

- Growing number of registered voters 2009-2010
- Municipal and ikhtiariah elections in the South and Nabatiyeh muhafazats
- The Monthly interviews Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon Omar al-Barzanji



## MILITARY REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

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## Correction

The following statements published in The Monthly, issue number 93, Editorial, page number 3: "From "one people in two nations" to at least two people, two nations and two embassies, in an abandonment of reason." and "But didn't the Phoenicians establish Carthage in Northern Egypt as well?" should be "From "one people in two states" to at least two people, two nations and two embassies, in an abandonment of reason." and "But didn't the Phoenicians establish Carthage in North Africa as well?"



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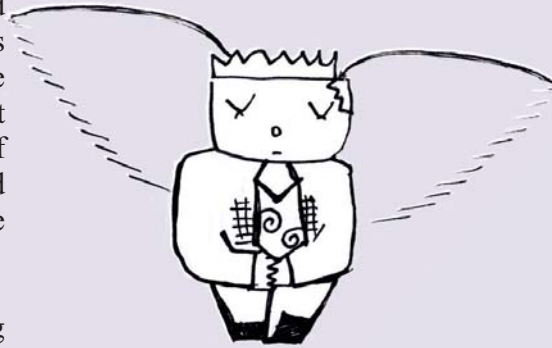
## FROM “A STATE OF ABANDONMENT” TO “A STATE OF ENLIGHTENMENT”



Ever since Walid Jumblat spoke of his “moment of abandonment” and the Arab sultans (kings and presidents) and zua’ama of Lebanese tribes are engaged in a fiesta to justify to themselves their moments of abandonment.

But some of them decided to move from “a state of abandonment – Halat al- Takhali “ to “a state of enlightenment – Halat al-Tajali” so here it is:

⦿ Bashar Assad is planning to establish a state of institutions where independent judiciary can deliberate freely and citizens can elect independents and opposition figures according to a plan that moves Syria within 20 years to the 21st century not governed by a family or a single party and where public money is not squandered. Then the people would freely support their leadership and the resistance facing Israel with dignity for the sake of Palestine and Syria. Then he (Bashar) signals to “the allies” in Lebanon, and more specifically the secular parties, that their relation with the intelligence services is forbidden.



⦿ And there he is Hosni Mubarak deciding that he has ruled Egypt long enough and that the water of the Nile is still polluted, the Cairo air is still suffocating and that half of Cairo’s residents envy the two million grave dwellers in it.

⦿ And there he is Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz deciding to lead the Friday prayers in Al Aqsa Mosque and demanding the immediate lift of the siege on Gaza.

And there he is ...

And there they are, the zua’ama of the Lebanese tribes deciding that their ancestors were killed, their fathers were killed and their sons were killed, and they shall no more squabble and fight.

And there they are the Arab sultans (kings and presidents) suddenly enlightened.

Then Muammar Gadhafi awakens you from the dream laughing to tell you “I am the king of Africa’s kings” and longest serving ruler worldwide.

Wake up, gather yourself, rub your eyes and never dare to dream again. Stay in your “state of abandonment” as long as you wish but never be enlightened. Now leave, you are unwanted.



Jawad N. Adra

# MILITARY REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

## LBP 3,230 billion annually for the military and security forces

Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ziad Baroud told a Lebanese newspaper on April 1, 2010 that he was happy the Council of Ministers approved his proposal to confirm all 10,600 of those under contract with the Internal Security Forces (ISF). The Council also approved to recruit 4,000 more personnel, increasing the ISF to 14,600 agents.

This surge in the number of ISF members in addition to the army and General security raises the question of whether or not there is an actual need for these high numbers and their substantial cost that the Lebanese public has to shoulder. Other questions include whether or not this cost is worth the relative stability that Lebanon is enjoying and whether the reason for this stability is in fact these military forces, or other political and regional powers, especially that security in Lebanon is heavily invested in politics, since security forces did not prevent the deterioration of the situation during previous political disagreements.

### Number of security forces

According to governmental decrees there are 90,043 fixed positions in the security forces (although we do not know for sure the percentage of occupied positions) that are distributed as follows in graph 1.

### Cost

#### 1 . Lebanese Army

LBP 1,357.7 billion mainly spent on:

- Salaries, wages and foreign training: LBP 820 billion.
- Family and other compensation funds: LBP 45 billion.
- Grants: LBP 219.3 billion, including LBP 94.5 in healthcare expenses, LBP 94.2 billion in education expenses and LBP 18.4 billion in medical treatment and maternity expenses.
- Fuel and oil: LBP 67.5 billion.
- Food: LBP 55 billion.
- Medication and laboratory materials: LBP 30 billion.
- Electricity: LBP 10 billion.
- Telecommunications: LBP 10 billion.
- Secret expenses: LBP 7.2 billion.
- Technical equipment: LBP 32 billion.
- Construction of specialized buildings: LBP 20 billion.
- Road construction: LBP 2 billion.
- Car rentals: LBP 3.5 billion.

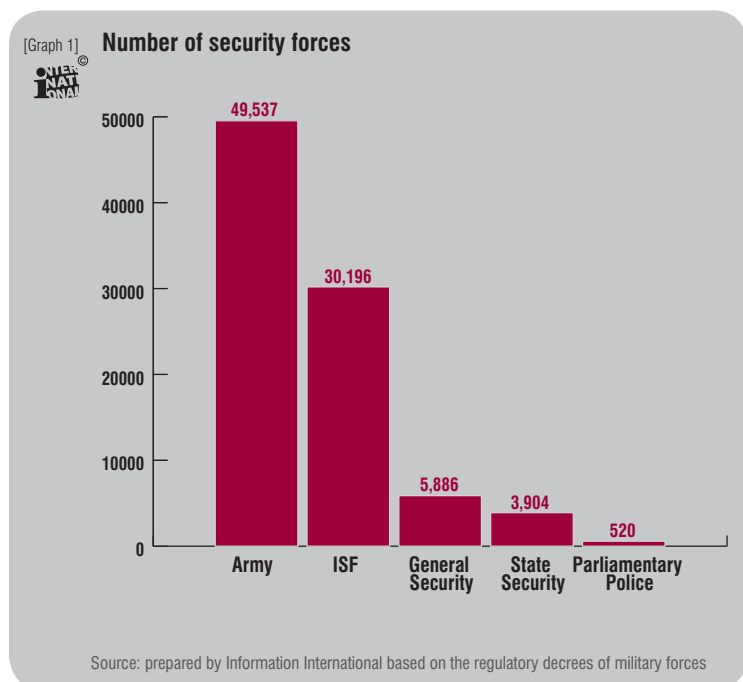
**2 . Central administration and military chamber: LBP 431.5 million.**

**3 . Military tribunals: LBP 176.5 million.**

**4 . Directorate general of the administration: LBP 11.7 billion.**

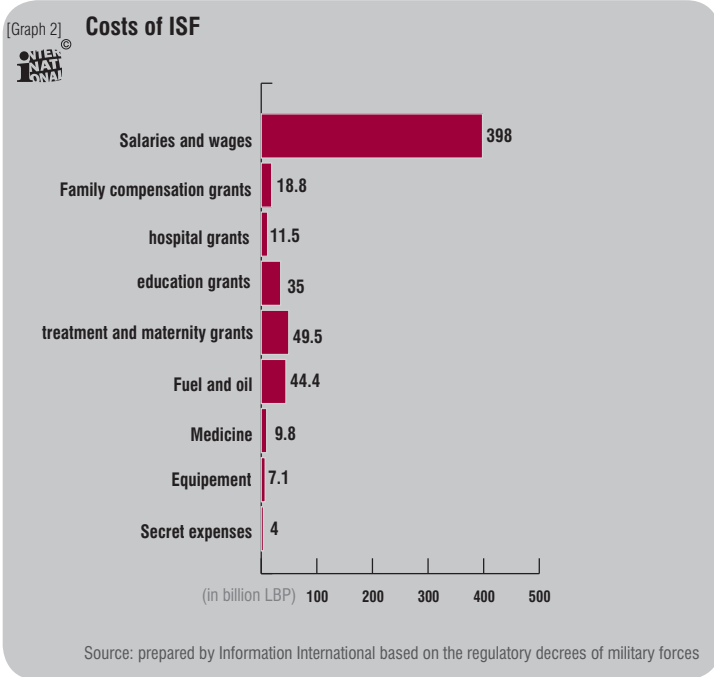
**5 . General inspection: LBP 172 million.**

Retirement and end of service compensation funds for the army and aforementioned administrations reached LBP 659 billion, whereas the total cost for the army and other military forces affiliated with the Ministry of National Defense reached LBP 2,030 billion.



**6 . Internal Security Forces**

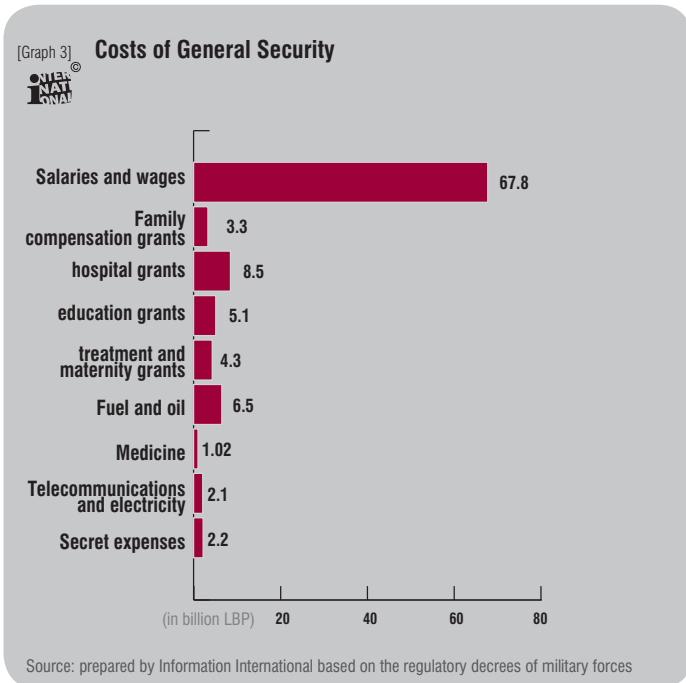
LBP 641 billion that are mainly distributed as follows as shown in graph 2.



Retirement and end of service compensation funds for the ISF reached LBP 234 billion, resulting in an overall total of LBP 875 billion.

**7 . General security**

LBP 113.7 billion mainly distributed as shown in graph 3.

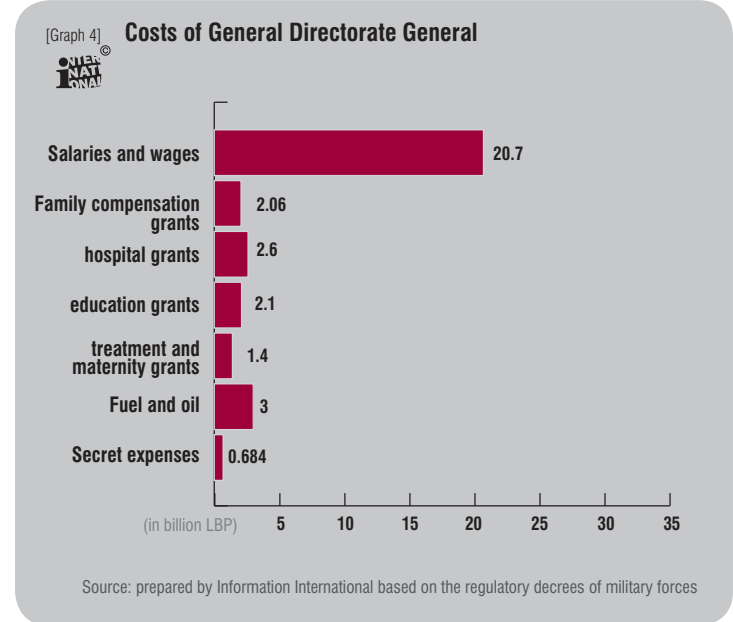


Retirement and end of service compensation funds reached LBP 103.1 billion, bringing the overall total to LBP 216.8 billion.

**8 . Airport security service: LBP 285 million.**

**9 . State security directorate general**

The directorate is under the authority of the Council of Ministers with expenses reaching LBP 37.4 billion mainly distributed as shown in graph 4.



Retirement and end of service compensation funds reached LBP 33.7 billion, bringing the overall total cost to LBP 71.1 billion.

**10 . Parliament police**

We do not have precise and detailed figures on the number of Parliament police agents, but their cost is estimated at LBP 12 billion a year, in addition to retirement and end of service compensation funds estimated at LBP 11.5 billion, bringing the total to LBP 23.5 billion.

We can conclude that the total annual expenditure of military and security forces and retirement and end of service compensations reach LBP 3,230 billion (equivalent to USD 2.2 billion), which is a hugely disproportionate amount to establish security simply because security can be established at a lower cost. Military expenditures have turned into another door for state spending for political and tribal considerations. Another argument however hypothesizes that overstaffing in the public sector, including the military and security forces, is a form of redistribution that benefits the public. This view is supported by the fact that a lowering of the interest by one point from 8% to 7% will yield a saving of approximately USD 500 million, or the equivalent of 40,000 jobs in the public sector. Analysts who support this theory argue that the focus should be on lowering interest rates and the annual deficit. However, it is worth noting that in the absence of a strategy based on a new tax system and on the enhancement of productive sectors, overstaffing in the public sector will lead to continual borrowing.

## Growing number of registered voters 2009-2010

# 2.7% FOR MUSLIMS AND 1% FOR CHRISTIANS

The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities announced in February that the number of registered voters who reached 3,326,046 (the figure is not final and is under revision in order to add names that were mistakenly left out or deleted and to remove repeated names or names of the deceased. The numbers should be finalized by the end of March).

In 2009, the final number of voters reached 3,258,573, marking a one year increase of 67,473 voters, or by 2.07%. The percentage of increase differed from one electoral district (qaza'a) to another, according to confession. In districts with a Muslim majority the percentage of growth varied between 1.7% and 3.7%, compared to 0.6% and 1.2% in Christian districts. Table 1 shows the electoral districts, their confessional structure and the percentage of increase in the number of voters.

The table shows that the district with the highest percentage of growth in the number of voters was Baalbeck-Hermel (3.74%), followed by Sour (3.72%). These two districts have an overwhelming Shia'a majority. Akkar, with a Sunni majority, registered a 3.26% increase, which would have reached 4% had the Sunni confession formed an overwhelming majority in this district. Meanwhile, districts with an overwhelming

Christian majority registered only 1.24% increase as is the case in Jbeil; 1.22% in Koura; 1.15% in Bcharri; 0.89% in Keserouane; 0.86% in Zgharta; 0.77% in each of Batroun and Metn and 0.58% in Beirut One.

The average growth rate in the number of Muslim voters is around 2.7% compared to 1% for Christians. The difference in the number of voters between Christians and Muslims is expected to grow each year, which explains some positions by Christian leaders and the Maronite church regarding the abolition of political sectarianism, changing the voting age from 21 to 18 years old, demands for the expatriates right to vote or the returning the Lebanese nationality to those who are of Lebanese origin.

The confessional structure of electoral districts and the percentage of growth in the numbers of voters from 2009-2010					Table 1
District (Qada'a)	Approximate confessional structure	Number of voters 2009	Number of voters 2010	Size of increase	Percentage of increase(%)
Beirut One	Overwhelming Christian majority: 26% Greek Orthodox-17% Maronite-16% Armenian Orthodox-12% Catholic-7% Sunni-5% Armenian Catholic-3% Shia'a-14% other Christians	92,764	93,309	545	0.58
Beirut Two	Mixed Christian and Muslim: 30% Sunni-26% Shia'a-26% Armenian Orthodox-18% other Christians	101,787	103,592	1,805	1.77
Beirut Three	Overwhelming Muslim majority: 65% Sunni-14% Shia'a-6% Greek Orthodox-15% Druze and other Christians	252,313	257,050	4,737	1.87
Total Beirut	Muslim majority: 45% Sunni-14% Shia'a-10% Greek Orthodox-6% Maronite-5% Catholic-11% Armenian Orthodox-9% Druze and other Christians	446,864	453,951	7,087	1.58
Ba'abda	Mixed Christian and Muslim: 40% Maronite-25% Shia'a-17% Druze-6% Sunni-4% Catholic-8% Greek Orthodox	151,590	153,863	2,273	1.5
A'aley	Mixed Christian and Muslim: 53% Druze-25% Maronite-14% Greek Orthodox-5% Shia'a and Sunni and 3% other Christians	116,182	118,119	1,937	1.66
Chouf	Muslim majority: 31% Druze-30% Maronite-30% Sunni-7% Catholic and 2% Shia'a	181,949	184,698	2,749	1.51

**The confessional structure of electoral districts and the percentage of growth in the numbers of voters from 2009-2010** **Table 1**

District (Qada'a)	Approximate confessional structure	Number of voters 2009	Number of voters 2010	Size of increase	Percentage of increase
Keserouane	Maronite	89,227	90,022	795	0.89
Metn	Overwhelming Christian majority: 45% Maronite-15% Greek Orthodox 15% Armenian Orthodox-10% Catholic -5% Armenian Catholic-5% other Muslims-5% other Christians	170,705	172,026	1,321	0.77
Jbeil	Overwhelming majority Christian: 75% Maronite-18% Shia'a-2% Sunni- 5% other Christians	75,585	76,522	937	1.24
Mount Lebanon total	Christian majority: 46% Maronite-19% Druze-9% Sunni-8% Shia'a-6% Catholic-6% Greek Orthodox-4% Armenian Orthodox-2% other Christians	785,238	795,250	10,012	1.27
Trablous city	Overwhelming Sunni majority: 80% Sunni-8% A'alawi-7% Greek Orthodox-5% other Christians	196,149	199,692	3,543	1.8
Koura	Overwhelming Christian majority: 66% Greek Orthodox- 20% Maronite-12% Sunni- 2% Shia'a	57,795	58,502	707	1.22
Batroun	Overwhelming Christian majority: 75% Maronite-16% Greek Orthodox-5% Sunni-2% Shia'a-2% other Christians	58,403	58,852	449	0.77
Zgharta	Overwhelming Maronite majority: 87% Maronite-11% Sunni- 2% Greek Orthodox	71,337	71,954	617	0.86
Akkar	Sunni majority: 65% Sunni-13% Maronite-17% Greek Orthodox-5% A'alawi	223,538	230,825	7,287	3.26
Bcharreh	Maronite	46,409	46,942	533	1.15
Miniyeh-Diniyyeh	Overwhelming majority Sunni: 85% Sunni-6% Maronite-9% Greek Orthodox	97,352	100,053	2,701	2.77
North total	Mixed Christian and Muslim: 54% Sunni-27% Maronite-15% Greek Orthodox-3% A'alawi-1% other Christians	750,983	766,820	15,837	2.1
Nabatiyeh	Shia'a	121,885	125,097	3,212	2.63
Bint Jbeil	Overwhelming Shia'a majority: 90% Shia'a-10% Maronite and Catholic	123,356	126,387	3,031	2.46
Marjeyoun-Hasbaya	Overwhelming Muslim majority: 57% Shia'a-16% Sunni-10% Druze-8% Greek Orthodox-9% Maronite and other Christians	138,890	142,259	3,369	2.42
Nabatiyeh total	Shia'a majority: 80% Shia'a-6% Sunni-6% Maronite-3.6% Druze-4.4% Greek Orthodox and Catholic	384,131	393,743	9,312	2.5
Saida city	Overwhelming Sunni majority: 85% Sunni-10% Shia'a-5% various Christians	53,859	55,158	1,299	2.41
Saida villages	Overwhelming Shia'a majority: 73% Shia'a-14% Catholic-11% Maronite-2% Sunni	93,045	95,588	2,543	2.73
Sour	Overwhelming Shia'a majority: 85% Shia'a-8% Sunni-2% Maronite-5% Catholic	154,099	159,840	5,741	3.72
Jezzine	Overwhelming Christian majority: 63% Maronite-15% Catholic-20% Shia'a-2% Sunni	54,188	54,936	748	1.38
South total	Overwhelming Muslim majority: 60% Shia'a-17% Sunni-13.5% Maronite-9.5% Catholic	355,191	365,522	10,331	2.9
Zahle	Christian majority: 27% Sunni-13% Shia'a-20% Catholic-10% Maronite-10% Greek Orthodox-20% Armenian Orthodox and other Christians	158,005	160,159	2,154	1.36
Baalbeck-Hermel	Overwhelming Muslim majority: 72% Shia'a-14% Sunni-7% Maronite-6% Catholic-1% various Christians	255,667	265,225	9,558	3.74
Rachaya-Western Beqa'a	Overwhelming Muslim majority: 45% Sunni-14% Shia'a-13% Druze-7% Maronite-6% Greek orthodox-8% Catholic-7% various Christians	122,494	125,376	2,882	2.35
Beqa'a total	Overwhelming Muslim majority: 42% Shia'a-25% Sunni-11% Maronite-11% Catholic-5% Greek Orthodox-4% Druze-2% Armenian and other Christians	536,166	550,760	14,594	2.72
<b>Lebanon total</b>	<b>Muslim majority (60.3%)-Christian minority (39.7%): 27.2% Sunni-26.7% Shia'a-21.8% Maronite-7.5% Greek Orthodox-5.6% Druze-5% Catholic-2.7% Armenian Orthodox-0.8% A'alawi-0.6% Armenian Catholic-2.1% various Christians</b>	<b>3,258,573</b>	<b>3,326,046</b>	<b>67,473</b>	<b>2.07</b>

Source: preparation by Information International based on the number of voters



## Naturalization Decree 78.5% Muslim and 21.5% Christian

# LEBANESE CITIZENSHIP: GIVEN ARBITRARILY

**H**ow do you acquire the Lebanese citizenship? A question that does not have a clear and direct answer because the law which sets the conditions for citizenship is not implemented. The citizenship is awarded by decrees that do not normally meet the requirements, resulting in thousands of applicants who deserve to be naturalized being rejected. On the other hand, hundreds of thousands of people who have been naturalized do not deserve the citizenship, with the majority of those receiving it under Decree 5247 of June 20, 1994.

### Who are the Lebanese?

Resolution 15 of January 19, 1925 (amended by a law issued on December 11, 1960) issued by the French high commissioner for Syria, Great Lebanon, A'alawees and Jabal el-Druze (as included in the introduction of the resolution) defines the Lebanese as:

#### Article 1

Is considered Lebanese:

- ⦿ Every person born of a Lebanese father.
- ⦿ Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory who did not acquire a foreign nationality, upon birth, by affiliation.
- ⦿ Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory of unknown parents or parents of unknown nationality.

#### Article 2

An illegitimate child whose nationality has not been established during his minority shall have the Lebanese nationality if one of his parents in respect of whom affiliation is first established and if the proof of affiliation regarding both the father and the mother results from a single contract or judgment, the child shall acquire the nationality of the father should the latter be Lebanese.

#### Article 3

People are allowed to acquire the Lebanese affiliation by a decision from the head of state after examination and based on a submitted application:

- ⦿ A foreigner who has resided in Lebanon for five consecutive years
- ⦿ A foreigner who marries a Lebanese woman and proves that he has lived for a year in Lebanon, uninterrupted, since his marriage
- ⦿ A foreigner who provides Lebanon with significant services. Acceptance should be based on a detailed decision.

#### Article 4

The spouse of a foreigner, who has become a Lebanese citizen, as well as the children of full age of that a foreigner, may, if they so request, obtain the Lebanese nationality,

without satisfying the residence condition, whether by virtue of the regulation giving this nationality to the husband, the father or the mother or in a special regulation. Likewise, minor children of a father acquiring the Lebanese nationality, or a mother acquiring said nationality and who has remained alive after the death of the father, shall become Lebanese unless they reject this nationality within the year after their majority.

#### Article 5

The foreign woman married to a Lebanese shall, upon her request, become Lebanese after one year from the date of registration of the marriage in the Civil Status Office.

#### Article 6

A Lebanese woman who gets married with a foreigner remains Lebanese until she requests the striking off of her registration in the census records on account of acquiring the nationality of her husband.

#### Article 7

A woman who has lost her Lebanese nationality as a result of her marriage with a foreigner may, upon her request, recover this nationality after the dissolution of her marriage.

Lebanese female citizens who were married prior to the 1932 census and who lost their nationality by marriage and did not have any record in the census registers of that date, may, subsequent to the dissolution of their marriage, obtain a court judgment ordering their registration should it be established that, on 30 August 1924, they were on Lebanese territory. As concerns those who were residing abroad at that date, they may recover their Lebanese nationality under article 2 of Law dated 31 January 1946.

#### Article 8

A woman who lost her Lebanese nationality as a result of her marriage with a foreigner, before the issuing of this law, may, upon her request, recover this nationality.

### Article 5

A woman who is married to a foreigner is allowed to apply for the Lebanese citizenship, on the condition of her spouse's approval and after residing for five consecutive years in Lebanon.

### Article 6

Acquiring the nationality, by virtue of this law, does not affect rights and lawsuits initiated before its implementation.

Another law was issued on January 31, 1946 on how to lose the Lebanese nationality

Shall cease to be Lebanese:

- ⦿ Lebanese subject that acquired a foreign nationality, should this acquisition take place pursuant to an authorization granted by a regulation issued by the Head of the State.
- ⦿ Lebanese who accept in Lebanon a public office from a foreign government or a department affiliated with a foreign government without prior authorization from the Lebanese government; if the government does not reply to the authorization request within two months of submission, it is considered rejected.
- ⦿ Lebanese residing outside Lebanese territories that accepts a public office from a foreign government in a foreign country and maintains the office despite that he has been instructed by the Lebanese government to abandon it within a specified period.
- ⦿ Lebanese currently occupying a public office from a foreign government and maintains such office despite being instructed by the Lebanese government to abandon it within a specified period. (Loss of nationality in clauses 2, 3 and 4 takes place by decree issued by the Council of Ministers).
- ⦿ The government has the right at any time to cancel the previously mentioned authorization by a Council of Ministers decision.
- ⦿ Article 2- Anyone of Lebanese origin living abroad who had not yet chosen their Lebanese nationality can, upon his/her definitive return to Lebanon, reclaim the nationality and a decree will be issued by the Council of Ministers to that effect.
- ⦿ Article 3- Any foreigner who has acquired the Lebanese nationality loses this nationality if he leaves Lebanon for five consecutive years.
- ⦿ Article 4 – A decree sets the means to implement this law that eliminates all contradictory texts that do not agree with its content.

The fact that legal texts are not being implemented deprives many of their right to acquire the citizenship, especially those who have been living abroad for a long while and those who are married to Lebanese women and their offspring. In the meantime, individual or group naturalization decrees did not take into consideration any

conditions or requirements rather the nationality was given to individuals who mostly do not deserve it. Failure to implement the law keeps the nationality with those who violate the condition to acquire it.

### Decree #5247

In a surprising and unexpected move, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri announced, during a parliamentary session for general discussion for the government on June 21, 1994, that he had signed with the president (then Elias Hrawi) and the minister of interior (then BsharaMerhej) a naturalization decree for all those who deserve it (See frame at the end of the article).

The decree, however, did not define the number of those who acquired the nationality and their locations in countries. The files of a lot of those naturalized did not contain any documents proving their right to acquire the Lebanese nationality causing many scandals (one of those naturalized was in prison for murder). Some also paid money to acquire the nationality without returning to Lebanon or ever having visited the country. Figures published by interim Minister of Interior and Municipalities Dr. Ahmad Fatfat in 2006 show that 157,216 people, of various confessions and nationalities, acquired the Lebanese nationality after the implementation of the naturalization decree and after adding foreign spouses and offspring the number climbed to 202,527 (as of March 11, 2006).

### Distribution by confession

**Muslims: 159,011 individuals or 78.5% of those naturalized**

- ⦿ **Sunni:** 119,532 individuals or 59% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Shia'a:** 27,188 individuals or 13.4% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **A'alwi:** 7,954 individuals or 4% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Druze:** 4,337 individuals or 2.1% of those naturalized
- Christians: 43,516 individuals representing 21.5% of those naturalized.**
- ⦿ **Greek Orthodox:** 10,736 individuals or 5.3% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Armenian Orthodox:** 9,977 individuals or 5% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Catholic:** 6,617 individuals or 3.3% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Syriac Orthodox:** 5,568 or 2.8% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Maronite:** 2,725 individuals or 1.4% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Caledonian:** 1,141 individuals or 0.5% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Latin:** 1,135 individuals or 0.5% of those naturalized
  - ⦿ **Other:** 1,778 individuals or 0.9% of those naturalized



## Distribution by registry and confession

The largest number of individuals who acquired the Lebanese nationality, 52,016, were registered in the muhafaza of North Lebanon, forming a little more than a quarter of those naturalized (25.7%), closely followed by the muhafaza of Beirut (51,750) representing 25.5%.

Table 1 shows their distribution by registry and confession.

Mohafaza	North	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	Beqa'a	South	Nabatiyeh	Total
Sunni	40,797	32,188	7,119	27,750	11,018	660	119,532
Shia'a	52	8,705	2,309	1,176	9,781	5,165	27,188
Druze	-	600	2,816	806	-	115	4,337
A'alawi	7,738	80	133	3	-	-	7,954
<b>Total of Muslims</b>	<b>48,587</b>	<b>41,573</b>	<b>12,377</b>	<b>29,735</b>	<b>20,799</b>	<b>5,940</b>	<b>159,011</b>
Greek Orthodox	2,295	2,426	4,995	1,005	15	-	10,736
Armenian Orthodox	102	3,246	6,458	171	-	-	9,977
Catholic	383	1,529	3,194	1,451	56	4	6,617
Syriac Orthodox	41	549	3,457	1,521	-	-	5,568
Maronite	496	345	1,692	175	12	5	2,725
Other Christians	112	2,082	5,416	247	36	-	7,893
<b>Total of Christians</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>10,177</b>	<b>25,212</b>	<b>4,570</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43,516</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,016</b>	<b>51,750</b>	<b>37,589</b>	<b>34,305</b>	<b>20,918</b>	<b>5,949</b>	<b>202,527</b>

Source: Naturalization decree #5247

Nationality	Number
Egyptian	2,313
Jordanian	2,182
Iraqi	1,499
Iranian	756
Turkish	734
French	496
Greek	421
Algerian	337

Source: Naturalization decree #5247

“Muslims: 159,011 individuals or 78.5% of those naturalized.

Christians: 43,516 individuals representing 21.5% of those naturalized.”

## Distribution by nationality

The majority of individuals who acquired the Lebanese nationality, 65,734, were Syrian, representing 42% of those naturalized. The Syrians are followed by requests under review, 32,564, representing 20.7% of those naturalized; 25,168 Palestinians representing 16%; 14,112 applicants whose registries are undisclosed representing 9% and 9,070 from Wadi Khaled representing 5.7%. The five categories formed the highest percentage of naturalized individuals reaching 137,578 forming 93.4%.

Table 2 lists other nationalities.

This deal opened the door before those who had been deprived of their right to acquire the Lebanese nationality to claim compensation and whose number does not exceed 50,000, while more than 150,000 individuals have been naturalized. It is also a deal that benefited some on one hand, and on the other created disorder in the confessional balance, which is already imbalanced. That pushed for calls to naturalize expatriates in order to restore the balance. In this case, the number of Lebanese will reach 15 million, and Lebanon's infrastructure isn't close to being able to accommodate such a number. 🌍

The number of registered Lebanese since the start of 2010 reached 4,816,464 with an average growth rate of 59,627 during 2004-2009, or by 1.33% a year.

# Offices Rent of Central Administration of Statistics and Ministry of Administrative Development

## LBP ONE BILLION

The lease and maintenance of government offices and complexes costs a substantial amount of state expenditures (around LBP 120 billion a year). These expenses could be reduced by constructing government buildings or transferring the headquarters to offices that the government has already leased on a long term, low rent basis that are now unoccupied. The state could also move the offices to areas where the cost of rent is lower than their current locations, especially since some of these governmental administrations are not directly connected, or their connections to the public are limited, and they do not need to be in highly accessible areas.

This article will review the status of offices of the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and the Ministry of Administrative Development Affairs in Downtown Beirut in one of the most expensive areas in the capital where the state pays around LBP 1 billion a year in rent.

### 1. Lease of CAS headquarters: LBP 500 million a year

The CAS plays a pivotal role in the process of development and economic and social advancement in Lebanon, as in other countries, considering the importance of statistics and data that form the foundation for preparing any development plans. However, recent governments have not provided this agency with capable, qualified employees, nor with an appropriate headquarters capable of supporting the administration's tasks.

#### Current headquarters

The CAS administration currently occupies 1,788 square meters on two floors (fourth and fifth) of the Commerce and Finance in Mina' al-Hosn (facing Borj el-Morr) in Beirut.

#### Lease

Before 2002, rent was set at USD 150 per square meter but SODECO (affiliated with Banque Libano-Française), which is in charge of managing the estate, agreed to decrease it to USD 100. As of October 2002, rent and other expenses reached USD 226,182 distributed as follows:

- ⊙ USD 178,800 annual rent
- ⊙ USD 26,820 for services, at USD 15 per square meter
- ⊙ USD 20,562 of value added tax
- ⊙ The tenant has access to 30 free parking spaces on the first and third underground floors

“The CAS administration currently occupies 1,788 square meters [...] As of October 2002, rent and other expenses reached USD 226,182 [...] the rent reached [now] USD 328,482 with a 45.2% increase from the previous contract.”

The contract was renewed until April 19, 2007 when the owner applied for an amendment on the rental fee to become USD 150 per meter and USD 10 per meter for parking spaces. Under the new contract, the rent reached USD 328,482 with a 45.2% increase from the previous contract.

The Council of Ministers decided to extend the contract along the previous conditions and to designate the former building of the Lebanese University's pharmacy faculty as CAS's new headquarters. It appointed the Council for Development and Reconstruction to oversee reparation works. However, implementation has been delayed and the administration remains in its current location with an increasing rent.

### 2. Lease of Ministry of Administrative Development Affairs headquarters: LBP 537 million

As the state expanded after 1992 by establishing new ministries and administrations, the government rented headquarters for these new bodies. Among the locations that were leased were the offices in the Starco building in Downtown Beirut which is affiliated to Sharikat el-

Insha' wal Tahseen al-'Iqari (among its prominent owners is the MP and former minister Mohammad Youssef Baydoun). Rent was set at USD 150 per square meter. Several offices were designated for a number of ministries including the Ministry of Displaced (after it moved from Damour), state ministers' offices and the Ministry of Administrative Development.

### Offices

The ministry occupies an area of 2,116 square meters on several offices in different floors with the biggest being on the fifth floor (1,163 square meters) and the sixth floor (518 square meters).

### Cost of rent

Towards the beginning of 2002, the leasing company agreed to lower the rent from USD 150 per square meter to USD 140 for 2003, to USD 120 for 2004 and to USD 100 for 2005 adding to the amount the cost of joint services at 10% of the rent for each rental year. Under the agreement, the rent will return to USD 150 in 2006 with to USD 25 for joint services. However, the company agreed on USD 100 for 2006, USD 120 for 2007 and USD 140 for 2008 with an added 10% for services for every year according to the rent in that year. In conclusion, the rental fee, with the cost of services and the value added tax, rose in 2008 to USD 358,450 annually.

It can be concluded that the lease for the headquarters of the CAS and the Ministry for Administrative Development Affairs reaches more than LBP 1 billion a year. These leases are bound to increase, considering the current rise in rent in private estates in Downtown Beirut where the two headquarters are located. The state should expedite the drafting of plans to build governmental headquarters on properties that it owns or move some of the locations to buildings under old contracts with low rents compared to current or future venues.



headquarters of the CAS

## Municipal and ikhtiarah elections in the South and Nabatiyeh muhafazats

# 254 MUNICIPALITIES AND 565 MAKHATIR: THE OUTCOME DEPENDS ON THE AMAL-HIZBULLAH ALLIANCE

Municipal and ikhtiarah elections in most villages, towns and qada'as in the South and Nabatiyeh muhafazat will be an essential indicator to the nature of Amal and Hezbollah's current relation. An agreement between the two movements would basically turn the elections into a no-contest vote, rendering other political or family alliances in southern towns and villages ineffective. The climate of accord that has prevailed during parliamentary elections over the past few years should repeat itself in the municipal polls, with the exception of non-Shia'a towns such as Saida, Jezzine and Marjeyoun, where electoral competition has been fierce.

The Monthly will review the number of voters, confessional affiliations, the number of municipal members, the number of makhatir, and municipal revenues from the Independent Municipal Fund (IMF), as shown in Table 1.

Municipalities in the South and Nabatiyeh muhafazat form 26.8% of all municipalities in Lebanon whereas the makhatir form 23.7%. These municipalities received 20.4% of the Independent Municipal Fund's budget in 2007. The high number of municipalities is striking compared to other muhafazats since they are present in 83% of towns and villages. The qada'a of Bint Jbeil has a municipality in every town or village.

Distribution of voters, municipal members, makhatir and municipal revenues by qada'a							Table 1
Qada'a	Number of towns	Number of municipalities	Number of municipal members	Number of makhatir	Revenues from the Independent Municipal Fund in	Number of registered voters in 2009	Number of actual voters in 2009
Saida	1	1	21	23	3,300,195	53,960	37,453
Villages of qada'a Saida (this qada'a is not administrative only electoral)	52	45	507	78	5,676,322	93,556	50,663
Sour	69	58	702	121	9,541,425	155,034	76,331
Jezzine	55	35	360	69	2,451,487	54,503	29,225
<b>Total of South muhafaza</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>20,969,429</b>	<b>357,053</b>	<b>193,672</b>
Nabatiyeh	42	38	513	87	7,403,617	122,644	68,829
Marjeyoun	32	26	339	69	5,282,005	96,761	47,531
Hasbaya	20	15	177	35	2,222,715	42,829	16,935
Bint Jbeil	36	36	474	83	7,315,317	123,347	52,899
<b>Total of Nabatiyeh muhafaza</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>22,223,654</b>	<b>385,581</b>	<b>186,194</b>
<b>Total of south and Nabatiyeh muhafazat</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>3,093</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>43,193,083</b>	<b>742,634</b>	<b>379,866</b>

Source: Compiled by Information International based on the official Gazette

Bint Jbail					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Baraachit	4989	2246	15	3	295435
Tibnine	5703	2014	15	4	305486
Haris	4,416	1744	15	2	303592
Haddatha	3,321	1357	15	2	190945
Khirbet Selm	4,012	2218	15	2	246611
Deir Ntar	2,816	1282	15	2	168847
Soultaniyet	1,626	713	12	1	90745
Chaqra	5,969	2626	15	3	365458
Safad Al-Battikh	999	481	9	1	58026
Kafra	3,642	1893	15	3	222286
Kfar Dounine	2,736	1313	15	2	154570
Yater	3,558	2084	15	3	208620
Bent Jbail	18,193	6007	21	11	1082709
Yaroun	3956	925	15	2	223908
Aainata	4,982	2171	15	3	297695
Aaitaroun	8,305	3470	18	4	518928
Beit Lif	3,094	1998	15	3	187462
Aaita Ech-Chaab	3,974	2644	15	3	269337
Aain Ibl	4464	843	12	4	214379
Debl	2489	615	12	2	138592
Tiri	2138	1280	12	2	138036
Rmaich	4933	1282	15	3	276524
Kounine	3,804	1708	15	2	224649
Maroun Er-Ras	3,884	1553	15	2	239499
Qaouzah	756	150	9	1	36526
Beit Yahoun	1,628	694	12	1	97258
Froun	787	500	9	1	49696
Borj Qalaouiye	833	482	9	1	52074
Qalaouiye	1,175	834	9	1	71513
Aaita Ej-Jabal	2,197	1052	12	2	126417
Hanine	1,452	814	12	1	86734
Ramyet	1,579	922	12	1	102641
Rachaf	1,882	1024	12	2	118085
Srobbine	849	509	9	1	48442
Jmajimé	1,053	678	9	1	67904
Ghandouriyet	512	252	9	1	35688
Employees	641	521			
Total	123347	52899	474	83	7315317

Jezzine					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Jernaya	1258	589	9	1	62777
Karkha	509	209	9	1	22360
Lebaa	1023	605	9	1	52463
Jezzine	7990	4454	16	5	489262
Aain Mejdlin	843	582	2	2	
Btedine El-Leqch	657	343	9	1	35495
Bkassine	2909	1123	15	2	148989
Benouati	688	396	9	1	36475
Homsiyé	255	116	9	1	15055
Aaramta	2363	1366	12	2	127348

Jezzine					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Haytoura	810	409	9	1	39251
Séjoud	855	571	9	1	47040
Zhilta	487	256	9	1	23159
Sanaya	357	189	9	1	20156
Sabbah	458	294	9	1	23080
Sfaray	1,009	548	9	1	51726
Saydoun	526	330	9	1	25489
Aaray	802	580	9	1	41320
Aazour	857	370	9	1	39999
Aaychiyé	2148	1163	12	2	107145
Qaytoulé	2754	1236	15	2	142682
Kfar Houné	4012	1731	15	2	195410
Kfar Falous	426	244	9	1	21247
Maknounet	630	364	9	1	33207
Louayzé	1032	679	9	1	55527
Machmouché	423	175	9	1	19663
Mliikh	1781	903	12	2	93411
Ouadi Jezzine	847	458	9	1	42266
Roum	1814	1071	12	2	91292
Rihane	2917	1595	15	2	162492
Jarmaq	893	511	9	1	42828
Kfar Jarra	366	190	9	1	23708
Katine Oua Hibab	371	213	9	1	18356
Rimat Oua El-Chakadif	222	151	9	1	12105
Midane	1,037	399	9	1	52919
Mjaydel	695	355	9	1	35785
Jensnaya	357	219		1	
Hassaniyé	355	234		1	
Haytoulé Oua Ouadi El-Laymoun	454	288		1	
Choualiq	532	349		1	
Aain El-Mir	451	299		1	
Bouslaya	211	129		1	
Mharbiyé	201	109		1	
Mrah El-Hbasse	339	195		1	
Ouadi Baanqou-daine	457	305		1	
Qatrani	430	236		1	
Srayri	336	151		1	
Ghabbatiyé	325	179		1	
Bhannine Oua Kfar Taala	251	132		1	
Anane	400	248		1	
Harf	271	154		1	
Bayssour	484	300		1	
Bisri	330	167		1	
Qtalé	549	219		1	
Mazraat El-Mathane	302	172		1	
Taaid	126	78		1	
Employees	318	294			
Total	54503	29225	360	69	2451487

Nabatiyé					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Nabatiyé/Biyad	6869	3122		3	
Nabatiyé/Serail	8261	4169		4	
Nabatiyé/Midane	3595	1694	21	2	1132618
Nabatiyé/Hay Massihi	481	70		1	
Nabatiyé El-Faouka	3992	2203	15	2	272145
Ansar	5298	2917	15	4	324120
Jbaa	3,559	1940	15	2	252222
Aain Bou Souar	784	520		1	
Jibchit	5608	3584	15	3	340099
Jarjouaa	2,344	1146	12	2	127052
Harouf	4,729	3074	15	2	295102
Habbouch	4,913	2631	15	3	307687
Houmine Et-Tahta	1,813	990	12	2	109193
Houmine El-Faouqa	2,280	1531	12	2	134798
Douair	4716	2654	15	3	295990
Deir Ez-Zahrani	2,902	1706	15	2	178945
Roumine	1,268	761	12	1	73573
Zibdine	1,628	912	12	1	99832
Zefta	1,643	1000	12	2	138991
Zaoutar Ech-Charqiyé	1,798	1112	12	1	119552
Zaoutar El-Gharbiyé	1,160	732	9	1	71966
Charqiyé	1,853	1107	12	2	121537
Sarba	1594	345	12	1	86204
Sir El-Gharbiyé	2,428	1499	12	2	141969
Aarab Salim	3,831	2238	15	3	220353
Aain Qana	2,691	1658	15	2	162675
Qaaqaiyet Ej-Jisr	2,858	1674	15	2	182492
Qsaibé	2,594	1661	15	2	159368
Kfar Tibnit	3,682	2032	15	3	214843
Kfar Roummane	5,104	2814	15	3	299711
Kfar Sir	3,284	2172	15	2	200619
Kfarfila	1,222	717	12	1	76768
Kfour	1,886	784	12	2	115991
Mayfadoun	2,515	1371	15	2	153020
Nmairiyé	2,774	1518	15	2	169481
Braiqeaa	1,355	804	12	1	82566
Aabba	3,501	2127	15	2	224626
Aadchit	2,476	1758	15	2	155751
Yohmor	1,902	1117	12	2	116180
Arnoun	1,669	932	12	2	98036
Snay	632	398	9	1	42824
Choukine	820	408		1	51385
Bfaroué	641	217		1	
Toul	31	15		1	
Aazzi	924	344	9	1	53333
Employees	736	651			
<b>Total</b>	<b>122644</b>	<b>68829</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>7403617</b>

Saïda					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Saïda Ed-Dekermane	7,760	5285		2	
Saïda/ Rjeil el-Arbeen	6,062	4277		3	
Saïda/Zouaiteeti	2444	1801		2	
Saïda/El-Sabil	4394	3294		2	
Saïda/Serail	2444	985		1	
saïda/Sheri	2444	3193		2	
Saïda/Qneyeh	2444	547	21	1	3300195
Saïda/Kishk	4492	3367		2	
Saïda/Knen	5892	4300		2	
Saïda/Mar Nqoula	1,815	732		1	
Saïda/Mselkhieh	4986	3559		2	
Saïda/Makssar el-Aabed	1806	1504		1	
Saïda/El-Wastani	6525	4511		2	
Employees	101	98			
<b>Total</b>	<b>53960</b>	<b>37453</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3300195</b>

Sour					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Sour/Bsseteen	2,531	1,327		2	
Sour/Orthodox	705	107		1	
Sour/Jemi'a	2,417	1,062		1	
Sour/Joura	3,870	1,976		2	
Sour/Hsseinieeh	5,018	1,934	21	3	1,732,491
Sour/Manara	4,246	1,950		2	
Sour/Catholic	3,903	511		2	
Sour/Maronite	1,423	145		1	
Sour/Mssaouara	2,906	958		2	
Chbriha	842	561		1	
Bazouriyé	4,091	2,283	15	2	246,596
Borj Ech-Chemali	4,019	2,413	15	2	288,271
Jouaiya	9,868	3,892	18	4	597,882
Deir Qanoun En-Nahr	2,920	1,755	15	2	182,803
Chehour	3,982	1,949	15	3	233,212
Chehabiyé	4,365	2,617	15	3	267,907
Srifa	4,053	2,590	15	3	249,267
Tayr Falsay	2,248	1,276	12	2	133,011
Aabbassiyet	4,101	2,086	15	3	302,768
Aaytit	2,154	1,240	12	2	134,456
Aain Baal	2,853	1,333	15	2	183,517
Qana	6,247	2,288	15	4	464,412
Qlailé	2,725	1,479	15	2	179,767
Maaraké	5,351	2,867	15	4	348,225
Maaroub	2,086	1,241	12	2	135,827
Naqoura	2,177	1,040	12	2	127,593
Yarine	2,040	756	12	2	121,659
Aalma Ech-Chaab	2,034	274	12	1	111,274
Chaaitiyé	1,816	1,102	10	1	127,567



Sour					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Malkié El-Sahel	327	230	2	1	
Mansouri	1,925	902	12	2	130,162
Debaal	1,357	884	12	1	85,842
Hanaouay	1,924	749	12	1	112,433
Rmadiyah	1,360	626	12	1	83,070
Majdelzoun	2,122	1,240	12	2	140,357
Toura	2,266	1,268	15	2	153,976
Tayr Harfa	1,669	965	12	1	108,047
Bereghlié	2,160	789	12	2	135,957
Jibbayn	1,192	654	9	1	76,824
Tayr Debbé	2,710	1,726	15	2	182,395
Boustane	1,217	469	9	1	72,219
Borj Rahhal	2,477	1,617	15	2	150,775
Halloussiyé	1,618	964	12	1	104,000
Deir Qanoun Ras El-Aain	1,993	1,167	12	2	135,988
Bafliyé	1,528	877	12	1	96,761
Mazraat Mechref	910	419	9	1	54,774
Bedias	980	590	9	1	62,729
Recheknanay	719	445	9	1	47,848
Merouahine	1,070	395	9	1	67,284
Deir Aames	1,447	804	12	1	91,126
Chihine	857	481	9	1	56,124
Yanouh	819	505	9	1	54,224
Biyad	634	365	9	1	39,578
Hmairé	524	318	9	1	39,699
Mahrouné	1,046	680	9	1	59,562
Derdaghaiya	832	85	9	1	40,347
Barich	2,155	1,251	12	2	131,738
Selaa	1,514	977	12	1	92,279
Deir Kifa	1,886	1,138	12	1	111,702
Chamaa	965	460	9	1	57,188
Majadel	2,003	1,216	15	2	140,336
Sadiqine	2,120	1,274	12	2	156,610
Henniyé	489	244	9	1	27,492
Zebqine	1,232	656	12	1	74,219
Arzoun	431	336	9	1	26,023
Bestiyat	229	122		1	
Jennata	492	260		1	
Nefakhiyé	244	55		1	
Ouadi Jilo	534	381		1	
Kneisset	350	144	9	1	19,642
Batoulay	1,193	647	9	1	80,867
Rachidié	468	1		1	
Jbal El-Botm	1,098	634	9	1	72,723
Bas	897	54		1	
Dhayra	673	245		1	
Smaaié	704	444		1	
Zaloutieh	121	77		1	
Employees	562	489			
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,034</b>	<b>76,331</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>9,541,425</b>

Zahrani (villages of Saida)					
Town	Number of voters 2009	Number of votes 2009	Number of Municipal council members	Number of Makhatir	Revenues of the IMF 2007 (LBP)
Arzai	1676	1028	12	1	102476
Babliyé	2949	1636	15	2	182332
Bramiyé	1,055	341	9	1	64157
Berti	1084	348	9	1	54410
Bqosta	335	183	9	1	34572
Teffahta	2923	1887	15	2	176389
Haret Saida	1258	1763	12	2	224889
Kharayeb	3706	2098	15	3	236141
Darb Es-Sim	2,070	489	12	1	108223
Zrariyé	5,077	2321	15	3	298533
Saksakiyé	4,240	2787	15	3	275945
Salhiyet	827	203	9	1	44665
Sarafand	1258	4058	15	4	418744
Aabra	1,344	542	9	1	100611
Aadloun	4579	2849	15	3	314793
Aadoussiyé	670	293	9	1	32776
Aanqoun	2614	1610	15	2	175846
Aain Ed-Delb	1,499	567	12	1	79790
Ghaziyé	6,369	3811	15	4	439573
Ghassaniyé	1,492	778	12	1	95406
Kfar Hata	2,355	1421	12	2	154966
Kfar Melki	2,666	1628	15	2	158133
Qraiyyet	1,602	757	12	1	84636
Majdelyoun	733	224	9	1	61714
Merouaniyé	2964	1828	15	2	168982
Maamriyé	1137	293	9	1	59035
Maghdouché	3,837	1743	15	3	198735
Miyé ou Miyé	2,703	679	12	2	168576
Hlaliyé	804	250	9	1	93696
Anssariyé	2,114	1374	12	2	135526
Qaaqaiyyet Es-Snaoubar	962	648	9	1	54903
Loubié	811	512	9	1	49588
Bnaafoul	1011	608	9	1	66162
Bissariyé	1258	1541	12	3	154483
Tanbourit	766	362	9	1	41043
Najjariyé	1258	768	12	1	85810
Qennarit	1,438	884	12	1	89308
Erkay	1,183	708	9	1	72341
Kaoutariyyet Es-Siyad	1,813	1068	12	1	121280
Khartoum	1,161	650	9	1	64917
Zeita	511	365	9	1	32407
Aarab Ej-Jall	229	150		1	
Aaqtanit	941	230	9	1	45209
Khzaiz	162	63		1	
Zaghdraiya	687	432		1	
Qnaitra	424	303		1	
Kfar Beit	403	207	9	1	23702
Kfar Chellal	443	135		1	
Kefraya	436	158		1	
Hajjé	801	295		1	
Jenjlaya	223	81		1	
Tabaya	569	301	9	1	30899
Employees	531	405			
<b>Total</b>	<b>93556</b>	<b>50663</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5676322</b>

Bint Jbail	
Town	Confession
Baraachit	Shia'a and other confessions
Tibnine	Shia'a and Catholic
Haris	Shia'a
Haddatha	Shia'a
Khirbet Selm	Shia'a
Deir Ntar	Shia'a
Soultaniyet	Shia'a
Chaqra	Shia'a
Safad Al-Battikh	Shia'a and other confessions
Kafra	Shia'a
Kfar Dounine	Shia'a
Yater	Shia'a
Bent Jbail	Shia'a
Yaroun	Shia'a and Greek Orthodox
Aainata	Shia'a
Aaitaroun	Shia'a
Beit Lif	Shia'a
Aaita Ech-Chaab	Shia'a
Aain Ibl	Maronite and Catholic
Debl	Maronite
Tiri	Shia'a
Rmaich	Maronite
Kounine	Shia'a
Maroun Er-Ras	Shia'a
Qaouzah	Maronite
Beit Yahoun	Shia'a
Froun	Shia'a
Borj Qalaouiye	Shia'a
Qalaouiye	Shia'a
Aaita Ej-Jabal	Shia'a
Hanine	Shia'a
Ramyet	Shia'a
Rachaf	Shia'a
Srobbine	Shia'a
Jmairimé	Shia'a
Ghandouriyet	Shia'a

Jezzine	
Town	Confession
Jernaya	Maronite
Karkha	Maronite, Catholic
Lebaa	Maronite, Catholic
Jezzine	Maronite, Catholic
Aain Mejdlin	Maronite
Btedine El-Leqch	Maronite
Bkassine	Maronite and other Christians
Benouati	Sunni
Homsiyé	Maronite
Aaramta	Shia'a
Haytoura	Maronite
Séjoud	Shia'a

Jezzine	
Town	Confession
Zhilta	Maronite
Sanaya	Maronite
Sabbah	Maronite
Sfaray	Maronite
Saydoun	Maronite
Aaray	Maronite
Aazour	Maronite
Aaychiyé	Maronite and other confessions
Qaytoulé	Maronite and Catholic
Kfar Houné	Maronite, Catholic and Shia'a
Kfar Falous	Maronite, Catholic
Maknounet	Maronite
Louayzé	Shia'a
Machmouché	Maronite
Mliikh	Maronite, Catholic and Shia'a
Ouadi Jezzine	Maronite
Roum	Maronite, Catholic and Shia'a
Rihane	Shia'a
Jarmaq	Maronite and other confessions
Kfar Jarra	Maronite
Katine Oua Hibab	Maronite
Rimat Oua El-Chakadif	Maronite
Midane	Maronite
Mjaydel	Maronite
Jensnaya	Maronite and Catholic
Hassaniyé	Catholic
Haytoulé Oua Ouadi El-Laymoun	Maronite and Catholic
Choualiq	Maronite
Aain El-Mir	Maronite and Catholic
Bouslaya	Maronite
Mharbiyé	Catholic
Mrah El-Hbasse	Maronite and Catholic
Ouadi Baanqoudaine	Maronite and Catholic
Qatrani	Maronite and Druze
Srayri	Druze
Ghabbatiyé	Maronite
Bhannine Oua Kfar Taala	Maronite
Anane	Maronite and Catholic
Harf	Maronite
Bayssour	Maronite and Catholic
Bisri	Maronite and Catholic
Qtalé	Maronite and Catholic
Mazraat El-Mathane	Maronite and Catholic
Taaid	Maronite

Nabatiyé	
Town	Confession
Nabatiyé/Biyad	Shia'a
Nabatiyé/Serail	Sunni and Shia'a
Nabatiyé/Midane	Shia'a
Nabatiyé/Hay Massihi	Sunni, Shia'a, Catholic and Maronite
Nabatiyé El-Faouka	Sunni and Shia'a
Ansar	Shia'a
Jbaa	Catholic and Shia'a
Aain Bou Souar	Shia'a
Jibchit	Shia'a
Jarjouaa	Catholic, Maronite and Shia'a
Harouf	Shia'a
Habbouch	Shia'a
Houmine Et-Tahta	Shia'a
Houmine El-Faouqa	Shia'a
Douair	Sunni and Shia'a
Deir Ez-Zahrani	Shia'a
Roumine	Shia'a
Zibdine	Shia'a
Zefta	Shia'a
Zaoutar Ech-Charqiyé	Shia'a
Zaoutar El-Gharbiyé	Shia'a
Charqiyé	Shia'a
Sarba	Maronite
Sir El-Gharbiyé	Shia'a
Aarab Salim	Shia'a
Aain Qana	Shia'a
Qaqaaiyet Ej-Jisr	Shia'a
Qsaibé	Shia'a
Kfar Tibnit	Shia'a
Kfar Roummane	Shia'a
Kfar Sir	Shia'a
Kfarfila	Shia'a
Kfour	Maronite, Shia'a and other confessions
Mayfadoun	Shia'a
Nmairiyé	Shia'a
Braiqueaa	Shia'a
Aabba	Shia'a
Aadchit	Shia'a
Yohmor	Shia'a
Arnoun	Shia'a
Snay	Shia'a
Choukine	Shia'a
Bfaroué	Maronite
Toul	Maronite and Shia'a
Aazzi	Catholic, Maronite and Shia'a

Saida	
Town	Confession
Saida Ed-Dekermane	Sunni, Maronite, Shia'a and other confessions
Saida/ Rjeil el-Arbeen	Sunni, Shia'a and other confessions
Saida/Zouaiteeti	Sunni and other confessions
Saida/El-Sabil	Sunni
Saida/Serail	Sunni and other confessions
saida/Sheri	Sunni and other confessions
Saida/Qneyeh	Other confessions
Saida/Kishk	Sunni
Saida/Knen	Sunni and Shia'a
Saida/Mar Nqoula	Sunni, Catholic and various Christians
Saida/Mselkhih	Sunni and Shia'a
Saida/Makssar el-Abed	Sunni and various confessions
Saida/El-Wastani	Sunni

Sour	
Town	Confession
Sour/Bsseteen	Sunni and Shia'a
Sour/Orthodox	Greek Orthodox
Sour/Jemi'a	Sunni and Shia'a
Sour/Joura	Shia'a
Sour/Hsseinieih	Shia'a
Sour/Manara	Shia'a
Sour/Catholic	Catholic
Sour/Maronite	Maronite
Sour/Mssaouara	Sunni and Shia'a
Chbriha	Shia'a
Bazouriyé	Shia'a
Borj Ech-Chemali	Sunni and Shia'a
Jouaiya	Shia'a
Deir Qanoun En-Nahr	Shia'a
Chehour	Shia'a
Chehabiyé	Shia'a
Srifa	Shia'a
Tayr Falsay	Shia'a
Aabbassiyet	Shia'a
Aaytit	Shia'a
Aain Baal	Shia'a
Qana	Catholic and Shia'a
Qlailé	Shia'a
Maaraké	Shia'a
Maaroub	Shia'a
Naqoura	Sunni and Shia'a
Yarine	Sunni
Aalma Ech-Chaab	Catholic, Maronite and Evangelist
Chaaitiyé	Shia'a
Malkié El-Sahel	Shia'a
Mansouri	Shia'a
Debaal	Shia'a

Sour	
Town	Confession
Hanaouay	Shia'a
Rmadiyé	Shia'a
Majdelzoun	Shia'a
Toura	Shia'a
Tayr Harfa	Shia'a
Bereghlié	Sunni and Shia'a
Jibbayn	Shia'a
Tayr Debbé	Shia'a
Boustane	Sunni
Borj Rahhal	Shia'a
Halloussiye	Shia'a
Deir Qanoun Ras El-Aain	Shia'a
Baffiyé	Shia'a
Mazraat Mechref	Shia'a
Bedias	Shia'a
Recheknanay	Shia'a
Merouahine	Sunni
Deir Aames	Shia'a
Chihine	Shia'a
Yanouh	Shia'a
Biyad	Shia'a
Hmairé	Shia'a
Mahrouné	Shia'a
Derdaghaiya	Catholic and Maronite
Barich	Shia'a
Selaa	Shia'a
Deir Kifa	Shia'a and other confessions
Chamaa	Shia'a
Majadel	Shia'a
Sadiqine	Shia'a
Henniyé	Shia'a
Zebqine	Shia'a
Arzoun	Shia'a
Bestiyat	Shia'a
Jennata	Shia'a
Nefakhiyé	Catholic and Shia'a
Ouadi Jilo	Shia'a
Kneisset	Shia'a
Batoulay	Shia'a
Rachidié	Greek Orthodox
Jbal El-Botm	Shia'a
Bas	Catholic, Armenian Orthodox and Evangelist
Dhayra	Sunni
Smaaié	Shia'a
Zaloutieh	Sunni

Zahrani (villages of Saida)	
Town	Confession
Arzai	Shia'a
Babliyé	Shia'a
Bramiyé	Catholic, Maronite and Sunni
Berti	Catholic
Bqosta	Catholic and Maronite
Teffahta	Shia'a
Haret Saida	Sunni and Shia'a
Kharayeb	Shia'a
Darb Es-Sim	Catholic, Maronite and Evangelist
Zrariyé	Shia'a
Saksakiyé	Shia'a
Salhiyet	Catholic and Maronite
Sarafand	Sunni and Shia'a
Aabra	Catholic and Maronite
Aadloun	Shia'a
Aadoussiye	Catholic and Maronite
Aanqoun	Shia'a
Aain Ed-Delb	Catholic and Maronite
Ghaziyé	Shia'a
Ghassaniyé	Shia'a
Kfar Hata	Shia'a
Kfar Melki	Shia'a
Qraiyyet	Catholic and Maronite
Majdelyoun	Catholic and Maronite
Merouaniyé	Shia'a
Maamriyé	Maronite
Maghdouché	Catholic and Maronite
Miyé ou Miyé	Catholic, Maronite and Evangelist
Hlaliyé	Catholic and Maronite
Anssariyé	Shia'a
Qaaqaiyyet Es-Snaoubar	Shia'a
Loubié	Shia'a
Bnaafoul	Shia'a and other confessions
Bissariyé	Sunni and Shia'a
Tanbourit	Maronite
Najjariyé	Sunni and Shia'a
Qennarit	Shia'a
Erkay	Shia'a
Kaoutariyyet Es-Siyad	Shia'a
Khartoum	Shia'a
Zeita	Shia'a
Aarab Ej-Jall	Sunni and Shia'a
Aaqtanit	Maronite
Khzaiz	Maronite
Zaghdraiya	Shia'a
Qnaitra	Shia'a
Kfar Beit	Shia'a
Kfar Chellal	Maronite
Kefraya	Catholic
Hajjé	Maronite
Jenjlaya	Maronite
Tabaya	Sunni
Employees	Various confessions

Source: prepared by Information International based on the official Gazette

# INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTS AN OPINION POLL 100 DAYS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT'S FORMATION

Public's support: Down from 77% to 47%

Three top priorities: Employment, healthcare, electricity

Favorite minister: 33% no one, 21% Ziad Baroud

Information International conducted a telephone poll from March 15-18 on the public's position toward the government 100 days after it won a vote of confidence. The survey included 500 Lebanese, 70% of whom took part in a previous opinion poll when the government won its vote of confidence in December 2009.

## Position on government: 47% support it

Less than half of those surveyed (47%) expressed their support for the government compared to 18% who said they opposed it. Meanwhile, more than a quarter (26%) said it was still too early to take a position regarding the government while 9% answered "I do not know". In a previous survey, 77% of Lebanese surveyed gave the government their vote of confidence while 20% did not and 3% were unconcerned.

The results of the new survey show that support for the government dropped from 77% to 47% while opposition also fell from 20% to 18%. Meanwhile 26% took a centrist position preferring to allow the government time before taking a supportive or opposing position depending on its work and political developments. The Lebanese today are giving the government a grace period. As for the current position on the government by confession, Table 1 shows that the majority of supporters are Sunni (62%) followed by Druze (52%) and Catholic (52%). Opposition increases among the Armenians (32%) and the Shia'a (24%).

## Priorities: Employment, healthcare and electricity

As shown in graph 1, 43% of respondents said employment and healthcare at a reasonable price

Position on government, now and in the past, by confession **Table 1**

What is your position on the government?		Support	Oppose	Still too early to take a position	I don't know	Total
Maronite %	Now	46	18	25	11	100
	In the past	85	11	-	4	100
Orthodox %	Now	43	13	33	13	100
	In the past	80	20	0	-	100
Catholic %	Now	52	16	16	16	100
	In the past	88	12	-	0	100
Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholic %	Now	26	32	37	5	100
	In the past	68	23	-	9	100
Sunni %	Now	62	13	16	9	100
	In the past	80	17	-	3	100
Shia'a %	Now	36	24	36	4	100
	In the past	66	32	-	2	100
Druze %	Now	52	19	19	10	100
	In the past	71	25	-	4	100

Source: Information International March 2010

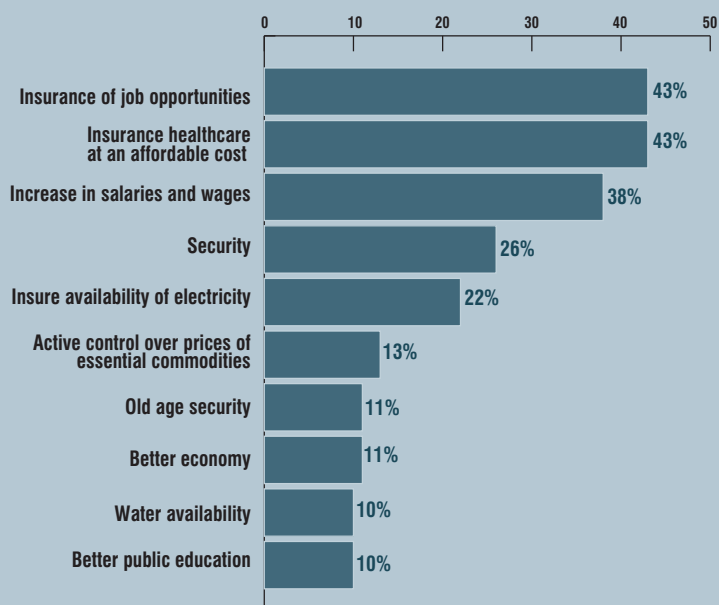
[Graph 1]



## What is your main priority nowadays for the new government to pay attention to? (%)

Multiple choice questions

Source: Information International March 2010



were priority followed electricity for 38%, an increase in salaries and wages for 26% and security for 22%. Meanwhile, 13% consider active control over prices of essential commodities a priority; 11% old age security, 11% better economy, 10% water availability, 10% better public education, and for 7% the following: limiting traffic jams, reducing taxes, improving living conditions and reducing fuel prices in addition to 3% with other priorities. In comparison with the previous survey, the three top priorities remained the same with a change in ranks with 64% considering electricity the top priority followed by 40% for employment opportunities and 29% for healthcare.


### Favorite minister: No one and Ziad Baroud

A third of respondents (33%) do not have a favorite minister in the current government while 21% said their favorite was Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ziad Baroud; 14% said Minister of Energy and Water Jebran Bassil, 11% Minister of Public Health Mohammad Jawad Khalifeh, 4% Minister of Public Works and Transportation Ghazi A'aridi and 3% Minister of National Defense Elias Mur. Meanwhile each of ministers Boutros Harb, Ibrahim Najjar, Mohammad al-Safadi and Mohammad Fneish received the support of 2% of respondents while each of ministers Rayya al-Haffar, Hussein al-Hajj Hassan, Michel Far'oun and Wael Abou Fa'our received 1% support. In comparison with the previous survey, 30% of respondents did not have a favorite minister, 25% preferred Baroud, 15% Bassil and 6% Khalifeh which shows a consistency in the percentage of respondents who do not have a preferred minister. In the meantime, Bassil maintained his position while the percentage of supports of Baroud and Khalifeh slightly dropped. By confession, Baroud and Bassil received the highest percentage of supporters among Christian respondents in the new survey while Khalifeh received the highest percentage among the Shia'a (32%). Each of A'aridi and Abou Fa'our won the support of 15% of Druze respondents and Abraham Dadaian won the support of 11% of Armenian respondents. Table 2 shows the Position on favorite minister by confession for the first four choices.

**Position on favorite minister by confession for the first four choices. Table 2**

Who is your favorite minister in the government	Maronite %	Orthodox %	Catholic %	Armenian Orthodox Armenian Catholic%	Sunni%	Shia'a %	Druze %
No one	27	33	36	42	41	27	37
Ziad Baroud	27	25	32	21	18	16	26
Jebran Bassil	20	23	16	5	6	18	0
Mohammad Jawad Khalifeh	2	3	0	0	7	32	4
Other ministers	24	16	16	32	28	7	33

Source: Information International March 2010

The government won the vote of confidence 100 days ago but does not have many accomplishments on its plate. However, it is a government of national consensus which has attracted support, although it does not seem that this support will be long lived since a quarter of respondents are giving it a grace period. If the government commits to its pledges then maybe it will win their support but if it doesn't perhaps it will lose their vote of confidence increasing the percentage of Lebanese who oppose it. However, after Information International reviewed a sample of the government's resolutions, which did not address the public's priorities, according to the survey, it seems like the government was able, due to the "consensus", to maintain the people's vote of confidence despite ignoring the worries and priorities of the public. 

## 24 CABINET SESSIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Ordinary resolutions that did not address the Lebanese priorities and concerns

The government held 24 sessions since its formation on November 9, 2009 and until end of March 2010, including 15 sessions at the President Palace (presided over by President Michel Suleiman) and nine meetings at the Grand Serail (president over by PM Saad Hariri).

The fact that the sessions were held in rotation between the Grand Serail and the Presidential Palace violates Article 65 of the Constitution which stipulates: "The Council of Ministers meets in a locale specifically set aside for it, and the President chairs its meetings when he attends..." Using security as a pretext does not justify the constitutional violation. The president, who oversees the implementation of the Constitution, must see to it that the sessions are either held in a special locale either at the former headquarter in Mathaf or any other place or work to amend Article 65. Holding the sessions in rotation between Ba'abda Palace and the Serail in order to strike a balance between the two leaderships is also a violation.

Meanwhile, cabinet decisions were ordinary and not in sync with the people's priorities and what they expect from the government. The budget remains suspended and the appointments absent. Even talk about resolving the electricity and water shortages or limiting traffic jams have been absent from the cabinet sessions.

# PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BY NON-LEBANESE IN THE QADA'A OF KESEROUANE

## 0.27% of the area

The qada'a of Keserouane is among the Lebanese districts where non-Lebanese seek to own properties especially on the coast and in summer destinations.

### Ownership in Keserouane

For many years non-Lebanese have owned estates in the qada'a of Keserouane where activity is mainly focused in the towns of Adma, Dafneh, Ma'aissra, Kfar Zebian and Ghazir among others.

This qada'a has an area of 325 million square meters and is considered one of the medium-size Lebanese districts and is equal to Bint Jbeil.

Non-Lebanese own around 864,000 square meters of the qada'a or 0.27% of the total area (including the valleys, mountains, roads and inhabited regions). The following table shows the areas owned by non-Lebanese in Keserouane by

governmental decrees since ownership has exceeded the legal limit. Ownerships of apartments or estates with an area of 3,000 square meters are not listed in the table.

The table shows that Saudis top the list of non-Lebanese who acquired estates in the area at 152,833 square meters followed by Kuwaitis at 29,155 square meters, Emiratis at 25,064 square meters and Qataris at 21,595 square meters. The most popular areas are Kfarzebian with 108,656 square meters, Ma'aissra with 94,395 square meters, Adma and Dafneh with 67,755 square meters and Ghazir with 48,980 square meters.

Tables 1 shows details of ownership by non-Lebanese in qada'a of Keserouane.

**Non-Lebanese ownership in qada'a of Keserouane**

**Table 1**

Region	Name and Nationality	Date	Area m2	Purpose
Sarba	ABC SAL	June 5, 2009	5,409	Management and investment of malls
Safra	Murex Industries and Trading SAL	May 5, 2008	1,309	Stores and showrooms
Adma and Dafneh	Park Limited (PAC LTD)	May 5, 2008	1,044	Production, sale and distribution of television programs, movies and video
Ghazir	Mariam Nasser Sabah Al-Nasser al-Sabah (Kuwait)	May 5, 2008	7,72	Real Estate Investment
Darya	Khaled Mohamed Rashad Abdullah Abdel-Ghani (KSA)	March 18, 2008	10,346	Real estate investment
Dlebta	Mohammed Talal Mohammed Al-Rasheed (KSA)	July 2, 2007	3,743	Residential
Darya	Share of Mohamed Hamad Shamis Al-Shami (UAE)	June 30, 2007	17,644	Residential
Adma and Dafneh	Abdullah Rashid Ahmad al-Maala	June 30, 2007	1,064	Residential
Zouk Mosbeh	Darwish Al Haddad Middle East Company SAL	June 12, 2007	6,540	Retain ownership
Darya	Khalid Bin Mohammad Rashid bin Abdullah Abdul Ghani (KSA)	May 21, 2007	5,904	Construction and residence
Aajaltoun	Pisare Company SAL	April 5, 2007	6,068	Retain ownership
Adma and Dafneh	Prince Seif al-Islam bin Saud bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud (KSA)	April 5, 2007	1,428	Residential
Fatqa	Khalid bin Saad bin Saud bin Nasser al-Saud (KSA)	February 22, 2007	963	Residential
Tabarja	A'awatif Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah (Kuwait)	November 1, 2006	101	Residential
Ghazir	Sulaiman bin Abdul Rahman bin Abdullah Kuwaiz (KSA)	October 11, 2006	1,000	Residential
Ghazir	"Real Estate Management Advisory" Company SAL	September 25, 2006	5,298	Real Estate Investment
Fatqa	Khalid bin Nasser Abdullah al-Musnad (Qatar)	June 8, 2006	1,219	Residential

Non-Lebanese ownership in qada'a of Keserouane					Table 1
Region	Name and Nationality	Date	Area m2	Purpose	
Kfarckih	Mariam Nasser Sabah Al-Nasser al-Sabah (Kuwait)	May 29, 2006	6,638	Real estate investment	
Wata Salam + Kfardebian	Abdullah Ibrahim Abdullah al-Jabib (KSA) (under the name of his minor son, Ryan)	March 8, 2006	394 +1 (395)	Residential	
Adma + Ajaltoun	Khaled Mohamed Rashad bin Abdullah Abdel-Ghani (KSA)	February 27, 2006	1,603	Residential	
Ballouneh Kfardebian	Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani (Qatar)	October 5, 2005	14,596	Residential	
Sahel Alma	Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (KSA)	September 23, 2005	1,102	Residential	
Zouk Mosbeh	Ahmed Mohamed Saeed Badeeb (KSA)	August 16, 2005	49	Residential	
Kfardebian	United Group Company for Hotels - Hamad Ibrahim Abdul Rahman al-Tuwajiri and Associates (LLC)	June 20, 2005	65,397	Touristic project	
Ma'aissra	Revital Company SAL	June 20, 2005	3,331	Residential and commercial	
Fatqa	Khalid Nasser Abdullah al-Musnad (Qatar)	June 20, 2005	1,215 1.215	Residential	
Kfour + Shanan'eer	Ibrahim bin Barack bin Abdul Mohsen al-Oman (KSA)	February 7, 2005	840 +6,090 (6,930)	Residential	
Faitroun	Khalafat Sultan Houdeirem al-Koutoube (UAE)	February 7, 2005	1,550	Residential	
Ma'aissra	Fouad Abdel-Mohsen Abdullahal-Matrouk (Kuwait)	February 4, 2005	4,462	Residential	
Kfour	Sulaiman bin Ali bin Abdullah Aba al-Khail (KSA)	September 10, 2004	1,260	Residential	
Ma'aissra	Nasser bin Saleh al-Mzaia'a (KSA)	August 27, 2004	4,885	Residential	
Ma'aissra and Sarba	Saleh bin Abdullah al-Mzaia'a(KSA)	August 27, 2004	4,990 +63	Residential	
Ma'aissra	Khalid bin Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim al-Sowiena'a (KSA)	August 27, 2004	3,12	Residential	
Ma'aissra	Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim Mohamed bin al-Sowiena'a (KSA)	August 27, 2004	4,470	Residential	
Ghazir	Mohammed bin Saud bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud (KSA)	August 27, 2004	27,461	Residential	
Mayrouba	Mayrouba Company for Tourism Development SAL	June 30, 2004	13,765	Touristic and residential project	
Adma and Dafneh	Nasser bin Ibrahim al-Rasheed (KSA)	June 16, 2004	1,351	Residential	
Faitroun	Khalfan Sultan Houdeirem al-Koutoube (UAE)	June 16, 2004	770 770	Residential	
Kfour	Abdullah Jassim Abdul Aziz Jassim al-Thani (Qatar)	February 25, 2004	4,565	Residential	
Kfarteeh	Turki bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud (KSA)	January 30, 2004	3,855	Residential	
Kfardebian	Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah bin Baraka (KSA)	January 15, 2004	11,625	Residential	
Qlei'at	Za'ed bin Fahad bin Mohammed al-Kousaibis (KSA)	January 12, 2004	1,080	Residential	
Wata Salam + Kfar Yasin	Mutlaq al-Saleh al-Hanaki (KSA)	June 26, 2003	87 (83+4)	Residential	
Adma and Dafneh	Nasser Bin Ibrahim Rasheed (KSA)	June 18, 2003	1,404	Residential	
Ghadir + Beqaatet Kanaan Bizhal + al-Kradieh + Za'aitra	Lebanese Swiss Real Estate company SAL	May 20, 2003	128 +1,530 +1,070 +625 +50+90 (19,470)	Storage	
Dlebta + Farayaa + Jouret Badran + Mayrouba + Yiq'a'atah + Achkout + Zouk Mikail + Ghadir	The Lebanese Swiss Insurance Company SAL	May 20, 2003	3,295 +870 +9,985 +4,555 +625 +50 +90 (19,470)	Storage	
Kfartieh	Saleh Hamad Saleh al-Humaidi (Kuwait)	May 20, 2003	9,883	Storage	
Kfour	Abdullah bin Fahad bin Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman al-Saud (KSA)	January 22, 2003	10,840	Residential	
Mayrouba	Ali Salem Obaid al-Kaabi (UAE)	August 7, 2002	5,100	Residential	
Adma and Dafneh	PAC LTD	June 14, 2002	25,689	Production of visual media and artistic materials	

Non-Lebanese ownership in qada'a of Keserouane

Table 1

Region	Name and Nationality	Date	Area m2	Purpose
Shanan'eer	Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud (KSA)	June 14, 2002	9,867	Residential
Adma and Dafneh	Nasser bin Ibrahim bin Rasheed Al Rasheed (KSA)	June 14, 2002	9,692	Residential
Adma and Dafneh	Nasser Bin Ibrahim bin Rasheed al-Rasheed (KSA)	February 25, 2002	8,167	Residential
Shanan'eer	Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud (KSA)	January 19, 2002	9,225	Residential
Haret Sakhr	Lebanese Company for Tourism Projects SAL	October 4, 2001	21	Management and operation of restaurants and food trade
Ma'aissra	Company Sufema SAL	February 1, 2001	9,715	Retain ownership
Zouk Mosbeh	Moody AL-Onkari and Co. ( MAFKS )	September 11, 2000	7,493	Operartions
Haret Sakhr + Mazra'it Joshua (qada'a of Metn)	SSM Lebanese Food Company SAL	June 30, 2000	Stated the total area only 552	Investment of restaurants
Bkak el-Deen	Jaspal bin Kishan (India)	May 3, 2000	226	Residential
Adma	Noel Andres Camo and his wife Sigrid Camo (Germany)	April 25, 2000	220 divided equally	Residential
Kfardebian	Brian Robert Parker and his wife, Anne Phillips Parker (UK)	December 28, 1999	650 divided equally	Residential
Ghazir	Akmal Sayid Ildal and his wife, Janine Jacqueline Viodi Gran Ferrand (France)	December 17, 1999	96 divided equally	Residential
Haret Sakhr	Franco Guido Franco Moretti and his wife Carla Carlo Kiaresia (Italy)	December 17, 1999	50 divided equally	Residential
Haret Sakhr	Mutaf Nasser al-Kharafi (Kuwait)	November 11, 1999	177	Residential
Kfardebian Bchamoun (qada'a of Aley)	Hiba Himat al-Taji (UK)	September 13, 1999	Stated the total area only 154	Residential
Kfardebian	Leovudmir Yelev Vladinov (Bulgaria)	June 16, 1999	129	Residential
Sarba	Samir Munir Chemaly (France)	November 19, 1998	64	Residential
Zouk Mosbeh	Metropolitan Bank SAL	March 15, 2000	138	Retain ownership
Ghazir	Munira bint Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud (Saudi Arabia)	August 1, 1998	5,923	Residential
Kfardebian	Nizar Company 2000 SARL	July 15, 1998	601	Hospitality, tourism, sports and commercial projects
Ma'aissra	Company Revital SAL	July 8, 1998	40,362	Touristic and remote health project
Zouk Mikael	Jean-Georges Edouard Mallet (France)	June 15, 1998	166	Residential and commercial
Zouk Mikael	Dominico Pietro Ristivo (Italy)	January 20, 1998	51	Residential
Sahel Alma	Giovanni Buba (Italy)	November 12, 1997	48	Residential
Aajaltoun	Tierry Claude Andre Bloch (France)	June 9, 1997	1,210	Residential
Haret Sakhr	Lebanese Company for International Touristic Projects SAL	February 18, 1997	117	Repositories of materials
Haret Sakhr	Oba Otodiko (Nigeria)	February 7, 1997	115	Residential
Adma and Dafneh	French Lebanese Company for Carpets SAL	November 2, 1996	16,093	Manufacturing of carpets
Zouk Mosbeh	Lebanese Company	August 27, 1996	2,020	Company use
Zouk Mosbeh	United Fisheries of Kuwait UFK (Kuwait)	July 29, 1996	169	Restaurant and activities related to the fisheries
Kfardebian	Mzaar Company SAL	November 9, 1995	910	Hospitality, touristic, commercial and sports projects
Kfar Yasin	Enrico Bajnin (Italy)	November 24, 1994	73	Residential
Sahel Alma	Gino Tchinero Teroki (Italy)	September 8, 1994	24	Residential

Non-Lebanese ownership in qada'a of Keserouane					Table 1
Region	Name and Nationality	Date	Area m2	Purpose	
Ma'aissra	French Laique Mission (France)	July 27, 1994	19,055	Educational	
Mazra'it Kfardebian	Mzaar Company SAL	July 6, 1993	14,353	Touristic project	
Ghazir	Vansanzo Kampucci (Italy)	June 17, 1993	206		
Bkak el-Deen	Elias Shabo Akar (Sweden)	October 15, 1992	612		
Faitroun	Kurt Rudolph Michel Berger (Germany)	June 22, 1992	19		
Ghazir	Dominique Bernard Rabordan (France)	December 19, 1991	79		
Haret Sakhr + Sahel Alma	Paul Eugene Lugo Niedk (France)		145		
Daro'un	Gibar Puyol and his wife Marie-Therese Bertrand (Belgium)	August 18, 1988	1,269		
Ajaltoun	Agnti Umana Hagman (Germany)	June 15, 1988	124		
Suhaileh	Association James exchange Funoz Deutschland (Germany)	February 24, 1983	206		
Zouk Mosbeh	Nahr al-Kalb Tourism Company SAL	January 5, 1983	2,234		
Kfour + Wata Salam	Andre Roy Patrick Sutton (UK)	December 23, 1982	8,355		
Kfour + Baabda + Baabdat	Assembly of the Sisters of Charity - Bizenson (France)	April 29, 1982	Stated total area only 6,457		
Zouk Mosbeh	Zouk Mosbeh Real Estate Company SAL	May 17, 1978	3,939		
Gharfeen	Adelos Lebanon SAL	December 30, 1975	3,680		
Ra'ashin	Cremlin Association of the Sisters of St. Theresa (Italy)	February 21, 1975	8,891		
Faraya (Bchamoun)	Morris Leopoldrene Theodor Dumont (France)	January 31, 1975	Stated total area only 3,022		
Zouk Mikael	Nayef Industries Ama for Oils and Soap SAL	January 31, 1975	1,409	Road and special pathway	
Zouk Mosbeh	Igor Kyuki Taheri Salmasi (Iran)	July 1, 1974	1,272		
Dlebta	oseph Salvatore Cataldo (Italy)	July 1, 1974	3,345		
Haret Sakhr	Enrico Oscar Lozena and his wife Simonetta Viniroon (Italy)	October 9, 1973	1,530 divided equally		
Ain al-Safra	Hotel and Tourism Investment Company SAL	March 24, 1971	491	Touristic project	
Aachqout	Noëlie Maria Branschero (France)	February 11, 1970	570		
Suhaileh	Sisters Associaton of St. Martha in Lebanon (Italy)	January 29, 1970	13,426	Monastic institution (convent)	
al-Safra	Al Rabieh Maritime Hotel SAL	October 15, 1969	20,844	Touristic project	
Mazra'it al-Rass	Raymond Bashir Khayat (France)	February 26, 1969	949		
Zouk Mikael	Andre Jules Gabriel Bruyere and his wife Charlotte Viddensa (France)	January 9, 1969	2,419 divided equally		
Sarba	North Point Estate Management Company Limited Company (the British colony of Hong kong)	September 19, 1968	2,105		
Shanan'eer	Franciscan convent of the Immaculate Conception (France)	April 23, 1968	890		
Suhaileh	Association "House of the sick, deaf and mute"	March 7, 1967	25,998		
Shanan'eer	Mother Marijustin Boluboa as regional president for the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (France)	September 1, 1966	1,450		
Ghazir	Linar Human Nils Odman (Sweden)	August 26, 1966	1,192		

Source: Prepared by Information International from the Official Gazette

# LEBANESE INSURANCE BROKERS SYNDICATE

The Lebanese Insurance Brokers Syndicate was established in 1993 by Decree # 204 and has 111 members. One of the goals for creating the syndicate was to protect insurance brokers who have the right to approach the public, without exception, to sell insurance policies.

## Insurance brokers are divided into three types

- ⊙ General agents: Agents for a specific insurance company that only sells its own insurance policies.
- ⊙ Independent brokers: Agents who have the right to sell insurance policies to more than one insurance company, i.e. a free trader in the field of insurance policies. These brokers who form the syndicate.
- ⊙ Delegates, of which there are two kinds:
  - ⊙ Insurance company delegates
  - ⊙ Insurance brokerage company delegates

## Membership

Any prospective member must be Lebanese, have full civil rights, does not have a criminal record, a university graduate, with no less than three years experience in insurance work, registered in the Commercial Court's commercial registry and has financial sponsorship.

The syndicate receives its license from the Ministry of Economy, which acts as the trustee. The syndicate cannot be affiliated to any union and does not participate in the General Labour Union.

## Expulsion of members

The syndicate's council can expel any member who violates the body's objective, law or bylaws, loses one of the preconditions for membership, violates obligations or fails to pay the subscription fees after a written notice in which the deadline for payment is outlined is served.

## Structure

The syndicate's structure consists of the general assembly and the executive board. The general assembly consists of 111 members while the executive board includes 12 members: the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations secretary, vocational affairs secretary and media, publication and documentation affairs secretary in addition to five members.

## Works

The most significant works the syndicate carried out has been:

- ⊙ Legitimizing syndicate activity for the insurance trade and finding a location to allow the syndicate to regulate its administrative work.
- ⊙ A public awareness campaign to introduce the essential role played by insurance brokers in the process of developing insurance companies by acting as a liaison between the companies and the client. Brokers also enjoy a high level of experience in all daily and economic aspects.
- ⊙ Organizing several training sessions, seminars and conferences to benefit insurance brokers.
- ⊙ Creating a mutual fund to provide senior social security for employers and employees.
- ⊙ Placing the insurance brokers' sector on the international map of the insurance sector.
- ⊙ Becoming an active member in a number of international organizations such as:
  - ⊙ Bipar, an organization that includes 32 European countries and is a member of WFII as an international institute
  - ⊙ The Mediterranean Federation of Insurance Brokers (FMBA)
  - ⊙ Arab Brokers League

## Challenges

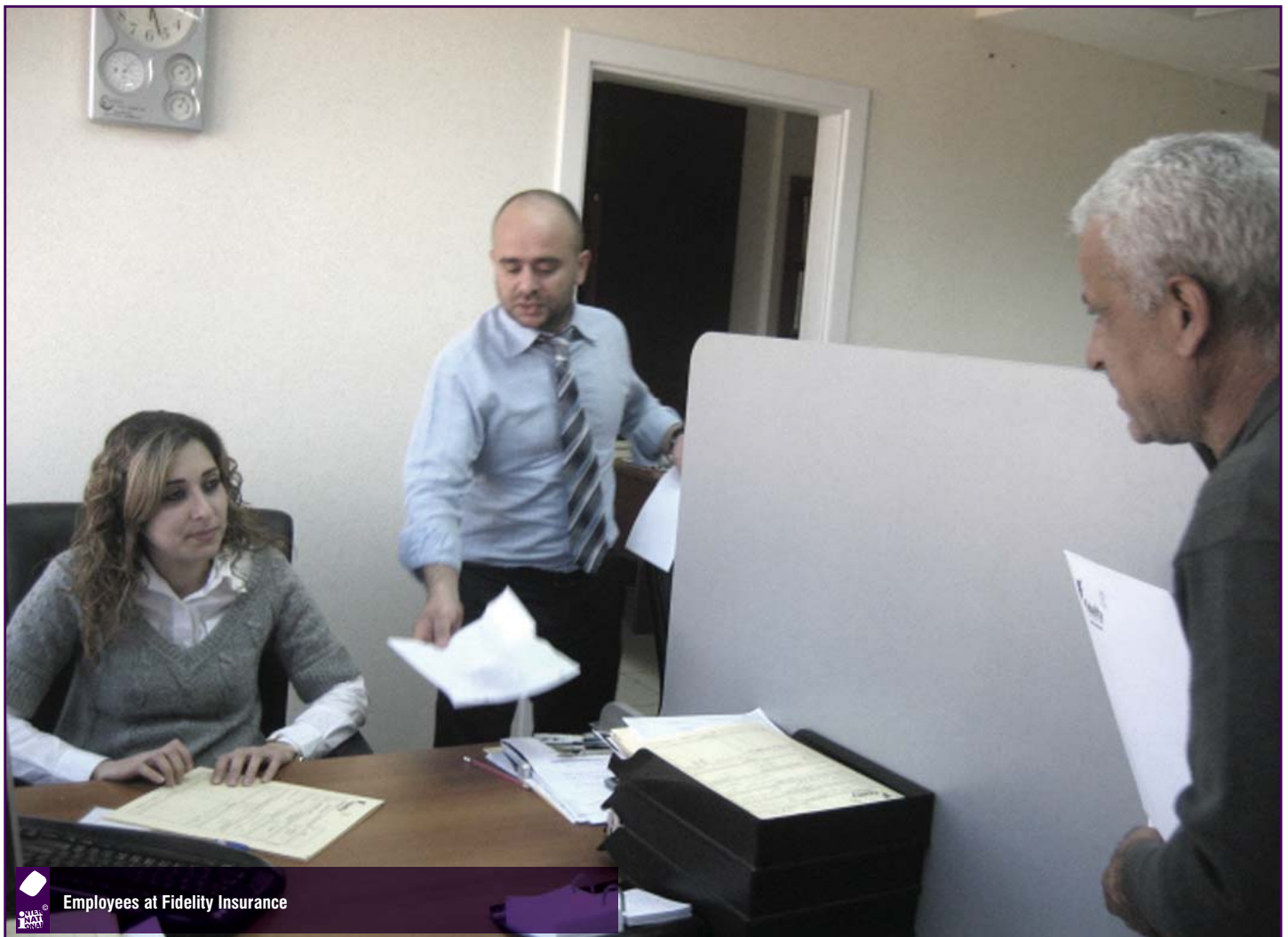
The most significant challenges the syndicate has been confronting have been:

- ⊙ Brokers selling insurance policies without a license at a time when owners of brokerage companies are paying taxes and financial sponsorship and have to answer to clients.
- ⊙ The Banking Control Commission has yet to forbid banks from receiving commissions in return for selling products that do not fall within the banking sector's area of expertise despite the presence of legal texts in monetary and loans law.

- The insurance companies' law forbids companies from dealing with any party other than insurance brokers, a stipulation that is not being fully implemented. Banks are now working as insurance brokers by using their power with insurance companies and obligating clients applying for loans to buy insurance policies. Even car agencies act as insurance brokers, illegally, when they obligate a client to buy an insurance policy when purchasing a car with installments.

These are all problems that can be solved if the law is fully implemented in Lebanon. 🍀

**“ The Banking Control Commission has yet to forbid banks from receiving commissions in return for selling products that do not fall within the banking sector’s area of expertise despite the presence of legal texts in monetary and loans law. ”**



Employees at Fidelity Insurance

## Schools in Lebanon

# ÉCOLE FRÈRES-GEMAYZEH

**A**s a part of its series of articles dedicated to the educational system in Lebanon, The Monthly interviews Brother Habib Zreibi, head of Ecole Freres-Gemayzeh, who addresses in this issue the history of the school, its educational system, characteristics, and activities in addition to other topics.

### Establishment

Ecole Frères was established in Gemayzeh in 1894 by the Christian Schools Monastic Brotherhood. Frères-Gemayzeh is one of six schools owned by the brotherhood in Lebanon: Frères de La Salle in Kfaryacheet (established in 1982), Frères Deddeh in Koura (established in 1986), Saint Peter Secondary School in Beskinta (established in 1947), Frères -Forn el-Chibbek (established in 1950) and Frères Mont la Salle in A'ain Sa'adeh (established in 1972) are the others. The Christian Schools Monastic Brotherhood also manages Mar Mansour School in Borj Hammoud but does not own it.

### Objective

Frères-Gemayzeh's objective is "to offer the student a humanitarian, social, and religious education".

### Equipment

- ⊙ **Stadiums:** The school offers the use of inner and outer playgrounds to its students, in addition to basketball, tennis and volleyball courts and judo, gymnasiums, taekwondo areas and dancing classes.
- ⊙ **Laboratories:** The school has a physics, chemistry and biology lab for each of the elementary, intermediate and secondary levels. It also has two audio-visual labs and a computer lab.
- ⊙ **Libraries:** The school has two libraries: a library called the "Center for Documents and Research" for intermediate and secondary levels that contains books and internet-connected computers. The other library, for the elementary level, is called "Documents Library".

### Curriculum

Frères adopts the Lebanese curriculum, with French being the main language of instruction. Students can apply for the French baccalaureate and take special classes for that purpose in the secondary level.



### Student numbers

There are 1,600 students enrolled in the school at an average of 30 students per class. They are mostly Lebanese.

### Faculty and administration

The school employs 150 teachers, 100 of whom work full-time and 50 that work part time. Meanwhile, the administrative body consists of ten employees, including the director and his assistant, a treasurer, a social worker, and department heads and their assistants in addition to other staff members.

### Tuition

In 2008/2009, tuition ranged from LBP 2,825,000 for kindergarten to LBP 3,900,000 for the secondary level.

### Financial aid and scholarships

The school grants financial aid between 10% and 100% (in special cases) after thoroughly studying the applicant's social situation. The total deduction always amounts to around 10%-15% of the school's general budget.

## Special features

- “The school’s old and reputed history.
- Its openness to all confessions and its policy to promote tolerance and acceptance amongst its students.
- How the school welcomes special cases, such as autistic students. It has a specialized body to help integrate them with the rest of the students and boost their confidence.”

## Activities

- The school organizes annual trips to archeological sites.
- Theater activities where students perform in plays at the end of each school year.
- Sports tournaments with other schools.
- The Frères club for volleyball which also participates in tournaments with other schools and clubs.
- Starting at intermediate level, each class has to visit a social center and present them with gifts, financial aid or perform a play.
- An environment club that includes 30 students from the intermediate and secondary levels. It organizes activities and environmental exhibitions such as a presentation on geology.
- A press club which includes 50 students from the intermediate and secondary levels. The club publishes the school’s journal every three months.

Finally, Brother Zreibi calls on politicians to “tone down political speeches that directly affect the youth in the school. Instead of upholding the values they are being taught, such as tolerance, they fight each other over politics”.



## Universities in Lebanon

# LEBANESE CANADIAN UNIVERSITY - LCU

In an interview conducted with Dr. Elias Choueiri, Interim President and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Arts at the Lebanese Canadian University – LCU, The Monthly is pleased to bring forward LCU's history, curricula, educational system, and other characteristics that have made it a one of the well-established universities in Lebanon.

### History of the university's establishment

The Lebanese Canadian University (LCU) is a Lebanese institution of higher education, recognized by presidential decrees #3585/2000 and #778/2007, and by the ministerial order # 1035/m/2008. Its main mission is:

- ⦿ “to grant university degrees that meet the socioeconomic needs of the community and that are closely associated with scientific research
- ⦿ to provide top quality programs that award degrees of international caliber, which are accredited by the Commission of equivalences of the Lebanese Ministry of Higher Education.”

LCU is a titular member of at “Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie”, and is widely open to the world through partnership agreements with prestigious European and North-American universities, internationally renowned for their excellence and innovation; namely, the University of Montesquieu -Bordeaux IV (France), the University of Sherbrooke (Canada), the University of Rennes 1 (France), “Institut des Professions des Affaires et du Commerce” - IPAC (France and Switzerland), and Grenoble Ecole de Management (France).

LCU is a member of AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), ACBSP (Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs), IACBE (International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education), Association of Lebanese Universities, and is currently awaiting memberships in other internationally-renowned business associations.

It should be noted that LCU has signed partnership agreements with:

- ⦿ **the World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB)**  
[A non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization established by a group of prominent Arab bankers upon the recommendation and support of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB), following the Annual Arab Banking Summit held on April 27-28, 2006 in Casablanca-Morocco. WUAB is registered and domiciled in Beirut-Lebanon, and enjoys, by virtue

of the Presidential Decree number 18109, the privileges, immunities and exemptions extended to regional and international organizations operating under the United Nations], in order to grant a Master in Financial Management [offered in partnership with the University of Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV], which is a specialized graduate university program that stems from the ever increasing and demanding needs of the banking and financial institutions to recruit professional and polyvalent management staff and financial experts, whose competences are sought after in the global financial marketplace. This program provides enrolled participants with the most recent information in banking and corporate finance, prepares them to put into practice the acquired information and to develop their managerial aptitudes, and enables them to have a cross-disciplinary vision of the company.

- ⦿ **the Directorate of General Security**
- ⦿ **the Directorate of State Security**
- ⦿ **the Directorate of Internal Security (Ministry of Interior)**
- ⦿ **the Army chiefs of operations (Fouad Chehab College of Command and Staff)**
- ⦿ **the Military Academy (Army Command)**
- ⦿ **the Lebanese University**

### The university's code of ethics and emblem:

It is the policy of the University “to conduct itself with the highest degree of integrity and honesty in all of its dealings. This is a responsibility that we share as a university community. Each trustee, student, faculty member, and administrative employee is bound by this common duty in the pursuit of his or her individual responsibility to the educational objectives of the University.

We owe this duty not only to each other, but also to our residential neighbors and the Government that represents the interests of all citizens. Honesty and fair dealing are the hallmark of this institution, inherited from those who have come before us and a sacred trust that we must leave to those who will follow.”

## Educational system and curriculum

LCU has adopted the credit system in line with the education system in the USA, Canada, and other European countries.

LCU is made up of three faculties:

**Business Administration** (Offers bachelor degrees: 3 years and a half, and master degrees: 1-2 years). As regards its undergraduate programs, the Faculty of Business Administration offers bachelor degrees that are recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education: Bachelor in Finance, Bachelor in Marketing, Bachelor in Human Resources Management, Bachelor in Business Computing, Bachelor in International Management, Bachelor in Accounting and Audit, Bachelor in Economics, Bachelor in Tourism, and Bachelor in Hotel Management.

**Note:** Upon a successful completion of their undergraduate program in Business Administration, Lebanese students who are enrolled at LCU will be awarded a double degree: Lebanese from LCU and Franco-Swiss from IPAC; the same applies to IPAC students.

Regarding its graduate programs, LCU offers an Executive MBA (EMBA) program in: Financial Management, Human Resources Management, International Business, Tourism Management, Marketing, Business Administration, Economics, Accounting and Audit, and Business Computing.

**Note:** Upon a successful completion of the respective program, students are awarded a double degree: Lebanese from LCU and the other one from the partner university.

Besides, LCU offers a Research MBA program in: Finance, Marketing, Human Resources Management, Business Computing, International Business, Accounting and Audit, Economics, and Tourism and Hotel Management.

At the end of the graduate program, EMBA graduates may embark on the preparation of a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) with Grenoble Ecole de Management.

Those who possess a Ph.D. in fields other than Business Administration may pursue post-doctoral studies, also with Grenoble Ecole de Management.

**Science and Art (Offers bachelor degrees: 3 years and a half):** the Faculty of Science and Art offers bachelor degrees that are recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Education: Bachelor in Computing (double degree: from

LCU and University of Sherbrooke, Canada), Bachelor in Graphic Design (double degree: from LCU and IPAC, Switzerland), Bachelor in Interior Design double degree: from LCU and IPAC, Switzerland), Bachelor in Mathematics, Bachelor in Urbanism, and Bachelor in Environmental Geography.

**Humanities (Offers bachelor degrees: 3 years and a half):** the Faculty of Humanities offers bachelor degrees that are recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Education: Bachelor in Journalism, Bachelor in Communication, Bachelor in Translation, Bachelor in Living Languages, and Bachelor in Strategic & Diplomatic Studies.

## Defining characteristics of the university.

“LCU’s academic excellence has been built upon the quality of our faculty, students, and programs, and is enhanced by the many academic resources that are available to our students.


Almost all programs are offered in partnership with well-known Canadian, French, and Swiss universities. In this respect, LCU students receive for the most part double degrees: Lebanese from LCU and the other one from the partner university.

LCU’s faculty of over 70 professors is made up of highly qualified Lebanese, French, Swiss and Canadian professors, graduates prestigious universities. They are experienced lecturers and researchers who are well known in their area of expertise, and practitioners who well seasoned in business life. This combination brings together the best from both the academic and business communities in a way that supports a unique and exceptional quality of student learning.”

## Tuition Fees

Tuition is around USD 5,000 per year “in order to make Higher Education affordable to all students”. It should be noted that the current number of students at LCU is well over 1,000.

## Campus

LCU’s campus in A’aintoura consists of 8 buildings, including a library, computer labs, a bookstore, a health club, parking lots and dorms, as well as green areas “that reflect LCU’s will to preserve a healthy environment for its staff and students. LCU is connected by means of a computer network that uses the most modern technologies available (WIFI and multimedia).” 



# CELIAC DISEASE

Is an iceberg where only the tip reveals itself whereas the rest of it hides under water.

*Dr. Hanna Saadah*

**C**eliac Disease is the iceberg of abdominal and intestinal disorders because for every diagnosed case (tip of the iceberg) seven remain undiagnosed. The disease is common, affecting about 1% of earth's population, and causes a high mortality due multiple conditions that are associated with it.

The disease is caused by a genetic sensitivity to certain protein components present in wheat, rye, and barley known collectively as Gluten. It is thought that the disorder made its appearance after the first ice age in the fertile crescent of the Middle East where grain cultivation was developed. The initial description of the disease dates back to the first century of the Christian Era.

When gluten crosses the intestinal membranes, it causes those individuals who are genetically prone to make antibodies against their own small intestinal linings. These unnatural 'auto-antibodies' attack the small intestine, causing inflammation and destruction of the absorbing hair-like structures called villi.

Symptoms may be absent, atypical, minor, or major:

- a) **Silent disease** is common and impossible to detect without a high index of suspicion. It is usually discovered after a person is diagnosed by doing screening blood tests on that person's relatives.
- b) **Atypical disease** presents with a group of unusual symptoms that have nothing to do with the person's intestines and abdomen. Such symptoms include broken bones due to osteoporosis, psychiatric troubles, nerve and muscle problems, fatigue, anemia, skin rashes, thyroid inflammation, diabetes, recurrent miscarriages, dental diseases, liver inflammation, depression, epilepsy, headache, etc. Autoimmune disorders—where the body's immune system attacks the body—such as lupus and so many others, occur more frequently in Celiac Disease patients than in the general population.
- c) **Minor disease** presents with trivial, transient, recurrent, or chronic symptoms such as indigestion, abdominal discomfort, bloating, altered bowel habits, diarrhea, constipation, food sensitivities, abdominal cramps, belching, and increased abdominal gas.
- d) **Major disease** presents with frank malabsorption symptoms such as severe diarrhea, incontinence, fatty stools, weight loss, edema, cramps, malnutrition, frailty, and vulnerability to infections.

The clinical course of the disease is lifelong and usually progressive. Diagnosis is made with blood tests that detect the abnormal antibodies and is confirmed by doing small intestinal biopsies that show inflammation and flattening of the intestinal lining. The abnormal antibodies, which serve as screening tests, are positive in 85-100% of patients. There are some patients, however, who have biopsy proven Celiac Disease but negative antibodies and there are others who have positive antibodies and negative biopsies. In such cases, management is individualized based on clinical judgment.

Treatment is preventive and entails total avoidance of gluten, which means total abstinence from wheat, barley, and rye. However, avoiding these grains is not as easy as avoiding breads and pastas because small amounts are present in many canned foods, soups, food additives, and restaurant meals. To gain more insight into how to avoid gluten, one can do a Google search on gluten-free-foods and find a wealth of information.

Abstaining from gluten reverses the disease over a few months to a few years; the abnormal antibodies tend to go away, the intestinal lining tends to regenerate itself, abdominal symptoms tend to disappear, autoimmune disorders may show striking improvement, and many atypical manifestations may slowly resolve.

Not treating Celiac disease doubles or triples mortality and the risk of death rises in proportion to the delay in making the diagnosis. Cancer of the lymph nodes is a leading cause of death in undiagnosed or in poorly treated disease. A third of untreated patients have poor spleen function, which allows infections to enter the bloodstream and cause life-threatening problems.

Although it is not practical to screen the population for Celiac Disease, it is appropriate to screen for it in patients who suffers from undiagnosed diseases, autoimmune diseases, chronic abdominal problems, mental problems, liver troubles, skin disorders, nerve and muscle problems, fatigue, bone thinning, and other chronic conditions that have defied diagnosis and treatment. ●●



# HOW THE HANDS OF THE CLOCK MOVE CIVILIZATION

*Antoine Boutros*

In the previous article we reviewed changes that occurred to the concepts of time and space in response to the emergence of the relativity theory. We compared how the Newtonian concept that was the prevailing paradigm stipulated that if we send a light pulse from one place to another, observers, no matter what their number is, will agree on the time length of the light journey because time according to Newton is absolute. But for Einstein, this is untrue because the relativity theory does not recognize the existence of real time for an event that two individuals, one is mobile and the other is immobile, are trying to intercept each from his location and circumstance.

What are the practical implications and repercussions of this concept?

We again return to Einstein's imagination-provoking assumptions: let us assume that the navigator of a spaceship, travelling at a speed nearing the speed of light, decided in the middle of the journey to reduce the speed at the same rate until it reaches its destination. For the most part of the journey, the speed will be close to that of light and with it time will become much slower. The reason for this is that the hours used in flying will become slower despite its preciseness compared to fixed hours. Furthermore, atomic accelerators are designed in a way that allows the expansion of the cluster as the speed grows, or else the accelerators would have smashed. Since the speed is the distance divided by time, if our speed is close to the speed of light then absolute time and space disappear and we will shrink while time will expand and slow down, as such our aging becomes slower. If this can be achieved in practice then the relativity theory would have been considered the elixir of life.

If we assume that we travel to a star in a system similar to our solar system, such as Barnard's Star for example, located at a distance of six light years, then reaching it will take only eight years measuring the hours on the ship. We can also reach the heart of our galaxy (Milky Way) in 12 years and the Andromeda Galaxy in 82 years. As for the earth's inhabitants the matter would be different because our journey would have taken 300,000 years and when we return to earth we will not recognize anything on it.

One would wonder how scientists could figure out what the effect of gravity on time is. Two atomic clocks are placed on the extremities of a speeding spaceship with each one transmitting light signals directed toward the base of the ship. Despite the simultaneous signals at the start of the experiment, the growing speed of the ship by the moment prevents signals from reaching the center point at the same time.

The lower clock seems to be slower compared to the upper one. An external observer would think that the slowing

speed is a result of the distance of the centre point which lengthens the distance that the signal will travel to reach the centre. But for an observer on the inside the clock is simply slower.

The other interesting question is how would it look to us as we travel at a speed close to that of light? With the increasing speed we will begin to see the extremities of the bodies we pass by. At the time when our bodies are pointed forward, the things behind us will appear in our field of vision. As we get closer to the speed of light, the universe, from our point of view, will appear strange since everything will seem pressurized as if they are part of a small circular painting that is always in front of us.

But from the point of view of a fixed observer, the light that emanates from us becomes redder as we move farther and bluer as we move closer. If we are travelling at the speed of light then we will appear as if surrounded by a colored radiation and we will contract toward the movement while our cluster will remain fixed and will not grow while time as we live it will become slower. And this is what we call time dilation.

If we imagine ourselves coming from another civilization that still works by solar hours, non-mechanical and non-atomic, we will be surprised to notice the overwhelming presence time machines: Stations, airports, public buildings, public facilities such as offices, post and schools, street corners all displaying huge their clocks announcing the movement of time second by second. The life and activity of human being revolves around time and its concept.

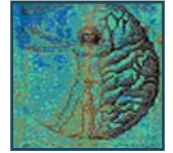
Let us imagine that all the clocks on the planet suddenly came to a halt, what would happen then? The entire society will collapse and air, land and sea transportations will stop because they can only function according to precisely programmed schedules. It would be difficult for the industry to continue its activity because power plants will stop and education, army, customs, services and meetings will become paralyzed. Furthermore, all instant meals will not be functional. Chaos will prevail. 🌍



# REMEMBERING TOGETHER

## The Brain Science of Collective Memory

*Dr. Samar Zebian*



Sometimes, maybe more often than they would like to admit, conflict resolution specialists who examine the history of conflicts and orchestrate reparation programs while considering how policies perpetuate conflict reach a breakpoint where the only way forward is to press the “delete” collective memory button. Although ethnic conflict certainly cannot be reduced to problems related to collective memory, there is a growing belief among researchers that the depth of emotions generated in conflicts as well as their longevity and the complexity involved in controlling and ending them, arises from specific deeply internalized collective memories. Shared memories may be a lynch-pin for conflict resolution.

Collective memories, otherwise known as “group think”, typically involve commonly held memories about group victimization, well defined in-group/out-group differences and a common sense of selfhood and destiny, i.e. the chosen people, the people that think, the people that love life or love death. They are typically built around events which occurred generations before but are reinterpreted to serve present-day interests. Collective memories are powerful because they are saturated with moral interpretative frameworks- who is good/patriotic/self serving. Critically they are essential for group cohesion and sense of belonging both of which are laborious to establish and tenuous to maintain in groups of non-genetically related strangers.

It is not necessarily group think all the way, because group memories can co-exist and remain at odds with personal experience and values. Despite common schisms between the personal and collective, when collective memories are re-enacted or re-invoked (whether intentionally or unintentionally), especially directly after a traumatic or historical event, they become permanently written on the brain. This is why spin doctors and media specialists work 24/7 in the immediate aftermath of significant historical events.

Research shows that collective memories are transmitted later in life by those who formed significant historically-based memories between 13-25 years of age, a time in which individuals are most likely to integrate historical events into their own personal history. In Lebanon, a recent study clearly shows that the autobiographical memories of some 55-65 year old Beirutis who lived through the civil war are in part organized according to a historical/political timeline rather than the more common personal timeline (i.e. before graduation, after an illness). When you ask these individuals to date their autobiographical memories, 25% of the time they give historical landmarks (i.e. before the war, after the invasion). This result has been termed the Living History Effect and it is significantly weaker but present among Lebanese living in rural regions where the fabric of life was not radically altered by conflicts.

The Living in History effect is essentially a brain based litmus test for historical consciousness. The remarkably high levels of historical consciousness found in Lebanon contrast with weaker

or completely absent effects observed in the U.S. Denmark, Canada, Israel, Bosnia, Montenegro and Turkey. Only post civil war Serbia approached, but did not equal nor surpass, the levels observed in Lebanon. The Lebanese rate is even more significant given that historical consciousness develops under special cultural circumstances.

If collective memories are so important, is there evidence that they influence behavior? The scarce but emerging research suggests some leads. For example, in the 3 days after 9/11, researchers found an exponential increase in American’s use of words which designate group affiliation (“we”, “us”, “our”). Also, in the post 9/11 context, individuals reminded of 9/11 were more likely to support pro-military actions against Iraq. Looking at another group, research on Irish samples revealed that group identity (Catholic vs. Protestant) predicts which historical facts are remembered and which are forgotten. Further research is needed to understand how collective memories contribute to a wider array of overt behaviors and beliefs and what leads to the reconstruction of these memories over time. Empirical research is also needed to follow up on the commonly held view that high levels of historical consciousness is directly related to heightened and extended ethnic conflict.

What do we do with this knowledge about collective remembering? Some have suggested locally appropriate Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. Others focus on educating the young knowing that both children and adolescences compartmentalize information, separating what parents/ingroup says from scholarly information. A third direction is to develop contextualized accounts that reveal shared histories. There are also the artists who represent the past and offer perspectives on the recesses of our unconscious. For a truly remarkable work of performing visual art which stirs collective memories see Kseniya Simonova’s award winning work on the Great Patriotic War:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=vOhf3OvRXXg](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=vOhf3OvRXXg).

So what are we doing in Lebanon with our memories of the past? -a good topic for a future column or better yet, a good topic for our readers’ input. 🍷

*Upcoming article:  
Neuronal Bench Pressing for Lifelong Health*

## The Monthly interviews

# IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON OMAR AL-BARZANJI

For many decades, Iraq has been the focus of security-political issues in the Middle East and perhaps the world beginning with the Iran-Iraq war, the invasion of Kuwait, the siege on Iraq, the fall of Saddam Hussein and the subsequent explosions and bloody events leading to the recent elections on March 7.

The Monthly met with Omar al-Barzanji, Iraq's ambassador to Lebanon, in an interview that covered his diplomatic career, the situation in Iraq and his view on Lebanon.

### Your Excellency, please tell us a little about you?

I was born on January 15, 1960 in Sulaimaniyah, Iraq. I studied in Kirkuk the elementary and secondary levels and graduated high school in 1979. I then left for law school in the University of Baghdad and graduated in 1984. I became a lawyer and received a Lawyers Syndicate card in the same year. I practiced the law in 1988, due to the situation in the country and army service, which was mandatory and a huge problem, you never knew once you entered the army whether you will get out because of the consecutive wars (army service is no longer mandatory). Personally, I completed two years of service as a military notary and I was not a fighter. I started my legal career in 1988 as a lawyer in Sulaimaniyah but a lawyer has the right to go anywhere, so I used to go to many courts in Baghdad and in Kirkuk.

In 1995, I left Iraq to many places and I stayed in Turkey for a semi-diplomatic and political work. I left for Holland as an asylum seeker and after that I acquired the Dutch nationality and I was in charge of some civil society organizations and bodies. I then became a lecturer in the Arabic language and Islamic history at Dutch's chapter of the Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines in Paris for two years. After the fall of the regime in Iraq, I thought it best to return and I wanted to become a judge but ended up in the diplomatic corps.

### When did you arrive in Lebanon and what posts have you occupied in the past?

As I said, I am originally a lawyer and I was appointed ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on July 19, 2004. I was then appointed head of the human rights department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baghdad and I was also a lecturer in human rights at the ministry for 480 current Iraqi diplomats in consecutive rounds. As head of the human rights department at the ministry I attended all the meetings of the human rights committee at the beginning. The committee turned into a council and all rounds, up until the 9th round, were held in Geneva in the end of 2008. I arrived in Lebanon on January 27, 2009 and presented my credentials to the president on February 13, 2009. I am an ambassador who does not discriminate between citizens based on religion, confession or other affiliations. I have a patriotic view and not a religious or a confessional one. I do not think if the other person is of the same religion as mine this means he is good and if he is of a different religion then he is bad. I look at the person through their humanity, if he is an active member of society then he is progressive but if he is a negative member of society then I do not give him attention. Holders of the Iraqi nationality are equal to me, be they Sunni, Shia'a, Arab, Kurdish, Turkmen, Muslim or Christian. I expect these are personal affiliations and I am concerned with the national matter.



Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon  
Omar al-Barzanji

### The sectarian matter is prominent in Iraq today, how do you see it?

There are invisible hands that are moving this matter when one human being addresses another he has not right to offend him. The human is dignified in his humanity even the Holy Quran stresses this through the verse that says: "We have honored the sons of Adam" and it did not say we have honored the Muslims or the Christians. This is the best example that a person is honored if he is self respecting. There can be humans who kill, harm and steal and by this behavior he is forsaking his position in the people's heart and his self respect because people do not respect attackers or criminals. Such people deserve to be tried. This is my basis for dealing with others. It does not make a difference to me if I go to a Sunni, Shia'a, Muslim or Christian gathering or to visit a church, mosque or a husseiniyah because I am visiting the people in it. In terms of rituals, I have my own and the other has his own and the end result I refer to the verse that says: "'O People of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you". What are the books? The Quran, the Bible and the Torah. Even in my human rights lectures I always told diplomats, do not forget that you are leaving to a country of this world and you are an Iraqi diplomat, you represent the Sunni, the Shia'a, the Muslim, the Christian, the Arab and the Kurd. It is inappropriate to limit yourself to a sect, ethnicity or party.

**In your opinion, will there be a repetition of 2005 when the country stayed without a government for almost five months?**

I expect to be able to know this in the next short period because the level of differences between the political bodies will decide how difficult or easy it will be to form a government. When the sizes of political bodies are very close then no one can form a government without the cooperation of others who will have many conditions making a formation difficult. But if the difference is wide, then there is a bigger chance. In all cases, the Constitution stipulates that in 45 days the head of the largest parliamentary bloc should form the government, if the government is not formed in this period then he can designate for a second time but after that it is not necessary to designate himself.

**To your knowledge, how many Iraqis are there in Lebanon and what was the percentage of their participation in the elections?**

First, the percentage of participation was good but I do not have a specific number now. I think that the number of Iraqis in Lebanon is between 10,000 and 25,000 but closer to 10,000.

**According media reports, despite the strong Iraqi presence in Lebanon and media campaigns by the candidates and the blocks, it was said that participation was weak?**

Participation was weak on the first day only. But in the second and third day it was good especially that on the third we always used to find a high number at the stations and this is proof that participation was good. But the numbers of Iraqis in Lebanon remains low compared to their numbers in Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Europe.

**What do you think of the high number of Iraqis abroad?**

I aspire for the Iraqi to return to his homeland and then he can leave as a traveler or a tourist. If we can prepare a good environment for the Iraqi in Iraq then his stay in his country is the natural thing. But to leave Iraq, which has the biggest oil reserve in the world, to be hungry and homeless somewhere else then this is wrong. Although I thank all the countries that welcome the Iraqis but their home is wider for them and this requires a set of things: security and economy and we have great potentials and one of the causes of a weak economy is terrorism. When you blow up several buildings then the people affected need to be compensated which means a human and financial bleeding.

**What can you tell us about Lebanese-Iraqi ties?**

Relations are principally good. And I expect that in this period we played a role in strengthening and boosting them and I think they have a good future because the Lebanese-Iraqi common factors are great and the fact that the two countries do not interfere in each other's affairs is very important in addition to the love for each other. If you ask an Iraqi about Lebanon he will answer that he loves Lebanon and if you ask any Lebanese about Iraq he will answer that he loves Iraq and this is the greatest factor. If you ask the Iraqi what place in the world he likes to visit and see he

will answer Lebanon. In Lebanon the Iraqi is welcomed and honored, as opposed to previous years when he used to enter surreptitiously.

**How many Lebanese are there in Iraq?**

I do not have a statistic on the issue. There are Lebanese who go there to work and invest. There are many companies in Iraq, especially in Irbil, due to their sense that there are investment opportunities there. And we hope that this happens in all of Iraq and I expect Lebanon to have the first role in road reconstruction.

**It is said that it is difficult to acquire an entry visa to Iraq?**

No, on the contrary. This is among my powers and I can give entry visas to Irbil and the south (Najaf and Basra). These visas permit their holders to enter these areas. As for entry visas to the capital Baghdad, which is witnessing security-related events, then the issue requires approval from the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad and I am responsible for this task. But to get a visa into Baghdad takes a certain time.


**What do you like best about Lebanon?**

Is there anything in Lebanon that I cannot like? I passed by Lebanon on my way to the Iraqi Embassy in Denmark, a month before I became ambassador. Everything in Lebanon is beautiful, it summarizes the world, and you are in the east and west at the same time, in the mountains and the sea, in constant spring. Naturally, the faces in Lebanon are open like the nature of the land; they talk to anybody as if the sea is laughing to your face, as if the sea and everything is laughing. People take on the nature of their land. If a person lives in an arid desert he resemble the nature of the desert, but the sea makes the person, and since childhood, look at what is beautiful and thinks, deals and views matters beautifully. All the people I have meet are good-natured and love life and a person who gets used to Lebanon's nature refuses to leave it.

**What do you like least about Lebanon?**

I sincerely pray for both Lebanon and Iraq to come out of the sectarian problem. It makes us all lose and to rid to this affliction we must follow the experiences of others, I admired the Malaysian experience. I saw people, with different religions, living with each other and appreciating that the other has a different his own religion which could be very far from one's religion but they tolerate each other because of the mutual interest and the mutual danger.

**I noticed that in Kurdistan, your generation and older generations speak, but the newer generations don't, is this direction of the coming period?**

No, this is a phase and it will end. At the beginning there was disagreement between the Arabs and the Kurds that pushed them to infighting and we were afraid. Then this disagreement immediately ends and things returned to how they once were in terms of harmony, love and openness. 

# POPULAR CULTURE

“Lucky is he who has as much as a goat’s shed in Mount Lebanon”

In 1937, when a French company decided to execute a project to transport water from Nahrel-Kalb to Beirut, which required the installation of water pipes in the mutasarifiya of Mount Lebanon. But the residents obstructed the project after being provoked by the mutasarifiya wali Rostom Pasha until they were compensated for damages that will result from the installation. As a result of this obstruction, the project was delayed for 14 years, causing Beirut’s residents to be angry at Rostom Pasha.

At the time, Rostom Pasha had created a private garden for parties above Nahr Beirut and it became to be known as “the pasha’s garden”. There existed many goat sheds near the garden that the owners used in winter time, but they were closed due to their proximity to the garden.

One of those sheds belonged to a shepherd from Beirut who had not used it after the mutasarifiya was separated from the state of Beirut. When he heard of the pasha’s garden he started telling everyone about it until the story reached Hajj Hussein Baiham, a member of the Ottoman parliament, and a renowned politician in Beirut. After verifying the shepherd’s story, Hajj Hussein sent a letter to Rostom Pasha in which he wrote: “we have a goat’s shed in your garden with space for 100 goats. It belongs to a shepherd of our citizens. Kindly return the shed to its former state because the shepherd is soon to head to his shed...”

Rostom Pasha realized that the residents of Beirut were avenging the obstruction of the water project. He was forced to buy the location of the shed for more than its real price in order to silence the shepherd to prevent others from claiming money for their sheds. Since then it is said: “lucky he who has as much as a goat’s shed in Mount Lebanon”.



compiled from Salam Al Rasi- The complete works, Beirut, Dar Nawfal.



## Melhem’s shop

Melhem grew up without a father. I can no longer recall the accident that killed his father: a pine tree he was chopping fell on him; a rock he was standing on was dislodged or he fell from a high hilltop as he was chopping oak woods for burning. I forget. But I do remember that Bou Melhem (Melhem’s father) died young in an accident. Bou Melhem was one of the poorest of the family. He left Imm Melhem (Melhem’s mother) nothing but Melhem, poverty, worries, misery and heartbreak... Her attic, hope and faith were a major capital. But she wished Bou Melhem had left her a photograph... But each time she looked at the picture of Russia’s tsar with Mar Jreiss next to him, she saw standing between them Bou Melhem! He was young! He was a man! Dear God protect Melhem! Dear God let him be like his father...

She turns her gaze away from the picture of Russia’s tsar and Mar Jreiss and stares at Melhem deep in sleep... How can he get married when today’s girls want a man with an income and money?... Melhem was born to be a merchant in the village. He will marry a girl who won’t say that he is a peasant, but that he is the owner of a shop!

Imm Melhem died of pleurisy ... She died and she did not see the shop, she died and did not hear a ululation nor did she find out who the bride was. Winter came. And on a cold day darkness turns the attic into a dreary place. The women saw that Melhem was an orphan and the men said: Melhem must get married...

Two weeks later, Melhem was betrothed to Helena ... the days go by and the purse grows heavier thanks to Helena’s cunning and economizing. Melhem told her that he wanted to realize his mother’s dream: Leasing the extension to turn into one of the best shops in the village. No furniture, no slaughtering and no needless expenses. Helena approved.

Melhem the shop owner is now one of the village’s rich men. He has substantial income...

And so the house that was built with sweat, tears and prayers grew bigger. Listen oh Ridha!

Isma’ya Rida - Anis Freiha - First Edition 2006, Dar Nawfal, Beirut

## Myth #33

**FIRST ARABIC PRINTING PRESS**

The spread of the printing press with movable type began with its invention by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany (circa 1439). The creation of the printing press would eventually allow for the spread of books and ideas to a greater population rather than be restricted to the religious elite. It also helped invigorate the literary and intellectual renaissance that took place in the Arab world at the beginning of the 18th century.

**Myth: Lebanon had the first Arabic printing press in the Arab world, established by Abdullallah Zakhir in 1733.**



**Letterpress Metal Type**  
Source: Wordpress.com

## **Fact** The first Arabic printing press was set up in Aleppo in 1706.

Even before the first Arabic printing press, the Arab world at that time was under to Ottoman Empire, meaning that the development of the printing press cannot be separated from similar contexts elsewhere in the empire. The first printing press in the Middle East was established at the end of the 15th century and located in Istanbul. This printing press used Hebrew exclusively, although it did print some Arabic books using Hebrew characters. In 1610, Lebanon's first Syriac script printing press was established in the Valley of Deir Mar Antonios Qozhaya in Ehden.

The Melkites were responsible for establishing the first Arabic printing press, which was set up in Aleppo at the beginning of the 18th century. Opinions vary regarding the source of the type and printing equipment. Many believe that it was manufactured in Brasov in Romania around 1700. Father Joseph Nasrallah however, who was the latest student of the Aleppo press, believed that Abdullah Zakhir was the true founder of the first Arabic Press, having designed, cast the type, and fabricated much of the printing equipment himself.

**Some years later, he [Abdullah Zakhir] founded the first Arabic printing press in Lebanon. From al-Shuwayr, he moved to Zuq Mikayil where he lived from 1728 to 1731 and began working on a printing press. He moved again to the Monastery of Saint John the Baptist in al-Shuwayr where he designed and engraved a new set of Arabic type. The press at al-Shuwayr started operating in 1733 and terminated in 1899. The first book printed was Mizan Az-Zaman. Altogether, it issued some 32 separate titles and 36 editions, making it the second Arabic printing press in the region, after Aleppo.**

This press produced religious books for local consumption in the Arab regions of the Ottoman Empire. There is evidence that Constantine of Valachia had some share of the press in Aleppo because his coat of arms appears on the first book ever printed there. The first publication in 1706 was a book of Psalms entitled Kitab al-zabur al-sharif. During the same year, the Gospels were also printed. The third book to come off the press (1707) was Kitab al-durr al-muntakhab by Saint John Chrysostom (347-407) in a translation from Greek to Arabic by the Patriarch Athanasius III al-Dabbas. The following year the Epistles dealing with prophecy was issued. The fifth book issued (1708) was a re-arranged edition of the Gospels. In total some 11 works were issued in Aleppo, but nothing after 1711 where the fate of the Aleppo press is not known. Abdullah Zakhir left Aleppo in 1722 after a dispute with the Melkite community, and moved to the Monastery of al-Shuwayr in Khonchara located in Mount Lebanon.

### Sources:

*Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Volume 24, Allen Kent, Harold Lancour, Jay E, Daily (executive editors)*  
"The First Arabic Script Printing Press in Lebanon", January 5, 2009, Wordpress.com

# LEBANON IN STAMPS

## The Chafic Taleb Collection

In his collection, Chafic Taleb has combined Lebanon's stamps and historical documents over more than a century in his book "Lebanon in its Stamps"\*. These stamps represent the development of the concept of the state and its sovereignty, and are accompanied by photographs and glimpses of the crises, events and personalities of that time. The stamps depict archeological sites, temples, buildings, faces, flowers and fruits from the deterioration of the Ottoman Empire (1885) until the term in office of former President Emile Lahoud (2001).



### The Ottoman era (1885-1918)

During this era, Ottoman stamps were used across Lebanese regions and carried drawings of mosques, citadels and symbols. French stamps were also used in the Beirut post and carried drawings of French statues. English stamps were also in circulation.

### The French phase from 1919 until the term in office of President Charles Debbas (1926-1932)

After the arrival of the French forces to Lebanon and Syria, French stamps were again used and were marked with the letters TEO (French abbreviation for Occupied Enemy Territories). Other stamps carried the letters OMF (French abbreviation for Regions under the Control of the French Army). The French mandate era was distinguished with many French stamps carrying the phrase "Syrie Grand Liban".

In 1925, the first stamp was issued under the name of "Greater Lebanon Post" depicting various Lebanese locations in addition to the Cedar tree.

### Charles Debbas (1926-1932) until the Declaration of Independence (1943)

Seventeen stamps were issued during the first presidency in Lebanon. They were marked in French at first and then in Arabic. The stamps depicted drawings of archeological sites and Lebanese events such as the silk conference. The following period went through political turbulence as calls for independence grew increasingly louder. The issuing of stamps stopped as a result when the constitution was suspended from 1932-1934 and during the term of President Habib Pasha al-Sa'ad (1934-1936). During the term in office of President Emile Edde (1936-1941), nine sets of stamps were issued. During the terms in office of presidents Alfred Nakkach (1941-1943) and Ayoub Thabet (March 1943-July 1943) Lebanon saw the publication of two sets of stamps that included the declaration of independence and a picture of the Emir Bachir al-Chehabi.

### President Bchara el-Khoury (1943-1952) until President Fouad Chehab (1958-1964)

During the term in office of President Bechara el-Khoury, Lebanon issued 35 sets of stamps depicting events, conferences, the Palestinian cause and the Grand Serail. During the term

of Camille Chamoun (1952-1958), Lebanon issued 70 sets of stamps depicting 58 different topics that ranged from the Lebanese cedar, independence, photography, conferences, political visits (such as that of King Mohammad V), Arab and international organizations (like the Arab League and the United Nations). Chehab's picture appeared in four sets.

### President Charles Helou (1964-1970) until Elias Sarkiss (1976-1982)

Lebanon issued 40 sets of stamps during the term of Charles Helou. Topics ranged from cultural events, projects, a visit by the pope, Fakhreddine, and Beirut in addition to tourism in Lebanon and human rights.

During the term in office of President Suleiman Franjeh (1970-1976), stamps focused on prominent religious figures (Imam Ouza'ai), secular figures (Hassan Kamel al-Sabah), authors (Al-Akhtal al-Saghir, Gebran Khalil Gebran and Mikhail Na'aimeh...) and drawings of Miss Universe Georgina Rizq. When the civil war broke out, during the term in office of Elias Sarkiss, the number of stamp sets dropped to ten.

### President Amine Gemayel (1982-1988) until the beginning of Emile Lahoud's term in office and the book's publishing (2001)

The few sets issued during Gemayel's presidency focused on the Scout Movement's diamond jubilee and Gebran Khalil Gebran's centennial. The collection included the first stamp with the picture of a president and a prime minister (then Rachid Karami, 1988).

President Elias Hrawi's term was distinguished with several significant events paving the way for 11 different stamp issues including Pope Paul II's visit to Lebanon, the Qana massacre, the 50th anniversary of the independence and President Rene Mouawwad. The book was published in 2001 and therefore covers the stamps of the first few years of the presidential term of former President Emile Lahoud (1998-2007) despite the different events that took place including the liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation, the cause of Lebanese prisoners, a picture of Ibrahim Abdel A'al, the Saint Joseph University and the Geneva Conventions.

# “THE MAGICAL SAUCEPAN”\*

In *The Magical Saucepan*, a poor and hungry little girl meets an old lady who gives her a magical saucepan to cook pudding. One day, while the girl was away, her mother started the magical saucepan to eat. She ate with such appetite and over-indulgence that she forgot to turn it off. The saucepan kept cooking until the whole town drowned in pudding. The story teaches readers that greed is a bad habit.

The book is recommended for children at the elementary level and can be read for younger children.

\*The collection includes classical and internationally renowned stories

“*The Magical Saucepan*” is part of the “*Ladybird, The Loved Stories*” collection. It was retold in Arabic by Mohammad Al-Adnany and published by “*The Library of Beirut*”. The collection also includes:

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs  
 Snow-White and Rose-Red  
 Beauty and the Beast  
 Cinderella, Ramzy and his Cat  
 The Foxy Wolf and The Little Red Chicken among others.



# FAMILIES NAMED AFTER BIRDS

## A'asfour, Bulbul, Jalbout, Douri, Sommon, Hassoun, Hajal, Nisir and Ghorab

Many Lebanese families are named after birds. Some are located across Lebanon whereas others are part of only one region or confession. The original reason for these names is that they probably used to be kept as pets. The families are:

### A'asfour (Bird)

910 members distributed across the following regions and confessions:

- ⦿ Catholic: Haret El-Boutom (Ba'abda), Achrafieh, Zahle, Sin El-Fil, Saifi (Beirut), Ras Beirut, Hadath, Rmeil (Beirut spelled Al-A'asfour), A'ain El-Rimané and A'aiteet (West Beqa'a spelled Al-A'asfour).
- ⦿ Shia'a: Braiquea (Nabatiyé) and Chehabiyé (Sour)
- ⦿ Sunni: Trablous, Saida, Mazra'a (Beirut) and Khirbet Rouha (Rachaiya, spelled Al-A'asfour)
- ⦿ Druze: Chanay (A'aley)
- ⦿ Maronite: Dar El-Mraisse (Beirut)
- ⦿ Protestant: Ras Beirut (Beirut)
- ⦿ A'alawi: Et-Tabbaneh (Trablous) and Aaridé (A'akkar)
- ⦿ Greek Orthodox: A'aley, Achrafieh, Mazra'a, Ras Beirut, Abou Qamha (Hasbaiya, spelled Al-A'asfour)

### Bulbul (Nightingale)

460 members distributed across:

- ⦿ Sunni: Deir A'ammam (Miniyé-Danniyé), Mina and Et-Tabbaneh (Trablous), Msaitbé (Beirut) and Dalhoun (Chouf, spelled Al-Bulbul)
- ⦿ Maronite: Beslouqit (Zgharta) and Gosta and Sarba (Kesrouane)
- ⦿ Catholic: in Sour (Al-Bulbul)

### Jalbut (baby bird) and Al-Jalbut

323 members. They are Greek Orthodox and reside in Khyam, Borj Hammoud and Achrafieh.

### Al-Douri and Douri (Sparrow)

32 members of the Sunni confession with a few Maronites.

- ⦿ Sunni: in Heri (Batroun) and Mina
- ⦿ Maronite: in Zahle

### Hajal and Al-Hajal (Partridge)

573 members distributed across:

- ⦿ Greek Orthodox: El-Qobbe and Ez-Zahrieh (Trablous) and Jal El-Deeb, Benaya, Bsalem and Antelias (Metn)
- ⦿ A'alawi: A'abboudiyé (A'akkar) and El-Qobbe and Et-Tebeneh (Trablous)
- ⦿ Catholic: Rmeil (Beirut)
- ⦿ Shia'a: Qasr (Hermel)
- ⦿ Maronite: A'ain El-Hour (Chouf)

### Sommon (bird in the pheasant family Phasianidae)

25 members of the Greek Orthodox confession and are located mainly in Mazra'a, Rmeil, Saifi and Achrafieh (Beirut) and in Mina (Trablous)

### Hassoun (Goldfinch)

4,400 members located across:

- ⦿ Maronite: Zaarouriyé and Brih (Chouf)
- ⦿ Catholic: Sour, Saifi (Beirut), Zouk El-Kharab and Antelias (Metn), Maghdouché (Saida) and in Zahle
- ⦿ Sunni: Mdoukha and Khirbet Rouha (Rachaiya), Sfiré and Beit El-Faqs (Miniyé-Danniyé), Aaiyat, Chane and Houaich (A'akkar), Zoqaq El-Blat (Beirut), Et-Tebbeneh, El-Haddadine and Es-Souayqa



**Hassoun (Goldfinch)**  
Source: Lebanonhunt.com

(Trablous), Borj El-Barajneh, Bsaba and Haret El-Naamé (Chouf), Saida and Zahle

- ⦿ Shia'a: Babliyé, Ghaziyé and Kfar Hata (Saida), Gbairi and Bachoura (Beirut), Borj El-Brajneh, Deir El-Zahrani (Nabatiyé), Nabatiyé, Taibet (Marja'ayoun) and Beitu Yahoun (Bint Jbail)
- ⦿ Greek Orthodox: Rmeil and Achrafieh (Beirut) and Ez-Zahrieh (Trablous)
- ⦿ Druze: Barouk, Ba'aqline and Dmit (Chouf), Ibl Es-Saqi (Marja'ayoun) and Mrayjat (Zahlé)
- ⦿ A'alawi: Haytla (A'akkar) and El-Qobbe (Trablous)

### Nisir and Al-Nisir (Eagle)

**Nisir:** 600 members of the Shia'a confession located in Bazouriyé (Sour), Sour, Mazra'a, Msaitbé and Achrafieh (Beirut) and Kfar Sir (Nabatiyé)

**Al Nisir:** 190 members of the Sunni confession in Baaloul (West Beqaa)

### Ghorab (Crow)

120 members of the Shia'a confession located in Qasr (Hermel) and Louayzé (Jezzine)

# ARAB EL-JALL: THE TOWN OF ARABS

## Etymology

In the past, the area between the towns of A'anqoun and Kfar Beet in the qada'a of Saida, was empty and inhabited by only a few families of Al Ballout. It became a destination for Arab nomads to settle in for their livestock to graze. Since the beginning of the 1950's, Arab tribes started building houses in the area after purchasing lands from their owners. This is why it is called Arab el-Jall.

## Location

Arab el-Jall is a very small town in terms of area and number of inhabitants. It is located in the qada'a of Saida at an altitude of 400 meters above sea level, occupying an area of 90 hectares, around 15 kilometers from Saida and 55 kilometers from Beirut. It can be reached via Saida-Magdousheh-A'anqoun-Arab el-Jall.

## Population

The number of registered residents is estimated at around 370. They are mostly Sunni (85%) with a minority of (15%) Shia'a. The town has around 70 houses and 14 businesses.

## Voters

The town witnessed a significant increase in the number of voters from 175 electors in 2000 to 188 in 2004 and 244 in 2010, marking an increase by 69 voters or 40%.

The voters are distributed among the following families:

Daher (the largest family): 118 voters

Hilal: 50 voters

Hammoud: 18 voters

A'alaywi: 18 voters

Ballout (Shia'a): 40 voters. They are some of the town's original residents

## Local authorities

The town does not have a municipal council, due to the small number of residents, but there is a mukhtar and an ikhtiyari council.



## Education

The town has only one school, the Arab el-Jall Public Elementary School for boys and girls. It has 54 students and eight teachers. Some students go to private schools in nearby villages, notably Magdousheh and A'anqoun.

## Economy

The town's economy relies on agriculture, breeding livestock and employment in Saida and the town's small stores.

## Challenges

The town suffers from an inadequate sewage system which causes pollution, the proliferation of insects and diseases.

# KARAMI-GEAGEA AN UNCHANGING POSITION

Lebanese politicians are known to frequently change their positions and to fluctuate between animosity and alliances. However, some remained committed to their known stances. One of them is former Prime Minister Omar Karami's stance toward Samir Geagea who he still accuses of murdering his brother, the late Prime Minister Rachid Karami. Despite an amnesty granted to Geagea in July 2005, Karami has not changed the tone of his public statements.

“We all know who the real culprit is and who planned and who implemented. This is the culprit and this is what we are seeking revenge from (...) it is known, the Lebanese Forces, and Amin Gemayel who covers and hinders things that lead to uncovering the truth.” (*An-Nahar on July 3, 1987*)

“It is difficult for Geagea to understand these things (non-sectarianism) because of his sectarian upbringing as we have said. He does not want to free himself this mentality.” (*An-Nahar on January 13, 1990*)

“(…) The internal battle with militias has brought us to where we are and give us lessons, and we are still drowned in the mud that they have pulled us into.” (*An-Nahar on October 14, 1991*)

“I am hurt from what the verdict has lead to (...) We are strongly surprised by the announced verdict: death penalty mitigated to hard labor for Samir Geagea, who is accused of inciting a murder (the assassination of Rashid Karami).” (*An-Nahar on June 30, 1999*)

“The case of Rachid Karami is not linked to me personally or even to my family. It is a public case connected to a public opinion and if the public opinion agrees. In any case, I cannot stand in his face and this is not my case.” (*An-Nahar on December 14, 2003*)

“Approving Geagea's and suspending the court verdict against him is one of the most dangerous things because it will open the door for amnesty for those who murdered Rafik Hariri, Mufti Hassan Khaled, Sheikh Sobhi Saleh and other martyrs who died for the homeland. As if national reconciliation cannot be achieved unless it was at the expense of our martyrs' blood.” (*An-Nahar on May 4, 2005*)

“The last person to talk about politics and patriotism is Samir Geagea, who is known for his relation with Israel. Geagea never knew the meaning of patriotism.” (*Al-Akhbar on January 22, 2007*)

“Geagea will not set foot in the city of Al-Rachid no matter how much money and media coverage he receives ... They want to desecrate the walls of our neighborhood and

our city with the pictures of the murderer... Let all voices shut up if the spokesperson for the Sunni confession is called Samir Geagea then us, not others, are the Arabists, monotheists, Muslims and Sunni.” (*An-Nahar on April 21, 2007*)

“Samir Geagea is not a politician. He is the leader of a militia and his television interviews can be summarized into indirectly saying: Lebanon is I, and I am Lebanon. In each appearance, he issues orders knowing that he predicts something that has been realized except for the security explosions of course.” (*Al-Akhbar on September 15, 2008*)

“The significance of this apology (that Geagea gave during a mass dedicated to the martyrs of the Lebanese resistance for all the wrong decisions) lies in the fact that it proves what we have always said that Samir Geagea used to lie and his words change nothing in his mindset or in his conscience and the criminality it harbors. And I do not think any of the honorable Lebanese believed his words, he was imploring the sympathy of the public opinion... He does not want reconciliation and he wants to forcibly impose himself on everyone in a militia-like manner.” (*An-Nahar on September 23, 2008*)

“The apology of Samir Geagea, the head of the Lebanese Forces' executive body, means nothing to us politically or personally. We did not as for an apology rather we carried the banner of 'we will not forget and we will not forgive' because apology does not bring back Rachid Karami, who the LF drank to his assassination.” (*ANB on October 22, 2008*)

“Geagea is a criminal and a murderer and he confessed to the murder of martyr Rachid Karami.” (*Statement on November 13, 2008*)

“We heard Samir Geagea declaring he was proud of the verdicts that were issued against him, meaning he is proud of killing Rachid Karami. This makes us decide, after consulting with our allies, to file a memo to the Security Council to include the assassination of Rachid Karami to the list of murders the international tribunal will examine.” (*April 25, 2007*)

## March 2010 Timeline in Lebanon

# WALID JUMBLAT IN DAMASCUS AFTER HE “FORGOT AND FORGAVE”

Hezbollah agents testify before the international investigator as witnesses in the murder case of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, judicial and bank appointments, downgrading representation at the Arab League summit in Libya, and the Syrian ambassador in the Serail.

**March 2:** Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a speech to celebrate the birth of the Muhammad says: “Any information given to the Americans goes to Tel Aviv” and calls for the death penalty against Israeli collaborators

The parliamentary media committee discusses what As Safir reported on the US Embassy’s request for information about the mobile phone networks from the Internal Security Forces through an agreement that provoked problems over its signature by General Ashraf Rifi.

**March 3:** Hariri meets the families of the Ethiopian Airline crash victims. Suleiman Franjeh pays his condolences to Amine Gemayel over the death of his sister in the presence of Sami and Nadim Gemayel.

**March 4:** The Council of Ministers appoints a president for the Court of Audit (A’aouni Ramadan), a head of central inspection (Akram Ba’assiri) and a president of the Council for Civil Service (Khaled Qabbani).

**March 5:** Council of Ministers appoints a president and members of the Banking Control Commission, ratifies the municipal law and refers it to Parliament.

**March 6:** Michel Samaha warns of assassinations.

**March 8:** A protest at the American University of Beirut against the publication of a book that includes articles by 16 Israeli academics and three Palestinian academics, among them AUB Palestinian Dr. Sari Hanafi, the main editor of the book. He considered the protest and the campaign unjustified because the Israelis involved are leftists and are

opposed to the occupation.

President Suleiman in Riyadh meets King Abdullah.

Hariri in Kuwait meets Prince Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The head of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Antonio Cassese, files his first report which says that “a large network moved a smaller network that executed Hariri’s assassination”. He spoke of new leads in the report.

**March 9:** Najib Miqati in an interview with As Safir rules out an Israeli war for four months and does not mind an alliance Omar Karami in the municipal elections. He also believes that a delay of the vote is possible.

Jebran Bassil to An Nahar: “We refuse holding the elections under the old law, let us postpone until the reforms are ratified because their failure is a failure for the government.”

**March 10:** The national dialogue session convenes at Ba’abda Palace and participants agree to continue discussing the defense strategy. A final declaration is issued after removing a reference to the resistance since the subject is still a point of contention. The next session was set on April 15.

**March 11:** Sa’eed Mirza decides to return a summons by the Syrian judiciary for Lebanese politicians, judges, security officials and media figures to stand before it in the lawsuit of Jameel al-Sayyed.

**March 12:** Carlos Saleem, a Mexican of Lebanese origin, and the richest person in the world, arrives in Lebanon.

Charles Rizq tells An Nahar “the

verdict of the tribunal this year is an indictment and anyone who tries to confront it will be incriminating himself”.

Council of Ministers decides to form a ministerial committee headed by Hariri to set a mechanism for administrative appointments.

**March 13:** An argument between Lebanon’s delegate to the Security Council and the Syrian delegate over Syria’s ignoring that Lebanon prior cancellation of the Cairo agreement.

**March 14:** Jumblat in an interview with Al Jazeera says he wants to turn the page with Syria and that inappropriate statements against President Bashar Assad in a “moment of abandonment”. He tells Al Jazeera he had said that he will forgive but will not forget and today “I say I will forgive and forget” (the murder of his father by the Syrians as he previously stated).

**March 15:** March 14 forces meet in the absence of Hariri, Jumblat and Amine Gemayel but in the presence of Nadim Gemayel.

**March 16:** Hezbollah issues a statement announcing that Assad will meet Jumblat after mediation by Hezbollah at Jumblat’s request.

**March 17:** Hezbollah asks the government to inspect all American aid. On the 33rd anniversary of the assassination of Kamal Jumblat, Walid Jumblat does not visit his father’s grave dispatching instead his son Taymour accompanied by Sharif Fayyad to place a rose on the grave.

**March 18:** Wi’am Wahhab, after visiting Rabieh, says: “There is an essential flaw in the presidency and this

is something fundamental in the current paralysis. The president's theory has failed and did not reach anywhere and his resignation is now the best [option] because we cannot be in the second year of the term as if we are in the last ten days.”

**March 19:** Government approves a tourism plan that includes facilities, services, surveillance and coordination among ministries. The plan extends from 2010 until 2014.

Syrian Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Abdel Karim visits Nasrallah.

**March 20:** The Syrian ambassador to Lebanon visits Hariri at the Serail for the first time.

Jordanian Prime Minister Samir al-Rifa'i visits Lebanon and signs with Hariri several cooperation agreements.

**March 21:** Wahhab in an interview with New TV says the international investigating committee in the murder of Hariri summoned Hezbollah agents for questioning.

**March 22:** Speaker Nabih Berri meets senior Turkish officials during an official visit to Turkey.

General Michel Aoun participates in a mass in Mar Youssef's Church in Haret Hreik in the southern suburbs in the presence of Hezbollah officials for the first time in 39 years, when he baptized his youngest daughter Chantal. Bishop Boulos Matar presided over the mass.

**March 23:** The launching of the Kamal Jumblat Friends League. Walid Jumblat says: “I do not want a street with his name because Beirut as Kamal Jumblat knows it has changed. Beirut is not ours.”

Investigators in Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare's office listen to the testimony of witnesses in Lebanon, survey the scene of the assassination, and take three-dimensional pictures of the area.

**March 24:** Aoun says: If the sky comes tumbling down we will not accept that Beirut becomes a single electoral district.

Karami supports Wahhab's criticism of the president saying that the silence of the president is suspicious and warns of covering up the Dar al-Ifta' case.

**March 25:** In an interview with Al Manar television, Assad says that international tribunals are a bazaar that has lost their luster and that they will welcome Jumblat in the next few days or weeks after the Arab summit, reaffirming his support for Suleiman. He says “we have left the domestic details and hope that the Lebanese do not involve us in them”.

The Council of Ministers decides to grant LBP 40 million for each victim of the Ethiopian Airline and to designate Ambassador to the Arab League, Khaled Ziadeh, to represent Lebanon at the Arab summit in Libya. March 14 forces reject Lebanon's absence from the summit.

Former Polish President Lech Walesa visits Lebanon.

**March 27:** Bellemare's office states: “Speculations around the investigation misleads the investigation.”

**March 28:** The Lebanese Forces celebrates at Biel the 16th anniversary of its dissolution under the title “History Does Not Neglect and Tomorrow Does Not Wait”. The representative of the army commander withdraws from the ceremony in protest of May Chediaq's speech in which she attacked the Syrian president. Meanwhile, each of the president and the speaker of Parliament withdrew the representation titles from their representatives. Samir Geagea announces the completion of the LF's draft bylaws and says the first conference will kick off in mid-April.

**March 29:** Wahhab meets the Spanish ambassador and says that if the United States choose for the international tribunal to be a means of pressure on Hezbollah and Iran then the international forces (UNIFIL) and perhaps other UN organizations will become a mailbox that could be mutual.

The 13th conference for the Cultural Lebanese University in the World sets September 10 as the date for an extraordinary conference and calls on expatriates to register their births and to implement the law that allows Lebanese living abroad to vote.

**March 30:** President Suleiman tells As Safir: “The president of the republic is not weak, hesitant or grey, he is a decision maker”, “we will preserve the resistance with our eye lashes” and “I adopt all that President Assad said”, describing him as “a highly credible man”.

Hariri says from Bulgaria that the international tribunal was highly credible and works effortlessly. “We will accept any ruling that it issues and we will confront attempts to terminate it.”

**March 31:** Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ziad Baroud sets May 2 as the date for the municipal and ikhtiyariah elections in Mount Lebanon.

The Council of Ministers decides to form a committee headed by Hariri to present proposals to the Cabinet on the issue of solid waste and its treatment.

**April 1:** Jumblat visits Damascus and meets Assad.

In an interview with Al Manar television, Nasrallah says: “We do not trust the international tribunal but we will cooperate with it to correct the track.” He reaffirms that the international investigator heard the testimony of 12 Hezbollah members and warns of the danger of security agreements with the United States.

The Council of Ministers discusses the security agreement with the United States and agrees to appoint Mohammad Bassam Mortada as a member to the Constitutional Council in the place of Assa'ad Diab. It also approves the confirmation of 10,600 Internal Security Forces members and the recruitment of 4,000 others.

# TALIBAN TARGETS US CONSULATE IN PAKISTAN

## America under attack in Pakistan

*The Independent, Andrew Buncombe, Asia Correspondent, Tuesday, April 6, 2010*

“...Last night, the US embassy in Islamabad confirmed the consulate had been the target of the attack and condemned the incident...”

...“I think the militants may be trying to send two messages,” said Dr Hasan Askari Rizvi, a Pakistani military analyst. “The first is that the Taliban still has the capacity to launch attacks on big targets despite losing control of South Waziristan. The second may be a kind of reaction to the increased US operations in Afghanistan. This comes after the US and Pakistan strategic dialogue in which they agreed to greater co-

operation against the Taliban.”

The city of Peshawar has been the scene of countless suicide bomb attacks over the last 18 months. Many foreign aid organisations have cut back on their operations due to ongoing insecurity and the US consulate was one of just a handful of diplomatic missions still based in the city. In the summer of 2008, the US consul general in Peshawar, Lynne Tracy, survived an attack by gunmen on her bulletproof car in the city...

...Washington has provided Pakistan with billions of dollars in military aid to fight militants and is also

funding a number of development projects in north-west Pakistan designed to undermine support for the Taliban. Many of these projects were overseen by officials in the consulate in Peshawar.

...Since Barack Obama came to office last year, the US has increased the number of drone strikes on suspected militant targets in the region. A number of Taliban and al-Qa’ida leaders have been killed by the strikes, which are deeply unpopular with locals because of the number of innocent people killed...”

## U.S. Consulate Attack: A Message from the Taliban

*Time, Rania Abouzeid / Islamabad, Monday, Apr. 05, 2010*

“The Pakistani Taliban’s audacious, coordinated assault on the U.S. consulate in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday suggests that intense operations by the Pakistani military against them have done little to diminish their capacity to retaliate or attack. Shortly after 1 p.m. on Monday, successive car bombs rocked the heavily secured zone near the consulate, spewing thick plumes of grayish smoke over the area, which also houses important Pakistani military personnel. Then, at least six heavily armed assailants dressed in military fatigues and traveling in two vehicles attacked Pakistani police roadblocks with rockets, grenades and weapons fire and attempted to storm the consulate.

The attack — which left at least seven people dead, including four militants but no Americans — marked a departure from the Taliban’s more frequent prey, Pakistani military and

intelligence officials and facilities. “Americans are our enemies. We carried out the attack on their consulate in Peshawar. We plan more such attacks,” Reuters quoted Pakistani Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq as saying.

Although the militants failed to breach the compound’s security, the multipronged assault was the most serious strike against an American diplomatic mission in the country since 1979...

...According to several Pakistani security and defense analysts, one factor that may have instigated Monday’s attack was the U.S.-led coalition forces’ imminent plan to push into the Afghan Taliban’s stronghold of Kandahar. The message: If the Americans and NATO create problems for the Taliban in Afghanistan, then Taliban militants have the option to target American sites anywhere. And in

that case, “Peshawar is the easiest target,” says Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi, a defense analyst and professor emeritus of political science at the University of Punjab in Lahore...

...In recent months, the U.S. military has staged increasingly frequent drone attacks against militants in the tribal area of North Waziristan, while the Pakistani military has sought to crush the Taliban in several fierce offensives in South Waziristan and Orakzai. But the militants have proven resilient, and their ability to stage massive attacks appears intact. The combined offensives against them meant the Taliban “simply spread out wherever they could to other areas,” says Imtiaz Gul, executive director of the Centre for Research and Security Studies in Islamabad. “I was under no illusion that this phenomenon is gone, that they would not be able to bounce back...”

# WATER PROBLEM IN THE ARAB WORLD

## the alarm has gone off

Oil is not the only source of life for the Arabs; water is as well. As population grows and threats loom over the availability of water in the Arab world, it has become one of most vital and fateful issues in a region endangered by water scarcity and regional conflicts. This is how water becomes more important than oil and another reason on which the Arab-Israeli conflict is focused. As such, the Arab world started to award great albeit ineffective attention to the issue of providing water for the Arab peoples for their growing population, industry and agriculture which consume almost 85% of the Arab world's water, according to the World Bank report released early this year.

Any country in which the average water share per individual is less than 1,000-2,000 cubic meters a year is considered a country with water scarcity. The following table 1 shows the amount of internal renewable internal fresh water available for each Arab person per year.

Arab state	Amount of internal renewable internal fresh water available for each Arab person per year (m3)
Kuwait	6.85
Gaza Strip	201.8
UAE	34
Qatar	45
Saudi Arabia	99
Libya	97
Jordan	119
Bahrain	5
Yemen	94
Oman	514
Djibouti	360
Algeria	332
Tunisia	410
Egypt	859
Morocco	940
Lebanon	1,172
Somalia	690
Syria	341
Comoros Islands	1,910
Sudan	742
Iraq	703
Mauritania	128

Source: World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Based on the available information displayed in Table 1, the Arab states that have the 5 lowest amount of internal renewable fresh water per person per year are Bahrain, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Libya. On the other hand, the 5 with the highest amount are the Comoros Islands, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, and Sudan. The average share per Arab of renewable fresh water is 445 cubic meters a year, after being 3,430 cubic meters in 1960, marking an 87% drop. The lack of available water indicates that the Arab world will not meet its citizens' needs in the near future, especially that it considered an arid and semi-arid land, in addition to the fact that 30% of agricultural land is endangered of desertification due to the scarcity of water resources.

### Water resources in the Arab world

**Rain:** The annual rate of rainfall is estimated between 2,100-2,300 billion cubic meters. Annual rainfall rates vary between 250-400 millimeters and can surpass 1000 millimeters in some areas such as Lebanon's mountains, the Syrian coast, Yemen's heights and southern Sudan. In Europe, the rate varies between 200-3,000 millimeters a year. Table 2 shows the annual rate of rainfall in Arab countries.

**Rivers:** The rate of renewable water in the Arab world is estimated at 350 billion cubic meters a year, with 35% originating from river flows and around 125 billion cubic meters from rivers outside the Arab states. The Nile River provides 56 billion cubic meters, the Euphrates provides 28 billion cubic meters and the Tigris and its branches provide 38 billion cubic meters. These rivers are in addition to inner rivers such as the Jordan River, the Barada River and short rivers such as Litani, A'assi and Morocco's rivers.

**Ground water:** The estimated ground water in the Arab world is estimated at 7,734 billion cubic meters, of which 42 billion is renewed every year, allowing for the use of 35 billion cubic meters. There are other great ground water sources that are nonrenewable.

**Other sources:** Among the other sources used by the Arab states: water desalination in Libya and the Arab Gulf. In Gulf states, desalinated seawater represents 75% of used water at 1.85 billion cubic meters. There is also the treatment of agricultural and industrial waste water in addition to sewage water for use in agriculture and industry. Another source is accumulating rainwater and the artificial stimulation of rain.

### Growing danger

In total, the Arab world consumes around 230 billion cubic meters of water. As the population continues to grow disproportionately to the amount of renewable water resources, especially when factoring in that 67% of river water originate from outside the Arab world, the danger grows without mentioning the damage that climate change and global warming are likely to cause. 🌍💧

# REAL ESTATE INDEX IN LEBANON- MARCH 2010

Real estate trading in Lebanon in March started to revitalize compared to the state of stagnation over the past months. Observers believe this activity is bound to increase in the next months especially in the summer for two reasons: First, the availability of abundant liquidity in the markets and the financial and banking sector and second, the drop in the interest rates making investment in the real estate sector more profitable than investment in banks. Therefore, according to observers, the prices this year might register an increase between 10% - 15% especially in light of the scarcity of land displayed for sale in Beirut and nearby suburbs which could increase by higher percentages in addition to the rise in the prices of construction materials compared to previous months. Tables 1 and 2 show the prices of some estates and apartments that were sold in March 2010.

Prices of some constructed estates that were sold in March Table 2

Location	Area (m2)	Price (USD)	USD/m2
<b>Beirut</b>			
Sparse	350	1,120,000	3,200
Hamra	200	660,000	3,300
Achrafiyeh	250	550,000	2,200
Achrafiyeh (Sioufi)	200	600,000	3,000
Borj Abi Haidar	110	220,000	2,000
A'aicha Bakkar	180	369,000	2,050
Tayouneh	250	875,000	3,500
Corniche al Marza'a	160	352,000	2,200
Tallit el Khayat	200	800,000	4,000
Sodeco	150	375,000	2,500
Mar Elias	160	336,000	2,100
Saqiyet el Janzeer	150	495,000	3,300
Ras Beirut	175	595,000	3,400
A'ain el Teeneh	300	1,110,000	3,700
<b>Ba'abda</b>			
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	200	360,000	1,800
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	200	480,000	2,400
Yarzeh	310	837,000	2,700
Ba'abda (Brazilia)	400	1,240,000	3,100
<b>Metn</b>			
Sin el Fil (Horch Tebit)	300	1,050,000	3,500
Mansourieh	200	220,000	1,100
Dekoueneh	150	150,000	1,000
Zalqa	175	227,500	1,300
Jal el Dib	120	174,000	1,450
Roumieh	250	350,000	1,400
Jdeideh	190	307,800	1,620
Raboueh	160	232,000	1,450
Broummana	200	250,000	1,250
<b>A'aley</b>			
Daouhet el Hoss	250	275,000	1,100
Daouhet el Hoss	170	227,800	1,340
Daouhet el Hoss	340	476,000	1,400
Daouhet A'aramoun	300	450,000	1,500
Chouefet	100	100,000	1,000
Khaldeh	130	97,500	750
A'aramoun (Qobbeh)	190	155,800	820
Bchemoun	200	200,000	1,000
<b>Keserouane</b>			
Jounieh (Ghadir)	150	157,500	1,050
Adma	200	300,000	1,500
Sahel A'alma	100	125,000	1,250
Adonis	180	162,000	900
Zouq Mkeyil	150	150,000	1,000

Source: Information International March 2010

Prices of some estates sold in March Table 1

Location	Area (m2)	Price (USD)	USD/m2
<b>Beirut</b>			
Achrafiyeh (Rmeileh)	290	754,000	2,600
Achrafiyeh (Saideh)	320	1,424,000	4,450
A'ain Mreisseh	300	2,700,000	9,000
Tari' Jdeedeh	540	1,674,000	3,100
Bchara el-Khoury	1,100	10,175,000	9,250
Beshoura	450	3,825,000	8,500
<b>Ba'abda</b>			
Ba'abda	850	850,000	1,000
Hazmieh	920	1,334,000	1,450
Hazmieh-Tari' el-Cham	1,900	5,225,000	2,750
Chiyeh-A'ain el Rummeneh	320	1,312,000	4,100
A'ain el Rummeneh	2,200	5,500,000	2,500
Hadath	820	1,230,000	1,500
<b>Metn</b>			
Broummana	550	242,000	440
Na'ass (Bekfaya)	1,100	330,000	300
Ba'abdat	1,650	577,500	350
A'aoukar	1,600	1,280,000	800
<b>A'aley</b>			
Bchemoun (Mderiss)	1,000	250,000	250
Daouhet el Hoss	5,500	2,970,000	540
Khaldeh (Qobbeh)	3,000	2,160,000	720
Bhamdoun	650	182,000	280
A'abadieh	1,200	360,000	300
Chouefat	510	561,000	1,100
<b>Keserouane</b>			
Faraya	980	147,000	150
Adma	850	518,500	610
Zouk Mosbeh	1,800	1,170,000	650
A'ajaltoun	1,200	276,000	230
Ballouneh	800	240,000	300

Source: Information International March 2010

## TOWARD A LEBANESE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: MARCH 2010

After the surge in February 2010's prices of the 100 consumer and food products that are listed each month, prices of 63 items remained stable in March 2010, 23 items marked an increase in prices, while the prices of 14 items dropped. Table 1 shows the prices of consumer and food products in March 2010.

Price of consumer and food products in March 2010 (in LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of March 2010	Prices beginning of April 2010	% of price change
<b>Oil</b>				
Afia corn oil	(3.5 liters)	12,750	11,500	-9.8
Mazola corn oil	(3.5 liters)	13,650	13,250	-2.9
Mazola corn oil	(2 liters)	6,900	6,900	0
Slim corn oil	(2 liters)	7,200	7,200	0
Wesson corn oil	(2 liters)	8,500	8,500	0
Ghandour soya oil	(3.8 liters)	10,000	10,500	+5
Alfa corn oil	(4 liters)	12,500	12,750	+2
Al-Wadi Olive Oil	(1/2 liters)	6,650	6,650	0
<b>Ketchup and Sauces</b>				
Libby's Ketchup	(567 g)	3,000	3,000	0
Extra Ketchup	(340 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Extra Ketchup	(2.2 kg)	4,830	4,830	0
Dolly's Mayonnaise	(500 ml)	3,900	4,200	+7.7
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise	(500 ml)	4,250	4,250	0
Al-Bsat Tahina	(900 g)	8,950	9,000	+0.5
Al-Bsat Tahina	(450 g)	4,690	4,850	+3.4
Taous tomato sauce	(70 g)	495	495	0
Taous tomato sauce	(425 g)	2,625	2,625	0
Tala tomato sauce	(675 g)	2,550	2,550	0
<b>Pasta</b>				
Barilla spaghetti	(500 g)	2,050	2,050	0
Antonio Amato spaghetti	(500 g)	2,850	2,850	0
Monte spaghetti	(500 g)	2,150	2,150	0
<b>Sugar and Salt</b>				
Sugar	(2 kg)	3,450	2,750	-20.3
Al-Ousra Sugar	(5 kg)	8,450	8,450	0
Salt	(700 g)	500	475	-5
Box of salt	(738 g)	1,100	1,000	-9

Price of consumer and food products in March 2010 (in LBP)				Table 1
Item and brand		Prices beginning of March 2010	Prices beginning of April 2010	% of price change
<b>Dairy Products</b>				
Candia full cream milk	(1 liter)	2,500	2,500	0
Candia full cream yoghurt	(2 kg)	4,800	5,000	+4.1
Bonjus labneh	(1 kg)	3,750	3,750	0
Taanayel labneh	(500 g)	5,000	5,000	0
Candia labneh	(500 g)	5,000	5,000	0
Taanayel yoghurt	(1 kg)	2,750	2,750	0
Smeds cheese	(400 g)	4,100	4,400	+7.3
Picon cheese	(360 g)	3,250	3,250	0
Picon cheese	(160 g)	1,725	1,725	0
Double-crème cheese	(1 kg)	5,500	6,500	+18.1
Fresh country cheese	(1 kg)	8,000	8,450	+5.6
Khashkawan cheese	(1 kg)	13,750	13,750	0
Lurpak butter	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Tatra butter	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Al-Maalaqtain margarine	(2 kg)	7,950	8,100	+1.9
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine	(2kg)	25,300	25,950	+2.6
Vegetaline margarine	(2 kg)	13,500	13,750	+1.8
Nido full cream milk (bag)	(2,250 g)	19,000	19,500	+2.6
Nido full cream milk	(2,500 g)	23,100	23,100	0
Tatra full cream milk	(1,800 g)	17,500	17,500	0
<b>Fruits and Vegetables</b>				
Orange	(1 kg)	750	1,000	+33.3
Tomatoes	(1kg)	1,450	1,450	0
Cucumbers	(1kg)	2,000	1,500	-25
Bananas	(1kg)	1,000	1,000	0
Lemons	(1 kg)	700	500	-28.5
Apples	(1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Potatoes	(1 kg)	500	500	0

Price of consumer and food products in March 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand		Prices beginning of March 2010	Prices beginning of April 2010	% of price change
<b>Cereals</b>				
Khater white lentils	(1 kg)	3,750	3,600	-4
Khater chick-peas fahli	(1 kg)	3,000	3,300	+10
Khater beans	(1 kg)	2,000	2,000	0
Peeled wheat	(1 kg)	2,000	1,900	-5
Pineal Lima Bean	(1 kg)	3,500	3,650	+4.3
Brown Fine Burgul	(1 kg)	2,200	1,950	-11.3
Egyptian rice	(1 kg)	1,500	2,100	+40
American rice	(1 kg)	2,500	2,500	0
Italian rice	(1 kg)	2,500	2,500	0
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,250	1,100	-12
Chtaura Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,200	1,200	0
California Gardens beans	(450 g)	1,250	1,250	0
Al-Wadi beans	(450 g)	1,200	1,200	0
Chtaura beans	(480 g)	1,200	1,200	0
Libby's corn	(340 g)	1,450	1,450	0
<b>Tissues and Detergents</b>				
Mimosa tissues	(500 g)	2,600	2,750	+5.7
Fine tissues	(200 tissues)	1,200	1,250	+4.2
Primo tissues	(200 tissues)	1,500	1,500	0
Gipsy tissues	(300 tissues)	2,300	2,300	0
Mimosa toilet papers	(4 rolls)	2,750	2,750	0
Yes detergent	(900 g)	2,250	2,300	+2.2
Clorox	(1 liter)	1,450	1,450	0
Persil	(4 kg)	17,900	18,100	+1.1
Ariel	(4 kg)	18,250	18,250	0

Price of consumer and food products in March 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand		Prices beginning of March 2010	Prices beginning of April 2010	% of price change
<b>Meat, Fish and Eggs</b>				
Zwan chicken	(200 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Zwan beef	(200 g)	2,200	2,250	+2.2
Luncheon meat beef	(198 g)	1,140	1,140	0
Al-Mona chicken	(200 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Al-Taghzia beef	(200 g)	1,925	2,000	+3.9
Al-Taghzia chicken	(200 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Geisha sardine	(125 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Deli sardine	(125 g)	990	990	0
Milo sardine	(125 g)	990	990	0
Geisha tuna	(200 g)	4,000	3,850	-3.7
White Bell tuna	(200 g)	2,100	2,100	0
White Diamond tuna	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Skipper tuna	(185 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Eggs	(30 eggs)	7,500	6,250	-16.6
Beef	(1 kg)	12,000	12,000	0
Sheep	(1 kg)	18,000	18,000	0
<b>Coffee and Tea</b>				
Najjar coffee	(1kg)	12,250	12,000	-2
Brazil coffee	(1 kg)	10,500	10,500	0
Al-Hisan tea	(180 g)	2,450	2,450	0
Nestle	(250g)	2,500	2,500	0
<b>Halvah and Jam</b>				
Al-Wadi halvah	(454 g)	3,850	3,850	0
Al-Bsat halvah	(450 g)	3,250	3,250	0
Chtaura apricot jam	(1 kg)	4,620	4,620	0
Al-Wadi apricot jam	(1 kg)	4,350	4,350	0

Source: Information International



# FIFA World Cup Statistics

- 18 times is the number of times that the FIFA World Cup has taken place
- 2 FIFA World Cups were played in Italy (1934 and 1990), France (1950 and 1998), Germany (1974, 2006), and Mexico (1970 and 1986).
- 18 is the number of times that Brazil has participated, compared to 16 times for Germany and Italy, 14 times for Argentina, and 12 times for England.
- 201 goals have been scored by Brazil since the beginning of the FIFA World Cup. 190 have been scored by Germany and 122 by Italy.
- 114 goals have been scored against Germany, whereas 85 goals have been scored against Brazil.
- 92 matches have been played by Brazil and Germany. 64 matches of which were won by Brazil and 55 matches of which were won by Germany.
- 19 matches out of 65 played by Argentina were lost. France has lost 16 matches out of the 51 it played.
- 206 is the total points accrued from 1930 to 2006 by Brazil in World Cup history, whereas 0 points have been accrued by Togo, China, Slovenia, Congo, Haiti, Canada, El Salvador, United Arab Emirates, Greece, Iraq, Indonesia and New Zealand.
- 19 matches by Italy out of the 77 it has played have come to a draw.
- 5 World Cups have been won by Brazil (FIFA World Cup 1958 held in Sweden, 1962 in Chile, 1970 in Mexico, 1994 in USA, and 2002 in Korea Republic and Japan).
- 4 World Cups have been won by Italy (2006 in Germany, 1982 in Spain, 1938 in France, and 1934 in Italy).
- 3 World Cups have been won by Germany (1990 in Italy, 1974 in Germany, and 1954 in Switzerland)
- 2 World Cups have been won by Argentina (1986 in Mexico and 1978 in Argentina) and Uruguay (1950 in Brazil and 1930 in Uruguay).
- 5 World Cups is the highest number of tournament participations (1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998) played by the German Lothar Matthaeus. Of the 25 matches he played, 15 were won.
- 9 million Euros per year is the highest salary earned by the Swedish Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Internazionale) and the Brazilian Ricardo Kaka (AC Milan).

Sources: FIFA website: <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/>  
Telegraph.co.uk: Sports Section

## Beirut International Airport

### Traffic at Rafic Hariri International Airport-March 2010 7.3% monthly and 20.3% yearly increase

Traffic at Rafic Hariri International Airport recorded an increase in March 2010 compared to February 2010 and March 2009 (except for one indicator, the imported goods, which recorded a slight decline of 0.9% in comparison to February 2010). The number of passengers during March increased by 7.3% and registered an increase compared with the month of March 2009 of 20.3% as shown in Table 1.

This is an important indicator of the high traffic with the progress of the year, especially during the summer months, where traffic is expected to increase by 25% compared to last year, if the calm situation continues without any unexpected security surprises.

**Airport traffic in March 2010 compared to February 2010 and March 2009**

**Table 1**

Traffic	February 2010	March 2010	March 2009	% of change February/March 2010	% of change March 2009/March 2010
Arriving airplanes	2,254	2,459	2,002	+9	+22.8
Departing airplanes	2,258	2,444	1,995	+8.2	+22.5
Total # of airplanes	4,412	4,903	3,997	+8.6	+22.7
Arriving passengers	167,477	187,595	152,281	+12	+23.2
Departing passengers	169,318	173,698	147,558	+2.6	+17.7
Total # of passengers	2,442	2,933	2,870	+20.1	+2.2
Total # of passengers	339,237	364,226	302,709	+7.3	+20.3
Imported goods (per ton)	3,342	4,220	3,937	+26.3	+7.2
Exported goods (per ton)	2,653	2,628	2,283	-0.9	+15.1
Total amount of goods (per ton)	5,995	6,848	6,220	+14.3	+10.1

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

## Water Dams in Lebanon

The average rainfall in Lebanon generally is 700 to 900 millimeters a year; most of it is mismanaged and wasted. Plans were made to construct dams, some of which are useful and others are not needed. There are currently two dams in Lebanon: the Qara'oun Dam which can contain 220 million cubic meters of water and the Shabrouh Dam which was recently built that can contain 8 million cubic meters of water. A government plan is currently underway to build ten dams in the following regions:

The projects that have already been tendered are:

- The Yammouneh dam and lake in Ba'albek, that would contain 3.5 million cubic meters of water at a cost of USD 11.7 million
- The Youneen dam and lake in Ba'albek, that would contain 6 million cubic meters of water at a cost of USD 75.5 million
- The A'azounieh dam and lake in A'aley, that would contain 4 million cubic meters of water at a cost of USD 85.8 million
- The Beqa'ata dam in Kesrouane, that would contain 6 million cubic meters of water at USD 98.7 million
- The Ma'asser el-Chouf dam and lake in the Chouf, that would contain 2.5 million cubic meters of water at a cost USD 75.2 million.

Projects that have yet to be tendered are:

- The Bala'a dam and lake in Batroun, that would contain 1.2 million cubic meters of water.
- Al-Nared dam and lake in Minnieh-Dinnieh that would contain 40 million cubic meters of water.
- Msseilha dam and lake in Batroun that would contain 5.6 million cubic meters of water.
- Al-A'assi dam in Hermel that would contain 37 million cubic meters of water.

The completion of some these projects would enable Lebanon to preserve its water resources and would alleviate the financial burden of the almost USD 300 million for the Lebanese to secure water for personal use, while other projects ought to be reassessed to determine their feasibility and environmental impact.

## Publications

### Other publications by Information International:

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

### Other publications by INMA (in Arabic):

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

- **LBP 96.4 million** were allocated as an ad hoc payment fund on the lease of the Ministry of Youth and Sports building in Al-A'dliyah for 2008 and 2009 due to law 63 on December 31, 2009 which increased the minimum wage by 66.6%. According to the leasing law, all rental contracts signed before 1992 will receive 33.3% of this increase. Certainly, the value of rent on all residential and non-residential estates (including governmental offices) leased before 1992 will increase by the same percentage.
- **LBP 50 million** were spent to host the conference of the Regional Offices for the Arab League Boycott of Israel.
- **LBP 600 million** were spent on the participation of the Ministry of Economy and Trade in the 2010 Shanghai conference.
- **LBP 40.9 billion** were granted as an advance by the government to the Ministry of Justice to cover the expenses of Lebanon's participation in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (Lebanon's share of expenditure is 49%). In total the Lebanese government will have paid some LBP 100 billion by end of March 2010 as contributions to the tribunal's expenses and to the International Investigative Committee.
- **LBP 20 billion** were granted as an advance to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to cover the expenses for the preparations and carrying out of the municipal and ikhtiyariah elections in 2010.
- **LBP 87.6 million** only (equivalent to USD 58,000) must be paid to the state treasury by investors for 400 cubic meters of Naba'a al-Roueiss water in A'aqoura in the qada'a of Jbeil. This means that the price of one cubic meter of water is LBP 600 or 0.60 LBP per liter of water, according to Decree #3293 of February 13, 2010 in which the government authorized investment to a private company.



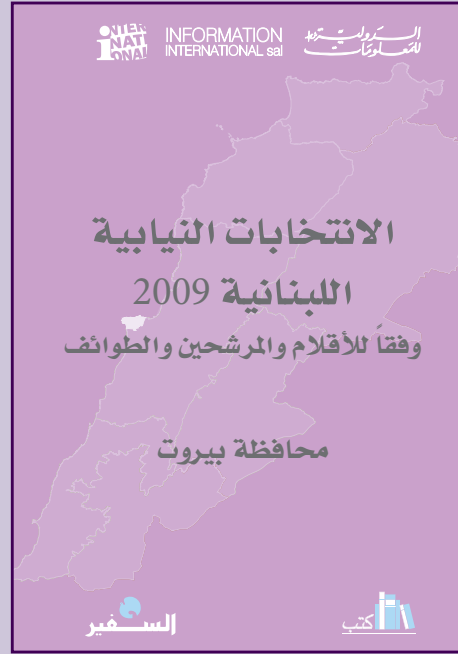
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