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126 Assassinations & 94
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The Politics of Violence

220 Assassinations & Attempted Assassinations since Independence

AND THE ASSASSINATOR IS UNKNOWN

126 Assassinations & 94 Attempted Assassinations Since Independence ...and the Assassinator is Unknown!

The assassinations witnessed in Lebanon since October 2004 have brought back memories of the Lebanese civil war and its numerous crimes, including the targeted killings of many politicians, religious figures, intellectuals, and journalists. The causes for each assassination differ from case to case. In some instances, it is a matter of ruthless murder; in others, it is linked to political brinkmanship, a means to bring about specific political ends. The Lebanese judicial system has investigated several of these assassinations. In some cases, the courts have reached conclusions based on concrete evidence, such that the perpetrators of the assassination have been identified, found, tried, and sentenced. In other cases, the assassinations remain unsolved and the perpetrators remain unknown due to lack of evidence or to political intervention that prevented the courts from determining the truth.

The following crimes have been committed in the period between Lebanon's Independence in 1943 and today:

A. Journalists and Writers: An Average of One Every Four Years

Many prominent journalists have been assassinated in the past five decades. There are several explanations for this, but primarily, journalists have been the victims of ongoing regional conflicts between Arab states, which they have covered for various media outlets.

In total, 13 journalists and writers have been assassinated since 1943:

- 1- **Nassib al-Matni**, publisher of the Telegraph newspaper, was assassinated on May 27, 1958. His murder helped to trigger the brief civil war that took place that year, which resulted in Major General Fouad Shehab, Commander of the Lebanese Army, becoming President of the Lebanese Republic. No one was found responsible for his death, despite investigations into his case.
- 2- **Kamel Mrouwa**, publisher of Al-Hayat newspaper, was assassinated on May 19, 1966. He was killed by Adnan Sultani, who was found guilty and sentenced to ten years in prison. The motive behind the assassination was Mrouwa's criticism of the Egyptian president Gamal Abdel-Nasser and his policies. Sultani belonged to a Nasserite movement, along with Ibrahim Qolaylat.
- 3- **Ghassan Kanafani**, Palestinian writer, who was assassinated on July 8, 1972, in Hazmeih by Israel.
- 4- **Karl Robert Never**, correspondent for the German magazine Sterne, was assassinated on May 24, 1979
- 5- **Adel Abdel-Majid Wasfi**, Assistant Editor in Chief of the Falastin Al-Thawra magazine, was assassinated on June 20, 1979.
- 6- **Salim al-Lawzi**, publisher of the Hawadeth magazine, was assassinated on March 4, 1980. The Palestinian Muhammad Hassan al-Yatim was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison with hard labor in 1989. Some believe that the motive behind the assassination was an article written by Lawzi which attacked the Syrian regime.
- 7- **Riyad Taha**, head of the press syndicate, was assassinated on July 23, 1980, in Baalbek-Hermel. A court issued a judgment in contumacy for certain members of the Moussawi family. Some believe tribal conflicts were a motivating factor behind Taha's

murder, while others believe it was the hostile relationship between the Syrian and the Iraqi regimes.

- 8- **Yehia al-Hazouri**, journalist for the Al-Liwaa newspaper and member of the Baath party, was assassinated on August 29, 1980. He was killed for reasons related to conflicts between Iran, Iraq, and Syria.
- 9- **Samir Assem al-Sheikh**, Editor in Chief of the Al-Fahrast newspaper, was assassinated on July 9, 1985, along with his wife and two children. The courts did not reach any conclusion in his case.
- 10- **Hassan Fakhr**, Journalist, was assassinated on June 15, 1986. The courts did not reach any conclusion in his case.
- 11- **Hussein Mrowe**, communist thinker and journalist, was assassinated on August 17, 1987. He is believed to have been killed over ideological conflicts. The courts did not reach any conclusion in his case.
- 12- **Hassan Bazzoun**, Editor in Chief of the Beirut Al-Masaa magazine, was assassinated on February 2, 1987. Bazzoun was a member of the central committee for the Communist Labor Organization. The courts did not reach any conclusion in his case.
- 13- **Samir Qassir**, journalist for the Al-Nahar newspaper, was assassinated on June 2, 2005. The investigation into his murder is still ongoing.

B. Religious Figures: An Average of Two Every Three Years

Lebanese religious figures from various sects are subject to assassination for both political and religious reasons.

A total of 18 religious figures have been assassinated since 1943:

- 1- **Father Habib Khashfa** was assassinated in 1949, in Taibet in South Lebanon. The perpetrator, Ismail Dalle, was arrested and sentenced to death.
- 2- **Father Boulous Massaad** was assassinated on May 13, 1963, in Majdel Baana in Aley. The perpetrator was Salim Abdel-Khaleq.
- 3- **Elian Jervanion**, a Jesuit father, was assassinated on February 14, 1976. His killer remains unknown.
- 4- **Imam Hassan al-Shirazi** was assassinated on May 5, 1980, in Beirut. His killer remains unknown. Some believe that Shirazi was murdered for reasons related to the conflict between Iraq and Iran, for which Lebanon provided a battleground.

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- **5- Sayyed Ali Bader Eddine**, was assassinated on August 5, 1980, in the village of Harouf in South Lebanon. His killer remains unknown.
- **6- Father Albert Barkhash**, was assassinated on April 1981. His killer remains unknown.
- **7- Sheikh Ahmad Assaf**, head of the Islamic Organization Union in Lebanon, was assassinated on April 28, 1981, by armed men in Beirut. The crime was referred to the Judicial Council in February 1985. Suspicions centered on a leftist political party, but no progress was made in his case.
- **8- Father Philip Abu Sulaiman**, minister of Aley Pastoral, was assassinated on April 30, 1982, in front of his house in Aley. The killer remains unknown.
- **9- Sheikh Halim Taqiyeddine**, a Druze judge, was assassinated on December 1, 1983, in front of his house in Beirut. His killer remains unknown.
- **10- Sheikh Ragheb Harb** was assassinated on February 16, 1984, in Jabcheet in Nabatiyeh. He is believed to have been killed by Israeli agents, following his refusal to accept the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon.
- **11- Father Boutros Abi Aaql**, Head of the Qodmous Vocational Center in Sour (Tyre), was assassinated on May 23, 1985. His killer remains unknown, though he is believed to have been killed for sectarian reasons.
- **12- Father Boulos al-Sahlani** was assassinated on November 18, 1985, in Bab Mareaa in the western Bekaa. His killer remains unknown.
- **13- Sheikh Sobhi al-Saleh** was assassinated on October 7, 1986, in Beirut. His killer remains unknown.
- **14- Andre Mas**, a Jesuit father, was assassinated on September 24, 1987, in Saida (Sidon). His killer remains unknown, although accusations have been directed at a radical Islamist group.
- **15- Father Albert Khreish** was kidnapped in May 1987. His body was found on April 1988 in Chnanaair, Kesrouane.
- **16- Lebanese Grand Sunni Mufti Hassan Khaled** was assassinated on May 16, 1989, in Beirut. He was killed in a car bomb that claimed the lives of 27 other people. The perpetrators remain unknown.
- **17- Father Semaan Boutrous al-Khoury**, head of the A'ajaltoun convent, was assassinated on May 11, 1992. Members of the Lebanese Forces, including John Yousef Shahin, were accused of the assassination.
- **18- Sheikh Nizar al-Halabi**, president of the Association of the Islamic Charitable Projects, was assassinated on August 31, 1995, in front of his house in Beirut. Members of the group Osbat Al-Ansar were arrested and sentenced to death.

C. Politicians: An Average of One Every Year

Politicians and political party members have been the main target for assassinations that targeted 58 personnel. 20 assassinations are listed in details below and the rest are listed in table 1.

- **1- Mahmoud al-Aboud**, Former Minister, was assassinated in 1952, in front of the presidential palace in Kantari. Ahmad al-Sheikh was arrested and sentenced to death.
- **2- Naim Moghabghab**, Former Chouf Member of Parliament and Minister, was assassinated on July 27, 1959, in Beiteddine. The Judicial Council sentenced the runaways to death. The assassination stemmed from a conflict between President Chamoun (with whom Moghabghab was affiliated) and Kamal Jumblat.
- **3- Albert al-Hajj**, Parliament member, was assassinated on April 12, 1961, in Aakkar.
- **4- Abdullah Osseiran**, son of Aadel Osseiran, was assassinated on December 22, 1971, in Saida. The court found Samih al-Zein guilty of the crime. The assassination was the result of a political rivalry between the Zein and Osseiran families.
- **5- Maarouf Saad**, Saida Member of Parliament, was assassinated on February 22, 1975, in Saida. His assassination was considered the first spark of the Lebanese civil war. The crime was referred to the Judicial Council, which charged Maroon Dawood, a sergeant in the Lebanese Army, with the crime on May 10, 1988. Dawood was never found.
- **6- Fayez al-Imad**, Governor of the North, was assassinated on December 20, 1975.
- **7- Linda Jumblat**, sister of Kamal Jumblat and wife of poet Said Akel, was assassinated on May 27, 1976 in front of her house on Sami Solh Street.
- **8- Dr. Khalil Salem**, General Director of the Ministry of Finance, was assassinated on August 2, 1976, for his refusal to sign financial transactions.
- **9- Kamal Jumblat**, Druze leader, was assassinated on March 16, 1977, in the Chouf. The case was referred to the Judicial Council. Although Syria was widely accused of committing the murder, no conclusions were ever reached.
- **10-11-12- Toni Franjiyeh**, Former Member of Parliament and Minister, was assassinated on June 13, 1978, in his house in Zgharta, along with his wife and daughter. The case was referred to the Judicial Council, which arrested several suspects but was unable to reach a final conclusion.
- **13- Bashir al-Gemayel**, President-elect, was assassinated on September 14, 1982, along with 32 other people. The case was referred to the Judicial Council. Habib al-Shartouni and Nabil al-Aalam, both members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party,

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were accused of planning and executing the assassination. After spending eight years in prison, Shartouni escaped prison and has not been tried since.

- **14- Mohamad Sleem**, official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) was assassinated on June 3, 1985, in Jdeeta.
- **15- Rashid Karami**, Prime Minister, was assassinated on June 1, 1987, when the helicopter transferring him from Trablous (Tripoli) to Beirut was detonated. The Judicial Council charged Samir Geagea and Khalil Mattar, who were imprisoned for eleven years and released in July 2005, after a general pardon law was issued.
- **16- Rene Mouawad**, President, was assassinated on November 6, 1989, in Beirut. His killer remains unknown.
- **17-18-19-20- Dori Shamaoun**, President of the National Liberal Party, was assassinated on October 21, 1991, in his house along with his wife and two children. Samir Geagea and a number of others were accused of his murder and sentenced to death, which was reduced to a life sentence with hard labor.

- **21-22-23- Abbas al-Mossawi**, Secretary General of Hizbullah, was assassinated on February 16, 1992, by an Israeli helicopter. He was killed along with his wife, son, and a number of his escorts.
- **24- Elie Hobeika, Former** Member of Parliament and Minister, was assassinated on January 24, 2002. The case was referred to the Judicial Council. However, no conclusions were reached regarding the identity of his assassins.
- **25-26- Rafik al-Hariri**, Former Prime Minister, and **Bassel Fuleihan**, former Member of Parliament, were assassinated on February 14, 2005, in a bomb blast that claimed the lives of 22 other people. The investigation is still ongoing.
- **27- George Hawi**, former Secretary General of the Communist party, was assassinated on June 21, 2005. The investigation is still ongoing.
- **28- Gebran Tueni**, Parliament member and journalist was assassinated December 12, 2005 in a bomb blast that claimed the lives of 2 others.

* The assassination of Prime Minister Riad Al-Solh was not mentioned because it took place in Jordan.

The following table depicts the remaining crimes:

| Political Assassinations | | Table 1 |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Name | Position | Dates of Assassination |
| 29- Munir Daw | Qaemaqam | 1956 |
| 30- Hasib al-Abdullah | Ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs | April 28, 1978 |
| 31- Moussa Sh'eib | Member of the Iraqi Baath Arab Socialist Party leadership | July 28, 1980 |
| 32- O'smat Murad | Official in the Islamic Unity Movement | August 2, 1981 |
| 33- Hassan Sharri | Member of the political bureau for the Amal Movement | October 20, 1981 |
| 34- Tahsin al-Atrash | Member of the Baath Arab Socialist Party leadership | November 17, 1981 |
| 35- Bashir Keyrouz | Former Member of Parliament | March 16, 1982 |
| 36- Khalil Hatoum | Delegate of the Communist Party in the National Lebanese Movement | April 23, 1982 |
| 37- Rafiq Bashasha | Official in the Nasserite Popular Movement | May 16, 1982 |
| 38- Ali Sleiman | Consultant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration | January 11, 1983 |
| 39- Gheith Houry * | Head of Jbail (Byblos) District for Lebanese Phalange Party | February 15, 1984 |
| 40- Sarkis Aznavorian | Member of the Central Committee for the Tashnaq Party | April 23, 1985 |
| 41- Muhammad Slim | Defense Official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | June 3, 1985 |
| 42- Khalil Aakkawi | Official in the Liqa' Al-Islami in Trablous (Tripoli) | February 9, 1986 |
| 43- Khalil Na'oos | Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party | February 20, 1986 |
| 44- Zaven Tashjian | Head of the Tashnaq Party in Aanjar | February 27, 1986 |
| 45- Mostafa Ali Kraidiyeh | Media official for Jama'a Islamiya | May 5, 1986 |
| 46- Nasib al-Khatib | Head of the Arab Democratic Party | May 6, 1986 |
| 47- Muhammad Shuqeir ** | Consultant to the Lebanese President | 1987 |
| 48- Adnan Qansoh | Official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | February 26, 1987 |
| 49- Hassan Hamdan | Member of the Lebanese Communist Party | April 19, 1987 |
| 50- Habib Kairouz | Official responsible for media relations and publications for the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | October 22, 1987 |
| 51- Tawfiq al-Safadi | Labor and Social Affairs Official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | October 23, 1987 |
| 52- Nathem al-Qaderi | Member of Parliament | September 21, 1989 |
| 53- Elias al-Zayek *** | Member of the Command Council of the Lebanese Forces | January 19, 1990 |
| 54- Fo uad Moghniyeh **** | Member of Hizbullah | 1994 |

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- * Investigation determined the perpetrators
- ** Investigation resulted in accusations against members of the Socialist Progressive Party
- *** Samir Geagea was held responsible
- **** Investigation resulted in death sentences for the perpetrators and Ahmad al-Hallak

As for the rest, the investigations did not yield any results.

- **55-56-57-** Israel also assassinated three Palestinian leaders - **Abu Yousef al-Najjar, Kamal Nasser, and Kamal Odwan** - in Beirut on September 11, 1973, in addition to
- **58- Ali Hassan Salame**, a member of the Fatah movement, who was assassinated on January 22, 1979.

D. Diplomats and Foreigners

A total of 18 foreign and Arab diplomats have been assassinated since 1943. Of the most prominent are listed below:

- **Ghassan Jdeed** official in the SSNP and former Syrian colonel, was assassinated by Ahmad Sha'at in 1958 in Sadat Street, Hamra.
- **Francis Meloy**, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, was assassinated on June 16, 1976, along with the U.S. Embassy's economic officer and their Lebanese driver. The Lebanese judiciary identified the perpetrators and issued a death sentence in absentia for Nemeq Kamal.
- **Louie De Lamare**, French Ambassador to Lebanon, was assassinated on September 4, 1981. Investigations failed to identify the perpetrators.
- **Rabeh Khrwaa**, the Commissar Minister in the Algerian Embassy, was assassinated on January 13, 1983. The perpetrators, who were encouraged by his wife, were identified and arrested.
- **William Buckley**, an American diplomat, was assassinated on October 11, 1985, by the Islamic Jihad, who accused Buckley of operating the U.S. intelligence office in Beirut.
- **Naeb Omran al-Ma'aytah**, Premier Secretary in the Jordanian Embassy, was assassinated on December 29, 1993. The perpetrators were identified as members of the Fateh Movement – Revolutionary Council, headed by Abi Nidal.
- **Dr. Malcom Kerr**, President of the American University of Beirut, was assassinated on January 18, 1984, in his office on campus.

E. Military Officers, Professionals and Civil Servants and Families

Ten officers in the Lebanese Army have been assassinated in Lebanon since 1943, along with a number of lawyers and judges, public administration employees, and nine relatives of political figures.

Attempted Assassinations

In addition to the assassinations that were mentioned earlier, Lebanon has witnessed 94 attempted assassinations that targeted journalists, religious figures, politicians, diplomats and foreigners. The tables below reveal brief details of the attempts.

| Journalists | | | | | | Table 1 |
|--------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded | |
| Talal Salman | 14/7/1984 | Publisher of Assafir Newspaper | In front of his House | -- | -- | |
| Hassan Sabra | 14/9/1987 | Editor in Chief of Al Shiraa Newspaper | Beirut | -- | Daughter | |
| May Chidiac | 25/9/2005 | Journalist | Jounié | -- | -- | |

Source: Compiled from different Lebanese newspapers

| Religious Figures | | | | | | Table 2 |
|---------------------------|-----------|---|---------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded | |
| Sheikh Abdul Hafiz Qassem | 16/5/1978 | President of Union of the U'lama Al-Muslimeen | Beirut | -- | His Father and Brother | |
| Maximus the Fifth Hakim | 29/2/1980 | Patriarch of the Roman Catholics | Bhamdoun Road | -- | -- | |

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| | | | | | |
|---|------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|----|
| Sayed Muhammed Hussein Fadlallah | 2/11/1980 | | Al Ghbeiri | -- | -- |
| | 28/11/1981 | Religious Authority | Al Ghbeiri | Bodyguard | -- |
| | 8/3/1985 | | Beer Al Abed | 80 | -- |
| Sheikh Sulaiman Al Yahfoufi | 26/1/1981 | Shia'a Mufti al-Jaafari of Baalbek | Brital | Driver and Bodyguard | -- |
| Religious Authority Ahmad Shawqi Al Amin | 4/6/1981 | President of the Jam'iyat U'lama' Al Deen | Majdel Selm | -- | -- |
| Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled | 5/5/1982 | Grand Mufti of the Lebanese Republic | A'aramoun | -- | 4 |
| Father Bolos Naaman | 4/10/1983 | Superior General of the Maronite Order | A'abdel Wahhab Al Inklizi Str. | -- | -- |
| Sheikh Hashem Minqara | 27/12/1985 | Prince of the Mina District – The Islamic Unity Movement | | -- | -- |
| Sheikh Ali Yassin | 5/6/1987 | Member of the Jabal Amel U'lama' Association | | -- | -- |
| Sheikh Muhammed Mahdi Shams Eddine | 15/12/1987 | Chairman of the Higher Islamic Shia'a Council | | -- | -- |

Source: Compiled from different Lebanese newspapers

| Politicians | | | | | | Table 3 |
|------------------------------------|------------|--|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded | |
| Riyad al Solh * | 3/1950 | Prime Minister | Beirut | -- | -- | |
| Remon Eddeh ** | 25/5/1976 | Parliament Member | Jbail (Byblos) | -- | -- | |
| | 11/11/1976 | Parliament Member | Al Sanaya'a | -- | -- | |
| Pierre Al Gemayel | 4/6/1977 | Parliament Member | Nahr El Kalb | 1 | 13 | |
| Fouad Lahoud | 22/8/1978 | Parliament Member | Al Sanaya'a | -- | -- | |
| Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) | 11/11/1978 | Member of the Central Committee of Fateh Movement | | -- | -- | |
| | 13/5/1979 | Parliament Member | Al Mtayleb - Bikfaya | Bodyguard | -- | |
| Amin Al Gemayel | 22/4/1980 | Parliament Member | Northern Metn | -- | -- | |
| | 31/1/1985 | President of the Lebanese Republic | Nahr al Mawt | -- | -- | |
| Malek Salam | 30/6/1979 | Former Minister | A'aysha Bakkar | | | |
| Rashid Al Solh | 3/3/1980 | Prime Minister | Saqiet Al Janzeer | | | |
| Bashir Al Gemayel | 23/2/1980 | Commander of the Lebanese Forces | Achrafieh | His Daughter | -- | |
| | 12/3/1980 | Parliament Member | Al Dawra | Bodyguard | 3 | |
| Camille Chamoun *** | 13/3/1980 | Parliament Member | Corneesh Al Nahr | 1 | 1 | |
| | 1/1/1987 | Parliament Member | Al Karanteena | 4 | 38 | |
| Raef Samara | 13/3/1980 | Parliament Member | Al Hamra | -- | -- | |
| Abu Al Walid Al Iraqi | 25/10/1980 | Official responsible for the security technical division in Fateh Movement | | -- | -- | |
| Dr. Malkoun Ablightian | 21/7/1981 | Head of the Armenian parliament block, and representative of the Tashnaq party in the Parliament | Al Qintari | -- | -- | |
| Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) | 26/7/1981 | Official in Fateh Movement | Ramlet Al Bayda | -- | -- | |
| Nassim Majadalani | 22/3/1981 | Former Parliament Member | Al Mazra'a | -- | His Wife and Brother in Law | |
| | 29/8/1981 | Parliament Member | Trablous (Tripoli) | -- | -- | |
| Rashid Karamah | 10/2/1987 | Prime Minister | Sanaya'a | -- | -- | |
| | 10/2/1987 | | Tallet Al Khayyat | -- | -- | |
| Walid Jumblat | 1/12/1982 | Minister, President of the Progressive Socialist Party | Al Qintari | 3 | His Wife | |
| Hassan Al Rifaai | 22/8/1982 | Parliament Member | Baalbek | -- | -- | |
| Samih Abu Kweik | 2/1/1983 | Member of the Central Committee of Fateh Movement | Near Baalbek City | -- | -- | |
| Tawfiq Al Safadi | 9/3/1983 | Head of the Higher Political Committee for Palestinian Affairs in Lebanon | | -- | -- | |
| Shafiq Al Wazzan | 7/7/1983 | Prime Minister | Sanaya'a | -- | -- | |
| Salim Al Hoss | 5/9/1984 | Minister | Al Rouche | 4 | 38 | |

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| Politicians (continue) | | | | | Table 3 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded |
| Nazih Al Bizri | 13/1/1986 15/9/1987 | Parliament Member | Saida (Sidon) | -- 1 | -- |
| Hassan Shamseddine | 17/2/1986 | Official responsible for the political relations in the Lebanese Communist Party in the South | | -- | -- |
| Daoud Suleiman Baz | 1/6/1986 | President of the Higher Council in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | Ras Beirut | -- | -- |
| Rashid Al Solh | 5/6/1986 | Parliament Member | West Beirut | -- | -- |
| Dr. Fouad Abu Nader | 11/8/1986 | Head of the Districts Council in the Lebanese Phalanges Party | Al Dawra | -- | -- |
| Isaam Al Mahayri | 6/10/1986 | President of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | Qreitem | 1 | -- |
| John Dagher | 1/9/1987 | Official in Phalanges Party responsible for security in the northern Metn district | Near Bikfaya | -- | -- |
| Mustapha Saad **** | 21/1/1985 18/1/1987 | Popular Nasserite Movement | Saida (Sidon) Al Ouzaii road | His Daughter -- | His Wife -- |
| Robert Franjiyeh | 14/2/1987 | Head of the Marada brigade | West of Zgharta in the North | -- | -- |
| Abdullah Al Rasi | 1/4/1987 | Parliament Member | West Beirut | -- | -- |
| Mahmoud Ghazaleh | 14/4/1987 | Official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party in West Békaa | Between A'ana and A'ameeq in West Békaa | -- | -- |
| Engineer Malek Salam | 6/5/1987 | Head of the Council for Development and Reconstruction | West Beirut | -- | -- |
| Victor Qassir | 10/5/1987 | Minister | Al Achrafieh | -- | -- |
| Mahmoud Abdul Khaleq | 20/5/1987 | Member of the Higher Council in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | Majdel Balhees – Qada'a Rachaiya | -- | -- |
| Amin Al Daouq | 20/5/1987 | Defense Official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party | Majdel Balhees | -- | -- |
| Elie Hobeika | 15/9/1987 | Former head of the executive committee in the Lebanese Forces | Zahle | -- | -- |
| Najah Wakeem | 1/10/1987 | Parliament Member | Beirut | -- | -- |
| Mustapha Al Asir | 9/10/1987 | Qaemaqam Baalbek | | -- | -- |
| Michel Aoun ***** | 13/10/1990 | Prime Minister by proxy | Presidential Palace | -- | -- |
| Michel El Murr | 1991 | Minister of Defense, vice president, Deputy Prime Minister | Antelias | -- | -- |
| Marwan Hamade | 1/10/2004 | Parliament Member | Ras Beirut | -- | -- |
| Elias El Murr | 12/7/2005 | Minister | Antelias | -- | -- |

Source: Compiled from different Lebanese newspapers

- * Gunned by Tawfiq Rafe' Hamdan
- ** By the "Jabhat Tahrir Lobnan lk Al Ghoraba" (Liberation of Lebanon From Strangers Front)
- *** Hussein Tleis from Hizbullah was accused. He escaped and the investigation could not reach a conclusion.
- **** The accused, Hussein Hashem Juheir was found innocent for lack of evidence provided.
- ***** François Halal, a supporter of the Baath Party shot at him but missed.

| Diplomats and Foreigners | | | | | Table 4 |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|----------------|-----------------|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded |
| Omar Muhammad Demeber | 17/2/1976 | Attaché in the Turkish Embassy | Hamra | -- | -- |
| Ali Al Shaaer | 8/12/1978 | Ambassador of Saudi Arabia | Lebanese Military Helicopter that was transporting him from Zgharta | -- | -- |
| Abdul Hamid Al Baaeyjan | 8/12/1978 | Ambassador of Kuwait | Lebanese Military Helicopter that was transporting him from Zgharta | -- | -- |
| Nasrat Svirovitch | 21/4/1979 | Ambassador of Yugoslavia | Raouche | -- | His Wife |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|----------------------|----|----|
| Abdul Majid Muslim Hassan | 13/7/1979 | Ambassador of Iraq | Beirut | -- | -- |
| Badr Abdullah Oday | 3/7/1980 | Journalist Attaché in the Iraqi Embassy | Saqiet Al Janzeer | -- | -- |
| John Gunther Dean | 27/8/1980 | United States Ambassador | Hazmiyeh Road | -- | -- |
| Marcel Rene Louie | 8/10/1980 | Ambassador of Switzerland | Raouche | -- | -- |
| Jawad Mohsen Yaziji | 13/3/1981 | Former Charge d'Affaires in the Iranian Embassy | Jnah | -- | -- |
| Ahmad Tweiri Yaziji | 13/3/1981 | Accountant at the Iranian Embassy | Jnah | -- | -- |
| Adnan Habib Hussein | 3/6/1981 | First Secretary in the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut | UNESCO | -- | -- |
| Sheikh Muhammad Bin Mubarak | 5/6/1981 | Brother of the Bahraini Foreign Minister | Rouche | -- | -- |
| Mehsen Al Moussawi | 15/10/1981 | Charge d'Affaires in the Iranian Embassy | | -- | -- |
| Commandant Gerard Denieu | 26/4/1982 | One of the Officers Monitoring the Lebanese-Israeli Truce | Madame Curie Str. | -- | -- |
| Abdul Qader Ghoqa * | 5/6/1983 | Member of the Popular Council in the "Al Okhwa Al Arabia al Libbiya" Office (Arab Libyan Brotherhood) | Napoleon Hotel Hamra | -- | -- |
| Hamdi Sanad Loza | 12/1/1984 | Second Secretary in the Egyptian Embassy | Hamra | -- | -- |
| Elian De Checieu | 13/1/1984 | Wife of the Director of the French Cultural Center, Mr. Jean Christ of De Checieu | Clemenceau | -- | -- |
| Sovore Gliuso | 15/4/1984 | Secretary General of the French Cultural Delegation | Hamra | -- | -- |
| Hamid Sadiqi | 24/5/1987 | A leader of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards | Sour (Tyre) | -- | -- |

Source: Compiled from different Lebanese newspapers

* Khaled Othman Olwan, Muhammad Qassem Baalbaki, Muhyi Eddine Jabr, Nasser Fayyad Baydoun, Abbas Ali Zaayter, Hussein Muhammad Qattaya, were accused. The case was transferred to the civil judicial court due to the lack of Military Court authority in such a case.

| Security Forces | | | | | Table 5 | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded | |
| General Nakhle Mughabgeh | 14/9/1979 | General of the Internal Security Forces | Al Rabieh | -- | -- | |
| Major General Mukhtar Mazboudi | 7/8/1981 | Head of the Beirut Military District | Al Barbeer | -- | -- | |
| Colonel Qassem Al Siblini * | 8/4/1982 | Deputy head of the Southern Military District | Al Sa'aydat Road | -- | -- | |
| Emile Hanna | 4/7/1986 | Captain in the Lebanese Army | Al Karak | -- | -- | |
| Major Issam Aatwi | 10/4/1987 | Major General of the Sixth Brigade in the Lebanese Army | Al Sadat | -- | -- | |

Source: Compiled from different Lebanese newspapers

* The Following were accused: Khaled Muhammad Issa Ward, Muhammad Abdel karim Moussa, Faysal Mahmoud Fares, Suheil Al Abdullah, and Munib Awad Daher.

| Others | | | | | Table 6 | |
|------------------|---------|------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Name | Date | Occupation | Location | Victims Killed | Victims Wounded | |
| Fadi Al Nashar * | 12/2002 | Judge | Palace of Justice - Beirut | -- | -- | |

Source: Compiled from different Lebanese newspapers

* Khalil Ali Sinno was arrested along with two others for questioning.

The reasons for this failure must be explored: Is it the weakness of the judicial system in Lebanon or political interference that prevents these cases from being solved and the perpetrators of these assassinations from being known? Is it because of the civil war that Lebanon has witnessed such a high number of assassinations?

It must also be asked, does this failure lead to more violence and more assassinations? If it were possible to solve these cases and identify the perpetrators of these assassinations, would that curb Lebanon's high rate of assassinations in the future?

The above information was compiled from the archives of different Lebanese newspapers that may have overlooked mentioning some of the assassinations or attempts of assassinations. We apologize for any incomplete information, if any. It is worth noting that the above information emphasize the incidents that took place only within Lebanese territory.

126 Assassinations & 94 Attempted Assassinations in 57 years resulting in at least 316 Killed & 105 Civilians Wounded

Drug Cultivation in Lebanon: An Alternative in the Absence of Alternative Crops

Lebanon is notorious for the production, cultivation, and smuggling of all sorts of drugs, to the extent that drugs have formed an alternative source of income in the past. Drug cultivation in Lebanon has both flourished under local political cover and deteriorated according to the government's ability to enforce the rule of law and respond to international pressure to combat the drug trade.

What are the types of drugs in Lebanon? What are the major historical phases of drug cultivation, its alternatives, and current situation?

Types of Drugs

Drugs are divided into two types:

1- Medical drugs extracted from plants, such as opium and its derivatives, including morphine, hydroxyne, hashish, cocaine, and qat. According to a 1953 protocol, several countries are allowed to cultivate opium for medical purposes, such as Turkey, India, and Greece.

2- Manufactured drugs

Historical Phases of Hashish Cultivation in Lebanon

Lebanon, particularly the northern Bekaa Valley, is the main area for the cultivation of hashish in the Middle East. Hashish is exported from Lebanon to countries in the Middle East, Europe, and North America by several routes. Hashish first arrived in Lebanon from India, and was initially known as "The Indian Hemp." Its cultivation soon spread from Zahle to Baalbek and Hermel, reaching the Syrian border and later expanding to the western and southern Bekaa Valley, where it replaced traditional crops such as vegetables, beetroot, potatoes, wheat, and grains due to its potential to reap revenues that far exceeded those of other crops. Hashish cultivation in the Bekaa Valley varied, peaking at 200,000 dunums between 1960-1965 and dropping to 15,000-20,000 dunums between 1965 and 1973. These levels depended to a great extent on the prevailing political will, which swung from actively combating hashish cultivation, to turning a blind eye to it, to blatantly encouraging it.

After the start of the civil war in 1975, and with it the breakdown of the state and the collapse of governmental control, hashish cultivation in Lebanon entered its golden age, reaching 400,000 dunums between 1975 and 1995. This spike in cultivation was accompanied by a period of flourishing production and smuggling, generating huge amounts of income. Some sources suggest that during this time, hashish generated as much as \$2 billion a year.

Current Situation

Hashish and poppy plants continue to exist in Lebanon despite strenuous government efforts to limit their cultivation and provide replacement crops for farmers. Farmers, meanwhile, continue to cultivate hashish and poppy plants in hopes of either receiving direct government assistance or being able to reap their harvest before their crops are destroyed.

The area of hashish cultivation is currently estimated to be between 70,000 and 80,000 dunums: 35,000-70,000 dunums in Deir al-Ahmar Valley, Al-Zrarir, and Al-Mcherfe; 20,000-25,000 dunums in Hermel, mainly in the

Ratl Valley, Mrah Naawas, and the Turkman Valley; 7,000-10,000 dunums in Baalbek and Talia, mainly in Haouch Barada and Haouch Tel al-Dayaa; 5,000 dunums in Chmistar; and 4,000 dunums in the northern governorate near the Bekaa governorate.

The area of poppy plant cultivation is currently estimated to be between 300 and 500 dunums: 120 dunums in Hermel; 90 dunums in Ras Baalbek; 70 dunums in Baalbek and Talia; and 20 dunums in Deir al-Ahmar and Chmistar.

The Lebanese Internal Security Forces have destroyed most of the crops before they have been harvested, except in certain areas that were difficult to reach. Reports by the Internal Security Forces indicate that the areas where crops were destroyed before August 2005 included all areas of poppy plant cultivation and 62,000 dunums of hashish cultivation, or 80% - 85% of the total cultivated area.

Internal Security Forces are also actively tracking down smugglers, traders, and users for arrest and drug confiscation, in an effort to limit the problem. In 2004 alone, for example, a total of 1,700 people were arrested on drug charges.

Alternative Projects

In 1965, Mahmoud al-Banna, who was the head of the Internal Security Forces at the time, suggested finding alternative crops to hashish. Sunflowers, in particular, were recommended, due to their appropriate and comparable growing conditions and to the high level of demand for sunflower oil, which Lebanon imports in large quantities. The government distributed seeds and fertilizers for free, and purchased the harvests back from farmers at high prices to encourage them to pursue sunflower production. Other crops were introduced as well, such as mint, sesame, and aromatic plants. The area cultivated with sunflowers amounted to 30,000 dunums in 1970. Alternative crops ceased production during the civil war. They made a brief comeback in the mid 1990s, as a result of efforts by agricultural cooperatives and the United Nations. These initiatives ended in complete failure, however, and furthermore led to accusations of corruption.

In response to Lebanon's general economic crisis and the particular recession faced by the agricultural sector, the government has now introduced subsidies for beetroot and wheat, crops that are already widespread in the Bekaa Valley. Without the promotion of other, more feasible alternative crops, the people of the Bekaa Valley currently find themselves facing two options: Either confront poverty or confront the authority by cultivating drugs once more.

Agriculture in the Bekaa Valley

The area of agricultural cultivation in the Bekaa Valley amounts to 1,029,481 dunums, or 42% of the total area of agricultural cultivation in Lebanon. Of this area, 536,000 dunums are irrigated. The crops cultivated there are distributed as follows:

- Grains: 300,000 dunums
- Industrial agriculture, such as beetroot and tobacco: 153,000 dunums
- Fruit-bearing trees: 217,000 dunums
- Vegetables: 260,000 dunums
- Olives: 32,000 dunums

Moreover, the area of cultivatable land that is not cultivated amounts to 192,000 dunums.

Source: Lebanon Ministry of Agriculture 2002

The Lebanese Public Opinion After the Issuance of Mehlis's Report (Part 2 of 2)

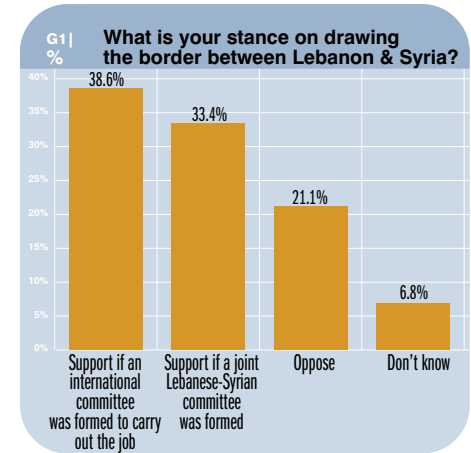
In the previous issue of *II Monthly*, we published an article analyzing the results of a survey assessing where the local community stands on the Mehlis Report and the resignation of Lebanese President Emile Lahoud. Here, we present an article assessing where the local community stands in terms of the Lebanese government, relations with Syria, and disarming Palestinians in Lebanon.

Stance on Syria and the International Situation

The UN Security Council is presently considering sanctions against Syria in the event that it does not cooperate with the Mehlis investigation. The majority of the respondents (57.2%) said they opposed such sanctions, while 39.4% supported them and 3.4% said they did not know.

Stance on Drawing the Borders between Lebanon & Syria

Of the respondents, 38.6% said they supported drawing borders between Lebanon and Syria if an international committee were formed to carry out the job, 33.4% said they supported drawing borders between Syria and Lebanon if a joint Lebanese-Syrian committee was formed, 21.1% opposed drawing borders at all, and 6.8% said they did not know (Graph 1).



Stance on Establishing Embassies between Syria & Lebanon

The majority of the respondents (63.3%) said they supported the establishment of embassies while 29.5% opposed the move and 7.2% said they did not know. Answers varied according to sectarian affiliations (Table 1).

| Stance | Sect | | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Maronite | Orthodox | Catholic | Sunni | Shia'a | Druze |
| Support | 68.6 | 66.7 | 75.7 | 70.4 | 47.5 | 66 |
| Oppose | 27.7 | 29.3 | 18.9 | 25.5 | 37.4 | 25.5 |
| Don't know | 3.7 | 4 | 5.4 | 4.1 | 15.1 | 8.5 |

Stance on Disarming Palestinians in Lebanon

Opinions on Palestinian disarmament differed considerably. While the vast majority of the respondents (82.2%) supported disarming Palestinians outside the refugee camps, this percentage dropped to 57.9% when the sample was polled about disarming Palestinians inside the refugee camps. Among those who rejected disarming the Palestinians, 14.1% rejected disarming Palestinians outside the refugee camps and 39.1% rejected disarming Palestinians inside the refugee camps. Again, answers varied according to sectarian affiliations (Table 2).

| Stance | Sect | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Maronite | Orthodox | Catholic | Sunni | Shia'a | Druze |
| Support disarming Palestinians inside the refugee camps | 73.2 | 71.7 | 78.4 | 56 | 29.7 | 61.7 |
| Oppose disarming Palestinians inside the refugee camps | 24.1 | 27.3 | 16.2 | 40.7 | 67.1 | 3% |
| Don't know | 2.7 | 1 | 5.4 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 4.3 |

Fouad Sanoira Vs. Saad Hariri

When the Sunni respondents in the areas surveyed were asked to name their most preferred candidate as Prime Minister, 32.3% of the Sunni respondents in the North named Fouad Sanoira against 13.5% who named Saad Hariri. The opposite is evident among the Sunni respondents in the Bakaa, where around 70% favored Saad Hariri against 12% for Fouad Sanoira.

In Brief

- The majority of the respondents opposed enforcing economic sanctions against Syria (57.2%).
- A total of 72% of the respondents support drawing borders between Lebanon and Syria and 63.3% support establishing embassies between the two countries, which indicates that the majority supported both issues while approximately one quarter of the respondents rejected both topics completely.
- A near consensus (82.2%) emerged in the survey results concerning the disarmament of Palestinians outside the refugee camps, but the percentage dropped to 57.9% in terms of supporting the disarmament of Palestinians within the refugee camps.

These are the opinions of the local community concerning the hot topics of the day that are under discussion. Thus the question remains: will the demands of the majority be met? Or will the stances of the majority change as circumstances themselves change?

II MONTHLY meets the Secretary General of the Arab Thought Foundation Ambassador Ali Maher

“Our Ambition is to Build a Large Research Center in Beirut that Would Serve as a Cultural and Intellectual Base”



Beirut has emerged once again as a hub of intellectual activity, hosting regular conferences, seminars, and publications. The establishment of the Arab Thought Foundation, by Prince Khaled al-Faysal in 2003, is yet another living example.

Here, *II Monthly* interviews Ambassador Ali Maher, Secretary General of the Arab Thought Foundation, who discusses the establishment, goals, accomplishments, and future objectives of the organization.

Mr. Ali Maher is the former Egyptian Ambassador to several countries, the most recent of which was France, where he served from 1992 to 2000.

What is the Arab Thought Foundation?

It is a private, independent, non-governmental foundation that is not linked to any official body, nor is it financed by individuals or governmental sources. It is an initiative between intellectualism and money that is financed through

contributions made by a group of Arab businessmen, which we spend from revenues generated by investment of membership fees. Arab businessmen have accumulated this capital through making a contribution of \$1 million each, upon the call of the Prince Khaled al-Faysal, Prince of Asair district in Saudi Arabia, (also a poet, a thinker, and a painter) in the speech he made on May 29, 2000, in a ceremony in Beirut, capital of the Arab Culture.

Upon the response of a number of Arab businessmen, and several preparatory meetings held in Beirut, Cairo and Abha during which the bylaws, vision, and goals of this foundation were formulated, the establishment was registered in Beirut. The Lebanese Government granted it some exemptions and benefits similar to those granted to other Arab and international organizations working in Lebanon, according to the decree No. 6605, issued on October 25, 2001.

What are the goals of this foundation?

Among the most important goals are:

- Defending the pillars on which the Arab nation stands upon, and developing these pillars through cultural programs.
- Encouraging all sorts of sciences and knowledge, and reinforcing future studies, research, and efficient use of modern technologies.
- Awarding prizes to creative Arabs in different sectors, according to the categories specified by the Foundation: pioneers, innovative, and talented persons. The Foundation receives nominations from all the Arab countries, after which winners are selected and financial prizes are given to them.

What is the regulatory framework and how is it managed?

The Foundation is headed by the Prince Khaled al-Faysal, and is comprised of the following bodies:

The General Assembly consists of members of the board of trustees (who have contributed \$1 million) and associate members (who contributed \$10,000), and members of the Consultant Body and General Secretariat.

What are the Foundation's most important activities?

The Foundation held many intellectual, cultural, events, such as the yearly conference, during which the pioneers, innovative and talented Arabs, are honored. Until today, three conferences have been held. The first was held in Cairo in 2002 and tackled the issues that concern the Arab citizen. The second was held in Beirut in 2003 and was titled “Forecasting the Arab Future.” The third was held in Morocco and was titled “Arabs between Change of Culture and Culture of Change.” Moreover, three conferences were held. “The First Arab Meeting for Teaching and Education” was held in Beirut 2004 and was attended by twelve ministers of education from different Arab countries. “The Second Arab Meeting for Higher Education” was held in Beirut in October 2005. The third meeting, “The Arab Meeting for Translation,” was also held in Beirut in September 2005.

The Foundation also organized seminars or specialized meetings in collaboration with Arab and international organizations and institutions, such as the ones held in Paris in collaboration with the Institut du Monde Arabe, titled “The Colloquium of Arab-European Relations.”

We also collaborate with the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Arab Bureau of Education for the Arab States, and the United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Office.

We continue to issue our monthly publication, *Hewar al-Arab*, of which twelve issues have been published up to today, in which we tackle intellectual issues that concern the Arab world.

What was your most recent activity?

Our most recent activity was the Arab Thought Conference, titled “Arab & World Media: Getting it Right,” that was held in Dubai on December 5-6, 2005, in collaboration with the Dubai Press Club. The main idea behind this conference was to dedicate a conference to studying media and its effect on the international public opinion, policies, stances, and issues that concern our Arab world. Some of these media outlets reflect the truth, while others reflect their own view of events. Moreover, the conference discussed how the same news or events are depicted from different aspects and point of views, which affects the public opinion and harms the truth at certain instances.

We aimed in this conference to insure the presence of Arab, American, and French figures, due to the importance of the topic, as well as to conduct interviews with Prince al-Walid Bin Talal, Parliament Member Saad al-Hariri, and Iraqi Vice President Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawer. In addition, we had the presence and participation of Prince Khaled al-Faysal and the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Muhammad Bin Rashed al-Maktoum.

What are your plans?

After working for three years, achievements have to be reviewed to find ways to improve our work toward achieving the goals we set. Our ambition is to build a large center in Beirut that would serve as a cultural and intellectual base, including a large library and halls for conducting meetings and conferences.

School Students Habits in, TV Viewership and Electronic Games

Use of electronic games has become widespread in the Arab world, especially among children. These games involve topics ranging from car racing to combat warfare, and the majority feature explicit and violent material. Although many suspect that electronic games contribute to childhood problems such as aggressive behavior, social withdrawal, indifference towards school work and reinforcing offensive attitude problems, researchers have yet to provide conclusive evidence of their negative effects on children.

In order to characterize TV viewership and electronic games use among school children, Information International conducted an opinion poll among 100 students from different public and private schools in Lebanon from June 13-30, 2005 for the academic year 2004 - 2005. The poll addressed the students' TV viewership habits and electronic games use during school nights and weekends, among other related topics.

Poll results are displayed in two parts; the first part deals with students' TV viewership habits, and the second part deals with their electronic gaming habits.

How Many Hours Do You Spend Watching TV on School Nights During the Week?

Only 6% of surveyed students reported that they do not watch TV at all on school nights, compared to 67% who watch TV between 1-3 hours, 12% for 3-5 hours, 6% for 5-7 hours, 5% for 7-10 hours and 4% for more than 10 hours (Graph 1).

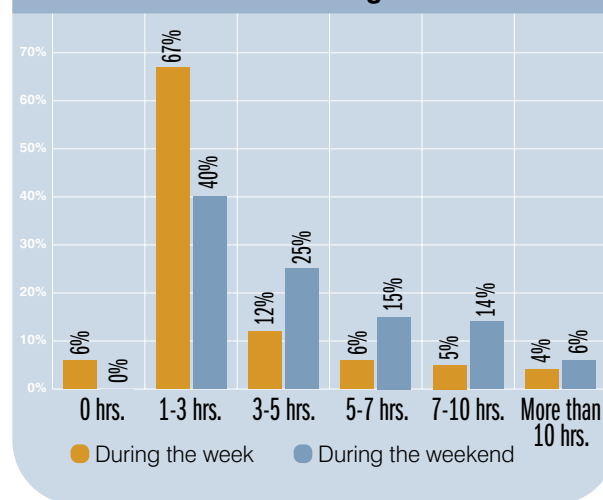
The highest percentage of students who reported they do not watch TV on school nights was found among 5th graders (16.7%), compared to their peers in the 4th grade (2.3%) and 6th grade (3.1%). The percentages also vary by gender, where poll results showed that 11.1% of female students reported not watching TV on school nights as compared to 1.8% only of male students.

How Many Hours Do You Spend Watching TV During the Weekend?

When asked about the time spent watching TV during the weekend, responses differed considerably from responses to the previous question with 40% of students reported watching TV between 1-3 hours, 25% between 3-5 hours, 15% between 5-7 hours, 14% between 7-10 hours and 6% for more than 10 hours per weekend. (Graph 1)

The distribution of responses by gender shows that the percentage of female students who watch TV for 1-3

G1 | How many hours do you spend WATCHING TV on school nights during the week and during the weekend? %



hours on weekends is higher than that of male students (42.2% versus 38.2%, respectively). On the other hand, the percentage of males who watch TV for 7-10 hours on weekends reaches 14.6%, and 9.1% for more than 10 hours, while only 13.4% and 2.2% of female students watch the equivalent durations.

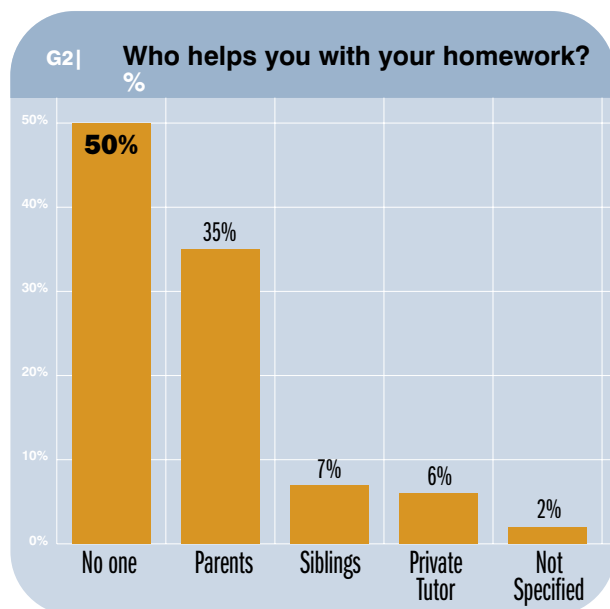
What Is Your Favorite TV Program?

When asked about their favorite TV program, students ranked "That's So Raven" from the Disney channel on satellite first (32%), followed by cartoon programs (13%), wrestling programs (6%), and NBA basketball (5%); another 24% of the surveyed students did not specify any program. The remaining percentages were distributed between different programs such as "Iftah Albak", "Familia", "Art Attack" and "Mangas" with 2% for each, in addition to other various programs, each garnering 1% of responses.

Who Helps You With Your Homework?

Half of the surveyed students (50%) reported that no one helps them with their homework, compared to 35% who rely on the help of their parents, 7% on siblings, 6% on a private tutor, and 2% who did not specify any answer (Graph 2).

School Students Habits in, TV Viewership and Electronic Games



The distribution of answers by grade shows that the majority of 5th grade (62.5%) and 6th grade students (50%) do their homework on their own, whereas 43.2% of 4th grade students rely on the help of their parents.

How Many Hours Do You Spend Doing Homework on School Nights?

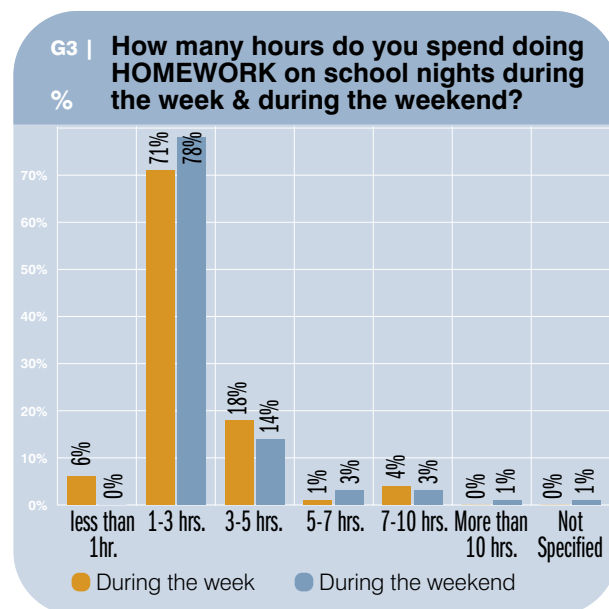
Poll results shows that 6% of surveyed students spend less than one hour doing their homework on school nights. Percentages rise significantly to reach 71% for students who spend between 1-3 hours, 18% for 3-5 hours, 1% for 5-7 hours and 4% for 7-10 hours.

When asked about the number of hours they spend doing homework during the weekend, 78% of surveyed students reported that they spend between 1-3 hours, 14% between 3-5 hours, 3% for 5-7 hours, 3% for 7-10 hours and 1% for more than 10 hours whereas 1% did not specify an answer to this question (Graph 3).

II Monthly looks into the habits of this segment of the population when it comes to playing electronic games.

Do You Own Any Electronic Game?

86% of the students surveyed reported that they owned



at least one electronic game, among which Play Station ranked the highest (67%), followed by Game Boy (53%), Nintendo (28%), Game Cube (16%), and X-Box (11%).

The distribution of answers according to gender showed no significant difference between male and female students regarding the ownership of electronic games.

Do You Have A Set Schedule To Play Games?

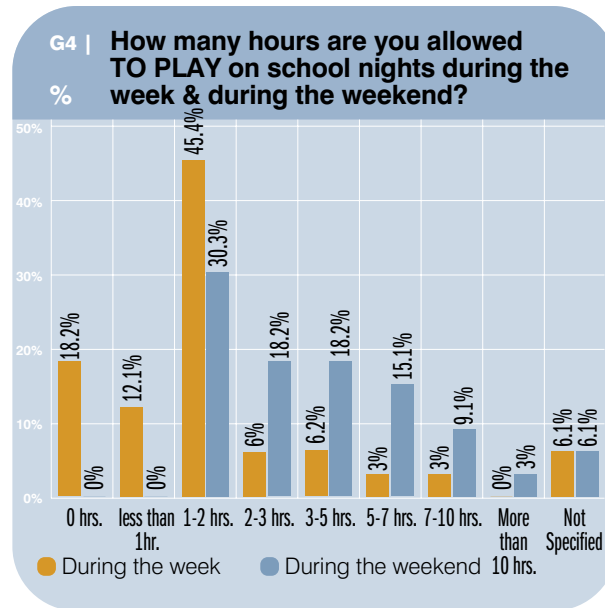
38.4% of the students surveyed reported that they had a fixed schedule to play electronic games, set in general by their parents (42.4%) or the students themselves (33.3%) or by agreement between the students and their parents (21.2%).

The schedule included the number of hours students were allowed to play on school days. 18.2% of the students reported that they were not allowed to play on school days, 12.1% were allowed to play for less than one hour, 45.4% between 1-2 hours, 6% between 2-3 hours, 6.1% between 3-5 hours, 3% between 5-7 hours and 3% between 7-10 hours.

As for the number of hours students were allowed to play during the weekend, 30.3% of the respondents said

School Students Habits in, TV Viewership and Electronic Games

they were allowed to play between 1-2 hours, 18.2% between 3-5 hours, 15.1% for 5-7 hours, 9.1% for 7-10 hours and 3% for more than 10 hours. (Graph 4)



It is noteworthy that the percentage of female students who reported that they were not allowed to play on school nights (30.8%) was higher than that of males (10%). Percentages between the genders gradually converged for the remaining segments of duration of play.

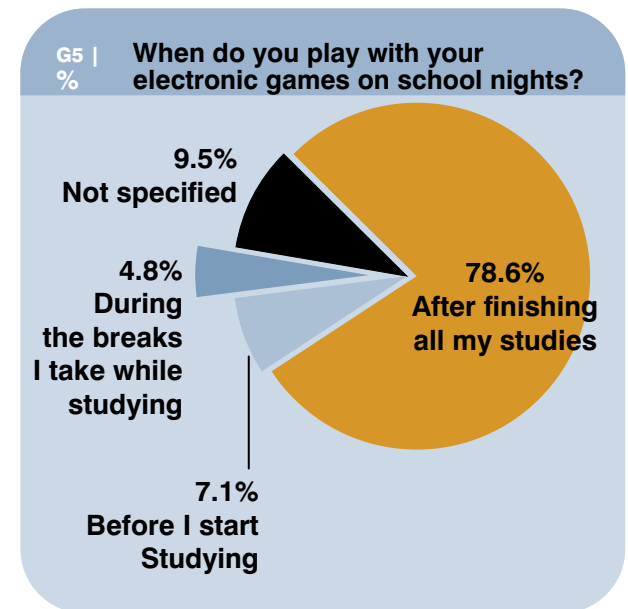
The poll results showed that the percentage of 6th grade students allowed to play on school nights was the lowest among all the grades.

Other restrictions influencing the amount of time spent playing was: finishing homework first (90.9%) or being allowed to play only on weekends and holidays (6.1%).

Moreover, 78.8% of the students surveyed who had a set schedule imposed on them for playing reported that they stuck to this schedule, compared to 21.2% who did not and who played usually more than the time they had allocated themselves (71.4%).

Do You Play With Your Play Station/ Gamecube/Xbox/Gameboy/ Nintendo When You Get Home After School?

48.8% of the students reported that they played with their electronic games when they got home from school on school nights. 48.8% reported they didn't and 2.4% did not specify. As for those who did play after school, they did so mainly after they finished their homework (78.6%), compared to 7.1% who played with their electronic games before they started their homework, 4.8% during the breaks they took while studying and 9.5% did not specify an answer (Graph 5).

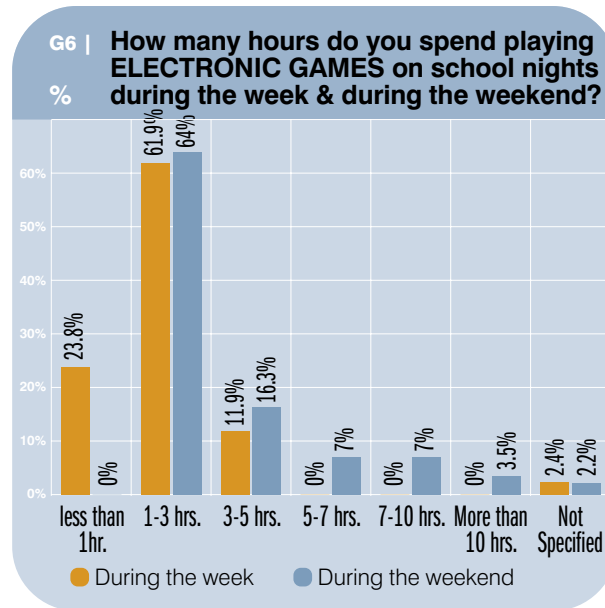


How Many Hours Do You Spend Playing With Your Electronic Games?

Poll results showed a difference in the number of hours spent playing between the students who were allowed to play during the week and those only allowed to play on weekends. 23.8% reported that they played with their electronic games for less than one hour during the week, 61.9% between 1-3 hours and 11.9% between 3-5 hours.

School Students Habits in, TV Viewership and Electronic Games

On the other hand, most of the students surveyed (64%) reported that they played with their electronic games for 1-3 hours on weekends. The rest are detailed in graph 6.



Are You Allowed To Take Your Electronic Games To School With You?

When asked whether they could take their electronic games with them to school, 91.7% of students who owned such games said it was not allowed, 5% said they could, whereas 3.3% did not specify.

The same percentage of students reported that they complied with the school rules. As for the students whose schools allowed them to use these games on campus 5% reported that they brought them and played with them during breaks and recesses.

Who Do You Play Games With?

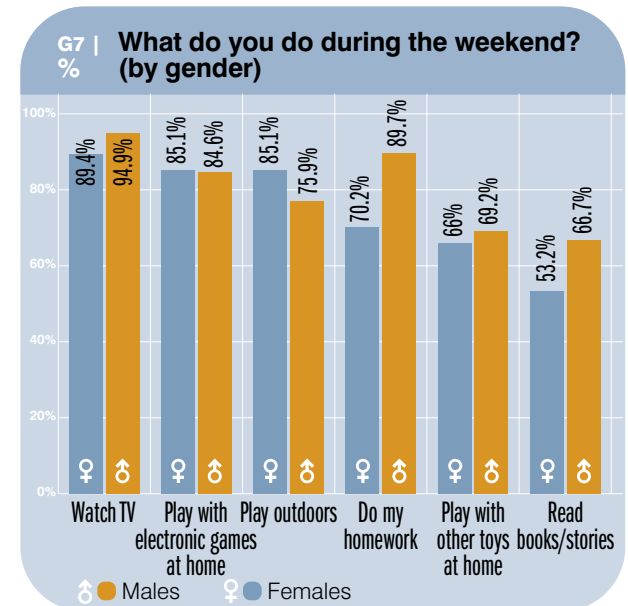
45.7% of the students who owned electronic games reported that they played electronic games with their siblings, 21.9% with friends, 16.2% with relatives, 9.5% on their own and 6.7% did not specify.

What Do You Do During the Weekend?

The majority of the students (91.9%) reported that they

watched TV during the weekend, 84.9% played with their electronic games at home, 81.4% played outdoors, 79.1% did their homework, 67.4% played with other toys at home and finally, 59.3% spent their weekend reading. The distribution of responses according to gender revealed that the percentage of female students who reported to do their homework during the weekend reached 89.7% compared to 70.2% for males. The same applied to reading and watching TV, whereby 66.7% and 94.9% of the female students respectively reported that they read or watched TV during the weekend, compared to 53.2% and 89.4% of the males respectively.

On the other hand, the percentage of male students who reported to play outdoors during the weekend (85.1%) exceeded that of females (76.9%). However, the percentages were almost equal between the sexes when it came to playing with electronic games at home or playing with other toys. The percentages are detailed in graph 7.



While the vast majority of the children spend their time watching TV, quite a significant number of them spend their time reading books and stories: an optimistic outlook to the current situation in the world where TV, electronic games and internet have replaced reading books and newspapers.

Sample & Methodology

The sample included 55 male students and 45 female students aged between 9-12 years old and distributed from public and private schools in Lebanon: 8% for those aged 9 years, 46% for 10 years, 20% for 11 years, and 26% for 12 years. The students belonged to the 4th grade (44%), 5th grade (24%), and 6th grade (32%).

Kaftoun: House of the Oldest Orthodox Church in Lebanon

Etymology

The name of the village comes from the Syriac word “Kaftuna”, meaning domed structures, while other believe it refers to the word “Kaftanya” meaning a dome.

Location

Kaftoun is situated 85 km from Beirut, in the Qada’a of Koura in the North Lebanon Governorate. It covers an area of 333 hectares and stands at an altitude of 380m above sea level. It can be reached via several routes, such as: Chekka – Rasnhash –Kfar Hata – Kaftoun, or Bziza – Majdal – Kaftoun.

Population

The population is estimated at 641 people, who are all Orthodox. There are 55 houses in the village.

Voters

The number of registered voters in May 2004 stood at 440, compared to 411 in 2000, distributed mainly between the following 14 families:

- Sarkis: 130 voters
- Semaan: 88 voters
- Fares: 60 voters
- Daher: 50 voters
- Sawda: 21 voters
- Shahin: 20 voters
- Yazbek: 18 voters
- Farah: 10 voters
- Kanaan: 9 voters
- Aakkari: 8 voters
- Fayad: 8 voters
- Wehbeh: 7 voters
- Karam: 6 voters
- Shagouri: 5 voters

Local Authorities

The village has a municipal council consisting of 9 members, and 1 mayor and 3 members on the mayoral council. It is an old municipality, which was founded according to decree no 228, issued by the Internal Administration on 10-6-1965. In 1997, the municipality received LBP 17.6 million from the independent municipal council fund. This sum had increased to 26.5 million LBP by 2003. The following table demonstrates the evolution of those revenues between 1997-2003

| Evolution of Revenues between 1997-2003 | | | | | | |
|---|------|--------------|------|------|------|------|
| Year | 1997 | 1998 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Revenue from the Independent Municipal Council Fund | 17.6 | 37 | 12.6 | 23.5 | 21.8 | 26.5 |

Source: Lebanese Official Gazette 1997 - 2003



These funds are insufficient to enable the municipality to conduct any real developmental projects in the village, which are sorely needed due to the low income levels of its citizens.

Educational and social institutions
The village has one public school.

Economic Activities

The villagers mainly rely on agriculture (particularly olives) and a few small businesses (services and trade). It also has a few handcraft workshops and one sawmill.

Archeological Sites

An authentic village with the oldest Greek Orthodox Theotokos Monastery in Lebanon, the village boasts the ancient church of Our Lady of Kaftoun, carved in rock, as well as ancient mills, sarcophagi and caves.

Syria's Budget for 2006

Optimistic Numbers, Optimistic Objectives

During a session held by the end of October 2005, Syria's Chamber of Ministers presented its budget for the year 2006. On November 9, 2005, the budget was transferred to Syria's Parliament, which will study the details of the proposal and conduct an audit prior to adopting and certifying the budget before the end of 2005.

Budget Figures

Syria's expenditures for 2006 are projected to reach 495 billion SP, an increase of 35 billion SP (7.6%) over expenditures for 2005. Revenues for 2006 are estimated at 436.1 billion SP, an increase of 80 billion SP (22%) over revenues for 2005. This indicates a budget deficit of 59 billion SP, or 12%, compared to 22.5% for last year. This marks the third consecutive year for which Syria has registered a deficit reduction, since it dropped by 32 % in 2004.

Revenues

Projected revenues for 2006 amount to 436.1 billion SP and are distributed among the following:

- 177.9 billion SP in petrol revenues, a figure making its first appearance on Syria's budget. This amount represents 40.8% of total revenues, with production estimated at an average of 425,000 barrels per day and prices varying between \$35 per barrel for light petrol and \$28 per barrel for petrol used for transportation.
- 183.6 billion SP in investment revenues, compared to 143.6 billion SP in 2005.
- 30 billion SP in revenues from services, government properties, and their investments.
- 34 billion SP in revenues from taxes and fees.
- 10 billion SP in revenues from different sources.

Expenditures

Syria's projected expenditures of 495 billion SP are mainly distributed as follows:

- 300 billion SP for ongoing expenditures and 195 billion SP for investment expenditures.

More specifically, the expenditures are distributed as follows:

- 86 billion SP for salaries and wages, constituting 17.3% of total expenditures and 28.6% of ongoing expenditures, compared to 74.3 billion SP for the year 2005, in

which salaries represented 16.1% of total expenditures.

- 30.9 billion SP for transferred administrative expenditures, compared to 28.3 billion SP last year. This increase is for companies providing potable (drinkable) water, the purchase and distribution of scholastic books, and allocations approved for certain parties in the general economical sector.
- 21.4 billion SP for administrative expenditures, compared to 19.8 billion SP last year. These expenditures are reserved for medicine, medical equipment, educational and vocational training equipment, the purchase of passports and identity cards, and the provision of heating system for schools and hospitals.
- 72.6 billion SP for debts and due commitments, compared to 66.8 billion SP last year, which constitutes 14.6% of total budget expenditures.
- 25 billion SP to stabilize the prices of subsidized goods, which is the same figure specified for 2005.

The distribution of budget expenditures breaks down as follows:

- 142 billion SP (47.3%) is allocated for social and personal services. From that figure, 31.2% are earmarked for education and 10.1% for health and social welfare.
- 137.7 billion SP (45.9%) is allocated for economic services such as agriculture and irrigation (12.2%), and transportation and storage (12.6%).

The distribution of investment expenditures breaks down as follows:

- 186.4 billion SP for investment projects in different ministries.
- 7.6 billion SP for back-up capital needed for investment projects. It is worth noting that 90% of the funds for investment expenditures come from local resources while only 15 % are derived from external funding (such as credit, donations, and facilities).

Budget Objectives

Syria's budget for 2006 marks the inaugural implementation of Syria's tenth "Five Year Plan," this one laid out for 2006 through 2010. It states that budget expectations will be achieved by pursuing the following objectives:

- Increase Syria's gross domestic product from

1.238 billion SP for the year 2005 to 1.334 billion for the year 2006, a growth rate of 7.7%.

- Create 57,000 jobs, to be divided up between the administrative sector (30,232 jobs) and the economic sector (26,753 jobs). Budget objectives also call for more jobs to be created by the launching of new investment projects, which are expected to reduce official unemployment down from 11%.
- Maintain the growth rate for imports in order to reduce the deficit in coming years until it is eliminated.

Will the Expectations Come True?

Scrutinizing Syria's budget for 2006, many questions arise regarding the accuracy of its figures and the possibility of achieving its objectives. Of the most prominent:

- Petrol revenues are estimated at 177.9 billion SP, yet this figure is exaggerated because Syria's export capacity is low and American petrol companies have withdrawn their business from Syria. Syria is currently seeking, yet crucially it has not guaranteed, petrol contracts with French, Russian, and Chinese companies valued at \$5.4 billion.
- Gross domestic product is expected to achieve a growth rate of 7.7%, which is very high and difficult to reach, particularly at a time when Syria is facing a semi-embargo which has so far had negative effects, such as a regression in the exchange rate from U.S. dollars to Syrian lira (from 50 SP to 57 SP to the dollar).
- Insuring the creation of 57,000 new jobs seems very difficult to accomplish. Even if the government does reach this goal, the number of job vacancies remains low in comparison to the real unemployment figures, particularly since the figures and budgets stated for new investment projects, which are expected to create new jobs, have been repeated year after year, on consecutive budget proposals, without change.

Finally, the year 2006 will no doubt be a definitive year for Syria, in terms of both political and economic conditions. Will Syria be able to overcome or "negotiate" the obstacles it faces now, as it has always done in the past?

Jordan has managed to develop its electricity sector and improve its services in the past year, spurred by its growing population and developing economic sectors. This article examines what the country's electricity needs are, the size of the power generated, and its sources.

Power Production and its Sources

The electricity generated in and imported to Jordan totaled 8,966 million kw/hr in 2003 (approximately 10.8% of the total electricity generated from Egypt), compared to 8,454 million kw/hr in 2002, thus increasing by 6.1%.

The Central Electricity Generation Company provided 93.42% of the total electric power generated in 2003, while the remaining institutions provided 6.58%. The subscribers to the electricity sector amounted to 1,014,000 in 2003 and were distributed as follows:

- Subscribers in the privileged area of Electricity Company: 660,000 subscribers
- Electricity Company of Irbid Governorate: 226,000 subscribers
- Electricity Distribution Company: 128,000 subscribers

Subscribers

A total of 45,000 new subscribers were connected to the electric network in 2003, compared to 52,000 thousand in 2002. The number of citizens provided with access to electricity numbered 5,475,000 in 2003, compared to 5,324,000 in 2002, representing an increase of 2.8%. This increase in the number of subscribers provided 99.9% of all the citizens of the kingdom, and 99.8% of the inhabitants of the rural areas with electricity according to Annual Report of the National Electricity Company of Jordan for the year 2003

Energy Consumption

Energy consumption in 2003 amounted to 7,346 kw/hr compared to 6,906 kw/hr in 2002, representing an increase of 6.4%. Average individual consumption amounted to 1,636 kw/hr compared to 1,586 kw/hr in 2002.

The industrial sector ranked first in terms of electricity consumption (31.5% of total consumption). The electric energy consumption was distributed according to the sectors as shown in table 1.

| Sector | Consumption (Giga watts/hr) | % |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Industrial | 2,310 | 31.4 |
| Home | 2,471 | 33.6 |
| Trade | 1,047 | 14.4 |
| Pumping water stations | 1,104 | 15.0 |
| Others | 414 | 5.6 |
| Total | 7,346 | 100 |

Source: Annual Report of the National Electricity Company of Jordan for the year 2003

Revenues and Expenses

Sales of electricity totaled JD 263.2 million in 2003 compared to JD 238.8 million in 2002. The operating expenses amounted to JD226 million in 2003 compared to JD 218.8 million in 2002. The reason behind this hike in expenses stems from the increase in the cost of buying energy, which represents 92.2% of the total operational expenses, compared to 91.9% in 2002. The National Electric Company gets the electrical energy from other companies, of the most prominent is the Central Electricity Generation Company that provides 93.4% of the electrical production.

| Category | Fees (fils/kw/hr) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| First category: 1-160 kw/hr | 31 |
| Second category: 161-300 kw/hr | 55 |
| Third category: 301-500 kw/hr | 64 |
| Fourth category: more than 500 kw/hr | 80 |

Source: Annual Report of the National Electricity Company of Jordan for the year 2003

The Jordanian government subsidizes the electricity consumption of small industrialists and for the agricultural sector by lowering the fees to 38 fils/kw/hr for the former, and 26 fils/kw/hr for the latter.

Projects

Jordan is preparing and implementing several projects related to the development of the electricity sector. An example of such projects are: the development of the electric system, projects for investing in local energy resources to generate electricity, developing electricity stations, providing electricity to large industrial complexes, and developing an Arab electricity network, as well as a Mediterranean one.

The electricity sector ranks first in the overall national consumption of primary energy. In 2003, it amounted to 34.1% of total energy consumption. This is due to the availability of this energy throughout Jordan, and the fact that it is the least harmful to the environment. It is anticipated that demand for electricity will increase by over 50% within the coming 15 years. The question remains as to whether Jordan will be able to meet this demand.

Iraqi Elections End of the Transitional Phase

Iraqis headed to polling stations on December 15, 2005, to vote for representatives in the National Assembly for the second time in less than a year. They had previously elected representatives to the National Assembly on January 30, 2005. For those elected, their sole responsibility was to formulate a constitution, which earned the approval of Iraqi citizens in a referendum that took place on October 15, 2005. The latest round of elections put an end to the phase of political transition that Iraqis have been witnessing since April 2003, when Saddam Hussein was removed from power. During this time, Iraqis have faced many political crises regarding how to rule Iraq and how to formulate the constitution and public administrations.

Previous Elections

Elections took place on January 30, 2005, according to an electoral law that considered Iraq as a single electoral district. These elections followed a ratio system with complete lists, each including between 12 and 275 candidates (the number of members of the assembly), of which one third were women, according to a quota system that guaranteed women 25% of the seats. At the time, 111 political bodies ran for elections, of which only 12 won seats in the National Assembly. Three of those bodies won 255 seats: The United Iraqi Coalition (with a Shia's majority) won 140 seats; the Kurdish Coalition List won 75 seats; and the Iraqi List (of Iyad A'allawi) won 40 seats.

Current Elections

Although the new electoral law maintains the same number of members in the National Assembly and adheres to many of the same conditions for running and voting in the elections, it differed drastically from the previous laws in terms of the size of electoral districts. Each of the eighteen governorates became eighteen electoral districts, as opposed to the old previous law when the 18 governorates were one electoral district. According to the ratio system, 230 seats were distributed among the governorates, according to the number of voters in each governorate that registered in the January 2005 elections (which was derived from the Purveyance cards previously issued) (see table no.1). The remaining 45 seats were considered compensatory seats.

The ratio system enforced by the electoral law is derived according to the following procedures:

- The number of votes cast in ballot boxes in a single electoral district is divided by the number of seats allocated to it to achieve the electoral divisor.
- The number of votes won by each body is divided by the electoral divisor to determine the number of seats it is allocated.
- The remaining seats are distributed among the bodies with the highest number of remaining votes.

The compensatory seats are distributed accordingly:

- The number of votes cast in ballot boxes in all electoral districts is divided by the number of the Parliament seats to determine the national mean.
- The number of votes won by each body is divided by the national mean to determine the number of seats it is allocated.
- The compensatory seats are distributed to the bodies that did not win representation but reached the national mean.
- The remaining seats are distributed to represented bodies in the electoral districts according to the ratio of the votes gained to the total votes cast. This law aimed at making the elections more representative by using each governorate as a single electoral district, without neglecting the importance of a unified electoral district. Previous elections considered Iraq as a single electoral district, resulting in the marginalization of small bodies, with only three bodies winning most of the seats.

Conducting the elections according to this law, with 288 political bodies running in the light of new coalitions taking shape in Iraq, was sure to introduce new changes to the political landscape, particularly since these elections carried the marks left by the previous elections. In addition, the Shia's religious authority refrained from backing any list contrary to the previous elections (which supported the United Iraqi Coalition list).

The Constitution limits Parliament's term to four years. Therefore the newly elected Parliament faces a great many chores and challenges, as it will be the founding Parliament for a new Iraq, and must lead the country on a path of development and freedom, away from the current U.S. invasion. The question remains, will it succeed in its mission? Or will Iraq remain stuck in the cycle of violence and destruction it has been witnessing?

| Governorate | # of Registered Voters | Number of Seats | Governorate | # of Registered Voters | Number of Seats |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| Baghdad | 3,664,922 | 59 | Salah aAl- Din | 498,017 | 8 |
| Ninwah | 1,197,940 | 19 | Wassit | 494,955 | 8 |
| Basrah | 1,035,055 | 16 | Najaf | 493,808 | 8 |
| Sulaymanyah | 914,441 | 15 | Quadissiyah | 486,827 | 8 |
| Erbil | 795,291 | 13 | Duhuk | 429,182 | 7 |
| Thi Qar | 778,574 | 12 | Missan | 417,273 | 7 |
| Babylon | 694,192 | 11 | Karbala' | 409,081 | 6 |
| Diyala | 624,099 | 10 | Muthana | 295,326 | 5 |
| Kirkuk | 576,048 | 9 | Total | 14,379,169 | 230 |
| Anbar | 574,138 | 9 | <i>Source: Higher Commission for the Iraqi Elections 2005</i> | | |

* To review the elections that took place in January 2005, please refer to *II Monthly*, Issue 33 (in English) and Issue 18 (in Arabic), both published in March 2005.

The results of the December 2005 Iraqi elections will be published in the forthcoming issue.

Information International 2005: The Will to Perform, the Skill to Succeed

Stats &

226.1 million LBP is the contribution the Lebanese government has made, through the Higher Relief Committee, to assist earthquake victims in Pakistan.

598 million LBP is the contribution the Lebanese government has made, through the Ministry of Social Affairs, to the UNDP program, Improving the Living Conditions, carried out during 2005.

10.552 million LBP is the value of a loan granted by the Lebanese government to the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) in order to implement a decision issued by the Chamber of International Commerce in favor of the German company Walter Bo. This decision was reached after the detention of an MEA plan in Turkey, due to the lack of payment for road works conducted by Walter Bo in the north and northeast of Beirut.

11 is the number of vacancies that exist in the Ministry of Labor's Department of Syrian Labor Affairs, which the Lebanese government established in October 2005.

154,056 is the number of votes won by Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister Mohammad Fneish in the 2005 parliamentary elections for one of the four Shia'a seats in the Qada'a of Sour, in South Lebanon's first electoral district. Fneish won the largest number of votes among parliament members in Lebanon due to the high number of voters registered in his district.

In the year 2005, Lebanon witnessed a series of extraordinary events, chief among them being the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on February 14, 2005, the withdrawal of Syrian troops on April 26, 2005, and successive assassinations, bomb blasts, and international resolutions, topped with parliamentary elections that changed the balance of power in Lebanon. These events will most probably leave their mark on the year 2006, and possibly on many years to come.

Lebanon's economic situation was inevitably affected by these unfortunate events, which caused deterioration and paralysis in most sectors, some of which had been paralyzed beforehand.

Information International, being part of the social, political, and cultural scene, was not alienated from these events. It lived these conditions of stagnancy and anxiety for a few months. However, it soon rebounded and got back on track, and in doing so, attained great accomplishments in 2005 parallel to those of 2004. The following are just a few of Information International's success stories:

- Continuing publication of *Il Monthly* in Arabic and English, maintaining high standards in terms of research and writing and covering a variety of unique topics, projects, and major events of concern to Lebanese citizens and officials alike.
- Conducting six opinion polls covering the major events witnessed in Lebanon during 2005.
- Conducting an important opinion poll concerning the Lebanese, entitled "Allegiance to the Country Versus Allegiance to Religion," financed by Center for Democracy and the Rule of Law.
- Conducting a study and survey covering publications issued in the different Lebanese areas, financed by the UNESCO Office in Beirut.
- Publishing "Lebanon in Numbers 1992-2002," in cooperation with Al-Nahar Printing Press.
- Conducting an opinion poll in Lebanon and five other Arab countries concerning the various ideas and concepts of citizens in each locale.
- Performing several project feasibility studies in Lebanon and in countries in the Gulf, including a project feasibility study for the establishment of a school in Dubai.
- Continuing the implementation of the project "The Provision of Technical Assistance to Four Beneficiaries in the Cazas of Akkar and Bint Jbeil," signed with the ESFD.
- Conducting several opinion polls for candidates running in Lebanon's parliamentary elections in June 2004. The results of the elections very closely matched the results of these polls.
- Conducting a study and survey of health conditions and needs for the elderly in some areas of Beirut, on the behalf of the Mothers' Committee Association in Lebanon, financed by the Al-Walid Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation.
- Contributing to the preparation of a report for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on Lebanon.
- Conducting an opinion poll covering Iraqi opinions concerning the elections of January 2005.

Information International is continuing on its path of progress toward the attainment of its goals. The year 2006 marks a new and welcome phase on this journey.



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