreds of civil associations that breathed life into society and helped bridging the gaps that had ensued from state's absence or negligence. Among these associations, the National Commission for Lebanese Women stands out. What is this commission? And what makes it different?

Establishment

Unlike other associations whose establishment only requires a notification forwarded to the government, the National Commission for Lebanese Women came about pursuant to Law No. 720, dated 5-11-1998 and issued under Rafik Hariri's premiership at the end of Elias Berri's presidential term.

Commission members

The National Commission for Lebanese Women is composed of a general assembly including 18 to 24 members at most. These members are usually notable women's rights activists appointed for three renewable years by a decree proposed by the Prime Minister. The President is responsible for delegating a woman (usually his wife) to chair the commission, noting that all female ministers and MPs are considered active members throughout their term of office. The Commission has an executive office composed of 8 members elected from among the general assembly.

Responsibilities

The National Commission for Lebanese Women is tasked with:

- ◉ Advisory responsibilities before the government in order to enhance the status of women and grant them the same opportunities as men.
- ◉ Cooperative responsibilities pertaining to the relation of women with civil agencies, Arab and international committees.
- ◉ Executive responsibilities such as designing national strategies and plans for women, holding workshops, seminars and conferences, conducting studies, issuing publications and supporting all studies and activities related to women's affairs.

Funds

The Commission is allocated an annual financial contribution from the Cabinet's budget and may receive assistance and donations from local and foreign

committees as well as foreign governments. The funds transferred to the Commission from the general budget reserve since 1999 till 2010 are estimated to be LBP 4.3 billion and are detailed in the following table.

Decree (No. and date)	Amount (million LBP)
1906 (15-12-1999)	350
3575 (7-8-2000)	350
6614 (23-10-2001)	350
9123 (28-11-2002)	350
11158 (14-10-2003)	350
11561 (22-12-2003)	600
11847 (11-2-2004)	488.2 (to host the Arab Woman Forum)
13111 (24-8-2004)	350
17852 (20-10-2006)	350
4936 (4-9-2010)	750 (to buy headquarters for the Commission)

Members

Five general assemblies were formed since the establishment of the Commission in 1998 until the end of 2011. The woman who happens to be Lebanon's first lady, in each year would serve as a president of the assembly, while the wife of the Speaker (Nabih Berri since 1992) would serve as a vice president. The Prime Minister's wife used to serve as a member but became a second vice president since Mr. Fouad Siniora's premiership. The remaining members stayed in their positions except for a few amendments? in each presidential term noting that the commission secured a religious balance among its members. The following table shows the members of the commission throughout the different presidential terms.

General assembly appointment date	27-4-1999	12-9-2002	18-5-2005	5-9-2008	26-10-2011
President	Andrée Lahoud	Andrée Lahoud	Andrée Lahoud	Wafaa Suleiman	Wafaa Suleiman
Vice president	Randa Berri	Randa Berri	Randa Berri	Randa Berri	Randa Berri
Members	Wadad Hoss	Nazek Hariri	May Mikati	Hoda Siniora (2nd vice president)	May Mikati (2nd vice president)
	Olvin Ferzli	Olvin Ferzli	Sylvia Murr	Sylvia Murr	Lara Karam
	Sylvia Murr	Mirna Azar Najjar	Mirna Azar Najjar	Mirna Azar Najjar	Mirna Azar Najjar
	Khawla Erslan	Moufida Abed	Ayda Othman	Hayat Erslan	Hayat Erslan
	Hassana Daouk	Hassana Daouk	Hassana Daouk	Afifa Sayyed	Afifa Sayyed
	Layla Neemeh	Layla Neemeh	Layla Neemeh	Layla Neemeh	Layla Neemeh
	Zouhour Osseiran	Ezza Sharar Baydoun	Ezza Sharar Baydoun	Ezza Sharar Baydoun	Ezza Sharar Baydoun
	Amani Shaarani	Maha Souhail Moukaddam	Maha Souhail Moukaddam	Hind Al-Soufi	Hind Al-Soufi
	Marie Claude Saadeh (replaced by Mrs. Henriette Nammour in 2000)	Henriette Nammour	Henriette Nammour	Najwa Nasr	Najwa Nasr
	Katherine Joudieh	Jolande Abou Nasr	Jolanda Abou Nasr	Faiqa Terkia	Faiqa Terkia
	Norma Melhem	Nada Moughayzel (substituted by Mrs. Fadia Kiwan in 2003)	Fadia Kiwan	Fadia Kiwan	Fadia Kiwan
	Wafaa Al-Diqa	Wafaa Al-Diqa	Soha Kanj Sharara	Wafaa Al-Diqa	Wafaa Al-Diqa
	Patricia el-Hajj (substituted by Jouman Abou Rous in 2000)	Daad Kana'an Atallah	Reine Youssef	Ayda Neeman	Ayda Neeman
	Nadia Sehnaoui Feraoun	-	Layla Azouri	Layla Azouri	Layla Azouri
Najwa Ramadan	Najwa Ramadan	Najwa Ramadan	Najwa Ramadan	Najwa Ramadan	
Sosse Pauladian	Sosse Pauladian	Sosse Pauladian	Sosse Pauladian	Sosse Pauladian	
Ghada Hamdan	Ghada Hamdan	Ghada Hamdan	Ghada Hamdan	Ghada Hamdan	
Remonda Gherzali	Maral Totalian	Maral Totalian	Elham Kallab	Elham Kallab	
Hana Labib Abou Dahr	Hana Labib Abou Dahr	Hana Labib Abou Dahr	Hana Labib Abou Dahr	Hana Labib Abou Dahr	
Viviane Abboud	Viviane Abboud	Viviane Abboud	Viviane Abboud	Carole Chammas	
Hala Neemeh	Hala Ali Ahmad Zein	Tahiyya Qandil	Ghassan Sheet	Ghassan Sheet	
Mona Nuwayhid Ibrahim	Effat Abou Fakhreddine	Mona Nwayhed Ibrahi,	Fadi Karam	Fadi Karam	

The oddity

What is out of the ordinary is that the government funds this commission although it includes first ladies and is capable of fundraising and collecting donations from institutions and individuals willing to engage in projects that serve women. So why is the number of activists working to enhance the status of women restricted to only 24 at a time when civil society is packed with advocates of the woman's voice? What did this commission offer to Lebanese women and would their status have been worse without its achievements?

THE PARLIAMENT OF LEBANON

FROM A MARONITE TO A SUNNI THEN A SHIA'A SPEAKER

Article 16 of the Lebanese constitution vested the Lebanese Parliament with the legislative power. The Parliament consists of 128 members responsible for conducting legislative work and supervising the government in assistance with an administrative team.



The Parliament of Lebanon

1- Establishment of Parliament

Starting in 1992, the Lebanese elected the first 30-member Representative Council of Greater Lebanon. The first Council was later replaced by a second Representative Council, which became known as the Parliament upon the adoption of the Constitution of Lebanon on May 23, 1926.

2- Structure

Decisions No. 90 and No. 91 dated December 18, 1985 as well as Decision No. 101 dated January 9, 1986 were issued by former Speaker Hussein Al-Husseini and determined the structure of the Parliament which consists of:

The General Secretariat

The General Secretariat is responsible for supervising all the administrative units save the four mentioned hereafter:

- ◉ **The Advisory Council** (consisting of advisors and experts selected by the Speaker of the Parliament)
- ◉ **The General Inspection** (associated with the Speaker)
- ◉ **The Expenditures Control** (associated with the Speaker)
- ◉ **The Security apparatus** (associated with the Speaker of the Parliament and falls under his jurisdiction.)

The Secretary General appointed by the Speaker of the Parliament heads the Secretariat. The Secretary General should be a first grade civil servant or a holder of a law degree.

The Parliament employs 243 staff including 10 Grade 1 employees and 16 Grade 2 employees. The posts are distributed over the directorates, departments and bureaus shown in Table 1.

Parliament staff						Table1
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
General Secretariat	1		1	3	2	7
General Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs						
◉ Secretariat Department						
◉ Private Secretariat Bureau						
◉ Protocol and Official Guests Bureau	1	2	13	11	8	35
◉ Public Relations and Media Department						
◉ Media Bureau						
◉ PR Bureau						
General Directorate of Financial and Administrative Affairs Department						
◉ Administrative Affairs Department						
◉ Personnel and Stationary Bureau						
◉ Services Bureau	1	2	7	39	17	66
◉ MPs Affairs Bureau						
◉ Financial Affairs Department						
◉ Accounting Bureau						
◉ Funds Bureau						
◉ Expenditures Bureau						
General Directorate of Parliamentary Sessions Affairs						
◉ Parliamentary Sessions Department	1	2	17	32	4	56
◉ Parliamentary Committees Department						
◉ Clerks Bureau						
General Directorate of Research and Studies						
◉ Political and Legal Studies Department						
◉ Economic, Social and Developmental Studies Department	1	4	9	12	4	30
◉ Library and Documentation Department						
◉ Common Administrative Department						
◉ Archive Bureau	-	1	4	12	1	18
◉ Administrative Bureau						
Advisory Council	4	2	1	2	1	10
General Inspection						
◉ Inspection Department						
Financial Inspection Bureau						
Administrative Inspection Bureau	1	2	5	4	4	16
◉ HR Department						
◉ Personal Files Bureau						
◉ Employment Bureau						
Expenditures Control	-	1	1	2	1	5
Total	10	16	58	117	42	243

3- Parliament employees' appointment

Parliament employees are appointed by the Speaker and paid in compliance with the applicable salary grades in public administration. The Speaker has full authority over the Parliament's divisions and personnel and his jurisdiction is parallel to that of the minister's executive power, the central inspection and the civil service council as regards the appointment, promotion, transfer and firing of employees.

Law No. 1/84 dated June 13, 1984 granted Parliament's staff the right to add their previous public services (if any) to their Parliament services so as to continue their work in public administration. Furthermore, Law No. 16/86 issued on February 25, 1986 approved the transfer of Parliament's employees to public administration personnel even though their appointment method differs from that of public servants.

The Speaker has ultimate power over the Parliament with all its divisions and employees and enjoys the right to appoint or promote whomever he wants.

Succeeding Speakers of the Parliament

Sixteen people have succeeded to the presidency of the Parliament from 1922 to date (beginning of 2012). The holders of this post belonged to different faiths and it was first the Maronites, then the Sunni who served as speakers. As of 1943, it was agreed that only a Shia'a Muslim (save Habib Abi Shahla) can hold the office. Like all members of the Parliament, since 1992 the Speaker is elected for a four-year term, and prior to the Taif Agreement he used to serve for only a one year.

- ◉ **Naoum Labaki (Maronite):** he chaired the first Representative Council from December 16, 1923 till October 19, 1924
- ◉ **Emile Eddeh (Maronite):** he chaired the Council from October 21, 1924 till January 13, 1925
- ◉ **Moussa Nammour (Maronite):** he chaired the second Representative Council from July 13, 1925 till October 18, 1927.
- ◉ **Sheikh Mohammed el-Jisr (Sunni):** he was elected the Head of the Senate on May 25, 1926. He served later as president of the new Council resulting from the merge of the Senate and the Parliament from October 18, 1927 till May 10, 1932 when he ran for the presidency of the Republic of Lebanon and almost won which propelled the French Governor to dissolve the Council.

- ◉ **Charles Debbas (Orthodox):** he was elected the Speaker of the Parliament on January 30, 1934 and remained in office till October 10, 1934.
- ◉ **Petro Trad (Orthodox):** he was elected the President of the Parliament on November 20, 1934 and held the post till October 21, 1935. He was elected again for another term on October 29, 1937 and he remained in office till September 21, 1939.
- ◉ **Prince Khaled Shehab (Sunni):** he presided over the Parliament from October 22, 1935 till June 5, 1937.
- ◉ **Sabri Hamadeh (Shia'a):** he was elected the Speaker of the Parliament for five times. The first term he served lasted from September 21, 1943 till October 22, 1946. The second term was from June 9, 1947 till March 20, 1951, the third from October 20, 1959 till May 8, 1964, the fourth from October 20 till May 9, while his last term lasted from October 22, 1968 till October 20, 1970.
- ◉ **Habib Abu Shahla (Greek Orthodox):** he chaired the Parliament from October 22, 1946 till April 7, 1947.
- ◉ **Ahmad El-Assaad (Shia'a):** he was elected as the Speaker of the Parliament on June 5, 1951 and remained in office till May 30, 1953.
- ◉ **Adel Osseiran (Shia'a):** he was elected the Speaker of the Parliament on August 13, 1953 and remained in office till October 15, 1959.
- ◉ **Kamel El-Assaad (Shia'a):** he was elected many times as the Speaker of the Parliament. He first chaired the Parliament from May 8, 1964 till October 20, 1964, then again from May 9, 1968 till October 22, 1968 until his third term stretching from October 20, 1970 till October 16, 1984, which marked the longest term a Speaker had ever had to date.
- ◉ **Hussein el-Husseini (Shia'a):** he was elected as the Speaker of the Parliament on October 1964 and remained in office till August 24, 1992 when he resigned from his post in protest of the Parliamentary elections results.
- ◉ **Nabih Berri (Shia'a):** he served as the Speaker of the Parliament on October 20, 1992 for the first time before his election for a second term on October 22, 1996, a third on October 17, 2000, a fourth on August 28, 2005 and a fifth term on August 25, 2009 thus becoming the longest-serving Speaker in Lebanon's history with 21 years in office.



4- Parliamentary Bureau Board

The Parliamentary Bureau Board consists of the Speaker (Shia'a), the Deputy Speaker (Greek Orthodox), two secretaries (Druze and Maronite), and three commissioners (Sunni, Armenian Catholic and Greek Catholic).

5- Parliamentary committees

The Parliamentary committees consist of the members of the Parliament. A member of the Parliament cannot be a member in more than two permanent committees, unless the third committee is the human rights committee, the woman and child committee or the IT committee. Should a deputy become a minister, his post in the committee shall fall vacant. Each committee elects its own president and rapporteur while the Speaker assigns a Parliament employee to serve as his secretary. Confessional balance is always taken into account during the elections of committees' presidents and rapporteurs.

The Parliament has 17 permanent committees working in the following areas:

- ◉ Budget and Finance: 17 members (Maronite president- Greek Orthodox rapporteur)
- ◉ Administration and justice: 17 members (Maronite president- Shia'a rapporteur)
- ◉ Foreign affairs and emigrants: 17 members (Shia'a president- Maronite rapporteur)
- ◉ Public works, transport, electric and hydraulic resources: 17 members (Sunni president -Alawi rapporteur)
- ◉ Education, higher education and culture: 12 members (Sunni president- Greek Orthodox rapporteur)
- ◉ Public health, labor and social affairs: 12 members (Greek Orthodox president- Sunni rapporteur)
- ◉ National defense, internal affairs and municipalities: 17 members (Sunni president- Druze rapporteur)
- ◉ Displaced persons: 12 members (Armenian Orthodox president- Sunni rapporteur)

- ◉ Environment: 12 members (Druze president- Shia'a rapporteur)
- ◉ Agriculture and tourism: 12 members (Shia'a president- Maronite rapporteur)
- ◉ Economy, trade, industry and planning: 12 members (Minority president- Shia'a rapporteur)
- ◉ Media and telecommunications: 12 members (Shia'a president- Sunni rapporteur)
- ◉ Youth and Sports: 12 members (Maronite president- Shia'a rapporteur)
- ◉ Human rights: 12 members (Greek Catholic president- Greek Orthodox rapporteur)
- ◉ Women and children: 12 members (Maronite president- Greek Orthodox rapporteur)
- ◉ Information technology: 9 members (Maronite president- Maronite rapporteur)

6- Parliament Police

Lebanon's Parliament Police consists of 550 officers and members that are admitted, promoted or fired by a decision issued by the Speaker of the Parliament. The parliament police are responsible for protecting the parliament premises and the Speaker's residence.

7- Budget

The share allocated to the Parliament in the 2010 draft budget law stood at LBP 65.7 billion compared to LBP 60.3 in 2009. The expenses are distributed as follows:

- ◉ Stationery and office supplies: LBP 300 million
- ◉ Administrative supplies (clothing, fuel, generator oil): LBP 475 million
- ◉ Fuel and spare parts for transport vehicles: LBP 800 million
- ◉ Electricity: LBP 1.2 billion
- ◉ Telecommunications: LBP 2 billion
- ◉ Publications: LBP 580 million
- ◉ Cleaning services: LBP 400 million
- ◉ MPs' salaries and allowances: LBP 12.4 billion
- ◉ Full timers' salaries: LBP 17 billion
- ◉ Contract employees' salaries: LBP 1.1 billion
- ◉ Transportation allowances: LBP 600 million
- ◉ Fees for the MPs' cooperation fund: LBP 13 billion
- ◉ Fees for Parliament employees' cooperation fund: LBP 1.6 billion
- ◉ Fees for regional and international organizations: LBP 450 million
- ◉ Studies: LBP 450 million
- ◉ Conferences and delegations in Lebanon and abroad: LBP 2.3 billion
- ◉ Furniture: LBP 4.1 billion
- ◉ Transportation equipment: LBP 2 billion
- ◉ Technical equipment: LBP 800 million
- ◉ Other equipment: LBP 2.4 billion

THE ARAB INSTITUTE SCHOOLS

60 YEARS AT THE SERVICE OF EDUCATION

The Arab Institute Schools seek to achieve multiple objectives aiming at promoting and furthering education. The Institute aspires to spread vocational knowledge and provide training skills to boost technical labor-power and saturate both, national and Arab markets. Since 1962 up to date, the Institute has been a frontrunner in spreading technical education in Lebanon.

Establishment

The Arab Institute was first established in Zqaq El-Blat in 1958 by an initiative of Dr. Hussein Yatim. Later on, the administration expanded its scope and introduced new branches to meet the demands of Beirut and its suburbs. The institute has both, academic and technical branches, ranging from kindergarten to Baccalaureate and from Intermediate Technical Degrees (BP) to Superior Technician Degrees (TS). The institute graduated thousands of students and many prolific figures (ministers, officers, directors, businessmen) distributed in Lebanon and abroad.

Numerous are the historic schools located in Zqaq El-Blat. Of these we mention the Evangelical School, Saint Joseph School, La Sagesse, Haigazian, Hawd al-Wilaya, Lycée Abd el-Kader, in addition to some primitive schools responsible for teaching Math, Arabic and Quran reading for students who cannot afford the fees of the abovementioned schools.



It is noteworthy that the Arab Institute schools have recently granted children of lower class families the chance to benefit from modern education as well.

The following two tables show the number and distribution of students and teachers in the institute's different schools in the scholarly year 2011-2012, in addition to the discounts and scholarships granted.

Students' distribution and discounts in the scholarly year 2011-2012

Table 1

	Date of establishment	No. of Students	English program	French program	Males	Females	Discounts
Arab Vocational Institute	1969	372	205	267	198	174	77.3%
Al Hussein Bin Ali Institute	1980	1025	545	580	545	480	76.4%
Arab secondary High School	1962	281	128	158	146	122	55.4%
Green Lebanon School	1961	128	102	26	71	57	59.5%
Dar Al-Hanan School	1971	62	48	14	32	30	66%
American Technical Academy	2002	117	117	0	52	65	29.4%
Other specialties	-	61	61	0	23	38	40.6%
Total	-	1,051	1,206	845	1,085	866	57.8%

Distribution of teachers and staff in the scholarly year 2011-2012				Table 2
	Date of establishment	Administrative officers	Teachers	Total
Arab Vocational Institute	1969	10	44	54
Al Hussein Bin Ali Institute	1980	17	74	91
Arab secondary High School	1962	12	42	54
Green Lebanon School	1961	15	34	49
Dar Al-Hanan School	1971	3	6	9
American Technical Academy	2002	5	4	9
Other specialties	-	2	6	8
Total	-	64	210	274

Vocational Specialties

At the beginning of 2005, The Arab Institute Schools signed a School Agreement with Microsoft Corporation, whereby the institute was supplied with a wide variety of software services that offered students and staff members many technical solutions. This agreement has also entailed licensing of some Microsoft products such as Windows, Office, Exchange, Project, Sharepoint, Portal, Server, SQL Server and Visio, which laid the foundation for a safe and reliable IT infrastructure. Advanced Microsoft patterns and practices enriched education at the institute and provided new dimensions that facilitated information acquisition and skill mastery.

The institute has also signed an IT Academy Pro Platinum agreement whereby it incorporated the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) and MCSA certifications within its program to help students validate their experience and upgrade to the Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS) and Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP) on windows certifications.

The Arab Institute Schools are committed to adopting high education standards in several fields such as

languages, IT, and technical training. It is noteworthy that Microsoft certifications have played a big role in this respect and helped certificate holders grow in parallel with globalization and modern sciences.

To facilitate the accomplishment of this project, the American Technical Academy (ATA) has signed local agreements to operate CERTIPORT and PROMETRIC testing centers where students, each according to his/her major, sit for international exams through direct contact with the mother centers licensed to run these examinations in the US and Europe. A TOEFL agreement was also signed making the Arab Institute Schools an authorized center for TOEFL tests.

An agreement signed with VUE Testing Centers has also allowed the students to move between ADOBE applications and have examinations in graphic design and filmmaking. The center will be initiated at the beginning of next year, noting that The Arab Institute Schools have adopted a twinning program to couple public programs with Microsoft's in the TS and BT classes.

In an attempt to stay up to date, the institute has introduced in the scholarly year 2011-2012 new courses in advertising, media, direction and acting in order to become a leading institution providing certified diplomas in the said fields, which, according to the principal, are being neglected in other institutions.

Activities

In addition to arts and sports activities, the Arab Institute Schools organize recital competitions and hold medical, educational and socio-cultural conferences. The schools also engage in the celebration of many occasions such as Mother's Day, Children's Day, Teacher's Day, Independence Day, Armed Forces Day, Christmas, Easter and Eid ul-Fitr.

Challenges

Naturally, challenges shall continue to arise as long as the Institute is operating. Success necessitates a consistent amount of efforts but the challenge lies in how to reach excellence. Furthermore, many financial challenges emerge especially that the schools grant free scholarships and ensure the improvement of their equipment to meet the latest technical updates and stay at the top.

BEIRUT THEATER

Beirut Theater owners announced their willingness to sell the theater and called for its closure at the beginning of 2012. Upon this announcement, a number of activists, artists, intellectual and legal scholars held a meeting with Decibel- a group consisting of deaf artists who re-launched the theater in 2009- to discuss all legal means possible to safeguard the theater and save it from demolition and closure. The movement succeeded in generating a ministerial decision that classified the theater as a historic property. Although insufficient, the decision issued by the Minister of Culture constituted a gain for the activists and motivated them to follow up the issue and push forward with their efforts. Not only did the movement endeavor to block the demolition action, it also exhibited resolve in pressuring the pertinent authorities to provide a wider protection that preserves the spirit of the theater by securing the continuity of all cultural and arts activities inside it.

The most remarkable thing about this initiative is the coupling of the spectrum of demands with the legal knowledge, which promoted and strengthened the requests urging the responsible parties to acknowledge their legal obligations. The Monthly decided to cover and follow through this movement since it has triggered a heated debate on the inclination and orientation of those in charge of Lebanon's cultural policies. For this reason, our magazine will shed light on the legal principles, provisions and mechanisms approved by Lebanese legislators to safeguard both physical and intangible cultural heritage in Lebanon.

The main concern of the movement was to know if there were any provisions in Lebanese law that protect cultural properties and ensure the continuity of their activities regardless of who the property owners are, as well as to explore the role that the Ministry of Culture can play in this respect. Elaborate deliberations on this issue led to the protestors organizing a sit-in in front of the Ministry of Culture on 21-12-2011 to protest against the decision to close the theater. The protestors demanded urgent seizure of the theater until its classification as a cultural property whose management would be under the Ministry of Culture and local cultural associations. The same day, the Minister of Culture responded by issuing decision No. 133/2011, which enrolled Beirut Theater in the list of historic buildings according to the Ancient Monuments Act issued in 1933.

How does this decision impact the legal status of the theater? Will it provide the protection needed as to the permanence and continuity of the cultural activities inside it? What are the principles and provisions that corroborate this protection in Lebanese law?

As a matter of fact, the said decision does not serve the intended purpose, especially that the responsible individuals are standing helpless regarding the decision to close the theater by the owners prior to the scheduled date. This was exactly the fear of the movement, for it was aware that the Ancient Monuments Act does not include the measures and mechanisms necessary to maintain the activity of the theater and thus urged the

Ministry of Culture to put in action the provisions of Law No. 37/2008 pertaining to cultural property.

This law is part of an integrated set of laws that constitute a first step towards the upgrading of Lebanon's cultural sector. The law is aimed at setting a modern legal frame for the protection of any property, which is movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, owned or possessed by any person, so as to serve the public interest. This definition falls in alignment with Lebanon's international commitments embodied in two UNESCO agreements emphasizing the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). Forming part of the modern provisions introduced by this law is the establishment of a new category of aspects and dimensions that do not necessarily meet the standards of classification of old monuments but need to be safeguarded and managed through a broader interference of the state and the Ministry of Culture. The definition adopted entails the protection of tangible as well as intangible property which includes the practices, expressions and knowledge skills as well as the cultural spaces associated therewith. This definition applies to Beirut Theater whose protection should not only be restricted to the actual building.

The second remarkable feature that distinguishes this law is its insistence on engaging the civil community including individuals, groups, and civil associations in the management, promotion and protection of cultural heritage. This underlines again the significance of Beirut Theater, which was over the years run by high-ranking cultural, social and artistic figures.

It is also worthwhile noting that Decibel has led an excellent experience in the theater for the last two years. Not only did the group manage to list the theater as a historic building, it is also keen to provide the protection necessary to re-open it and re-launch its cultural activities. Finally, it is undeniable that this initiative underlines the importance and worthiness of these demands which come at the top of the civil society's priorities and which should be sponsored and promoted according to the rights protected by the Lebanese laws.



Dr. Hanna Saadah

FEVER

Fever is the elevation of the body temperature above normal. Under ordinary situations the body produces more heat than is required to maintain normal temperatures. However, normal body temperatures are strictly maintained in spite of environmental variations by balancing the heat generated from our metabolism, livers, and muscles against the heat dissipated from our skin and lungs.

The body's temperature is regulated by our brain's thermostat, the hypothalamus. When the hypothalamus is reset upward, it triggers the body's mechanisms that generate and conserve heat such as constriction of skin blood vessels and muscle shivering; when it is reset downward, it triggers mechanisms that dissipate heat such as the opening of the skin blood vessels (flushing), sweating, and rapid breathing.

The average oral temperature is about 36.8 degrees Centigrade or 98.2 degrees Fahrenheit and tends to be lowest at 6 a.m. and highest at 4 p.m. The maximum normal oral temperature is 37.2 °C or 98.9 °F at 6 a.m. and 37.7 °C or 99.9 °F at 4 p.m. Rectal temperatures are about 0.4 °C or 0.7 °F above oral readings. Consequently, temperatures higher than these normal temperatures are considered fevers.

Fever is our body's reaction to injury, inflammation, certain hormonal storms, and infections—all of which release certain chemicals called toxins and cytokines, which reset the hypothalamus thermostat upwards. When that happens, the skin blood vessels constrict to conserve heat—the muscles shiver and the liver increases its metabolism to generate heat. This process continues until the temperature reaches the higher-set level. The reverse happens when the hypothalamus resets the temperature down, causing the skin to flush and sweat and the lungs to breathe faster, thus cooling off the body.

Fever does not help the body's fight against infection and reducing it does not hinder the body's defenses. Therefore, fever needs to be treated only if it renders the patient uncomfortable. Otherwise, fever should only be monitored because it gives very valuable information about the progress of disease. Very high fevers, however, may cause seizures, especially in children, and should be promptly treated with medicines and by cooling the body in a water bath.

The treatment of fever rests on the use of antipyretics (Tylenol, Aspirin, and others) all of which reset the hypothalamus thermostat down. Conversely, medications that suppress sweating (anti-cholinergics) or flushing

(vasoconstrictors) may interfere with the body's cooling mechanisms and increase fever.

There are fevers that do not obey the settings of the body's thermostat. These conditions may occur when heat generation is excessive and heat dissipation is limited by hot external conditions. Examples include laboring or exercising in very hot weather. In such situations the heat generated exceeds the heat dissipated, causing a condition known as hyperthermia, which may lead to heat strokes. Here, using Aspirin or Tylenol will do no good because the body's thermostat is already set low and lowering it further does not help. Moving to a cooler place and bathing in cool water are the quickest means that reduce this kind of high fever.

Many conditions that directly affect the brain such as hemorrhages and strokes can reset the brain's thermostat upward, causing high fever. In such cases, it may prove more difficult to reset the thermostat down with medications alone. Moreover, certain medicines can cause very high fevers by directly resetting the brain's thermostat upward. For example: a) antipsychotics, which block the brain's hormone dopamine, may cause a very dangerous condition known as the Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome; b) general anesthetics, in the genetically inclined, may cause an equally dangerous condition called Malignant Hyperthermia; and c) certain antidepressants may cause the deadly Serotonin Syndrome. The treatments for these serious conditions are very complex and require high expertise.

Antibiotics, which are used to treat infections, can themselves cause a high fever known as Antibiotic Fever. The only treatment for this condition is to stop the antibiotics, which causes the fever to defervesce within a few days. Other conditions such as old age, kidney failure, septicemia, and certain medications such as steroids prevent the brain's thermostat from resetting upward, thus masking fevers and making infections much harder to diagnose.

Although infections do cause fever, not all infections cause fever and not all infections require antibiotics. Viral illnesses such as colds, sore throats, bronchitis etc. will not respond to antibiotics, which can only cause adverse effects. On the other hand, febrile bacterial infections such as pneumonia, strep throat, kidney infections, etc. need prompt antibiotic therapy. Fever is just a warning sign, indicating that something is wrong; finding the cause and deciding whether to treat or not to treat are the real issues. ●●

HOW TO GET PALESTINIANS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (OPT) TO COMPROMISE:

| Dr. Samar Zebian



One study on the relationship between humiliation, violence and willingness to compromise

There is a long history and a sizable quantity of psychological research on Palestinians and Arabs living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Israel. The amount of research on this relatively small but politically significant population stands in comparison to the dearth of psychological research on the rest of the Arab region. Don't be surprised. It is fashionable and also necessary for oppressive/apartheid regimes to fund and promote research on the psychological mechanisms of groups purportedly in need of external "aid" to achieve "modernization" and "democratization" (see also *Holdstock*, 2000 for the role of psychological research in apartheid South Africa). In this article I wish to review a recent study conducted by Ginges and Atran (2008) that examines the psychological processes that affect individuals' support for violence and their willingness to compromise.

Ginges and Atran set out to examine the commonly held belief by many oppressive governments (and also insurgent groups) that if you make life unbearable for people and if you do it in a way that specifically leaves them feeling humiliated you will decrease support for political violence.

Ginges and Atran worked with the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey research (<http://pcpsr.org>) to administer a survey to 1264 Muslim Palestinians who lived in the West Bank. The survey asked them to consider aspects of Israeli occupation (e.g. constant increase of settlers, assassination of Palestinian activists, demolition of homes) and pick two emotion words that conveyed their emotional response to the tactics (sad, dignity, anger, pride, oppression, justice, insult, fear, joy, humiliation etc...). To measure the participants' sense of humiliation they counted how many times they selected humiliation as their first or second emotional response. Then, to assess support for violence, they did two other tasks: 1) pick an emotional response upon hearing about a suicide attack, i.e. joy, shame, pride, dread. Following this task, participants were asked whether they thought suicide bombings that target civilians were in accordance with Islamic principles. If you accept this methodology, the results are quite straightforward; individuals who report higher levels of humiliation as a result of Israeli occupation showed lower levels of support for suicide attacks. This relationship was observed for males/females, refugees or permanent residents /; those with less vs. more education, and regardless of one's views about Palestinians' right of return.

Two other studies published in the same report go into more depth about the nature of the relationship between humiliation and support for violence. Leaving the methodological details to those interested in reading the full report (cited below), the three main results were as follows:

Simply being reminded about Israeli Occupation tactics decreases support for suicide attacks.

Muslim Palestinians who felt humiliated by peace deals which involved compromises over sacred values (i.e., giving up Jerusalem,) showed less support for those deals.

Feelings of humiliation decreased and subsequent support for a peace deals increased when the deal involved Israeli recognition of the legitimacy of the Palestinian state, whereas instrumental (financial benefits) had no positive effect on willingness to compromise.

Together the findings from all three studies suggest that humiliated people not only show less support for rebellious or violent action but they also show ambivalence towards finding a beneficial compromise. It is the second finding, the ambivalence or resistance towards finding a just solution, which Ginges and Atran argue is delaying the peace process.

Certainly the findings from these series of studies might contribute a psychological perspective on why peace deals are not popularly supported, but only if the methods employed support the conclusions. Self-report data from surveys are important for polling the opinions of hundreds/thousands of people, nevertheless they often do not reflect the unconscious processes or actual behavior of individuals.

Another question for these researchers concerns the rationale for selecting a subsample of students who supported Hamas or the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) for the second study . Ginges and Atran reasoned that this population was appropriate because most Palestinian suicide bombers have been student members of these groups and thus their sample represents the pool of potential bombers (p. 287). If you look at statistics of suicide attackers they suggest that approximately half (possibly less than half) fall into the category of university students and of these students most are from Gaza (where conditions are worse) and not the West Bank. Thus it would seem that the sample polled is not necessarily representative of the intended population and therefore the findings of this particular study cannot be easily generalized to the OPT. 🍀



Antoine Boutros

DNA: THE KEEPER OF THE SECRET OF LIFE

In our present series on the DNA we have demonstrated how this unique substance is the factor that passes genetic instructions from one cell to another. We must now deal with another complicated issue: how information passes from ancestors to descendants.

As we know, the embryo goes through many stages of development starting as a fertilized egg. This egg obtains all the genetic instructions inherited from the mother's ovule and the father's sperm. During fertilization, the nucleus of the sperm fuses with the ovum thus creating a fertilized egg that carries two groups of genetic information sourced from both parents: the mother and the father.

As the rounds of division kick off, the lone cell carrying 64 chromosomes splits into two cells. The chromosomes divide as well so that every daughter cell recovers its original number of chromosomes. Each of these chromosomes contains a DNA that carries genetic instructions and proteins responsible of producing all new substances necessary for the development and multiplication of the body.


Throughout the nine months that follow egg fertilization cells multiply thanks to a clever maneuver named "mitosis". By delivery time, the body will have produced 200000000000 cells each of which is responsible for a specific function imposed by the instructions transferred by the DNA.

Although the DNA structure and the meticulous message delivered to the new cells are two extraordinary agents, there could not have been any life on earth if it were not for this substance's outstanding capability to duplicate itself in order to pass information. It is noteworthy that the DNA replication process is one of the most striking wonders of nature.

When the chromosome is divided inside the cell, the double helix breaks into two vertical strands as if a zipper's slider has opened up. Upon division, the pairs of nucleic bases (A with T and C with G) are broken and each base separates from its adjacent counterpart leaving at each side one strand with one exposed base. This strand would later complete itself by attracting the complementary bases present inside the cell. Thus, the old (A) base pairs up with a new (T) base while (C) reunites with (G) forming a new double helix over again. In other terms, the DNA duplicates itself noting that the duplication is an ongoing process that accompanies every cellular division.

To fulfill the development of the living organism and conclude the mission of life, the DNA nucleus releases a set of instructions in the form of a "genetic code" to construct new substances inside the cell. Scientists noticed that a type of genes labeled as "jumping genes" keep moving here and there in response to stimuli such as the environment rather than the instructions of the DNA.

The exciting part is that the DNA does not leave its stronghold inside the nucleus to pass its instructions. Rather, it empowers the messenger RNA (a braided molecule transcribed from the DNA template) with this mission. Messenger RNA carries coding information to the site of protein synthesis: the ribosome. Furthermore, the DNA produces other units known as the transfer RNA which transfers the amino acids or the raw materials of life to a synthesis line where a specific protein undertakes the production of the substance ordered by the Messenger RNA. Researchers also perceived that the DNA can also impact the memory. For all its primitiveness, the flatworm has proved to possess an astonishing memory. If we adapt the worm to shrink when exposed to a beam of light and then cut it in halves, the head half will grow a new tail while the tail half will grow a new head. Every daughter flatworm will remember what the mother flatworm did and will thus shrink when subjected to light. However if we submerge the tail half in a solution containing an enzyme that destroys the DNA, it will forget all that it has learned. Apparently, the memory can be washed and emptied which implies that the DNA and the proteins are connected to the storage of information. The oddity, however, is that the enzyme fails to influence the head half in the same manner. Although the different amino acids are restricted to twenty, there are thousands of proteins that differ from each other thanks to the DNA which in turn holds hundreds or rather thousands of instructions. Otherwise, no individual would have differed from the other.

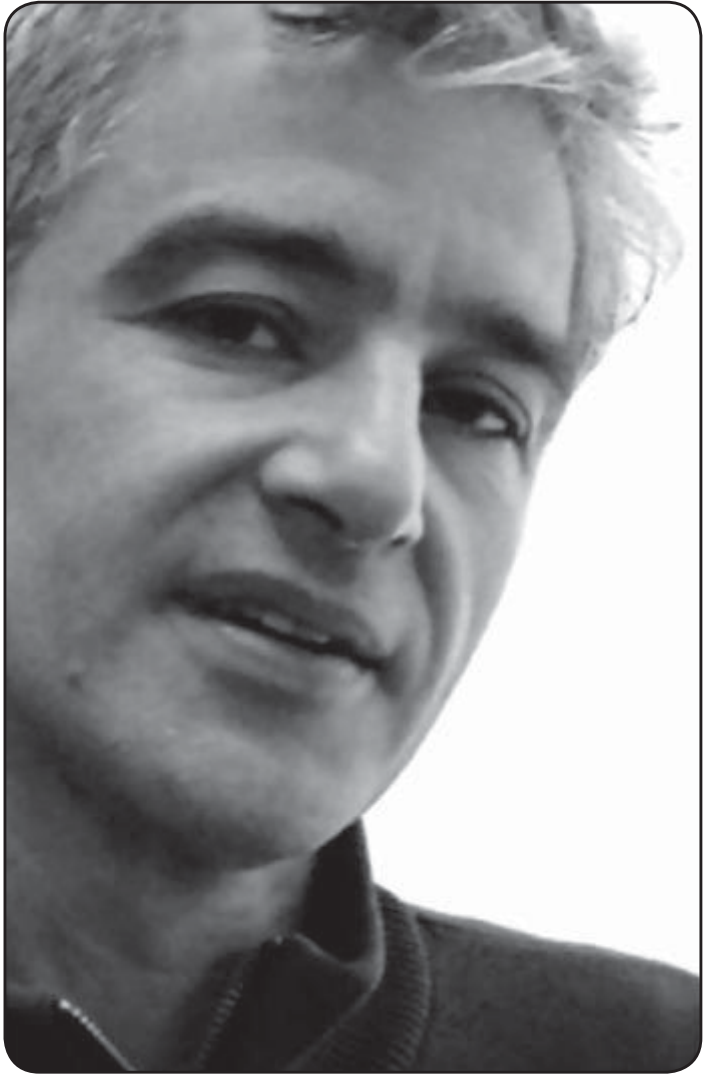
The cell has finally unveiled its mysteries, one after the other, ushering science into an endless realm of intricacies and complexities namely the code of the secret of life which will be discussed in our next issue. 

THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS

HANIBAL SROUJI

An interview was conducted with the Lebanese artist and painter Hanibal Srouji on the visual vocabulary and his latest activities and exhibitions.

I was born on December 7th, 1957. My father worked with the Zahrani pipeline. I immigrated to Canada in 1976 and pursued my Bachelor in Fine Arts in Concordia University Montreal. I was then granted the opportunity to research Art in France. I chose this country because there was an ample literature that covered Spanish, Italian and other European Art in the 80's. The art in that period was nationalistically portrayed. However, there wasn't enough research on French art. I have been in France since 1989, and came recently to Lebanon.



HANIBAL SROUJI

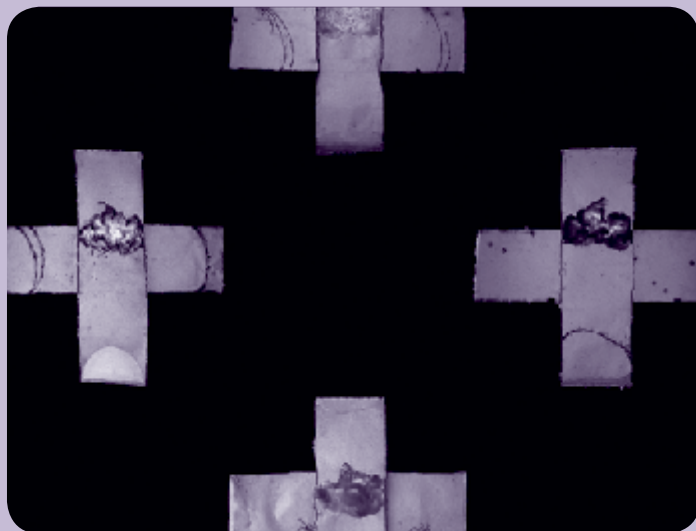


What is it like to be back in Lebanon? How are you adapting?

I consider myself adapting reasonably well, and currently exhibiting at Janine Rebeiz gallery, and giving “the fundamentals of design” course at the Lebanese American University.

How do you find the students in Lebanon?

There's a striking difference between students in France and Lebanon. In France, students are prepared to their university major. For example, the Arts and design students understand the visual language and can express themselves with this language. Lebanese students struggle to deliver their ideas because they lack knowledge in technique and visual language. This is due to the fact that students in France go through



preparatory schools, which I think are necessary in Lebanon, in order to orient students towards their profession.

As an instructor, I get very involved with students and enjoy pursuing their growth and projects. However, I need to admit that teaching eats up your energy. This is why I consider painting and teaching as a dynamic combination that engulf constant action between the exhausting nature of giving and the meditative nature of self-reflection.

Aside from your art and teaching, what are your other endeavors and activities?

I grew a special interest to Web design. Development in general intrigues me. Ideas perceived as insignificant and useless grow into fascinating technology. For example computers were first introduced as black and white screens and hardware that occupied a whole room, but then technology went into a development speed trip. In 1995, Web design appeared and I was drawn to the realm of the World Wide Web, and the programs that contributed to the graphic world such as flash, dreamweaver, and others. So I delved into programming, designing webs, and animation. We currently live in a world of “here and now”, a realm of instant communication, any web surfer expects to receive big amounts of information in 3 seconds.

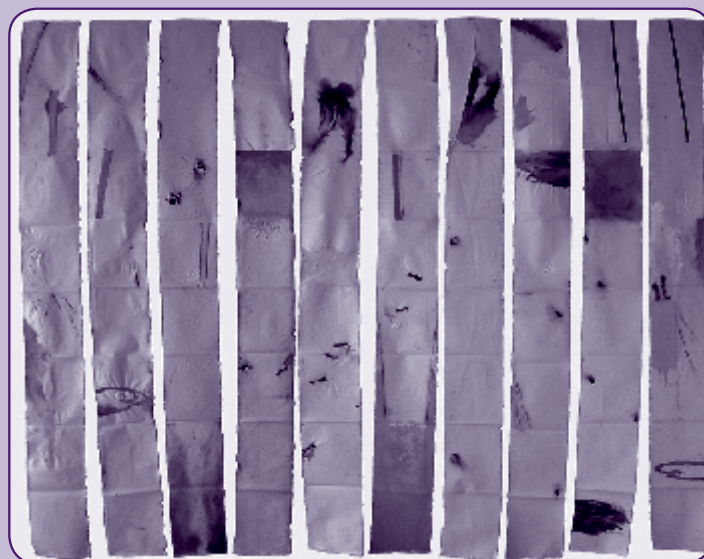
How do you disconnect from this speedy world to paint?

I go to the studio, shut the door, and attempt to leave the whole world outside my door. Painting is necessary

for me because it's an act of meditation. I think of a subject and consider how to express it. Painting is different from Graphic design. As a designer, I seek to sell an idea, to communicate it as an informative entity. However, as a painter, I communicate an idea as a personal expression, and it always remains open to interpretation. I started painting in 1997, and when I delve into this mood, I'm always thrown back to my childhood days. I envision this big cloud I used to see from my home's window. I used to ponder upon the existence of my country outside this cloud. Despite my interest in Science and Math as a young boy, I chose to pursue my studies in Art because I perceive it as a crossroad where all subjects and topics meet.

What are the media you use?

I think of painting as an extension of the tattooing, which was the most primitive form of self-expression through paint. People used to paint on their skin, and this action contained a religious/ ritual dimension. So I think of canvas as skin that could be painted upon, burnt, cut, etc. At first, most of my work represented the fog I perceived and still perceive in memories of my childhood, which rapidly gained momentum when I identified it as my perception of my country as a citizen in exile. The topic I tackle is the war and its destructive nature. My paintings serve as a meeting point of where we are now and where we have been, and as a way to perceive the present and to answer questions that occur to me.



TECHNOLOGY: THE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

“The Monthly” had dedicated a margin to high-school students to let them express their opinions on social issues. Two articles were published earlier on Technology’s pros and cons, and another two written by IC students will be published this month on the same topic.

Technology has been affecting my life ever since I started learning how to write. First, televisions and cell phones, then computers at home and at school, then iPods, iPads, etc... This technology has affected me positively the way that it has made processes such as homework and note taking easier and faster. Faster in the way that I type almost 20 times faster than I write, and easier in the way that all notes and documents are stored in a big folder and saved on my computer, without the need to carry heavy papers and folders everywhere. This technology, however, has also affected me negatively in the way that it has made me more impatient since computers and cell phones nowadays are extremely rapid in processing commands, therefore if a process in my daily life takes time, it will result in my frustration and impulsive behavior. This is mainly what my Extended Essay is about, because it has affected my life significantly. When I was younger and less exposed to rapid technologies, I was more patient in whatever task I would do, especially in drawing, painting, and reading. Recently in the past few years, it takes me very long to sit and read a book because I would not have the patience to read and enjoy every single word of it, I would have the tendency to skim through it or put it aside after a short while and go to something else that would be completed in a very short or brief period of time, such as a math or physics problem. This has also affected my concentration abilities, for example, if a teacher is explaining slowly, or a presentation is progressing slowly, I tend to drift off and lose focus from what is being said. I need things to finish quickly, and concerning conversations I have with people, if they don’t get to the point directly, it makes me very impulsive as well. The use of smart boards and PowerPoint presentations in classrooms has made my grasping of the material slower. If teachers would write notes on the board and allow the students some time to copy, I find it a much better way of learning, because with writing down notes and listening is a guarantee that the material is grasped. When teachers just read from PowerPoint presentations, it is not as affective. Technology has its benefits as well as its down sides, but it is advancing at a rapid rate, and I can only hope the best for future generations.

Juliana Nahhas IB2 B - ITGS

The Double Faced Technology

Technology is the sea without a shore and a bottomless ocean. Technology is the fuel that initiates our lives, affecting every single soul including mine, as it acts as my shadow following me everywhere. My day starts with the loud noise of the alarm waking me up at 6:00 am and ends while sitting in bed playing on my iPod waiting for sleep; which follows that technology is everywhere around us influencing mankind positively and negatively. The benefits that IT has brought to mankind are innumerable. To begin with, IT has brought the world closer together through globalization, as it allowed the “global village” to become a codependent system. As a result, I am more knowledgeable of news worldwide. Moreover, IT has made it possible for businesses to be open 24/7 all over the globe, making purchases from and to different countries easier, hastier, and more convenient for me. Furthermore, today technological education is a part of school and university curricula. Through the use of advanced technology in education, students have access to new and diverse types of information and can communicate their results and conclusions in an array of media. Additionally, PowerPoint presentations, animation software, and overhead projectors are used to render information to numerous students in an interactive manner inviting greater motivation and interest. Today, many educational organizations offer online registrations and assignment submission facilities. Many universities also offer online education programs where the students can earn degrees online! However, regardless of how far technology has taken humans it still has some disadvantages. Though information technology may have made communication easier, it has also brought along privacy concerns. From cell phone signal interruptions to email hacking, people are now concerned about the lack of privacy. While information technology may have made the world a global village, it has also contributed to one culture dominating another weaker one and minority languages diminishing. Technology also affects the time and quality of sleep and study. Instead of studying and sleeping properly, youngsters are spending more time staying awake to use their electronics, which at times applies to me. Last but not least, teachers’ assumptions that all students have access to laptops and network only assists to aggravate the digital divide. One fifth of these teachers alleged that access to computer and Internet was crucial for a student’s homework. The word “manual” is slowly diminishing from our dictionary as things are done by a click of a button. Our generation is at great ease with the soaring technology, as we grew up in a stimulating computing situation. Today’s students come to class equipped with smart phones, laptops and iPads. Yet, as everything in our surrounding is double sided, people should stay cautious as IT has its positives and negatives.

Hiba Sibli IB1 C

NOBEL PRIZES IN PHYSICS (1)

Between 1901 and 2011, the Nobel Prizes and the Prize in Economic Sciences were awarded 549 times to 853 people and organizations. With some receiving the Nobel Prize more than once, this makes a total of 826 individuals and 20 organizations. Below, you can view a list of the laureates who received the Nobel Prize for their discoveries and breakthroughs in Physics noting that the list will be completed in The Monthly's next issue.

Physics					
Year	Name	Nationality	Born	Division of Prize	Purpose
2011	Saul Perlmutter	USA	1959	Half awarded to Saul Perlmutter	<i>Discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae</i>
	Adam G. Riess	USA	1969	The other half jointly to Brian P. Schmidt and Adam G. Riess	
	Brian P. Schmidt	USA	1967		
2010	Andre Geim	Russia	1958	Was awarded jointly to Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov	<i>Groundbreaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene</i>
	Konstantin Novoselov	Russia	1974		
2009	Charles Kuen Kao	China	1933	One half awarded to Charles Kuen Kao	<i>Groundbreaking achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibers for optical communication</i>
	Willard S. Boyle	Canada	1924	The other half jointly to Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith	
	George E. Smith	USA	1930		
2008	Yoichiro Nambu	Japan	1921	One half awarded to Yoichiro Nambu	<i>Discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous broken symmetry in subatomic physics</i>
	Makoto Kobayashi	Japan	1944	The other half jointly to Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa	
	Toshihide Maskawa	Japan	1940		
2007	Albert Fert	France	1938	Was awarded jointly to Albert Fert and Peter Grünberg	<i>Discovery of Giant Magnetoresistance</i>
	Peter Grünberg	Czech Republic	1939		
2006	John C. Mather	USA	1946	Was awarded jointly to John C. Mather and George F. Smoot	<i>Discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation</i>
	George F. Smoot	USA	1945		
2005	Roy J. Glauber	USA	1925	One half awarded to Roy J. Glauber	<i>Contributions to the quantum theory of optical coherence</i>
	John L. Hall	USA	1934	The other half jointly to John L. Hall and Theodor W. Hänsch	
	Theodor W. Hänsch	Germany	1941		
2004	David J. Gross	USA	1941	Was awarded jointly to David J. Gross, H. David Politzer and Frank Wilczek	<i>Discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of the strong interaction.</i>
	H. David Politzer	USA	1949		
	Frank Wilczek	USA	1951		
2003	Alexei A. Abrikosov	Russia	1928	Was awarded jointly to Alexei A. Abrikosov, Vitaly L. Ginzburg and Anthony J. Leggett	<i>Pioneering contributions to the theory of superconductors and superfluids</i>
	Vitaly L. Ginzburg	Russia	1916		
	Anthony J. Leggett	UK	1938		
2002	Raymond Davis Jr.	USA	1914	One half jointly to Raymond Davis Jr. and Masatoshi Koshihba	<i>Pioneering contributions to astrophysics, in particular for the detection of cosmic neutrinos</i>
	Masatoshi Koshihba	Japan	1926		
	Riccardo Giacconi	Italy	1931	The other half to Riccardo Giacconi	<i>Pioneering contributions to astrophysics, which have led to the discovery of cosmic X-ray sources</i>
2001	Eric A. Cornell	USA	1961	Was awarded jointly to Eric A. Cornell, Wolfgang Ketterle and Carl E. Wieman	<i>Achievement of Bose-Einstein condensation in dilute gases of alkali atoms, and for early fundamental studies of the properties of the condensates</i>
	Wolfgang Ketterle	Germany	1957		
	Carl E. Wieman	USA	1951		
2000	Zhores I. Alferov	Belarus	1930	One half jointly to Zhores I. Alferov and Herbert Kroemer	<i>Development of semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed- and opto-electronics</i>
	Herbert Kroemer	Germany	1928		
	Jack S. Kilby	USA	1923	The other half to Jack S. Kilby	<i>Contribution to the invention of the integrated circuit</i>

Physics					
Year	Name	Nationality	Born	Division of Prize	Purpose
1999	Gerardus 't Hooft	The Netherlands	1946	Was awarded jointly to Gerardus 't Hooft and Martinus J.G. Veltman	<i>Elucidation of the quantum structure of electroweak interactions in physics</i>
	Martinus J.G. Veltman	The Netherlands	1931		
1998	Robert B. Laughlin	USA	1950	Was awarded jointly to Robert B. Laughlin, Horst L. Störmer and Daniel C. Tsui	<i>Discovery of a new form of quantum fluid with fractionally charged excitations</i>
	Horst L. Störmer	Germany	1949		
	Daniel C. Tsui	China	1939		
1997	Steven Chu	USA	1948	Was awarded jointly to Steven Chu, Claude Cohen-Tannoudji and William D. Phillips	<i>Development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light</i>
	Claude Cohen-Tannoudji	Algeria	1933		
	William D. Phillips	USA	1948		
1996	David M. Lee	USA	1931	Was awarded jointly to David M. Lee, Douglas D. Osheroff and Robert C. Richardson	<i>Discovery of superfluidity in helium-3</i>
	Douglas D. Osheroff	USA	1945		
	Robert C. Richardson	USA	1937		
1995	Martin L. Perl	USA	1927	Jointly with one half to Martin L. Perl and with one half to Frederick Reines	<i>Pioneering experimental contributions to lepton physics: for the discovery of the tau lepton</i>
	Frederick Reines	USA	1918		<i>Pioneering experimental contributions to lepton physics: for the detection of the neutrino</i>
1994	Bertram N. Brockhouse	Canada	1918	Jointly with one half to Bertram N. Brockhouse and with one half to Clifford G. Shull	<i>Development of neutron spectroscopy</i>
	Clifford G. Shull	USA	1915		<i>Development of the neutron diffraction technique</i>
1993	Russell A. Hulse	USA	1950	Was awarded jointly to Russell A. Hulse and Joseph H. Taylor Jr.	<i>Discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation</i>
	Joseph H. Taylor Jr.	USA	1941		
1992	Georges Charpak	Poland	1924		<i>Invention and development of particle detectors, in particular the multiwire proportional chamber</i>
1991	Pierre-Gilles de Gennes	France	1932		<i>Discovering that methods developed for studying order phenomena in simple systems can be generalized to more complex forms of matter, in particular to liquid crystals and polymers</i>
1990	Jerome I. Friedman	USA	1930	Was awarded jointly to Jerome I. Friedman, Henry W. Kendall and Richard E. Taylor	<i>Pioneering investigations concerning deep inelastic scattering of electrons on protons and bound neutrons, which have been of essential importance for the development of the quark model in particle physics</i>
	Henry W. Kendall	USA	1926		
	Richard E. Taylor	Canada	1929		
1989	Norman F. Ramsey	USA	1915	One half awarded to Norman F. Ramsey	<i>Invention of the separated oscillatory fields method and its use in the hydrogen maser and other atomic clocks</i>
	Hans G. Dehmelt	Germany	1922	The other half jointly to Hans G. Dehmelt and Wolfgang Paul	<i>Development of the ion trap technique</i>
	Wolfgang Paul	Germany	1913		
1988	Leon M. Lederman	USA	1922	Was awarded jointly to Leon M. Lederman, Melvin Schwartz and Jack Steinberger	<i>Discovery of the neutrino beam method and the demonstration of the doublet structure of the leptons through the discovery of the muon neutrino</i>
	Melvin Schwartz	USA	1932		
	Jack Steinberger	Germany	1921		
1987	J. Georg Bednorz	Germany	1950	Was awarded jointly to J. Georg Bednorz and K. Alexander Müller	<i>Important break-through in the discovery of superconductivity in ceramic materials</i>
	K. Alexander Müller	Switzerland	1927		
1986	Ernst Ruska	Germany	1906	One half awarded to Ernst Ruska	<i>Fundamental work in electron optics, and for the design of the first electron microscope</i>
	Gerd Binnig	Germany	1947	The other half jointly to Gerd Binnig and Heinrich Rohrer	<i>Design of the scanning tunneling microscope</i>
	Heinrich Rohrer	Switzerland	1933		
1985	Klaus von Klitzing	Poland	1943		<i>Discovery of the quantized Hall effect</i>

Physics					
Year	Name	Nationality	Born	Division of Prize	Purpose
1984	Carlo Rubbia	Italy	1934	Was awarded jointly to Carlo Rubbia and Simon van der Meer	<i>Decisive contributions to the large project, which led to the discovery of the field particles W and Z, communicators of weak interaction</i>
	Simon van der Meer	The Netherlands	1925		
1983	Subramanyan Chandrasekhar	Pakistan	1910	Was divided equally between Subramanyan Chandrasekhar and William Alfred Fowler	<i>Theoretical studies of the physical processes of importance to the structure and evolution of the stars</i>
	William Alfred Fowler	USA	1911		<i>Theoretical and experimental studies of the nuclear reactions of importance in the formation of the chemical elements in the universe</i>
1982	Kenneth G. Wilson	USA	1936		<i>Formulation of a theory for critical phenomena in connection with phase transitions</i>
1981	Nicolaas Bloembergen	The Netherlands	1920	One half jointly to Nicolaas Bloembergen and Arthur Leonard Schawlow	<i>Contribution to the development of laser spectroscopy</i>
	Arthur Leonard Schawlow	USA	1921		
	Kai M. Siegbahn	Sweden	1918	The other half to Kai M. Siegbahn	<i>Contribution to the development of high-resolution electron spectroscopy</i>
1980	James Watson Cronin	USA	1931	Was awarded jointly to James Watson Cronin and Val Logsdon Fitch	<i>Discovery of violations of fundamental symmetry principles in the decay of neutral K-mesons</i>
	Val Logsdon Fitch	USA	1923		
1979	Sheldon Lee Glashow	USA	1932	Was awarded jointly to Sheldon Lee Glashow, Abdus Salam and Steven Weinberg	<i>Contributions to the theory of the unified weak and electromagnetic interaction between elementary particles, including, inter alia, the prediction of the weak neutral current</i>
	Abdus Salam	Pakistan	1926		
	Steven Weinberg	USA	1933		
1978	Pyotr Leonidovich Kapitsa	Russia	1894	One half awarded to Pyotr Leonidovich Kapitsa	<i>Basic inventions and discoveries in the area of low-temperature physics</i>
	Arno Allan Penzias	Germany	1933	The other half jointly to Arno Allan Penzias and Robert Woodrow Wilson	<i>Discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation</i>
	Robert Woodrow Wilson	USA	1936		
1977	Philip Warren Anderson	USA	1923	Was awarded jointly to Philip Warren Anderson, Sir Nevill Francis Mott and John Hasbrouck van Vleck	<i>Fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems</i>
	Sir Nevill Francis Mott	UK	1905		
	John Hasbrouck van Vleck	USA	1899		
1976	Burton Richter	USA	1931	Was awarded jointly to Burton Richter and Samuel Chao Chung Ting	<i>Pioneering work in the discovery of a heavy elementary particle of a new kind</i>
	Samuel Chao Chung Ting	USA	1936		
1975	Aage Niels Bohr	Denmark	1922	Was awarded jointly to Aage Niels Bohr, Ben Roy Mottelson and Leo James Rainwater	<i>Discovery of the connection between collective motion and particle motion in atomic nuclei and development of the theory of the structure of the atomic nucleus based on this connection</i>
	Ben Roy Mottelson	USA	1926		
	Leo James Rainwater	USA	1917		
1974	Sir Martin Ryle	UK	1918	Was awarded jointly to Sir Martin Ryle and Antony Hewish	<i>Pioneering research in radio astrophysics: Ryle for his observations and inventions, in particular of the aperture synthesis technique, and Hewish for his decisive role in the discovery of pulsars</i>
	Antony Hewish	UK	1924		
1973	Leo Esaki	Japan	1925	One half jointly to Leo Esaki and Ivar Giaever	<i>Experimental discoveries regarding tunneling phenomena in semiconductors and superconductors, respectively</i>
	Ivar Giaever	Norway	1929		
	Brian David Josephson	UK	1940	The other half to Brian David Josephson	<i>Theoretical predictions of the properties of a supercurrent through a tunnel barrier, in particular those phenomena which are generally known as the Josephson effects</i>
1972	John Bardeen	USA	1908	Was awarded jointly to John Bardeen, Leon Neil Cooper and John Robert Schrieffer	<i>Development of the theory of superconductivity, usually called the BCS-theory</i>
	Leon Neil Cooper	USA	1930		
	John Robert Schrieffer	USA	1931		

THE ALAWIS:

A 60-YEAR DELAY IN SETTING REGULATORY LAW

Like all officially recognized religions in Lebanon, the Alawi religious community was also accepted officially by virtue of decision No. 60 issued in 1936. However, it was not until after 60 years, in 1995 that a law was issued to govern the affairs of the Alawis, and no religious authority was elected to represent them until in 2009 (14 years after the issuance of the governing law).

The Alawis

Article 1 of Law No. 449, dated 17-8-1995 stipulates: “the Alawis are a Muslim religious group responsible for running their own religious affairs independently as well as managing their religious endowments and charitable and social institutions in accordance with the Sharia’a Law and the Ja’afari jurisprudence.”

The Islamic Alawi Council

The Islamic Alawi Council is a religious council, which has its headquarters in Tripoli, North Lebanon, and is responsible for governing the religious affairs of the Alawis and defending their rights. The council is headed by a spiritual leader representing them before public and private authorities in Lebanon and enjoying the same immunity, rights and prerogatives granted to all other religious leaders.

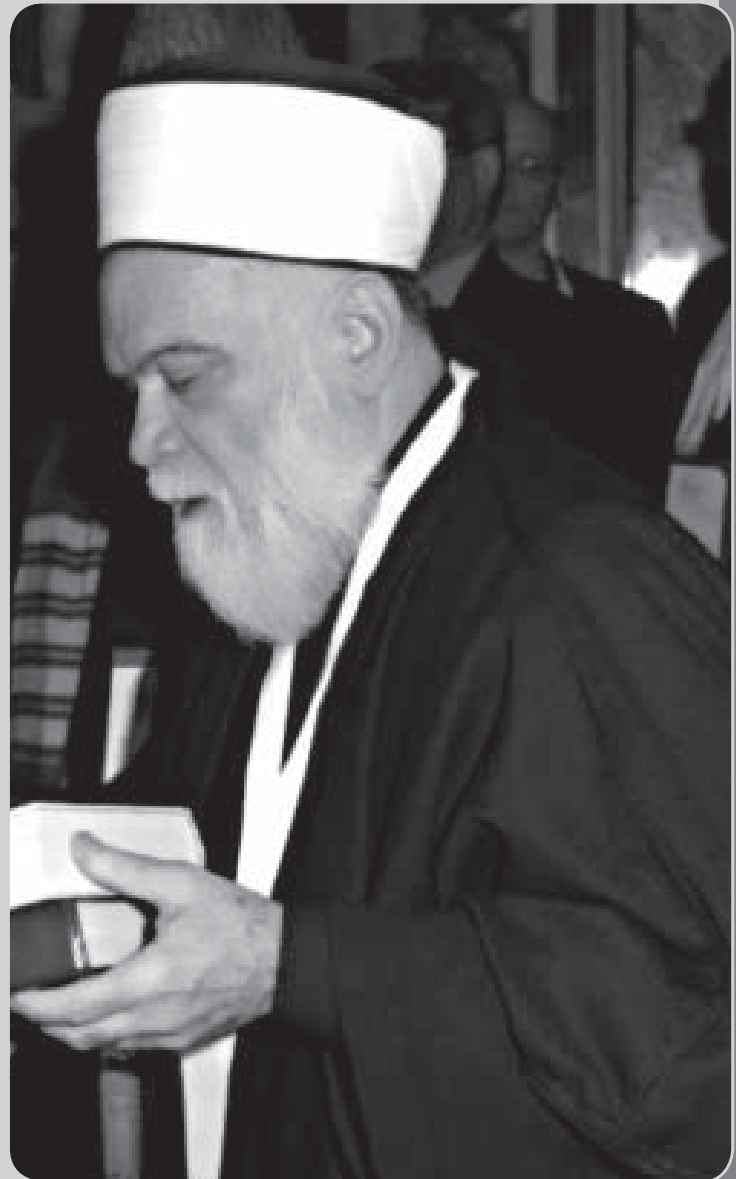
The Council’s committees

According to Law No. 449 and its amendments, the council has three committees: the general committee, the religious committee and the executive committee.

General Committee

The general committee is composed of 120 members including:

- Current and former ministers and MPs
- Current and former presidents and members of the Islamic Alawi Council as well as religious judges and Muftis
- Judges, professors and civil servants in Grade 3 or above
- Retired commanding officers (Major- Lieutenant Colonel- Colonel) and general officers (Brigadier General- Major General)
- 20 religious scholars elected by all Alawi scholars



Sheikh Assad Assi

http://jblmohsen.com/uploads/posts/2011-11/1320410385_book.jpg

- ◉ Presidents and members of the public boards of directors
- ◉ 20 members from independent trade unions elected by the Alawi members in these unions
- ◉ 20 university degree holders not affiliated with any trade union and elected by Alawi degree holders
- ◉ Two representatives of the social, cultural and charitable boards and institutions elected by the presidents of these boards
- ◉ Representative of school principals
- ◉ Members of the boards of directors at the chambers of commerce and the association of industrialists
- ◉ Heads of agricultural unions
- ◉ Mayors and municipality members at the Mohafazat (governorates) and the Qada'a, (Caza) and mayors of towns and villages
- ◉ One Mokhtar elected by all the Makhateer in every Qada'a

Executive Committee

The executive committee is composed of the Alawi ministers and MPs in addition to 6 other members elected for four years by the general committee's civil members.

Religious Committee

The religious committee is composed of the current Muftis and 5 clerics elected for four years by former and current religious judges and Muftis, and all religious scholars in the general committee.

Head of the Islamic Alawi Council

The members of both executive and religious committees (around 13 members) elect the head of the Islamic Alawi Council by a secret majority vote for four renewable years.

The head of the council must be over 35 years old but not necessarily a cleric. The deputy head of the council is elected in the same manner and must be a layman in the case where the head of the council is a cleric and a cleric should the head be a layman..



Staff

There are 22 staff members at the Islamic Alawi Council. They are distributed according to Grade:

- ◉ Grade 2: 2 employees
- ◉ Grade 3: 2 employees
- ◉ Grade 4: 10 employees
- ◉ Grade 5: 8 employees

Muftis

The three Muftis elected for four years by the religious scholars in the general committee represent the Islamic Alawi religious community. Beirut, Tripoli and Akkar each have their own Mufti.

Election

The elections held on 19-3-2009 according to the law governing the Alawi affairs and its amendments resulted in the election of Sheikh Assad Assi as a head of the council and Mouhammed Asfour as a deputy head.

Council's budget

The budget of the Islamic Alawi Council has reached LBP 782.3 million according to the 2010 draft budget. Finally after many delays and political and religious interruptions, the law governing the Alawi affairs was enacted, and the Sunni-Alawi reconciliation in Tripoli and the rapprochement between Syria and Saad Hariri were crowned with the election of the head of the Islamic Alawi Council. However, the question remains: how long will it take before this religious group can actually be treated equally to its counterparts in the public administration and the cabinet?

THE RENÉ MOAWAD FOUNDATION



Establishment

The René Moawad Foundation is a Lebanese non-profit and non-governmental organization established by MP Nayla Moawad in 1991 to further the goals of dialogue, peace, and social justice, to which her late husband President René Moawad had dedicated his life.

Objectives

The René Moawad Foundation's activities are a tribute to the late President. They promote his liberal ideas, facilitate access to education for the underprivileged, and support the emergence of a responsible citizenry. The foundation objectives are:

- ◉ To promote social, economic, and rural development in Lebanon
- ◉ To contribute in building a responsible civil society that strengthens national unity and promotes democratic values and social justice.

Activities

The activities of the RMF cover various areas including education, agriculture, economy, health and human rights.

Education

RMF's educational activities target mainly children and youth and aim at establishing equal access to basic education for the disadvantaged. The services are delivered through individual projects or/and RMF's established centers, such as:

- ◉ **The Youth Community Center:** it is Located in Mejdlaya and open to everyone. It serves the young men and women of the impoverished suburban area of Bab el Tebbaneh, Tripoli and the underprivileged villages of Akkar and Zgharta. it hosts student clubs, environmental and human rights clubs, training sessions, and sports programs and tournaments. The clubs hold extra-curricular activities including exhibits, tourist trips, waste- collection days, and education on recycling.
- ◉ **The Center for Working Children:** it strives to improve the condition of Bab El-Tebbaneh working children through schooling for reintegration into the educational system, life skills sessions, vocational orientation and professional counseling. The center

also targets children who are at risk of dropping out of school due to learning difficulties or for financial reasons. It provides medical services, teacher training, public awareness campaigns on the hardships of working children and research and field studies on the situation of working children in Lebanon.

- ◉ **The children's nursery:** it targets children aged 1 to 3. It is located in Mejdlaya, and is equipped with new attractive and modern equipment, and educational toys and games. The nursery's main focus is to design activities that enhance young children life skills, creating educational tools and promote permanent training to kindergarten educators.

Agriculture

The Agricultural Center of the North (CAN) is the heart of RMF's various agricultural activities. It was established in 1997 to train farmers, provide them with technical assistance, help them collect, package, store, process and commercialize their products. The center addresses the production process from A to Z and offers mechanization services to farmers at a reduced price. It has many units including: the sorting, grading and packaging unit, the cold storage unit and the milk collection and dairy production unit under the commercial brand name "Marj" noting that new refrigerated van are now in action to facilitate the transportation of milk and dairy products. It introduces new European breeds of goat and cattle, enhances reforestation while preserving the genetic identity of Lebanese forests and provides healthy fruit tree saplings to farmers at affordable prices (apple, pear, olive...). Furthermore, the center worked at refining the quality of extra virgin olive oil through the adoption of a hygiene control policy and the provision of new olive-oil squeezing machines which facilitated the oil's exportation to over 40 olive oil boutiques in the world. Expanding forage production, using new forage varieties in feeding cows, and packaging and transporting forage bags in sterile condition were also one of the center's objectives. The center's influence was also clear on apple industry with over 120,000 apple crates sold in local and regional markets every year.

Health

The Medical Community Clinic: RMF’s objectives and activities in the medical field focus on the provision of health services to the most disadvantaged and to those living in the poorest and most remote villages in North Lebanon at reduced costs. The services are centered in the community clinic in Zgharta which offers specialized and free of charge medical consultations services, a laboratory, a pharmacy, a dental clinic and 3 mobile dispensaries. Over 25,000 people benefit from the medical care provided by the clinic every year.

Economy

RMF’s economy and development activities target mainly rural women and the war affected population. The RMF undertakes projects that empower women entrepreneurs and develop and promote social services and capacity building of community based organizations (mainly women’s associations). It helps increasing employment through vocational training in sectors of high growth and it supports civilians in war torn areas. The Business Incubation Association in Tripoli (BIAT) also offers services to promote the creation and/or extension of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in North Lebanon to enable jobs creation and contribute to economic growth. It offers a wide range of services (training program, pre-entry services, financial expertise, accessing capital, etc) with the aim of allowing SMEs to develop and to survive in a sustainable way.

Human rights

The RMF human rights activities are focused mainly on women and youth. The foundation holds workshops and seminars on the importance of political participation of women and youth, liberalism, civil society, the electoral process, problems of public education and so many other themes aimed at establishing citizenry and raising awareness on human rights and values noting that RMF is a member of many networks that promote democratic values, equality and social justice.

Funds

The RMF has cooperated throughout its history with many partners and its projects and programs are funded by both national and international agencies, NGOs, associations, embassies, Universities and institutional and private donors. Table 1 details the revenues and expenses of the Foundation with the

main revenues coming from donors (61.19%) and the majority of the expenses going to Rural Development and Sustainable Agricultural Sector (33%), followed by the educational sector (22.3%).

Revenues (LBP)		Expenses (LBP)	
RMF- USA	2.34%	Rural and Agricultural sector	33%
BOT	1.79%	Education sector	29%
Fundraising	6.37%	Project expenses	29%
Activities Revenues	28.31%	Democracy and human rights	8%
Donors and partners contributions	61.19%	Medical sector	10%
		Administrative and communication	7%
		War relief	3%
Total Revenues	100.00%		100.00%



“QUICK CHILDREN! BRUMMANA BOARDING SCHOOL IS WAITING FOR YOU!”

It was one of those lovely September days. My father darted into the room with an excellent piece of news: “Quick children! Brummana boarding school is waiting for you!”

The association decided to grant scholarships for three children: Esther, Mahiba and Aniss! This is such a great event and a prestigious privilege! Only the rich were able of sending their children to the prominent schools of Souk al-Gharb, Choueifat, Aley and Brummana. None of our villagers pursued higher education except one man who entered university and became a professor. Today however, our village is packed with university degree holders.

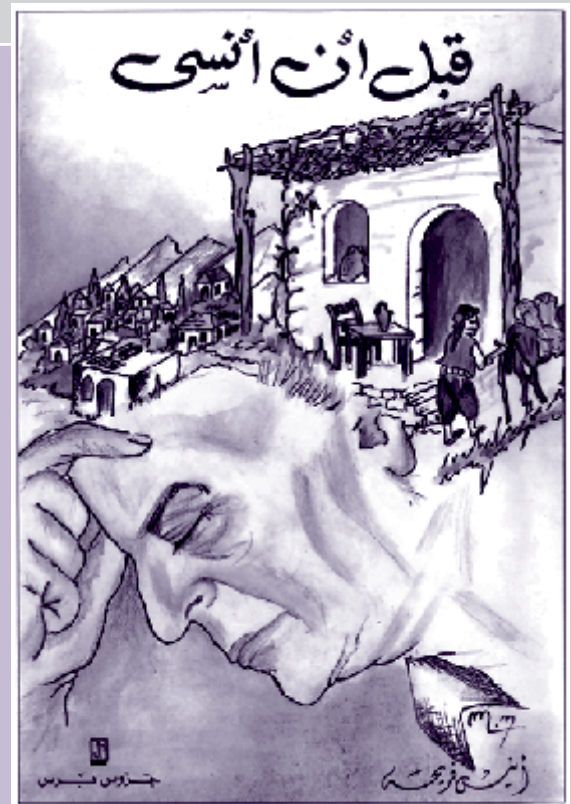
Following primary school, most parents used to send their children to the farms and fields. And those who dared a rebellion on the pickax and the shovel winded up immigrating to foreign countries.

The father said: “have a mattress and a quilt prepared for each kid woman, and if I managed to provide some extra bucks, I will buy them new shoes for Sunday.”

At the end of September, we started readying ourselves for Brummana’s journey. I will finally escape the prison of Ras el-Matn school and be among those fortunate few who emigrate in pursuit of education. Villagers will now bid me farewell then welcome me back when I return in the early summer.

We were a good few Christian and Druze students heading for Brummana. Our village was a refined and civilized area and the fathers hired muleteers who fitted the greatest saddles to their donkeys and mules. On the big day, the people of the village were all gathered in the square of the village to bid “the pilgrims” farewell. Saying goodbye to school students as the fall begins and welcoming them back in the early summer was a major event in our village. And I heard a muleteer addressing his friends saying: “dear fellows, we had better take the main road from “Al-Knayse” and proceed thence to Arbaniye, Baabdat and directly to Brummana. The river shortcut is a bumpy sloping road. If the mule trips-up and a girl or a boy falls down, we will be doomed. The main road is longer but safer.

The caravan slopped down to a small town popular for its silk factory and called “Al-Knayse”. From there, we strolled towards Ain Hamadeh which houses the largest silk factory owned by an opulent French family who used to send Lebanon’s silk to their commercial center in Lyons- France. All the way down, the muleteers were chanting Mijana and Itaba songs.



CRIMINAL PROFILERS

Myth: Criminal Profilers' Predictions are Very Reliable and Useful Investigative Tools

The media often overemphasizes the usefulness and reliability of criminal profiling as investigative tools. In United States and numerous other countries, police officers and even mental health professionals rely on personality profilers to generate insights that help them solve their cases (Passer & Smith, 2010; Snook et al., 2008; Torres et al., 2006).

Reality: Criminal Profilers' Predictions are not always Reliable and Useful Investigative Tools

Unfortunately, a mount up body of research concluded that the validity, reliability and usefulness of profilers' input are far more modest.

In a study conducted by Snook et al. (2007), the researchers reviewed four well controlled studies about profiling. Their results showed that the overall accuracy of expert profilers' predictions were only somewhat better than psychologists' and college students' predictions. More to the point, the profilers were less accurate in their predictions of offender's physical (sex, age...), personality (motives, cognitions...) and personal (marital status, socioeconomic status...) characteristics.

Snook et al. (2007) also found that profilers do not use scientifically derived information. They are more prone to use subjective, instinctive and generalized bases which are not accurate. Several studies revealed that the mathematical and scientific bases for predictions are far better than intuition and subjective bases, since they rely on variables that are significant predictors of the behavior in question, and weigh these variables appropriately. Furthermore, Grove and Mehhl (1996) examined 136 studies in which the mathematical and intuitive methods were pitted against each other. Results showed that the mathematical formula did much better than the intuitive and subjective predictions.

Also, many profilers use outdated trait models to generate their descriptions, though these models were shown to be inadequate in describing crime patterns (Canter et al., 2004). Some profilers also follow the assumption that criminals are consistent in their behavior pattern across situations. However, research showed that people are affected by various situational factors surrounding them (Passer et al., 2010).

Based on their reviews Snook et al. (2008) labelled profiling as "an investigative illusion" (p1257).

Why the myth still persists

Several factors can explain the survival of the myth. The media plays a key role. It usually reports the infrequent hits of profilers. They would report only the correct statements of the profilers, while disregarding the incorrect ones. Also, the expert heuristic can also play a key role. Usually, people give great credibility to "experts". In one study, participants rated a profile as more accurate and valid if attributed to an "expert profiler" (Kocsis & Hayes, 2004).

Confirmation bias can also be one of the possible explanations of the survival of the myth. It is the tendency to look for information that is consistent with our beliefs and values. Hence, people who strongly adhere to expert profiling would pay attention only to information confirming their belief in the usefulness of expert profiling (Passer et al., 2010).

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“FACTS ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE”

Statements and talks of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and the President of the Higher Arab Committee Sheikh Mohammed Amin el-Husseini

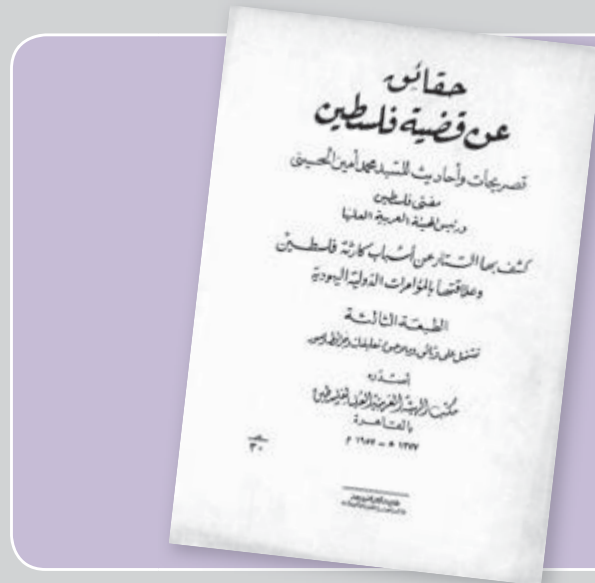
(The third edition was formulated by the Higher Arab Committee Office; published by the Arabic Book Printing House, Egypt.)

“*Facts about the Palestinian Cause*” is a book that explores the statements and talks of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and the president of the Higher Arab Committee Sheikh Mohammed Amin el-Husseini. The book shed light on Palestine’s relation with international resolutions and Jewish activities.

The book provides statements and information denying Zionist tales and narratives. The said statements were published earlier in “Al-Masri” newspaper as answers to the questions addressed by the editor-in-chief to the Grand Mufti Sheikh Mohammed Amin el-Husseini.

The Grand Mufti replies to eleven answers in an attempt to clarify the Palestinian image, which was distorted by the Jewish agency, and states facts of which most of the Palestinians and Arabs are heedless. Answering the first question, the Mufti starts by denying the Jewish claims that the Arabs in Palestine did not defend their land and used to work for the Jews. The Grand Mufti elaborates on how the Palestinians fought to preserve their land by refusing to yield to material temptations at a time when the Jews failed, despite all the facilities and donations they were provided, to conquer over 7% of the Palestinian land.

The Mufti debunks the myth suggesting that there were local divisions and conflicts inside Palestine, asserting that the negative policy adopted by the Arab countries led to the greatest disaster. The Mufti emphasizes that Palestine’s ordeal was the outcome of a conspiracy made by foreign colonialism and international Judaism, not internal factions between parties and families, for the Palestinians had nothing to fight over. Furthermore, part of the book is dedicated to the major reasons behind the Palestinians’ expulsion and the refugees’ dilemma, explaining that the Zionists and the British did not hesitate to practice violence and terrorism to intimidate people and force them to flee their homes and properties and move elsewhere. The Grand Mufti also mentions that his fight with King Abdullah was a political, not a personal one over the principles and the methods to be adopted while approaching the Palestinian cause in particular and the Arab causes in general. Furthermore, he points out that his return to Palestine with selected members of the Higher Arab Committee was not possible owing to the pressure from Britain on the Arab League and some Arab countries.



When asked about the role of the United States in the Palestinian cause, the Mufti stresses that the US consented to Balfour Declaration and approved the occupation and division of Palestine, thereby snapping the Palestinians out of their illusion of friendship with the Americans. The book highlights statements of Jewish leaders and Hakhams that expose the greed for Palestinian land as well as their failure to suppress the Palestinian will. The Mufti was not a believer in the efficiency of diplomatic means in solving the Arab causes against a backdrop of British fear of an “Arab awakening”. Sheikh Mohammed Amin el-Husseini lists a series of causes that led up to the Palestinian catastrophe, noting that “there were internal and external causes some of which are old and others are new.” Among the key external factors that prompted the catastrophe, the Grand Mufti mentions the Jewish religious fanaticism and its manipulation of the Protestant religious sensitivities (of the Americans and the British), the crusades, and the compatibility of the British goals with the interests of the Jewish Agency in Palestine. As for the internal causes, the Mufti emphasizes the “moral laxity of the Arabs, their waning faith and their faded national resolve which yielded chaos and disorganization”, underlining their inattentiveness to the major risks laying ahead of them and the weakness of some Arab politicians which resulted in British-led Arab troops. Sheikh el-Husseini deems spiritual and military mobilization pivotal in solving the dilemma, stressing the importance of Arab forces’ unity and the protection of Jerusalem.

Returning to the status quo of Palestine and the sufferings this country has undergone since the publication of this book, it is essential to ask whether the Arabs are heedful of the facts surrounding the Palestinian cause and whether they realize the depths of the current prevalent impotence and the vacillation between resistance and serving personal interests.

“I’M NOT LITTLE ANYMORE”

By Fatima Sarafeddine. Illustrations by Lina Merhej and Maya Chami.

The first edition published by Kalimat Publishing House in 2008. It is recommended for children between 0 and 3 years old.

“*I’m Not Little Anymore*” is a short story for kids from the series Yasmina. Yasmina leaps in joy when her mother offers her a present but unfortunately, she fails to realize what the present is when she opens it. So she starts asking: Is it a hat? A bed for my cat? An apple bowl? Her mother finally tells her that it’s a small toilet named “potty” because Yasmina is not little anymore and should stop wearing diapers. Yasmina sat long on her present until she finally did it in the “potty” so her mother kissed her and said to her: “Well done good girl! Well done!”

This story helps kids transition from wearing diapers to using the bathroom starting with the potty.

“Mom bought me a present wrapped up in a big box.”

“I was very happy! A new toy! A new toy!”

“I opened the box hurriedly and to my great misfortune the present was not a toy.”

“What is this? Mom smiled, took me by the hand, and walked me to the bathroom with my present in her hand.”

“You are growing up Yasmina. This is a special new toilet for you. It is named a “potty” and you won’t be wearing diapers anymore!”

“EASIEST SHOELACE KNOT”

By Fatima Sarafeddine. Illustrations by Lina Merhej and Maya Chami. The first edition was published by Kalimat Publishing House in 2009 and is aimed at children between 3 and 6 years old.

“*Easiest Shoelace Knot*” is a short story for kids from the series Yasmina. This story helps kids learn how to tie their shoelaces easily. Yasmina loved the new shoe she received from her grandma but was at loss how to tie its long laces. She was tired of calling on her mother to help her tie the laces every time she wanted to wear her shoe so she decided to learn the knot by herself.

After many trials, she became fast at shoelace tying and realized it was a piece of cake. Her mother hugged her dearly and said to her: “Well done Yasmina!”

“...I don’t know how to tie these long shoelaces”

“Mom! Mom! Help me tie them if you please!”

“I call on mom whenever I wear my shoe in the morning. I call on her whenever I stumble after my shoelaces come out.”



“At times, my mother gets busy so I wait too long before she ties them for me.”

One day I said to her: I want to tie my shoelaces alone.”

“I tried the first time but the yellow string slipped away.”

“I tried the second time but the blue string slipped away.”

“I tried the third time and not one string slipped away.”

“I tried tying and untying the knot one after the other until I finally mastered it and became very fast.”

“I’m a grown up now! I said to my mother.”

A third title “*I Do Not Fret*” is also published by Kalimat Publishing House.

TRAD FAMILIES

FROM GREEK ORTHODOX TO MARONITE

It is rumored that the Trad families hailed from Yemen where their name used to be pronounced with a stress on the letter “T”. After the collapse of the Dam of Ma’arib during the third century AD, this clan fled its homeland alongside The Ghassanids and resided in the remote villages of Hawran and Damascus after having converted to Christian Orthodoxy. For local reasons, some members of this family adopted Islam and headed to Iraq, South Cairo and Western Tripoli. Sheikh Mouhammed Trad was among the most popular expats in Iraq and he rose to prominence after serving as the Caliph’s secretary in Baghdad in the late fourth century of the Hijra (late tenth century AD). Some of these members might have headed to Lebanon later on and they constitute today the Muslim Trad families. As for the remaining Christians in Hauran, they moved in the early fourth century to North Lebanon after the battle between the Qaysis and the Yemenis. They settled in Kfarhazir and the neighboring villages of the Qada’a of Koura from where they moved to Deir al-Ahmar, Hasroun, Ashqout, el-Shebaniyi, Baskinta and other villages in the Metn and adopted the Maronite faith. Some members maintained the family name “Trad” while others assumed new names such as “Awwad” in Mount Lebanon.

However, all the members that remained in the Qada’a of Koura maintained their Orthodox faith but adopted new names such as: “Hanna”, “Saadeh” and “Dali”.

In the early seventeenth century (1613 AD), the head of the family, Youness Bin Trad Kfarhazeer,

left for Beirut where he contacted Prince Fakhr al-Din al-Ma’ani and built strong ties with him. He assisted the Prince with his wars against the Harafish who were princes of Baalbeck at the time, thus awarding his children and grandchildren a prestigious social standing. However, the offspring was oppressed and sent to exile in Cyprus following the aggravated fights between the Catholics and the Orthodox.

The Trad family has 3,742 members belonging to different Lebanese faiths and regions.

Maronite: there are 1,362 Maronite members distributed in the following regions:

Barhalioun (Bsharri): 504 members
 Itou (Zgharta): 183
 Qehmez (Byblos): 136
 Beqa’a Kafra (Bsharri): 134
 Beit Mellat (Akkar): 78
 Zouk Mikael (Kessrouan): 57
 Bouar (Kessrouan): 45
 Ashqout (Kessrouan): 22
 Bashoura (Beirut 2): 21
 Rmeil (Beirut 1): 29
 Bezmar (Kessrouan): 27
 Yahshoush (Kessrouan): 20
 Sarba (Kessrouan): 17
 Bzebdin (Baabda): 13
 Bakaata Ashqout (Kessrouan): 11
 Nahr Dahab (Kessrouan): 11
 Sabaal (Zgharta): 10
 Minaa al-Hosn (Beirut 3): 10
 Bentaal (Byblos): 10

Some Maronite members of the Trad families are also present in Byblos (9 members), Ghosta-Kessrouan (9), Menjez- Akkar (7).

Sunni: there are 1,277 Sunni members distributed over the following regions:

Taran (Minnieh- Dinnieh): 642 members

Beit el-Hosh (Akkar): 196
 An-Nouri (Tripoli): 126
 Ber Elias (Zahle): 113
 Mazraet Baldeh (Akkar): 57
 Bakh’oun (Minnieh- Dennieh): 21
 Bebnine (Tripoli): 18
 Al-Qebbi (Tripoli): 17
 Al-Zahriya (Tripoli): 14
 Al-Tebbani (Tripoli): 10

Shia’a: there are 622 Shia’a members distributed over the following regions:

Rmeil (Beirut 1): 71 members
 Maalaqa (Zahle): 71
 Ashrafieh (Beirut 1): 46
 Deir el-Ghazel (Zahle): 46
 El-Tall (Tripoli): 34
 Ain el-Qabou (Northern Matn): 27
 Riyaq (Zahle): 27
 Housh el-Zaraane (Zahle): 20
 Mansourieh (Northern Matn): 14
 Mazra’a (Beirut 3): 13
 Choueifat (Aley): 13
 Minaa el-Hosn (Beirut 3): 10
 Al-Rasyi el-Fawqa (Zahle): 10

Ten members of the Trad families belong to the Druze faith and are present in Ras el-Matn- Baabda while another 8 belong to the Catholic faith and are distributed in Ain el-Qabou- Metn.

Many are the popular figures who rose to prominence in the Trad families of whom we mention Petro Trad (Orthodox) who assumed the post of President of the Republic from July 22 to September 30, 1943, after having served earlier as the Speaker of the Parliament.

SHEBTEEN

Etymology

In his book, “*Name of Lebanese Towns and Villages*”, Aniss Freiha traces back the origin of the word “Shebteen” to the Hebrew-Phoenician root “shabtin”, which holds two possible meanings: “sticks and rods” or “tribes and clans”. This is a likely indicator that many tribes and clans lived in Shebteen since times immemorial, noting that the Roman Emperor Adrianos passed through the town between the years 122 and 125 AD. Others believe that “Shebteen” is a twisted alteration of the word “Sabta house” which means Saturday (Sabt) and rest since it was a rest stop for travelers.

Location

Shebteen is located in the middle of the Qada’a of Batroun in the North Mohafaza at an altitude ranging from 500 to 800 meters above sea level. The town lies 60km from Beirut, 15km from the Qada’a center, and 43km from the mohafaza center in Tripoli. Shebteen spreads across 504 hectares and it may be reached through two different roadways:

Beirut- Madfoun- Rashana- Jran, Daraya- Shebteen
Beirut- Batroun- Abrin- Kfifan, Daraya- Shebteen
Mayfouq- Douq, Mar Mama- Toula- Shebteen

Population

The number of registered inhabitants in the town’s Personal Status Register is estimated at 1,400 people, most of whom are Maronite. There are around 160 houses and 17 commercial shops in Shebteen.

Voters

In the year 2000, the number of voters was 851, of whom 551 cast their ballots. This number increased in 2005 to 892, of whom 558 cast their ballots. In 2009, the number reached 935 with 637 casting their ballots.

Voters are distributed according to the following families:

Najm (170 voters), **Saadeh** (131), **Farah** (42), **Estfan** (32), **Jerjes** (31), **Nasr** (30), **Suleiman** (29), **Badawi** (24), **Rizk** (21), **Saleh** (20), **Chdid** (18), **Khoury** (16), **Moussa** (16), **Eghnatios** (14), **Elias** (13), **Daher** (11), **Romanios** (10), **Klim** (10), **Abboud** (9), **Touwa** (9), **Noun** (2), **Botrus** (2), **Nassif** (2), **Jebrayel** (4), **Samaan** (4), **Fares** (4), **Londus** (4)

History

Ottoman documents indicate that the Maronite and the Shia’a lived in Shebteen in the sixteenth century and

the Hamadah family burnt down the town in 1676. Shebteen’s current inhabitants hail initially from Bajja-Byblos. They moved to the town in 1772 and they belonged to Bani Saadah.

Local Authorities

The municipality of Shebteen was established by virtue of Decree No.252 dated March 10, 2004. The municipal council is currently composed of 9 members and headed by Elias Klaim. Its share in the Independent Municipal Fund was LBP 41.646 million in 2005. It rose to LBP 49.303 million in 2006 but descended to LBP 48.859 million in 2006, to increase back again to LBP 53.2 million in 2008.

The town has also a Mukhtar, Anwar Awwad Najm, and a 3-member Ikhtiyariah body.

Educational institutions

The town has two public schools: Shebteen Official Secondary School, which has 35 students and 17 teachers, and Shebteen Official Primary School, which has 44 students and 10 teachers in the school year 2009-2010.

Furthermore, a post office was established in the town in 1984.

Archaeological sites

The town’s sites include Saint Sergius Church which dates back to the seventh or eighth century, rock-carved Pharaonic and Roman inscriptions, many sarcophagi and a funeral room.

Economic activities

Shebteen’s villagers depend on agriculture for survival. Growing olives, almonds and grapes constitutes their primary source of income, and some of them hold jobs in both public and private sectors while others have their independent professions.

Problems

Like most Lebanese villages, Shebteen suffers from power cuts and great water shortage.

Civil associations

An agricultural cooperative was established in the town in 1985.

Prolific figures

There are many scientific and political figures who rose to prominence in the town including the late MP, minister and Phalanges head George Saadeh and his son Samer Saadeh who won the Maronite seat in Tripoli in 2009.

PAGES OF OUR HISTORY (2)

The Monthly had published in its last issue the first part of the discussions held between former Premier Abdallah el-Yafi, Mr. Edmond Rizk, MP Raymond Edde, former Premier Saeb Salam and others on confessionalism and resistance. Below is the second part of their discussions as published by As-Safir newspaper on October 25, 1975.

At this point, the conversation shifted back to Mr. Saeb Salam: "I have two remarks on what Mr. Rezk has just mentioned. First and foremost, I deny the Phalanges the right to speak on behalf of Lebanon and all Maronites because I feel that they drift astray whenever they do that. Second, and contrary to what Mr. Rizk has said, Mr. Naaman was right and I shall, in this regard, quote the exact words of Dr. Edmond Rabbat during his lecture: "the Lebanese in Mount Lebanon used to pay too little tax and continued to do so until 1925."

Rabbat: "True"

Salam (proceeding): "However, the rest of the Lebanese in Greater Lebanon used to pay much more taxes. As for military service, most of Mount Lebanon residents used to volunteer to serve the Internal Security Forces, while the rest of the Lebanese had to sacrifice their youth, lives and jobs in the compulsory service imposed by the Ottomans. Equality was inexistent when we first entered Greater Lebanon and this situation lingered for a long time.

As regards the Palestinians, I believe that their stay in Lebanon was meant to be a temporary one. President Bechara el-Khoury welcomed them in person at the border.

They were later dispersed over to poor and miserable camps which the Lebanese government turned into areas of disgrace and humiliation."

Rizk (interrupting): "We were not in power back then. I object to this rhetoric. It might put people against us."

Salam (out loud): "Let's cut right to the chase and call a spade a spade. If the parties, inside this room and outside it, took a decision to cease fire, then let fire be ceased immediately.

The attempt to annihilate the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon did not avail in 1973 and

the Palestinians resigned themselves to share the same tent with the delegate of the Lebanese government in order to cool things down. The Palestinians did not want this mission. Back then I used to hear people voice their intention to exterminate Palestinians. Numerous are those who express their willingness to protect the Lebanon, but their protection means did nothing but backfire and increase the Palestinian and communist expansion twentyfold. The Palestinians are calling for the enforcement of the Cairo Accord because it serves

their interest, not because they love the Lebanon. Intimidation is a crime and violence won't pay off in Lebanon. Those in power are conspiring against the principle of dialogue. They led us to this crisis. It has become common knowledge that they are conspiring secretly to hinder the dialogue committee, which has become our last-ditch effort to avert violence and escalation. I managed to call for the elimination of whatever possible form of confessionalism but the major hurdle remains the dominance of presidency over other powers.



As for Mr. Rizk's emphasis on the privileges of the Mufti, I believe that his powers are nowhere near those of the Christian clergy."

Rizk: "In any case, I did not raise objections in this regard."

Eddeh: "It is not mandatory that the constitution has to be laid down by legal advisors and constitutional scholars. It is a compromise after all... or the fruit of a compromise. It is the result of give-and-take under certain circumstances. The political climate today differs from the climate when this constitution was forged. The National Bloc asserted that in 1946 when Mr. Emile Eddeh headed it. The fifth article of its bylaw stipulated that the "constitutional provisions should be aligned with the aspirations of the Lebanese and the real democratic spirit should comply with the economic capacities of the country and the social and political conditions". Circumstances have changed and what worked once does not work anymore. If you read any of the publications of the developmental studies' seminar consisting of Muslim and Christian intellectuals, you may notice that it calls for a secular state and a civil personal status law. Albania, a country with both Muslim and Christian populations, has stated in its constitution that the marriage and the family are protected in law, emphasizing that civil marriages are compulsory while religious marriages are optional. These provisions were in force since 1945 in Albania and Tunisia followed suit. It is 1975 and it is unacceptable that we keep on clinging to outdated models that might have worked in 1925. In a nutshell, I deem it advisable that we discuss both confessionism and secularism with a focus on the confessional aspects that can be possibly abolished."

Yafi: "Ultimate secularism takes us nowhere. Islam is a state and a religion but Christianity works only with spiritualities."

Eddeh: "That's why he was crucified!"

Yafi: "That's why the discussion was limited to political confessionism and how to approach it or abolish it."

Assem Qansso: "I have three comments. I deny the claim suggesting that Lebanon offered unparalleled assistance to the Palestinians. Syria provided and continues to provide them with financial and moral support in terms of arms, recruitment and protection. Had Lebanon's rulers adopted the same stance held

by the Syrians towards the Palestinians, we would not have reached this stage.

Secondly, if we wish to build a real state on solid democratic grounds we must adopt all secularist dimensions.

Thirdly, you are afraid of communism, but if the status quo remains, communism will sweep over the country."

Rida Wahid: "The root of the crisis is social. What should have happened in poverty-stricken areas broke out in Beirut. Misery on one hand, and Israeli attacks on the other forced the villagers of the South and others to flee their land and move to Beirut. They found little room in Beirut's society so they headed to the suburbs. Those were the ones who carried the arms and fought for social justice and equality. Therefore, the reason was

social but many turned it into a political one simply because the majority of the emigrants to Beirut outskirts were of the same background.

We support positive development or rather quick revolutionary development before the storm washes us all out. As for secularism, we should determine its exact meaning. I suggest the designation of Dr. Rabbat to explore its dimensions and specify what secularist elements are applicable in Lebanon and what confessional elements we can eliminate."

Abbas Khalaf: "I have three remarks. First, I appreciate the positivity displayed by Mr. Edmond Rizk as regards sovereignty in particular, for he said that political sovereignty can be secured through a strict enforcement of the agreements signed with the Palestinians.

Second, the Arab front participating in the Palestinian revolution encloses various parties and forces from all the Arab countries. Thus, it is a national entity that has faith in the Arab cause and supports unionist inclinations. Hereby, it may speak of every Arab cause namely the support and protection of the Palestinian revolution.

Third, we, as a socialist party, call for secularism but we are realistic and we do not believe in the "all or nothing" slogan. Thus, we uphold the omission of whatever possible from confessionism and the adoption of the workable secularist elements to serve the interest of the country and ensure its development."

FUTURE BLOC

FROM NONINTERFERENCE TO INTERFERENCE

The Future Bloc has been against meddling in the internal Syrian affairs since the outbreak of the Syrian uprising in December 2010. The Bloc upheld this stance throughout the first four months until it finally declared its undivided support to the Syrian people and their quest to topple Assad's regime.

Noninterference

"...It is important to reiterate the necessity of a peaceful rotation of power and the need to respond to the aspirations of the Arab generations in their pursuit of change." (Statement issued on March 22, 2011 following the Future Bloc meeting)

"... The Future Bloc deems it necessary to underscore that not one of its MPs is interfering in the current events in Syria... The Bloc does not wish to meddle in the internal Syrian affairs and this applies to all its members and MPs... The accusations flung against the Future movement are far from correct." (Statement issued on April 13, 2011 following the Future Bloc meeting)

"...The Future Bloc believes in reform and reiterates that it always wished, and will continue to wish Syria the same that we, the Lebanese, wish for ourselves. We assert that what's happening in Syria is an internal matter and we believe that Syria's stability serves Lebanon's interest." (Statement issued on April 27, 2011 following the Future Bloc meeting)

"...We care to reiterate our former stance reflecting our willingness to stay out of any Arab country's disputes and to refuse interference of all kinds." (Statement issued on May 17, 2011 following a Future Bloc meeting)

Interference

"... The Bloc held a moment of silence in honor of the Syrian martyrs who fell victims of the bloody crackdown on the sister Syrian towns and villages. The Future Bloc reiterates its unwavering support of the Arab Spring movement and believes that the safest and less costly path for Syria is the compliance with the demands of the people in a practical manner, the withdrawal of the army and security forces and the trial of whoever killed the protesters." (Statement issued on August 3, 2011 following a Future Bloc meeting)

“The Future Bloc deems it necessary to underscore that not one of its MPs is interfering in the current events in Syria... The Bloc does not wish to meddle in the internal Syrian affairs and this applies to all its members and MPs... The accusations flung against the Future movement are far from correct.”

"... The Bloc discussed the ongoing escalation of military operations and gunfire targeting the Syrian towns and villages and killing unarmed citizens and peaceful protesters... which reveals a Syrian unwillingness to start reforms. The bloodshed, the lost souls and the dear costs paid by the champion Syrian people in their quest for freedom, reform and political participation call on the Arab consciences and peoples to stand up for the Syrian people to cease bloodshed and help them overcome this ordeal." (Statement issued on August 17, 2011 following a Future Bloc meeting)

"... The Bloc re-stresses its support of the demands of the Syrian people for reform, development, wider participation, army withdrawal, trial of the members who attacked civilians and unconditional freedom of expression." (Statement issued on November 1, 2011 following a Future Bloc meeting)

"... The Bloc would like to salute the Syrian revolution martyrs and to praise the UN resolution condemning Syria for its policies of oppression..." (Statement issued on November 23, 2011 following a Future Bloc meeting)

"...What's been happening so far is an annihilation of hundreds of citizens who decided to protest peacefully in their quest for participation, freedom and dignity." (Statement issued on December 7, 2011 following a Future Bloc meeting)

ONE WAGE HIKE ELIMINATES THE OTHER THE MARONITES SUPPORT THE ORTHODOX PROPOSAL AL-QAEDA IN LEBANON?

December 2

◉ “We refuse the funding which should have been secured from the donations not the money of the Lebanese people” Nasrallah said in his speech, urging Premier Mikati to reopen the file of false witnesses, do the four officers justice, and meet the demands of the Reform and Change bloc. Nasrallah also revealed a document suggesting that according to the Qatari-Turkish initiative, Saad Hariri agreed to cancel the protocol signed with the STL save that he stays in power.

◉ Former Premier Fouad Siniora meets with the Maronite patriarch in Bkerki. Former President Amine Gemayel joins the meeting afterwards and praises Premier Mikati’s decision to pay Lebanon’s share to the tribunal.

◉ Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Refugees, Kelly Clements visits Lebanon and urges the government to secure the safety of Syrian refugees.

◉ A rally in Aarsal in support of the Syrian people.

December 3

◉ Premier Najib Mikati inaugurates the Beirut Arab and International Book Fair and announces the closure of the funding issue and the takeoff of a governmental workshop.

◉ “Not a thousand speeches would cancel the tribunal and the state recognition of it”, Saïd Hariri reported in response to Nasrallah’s speech. “Apparently, these words are stuck in Hariri’s throat and he keeps repeating them at every occasion.”

◉ The strike goes on amid failure of the mediation attempted by Labor Minister to reconcile between the MEA and the Pilot’s Syndicate.

◉ “The accused of Rafik Hariri’s murder must turn themselves in for the sake of their nation and resistance”, former Hezbollah Secretary General Subhi al-Tufayli said during a gathering to mark Ashura.

◉ Volleys of bullets fired from the Syrian side of the border hit houses in the Lebanese villages of Bani Sakhr and Bqayaa. Five people were wounded in the process.

◉ Hezbollah uncovers an Israeli spying device in the valley between the village of Srafa and Deir Kifa, shortly before the enemy managed to destroy it through one of their surveillance drones.

◉ The Zahrani power plant shuts down after residents allegedly threatened the workers over the transport of a major power adapter from the Zahrani to Sidon. The closure cut the electricity supply in the country by 40 percent and the company refers the file to the public prosecutor.

December 5

◉ Operations resume at the Zaharni power plant after a deal was worked out at Speaker Nabih Berri’s residence in Msayleh.

◉ MEA pilots suspend the strike following pledges from General Michel Aoun that there will be no cut in salaries or any measures against them.

◉ MP Walid Jumblat commemorates the anniversary of his father’s birth in presence of MPs and ministers. Jumblat reported that the tribunal would become a minor issue in case of civil war and that the events have gone beyond the false witnesses’ issue noting that bickering over it won’t make any difference. Jumblat

urged Syrian Druzes not to engage in fighting.

◉ The Supreme Islamic Council decides to extend its mandate for two years until finishing the arrangements necessary to conduct the elections on 31-12-2012 at the latest.

December 6

◉ French Ambassador to Lebanon Denis Pietton visits Premier Najib Mikati and hands him an official invitation to visit his French counterpart.

◉ Premier Mikati chairs a meeting of the National Council for Fighting Drugs and calls for strict measures against drug trade.

◉ A solidarity meeting at the residence of the Mufti of Akkar, Sheikh Osama Rifai, urges Grand Mufti Qabbani to renew Rifai’s term and avert the strife. “Mufti Qabbani has become an impersonator” Akkar’s MP Mouin Merhebi told Akhbar Al Yawm.

◉ Telecommunications Minister Nicolas Sehnaoui announces that key information related to the third GSM network activity was deleted. “The committee who prepared the report lacks credibility”, Ogero replied.

◉ “The closure of the Zahrani power plant is a national tragedy” Minister Jubran Basil reported.

December 8

◉ The cabinet convened in session at Baabda Presidential Palace and approved to raise the minimum wage to LBP600,000. The decree stipulated that salaries under LBP1million be increased by 30 percent up to a LL200,000 cap, and salaries above LBP1 million by 20 percent up to

LL275,000. This hike is at odds with the wage plan suggested by Labor Minister Charbel Nahhas

- ◉ Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman meets with Premier Najib Mikati and conveys to him the Secretary of State's contentment with Lebanon's decision to fund the Tribunal. Feltman feared that Syria's events would stir unrest in Lebanon.

- ◉ Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made a personal appearance for the first time in three years on Ashura commemoration day. He later addressed the crowd via video calling for the avoidance of sectarian rhetoric, the activation of the government work and the reopening of the false witnesses' file. Nasrallah assured that Hezbollah's weapons are not on the dialogue's agenda noting that the resistance is upgrading its arsenal and recruiting more fighters.

- ◉ General Michel Aoun, MP Suleiman Frangieh, MP Talal Erslan, head of the Tashnaq Party Hovik Mikhtarian attended a sit-down in Rabieh. Minister Jubran Basil who was also present in the meeting assured their participation in cabinet's session.

- ◉ "We are proud of our Kurdish roots", MP Walid Jumblat reported following his visit to Iraqi Kurdistan.

- ◉ Abduction of Liban Lait company CEO Ahmad Zaidan in Beqa'a for ransom.

December 9

- ◉ Assistant Secretary of State Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman continues his Lebanon's visits and meets with Speaker Nabih Berri, MP Walid Jumblat, former MP Nassib Lahoud, Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces Jean Kahwaji, Patriarch al-Rai, former Minister Elias Murr and his father Michel Murr and ISF Director General Major General Ashraf Rifi in presence of Col. Wissam Hassan. Feltman joins March 14 leaders for dinner at Le Royal hotel.

- ◉ President Michel Suleiman heads

to Armenia on an official visit.

- ◉ Ukrainian Prime Minister Nicolas Owarov arrives in Lebanon on an official visit.

- ◉ A delegation of Druze Mashayekh headed by MP Talal Arslan visits President Bashar Assad and stresses the support of Syria.

December 10

- ◉ An explosion targets the UNIFIL French troops in Saida and results in the injury of five peacekeepers and two civilians. The President, Speaker and Premier deplore the attack and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates that France shall not capitulate.

- ◉ President Michel Suleiman signs many touristic and economic agreements during his ongoing visit to Armenia.

- ◉ The Cabinet convenes at the Grand Serail and approves a regular agenda.

December 12

- ◉ A rocket fired towards north Israel from al-Qaysiya valley in Majdal Selem lands in the Lebanese village of Houla and wounds a woman in her leg.

- ◉ Liban Lait CEO Ahmad Zeidan was released unharmed thanks to the efforts of Speaker Nabih Berri in mediating with some Beqa'a clans through his assistant Bassam Tlais. The army continues its raids in the Beqa'a mountainous areas near the Syrian borders to arrest the kidnappers.

- ◉ Accompanied by a number of ministers, Premier Najib Mikati toured Downtown Beirut on Saturday and voiced the importance of supporting economic and commercial activities. Mikati told Al-Jazira that the false witnesses' file will be brought to the forefront at the very right moment.

- ◉ "The explosion that targeted the UNIFIL is a Syrian message and the dismissal of Mufti Rifai is a major mistake" Hariri said on Twitter, reiterating that the Syrian regime

would fall sooner or later.

- ◉ Head of the Military Court of Cassation Judge Alice Shebtini orders the release of agents who were convicted in collaboration with Israel, including members of Al-Alam family and Sheikh Naim Qassem condemned this measure.

December 13

- ◉ UNIFIL Force Commander Major General Alberto Asarta reported that the weapons used south the Litani river aim at destabilizing the area and the commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces visits the UNIFIL headquarters in the South.

- ◉ The Cabinet approves a draft law extending the reacquisition of citizenship by expatriates of Lebanese origin holding documents that prove patrilineal Lebanese ancestry.

- ◉ "The UNIFIL attack is a message from Syria to France and the resistance must realize the dangers of rocket messages" MP Walid Jumblat told a PSP ceremony in Mukhtara.

- ◉ Former Premier Saad Hariri meets with the Saudi Defense Minister Salman Bin Abdulaziz.

- ◉ Former Premier Fouad Siniora visits Sheikh Abdul Amir Qabalan, Sayyed Ali Fadlallah, and Sayyed Ali Al Amin and reiterates the importance of Muslim unity and the need to renounce strife.

- ◉ Reelection of Mohammed Baalbaki as Press Federation President.

December 14

- ◉ The Cabinet agrees to buy 50000 gallons of olive oil for LBP 2 billion and approves the proposal to fill vacancies at EDL.

- ◉ "The launching of rockets in the South could have been performed by an Israeli agent and the French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé learned how to politically accuse from March 14 forces", MP Michel Aoun reported.

- ◉ "Hezbollah is responsible for the attacks tyhat targeted the UNIFIL in South Lebanon", Head of the Lebanese

Forces' Executive Committee Samir Geagea said.

December 15

- ◉ Teachers' unions call for a strike in both private and public schools.
- ◉ A verbal skirmish erupted at parliament between MP Nawaf Moussawi and MP Sami Gemayel when the former retaliated by saying: "my shoe is more honorable than you".
- ◉ A Cabinet session held at Baabda Presidential Palace decides to remove VAT on red gas oil as of 19-12-2011.
- ◉ STL Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare informs the Secretary-General of the United Nations that, for health reasons, he does not intend to seek reappointment for a second term as Prosecutor at the end of February 2012.
- ◉ The Syrian army shoots fire at Lebanese farmers in Ersal injuring two of them.
- ◉ A statement of the March 14 General Secretariat holds Hezbollah accountable for the rockets launched in the South and the attacks against the UNIFIL.

December 16

- ◉ Clashes between Amal Movement and the Ahabash in Burj Abi Haydar result in 6 injuries.
- ◉ The Association of Banks in Lebanon donate USD 32 million to the Higher Relief Committee to cover Lebanon's share toward the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.
- ◉ MP Nawaf Moussawi apologizes for the abusive remarks he made at the last parliamentary session.
- ◉ President Michel Suleiman signs a decree to promote 24 colonels in the Internal Security Forces to the rank of brigadier general but excluded Col. Wissam al-Hassan who will get promoted at the beginning of 2012.

December 17

- ◉ Maronite dignitaries and MPs hold meetings in Bkerki under the patronage of Patriarch al-Rai to continue discussions over the electoral law and

agree to adopt the Orthodox proposal as the appropriate formula that secures fair and equal representation.

- ◉ Fierce slashes at Ain el-Helwi after the murder of bodyguard of the Palestinian Armed Struggle chief Al-Lino.

December 19

- ◉ "I am committed to the wide alliance with Hezbollah, Amal Movement and the Free Patriotic Movement", MP Walid Jumblat said during a meeting held in Choueifat with MP Talal Arslan to discuss the repercussions following the death of a youngster from Kafarkela in Choueifat.
- ◉ A ceremony at the Elysée Palace in France in honor of Leila El Solh-Hamad and President Nicolas Sarkozy asserts that the east needs Lebanon and expresses concern over its future.
- ◉ Assassination of another Lino bodyguard and growing tension at Ain el-Helwi camp.
- ◉ "Bkerki's choice to adopt the Orthodox proposal will isolate people from each other" MP Walid Jumblat stated.
- ◉ Michel Suleiman receives General Michel at Baabda Palace and hosts him on lunch table.
- ◉ "It is unacceptable to give the citizenship to those who cut their ties with Lebanon", Mufti Mohammed Ali Jouzou reported.

December 20

- ◉ 13 pro-March 14 MPs hold a meeting at Parliament and call for the disarmament of Beirut and the formation of delegations to follow up on this issue.
- ◉ "The Orthodox proposal eliminates variety", Minister Mohammed Safadi said.
- ◉ MP Talal Arslan meets with MP Suleiman Frangieh in Bnashei.
- ◉ A patriarchate delegation visits Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah to thank him for

having sent earlier a delegation to congratulate Patriarch Al-Rai after his election.

- ◉ Lebanese army finds four ready-to-fire rockets in Al-Majidieh village at the border with Israel.
- ◉ Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ghdanfar Rukn Abadi meets with the secretary general of the Islamic Gama'a Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Masri.

December 21

- ◉ General Michel Aoun meets with Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.
- ◉ Future bloc welcomes dialogue with the Maronite gathering over the parliamentary electoral law.
- ◉ During a meeting with high ranking officers, Defense Minister Fayez Ghosn revealed information about Qaida members infiltrating to Lebanon under the guise of Syrian dissidents.
- ◉ Military Court Investigative Judge Imad Zein issues an indictment demanding the execution of Sheikh Hassan Mshaymesh for his collaboration with Israel.
- ◉ General Michel Aoun slams deputies' call to disarm Beirut and urges to give the Orthodox proposal a chance.
- ◉ Hezbollah organizes a Christmas celebration at Saint Joseph School in Jbeil and MP Fares Soueid responds by saying: "Jbeil cannot speak the Persian language Sayyed."

- ◉ French Foreign Ministry official Nicolas de Riviere visits Lebanon and announces that France is still committed to security in the South but will reduce its troops to no more than 1000.

December 22

- ◉ The Cabinet endorses Minister Charbel Nahhas' plan to raise the minimum wage to LBP 868 thousand after his proposal won confidence through vote. The new decision suggested adding transportation allowance to the basic salary and to end of service compensations. Premier

Mikati voiced his disappointment in the proposal but resigned to accept he results.

- ◉ Premier Najib Mikati visits Christian Spiritual leaders and extends congratulations to them on the occasion of the Christmas holidays.

- ◉ Beirut MPs kick off their tour to demand the disarmament of Beirut and hold their first meeting with President Michel Suleiman.

- ◉ Former Premier Saad Hariri meets with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey and reports that the Syrian regime must stop the killing.

- ◉ Israeli spy Charbel Azzi sentenced to seven years in prison.

December 23

- ◉ President Michel Suleiman inspects army units stationed south of the Litani River and tours over the wounded French peacekeepers in the recent explosive attack on their vehicle in Sour. Suleiman reported that all talks outside the defense strategy should be abandoned stressing that some areas are beyond Lebanon's control.

- ◉ Future Movement MPs said that the defense minister's statements are an indicator of an upcoming scheme that the minister would carry out in obedience to foreign demands that support the Assad regime.

- ◉ "If it weren't for expatriates, Lebanese families would have starved", Patriarch al-Rai said during a mass for the Maronite Institution for Expatriates.

- ◉ An anti-Assad protest at the Martyr's Square Downtown and another pro-Assad protest near Al-Amin Mosque.

- ◉ MP Walid Jumblat meets with the Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon and MP Wiam Wahhab.

December 24

- ◉ A delegation of the economic committees headed by former state minister Adnan Qassar visits General Michel Aoun and reiterates that the new wage hike would harm the

economy stressing the need to adopt the deal that was brokered earlier with the GLC.

December 27

- ◉ "The state entrusted with the safety and security of the people should collect illegitimate weaponry so as to demilitarize Beirut and Lebanon", Patriarch Al-Rai said during his Christmas sermon in presence of President Michel Suleiman, General Michel Aoun and a number of ministers and MPs.

- ◉ "We agreed with the Patriarch and General Michel Aoun over the appointments' mechanism", President Suleiman reported from Bkerki.

December 28

- ◉ Beirut MPs visit Speaker Nabih Berri and Premier Najib Mikati to bring to fore the disarmament of Beirut and MP Nouhad Mashnouq reports that their suggestions were greeted with understanding and cooperation noting that the plan does not include Hezbollah's weapons and is restricted to small and medium arms.

- ◉ In response to the Defense Minister statements, Interior Minister Marwan Charbel denies presence of Al-Qaeda militants in Lebanon and says that there are only advocates of them.

- ◉ Patriarch al-Rai meets with the Syrian ambassador and reiterates that Lebanon and Syria are one people in two states.

- ◉ Aرسال's residents reject the declaration of the Defense Minister and a delegation of the village visits Premier Najib Mikati and calls for the deployment of the army in the region. Samir Geagea, head of the LF executive committee, returns to Lebanon after meeting with former Premier Saad Hariri and a number of Saudi princes on his visit to Saudi Arabia.

December 29

- ◉ Ongoing bickering over the

existence or inexistence of Al-Qaeda in Lebanon and Premier Najib Mikati assures that no evidence solidifies the presence of terrorist cells in Aرسال or elsewhere.

- ◉ The Cabinet holds a session at Baabda Presidential Palace over Al-Qaeda issue and delays the approval of the wage hike until receiving the response of the Shura Council.

- ◉ Wadi Khaled buries three locals shot dead by the Syrian army.

- ◉ An explosion rocks a restaurant in Sour for serving alcohol.

December 30

- ◉ The Supreme Defense Council convenes to discuss the security status and the presence of Al-Qaeda cells in Lebanon. The council stresses the need to curb arm smuggling and control the security status in border villages and President Suleiman urges the investigation into the murder of the three locals in Mouqaybli.

- ◉ "We shall not compromise the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister", Premier Najib Mikati said to Serail staff.

- ◉ Lebanese Forces, Future bloc and MP Nadeem Gemayel call the government to file a UN complaint against Syria over the murder of the three locals.

December 31

- ◉ During a press conference, Interior Minister Marwan Charbel reiterated his denial to claims on the presence of Al-Qaeda members in Lebanon noting that Lebanon might be a corridor, not a base for Al-Qaeda. Minister Charbel pointed that he will not sign Orthodox proposal.

- ◉ President Michel Suleiman meets with Syrian Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Abdul Karim and discusses with him the cross-border violations between the two countries.

THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE ARAB WORLD

According to article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” In this context, it is estimated that two thirds of the countries worldwide have abolished the death penalty. In the Arab World, only Djibouti has abolished it.

Current Situation in the Arab World

When discussing the death penalty, there are two traditional strategies, either total abolition or introducing a moratoria. The first, as its name suggests, consists in removing the death sentence as a penalty from all the country’s legal texts and thus abandoning it in practice. It also requires the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which renders the abolition irreversible. So far, Djibouti is the only Arab country to have done away with the death penalty for all crimes. The second, which is a provisional solution, implies that the State, without being legally bound, decides to adopt a moratorium (or a suspension) on executions. It also constitutes a step towards abolition. This has been the preferred approach of North African countries such as Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Another strategy adopted and preferred by Arab States is the reduction of the scope of capital punishment. In practice, this means “reducing the conditions for applying

capital punishment and promoting the safeguards surrounding a fair trial to try to obtain legal reforms in this direction.”¹ The reason being that in some Arab countries, the socio-cultural and religious contexts do not allow an abolitionist approach. Table 1 below illustrates the status of the death penalty by country. It should be noted that the numbers are mostly estimates and some claim they are much higher; however, real statistics are difficult to obtain on this topic.

A poll conducted by Information International between January 10 and 14, 2004 (random sample of 600 respondents in the Greater Beirut area), showed that 40.7% of respondents were categorically opposed to capital punishment, 15.3% supported it in principle and 43.5% said it depended on the crime (The Monthly, Issue 20, February 2004).

¹ Mona Chammas, Fighting Against the Death Penalty in the Arab World, June 2008, p. 7.

Status of the Death Penalty by Country (by descending order of executions)			Table 1
Country	Legal Framework	Situation in Practice (2010)	
Yemen	Retentionist	53 executions were carried out and 27 death sentences were imposed.	
Saudi Arabia	Retentionist	27 executions were carried out and 34 death sentences were imposed.	
Libya	Retentionist	18 executions were carried out and an unknown number of death sentences were imposed.	
Syria	Retentionist	17 executions were carried out and 10 death sentences were imposed.	
Somalia	Retentionist	8 executions were carried out and 8 death sentences were imposed.	
Sudan	Retentionist	6 executions were carried out and 10 death sentences were imposed.	
Palestinian Authority	Retentionist	5 executions were carried out and 11 death sentences were imposed.	
Egypt	Retentionist	4 executions were carried out and 185 death sentences were imposed.	
Bahrain	Retentionist	1 execution was carried out and 1 death sentence was imposed.	
Iraq	Retentionist	At least 1 execution was carried out and 279 death sentences were imposed.	
Algeria	Abolitionist in practice	Moratoria on executions since 1993. In 2010, 130 death sentences were imposed.	
Tunisia	Abolitionist in practice	Moratoria on Executions since 1992. In 2010, 22 death sentences were imposed.	
Mauritania	Abolitionist in practice	16 death sentences were imposed.	
Morocco	Abolitionist in practice	Moratoria on Executions since 1993. In 2010, 4 death sentences were imposed.	
UAE	Retentionist	No executions were carried out in 2010 but 28 death sentences were imposed.	
Qatar	Retentionist	No executions or new death sentences were imposed but 17 people remained under sentence of death.	
Lebanon	Retentionist	Executions reintroduced in 2004 despite a moratorium in practice since 1998 and a draft abolitionist law aborted in 2006. In 2010, at least 12 death sentences were imposed.	
Jordan	Retentionist	At least 9 death sentences were imposed.	
Kuwait	Retentionist	3 death sentences were imposed.	
Oman	Retentionist	Last executions carried out in 2001.	
Comoros	Retentionist	Last execution in 1997 and last death sentence imposed in 1999.	
Djibouti	Abolitionist for all crimes	Last execution in 1977.	

Source: Death Sentences and Execution, 2010, Amnesty International; Mona Chammas, Fighting Against the Death Penalty in the Arab World, June 2008.

REAL ESTATE PRICES

DECEMBER 2011

Compared to the slight momentum recorded in November, the real estate market witnessed a decline by 3% to 10% in December. The transactions varied depending on the region and the type of apartments, winding down in areas where apartment prices soared up. On the other hand, land prices witnessed no major fluctuations and maintained stable levels especially in Beirut and its neighboring regions due to scarcity of offers. The dropping prices did not break the passivity crippling the real estate market and failed to usher in the long-awaited recovery.

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

Prices of some estates sold in December 2011 Table 1

Region	Area m ²	Price USD	USD/m ²
Beirut			
UNESCO	630	7,182,000	11,400
Ashrafieh (Alexander)	480	3,096,000	6,450
Baabda			
Kfarshima	1,100	671,000	610
Baabda	1,600	1,312,000	820
Matn			
Baabdat	1,250	725,000	580
Broumana	1,000	1,200,000	1,200
A'aley			
Bhamdoun	900	99,000	110
Aramoun	950	380,000	400
Kessrouan			
Farayya	1,450	725,000	500
Adma	3,170	2,853,000	900

Source: Information International- December 2011

Prices of some apartments sold in December 2011 Table 2

Region	Area m ²	USD	USD/m ²
Beirut			
Clemenceau	270	1,000,000	3,700
Tallet el-Khayyat	200	700,000	3,500
Saifi	170	431,800	2,540
Saqayit al Janzeer	190	551,000	2,900
Sanaee	220	572,000	2,600
Mar Elias	160	432,000	2,700
Qraytem	230	805,000	3,500
Ashrafieh (Rizk)	160	416,000	2,600
Ashrafieh (Jeitawi)	130	305,500	2,350
Verdun	110	385,000	3,500
Baabda			
Baabda	160	264,000	1,650
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	200	380,000	1,900
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla Square)	250	562,500	2,250
Haret Hrayk	220	396,000	1,800
Matn			
Mansourieh	180	306,000	1,700
Dekwaneh	150	202,500	1,350
Sabtiyyi	200	230,000	1,150
Broumana	150	195,000	1,300
Antelias	160	201,600	1,260
A'aley			
Aramoun	140	133,000	950
Aramoun	175	227,500	1,300
Bshamoun	165	165,000	1,000
Doha Hoss	250	450,000	1,800
Khaldeh	145	181,250	1,250
Kessrouan			
Souhaili	160	160,000	1,000
Adoniss	180	234,000	1,300
Sahel Alma	200	330,000	1,650
Zouk Mosbeh	150	169,500	1,130
Kaslik	190	209,000	1,100

Source: Information International- December 2011

PRICES OF 100 FOOD PRODUCTS IN 2011

Prices of the 100 food products we track every month have witnessed a remarkable surge in the year 2011 with 64 items registering higher prices. On the other hand, prices of 19 food items dropped a little while no major fluctuations were recorded in the prices of the remaining 17 items.

The surge in food prices has reached as far as 50% sometimes while the decline remained slight throughout the year. The following Table 1 shows the food prices in January 2011 compared to January 2012 and the percentage of the price change.

Prices of food products in 2011 (in LBP) Table 1			
Item and Brand	Prices beginning of January 2011	Prices beginning of January 2012	% of price change
Oil			
Afia corn oil (3.5 liters)	13,750	16,000	+16.3
Mazola corn oil (3.5 liters)	13,350	17,000	+42.5
Mazola corn oil (1.8 liters)	6,950	8,500	+22.3
Slim corn oil (2 liters)	7,500	8,500	+13.3
Wesson corn oil (2 liters)	7,750	8,500	+9.6
Ghandour soya oil (2 liters)	11,250	16,900	+50.2
Alfa corn oil (4 liters)	13,100	15,750	+20.2
Al-Wadi olive oil (1/2 liters)	6,450	6,750	+4.6
Ketchup and Sauces			
Libby's Ketchup (597 g)	1,570	1,600	+1.9
Extra Ketchup (340 g)	980	1,050	+7.1
Extra Ketchup (2.2 kg)	5,500	5,500	0
Dolly's Mayonnaise (500 ml)	4,500	4,000	-11.1
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise (500 ml)	4,400	4,100	-6.8
Al-Bsat Tahina (900 g)	6,390	6,850	+7.2
Al-Bsat Tahina (450 g)	3,600	3,900	+8.3
Taous tomato sauce (70g)	715	770	+7.7
Taous tomato sauce (425 g)	3,250	3,425	+6.1
Tala tomato sauce (675g)	2,990	3,250	+8.7

Prices of food products in 2011 (in LBP) Table 1			
Item and Brand	Prices beginning of January 2011	Prices beginning of January 2012	% of price change
Dairy Products			
Candia full cream milk (1 liter)	2,500	2,500	0
Candia full cream yoghurt (2 kg)	3,000	2,500	-16.7
Bonjus labneh (1 kg)	3,990	4,250	+6.5
Taanayel labneh (500 g)	5,650	5,500	-2.6
Candia labneh (500 g)	3,500	5,000	+42.8
Taanayel yoghurt (1 kg)	3,000	3,000	0
Smeds cheese (400 g)	4,350	4,850	+11.5
Picon cheese (360 g)	3,350	3,800	+13.4
Picon cheese (160 g)	1,700	1,950	+14.7
Double-crème cheese (1 kg)	7,000	9,250	+32.1
Fresh country cheese (1 kg)	8,900	10,100	+13.4
Khashkawan cheese (1 kg)	13,000	13,000	0
Lurpak butter (200 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Tatra butter (200 g)	2,250	2,500	+11.1
Al-Maalaqtain margarine (2 kg)	7,950	8,650	+8.8
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2kg)	31,075	35,000	+12.6
Vegetaline margarine (2 kg)	14,950	15,950	+6.6
Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,250 g)	19,500	21,850	+12
Nido full cream milk (2,500 g)	23,100	26,250	+13.6
Tatra full cream milk (1,800 g)	17,500	20,100	+14.8
Cereals			
Khater white lentils (1 kg)	3,800	3,750	-1.3
Khater chick-peas fahli (1 kg)	3,750	4,100	+9.3
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)	3,250	3,850	+18.4
Brown Fine Burgul (1 kg)	2,000	1,850	-7.5
Egyptian rice (1 kg)	1,750	1,750	0
American rice (1 kg)	1,850	1,650	-10.8

Prices of food products in 2011 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and Brand	Prices beginning of January 2011	Prices beginning of January 2012	% of price change
Italian rice (1 kg)	2,980	2,350	-21.1
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,340	1,500	+11.9
Chtaura Hommos Tahina (380 g)	1,140	1,450	+27.2
California Gardens beans (450 g)	1,100	1,250	+13.6
Al-Wadi beans (450 g)	1,000	1,100	+10
Chtaura beans (480 g)	1,500	1,250	-16.7
Libby's corn (340 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Pasta			
Barilla spaghetti (500 g)	2,100	2,200	+4.7
Antonio Amato spaghetti (500 g)	2,200	2,200	0
Monte spaghetti (500 g)	2,150	2,300	+6.9
Sugar			
Sugar (2 kg)	3,350	2,750	-17.9
Al-Ousra Sugar (5 kg)	9,500	9,500	0
Salt (700 g)	280	350	+25
Box of salt (738 g)	1,100	1,800	+63
Meat, Fish and Eggs			
Zwan chicken (200 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Zwan beef (200 g)	2,250	2,500	+11.1
Luncheon meat beef (198 g)	1,800	2,000	+11.1
Al-Mona chicken (200 g)	2,100	2,250	+7.1
Al-Taghzia beef (200 g)	1,950	1,950	+1.3
Al-Taghzia chicken (200 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Geisha sardine (125 g)	1,000	1,250	+25
Deli sardine (125 g)	1,100	1,200	+9
Milo sardine (125 g)	1,090	1,100	+0.9
Geisha tuna (200 g)	3,990	3,600	-9.7
White Diamond tuna (200 g)	2,150	2,250	+4.6
White Diamond tuna (200 g)	2,250	2,650	+17.8
Skipper tuna (185 g)	1,750	1,900	+8.5
Eggs (30 eggs)	8,050	7,900	-1.8
Beef (1 kg)	17,000	17,000	0
Sheep (1 kg)	22,000	25,000	+13.6
Coffee and Tea			
Najjar coffee (1kg)	14,000	16,000	+14.3
Brazil coffee (1 kg)	11,850	15,200	+28.3
Al-Hisan tea (180 g)	2,750	2,750	0
Nestle (250g)	2,350	2,350	0

Prices of food products in 2011 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and Brand	Prices beginning of January 2011	Prices beginning of January 2012	% of price change
Halvah and Jam			
Al-Wadi halvah (454 g)	4,150	4,150	0
Al-Bsat halvah (450 g)	3,150	3,150	0
Chtaura apricot jam (1 kg)	5,500	6,000	+9
Al-Wadi apricot jam (1 kg)	4,500	5,590	+24.2
Tissues and Detergents			
Mimosa tissues (500 g)	2,600	2,750	+5.7
Fine tissues (200 tissues)	1,350	1,400	+3.7
Primo tissues (200 tissues)	1,300	1,300	0
Gipsy tissues (300 tissues)	2,500	2,850	+14
Mimosa toilet papers (4 rolls)	3,100	4,250	+37
Yes detergent (750 g)	2,250	2,400	+6.7
Clorox (1 liter)	1,500	1,500	-0.3
Persil (4 kg)	18,200	19,500	+7.1
Ariel (4 kg)	18,000	19,250	+6.9
Fruits and Vegetables			
Orange (1 kg)	1,250	1,000	-25
Tomatoes (1kg)	2000	700	-65
Cucumbers (1kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Bananas (1kg)	850	1,000	+17.6
Lemons (1 kg)	600	700	+16.7
Apples (1 kg)	2,000	2,500	+25
Potatoes (1 kg)	1,250	950	-24

Source: Information International



Largest Number of Energy Consumption around the world

- **1,310,000,000** billion short tons of coal are consumed in China per day.
- **3,947,000** ton of charcoal is consumed by households in Thailand.
- **3,892,000,000,000** kWh (kilowatt-hours) is the total annual electricity consumed in the United States of America. In Gaza strip, only 230,000 kWh are consumed annually.
- **821.1** terawatt-hours is the nuclear energy consumption per day in the United States of America. 1.7 terawatt-hours are consumed in Pakistan.
- **20,680,000** barrels of oil per day are consumed in the United States of America. In Comoros, 712.3 barrels of oil are consumed per day.
- **10,410,000** ton of Kerosene is consumed by households in Japan.
- **6,735,000** ton of motor gasoline is consumed by households in Russia.
- **3,076,206** Terajoules of steam and hot water are consumed by households and other consumers in Russia.
- **64,951,360** ton of vegetal waste is consumed by households in India.



Beirut International Airport

Rafic Hariri International Airport Traffic 5,654,147 passengers in 2011

The number of passengers using Rafic Hariri International Airport in December 2011 declined by 5.2% compared to last month. The total number of arriving, departing and transit passengers reached 5,654,147 in 2011 compared to 5,551,133 in 2010, up by 103,014 passengers or 1.85%. However, in comparison with the 2009 airport traffic, a remarkable increase by 559,655 passengers or 11.2% was registered in 2010. airport traffic in 2010 registered a remarkable increase. Table 1 shows airport traffic in December 2011 compared to November 2011 and December 2010.

Airport traffic in December 2011 compared to November 2011 and December 2010 Table 1

Traffic	November 2011	December 2011	December 2010	% of change November 2011/ December 2011	% of change December 2010/ December 2011
Arriving airplanes	2,232	2,535	2,778	+ 13.5	- 8.7
Departing airplanes	2,228	2,539	2,778	+ 13.9	- 8.6
Total No. of airplanes	4,460	5,074	5,556	+ 13.7	- 8.6
Arriving passengers	229,259	247,811	233,648	+ 8	+ 6
Departing passengers	236,963	193,272	186,735	- 18.4	+ 3.5
Transit passengers	4,524	4,885	3,464	+ 7.9	+ 41
Total No. of passengers	470,746	445,968	423,847	- 5.2	+ 5.2
Imported goods (per ton)	3,830	4,201	3,780	+ 9.6	+ 11.1
Exported goods (per ton)	2,665	3,015	2,932	+ 13.1	+ 2.8
Total amount of goods (per ton)	6,495	7,217	6,712	+ 11.1	+ 7.5

Source: Information International and the directorate General of Civil Aviation 2011

Stats & Numbers

- ⦿ **LBP 27.5 billion** is the loan amount granted by the government to the Ministry of Defense- Army Command- to pay property owners for the land occupied by the UNIFIL South Lebanon.
- ⦿ **LBP 50 million** is the loan amount granted by the government to the Media Ministry to cover the travel expenses of the Minister and the NNA (National News Agency) Director to Australia in November 2011.
- ⦿ **LBP 200 million** is the government's financial contribution to those affected by the earthquake that struck Eastern Turkey in November 2011.
- ⦿ **LBP 92 million** is the amount of the compensation paid to the state attorneys in November and December 2011, noting that the law determined a sum of LBP 2 million for each attorney.
- ⦿ **LBP 800 billion** is the approximate sum of the real estate fees collected by the government in 2007.
- ⦿ **USD 12.8 billion** is the worth of the treasury bonds due in 2012 including USD 2.1 billion in foreign currencies and around USD 10.7 billion in Lebanese pound.



Photo by: Alaa Sakr

Publications

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- 10- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-North District
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INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATES IN ESOMAR SEMINAR

ESOMAR, the world organization for opinion and market research, held a seminar “The Role of Opinion Polling in the Election Process” in Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday 6th December 2011.

The seminar was under the patronage of former Interior Minister Ziad Baroud and with the participation of ESOMAR Secretary General Venn Roney, former Director of Surveys at CBS News Kathleen Frankovic, Founder and Director of Strategic Communication Consultancy (S2C) Mr. Ramsay Najjar and Founder and Managing Partner of Information International SAL Mr. Jawad Adra. The representative of ESOMAR in Lebanon Dr. Tarek Ammar introduced the participants to an audience of roughly 70 people including researchers, scholars and representatives of research and statistical analysis firms.



Mr. Adra’s speech included the following:

“The error may occur in any measurement process. Is the measurement tool precise? Are we measuring what should be measured? Were the results reached in alignment with our expectations? How should we react if the findings came contrary to what we expected?”

“There are several reasons that leave us lacking real opinion polling in Lebanon, for neither the public opinion is public nor the survey is a survey. The public opinion is maneuvered by tribal and religious divides and displayed in a bazaar of political and financial allegiances, and the operating companies are, willingly or unwillingly, promoting for political leaders and parties.”

“The interest in opinion polling in Lebanon started 20 years back. Information International was among the leading companies who explored the research realm and was able throughout the years to finally form what we call “the opinion poll culture”. We do not pretend that we reached, or will reach and raise awareness of this new culture because the matter entails a unity of effort among multiple people starting from politicians, officials, associations, syndicates, schools and universities and ending with the common people.”

“The stances of the Lebanese differ depending on

the nature and the topic of the study. Opinion polls tackling the public status are often greeted by the majority with indifference since people deem themselves incapable of making a difference. On the other hand, citizens show greater interest in electoral opinion polls, in case of fierce competition particularly, because they believe that their voice will be heard and their opinion considered.”

Mr. Adra raised many questions: “Is the public opinion a real opinion? Are people real people and elections real elections? Who influences whom? Are we more influential than over a billion dollars spent on 2009 elections? Are we more influential than the Patriarch Sfeir’s statement, which expressed concerns over Lebanon’s Arabism and identity only two days prior to elections, noting that the word “Arabism” was never uttered by any other Patriarch with such sorrow and fear? Are we more influential than the blood of the late Premier Rafik Hariri and the speeches of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah? Are we more influential than the US threats of woes and blows should we not finance the tribunal?”

Mr. Adra concluded by saying: “If we, polling companies, have any role to play, then it certainly is not the job we are practicing today but rather the duty awaiting us tomorrow through a real contribution to the process of knowledge.”

For more information

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