

Lebanon in the Eyes of Ambassadors

Municipal and Ikhtiariah Elections
in Mount Lebanon

Secondary School Official Exams 2008-2009

Cost of official security escorts in Lebanon

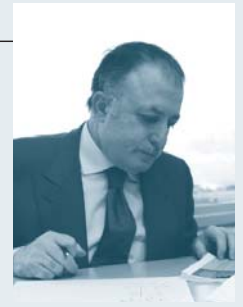


LBP 60 billion a year

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“Their” book about “our” history or Who corrects exams at the IC? As’ad AbuKhalil¹ or Avigdor Lieberman²?



Modern World History, a book that has been taught in IC’s second level curriculum since 2003, suddenly became a topic of discussion in the Lebanese press. The controversy focused on a few pages titled “Hunting for Terrorists”; more specifically about the mention of Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organizations. Then, just as suddenly, everyone went silent.

What happened exactly?

It is worth noting that not one member of the IC’s parents committee, parent, student or teacher (needless to mention nobody at the Ministry of Education) had in the past considered this important. Perhaps it is because we didn’t read the book, or perhaps because we read it and we approved of it, perhaps because we are simply apathetic, or, perhaps because we are content with any history book at all.

IC’s administration swiftly responded with saying that it had either “pasted over the [controversial] pages” or ordered students to “tear them out”. This is a reminder of how Queen Mary I of England burned the “History of Italy” in 1554 after ordering the execution of its author William Thomas. It is also a reminder of the burning of Thomas Hobbes’ books in 1683 in Oxford University. Similarly, in 1988, some groups in Europe and the United States burned Salman Rushdie’s “Satanic Verses”, while in May 2008 the Israeli Shas party burned the New Testament. Some mothers in America even burned books from the popular Harry Potter series, claiming it encouraged ‘witchcraft, the devil’s work’.

There are however some differences: first, the IC did not destroy the book altogether. It merely pasted over or tore out what was unwanted.

Second the matter is not related to royalty or religion, it is an issue of the Lebanese General Security, which, by law, controls the imports of books. Third the issue was dealt with ‘à la Libanaise’, the storm abated, everyone relaxed, there was no accountability and there was no burning. There was, however, pasting over and tearing out.

The local press, especially “As Safir” and “Al Akhbar”, approached the subject from a specific angle concerned with the listing of Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organizations. The Daily Star, meanwhile, merely quoted the Associated Press as saying: “A leading school was forced to remove pages from a history book said to describe Hezbollah as a terrorist organization . . . [school president] Johnson said ‘the school does not have a particular political position and does not teach the Arab-Israeli conflict.’” Why didn’t the editor make the effort of reading the book instead of using the word “said to” and, for that matter, why doesn’t the school teach the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Let us then bury our heads in the sand. This is a book that deserves to be methodologically challenged, yet we are content to just remove a few pages. The IC was established in Lebanon in 1936 but they “do not teach the Arab-Israeli conflict”. The parents’ committee had no comment, but in the July 2006 war they looked for alternative schools abroad because the Israeli minister of defense threatened destruction, and kept his word.

Since 1936, the Ministry of Education has overlooked the fact that private schools have their own curriculums. It did take notice that the structural

deterioration of public schools (a matter to be debated at length) led 55% of students to enroll in private schools today. Private schools in Lebanon have their own “free”, “sovereign” and “independent” republics as well. The role of the Ministry of Education does not even come close to that of UNIFIL in counting the violations of Lebanese laws related to education.

The reader is urged to consider the book’s methodology. The description of Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorists in a history book reflects a specific view of history. How do the authors of the book regard other peoples?

What if I were a Native American, also known as a “Red Indian”?

I would be very pleased with what Suzan Shown Harjo wrote on page 109: “We will be asked to buy into the thinking that . . . genocide and ecocide are offset by the benefits of horses, cut-glass beads, pickup trucks, and microwave ovens.”

My heart would ache when reading Bartolomé de Las Casas’s words as an eye witness to the annihilation of my people on page 109: “. . . Their other frightening weapon after the horses: twenty hunting greyhounds. They were unleashed and fell on the Indians. . . Within an hour they had preyed on one hundred of them. . .”

But I would be angry because the issue of genocide is not tackled in detail. The book’s methodology portrays history through several general but “understanding” view points that in the end with the “Red Indians” falling prey to diseases more than genocide. But the questions, which the book lists at the end of each chapter, and on this particular subject, urge the mind to go through an in-depth debate.

Then, the book’s authors, under the title of “Different Perspectives- The Legacy of Columbus” understand that there can be more than one school of thought, more than one point of view of historical events. The book appears somewhat realistic, and aims to educate students while opening their minds to subjects directly linked to American society.

They appear more understanding and more prepared to accept the principle of “different perspectives” when it comes to “Red Indians”, African-Americans and Latin-Americans (Hispanics).

This is also reflected, in an albeit shy manner, on the role of CIA in toppling Salvadore Allende in 1973. After describing him as an “admitted Marxist”, the book recalls on page 492 how “through the CIA, [the United States government] helped forces . . . topple his government. . .” Take careful note of the word “helped”. In their analogy, addressing the use of the nuclear bomb in World War II, the authors ask a question that, to some extent, encourages criticism of the second bomb in Nagasaki.

However, the subject takes a different direction once we leave the United

1-A Lebanese-American professor of political science at California State University, and founder of the Angry Arab News service

2- Israel’s Foreign Minister



States and its social make-up and enter our Arab world or regions, perhaps sees as marginally important by the authors. The reader is then deprived of the overflow of emotions that Americans and “Red Indians” experience because here there is no happiness, sadness or anger, only abhorrence. There is a sense of revulsion from those who wrote (the West) and revulsion from those who were written about (us).

What if I were from the Congo? Here you come across a unilateral opinion. There is no room for “different perspectives”. Instead, we are confronted by the official US position, telling us the sugar coated version of the 1961 overthrowing of Lumumba. It fails to mention the circumstances behind the mysterious death of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld. The book settles for saying on page 519 that Mobutu came to power with a “bloodless coup” in 1965 and he “ruled... stabilized ... but in 2000 the nation faced civil war ...” The book fails to mention the role of the United States, and more specifically that of the CIA, although Belgium was mentioned as having interfered. The authors are committed to their country’s official and old position, despite valid reports that Lumumba was toppled upon the request and intervention of the Americans.

What would the book, in its newest edition, say about the killing of some three million Congolese over the past nine years?

What about Iran and the coup against Mossaddeq? “... They [Iranians] nationalized a British-owned oil company and, in 1953, forced the shah to flee. Fearing that Mossaddeq might turn to the Soviets for support, the United States had him arrested. It then restored the shah to power.” (494)

On the US support of the shah, despite a reference to poverty and the Savak, the main headline reads “The United States Supports Secular Rule”.

The issue, then, is that Iran is locked between the “seculars” (the shah) and the clerics (Khomeini), and of course, all of this has a distinct aroma of petrol. There is no need here for questions about human rights or the illegitimate intervention, what the authors called “the arrest of Mossaddeq”. The United States is made to appear as a legitimate policeman. Of course, there no mention that Mossaddeq was democratically designated prime minister with the support of an overwhelming majority.

What if I were a Muslim?

The book dedicates a few lines to Islam as a monotheistic religion, in the second chapter entitled “Judeo-Christian Tradition” on page 12. **(Explain that to your children)**

But what if you were from this region of the world? What do we call it?

Here I will not find a mention of my country or any other country.

“Judaism and Christianity both began in a small corner of southwest Asia”?

Where exactly is southwest Asia? **(Explain this to your children)**

What if I were Palestinian? “The division of Palestine after World War II set off bitter disputes in the Middle East. Some of the problems faced by the new nation of Israel were similar to those experienced by new nations in Africa and Asia... Palestinians who did not remain in Israel faced a disruptive life as refugees.”

(Page 521) As for those who did remain in Israel, the book apparently thinks they are living a life of leisure. **(Explain this to your children).**

On page 522 there is a beautiful picture of Golda Meir (perhaps her most beautiful portrait) as “one of the signers of Israel’s declaration of independence”. Israel must have been occupied (but by whom?) and then liberated! **(Explain this to your children)**

On page 523, the book mentions Hosni Mubarak and the way it is pronounced in Arabic (HAHS.nee moo.BAHR.uhk) **(ask one of children try pronouncing these letters)**. On pages 524 and 525, the book describes “life in a Kibbutz” in Israel in 1951 saying that “...instead of teaching math, philosophy, or psychology ... Israel’s eager immigrants [who] are former lawyers, professors,

or physicians ... pour over the latest publications on scientific farming from the US Department of Agriculture.” There is of course no mention of the people whose land was stolen and who were killed and displaced.

(Explain this to your children) On “peace” (Oslo 1993), the authors write on page 525 that although “Netanyahu had opposed the plan still he made efforts to keep the agreement...” **(Let the Palestinians explain this to their children)** Netanyahu is written neh.tan.YAH.hoo **(the challenge of pronunciation still stands).**

In order for us not to think that the book insensitive toward the Palestinian cause, it did the “forbidden” by asking: “they say the Arab-Israeli conflict is not between right and wrong but between two rights,” and asked what the reader thinks. Of course, there is nothing in their about the Deir Yassine massacre (refer to what has been written about the natives also known as “Red Indians”) For these reasons, and more, the Modern World History, deserves to be debated and added to the list of challenged books. This is a matter that should be undertaken by IC’s parents committee. The Ministry of Education should also fulfill its role, or else what purpose does it possibly serve?

So! If there were schools in the United States that do not teach - or censor - books such as: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain) and the Catcher in the Rye (J.D. Salinger) and Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck) and if there are those who object to teaching Darwin’s theory of evolution in schools, then, why would the IC not consider challenging this book?

How? First: Lebanese General Security should not interfere in the issue of books, and this requires an amendment of the law. Leave the matter to the Educational Center for Research and Development and private schools.

Second: no part of any book should ever be censored.

Third: The book should be on the list of publications to be critiqued or challenged. If this book is part of the curriculum of what is called the International Baccalaureate, then why is it this book and not another? Where is the problem if IC students were taught that its authors express a specific point of view that is not necessarily correct?

Fourth: The book is a call to those who take “pride” in their “Arabic”, “Lebanese” (sometimes “Phoenician”) patriotism to publish a history book that is as captivating with its illustrations, questions and stories as this book is. It should be a history book that dares ask questions and present different perspectives of history (ours and theirs). What are the “Arabists” doing to accomplish such a project? What about the Lebanese? What are the Arab regimes doing? And of course, where is the Lebanese Ministry of Education in all this debate?

This is an American book that reflects a semi-official point of view of the world, in which racism and American patriotism are camouflaged in a history book. This is met by a horrifying vacuum in our curriculums, which are filled with our superstitions, our gibberish or books like this one! Maybe this is the “unified book” that the Americans gave their students, and that March 8 and March 14— and those before them, above them and after them - will massacre each other over without even writing a remotely comparable book. Let us read this book, criticize it and then toss it aside, with the full knowledge that it is Rome’s book on the Barbarians, and that we are the Barbarians. Do not tell your children that this is a history book. Tell them it is “their” book on “our” history that we have yet to know, comprehend, discuss or write. To quote a friend: “What if students were asked in an exam if Hezbollah was a terrorist organization? How would they reply and how would they be graded? His answer is that the grading will depend on the examiner: Will it be As’ad AbuKhalil or Avigdor Lieberman?

Based on the book’s definition of terrorism, the US invasion of Iraq is considered a terrorist act, while the killing of 1,400 human beings in Gaza could be justified. Perhaps in the next edition, we will not find a single picture of them, but we will find one of abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

We wait for the next edition.

Cost of official security escorts in Lebanon

LBP 60 billion a year

In the aftermath of the civil war, state security apparatuses provided protection for a number of political and religious figures and officials. Depending on personal relations, the services were provided by the army, general security, internal security, Parliament police or state security.

Some of the 'protectors' themselves had a one- or two-member security team, more in some cases. Security services were sometimes provided by the state for figures whose lives were not at risk, but because they have official, partisan or political posts. It was only a matter of personal relations with officers and prominent members of the security forces.

In an attempt to limit the issue to a single security apparatus, the government issued Decree 3509 on May 20, 1993 that assigned the protection of prominent public and political figures to the Directorate General of the General Security. It also set the limit for the number of members in security teams as follows:

- ⊙ A former president of the republic (ten members)
- ⊙ A former speaker of parliament (eight members)
- ⊙ A former prime minister (eight members)
- ⊙ Acting minister (four members)
- ⊙ Acting MP (two members)
- ⊙ The spouse of a deceased former president (two members)
- ⊙ Head of confession residing in Lebanon (six members)

Security services for religious figures

The decree specifies six agents for every head of a confession residing in Lebanon. This applies to most confessions in Lebanon leading to the conclusion that the number of officially-appointed security agents is at least 90. It is believed that some religious figures exceeded the six agents allowed by law.

The decree drew fire from some political and partisan figures since it deprived them from their security teams. As such, Decree 4411 dated December 30, 1993 added an article to the resolution 3509 stating: "protection will be provided to any endangered person based on a ruling the director general of the general security following the approval of the Central Council for Internal Security." As a result, the number of members assigned to security teams increased from 657 to 860, including among some officers, decommissioned officers and agents.

Later amendments

Decree 13470 dated November 5, 1998 amended the previous resolution authorizing "a former president to request army protection that does not exceed the pre-set limit" which is ten members."

Decree 6697 dated November 18, 2001 amended the resolution and expanded the list of figures entitled to security escorts to include a former deputy parliament speaker and a former deputy prime minister. It assigned four security agents to each.

The new amendment

Following a recent wave of political assassinations and political and security crises, triggered by the 2005 murder of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, some figures provided personal security escorts and increased the number of agents exceeding the limit set by Decree 3509. Furthermore, security escorts were provided for media, political and judicial figures, who were not covered by the decree or its amendments.

The number of official protection agents increased to an unprecedented level and included agents from the army, Internal Security Forces and state security. The situation returned to its state prior to Decree 3509. As a result, Decree 2512 dated July 14, 2009 was issued in order to regulate, once more, the issue of security escorts. Here are the most significant amendments:

- ⊙ Members of security teams assigned to former heads of state are to be recruited from the army instead of from state security. The army is to evaluate the level of danger and to decide on whether or not the team should exceed ten agents. (There are two surviving former heads of state, Amine Gemayel and Emile Lahoud).
- ⊙ The number of security agents assigned to each public figure was unchanged. However the amendments increased to four the number of security agents assigned to each MP.
- ⊙ The new decree expanded the list of figures entitled to state protection to include a number of judges. A number of judges were already benefitting from state protection by decision from the director general of the Internal Security Forces, the director general of the General Security or the army command. The new decree allowed one bodyguard for each judge (164 judges) who occupies one of the posts listed in Table 1.

It should be pointed out that the size of security teams assigned to most judges mentioned in Table 1, such as the general prosecutor, exceeds the limit set by the decree.

Assignment of security agents to judges based on a proposal by the public prosecutor

Table 1

Judicial ranking	Number of beneficiating judges
1 President of the Supreme Judicial Council	1
2 Public prosecutor	1
3 Chairman of the Judicial Inspection Commission	1
4 Head of the state Shura Council	1
5 President of the Court of Audit	1
6 Head of the Constitutional Council	1
7 Chairman of the Litigations Commission	1
8 head of the legislative and Consultations body	1
9 Financial general prosecutor	1
10 President of the Judicial Studies Institute	1
11 Members of the Justice Council	1
12 Members of the Higher Judiciary	4
13 Heads of prosecution chambers	9
14 Prosecutors	8
15 Financial attorney general	4
16 Appellate attorney general in the muhafazat	6
17 State commissioner at the military tribunal	1
18 First examining magistrates in the muhafazat	6
19 First military examining magistrate	1
20 Heads of the Shura Council chambers	5
21 Ministry of Justice director general	1
22 Government commissioner at the Court of Audit	1
23 State commissioner at the Shura Council	1
24 Heads of courts of appeals	44
25 Appellate district attorneys	28
26 Examining magistrates in the muhafazat	26
27 Assistants of the government's commissioner at the military tribunal	4
28 Examining magistrates at the military tribunal	4
29 Judge whose post requires special security protection	unspecified
1 A former head of the Supreme Judicial Council	1
2 A former prosecutor general	1
3 A former head of an investigative commission	1
4 A former head of the Shura Council	1
5 Former chairman of the Court of Audit	1
6 A former head of the Constitutional Council	1

Other protection apparatuses

In addition to General Security or the Army, some other security apparatuses are also tasked with protecting the country's three top officials: the Republican Guard, the Parliament Police, the Government Guard Brigade, and the Republican Guard Brigade. The Republican Guard Brigade falls under the army's command and protects the president and his family in addition to the presidential headquarters and visiting dignitaries.

-Parliament Police includes some 100 agents tasked with protecting the seat of Parliament and its speaker. In recent years, after Nabih Berri's reelection as speaker of parliament, the police force was increased to some 550 agents tasked with providing protocol in front of parliament headquarters in Nejme Square (Parliament is protected by an army force) and to guard the residence of the speaker in Ain Al Tineh in addition to his

other residences in Barbour and Mssayleh. Berri also distributed agents of the Parliament Police on some friends and authorities consequently increasing expenditure, which are estimated at LBP 9 billion a year. It is worth noting that the speaker of parliament recruits to the force and manages promotions.

-Government Guard Brigade falls under the command of the ISF and is tasked with protecting the prime minister, his office and residence. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri expanded the Brigade to around 600 agents when he took office. Expenses are estimated at around LBP 10.9 billion a year.

-Protection of high-ranking officers hundreds of protection agents are assigned to high-ranking officers (current and former) in the military apparatuses. While there is no official figure available on expenditures in this case, but according to military ranks and the number of security escorts assigned to them it is possible to estimate the cost between LBP 7 billion to LBP 10 billion a year.

In conclusion, the Lebanese citizen, already reeling from the financial burden of past wars, debts and taxes, is forced to pay around LBP 60 billion in expenses for the protection of his/her political, military and administrative leaders. There is a need to put an end or limit this pattern for the following reasons:

- Most people receiving state protection are not in any imminent danger whatsoever. Furthermore, the security agents assigned to protect them are mostly given household chores that have nothing to do with security or protection, like grocery shopping and as chauffeurs.
- This protection has yet to stop the assassinations; instead, it only contributes to raising the number of those killed and injured. The murders of Rafik Hariri, Bashir Gemayel, Rene Moa'awad, Rashid Karami, Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, Sayyed Abbas Al Moussawi and others provide ample evidence to the failure of such protection to stop anything.
- Operating procedures from developed countries show that security is not achieved by setting up military checkpoints or by deploying military personnel on the streets but through efficient and productive intelligence and investigative apparatuses.
- Prominent figures were not satisfied with the security escort services provided by the state, yet still gave out arms possession licenses to their supporters, relatives and partisans. For example, former Minister of Defense Mohsen Dalloul confessed to approving 40,000 licenses to carry small arms, while currently the number is set between 30,000 to 35,000 licenses. Some play down the figure, putting it at 17,000.
- Thousands of state-appointed protection agents, tens of thousands of arms possession licenses and a number of private security companies paint a scary picture. We live in a jungle of weapons and armed men, where criminals use licensed weapons to carry out murders and thefts. 🌍

Ministry of Telecommunications

USD 1 billion a year in income, wiretapping and privatization

The Ministry of Telecommunications has been a significant obstacle to forming of a government for over four months. Whether or not this is a fabricated problem, the ministry has become critically important, for financial, political and security reasons.

Name of the ministry

The name of the ministry has changed several times. After the 1943 independence, it was named the Ministry of Cabling and Post, until 1953, when the name was changed into the Ministry of Cabling, Post and Telephone. Legislative Decree 11 of June 12, 1959 rechristened it the Ministry of Post, Cable and Telephone, and in 1982 it became known as the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. In 2000, Article 6 of Law #247 (which conjoins, establishes and abolishes ministries) it was named the Ministry of Telecommunications.

During the civil war

The war (1975-1990) damaged many telephone networks in Beirut and conflict zones. Work to equip networks regressed and the number of landlines plummeted. People had to pay large sums of money to a “mafia” of ministry employees or their partners to obtain a landline or seek the referrals of influential politicians and MPs for the minister’s signature on a landline form. A small group of employees, with the help of militia leaders, controlled international communication and distributed them for political favors or money. Postal services also came to a complete halt.

After 1992

After the war, the government launched an initiative to reconstruct, rehabilitate and develop the telecom sector, due to its importance for the economy and the private sector. Law 262/93 allocated a LBP 750 billion credit line for rehabilitation projects, expansion and circulation of the local and international networks. The project restored 400,000 landlines, installed close to a million new lines, equipped relay stations and centers with electricity and emergency power. Law 218/93 authorized the Ministry of Postal Services and Telecommunications to attract international bids to complete the B.O.T system project for cellular radio.

However, the ministry played a supervisory and managerial role while the Council for Development and Reconstruction executed the rehabilitation projects. The private sector was charged with two cellular networks, as dictated by the law. The government later signed two contracts with a private company (Liban Post) to handle postal services, on the condition that the state received a share of the profits (LBP 1.2 billion in ten years).

The state also signed a contract with Ogero (a government commission that was activated) to establish and maintain landline networks, on the condition that the ministry cover expenses.

Ministry of cellular networks

Ogero was in charge of operating the landline network, Liban Post the postal service while the Ministry of Telecoms handled the cost of formal postal employees who have become unemployed. The ministry, after the government took over the cellular network, played an essential role in the sector. The two operating companies in fact work for the ministry under USD 145 million contracts (approved by the cabinet). The ministry also determines the tariff, prices and other financial, administrative and service-related issues. This led to conflict between the minister and the telecom regulatory body.

Law #218 of May 13, 1993 authorized the Ministry of Postal Services and Telecoms to launch an international tender to complete the self-financed construction of the mobile phone network, on the condition that investment timeline does not exceed 12 years. However, the state unilaterally cancelled the contracts in 2002 and paid up to LBP 647 billion in compensation funds to the two companies, including LBP 325.3 billion to FTML and LBP 321.7 billion to LibanCell. The move was seen as harmful to the state, because the contracts were approaching their expiration dates (two years according to some officials, and four according to others). The cancellation benefited the two companies since, upon expiration of the contracts, they

were meant to hand over the installations to the state free of charge. State revenues from the mobile phone sector since 1994 until 2002 reached LBP 1568.8 billion, an indication that, during this 9 year period, the state did not receive more than LBP 921.8 billion. Table 1 shows the evolution of mobile phone revenues, both the estimated and the actual figures.

Mobile phone estimated and actual revenues 1994-2002 (In LBP from billion)		Table 1
Year	Estimated revenues	Actual revenues
1994	Nothing	Nothing
1995	20	13
1996	28	79.5
1997	123	114.8
1998	123	136
1999	200	196.9
2000	192	294.6
2001	252	344
2002	300	390
2003	396	711.1
2004	576	The budget was not approved until November 2009
2005	916	
2006	882	
2007	900	
2008	960	
Total	5,868	

Source: public budget laws (1994-2005), public budget draft bills (2006-2008) and budget laws (1994-2003)

Wiretaps

Law #140 of October 27, 1999 (safeguarding the right for private communication) and its amendments, and Decree # 15280 of October 1, 2005 (which specifies the processes of wiretapping) gave the ministry the power to wiretap in accordance with the following:

- ⦿ A decree is approved by the cabinet, based on a suggestion by the ministers of post and telecommunications, national defense and interior, to specify the places where wiretapping is authorized (Article 16 of Law 140).
- ⦿ The preparation, drafting and recording of telephone conversations will be temporarily limited to control centers affiliated with the Ministry of Telecoms in the muhafazat until the completion of equipping and operating the technical equipment in the control center located in the ministry's central building in Beirut. The minister will determine by decree the date when control centers in the muhafazat have to halt operations (Article 16 of Decree # 15280).

- ⦿ The Ministry of Telecom in the muhafazat until the Ministry of Interior creates a special apparatus directly linked to the minister in charge of wiretapping telephone conversations based on an administrative decision. It will include as members a Grade 2 employee, appointed by the Ministry of Telecoms (Article Two of Decree #15280)
- ⦿ The minister of interior and municipalities will inform the telecom minister of all administrative decisions to wiretap telephone calls (Article 3)

The ministry and telecom privatization

Law 431 of July 22, 2002 (telecom) specified the role of the ministry and the minister related to:

- ⦿ To set general rules to regulate telecom in Lebanon, supervise implementation by receiving progress reports from the telecoms regulatory body, propose draft laws and draft decrees to cabinet.
- ⦿ To represent Lebanon in public conferences organized by international telecom organizations
- ⦿ To propose to cabinet the nominations of the director and members of the telecom regulatory body under the provisions of Article 7 of Law 431
- ⦿ To nominate service providers to participate in international telecom organizations, satellite and underwater cable organizations or other organizations created under international treaties and to supervise them
- ⦿ To ratify decisions by the regulatory body's board of directors as stated by articles 10, 11 and 49 of this law
- ⦿ Propose fees for surveillance and management of wireless frequencies. The fees are to be determined by government decrees.
- ⦿ Propose fees for the use of wireless frequencies, to be determined by government decrees.
- ⦿ Propose to the cabinet the licensing of telecoms services (landline, cellular and international lines) after international bids
- ⦿ Liban Telecom is to be established by cabinet decree based on the minister's proposal

The objective of this company is to provide telecom services. The decree determines its capital, which can be in USD. The company's share, which should always remain registered, will initially belong to the state until its privatization. After privatization, the general assembly will select members of the board of directors, with no preconditions on the nationality on the condition that the state, as long as it a contributor to the capital, will maintain a number of members equivalent to the size of its contribution. At least three members are to be appointed by the Council of Ministers. Upon its establishment, the company, will be exempt from registration fees in the trade register, judicial cooperative fees and stamp fee. The company is also awarded a 20-year license for telecom services, including:

- ⦿ Main telephone service
- ⦿ Local and international fax and telegram service
- ⦿ Mobile phone service
- ⦿ Telephone operators and public pay phones
- ⦿ Emergency calls
- ⦿ Digital information and telephone guide service

The government is allowed to sell 40% of its shares to the private sector two years after the company's establishment. The remaining shares would be offered for private allocation at a future date to be determined by the council of ministers. The Cabinet approved Decree # 13944 on January 2, 2005 to establish Liban Telecom and to ratify its founding system. It set the company's capital at LBP 1 billion.

Ministry of Telecom and telecom budget

The Ministry of Telecom's budget is very limited, as shown by Table 2, and is allocated for postal serviced only (the 450 post employees still receive their salaries form the ministry although Liban Post, a private company, has taken over the sector. Only a few employees are required to manage the sector and coordinate with the company) as such it can be rightly called the budget of the postal service. It covers rentals, fuel, conferences, stationeries and salaries for full time employees. The ministry's actual budget is that of the Ministry of Telecom. It is one of the three budgets attached to the public budget (along with the Directorate of National Lottery and the General Directorate of Grains and Beetroot).

Table 2 shows development of the telecoms budget over the past years (In billion LBP)

“[...]The minister of interior and municipalities will inform the telecom minister of all administrative decisions to wiretap telephone calls (Article 3) ”

Development of the telecoms budget over the past years (in billion LBP) Table 2

Year	Ministry of Telecom budget (its percentage of the state budget)	Telecoms budget	Ogero's budget, included in the telecom budget	State revenues from telecom sector
1994	9.4(0.23%)	470.9	1.1	No revenues
1995	14.8(0.26%)	475	4.7	1
1996	14.7(0.38%)	475	48.5	1
1997	15.8(0.24%)	527	20.2	1
1998	12.8(0.17%)	675.4	11.5	400
1999	13.2(10.15%)	890	9.8	676.5
2000	11.6(0.13%)	950	31	653
2001	13.4(0.13%)	1038	6.01	775
2002	13.9(0.14%)	944	62.7	736
2003	12.5(0.14%)	1248.3	61.4	1050
2004	12.4(0.13%)	1402	97.6	1150
2005	12.1(0.12%)	1580	93.5	1350
2006	11.4(0.10%)	1560.1	92.2	1235
2007	10.8(0.09%)	1668	94	1120
2008	9.4(0.082%)	1770.4	194.4	1220
2009	10.8(0.066%)	1878.5	172.5	1400
Total	199	17,552.6	1,001.11	11,768.5

Source: Figures from state budget and other pertinent budgets in the mentioned years excluding 2006 and 2009, since Parliament has yet to approve the state budget.

This increase in telecom revenues, and, as a consequence, the surplus that has risen year after year, have led to an increase in state income from the sector, especially since 2003, after the state took over the cellular sector from the two owner companies and floated a bid to operate it only. All revenues will go to the state. The expansion contributed to an increase in the number of subscribers, consequently boosting revenues.

The budget from 1994 to 2003 shows an approximation of actual revenues compared to what has been estimate since 1996, while in fact it significantly dropped, compared to what was estimated for the years 1994 and 1995, registering

an even greater decline in 2001, only to increase again in 2002 and 2003.

Expenditures were less than what was estimated, except in 2000, when expenses increased by LBP 623.3 billion (65.6%) compared to what was estimated. The increase is caused by transfers to the treasury to cover treasury loans.

Table 3 shows estimated and achieved revenues and expenses, in addition to estimated and achieved transfers to the state treasury.

Estimated and achieved revenues and expenses in addition to estimated and achieved transfers to the state treasury (In billion LBP)										Table 3
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Estimated revenues	410.8	475	475	527	675.4	890	950	1038	944	1248.3
Actual revenues	156.3	252.2	461.5	594.4	633.2	865.6	940.4	808.6	998	1285.5
Estimated expenditures	471	475	475	527	675.4	890	950	1038	944	1248.3
Actual expenditures	162.4	296.6	475.4	417.1	287	664.8	1573.3	957.2	939.3	1182
Estimated surplus or deficit	60.2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Actual surplus or deficit	6.1-	44.4-	13.9-	177.3	346.2	200.8	632.9-	148.6-	58.7	103.5
Estimated transfers to state treasury	0	1	1	1	400	676.5	653	775	736	1050
Actual transfers to state treasury	0	0	0	0	163 million LBP	260.6	1333.7	694	723	984

Source: Public budget and other pertinent budgets in the mentioned years

Table 2 shows that the total estimated telecoms incomes have reached LBP 17,552.6 billion (USD 11.8 billion) since 1994, of which LBP 11,768.5 billion (USD 8 billion) have been transferred into the state budget. The table also shows that, in the past five years, there have been no transfers into the state treasury; instead telecom income, including cellular telecom revenue (which was operated by Cellis and Libancell) were spent on upgrading the landline network. The 2003 budget shows that total transfers to the Ministry of Telecom reached LBP 984 billion, including LBP 711.1 billion of cellular revenues, forming 72% of total telecom revenues.

Despite the substantial amount of spending on the landline network, over USD 2 billion, this sector covers a mere 28% of treasury funds.

Ministry of Telecoms expenditures reach USD 200 million, spent on salaries, compensation funds, equipment and outsourcing. It controls the cellular sector, which one of Lebanon's largest industries. The ministry provides no less than USD 1 billion of annual revenues for the state, and plays an essential role in the privatization of the telecoms sector and in wiretapping activities.

This should explain why controlling the Ministry of Telecommunications seems to be such an important priority for Lebanese political groups

Remarks on Table 2: The cellular and landline incomes include funds collected from fees and taxes, forming a substantial percentage of total income. Some of the figures were rounded to the nearest half digit.

Here are the provisions in the telecoms budget:

- ⦿ Expenses of the general directorate for telecoms investment and maintenance, including Ogero and the telecoms regulatory body.
- ⦿ Expenses by the general directorate to establish and equip telecoms
- ⦿ Expenses of joint administrative directorate and wiretapping expenses
- ⦿ Transfers to the state treasury

Remarks on Table 3: The mobile phone and landline income includes funds collected from fees and taxes and form a substantial percentage of total income.

Transfers to the state treasury are part of the expenses.

There has been no breakdown of the budget since 2003.

Telecom budget in 2009

Here are the figures for the telecoms budget annexed to the drafted public budget in 2009:

- ⦿ LBP 4.5 billion were earmarked for allocations, salaries and wages for employees at the directorate general to establish and equip the telecoms sector.
- ⦿ LBP 24.2 billion were earmarked for allocations, salaries and wages for employees at the directorate general for telecoms investment and maintenance.
- ⦿ LBP 172.5 billion were contributed to Ogero's budget, including LBP 99 billion for salaries, wages and administrative expenses.
- ⦿ LBP 10.7 billion were spent on the automation center.
- ⦿ LBP 60.1 billion were spent on maintenance works.
- ⦿ LBP 37 billion were the cost of installations.
- ⦿ LBP 32 billion were spent on equipments.
- ⦿ LBP 67.8 billion were spent to cover the treasury loan for Ogero to pay for the expenses of the IME-WE cable project.

“In the past five years, there have been no transfers into the state treasury; instead telecom income, including cellular telecom revenue (which was operated by Cellis and Libancell) were spent on upgrading the landline network.”

Telecoms ministers

When forming the first post-war government in 1992, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri reserved the ministries of telecom and finance for himself or people close to him. From October 1992 until November 2009, the Ministry of Telecommunications was headed by eight ministers. The following table shows that Minister Jeal Louis Qordahi was the longest serving minister (four years, five months and 25 days). No Shia'a ministers have occupied the post in the mentioned period.

Table 4 shows the names, confessions, and political affiliations of Telecom Ministers from 1992-2005.

The names, confessions and political affiliations of telecom ministers from 1992-2009				Table 4
Minister	Confession	Political affiliation	Appointment date	Prime Minister
Mohammed Ghaziri	Sunni	PM Rafik Hariri	31-10-1992 until 25-5-1995	Rafik Hariri
Al Fadi Shalaw	Sunni	PM Rafik Hariri	25-5-1995 until 7-11-1996	Rafik Hariri
Rafik Hariri	Sunni	-	7-11-1996 until 4-12-1998	Rafik Hariri
Issam Na'aman	Druze	PM Salim Hoss	4-12-1998 until 26-10-2000	Salim Hoss
Jean Louis Qordahi	Maronite	President Emile Lahoud	26-10-2000 until 17-4-2003	Rafik Hariri
Jean Louis Qordahi	Maronite	President Emile Lahoud	17-4-2003 until 26-10-2004	Rafik Hariri
Jean Louis Qordahi	Maronite	President Emile Lahoud	26-10-2004 until 19-4-2005	Omar Karami
Alan Tabourian	Armenian Orthodox	President Emile Lahoud	19-4-2005 until 19-7-2005	Najib Miqati
Marwan Hamadeh	Druze	PM Hariri/Walid Jumblat	19-7-2005 until 11-7-2008	Fouad Saniora
Jebran Bassil	Maronite	General Michel Aoun	11-7-2008 to date (25-10-2009)	Fouad Saniora

Municipal and ikhtiarah elections in Mount Lebanon

Mount Lebanon's muhafaza is expected to be highly contested in the upcoming municipal and ikhtiarah elections, due to its diverse political and confessional makeup, in addition to competition among families. In towns such as Jdeidet El-Metn, Jouniyeh in Kesserouane and Jbail that are normally united in municipal elections, candidates are expected to fight fiercely either to consolidate their power or compensate for their defeat in the June 7 parliamentary elections.

There are 786,211 registered voters in Mount Lebanon, where the 307 municipalities represent 32.5% of municipalities in Lebanon. The muhafza's 701 makhatir represent 29.3% of total village mayors in Lebanon. 3,465 Municipal Council members represent 30.5 % of total members across the country. Its revenues from the Independent Municipal Council Fund for 2007 reached LBP 55.3 billion, marking 26.2% of total revenues distributed on the rest of the municipalities. Table 1 shows the distribution of revenues by qada'.

Table 2 shows the number of registered and actual voters 2009 and the number of Makhatir available in each Municipality of Mount Lebanon Mouhafaza.

Qada'	Number of municipalities	Number of municipal members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Chouf	73	837	144	9,441,367
Aaley	55	606	103	6,841,882
Baabda	45	537	107	12,133,175
Kesrouane	49	516	83	7,478,633
Metn	49	591	164	15,607,067
Jbail	36	378	100	3,844,223
Total	307	3,465	701	55,346,347

Source: Information International, based on the official gazette

Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Jdaidet	4,216	2,535	5	3	2,628,322
Baouchriyé	7,304	4,362	7	5	
Sad El-Baouchriyé	6,121	3,703	6	5	
Antelias	4,330	2,611	13	4	821,301
Naqqach	723	465	2	1	
Bteghrine	3,003	2,203	15	3	161,403
Bourj Hammoud	37,141	14,710	21	16	2,463,653
Broummana	3,075	1,609	15	2	334,418
Baskinta	6,453	4,281	15	4	311,602
Bsalim	1,013	750	9	2	222,859
Mezher Oua Majzoub	527	413	3	1	
Baabdat	2,109	1,171	12	1	187,423
Bikfaya	4,642	2,117	12	3	299,441
Mhaidset	1,065	508	3	1	
Byaqout	597	452	9	1	120,543
Beit Chabab	5,647	2,893	13	6	336,885
Chaouiyé and Qneitra	581	341	2	1	
Beit Ech-Chaar and Mazraat El-Hdaira	893	577	9	1	146,515

Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Beit Meri	3,567	1,870	11	2	579,172
Aain Saadé	1,106	726	4	1	
Biqnaya	652	431	2	1	572,271
Jall Ed-Did	4,003	2,312	13	3	
Khinchara	2,600	1,647	12	2	167,108
Jouar	555	366	3	1	
Dekouané, Mar Roukiz, Dahr El-Hassine	3,918	2,509	15	5	792,335
El-Douar	815	618	9	1	41,060
Rabiyé	426	218	9	1	204,774
Roumié	1,749	1,113	12	2	147,749
Zaraaoun	607	337	9	1	29,787
Zalqa	2,386	1,612	8	2	657,310
Aamaret Chalhoub	1,375	814	7	2	
Zakrit	898	627	9	1	48,452
Saqiet El-Misk	1,537	1,051	8	1	126,168
Bahr Saf	770	517	4	1	
Sinn El- Fil	9,066	5,234	18	9	1,071,459
Choueir	4,319	2,054	13	2	271,771
Aain Es-Sindiane	620	332	2	1	

Metn						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007	(thousands LBP)
Dbayé	1,420	968	15	7	1	489,411
Zouk El-Kharab	1,468	766		7	1	
Oua Haret El-Billané				1	1	
Aaoukar	278	197				
Dahr Es-Souane	847	581	9	1	37,936	
Aayroun	397	292	9	1	19,975	
Aain Es-Sofsaf	521	352	9	6	1	42,835
Mar Mkhael Bnabil	274	207		3	1	
Aintoura	3,310	2,197	15	2	177,407	
Ouata El-Mrouj						
Oua Ghabet Boulognia	594	429	9	1	33,767	
Fanar	822	653	9	1	227,835	
Qornet Chehouane	1,263	621	12	6	1	308,995
Aain Aar	642	354		4	1	
Beit El-Kekko Ouel Hbous	346	179		2	1	
Qaaqour	1,161	830	9	1	60,845	
Kfar Tay	308	196	9	1	14,100	
'Kfar Aaqab	632	276	9	1	32,878	
Mzakké Oua Mar Chaai	283	179	9	1	59,547	
Mar Moussa Ed-Douar	302	236	9	1	19,484	
Mtain	3,596	2,066	15	14	3	213,076
Mchikha	255	187		1	1	
Mrouj	1,538	1,170	12	1	82,059	
Mzaraat Yachouaa	1,447	857	12	2	185,475	
Mansouriyet	1,954	1,219	15	12	1	532,233
Mkalles	287	199		2	1	
Daychouniyé	128	117		1	1	
Nabay	1,875	1,376	12	3	122,835	
Majdel Tarchich	465	370	9	1	25,595	
Marjaba	564	472	9	1	29,582	
Qennabet Broummana	345	156	9	1	48,696	
El-Ghabe	253	167	9	1	13,632	
Aayoun	217	140	9	1	18,571	
Aain Ez-Zeitouné	194	141		1		
Mazraat Bnabil	108	75		1		
Himlaya	1,001	670		1		
Abou Mizane	26	20		1		
Dik El-Mehd	484	275	9	1	66,517	
Zabbougha	610	382		1		
Zighrine	322	222		1		
Sfeilé	218	194		1		
Chrine	569	415		1		
Chouaya	350	266		1		
Aatchané	271	212		1		
Aain El-Qabu	211	105		1		

Metn						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007	(thousands LBP)
Aain Et-Teffaha	215	189		1		
Aain El-Kharroubé	867	707		1		
Aain Aalaq	395	273		1		
Khillet	246	208		1		
Fraiké	636	422		1		
Qornet El-Hamra	1,162	603		1		
Qannebet Salima	150	117		1		
Mar Boutros Karm Et-Tine	318	276		1		
Masqa	364	238		1		
Machraah	119	49		1		
Mtayleb	482	351		1		
Mayassé	731	609		1		
Ouadi El-Karm	358	286		1		
Ouadi Chahine	44	21		1		
Jouret El-Ballout	784	470		1		
Deir Chamra	192	170		1		
Total	242	235				
Total	169,870	96,299	591	164	15,607,067	

Kesrouane						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007	(thousands LBP)
Harit Sakhir	3,547	2,210	18	4	2	1,518,677
Sahel Aalma	1,573	1,061		2	1	
Sarba	5,613	3,340		6	2	
Gadire	5,235	3,126		6	2	
Balloune	617	460	9	1	122,324	
Bouar	1,891	1,262	12	2	134,672	
Jdaidet Ghazir	746	486	9	6	1	61,896
Harharaya Ouel Qatine	386	298		3	1	
Jaaita	1,231	878	9	1	121,749	
Jouret Bedrane	334	246	9	1	17,072	
Jouret Et-Tourmos	496	352	9	1	24,527	
Hrajel	4,411	3,584	15	3	239,601	
Hsayn	359	283	9	1	18,345	
Hayata	456	363	9	1	22,832	
Daraiya	645	457	9	1	38,096	
Daraaoun	2,360	1,524	12	10	2	161,690
Harissa	349	139		2	1	
Dlehta	1,301	725	9	1	68,149	
Zouk Mousbeh	1,846	1,230	12	2	557,009	
Zouk Mkyael	4,295	2,269	15	3	618,946	
Raachine	1,250	1,014	9	1	68,714	
Rayfoun	1,112	667	9	1	59,301	



Kesrouane					
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Shaylé	698	482	9	1	78,902
Chnanaair	680	333	9	1	48,843
Safra	1,199	870	9	1	146,245
Tabarja	766	528	5	1	409,390
Kfar Yassine	814	585	5	1	
Adma Oua Dafine	343	261	2	1	
Aajaltoun	2,524	1,566	12	2	162,194
Aazra	561	406	9	1	32,134
Aaramoun	704	428	9	1	40,672
Aachqout	2,421	1,771	12	2	178,385
Aaqaibé	2,036	1,602	12	1	143,505
Aain Er-Rihane	499	318	9	1	50,530
Aintoura	849	529	9	1	61,986
Ghbalé	1,452	1,058	12	1	75,301
Ghazir	5,126	2,699	15	4	497,600
Ghosta	2,891	2,028	15	1	158,553
Ghine	680	522	9	1	39,158
Faraya	1,944	1,568	12	1	119,639
Faytroun	1,304	1,008	9	1	122,021
Qleiaat	1,793	1,222	12	1	131,908
Kfar Dibiane	4,053	3,138	15	2	398,803
Kfour	1,209	741	9	1	100,273
Mayrouba	1,818	1,367	12	1	105,478
Yahchouch	2,077	1,356	12	1	111,840
Maaysra	687	465	9	1	45,692
Beqaata Aachqout	683	549	9	1	41,604
Ouata El-Jaouz	569	448	9	1	33,432
Zaaitré	783	520	9	1	40,445
Fatqa	481	340	9	1	64,347
Chahtoul Oua Jouret El-Mhad	872	618	9	1	48,103
Batha	603	472	9	1	36,086
Zaitoun	497	408	9	1	26,159
Ghidras	331	263	9	1	25,031
Bzoummar	625	244		1	
Beqaata Kanaan	490	348		1	
Bqaatouta	983	746	9	1	50,774
Ighbé	221	168		1	
Chouane Oua Aabra	310	240		1	
'Aain Ed-Delbé	467	356		1	
Bizhel	359	272		1	
Kfar Tay	272	158		1	
Mradiyé	260	160		1	
Maarab	244	176		1	
Nammoura Oua Kfar Jraif	586	491		1	
Nahr Ed-Dahab	414	354		1	
Employees	129	126			
Total Total	89,360	60,282	516	83	7,478,633

Jbail					
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Jbail	8,369	4,957	15	5	700,842
Edde	476	284	9	1	34,351
Ehmej	2,397	1,793	12	2	134,793
Bejjé	1,086	755	9	1	55,319
Blat	1,434	1,137	9	1	183,804
Tartij	1,817	1,408	12	2	100,324
Jaj	2,419	1,575	12	2	120,845
Halat	1,883	1,359	12	2	166,893
Aaqoura	3,703	2,494	15	3	180,353
Aamchit	3,482	2,464	15	3	277,163
Kfar Baal Oua Aannaya	282	220	9	1	21,543
Fatre	629	476	9	1	33,313
Fidar	767	571	9	1	73,522
Qartaba	6,023	3,557	15	4	305,819
Lassa	2,759	1,909	15	2	154,884
Aain El-Ghouaybé	726	450	9	1	40,786
Laqlouq	890	487	9	1	48,125
Mghayré	1,071	731	9	1	53,725
Mounsef	830	425	9	1	50,052
Mayfouq	1,248	857	12	9	93,143
Qottara	372	259	3	1	
Nahr Ibrahim	932	787	9	1	113,563
Lehfed	1,050	692	9	1	57,166
Majdel	1,161	847	9	1	59,240
Yanouh	1,101	857	9	1	55,360
Mazraat Es-Siyad	1,344	869	9	1	73,644
Ras Osta	829	622	9	1	46,580
Mchané	896	638	9	1	47,942
Hjoula	868	547	9	1	48,815
Hsoun	626	433	9	1	35,519
Hasrayel	386	259	9	1	52,084
Berbara	497	220	9	1	39,125
Bichtlida Oua Fidar	982	568	9	1	53,425
Afqa	1,230	890	12	1	76,556
Aalmat Ech-Chamliyé and Aalmat Ej-Jnoubiyé	2,460	1,663	15	2	165,516
Aain El-Souané	517	356		1	
Michmich	1,327	997	9	1	70,171
Hbaline	167	58		1	
Bazyoun	202	160		1	
Hsarat	897	600		1	
Bchille	334	280		1	
Bintaael and Fadar	754	528		1	
Kharbet	264	168		1	
Dmoulsa	185	173		1	

Note: The Jouniyeh Municipality consists of the neighborhood of Haret Sakher-Sahel A'alma-Sarba-Ghadir.

Jbail					
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Adonis Oua Sannour	461	323		1	
Ramout	108	55		1	
Rihane	133	106		1	
Zibdine	435	343		1	
Saqiet El-Khayt	193	103		1	
Seraaiita	258	203		1	
Saqi Richmaya	271	184		1	
Chamate	432	284		1	
Chmout	186	117		1	
Chikhane	235	136		1	
Tourzaiya	310	221		1	
Aabaydat	833	369		1	
Jlisse	423	266		1	
Aain Ed-Delbé	172	114		1	
Janné Oua Mar Sarkis	284	234		1	
Aain Jrain	248	171		1	
Aain Kfaa	255	167		1	
Ghabat	424	331	9	1	19,918
Gharzouz	320	169		1	
Ghorfine	174	60		1	
Ghalboun	823	515		1	
Frat	175	124		1	
Ferhet	351	257		1	
Fghal	512	347		1	
Qorqraiya	331	234		1	
Qohmoz	830	688		1	
Kfar	373	254		1	
Kfar Kiddé	137	90		1	
Kfar Mashoun	223	151		1	
Kfoun	515	408		1	
Aain El-Chilel	375	120		1	
Jadayel	549	324		1	
Mazarib	494	325		1	
Behdaydat	225	155		1	
Beit Habbaq	194	106		1	
Haqel	335	262		1	
Maad	374	243		1	
Habil	256	174		1	
Bekhaaz	119	65		1	
Employees	254	254			
Total	75,272	50,432	378	100	3,844,223

Chouf					
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007 (thousands LBP)
Beit Ed-Dine	1,606	500		12	115,393
Bater	1,977	831		12	100,271
Barouk	4,034	1,534	15	11	240,894
Fraydes	1,098	448		4	
Batloun	1,693	811		12	82,132
Barja	12,428	6,974		18	723,694
Bsaba	1,443	792		12	82,948
Bchtfine	1,619	779		12	81,147
Botme	1,142	589		9	59,409
Baassir	1,588	1,035	12	10	108,321
Harit Baassir	307	190		2	
Baadarane	2,000	940		12	95,247
Baaqline	7,351	3,044		15	387,923
Bire	1,526	1,025		9	82,839
Jahliye	2,326	1,096		12	132,607
Jbaa	1,062	526		9	63,849
Jadra Oua Ouadi El-Ziné	434	200		9	39,092
Jdeide	606	297		9	56,368
Biqaata	182	102			1
Joun	3,365	1,502		15	168,866
Jiye	3,942	1,347		15	231,385
Haret Jandal	359	200		9	21,706
Hasrout	1,009	550		9	58,256
Khreibe	1,786	892		12	87,896
Daraiya	2,455	1,632		12	142,934
Damour	9,044	4,371		15	446,257
Dibbiyé	1,408	724		12	90,354
Dalhoun	1,358	937		9	73,259
Dmit	1,136	559		9	59,846
Deir Dourit	1,697	807		12	101,391
Deir El-Qamar	9,502	3,640		18	489,820
Deir Kouché	507	221		9	23,708
Rmeile	2,269	1,191		12	148,387
Zaarouriyé	1,983	1,233		12	103,974
Sibline	824	455		9	112,326
Sirjbal	1,046	579		9	49,350
Semqaniyé	787	405		9	53,752
Chhim	13,450	7,896		18	754,381
Dahr El-Mghara	343	151		9	20,073
Aanout	2,226	1,344		12	119,673
Aatrine	1,019	414		9	52,752
Aamatour	2,454	1,058		12	118,197
Aamiq	423	219		9	26,738
Aainbal	1,792	531		12	81,918
Aain Zhalta	3,011	1,217		15	151,285
Aain Ouzain	1,026	491		9	53,077

Chouf						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007	(thousands LBP)
Aain Qania	1,143	549	9	1	58,423	
Gharifé	3,494	1,325	15	2	179,591	
Fawara	804	431	9	1	38,527	
Ketermaya	5,306	2,942	15	3	306,904	
Kahlouniet	906	522	9	1	33,613	
Kfar Him	2,069	970	12	2	110,828	
Kfar Qatra	2,102	909	12	1	109,469	
Kfar Nabrahk	3,932	1,908	15	2	166,644	
Kfar Niss	945	557	9	1	42,613	
Kneisset	476	264	9	1	35,462	
Majdel El-Meouch	1,755	920	12	1	104,682	
Moukhtara	1,384	557	9	1	62,913	
Mristi	1,091	631	9	1	64,181	
Mazboud	2,354	1,266	12	2	141,078	
Mazraat Ech-Chouf	4,330	2,028	15	2	223,657	
Mazraat El-Dahr	1,278	558	9	1	64,066	
Mechref	372	253	9	1	45,166	
Mtollé	1,209	652	12	1	61,514	
Maasser Beit Ed-Dine	848	388	9	1	45,960	
Maasser Ech-Chouf	3,014	1,224	12	2	142,986	
Mghairiyé	2,104	1,367	12	1	111,358	
Naame	1,909	1,292	7	1	253,366	15
Haret El-Naameh	1,977	1,221	8	1		
Niha	3,317	1,536	15	2	164,521	
Ouadi Es-Sitt	982	532	9	1	57,966	
Ouardaniyé	2,111	1,426	12	2	121,566	
Ouardaniyé	1,035	629	9	1	50,048	
Kfar Faqoud	2,006	922	12	1	105,473	
Brih	2,556	1,303	12	2	138,195	
Bourjein	1,340	756	9	1	69,742	
Bayqoun	470	162		1		
Deir Baba	864	421		1		
Chourit	298	172		1		
Klaylé	732	365		1		
Ouadi Ed-Deir	239	145		1		
Ouadi Bnehlay	780	440		1		
Ouadi Deir Dourit	162	86		1		
Jleiliyé	312	146		1		
Jmailiyé	439	191		1		
Khirbet Bisri	63	40		1		
Mihtiqla and Deir El-Moukhalles	323	121		1		
Aalman and Barghouniye	1,147	669		1		

Chouf						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007	(thousands LBP)
Aain El-Hour	739	425	9	1	37,160	
Mazmoura	335	176		1		
Maaniye	351	178		1		
Benouati	317	194		1		
Btal	118	69		1		
Aain El-Asad Chammiss	471	217		1		
Marj Barja	187	108		1		
Bkifa	383	149		1		
Majdlouna	690	266		1		
Kfar Hay	152	82		1		
Employees	1,199	1,031				
Total	183,563	91,970	837	144	9,441,367	

Baabda						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council Members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Municipal Council Independent Fund 2007	(thousands LBP)
Baabda	9,660	2,744	15	13	4	678,893
Louayzé	516	384		2	1	
Btekhmay	1,279	568		9	1	65,499
Bourj El-Brajneh, Manshie, Sindyen, Siyyad	14,951	9,587		18	7	1,019,837
Bzebdine	2,178	1,283		12	2	105,679
Bsaba	454	343		9	1	30,452
Boutchay	272	125	9	5	1	40,326
Merdache	196	73		4	1	
Baalchmay	1,725	1,099		12	1	100,589
Tarchich	1,574	1,145		12	2	83,249
Jouar El-Haouz	717	471		9	1	35,279
Jouret Arsoun	207	99		9	1	10,965
Hazmiye	2,511	1,404		12	2	508,453
Hasbaiya	671	458		9	1	30,895
Hadath Shmeli and Hadath Qibli	9,640	5,151	18	13	5	1,091,481
Sebnay	1,916	945		3	1	
Haret El-Boutom	1,155	606		2	1	
Hammana	4,473	2,213		15	4	235,110
Khreibe	512	341		9	1	27,815
Deir El-Harf	510	298		9	1	29,791
Ras El-Harf	904	594		9	1	45,920
Ras El-Metn	4,731	2,518		15	2	233,135
Rouayssat El-Ballout	982	561		9	1	48,339

Baabda						
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhair	Revenues of the Independent Municipal Council Fund 2007 (in thousands LBP)	
Chbaniyé	1,801	1,081	12	1	128,067	
Chiyah/ El-Kneisset, Bir El-AAbd, Karm El-Zaytoun	9,237	4,678	18	5	841,720	
Aaraiya	1,749	1,013	12	1	116,117	
Aarbaniyeh	793	432	9	6	54,285	
Dilbeh	327	207		3		1
Ghbairé /Bir Hassan and El-Jemi'i	19,490	11,093	21	7	2,266,538	
Falougha	2,368	1,267	12	10	162,867	
Khalouat Falougha	485	312		2		1
Aain El-Rimané	4,061	1,727	18	7	903,720	
Tahouitat El-Nahr	7,079	3,176	11	3		
Qreiaa	1,674	994	12	1	89,899	
Qirtada	287	194	9	1	16,213	
Qirneyil	2,820	1,573	12	2	165,105	
Qarya	790	442	9	1	43,709	
Qssaybeh	715	470	9	1	34,920	
Qalaa	423	232	9	1	31,956	
Kfar Silwen	2,736	1,635	12	2	119,337	
Kfar Chima	4,221	2,456	15	2	252,964	
Kneisset	274	138	9	1	13,114	
Tahouitat El-Ghadir	1,490	908	15	5	523,613	
Laylaké	1,579	944		5		1
Merayjé	1,606	742		5		1
Ouadi Chahrour Es-Soufla	2,095	1,167	12	2	122,139	
Ouadi Chahrour El-Aaoulia	2,414	1,501	12	2	126,312	
Harit Hreik/ Qaranouh, Kneisset, Rouayss	10,588	6,049	18	6	1,016,131	
Haret Al Sitt	406	323	9	1	38,737	
Arsoun	789	470	9	1	38,906	
Chouit	1,382	784	9	1	75,437	
Aabadiye	5,305	2,483	15	2	350,142	
Bmaryam	1,006	651	9	1	51,455	
Salima	2,771	1,391	12	2	128,065	
Kahlouniye	121	106		1		
Btibyat	333	209		1		
Haret Hamze	172	111		1		
Deir Khouna and Taltite	13	3		1		
Zandouqa	186	133		1		
Aain Mouaffaq	210	148		1		
Qtale	208	108		1		
Hlaliyé	614	396		1		
Employees	303	287				
Total	156,655	85,044	537	107	12,133,175	

Aaley					
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhair	Revenues of the Independent Municipal Council Fund 2007 (in thousands LBP)
Aaley	12,370	5,393	18	10	864,772
Ighmid	1,217	719	9	2	62,125
Btater	3,672	2,185	15	2	204,354
Bhamdoun	3,002	1,310	12	2	161,332
Bhamdoun El-Mhatta	1,344	638	9	1	204,722
Bdadoun	1,891	1,112	12	1	100,407
Bedghan	894	560	9	1	46,271
Bsatine	893	474	9	1	50,339
Bsous	2,200	1,143	12	2	113,460
Bchamoun	2,576	1,092	12	1	264,567
Bkhichtay	740	390	9	1	42,690
Btalloun	468	272	9	1	28,567
Blaybel	642	417	9	1	34,147
Bmakine	476	246	9	1	35,655
Bhamray	995	569	9	1	48,053
Binnay	1,099	660	9	1	59,202
Bayssour	4,812	2,813	15	2	263,355
Houmal	945	493	9	1	54,672
Dfoun	1,074	592	9	1	50,428
Deir Qoubel	1,252	622	9	1	85,122
Richmaiya	3,126	1,172	15	2	164,652
Rimhala	1,239	669	9	1	71,672
Ramlié	1,025	552	9	1	52,829
Rouayssat En-Naamane	657	295	9	1	34,004
Souq El-Gharb	1,744	585	12	1	94,272
Charoun	3,017	1,780	15	2	177,648
Chanay	1,151	579	9	1	60,049
Chartoun	1,407	660	12	1	80,573
Chimlane	755	200	9	1	53,676
Choueifat	11,961	5,303	18	7	939,694
Saoufar	1,642	958	12	1	105,092
Aaramoun Al Garb	5,182	2,462	15	2	306,909
Aaytat	1,773	957	12	1	107,809
Aainab	922	439	9	1	69,204
Aain Ej-Jdidé	542	377	9	1	32,773
Aain Jouaiq	275	99	9	1	12,051
Aain Dara	3,833	2,106	15	2	190,496
Aain Er-Roummané	275	99	9	1	9,837
Aain Aanoub	3,046	1,250	12	2	135,803
Aain Ksour	467	234	9	1	23,574
Qmatiyé	1,891	1,432	12	2	137,432
Kahhalé	3,244	2,107	15	2	193,772
Kfar Aamay	809	329	9	1	37,696
Keyfoun	995	560	9	1	57,526
Majdel Baana	2,246	1,278	12	2	134,195
Mejdlaiya	2,143	1,305	12	2	110,142
Mcherfé	1,430	973	12	1	90,127
Mansouriyé	821	485	9	6	59,447
Aain El-Marj	292	203		3	



Aaley					
Town	Number of registered voters	Number of actual votes	Number of Municipal Council members	Number of makhatir	Revenues of the Independent Municipal Council Fund 2007 (in thousands LBP)
Baaouerta	916	414	9	1	52,351
Rijmé	221	147	9	1	11,641
Taazaniyé	442	250	9	2	62,112
Aabey	2,563	1,049	13	1	141,109
Aain Drafil	368	177	2	1	
Kfar Matta	3,216	1,960	15	2	164,090
Ghaboune	1,095	798	9	1	54,149
Daqqoun	786	444	9	1	39,236
Behouara	79	49		1	
Bserrine	605	314		1	
Bou Zridé	249	141		1	
Douair Er-Remmané	198	79		1	
Selfaya	963	525		1	
Aazouniyé	955	586		1	
Aain El-Halazoun	468	290		1	
Aain El-Fardis	49	17		1	
Aain Traz	606	307		1	
Mrayjat	332	176		1	
Mazraat En-Nahr	251	95		1	
Maasrati	304	161		1	
Sirhmoul	484	253		1	
Jisr El-Qadi	62	33		1	
Habramoun	233	124		1	
Employees	302	272			
Total	116,219	59,809	606	103	6,841,882

Note: The empty cells indicate the absence of municipalities thus absence of credits.

Municipalities confessional make up

Town	Metn Confession
Jdaidet	M, Su, GO, SyO, AC, AO, Sh, other
Baouchriyé	AO, AC, M, SyC, Sh, A'a, AsO, GC, SyO, Su, Latin, other
Sad El-Baouchriyé	M, GC, GO, Sh, SyO, AO, SyO, AsO, other
Antelias	AO, AC, GC, M, other Christian confessions
Naqqach	Various Christian confessions
Bteghrine	GC, GO
Bourj Hammoud	M, GO, GC, Christian minorities, SyO, SyC, Sh, AO, AC, E
Broummana	GO, D, Sh, E, other Christians
Baskinta	M, GO
Bsalim	GO, other Christians
Mezher Oua Majzoub	Various Christians
Baabdat	M, various Christians
Bikfaya	M, GC, AO
Mhaidset	GO, various Christians
Byaqout	M, various confessions

M= Maronite, Su= Sunni, GO= Greek Orthodox, GC= Greek Catholic, SyO= Syriac Orthodox, SyC= Syriac Catholic, E=Evangelical, AO= Armenian Orthodox, Sh= Shia'a, A'a= A'alawite, AsO= Assyrian Orthodox, L= Latin.

Town	Metn Confession
Beit Chabab	M, various Christians
Chaouiye and Qneitra	M
Beit Ech-Chaar and Mazraat El-Hdaira	M, various Christians
Beit Meri	M, GO, D, various Christians
Aain Saadé	M
Biqnaya	Various Christians
Jall Ed-Did	AO, AC, M, various Christians
Khinchara	GC, various Christians
Jouar	Various Christians
Dekouané, Mar Roukiz, Dahr El-Hassine	M, GC, Su, other confessions
El-Douar	M
Rabiyé	Various Christians
Roumié	M, GC, various Christians
Zaraaoun	D
Zalqa	AO, AC, M, other confessions
Aamaret Chalhoub	M, other confessions
Zakrit	M
Saqiet El-Misk	M, various Christians
Bahr Saf	M
Sinn El- Fil	AO, AC, M, GC, E, various Christian and other
Choueir	GO and GC
Aain Es-Sindiane	GO and other Christians
Dbayé	M and other Christians
Zouk El-Kharab Oua Haret El-Billané	M, GO, GC and other Christians
Aaoukar	Various Christians
Dahr Es-Souane	M
Aayroun	M
Aain Es-Sofsaf	M and GC
Mar Mkhael Bnabil	M
Aintoura	M and various Christians
Ouata El-Mrouj Oua Ghabet Boulognia	M and GC
Fanar	M and various Christians
Qornet Chehouane	M
Aain Aar	M
Beit El-Kekko Ouel Hbous	M and various Christians

Town	Metn Confession
Qaaqour	M
Kfar Tay	M and GC
'Kfar Aaqab	M, GO, GC
Mzakké Oua Mar Chaai	M, GO
Mar Moussa Ed-Douar	M
Mtain	M, GO, GC and D
Mchikha	M
Mrouj	M, GC and GO
Mazraat Yachouaa	M, GC, other Christians
Mansouriyet	GO, other confessions
Mkalles	M, GO
Daychouniyé	M
Nabay	GO, GC, M
Majdel Tarchich	Sh
Marjaba	M
Qennabet Broummana	GO
El-Ghabe	M
Aayoun	M
Aain Ez-Zeitouné	M
Mazraat Bnabil	M
Himlaya	M
Abou Mizane	GO
Dik El-Mehd	M
Zabbougha	M and GO
Zighrine	M and GO
Sfeilé	M
Chrine	GO
Chouaya	M
Aatchané	M
Aain El-Qabu	M, GC and GO
Aain Et-Teffaha	M
Aain El-Kharroubé	M
Aain Aalaq	M and GC
Khillet	M
Fraiké	M
Qornet El-Hamra	M
Qannebet Salima	M
Mar Boutros Karm Et-Tine	M
Masqa	M
Machraah	M, GO, GC
Mtayleb	M
Mayassé	M
Ouadi El-Karm	M and GC
Ouadi Chahine	M
Jouret El-Ballout	M and GO
Deir Chamra	M

Town	Kesrouane Confession
Harit Sakhir	M, other Christians
Sahel Aalma	M, other Christians
Sarba	M, other Christians
Gadire	M, other Christians
Balloune	M, other Christians

Kesrouane	
Town	Confession
Bouar	M
Jdaïdet Ghazir	M
Harharaya Ouel	M
Qatine	M
Jaaita	M
Jouret Bedrane	M
Jouret Et-Tourmos	M
Hrajel	M
Hsayn	Sh
Hayata	M
Daraiya	M
Daraaoun	M
Harissa	GC and M
Dlehta	M and other Christians
Zouk Mousbeh	M and other Christians
Zouk Mkayel	GC, M and other Christians
Raachine	M
Rayfoun	M
Shaylé	M
Chnanaair	M
Safra	M
Tabarja	M
Kfar Yassine	M
Adma Oua Dafine	M
Aajaltoun	GC, M, GO
Aazra	M
Aaramoun	M
Aachqout	M and other Christians
Aaqaibé	M
Aain Er-Rihane	M
Aintoura	M
Ghbalé	M
Ghazir	M and other Christians
Ghosta	M
Ghine	M
Faraya	M
Faytroun	M
Qleiaat	M
Kfar Dibiane	GC and M
Kfour	M
Mayrouba	M
Yahchouch	M and other Christians
Maaysra	Sh
Beqaata Aachqout	M
Ouata El-Jaouz	M
Zaaïtré	M
Fatqa	M
Chahtoul Oua	M
Jouret El-Mhad	M
Batha	M
Zaitoun	M and Sh
Ghidras	M
Bzoummar	M and AC
Beqaata Kanaan	M
Bqaatouta	M
Ighbé	M

Kesrouane	
Town	Confession
Chouane Oua Aabra	M
'Aain Ed-Delbé	M
Bizhel	M
Kfar Tay	M
Mradiyé	M
Maarab	M
Nammoura Oua	M
Kfar Jraïf	M
Nahr Ed-Dahab	M
Employees	Various confessions

Jbail	
Town	Confession
Jbail	GO, GC, AO, M, other
Edde	M
Ehmej	M
Bejjé	M
Blat	M
Tartij	M
Jaj	M
Halat	M
Aaqoura	M
Aamchit	M, other
Kfar Baal Oua	M
Aannaya	M
Fatre	M
Fidar	M
Qartaba	M, other confessions
Lassa	M and Sh
Aain El-Ghouaybé	Sh
Laqlouq	Sunni
Mghayré	M and Sh
Mounsef	GO other Christians
Mayfouq	M
Qottara	M
Nahr Ibrahim	M
Lehfed	M
Majdel	M
Yanouh	M
Mazraat Es-Siyad	M and Sh
Ras Osta	Sh
Mchané	M and Sh
Hjoula	Sh
Hsoun	M and Sh
Hasrayel	M
Berbara	M and GO
Bichtlida Oua Fidar	Sh
Afqa	Sh
Aalmat Ech-Chamliyé and Aalmat Ej-Jnoubiyé	Sh
Aain El-Souané	Sh
Michmich	M
Hbaline	M
Bazyoun	Sh
Hsarat	M
Bchille	M
Bintaael and Fadar	M
Kharbet	M
Dmoulsa	M
Adonis Oua Sannour	M and Sh

Jbail	
Town	Confession
Ramout	M
Rihane	M and GO
Zibdine	M
Saqïet El-Khayt	M
Seraaiita	M
Saqi Richmaya	M
Chamate	M
Chmout	M
Chikhane	M and GO
Tourzaïya	M and Sh
Aabaydat	M
Jlisse	M
Aain Ed-Delbé	M and Sh
Janné Oua Mar Sarkis	M
Aain Jrain	M and Sh
Aain Kfaa	M
Ghabat	M
Gharzouz	M and GO
Ghorfine	M and Sh
Ghalboun	M
Frat	Sh
Ferhet	M and Sh
Fghal	M
Qorqraïya	Sh
Qohmoz	M
Kfar	M
Kfar Kiddé	M
Kfar Mashoun	M
Kfoun	M
Aain El-Chilel	Sunni
Jadayel	M and GO
Mazarib	M
Behdaydat	M
Beit Habbaq	M
Haqel	M
Maad	M
Habil	M
Bekhaaz	GO
Employees	Various confessions

Chouf	
Town	Confession
Beit Ed-Dine	M, GC, GO
Bater	GO and D
Barouk	D, GC and M
Fraydes	D, GC and M
Batloun	D
Barja	Su
Bsaba	Su
Bchtfine	D
Botme	GC and D
Baassir	Su
Harit Baassir	M
Baadarane	D, GC, M
Baaqline	D
Bire	M
Jahliye	D
Jbaa	D
Jadra Oua Ouadi	GC and M
El-Ziné	D
Jdeide	D
Biqaata	D
Joun	M, GC, Sh
Jiye	M, Su, Sh

Chouf	
Town	Confession
Haret Jandal	D
Hasrout	Su and GC
Khreibe	GC and D
Daraiya	Su
Damour	M and other Christians
Dibbiyé	M
Dalhoun	Su
Dmit	D
Deir Dourit	GC and M
Deir El-Qamar	M, GC and other Christians
Deir Kouché	D
Rmeile	GC and M
Zaarouriye	Su and M
Sibline	Su and Sh
Sirjbal	GC and M
Semqaniyé	D
Chhim	Su
Dahr El-Mghara	M
Aanout	Su
Aatine	D
Aamatour	GC, M and D
Aamiq	GC and M
Aainbal	GC and D
Aain Zhalta	GC, M, D and E
Aain Ouzain	D
Aain Qania	D
Gharifé	GC and D
Fawara	M
Ketermaya	Su and GC
Kahlouniet	D
Kfar Him	D
Kfar Qatra	GC, M, D
Kfar Nabrahk	D and GC
Kfar Niss	M
Kneisset	M
Majdel El-Meouch	M
Moukhtara	GC, M, D
Mristi	D
Mazboud	Su
Mazraat Ech-Chouf	M and D
Mazraat El-Dahr	M
Mechref	M
Mtollé	M
Maasser Beit Ed-Dine	M
Maasser Ech-Chouf	D, GC and M
Mghairiyé	Su and M
Naame	M
Haret El-Naameh	Su
Niha	M, GO, D
Ouadi Es-Sitt	M
Ouardaniyé	GC, M, Sh and Su
Ouardaniyé	D
Kfar Faqoud	D
Brih	M and D
Bourjein	Sua and M
Bayqoun	M
Deir Baba	D

M= Maronite, Su= Sunni, GO= Greek Orthodox, GC= Greek Catholic, SyO= Syrian Orthodox, SyC= Syriac Catholic, E= Evangelical, AO= Armenian Orthodox, Sh= Shia'a, A'a= A'alawite, AsO= Assyrian Orthodox, L= Latin.



Chouf	
Town	Confession
Chourit	M
Klaylé	M
Ouadi Ed-Deir	GC and M
Ouadi Bnehlay	GC and M
Ouadi Deir Dourit	GC and M
Jleiliyé	M
Jmailiyé	GC, M, E
Khirbet Bisri	M
Mihtiqla and Deir El-Moukhalles	GC and M
Aalman and Barghouniye	GC and M
Aain El-Hour	M
Mazmoura	M
Maaniye	M
Benouati	GC and M
Btal	GC and M
Aain El-Asad Chammis	M
Marj Barja	M
Bkifa	M
Majdlouna	GC, M, E
Kfar Hay	D
Employees	Various confessions

Baabda	
Town	Confession
Baabda	GC, M, GO, AC, AO, other confessions
Louayzé	M
Btekhay	D
Bourj El-Brajneh, Manshie, Sindyen, Siyyad	Su and Sh
Bzebdine	M and D
Bsaba	GO and M
Boutchay	GO and M
Merdache	M
Baalchmay	D
Tarchich	Su and M
Jouar El-Haouz	M
Jouret Arsoun	GO
Hazmiye	M and other Christians
Hasbaiya	M
Hadath Shmeli and Hadath Qibli	GC, M, GO, Assyrian, Sh and other confessions
Sebny	GO, M, Su, Sh
Haret El-Boutom	GC, M, GO
Hammana	GC, M, GO, D
Khreibe	D
Deir El-Harf	M
Ras El-Harf	M
Ras El-Metn	GO and D

Baabda	
Town	Confession
Rouayssat El-Ballout	D
Chbaniyé	M, GC, D
Chiyah/ El-Kneisset, Bir El-AAbd, Karm El-Zaytoun	M, GO, GC, other confessions
Aaraiya	GO and M
Aarbaniyeh	M
Dilbeh	M
Ghbairé /Bir Hassan and El-Jemi'i	Sh and Su
Falougha	GC, M, GO, D
Khalouat Falougha	D
Aain El-Rimané	GC, M, AC, Sh, GO, Su, AO
Tahouitat El-Nahr	M, GO, Su, Syriac Orthodox, GC, other confessions
Qreiaa	GC, M and D
Qirtada	M
Qirneyil	M and
Qarya	D
Qssaybeh	GO and M
Qalaa	D
Kfar Silwen	M and D
Kfar Chima	GC, M, GO
Kneisset	M
Tahouitat El-Ghadir	M, GO, Sh
Laylaké	M
Merayjé	GC, M, Sh, GO,
Ouadi Chahrour Es-Soufla	M
Ouadi Chahrour El-Aaoulia	GO, M
Harit Hreik/ Qaranouh, Kneisset, Rouayss	Su, Sh, M, other Christians
Haret Al Sitt	M
Arsoun	M, GO, D
Chouit	M, GO, D
Aabadiye	D, GO, M
Bmaryam	M, D
Salima	M, D
Kahlouniye	M
Btibyat	D
Haret Hamze	M
Deir Khouna and Taltite	GO
Zandouqa	M
Aain Mouaffaq	M
Qtale	GO and M
Hlaliyé	D
Employees	Various confessions

Aaley	
Town	Confession
Aaley	D, GO, other Christians
Ighmid	GO, D
Btater	M, GO, D
Bhamdoun	GO, M, other Christians
Bhamdoun El-Mhatta	GC, M, GO
Bdadoun	GC, M, GO
Bedghan	D
Bsatine	D
Bsous	GO and D
Bchamoun	GO and D
Bkhichtay	GO
Btalloun	GO
Blaybel	M
Bmakine	GC, M, GO
Bhamray	GC, M, D
Binnay	D
Bayssour	D
Houmal	M
Dfoun	M
Deir Qoubel	GO and D
Richmaiya	GC and M
Rimhala	M
Ramlié	M, GO, D
Rouayssat En-Naamane	M
Souq El-Gharb	GO, GC, SyO, M, other Christians
Charoun	D
Chanay	D
Chartoun	M
Chimlane	M and other confessions
Choueifat	D, GO, other confessions
Saoufar	M and D
Aaramoun Al Garb	GO and D
Aayat	D
Aainab	M and D
Aain Ej-Jdidé	GO and GC
Aain Jouaiq	GO, GC, M, E
Aain Dara	M, D, GO, GC
Aain Er-Roummané	GC, M, E
Aain Aanoub	M, GO, D
Aain Ksour	GC, M, D
Qmatiyé	GC and Sh

Aaley	
Town	Confession
Kahhalé	GC, M, GO
Kfar Aamay	M
Keyfoun	Sh
Majdel Baana	D
Mejdlaiya	M and D
Mcherfé	D
Mansouriyé	GO and M
Aain El-Marj	GO
Baaouerta	D
Rijmé	GO
Taazaniyé	M
Aabey	D, GO, M
Aain Drafil	M
Kfar Matta	Sunni, D, GO and M
Ghaboune	D and M
Daqqoun	M
Behouara	GO and M
Bserrine	GO and GC
Bou Zridé	M
Douair Er-Remmané	M
Selfaya	M
Aazouniyé	D
Aain El-Halazoun	GO
Aain El-Fardis	D
Aain Traz	M
Mrayjat	M
Mazraat En-Nahr	GC and M
Maasrati	D
Sirmoul	D
Jisr El-Qadi	M and D
Habramoun	GC and M
Employees	Various confessions

M= Maronite,
 Su= Sunni,
 GO= Greek Orthodox,
 GC= Greek Catholic,
 SyO= Syriac Orthodox,
 SyC= Syriac Catholic,
 E=Evangelical,
 AO= Armenian Orthodox,
 Sh= Shia'a,
 A'a= A'alawite,
 AsO= Assyrian Orthodox,
 L= Latin.

Secondary School Official Exams 2008-2009: 57.7% average success rate

A 2.5% sample of the total of students that succeeded the first session of the 2009 Lebanese official exams for the Secondary School Certificate shows that the General Sciences' students got the highest average (12.53/20), compared to other specialties.

Specializations	Average	%	Rachats
Humanities			
Total (480)	260.98		10.33%
Average (20)	10.85		
Arabic (90)	53.51	59.5%	
Eng/Fr (70)	29.21	42%	
General Sciences			
Total (570)	357.96		9%
Average (20)	12.53		
Arabic (50)	28.84	58%	
Eng/ Fr (40)	17.45	44%	
Life Sciences			
Total (560)	283.97		9%
Average (20)	11.83		
Arabic (50)	29.53	59%	
Eng/ Fr (40)	17.86	45%	
Sociology and Economics			
Total (530)	287.76		27%
Average (20)	10.78		
Arabic (50)	No data available	No data available	
Eng/ Fr (40)			

Source: Lebanese Ministry of Education <http://www.schoolnet.edu.lb/examens.htm>

With no data disclosed in the Ministry of Education website for the grades of the Sociology and Economics' students for the north, south, Beqa'a and Nabatiyeh, the average grade of Arabic Language and Foreign Language for the three other specializations was only 59% and 44%.

Humanities' average score was 10.85/20; Sociology and Economics' average score was 10.78; Life Sciences' average score was 11.83/20, and General Sciences' average score was 12.3/20.

The highest percentage of 'Rachats' to aid students pass the exam (up to 15 grades are given in the Secondary School Certificate) was for students in the Sociology and Economics specialization.

The sample was randomly picked by computer software according to a normal distribution yielding 50 students out of 1,969 total successful students in the Humanities' specialization, 98 students out of 3,887 total successful students in the General Sciences' specialization, 258 students out of the 10,271 total successful students in the Life

Sciences' specialization, and 299 students out of the 11,921 total successful students in the Sociology and Economics' specialization.

Dividing the results according to the muhafazat of Beirut, north, south, Mount Lebanon, Nabatiyeh, and Beqa'a, the results came out as follows in table 2:

Provinces	Rachats	Average /20	Average /100	Arabic ¹	Eng/ Fr ²
Beirut	19%	11.71	58.55%	58.78%	45.98%
North	18%	11.23	56.13%	57.87%	39.94%
South	7%	11.61	58.06%	56.86%	46.47%
Mount Lebanon	14%	11.49	57.45%	59.49%	49.51%
Nabatiyeh	11%	11.69	58.45%	60.52%	40.19%
Beqa'a	15%	11.51	57.55%	59.95%	39.76%

The highest percentage of Rachats was given to the Beirut students (19%) followed by north students (18%) and then Beqa'a students (15%).

The highest average was achieved by the students from Beirut (58.55%) followed by the students from Nabatiyeh (58.45%) and then the students from the south (58%). The differences between provinces is generally not big (the highest average is 58.55% in Beirut and the lowest is 56.13% in North).

The total average achieved by successful Lebanese students in the Secondary School official exam is only 11.54 out of 20 or 57.7%. Are most students barely passing? The average deviation between all students is 1.25. This means that 68% of Lebanese students in the Secondary School official exam earned an average falling within the range of [10.29, 12.79], and that the variability among Lebanese students is very small.

Students from Nabatiyeh achieved the highest average in Arabic of 60.52%. Students of Mount Lebanon achieved the highest average in English/French of only 49.51%.

Questions remain; Why aren't Lebanese students' getting better grades, why aren't they doing better in Arabic and why are they getting failing grades in foreign languages?

1- The average did not take into account the Arabic grades of Sociology and Economics' students for the provinces of South, Bekaa', Nabatiyeh, and Bekaa' due to the no-disclosure of grades on the Ministry of Education Website.

2- The average did not take into account the English/French grades of Sociology and Economics' students for the provinces of South, Bekaa', Nabatiyeh and Bekaa' due to the non-disclosure of grades on the Ministry of Education Website.



Al Kawthar High school

The Monthly interviewed Mrs. Wassima Shibli, head of human resources at Al Kawthar High School, affiliated with Al Mabarrat Association (Al Mabarrat Al Khayriah Al Islamiah), to find out more about the school's history, curriculum, extracurricular activities, and defining aspects.

History

Al Kawthar, affiliated with Al Mabarrat, was established in 1996 on an area of 52,000m², a pioneer for similar schools. "The high school advanced with God's help and under the guidance of reference Sayyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah to provide academic learning."

Mission statement

Al Kawthar's mission is inspired by Al Mabarrat. It is an Islamic, humanitarian and civilized project that seeks to raise good human beings who believe in God and his message, are educated and cultivated, are mature and productive, are open to current issues, are driven and that can contribute in shaping the future.

External auditing and quality certificate

Al Kawthar received the international quality certificate ISO 9001:2000 on January 17, 2005, an international recognition of an efficient Quality Management System at the educational level. It is a system that aims for constant improvement and distinguished educational services.

Headquarters and branches

The school does not have a headquarters, but is part of a charity organization that has two branches: academic and non-academic.

The academic branch consists of a group of schools -including Al Kawthar- and vocational and technical institutes, in addition to an orphanage offering both education and dorms. The Imam Al Jawad School in the Beqa'a is the largest school in Al Mabarrat in terms of area and number of students, followed by Al Kawthar, the largest Al Mabarrat-affiliated school in Beirut.

Al Kawthar has 27,000 students from kindergarten to the baccalaureate level:

- ⦿ Pre-school is co-ed including kindergarten, KGI and KGII.
- ⦿ Stage One (first, second and third grades) is co-ed
- ⦿ Stage Two (fourth, fifth and sixth grades) is co-ed
- ⦿ Stage Three (seventh, eighth and ninth) is mainly for girls, but has boys who were already in the elementary grades at the school
- ⦿ Secondary stage is only for girls.

The school also welcomes students with special needs, orphans and foreigners.

Curriculum

The Lebanese curriculum

The school provides a purposeful and effective education that relies on modern methods and advanced approaches, compatible with those of the Ministry of Education and the Center for Educational Research and development. Al Kawthar participated in drafting these methods and approaches via the central educational departments in Al Mabarrat schools.

The American curriculum (High School)

The High School diploma for the third stage and the secondary level is given to expatriates who hold dual nationalities.

Equipment

- ⦿ Courts
- ⦿ Special court for kindergarten students and first stage
- ⦿ Three courts for elementary level
- ⦿ Two courts for the third stage and secondary classes
- ⦿ A football field, a basketball court and a court for track events
- ⦿ Labs
- ⦿ Three computer labs equipped with 95 computers and internet access.
- ⦿ Science and physics lab divided into two sections: the first for physics and the second for biology and chemistry. They are equipped with state of the art technology.
- ⦿ Audiovisual room equipped with advanced audiovisual technology that enables teachers to give lectures following the modern teaching techniques.
- ⦿ Technology workshop
- ⦿ Room to develop psycho-physio skills
- ⦿ Drama room



- ⊙ Music atelier
- ⊙ Arts atelier
- ⊙ Room to teach the Qur'an

Libraries

There are two libraries

The main library to be used by stage two and three students and the secondary level

A special library for kindergarten and stage one students.

Administration and faculty

There are 270 employees in the school: 14 headmasters, four directors, 36 coordinators, two receptionists, a treasurer and an accountant. Most of the employees are Lebanese and others are Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian.

Educational services

Counseling: This department is divided into three sections:

Parents counseling including seminars, mini discussion groups, language programs to teach English and Arabic, a project for computer literacy in addition to constant, meetings with the parents and an educational program for the parents.

Student counseling: fixed meetings between guidance office and students, discussion groups, a therapeutic program that follows up on students with special needs, a dietary program and a social service club.

Faculty counseling: an educational program that supports teachers and introduces them to up to date educational theories.

Religious counseling

Religious counseling helps preserve the Islamic ambiance and boost the level of spiritual, religious moral and cultural commitment.

Health counseling

- ⊙ Provides the following services:
- ⊙ Primary health services
- ⊙ A clinic supervised by doctors and a nurse throughout the school year
- ⊙ Participation in vaccination campaigns
- ⊙ A monthly health bulletin, made available to parents
- ⊙ Exhibitions

The school also has an insurance policy that covers emergencies during school hours.

Cost

Tuition varies between LBP 2,000,000 and LBP 2,750,000 but there is financial aid for outstanding students. The school also has a Support a Student fund providing 10% to 20% financial aid. High School students pay between LBP 4,000,000 and

LBP 5,000,000 annual tuition.

Extracurricular activities:

Here are some of the most important activities:

- ⊙ Students make annual trips to reserves to natural reserves and participate in horse racing and ice skating tournaments
- ⊙ Al Kawthar is a member of UNESCO as such students take part in all of the organization activities such as the Science fair, youth education, media education and Beirut World Book Capital
- ⊙ School theater activities
- ⊙ Recycling and other environmental activities
- ⊙ Organizing parties and events
- ⊙ Joint activities with other schools
- ⊙ Cultural competitions with other schools
- ⊙ Production of the school magazine and yearbook
- ⊙ Organizing cultural seminars
- ⊙ Organizing exhibitions
- ⊙ Organizing literature tournaments
- ⊙ Preparing and participating in scientific and educational radio programs
- ⊙ Preparing recreational and educational trips

Clubs

- ⊙ Sports club: gymnastics, karate, soccer, basketball and ping-pong
- ⊙ Arts club: music, theater, computer and culture
- ⊙ Special club for Qur'an recital
- ⊙ Boy Scouts

Defining aspects

Special programs for expatriates: Al Kawthar has made a significant effort to help expatriate students integrate by teaching them their mother tongue and helping them to communicate with others. In this respect, the school divides the students based on their level of information and skills and prepares a curriculum accordingly.

High school: foreign students take an international exam and are exempt from official Lebanese exams.

System for educational integration: Al Kawthar is one of the few schools that welcome students with special needs and integrate them in regular classes.

For the past seven years, Al Kawthar has scored a 100% success rate in Lebanese official exams and High School exams.

The school hires graduates of the Lebanese University and private universities. 🍀

AUCE

An institution with one eye on specialization and another on the job market

The American University of Culture and Education (AUCE) lived up to its motto, "learning has no boundaries", by establishing the Computer, Hospitality and Technical Studies Academy, also known as the C&E College, in 1983 in the Maqassed Center.

It's been almost thirty years since, Dr. Amjad Nabolssi, along with other academics, launched an institute for higher education in cooperation with foreign universities. Today, the university keeps its graduates up to par with job market requirements in Lebanon and abroad by using its relations with foreign universities well established in their fields.

Establishment and specializations

In 1995, Nabolssi started preparations for a private university in Lebanon, based on an American curriculum, in cooperation with Schiller University. In 2000, presidential Decree 3585/2000 authorized the establishment of C&E American University. The university has three faculties:

- ⦿ The Faculty of Business offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs in: Business Administration, Marketing and Advertising, Accounting Management, Management Information Systems, Human Resources Management, Hospitality, Banking and Finance, Economics, Travel Tourism and Transportation and Data Processing.
- ⦿ The Faculty of Science offers undergraduate programs in: Computer Science and Computer Communication
- ⦿ The Faculty of Arts offering courses for the undergraduate program in: Graphic Design, Interior Design and the Fine Arts.

The university also has a freshman program.

All AUCE programs are certified by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon and by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. All certificates are recognized internationally.

Qualifications

The university has adopted competence and excellence as a comprehensive policy.. The Faculty of Arts Is equipped with the latest Apple computers. The university organizes an annual exhibition for graphic design students and hosts regular speakers such as the painter and calligrapher Wajih Nahleh, caricaturist Stavro Jabra and painter and sculptor



 AUCE University, Badaro.

Charbel Faris. The Business Faculty offers a wide range of majors that enables students to resolve conflicts they might face in the future.

Mission statement

The university has met all legal requirements and is qualified to establish a university compatible with other higher education systems. It also has green areas, stadiums, laboratories and research, counseling and employment centers. It has worked on developing ties with foreign universities by attending higher education and training seminars in Lebanon, the Arab Gulf and the United States

Agreements with foreign universities

AUCE signed a number of agreements with international academies in the United States, Great Britain and other European countries:

- ⊙ Schiller International University
- ⊙ The American College of Switzerland
- ⊙ The European International College in Abu Dhabi
- ⊙ London City College
- ⊙ International Hospitality Academy (IHA) and the Arab Organization for Tourism

The Arab Organization for Tourism signed an agreement of cooperation with the IHA for a project to develop human resources management in tourism and hospitality sectors in the Arab world. The project aims to sustain tourism with competitive services.

IHA is one of the branches of the American University of Culture and Education. The academy offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in international hotel management and tourism management. It also provides training courses in hospitality and tourism management. It offers majors in: International Hospitality, Tourism and Tour Guiding, the Culinary Arts and specialized vocational trainings.

It offers certificates and programs for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, specialization program for managers, hospitality training for managers and department heads, diploma program, a foreign diploma program, a certificate of aptitude, short-term intensive training programs, and has flexible training programs upon request, in addition to workshops and seminars.

Scholarships and financial aid

The university awards merit-based financial aid and scholarships.

Facilities, activities and sports

AUCE has:

- ⊙ An online library
- ⊙ A library equipped with the latest information technology
- ⊙ Computer labs for the arts division
- ⊙ Guidance counselors
- ⊙ Study and conference halls
- ⊙ A special office for students to organize entertainment activities, such as travel trips
- ⊙ A marketing office that handles contacts with all education and social sectors and institutes
- ⊙ A media office to organize seminars and exhibitions, handle all media-related issues and to host academic, political and media personalities.
- ⊙ A sports division that organizes local and international tournaments on campus. It includes a fully equipped gym, a ping-pong hall and a martial arts hall. It also includes a soccer field and a basketball court.


It organized a sports festival in 2009 to honor deceased members of the military, UNIFIL, Civil Defense and the Red Cross.

Branches

AUCE has branches in Badaro, Ba'albeck, Ba'aqleen, Sad Al Boshriyeh, Koura, Bint Jbeil, Nabatiyeh, Sour and Kaf'aat.

Students talk

MA business management student Nadine Ghraizi says that AUCE gave her two major opportunities: an education and employment in the administration in recognition of her outstanding academic performance.

Bahaa' Shiya, a fourth year student in Computer Science, praises the modern equipment in the computer science and computer communication departments and the university for always keeping up to date. 



The Lebanese Syndicate of Restaurant, Café, Nightclub and Bakery Owners

The Lebanese Syndicate of Restaurant, Café, Nightclub and Bakery Owners was established by Decree #3913 on May 20, 1947 issued by the Ministry of Economy and Social Affairs. It initially included the owners of restaurants, cafes and nightclubs. Bakeries were added to the list later. The syndicate provides owners of these businesses a chance to communicate and protect their investments, their rights and interests.

Affiliation

Any owner or investor – as an actual or a silent partner – in the food and beverages catering business or in businesses covered by Decree 70/15598 can join the syndicate. The member must be 18 years old, have full civil rights, be working in the sector at the time of application, own a license of investment from the Ministry of Tourism or have already applied and received initial approval. Membership annual fee is set at:

- ⦿ LBP150,000 for one star businesses
- ⦿ LBP225,000 for two-star businesses
- ⦿ LBP300,000 for three-star businesses
- ⦿ LBP375,000 for four-star businesses

Members do not benefit from social or healthcare services but the syndicate facilitates paperwork with the muhafazat, municipalities, the ministries of tourism, labor and finance, social security and official references.

Structure

General assembly

The general assembly consists of all syndicate members who have paid their subscription fees. It is headed by the president of the syndicate's board. The assembly outlines plans for internal restructuring, accepts the syndicate's budget, approves decisions to dismiss members and sets subscription rates. There are currently 800 members out of the 12,000 licensed owners of restaurants, nightclubs and bakeries.

Syndicate board

The board consists of 12 members elected by the general assembly every four years. Every two years, six members withdraw from the board by ballot. Members are allowed to run for consecutive terms. The board drafts the annual budget and progress report, sets wages and salaries of syndicate employees,

contractors and lawyers. Since its establishment, 24 boards were elected with the longest serving from February 3, 1978 until June 1993, due to the civil war. Present board members are Paul A'ariss, president, Khaled Nazha, vice president, Sabah Jumblat, secretary and Fouad Abou Zaid, treasurer. Members include: Tarek Barakat, Toros Siranossian, Wajih Karam, Mahmoud Faqih, Ziad Tahmeh, Henry Sidi, A'aouni Al Baba and Kamal Feghali.

The president

The board elects a president every four years. The president can be one of the six members who withdraw from the board by ballot, cutting his term by two years. In this case, he can be reelected to finish the remainder of his term. He is the official representative of the syndicate and cosigns with the secretary on all decisions, correspondence and statements issued by the syndicate. He cosigns with the treasurer on all receipts and bonds of withdrawal by the board. He oversees board activities and follows up on the implementation of resolutions. The board has had six presidents since the syndicate's establishment. Table 1 lists the names of the presidents and their terms in office.

Names of presidents and their terms in office		Table 1
President	Term in office	
Tanios Al Shamali	1947-1951	
Qayssar Habiss	1951-1962	
Abdullah Moqdiyeh	1962-1978	
Bahjat Qanenji	1978-2000	
Dori Daccash	2000-2004	
Paul A'ariss	2004-to date	

Source: Syndicate of Restaurant, Café, Nightclub and Bakery Owners in Lebanon.

Accomplishments

The syndicate outlined a comprehensive project for modern tourism legislations in order to remove administrative obstacles, protect investments and activate the tourism sector in Lebanon in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism. The syndicate helped some restaurants reopen after being closed down by extracting a promise from their owners to complete legal measures for licensing. It also held several workshops on 'food safety' across Lebanon.

Future goals

The syndicate has multiple objectives that will facilitate the relation between members and the government:

The syndicate demands that the Ministry of Tourism develops and upgrades the complicated process to obtain an investment license. It also demands that licensing (construction and public health and safety) be controlled by the Ministry of Tourism.

The syndicate demands that the Ministry of Finance reduces the cost of registration fees for contracts and regularizes fees for workers in the tourism sector.

The syndicate is working with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to facilitate the issue of visas in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism. The syndicate also demands the regulation of a system to monitor all tourism establishments.

Reparations for closed restaurants

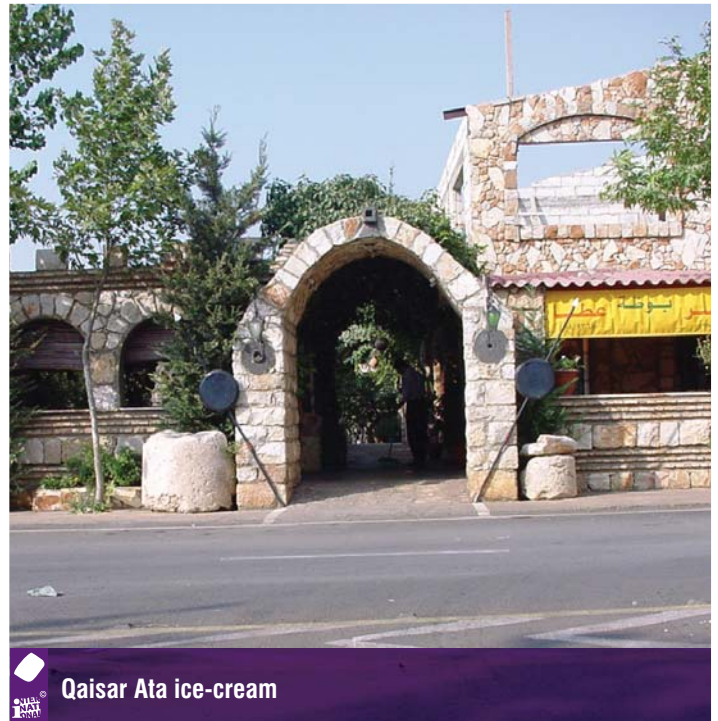
Many restaurants went out of business because of the opposition's sit-in in downtown Beirut. A survey by The Monthly in March 2007 showed that 100 restaurants closed down then.

Syndicate president Paul A'ariss says, "The syndicate was waiting for the creation of a long-term loans fund for business after Paris-3, but that did not come to fruition. Therefore, the absence of a fund was to be expected due to the economic crisis the economy sector is witnessing. It is therefore not a priority for any political party in the government or outside to (establish this fund). As such, the syndicate filed a report listing the losses and its demands to the Ministry of Tourism."

"There is no positive development in the near future. The fate of restaurants remains unknown. Calls on the government for help are a waste of time. The government is incapable of taking any position that revitalizes the economy in Lebanon. Furthermore, [political] parties are not heeding our repeated calls for calm. Add to that, the futile economic mindset in Lebanese officials. Even economists only think of the financial aspect."

Travel warning...

On February 18, 2008, Saudi Arabia asked its nationals to avoid travel to Lebanon due to security risks. On February 21, 2008, a source at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised Kuwaiti nationals to wait before traveling to Lebanon. On February 24, 2008, the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked nationals not to travel to Lebanon, Iraq and northern Pakistan due to high security risks. These measures affect the restaurants and nightclubs sector because much of the restaurant and nightclub clientele in Lebanon comes from the Arab Gulf. Furthermore, these measures indirectly influence other tourists who could follow the steps of states that advised against travel to Lebanon. ●●



Qaisar Ata ice-cream



Bardouni cafes- Zahleh

Civil servants violate labor regulations

Article 15 of Legislative Decree #112 issued on June 12, 1959 stipulates that, “it is prohibited for civil servants to act against laws and regulations and in particular to:

- ⦿ Become involved in politics; join political parties or carry party banners; give speeches, spread information or publish articles or declarations on all topics without the prior written approval of a ministry official.
- ⦿ Join organizations or trade unions.
- ⦿ Go on strike or provoke others to do so.
- ⦿ Work in any commercial, industrial, or other paid profession not explicitly mentioned in special laws, be a member of an anonymous company’s board, or have any direct or indirect material interest in a company under his [or her] supervision or under that of the administration he [or she] belongs to.
- ⦿ Mix his [or her] work with parliamentary, municipal or optional electoral functions as stated in the relevant laws.
- ⦿ To use his [or her] position to seek or accept, directly or indirectly, recommendations, gifts or kickbacks of any kind.
- ⦿ To engage in any paid job that is degrading or be a part of one in any way.
- ⦿ Disclose any official information he [or she] came across during employment or after the end of service, unless with the written approval of his [or her] ministry.”

These regulations that are designed to protect public servants are constantly violated. Many civil servants proudly display their political affiliation, engage in other employments or accept gifts.

Authorities are incapable of controlling these breaches or punishing the perpetrators because they are so rampant; thousands of employees, in every public administration and ministry, commit them.

The implementation of Legislative Decree #112, which remains valid almost half a decade after its enactment, is a necessary and urgent step towards a serious administrative reform. 🇅🇸

“Authorities are incapable of controlling these breaches or punishing the perpetrators because they are so rampant; thousands of employees, in every public administration and ministry, commit them.”



Violations of freedom of work

Civil disobedience is a form of peaceful protest that includes refusing to abide by the law in order to put pressure on the government to meet certain demands. What do Lebanese, Egyptian and UAE penal codes say about civil disobedience?

Article 340 of the Lebanese Penal Code states, “Employees who are linked to the government by a general contract and who decide to stop their work or to submit their resignations under circumstances that may hamper one of the public interests will be deprived from their civil rights.”

Article 49 of the Penal Code stipulates that deprivation of civil rights includes:

1. “Isolation and dismissal from all public functions and services and destitution of any salary paid by the government
2. Isolation and dismissal from all functions and services within the administration of the confession or syndicate to which the accused belongs and the deprivation of any salary paid by the confession or syndicate.
3. Deprivation of the right to sign contracts with the government.
4. Deprivation of the right to vote or to run in elections in addition to all civil, political, confessional and syndicate rights.
5. Deprivation of the right to acquire private property or to publish or to be the editor of a newspaper or any other periodical publication.
6. Deprivation of the right to manage a school or to work in any public or private academic institution.
7. Deprivation of the right to be decorated and to hold medals or honorary titles in Lebanon or abroad.”

Article 342 of the Lebanese Penal Code addresses violation crimes, such as blocking public transportation and obstructing public interests. It stipulates:

“The penalty is prison or a fine for any violation perpetrated by more than 20 persons with the purpose of:

Blocking transportation across Lebanese regions and between Lebanon and other countries.

Disrupting mail, telegram or telephone correspondence

Harming something in the public interest such as water and electricity distribution.

Any contractor who halts the work of the previously mentioned services without justification shall face the same sentence.

If a crime was perpetrated through the use of violence against persons or objects, the use of threats or other means of intimidation, false claims that might influence others, through public gatherings ... or the occupation of workplaces, the perpetrators will be sentenced to at least six months in prison.”

In comparison, Egyptian law penalizes with prison (one to three months) public officials or contractors who “perform a

public duty, work in public utilities or carry perform any tasks that serves a public need but that does not have a specific regulation and who intentionally leave their jobs or desist from performing their duties” (Article 374 of the Penal Code).

Egyptian law forbids contractors and managers of a public utility or public work a (public service, services in public utilities or an activity of public interest that isn't specially regulated) from quitting their job if it risks hampering the public service performance. Offenders are sentenced to 1-3 months in prison.

In Egypt, “anyone who blocks telegraph correspondence or damages their machines either through negligence or indifference causing communications to stop will pay a fine of 500 Egyptian pounds. In case of proven bad intention, the sentence will be prison, without taking into consideration any compensatory judgment in both cases.”

In the United Arab Emirates, Article 231 of the Penal Code states, “If at least three public employees quit their jobs or intentionally desist from performing their duties upon agreement or in order to achieve an illegal objective, they shall each be sentenced to a maximum one year of prison.”

Violators are sentenced to prison if their actions “jeopardize the lives or health of others, threaten [public] security, cause public disturbance or sedition, obstruct another public interest or if the offender was also an instigator.”

Civil servants and contractors who are executing a government-sponsored project but refuse to continue their work will be punished under Article 341. It states “Any employer or project officer, contractor or worker who stops working in order to pressure the public authorities or protest against an [official] resolution or measure, will be placed under house arrest for at least three months.”

The Penal Code also penalizes by prison and a fine any contractor or manager of a public utility who quits without justification, hindering work progress.

Article 292 of the Penal Code states, “The penalty is prison, a fine or both for anyone who commits a mistake causing an accident in one of the public maritime, air or land transportation means thus obstructing its work or endangering the lives of others. [Offenders] will be sentenced to prison if [their actions] result in a disaster.”

Art 293 states, “The penalty is prison for anyone who intentionally puts the safety of a private transportation means at risk in any way.”

Lebanon in the Eyes of Ambassadors: What Do They Like Most and What Do They Like Least

What do the Ambassadors like or dislike about Lebanon? The Monthly republishes excerpts from interviews conducted in 2007-2008-2009 related to the topic.

Life is very good. The job is interesting here and I hope to be here for a long period. People are very hospitable. I have with my family been visiting towns and villages on our own. People don't know who we are but they invite us in and offer us coffee. If I could mention one thing that is striking it would be the hospitality.

I want to mention two things also often discussed in the local press. I don't like the sectarian system. It is destroying the country and preventing it from developing into a true democratic and modern and efficient state. Many Lebanese politicians say they want to get rid of the sectarian system. I hope they will soon start walking the talking.

The second thing is racism or discrimination against foreign workers. This problem should be efficiently dealt with by the authorities, by the schools, by the religious leaders and all responsible people. It is a stain on the Lebanese society.

(The Danish Ambassador Jan Top Christensen)

Located strategically at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, beautiful panorama, and the host of qualified medical doctors, traders, and designers. All I can say is... Lebanese are cosmopolitan, hardworking and educated peoples. The only problem that I have is traffic jam. I fail to understand as to why Lebanon has only very few traffic lights. I once heard that a disciplined society could be measured by their traffic ethic.

(The Ambassador of Indonesia Bagas Hapsoro)

What I admire enormously about the Lebanese is their obsession with quality education. This makes them very capable to survive and prosper abroad. The Lebanese are also very cosmopolitan; they are always up-to-date about any debate in the West and at the same time, they are bridged to the Arab countries. They play an important mediating role in the intellectual field, which is reflected in journalism, history and literature. I also like the Lebanese people's hospitality, which is no myth but reality.

There is nothing I really dislike in Lebanon; but I think that the extraordinary individualism of the Lebanese, their habit of relying only on themselves and their family, is a mixed blessing. It makes them both capable of surviving and succeeding abroad under the most difficult circumstances and incapable of building a strong state with stable institutions which alone can provide the security and framework conditions necessary for the whole country to succeed in the age of globalization.

(The Ambassador of Germany Hansjoerg Haber)

Nothing is impossible in this country, which a great positive feature. For example, on the morning of the declaration of the Doha Agreement, a restaurant, which has been closed for one year and a half, managed to serve around 250 people at lunch. I don't think that there are many countries in the world where that would be possible.

If nothing is impossible means that going to war is also possible. There are also too many issues that have not been solved, the leftovers from the civil war and maybe from other conflicts before that. There is a level of hatred beneath the surface between different communities, which is very troubling. There was a visit recently from the deputy head of the Reconciliation and Truce Commission from South Africa. He spoke to the families of missing from the civil war. He talked about the need to go through the process of justice, because we cannot just put things under the carpet.

(British Ambassador Frances Guy)

There are too many things that I like about Lebanon but I will mention only two:

First and foremost, the people with their unbreakable spirit to fight the difficulties facing them; their thirst for new achievements and to enjoy all life in all its aspects.

Second- the Nature: Though small in territory, Lebanon can boast fantastic places both on the sea coast and in the mountains.

Concerning the second half of your question, I can say that I am of the opinion that it is not proper for a diplomat to express publicly negative comments about the country he or she is accredited to. Nevertheless, I will answer you in this way:

Whatever the trouble, listen to and hear, first of all, your fellow compatriots.
(The Ambassador of Bulgaria, Mr. Venelin Lazarov)

The people of Lebanon are very engaging, warm and welcoming. They love socializing, which is great for an ambassador. I also like hiking in the mountains and exploring the wonderful regions of the country. The dramatic and wild beauty of the Chouf and the Bekaa hold special appeal for me, but equally I like all the other regions from the north to the south.

Lebanon's natural beauty is one of its main attractions and the lack of care for the environment disturbs me. I see too many people throwing rubbish in the streets and the pollution of the water ways damages Lebanon's main natural resource and directly affects the health of the population. The Lebanese are destroying their environment for themselves and future generations and I believe that a lot of effort must be deployed to protect it.

(Australian Ambassador Lyndall Sachs)

There are many things that I like very much. The country is beautiful and there are a lot of very interesting sites. I must say though that Beirut is not the most beautiful city in the world. The atmosphere is one thing I like very much. The people are extremely kind, open, accessible and very forthcoming and they show very much hospitality. It is always a pleasure to come back to Lebanon and to meet the people and see how open they are

and how interested they are in us. The Lebanese are so cosmopolitan. So many of them have travelled and therefore they know the world. Another thing I very much admire is the resilience of the Lebanese. The country has faced so many setbacks but it looks like the Lebanese always pick up and recover and the day after the destruction has stopped, they start re-constructing. This is quite a special phenomenon.

It wouldn't be proper for me to say what I do not like so much about Lebanon, but I would very much wish for the Lebanese political system to mature. What strikes me in view of their openness and the travelling that many Lebanese have done is that the political system does not seem to have benefited from this cosmopolitanism. Sectarianism still dominates politics in Lebanon and in a way paralyzes socio-economic life. Instead of focusing on economic and social development, there is too much focus on the power issue. I think the political system should be based on issues and clear objectives and if agreements can be reached on substance, the role of sectarianism can be reduced. This would very much benefit the country. It takes effort and requires determination to make this shift.

(Mr. Robert Zeldenrust, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands)

I love the resilience of the people, their will to live despite all the difficulties surrounding them. Although the country and the people have been through many hard times, the impression I have is that they master the art of enjoying life and that they know how to profit from the moment and manage not think too much of the future. The warmth of the people is just great. In Europe, perhaps we have forgotten this and are more focused on work. For us, coming from the North, Lebanon is like our holiday country.

This country has a lot of unused potential. Due to the circumstances, you haven't been able to use your potential properly. This is due, on the one hand, to the wars that have ravaged your country and, on the other, to the traditional weaknesses of government which are understandable under the circumstances.

(Mr. Joham Verkammen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium)

Lebanon is a country of culture par excellence and this is one of the main reasons that made me come here. However, I regret that political leaders are not reaching an agreement over their national problems.

(Sudanese Ambassador Jamal Ibrahim)

Lebanon is unique in its kind and is characterized by the diversity of its society and confessions. I believe that the Lebanese should seek solutions to internal problems by themselves rather than depending on foreign countries. A solution to Lebanon's crisis should stem from the will of its own leaders.

(Sri Lankan Ambassador Mohamed Mohideen Amanul Farouq)

I appreciate most the hospitality of the Lebanese people and the intensity of life, as well as their honesty of mind and sincerity of spirit.

(Mexican Ambassador Jorge Alvarez Fuentes)

The Lebanese people are very hospitable; one does not feel as a stranger here. Another thing that I like a lot is the Lebanese cuisine.

(The Ambassador of Pakistan Nawabzada Aminullah Khan Raisani)

I think Lebanon is a very welcoming country. I am usually attracted to people and places which are not really easy to understand, and Lebanon definitely falls within in this category I also like the cultural diversity in this country. On the political side I wish there were more dialogue and understanding between the politicians. Unfortunately it seems too easy to resume to arms in order to find a political settlement – like we saw in May and this of course creates very dangerous situations for the country. On the more daily life side I must say I dislike the constant traffic and noise pollution.

(Norwegian Ambassador Aud Lise Norheim)

Your hospitality is second to none – a tradition which has become a cultural trademark for Lebanon. Well done and keep it up! Lebanese customs in welcoming visitors and foreign guests can be overwhelming. Coupled with your irresistible generosity, foreigners will find it too easy to get comfortable and at home in Lebanon. Moreover, Malaysia and Lebanon have other things in common: the process of democracy, religious tolerance and equality for all citizens.

Traffic condition in Beirut has improved in the last three years but more need to be done to improve the situation – upgrading of roads, improving the traffic flows, installation of working traffic lights. Chaotic situation still appear especially during the working days' peak hours. Motorists need to be educated to respect traffic rules and regulations. The law should be fully enforced by the police and punitive penalties should be imposed and collected to add to state coffer. There must be municipality laws with incentives for the construction of public and private parking spaces and facilities to minimize illegal and errand parking.

(The Malaysian Ambassador Dato' Mohamad Ab Halim bin Ab Rahman)

There is a variety of aspects that I like about Lebanon. Starting from the obvious ones, the climate and the morphology of the country which offers to the visitor many options in a very close proximity (sea and mountains); the wide variety of food choices, the archaeological and contemporary sites; and above all the "marriage" of all these multi-cultural antithesis; finally the people's open-hearted mentality, their high level conversational skills and their unlimited hospitality irrespective of the class they belong to.

I have not found yet anything I dislike about Lebanon,

(Dr. Kyriacos Kouros, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Cyprus in Lebanon)

The food and the hospitality of the people are fantastic. I got used to so many Lebanese dishes like fattouch and tabouleh. The people are naturally hospitable. No wonder the hospitality industry in Nigeria received a boost at their hands. I have gained weight since I came to Lebanon.

Actually, there is nothing that I do like personally. It's just that my family is back in Nigeria and always worried each time there is any media news of security breaches in Lebanon. The fact that they are away makes them worry about the security in the country. Otherwise, everything is fine. Lebanon is a country where you would not feel you are a stranger. In some countries, it takes a while to get used to the people and get acquainted, but it's not the like this here.

(Mr. Hameed A. Opoloyeru, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria)

Al Mokhtara-Bkirki

Jumblat: From “Bkirki wants to return to the language of cannons” to “we will not go against the patriarch’s will”

Relations between MP Walid Jumblat and the Maronite Patriarchy, more specifically with the patriarch (previously Khreish, and now Nasrallah Sfeir, patriarch since April 19, 1986) have varied over the years from a state of mutual understanding to hostility.

Al Mokhtara, Jumblat’s seat, and Bkirki, the headquarters of the Maronite Patriarchy, have traditionally played influential roles in Lebanon, to the point that it is said that “if you are in Lebanon without visiting Bkirki and the Mokhtara, it is like visiting Rome without seeing the Vatican.”

Since 2001, Jumblat’s position toward Sfeir has drastically oscillated, especially after the reconciliation of the mountain. The inconsistency is blatantly obvious when comparing Jumblat’s public statements.

Hostility

“It seems as if Bkirki wants to return to the language of cannons and as if the escalation is coming from the army, Patriarch Sfeir and the Lebanese Forces.” (An Nahar September 21, 1988)

“No one has given the Christians as much as President Assad has. But some separatists of the presidency of this patriarch (Sfeir) show ingratitude and we will inform them that they represent only themselves. In the end, they will expose the Christians to a real disaster if they continue with this policy...”

“We reject this blatant interference by the Patriarchy in politics. If Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir insists on his position, then we - and I said this openly - are with the Islamic Republic.” (Jumblat speaking at a press conference, An Nahar September 21, 1988)

“We stress that the conflict in Lebanon is much greater than the patriarch’s initiative, heavily armed with golden crosses, to protect the privileges of an aging and decaying Church. His Eminence is better off distributing the Church’s properties - almost third of the agricultural area in Lebanon - on the Christian and nationalist poor in Lebanon.” (Walid Jumblat’s statement on the anniversary of Kamal Jumblat’s birth, An Nahar December 7, 1988)

“I will turn Sfeir back into a priest in one of the villages.” (Jumblat in a speech to visiting delegations to Al Mokhtara in 1990)

Reconciliation

“The forcible absence from this good enclave was the result of security-related incidents, but the intellectual and political communication and relations have continued. I came to emphasize this historic relation... we have consolidated, with the enclave, the historic reconciliation, we confirmed it in the mountain and the bells tolled.” (A statement by Jumblat following a visit to Sfeir, An Nahar January 17, 2006)

“... The March 14 forces will not go against the will of the patriarch and they respect it.” (A interview with Jumblat on Al Arabiya television channel, October 8, 2007)

“... But I came here today to say the following: we have struck – so to speak – several political deals and political alliances with Patriarch Sfeir and we succeeded through them ... after the successes that we accomplished together with his Excellency and under his leadership. He was the first banner of the ‘Cedar revolution’ after his famous calling in 2000.” (A statement by Jumblat after visiting Sfeir, Al Mustaqbal November 25, 2008)

“Experience has shown that the deep and historic with Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir is greater than being a subject of exploitation here and there ... this great man, both in standing and role, is the number one sponsor of the ‘Cedar Revolution ... I will complete with the patriarch and all the allied political forces the historic reconciliation of the mountain.” (Jumblat’s weekly interview with Al Anba’ newspaper on April 20, 2009) 

Myth #28

Did the Temple of Solomon Exist?

Many Biblical scholars and archeologists believe that the Bible contains historical truths, often disagreeing on how much of it is actual truth and how much is mere fiction or myths. There is also another group of scholars that remain skeptical of the Old Testament in the Hebrew Bible, claiming that all or most of it is fiction. One skeptic is archeologist Israel Finkelstein, who created a lot of controversy in his description of Jerusalem during the 10th century BCE.

Myth: It is widely believed that the ancient Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem existed from the 10th century BCE until its destruction in 586 BCE by the Babylonians. Many believe that the temple was located in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount, which today is covered by the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's third holiest shrines.

Fact

Contrary to widespread belief about the Temple of Solomon, the fact remains that scholars, academics, and archeologists have not discovered archeological remains of Solomon's Temple nor have they confirmed its location.

According to the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, Solomon's Temple, also known as the First Temple, was the first religious temple constructed in Jerusalem for the ancient Israelites by King Solomon. In the biblical account, David captured Jerusalem by the end of the 11th century, bringing with him the Arc of the Covenant and making Jerusalem the political and spiritual centre of the Israelite tribes.

The temple was then completed by King Solomon in the 10th century BCE until it was destroyed by the Babylonian in 586 BCE. It was believed to have been built on the hill, which today is the site of the Temple Mount (for the Jews) and Dome of the Rock (for the Muslims). The temple was then reconstructed in 516 BCE by Herod, which was known as the Second Temple or Herod's Temple and stood until 70 CE when it was destroyed by the Romans.

Modern studies however question the historical accuracy of the Biblical account of King Solomon and the United Monarchy. In Gershon Galil's study on the Israelite kingdom of David and Solomon, he states that "there is no trace of the temple or palaces which Solomon built in Jerusalem." In Finkelstein's book, *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel*, he argues that the kingdoms of David and Solomon did not exist as they were described in the Bible. Instead, he states that archeology shows that Jerusalem, which in Solomon's day was supposed to be a 'glorious empire,' was more like a village or tribal center and relatively small and remote.

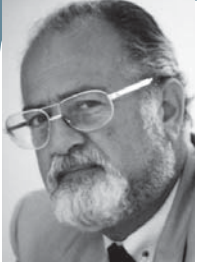
Moreover, he maintains that there is no historical evidence of Solomon's existence. At the same time, Finkelstein does not

deny Solomon's existence due to historical evidence that verifies the existence of a Davidic dynasty. This dynasty however is over exaggerated in the Biblical account, where these leaders were at the most local tribal chieftains. Regarding Solomon's Temple, until now there has been no archeological evidence found or excavations of the Temple Mount. Finkelstein does not deny that David may have founded a dynasty in Jerusalem but he does not believe the United Kingdom existed as it is described in the Bible. Finally, he does state that a temple was possibly built in Jerusalem, as part of the ancient Near East culture and tradition for a dynasty to build a temple. He also questions whether the Temple was some kind of enormous Parthenon dominating all of the Temple Mount as many believe it to be, stating that it is described in the Bible as being a more modest building.

Other archeologists go further such as Philip Gardiner who wrote the book *Gnosis: The Secret of Solomon's Temple Revealed*. In this book he has evidence from other historians and archaeologists that the temple was purely a metaphor and never existed in reality.

Other scholars question the timing of the construction of the Temple. In David Rohl's book, *A Test of Time: The Bible from Myth to History*, he states that, "when it comes to the Iron Age (which is purportedly the time of Solomon and his ally, Hiram of Tyre) there are no stone buildings.... how then did Solomon acquire building expertise from Phoenicia if the Phoenicians did not have the skill or resources to build stone structures?"

Whether the Temple of Solomon existed or not, the fact remains that no location or archeological evidence has been found until now to support the Biblical account found in the Old Testament. 🍷



Is Superstition Really an Obstacle to Scientific Thought?

by Antoine Boutros

There is a common perception that the spread of superstition in Arab societies is one of the most important underlying causes for the Arab world's shortcomings in the fields of science and scientific research.

There is no doubt that this theory sounds reasonable and drives one to accept the outcome based on the principle of causality. How can the lame mind explain mysterious occurrences that need informed analysis, a perceptive mind and ability to differentiate phenomena and reach conclusion, and not superficial explanations sought through dreams. Though this seems sound but it is not the case. What we are witnessing in the world contradicts this rational vision as if the illogical becomes logic.

An opinion poll conducted in the United States showed that half of Americans, if not more, believe in superstitions. Despite this fact, the U.S. scientific mind did not become inactive. In his book "The Age of Science", Egyptian Nobel laureate in physics Ahmed Zewail makes an important remark that the number of prestigious U.S. scientific research academies, "in charge of preserving the position of science on the forefront of the latest scientific breakthroughs", is very limited. This is why Zewail suggested the creation of what he called "centers of excellence" to light the way for science that rely on a solid and coherent scientific base and are managed by an active and daring leadership.

Visitors to Japan will admire the country's scientific breakthroughs in spite of the level to which myth and customs dominate Japanese society. The same goes for Malaysia and Singapore. This is why there it is futile to waste time rationalizing the minds of a whole society in the hope of a general renaissance.. Some believe that there are other factors in tradition that control or influence scientific thought. They stop at the non-mental approach to knowledge, and especially deny the theory of causality which is no longer a fundamental postulate for the foundation of the scientific method.

How should we act when faced with the quantum mechanics theory of Max Plank? Plank undermined the basic concepts of science when he and other physicists after him - especially Werner Heisenberg - reached the conclusion that a factor of randomness exists in science and that the principle of uncertainty is dominant as a law of physics. With that, the theory of inevitability as a firm scientific law is no more supreme.

Scientific certainty is the quality that has distinguished scientific thought for ages and both are connected by an iron-clad bond. Scientific certainty made of scientific thought a secure and precise method that gave its followers an infinite sense of self-confidence and the transcendent power of scientific prediction.

Undoubtedly science is facing the complex mission of reaching a unifying theory that incorporates both phenomena: certainty and randomization. The first still controls the macrocosm world and allows science to make the most precise predictions on the level of greater space while suspicion still controls the microcosm world i.e. the subatomic world.

Do Arabs have non-scientific traits? Some analysts suspect the presence of other factors that dominate and direct scientific thought including a talent for scientific research in addition to scientific qualities and inclinations. Many scholars, like Shahristani, Ibn Khaldoun and orientalist Hamilton Gibb, said that Arab-Islamic culture or mentality possess qualities or general leanings that reduce or restrict its scientism in general and that undermine, in one way or the other, its scientific thinking.

In reality, what Arabs produced in the Middle Ages makes us more inclined toward adopting the opposite opinion. And this is a historical paradox. Until recently, we were taught, in our schools, that Arabs and Muslims contributed to the history of the world civilization by merely acting as a bridge between the Greeks and Europe; between Greek science and the modern scientific revolution. We've always been proud of this achievement, while the truth is much greater than this. Historical research, stretching over the second half of the past century, lifted the veil on the significant role that Arabs and Muslims played in paving the way for the modern scientific revolution. They developed genuine theories in astronomy to the point that new historians discovered that Copernicus, to whom the modern scientific revolution has been attributed, in fact adopted from Arab and Muslim scientists the cornerstone of the modern concept - the principle of the sun's centrality which nullified Ptolemy's astronomical system - and adopted their alternative suggestions. Mathematical illustrations in the recently recovered manuscripts of Ibn Al Haytham, Ibn Al Shater, Al Tusi and Al A'aradi are the same ones included in Copernicus' works

Quotes: "The United States' distinguished position on the scientific map is not the result of outstanding miracles rather it was the product of a solid and coherent scientific base, under an active and daring leadership."

"There is a limited number of prestigious scientific centers in charge of preserving the position of science on the forefront of the latest scientific breakthroughs.

Ahmed Zewail

Sleep Apnea

by Dr. Hanna Saadah



Understanding the many facets of fatigue

Fatigue is the commonest complaint in medicine. It is the end result of all diseases and the least specific of all symptoms. Its presence means that our bodies' energy reserves are depleted and that we are in a state of energy debt.

Common Fatigue

Type 1, which occurs after overwork or overload and recovers after rest is the consequence of temporary energy debt that is caused by mental or physical exhaustion. Type 2, which comes when we fall ill and does not resolve with rest, usually resolves after we recover from our illness and are able to pay back all our energy debts. Type 3, is when we do not recover from our illness because the illness is not curable. This type of fatigue will continue as a manifestation of our illness as long as we remain ill. Type 4, comes usually after an acute illness but does not recover after the illness resolves. When no physical causes can be found, and when the fatigue persists over time, it becomes known as the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Consequential Fatigue

Addiction fatigues are consequences of certain common addictions such as tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Those addicted to such substances are always lacking in energy and motivation. Obesity fatigues are usually proportional to the degree of overweight. Sedentary fatigues are caused by lack of exercise and poor physical fitness.

Mental Fatigue

Depression is the commonest cause of mental fatigue. Those who suffer from depression may be very fit physically but feel as tired as if they had walked many miles. Under-stimulation, boredom, and loneliness also cause us to feel tired even though our bodies may be sound. Having no loves, or passions, or worthy goals is equally devastating to our energy reserves, which are enriched by struggle and diminished by passivity.

Respiratory Fatigue

Lung diseases such as asthma and emphysema, if they become severe and poorly responsive to treatment, lead to chronic exhaustion. By reducing oxygen and increasing the effort to breathe, they severely limit physical activity and reduce life's quality.

Cardiac Fatigue

Subtle cardiac problems such as silent coronary artery disease, defective heart valves, or mild heart failure are the commonest causes. The slightest amount of exertion causes major exhaustion, which takes a long time to recover.

Sleep Apnea Fatigue

This is a very common and devastating disorder that may be superimposed on all other types of fatigue. Its incidence increases with age and with weight both of which cause our upper airways to collapse during sleep. The collapse occurs during inspiration and temporarily shuts off the airways. Patients snore loudly, stop breathing for a while, and then gasp for air as if they were drowning. These episodes of oxygen deprivation and increased work of breathing go on throughout the night causing the patient to wake up exhausted and to feel sleepy all day long. Memory dysfunctions, irritability, headaches, poor concentration, high blood pressure, heart attacks, sudden cardiac death, and resistant depression are among the many serious consequences of Sleep Apnea.

Because we are living longer and becoming fatter with time, more and more of us are developing Sleep Apnea. The number of people who have this disease has become so huge and its impact on our lives has become so devastating that screening for it is now mandatory. A simple questionnaire, The Epworth Sleepiness Scale, can identify the suspects and direct them to a sleep laboratory where an overnight sleep study can be performed confirming the diagnosis. The treatment is a mask called the C-PAP, which prevents airway collapse by supplying air under pressure. Regardless of age or weight, everyone who wakes up unrefreshed and remains sleepy and tired by day should take this simple test and whoever scores 10 or more should have a sleep study.

The Epworth Sleepiness Scale

How likely are you to doze off or fall asleep in the following situations? Use the following scale for each situation and then calculate your total score: (0 = would never doze, 1 = slight chance of dozing, 2 = moderate chance of dozing, 3 = high chance of dozing.)

Activity	Chance of Dozing
Sitting and Reading	___
Watching TV	___
Sitting inactive in meeting, theater, etc.	___
Passenger in a car longer than one hour	___
Reclining in the afternoon to rest	___
Sitting and talking to someone	___
Sitting quietly after lunch (no alcohol)	___
Passenger in a car stopped in traffic	___



The “Canaanite-Phoenician” city-states

by Dr. Hassan Salameh Sarkis



From their foundation in the third millennium BC, coastal Canaanite cities included a mix of people from different origins and races, each with their own dialect and customs.

The Canaanites never had any form of unity. As it is the case with most parts of the old world, the Canaanites did not consider themselves as a nation. This continued until after the invasions of the Sea Peoples, around 1200 BC, which ruined, in certain circumstances, the urban civilization in the region, resulting in destruction along with demographic changes, and bringing immigrants from foreign origins.

Cities acted completely as independent states, protected by walls, with their own agricultural systems providing their subsistence needs. Each city was ruled by a king, aided by a consultative council mainly composed by members of the aristocracy. Even though the hereditary code was applied, there is no evidence that it was the only form of power transfer.

During the first millennium BC, executive power in the “Phoenician” cities was restricted to the king and a senate, formed by leading members of the aristocracy. In some cases, like in Carthage, this power was held by two “Suffects” (Judges), a senate, a domestic security council and a people’s assembly.

Some inscriptions show that the king detained both civic and religious authorities. One of these inscriptions was the one left by Tabnit, king of Sidon during the end of the 6th century BC. He wrote: “I, Tabnit, priest of Astarte, king of Sidon, the son of Eshmun’azar, priest of Astarte, king of Sidon, am lying in this sarcophagus...”

After the downfall provoked by the Sea Peoples’ raids, the 10th century witnessed the birth of a new civilization. One of its most distinctive features was the spreading of the alphabet, a new writing system that radically differed from the syllabic system of the Mesopotamian cuneiform script and the pictographic system of the Egyptian hieroglyphic script. Tyrians and Sidonians played a major role in diffusion of this new system in the Greek world, from which it was later on transmitted to the Romans.

During the first millennium BC, new cities, colonies and trade stations were established along the Mediterranean coasts and islands. Carthage was one of the most significant settlements. Canaanite-Phoenician cities welcomed peoples from around the old world, since their populations, especially those who were well-off, did not have the tendency for racism and xenophobia. They adopted the conqueror’s manners, were open to change, and their civilization turned into a cultural melting pot, adapting themselves to the Egyptian’s, Persian’s, Greek’s and Roman’s ways and customs.

Phoenician cities went at that time through a golden age, selling their products across the Mediterranean. Conifer’s wood and oils were some of the most expensive items that conquerors could flaunt about appropriating them in their inscriptions and Annals. Some Carthaginian merchants reached the shores of Western Africa and traded with its inhabitants. They brought back African gold, ivory and exotic animals, exchanged with shoddy goods, like glass and beads, that amazed the local populations.

Cities often escaped destruction by striking a truce with conquerors, and paying a ransom. For instance, when the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser I (1115-1077 BC) occupied Arwad, the cities of Byblos and Sidon sent to the king envoys carrying ransoms. The same scenario took place during the days of Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BC). This king led his army along the Mediterranean eastern coast without encountering any resistance. During this campaign, the cities paid ransoms of gold, silver, tin, copper along with many other goods, and the “King received their tribute and they embraced [his] feet”.

Despite the rough troubled periods that hit the region during the first millennium BC, many Canaanite-Phoenician city-states concluded alliances that allowed them, at one level, to confront each other, and at another level, to confront superpowers that sought to conquer the region. Their alliance with some of the Syrian cities against the Assyrian King Sennacherib (715-681 BC) led to their vast destruction. These ruined Canaanite-Phoenician cities then abandoned their alliance with Tyre and placed 60 ships at the king’s disposal, enabling him to lay siege to it and conquer it.

A similar incident happened during the days of Esarhaddon (680-669 BC) when the king of Sidon struck an alliance with the king of Cilicia and revolted against the Assyrians, which led to the destruction and burning of Sidon by the Assyrian army. Similarly, Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC) took over Sidon and Arwad and besieged Tyre and conquered it.

During the Persian era, between the sixth and fourth centuries BC, the Persian Empire was restructured and “Phoenician” cities formed the Fifth Satrapy (Province) along with Syria and Cyprus. The Persians’ need of the “Phoenician” fleets in their wars against the Egyptians and the Greeks led them to award those cities some independence and the right to mint their own coinage. These cities consequently had economic and architectural prosperity. In Sidon, were built a royal palace and garden, along with a temple dedicated for its god Eshmun. A palace and a citadel were also built in Byblos. 🇸🇩

Between Yesterday and Today

The Monthly publishes one of Ze'ini's poems on elections

The Poor People

1960

Every three or four months
The divans change
The subordinates change
The people step down
The people rise
At the expense of the poor people

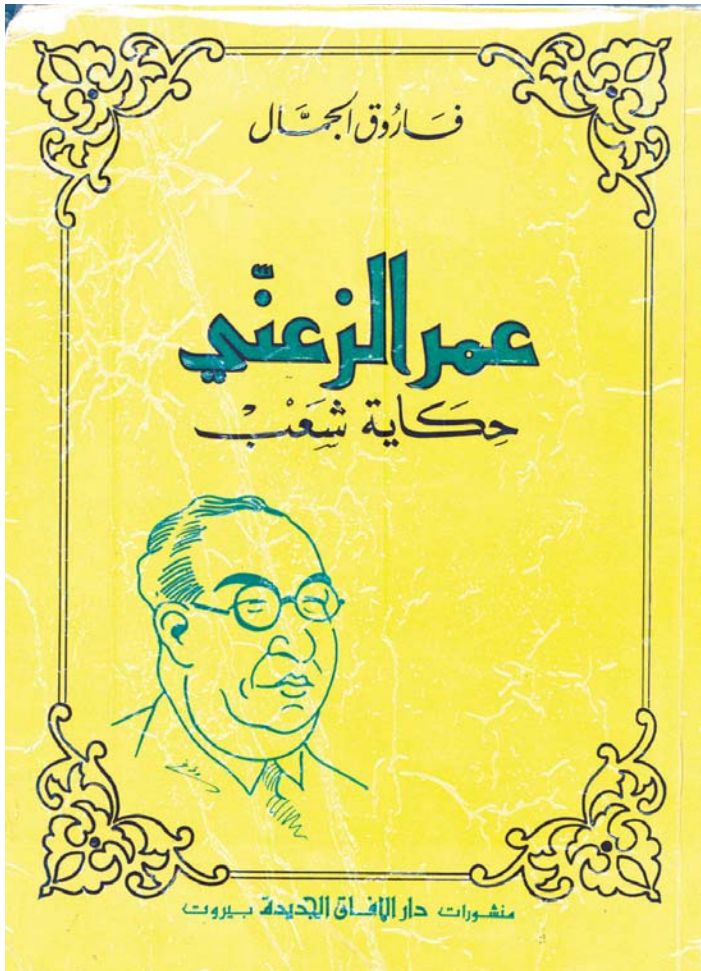
Policies change
Presidents are replaced
When it's a mess
The spoils are divided
At the expense of the poor people

The cabinet is formed
With a nod from above and a gesture

Darwish Tabara passes by
He fires firecrackers and fireworks
At the expense of the poor people

Parliament is formed
Loved ones ululate
So do the servants and the janitors
Protégés are appointed
At the expense of the poor people

If in the end there is a deficit
The books are cancelled
So are the fees and taxes
At the expense of the poor people



الشعب المسكين

عام 1960

بيجي درويش طباره¹
بيقوص فتيش² وسهوم
على ضهر الشعب المسكين

بيطلع مجلس النواب
بتزلفط الأحباب
والخدام والحجاب
بتتعين المحاسيب
على ضهر الشعب المسكين

وان صار عجز بالآخر
بتتشطب الدفاتر
رسوم وضرايب
على ضهر الشعب المسكين

كل ثلاث أربع اشهر
بتتغير الدواوين
بيتبدل المأمورين
بينزل ناس
بيطلع ناس
على ضهر الشعب المسكين

بتتغير السياسة
بتتبدل الرياسة
لما بتضيع الطاسة
بتتقسم الفنايم
على ضهر الشعب المسكين

بتتشكل الوزارة
بغمزه من فوق وإشارة

(1) بائع اسهم نارية في بيروت
(2) مفرقات

Gaza Strip -Arab children under occupation

Fatalities, detentions, psychological disorders and zero accountability

Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, who form over half of the population, have suffered through a crippling blockade that has last almost three years and repeated Israeli attacks on the densely populated, impoverished coastal strip. A number of UN reports (most recently the Goldstone report) have accused Israel of flagrant violations of the right to life and freedom under the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The Goldstone report, compiled by a UN fact finding mission headed by Judge Richard Goldstone on the Gaza offensive in December, has triggered a diplomatic storm after accusing both Israel and Hamas of war crimes.

Forming 53% of the Gaza population, 780,578 of the 1.4 million residents are children in 2008, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

At least 1,314 Palestinians were killed, including 412 children and 110 women, from the start of the Israeli offensive in Gaza on December 27 2008 until the unilateral ceasefire declaration on January 18, 2009, according to the 2009 Arab Human Development Report (AHDR). Out of the 5,303 injured, over 1,815 were children.

According to a 2009 factsheet by UN-OCHA, the Gaza offensive killed 164 students and 12 teachers in public schools and 86 children and 3 teachers schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Figures provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health and the UN-OCHA indicate that the number of children killed from January 3 to January 14 increased by over 340% and comprised 32% of all fatalities (346) as of January 15.

According to the Goldstone report, Israeli military operations and the blockade led 20% of Gaza children to suffer from Post Traumatic Stress-related disorders, destroyed 280 schools and caused worrying levels of malnutrition and anemia.

It accused Israel of violating the International Covenant on Civil, Political and Religious Right and the Convention of the Rights of the Child after reports of mass detentions and degrading treatment of children during and after the Gaza offensive.

It quoted the Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI), as saying that in January and February 2009 the number of Palestinian detainees under the age of 18 was 389 and 423, compared to 327 and 307 for the same months in 2008 and a monthly average of 319 in 2008.

At the end of September 2009, there 326 children were being held in Israeli prisons and detention centers.

According to the DCI, 40 children in the 12-15 age range were detained at the end of September 2009 compared to 23 in September 2008, marking a 74% increase. DCI accused Israel of “institutionalizing” the abuse of Palestinian children across the Occupied Territories. Table 1 shows the number of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons until September 2009.

The rise in child detentions is explained by the large number of protests in the aftermath of the Gaza offensive, with many children detained during demonstrations.

The report found that 61% of detained children in January-February 2009 were charged with stone-throwing compared to 27% during the same period in 2008. Stone-throwing carries a maximum sentence of 20 years.

Supporting the DCI, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the Office of the high Commissioner for Human Rights stated that “95% of cases end in the child pleading guilty, whether the offence was committed or not”. Confessions are extracted by coercion, in the absence of a lawyer.

Israel has been resisting pressure to launch a credible and independent investigation into its military conduct during the Gaza offensive. The Goldstone report, which was endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in October, has recommended that the findings be referred to the prosecuting body at the International Criminal Court in The Hague if Israel and Hamas do not launch independent and credible investigations into violations in the Gaza Strip within six months.

It remains to be seen whether or not the international community will hold Israel accountable and put an end to the prevailing custom of indifference and impunity. 🍀

Number of Palestinian children held in Israeli detention

Table 1

Year/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	327	307	325	327	337	323	324	293	304	297	327	342
2009	389	423	420	391	346	355	342	339	326	-	-	-

Source: Defense for Children International – Palestine Section 2009

“The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine”

Ilan Pappé's “The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine” published in 2006 by One World Oxford is a provocative book that recalls the fate of Palestine in 1948.

Ilan Pappé is an expert on Israel and Zionism and is considered one of Israel's “New Historians”, challenging traditional Israeli narratives and assumptions about history. For his research, Pappé relied on declassified Israeli military archives and the memoirs of Israel's “founding fathers” as well as pertinent British and Israeli government documents released in the early 1980s. Pappé used these sources to rewrite the history of Israel's creation in 1948

Pappé was born in Haifa, Palestine to German-Jewish parents who fled Nazi persecution in the 1930s. He graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1978, and in 1984 obtained his PhD in history from the University of Oxford. From 1984 to 2007, Ilan Pappé was a senior lecturer at Haifa University until the President of Haifa University called for his resignation for endorsing the boycott of Israeli universities.

The main idea of the book is that the exodus of Palestinians from their land did not occur as a result of war but was premeditated. The Zionist movement orchestrated a plan for the forcible expulsion of hundreds of thousands of unwanted Palestinian Arabs in urban and rural areas accompanied by an unknown number of others who were slaughtered en masse. The final master plan decided upon on March 10, 1948 was called Plan D (Dalet in Hebrew) following plans A, B, and C.

British involvement...

Pappé traces the post-Balfour history when Palestinians were 80 - 90% of the population, detailing the preferential treatment of the British to Jewish settlers and suppression to Palestinian resistance. He shows that the sympathetic British Mandate made the ethnic cleansing of Palestine possible by helping Jewish settlers transform their 1920 paramilitary organization into the Hagana, which became the Israel Defense Forces. While the British were still in charge of law and order before their mandate ended in 1947, Jewish forces carried out the expulsion of about 250,000 Palestinians without British intervention. After the mandate ended in mid-May, it became the UN's problem, another issue Pappé also explores in detail.

In order for Zionists to create an exclusive Jewish state, any forms of resistance had to be repressed. The Jewish National Fund (JNF) was assigned to compile a detailed registry Arab villages that was completed by the late 1930s

with the help of informants that were recruited. The final inventory update was finished with lists of “wanted” persons in each village targeted in 1948. Those seized were shot on the spot, creating the power vacuum needed to neutralize any effective opposition to Zionists’ plans.

Pappé also addresses the dilemma Palestinians have faced since the beginning of the Zionist Movement - whether to resist or seek normalcy. Pappé also shows that the majority of the Palestinians, especially villagers, never fully comprehended the gravity of the Zionist threat in 1948.

He shows how the Zionist Movement tacitly colluded with the Jordanians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, effectively neutralizing the strongest Arab army, and also details the involvement and ineffectiveness of other Arab states. Pappé's account undermines the Israeli myth that Palestinians left voluntarily before or after Arab forces intervened. Nearly half their villages were attacked and destroyed before Arab countries sent in any forces. Another 90 villages were wiped out from May 15 (when the Mandate ended) until June 11, when the first of two short-lived truces took effect.

The Palestinian exodus began in December 1947, the process took six months to complete. Pappé argues that when the war ended and Plan D was completed, the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians had only just begun. Pappé also outlines the challenges Palestinians who remained in Israel had to deal with, linking it to the hardships Palestinians in the Occupied Territories also face; essentially arguing that ethnic cleansing continues today in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

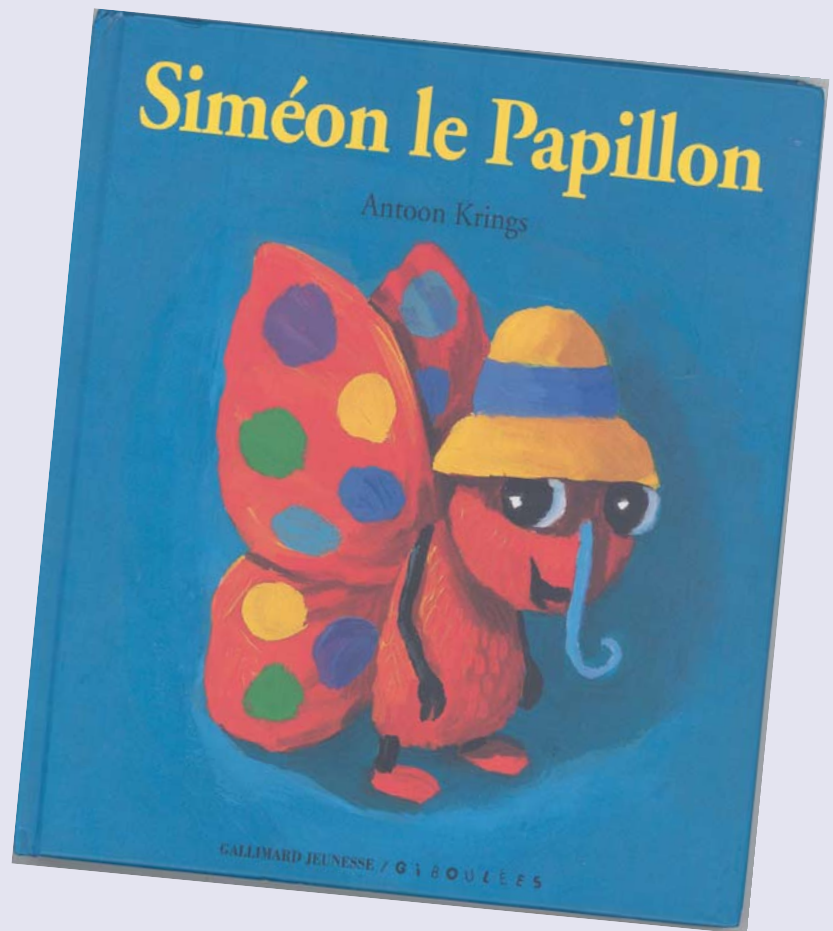
Finally, he outlines the fundamental failure of the international community in dealing with the whole peace process from Oslo, to Camp David until today. According to Pappé, the fundamental flaw of the whole ‘peace process’ has been the exclusion of the 1948 Nakba and Right of Return, making it seem that the conflict began in 1967. Pappé concludes by arguing that Israel must admit fault in order to begin the process of reconciliation. According to him, the first step towards democratization is eliminating the Jewish character of the state, allowing all Palestinian refugees to return, and establishing total equality between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. ●●



Simeon the Butterfly

The book is part of an illustrated collection about birds and small bugs, presented in an appealing manner for children. The main character “Simeon the Butterfly” lives in a beautiful house in one of the gardens. She spends most of her day with the flowers and returns home at night. One day she went to the flowers but they were all asleep. She did not know why and she was very sad. Later, the ladybug explained to Simeon why the flowers had fallen asleep. What did Simone the Butterfly do to wake them up?

*From the collection “Les Livrettes Drôles de Petites Bêtes” in French, published by Gallimard-Jeunesse Giboulées, France, 1995. 🐞





Families from Lebanon

The Lahoud family

a political power in Ba'abdat, despite being a minority

Family origins

The family's origins differ depending on where they reside. The Lahoud families in A'amsheet are a branch of the Obeid Al 'Ahdaniyah family which is linked to Al Dweihi families. The patriarch of this particular branch is Lahoud Bin Mansour Bin Yazbik, who died in 1843 BC. In Ba'abdat, the Lahoud families are a branch of 'Al Labaki, which originates from Khouri Gerges Sa'ad of the town of Hardeen in Batroun, from which Youssef Ibn Gerges and his grandfather Sa'ad migrated to Bahr Saf. In the middle of the 16th century, Sa'ad moved to Deir Al Qamar where 'Al Nehmeh originates from. For his part, Youssef moved to the town of Qanabeh, where he stayed until his death. He was survived by his son Sa'ad, also known as Al Labkeh, a nickname given to him by one of 'Al Lama'a princes that he used to serve. Sa'ad had three sons: Daher, Fares and Nasr, who moved to the town of Ba'abdat in the 17th century. Perhaps their offspring moved to other regions in Lebanon. It is possible that the Lahoud families spread all across Lebanon originate from Ba'abdat. Some believe that the families in Ba'abdat descend from 'Al Nehmeh in Deir Al Qamar and their forefather Mikhail Labaki, who had two sons Lahoud and Sema'an. The families descend from Mikhail Labaki and the Labaki families from Sama'an Mikhail Labaki.

Number of members and registries

There are around 3800 members of the Lahoud family, with a Maronite majority and a Catholic minority. They are distributed as follows:

Maronite

Bareeh-Chouf: 360	Bssarma-Koura 16
Saba'al-Zgharta 316	Ba'abda-Ba'abda 15
Wadi Banjaleyeh-Chouf 280	Kour-Batroun 15
Kfarneess-Chouf 210	Hasroun-Bsharri 15
Qartaba-Jbeil 170	Hadath Al Jabba-Bcharri 14
A'amsheet-Jbeil 168	Mazra'at Al Tuffah-Zgharta 14
Kfarsghab-Zgharta 110	Harat Hreik-Hay Ruweiss-Ba'abda 11
Torzaya-Jbeil 75	Bashoura-Beirut 10
Wadi Qannoubeen-Bsharri 70	Mazra'a-Beirut 10
Bqerqasha-Bsharri 65	Matreet-Koura 10
Ba'abdat-Matn 60	Hazmiyeh-Ba'abda 10
Beiteddine-Chouf 50	Kfour Al A'arabi-Batroun 9
Bqa'akafra-Bsharri 50	Bayt Al Sha'ar-Matn 9
Serjyal-Chouf 50	Roumieh-Matn 8
Jbeil-Jbeil 40	Al Mtayn-Matn 8
Wadi Al Deir-Chouf 40	Banouti-Chuof 8
Mayfouq-Jbeil 35	Hay Al Ain-Hasbaya 8
Halba-Akkar 32	Sin Al Fil-Matn 6
Rashmaya-A'aley 32	A'aintoura-Kessewarn 4
Al Nafissa-Akkar 30	Qarah Bash-Zgharta 4
Al Khalla-Matn 30	
Dar'oun-Kesserwan 25	
Harat Sakhr-Kesserwan 20	Greek Catholic
Dahr Sawan-Matn 20	Magdousha-Saida 115
Toula Al Jeba-Zgharta 18	Hay Al Serail-Marjeyoun 50
Hay Mar Saba-Bsharri 18	Zahle 40
Behwayta-Minieh-Dinniyeh 17	
Rmeil-Beirut 17	

The Lahoud families and politics

Most men in the Lahoud families who played important roles in Lebanese politics, were from Ba'abdat. Prominent Lahoud politicians are:

Emile Gerges Lahoud: A lawyer elected to Parliament in 1943, 1948, 1951 and 1953, was a deputy for the Matn district and served as the minister of finance, interior, national education and social affairs.

Rofayel Wadi' Lahoud: A lawyer from A'amsheet and was elected Member of Parliament in 1951 for the district of Kesserwan-Jbeil.

Jamil Gerges Lahoud: He served as an army officer and was elected deputy for the Northern Matn district in 1960 and 1964. He was also appointed labor and social affairs minister in 1966.

Emile Jamil Lahoud: He was elected president in 1998 after serving as commander of the army since 1988. He stayed in office until 2007.

Salim Nassib Lahoud: Elected MP in the elections of 1954, 1957, 1964 and 1968 for the Northern Matn district. He was also minister of foreign affairs, national education and public works.

Fouad Nassib Lahoud: He was an army officer and was elected to Parliament in 1972 for the Northern Matn district. He remained an MP until his death in 1987.

Nassib Salim Lahoud: He is an engineer and served as Lebanon's ambassador to the United States. He was appointed MP in 1991 and elected deputy in 1992. He remained in Parliament until 2005 for the Northern Matn district.

Emile Emile Lahoud: He is the son of the former president and was elected MP in 2000 for the Northern Matn district. Other prominent Lahoud members include: former muhafez Henry Lahoud Lahoud, the head of the Supreme Judicial Council Nassri Jamil Lahoud and the director of army intelligence Col. Gabi Lahoud. 🇅🇸

Al Nurah village

small population; big area

Etymology

In his book «Names of Lebanese Cities and Villages», Anis Freiha lists three possible origins for the name:

The Syriac word 'Nura', meaning 'light' and 'mirror'

The Syriac word 'Nuhra', meaning luminance

The Aramaic word 'Bey Nura' meaning places/temples of worship of fire for the Magi

Due to its location, the village has sunlight all day, hence the name Nourah.

Location

Nourah (also written Noura or Nourat) is located along the Lebanese-Syrian border in the qada'a of Accar in the muhafaza of northern Lebanon. It is situated at 250 meters above sea level, 140 kilometers away from Beirut and 50 kilometers away from Trablous. It covers an area of 425 hectares and can be reached via Trablous-Halba-Tlayl-Kwashra-Dabbabiyeh-Nourah or via Trablous-Qbayyat-Beera-Kwashra-Nourah.

Population

There are approximately 560 registered inhabitants, all of the Sunni confession. The number of houses is 35.

Electors

The number of registered voters in 200 was 235, of whom 159 cast their ballots. The number increased to 332 in 2005 with 231 votes compared to 374 registered voters in 2009 and 267 ballots.

The Darwish family is among the majority of electors at 110, casting 28% of all. Here is the breakdown of voters from each family:

Darwish 110 voters
 Ismail 54 voters
 Moussa 44 voters
 Haidar 40 voters
 Shbeen 35 voters
 Abbas 28 voters
 Al Dennawi 23 voters
 Abdel Rahman 18 voters
 Khodr 12 voters
 Al Youssef 10 voters

Local authorities

The town does not have a municipal council or a municipality. The local authority is represented by the mukhtars (village mayor).

Education

There is one public school in Nourah. Ninety-three students were registered in the school in the academic year of 2006-2007.

Economy

Agriculture and livestock are the main sources of income for the residents. ●●



EU lawmakers step up legal campaign against Israeli officials over Gaza war crimes

Ehud Olmert could face war crimes arrest if he visits UK

Ian Black, October 27, 2009, The Guardian

“Ehud Olmert’s, Israel’s prime minister during the Gaza war, would probably face arrest on War crimes charges if he visited Britain, according to a UK lawyer who is working to expand the application of “universal jurisdiction” for offences involving serious human rights abuses committed anywhere in the world.

Neither Olmert nor Tzipi Livni, the foreign minister during the Cast Lead offensive, and a member of Israel’s war cabinet, would enjoy immunity from prosecution for alleged breaches of the Geneva conventions, predicted Daniel Machover, who is involved in intensifying legal work after the controversial Goldstone report on the three-week conflict. Neither are ministers any longer.

Prosecutions of Israeli political and military figures remain likely despite the failure to obtain an arrest warrant for Ehud Barak, the defense minister, when he visited the UK earlier this month, he said. In the Barak case a magistrate accepted advice from the Foreign Office that the minister enjoyed state immunity and rejected an application made on behalf of several residents of the Gaza Strip.

“This needs to be tested at the right time and in the right place,” Machover said. “One day one of these people will make a mistake and go to the wrong country and face a criminal process — and then it’ll be a matter for the courts of that country to give them a fair trial: that’s what the Palestinian victims want.”

...The development of universal jurisdiction has been boosted by the Goldstone report, which urged Israel to conduct an independent inquiry into alleged war crimes. Failing that, other governments were advised to try suspects using universal jurisdiction. Another option was for the UN Security Council to refer allegations to the international criminal court. Israel refused to co-operate with the report, which also accused Hamas of war crimes. Machover confirmed that he was working with other lawyers in the EU and elsewhere “in an increasingly organized fashion in different jurisdictions. It’s not just about Palestine. It might be about Rwanda or Afghanistan,” he said.”



Lawyers in EU draw up list of alleged IDF war criminals

Anshel Pfeffer, October 27, 2009, Haaretz

“Human rights lawyers and pro-Palestinian activists in a number of European countries hold lists with names of Israel Defense Forces soldiers allegedly linked to war crimes committed during Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip. Existing legislation enables arrest warrants to be issued against these officers if they enter those countries.

Lawyers in Britain and other European countries have been collecting testimonies of Palestinians and other data from Gaza since January, which they maintain proves that war crimes were committed by the IDF during the offensive. The evidence is linked to IDF officers holding ranks of battalion commander and higher, who were in command during various stages of Cast Lead.

The other nations who have lawyers collecting information on the matter include the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and Norway, whose laws, as well as Britain’s, allow the issuance of arrest warrants against foreign citizens suspected of war crimes.

Attorney Daniel Makover from London is coordinating the efforts in Britain. One of his colleagues visited the Gaza Strip several weeks after the fighting in order to collect testimonies. Palestinians civilians also gave the legal assistant their approval, and asked that he file the suits in their name, in line with British law.

Speaking to Haaretz, Makover refused to offer details on the identity of the IDF officers or how many were listed, but said that much depends on the specific details of each case. Makover said that anyone who was involved in an incident may face criminal charges...

Makover said that the Goldstone report on the fighting in the Gaza Strip will bolster the efforts of the activists, and said that some of the instances mentioned in the report were already known to the attorneys. Makover is part of an unofficial network of attorneys operating in various countries in Europe, exchanging and sharing information so that suspected officers may be arrested in those countries.”



UK activists seek arrest of Israeli officers

Gregory Katz, October 27, 2009

“British lawyers looking for ways to hold Israel accountable for its deadly advance into Gaza last year have expanded their legal campaign by seeking the arrest of Israeli military officers entering Britain.

The attorneys plan to go to British courts to obtain arrest warrants against individuals linked to suspected war crimes so they would be taken into custody if they entered Britain, Daniel Machover, a lawyer coordinating the legal team, said Tuesday.

“We’ve been collecting evidence for some time,” said Machover of the Hickman & Rose firm. “If one of the suspects is coming to the country, we are ready to go to the police and the courts with evidence.”

There was no immediate response to the plan from Britain’s Ministry of Justice. Israel brushed off the move as part of a harassment campaign by anti-Israeli groups.

Machover said the effort started before the Gaza offensive began in late December and also involves lawyers in other countries who are working to bring cases based on the concept of universal jurisdiction, which allows countries to arrest and try people for crimes unrelated to their own territory or nationals.

That means that a suspected war criminal thought to have committed serious crimes in another country could be put on trial in Britain even though the crime was not committed in Britain and didn’t involve British nationals.

Pro-Palestinian lawyers tried to use universal jurisdiction doctrine to force the arrest of Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak on war crimes charges during a visit to Britain last month, but his status as a Cabinet minister gave him diplomatic immunity.

It is not yet clear how British courts would view requests for the arrests of serving Israeli military officers.

Machover said lawyers are also pursuing universal jurisdiction arrest warrants against suspected war criminals from other countries not connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He refused to say which countries were being targeted, again saying he did not want to tip off potential suspects.

Chris Doyle, director of The Council for Arab-British Understanding, said the Goldstone report documented a number of cases in which Israel failed to comply with international law, justifying the use of universal jurisdiction to bring wrongdoers to justice.”



Deputy FM doesn't fear UK arrest threats

Roni Sofer, October 27, 2009. Ynet.com

“Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon has decided to continue his visit to London despite a warning that an arrest warrant may be issued against him, Ynet learned Tuesday evening.

The Israeli Embassy in the British capital received a warning on Monday that a request had been filed to issue an arrest warrant against the Israeli official. The embassy informed the deputy foreign minister, who is in Britain on a visit as part of Israel’s public relations efforts.

Following an evaluation of the situation, the embassy decided the Ayalon would continue his visit as planned.

State officials in Jerusalem were also informed about the warning, including a special team tasked with dealing with such situations, following a similar incident involving Defense Minister Ehud Barak during his visit to London several weeks ago.

Following the warning and additional information received by Israeli officials, it was decided to tighten the security surrounding the deputy minister, but that his visit would go on as planned.

On Tuesday, Ayalon gave a lecture to British students at the London School of Economics, where he was met with protests by pro-Palestinian students chanting, “Free Palestine.”

Ayalon also met with British government officials and protested the phenomenon of issuing arrest warrants against Israeli officials with or without a military background.”

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Staying in London



Ayalon. Visit to continue

Photo: Reuters

Ads by Google

יורד - כשר

Deputy FM doesn't fear UK arrest threat

(Video) Israeli Embassy in London receives warning on request to issue arrest warrant against Ayalon, decides his visit will continue as planned with tightened security measures

Roni Sofer
Published: 10.27.09, 20:48 / Israel News

VIDEO - Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon has decided to continue his visit to London despite a warning that an arrest warrant may be issued against him, Ynet learned Tuesday evening.

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At last, a new government is born: But does it represent a national consensus or is it bipartisan?

After 135 days of political-wrangling anticipation, Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced the new 30-member 'national consensus government', formed by Decree # 2839 issued on November 9, 2009. The local press approached the event the following morning from different angles. Al Mustaqbal focused on the return of the "Harirism" to the Grand Serail, with its lead headline reading: "Hariri again at the Serail today". For its part, As Safir highlighted the fact that "Hariri's return was accomplished through national consensus" after 135, but also highlighted the new prime minister's upcoming tasks, primarily his visit to Damascus. An Nahar, meanwhile, insinuated that one of the political groups had "compromised" in order to serve the best interest of Lebanon and joined As Safir in pointing the delay in the government's formation in its headline. Al Akhbar described the government as "double-trenched", implying confrontations that were put on hold within the government.

As Safir: tasks and priorities

The newspaper's lead headline focused on the following:

The delay in the government's formation. According to the daily, the government was formed five months and one day after the parliamentary elections, after a 135-day political battle.

Saad Hariri became prime minister as a result of a national consensus, not as result of challenge.

The government's new tasks, including Hariri's trip to Damascus, in addition to security and the economy.

The international reaction to the government's formation.



Real Estate index in Lebanon for October 2009

In October 2009, real estate circulation remained stable with prices slightly increasing, as the case has been for the past few months. Circulation continued to be very limited despite the available liquidity and attractive bank packages for real estate projects. Realtors maintain a high price range because current indices point to an increase of prices, buyers are hoping for a drop in prices while a majority of investors are avoiding construction projects fearing a decline in prices. Only a small group of investors that have the capacity to sell apartments on the spot are entering real estate ventures. Workers in the real estate sector are still optimistic that the market is expected to witness some growth over the coming months with the beginning of spring. The formation of the new government could give the market the needed boost. Tables 1&2 show the prices of land and constructed properties that were sold in October 2009.

Land sold in October 2009				Table 1
Location	Area (m2)	Price (USD)	USD/m2	
Beirut				
Achrafieh -Saideh	250	875,000	3,500	
Achrafieh-Spinneys	780	4,446,000	5,700	
Achrafieh-Sioufi	590	1,536,500	2,650	
Bourj Abi Haidar	420	1,995,000	4,750	
Zouqaq Al Blat	390	1,053,000	2,700	
Ba'abda				
Yarzeh	980	3,136,000	3,200	
Louaizeh	760	950,000	1,250	
Hazmieh-Mar Taqla	610	2,318,000	3,800	
Hadath	1,300	611,000	470	
Metn				
Dbayeh	710	260,000	366	
Raboueh	1,100	418,000	380	
Rabieh	1,200	2,064,000	1,720	
A'ain Sa'adeh	1,700	731,000	430	
Broummana	880	360,800	410	
A'aley				
Bhamdoun	1,650	264,000	160	
Bchamoun	2,500	500,000	200	
Bchamoun	1,200	300,000	250	
Mansouriyeh	4,000	520,000	130	
A'aley	900	360,000	400	
Kesserouan				
Kfarthebian	1,630	57,000	35	
Sahil A'alma	1,100	583,000	530	
A'ajaltoun	2,100	546,000	260	
Ballouneh	930	307,000	330	
Kfar Yassin	1,500	1,575,000	1,050	
Kfar Hbab	1,600	1,144,000	715	

Source: Information International-October 2009

Prices of constructed property sold in October 2009				Table 2
Location	Area (m2)	Price (USD)	USD/m2	
Beirut				
Achrafieh-Sassine	134	288,000	2,150	
Achrafieh-Rmeil	125	150,000	1,200	
Achrafieh-Sorsoq	250	842,500	3,370	
Ras El-Naba'a	350	437,500	1,250	
Ras El-Naba'a	167	294,000	1,760	
A'ain El-Tineh	385	1,520,750	3,950	
El-A'amlieh	110	181,500	1,650	
Karakol El-Druze	150	200,000	1,333	
El-Sanaya'a	210	565,000	2,690	
Raouche	120	372,000	3,100	
Saqiyet El-Janzeer	175	472,500	2,700	
Qoreitem	230	690,000	3,000	
Ba'abda				
Hazmiyeh-Gariniya	350	717,500	2,050	
Hazmiyeh-Mar Taqla	280	389,000	1,390	
Yarzeh	425	1,041,250	2,450	
Ba'abda	270	559,000	2,070	
Harit Hreik	320	294,400	920	
Tahwitet El-Ghadir	130	109,200	840	
Metn				
Rabieh	220	253,000	1,150	
Jal El-Dib	160	160,000	1,000	
Sin El-Fil-Hersh Tebit	190	494,000	2,600	
Mansouriyeh	160	169,600	1,060	
Antelia	120	120,000	1,000	
Beit Meri	270	310,500	1,150	
A'aley				
Daouhit A'aramoun	230	150,000	650	
Bchamoun-El-Maderiss	140	120,400	860	
A'aramoun	160	120,000	750	
Daouhet El-Hoss	400	600,000	1,500	
Khaldeh	210	170,000	810	
Kesrouane				
Adonis	167	162,000	970	
Sahel A'alma	130	130,000	1,000	
Zouq Mosbih	200	150,000	750	
Adma	240	348,000	1,450	
Jounieh	210	262,500	1,250	

Source: Information International-October 2009

Toward a Lebanese Consumer Price Index

Food Price Index October 2009

Prices in October remained stable in general with a slight drop. Among the 100 products, the prices of 44 were stable while those of 26 dropped. Meanwhile, the prices of 30 products increased. According to the table below, the prices of all products, except for those of ketchup, burgul, wheat, corn and sugar, increased significantly while those of cheese and some oil brands dropped substantially. The prices of meats dropped reasonably. Table 1 shows the prices of 100 products during October 2009 (Prices in LBP)

the prices of 100 products during October 2009 (Prices in LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of October 2009	Prices beginning of November 2009	% of price change
Oil				
Afia corn oil (3.5 liters)		13,450	10,450	-22.3%
Mazola corn oil (3.5 liters)		13,100	12,500	-4.5%
Mazola corn oil (2 liters)		6,950	6,950	0%
Slim corn oil (2 liters)		6,800	7,000	+2.9%
Wesson corn oil (2 liters)		8,500	7,950	6.4%-
Ghandour soya oil (3.8 liters)		9,600	10,500	+9.3%
Alfa corn oil (4 liters)		12,750	12,750	0%
Al-Wadi olive oil (1/2 liter)		9,200	9,200	0%
Ketchup and Sauces				
Libby's Ketchup (567 g)		1,700	2,100	+23.5%
Extra Ketchup (340 g)		1,500	1,500	0%
Extra Ketchup (2.2 kg)		5,550	5,550	0%
Dolly's Mayonnaise (500 ml)		3,650	3,650	0%
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise (500 ml)		4,250	4,250	0%
Al-Bsat Tahina (900 g)		6,500	6,500	0%
Al-Bsat Tahina (450 g)		3,800	3,800	0%
Taous tomato sauce (70 g)		600	500	-16.6%
Taous tomato sauce (425 g)		2,850	2,625	-7.9%
Tala tomato sauce (675 g)		2,500	2,500	0%
Tissues and Detergents				
Mimosa tissues (500 g)		2,450	2,700	+10.2%
Fine tissues (200 tissues)		1,200	1,200	0%
Primo tissues (200 tissues)		1,200	1,200	0%
Gipsy tissues (300 tissues)		2,400	2,400	0%
Mimosa toilet papers (4 rolls)		2,200	2,200	0%
Yes detergent (900 g)		1,950	2,250	+15.3%
Clorox (1 liter)		1,400	1,650	+17.8%
Persil (4 kg)		18,150	18,150	0%
Ariel (4 kg)		17,860	17,860	0%

the prices of 100 products during October 2009 (Prices in LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of October 2009	Prices beginning of November 2009	% of price change
Dairy Products				
Candia full cream milk (1 liter)		2,450	2,450	0%
Candia full cream yoghurt (2 kg)		5,000	5,000	0%
Bonjus labneh (1 kg)		3,750	3,750	0%
Taanayel labneh (500 g)		4,950	4,950	0%
Candia labneh (500 g)		5,000	4,900	-2%
Taanayel yoghurt (1 kg)		3,000	3,000	0%
Smeds cheese (400 g)		3,450	3,750	+8.7%
Picon cheese (360 g)		3,400	3,400	0%
Picon cheese (160 g)		1,700	1,700	0%
Double-crème cheese (1 kg)		6,000	4,850	-19.1%
Fresh country cheese (1 kg)		7,600	6,100	-19.7%
Khashkawan cheese (1 kg)		12,450	11,000	-11.6%
Lurpak butter (200 g)		2,000	2,250	+12.5%
Tatra butter (200 g)		1,625	2,000	+23%
Al-Maalaqtain margarine (2 kg)		9,600	7,940	-17.3%
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2kg)		20,000	22,500	+12.5%
Vegetaline margarine (2 kg)		12,750	13,500	+5.8%
Nido full cream milk (bag) (2,250 g)		19,000	19,250	+1.3%
Nido full cream milk (2,500 g)		20,750	22,500	+8.4%
Tatra full cream milk (1,800 g)		15,250	14,800	-2.9%
Fruits and Vegetables				
Orange (1 kg)		1,000	1,250	+25%
Tomatoes (1kg)		800	850	+6.2%
Cucumbers (1kg)		1,000	1,250	+2.5%
Bananas (1kg)		1,300	1,200	-7.7%
Lemons (1 kg)		850	650	-23.5%
Apples (1 kg)		1,750	1,750	0%
Potatoes (1 kg)		750	850	+13.3%

the prices of 100 products during October 2009 (Prices in LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of October 2009	Prices beginning of November 2009	% of price change
Cereals				
Khater white lentils	(1 kg)	2,700	2,700	0%
Khater chick-peas fahli	(1 kg)	3,150	3,000	-4.7%
Khater beans	(1 kg)	1,830	1,650	-9.8%
Peeled wheat	(1 kg)	1,500	1,900	+26.6%
Pineal Lima Bean	(1 kg)	3,300	3,300	0%
Brown Fine Burgul	(1 kg)	1,100	2,000	+81.8%
Egyptian rice	(1 kg)	1,680	1,680	0%
American rice	(1 kg)	2,200	2,000	-9%
Italian rice	(1 kg)	2,200	1,990	-9.5%
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,000	1,000	0%
Chtaura Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	950	950	0%
California Gardens beans	(450 g)	1,000	1,000	0%
Al-Wadi beans	(450 g)	900	900	0%
Chtaura beans	(480 g)	1,000	1,000	0%
Libby's corn	(340 g)	1,250	1,450	+16%
Pasta				
Barilla spaghetti	(500 g)	2,000	2,000	0%
Antonio Amato spaghetti	(500 g)	2,450	2,450	0%
Monte spaghetti	(500 g)	2,150	2,150	0%
Sugar and Salt				
Sugar	(2 kg)	1,650	2,750	+22.2%
Al-Ousra Sugar	(5 kg)	5,500	6,750	+22.7%
Salt	(700 g)	560	500	-10.7%
Box of salt	(738 g)	1,690	1,090	-35.5%

the prices of 100 products during October 2009 (Prices in LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of October 2009	Prices beginning of November 2009	% of price change
Meat, Fish and Eggs				
Luncheon meat beef	(198 g)	1,750	1,750	0%
Zwan chicken	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0%
Zwan beef	(200 g)	2,200	2,200	0%
Al-Mona chicken	(200 g)	1,850	1,850	0%
Al-Taghzia beef	(200 g)	1,800	1,750	-2.7%
Al-Taghzia chicken	(200 g)	1,900	1,750	-7.9%
Geisha sardine	(125 g)	1,050	1,000	-4.7%
Deli sardine	(125 g)	1,025	1,100	+7.3%
Milo sardine	(125 g)	1,100	990	-10%
Geisha tuna	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0%
White Bell tuna	(200 g)	2,100	2,140	+1.9%
White Diamond tuna	(200 g)	1,650	2,250	+36.3%
Skipper tuna	(185 g)	1,775	1,750	-1.1%
Eggs	(30 eggs)	5,600	5,800	+3.5%
Beef	(1 kg)	19,000	17,000	-7.9%
Sheep	(1 kg)	24,000	22,000	-8.3%
Coffee and Tea				
Najjar coffee	(1kg)	11,800	11,800	0%
Brazil coffee	(1 kg)	9,750	9,750	0%
Al-Hisan tea	(180 g)	2,450	2,450	0%
Nastle	(250g)	1,700	2,350	+38.2%
Halvah and Jam				
Al-Wadi halvah	(454 g)	4,100	4,250	+3.6%
Al-Bsat halvah	(450 g)	4,250	4,250	0%
Chtaura apricot jam	(1 kg)	5,800	6,450	+11.2%
Al-Wadi apricot jam	(1 kg)	5,120	5,250	+2.5%

Source: Compiled by Information International



Corporate Wealth and Economic Inequality

- 2.8 billion people live on less than \$2 per day, which is a rise of almost 50% since 1980. This is precisely the period that has been most heavily liberalized.
- 51 of the 100 largest economies in the world are corporations, and the remaining 49 are countries.
- 500 of the top multinational corporations account for nearly 70 % of the worldwide trade.
- 100 of the top transnational corporations increased assets 697% between 1980 and 1995. At the same time employment in these corporations went down.
- Corporations account for the majority of international trade, but WTO agreements apply only to government policies and actions rather than companies.
- The world's poorest countries share of world trade has declined by more than 40% since 1980 to a mere 0.4 %. These 49 countries make up 10% of the world's population.
- The U.N. estimates that poor countries lose about US \$2 billion per day because of unjust trade rules.
- In almost all countries that have undertaken rapid trade liberalization, wage inequality has increased 20-30%.
- 6 corporations now control most of the U.S. media (versus 50 in 1983).
- In 2006, Corporate America's CEOs were paid more than 364 times what the average worker was paid.
- The poorest 40% of the world population - the 2.5 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day - account for 5% of the global income, while the richest 10% account for 54%.
- The three richest people in the world control more wealth than all 600 million people living in the world's poorest countries.
- The richest 50 million people in Europe and North America have the same income as 2.7 billion poor people.
- The richest fifth have 80% of the world's income and the poorest fifth have 1%. This gap has doubled between 1960 and 2000.

Source: http://www.gatt.org/trastat_e.html

Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport

Steady decline in October 2009

Passenger traffic declined by 16.5% in October 2009 compared to last September with Rafic Hariri International Airport registering 388,771 passengers (arrivals-departures-transits) compared to 466,018. This is an anticipated seasonal drop in this time of the year. However, passenger traffic in October 2008 shows a 10.5 % growth.

The number of passengers since the start of 2009 until October reached 4,176,903 compared to 3,367,593 during the same period of 2008, marking a 24% rise by 809,310 passengers.

Table 1 shows airport traffic in October 2009 compared to September 2009 and October 2008.

Airport traffic in October 2009 compared to September 2009 and October 2008						Table 1
Traffic	September 2009	October 2009	October 2008	% of change in September/October 2009	% of change October 2008/2009	
Arriving airplanes	2,560	2,468	2,042	3.6%-	20.8%+	
Departing airplanes	2,548	2,475	2,037	2.8%-	21.5%+	
Total # of airplanes	5,108	4,943	4,079	3.2%-	21.2%+	
Arriving crews	20,386	19,625	16,234	3.7%-	20.8%+	
Departing crews	20,285	19,632	16,234	3.2%-	21%+	
Total # of crews	40,671	39,257	32,468	3.4%-	21%+	
Arriving passengers	217,577	176,787	156,469	18.7%-	13%+	
Departing passengers	245,902	209,097	191,987	15%-	8.9%+	
Transit passengers	2,539	3,287	3,297	29.4%+	0.3%-	
Total # of passengers	466,018	388,771	351,753	16.5%-	10.5%+	
Imported goods (per ton)	3,180	3,530	3,144	11%+	12.2%+	
Exported goods (per ton)	2,624	2,810	2,683	7.1%+	4.7%+	
Total amount of goods (per ton)	5,804	6,340	5,827	9.2%+	8.8%+	

Source: Directorate General of Civil Aviation-September and October 2009 and Information International

Stats & Numbers

- ⊙ **USD 92 billion** worth of weapons were sold internationally between 2000 and 2006 according to French studies, compared to an annual rate of USD 31 billion, estimated by the US Congress.
- ⊙ **571 motorcycles** were seized in September 2009 alone for traffic violations or for not carrying legal documentations. 70% of these motorcycles were seized in Beirut by city police.
- ⊙ **LBP 1099 billion** were transferred from the telecom budget to the general budget in 2003 according to a breakdown of expenses for the public budget and annexed budgets (the most recent breakdown). LBP 711.1 billion of the 1099 billion are mobile sector revenues, 65 % of the total telecom revenues transferred to the public budget, forming 11.5 % of state collected revenues for that year.
- ⊙ **LBP 172.5 billion** were spent by Ogero for 2009, including LBP 99 billion on salaries, wages and compensation funds and LBP 73.5 billion on works and equipment.
- ⊙ **LBP 57 billion** is the value of National Lottery transfers to the state budget in 2009, the same value as 2008.
- ⊙ **LBP 2.3 billion** is the annual cost of maintenance, cleaning and generator fuel at the central headquarters of the Ministry of Education and Higher Learning in Beirut for 2009, equivalent to LBP 194 million per month.



Photo by Waddah Joma'a - 2009

Other publications by Information International and INMA (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
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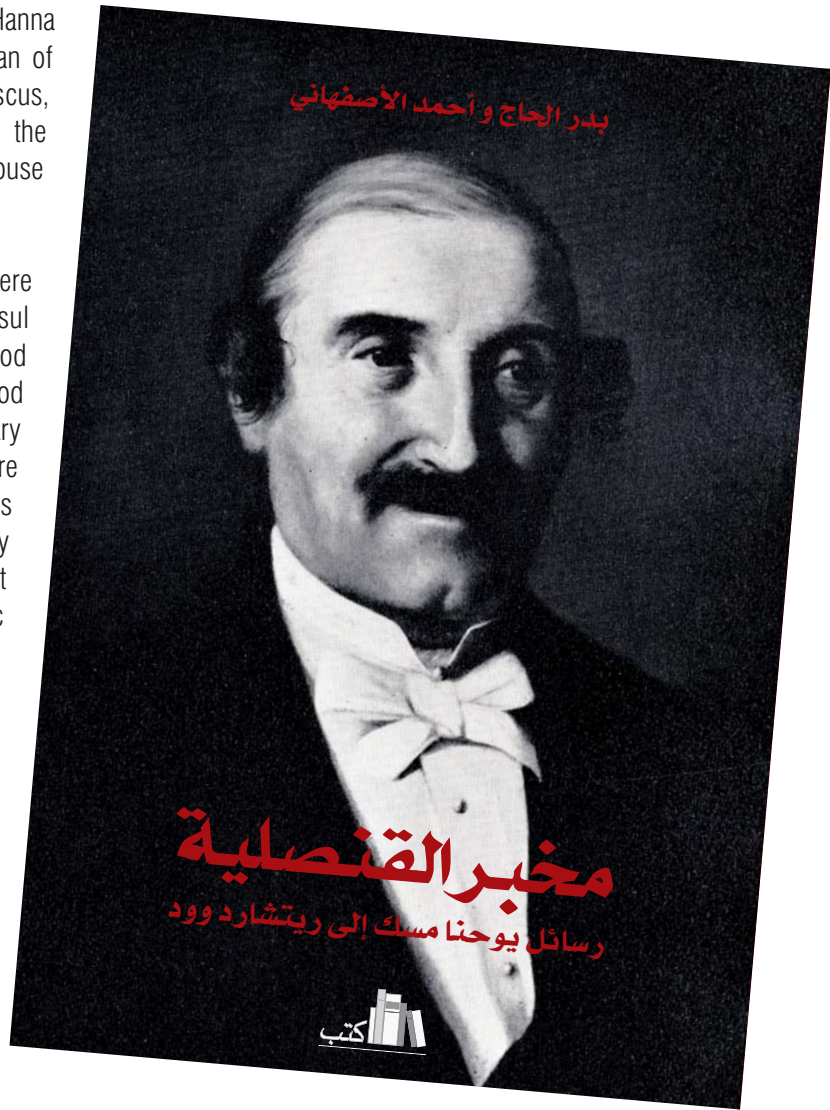
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The Secret Reports and Letters of Hanna Misk to the British Consul in Damascus

Letters and reports written by Hanna Misk (1808-1888), the dragoman of the British Consulate in Damascus, are going to be published for the first time by Kutub Publishing House (Beirut).

These secret letters and reports were addressed to the British Consul in Damascus Sir Richard Wood (1806-1900). They cover a period of time spanning from January 1862 until August 1877, and are a part of a collection of hundreds of letters and reports (mostly in English) dating to different periods of Wood's diplomatic career in Istanbul, Syria and Tunisia as representative of the British government.

Misk continued writing to Wood long after the latter left his position in Damascus. 📖



Soon in major bookstores

