

- SALARIES OF TEACHERS
- HIGHER DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
- “THE MONTHLY” INTERVIEWS  
HADIA GHANDOUR

## SOLIDERE

### MARKS ITS 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## 4 SOLIDERE MARKS ITS 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY

- 11 A SYNDICATE TO EACH EMPLOYEE
- 12 SALARIES OF TEACHERS
- 16 LBP 2 BILLION FOR SPEED RADARS WITHOUT BIDDING
- 17 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN LEBANON
- 18 HIGHER DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



P: 16



P: 22

- 19 SILENT INFECTIONS: DR. HANNA SAADAH
- 20 IS DEATH AN ILLUSION? (2): ANTOINE BOUTROS
- 21 ASSEM SALAM: ISSAM BEKDACH
- 22 INTERVIEW: MRS. HADIA GHANDOUR



P: 4

- 24 AWAITED PARADISE
- 25 NOBEL PRIZES IN ECONOMIC SCIENCE
- 28 LEBANESE PHYSICAL HANDICAPPED UNION
- 30 POPULAR CULTURE
- 31 DEBUNKING MYTH#65: THE IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF IRANIAN-ARAB RELATIONS
- 32 MUST-READ BOOKS: *MAY ZIADEH*
- 33 MUST-READ CHILDREN'S BOOK: *ADVENTURES OF ROUBA AND WOOFY SERIES*
- 34 LEBANON FAMILIES: NAMES DENOTING PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS
- 35 DISCOVER LEBANON: MAZRAAT AL DAHR

- 42 THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- LEBANON
- 45 THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- ARAB WORLD
- 46 UNVEILING THE PENINSULA

- 36 SIT-INS IN DOWNTOWN BEIRUT
- 38 NOVEMBER 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- 47 REAL ESTATE PRICES IN LEBANON - NOVEMBER 2012
- 48 FOOD PRICES - NOVEMBER 2012
- 50 BURIAL CUSTOMS
- 50 BEIRUT RAFIC HARIRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NOVEMBER 2012
- 51 LEBANON STATS



## OMAR SALHAB

“Why do good men leave us too soon?,” an 8-year old girl asked when she was told that “uncle Omar” had died. Omar George Salhab (1947-2012) bid us farewell as though he had departed to reunite with his professor and friend at the School of Architecture in the AUB, Assem Salam. Gone far too soon, the good always leave a void that nothing and no one can ever fill. Not an eminent politician, or a famed star (although he bore resemblance to Omar Sharif), Omar Salhab deserved being honored for his person, not his title. Unimpressed by the great riches and the glare of limelight, he opted for peace and quiet.

A self-made man from the 50s and 60s’ generation, the noble Salhab labored hard and reached stellar heights by the sweat of his brow, but also clung dearly to his roots and hometown, Roumieh, and embraced its ashes, when death marched in and took him away.

He, who always held onto his calm, pious and polite temperament, gathered contradictions in his name “Omar George”, his two sons George and Tarek, and his sister Dorothy Kathmi, who navigated sects and countries and died at a young age, just like her brother who left a meritorious reputation marked by an elegant, yet modest lifestyle.

“I ought to be doing more...,” the friend who was forever just used to say. Some of us used to be bothered by Omar’s protocol, for we could not match the unparalleled consideration he used to show during the holidays, the sick days and all the joyous or sorrowful events. Moaning in front of friends was alien to him, as he used to check on them regularly even when bed-ridden and breathing his last breath.

The pious secularist, who wouldn’t miss any Sunday mass or a wine or Grappa gathering at the dinner table on week days, surrendered to no temptations; he didn’t return from the Gulf or London with an eye on a ministerial or a parliamentary seat. He was never after prestige, nor did he indulge in the notorious Lebanese extravagance. He kept it simple, playing cards with his friends and family at the village, far from the fuss of convoys and bodyguards. He was human par excellence. From Tripoli to Broumana High School, to Britain, to the AUB, to Saudi Arabia and London, he crossed all roads surrounding himself with dear companions and with the love of a wife who devoted her life with and for him, and a sister who echoed his name in every breath.



With his Jesus, he walked up the Hill of Calvary and lived the life of a man, in every sense that the word manhood bears. He was an exemplary figure for our youth to model after today and tomorrow.

The loving and courteous Omar bid us goodbye after having attracted all the opposites, especially in his friendships. He worked silently, gave silently, ached silently and left... silently.

— Jawad N. Adra

### When Smiles Are Swans

#### To Omar Salhab

(1947-2012)

When in midflight Thanatos shot you down  
Smiles left the sky and swans refused to fly  
And life’s verdures decayed to noble brown  
And greening rains and balm tears went dry.

Fountain you were and unaware you flowed  
As fountains do to all who come in thirst  
Love mount you were whose white crest always  
glowed

Brightening nights with many a joyful burst.

Your ancestors, enlightenment and art  
Vouchsafed you to our ephemeral times  
A siren song that gladdens mind and heart  
And tolls our bells with myriad mirthful chimes.

Like you, we’ll serve our turns and bravely die  
But who will fill with smiles our swanless sky.

*Hanna Saadah*

# SOLIDERE

## MARKS ITS 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On November 19, 1991, Lebanon's Parliament convened a regular non-historic session resulting in the approval of an unparalleled law, which was first of its kind in the political and legislative history of Lebanon and stipulated the establishment of real estate companies to execute projects in Lebanon's war-torn areas. The law emerged on the heels of a civil war, which started in 1975 and ended officially in 1989.



Beirut - Downtown

### Binding reasons

The reasons behind the government's draft law issued by virtue of decree No. 1273 included the following:

- Whereas legislative decree No. 16/85, which postulates the amendment of certain provisions of legislative decree No. 5, dated January 31, 1977, gives the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) the authority to carry out any project assigned by the Cabinet,
- Whereas Article 21 of the Urban Planning law grants the CDR the right to turn to real estate companies to execute projects by authority of the Cabinet in war-torn areas or those that have suffered a natural disaster or represent a threat to public safety,
- And with the aim of enabling the CDR to execute the projects through the above mentioned companies, the government deems it fit to enter the following amendments to legislative decree No. 16/85 to balance it and help it achieve the goals behind its issuance.
- Highlighting the role of real estate companies in the reconstruction of war-torn areas or those that have suffered a natural disaster or represent a threat to public safety. Whereas reconstruction entails the combination of the capabilities of the Lebanese in particular, and the Arabs at large, in response to their historical responsibility during this significantly delicate phase, and given that real estate companies include, according to the laws in force, both property owners and right holders, proper legal amendments shall be introduced to allow the participation of purely Lebanese individuals and corporate shareholders as well as other Arab nationals representing official and quasi-official Arab institutions in property or cash contributions to the capital. Such companies shall also be exempt from the legal restrictions on foreign property ownership in Lebanon and shall be granted the right to hold their capital in foreign currencies.

## Session proceedings

### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein

“This draft law has consumed much of your time. Therefore, we will discuss it in a general session and whoever has comments to make will be given three minutes to do it, before moving to legislation.”

### Jean Obeid

“This draft law is vital as it aims to revive and reunite the city center, which is the heart of Lebanon. It is closely tied to three important requirements, the first of which is the generalization of the experience that yielded the formation of the company and expanding the law to cover all the Lebanese regions. Beirut is not heading towards reconstruction, but returning to it. The second is the need to ensure the success of the project, especially after you have introduced, through a committee of experts, pivotal and indispensable amendments that took into account the rights of all rightful holders, i.e. the state, the landlords, the tenants, the investors and the shareholders. Finally, attention must be given to the rule of law. Lebanon, in this project particularly, needs to alienate itself from being an entryway to provoking or blackmailing any party, for we back our businessmen, all of them.”

“This draft law is vital as it aims to revive and reunite the city center, which is the heart of Lebanon. (Jean Obeid)”

### Mikhael Daher

“You said repeatedly that you will not allow this draft law to pass unless unanimously or with an overwhelming majority. This is why you might want us to stop at what we believe are general deficiencies or gaps in the draft law, provided that we come back to studying the draft law article by article later. The draft law stipulates the formation of a real-estate company for each of the affected regions in Lebanon. There is one for Beirut, one for a certain Mount Lebanon region and so on...”

Our first comment is about having only one real estate company take charge of the works in Beirut. We would have certainly preferred, Mr. Speaker, to see multiple companies compete in light of explicit terms laying down the tasks, goals and acts and detailing the prices and costs included in the process far from any monopoly.”

### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein

“I would appreciate it if our colleague could show us where he found a provision allowing one company to monopolize Beirut or any other region before jumping to conclusions. No legal texts prevent the government from establishing several companies, as the demarcation of the region is down to the government solely. Thus, these types of companies are aimed to serve the public interest.

### Mikhael Daher

“Mr. Speaker, what we say today is being recorded and thus considered binding. I would like to ask whether several companies will have equal chances to take charge of the works in whichever demarked area in the city center or will they be outsourced to a single one? This is my question.”

### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein

“There comes first the technical limitation of the area, which is not our subject of discussion right now. The plots would be numbered in conformity with this technical outline. Then, primal and supreme appraisal committees are appointed to assess the value of the rights in-kind, then the door will be opened for subscriptions to form the company.”

### Mikhael Daher

“Mr. Speaker, the text does not reflect the explanation you just offered. Thus, I am inclined to stick to my own understanding of the subject and I insist that a certain company is monopolizing a certain region, which is at glaring odds with the constitution.

Second, the company is given the right to landfill as much of the sea as it can lay its hands on, and the CDR is to distribute the reclaimed area in an agreement he sets between the state and the company.

What I am saying is that nobody may relinquish public property, neither the Cabinet nor the CDR. How can we give away our property in favor of a private company when the law stipulates that “public property in the state of Greater Lebanon includes all that, in its nature, is appropriate for public use or for serving public interest,” and that “ownership over such property may not be sold or acquired with time.”

The 1959 legislative decree suggests “the state-owned property shall only be sold by means of a public tender according to the principles set in the Public Accountability Act.”

Based on the above, we may not sell private property to the company unless in accordance with the provisions in force. My point is, areas of public property will be lost in the process, and I refuse to relinquish them as this would violate the legal text governing the public and private property of the state. Besides, the company is exempt from all taxes, including stamp duties and income taxes... Why are we freeing the company from its financial obligations, Mr. Speaker? We denied the Lebanese exemptions from taxes only yesterday. By which constitution do we distinguish the company from regular citizens!? The company is to handle the public roads and areas as well as the infrastructure including electricity, water and sewage networks... All these projects shall be executed at the expense of the government and we ought to pay the company in cash. What do cash payments imply? This means that we are granting the company authorization, in contrast with Article 85 of the Lebanese Constitution especially that the draft law does not specify the amount that shall be paid to the company.”

#### **Chafik Bdeir**

“I was the first to object to the government’s first draft law for reasons related to its violation of certain constitutional clauses. However, I believe that this one outlines a structure for the typical real estate company and this is what we seek and support and vote for.”

#### **Elias Saba**

“If this project hadn’t had a public interest character, it wouldn’t have been possible to exempt the company from taxes or to bind right owners to have shares in the company, nor would it have been possible to convert the property from immovable to movable.

The state should be part of such companies, either through its public property which should be treated as that of individuals, or through cash contributions. On a relevant note, some of the regions that might be arranged by real-estate companies include Waqf properties (religious endowments), Mr. Speaker, and certain religious systems prohibit the replacement of their immovable properties by movable ones. According to the draft law in hand, all shares, including non-bearer ones, may be transferred within minutes to non-Lebanese persons. Therefore, I propose the addition of a new legal text that grants the Lebanese 51% of the total shares.”

#### **Pierre Helo**

“We are here today to discuss the construction of the city center. The eagerness I exhibit for this project is no less than my eagerness to reconstruct the rest of Lebanon. However, I have certain points to raise: I fear that the public might think, as the apparent signs suggest, that the state would handle the tasks, the property owners and tenants would suffer the lawsuits, and the subscribers would reap the profits. However, what I fail to understand is why would



**Saint Georges - Beirut**  
Photo by Mohamad Mashlab

we sacrifice the income tax? No matter how much property owners receive, they will continue to feel aggrieved, and so will the tenants. What matters is to keep the largest proportion possible of the project in the hands of those to dispel their fears of the subscribers dominating 50% or more of the shares. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that the project might end up with the hands of subscribers instead of property owners, not to mention the worries arising from exempting the company from taxes for 10 consecutive years, which leaves me wondering why the duration is so long.”

#### **Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein**

“This is the time span of the project.”

#### **Pierre Helo**

“But profits may be registered during this exemption period. As for the 50% split, studies are supposed to estimate the cost of the project. Why shall we pump into our capital cash contributions that exceed our need, so that subscribers can control over 50% of the shares? The infrastructure cost stands at USD 200 or 300 million. Let them provide this amount, which is only 10% of the project, and we will be most grateful.”

#### **Salim Saadeh**

“This draft law defames Beirut’s reputation in legislation as it grants others seizure over what’s for us and for right owners, at an irrevocable price determined by the real estate company and without of which, as the pretense runs, reconstruction would be halted. However, today, as the zero hour has arrived and as people stand poised for the 21st deal, it is imperative to stop at certain instances. Say, a property owner has in the area subjected to reconstruction, a sound property or a damaged one which does not interfere with the reconstruction master plan, and which he pledges to repair or rebuild within five years pursuant to an issued bank guarantee. What justification do we have to appropriate his property in favor of the company? The pretense of reconstruction wouldn’t work, as the owner has vowed to repair his property by virtue of a binding bank guarantee, and holding the design as excuse wouldn’t avail either as the property does not run against the master plan. What’s the justification we can offer, Mr. Speaker, other than having so blatantly encroached upon people’s rights? I warn every member in this house that adopting this plan will not ensure the reconstruction of the city center in 10, 20 or even 30 years. This is a trivial plan and an impulsive idea with no connection to reality.”

#### **Wajih Baareeni**

“The reconstruction of Beirut City Center, by Lebanese and Arab capital, is a necessity to revive the economy and set development at a faster pace at the heart of the capital.

The Beirut City Center, in its previous form and with all its owners and tenants, embodied our national interaction and provided employment for thousands of workers and middle-class Lebanese.

Those rights, properties and investments shall be kept protected, so as not to put the city center at the mercy of a greedy capital, and displace those who have always been part of it.”

#### **Albert Moukhaiber**

“I can infer that this draft law would lavish endless blessings on this company. I have never conceived the emergence of a draft law that would strip the government and the people of their rights and properties in such a flagrant manner, and I very much fail to envisage the weight of a company, which, according to these laws, would stand on par with the government and the state together. I am fearful that the property ownership will go to foreign countries, and who knows, the shares might all end up in Tel Aviv. This company is overwhelmed with blessings. It will gain free ownership over the non-built public property, which makes no part of the new public properties, yet will be subjected to the provisions of this legislative decree. This is something that is beyond reason.

In addition, “the decisions of the supreme appraisal committee(s) shall be final and irrevocable, subjected to neither regular nor exceptional forms of appeal.”

It might be common to see dictatorship in certain political aspects, but to exercise economic tyranny, this is something we will not accept and we will continue to fight until its elimination. I am pleased to utter my final words as to this draft law. In your absence, Mr. Speaker, I said that the shares will be sold and land eventually in Tel Aviv, similar to what happened in Palestine.”

#### **Akram Chehayeb**

“This concept might be the only formula that would lift us from this steep abyss. There won’t be any economic growth or return to normal life, without reconstructing the city center. Any attempt to thwart this mission is equivalent to obstruct the restoration of the country. This project, Mr. Speaker, brings back confidence to Muslim and Christian capital.”

**Edmond Rizk**

“It seems, Mr. Speaker, that all of us, including me in particular, support this draft law. As for the details, I deem it wise to discuss each article separately, and therefore demand, with the utmost urgency and sincerity, not to ratify the draft law in a single article. After all, Parliament cannot but lay it for vote article by article after having heard all the remarks raised.”

**Rafiq Shahine**

“We have objected to this draft law in the beginning as it included unconstitutional articles at odds with the existing laws. However, the elaborate discussions we have held tackled every detail, paying meticulous attention to all the particulars and correcting all the defects. Hereby, the draft law must be ratified in a single article, as all the colleagues have participated in the discussions of the Parliamentary Committees and the house and it is pointless to delay the endorsement of a draft law of vital importance to Lebanon.”

**Omar Msayke**

“A total of over 15 parliamentary sessions has been dedicated to this issue. I strictly reject the opinion suggesting that this draft law encourages monopoly as I believe that it primarily aims to bring property owners, investors and tenants together with other cash subscribers in order to establish a company that will benefit all parties.

The Arab Reinsurance Company was exempted for six consecutive years from legal and fiscal obligations and upon expiry of the exemption, another law emerged to renew it. In addition, Article 24 of the 1978 budget law stipulated tax exemption for several loans. Thus, the company is not the first to be accorded such a privilege, as there were several similar instances in the past.”

**Elie Ferzli**

“There shall be no unity in Lebanon, nor survival of the nation, if Beirut wasn't reconstructed. However, we must, Mr. Speaker, take into account the need of Parliament's oversight of the extent to which the government allows foreign acquisition of property, while exploring the draft law article by article.”

**Nayla Mouawad**

Should there be an increase in the capital, I believe that three quarters of the right holders must be present to approve it, in order to preserve the human aspect of the city center.

**Mouneer El-Hajj**

“I am against voting on this draft law in a single article for several reasons.”

**Elias Saba**

“I find myself compelled to object to the proposition suggesting the vote on the draft law with a single article.”

**Auguste Bakhos**

“I don't see any reason to overdo it today. Can't we just adjourn it to the next session and take two or three hours to explore it fully, rather than engaging ourselves into the burden of ratifying it in a single article?”

**Mahmoud Ammar**

“Let us call a spade a spade, Mr. Speaker. There are obviously dissenting stances on this draft law. Let us face it. We adopt a parliamentary system with the decision in the hands of the majority. We presented this proposition, Mr. Speaker, and this is not the first time Parliament votes on a single-article draft law. We have voted as such on the major acquisition law.”

**Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein**

“It is advantageous to nobody to interfere with the prime goal of this draft law: initiating the reconstruction of Lebanon. There is a unanimous agreement that things have been pending for quite some time now, and all the economists and experts, nationwide and beyond, are laying emphasis on the urgency to approve this draft law.

Parliament cannot but exert maximum effort and take all the time necessary before reaching the zero hour, and when we do, Parliament must comply with its by-law and with the responsibility imposed upon it. Before us lays a proposition suggesting the approval of the draft law in question by a single article. Some have voiced objection to this proposition and my job forces me to submit their counter-proposition to vote.

**“Hereby, the draft law must be ratified in a single article, as all the colleagues have participated in the discussions of the Parliamentary Committees and the house and it is pointless to delay the endorsement of a draft law of vital importance to Lebanon. (Rafiq Shahine)”**

Who opposes the vote on the draft law with a single article?"

#### -A minority-

"Who approves the vote on the draft law with a single article?"

#### -A majority-

#### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein:

"Parliament approves the proposition. Let the single article be read.

"The draft law issued by Decree No. 1273, which aims to amend certain provisions of the Legislative Decree No. 5, dated January, 31, 1977 and its amendments made by the joint parliamentary committees, has been endorsed."

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette."

#### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein

"Who agrees to the single article as read?"

#### -Majority-

#### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein

"Article approved. MPs are called by their full names to vote on the law."

#### -Majority votes for-

#### Former Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein:

"Law approved by majority vote."

The opposing MPs were: Pierre Helou, Salim Saadeh, Mikhael Daher, Albert Moukhaiber, Elias Saba, Suleiman Frangieh.

Reading minutes.

The minutes of the session were approved as recorded in the following summary:

### 17th legislative round

#### 2nd regular session

#### 3rd hearing summary:

Parliament has convened its 3rd hearing of its 2nd regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 1991 at 11:00 am, headed by Speaker Mr. Hussein Al Hussein.

Absentees were: Farid Joubran, Saeb Salam, Antranik Manoukian, Najah Wakim, Kamel Asaad, Raef Samara, Farid Serhal, Adel Ousseiran, Raymond Eddeh, Ahmad Asbar, Edward Hounain, Pierre

Dakash, Salem Abdul Nour, Fouad Nafaa, Abdullah Rassi, Hachem Hussein, Abdul Majid Rafei, Maurice Fadel, Ali Hamad Jaafar, Tarek Habshi, Sobhi Yaghi.

Members who apologized from attending were: Rashed Khoury and Anwar Khalil

Attendees were: PM Omar Karami and the following ministers: Michel Sassine, Mohsen Dalloul, Marwan Hamadeh, Chawqi Fakhoury, Abdullah Al-Amin, Hagop Jokhadrian, Suleiman Frangieh, Ali Khalil, Mohammad Youssef Baydoun, Jamil Kebbeh, Sami Khateeb, Mohammad Jaroudi, Mohammad Baydoun, George Saadeh, Fares Boueiz and Michel Murr.

#### Notes worth attention

- The 10-year tax exemption subject dominated the discussions and ended up being approved.
- Despite the significance of the draft law in question, only 17 MPs intervened
- The draft law strips individuals of their property in favor of a private company, not public interest, an item which was also on the table but to no avail.
- MPs objected to the final and irrevocable decisions of the appraisal committees, but their objections fell on deaf ears.
- MPs called for the ratification of the draft law article by article, but their demand wasn't met as the majority voted for its approval in a single article only for unknown reasons.

#### Birth of the company

Law No. 117 was issued on December 7, 1991 thus setting the legal frame for the establishment of real estate companies responsible for the reconstruction of one region or more among those that sustained damage due to security incidents, according to a duly endorsed master plan.

As many MPs have assumed, the reconstruction was restricted to only one company, whether in Beirut's city center or other war-torn areas.

Subsequently, the "Lebanese Company for the Development and Reconstruction of Beirut Central District" (SOLIDERE) was formed under Decree No. 2537 on July 22, 1992, as a joint company between land and right owners in Beirut on the one hand and cash subscribers on the other. SOLIDERE's lifespan was set at 25 years starting from the final date of establishment i.e. until 2017, but subjected to extension even before its expiration date.

Thus, Decree No. 15909 was issued on December 9, 2005 stretching the company's lifetime from 25 to 35 years, i.e. from May 10, 1994 to May 10, 2029.

SOLIDERE was also given the right to undertake projects overseas by virtue of effective Decree No. 207, dated March 26, 2007.

The master plan has been amended tens of times in conformity with the company's will, giving SOLIDERE increased ability for investment from 4.3 to 5 an evidence that the state has been at the service of the company all the way down, especially that the legal path, whether in Parliament or the Cabinet, and despite the shifting policies over the successive terms, has always supported SOLIDERE, under the pretense of encouraging investment.

## SOLIDERE

The SOLIDERE project covers a total area of 1.9 million m<sup>2</sup>, of which 1.2 million m<sup>2</sup> is the traditional downtown area and 700 000 m<sup>2</sup> is the newly reclaimed area.

SOLIDERE's capital stands at USD 1650 million divided into two classes of shares:

- Class A shares: 100 million (right owners)
- Class B shares: 65 million (subscribers)

However, many shareholders in Class A sold their shares to Class B subscribers or to family and friends. Since its establishment in 1994 until the end of 2011, SOLIDERE's profits have reached USD 1545 million (Table 1). The one loss it registered throughout

its history was in 2000 and stood at around USD 32 million. SOLIDERE's profits hit a record high estimated at USD 231.7 million in 2010.

| Evolution of SOLIDERE's profits (1994-2011) |                       | Table 1 |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| Year  | Profits (USD million) |         |
| 1994  | 18.1                  |         |
| 1995  | 32.3                  |         |
| 1996  | 58.9                  |         |
| 1997  | 77.8                  |         |
| 1998  | 54.2                  |         |
| 1999  | 3.7                   |         |
| 2000  | 31.8 (loss)           |         |
| 2001  | 1.9                   |         |
| 2002  | 41.1                  |         |
| 2003  | 16.4                  |         |
| 2004  | 54.1                  |         |
| 2005  | 108.5                 |         |
| 2006  | 132.2                 |         |
| 2007  | 130                   |         |
| 2008  | 214.3                 |         |
| 2009  | 214.9                 |         |
| 2010  | 231.7                 |         |
| 2011  | 187.2                 |         |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>1,545,5</b>        |         |

Source: Financial statements issued by SOLIDERE in the respective years



Saint Georges - Beirut  
Photo by Mohamad Mashlab

# A SYNDICATE TO EACH EMPLOYEE

“A syndicate to each employee” is more than a mere slogan forged for fun. Rather, it is a reality we are pretty likely to reach in the few coming decades, should the status quo linger on. Job opportunities dwindle by the year, giving way to rampant unemployment and decline in the number of employees. Yet, the number of syndicates keeps on growing drastically year in year out, especially that their establishment is based on political and electoral criteria, not professional, social or economic ones. Members of certain syndicates can be counted on the fingers of one hand, and all syndicates combined include less than 10% of Lebanon’s labor force, as most employees have little faith in the work of labor unions and deem them geared to serve political and personal interests and only attend to the rights of employees according to occasional demands or situations.

## Establishment of syndicates

Article 83 of the Lebanese Labor Law legalized each profession to establish its own syndicate that consists of the respective employers and employees. According to Article 85, a syndicate may not comprise members of various professions, as they should all be practicing the same occupation, or similar and relevant ones. Establishment of syndicates entails a license approved by the Minister of Labor. Before licensing, the Ministry of Labor must seek the opinion of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities then decide whether to approve or disapprove the application.

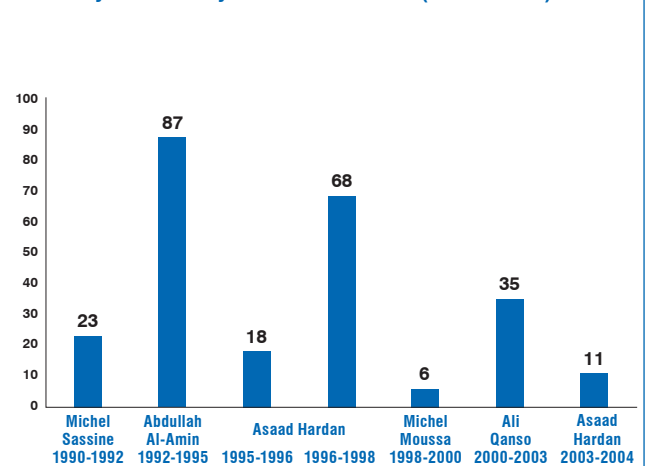
## Number of syndicates

326 syndicates and labor unions have emerged since 1992 until the end of 2012. The syndicates were formed during the following ministerial terms, noting that not one syndicate came about during Minister Mohammad Fneish’s term of office, while syndicates multiplied during that of Minister Asaad Hardan (97 syndicates in 3 terms) followed by Minister Abdullah Al-Amin (87).

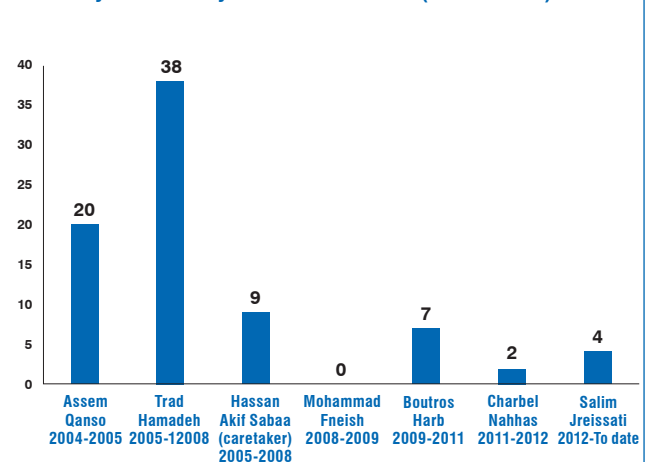
### Number of syndicates by labor ministers’ terms of office

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Michel Sassine (23)</b><br>24/12/1990 → 16/5/1992                             | <b>Assem Qanso (20)</b><br>26/10/2004 → 19/4/2005                          |
| <b>Abdullah Al-Amin (87)</b><br>15/6/1992 → 31/10/1992<br>31/10/1992 → 25/5/1995 | <b>Trad Hamadeh (38)</b><br>19/4/2005 → 19/7/2005<br>19/7/2005 → 11/7/2008 |
| <b>Asaad Hardan (18)</b><br>25/5/1995 → 14/11/1996                               | <b>Hassan Akif Sabaa (caretaker) (9)</b><br>19/7/2005 → 11/7/2008          |
| <b>Asaad Hardan (68)</b><br>14/11/1996 → 4/12/1998                               | <b>Mohammad Fneish</b><br>11/7/2008 → 9/11/2009                            |
| <b>Michel Moussa (6)</b><br>4/12/1998 → 26/10/2000                               | <b>Boutros Harb (7)</b><br>9/11/2009 → 13/6/2011                           |
| <b>Ali Qanso (35)</b><br>26/10/2000 → 17/4/2003                                  | <b>Charbel Nahhas (2)</b><br>13/6/2011 → 24/2/2012                         |
| <b>Asaad Hardan (11)</b><br>17/4/2003 → 26/10/2004                               | <b>Salim Jreissati (4)</b><br>24/2/2012 → To date                          |

No. of syndicates by ministerial term. (1990-2003)



No. of syndicates by ministerial term. (2004-2012)



# SALARIES OF TEACHERS:

## AN INCREASE OF 104% AND 10 EXCEPTIONAL STEPS

Teachers are the most active group in claiming higher pay as a fair reward for their noble mission of raising and educating future generations. Not only do they campaign for their rights, but they also engage in stressing the demands of other employees in different sectors. Most of the time, teachers succeed at making their voices heard and their demands met and soon after achieving these results; the teachers renew their call for more rights.

### Numbers of teachers and administrative staff

The public pre-university education sector consists of 88 168 teachers and administrative staff, and is thus considered the second-largest sector, after the military. The staff numbers in the pre-university education sector are distributed as follows:

- Public schools: 37 971 people
- Free private schools: 6750 people
- Private schools: 43 447 people

### The beginning: separation of teachers from the rest of public employees

In an attempt to achieve administrative reform and equity among all state employees, the Lebanese Cabinet referred to Parliament in 1996 a draft law stipulating the amendment of the salaries' scale of judges, public administrative staff, public teachers and Lebanese University professors and the adoption of new criteria to determine pensions and dismissal compensations. The draft law failed to gain approval in Parliament and discussions were postponed until the election of new Parliament as Lebanon was then only a couple of weeks away from Parliamentary elections. However, public teachers held strikes and boycotted the correction of official exams in a move aimed to pressure the government to study their file separately from the rest of the civil servants and the military.

Therefore, law No. 588 was issued on August 26, 1996 and amended the salaries' scale of the teachers, excluding all other state employees.

According to this law, the public teachers' pay increased, starting January 1, 1996 as follows:

- Salaries of Grade 2 teachers at the first (lowest) step level increased from LBP 480 000 to LBP 1 060 000
- Salaries of Grade 2 teachers at the last (highest) step level increased from LBP 921 600 to LBP 2 470 000
- Salaries of Grade 3 teachers at the first step level increased from LBP 390 000 to LBP 860 000
- Salaries of Grade 3 teachers at the last step level increased from LBP 813 600 to LBP 2 070 000
- Salaries of Grade 4 teachers (1st rank) at the first step level increased from LBP 312 000 to LBP 577 500
- Salaries of Grade 4 teachers (1st rank) at the last step level increased from LBP 705 600 to LBP 1 430 000
- Salaries of Grade 4 teachers (2nd rank) at the first step level increased from LBP 250 000 to LBP 440 000
- Salaries of Grade 4 teachers (2nd rank) at the last step level increased from LBP 597 600 to LBP 1 160 000

The new salaries' scale was supposed to include the monthly allowances assigned to the secondary, intermediate and technical and vocational teachers. However, there was no express legal text that clearly stipulated the integration of the respective allowances within the new salary. Therefore, law No. 593 dated December 28, 1996 cancelled its predecessor and indicated explicitly that the allowances were inclusive in the new salary package. It also determined the new salary compared to the old one and made no changes in the four salary charts, which were organized by grade (Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4/1st Rank, Grade 4/2nd Rank).

Law experts slammed the cancelled law as being a flagrant legislative scandal.

### Technical amendments

After the separation of the salaries' scale of the teachers from that of other public employees, law No. 661 was issued on July 24, 1997 to merge the four salary charts present in law No. 558 into one chart including 41 steps, with the Step 1 salary standing at LBP 440 000 and Step 41 salary at LBP 2 470 000.

The first step in the unified salary chart is the lowest in Grade 4, while the fifteenth is the lowest in Grade 3 and the twentieth the lowest in Grade 2.

### According to the unified scale, teachers in the public education sector are appointed as follows:

- Holders of a teaching baccalaureate from primary teacher training institutions are appointed at the Step 4 level and are awarded permanent employment contract when they reach Step 6
- Holders of a teaching baccalaureate from intermediate teacher training institutions are appointed at the Step 7 level
- Holders of the Certificate of Proficiency from the Faculty of Education in the Lebanese University are appointed to Step 15 level and are awarded full-time employment when they reach Step 16

### According to the unified scale, teachers in the private education sector are appointed as follows:

- Holders of the Lebanese Baccalaureate or its equivalent are appointed at the Step 1 level
- Holders of the Lebanese Technical Baccalaureate - Nursery Education- are appointed at the Step 6 level
- Holders of university degrees are appointed at the Step 6 level
- Holders of the Superior Technician (TS) Baccalaureate- Nursery Education- are appointed at the Step 11 level
- Holders of a Teaching Diploma are appointed at the Step 15 level and are awarded permanent employment contract; their weekly teaching schedule is set depending on the cycle they teach.

- Holders of the Certificate of Proficiency in Secondary Teaching are appointed at the Step 16 level; their weekly teaching schedule is set depending on the classes they teach.

The law entered in force starting October 1, 1997

### Pay hike excludes teachers

The law No. 717 dated November 5, 1998 raised the minimum wage to LBP 300 000 starting January 1, 1999 and amended the salaries' scale of state employees, excluding teachers who already profited from the special independent increase they were given in 1996.

### Pay hike includes teachers

Since 1999, the salaries of public personnel have remained stable until the issuance of law No. 63 on December 31, 2008, which raised the minimum wage to LBP 500 000 and granted a pay increase of LBP 200 000 to LBP 376 000 to all state employees including teachers. The teachers' pay increase ranged between LBP 200 000 to LBP 313 000 as illustrated in Table 1.



### Exceptional steps

Teachers renewed their demand for higher pay and the government granted them four exceptional steps, two on January 1, 2010 and two on January 1, 2011, noting that the teacher should in principle receive one step every two years, with his/her salary increasing according to the step value. Teachers have also profited from a seniority year in their gradual progression, which translates into half a step and brings the total up to 4.5 steps ranging between LBP 130 500 and 278 000 every month.

### New salaries

The government has issued a draft law stipulating the increase of the salaries of public employees, including teachers (Table 1). The increased rate stood between 104% (first step) and 60.5% (last step) from 1999 to 2012.

The draft law offers teachers six exceptional steps distributed as follows:

- Two steps starting July 1, 2012
- Two steps starting January 1, 2013
- Two steps starting January 1, 2014

The increase differs depending on the step value and stands somewhere between LBP 240 000 and LBP 900 000.

Teachers have benefited throughout the years from pay increases or exceptional steps, which amounted to ten in four years. Adding the two regular steps that teachers are entitled to during this period (four years) would bring the total number of steps to twelve and the salaries of teachers will have been hiked by LBP 450 000 to LBP 1 360 000.

| Evolution of teachers' salaries between 1999 and 2008 |                                    |                                |            |                | Table 1 |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------|
| Step  | Salary in force on January 1, 1999 | Salary in force on May 1, 2008 | New salary | New step value |         |
| 1   | 440,000                            | 640,000                        | 900,000    | 40,000         |         |
| 2   | 467,500                            | 669,000                        | 940,000    | 40,000         |         |
| 3   | 495,000                            | 698,000                        | 980,000    | 40,000         |         |
| 4   | 522,500                            | 727,000                        | 1,020,000  | 40,000         |         |
| 5   | 550,000                            | 756,000                        | 1,060,000  | 40,000         |         |
| 6   | 577,500                            | 785,000                        | 1,100,000  | 40,000         |         |
| 7   | 605,000                            | 814,000                        | 1,140,000  | 40,000         |         |
| 8   | 632,500                            | 843,000                        | 1,180,000  | 40,000         |         |
| 9   | 665,000                            | 878,000                        | 1,220,000  | 50,000         |         |
| 10  | 697,500                            | 913,000                        | 1,270,000  | 50,000         |         |
| 11  | 730,000                            | 948,000                        | 1,320,000  | 50,000         |         |
| 12  | 762,500                            | 983,000                        | 1,370,000  | 50,000         |         |
| 13  | 795,000                            | 1,018,000                      | 1,420,000  | 50,000         |         |
| 14  | 827,500                            | 1,053,000                      | 1,470,000  | 50,000         |         |
| 15  | 860,000                            | 1,088,000                      | 1,520,000  | 60,000         |         |
| 16  | 900,000                            | 1,130,000                      | 1,580,000  | 60,000         |         |
| 17  | 940,000                            | 1,172,000                      | 1,640,000  | 60,000         |         |
| 18  | 980,000                            | 1,214,000                      | 1,700,000  | 60,000         |         |
| 19  | 1,020,000                          | 1,256,000                      | 1,760,000  | 75,000         |         |

Evolution of teachers' salaries between 1999 and 2008

Table 1

| Step | Salary in force on January 1, 1999 | Salary in force on May 1, 2008 | New salary | New step value |
|------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 20   | 1,060,000                          | 1,298,000                      | 1,835,000  | 75,000         |
| 21   | 1,110,000                          | 1,351,000                      | 1,910,000  | 75,000         |
| 22   | 1,160,000                          | 1,404,000                      | 1,985,000  | 75,000         |
| 23   | 1,210,000                          | 1,457,000                      | 2,060,000  | 75,000         |
| 24   | 1,260,000                          | 1,510,000                      | 2,135,000  | 75,000         |
| 25   | 1,310,000                          | 1,563,000                      | 2,210,000  | 75,000         |
| 26   | 1,370,000                          | 1,626,000                      | 2,285,000  | 75,000         |
| 27   | 1,430,000                          | 1,689,000                      | 2,360,000  | 75,000         |
| 28   | 1,490,000                          | 1,752,000                      | 2,435,000  | 90,000         |
| 29   | 1,550,000                          | 1,815,000                      | 2,525,000  | 90,000         |
| 30   | 1,620,000                          | 1,889,000                      | 2,615,000  | 90,000         |
| 31   | 1,690,000                          | 1,963,000                      | 2,705,000  | 110,000        |
| 32   | 1,760,000                          | 2,037,000                      | 2,815,000  | 110,000        |
| 33   | 1,830,000                          | 2,111,000                      | 2,925,000  | 110,000        |
| 34   | 1,910,000                          | 2,195,000                      | 3,035,000  | 110,000        |
| 35   | 1,990,000                          | 2,279,000                      | 3,145,000  | 110,000        |
| 36   | 2,070,000                          | 2,363,000                      | 3,255,000  | 110,000        |
| 37   | 2,150,000                          | 2,447,000                      | 3,365,000  | 110,000        |
| 38   | 2,230,000                          | 2,531,000                      | 3,475,000  | 130,000        |
| 39   | 2,310,000                          | 2,615,000                      | 3,605,000  | 130,000        |
| 40   | 2,390,000                          | 2,699,000                      | 3,735,000  | 130,000        |
| 41   | 2,470,000                          | 2,783,000                      | 3,865,000  | 130,000        |
| 42   |                                    | 2,867,000                      | 3,995,000  | 130,000        |
| 43   |                                    | 2,951,000                      | 4,125,000  | 130,000        |
| 44   |                                    | 3,035,000                      | 4,255,000  | 130,000        |
| 45   |                                    | 3,119,000                      | 4,385,000  | 130,000        |
| 46   |                                    | 3,203,000                      | 4,515,000  | 130,000        |
| 47   |                                    | 3,287,000                      | 4,645,000  | 150,000        |
| 48   |                                    | 3,371,000                      | 4,795,000  | 150,000        |
| 49   |                                    | 3,455,000                      | 4,945,000  | 150,000        |
| 50   |                                    | 3,539,000                      | 5,095,000  | 150,000        |
| 51   |                                    | 3,623,000                      | 5,245,000  | 150,000        |
| 52   | 3,360,000                          | 3,707,000                      | 5,395,000  | 150,000        |

## LBP 2 BILLION FOR SPEED RADARS WITHOUT BIDDING

The Internal Security Forces officers have accorded great attention to the means of detecting speeding drivers and collection of fines resulting from speed infringements, and consequently have judged it necessary to replace the static radars by mobile in-car ones.

### Status quo

The ISF traffic squads have 15 in-car radars, 5 fixed radars deployed along the streets and another 15 placed in the ISF depot and waiting for installation. The activation of the stored radars cost as much as USD 700 000, not to mention that such devices are often subject to frequent acts of vandalism, which entails a protection process and thus yet another additional cost. Naturally, the limited number of radars (20), whether static or mobile, fails to monitor all Lebanon's roads and highways efficiently.

### Solution

Studies show that Lebanon needs 60 radars to have a productive speed detection system, which necessitates the purchasing of 40 additional radars. The committee in charge deemed it wise to buy the new radars from the same company, which provided the first batch, arguing that it is the most reputed worldwide with a control over around 70% of the Middle Eastern and African markets, not to mention that it develops and manufactures its own equipment and software. The company also has programs for processing, protection and archiving and in addition issues automated systematic reports.

In other words, there will be no launching of a tender. Rather, a no-bid contract will be awarded to only one party, which translates into bigger costs. The plan entails the replacement of the 15 fixed radars and the 15 stored ones with in-car radars. Some argue that the prices of the fixed radars are higher than those installed in cars, but the former remain the most demanded worldwide as their overall operation costs remain lower. In Lebanon, however, there hasn't been any consideration to the cost of the workforce handling the radars or the car operation and maintenance expenses. Rather, the studies made were fixated on highlighting the exorbitant cost of installing and operating static radars. The price of the 25 in-car radars amounted

to LBP 2 billion, i.e. LBP 80 million per radar. A committee agreed to the purchasing and installation of fixed radars, as they were considered the best and less expensive. The glaring paradox, however, is that a second committee, which included members of its predecessor, protested about the high cost of the fixed radars and demanded their replacement by new in-car radars. This conflict requires the formation of a third committee to assess the propriety of each of the two suggestions, and have its final say on the matter. ●

**“Naturally, the limited number of radars (20), whether static or mobile, fails to monitor all Lebanon's roads and highways efficiently”**



<http://www.yasa.org>

# TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN LEBANON

## 523 VICTIMS ANNUALLY

The number of traffic accidents reported in the media increases in Lebanon with each passing day. This fast-paced epidemic is spreading on our streets and highways, claiming the lives of innocent people both at night and in broad daylight. Despite the many traffic awareness conferences, campaigns and warnings aimed to curb accidents, we continue to witness car crashes, deaths and injuries at alarming and unprecedented rates. Speeding is known to be the top cause of car accidents, but there are other factors to blame, such as driving under the influence of alcohol, the poor condition of roads, the absence of street lights at night and the non-compliance of both pedestrians and drivers at traffic lights. Reckless crossing of highways or overriding red lights can also result in dreadful fatalities.

### Traffic accidents

4644 traffic accidents were registered in 2009 and resulted in 513 deaths and 6508 injuries. In 2010, the number decreased to 4583, but human casualties rose to 549 deaths and 6517 injuries. The accidents dropped further to 4447 in 2011 with 508 dead and 6040 injured. This year, 2323 accidents have been recorded so far (end of October), resulting in the death of 351 people and the injury of 3133.

### Samples of accidents

The traffic accidents recorded in Lebanon between 2011-2012 resulted in atrocious physical and human damage. In what follows are some of those accidents:

- January 23, 2011: Father Nahed Tadros, his wife Nidal, and their son Nader were killed when their car drifted on Tabarja – Casino du Liban highway and fell into the valley. Their youngest son survived but suffered from injuries.
- April 29, 2011: A horrific car accident in Qalamoun, North Lebanon, killed three young men and left a fourth with a brain concussion. The accident took place when the vehicle in which the men were traveling smashed into the rear of a truck.
- April 6, 2012: An accident near the Kuwaiti embassy resulted in the death of a woman and her son and injuring 9 others.
- April 10, 2012: Two were killed in a road accident in Chtoura, while a truck was overtaking two cars at a high speed.
- June 10, 2012: Three people were killed in a car accident on the Babiliya-Ansar road at 3 am. The three fatalities were identified as the driver's wife, Fatima Musa Assi, her mother and her son.
- September 8, 2012: A speeding Infiniti car drifted into the western route on the road from Carantina towards Dawra and smashed into two cars, claiming the lives of two brothers Robert and George Maalouf and injuring two others.
- November 17, 2012: Three youths were killed in an accident on the road to the airport. One of the cars involved in the accident drifted into the second lane, breaking into tiny pieces due to its high speed.
- November 19, 2012: A Syrian man and his four daughters were run over by a vehicle as they tried to cross the Naameh highway linking Beirut to Sidon.
- November 29, 2012: Lebanese citizen Halim Gharib and a Syrian national were killed when the former's Peugeot crashed into the latter's mini-truck carrying potatoes on Kab Elias main road.
- November 30, 2012: Two Lebanese soldiers aged 28 and 29 were killed in a horrific car accident in Shtoura roundabout at 4 am. The soldiers' Honda car rammed into a tree as they were heading for Beirut, killing them instantly.
- December 5, 2012: Teacher Habib Khoury was killed in a car accident when his car collided with a "Van" in the town of Sheikh Mohammad. ☹

# HIGHER DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE: IRREVOCABLE DECISIONS AND LIMITED ACHIEVEMENTS

Fifty years ago, numerous supervisory bodies were established in Lebanon, assigned to oversee the performance of employees. Their duties include the punishment of those employees who have committed financial or administrative offences and acquitting those who are proven innocent. Among these bodies is the General Disciplinary Council, later named the Higher Disciplinary Committee.

## Establishment

Article 13 of Law No. 54 dated October 2, 1965 stipulated the following: "The Presidency of the Council of Ministers shall have a General Disciplinary Council. This body shall ramify to look into all the transgressions over which the employee is referred to the Council." The presidential term of President Amin Gemayel in 1983 was marked by the issuance of legislative decree No. 152, which established the Higher Disciplinary Committee to replace the General Disciplinary Council. However, the decree was cancelled by virtue of legislative decree No. 11 dated March 23, 1985, maintaining the existence of the Council yet changing its name to "Higher Disciplinary Committee."

## Capacity

The Committee has authority over all personnel of public administrations, institutions, independent agencies and municipalities and is entitled to impose different kinds of sanctions on all workers including permanent, temporary or contract employees.

Excluded from the authority of the Committee are the army, the security forces, the judges, the professors of the Lebanese University and the members of the Central Inspection Board and the Civil Service Board who, according to the rule of law, fall under the control of their existing disciplinary councils.

## Trial before the Committee

The accused employees are referred (by the Central Inspection or any other supervisory body or the body that appointed them) to the Higher Disciplinary Committee according to the rules and regulations to which relevant personnel are subjected. The commissioner of the government undertakes the study of the file in question before drafting his findings and sending his report to the Committee within a month of the date receiving the file.

The Committee convenes secretly within a week of the date (or whenever necessary) it is handed the findings, and maintains the right to impose disciplinary sanctions on the employee or acquit him from all charges. The decisions rendered by the Committee are final and irrevocable, which grants the Committee further power and importance.

## Personnel

The Committee consists of a President and two full-time employees appointed by a ministerial decree. In addition two reserve employees are assigned to fulfill the membership in the

Committee should any of its full-time members fall sick or distance or absent himself. It was agreed that the President should be Greek Orthodox and the two members Shia'a and Sunni respectively.

The personnel consists of 27 posts:

- President (judicial or administrative judge or Grade 1 employee): 1
- Member (Grade 1 employee): 2
- Secretary (Grade 2 employee): 1
- Head of Department (Grade 3 employee): 2
- IT Chief (Grade 3 employee): 1
- IT Analyst (Grade 3 employee): 1
- Clerk (Grade 4 employee): 10
- Accountant (Grade 4 employee): 1
- Court usher (Grade 4 employee): 2
- Janitor (Grade 5 employee): 2
- Driver (Grade 5 employee): 1
- Worker: 3

A Maronite inspector from the Central Inspection runs the Government Commissariat in the Higher Disciplinary Committee, which consists of 7 staff.

## Budget

The Committee is allocated an annual expenditure under the budget of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. According to the 2012 draft budget, the funds assigned to the Committee stood at LBP 263.1 million. This meager amount was distributed as follows:

- Salaries and provisions: LBP 196.3 million
- Office rentals: LBP 21 million
- Stationary, office supplies and electricity and phone bills: LBP 26.4 million
- Transportation: LBP 8 million
- Advertisement and PR: LBP 2.9 million

However wide its prerogatives, the number of cases and employees referred to the Higher Disciplinary Committee is declining continuously. Unfortunately, this is not indicative of a sound Lebanese administration. Rather, it entails further promotion of the supervisory bodies to facilitate the detection of the offending employees and their referral to the Committee so it can live up to its assigned role and stop being another false witness to the rampant administrative corruption. ●

## SILENT INFECTIONS

Dr. Hanna Saadah



**Most infections are silent, and many are even useful. Our gastrointestinal tract, from mouth to anus, is infected (colonized) with friendly bacteria that serve many purposes such as digestion and protection. Bad bacteria have to compete with our normal flora before they can cause disease. Similarly, the skin, nose, urethra, and vagina harbor friendly bacteria, which also serve and protect us.**

However, when these friendly bacteria gain access inside our bodies, they can result in very bad infections. Aspirating the mouth bacteria into the lungs causes pneumonia; traumatically pushing the skin's bacteria into the deeper tissues can result in wound infections, and forcing the urethral flora into the bladder during sexual intercourse or other activities, causes urine infections. Chewing and defecating triggers bacteria to enter our blood but, thanks to our immune defenses, they are rapidly cleared before they cause trouble. Occasionally, however, the bacteria can overcome our immune system and infect heart valves or result in abscesses in the liver, brain, joints, and many other places.

Unlike our friendly bacterial flora, which helps and protects us, we often acquire certain silent infections, caused by viruses, which can suddenly turn against us. Below are some common examples of such silent but harmful infections.

a) The chicken pox virus infects us as children and then stays dormant inside our nerves. Many years later, it can become active and attack us in the form of shingles, which is a localized infection caused by our childhood chicken pox virus. Herpes and mononucleosis viruses, which we usually acquire in childhood, also behave like the chicken pox virus and can attack us at later times causing fever blisters and certain cancers such as lymphomas and sarcomas. The AIDS virus can be dormant inside us for a long time before its symptoms appear, similarly to the rabies virus and the mad cow virus, which causes dementia.

b) Hepatitis B and C viruses are mostly silent and live inside us for many years before showing any symptoms. Estimates that 3-5% of people born between 1945 and 1965 have been infected with these viruses because of exposure to blood products are not exaggerations. If not cleared by our immune system, the hepatitis viruses become chronic and can result in liver cirrhosis or liver cancer, but only after years of being dormant. Because they are treatable, it is important to screen those people born between 1945 and 1965 and any one who has unexplained fatigue or abnormal liver blood tests.

c) Tuberculosis infections are very common and once the tuberculosis bacteria enter the body, they do not leave unless treated. Untreated, they stay dormant inside our

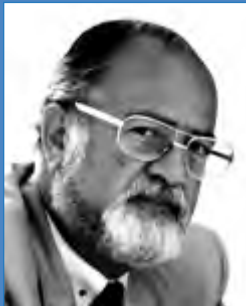
immune cells and only become reactivated 1-3% of the time. A skin test will tell us if we have active tuberculosis bacteria inside our bodies. Treating the disease in its inactive form is much easier than treating it after it disseminates, causing lung, neck, bone, brain, and other infections.

d) Syphilis can be dormant for many years before it manifests itself in dementia. Bacteria can live for a long time after bone surgery before causing bone infections. Prostates, once infected, can never be cured but may not cause symptomatic urine infections except once every few years. *C. diff.* bacteria can live for years in our colons before ending in colitis and similarly, *H. pylori* bacteria can live in our stomachs for decades before ulcers or stomach cancers appear.

e) In older, menopausal women the urinary bladders often harbor silent infections. Such infections are discovered accidentally by urine tests, which are usually done during routine checkups. Until recently, debate centered on whether or not it was beneficial to treat such silent infections. However, seeing that when these infections were treated, they invariably recurred, and thus most doctors only treat them when symptoms such as burning, frequency, and urgency appear.

f) A group of researchers from Florence, Italy (Tommaso Cai et al, *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2012; 55 (6): 771-7) studied silent urine infections in young, sexually active women and discovered surprising results. They found the following: 1. Just like older women, 3-5% of young women also carry silent infections in their urinary bladders. 2. Leaving these silent infections untreated was associated with protection from symptomatic infections. 3. Treating these silent infections was followed by more episodes of symptomatic infections.

They concluded that silent infections should not be treated in women because treatment would trigger these silent infections to become symptomatic with recurrent burning, frequency, and urgency. The two exceptions to this rule are pregnant women and women who need urinary tract surgery. Treating silent urine infections is now considered harmful because these infections behave like our friendly bacterial flora and protect women from the aggressive bacteria that invade the urinary bladder and cause symptomatic infections. ●



Antoine Boutros

## IS DEATH AN ILLUSION? (2)

**In our past issue, we came upon a strange correlation: subatomic particles can provide a glimpse into the death phenomenon. Experiments on photons have prompted an outstanding breakthrough in science, causing a diversion from the conventional physics principles and setting the stage for new scientific assumptions that were deemed somewhat irrational compared to the prevailing beliefs. The dual behavior of light, which is emitted as waves at certain times and as particles at others, is a general, not situational behavior that serves as a preface to a newer understanding of bi-natured- multiple universes but also a multi dimensional existence that transcends death.**

How is that perceived?

One of the bewildering experiments in Quantum Mechanics is the “double-slit” experiment in which scientists observed that light particles when passing through two holes of a block exposed to a light ejector behaved as a bullet going through one hole. When not observed, however, the particles acted as waves passing simultaneously through both holes. In other terms, the particles alter their behavior depending on whether or not they were being monitored. This implies that truth and reality are closely connected to our consciousness, and thus, our core participation in the phenomenon may affect the final outcome.

Another major experiment is that conducted by physicist and philosopher Heisenberg who noted that detecting the location and the speed of a certain particle at the same time is a mission that defies science. Heisenberg arrived to the conclusion that it is possible to either spot the location of the particle or its course, but never the two of them. This finding resulted in overthrowing the scientific certainty principle that has been worshipped for years and affirming the principle of uncertainty as one of the scientific facts. Entangling two particles, even when separated over vast distances, is just another confusing phenomenon. Lanza (see our past article) believed that time and space were man-made concepts, thus contradicting the relativity theory, which views them as the fourth dimension of the universe. In response to these puzzling experiments, quantum physicist Henry Stapp from the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory said that “new boundaries have been set for the scientific experiments tackling the nature of the matter, as the results of experiments are apparently influenced by what’s happening elsewhere in the universe.”

The quantum mechanics marveling journey does not end here. In 2002, scientists discovered that the photons knew in advance what their distant twins would do. Researchers left a photon to continue its journey and decide whether to behave as a wave or a particle. Then, they stretched the distance that the second photon had to take to reach its detector, introducing a scrambler to prevent it from acting as a particle. Surprisingly, and despite the infinite distance between the two, the first photon changed its path immediately, before any modification in the second photon. Therefore, scientists could not but reach an absolutely peculiar conclusion: our minds and the set of information they hold are the only factor affecting the behavior of particles.

The multi-universe theory also makes part of quantum mechanics. It suggests the presence of multiple universes that together comprise everything that exists and can exist. Accordingly, Lanza believes that death does not occur in the real sense, but rather in a transitional form, as it cannot be present in a world devoid of time and space. Immortality does not imply permanent existence throughout time but rather outside it. Like a flower blossoming season after season in a multiple universe.

When Einstein’s friend Besso died, the great scientist said: “Now Besso has departed from this strange world a little ahead of me. That means nothing. People like us know that distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion”.

Doesn’t that mean the non-existence of an end?

For those interested in more insight on this phenomenon, we recommend *What Happens When You Die* by Sam Parnia. Parnia narrates observations by people who were pronounced dead for a while then came back to life. ♣

**ASSEM SALAM:**

A FIGURE OF CHIVALRY, MODERNITY, WISDOM AND LEADERSHIP

Issam Bikdash\*



**My acquaintance, which then formed into friendship with architect Assem Salam dates back to around 40 years. I was a member at the committee tasked with the development and expansion of Beirut Port, which was naturally presided by the Minister of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, as his title was back then. Assem Salam served as Vice-President of the committee, which also consisted of Dr. Khattar Chebli, architects Fayez Ahdab and Philippe Tawileh, and businessman Mounir Abou Haidar, all of who have passed away, leaving me to speak alone of the work and achievements of the committee.**

Assem Salam did not need to employ the art and science of architecture, in which he was a pioneer on academic, professional and syndicate levels, to perform his unparalleled role at the committee. It was sufficient for him to let elements of his uniquely rich personality to do the job. With his mastery vision, culture, fondness of public interest, and endeavor, he tackled planning and organizational issues, attended to economic, financial and administrative matters, and excelled at managing the relations with local and foreign consulting firms and offices.

I was lucky and honored to have been elected a member of the General Assembly of the Order of Engineers and Architects in the 1990s, when Assem Salam was presiding over it. Working with him and under his leadership was a tremendous pleasure as he fought relentlessly to foster the role of the Order and the standing of architects and to gear urban planning and comprehensive development projects into the right direction.

At the internal level, the Order of Engineers and Architects was restructured during Salam's years in office. He provided directives for the management of pension and social services' funds and established pivotal rules including the Order's bylaw, financial system and code of practice, which remain in force to date.

His orderly thinking, vast knowledge, fine taste, ardent zeal, nobility, chivalry, devotion to his roots, aspiration to wider horizons and wisdom, made Assem Salam a unique human being. He attracted friends and companions; especially those who seek to inoculate their work with previous achievements or those passionate to enrich their lives with concepts and meanings, which keep reinventing themselves.

I believe that with the lifestyle he had, Assem Salam succeeded in conceptualizing an exemplary philosophical and practical solution for the existence of the individual human being and also for the existence of others.

My loyalty, respect and love for Assem Salam inspire me to recall him in several situations.

I remember I once ran into him during the early years of the civil war in the vicinity of the AUB, where he used to teach architecture in the faculty, in the founding of which he partook. It was a bright sunny day, unblemished by the usual downpour of bombs and bullets. I strode towards him and inquired how things were going, for he was a constant reference to all of us. With a smile that concealed his pain, he said: "Listen Issam, we are no different than the person who saw the light at the end

of a long and dark tunnel, and regarded it as a good omen. But eventually, he realized that the approaching light is nothing but a huge train advancing towards him." A strange silence took hold of us for a second, before we burst out to a helpless laughter, hiding behind it our rage and denial.

Assem Salam initiated and organized in the Order of Engineers and Architects a day for Jerusalem under the name "Jerusalem Today", and invited senior experts from diverse countries and fields to underline the legacy, architecture and the current situation in this unique city. This theme was of particular importance to Salam because of what Jerusalem symbolizes in the region's conflict with the Israeli entity, for it is firmly believed that this is a foreign and artificial entity bred and supported to continue draining the region and prevent the development and the maturity of its civilized nature, in favor of the world's superpowers. An analogy may be drawn between the Israeli project and the Crusades in terms of their mechanisms of formation or the influence they historically had on the region. The Crusades contributed enormously to the paralysis of the cycle of civilization, a process that grew larger following the Mongol attacks. We set out to explore the extent of responsibility that such invasions have in preventing the transfer and revival of the school of thought of the Andalusian philosopher Ibn Rushd and allowing the domination of the counter Sufist movement of Imam Ghazali in Baghdad (Incoherence by Imam Ghazali and The Incoherence of the Incoherence by Ibn Rushd). As for the mechanism of formation of Israel, it remains far more sophisticated and dangerous than that of the Crusades.

I visited Assem Salam's house on the first day of Eid Al-Adha (Friday, September 26, 2012), and inquired from his wife and companion, Mrs. Fasso after his health. His daughters were moving around the house, and as I was preparing to leave, I learned from his wife that Assem had sensed the presence of a guest and requested to see me. I walked into his room and saw him lying on his bed. We engaged in a swift conversation blending bits of humor and seriousness at a time, and our laughter rang in the air as if to flee the storm of sadness that passed over us in surrender to the helplessness of humans, or perhaps in mockery of their inescapable fate.

I walked out of the room and shook the hands of Mrs. Fasso with fervor, begging her not to walk me beyond the garden. And then I started taking my remaining steps towards where we shall meet again. ●●

\* A prominent Lebanese architect who held senior posts at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport

# THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS

## HADIA GHANDOUR

### YUKI PRESS

Children's literature has been given great attention in Lebanon in the past few years. The absence of quality Arabic books for children has prompted many publishing initiatives, to revive the children's book publishing and reinforce its role in building future generations with language awareness, aesthetic interest and imaginative dimensions. In this context, *The Monthly* interviewed Hadia Ghandour, founder of Yuki Press, to get a glimpse into the publishing world in Lebanon and highlight the publications and activities of this publishing house.



Hadia Ghandour

### **What motivated you into starting your own publishing company and why was it grounded on children's literature?**

My varied educational and professional background and the lack of quality Arabic books for children in Lebanon were the two primary factors that propelled me into this business. I was born and educated in Japan. Working first as a journalist for a Japanese public television, and later for the prestigious Christie's auction house has helped refine my aesthetic taste and has equipped me with the interest and the ability to venture into the publishing world. There was a huge gap in the children's literature market in Lebanon at the time and I wanted to employ my experience to raise the standards of Arabic children's book publishing in terms of the quality of their content and illustrations. To this end, I established Yuki Press in 2004 and the house has spearheaded the emergence of new publishing houses, which were inspired by our successful venture.

### **What distinguishes Yuki Press from other children's book publishers?**

Yuki Press is committed to publishing quality books that meet international standards and stand on par with western publications. The company's philosophy is to revolutionize the role and message of children's books and to reach excellence in both form and content. We work with specialized authors and illustrators and we pay meticulous attention to the aesthetic aspect of our publications, thus making images a part and parcel of the book, rather than a mere decorative element. Our first-published book, *Aleph Ba'a Aleph Ba'a*, remains our biggest success thus far. It targets children aged 3 to 5 and provides lots of fun for youngsters learning the Arabic alphabet with help from appealing friends from the animal kingdom. Each letter represents an animal complete with its own catching, easy to remember, Arabic rhyme.

### How do you get in contact with authors and illustrators?

Yuki Press staff consists of a few in-house members only and the rest are all freelance writers and illustrators. I usually envisage the concepts and ideas I want in my publications in the beginning of every year and I reach out to the authors or illustrators I deem best in materializing the concept. I am fortunate to have developed a small network of qualified authors and artists, who succeed in manifesting our company's views in the most impeccable manner.



### Would you describe the children's book publishing industry in Lebanon as profitable?

First, it is worth mentioning that, unlike other publishers, Yuki Press produces only four to five books annually. We refuse to compromise quality for the sake of quantity, even if this translates into lower sales. Lebanon has been the sole market for Yuki Press not to mention that our books are not part of the academic curricula in schools. On a relevant note, one must tap into the market of academic, religious, and electronic books to attract a wider audience and reap higher profits. All these factors result in insufficient profit margins and make this business less viable than most people think. Some people bash our high prices and opt for less-expensive books, which again puts our

sales at a disadvantage. It is sad that the Lebanese still hold onto the misconception that Arabic books should be cheap. High-quality books cost a lot to manufacture and distribute, and their prices can only be lowered when sponsored.

### What are your latest achievements?

Yuki Press has launched its medical series, which explores some of the numerous illnesses on the rise nowadays, including cancer, autism and Alzheimer's. The series is aimed to raise children's awareness on certain medical conditions that they, or their friends or family, might confront. The series defuses the youngsters' fear from illness and helps them come to terms with it. These often-taboo subjects are tackled in a child-friendly and sensitive texts coupled with imaginative and inventive illustrations.

Yuki Press Arabic book *Ana Wa Abi Wal Chocolat* won the award for the best children's book production at Beirut Arab International Book Fair in 2010, noting that the same award was granted to *3endama Maredat Sadiqati* in 2011. The new title in Yuki's pioneering series, *I Hope Grandma Remembers*, has also been short listed for the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature, one of the most prestigious literary awards in the Arab world. ●



## AWAITED PARADISE

“*Shu We’fet Elayyi*” is one of the most prevailing popular mottos circulating among the Lebanese nowadays. When we criticize someone for breaking the law or the rules, they hurry to say the motto over and over again, placing the blame on someone else. What kind of country allows its citizens to hold themselves above the law? What kind of country allows irresponsibility and corruption to reign with iron fist? Excuse me, but this is no country... but a lawless jungle of anarchy. Don’t you think it within our duty to find a cure to that illness? We must all pitch in and make a concerted effort to protect and develop our country, so that we can stand erect and respectful when our flag is raised. One must take responsibility for one’s actions and think carefully before acting on impulse, for we never know when our actions might encroach on the safety and happiness of others. Each and every one of us must look at ourselves as individuals having equal rights, and most importantly performing equal duties, as the rest of the community does.

Canada, for instance, is subject to a set of laws formulated by its successive governments, which came to power by people’s representatives. In Canada, the law applies to all, including police, judges, politicians, and statesmen in order to maintain safety and tranquility and provide peaceful means to resolve conflicts and express the values and beliefs of the Canadian society. In Canada, an accused is innocent until proven guilty.

Back to Lebanon, I will leave you to think freely about obeying the law, but I should first admit that you are not the only ones to blame, for when was the last time you saw a citizen getting punished for his offence? Citizens often wriggle out of punishment thanks to their connections, bribery, or party affiliations...?

Yes, dear Lebanese, our system is replete with corruption. Worse, the milestones reached in telecommunications have invaded our minds to such an extent that we’ve become incapable of holding a task. The policeman is always on his mobile phone, heedless of the traffic he is meant to direct. What an addiction! In Europe, particularly in Switzerland, children have the right to call the police if abused by their parents. The offender will be sent to prison and the child sheltered by social services. In our beloved Lebanon, hell might break loose in certain homes but no one would dare to interfere with the “sanctity of the home” and report violence. Children in our country are thrown on the streets to labor and beg, and no one is held accountable. What a shame!

When will the day come that will see discipline find its way to our heads and hearts? Or will we start eulogizing the days we once damned? ●

**Sara Abou Dayya**  
Grade 11 - Ahlia School

# NOBEL PRIZES IN ECONOMIC SCIENCE



In what follows, we publish a list detailing the Nobel Prizes awarded to those who have offered the best for Economic Science from 1969 to 2001.

| Nobel prizes in economic science |                           |             |      |  |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------|--|--|
| Year                             | Name                      | Nationality | Born | Division of Prize  | Purpose  |
| 2011                             | Thomas J. Sargent         | USA         | 1943 | Jointly to Thomas J. Sargent and Christopher A. Sims                                     | For their empirical research on cause and effect in the macroeconomy   |
|                                  | Christopher A. Sims       | USA         | 1942 |  |  |
| 2010                             | Peter A. Diamond          | USA         | 1940 | Was awarded jointly to Peter A. Diamond, Dale T. Mortensen and Christopher A. Pissarides | For their analysis of markets with search frictions  |
|                                  | Dale T. Mortensen         | USA         | 1939 |  |  |
|                                  | Christopher A. Pissarides | Cyprus      | 1948 |  |  |
| 2009                             | Elinor Ostrom             | USA         | 1933 | Was divided equally between Elinor Ostrom and Oliver E. Williamson                       | For her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons  |
|                                  | Oliver E. Williamson      | USA         | 1932 |  | For his analysis of economic governance, especially the boundaries of the firm   |
| 2008                             | Paul Krugman              | USA         | 1953 |  | For his analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity   |
| 2007                             | Leonid Hurwicz            | Russia      | 1917 | Was awarded jointly to Leonid Hurwicz, Eric S. Maskin and Roger B. Myerson               | For having laid the foundations of mechanism design theory   |
|                                  | Eric S. Maskin            | USA         | 1950 |  |  |
|                                  | Roger B. Myerson          | USA         | 1951 |  |  |
| 2006                             | Edmund S. Phelps          | USA         | 1933 |  | For his analysis of intertemporal tradeoffs in macroeconomic policy.   |
| 2005                             | Robert J. Aumann          | Germany     | 1930 | Was awarded jointly to Robert J. Aumann and Thomas C. Schelling                          | For having enhanced our understanding of conflict and cooperation through game-theory analysis   |
|                                  | Thomas C. Schelling       | USA         | 1921 |  |  |
| 2004                             | Finn E. Kydland           | Norway      | 1943 | Was awarded jointly to Finn E. Kydland and Edward C. Prescott                            | For their contributions to dynamic macroeconomics: the time consistency of economic policy and the driving forces behind business cycles                     |
|                                  | Edward C. Prescott        | USA         | 1940 |  |  |
| 2003                             | Robert F. Engle III       | USA         | 1942 | Was divided equally between Robert F. Engle III and Clive W.J. Granger                   | For methods of analyzing economic time series with time-varying volatility (ARCH)  |
|                                  | Clive W.J. Granger        | UK          | 1934 |  | For methods of analyzing economic time series with common trends (cointegration)   |
| 2002                             | Daniel Kahneman           | Israel      | 1934 | Was divided equally between Daniel Kahneman and Vernon L. Smith                          | For having integrated insights from psychological research into economic science, especially concerning human judgment and decision-making under uncertainty |
|                                  | Vernon L. Smith           | USA         | 1927 |  | For having established laboratory experiments as a tool in empirical economic analysis, especially in the study of alternative market mechanisms             |
| 2001                             | George A. Akerlof         | USA         | 1940 | Was awarded jointly to George A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence and Joseph E. Stiglitz       | For their analyses of markets with asymmetric information  |
|                                  | A. Michael Spence         | USA         | 1943 |  |  |
|                                  | Joseph E. Stiglitz        | USA         | 1943 |  |  |

| Nobel prizes in economic science |                       |             |      |  |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------|--|--|
| Year                             | Name                  | Nationality | Born | Division of Prize  | Purpose  |
| 2000                             | James J. Heckman      | USA         | 1944 | <i>Was divided equally between James J. Heckman and Daniel L. McFadden</i>               | <i>For his development of theory and methods for analyzing selective samples</i>   |
|                                  | Daniel L. McFadden    | USA         | 1937 |  | <i>For his development of theory and methods for analyzing discrete choice</i>   |
| 1999                             | Robert A. Mundell     | Canada      | 1932 |  | <i>For his analysis of monetary and fiscal policy under different exchange rate regimes and his analysis of optimum currency areas</i>   |
| 1998                             | Amartya Sen           | India       | 1933 |  | <i>For his contributions to welfare economics</i>  |
| 1997                             | Robert C. Merton      | USA         | 1949 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Robert C. Merton and Myron S. Scholes</i>                      | <i>For a new method to determine the value of derivatives</i>  |
|                                  | Myron S. Scholes      | Canada      | 1941 |  |  |
| 1996                             | James A. Mirrlees     | Scotland    | 1936 | <i>Was awarded jointly to James A. Mirrlees and William Vickrey</i>                      | <i>For their fundamental contributions to the economic theory of incentives under asymmetric information</i>   |
|                                  | William Vickrey       | Canada      | 1914 |  |  |
| 1995                             | Robert E. Lucas Jr.   | USA         | 1937 |  | <i>For having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations, and thereby having transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy</i> |
| 1994                             | John C. Harsanyi      | Hungary     | 1920 | <i>Was awarded jointly to John C. Harsanyi, John F. Nash Jr. and Reinhard Selten</i>     |  |
|                                  | John F. Nash Jr.      | USA         | 1928 |  |  |
|                                  | Reinhard Selten       | Poland      | 1930 |  |  |
| 1993                             | Robert W. Fogel       | USA         | 1927 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Robert W. Fogel and Douglass C. North</i>                      | <i>For having renewed research in economic history by applying economic theory and quantitative methods in order to explain economic and institutional change</i>                        |
|                                  | Douglass C. North     | USA         | 1920 |  |  |
| 1992                             | Gary S. Becker        | USA         | 1930 |  | <i>For having extended the domain of microeconomic analysis to a wide range of human behaviour and interaction, including nonmarket behaviour</i>  |
| 1991                             | Ronald H. Coase       | UK          | 1910 |  | <i>For his discovery and clarification of the significance of transaction costs and property rights for the institutional structure and functioning of the economy</i>                   |
| 1990                             | Harry M. Markowitz    | USA         | 1927 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Harry M. Markowitz, Merton H. Miller and William F. Sharpe</i> | <i>For their pioneering work in the theory of financial economics</i>  |
|                                  | Merton H. Miller      | USA         | 1923 |  |  |
|                                  | William F. Sharpe     | USA         | 1934 |  |  |
| 1989                             | Vernon L. Smith       | Norway      | 1911 |  | <i>For his clarification of the probability theory foundations of econometrics and his analyses of simultaneous economic structures</i>  |
| 1988                             | Maurice Allais        | France      | 1911 |  | <i>For his pioneering contributions to the theory of markets and efficient utilization of resources</i>  |
| 1987                             | Robert M. Solow       | USA         | 1924 |  | <i>For his contributions to the theory of economic growth</i>  |
| 1986                             | James M. Buchanan Jr. | USA         | 1919 |  | <i>For his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision-making</i>  |
| 1985                             | Franco Modigliani     | Italy       | 1918 |  | <i>For his pioneering analyses of saving and of financial markets</i>  |

| Nobel prizes in economic science |                                 |                 |      |  |   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------|--|---|
| Year                             | Name                            | Nationality     | Born | Division of Prize  | Purpose   |
| 1984                             | Richard Stone                   | UK              | 1913 |  | <i>For having made fundamental contributions to the development of systems of national accounts and hence greatly improved the basis for empirical economic analysis</i>                    |
| 1983                             | Gerard Debreu                   | France          | 1921 |  | <i>For having incorporated new analytical methods into economic theory and for his rigorous reformulation of the theory of general equilibrium</i>  |
| 1982                             | George J. Stigler               | USA             | 1911 |  | <i>For his seminal studies of industrial structures, functioning of markets and causes and effects of public regulation</i>   |
| 1981                             | James Tobin                     | USA             | 1918 |  | <i>For his analysis of financial markets and their relations to expenditure decisions, employment, production and prices</i>  |
| 1980                             | Lawrence R. Klein               | USA             | 1920 |  | <i>For the creation of econometric models and the application to the analysis of economic fluctuations and economic policies</i>  |
| 1979                             | Theodore W. Schultz             | USA             | 1902 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Theodore W. Schultz and Sir Arthur Lewis</i>                 | <i>For their pioneering research into economic development research with particular consideration of the problems of developing countries</i>   |
|                                  | Sir Arthur Lewis                | Saint Lucia     | 1915 |  |   |
| 1978                             | Herbert A. Simon                | USA             | 1916 |  | <i>For his pioneering research into the decision-making process within economic organizations</i>   |
| 1977                             | Bertil Ohlin                    | Sweden          | 1899 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Bertil Ohlin and James E. Meade</i>                          | <i>For their pathbreaking contribution to the theory of international trade and international capital movements</i>   |
|                                  | James E. Meade                  | UK              | 1907 |  |   |
| 1976                             | Milton Friedman                 | USA             | 1912 |  | <i>For his achievements in the fields of consumption analysis, monetary history and theory and for his demonstration of the complexity of stabilization policy</i>                          |
| 1975                             | Leonid Vitaliyevich Kantorovich | Russia          | 1912 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Leonid Vitaliyevich Kantorovich and Tjalling C. Koopmans</i> | <i>For their contributions to the theory of optimum allocation of resources</i>   |
|                                  | Tjalling C. Koopmans            | The Netherlands | 1910 |  |   |
| 1974                             | Gunnar Myrdal                   | Sweden          | 1898 | <i>Was awarded jointly to Gunnar Myrdal and Friedrich August von Hayek</i>             | <i>For their pioneering work in the theory of money and economic fluctuations and for their penetrating analysis of the interdependence of economic, social and institutional phenomena</i> |
|                                  | Friedrich August von Hayek      | Austria         | 1899 |  |   |
| 1973                             | Wassily Leontief                | Russia          | 1906 |  | <i>For the development of the input-output method and for its application to important economic problems</i>  |
| 1972                             | John R. Hicks                   | UK              | 1904 | <i>Was awarded jointly to John R. Hicks and Kenneth J. Arrow</i>                       | <i>For their pioneering contributions to general economic equilibrium theory and welfare theory</i>   |
|                                  | Kenneth J. Arrow                | USA             | 1921 |  |   |
| 1971                             | Simon Kuznets                   | Ukraine         | 1901 |  | <i>For his empirically founded interpretation of economic growth which has led to new and deepened insight into the economic and social structure and process of development</i>            |
| 1970                             | Paul A. Samuelson               | USA             | 1915 |  | <i>for the scientific work through which he has developed static and dynamic economic theory and actively contributed to raising the level of analysis in economic science</i>              |
| 1969                             | Ragnar Frisch                   | Norway          | 1895 | <i>was awarded jointly to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen</i>                          | <i>for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes</i>   |
|                                  | Jan Tinbergen                   | The Netherlands | 1903 |  |   |

# LEBANESE PHYSICAL HANDICAPPED UNION



The Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union was founded on the premise that the disabled segment of the population deserves a chance to enter into the mainstream and to receive all the social and governmental support needed to help them improve their well being, succeed and thus become productive citizens. This article will look into the history, the mission and the activities of this Union, casting light once again on the influential role of the NGOs in promoting greater equity among people.

## Overview

The Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union was founded in 1981 as a non-sectarian, non-governmental organization aimed at promoting the inclusion of the disabled in the economic, social and political life. The Union, which was built by and for people with physical disabilities, includes 1200 members and thousands of advocates and friends, and operates through 9 centers distributed across Lebanon in order to mainstream the isolated and marginalized handicapped, lobby for their rights, and support them to lead full and independent lives.

## Scope of work

The Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union addresses two main objectives:

- Lobbying and advocacy: the Union's full-scale lobbying efforts aim at raising awareness and mobilizing the community on the rights of the handicapped. The Union urges the Lebanese government to pass legislation in favor of the handicapped and to display earnest effort in implementing Act 200 issued on May 29, 2000; and coordinates disability-related policies and programs with the relevant ministries (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Social Affairs...) as a key step to foster the status of the disabled in Lebanon and to create an obstacle-free environment.
- Social development programs: the Union assigns special attention to programs and initiatives that focus on the physical rehabilitation of the disabled and widen their access to education and labor

opportunities. Efforts are also directed to include them in the decision making process and to facilitate their participation in the civil and political life without discrimination or repression.

## Activities and campaigns

Below are some of the numerous activities and campaigns initiated by the LPHU with the hope of spreading the idea that all people and institutions should freely, openly and without pity accommodate any disabled person without restrictions or limitations.



### Inclusive academic and vocational education

The LPHU believes that the Lebanese education policies need to create disability-friendly schools. Wheelchair-bound students must exercise their right to enroll in mainstream schools and enjoy the same equal opportunities as the non-disabled children do. Mainstream academic schools can create new incentives for teachers to adopt child-centered teaching methods, and thereby enhance educational quality and equip the disabled with the skills that they need in the labor market. The Union also strives to find empowering mechanisms for applying inclusion of disability in the general directorate of occupational and technical education.

### Waw

Along with its diverse activities, the LPHU publishes a quarterly magazine called Waw that acts as a connection between people with disability and civil society.

Waw was awarded the first prize by UNESCO in 2005, for being the magazine that truly advocates for human rights in the region, since it reflects the real needs of people with disability.

### Unlocking Potential Job Opportunities for people with disability in Lebanon

In 2004, the LPHU started an awareness campaign aiming at opening job opportunities for people with disability. The core part of the campaign is the creation of a job center to act as a facilitator for job seekers with disability, so as to establish a real and concrete help-desk for matching job offers with demands from the private sector. The Union used to hold job fairs for the disabled job seekers and to organize meetings and sessions with employers from different sectors of disability and ability to work.

### Build for all

After the July war, reconstruction processes began in the war-stricken areas across Lebanon. Since Law 220/2000 states that no building shall be erected without considering accessibility measures, LPHU launched “Build for All” campaign to promote inclusive development and advocate for building disability friendly environment and infrastructure.

### My Right campaign

My Right campaign was also launched to serve the Union’s primary objective: full and comprehensive integration within the community. This campaign pushes for the right of the handicapped to run and vote

in parliamentary and municipal elections. The LPHU believes that the polling stations must have parking lots, entrances, corridors, wheelchair ramps, elevators, toilets and voting halls big enough to install curtained booths to ensure privacy and ensure “accessibility for people with special needs during the voting process.”

It is time to stop reinforcing the negative attitudes towards people with disabilities and to embrace and accept them as active members of society, instead of making them feel stereotyped, underprivileged and shunned. ●●



## AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY STRUGGLE AND SWEAT

After I paid the first installment of my tuition fees, I checked if there were any remaining dirhams in my pocket and realized that the money I still had would buy me enough food for the second semester, granted that I would eat my three meals at Faisal Bros' second restaurant. Brothers Adeeb and Toufic Faisal had opened two neighboring restaurants, the first of which faced the university's main gate and hosted opulent students from Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Sudan, while the second was a forced choice for us, the unfortunate Lebanese.

Cheaper than Faisal Bros' restaurants was the Shama'a restaurant, known now as "Uncle Sam", at the corner of the Jean D'arc Street near Bliss.

And I see no harm in listing the prices of the food from that era, which will certainly ring a bell with other peers of my age:

Rice and Stew dish: 5 Piasters

Kebbeh dish: 7 Piasters

Stake and Veggies dish: 10 Piasters

Loaf of bread: 2 Piasters

Date-filled pastry: 2.5 Piasters

Cupcake (for the rich): 3 Piasters

Poor students could have lunch or dinner for 10 or fewer piasters, especially if addicted to bread and stew.

But how would I pay for the second semester? Teacher Bou Najm used to say "when one plunges into a bottomless abyss, God stretches his gracious hand to pull him out." It wasn't long before I learned from the head of the Arabic Language Institute that a number of missionaries at the Beirut center wanted to learn Arabic. "Do you have the time to teach them? We will pay you 1 Lebanese Lira for every hour," he said to me.

It was a generous offer! We agreed that I would teach from 8:45 until 10:00 in the morning. I used to hurry after my morning class at the University to the School of Theology in Zqaq el-Blat.

Many a time, when the tram was late, I used to walk, or rather run to catch my class on time.

On my way back from the School of Theology, I used to literally run as fast as my feet could carry me to arrive for 10:00 am. Luckily, teachers used to forgive our appearance 5 minutes late of the start of the class. Struggle! Torment! Running! But one Lebanese Lira was a jackpot! I could survive on it for days if I resigned to eating at Faisal Bros' second restaurant. ●



# THE IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF IRANIAN-ARAB RELATIONS:

---

**Myth:** *The rapprochement in Iran- Arab relations since the Islamic Revolution has long been attributed to religious and ideological factors.*

**Reality:** In fact, other factors pertaining to economic ties and regional politics have also shaped these leanings in Iran's foreign policy.

The belief that the links binding some Arab states and political groups to Iran are linked to religion is widely persistent in the Arab world and elsewhere today. The ideological and cultural ties between Iran and certain groups in Iraq and Lebanon have more specifically been attributed to the background of Shiism shared by their people. While these factors have much truth to them and should not be ignored, historical research into Iran-Arab relations shows that their origins extend further than the Islamic ideals introduced by the Iranian revolution of 1979.

It is generally assumed that Ayatollah Khomeini initiated the stance towards furthering Arab interests but it is interesting to find that this strategy was actually started in the later years of the Shah's rule. In the early 1970s, Iran's economy reached new heights of growth, and the revenue from oil production reached 1336 billion rials in 1974 (Parsi 497). With this expansive growth, Iran began exploring the possibility of becoming the region's most influential power. Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi even aspired to famously become the 'policeman of the Gulf'.

In his essay 'Israel and the Origins of Iran's Arab Option', Trita Parsi makes a strong case for the suggestion that before the Islamic Revolution, it was actually the Shah's ambition to stabilize Iran's regional role that started the friendly approach to the Arab neighbors. According to him, the enhanced status of Iran's economic power made it less weary of the spread of Arab nationalism and thus no longer in need of fostering positive relations with Israel to deter the Arabs. This was of course coupled with the alleviation of the threat of Arab nationalism after Sadat came to power in Egypt.

The Shah had realized that gaining the approval of Arab states would mean severing relations with Israel. He pronounced this clearly when he voted in favor of UN resolution 3379 condemning Zionism as racism (Parsi 503) and by ending an Israeli-Iranian operation in Iraqi Kurdistan through the Algiers Agreement of 1975 without prior notice (Parsi 505). Of this new agenda, the Shah explained the following to Muhammad Hassanein Haykal in 1975: "now the situation has changed... I think occasionally of a new equilibrium in the region... Perhaps [it] can be integrated into an Islamic framework" (Parsi 507).

There is no doubt that the policies of the Shah differ immensely from those of the religious scholars of the Islamic Republic. But the misconceptions pertaining to Iran-Arab relations should be noted: the biggest changes to Iran's policy towards Arab states were in the 1970s and not in the years following the establishment of the Islamic Republic. 🍷

Parsi, Trita. "Israel and the Origins of Iran's Arab Option: Dissection of a Strategy Misunderstood." *Middle East Journal*, 60.3 (2006): 493-512.

## MAY ZIADEH

### THE EVOLUTION OF A FREE FEMALE THINKER

At the onset of his insightful book into the life of May Ziadeh, Salim Mujais criticizes the tendency of the previous authors to paint her life in tragic overtones. He finds this inaccurate and distracting from a true appreciation of her life and intellect. He argues that during her life May knew fame and admiration, and this well deserved and genuine admiration is explored through the different themes of his book that look into her achievements in the sphere of political thought, her relationship with the contemporary thinkers of her time, and her discoveries of the potentials of the new Arab woman.

Through his extensive use of primary resources, the author provides concrete evidence against the assumption that May never tackled any political issues. He looks at her letters, articles and speeches to examine her opinions on nationalism, Syria and Egypt. In many instances she spoke of a divided land, and the search for identity. Her thoughts on the Syrian revolution and the role of the French in it were very passionate. She criticized the policies of the French generals saying that ‘they thought Syria was a small France’ (70) instead of studying the true nature of the country.

May advocated an enlightened modern nationalism, yet in her essays she could sometimes favor harmonious relationships between the sects rather than remain steadfast in a secular nationalist vein. In her address to the Muslims of Damascus in the course of the Great Syrian Revolution, for example, there was an apparent contradiction between her appeal to the Druze community and her usual nationalist outlook; this the author attributes to her humane call for nonviolence. Her rapprochement with the nationalist thought emerging at the time is also evident in her criticisms of the creation of Lebanon on a sectarian basis. Her Syrian identity, , was very much evident in her writings, similarly to many authors from her time. During her years in Egypt, she always referred to herself as a Syrian from the homeland Syria. And when she became aware of the rise in Egyptian nationalism, her speeches and writing began to bear reference to the friendliness between Egypt and Syria.

Her long years in Egypt, and her close connections with the Syrian community in the country never prevented her from delving into the issues of the rising Egyptian nationalism. She proposed conceptual refinements to the slogans of the Egyptian national movement such as her



criticism of the popular phrase ‘Egypt for the Egyptians’ (Maser lil Masriyeen). Instead of ‘Egypt for the Egyptians’, she preferred the phrase ‘Egyptian Egypt’. This approach could be compared to that of Antoun Saadeh and his refinement of the slogan ‘Syria is for the Syrians’.

Through Mujais’ extensive research, we have surprising findings concerning her relationship with Khalil Gibran. While it is commonly thought that the two shared a strong emotional bond, Mujais portrays a May who was not so taken by Gibran’s works. While she praises his switch to the English language as a change that allowed the essence of his work to reach its maturity, she still criticized the self-centered trend that characterized his later writings. She wonders why Gibran never cites or derives inspiration from other authors. She also cites his books such as ‘The Prophet’ and ‘Jesus the Son of Man’ to draw attention on the fact that the voice of only one character is heard throughout. Mujais also offers a critical analysis of the emotional relationship between Gibran and May and tackles the common misconceptions previously advanced by other authors.

This is in contrast to an earlier chapter where the author looks into her relationship with Yaacoub Sarrouf, which had a more powerful bond based on the similarities of their intellectual interests and preferences. She admired his views on the empowerment of women and was very much influenced by his thoughts. Mujais exemplifies this with the text of the emotional eulogy she wrote upon his death.

Other themes covered in this comprehensive book are her encounters with Western culture and her importance in outlining a new era in the life of the Arab woman, one that is well-engaged in culture, literature and the public sphere. The tracking of her intellectual growth in organized and orderly chapters offers an extensive introduction into the life of May for the first time readers, and an in-depth analysis of her thoughts for those looking to further their knowledge of her. ●

## ADVENTURES OF ROUBA AND WOOFY SERIES

### COLLISION ACCIDENT

Rouba decided to take her dog Woofy for a walk in the park. The park was several blocks away, so she gave Woofy strict instructions as to how to cross the road carefully. Despite Rouba's warnings, enthusiastic Woofy ran recklessly and collided with a motorcycle, thus spending the rest of its day at the veterinarian's rather than the park.

### UNEXPECTED GOAL

Rami obtained two tickets to see a football match and asked Rouba to accompany him. Rouba refused to go to the match without her dog Woofy. As the rules prohibited the presence of dogs at the match, Rouba had to hide her dog under her sweater and asked him to remain quiet. After too much water, Woofy needed to pee so he sneaked across the soccer field where the ball landed on his head and he mistakenly scored a goal.

The simple style and the vivid illustrations used in this book make it suitable for elementary students drawing their attention and boosting their eagerness to read.

The above two books are part of the *Adventures of Rouba and Woofy Series*, which includes 14 books published in French by Caramel. The books were translated to Arabic by Raymond Daou and were published in their first edition by Librairie Stephan in 2008.

The series includes:

- *Search Venture*
- *Collision Accident*
- *Lost Dog*
- *Participation in Circus*
- *Unexpected Goal*
- *Texas Camp*
- *Big Chaos*
- *Funny Student*
- *Summer Vacation*
- *Sick Woofy*
- *Great Catch*
- *Great Play*
- *Love Story*



## LEBANESE FAMILY NAMES DENOTING PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS

Lebanon has numerous families whose surnames denote physical disabilities. It is likely that the surnames were inspired from the impairments that the forefathers of some of the families used to have. These families are distributed among all Lebanese regions and sects as follows:

### Al-Awar (The One-eyed) Family

There are 3143 Al-Awar members who belong to the Druze sect and are registered in Ras Beirut, Msaytbeh (Beirut), Qoubbei', Falougha, Qernayel, Al-Qalaa, Chbaniyyeh, Khalwat Falougha (Baabda), Sawfar and Chouefat (Aley).

### Al-Akhras (The Dumb) Family

Al-Akhras family includes 896 members distributed as follows:

- 600 Shia'a members registered in Aitroun (Bint Jbeil), Burj Hammoud (Northern Matn) and Kfartebnit (Nabatieh).
- 136 Sunni members registered in Qerqof, Fnaideq (Akkar), Hebbarieh (Hasbaya) and Soueiqua (Tripoli).
- 39 Syrian Orthodox members registered in Msaytbeh, Ashrafieh (Beirut), El-Bouar (Northern Matn) and Sarba (Kessrouan).
- 39 Greek Orthodox members registered in Mrouj, Bouchrieh (Northern Matn), Zahriye (Tripoli), Mshailhat Hakour (Akkar).
- 52 Maronite members registered in Ashrafieh (Beirut), Broumanna (Northern Matn) and Al-Zahiriya (Tripoli).
- 7 Greek Catholic members registered in Bekfaya (Northern Matn), Mshailhat Hakour (Akkar).
- 14 Chaldean members registered in Tohwita Nahr (Baabda).

### Al-Atrash (The Deaf) Family/ 1507 members

- 691 Sunni members registered in Ersal Chmali, Ersal Jnoubi (Baalbeck), Haddadine, Mina (Tripoli), Berqayel (Akkar), Nabi Youchaa (Mennieh-Dennieh), Zqaq Blat (Beirut) and Mghairiye (Chouf).
- 580 Shia'a members registered in Younine Sharqi, Younine Shmali, Younine Jnoubi (Baalbeck), Kerk (Zahle) and Dayr Ntar (Bint Jbeil).
- 64 Greek Orthodox members registered in Chadra and Qboula (Akkar).

- 17 Syrian Orthodox members registered in Msaytbeh (Beirut).
- 155 Druze members registered in Ras Beirut, Ashrafieh (Beirut), Kfarhim, Baakline Fawqa (Chouf), Broumanna (Northern Matn) and Ras El-Matn (Baabda).

### Al-Aaraj (The Crippled) Family/ 543 members

- 239 Greek Catholic members registered in Msaytbeh, Ras Beirut, Zqaq Blat (Beirut), Sin el-Film Mansourieh (Northern Matn), Sarba, Ashqout (Kessrouan), Maghdousheh, Bnaafoul (Saida), Rmeily (Chouf) and Jarjou' (Nabatieh).
- 220 Greek Orthodox members registered in Mina Hosn, Ashrafieh, Dar Mreisseh (Beirut), Majdaloun, Hosh Barda (Baalbeck), Antelias (Northern Matn), Mina (Tripoli) and Baabda.
- 84 Shia'a members registered in Bsateen, Maaraki, Bazouriyeh (Sour), Aita Shaab (Bint Jbeil), Ghoubairy and Beer Hassan (Baabda).

### Al-Ahdab (The Hunchback) Family/ 493 members

493 Sunni members registered in Al-Tall, Haddadine, Al-Nouri (Tripoli), Mina Hosn and Bachoura (Beirut).

### Al-Abras (The Leper) Family/ 258 members

- 126 Greek Orthodox members registered in Midan Sharqi, Hosh Zaraani, Mar Antonios, Midan Gharbi, Mar Mikhael (Zahle) and Jdeideh (Akkar).
- 27 Greek Catholic members registered in Ashrafieh, Bachoura (Beirut), Kessrouan (Sarba) and Midan sharqi (Zahle).
- 99 Maronite members registered in Jdeideh, Zawareeb (Akkara) Qartaba (Jbeil), Northern Matn (Zalqa) and Zgharta (Resh'een).
- 6 Sunni members registered in Berqayel (Akkar).

### Farkouh Family/ 200 members

- Maronite registered in Qrayyeh (Baabda) and Ashrafieh (Beirut).
- Shia'a registered in Kharayeb (Saida).
- Greek Orthodox registered in Haret Hreik (Baabda) and Ashrafieh (Beirut).

### Kaseeh (The Paralyzed) Family

10 Syrian Orthodox members registered in Biaqout (Matn). ●

# MAZRAAT AL DAHR

## Etymology

There are no studies that reveal where the name of the town was derived from, but in all likelihood it was called Mazraat Al Dahr due to its small area, which makes it similar to a farm (Mazra'a in Arabic), and its location atop a hill resembling a back (Al Dahr).

## Location

Mazraat Al Dahr is located in the Qada'a of Chouf in the Mount Lebanon Mohafaza at an altitude of 650m above the sea level. It lies 64 km from Beirut and 30 km from the Qada'a center in Beiteddine. It spreads across 430 hectares and may be reached via two roads:

- Beirut- Alman- Joun- Mazraat Al Dahr
- Beirut- Saadiyat- Darayya- Anout- Zaarouriyeh- Mazraat Al Dahr

## Population

The number of registered inhabitants in the town's personal status register is estimated at 1800 people, of whom the majority are Maronite and the remaining are Greek Orthodox and Greek Catholic. There are about 200 houses and 3 non-residential institutions in Mazraat Al Dahr.

## Voters

In 2000, the number of voters in the town was 1131 of whom 231 cast their ballots. This number increased to 1173 in 2005 of whom 553 cast their ballots. In 2009, the number reached 1278 voters with 558 casting their ballots. Inhabitants in Mazraat Al Dahr are distributed among different families, with the majority belonging to the Eid family.

- Eid (Maronite): 812 members
- Khoury (Maronite): 23 members
- Rizk (Maronite): 17 members
- Berbari (Greek Orthodox): 7 members
- Klim (Maronite): 6 members
- Faraj (Maronite): 5 members
- Thahabi (Maronite): 3 members
- Thalj (Greek Catholic): 8 members

## Local authorities

The municipal council in Mazraat Al Dahr is composed of 9 members and headed by Hassib Jamil Eid, a lawyer. Its share in the Independent Municipal Fund was LBP 113 million in 2010, compared to LBP 96.4 million in 2009. The town has one Mukhtar, Souhad Eid, and a 3-member Ikhtiyariah body. The town is known for having had a female mayor, Therese Eid, in office for a long time.



## Educational institutions

The public school in Mazraat Al Dahr was destroyed during the Mountain War in 1985 and the havoc wreaked on the town forced its inhabitants to flee their homes. The few students living in Mazraat Al Dahr nowadays seek education in the neighboring towns.

## Archeological sites

The town is home to ancient archaeological remains and to an old olive press.

## Economic activities

People in Mazraat Al Dahr earn their living through agriculture, growing pine and olive trees in particular.

## NGOs

Mazraat Al Dahr includes the following NGOs:

- Al Sho'la Cultural Association founded in 2008
- The Green Mountain Agricultural Coop founded in 2005
- The Social Charity Association founded in 1987 to take care of the displaced

## Problems

The inhabitants of Mazraat Al Dahr have reconstructed their homes thanks to the funds provided by the Ministry of the Displaced following the end of displacement, but unfortunately, most of those still live outside the town, in Beirut and other areas. The permanent population in Mazraat Al Dahr does not exceed 50 people due to the lack of employment opportunities. ●

# SIT-INS IN DOWNTOWN BEIRUT

## POLITICAL STANCES BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Friday, December 1, 2006 marked the date of a huge demonstration held by the then opposition (Hezbollah, Amal Movement, Free Liberation Party and their allies) in Downtown Beirut. The protesting move resulted in an open sit-in and an explicit blockade of the Grand Serail in demand of the resignation of the Seniora government, especially after the withdrawal of the Shia's MPs from the cabinet on November 11, 2006 and the failure to form a national unity government, where Hezbollah and its allies have the blocking third, or to schedule a cabinet session to approve the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. In his speech back then, General Michel Aoun asserted that the tribunal was unconstitutional, calling on PM Seniora to step down. On his part, MP Ali Hassan Khalil stressed that protesters shall stay on the street until the then president of the republic, Emile Lahoud, issues a decree appointing a new prime minister. The sit-ins lingered 538 days but failed to overthrow the government, until finally the Dawha agreement brought them to a halt and permitted the election of a new president (Michel Suleiman) and the formation of a national unity government.

The same scene repeated itself, with different players this time, on Sunday, October 18, 2012, on the heels of the assassination of Brigadier General Wissam el-Hassan. During el-Hassan's funeral in Downtown Beirut, there were calls on the mourners to break into the Grand Serail in an attempt to topple the government. Clashes with the Serail's police lead to counter calls not to break in but rather stage sit-ins outside the Serail until the demands were met.

### Yesterday's stances

#### Grand Mufti Sheikh Mouhammad Rashid Qabbani:

“staging sit-ins Downtown and around the Grand Serail was the error that dragged the country to where it is now.” He added after leading prayers: “we would like to tell everybody a free democratic political work is one, which goes through the constitutional institutions, Parliament and the Cabinet, not through street sit-ins, as it is absolutely unacceptable to pose threat to Lebanon's security and stability... We urge the opposition to act rationally and turn the constitutional institutions instead of using the streets to topple the government.”

#### PM Fouad Seniora:

“I do respect the protesters' right to stage sit-ins, but what they are doing is limiting the liberties of people and causing a huge economic loss worth millions of dollars.”

#### Statement issued by the Maronite bishops:

“It is time to free Downtown and its surroundings so that the capital restores prosperity.”

#### Carlos Eddeh:

“what's happening in Downtown Beirut is an occupation of the capital by the forces of opposition. I urge shop and restaurant owners, who closed down their businesses due to the sit-ins staged in that area to return to work as usual.”

#### Minister Marwan Hamadeh:

“we will thwart the movement of the opposition, much like we have thwarted the sit-ins, which turned downtown to a kermis.”

#### Former MP Fares Soueid:

“the sit-in is tantamount to a closed building site in Downtown Beirut, and life continues without it, especially that it has failed to achieve all the political gains it has outlined.”

#### MP Saad Hariri:

“the sit-ins staged in Downtown Beirut devastate the economy and damage the image of Lebanon.”

#### MP Walid Jumblat:

“they may stay in their tents for months but we won't let them realize their goal.”

**Former minister Suleiman Frangieh:**

“the tents set in Downtown Beirut damaged the economy of the Hariris, not Lebanon.”

**Former minister Talal Erslan:**

“this is by far the most civilized sit-in known to democracy. It has protected the country and prevented the Israeli flag from flying in Beirut’s squares.”

**Sheikh Fathi Yakan:**

“your sit-in, which gathers people from all sects and movements and political and intellectual schools, will, God willing, foil the American plan just like the resistance debunked in July the myth of the invincible state.”

**General Michel Aoun:**

“our movement is a surgery that incites temporary pain but cures the patient eventually.”

**Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah:**

“if the sit-in in downtown Beirut is fruitless, why are there negotiations to swap it with the wired telecom network, and why hasn’t one visitor come to Lebanon without whining about it?”

**Today’s stances**

**Future Movement Media Coordinator Abdullah Baroudi:**

“the diverse opposition poles are participating in this sit-in starting with the Future Movement and the Islamic Jama’a and ending with the civil society, in order to overthrow the government.”

**Former PM Fouad Seniora:**

“no dialogue shall take place before the departure of the government, which is an accomplice in covering the crime. Leave (to PM Najib Mikati) because people don’t want your government.”

**Former PM Saad Hariri:**

“the government must fall down but with peaceful means only.”

**MP Moueen Merhebi:**

“I urge protester to stage sit-ins near Mikati’s residence in Tripoli, until he resigns.”

**Lebanese Forces Bloc:**

“we renew our call for the government to resign immediately and to re-shape power in such a way that secures real stability... and the continuance of popular and peaceful movements is a function of how the situation progresses.”

**Future Movement MP Mostafa Alloush:**

“what we are doing is an attempt to restore rather than destroy the state... and there were no intentions to break into the Grand Serail.”

**March 14 Youth and Student Organizations:**

“we support the maintenance of the peaceful sit-ins outside the Grand Serail until the realization of demands, especially the resignation of the government.”

**Grand Mufti Qabbani was the only one who maintained his stance, refusing to topple the government by street movements. ●**



March 14 Forces sit-ins near the Grand Serail - Downtown - Beirut  
Photo by Mohamad Mashlab

# NOVEMBER 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2012 WITNESSED SEVERAL POLITICAL STANCES AND EVENTS IN LEBANON, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WERE:

SPEAKER NABIH BERRI: "OIL AND GAS IN SOUTHERN REGIONAL WATERS OF LEBANON."

FRENCH PRESIDENT IN LEBANON, PM MIKATI IN FRANCE AND PATRIARCH EL-RAI ORDAINED AS CARDINAL.

STRIKES DEMAND THE APPROVAL OF THE SALARIES' SCALE.

CLASHES DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AIN EL-HELWI HERALD MAJOR HAZARDS.

NASRALLAH: "WE ARE SITTING AT THE DIALOGUE TABLE OUT OF SENSE OF DIGNITY AND RESPECT ONLY. IF MARCH 14 FORCES REFUSED THE DIALOGUE, THEN WE COULDN'T CARE LESS."

JUMBLAT LAUNCHES A MEDIAL DIALOGUE INITIATIVE, STRESSING THAT ELECTIONS WILL OCCUR.

DIALOGUE POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 7, 2013.

## November 2

- Former PM Saad Hariri calls MP Walid Jumblat in a conciliatory move mediated by President Michel Suleiman.

- A force of the Syrian Liberation Army (SLA) backed by members from Eرسال, attack a police checkpoint in the town for prohibiting the entry of a wounded SLA member to Lebanon, which results in his death and the injury of 13 ISF members.

- In protection of national unity, Speaker Nabih Berri adjourns the general parliamentary session scheduled on November 7, following his meeting with PM Najib Mikati.

- STL Appeals Chamber refuses to reconsider its decision to proceed with the in absentia trials scheduled on March 25, 2013.

- Former PM Fouad Seniora confirms having phoned PM Najib Mikati upon his return from pilgrimage.

- MP Nouhad Mashnouq assures Kalam El-Nass of the existence of photographs proving the presence of a Hezbollah member near the explosion site of Wissam el-Hassan.

## November 3

- MP Suleiman Frangieh announces his son's candidacy for elections on Al-Manar TV stating that the issue boils down to who gave up, not who killed Wissam el-Hassan.

- Speaker Nabih Berri says that oil and gas wealth off Lebanon's southern coast is among the richest in the world.

## November 5

- On his way to KSA, French President Francois Hollande visits Lebanon for three hours and meets his Lebanese counterpart stressing that Lebanon should not be Syria's victim and warning of any attempt to destabilize Lebanon.

- PM Najib Mikati arrives in Bulgaria on an official 3-day visit.

Members of the Higher Islamic Council accuse Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Qabbani of twisting the statement agreed upon during the session held on Saturday, November 3, 2012.

- Former PM Saad Hariri attends a luncheon held by the Saudi king in honor of the French President at his palace in Jeddah.

## November 6

- A Future Movement delegation chaired by former PM Fouad Seniora visits Patriarch al-Rai to congratulate him on his ordination as Cardinal. Following his meetings, Seniora assures that he supports dialogue and a government that can defuse the tension.

- French ambassador to Lebanon Patrice Paoli lays a wreath on Wissam el-Hassan's grave, on behalf of the French President Francois Hollande.

- Families of the Lebanese pilgrims abducted in Syria stage a sit-in outside the UNIFIL's Turkish contingent in South Lebanon.

- STL registrar Herman von Hebel tweets that the tribunal will begin preparing for the trial on March 25, 2013, stressing that the transfer of el-Hassan's file to the tribunal requires a UN resolution.

- US Assistant Secretary of State William Barnes phones MP Walid Jumblat urging him to form a new Lebanese government without falling into the void.

## November 7

- Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Kamel Amr arrives in Lebanon on a 2-day

visit and meets several official and political figures, including first and foremost LF leader Samir Geagea.

- PM Najib Mikati leaves Bulgaria for Hungary on an official visit.

Members of Jumblat's bloc and Hezbollah hold a meeting at MP Ghazi El-Aridi's residence.

- Families of the Lebanese pilgrims abducted in Syria stage a sit-in outside the Qatari embassy in Beirut.

- "Brigadier General Wissam el-Hassan is responsible for his own death as he was tasked with protecting himself and the Lebanese," says MP Michel Suleiman.

- Economic committees urge the government not to refer the ranks and salaries' scale to Parliament due to its hazards on national economy.

### November 8

- The Cabinet convenes at the Presidential Palace and delays the referral of the ranks and salaries' scale to Parliament. Central Bank Governor attends the session and proposes to pay for the wage scale in installments for the next five years. The cabinet also approves a committee to oversee oil exploration according to sectarian and political quotas.

- Italy's Assistant Secretary of State visits Lebanon.

- The statement issued by the Council of Maronite Bishops urges positive responses to the President's call for dialogue and the Pope's emissary to Lebanon Cardinal Robert Sarah attends the meeting.

- Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Kamel Amr concludes his visit to Lebanon after meeting MP Walid Jumblat in Mukhtara and leaves without visiting Hezbollah.

- Restaurant and coffee shop owners protest in the Sodeco area,

announcing their commitment not to comply with the smoking ban law.

### November 9

- MP Michel Aoun visits Patriarch Al-Rai to congratulate him on his cardinality.

- Teachers and public employees go on strike in protest of the failure to refer the pay scale to Parliament.

- MP Walid Jumblat tells As-Safir that the adoption of the 1960s law is better than delaying the elections, warning of financial and economic dangers.

- Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Awad Oseiri visits Patriarch Al-Rai to congratulate him on his cardinality.

### November 10

- A Hezbollah delegation visits Patriarch Al -Rai to congratulate him on his cardinality and reiterates its objection to the 1960s law and support of proportionality.

- "Delaying the elections is not an option," President Michel Suleiman says to a delegation from the Loyalty to the Country movement.

- "No one is allowed to seize our decision and we cannot be in the same government as those involved with the killing machine," says LF leader Samir Geagea during a symposium on the Apostolic Exhortation.

- Abducted in Syria urge their families to protest outside the Turkish and Syrian embassies and to dismiss the Syrian ambassador from Lebanon.

### November 12

- Clashes erupt in Al Taamir neighborhood in Ain El-Helwe Palestinian camp between Hezbollah members and Sheikh Al-Assir's supporters after the latter tore up posters of Hezbollah.

Three, including two bodyguards of Al-Assir were killed in the clashes and seven, including one Hezbollah official were wounded. Al-Assir's bodyguards disarm several ISF members, following their arrest of Al-Assir's son for driving without a license.

- The March 14 candidate Michel Khoury wins the by-election of the Tripoli Bar Association.

### November 13

- Burial of al-Assir's supporters who were killed in the clashes, in Dawar Al-Karama in a Saida area thought to be a public property.

- On Martyrs' Day festival, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah demands expansion of the dialogue table to include all those who resisted Israel, stressing that Hezbollah sits at the dialogue table out of sense of dignity and respect only.

- Fares Soueid meets MP Sami Gemayyel in Bekfayya to arrange the relation between the General Secretariat of March 14 Forces and the Phalanges.

### November 14

- Former PM Saad Hariri arrives in the Vatican to meet the Pope, and lashes out at Nasrallah following the latter's stance on dialogue. Hariri hits back at Jumblat ruling out compromise on Taif Accord.

### November 15

- President Michel Suleiman chairs a meeting of the Higher Defense Council at the Presidential Palace and assigns the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces the mission of restoring order in Saida.

- The Cabinet convenes at the Grand Serail, under the chairmanship of PM Najib Mikati.

- Government Commissioner to Military Court issues an inspection

communiqué against al-Assir's son and some of his bodyguards who attacked an ISF checkpoint in Saida.

### November 17

- The STL schedules a public hearing on November 27 to confirm or postpone the date of trials set initially on March 25, 2013.

### November 19

- PM Najib Mikati arrives in France on an official visit that lasts until Wednesday.

- Sheikh Ahmad Al-Assir holds a press conference announcing a sit-in at the Bilal Bin Rabah mosque and suspends the formation of an armed resistance wing in Saida until further discussions.

- The Beirut Bar Association elections result in the victory for two March 14 candidates, one March 8 candidate and one independent candidate.

- March 14 candidate Rabih Hassouna is elected the head of the Pharmacists' Order after receiving 1790 votes against 1659 for his Hezbollah rival Ali Safa.

- The Phalanges Party commemorates the 6th anniversary of the assassination of Minister Pierre Gemayyel. Former President Amin Gemayyel says that only death can tear March 14 members apart.

### November 20

- In her reply to Sheikh Ahmad Al-Assir without naming him, MP Bahiya Hariri says that no one will drag them where they don't want to go.

- PM Najib Mikati continues his visit to France and holds talks with his French counterpart and the President of the French National Assembly. He also signs cooperation agreements in the culture and media domain.

- Another wave of car accidents results in the death of 5 people and the injury of 6, of whom 4 are Syrian, in El-Nehme.

- The Union coordination committee calls for a strike on November 27 and November 28.

- The UNHCR announces that the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has reached 122 000.

- The STL prosecution summons 557 witnesses and experts to stand before court.

- The Lebanese Army disarms two ready-to-launch Grad rockets aimed at Israel in the town of Al-Mari.

### November 21

- Ministers of the National Front Bloc visit President Michel Suleiman to inaugurate the dialogue initiative to be launched by MP Walid Jumblat.

- MP Walid Jumblat tells As-Safir that he is part of a quadruple alliance (Jumblat- PM Mikati- Speaker Nabih Berri- President Michel Suleiman) and the resignation of his ministers is out of question. Jumblat reiterates that the election will be held on time as there is no excuse to delay it.

- Suffocating traffic jam blocks Beirut's streets and entrances due to the Lebanese Army's rehearsal for the military parade on Independence Day, and the Army apologizes to people for the inconvenience.

- "The Syrian refugees issue is getting dangerous due to the neglect of all security apparatuses," says General Michel Aoun.

- In his speech on Independence Day, President Michel Suleiman underlines the importance of dialogue and reiterates the need to render verdicts at a faster pace, refusing intimidation, which contradicts the essence of the National Charter.

- French President Francois Hollande receives PM Majid Mikati

and commends Lebanon's policy of disassociation.

- Speaker Nabih Berri invites all Lebanese parties to resume discussions over the electoral law and LF leader Samir Geagea declines the invitation by asking Berri: "Don't you feel embarrassed to sit with the accused?" stressing that no action shall be taken before the machine of killing stops.

### November 24

- Head of Iran's Shura Council Ali Larijani arrives in Lebanon from Syria and meets Speaker Nabih Berri and other Palestinian factions, underlining his country's keenness on national unity among the Lebanese.

- Hundreds of political, parliamentary and ministerial figures arrive together with the President of the Republic in Rome to attend the ordination of Patriarch Al-Rai as Cardinal. Al-Rai objects to the calls demanding the handing of the accused in Hariri's assassination to the STL, stressing that there is no coming back to the 1960s electoral law, but the parties shouldn't boycott the elections if they fail to find a better alternative.

- The Lebanese Army holds festivities followed by a reception at the Presidential Palace in celebration of Independence Day, in the absence of Walid Jumblat, Samir Geagea, Michel Aoun and Suleiman Frangieh.

- The Lebanese Army Intelligence arrests 5 Syrians in Nabatieh for planning to detonate a bomb on Ashura Day, an accusation which turns out to be false.

- Speaker Nabih Berri cancels the scheduled parliamentary session in order to welcome the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and invites the MPs for a luncheon in Ain Tineh in honor of the Armenian President.

### November 27

- Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah delivers Ashura speech in person renewing his support to dialogue but stressing that he will respond arrogantly to arrogance and that the resistance's weapons can target every spot in Israel from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat.

- Vatican brings together over 6000 Lebanese figures from all sects and political groups in the ordination of Lebanon's Patriarch Beshara Al-Rai as Cardinal.

- Grand Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Qabbani sets December 30 as a date for the Higher Islamic Council elections and the Future Movement urges him to go back on it.

- Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan arrives in Lebanon for a 3-day official visit.

- MP Walid Jumblat launches his dialogue initiative during a press conference in Moukhtara, announcing that he is a centrist who is neither with March 8 nor March 14 Forces.

- "Is it possible after 52 years to consider the 1960s law as a basis for the coming elections?" PM Najib Mikati wonders before a delegation from the Civil Campaign for Electoral Reform.

### November 28

- The public sector, public schools and a number of private schools go on strike demanding the referral of the pay scale to Parliament.

- Speaker Nabih Berri holds a banquet in honor of the Armenian President and urges the Lebanese to stick to dialogue and the Taif Accord and to forge an understanding over the conflicting issues.

### November 29

- President Michel Suleiman postpones the dialogue session that was scheduled on November 29,

2012 due to the boycott of March 14 Forces.

- The Cabinet convenes at the Presidential Palace and delays the discussion of the pay scale until December 10.

- A PSP delegation meets Sheikh Naim Qassem to brief Hezbollah on the content of Jumblat's dialogue initiative.

- Following their meeting at the Grand Serail, PM Najib Mikati clarifies to the UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs that Lebanon cannot provide aid to the Syrian refugees without an international assistance.

### November 30

- Prosecutor General, Judge Hatem Madi refers the file of forged colloquium certificates to the Central Criminal Court.

- Al-Meqdad family blocks a central road in the southern suburbs demanding the release of some family members. Minister of Interior and Municipalities Marwan Charbel visits the site and succeeds in lifting the protest.

- STL President, Judge David Baragwanath continues his visit

to Lebanon and meets Public Prosecutor Judge Hatem Madi and Head of the Higher Judicial Council Judge Jean Fahd.

- Attorney General of South Lebanon Judge Samir Haj issues arrest warrants against 13 people on charges of involvement in the Ain el-Helwi incidents, including Hezbollah members and supporters of Sheikh Ahmad El-Assir and the Popular Nasserite Organization.

### December 1

- 22 Islamists from Tripoli killed in an ambush set up by the Syrian Army in the Syrian town of Talkalakh, while sneaking into Syria to fight with the rebels against the regime.

- A PSP delegation visits General Michel Aoun in Rabieh and hands him Jumblat's dialogue initiative.

- "We are against the dialogue table at which Aoun, Raad and Hardan are sitting to have fun," LF leader Samir Geagea says during a press conference.

- PM Najib Mikati visits Al-Rai to congratulate him on cardinality, and assures that elections will be held on time. ●



# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- LEBANON

## THE SYRIAN SOCIAL NATIONALIST PARTY MILITARY COUP

Unlike other Arab countries, such as Egypt and Syria, where military coups have resulted in overthrowing governments, Lebanon has never witnessed in its history a successful coup d'état. However, there was an abortive coup attempt launched at the end of 1961 by the Syrian Social Nationalist Party under the rule of General Fouad Chehab. Since then, many secrets surrounding the failed attempt have been revealed, while others are yet to unravel. Today, after 52 years, *The Monthly* provides a full account of the failed attempt in light of the available information.

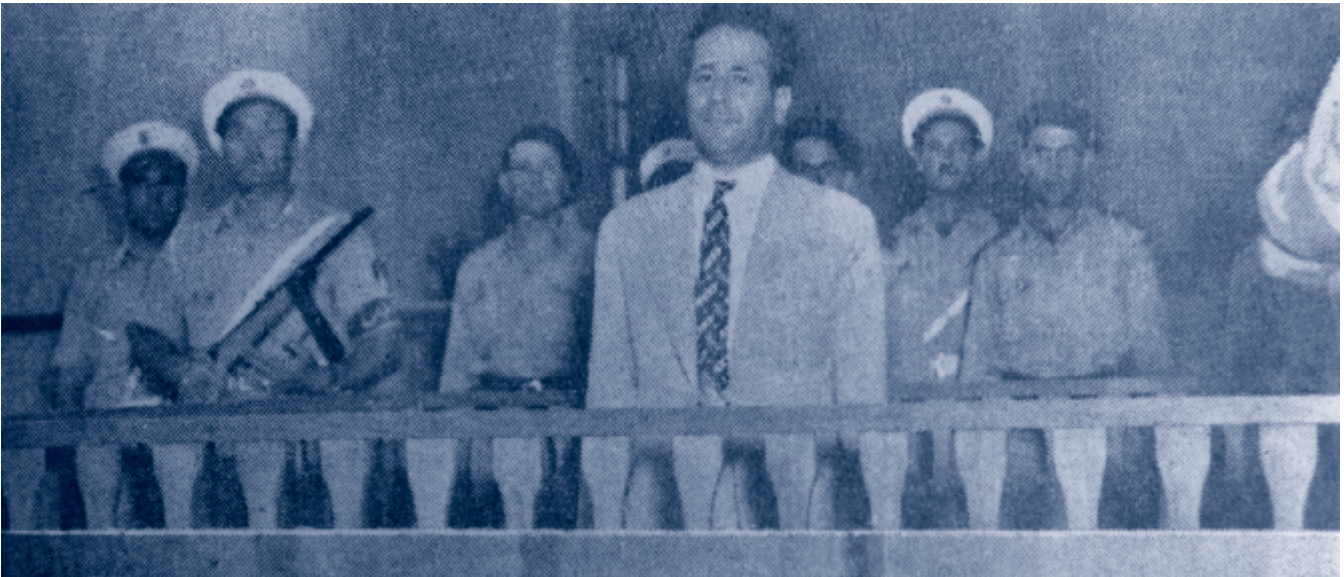
### Historical background

On July 4, 1949, the SSNF revolted against President Bechara Khoury, which forced the army to intervene and restore order. The party's leader, Antoine Saadeh, fled the country to neighboring Syria, after the Syrian military dictator Hosny Al-Zaim offered him support. However, Al-Zaim, had also struck a bargain with the Lebanese President, and apprehended Saadeh upon his arrival to Syria. He was handed over to the Lebanese authorities that tried and executed him within 24 hours. The execution of Saadeh led the SSNP members to assassinate former PM Riad As-Solh in Amman on July 16, 1951, as they held him accountable for the death of their leader. During the 1958 revolution, the SSNP sided with the then President Camille Chamoun and the Phalanges Party in confronting the popular resistance backed by the Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser. This set the stage for a rift between the party and the then Army Commander Fouad Chehab, who later established friendly relations with the Phalanges, thus aggravating the fissure with the SSNP. The party accused the pro-Chehab Army Intelligence of inducing the fall of SSNP candidate Enaam Raad in the 1959 by-elections in Baakleen and Joun and that of the SSNP president Abdallah Saadeh in the Koura 1960 elections along with Asaad Ashkar in Matn and Enaam Raad in Chouf. Time reinforced the hostilities between the two parties, and the SSNP found itself on the margin of the political life and the Lebanese administration, while the Phalanges expanded and promoted their position, taking advantage of their amiable ties with Fouad Chehab. The doctrine adopted by the SSNP added insult to the injury as it did not recognize Lebanon as an independent entity, but as part of Greater Syria, which consists of Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Jordan. Some pinpoint other

reasons associated with foreign ties and regional interventions that fueled the hostility between the SSNP and Fouad Chehab.

### Preparation for the coup

As soon as the United Arab Republic (Syrian-Egyptian unity) collapsed on September 28, 1961, the SSNP found the perfect opportunity to assault Chehab's regime, which had become barricaded by Syria and the anti-Nasserite Jordan. Despite the growing role of the Egyptian embassy's intelligence, Jamal Abdul Nasser was no longer on the Lebanese borders to be able to intervene easily. Thus, the SSNP sensed that the time had come to break down the Chehabi-Nasserite alliance. Following a series of covert meetings held with the commander of the 1st sniper regiment in the Marjeyoun barrack Captain Chawqi Khairallah, and the commander of the 2nd armored battalion in the Tyre barrack Captain Fouad Awad, the SSNP leader Abdullah Saadeh set to launch a military coup against Fouad Chehab. The two officers conveyed to Awad what they considered complaints from the Lebanese Army officers about the policy adopted by the President of the Republic, thus laying the grounds for a significant and critical role of the army in the coup and facilitating its success by using soldiers and military equipment. The officers, who were loyal nationalists even before joining the Military School, reported to Awad the indignation dominating the army's ranks and the possibility of relying on other indignant political figures who would later provide a political cover for the coup, especially that its success would instantly have them rallying to claim credit for it. Following the first meeting in October 1962 and a few successive



ones, the SSNP leader communicated the idea with the party's Higher Council and obtained its approval by a majority vote, with a few members expressing reserve over daring such a dangerous move, particularly if it did not succeed. Secret deliberations led to the outlining of a plan for the coup: arresting the president at his residence and confining the Speaker of the House, the premier and all high-ranking officers who were closely associated with the president.

It was agreed to initiate the coup at midnight on December 30, 1961, for soldiers and officers were usually off duty on New Year's Eve and low alert levels could prove beneficial. However, the risk lied in counting on a small military force to carry out the strike, which was an armored regiment summoned from Tyre to invade the Ministry of National Defense.

Captain Chawqi Khairallah was arrested for disciplinary reasons in the wake of Independence Day on November 22, 1961 and was jailed for 60 days in a room at an officer's house near the Fayyadiéh barrack, a move that prevented the participation of his Marjeyoun regiment in the coup, which had already failed by the time of his release and arrival at the Ministry of Defense.

Another aspect of the plan, which was more precise and likely to avail, entailed the dispatch of a force of armed nationalists lead by officer Ali Haj Hussein to Jounieh, to arrest the President at his residence.

Shortly past midnight, the armored battalion commanded by Captain Fouad Awad, headed from its barracks for the Ministry of National Defense. It arrived at around 2 am and confined senior officers including Antoun Saad (Head of Intelligence), Ahmad Haj, Fawzi Khateeb, Iskandar Ghanem, Jean Nakhoul, Sami Tabbara and Aniss Abou Zaki. During their gathering at Antoun's residence, they received from intelligence agents news suggesting that many nationalists were spreading in certain Lebanese regions in preparation for what might be, according to many reports that had flooded the Intelligence Division for several days, a military insurgence. The officers hurried to the Ministry of National Defense at 1 am to follow up the matter, heedless that this could be an attempt for a coup d'état. By the time they arrived, Fouad Awad's battalion had been on its way to the Ministry, passing near three large army barracks: the 1st anti-aircraft regiment of Fouad Chehab's barrack, the armor regiment of Prince Fakhreddine's barrack and the artillery regiment of Prince Bashir's barrack. Although the convoy did not encounter any army checkpoints or elicit the alertness of the Intelligence Division, the coup miscarried for two correlative reasons: failure to invade the Ministry of National Defense, and failure to arrest the President.

Fouad Awad blockaded the Ministry's building without breaking in and arresting the officers, who had succeeded, thanks to an internal phone line, which survived the vandalism acts, to establish a

connection between the office of Commander-in-Chief Iskandar Ghanem and the transportation regiment at Youssef Trabolsi's barrack. The officers enclosed inside the Ministry were able to reach out to the army forces, put them on alert and warn the President. Meantime, the non-coordination among members of the nationalist force lead by Lieutenant Ali Haj Hassan and tasked with the arrest of the President delayed its arrival at his house, and resulted in foiling its plot and tracking its men in the nearby hills, especially after the force failed to contrive alternative measures and make use of time. Army units set off from the barracks in the vicinity of Beirut to capture Fouad Awad's nationalist gunmen, while military aircrafts flew at low-level above the mountain and Jounieh. Communication was restored between all barracks and military units in the Lebanese regions, and the blockade of the Ministry was lifted shortly past 6 am, after the army had dispersed all over the place.

Following the death of 6 soldiers, the army re-tightened its hold over security and the masterminds and accomplices behind the coup, including the three officers, were arrested, while some other SSNP figures managed to flee first to Syria and then Jordan.

The SSNP was dissolved after over 10 000 of its members were hauled to prisons, most of which were military barracks or rooms in the Cite Sportive.

They were subjected to several transgressions and offences during the investigation, until they were transferred, two years later, on November 22, 1963, to civil prisons such as the Raml Prison in Beirut and another one in Tripoli, noting that thousands of innocents were released. All 140 soldiers who participated in the coup were also arrested and taken to Henri Chehab's barracks for interrogation. The majority were later freed, as evidence proved they were not involved voluntarily in the rebellion, but were unknowingly tricked into being part of Fouad Awad's secret scheme, save 26 members who joined Awad while besieging the Ministry of National Defense.

The Second Division was never hesitant to influence the judiciary and the course of investigation, portraying the coup as a threat to the regime and an attempt to undermine it by using violence, and

planning to kill the President of the Republic. It also chased the SSNP proponents, closed down its offices in all Lebanese regions and banned all its meetings and activities. The houses and offices of the Syrian nationalists were subject to inspection and their families were interrogated and put under surveillance.

The trial of the SSNP lasted for months, until finally the Military Court of Cassation rendered on November 15, 1963, irrevocable verdicts following the reserve of Judge Emile Abou Kheir over classifying the coup attempt as a regular crime and his insistence to consider it a political one, a stance to which military judges objected, but the President resigned. The purpose was to overturn the death penalty verdicts against officers Fouad Awad, Chawqi Khairallah and Ali Haj Hassan and other senior SSNP figures including Abdullah Saadeh, Mohammad Baalbaki, Bashir Oubeid, Mohsen Atrash and Joubran Atrash and sentence them to hard labor for life rather than capital punishment. Other nationalists were sent to only one year in prison.

Rumors suggested that the anti-Nasserite Jordan and Briain's allies were encouraging and financing the coup, which they believed would be a harsh blow against both President Chehab and Abdul Nasser, a finding that needs further exploration. ♦♦

Nicolas Nassif. *"The Republic of Fouad Chehab."* November 2008.



# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- ARAB WORLD

## FIRST ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN CAIRO, JANUARY 1964

**The 13th of January 1964 marked the first Arab summit conference held by the Arab League, in the presence of the Egyptian president Jamal Abdul Nasser and 13 Arab kings and other heads of state, with the Palestinian cause at the center of their meetings. Following Israel's diversion of the headwaters of the River Jordan, president Jamal Abdul Nasser called for an Arab summit aimed to confront Israeli threats and face the risks emerging from its determination to take over Arab water resources. The summit took place in the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo.**

Since its establishment in 1945, the Arab League insisted on having a Palestinian representative in its council, although Palestine was still under British mandate at the time. However, Palestine remained a member at the Arab league even after the 1948 Catastrophe (Al-Nakba), and was represented by Moussa Alami, Ahmad Hilmi Abdul Baki and Ahmad Chouqeiry respectively. The Arab kings and heads of state convening in Cairo agreed to exert concerted efforts to ward off the imminent Israeli menace and promote the existence of Palestine as an independent entity. Ahmad Chouqeiry, the then Palestinian representative at the Arab League, was mandated to initiate contacts with the Palestinians to this end and to present his findings in a report submitted to the Arab League during its next conference.

Therefore, Chouqeiry began an Arab world tour and made phone calls to all the Palestinians in the Arab countries. During his tour, he drafted a Palestine National Charter and a Basic Statute, for what would be later known as the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). It was also agreed to hold a General Palestinian Assembly and Chouqeiry was assigned to choose its preparatory committees in every Arab country hosting Palestinians. The mission of each of these committees was to establish lists of the candidates who were most likely to gain membership in the Assembly in their respective regions. Then, Chouqeiry appointed a higher coordination committee to coordinate between all candidates' lists from different countries, and prepare the final list. The Assembly elected Chouqeiry as its chairman and announced the establishment of the Palestinian Liberation Organization after endorsing the National Charter

and the Basic Statute. Chouqeiry was also elected as head of the Organization's Executive Committee and presented on September 5, 1964 a report detailing the formation of the PLO, in which he emphasized the military and organizational measures necessary to liberate Palestine and carry out the mobilization process. The Arab summit sanctioned Chouqeiry's achievements and approved financial support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**“Setting up a unified military command for all Arab troops, with their headquarters in Cairo”**

The final communiqué issued by the first Arab summit conference in Cairo included a number of resolutions, the most important of which were the following:

- Deterring all political, economic and media Israeli threats.
- Setting up a unified military command for all Arab troops, with their headquarters in Cairo.
- Establishing the River Jordan Waters Exploitation Committee, tasked with planning, coordinating and observing all projects in relation to the exploitation of the River Jordan's waters..
- Forming bases to organize the Palestinians, thus enabling them to liberate their land and determine their destiny and mandating Ahmad Chouqeiry to carry out the organization of people.
- Meeting at least once a year and holding the second summit in Alexandria in August 1964. ●

# UNVEILING THE PENINSULA

## ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN SINAI

**The rapid changes that have hit both Egyptian state and society during the past year have made way for considerable gaps in the functions of agents of law enforcement. The loosened grip of the state apparatus has led to an increase in the crime rates across the country, and has provided an environment that is conducive of criminal organizations. While the situation of internal security has deteriorated in general, its dire consequences have reached out to the increasing number of refugees in particular. Illegal refugees have long been forced into sexual slavery and coerced labor, but a new practice that merits attention is that of organ trafficking. This practice has found its hideout in the desert of Sinai, and is affecting men, women and children alike.**

The victims of this barbarous trade are mainly refugees from South East African countries attempting to improve their livelihood in Egypt, Israel, or other countries of the Levant. And the traffickers are allegedly the Bedouin tribes inhabiting the stretch of desert. The Egyptian state has estimated that 250,000 African refugees now reside in their country (Millman, and Bradley). The majority of those who end up crossing the Sinai desert are from Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The UNHCR web portal revealed that the number of refugees crossing the Sinai has increased from 5,000 in 2009 to 14,000 in 2010.

As is the case in a number of developing countries, female refugees that are captured by trafficking networks are usually forced into prostitution. However in the case of organ trafficking, no one is spared. Traffickers take advantage of the tight economic conditions of refugees and their unofficial status to extract some of their organs, mainly the kidney, and sell them to recipients in need for thousands of dollars. The uncovering of a trafficking network in Israel in 2010 revealed that kidneys can be bought for around \$140,000.

The Coalition for Organ Failure Solutions recently published a report entitled “Sudanese Victims of Organ Trafficking in Egypt” in which they conducted in-depth interviews with 57 Sudanese survivors. While the report only had access to those who remained alive; it estimated the number of victims of organ trafficking at a few thousands. Through the interviews, it was able to find that refugees were aided into the country by the help of traffickers who were themselves in direct collaboration with the brokers and organ sellers. Donor recipients include different regional nationalities, such as Sudan, Jordan, Libya, a number of Gulf countries, and Israel, the country with the largest per capita demand of kidneys in the world (Weir 15). This implies that the extent of this phenomenon has spread across several countries that should not be spared the responsibility.

Of the Bedouin tribes involved, no one has stepped up to the responsibility. Tribal chiefs have acknowledged that this is happening, but refuse to hold any entire tribe accountable, and instead blame it on certain deviant members. The CNN

Freedom Project was able to get in touch with some tribal members who provided contact with a former smuggler. He revealed that doctors from Cairo are involved in the process, and arrive in Sinai with fridges for storage and transportation. Organs are bought for amounts such as 20,000 dollars (Pleitgen, and Fadel Fahmy).

Egyptian legislation does provide regulation for the legal transplant of organs. It prohibits the practices of compensating for attained organs, and removing organs from patients who are not brain-dead. It also allows foreigners to engage in organ transplantation under Egyptian law, but only with people of their own nationality (Millman, and Bradley). This not only points to the unlawfulness of this newly expanding practice, but also to the ineffectiveness of law enforcement. The authorities, though well aware of the rise of this practice, have not yet pinpointed anyone in charge.

The recent developments of this problem account for the lack of available information. But it can be said that the future of this matter will to a large extent be a function of the political developments within the country. In the meantime, a tighter approach to law enforcement and a more prevalent presence of police forces in Sinai could significantly alleviate the problem. Other Arab nations should also be concerned since refugees from countries such as Jordan, Syria and Iraq are also being dragged into this, making it prone to uncontrollable expansion. ●

### References:

- Millman, Joel, and Matt Bradley. “Organ-Trafficking is Said to Rise in Egypt.” *Wall Street Journal*. 12 Dec 2011: n. page. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.
- Pleitgen, Fred, and Mohamed Fadel Fahmy. “Refugees Face Organ Theft in the Sinai.” *CNN Freedom Project*. 03 Nov 2011: n. page. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.
- “Police smash Israeli organ-trafficking ring.” *BBC News*. 7 Apr 2010: n. page. Web. 25 Feb. 2012. <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8608053.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8608053.stm)>.
- Smith, Micheal, Daryna Krasnolutska, and David Glovin. “Organ Gangs Force Poor to Sell Kidneys for Separate Israelis.” *Bloomberg Markets Magazine*. 2 Nov 2011: n. page. Web. 25 Feb. 2012.
- “Sudanese Victims of Organ-Trafficking in Egypt.” *Coalition of Organ Failure Solutions*. Coalition of Organ Failure Solutions, Dec 2011. Web. 24 February
- United States Department of State, 2011 *Trafficking in Persons Report - Israel*, 27 June 2011, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4e12ee7137.html> [accessed 24 February 2012]
- Weir, Alison. “Israeli Organ Trafficking and Theft: From Moldova to Palestine.” *Washington Report of Middle East Affairs*. Nov 2009: 15-17. Web. 25 Feb. 2012.

# REAL ESTATE PRICES- NOVEMBER 2012

The Lebanese real estate market witnessed no major changes in November 2012, compared to the past few months. Passivity and decrease in real estate transactions dominated the market amid both abundance of apartments and scarcity of land in Beirut and the suburbs in particular. Land prices maintained stable levels, while a slight increase (2%) was recorded in the prices of modest apartments, contrary to luxury ones, whose prices increased by 5% to 7%. It is likely that the same trend will linger for several months.

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the prices of some estates and apartments sold in November 2012.

| Prices of some estates sold in November 2012 |                     |             | Table 1            |
|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Region                                       | Area m <sup>2</sup> | Price (USD) | USD/m <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Beirut</b>                                |                     |             |                    |
| Ashrafieh                                    | 1,200               | 5,580,000   | 4,650              |
| Badaro                                       | 730                 | 4,380,000   | 6,000              |
| Ashrafieh                                    | 270                 | 1,377,000   | 5,100              |
| Cola Roundabout                              | 360                 | 2,556,000   | 7,100              |
| <b>Baabda</b>                                |                     |             |                    |
| Arayya                                       | 1,100               | 616,000     | 560                |
| Ain Remmaneh                                 | 790                 | 4,266,000   | 5,400              |
| <b>Matn</b>                                  |                     |             |                    |
| Roumieh                                      | 1,950               | 741,000     | 380                |
| Ain Saadeh                                   | 680                 | 646,000     | 950                |
| Gornet Chehwan                               | 1,150               | 828,000     | 720                |
| Sin el-Fil (Habtour)                         | 1,600               | 6,400,000   | 4,000              |
| Broumana                                     | 1,000               | 350,000     | 350                |
| <b>Aley</b>                                  |                     |             |                    |
| Doha Hoss                                    | 1,250               | 600,000     | 480                |
| Doha Aramoun                                 | 1,900               | 1,292,000   | 680                |
| <b>Kessrouan</b>                             |                     |             |                    |
| Faitroun                                     | 1,200               | 396,000     | 330                |
| Farayya                                      | 1,800               | 450,000     | 250                |

Source: Information International- November 2012

| Prices of some apartments sold in November 2012 |                     |             | Table 2            |
|---|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Region  | Area m <sup>2</sup> | Price (USD) | USD/m <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Beirut</b>                                   |                     |             |                    |
| Basta Tahta                                     | 220                 | 440,000     | 2,000              |
| Ras El-Nabe'e                                   | 200                 | 540,000     | 2,700              |
| Geitawi   | 170                 | 450,500     | 2,650              |
| Ashrafieh- Rizk                                 | 150                 | 337,500     | 2,250              |
| Ashrafieh- Rmeil                                | 150                 | 307,500     | 2,050              |
| Sanaye'e  | 210                 | 636,300     | 3,030              |
| Tallet Khayyat                                  | 320                 | 1,568,000   | 4,900              |
| <b>Baabda</b>                                   |                     |             |                    |
| Shiyyah- Hay Madi                               | 180                 | 243,000     | 1,350              |
| Shiyyah- Mouawad                                | 160                 | 192,000     | 1,200              |
| Baabda- Antounieh                               | 130                 | 162,500     | 1,250              |
| Hazmieh- Mar Taqla                              | 420                 | 798,000     | 1,900              |
| Ain Remmaneh                                    | 200                 | 260,000     | 1,300              |
| Yarzi   | 550                 | 1,540,000   | 2,800              |
| Hadath  | 140                 | 211,400     | 1,510              |
| Beer Hassan                                     | 200                 | 200,000     | 1,000              |
| <b>Matn</b>                                     |                     |             |                    |
| Ain Saadeh                                      | 200                 | 300,000     | 1,500              |
| Mansourieh                                      | 165                 | 231,000     | 1,400              |
| Horj Tabet                                      | 190                 | 351,500     | 1,850              |
| Rabieh  | 250                 | 725,000     | 2,900              |
| Broumana  | 200                 | 400,000     | 2,000              |
| Beit Meri                                       | 180                 | 324,000     | 1,800              |
| Dbayeh  | 170                 | 255,000     | 1,500              |
| <b>Aley</b>                                     |                     |             |                    |
| Doha Hoss                                       | 200                 | 400,000     | 2,000              |
| Doha Aramoun                                    | 160                 | 224,000     | 1,400              |
| Khaldeh   | 260                 | 364,000     | 1,400              |
| <b>Kessrouan</b>                                |                     |             |                    |
| Sahel Alma                                      | 200                 | 330,000     | 1,650              |
| Faitroun  | 250                 | 162,500     | 650                |
| Adma  | 360                 | 594,000     | 1,650              |
| Adoniss   | 250                 | 250,000     | 1,000              |

Source: Information International- November 2012

# PRICES OF 100 FOOD PRODUCTS- NOVEMBER 2012

The majority of the 100 food products we track every month maintained stable price levels in November 2012. The prices of 58 items including oil, coffee beans and canned meat remained unchanged, while another 16 items including tissues, potatoes, and cucumber registered higher prices. The remaining 26 items including dairy products, cereals and sugar decreased slightly in price. Table 1 shows the prices of all 100 food products in November 2012 compared to October 2012.

**Prices of 100 food products in November 2012 (in LBP)** **Table 1**

| Item and Brand                 | Prices beginning of November 2012 | Prices beginning of December 2012 | % of price change |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Oil</b>                     |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Afia corn oil (3.5 liters)     | 17,900                            | 17,900                            | 0                 |
| Mazola corn oil (3.5 liters)   | 17,000                            | 17,000                            | 0                 |
| Mazola corn oil (1.8 liters)   | 8,900                             | 8,900                             | 0                 |
| Slim corn oil (2 liters)       | 9,250                             | 9,250                             | 0                 |
| Wesson corn oil (2 liters)     | 9,500                             | 9,500                             | 0                 |
| Ghandour soya oil (3.8 liters) | 17,000                            | 17,000                            | 0                 |
| Alfa corn oil (4 liters)       | 17,100                            | 17,100                            | 0                 |
| Al-Wadi olive oil (1/2 liters) | 7,000                             | 6,450                             | -7.8              |
| <b>Ketchup and Sauces</b>      |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Libby's Ketchup (567 g)        | 2,200                             | 2,200                             | 0                 |
| Extra Ketchup (340 g)          | 1,550                             | 1,550                             | 0                 |
| Extra Ketchup (2.2 kg)         | 5,500                             | 5,500                             | 0                 |
| Dolly's Mayonnaise (500 ml)    | 4,100                             | 4,200                             | +2.4              |
| Al-Wadi Mayonnaise (500 ml)    | 4,250                             | 4,400                             | +3.5              |
| Al-Bsat Tahina (900 g)         | 6,950                             | 7,450                             | +7.2              |
| Al-Bsat Tahina (450 g)         | 3,850                             | 3,950                             | +2.6              |
| Taous tomato sauce (70 g)      | 750                               | 730                               | -2.7              |
| Taous tomato sauce (425 g)     | 3,200                             | 3,200                             | 0                 |
| Tala tomato sauce (675 g)      | 3,300                             | 3,300                             | 0                 |

**Prices of 100 food products in November 2012 (in LBP)** **Table 1**

| Item and Brand                       | Prices beginning of November 2012 | Prices beginning of December 2012 | % of price change |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Dairy Products</b>                |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Candia full cream milk (1 liter)     | 2,600                             | 2,600                             | 0                 |
| Candia full cream yoghurt (1 kg)     | 3,250                             | 3,000                             | -7.7              |
| Bonjus labneh (1 kg)                 | 5,000                             | 5,000                             | 0                 |
| Taanayel labneh (500 g)              | 6,100                             | 5,700                             | -6.5              |
| Candia labneh (500 g)                | 6,000                             | 5,150                             | -14.2             |
| Taanayel yoghurt (1 kg)              | 4,100                             | 3,750                             | -8.5              |
| Smeds cheese (400 g)                 | 4,850                             | 4,850                             | 0                 |
| Picon cheese (360 g)                 | 3,900                             | 3,900                             | 0                 |
| Picon cheese (160 g)                 | 1,975                             | 1,975                             | 0                 |
| Double-crème cheese (1 kg)           | 11,000                            | 11,000                            | 0                 |
| Fresh country cheese (1 kg)          | 11,500                            | 11,500                            | 0                 |
| Kashkawan cheese (1 kg)              | 13,500                            | 13,500                            | 0                 |
| Lurpak butter (200 g)                | 2,750                             | 2,750                             | 0                 |
| Tatra butter (200 g)                 | 2,600                             | 2,600                             | 0                 |
| Al-Malaaqtain margarine (2 kg)       | 9,850                             | 9,450                             | -4                |
| Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2 kg) | 35,000                            | 35,000                            | 0                 |
| Vegetaline margarine (2 kg)          | 18,500                            | 18,900                            | +2.2              |
| Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,250 g) | 21,850                            | 21,850                            | 0                 |
| Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,500 g) | 26,250                            | 26,250                            | 0                 |
| Tatra full cream milk (1,800 g)      | 20,500                            | 20,500                            | 0                 |
| <b>Cereals</b>                       |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Khater white lentils (1 kg)          | 4,000                             | 3,750                             | -6.2              |
| Khater chick-peas (1 kg)             | 4,500                             | 4,100                             | -8.9              |
| Khater beans (1 kg)                  | 2,100                             | 2,100                             | 0                 |
| Peeled wheat (1 kg)                  | 2,250                             | 2,150                             | -4.5              |

**Prices of 100 food products in November 2012**  
 (in LBP) **Table 1**

| Item and Brand                   | Prices beginning of November 2012 | Prices beginning of December 2012 | % of price change |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pineal Lima Bean (1 kg)          | 4,350                             | 4,350                             | 0                 |
| Brown Fine Burgul (1 kg)         | 2,250                             | 2,000                             | -11.1             |
| Egyptian rice (1 kg)             | 1,750                             | 1,750                             | 0                 |
| American rice (1 kg)             | 1,750                             | 1,750                             | 0                 |
| Italian rice (1 kg)              | 2,350                             | 2,350                             | 0                 |
| Al-wadi Hommos Tahina (380 g)    | 1,500                             | 1,500                             | 0                 |
| Chtoura Hommos Tahina (380 g)    | 1,550                             | 1,550                             | 0                 |
| California Gardens beans (450 g) | 1,400                             | 1,400                             | 0                 |
| Al-Wadi beans (450 g)            | 1,200                             | 1,200                             | 0                 |
| Chtoura beans (480 g)            | 1,100                             | 1,100                             | 0                 |
| Libby's corn (340 g)             | 1,450                             | 1,450                             | 0                 |
| <b>Pasta</b>                     |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Barilla spaghetti (500 g)        | 2,250                             | 2,250                             | 0                 |
| Antonio Amato spaghetti (500 g)  | 2,200                             | 2,200                             | 0                 |
| Monte spaghetti (500 g)          | 2,300                             | 2,300                             | 0                 |
| Sugar (2 kg)                     | 3,400                             | 3,000                             | -13.4             |
| Al-Ousra sugar (5 kg)            | 8,250                             | 8,000                             | -3                |
| Salt (700 g)                     | 400                               | 375                               | -6.2              |
| Box of salt (738 g)              | 1,450                             | 1,400                             | -3.4              |
| <b>Meat, Fish and Eggs</b>       |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Zwan chicken (200 g)             | 2,550                             | 2,550                             | 0                 |
| Zwan beef (200 g)                | 2,500                             | 2,500                             | 0                 |
| Luncheon meat beef (198 g)       | 2,100                             | 2,100                             | 0                 |
| Al-Mona chicken (200 g)          | 2,000                             | 2,000                             | 0                 |
| Al-Taghzia beef (200 g)          | 1,950                             | 1,950                             | 0                 |
| Al-Taghzia chicken (200 g)       | 2,000                             | 2,000                             | 0                 |
| Geisha sardine (125 g)           | 1,500                             | 1,500                             | 0                 |
| Deli sardine (125 g)             | 1,250                             | 1,250                             | 0                 |
| Milo sardine (125 g)             | 1,100                             | 1,400                             | +27               |
| Geisha tuna (200 g)              | 4,000                             | 3,000                             | -25               |
| White Bell tuna (200 g)          | 2,800                             | 3,100                             | +10.7             |
| White Diamond tuna (200 g)       | 2,750                             | 3,000                             | +9                |

**Prices of 100 food products in November 2012**  
 (in LBP) **Table 1**

| Item and Brand                 | Prices beginning of November 2012 | Prices beginning of December 2012 | % of price change |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Skipper tuna (185 g)           | 2,500                             | 2,500                             | 0                 |
| Eggs (30 eggs)                 | 8,250                             | 8,000                             | -3                |
| Beef (1 kg)                    | 15,000                            | 13,000                            | -13.3             |
| Lamb (1kg)                     | 22,000                            | 20,000                            | -9                |
| <b>Coffee and Tea</b>          |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Najjar coffee (1 kg)           | 17,200                            | 17,200                            | 0                 |
| Brazil coffee (1 kg)           | 15,000                            | 15,000                            | 0                 |
| Al-Hisan tea (180 g)           | 2,750                             | 2,750                             | 0                 |
| Nestle (250 g)                 | 2,000                             | 2,000                             | 0                 |
| <b>Halvah and Jam</b>          |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Al-Wadi halvah (454 g)         | 4,250                             | 4,500                             | +5.9              |
| Al-Bsat halvah (450 g)         | 3,600                             | 3,800                             | +5.6              |
| Chtoura apricot jam (1 kg)     | 6,500                             | 6,000                             | -7.7              |
| Al-Wadi apricot jam (1 kg)     | 5,250                             | 4,500                             | -14.2             |
| <b>Tissues and Detergents</b>  |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Mimosa tissues (500 g)         | 2,850                             | 2,750                             | -3.5              |
| Fine tissues (200 tissues)     | 1,400                             | 1,500                             | +7.1              |
| Primo tissues (200 tissues)    | 1,400                             | 1,500                             | +7.1              |
| Gipsy tissues (300 tissues)    | 2,650                             | 2,800                             | +5.7              |
| Mimosa toilet papers (4 rolls) | 6,100                             | 6,000                             | -1.6              |
| Yes detergent (750 g)          | 2,750                             | 2,600                             | -5.4              |
| Clorox (1 liter)               | 1,500                             | 1,560                             | +4                |
| Persil (4 kg)                  | 19,500                            | 19,500                            | 0                 |
| Ariel (4 kg)                   | 19,500                            | 18,000                            | -7.7              |
| <b>Fruit and Vegetables</b>    |                                   |                                   |                   |
| Oranges (1 kg)                 | 1,500                             | 1,000                             | -33.3             |
| Tomatoes (1 kg)                | 750                               | 750                               | 0                 |
| Cucumbers (1 kg)               | 750                               | 1,500                             | +100              |
| Bananas (1 kg)                 | 1,250                             | 1,250                             | 0                 |
| Lemons (1 kg)                  | 750                               | 750                               | 0                 |
| Apples (1 kg)                  | 2,000                             | 2,000                             | 0                 |
| Potatoes (1 kg)                | 750                               | 1,200                             | +60               |

Source: Information International

## Burial Customs

- In Zardashtism, people took up the dead to a raised structure called the Tower of Silence and left the bodies naked and exposed to the sun to be consumed by vultures. Once the flesh was completely disintegrated, they would collect the bones and throw them in deep wells. The Zardasht community used to believe that the light and the heat of the sun purify the dead from all sin.
- In the Canaan nation, men were buried with their tools and weapons and women with their toiletry set and jewelry.
- In ancient Greece, people were buried in clay coffins or huge jars with their food and toiletry sets.
- The Greeks and the Romans used to dispose of the body by cremation and sad music would accompany the ceremony. Later, the ashes would be put in an expensive urn in the family's cemetery.
- The Hindus and the Sikhs used to cremate their dead with cow dung, believing it brings blessings the dead. Later, the family would collect the ashes and throw them in the Ganges River.
- The Chinese of Hong Kong pay a yearly visit to the graveyards of their ancestors. They eat over their graves and clean them up in order to soothe the spirits of the dead which according to Buddhism can be provoked by the living.
- In Mexico, people celebrate the Day of the Dead on the first of November every year. They visit cemeteries with orange carnation flowers which are thought to attract the lost souls. Mexicans bring food and wine with them, and sing and dance to re-communicate with the dead.



# Beirut International Airport

## Rafic Hariri International Airport Traffic- November 2012

Rafic Hariri International Airport passenger traffic decreased in November 2012 by 12.8% and 12.3% compared to September 2012 and November 2011 respectively. A total of 5 464 654 passengers used Rafic Hariri International airport in the first eleven months of 2012, compared to 5 214 700 during the same period last year, that is up by 249 954 passengers or 4.8%. Table 1 illustrates airport traffic in November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011.

**Airport traffic in October 2012 compared to September 2012 and October 2011** Table 1

| Traffic                        | October 2012   | November 2012  | November 2011  | % of change October/November 2012 | % of change November 2011/November 2012 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Arriving airplanes             | 2597           | 2417           | 2628           | - 6.9                             | - 8                                     |
| Departing airplanes            | 2597           | 2414           | 2623           | - 7                               | - 7.8                                   |
| <b>Total no. of airplanes</b>  | <b>5194</b>    | <b>4831</b>    | <b>5251</b>    | <b>- 7</b>                        | <b>- 8</b>                              |
| Arriving passengers            | 223 551        | 191 914        | 229 259        | - 14.1                            | - 16.3                                  |
| Departing passengers           | 246 639        | 219 075        | 236 963        | - 11.1                            | - 7.5                                   |
| Transit passengers             | 2856           | 1606           | 4524           | - 4.4                             | - 64.5                                  |
| <b>Total no. of passengers</b> | <b>473 046</b> | <b>412 595</b> | <b>470 746</b> | <b>- 12.8</b>                     | <b>- 12.3</b>                           |
| Imported goods (per ton)       | 4692           | 4329           | 3830           | - 7.7                             | + 13                                    |
| Exported goods (per ton)       | 3407           | 3272           | 2665           | - 4                               | + 22.7                                  |
| <b>Total amount of goods</b>   | <b>8099</b>    | <b>7601</b>    | <b>6495</b>    | <b>- 6.1</b>                      | <b>+ 17</b>                             |

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

# Stats & Numbers

- **LBP 31 billion** is the average of annual electricity bills owed by Lebanon's municipalities for public street lighting. Municipalities pay nothing of their dues to Electricite du Liban.
- **6000** is the number of mobile lines at the disposal of the different security forces in Lebanon (Lebanese Army, General Security, Internal Security Forces and State Security).
- **LBP 1.42 billion** is the value of the annual cleaning and security contract for the dorms at the Rafic Hariri University Campus in Hadath.
- **LBP 100 million** is the cost of equipment of the Minister of Industry's office. Equipment was carried out by virtue of a consensual agreement, not a public tender, and among the expenses is USD 1300 for the minister's chair.
- **LBP 20 million** is the annual cost of the chair and members of the high committee formed to review the files of those who obtained the Lebanese nationality in 1994. The committee did not complete its tasks, noting that the chair and members are part of the personnel in the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.



Photo by Alaa Sakr

## Publications

### Publications by

#### Information International (in Arabic):

- 1- Salaries and Remunerations in the Public Sector
- 2- Public Seaside Properties
- 3- Lebanon's Parliamentary History 1920-2000
- 4- Taxes and Fees
- 5- Lebanon in Figures 1992-2002
- 6- Lebanon in Figures 2003-2004
- 7- Lebanon in Figures 2005-2006
- 8- Lebanon in Figures 2007-2008
- 9- Lebanon's MPs and Lebanese Parliamentary Elections 1960 - 2009
- 10- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-North District
- 11- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beirut District
- 12- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Mount Lebanon District
- 13- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beqa'a District
- 14- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-South and Nabatiyeh District
- 15- Municipal Elections 2010

### Publications by INMA (in Arabic):

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

### Publications by Kutub (in Arabic):

- 1- Trablous Al-Sham
- 2- Jeniyat Al-Nabi
- 3- Mokhber Al-Konsoliya
- 4- Antoun Saadah 1932-1949
- 5- Antoun Saadah, A Biography, Volume 1. The Youth Years
- 6- The Face of the Prophet, Khalil Gibran and the Portraits of the Temple of Arts
- 7- May Ziadeh, Evolution of a free female thinker
- 8- USA in the Middle East
- 9- Alone Together
- 10- Mission in Hijaz - Lion Roche
- 11- Aleppo Cuisine
- 12- From An-Nabk to Florida
- 13- Institution of Aesthetic Discourse -Saad el-Kassab
- 14- Jounoun el Kouloud, Al-Masihiyah Wal Mouhammadiyah wal Qawmiyah - Antoun Saade

INFORMATION  
INTERNATIONAL sal

السوق الدولية  
للبيروت



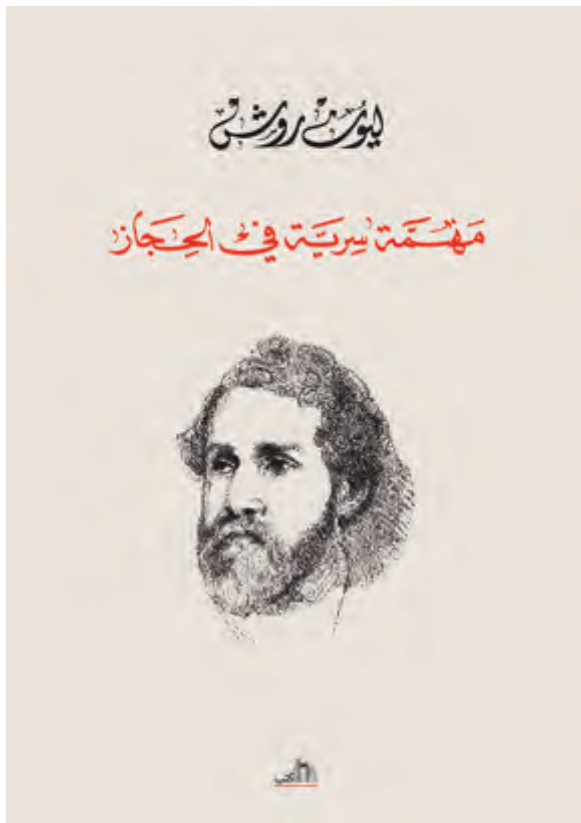
#### To Subscribe:

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

## SECRET MISSION IN HIJAZ

*The Monthly* announces the publication of Leon Roch's *Secret Mission in Hijaz*, in Arabic, by Dar Kutub. This book was first published in Paris, in two volumes in 1884 and 1885 respectively. The book presents a detailed summary of the autobiography of Leon Roch, including his childhood, education, move to Algeria, conversion to Islam and his experience at the Prince Abdul Qader's camp. The title is inspired from the mission assigned to Roch and entailing the pursuit of a fatwa that would prohibit Algerians from resisting the French occupation. Roch provides a full account of his journey to Hijaz and how he succeeded in getting the fatwa and returning to Algeria victorious.

### NOW IN BOOKSTORES



© Kutub, All Rights Reserved  
Al-Borg Building, 4th Floor Martyr's Square, Commercial Center  
Beirut - Lebanon  
P.O.BOX: 11-4353 Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: (961-1) 983008/9 Fax: (961-1) 980630  
E-mail: [kutub@kutubltd.com](mailto:kutub@kutubltd.com)  
Website: [www.kutubltd.com](http://www.kutubltd.com)