

- Electricity Plan
- The Monthly interviews Dia Al-Azzawi
- Ministry of Telecommunications

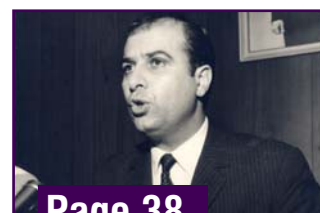


THE LEBANESE AND FACEBOOK

INDEX

4 LEADER: polling the Lebanese on facebook

- 11 Electricity Plan
- 12 200 days after the government's formation
- 14 Parliamentary by-elections in Minnieh-Dinnieh
- 15 Ministry of Telecommunications
- 19 Political talk shows
- 21 Cost of 2008 events in Tripoli
- 22 Demands of secondary school teachers
- 24 School education
- 25 Wellspring Learning Community
- 27 Syndicate of Bank Employees in Beirut and Mount Lebanon
- 29 Levels of Medical Evidence by Dr. Hanna Saadah
- 30 Is intelligence a single entity independent from the brain? by Antoine Boutros
- 31 Mental Time Travel by Dr. Samar Zebian
- 32 Why Religious Politics Is Bad for Lebanon by Maurice Obeid
- 33 A New Start with Rima? by Matty Mathieson
- 34 The Monthly interviews Artist dia Al-Azzawi
- 36 Popular culture
- 37 Myth #36: How important was the role of Fakhreddine II for the independence of Lebanon?
- 38 Must-Read: Khalil and All of Lebanon
- 40 Lebanon Families: Harfouch Families
- 41 Discover Lebanon: Zabbougha



- 42 Geagea on Hezbollah
- 43 June 2010 Timeline in Lebanon
- 46 Organ Donation & Transplantation in the Middle East
- 47 Real estate index in Lebanon- June 2010
- 48 Food Price Index - June 2010
- 50 Statistics from around the World
- 50 Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport - June 2010
- 51 Lebanon stats

BARAZEK, CROISSANTS AND SINIORA DECLARE THE END OF MARCH 8TH AND 14TH

The Monthly is re-publishing Mr. Jawad Adra's editorial "Barazek, Croissants and Siniora Declare the End of March 8th and 14th", that was previously published in its issue number 82 of May 2009 before the parliamentary elections.



Citizen Zero remembers all the slogans of the participants in the demonstration of March 14th 2005. However, today he is recalling one he did not understand when hearing it for the first time: "we do not want Barazek, we want Croissants." The crowds had decided at that time that French croissants were better than the Damascus sweet, Barazek.

From all the international sweets he had tasted, citizen Zero still finds some pleasure in eating Barazek. Something that reminds him of his childhood, of the day his father told him that Damascus, Beirut and Jerusalem were one. For him, croissants could not replace Barazek. This is not to say that he has any "ideological" position against croissant lovers, even having enjoyed some croissants himself. At that time, the 'Sunnis' rallied their voice as the opponents of Syria, declaring their love for croissants, as if their cousin, the pastry maker in Damascus, was now an enemy.

The March 8th demonstrators did not pay much attention to the importance of sweets in Lebanese politics and focused more on thanking Damascus for its 'wonderful performance' since its arrival to Lebanon in 1976 and until its withdrawal in 2005. Then again, Barazek would certainly have been unanimously acclaimed if more attention was given to it. Nothing on earth could convince Barazek and Croissant lovers to dialogue. Moreover Siniora, at that time was not the subject of discussion and preference, yet due to the 'wonderful performance' again and again of March 8th and 14th and of 'the loyalists' and 'the opposition,' Siniora gained importance and supporters. Even so, citizen Zero announces to the

Lebanese people that this dispute over 'sweets' has started to fade away, which is reflected in the electoral programs.

For instance, the Future Movement program mentions the following:

⊙ "A capable government is a civil government that does not hede to religious conflicts and confessional parties;

⊙ A capable government is the one that ensures the largest participation of citizens in managing their affairs through participatory mechanisms."

The Hezbollah program includes:

⊙ "Building a state of laws and institutions and promoting the spirit of patriotism towards nation and land;

⊙ Developing the parties and syndicate activities and allowing civil society institutions and associations to play an active and vital role."

Consequently, Mufti Kabbani will no longer have to pray in the Serail as a place reserved for the Sunnis since the Sunnis' largest movement will adopt the norms of 'civil society.' Even more, the opposition (any opposition) would be able to unseat the Prime Minister if it considers him illegitimate and the loyalists (any loyalists), or the opposition (any opposition), would be able to call for another Speaker of Parliament or overthrow him when he does not call the Parliament to order. And all this, would no longer lead to civil war.

The important point is that citizen Zero will not participate in the elections, neither as a candidate nor as a voter. He knows that the opposition is not an opposition, and the loyalists are not loyalists; that March 8th and 14th are gone and even their slogans have already started to change. He knows that today and tomorrow's 'independents' and 'moderates' have never known in

their lives neither moderation nor independence; all they knew was selfishness and obedience to external forces.

Ever since the situation has changed, the Barazek haters have come to rediscover its benefits and started eating it again, declaring not to have ever forgotten the taste. This is what Walid Jumblatt says in his most recent 'discourses.' As for the opposition that has always approved Siniora's budgets since 1993 and trusted him as Minister of Finance, it has discovered today that it in fact does not like Siniora. Even though his budgets were endorsed to rule all over Lebanon, it is Saida, and only Saida that is now endangered by Siniora, according to the opposition.

The croissant lovers suddenly woke up and remembered that thyme has grown on their Mount and that they were the ones who made Kushk, Chanklish and quince jam.

Citizen Zero announces to the Lebanese people; tomorrow you will not hear about March 8th and 14th anymore; instead, you will hear about one demonstration or several harmonious ones praising Barazek, Croissants and Sinioras.

How beautiful Lebanon's confessions are. To understand them, do not read March 8th and 14th programs; just focus on Barazek, Croissants and Sinioras and be aware of the fat!

Note: The word 'Siniora' in this article is a pun, referring to both the person (PM Fouad Siniora) and the Saida sweet. 'Barazek' is the Damascus sweet, and 'Croissant' is the French viennoiserie.

Jawad N. Adra

POLLING THE LEBANESE ON FACEBOOK

45.6% spend an average of 2-5 hours per day on facebook

Facebook is a free social networking website available in 37 different languages, allowing its users to keep in touch with their friends, family and colleagues.

As the number of users of this social medium has been growing steadily at a very fast pace, Information International decided to conduct an online poll with Facebook users in order to get a preliminary idea on what, how and when people go on Facebook, in addition to other related issues of interest.

The number of Facebook users in Lebanon reached around 709,444 users in March 2010 (according to Facebook statistics Lebanon). Based on this figure, a 0.1% sample was adopted for this survey, totaling to 709 Lebanese residents.

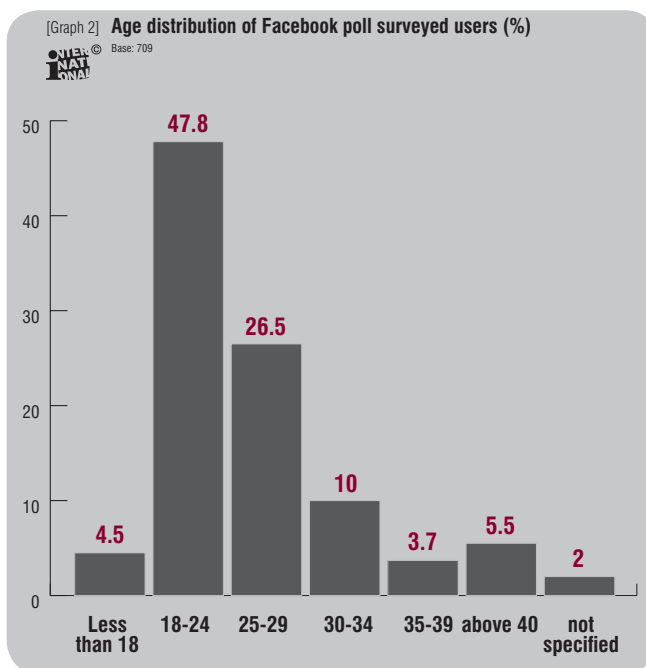
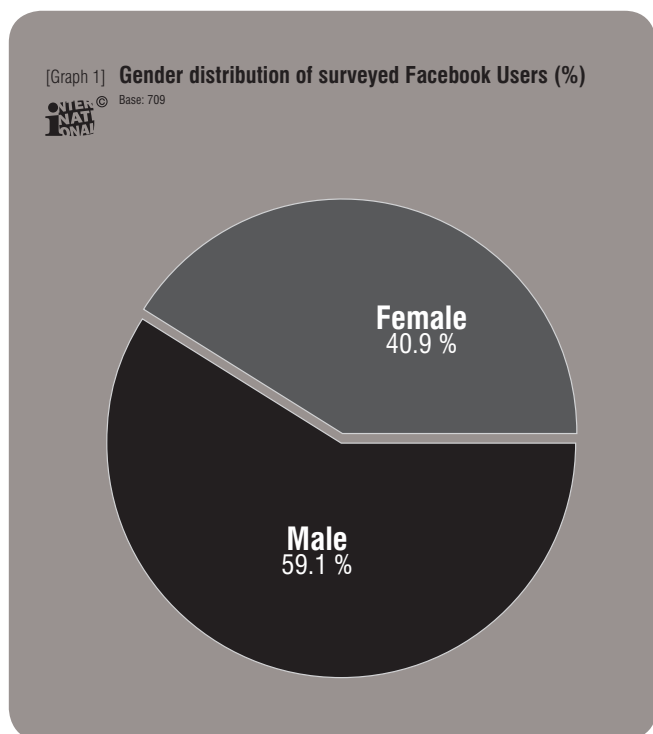
Noteworthy is the rapid increase in the number of Facebook users in Lebanon, which has increased from around 640,000 in January 2010 to 983,143 by the time this article was written (June 2010).

The online survey started in mid-March 2010 and ended on the 10th of May 2010.

The online sample consisted of 59.1% males and 40.9% females (Graph 1).

Around half of the surveyed users are 18-24 years old (47.8%), followed by those aged 25-29 years (26.5%) (Graph 2). The number of users aged 18-24 years in the sample compares to the number of Facebook users in Lebanon in March 2010 for the same age group, where it reached 41.4% (Facebook statistics Lebanon.).

As shown in Graph 2, there is -generally- an inverse correlation between the use of Facebook and age; Facebook usage tends to decrease in general along with an increase in age.

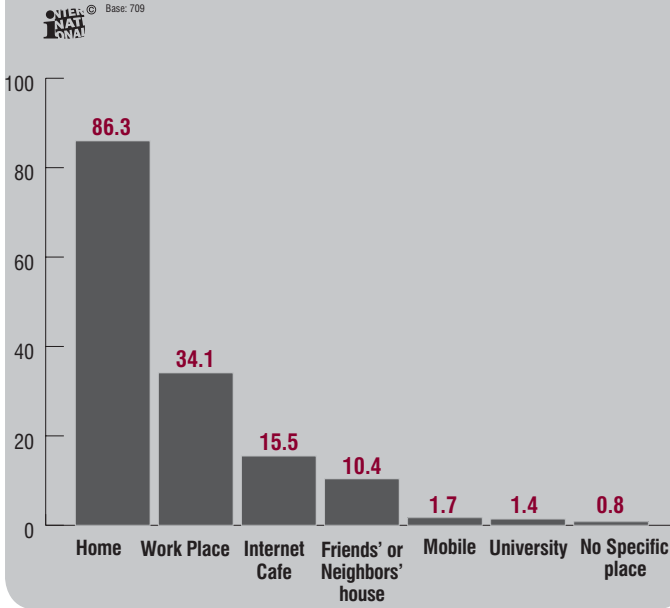


The questions tackled various issues related to where users access Facebook from, how long and when do they use it per day, the number of their Facebook 'friends', Facebook games and chatting, as well as various advantages and disadvantages of using Facebook.

Access Habits

The main place where Facebook is accessed from is home, as reported by the majority of the surveyed users (86.3%), followed by the workplace (34.1%) and internet cafes (15.5%). Percentages decrease further for other places such as friends' or neighbors' house (10.4%), mobile phones (1.7%) or university (1.4%) (Graph 3).

[Graph 3] Where do you access Facebook from? (%)



No major differences were noted when looking at the results by gender as to where do Facebook users access it from, except for internet cafes, where 19.6% of males reported accessing Facebook from this location, compared to only 9.7% of females who use Facebook (Table 1).

Where Do You Access Facebook From? By Gender Table 1

	Males	Females
Home	84.0%	89.7%
Workplace	37.0%	30.0%
Internet Café	19.6%	9.7%
Friends' or neighbors' house	13.1%	6.6%
Mobile	2.4%	0.7%
University	1.2%	1.7%
No Specific Place	1.0%	0.7%

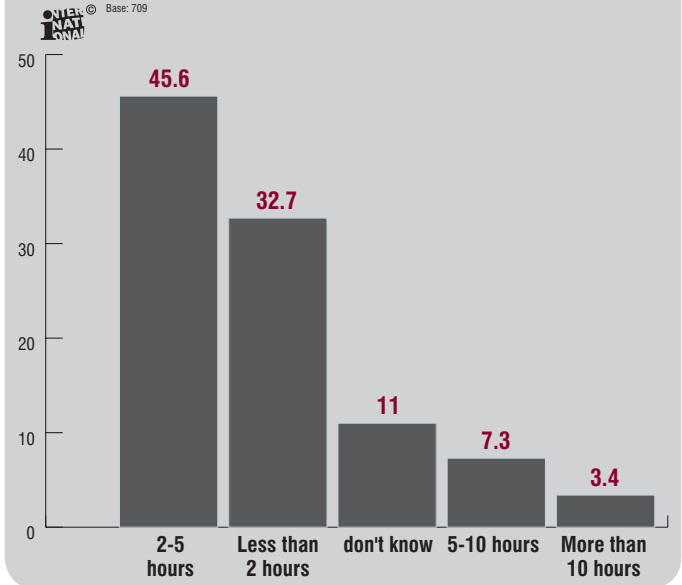
Looking at the results by age, a high trend is noticed in accessing Facebook from the place of work among users aged 25-39 years, with this population segment being most likely to be employed (Table 2).

Where Do You Access Facebook From? By Age Table 2

	< 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	>40	Total
Home	81.3%	90.6%	83.0%	83.1%	88.5%	76.9%	86.3%
Workplace	9.4%	26.3%	45.7%	47.9%	34.6%	35.9%	34.1%
Internet Café	21.9%	16.2%	17.6%	12.7%	0.0%	10.3%	15.5%
Friends' or neighbors'	12.5%	13.9%	7.4%	8.5%	0.0%	5.1%	10.4%
Mobile	0.0%	1.8%	2.7%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
University	0.0%	2.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
No Specific Place	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	0.8%

When asked how long they use Facebook per day, around half of the surveyed users reported using Facebook 2-5 hours per day (45.6%), while 32.7% stated that they use it less than 2 hours per day. Percentages drop significantly for those using Facebook 5-10 hours daily (7.3%) and those who cited that they use this application for over 10 hours a day (3.4%). Another 11% could not specify an exact time frame for browsing Facebook and just answered “Don't Know/No Answer” (Graph 4).

[Graph 4] How long do you use Facebook per day?

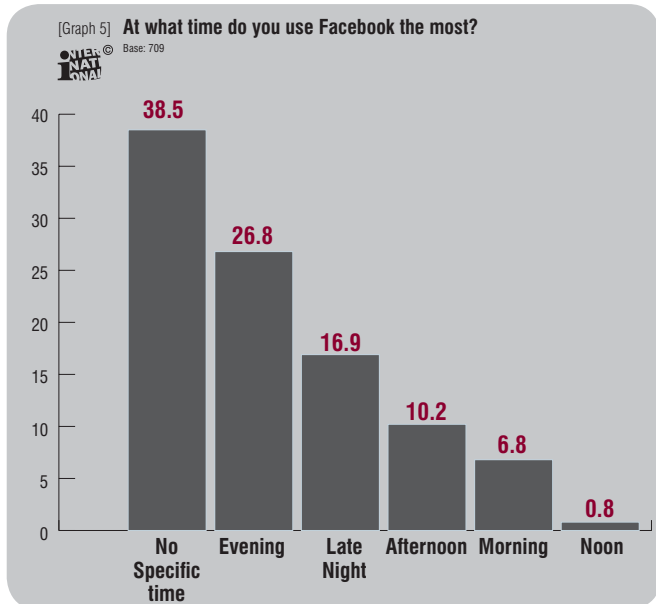


The distribution of results by gender or age shows no significant difference between males and females or between the various age groups. However, it is noteworthy that the average time spent on Facebook per day across all age groups is 2-5 hours except for the age group 30-34 and above 40 years of age, the majority of whom reported spending less than 2 hours on facebook (Table 3).

How long do you use Facebook per day? Table 3

	< 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	>40	Total
< 2 Hours	25.0%	26.8%	34.0%	53.5%	23.1%	56.4%	32.7%
2-5 Hours	50.0%	49.9%	47.9%	28.2%	61.5%	23.1%	45.6%
5-10 Hours	9.4%	9.4%	5.9%	5.6%	3.8%	2.6%	7.3%
>10 Hours	3.1%	4.7%	2.1%	0.0%	7.7%	2.6%	3.4%
Not Specified	12.5%	9.1%	10.1%	12.7%	3.8%	15.4%	11.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Moreover, more than one third of the respondents reported having no specific time for using Facebook (38.5%). Another 26.8% stated that they use Facebook mainly in the evening or late at night (16.9%). 10.2% use it in the afternoon, 6.8% in the morning and 0.8% at noon (Graph 5).



Looking at the results by gender, more males reported having no specific time to use Facebook than females (41.1% vs. 34.8%). On the other hand, more female users stated they use Facebook in the evening and afternoon than males, where the latter reported browsing Facebook more during the late night hours (18.6% for males compared to 14.5% for females) (Table 4).

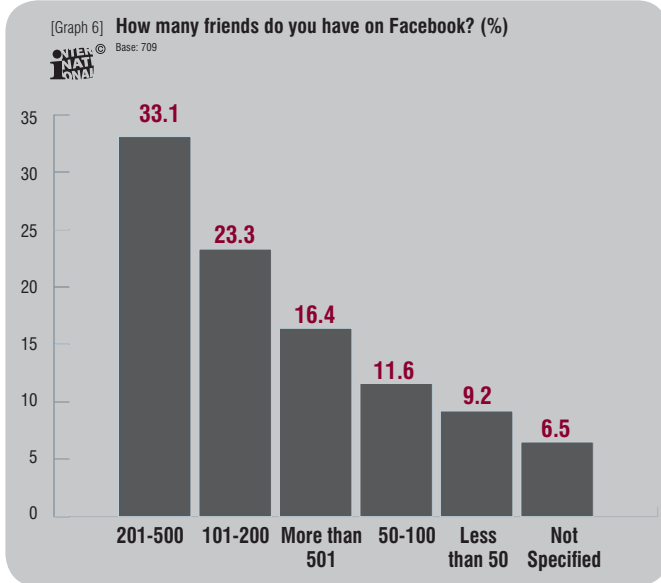
At What Time Do You Use Facebook the Most? (By Gender)	Male	Female	Total
No specific time	41.1%	34.8%	38.5%
Evening	23.4%	31.7%	26.8%
Late Night	18.6%	14.5%	16.9%
Afternoon	9.3%	11.4%	10.2%
Morning	6.9%	6.6%	6.8%
Noon	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Friends on Facebook

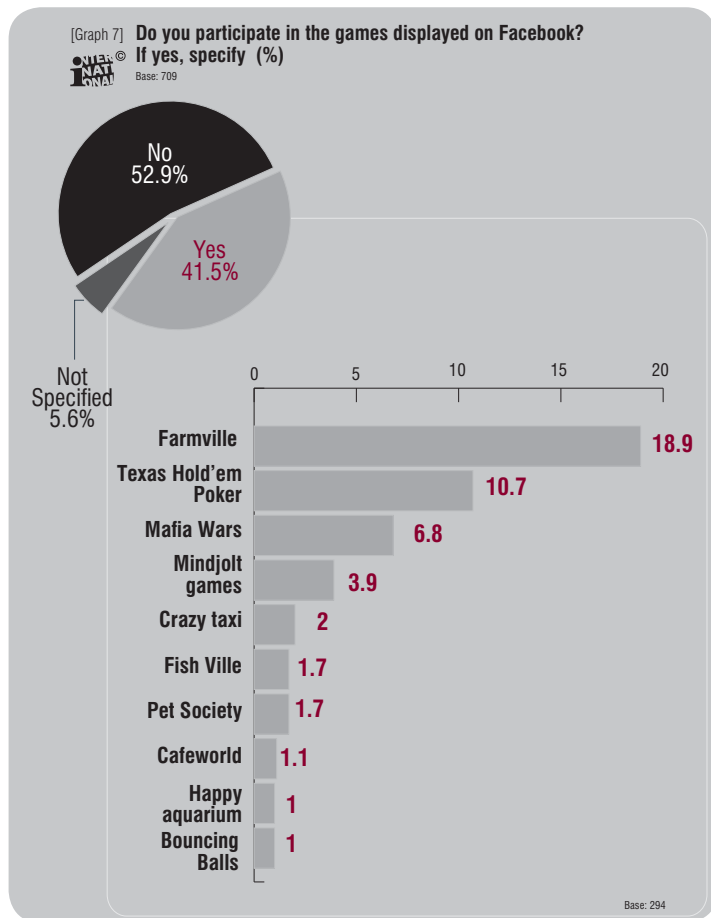
As for the number of their friends on facebook, 33.1% of surveyed users responded have between 201-500 friends, 23.3% have 100-200 friends, 16.4% have over than 500 friends while 11.6% have between 50-100 friends. Percentages decrease for those who reported having less than 50 friends (9.2%) and those that could not specify the number of friends they have on facebook (6.5%) (Graph 6).

Games

In addition to being able to create and customize their own profiles with photos, videos, and information about themselves, Facebook users can play games which can be accessed through applications within the mainframe. 41.5% of surveyed users reported to play games on Facebook, compared to 52.9% who do not participate in



this feature and 5.6% did not respond. As for the most popular game on Facebook, users who played Facebook games reported to use Farmville in the first place (18.9%), followed by Texas Hold'em Poker (10.7%) and Mafia War (6.8%). Percentages drop further for Mind Jolt Games (3.9%), Crazy Taxi (2%), Fish Ville (1.7%), Pet Society (1.7%), CafeWorld (1.1%), Happy Aquarium (1%) and Bouncing Balls (1%) (Graph 7).



Participating in games on Facebook decreases with age, as shown in table 5. Facebook users aged less than 18 years were the most to report participating in games displayed on Facebook (50%), followed by 18-24 year-olds (45.4%). Percentages drop further for higher age groups and reach their lowest level with users aged more than 40 years.

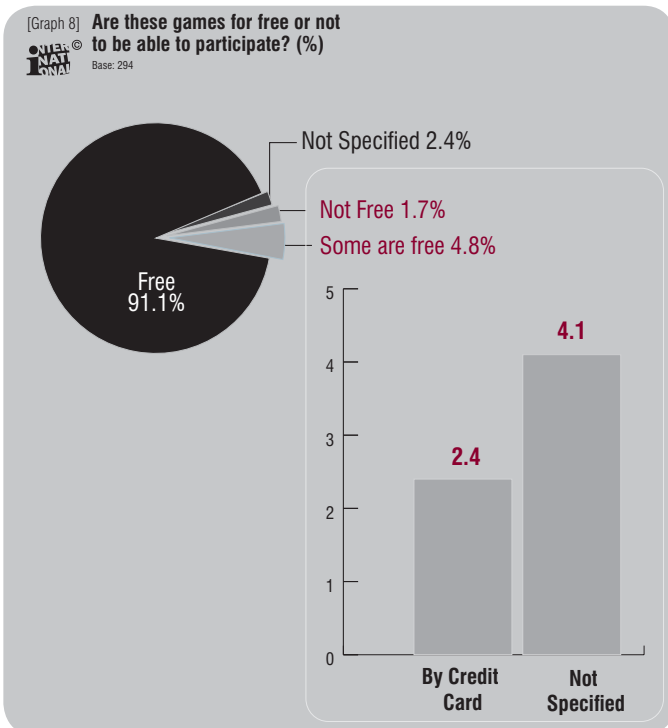
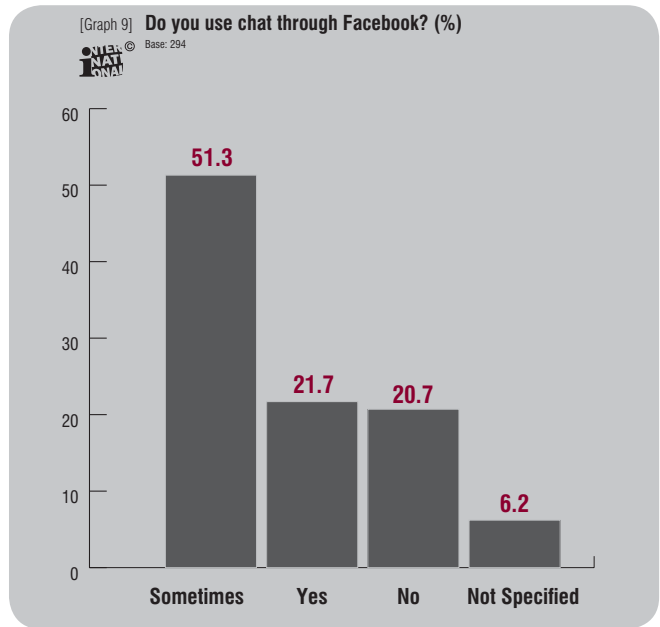
	< 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	> 40	Total
Yes	50.0%	45.4%	43.1%	31.0%	34.6%	28.2%	41.5%
No	46.9%	50.1%	51.6%	62.0%	61.5%	61.5%	52.9%
Not Specified	3.1%	4.4%	5.3%	7.0%	3.8%	10.3%	5.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Users who reported participating in games displayed on Facebook were asked whether these games were for free or not. The majority (91.2%) stated that the games they play on Facebook were free of charge while only 6.4% said otherwise. 36.8% of the latter reported paying for these games by credit card, while the majority did not specify their payment method (Graph 8).

As for how much do they pay for participating in these paid games on Facebook, the majority (57.9%) did not specify an answer, while the remaining answers varied between \$10-20 (21.1%), \$21-50 (15.8%) or over \$50 (5.3%).

Chatting

Since chatting has become a primary aspect of communication over the Internet, surveyed Facebook users were asked whether they use the chatting feature on Facebook. Around half of the respondents (51.3%) said that they “sometimes” chat through Facebook, 21.7% replied positively while 20.7% said they do not chat (Graph 9). More males than females (24.1% and 18.3% respectively) reported using the chatting feature on Facebook. In addition, chatting on Facebook proves to be highest among users aged less than 18 years and decreased respectively through older age groups, reaching its lowest level among users aged 40 years and above (Tables 6 and 7).



Do you use chatting through Facebook?	Male	Female	Total
Yes	24.1%	18.3%	21.7%
No	17.7%	25.2%	20.7%
Sometimes	51.3%	51.4%	51.3%
Not Specified	6.9%	5.2%	6.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	< 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	>40	Total
Yes	34.4%	21.8%	20.7%	28.2%	19.2%	7.7%	21.7%
No	12.5%	18.0%	22.9%	15.5%	26.9%	41.0%	20.7%
Sometimes	43.8%	55.8%	50.0%	45.1%	46.2%	46.2%	51.3%
Not Specified	9.4%	4.4%	6.4%	11.3%	7.7%	5.1%	6.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

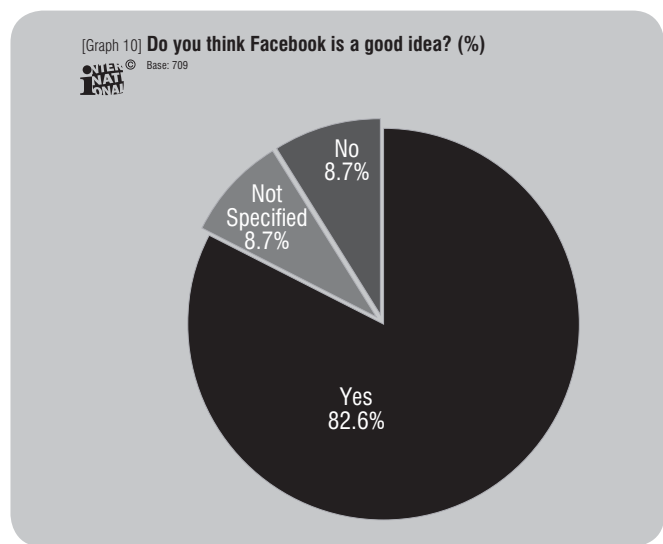
Furthermore, 83.2% of Facebook users who participated in this survey reported to chat through other sites, mainly

MSN (94.7%), Yahoo (21.4%) and Gmail (16.4%).

Advantages and Disadvantages of Facebook

With its widespread use among the various population segments, mainly youths, Facebook is raising several debates about its potential advantages and disadvantages. In this context, the majority of surveyed users (82.6%) reported that they think Facebook is a good idea compared to 8.7% who think the opposite and another 8.7% who did not specify an answer (Graph 10).

The issue of Facebook being a good idea increased with age up until 25-29 years, after which starts to decrease

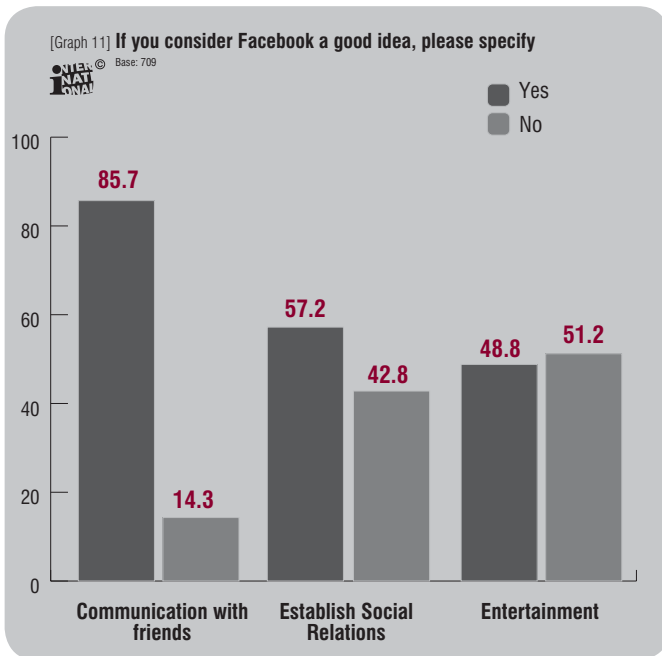


respectively for older age groups to reach its lowest level for respondents aged 40 years and above (Table 8).

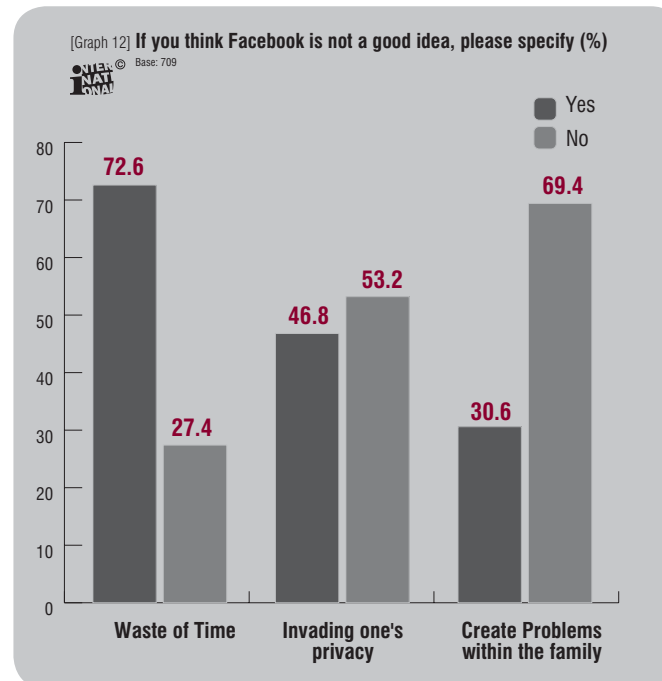
Do you think Facebook is a good idea? (by Age)							Table 8
	< 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	> 40	Total
Yes	78.1%	87.9%	81.9%	77.5%	73.1%	66.7%	82.7%
No	12.5%	7.7%	8.0%	11.3%	0.0%	15.4%	8.7%
i don't know	9.4%	4.4%	10.1%	11.3%	26.9%	17.9%	8.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those who think Facebook is a good idea listed several arguments to back up their choice, the most important of which is the ability to communicate with friends (85.7%), followed by establishing social relations (57.2%) -mainly for males(61.1% vs. 50.8% for females)- as well as entertainment (48.8%) (52.9% for males and 43% for females respectively) (Graph 11 and Table 9).

Please Specify Why Facebook is a Good Idea? (by Gender)				Table 9
	Males		Females	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Communicate with friends	86.9%	13.1%	83.9%	16.1%
Establish Social Relations	61.6%	38.4%	50.8%	49.2%
Entertainment	52.9%	47.1%	43.0%	57%



As for those who considered that Facebook is not a good idea, they justified their choice by reporting that Facebook is a waste of time (72.6%), it invades privacy (46.8%) or it may create problems within the family (30.6%) (Graph 12).



Females users of Facebook who think Facebook is not a good idea backed up their choice with Facebook being a waste of time (78.9%) and an invasion of privacy that it invades one’s privacy (52.6%) more than males who thought the same (69.8% and 44.2% respectively). On the other hand, more males reported that Facebook is not a good idea because it creates problems within the family (32.6% for males and 26.3% for females) (Table 10).

Finally, Facebook users were asked whether they think Facebook causes problems within the family. The majority of respondents (55.5%) replied negatively, while only 13.8% who replied positively while 31.2% did not specify any answer.

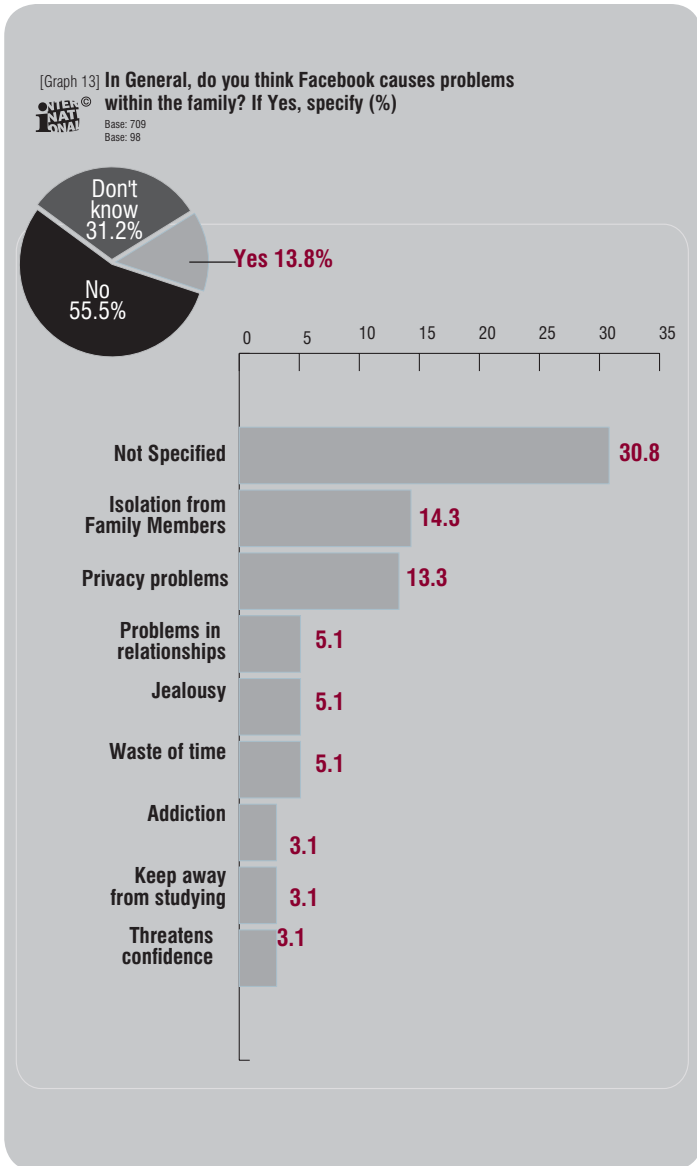
Facebook users who agreed on the above issue reported mainly isolation from other family members as the main problem caused by Facebook within the family (14.3%), followed by privacy problems (13.3%). Problems between boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, jealousy and waste of time were also mentioned (5.1% each), while addiction, keeping away from studying, as well as a lack of confidence scored 3.1% each (Graph 13).

Please Specify Why Facebook is Not a Good Idea? (By Gender) | **Table 10**

	Males		Females	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Waste of Time	69.8%	30.2%	78.9%	21.1%
Invading One’s Privacy	44.2%	55.8%	52.6%	47.4%
Create Problems within the Family	32.6%	67.4%	26.3%	73.7%

Conclusions

- ⦿ Facebook is popular social networking medium among the Lebanese, especially the youth.
- ⦿ 45.6% of Facebook users spend an average of 2-5 hours per day on Facebook, followed by 32.7% who spend less than 2 hours daily on this network.
- ⦿ Facebook is considered by respondents to be a free way to communicate, chat and play games.
- ⦿ Farmville is the most popular game on Facebook (45.6%), followed by Texas Hold’em Poker and Mafia War.
- ⦿ The majority of respondents consider Facebook to be a good idea (82.6%), mainly because it allows free communication with friends, helps in establishing social relations and is a free way of entertainment.
- ⦿ The minority that considers Facebook a bad idea say so mainly because they consider it to be a waste of time (72.6%).
- ⦿ Some respondents (13.8%) reported that Facebook causes problems within families because they consider that it causes isolation from the family members and can be a way of invading one’s privacy.





The Proliferation of Social Networking

by Philippe Boutros *

The first thing a typical, tech-savvy person does when they wake up is to check for updates and notifications on their Facebook account. They usually have a message or two from a friend on the other side of the world. They might also be tagged in a new photo album, and will definitely have to browse around and see what other people are saying to each other (or, in Facebook-speak, 'writing on each others' walls"). After they get up from in front of their computer, Facebook courteously keeps them updated by text messaging them notifications. I'm not the only person hooked on Facebook. Over 250 million people use Facebook on a daily basis, up from exactly none in less than half a decade. That number is still growing at an exponential rate.

So how does it work? Facebook is described as a free 'social-networking tool'. Users create their own profile, personalize it based on their own interests, and upload their own media, consisting mainly of pictures and videos. They approve their own 'friends', and join 'groups' of similar-minded people. Facebook's income relies entirely on advertising. Companies pay for banner-ads (read: large, rectangular eye-grabbing posters) that target specific users based on the information they've submitted, and their friends' interests. This way the only people exposed to the advertising campaigns are likely to be customers. For example, ads by Nike would target people who submitted "running" as one of their activities. Market analysts indicate that Facebook is becoming more and more profitable.

The concept of social networking has been mired in controversy ever since its incipit. The first major social network, MySpace (owned by Rupert Murdoch's NewsCorp), sought to brand itself as a community of individualists. A highly publicized incident swept the media towards the end of 2008; a woman created an account for a fictional person, and harassed a pre-teenage girl to the point of suicide. The courts ruled that, in fact, the woman had broken nothing other than MySpace's Terms of Use, and was therefore immune to prosecution. It has now been relegated to a fringe group composed mainly of amateur musicians and lower-middle class Americans.

Craigslist has attracted a hugely loyal user-base. More of an online marketplace than a social network, users browse their local Craigslist website for items for sale, living accommodations, social gatherings, adult encounters, or post their own offers. A serial killer was recently convicted of first-degree murder. He used Craigslist to lure his victims, posing as an individual interested in casual sex. Craigslist is still booming, although users are advised not to take sincerity as a given.

Twitter, the fastest-growing social network of 2010, has an interesting concept. Instead of focusing on user profiles, people instead broadcast 'tweets', which are received by 'friends' and people interested in the topic matter. Twitter received a lot of media coverage during the recent Iranian elections, when protesters, unable to communicate perceived

electoral injustice to the rest of the world through normal channels, were limited to tweeting. It's even become rumored that government agencies around the world sift through the ocean of tweets, searching for patterns, monitoring world events and gauging public opinion.

A vital issue still impeding social networks from becoming a "smart" investment is the fact that companies have yet to figure out how to make them profitable. That, however, hasn't stopped advertisers from taking advantage of their newfound capacity to place targeted ads (using systems such as Facebook's "Banner") to market their products efficiently and creatively. Another debate that has yet to be resolved is whether social networking is replacing social interactions. One thing for sure is that it has become an invaluable part of modern technology. Communication has never connected people so efficiently while still maintaining a personal connection. Pigeons carrying wax-sealed letters have evolved into fiber-optic cables spanning oceans. One wonders where the next step will take us. 🐦



*The Monthly will occasionally publish articles written by young writers and students who are contributing to the magazine starting with Philippe Boutros, who has worked with The Monthly on a part-time basis since 2009. Philippe is a graduate of the College Notre-Dame de Jamhour. He is now pursuing a triple major in philosophy, political science and public policy at the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon.

ELECTRICITY PLAN

On Monday June 21, 2010, the Lebanese Council of Ministers approved a plan proposed by Minister of Energy and Water Gebran Bassil to reform electricity and provide on the hour electricity, thus putting an end to power shortages that have burdened the Lebanese since the start of the war in 1975. What does the plan entail and will it succeed where other plans have failed?

Reality on the ground

The Lebanese suffer from a chronic problem with the electricity sector with long hours of power shortages in some regions, and limited hours in other regions. The reason for this is that produced quantities are lower than the amount required for consumption. The heat and water capacities of the plants reach 2,258.6 megawatts, distributed as follows: Zouq: 607 megawatts; Zahrani: 435 megawatts; Deir Ammar: 435 megawatts; Jiyeh: 346 megawatts; Sour: 70 megawatts; Ba'albeck: 70 megawatts; Hreicheh: 75 megawatts; Awwali: 108 megawatts; Joun: 48 megawatts; Abdel A'al: 34 megawatts; Al-Bared: 17.2 megawatts; Safa: 13.4 megawatts. But the actual capacity varies between 1,500-1,700 megawatts due to the fact that the equipment is old and damaged, or that it is frequently shut down to prevent damages. Furthermore due the increase in fuel prices and other petroleum products compared to the prices of electricity sale, some of these groups are shut down inside the plants to limit losses. (Current electricity prices were determined based on the price of \$13-\$15 per oil barrel, which today is at \$75. In previous years it has reached \$140). However the current need, in light of the present situation (low tariffs, infringement on grids and failure to pay bills) reaches around 2,500 megawatts or more (especially on hot summer days), or an actual deficit of around 800 megawatts.

Minister Bassil's plan

The electricity plan proposed by Bassil aims to save 2,795 megawatts of power, added to the current available power bringing the total to 4,000 megawatts in 2014 and 5,000 megawatts in 2015, available annually as follows:

2011 securing 400 megawatts; 2014 securing 1,945 megawatts; 2015 securing 450 megawatts This increase is realized through several projects and works, including:

- ⊙ Establishment of a new plant with a power of 700 megawatts; Increase the capacity of the Jiyeh and Zouq plants by 100 megawatts each; Increase the capacity of the Baddawi and Zahrani plants by 75 megawatts each; Increasing water production by 40 megawatts; Generating 60-100 megawatts wind-powered electricity; Establishment of liquefied gas to generate electricity.
- ⊙ The plan assumes the availability of investments at \$6 billion over a period of five years (2010-2015) for different electricity sectors ranging from production, distribution

and transport. However, the production sector has the highest percentage of funding at 79%. The funding will be handled by each of the Lebanese government (23%), the private sector at 53% (the highest percentage) and international bodies (24%). The following Table 1 shows the distribution of investments according to sectors and funding parties during the plan's various stages.

	Production	Transport	Distribution	Total
Lebanese government	988-1,114	251	11	1,250-1,376
Private sector	2,645-2,745	-	430	3,075-3,175
International bodies	880	540-550	25	1,445-1,455
Total	4,513-4,739	791-801	466	5,770-6,006

The figures raise the following remarks:

- ⊙ It is a huge plan and in case of its success assumes that Lebanon will have electricity power for decades to come and not just in the short term.
- ⊙ The funding that falls on the shoulders of the Lebanese government can be provided through taking loans, consequently increasing the public debt. Meanwhile, the funding secured by the private sector and international bodies raises many questions because international funding requires international and Arab contacts, preparing files and conditional pledges for commitment. This requires time with uncertainty that the needed amount, around \$1.5 billion, can be secured in light of global economic and financial crises and Lebanon's experience with international pledges has not always been successful.
- ⊙ The plan enforces the fact that Lebanon's electricity needs for many decades to come are guaranteed compared to the current consumption, which is not real and could drop to 30%-40% in case the technical squandering is contained, the tariff is increased, and infringements and power theft are contained. "Free" electricity in most regions increases the amounts of consumption and Lebanon, with the current need during peak time and in the summer is estimated at around 2,500-3,000 megawatts could drop to around 1,625-1,950 megawatts. Furthermore, providing new power sources such as solar power for household heaters and windmills for electricity could reduce this dependency.

Information International conducts an opinion poll

200 DAYS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT'S FORMATION

Half of the country supports the government, although the amount of people opposed to it increased to 29%; Ziad Baroud remains the favorite minister of 41% of Lebanese and electricity is the top priority for 59% of respondents

The Lebanese government named "Government of Development and Improvement" formed on the 9th of November won the vote of confidence on the 10th of December. This vote of confidence was unprecedented since the year 1990 with the majority of 122 MPs. Only one MP abstained from voting and one MP voted for non-confidence.

Information International conducted a telephone poll with 500 respondents distributed over Lebanese regions by confession and number of registered population per confession. This poll, preceded by one conducted between March 15-18 after 100 days on the vote of confidence, was conducted between June 21-24 after 200 days on the government's vote of confidence.

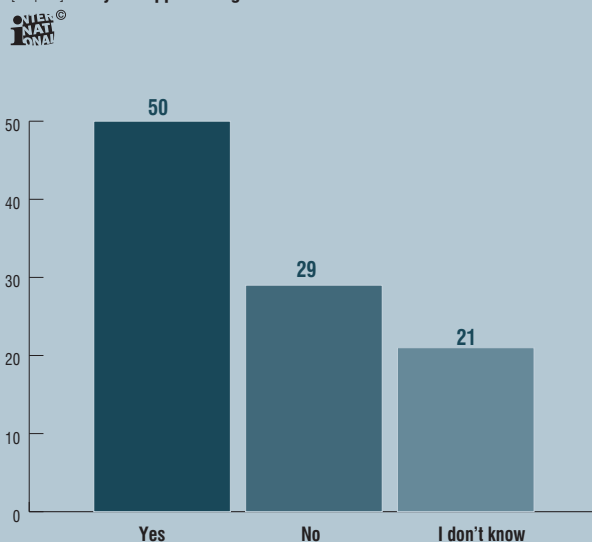
Position on government

Half of the respondents (50%) expressed their support for the government, 29% were opposed to it, and 21% expressed uncertainty (Graph 1). Compared to the stance of the respondents 100 days after the vote of confidence, the figures are quite similar with an increase in the number of respondents who opposed the government and the absence of those of thought it was early to take a position regarding the government. Those respondents were distributed into the 'Don't Know' category (12%); 11% said they opposed it and 3% supported the government. Table 1 compares the position of the respondents, right after the vote of confidence, 100 days later, and 200 days later.

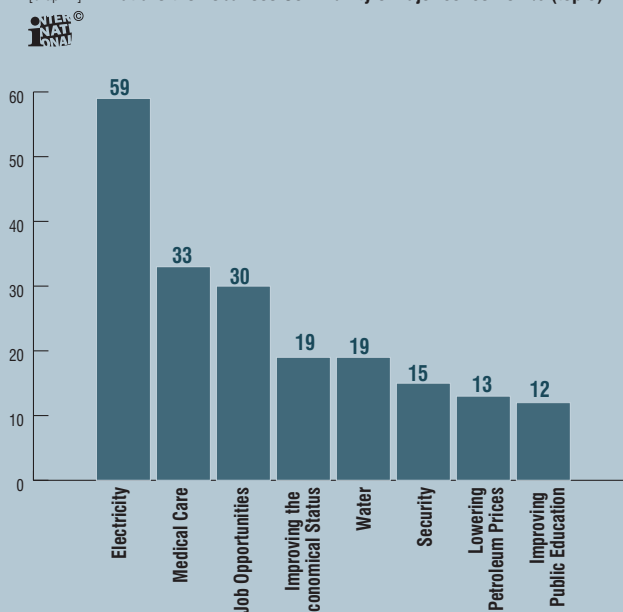
Position	Vote of Confidence %	After 100 days %	After 200 days %
Support	77	47	50
Oppose	20	18	29
Don't Know	3	9	21
Too early to judge	-	26	-
Total	100	100	100

Source: Information International 2010

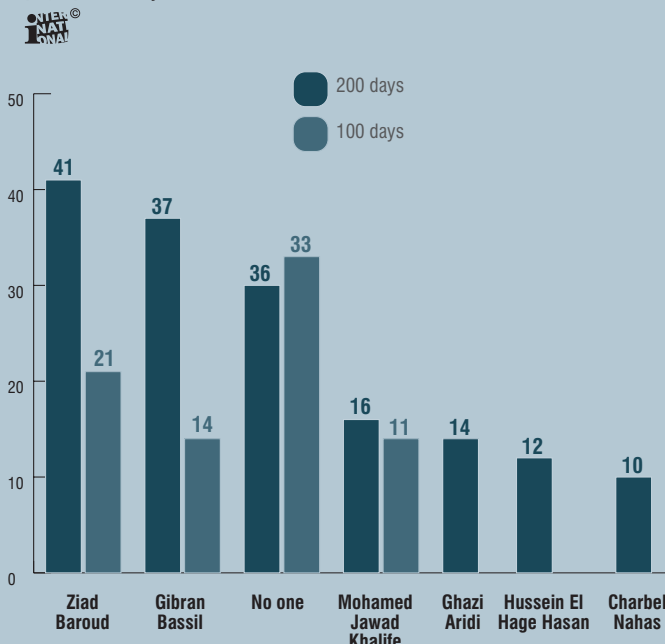
[Graph 1] Do you support the government?



[Graph 2] What are the Lebanese Community's major concerns? % (top 8)



[Graph 3] Who is your favorite Minister?



Priorities: Electricity, healthcare, job opportunities

The respondents listed the same priorities as in the poll conducted in March 2010, with electricity at the top of the list for 59% of the respondents, followed by healthcare (33%), job opportunities (30%). Other priorities with less significance include “improving the economic situation” at 19%, water (19%), security (15%), lowering the price of fuel (13%), improving public education (12%) (Graph 2), control over prices of essential commodities (11%), limiting traffic jams (9%) and social security for older citizens (8%).

Government's achievements: Nothing (69%)

The majority of the respondents (69%) reported that the government had not accomplished anything so far. 6% of the respondents reported government achievements in security, improving electricity (6%), municipal and ikhtiarah elections (4%), in national reconciliation (4%), 2010 budget (4%), agreement between Lebanon and Syria (2%). 5% of the respondents credited other achievements to the government, each with very limited percentage.

Favorite Minister: Ziad Baroud followed by Gebran Bassil

According to the respondents, Minister of Interior Ziad Baroud remains to be at the top of the list at 41%, compared to 21% in the poll conducted in March 2010 after 100 days on the vote of confidence and 25% when the government received the vote of confidence.

Minister of Energy and Water Gebran Bassil on the other hand received the support of 37% of the respondents compared to 14% in March 2010. 30% of the respondents reported that they had no favorite minister compared to 33% in the previous poll; 16% favored Minister of Health Mohamad Jawad Khalifeh compared to 11% in the previous poll; 14% favored Minister of Works and Transportation Ghazi Aridi; 12% favored Minister of Agriculture Hussein Hajj Hassan and 10% favored Minister of Telecommunication Charbel Nahhas (Graph 3).

According to 70% of the respondents, the government has not achieved anything after 200 days from the vote of confidence. Despite that, it has the support of 50% of the respondents and the opposition does not exceed 1/3. Moreover, around a quarter of the respondents replied that they did not know at all, a big percentage which will eventually be transferred either to support or to oppose the government. The question is: what are they waiting for to make up their minds, achievements or developments in Lebanon and the region? 🍷

What about the sanctions imposed on Iran?

57% of the respondents opposed the UN decision of imposing sanctions on Iran; 10% of the respondents disagreed and 33% remain neutral. The stance on the sanctions differs by confessional belongings. Whereas 2% of the Shia'a respondents support the sanctions, 12% of the Sunni also support it, 15% of the Maronites and Orthodox each, 17% of the Catholics and 21% of the Armenians support it. On the other hand, 83% of the Shia'a are against it and the rate decreases to half of the other respondents in the other confessions.

Parliamentary by-elections IN MINNIEH-DINNIEH

20,000 voters stay away from the Future Movement and the opposition keeps its position

The Minnieh-Dinnieh parliamentary by-election went through a tight competition between Future Movement and its allies and the March 8 opposition in an attempt to consolidate their presence in the region. The elections ended with the victory of Future Movement candidate Kazem Saleh Al-Khair over his cousin Kamal Al-Khair who was supported by the opposition. However, the result of this election puts forth observations and indicators that are worth noting. The elections took place as per the legal appointment set by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday June 13, two weeks after the end of the municipal and ikhtiariah elections in the North Muhafaza and Minnieh-Dinnieh.

Results of the by-election

Observers of these elections were keen to know the outcome to define the support that Future Movement would get in the city of Minnieh known as “The City of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri”. Did support for the Future Movement fall back from the year 2009? Or does it still maintain its position? Needless to say, this also concludes its openness to Syria and the three visits that Prime Minister Saad Hariri made to Damascus (up to the election date). The results of the elections and the percentage of voters were expressive of the situation compared to the elections in the year 2009 and the difference in the votes between the winners and the defeated. In the 2009 parliamentary elections, the number of registered voters reached 97,907, 55,291 of whom voted, or 56.4%. The list supported by the Future Movement received an average of 37,772 votes, which represents 68.3% of the total voters. At that time, MP Hachem Alameddine was 3rd and last place in the list with 36,159 votes and MP Kassem Abdel Aziz was first with 39,491 votes.

Jihad Samad supported by March 8 received 16,136 votes (representing 29.2% of the total voters), whereas Kamal Al-Khair received 5,631 votes or 10.2% of the total voters.

In these elections, the percentage of votes fell back to 34% (around 34,000 votes out of around 100,000 registered voters), which is a big drawback that cannot be justified. The by-election


in Matn after the assassination of MP Pierre Gemayel in the year 2007 went through a huge demand similar to the elections in the year 2005 (the percent of voters was 51.2% in the regular parliamentary elections and 46.5 in the by-election).

The logical explanation for this drawback is that around 18,000 – 20,000 voters moved from supporting Future Movement’s pro-government to neutralism. Therefore, the number of votes attained by the Future Movement candidate Kazem Al-Khair fell back by 18,000 – 20,000 votes of what he was expected to gain and received 20,100 votes instead. He was expected to gain 38,000 to 40,000 votes compared to the number of votes attained by the Future Movement candidate in year 2009.) He thus received 59.2% of the expected votes. On the other hand, Kamal Al-Khair acquired 14,097 votes or 41.5% of the total voters. It is true that the percentage of votes is higher than what he acquired in the 2009 elections and higher than what Jihad Samad of the opposition acquired (29.2%), but the number of votes that he received (14,097) stays close to the number of votes that the opposition acquired in the 2009 elections which is represented by Samad (16,136 votes). In brief, it can be said that around 20,000 voters, or 36.4%, have moved from supporting the Future Movement to not supporting anyone, and the opposition has kept its position compared to the 2009 elections. As for why voters moved from supporting Future Movement to

neutrality, below are some reasons:

The Alameddine family and their allies boycotted the election; 2- The supporters of Safadi and MP Abdel Aziz and former Prime Minister Najib Mikati didn’t support the Future Movement candidate or the opposition; 3- Fall back in the services that Future Movement used to provide for the people in the region; 4-Talks of changes in the region which are making the families and the leaders of the region change their positions and stand neutral in the face of challenges

In the absence of active parties or movements that are aware of the details of these social groups, it is difficult to talk say that these masses (20,000 in Minnieh-Dinnieh) will realign outside the Future Movement for ideological or intellectual considerations. This, while referring to the fact that the public candidacy of Kamal Al-Khair who repeatedly declares his support for Hezbollah and that 41.4% of voters voted for him, questions, and almost refutes, the theory of the “historic Sunni-Shia’a dispute”.

It is the Lebanese savvy deeply rooted in the lives of the majority of Lebanese surfaces once more and opts for a neutral position in crises and chooses to wait before declaring their support for the winner or the defeated. 

MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Personnel: 7,834 posts; budget: \$7 million and revenues: \$1 billion

It is a “relatively small ministry with substantial financial resources”. This is a concise definition of the Ministry of Telegrams, Post and Telephone which today is known as the Ministry of Telecommunications. In order to underline the significance of this ministry it suffices to point to the fact that selecting its minister delayed the formation of the current government by around five months.

Establishment and change of name

The first government formed on the eve of the 1943 independence, led by Riad el-Solh, included the Ministry of Telegrams and Post. The name lasted until 1953 when the government formed on August 16 of that year, headed by Abdallah al-Yafi during the presidency of Camille Chamoun changed to the Ministry of Telegrams, Post and Telephone. Under legislative Decree # 111 issued on June 12, 1959, regarding specifying the central state service, the ministry was called the Ministry of Post, Telegrams and Telephone. In 1982, the first government formed by Prime Minister Chafic al-Wazzan during the presidency of Amine Gemayel, the ministry was named the Ministry of Post and Wired and Wireless Telecommunications and George Afram was appointed minister. Under Article Six of Law 247 on August 7, 2000 (the integration, abolishment and establishment of ministries and councils) the name was amended to become the Ministry of Telecommunications.

These amendments and changes in the name were not matched with amendments and changes in the structure and role of the minister except in 1998 when the government signed a contract with a private company, LibanPost, to rehabilitate, regulate and operate the postal service on condition that the state receives a

limited percentage of the realized profits while being responsible for the post employees, most of whom became jobless. Furthermore, the government signed a contract with Ogero (a government body) to establish and maintain landline networks on condition that the cost be covered by the telecommunications budget which also created unemployment among workers in the telephone sector in the ministry, with whom the body did not sign a contract.

Tasks

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (Ministry of Telecommunications) is in charge of managing the affairs of postal services and telecommunications, including the delivery of mail in Lebanon, its exchange with foreign administrations in addition to other services related to this administration and the establishment, maintenance and investment of telecommunications centers and networks.

Structure

The ministry consists of:

- ⊙ Directorate General of Postal Service
- ⊙ Directorate General of Telecom Construction and Equipment
- ⊙ Directorate General of Telecom Investment and Maintenance
- ⊙ Directorate of Common

Administrative Services

- ⊙ Directorate of General Control
- ⊙ Directorate General of Postal Service

1-The Directorate General of Postal Service

handles postal affairs and all related public services. It includes the bureau, four authorities and 30 departments. It has around 2,290 posts, most of which are vacant after their missions were abolished when postal works were awarded to a private company. It includes a directorate general, four authorities and 30 departments. The specific posts are distributed as shown by Table 1.

The directorate general's structure includes:

The directorate general

- ⊙ The postal authority: The department of postal affairs (two sections), the department of postal relations (four sections), the department of postal packages (two sections), the department of directory and information (two sections)
- ⊙ The authority of technical affairs: The department of vocational rehabilitation, the department of automation and electronic screening (two sections), the department of machinery (two sections)
- ⊙ The authority of postal regions: The department of administrative



Table 1

Post	Number
Director general	1
Authority head	4
Department head	30
Section head	25
Head of air mail exchange office	1
Head of sea mail exchange office	1
Central office head	6
Liaison office head	54
Head of supervisors	12
Office head	300
Supervisor	110
Accountant or programmer	30
Treasurer	30
Editor or writer	100
Clerk	30
Class one or two investment employee	605
Postman	31
Class three investment employee	820
Driver	50
Concierge	20
Guard	30
Total	2,290

Source: Decree#3585 on October 25, 1980 for regulating the Ministry of Telecom

affairs, the department of vocational affairs in addition to 14 postal departments across Lebanon

- ⦿ The authority of financial affairs: The department of central auditing (two sections), the department of the central treasury, the department of external auditing and liaisons, the department of monetary materials and transactions (two sections), the department of stamps and sorting (two sections), the department of national savings and postal checks (two sections)
- ⦿ The bureau (three sections)

2 -Directorate General of Telecom Construction and Equipment

The directorate handles the construction and equipment of telecommunications, all studies and implementation of works for the construction and equipment of

telecommunications centers and internal, external and international networks. It includes two directorates, seven authorities, 20 departments and 38 project managers. The specified personnel for this directorate includes 1,374 posts distributed as listed by Table 2.

Table 2

Post	Number
Director general	1
Authority head	9
Department head	24
Section head	2
Works head	38
Class one or two expert or supervisor	310
Technical expert	720
Writer or editor	75
Clerk	15
Concierge ,driver or guard	180
Total	1,374

Source: Decree#3585 on October 25, 1980 for regulating the Ministry of Telecom

The directorate's structure includes:

Directorate of Construction and Equipment of Centers

- ⦿ Buildings authority: Department of building studies and department of buildings execution
- ⦿ Equipments authority: Department of equipment studies (two project managers), department of mechanical equipments (two project managers), department of electronic equipments (two project managers)
- ⦿ Authority of driving forces and heat: Department of driving forces and heat studies (two project managers), department of engines and batteries implementation (three project managers), department of implementation of central air conditioning and heating (three project managers)

Directorate of Construction and Equipment of Networks and Telecom

- ⦿ Authority of networks studies: Department of passageways studies (two works presidencies), department of networks studies in Beirut (two works presidencies), department of networks studies in the regions (two works presidencies)
- ⦿ Authority of networks execution: Department of passageway execution (two works presidencies), department of first networks execution (three works presidencies), department of fixed networks execution (three works presidencies)
- ⦿ Authority of telecom studies: Department of wired telecom studies (two works presidencies) and department of wireless telecom (three works presidencies)
- ⦿ Authority of telecom execution: Department of wired telecom execution (two works presidencies) and department of wireless telecom execution (three works presidencies)
- ⦿ The bureau

3-Directorate General for Investment and Maintenance of Wired and Wireless Telecom

The directorate handles the investment and maintenance of wired and wireless telecommunications, the works of investment and maintenance of local, internal and international networks of the telephone, telegram and telex, the exchange of information, the study and execution of new secondary networks, management of financial affairs and control of the technical and investment work of employees. It includes two directorates, six authorities, 71 departments and 169 presidencies of works. Its personnel include 3,778 posts distributed as shown in Table 3.

Post	Number
Director general	1
Authority head	12
Department head	71
Section head	57
President of works Regions	169
	78
Class one specialist or class two specialist team leader	360
Technical expert or technical worker	800
Editor or writer	250
Clerk	50
Class one or two investment employee or center head or overseer	1,400
Class three investment employee	250
Concierge ,drive and guard	280
Total	3,778

Source: Decree#3585 on October 25, 1980 for regulating the Ministry of Telecom

Its structure includes:

Investment directorate

- ⊙ Internal investment authority: Department of internal movement engineering (three works presidencies), department of centers needs assessment (two works presidencies), department of wireless frequencies, cable affairs and information exchange, department of control of works in regions and centers (two works presidencies), department of directory and information (nine sections)
- ⊙ Authority of international investment: Department of international activity (16 sections, department of international activity engineering (two sections) and department of international relations (two sections)
- ⊙ Authority of financial affairs: Department of legislation and tariff, department of international accounts (three sections), department of internal accounts (three sections), department of treasury and collection (two sections) and department of coffers (two sections)

Directorate of Maintenance

- ⊙ Authority of central maintenance: Department of emergency works and regional aid (five works presidencies), department of buildings maintenance (two works presidencies), department of driving forces maintenance (two works presidencies) and department of maintenance of telex and cable sections (two works presidencies)
- ⊙ Authority of international telecom maintenance: Department of first ground station maintenance (three works presidencies), department of second ground station maintenance (three works presidencies), department of first naval cables (three works presidencies) and department of second naval cables maintenance (three works presidencies)
- ⊙ Authority of depots and workshops: Department of depots (three sections), department of workshops (three works presidencies), department of machinery (one works presidency and one section), department of statistics, technical studies and training (four works presidencies), department of technical and investment control (three sections) and regions (nine regions, in which there are 45 departments, 131 works presidencies, 48 main offices and 11 sections)

4-Directorate of Common Administrative Services

It has a 357 posts distributed as shown by Table 4.

It includes:

Department of minister's secretariat (three sections), department of accounting(threesections),department of employees (three sections), department of cases, department of requirements and the administrative department (one section).

Post	Number
Authority president	1
Department head	7
Section head	10
Editor ,writer or statistician	100
Clerk	10
Investment employee first or second class	4
Investment employee third class	4
Concierge	6
Guard	72
Driver	3
Servant	140
Total	375

Source: Decree#3585 on October 25, 1980 for regulating the Ministry of Telecom

5-Directorate of General Control

The directorate is in charge of the disbursements works of all ministry departments, except those relating to the Directorate General of Postal Service. It has 35 posts distrusted as shown in Table 5.

Post	Number
Director	1
Department head	4
Section head	3
Reporter or writer	22
Concierge	3
Driver	2
Total	35

Source: Decree#3585 on October 25, 1980 for regulating the Ministry of Telecom

It includes the following departments: Disbursements, liaison and complaints.

Ministry budget

In the 2009 draft budget, the ministry's budget reached LBP 10,779,500,000 (around \$7.1 million) mostly allocated to the Directorate of Postal Service, which could be called the post budget. Expenses are primary distributed on salaries, wages compensation funds and related expenses, all of which take up 95.3% of expenses since there are still 450 employees in the directorate who receive salaries, although a private company is managing the post.

6-Telecom budget


The important and essential budget is that of the telecom adjunct to the general budget (in addition to the budget of each of the directorate general of cereals, beetroot and the directorate of national lottery).

The telecom budget witnessed a notable development in the years from 1994-2009 with an increase from LBP 470.9 billion to LBP 1,875.5 billion. The budget's expenses are distributed as follows:

- ⊙ Directorate General of Telecom Construction and Equipment: LBP 5.5 billion
- ⊙ Directorate General of Investment and Maintenance: LBP 238.6 billion, including contribution to Ogero's budget at LBP 172.5 billion, LBP 15 billion for the Telecom Regulatory Authority and LBP 10.7 billion for the automation center
- ⊙ The Directorate of Common Administrative Service: LBP 10.5 billion
- ⊙ Transfers to the public treasury: LBP 1,400 billion

The revenues of telecom that reached LBP 1,934.1 billion came from the following sources:

- Revenues of local and external calls: LBP 459.7
- ⊙ Revenues of international calls: LBP 358.4 billion
 - ⊙ Telex revenues: LBP 211 million
 - ⊙ Other revenues: LBP 90.8 billion
 - ⊙ Cellular (subscription): LBP 1,020 billion or 53% of estimated revenues

(The revenues include LBP 55.7 billion representing the municipal fee putting the net amount at LBP 1,878.5 billion) 

The Ministry of Telecom is a significant and essential ministry with substantial revenues reaching \$1 billion a year. Many of its 7,834 posts are vacant, considering they are no longer necessary in light of technological advancement and awarding ministry works to private or government bodies. But the ministry still faces a great challenge when fully implementing the Telecom Law 431/2002. Will it be able to perform its role and tasks as stipulated by the law? Will it succeed in preserving the state assets and properties in addition to the interests of the consumers, or will it abandon this role in favor of the private sector?

From independence in 1943 until the current government (formed on November 9, 2009), the Ministry of Telecom has had 79 ministers, some of whom have occupied the post more than three times: Saleem Haidar, Tony Franjeh, Jean Louis Qordahi and George Sa'adeh.

According to confession

- ⊙ Maronite: 29 ministers
- ⊙ Greek Orthodox: Nine ministers
- ⊙ Catholic: Nine ministers
- ⊙ Armenian Orthodox: One minister, Sunni: 12 ministers
- ⊙ Shia'a: 12 ministers, Druze: Seven ministers.

President Bechara Khouri

Camille Chamoun, Mohammad al-Fadl, Nicolas Ghosn, Sami el-Solh, Philippe Taqla (twice), Youssef Haroui, Mir Majieed Arslan (twice), Hussein al-Oueini, Gebran al-Nahhas, Edward Noun, Mohammad Safieddin, Hussein Abdallah, Moussa Mubarak (twice) and Nazem A'akari.

President Camille Chamoun

Moussa Mubarak, Salim Haidar (three times), Racheed Baydoun, Bachir A'aouar, Kazem Khalil (twice), Mohammad Sabra (twice), Fouad Ghosn, Mir Majieed Arslan and Bachir Othman.

President Fouad Chehab

Raymon Eddeh, Maurice Zouein, Suleiman Franjeh (twice), Rene Mouawwad and Mohammad Kneio.

President Charles Helou

Mohammad Kneio, Antoine Sahnou, Joseph Najjar (twice), Kamal Jumblat, Michel Iddeh, Racheed baydoun, Fouad Ghosm (twice), Pierre Gemayel and Chafiq al-Wazzan.

President Suleiman Franjeh

Jameel Kebbeh (twice), Tony Franjeh (three time), Francois Jinadri, Camille Chamoun and George Skaff.

President Elias Sarkiss

Farid Roufael and Michel Murr (twice).

President Amine Gemayel

George Afram, Pierre Gemayel, Josph al-Hachem and Issam Abou Jamra.

President Elias Hraoui

George Sa'adeh (three times), Michel Murr, Mohammad Ghaziri, Al-Fadl Chalaq and Rafik Hariri.

President Emile Lahoud

Issam Na'aman, Jean Louis Qordahi (three times), Alain Tabourian and Marwan Hamadeh.

President Michel Suleiman

Gebran Bassil and Charbel Nahas.

Political talk shows (2006 – 2008)

MORE OF THE SAME

Lebanese television channels, each with their own political affiliation, broadcast a number of weekly political talk shows hosting a wide range of guests including politicians, foreign and Arab diplomats, 'experts' and researchers. Some of the guests sometimes give inaccurate political opinions and falsely present themselves as reliable authorities on certain subjects.

Talk shows in years 2006, 2007 and 2008 hosted the same faces over and over again while some figures have become exclusive guests on some channels. Four programs – Al-Istehqaq, Kalam al-Nass, Al-Osbou fi Sa'a and Mokhtassar Mufid – hosted 872 personalities, of which 674 only appeared once on one of them. The other 198 guests are repeatedly being hosted on more than one channel as shown below. The years 2006 and 2007 witnessed the incidents of the assassination of Rafik Hariri followed by the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon, July war against Lebanon, Nahr El-Bared conflict and numerous assassinations of MPs and political and media figures in addition to bombings in different regions. The year 2008 witnessed the May 7 incidents and the election of Michel Suleiman as President of the Republic after the Doha Summit.

Politicians

The top seven politicians to appear on talk shows are:

- ⦿ Marwan Hamadeh appeared 11 times on talk shows; four times on Al-Istehqaq, six times on Kalam al-Nass and one on Al-Osbou fi Sa'a.
- ⦿ Boutros Harb appeared 11 times; seven times on Kalam al-Nass, three times on Al-Istehqaq and once on Al-Osbou fi Sa'a
- ⦿ Samir Franjeh appeared ten times; five times on Al-Istehqaq and five times on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Akram Chehayib appeared nine times; four times on Al-Istehqaq and three times on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ George Aodwan appeared eight times; five times on Kalam al-Nass and three times on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Johnny Abdo appeared seven times; four times on Kalam al-Nass and three times on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Hussein Hajj Hassan appeared seven times; 5 times on Al-Istehqaq and two times on Kalam al-Nass

Other politicians appeared as follows:

- ⦿ Ahmad Fatfat appeared six times; four times on Al-Istehqaq and two times on Kalam al-Nass.
- ⦿ Elias Murr appeared six times; four times on Kalam al-Nass and twice on Al-Istehqaq

- ⦿ Robert Ghanem appeared six times; four times on Al-Istehqaq and twice on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Ibrahim Canaan appeared three times on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Antoine Zahra appeared four times on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Jean Ogassapian appeared four times; three times on Kalam al-Nass and once on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Ziad Baroud appeared four times; three times on Al-Istehqaq and once on Al-Osbou fi Sa'a
- ⦿ Samir Geagea appeared five times; three times on Al-Istehqaq and twice on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Amine Gemayel appeared five times; three times on Kalam al-Nass and twice on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Saad Hariri appeared three times; twice on Kalam al-Nass and once on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Salim Aoun appeared three times; twice on Al-Istehqaq and once on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Ali Hassan Khalil appeared four times; twice on Kalam al-Nass and once on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Ammar Hourri appeared three times; twice on Kalam al-Nass and once on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Walid Jumblat appeared five times; three times on Kalam al-Nass and twice on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Ghattas Khouri appeared four times; twice on each of Kalam al-Nass and Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Mustapha Allouch appeared twice on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Michel Aoun appeared twice on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Mosbah al-Ahdab appeared four times; twice on each of Kalam al-Nass and Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Faris Soaid appeared four times; three times on Al-Istehqaq and once on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Faris Boueiz appeared three times; twice on Al-Istehqaq and once on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Farid Makari appeared twice on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Farid al-Khazen appeared three times; twice on Kalam al-Nass and once on Al-Istehqaq
- ⦿ Nawwaf al-Mousawi appeared three times on Kalam al-Nass
- ⦿ Nohad al-Mashnouq appeared four times on Kalam al-Nass



- Charles Rizk appeared eight times; four times on each of Al-Istehqaq and Kalam al-Nass
- Ghazi Al-Aridi appeared eight times; four times on Al-Istehqaq, three times on Kalam al-Nass and one time on Moukhtasar Moufid

Journalists

- Rajeh al-Khoury appeared nine times: five times on Al-Istehqaq and four times on Kalam al-Nass
- Ibrahim al-Amine appeared four times on Kalam al-Nass
- Elias al-Zobi appeared four times: three times on Al-Istehqaq and once on Kalam al-Nass
- Ziad Majed appeared five times: four times on Kalam al-Nass and once on Al-Istehqaq
- Charles Ayoub appeared four times on Kalam al-Nass
- Oqab Saqr appeared five times: three times on Al-Istehqaq and twice on Kalam al-Nass
- Faris Khashan appeared twice on Al-Istehqaq
- Mohammed Salam appeared four times: three times on Al-Istehqaq and once on Kalam al-Nass

The following Table 1 shows the religious affiliations of the producers of some of the political talk shows, indicating a diversity of confessions for some television channels.



Note: The Monthly relied on its analysis on the lists of guests provided by the television stations. As these lists could include some mistakes such as failure to mention some names, The Monthly is not responsible for these mistakes. However, The Monthly is prepared to publish a correction at the request of those concerned.

Religious affiliations of producers			Table 1
	Talk show	Host/ess	Confession
L.B.C	Kalam al-Nass	Marcel Ghanem	Maronite
	Anta wal Hadath	Shatha Omar	Sunni
	Nharkom Saeed	Dolly Ghanem	Maronite
Future	Al-Istehqaq	Ali Hamade	Druze
	Transit	Najat Sharafeddine	Shia'a
	Interviews	Paula Yaqoubian	Armenian Orthodox
New Tv	Al-Khamissa wal Ishroun	Sahar al-Khatib	Sunni
	Al-Osbou fi Sa'a	Geroge Salibi	Greek Orthodox
	Fil Mamnou	Catherine Hanna	Maronite
NBN	Al-Fassad	Ghada Eid	Maronite
	Mokhtassar Mufid	Saeed Grayeb	Maronite
	Al-Boad al-Akhar	Maha Chamseddine	Shia'a
Al-Manar	Al-Rai A'am	Karim al-Jamil	Maronite
	Hadith al-Sa'a	Imad Marmal	Shia'a
	Ma'a al-Hadath	Mohammed Sherri	Shia'a
	Matha Ba'ad	Amro Nassif	Sunni
OTV	Bayn Qaoussayn	Batoul Ayoub	Shia'a
	Al-Haq Yoqal	Maggie Farah	Orthodox
	Hiwar al-Yaoum	Dima Sadiq	Shia'a
	Noqta Fassila	Habib Younis	Maronite
	Fakkir Martein	Shirley Murr	Orthodox
ANB	Fil Tafassil	Rola Mouawad	Maronite
	Aqoual al-Suhuf	Natalie Bou Karroum	Maronite
	Ila Ayn	Zeina Fayyad	Shia'a
	Mehatta Hassima	Melhem Riachi	Catholic

COST OF 2008 EVENTS IN TRIPOLI

LBP 33 billion, 22 dead and 201 injured

In June-July 2008, the city of Tripoli suffered from armed clashes in the regions of Ba'al Hassan (a pro-Syrian A'alawi majority) and Bab el-Tabeneh (a pro-Future Movement Sunni majority). The clashes left many dead or injured and damaged homes and shops. The government was not a cause or a party to that war, but some in power perhaps played a role in those events either intentionally or through neglect. The government committed, and obligated the Lebanese, to compensate for the damages instead of obligating the warring sides with paying reparations for damages caused by their battle.

Damage and cost

The Higher Relief Commission (HRC) assigned the Lebanese army to survey damages caused to houses and stores. Also, a medical committee was assigned to conduct a death toll survey and identify the percentage of permanent injuries. However, there has been no appraisal of the cost of damages caused to cars, due to the difficulty of specifying it.

Reparations for material damages

The HRC relies on paying 100% of the value of damaged residential buildings and 50% of the value of damaged stores. It received 11,857 applications for compensation at the total value of LBP 31.2 billion.

Reparations for physical damages

Twenty-two people were killed. Their heirs received LBP 380 million in reparations. The 201 people that were injured received LBP 370 million in compensation funds.

Cost of repairing schools

Some schools were damaged due to the clashes and others due to the fact that they were inhabited by the displaced during the fighting. There are 23 damaged schools with the cost of damages reaching LBP 709 million.

Other expenses

The expenses of the HRC office in Tripoli – created to follow-up on the reparations process – reached LBP 10.2 million. The expenses of survey committees reached LBP 10 million. Furthermore, pesticides were purchased and delivered to the municipality of Tripoli at the cost of LBP 109.5 million (the nature and purpose of these pesticides is unclear especially at such high cost). With this the total value of compensations reached LBP 33 billion, of which Prime Minister Saad Hariri donated LBP 7.5 billion while the rest of the amount falls on the shoulders of the Lebanese people.

“Twenty-two people were killed. Their heirs received LBP 380 million in reparations. The 201 people that were injured received LBP 370 million in compensation funds.”



The Tripoli Corniche

DEMANDS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Salary between LBP 1 million and LBP 2.6 million, a 35% increase

The association of the secondary school teachers decided to boycott meetings to set the grounds for correcting the intermediate exams. However, it soon stepped over this decision and resumed with its work as a token of good will on its end, despite its boycotting of the corrections of all four branches of the secondary school certificates until its demands are met of restoring the seven degrees. The association maintains its position and so does the government that refuses their demands because of the financial burden that the state would have to bear which may eventually open doors for staff in other sectors to take similar actions. The government considered alternatives in the event that the boycott continued, which includes providing all students with certificates. Stepping away from the political considerations which the Minister of Education Dr. Hassan Mneimneh believes are behind this association, what is the truth of these demands and what are their annual costs?

Secondary school education

The number of secondary school students in public schools is 61,052 or 50.2% of the total number of secondary school students, which total to 121,500 distributed over 252 public secondary schools (versus 484 private secondary schools). There are 7,000 full time teachers in addition to contracted teachers.

Secondary school budget

The total budget for the public secondary school in the year 2009 reached 182.8 billion LBP or 17.6% of the Ministry of Education's total budget. The cost per student in the public secondary school level reaches around 3 million LBP which is very close to the cost of the student in private schools. The budget of the secondary school is mainly distributed as follows:

- ⊙ Renting of schools and maintenance: 6.7 billion LBP
- ⊙ Salaries and wages: 174.5 billion LBP
- ⊙ Furniture and equipment: 700 million LBP
- ⊙ Maintenance of buildings: 625 million LBP

Based on those figures, it is noticed that the salaries and wages constitute 95.5% of the budget.

The evolution of salaries and wages

Law number 53/66 dated September 3, 1966 specified the working hours of the secondary school level teachers. It also provided them with monthly compensations to make up for the additional working hours. The law specified the working hours to be 22 hours of actual teaching per week, 30 hours per week for principals and the college of teachers and 27 hours for supervisors. As for the additional compensations for such working hours, they are as follows:

- ⊙ 30% of their salary for full time secondary school teachers with less than 5 years experience in this level.
- ⊙ 40% of their salary for full time secondary school teachers with over 5 years of experience in this level.
- ⊙ 50% of their salary for secondary school principals and the college of teachers

This law for compensations was amended on the 3rd of August 1982 under Law 22/82 where the compensations were changed consecutively to 40%, 50% and 70%. It was again amended on the 21st of November 1987 under Law 45/87 to become consecutively 50%, 60% and 75%.

With the establishment of Law 593 of December 1996, the additional compensation was cancelled and new salaries were adopted starting 1 January 1996 as shown in Table 1:

Salaries of secondary school teachers before and after 1996 (million of LBP)			Table 1
Degree	Salaries as of 31-12-1995	Salaries as of 1-1-1996	Value per degree
1	390,000	860,000	40,000
2	408,000	900,000	40,000
6	480,000	1,060,000	50,000
11	576,600	1,310,000	60,000
15	662,400	1,550,000	70,000
19	748,800	1,830,000	80,000
22	813,600	2,070,000	80,000

Source: Law 593 of December 8, 1996

Current salaries

With the establishment of Law 63 dated December 31, 2008 (the most recent law enforced for salaries and wages), the salaries of the teachers were specified at minimum 1,088,000 LBP and at maximum 2,615,000 LBP and the value of degree range between 42,000 and 84,000 LBP.

Teachers' demands

The teachers considered that the new law of 1996 prevented them from receiving the 60% compensation. In 1997, they started making movements demanding the amendment of their salaries and a return to their 60% compensations. In 1999, the teachers boycotted exam corrections and were able to receive part of their demands with the ratification of Law 148 dated 29 October 1999. Their hours were set and their salaries were increased. Table 2 shows the teaching hours of the secondary school teachers.

Years of experience	Actual number of teaching hours
15-16-17	19
18-19-20	18
21-22	17
23-24	16
25-26	15
27 and above	14

Source: Law 148 dated 29 October 1999

As for the increase, it was in the form of monthly compensations distributed over three years starting 1 July 2000, ranging between 80,000 and 160,000 LBP as per years of experience as follows:

- ⦿ Less than 10 years of experience 80,000 LBP
- ⦿ Between 10 and 20 years 100,000 LBP
- ⦿ Between 20 and 28 years 120,000 LBP
- ⦿ Between 28 and 36 years 140,000 LBP
- ⦿ More than 36 years of experience 160,000 LBP

The teachers considered that with this, they would have acquired 25% of the 60% they are demanding and they still have a battle to fight for the rest of the 35% estimated at seven degrees, which is what they are currently demanding.

Cost

The demand of the secondary school teachers to get seven degrees (the degree ranging between 42,000 and 84,000 LBP) results in a cost to the treasury of around 40 billion LBP which also increases the retirement cost of the teachers.

With that, the following observations were made:

- ⦿ The teachers never received 60% compensation but a percentage ranged between 50% and 60% and therefore the teachers cannot demand getting back the 35% (or what is left of the 60%) given that they had already received the 25% in the year 2000.
- ⦿ The cancellation of the additional compensation received in 1996 also raised the salaries and wages for teachers of secondary education and it was not cancelled without providing them something in return.
- ⦿ The teaching hours were reduced 19 hours per week for those who have more than 15 years of experience, which is less than 4 hours per day.
- ⦿ Secondary school teachers consider themselves victims compared to university teachers. The increase in salaries and wages for both sides during the past years has increased the difference between their salaries. Before 1975, the secondary school teacher's salary ranged between 505 LBP at minimum and 1,880 LBP at maximum compared to 550 LBP for university teachers at minimum and 1,980 LBP at maximum. Today, the secondary school teacher's salary ranges between 1,088,000 and 2,615,000 LBP and the university teachers ranges between 2,075,000 – 5,057,000 LBP. This is what the secondary school teachers are aiming for, to reduce the difference between their salaries and that of university teachers. If this happens, the university teachers will initiate protests and movements to increase their salaries.
- ⦿ When comparing the salary of the secondary school teacher with that of a 3rd grade employee, (a grade that is equivalent to the secondary school teacher), it is apparent that the secondary school teacher has more benefits where the 3rd grade employee's salary ranges between 1,060,000 and 2,083,000 LBP at maximum.
- ⦿ The teachers could be right in their demand as well as all other government employees, who demand the reconsideration of salaries and compensations and the structure of departments and institutions. However, they do not have the right to refrain from correcting exams and take students hostage in their struggle with the government, especially since labor laws prevent government employees from going on strikes which make them legally accountable.

School education

BUDGET UP, NUMBERS DOWN

At the beginning of every school year, the vast majority of parents of children at private schools struggle to cover the cost of tuition. Some succeed in finding funding, but many fail, with no other option but to register their children in public schools. Public school fees are only symbolic, where tuition and book fees range between LBP 100,000 and LBP 200,000. On the other hand, the average cost of going to a private school ranges from LBP 2 and 4 million.

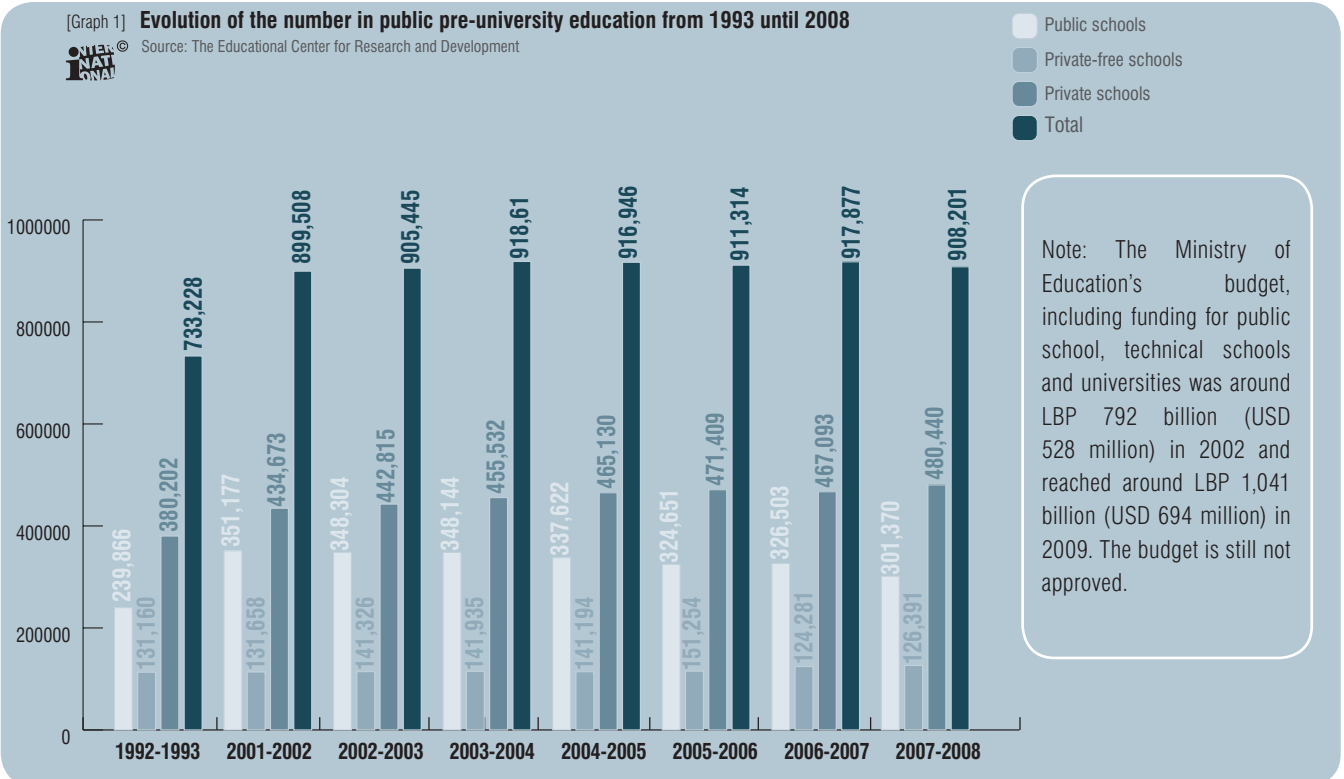
Politicians' calls for more funding for education lead to the assumption that the number of students in the public school system is growing exponentially. However, figures illustrated in this article reveal that this is an exaggeration. Graph 1 shows the evolution of the number of students in public pre-university education from 1993 until 2008. Figures show that the number of students between 1993 and 2008 rose by 23.8% while the growth rate varied between private and public schools. It hit 25.6% in public schools, 26.3% in the private schools, and 11.7% in the private-free schools.

2002-2008 was a period of economic crisis, so one would assume that families had to move their children from private schools to public schools. Figures however prove the contrary, because school enrollment rose by only 0.9%. At the same time, the registered growth rate in the public schools decreased by 14.2%. On the other hand, the number of registered students in private schools rose to 10.5% and to 11.2% in private-free schools. Graph 1 also shows that the number of students in public schools constituted 32.7% of the overall number of students in 1992-1993, rising in 2007-2008 to 33.1%. The

rate of students in the private schools slightly increased from 51.8% to 52.9%, a difference of 1.1%. It is also worth noting that the public school education budget increased from almost LBP 520 billion in 2002 to approximately LBP 690 billion in the year 2008 budget. Thus, while budget allocation increased by 32.7%, the number of students decreased by 14.2% during the same years (2002 – 2008). The annual cost of public education per student reached to around LBP 1.5 million in 2002 and increased to around LBP 2.3 million in the year 2008.

[Graph 1] Evolution of the number in public pre-university education from 1993 until 2008

Source: The Educational Center for Research and Development



Schools in Lebanon

WELLSPRING LEARNING COMMUNITY YOUNG SCHOOL, BUILDING FUTURE GENERATIONS

History of the School

Wellspring Learning Community is a new school established in the fall of 2007, as a co-educational international school offering a bilingual English and Arabic education for all students. The idea and planning for the school started about four years before the opening, by founder Mrs. Najwa Shammas and a few members of her family and other colleagues. It seemed to her that there was a need in Lebanon for a solid program that would be accessible to more than just elite students. So she assembled a group of experts in the field to help with the planning and development of the school.

It was during this time that she consulted with Dr. Marjorie Henningsen, then an Assistant Professor in the Education Department at AUB, about the math and science curriculum, as well as programs for gifted students. Once this collaboration got underway, Dr. Henningsen eventually agreed to join the project full time as Principal and Head of the School.

One thing was clear; Mrs. Shammas and Dr. Henningsen agreed that this project was going to be unique in all elements.

Mission of the School

Wellspring Learning Community aims to establish a unique school learning environment where students from diverse backgrounds are given every opportunity to develop their intellectual, emotional and social capacities, academic skills, and individual talents in all areas. According to Dr. Henningsen, their belief in the concept of a learning community was so strong that they decided to put it in the name of the school. That is, learning community as a concept is central to the fabric of the school. Since learning community refers to everyone, Wellspring has an obligation to think about learning opportunities for students, teachers, staff, even parents and others who are related to the community. In this learning community, not only do individual students learn, but everyone in the community grows together so that the community becomes stronger as a group.

Education and Curriculum

While the curriculum at Wellspring Learning Community does reflect the requirements of the Lebanese program, it is the principles of the International Baccalaureate Primary (IB) Years and Middle Years Programs that



currently drive their objectives. The IB programs were chosen because they are the best match for the school's mission.

The curriculum supports and challenges students to develop their creative and critical thinking abilities in an inquiry-based environment with the meaningful integration of subject matter. Students are expected to inquire into both local and global issues and to use their knowledge to take appropriate actions in order to make the world a better place.

Education at Wellspring Learning Community is not just about knowing facts and figures. It is not about memorizing information. It instead offers a meaningful learning experience which produces students capable of generating ideas and communicating about what they learn in both Arabic and English. All students at Wellspring learn to use Arabic across many contexts, not only during Arabic class time.

The school wants teachers and the physical environment to be facilitators of student learning. Students should learn how to ask questions, to investigate and search for answers, and be involved in the entire learning process, including planning and assessment. Dr. Henningsen says she has been impressed with what students can do and produce when given the chance; they are able to do much more than adults often think they can.

Dr. Henningsen concedes that implementing the IB program is not easy in part because it does not rely on one textbook series. Teachers draw on resources from many

different texts and have to plan and create many of their own materials to be used for activities performed in the classroom. Teachers also need a lot of time to plan lessons and units that maximize opportunities for integrating different subjects in ways that make sense to students.

However, Dr. Henningsen adds that because it is a new school, Wellspring has the advantage of getting things right from the beginning and she feels that the teachers are doing a rich job implementing the program so far. Wellspring is an official candidate for authorization by the International Baccalaureate Organization and expects to complete the 3-year authorization process in the coming academic year.

Number of Faculty, Students and Tuition Fees

The school has about 65 employees; approximately 47 teachers, and 18 administrative personnel. The student/teacher ratio is 5:1.

At the preschool and elementary levels, there are two homeroom teachers in each class, a native or near-native speaker of English and a native speaker of Arabic. The aim of this is to help in creating and developing a strong bilingual program at the school. The goal is to afford equal importance to both English and Arabic, allowing students to express themselves in a meaningful way in both languages across many contexts by the time they graduate. French is also studied as a foreign language.

This year, the school has 180 students enrolled in Nursery through Grade 6 with each class containing 18-22 students. Wellspring continues to add a minimum of one grade level each year until Grade 12.

According to the school's administration, the students at Wellspring Learning Community are future young adults who can think for themselves, who are excited about learning, who care about others and the world around them. They will be able to use what they learn to take action in the world, helping others and improving their environment.

The tuition fees vary by grade level and ranges from \$US 4,950 to \$US 6,500 annually, as detailed in the table below:

Tuition Fees by grade level		Table 1
Class	Tuition Fees for the 2010-11 academic year (USD)	
Nursery	\$4,950	
Kindergarten/KG1	\$5,250	
Kindergarten/KG2	\$5,250	
Grade 1, 2, and 3	\$5,565	
Grades 4 and 5	\$5,775	
Grade 6	\$6,300	
Grade 7	\$6,500	

Source: School's Administration 2010

About 5% of students are currently receiving scholarships, but the school would like to devote more resources to developing additional scholarship and financial aid programs to benefit more students across diverse economic backgrounds.


School Equipment

- Interactive Whiteboard and Apple computers in every elementary and middle school classroom.
- A computer lab outfitted with the latest Apple computers.
- A library stocked with over 5000 titles in English, Arabic and French
- A Learning Garden where students experiment, observe and be inspired.
- Art and Music studios where students can experiment with many artistic mediums, write their own music, sing and dance.
- Multiple outdoor play spaces where children can discover, relax and play together.
- A Science Lab where students conduct experiments and test their theories.
- An Indoor recreational space where students practice yoga and flexibility exercises.

Special Events

- **Family Inquiry Night** – where parents join students inside the classroom to perform inquiry activities similar to those experienced by students every day.
- **Chalk for Peace** – an annual event to commemorate world peace and the Lebanese Independence Day. The event is concluded with an activity where students, parents and staff create a peace mural with sidewalk chalk on the school playground.
- **World Math Day** - first Wednesday in March to celebrate world of math. Wellspring turns the campus into a math carnival with decorations and math problems representing mathematical symbols, numbers and concepts; math problems and proposed solutions are posted by students and the administration throughout the campus.
- **Global Youth Service Day in Lebanon** – annual community service project with participation from all grade levels.
- **Arabic Book Fair** – celebrating Arabic authors and books. Students have a chance to shop for new and favorite titles in Arabic.
- **Art and Sciences Expo and Grade 5 Exhibition** – end of year display and performances representing the student's work throughout the year.

Extracurricular Activities

- **Afterschool Clubs** – chosen by students including cooking, art and design, drama and sports
- **Language for the Young Learner** – English, Arabic, French and other languages for the young learner
- **USMAS** – Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System, total brain development employing mental arithmetic calculations using an Abacus.
- **Sports Fundamentals.** 

SYNDICATE OF BANK EMPLOYEES IN BEIRUT AND MOUNT LEBANON

Establishment

The Syndicate of Bank Employees in Beirut and Mount Lebanon was established on April 9, 1947. Prior to the syndicate's foundation, a preparatory committee, which emerged from the bank employees' assembly, convened on May 29, 1942 in the headquarters of the Catholic Youth Club where it outlined bylaws, sought to take care of the employee affairs and worked to adopt their vital demands. The committee operated until 1947 when the syndicate was formed.

The syndicate's first board was elected at the Saint Coeur Institute. In its turn, the board elected the members of its office, with Gabriel Khouri as president. In 1975, the executive council amended the syndicate's constitution and bylaws in conformity with developments. It was a founding member of the General Labor Union after local and foreign syndicate bodies and establishments joined it.

Some of the syndicate's main goals are:

- ⦿ To unite the ranks of bank employees.
- ⦿ To oversee the interests of syndicate members, defend their rights and interests, and work to improve their social and professional statuses.
- ⦿ To protect the banking occupation, improve its level and work on its advancement and development.
- ⦿ To encourage syndicate work in Lebanon in cooperation with all Lebanese, Arab or international syndicate bodies in order to improve the conditions and level of banking.
- ⦿ To establish social and coop projects and consolidate cooperation ties between bank employees.

The Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Beqa'a, south and north syndicates of bank employees fall under a general union, called the Union of Syndicates of Bank Employees. The union consists of the presidents of the syndicates, who are members of the union in addition to other members. The 12 members are divided into nine members from the Beirut and Mount Lebanon syndicate and one member from each of the other syndicates.

Affiliation

All Central Bank employees have the right to join the syndicate if they are:

- ⦿ Lebanese, enjoy their full civil rights and are not convicted of a felony or a crime
- ⦿ Employees at a bank at the time of submission
- ⦿ At least 18 years of age

An application is submitted to the syndicate's delegate at the bank and the board then decides to accept or reject the applicant. Members are also allowed to resign from the syndicate. In this case, the employee who wishes to resign must notify the board, which must accept the resignation within a maximum of two weeks as of the date of submission.

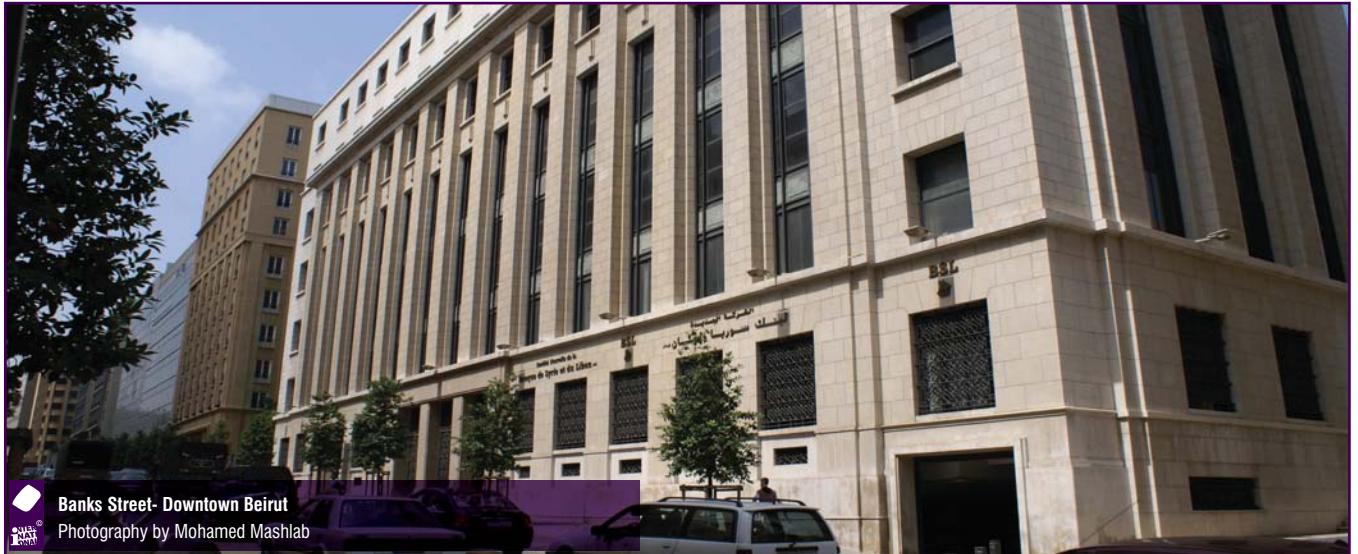
The syndicate includes around 6,500 members. The annual membership fee is LBP 15,000 for a head of department and employees with lower positions and LBP 25,000 for those with a higher position.

Syndicate structure

The syndicate consists of the general assembly, the executive council and the board of delegates.

- ⦿ **The general assembly:** includes all syndicate members who have paid their annual membership fees. It has the power to elect and dismiss executive board members, amend the constitution and bylaws and sign group business deals.
- ⦿ **The executive council:** consists of 12 members, who are elected by the general assembly by secret ballot. Members have a four-year mandate and cannot run for another term. During its first session, the council elects the president, vice president, the secretary and the treasurer. It has the power to manage the syndicate affairs and help realize its goals and targets.





- ⊙ **Council of delegates:** consists of delegates from each bank. They are elected by secret ballot by the bank's body of employees, on the condition that every 50 employees are represented by a single delegate. The council elects among its members the body of its office which consists of a president, a vice president and a secretary in the first session to be held in October. The council has a two-year mandate and members can run for another term. The council has the power to oversee the work of the executive council.

Syndicate works

- ⊙ **A collective business deal with the General Union of Bank Employees:** The first contract between the Union of Syndicates of Bank Employees and the Association of Banks in Lebanon was signed at the beginning of the 1970's. The contract outlined the relationship between the employee and the employer in the banking sector based on fixed and organized foundations.
- ⊙ **Saving card: An old achievement.** The syndicate revived the card in 1995 to help deal with overpricing by providing discounts and offers in shops and establishments with which the syndicate has a contract.
- ⊙ **The co-op:** It stopped after the Lebanese civil war. It was used to provide goods and needs for employees at reasonable prices. The syndicate is seriously working to revive it once it has the financial capabilities and meets the legal requirements.
- ⊙ **Deals with bank managements over employee compensation funds:** As a result of the Lebanese war and during that war, a high number of foreign banks left Lebanon. The syndicate had to confront

cases of collective layoffs by providing fair and acceptable compensation by signing agreements that surpassed what the Lebanese laws stipulate.

- ⊙ **Bank employee cases:** The syndicate handles employee cases with their management based on constructive dialogue. It succeeded in resolving many cases and reached fair and just solutions for all sides involved.
- ⊙ **Encouraging the role of women in the banking sector:** The syndicate worked to give women an opportunity to participate in syndicate and social responsibility in the banking sector in order to gain access to more influential roles.
- ⊙ **Development of administrative structure:** The syndicate established an advanced system based on modern methods through introducing automation into that system.

Challenges

- ⊙ Some bank managements are not committed to the implementation of a collective contract between the syndicate and the Association of Banks in Lebanon
- ⊙ The dismissal of employees for unjustified pretexts. This is why the syndicate is calling for the amendment of Article 50 of the Labour Law in order to protect employees
- ⊙ The need to activate the Solidarity Fund which had been officially announced less than a year ago
- ⊙ The fact that some banks pressure employees to prevent them from joining the syndicate and by making membership mandatory
- ⊙ Implementing the retirement and social care system.



LEVELS OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE

Dr. Hanna Saadah

Retrospective, Observational Studies

These begin by observing a recognizable pattern of disease behavior such as—people with high blood pressures have more strokes, those with high cholesterols have more heart attacks, and those with more stress have more bleeding ulcers. These observations provoke hypotheses or theories that attempt to explain the observed phenomena. Observers might theorize that:

- a) high blood pressure—by weakening the arteries—causes strokes,
- b) high cholesterol—by dirtying the arteries—causes heart attacks, and
- c) stress—by increasing stomach acid—causes bleeding ulcers.

Prospective Studies

Attempting to prove or disprove the proposed theories, initial prospective studies may take a defined number of persons and measure their blood pressures, their cholesterols, and their stress levels at initiation. Then, by following these persons for a pre-defined period of time, the study collects data about strokes, heart attacks, and bleeding ulcers. Then the data are plotted against the blood pressures, cholesterols, and stress levels and statistical analyses are applied to detect significant differences. If the statistical analyses reveal that there are significant differences between those with low and high levels and that the differences cannot be attributed to chance, then the studies can conclude that such high levels are indeed associated with such diseases. The studies cannot conclude, however, that the high levels are the causes of such diseases because the studies were not pre-designed to show a cause-and-effect.

Controlled, Prospective Studies

To prove cause and effect requires control arms and treatment arms. The control arms take groups and follow them without treatment. The treatment arms take similar groups and give them treatments to normalize their blood pressures, cholesterols, or stomach acids. After a pre-defined period of time, the data are collected and statistical analyses are again applied. If the control arms are found to have more strokes, heart attacks, and bleeding ulcers than the treatment arms, and if the differences are determined to be statistically significant and not due to chance, then the conclusions would be that high blood pressure indeed

causes strokes, that high cholesterol indeed causes heart attacks, and that stress indeed causes bleeding ulcers.

Double Blind, Controlled, Prospective Studies

However, such preliminary, controlled, prospective studies as cited above, which did seem to show cause-and-effect, do suffer from blatant biases. The biases are caused by the fact that both patients and doctors know who is getting treatment and who is not and it is this pre-knowing or foreknowledge that consciously or unconsciously introduces biases of interpretation and pollutes the integrity of the study. To avoid the human biases of interpretation, therefore, the studies now have to be redesigned with placebo and treatment arms. The placebo arms receive pills that look identical to the treatment arms but contain inert powders instead of active medicines against high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and high stomach acid. Moreover, the doctors and their patients will be blinded, which means that neither the doctors will know what they are giving nor will the patients know what they are receiving. The codes are only broken after the data are collected at the end of the study and only after that time are the differences subjected to statistical analyses. It is such, double blind, controlled, prospective studies that are the cornerstone of evidence-based medicine.

Confirmation of Double Blind, Controlled, Prospective Studies

One study is usually not enough to confirm a new scientific truth because the study may suffer from selection or environmental biases. Perhaps the study was conducted in Oklahoma where very few international residents live or perhaps it was funded by drug companies whose medicines are being preferentially utilized in Oklahoma. Consequently, that Oklahoma population may not represent the Washington D.C. population where numerous international delegates reside who might be on other preferred medicines. It is important to repeat the study in different populations in order to confirm its findings. When the results of such confirmatory studies are in agreement with the primary study, then the new truth is considered confirmed and worthy of widespread acceptance. It would require several confirmations over a good stretch of time before a truth becomes solid and indisputable.



IS INTELLIGENCE A SINGLE ENTITY INDEPENDENT FROM THE BRAIN?

Plato was first in defining a dominant Role for the Brain.

Antoine Boutros

In 993 BCE the life of Socrates came dramatically to an end, yet he played a major role in the history of human intellect for over 2,500 years. His trial is a milestone in the history of liberal thought, and ended by ordering him to drink poison.

Following Plato's tragic death, Socrates, his loyal student left Athens to roam the Mediterranean in search for the Pythagorean school (see our previous issue) where he hoped he could enhance his fortunes, and ended up in the south of Italy. The island's ruler did not like Plato's candidness and ordered that he be sold in the slave market. Plato would have lost his life had he not been saved by a man from Cyrenaica (Barqa in Tripoli, Libya). Plato returned to Athens, where he established "the academy" where he taught philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and music. It was there that he founded the analytical method by which intellect moves from the unknown to the known. The school was considered the first scientific university in Europe.

Unlike Socrates, Plato possessed the skills of the left side of the brain: Organized thought, writing talent, perfect management and mastership of politics. While Socrates disliked astronomy and said that it uselessly controlled thoughts, Plato was passionate about it. He observed the movement of celestial objects as being live mobile creatures. Since he believed that the universe is perfect, it would only be natural for it to be spherical as such, he concluded that the stars move in perfect circles around the universe.

This idea had a negative impact on intellect because it enchained the human mind for 2,000 years. The Catholic Church, which followed the Platonic principle which says that celestial objects alone move in a circular direction, did not accept that anything else could move in such a direction, no matter how significant it was. This is why it sentenced to death the first person to say that blood circulates, Michel Servetus, who was exterminated in 1553, A.D.

When 40-year old Nicolaus Copernicus reached the conviction that the sun, not the earth, is the center of the universe, contrary to Plato and the Church he dismissed the idea of publicizing his findings and delayed the announcement of his theory for 30 years, and specifically until a few months before his death in 1543. He also had the chance to see the first copy of his book while he was on his deathbed.

Unfortunately for Galileo, he was also the first person to observe the moon through a magnifying telescope and noticed that it was not completely round. He wanted to support Copernicus' point a view, one century later, but was forced to back down in a famous written apology, in which he refuted what he had seen in order to save himself from extermination.

Plato was not a scientist, he was a philosopher and with him the two traits completely separate. In spite of that, he challenged the brain and left us with an opinion that in turn formed another negative heritage. He considered the brain to be a dominant organ of the body, believing that all that is spherical in shape is perfect. Since the brain is round, then it must be at the forefront. As such, the soul is based in the head where the brain enjoys the characteristic of producing genetic matters. 1,900 years later, this idea led da Vinci to draw an anatomical sketch of this theory showing the presence of a channel that starts from the brain, passes through the vertebrae and ends at the reproductive organ.

Based on this model of the mechanism of heredity the female only plays a container role in life. Since then and until now, women has been excluded for 2,000 years from the management of universities government and religious establishments under the pretext of being unqualified.

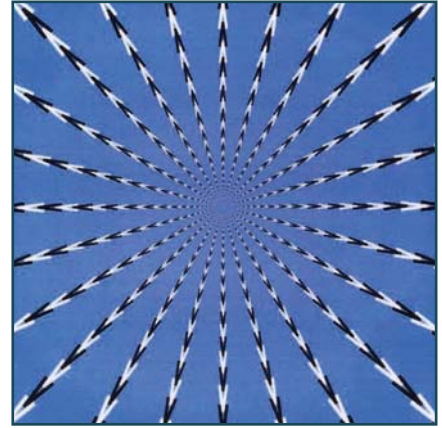
But on the other side of Greece, on the small island of Ko, lived another man, Hippocrates, who the world would later call the father of medicine, and who was the first to say that the causes of illnesses are natural. Until that era, illnesses were considered divine and treated in temples. Hippocrates played an important role, even if unknown on the level of brain theory, but he refused to consider the brain a system for reproduction but for thinking, seeing, hearing, to distinguish the ugly and the beautiful, the bad and the good, the sweet and the bitter. Unfortunately, this concept could not find its way to Plato's academy which continued to dominate philosophy and play a regressive ruling role on scientific thought since then and until recently. And this is what the next articles will clarify. 🌈



MENTAL TIME TRAVEL

Remembering the “Golden Years” of Youth

Dr. Samar Zebian



Mental time travel to the past seems to be something that only humans can do willfully even though our memory systems are almost anatomically identical to primates. Mental time travel likely plays an important role in human evolution, but here we are concerned with how adults travel backwards in time and what they bring back with them - especially Lebanese adults who grew up in an era of chronic social upheaval? Are their memories different than those of adults who emigrated and restarted their lives in relative social and political stability? To begin to unfold the complexities raised in this question, let us begin with some basic facts about how adults recollect their childhood and formative years.

As adults we all experience infantile amnesia. It is the inability to recall memories before 2 to 5 years of age. Although the memories are in our unconscious, they are encoded in a script/language that the adult mind cannot access. We have some reconstructed that are based on stories told to use by others, nevertheless, these reconstructions are not the original events we experienced.

Another inescapable truth about how adults recollect, is their strong tendency to recall more memories from adolescence and young adulthood (15-25 years of age) than any other time, especially good memories. This is called the Reminiscence Bump and like infantile amnesia, it seems to be universal.

In light of infantile amnesia and the reminiscence bump, Lebanese adults who are currently 50-65 years young and who lived in Lebanon throughout the civil war and there after, should recall many vivid adolescent memories but no memories before 5 years of age. Although no known research has been done on this topic in Lebanon, research in other contexts reveals that older adults are better able to recall accurate details of important personal and historic momentous events during adolescence compared to other lifespan periods (excluding very recent memories). These memories have a “live quality” and although we don’t constantly remember them, they are easily invoked because they are significant to the self system.

Memory research can tell us other things about what epoch defining events do to recollection and mental time travel. Research shows that personal landmarks and lifetime periods organize our autobiographical memories (i.e. marriage, migration, illness) but in contexts of intense conflict where the fabric of daily living is disrupted, individuals also use public historical events to organize their memories. We know this because when we ask

individuals to date personal memories, they use epoch defining landmark events, like after the civil war, before the earthquake, during the assassination. We observed a high level of historical landmarking among long term residents of Lebanon. Beyond providing an organizational structure for autobiographical memories, the consequences of historical landmarking are not yet fully understood but some connections can be made to narrative identity formation.

Adolescences’ autobiographical memories are significant building blocks for narrative identities-otherwise known as life narratives. The process of narrative identity development begins and intensifies in adolescence as their awareness of and engagement in the social environment grows. Early narrative identity plays a powerful role in the recall of long-lasting memories because these memories are formed during the most intense period of identity formation. This makes them more likely to become parts of one’s life story. Life stories provide meaning, purpose and coherence and if parts of these stories are common across individuals they contribute to group solidarity, particularly in contexts of chronic conflict because narrative making is a process of sense making and shared interpretation of reality.

The emerging research on the topic of mental time travel in adults indeed suggests that contexts of chronic conflict reach deep down into our brains and not only reorganize our memories but also shape what we remember, how we form identities and how we narrate our past. I will return to this topic in later columns because it is important to make clear what sort of research and scholarship is needed to understand how chronic conflict influences memory and how memories influence the present and imagined futures. ●●

Boyer, P., & Wertsch, J.W. (2009). *Memory in Mind and Culture*. Cambridge University Press.
 Bruner, J. (1990). *Acts of meaning*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
 Hammack, P. L. (2008). Narrative and the cultural psychology of identity. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 12(3), 222–247.





A Lebanese Confession

WHY RELIGIOUS POLITICS IS BAD FOR LEBANON

Maurice Obeid*

In Lebanon, you are never Lebanese. You are Sunni from Beirut, Maronite from Jounieh, or Shia from Dahieh. That is the reality of Lebanese society, a reality reinforced by confessionalism—the political framework that is tearing the country apart by encouraging allegiance to one’s confessional group over the nation. In 1989, the Taif Accord identified the elimination of this framework as a national priority. Two decades later, it is alive and going strong.

Proponents of confessionalism insist that with no group constituting a majority, representation of every confession must be guaranteed. Coexistence, we’re told, is crucial. And indeed it is. The problem is that confessionalism has bred perverse incentives that undermine the very possibility of coexistence.

By definition, a nation depends on the development of overarching economic, social, and cultural structures of cooperation that transcend intra-national factionalism. Confessionalism, however, promotes the primacy of religious identity. In Lebanon, religious institutions exercise direct control over many facets of daily life, such as marriage and inheritance. Confessionalism has also institutionalized patronage. Indirect controls and clannish clientelism are plentiful, as jobs, housing, and education are often obtained through appeals to confessional political leaders. These *zouama* provide favors and protection to their constituents in return for electoral loyalty. This encourages vertical assimilation within confessional communities but anemic levels of integration across them, incubating “states” within the state.

Another source of division is that in a confessional state, the power of each religion must be perpetually recalibrated to account for changing demographics over time. But because religious balance is a sensitive political issue, a national census has not been conducted since 1932 (see Figure). A Christian majority in that census gave Christians the highest representation, but as the Sunni and Shiite populations increased, Christians were wielding a disproportionate amount of power. The Taif Accord adjusted the shares of representation, primarily in favor of Sunnis, but today, Christians (who make up the majority of the Diaspora) and Shiites (who are now the single largest community) feel disenfranchised. This bitterness is further aggravated by the widening Sunni-Shiite divide, which, according to a 2010 Pew Research Center survey, is particularly acute in Lebanon. How long before the eruption of a new calibrating war?

The Path Forward

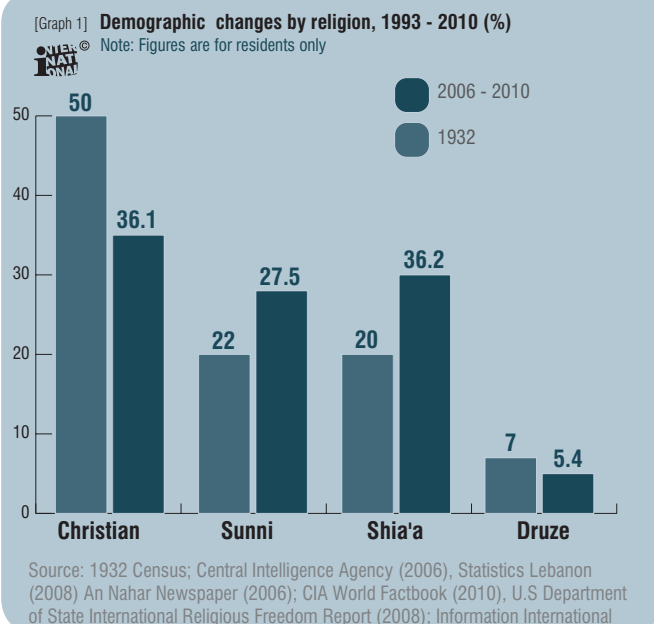
Many contend that a secular solution can be found only once the Lebanese are “mature” enough. Recently, Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir asked, “What is the advantage of abolishing political confessionalism in texts before doing so

in [people’s] minds?” The maturity argument is self-fulfilling. The more entrenched the Lebanese are in a confessional society, the more solidified their prejudices become and the harder it is to cultivate national identity. Confessionalism should be consigned to the dustbin of Lebanese history, and there is no better time than the present.

But with little political will and even scarcer visionary leadership, change may have to come from the bottom up. If the champions of reform remain confessional leaders demanding a bigger piece of the pie, the result will be more knee-jerk defensiveness that exacerbates inter-communal hostilities. Perhaps, as Ambassador Nawaf Salam has written, “Deconfessionalization is too serious an issue to be left to traditional politicians. Instead, it is a challenge for civil society and new social forces.” Social movements that cut across sectarian barriers can collectively act both as pressure groups and as a successful model for what a nonconfessional state would look like.

Michel Chiha once wrote, “A nation is a guarantee for confessions, but confessions are not a guarantee to the nation.” Indeed, without reform, they just might be the nation’s undoing.

*Maurice Obeid is a graduate student at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.





A NEW START WITH RIMA?

Matty Mathieson

Senior Fellow, SRI International

Rima Fakhri was recently crowned Miss USA. This would normally be considered the culmination of just another beauty contest, a generally declining, “politically incorrect” phenomenon. However, when I tuned into the competition, I looked at Rima, noticed that she was from Michigan, and immediately concluded that she must be of Lebanese origin. Having spent ten years working to stimulate economic development and competitiveness in Lebanon, I not only fell in love with the country but also became enamored with the stunning beauty of Lebanese women. The thousands of years that Lebanon played the role of interface between east and west has resulted in a general degree of female pulchritude that is difficult to match.

I realize that Rima won the title because of her loveliness and vivacity. As I observed the competition, in which she was matched against more than a few lovely blond contestants, I began to think that it would be fabulous if someone of Arab-American background became the icon of American beauty. Rima was perhaps not as poised as the other contestants, but she exhibited the kind of qualities that exemplify our ideal. While born in Lebanon and a Muslim, Rima is and acts like a “typical American girl.”

Wouldn't it be nice if Rima's success could be comparable to the “ping pong” diplomacy that served to thaw U.S. relations with China? After decades of mutual fear and distrust, a humble game of ping pong reopened U.S.-China relations. We need a similar restoration of positive relations between the United States and Middle Eastern nations. This can happen if we discover that people in the Middle East hold the same values, goals, and fears that Americans feel. The concept that we are all alike, and desire the same things, needs to be transmitted to those who dwell on a “we versus them” relationship.

I wish Rima a wonderful reign as Miss USA. I must admit that she is much easier to look at than a ping pong game. Let us think of her success as an opportunity to establish new thinking about the true beauty of Lebanon and the Middle East. ●●

“[...]We need a similar restoration of positive relations between the United States and Middle Eastern nations. This can happen if we discover that people in the Middle East hold the same values, goals, and fears that Americans feel. [...]”



The Monthly interviews

ARTIST DIA AL-AZZAWI

How do you assess the current status of the Iraqi art movement after the occupation? And what about the programmed art work frauds of pioneer Iraqi artists like Jawad Sleem, Shaker Hassan, Ismail Fattah and Daa Azawi?

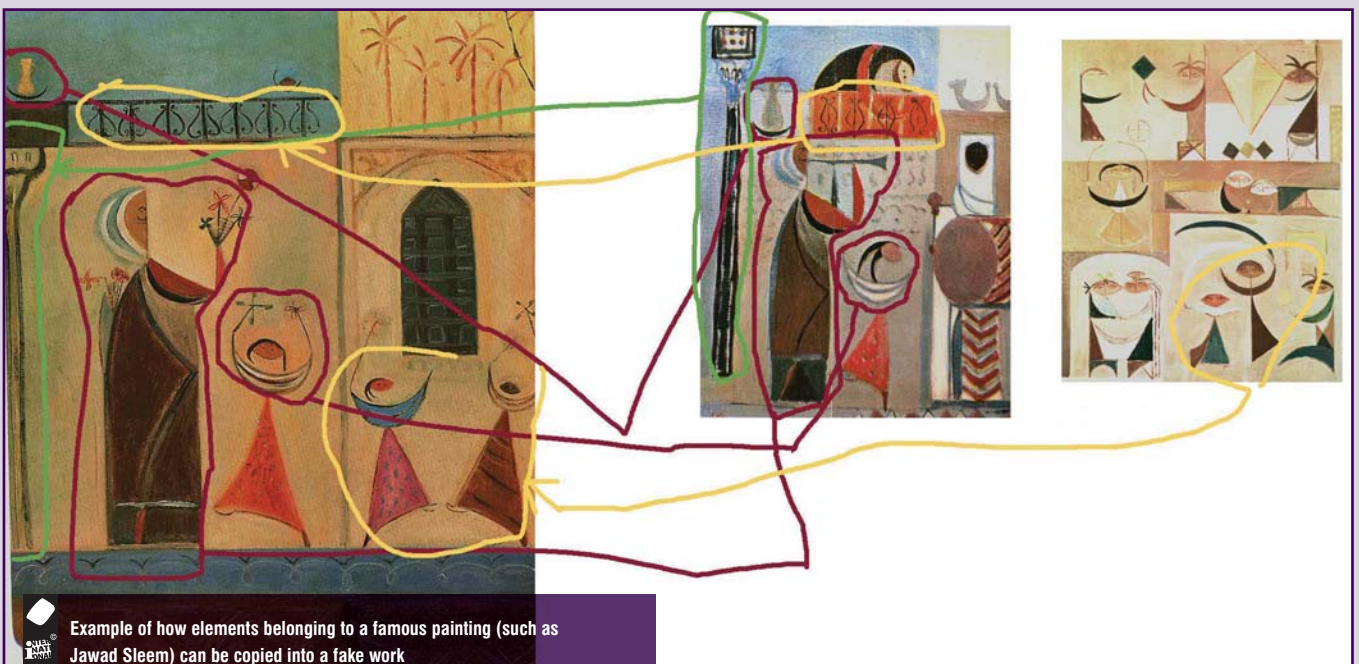
Currently and with my distance follow up, there are no indicators that show any kind of developments or improvements. And when compared to other Arab experiences, it is apparent how far off Iraqi young artists are from their colleagues when it comes to diversity and international experiences. The siege has for so many years though the invasion resulted in fraud realities which led to confessionalism at its worst and the emigration of young artists to different continents. Some of those artists developed their skills in the new society and therefore their trials are in continuous progress and others disappeared into the problems of life, the ignorance of the language and the principals of a new society that they could not tolerate. The siege of the 90's created huge social differences, and the Iraqi paintings, especially the founding generation had high principals compared to the Iraqi society. This contributed to two phenomena for easy money. The first one is the cheap market where some took the direction of copying oriental works and others painted the natural scenes of markets, old shops and holy shrines as well as scenes of Bedouins and horses. Those works found themselves a big market for the newly rich people and the gulf market. As for the other phenomenon, it was limited to forging the paintings

that the new art market demanded. This direction served in creating a corrupted history for many artists like Jawad Sleem, Faek Hassan and others. What further spread this phenomenon is the existence of ignorant art dealers that have no interest but to sell to Arab art collectors stories that are far away from reality. Beside that, foreign experts with little historical knowledge to help them examine the works are not interested to examine the art works scientifically in terms of the history of the material used or the color, as much as they are interested in increasing the prices and making profit.

Two years ago, Christie's Foundation for the Marketing of Arts had included two forged paintings of Jawad Sleem and two others of Shaker Hassan in its catalogue for public auction. This shows a clear negligence for the history of two prominent artists in the Arab world. These paintings were eventually withdrawn after my personal interference. The same thing happened two months ago when one of my paintings had been exposed in eBay international market. It was the fraud copy of one that is available in the Arab art museum in Qatar. When I contacted them, it was withdrawn, but it appeared two weeks later from an ignorant businessman in Dubai.



Painting by Dia Al-Azzawi
Jawad Adra's Private Collection



Example of how elements belonging to a famous painting (such as Jawad Sleem) can be copied into a fake work

Did your stay out of Iraq influence your style of work?

My long-term residence in London has provided me with a lot of opportunities I would never have dreamed of. Creative work requires the ability to change, and the power to develop the concept of Art. It also requires mastering new techniques in order to express personal ideas and emotions. All of these requirements are my constant goal.

My work has given me the liberty to choose the way to belong to my culture and history.

My origins cannot be defined in specific forms or topics. Using the Arabic letter, for instance, does not establish the painting's belonging to the Arab culture. What sets a painting's cultural frame are marks and forms that bear this belonging to the Human culture before belonging to any other culture.

You have declared in more than one occasion that you did not want your art work categorized in any school, style or political affiliation. Do you believe that it is possible, as an Arab artist, to be independent of your roots?

The worldwide experience isn't similar to Art in the mid-1900's. Today, schools of clear principles such as cubism and surrealism, are not as present as they were earlier. The journey now is a personal quest towards the artist's belonging and status, as well as his cultural belonging. My principles concerning my relationship with my culture and my political direction have not changed. I currently base myself on wonder and wealth presented by my cultural roots to seek this personal experience. Concerning my political orientation, I describe myself as a patriot, although recent events suggest that many political parties who have abandoned their history of struggle and many politicians who are bought use the mask of democracy and reason to expand ideologically.

Considering the materials that are used in your works, we noticed multiplicity between using the ink and the paper like in the paint of "The Land of Sad Orange" for Ghassan Kanafani, and transforming into bright colors and three dimensions in some of your works. How do you choose the language of communicate in your works?

It is necessary for any artist to develop their techniques, because this language is the main magnet of opportunities. This, of course, needs to be in harmony with his concept of Art. Subduing one technique to match the artist's concept is challenging, which is why I always focused on working through different material, tried to expand my knowledge in printing and sculpture. I also tried to further push the boundaries to fuse both techniques - painting and sculpture- into one work. These attempts have pushed me to create Art that relates to everyday life. The sum of these endeavors is what enriches the artist and adds to their presence in the world.

And what about your presence, do you attempt to communicate with the person buying your works as an individual, or as a group of individuals?

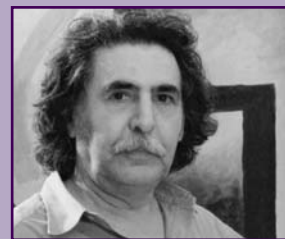
When I work on a certain topic using a specific kind of material, I don't consider consumer demands and expectations. I do not work upon acceptance or rejection, or the critics' opinions. My base of direction follows the amount of happiness I find in discovering the novelty, and taking it to a new level of evolution. My work is strictly personal. However, this does not mean that I cannot be a catalyst to the event of change in the realm of society. This action, change, by itself, requires an appetite for adventure and facing the difference of the other.

What are your latest works?

I am now working on a personal exhibition in Brussels. Simultaneously, I am focusing on two sculptures, made of bronze, 3 by 3 meters each and 2.5 meters high. Both of them are entitled "The Wounded Spirit - The Journey of Destruction". These sculptures evolve around destroying and murdering Iraqi intellectuals and specialists, who make the society's active spirit. This will also be a salute to innocent victims who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. ●●

Dia Al-Azzawi

-Born in Baghdad 1939
-Graduated from the Archeology department (Baghdad University) and from Fine Arts Department.
- Left Iraq for London in 1976 and presently resides there as a freelance artist

**Personal Exhibitions**

35 personal exhibitions in Baghdad, Beirut, Oman, Damascus, Kuwait, Al-Manama, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Cairo, Tunisia, Casa Blanca, Tanja, Washington D.C., London, Paris, Stockholm, Guttenberg

Group Exhibitions

Contributed in several exhibitions with Arab and foreign artists such as:

The first triennial exhibition in New Delhi
The National exhibition in Cannes-Sur-Mer in France
The First Biennial of printing in Bradford, UK and Frechen, Germany
Olympiad of Contemporary Arts, South Korea
The Arabic Art Exhibition, The Canada collection in Paris and Darmstadt, Germany
The Middle Eastern Artists Joint Exhibition, London

POPULAR CULTURE

As the saying goes, as the poet says... (1)

“**Proverb: Singing, is half rapture ... and half wonder**”

The poet said:
Where do I find a [female] singer to sing lifting us
Until we touch the gates of heaven
Perhaps a singer is like a mosquito if
She sings we attack her with pesticides

“**Proverb: People are concerned with each other and the cat is in labor**”

The poet said:
The war is fiercer, and today we are occupied
With dancing, painting, honoring and rapture
Hunger, poverty and diseases are continuous
And we are distracted with fashion, I wonder!

“**Proverb: A man with two faces: a mirror and the heel of a shoe**”

The poet said:
What do I need with Zayd if you face him he compliments you
If you disappear for an hour he slanders you
And in a serious position if you argue with him he jokes
That when he jokes he says something hurtful afterwards



I picked for you my village

Listen Ridha,
-Which village in Lebanon is the best?
- Mine!
-Which village in Lebanon is the biggest?
-Mine!
-Which village in Lebanon is the highest?
-Mine!



... I picked my village for you to tell you about because we have a spiritual connection. The Lebanese village is as silent as a mountain and as secretive as the cave. The villager is as deep as the valley and as steady as the oak tree. The son of the village does not show his true self in front of a stranger, and does not disclose his inner thoughts to a tourist. But the son of the village would open his heart to another son of the village...

...Because I was born there, I saw the light there, I played the games of the village in its square, I gathered daisies from its hills and lilies and sowbreads

... I picked my village for you because a village is a bandar (port) for many farms surrounding it. In the center of the village there is square, where convoys of camels and donkeys coming from far, faraway places, from a different world, used to stop: Houran, Al-Deemass, Al-Zabadani, Qob Elias ...

In the square there are one or two shops. As kids, we used to gather at the window of the shop that sold candies. What is the taste of these sweets? Who enjoys these delights? Good for the shop's owner, his trade is beautiful and delicious!...

...Because it is far from the world. It resembles an island surrounded on three sides by deep valleys, which in the winter turn into dominant brooks. Its roads are steep and its pathways difficult, so the peninsula maintained the inherent nature of the village: Isolation, conservatism, absence of the sense of time, its residents veteran Lebanese, extremely protective of their traditions and customs...

...Because there is no divinity in my village, only myths and legends, there is no science, only prayers and amulets. There is no history, only stories of the jinn and the elves. They still have not died in my village ...

...So if I tell you the village's stories, I recount them from the heart and I speak the language of love. Do you understand now why I tell you about my village when you ask me about the village?

Sources translated from: Anis Freiha, *Isma'a ya Rida - First Edition 2006, Dar Nawfal, Beirut*

Myth #36

How important was the role of **FAKHREDDINE II** for the independence of Lebanon?

Lebanese history books frequently refer to Fakhreddine as “The Great Fakhreddine II, a nation-builder” (1570-1635) and consider him one of the most powerful and important rulers of Mount Lebanon and the region. Other historians view him as a ruler that simply attempted to maintain his power over Mount Lebanon.

Myth: According to official Lebanese school curricula, Emir Fakhreddine II is one of the founders of modern-day Lebanon, who called for its unification and complete independence from Ottoman rule.



Fakhreddine II
Source: www.newlebanese.com

Fact: Fakhreddine ‘II’ was a semi-autonomous ruler of Mount Lebanon under the Ottoman Empire. Fakhreddine never stated or claimed that he was working for the unification and independence of Lebanon. Instead, his main goal was to maintain power, expand his territory, and enhance the silk trade through his alliance with Tuscany.

Under orders from the governor of Damascus, the Maan family came to Lebanon in 1120 to defend it from the invading Crusaders. They settled on the southwestern slopes of Mount Lebanon, and adopted the Druze religion. The Maan Dynasty’s rule ended in 1697 with the beginning of the Shihab Dynasty.

In Ottoman archives, Fakhreddine is referred to as “Emiralay” or Brigadier (superior to a Colonel and subordinate to Major General). Many often refer to Fakhreddine as Fakhreddine II, yet Abdullāh Malah, a prominent historian, argues that according to Ottoman archives, Fakhreddine did not refer to himself as Fakhreddine II, but was called Ibn Qorqomaz (after his father) or Ibn Maan. He even doubts that his father was a prince, since there is no mention of a Fakhreddine I.

The claim that Fakhreddine called for independence or unification of Lebanon is equally false. He did expand the territory, but this must be understood in context; other rulers in the territory were also fighting to expand their territory and improve their economies. For example, Al-Sifa family in Tripoli was Fakhreddine’s greatest enemy, even after he took one of the family members in marriage. Fakhreddine was not as important as we give him credit for. The Ottomans were not threatened by his power, but

considered him as a traitor after forming an alliance with Tuscany in 1608 that stipulated both economic cooperation and a secret military agreement. In a letter to the Grand Dutchess, he wrote the following: “I, my country, and followers are under your command, awaiting your orders, begging you to appoint me Counsel of Tuscany to oversee the exports and imports of my country to and from Tuscany.” He did this to try gain more power and balanced it out with other rulers in Lebanon’s territory that were supported by the Ottomans.

Ottoman archives contain letters written by Fakhreddine showing him as a power-hungry tyrant whose only concern is to rule Mount Lebanon. There is no doubt that he was named absolute ruler of Mount Lebanon and built an army after returning from Tuscany in 1618. In addition to this, Fakhreddine initiated measures to modernize Mount Lebanon. After forming close ties with the dukes of Tuscany and Florence and establishing diplomatic relations, he brought in architects, irrigation engineers, and agricultural experts from Italy in an effort to bring prosperity to his little principedom.

Towards the end of his rule, the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV ordered Ahmad Kutshuk, governor of Damascus, to attack the prince. Fakhreddine was defeated, and executed in Constantinople in 1635.

KHALIL AND ALL OF LEBANON

Khalil and All of Lebanon is the book Sema'an Salem wrote about his brother Khalil Salem. He found that telling Khalil's life story is the best he could do to commemorate his memory.

You are brothers

Khalil Ibrahim Salem, son of Ibrahim Salem and Mserra Aboud, was born on January 5, 1929 in Bterram, in the El Koura district of northern Lebanon. Sema'an, Khalil's elder brother, talks about their childhood and early life in Bterram, where their mother encouraged them to never compete with each other. She would say, "Don't forget that you are brothers"¹, and she wanted them to be better than others. Sema'an says that Khalil was very attached to his hometown and community. Khalil was interested in civic affairs. He worked hard to establish a public library, and he organized a night school for adults to teach them to read and write. He devoted great concern to establish a park where small children could receive preschool education under the guidance of a qualified instructor.

The War Years

When World War II started, Khalil and Sema'an were in their teen years. They understood the meaning of the word war for the first time. At the beginning, the fear of starvation, famine, and death was spread everywhere, but later with the spread of the British Army, the village enjoyed a period of financial security, prosperity, and good living. Sema'an and Khalil, who were good at commerce and enjoyed it immensely, did their share of business as the rest of the youth. They realized that war does not last forever, and in that time they were exposed to different languages and cultures, as if it was almost equivalent to visiting foreign countries.

It started with Alif Ba

Sema'an and Khalil began their elementary education in "Aba National Laic High School", but were at different classes at that time until the father made a serious decision to put them in the same class so that they could study together, help each other, and use the same books. Teachers said that Sema'an was quiet and Khalil as somewhat mischievous.

Sema'an says, "It is rare to find two brothers who have influenced each other's personalities and ways of thinking and behaving as much as Khalil affected mine and I affected his"². Later the two brothers graduated from Tripoli National High School in 1946, and since that time they have never taken a class together, or even enrolled in the same institution.

It ended with a Ph.D.

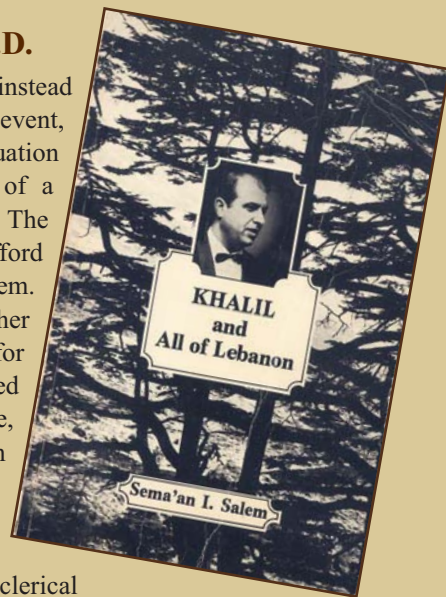
Sema'an points out that instead of being a joyous event, their high school graduation signaled the beginning of a period of introspection³. The family was not able to afford college fees for both of them. Khalil worked as a teacher in an elementary school for one year, and then enrolled at Aleppo Junior College, a two-year American institution.

In 1948, after completing his freshman year, he accepted a one year clerical position with the Iraq Petroleum Company (I.P.C.), which he joined again in 1950 after his graduation from Aleppo Junior College. In 1951, he joined the American University of Beirut and accepted a part time job with the United States Information Services (U.S.I.S.) which made him very interested in the financial problems of Lebanon and made him decide to study economics. He received his B.A. in 1953, and entered the graduate school at AUB and worked as an economic analyst for the American Embassy in Beirut. In 1955, he graduated with an M.A. in Economics, and in the fall of 1958 he entered the graduate school of Vanderbilt University in the United States. Khalil returned to Lebanon in 1960, and in addition to his full time job as a senior economic analyst at the American embassy, he worked as an assistant professor at AUB. Khalil returned to Vanderbilt in 1961, and handled his dissertation, entitled Credit and Economic Growth in Lebanon.

A Man who Sought Perfection

After finishing his Ph.D., Khalil wanted a position which would allow him to be more creative and make full use of his academic ability. So, in 1962 he started at the American University of Beirut as a professor of economics, until 1967. He had great knowledge in the field of economics and finance, and his qualifications as an expert were manifested by his many publications, some of which were; The Economy of Lebanon, Basic Data and Information, The Credit System and Economic Growth in Lebanon, etc..

The ex-President Charles Helou said about Khalil Salem, "I knew he was a man who sought perfection, and for all



1 P.4
2 P.19

3 P.28

that, I chose him”⁴. Khalil, who considered that a person who is under no political obligation is in a better position to perform his duties fully and objectively, was the only one whose candidacy to the position of the director general of the ministry of finance was based solely on merit. He found that the position in a public office which he got as an Orthodox Christian was an opportunity to give and serve, and he declared that he shall not let down the people who saw his appointment as a deviation from tradition.

Moments of Pleasure

Most of Khalil’s personal activities were related to his Bttram upbringing⁵. City life and the high ranking position did not make him forget his village where he used to spend the week ends planting and farming. He paid much attention to the educational sector, where he worked to have a new school, fulfilling his childhood dream, and contributing to the free education from his village youth.

A Man of Inspiration

On August 15, 1966, Khalil was appointed Governor of the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development. After two studies he organized a comprehensive new tax which was later rejected by the Lebanese Parliament.

Khalil who was very keen to make all his decisions according to law and not on the basis of political power, was able in a relatively short time to generate a new spirit and set in motion a process which turned the Ministry of Finance into a modern and efficient administration, where he built an outstanding relationship with his subordinates. Local newspapers referred to him as “The Honest Guardian of Public Funds”⁶. When the war started in the summer of 1975, and the country became divided and scattered, Khalil continued to move between the scattered fighting regions, and acted as a link between different sides, especially that he was respected and trusted by all. Also, he managed to ensure a loan from the government to AUB to prevent its closure after the financial crisis it suffered from during the war. At that time, the ministry of finance was the only government institution which was functioning properly. Khalil lost his temper only once, after seeing his country in ruins⁷.

And Heaven Turned to Hell

The savagery and atrocity of the war became the dominant story of Beirut and of all of Lebanon. As the war was destroying the country, Khalil’s hopes, dreams and convictions were destroyed also, but he continued to believe that despite the killings and death, there were

4 P.40
5 P.45
6 P.64
7 P.72



Khalil Salem

still good and noble men. Lebanon at that time lacked government, authority, and law-enforcement.

All of Lebanon

Despite the war and the destruction, Khalil continued to perform his duties and always said, “If the shooting stops, I will put the country back on its feet in no time”. Even when fighting reaching el Koura, and Bttram witnessing war and fire, Khalil preserved his neutrality. He had enough courage to drive from western Beirut to Bttram and be shocked by all the destruction and aggressiveness.

On Friday, July 30, 1976 at about 9a.m., Dr. Khalil Salem was kidnapped while he was driving his car from his home to his temporary office in the ministry of economics. On Monday, the second of August, Khalil was found killed in the trunk of the car he was driving in the car park of a police station. Sema’an says that “Khalil was for all of Lebanon, and he served all equally well. His assassination shocked the little country in its entirety”⁸.

Part of the Statement ex-President Elias Sarkis said about Khalil Salem:

“He was an exemplary friend, an exemplary citizen and an exemplary civil servant”.

Part of the Statement ex-Premier Salim El-Hoss said about Khalil Salem:

“When the administration was torn to shreds, and the legal government was non-existent, he was there executing the function of his office and performing his duty to the fullest... I shall always remember Khalil as a most faithful friend, a most conscientious, honest, hard working and devoted civil servant. His greatest bequest was the example he set as a responsible citizen and a high-ranking government employee”.

HARFOUCH FAMILIES

Great Shia'a history in Baalbeck and confessional diversity in the other regions

The origin of the Harfouch families dates back to the Hmeir tribe from the Bani Saba'a of the Yemen Arabs. They moved to Mecca in the Arab Peninsula where they took the guard of Mecca. They then split up and became known as Bani Khouza'a. Some of them went to Baghdad and formed Arab Khouza'a, also known as Khaza'ael. Others went to Levant (Bilad Al-Sham) with Omar bin Khattab and settled there, and then moved to Baalbeck and became known as Harfouch Al-Khouza'i, their grandparents' name.

The Harfouch family ruled Baalbeck and Bekaa from the beginning of the 16th Century until the mid of the 19th Century. They colonized some villages and established many properties and buildings especially in Baalbeck, Ras Al-Ain, Labweh, Hermel, Karak, Sarieen, Qob Elias and Mashghara.

The number of Harfouch family members is around 1,527. Members of the Harfouch family from the descendent of the Amir are still living in Baalbeck today and they total around 197 members. The Amirs of Shia'a Harfouch families contributed with other Amirs at that time in the feudal system and were known according to the department of knowledge of the Boustani family as: "Harfouch family, family of Shia'a Amir, their country is Baalbeck, were dominating that country and were prevalent in that country with full control over its people and money."

The majority of the family are Maronites (928 members) with a Druze minority (162), Sunni (121), A'alawi (41), Orthodox (37), Catholics (15), Ashouri (3 from Saifi area in Beirut).

They are live in the following regions:

Maronites

- ⊙ Wadi Jezzine – Jezzine (163)
- ⊙ Mar Saba area – Bchari (1)
- ⊙ Bsakin – Jezzine (185)
- ⊙ Rashdebbine – Koura (15)
- ⊙ Bhamdoun – A'eley (8)
- ⊙ Jezzine (27)
- ⊙ Baabda (22)
- ⊙ Midan Jezzine (36)
- ⊙ Tahweetat Al-Nahr – Baabda (6)

Some members of the Maronite Harfouch families are also located in other regions, such as Saida, Batroun, Bachoura,



Rmeil, Achrafieh, Daraya (Keserouan), Damour, Ain Al-Roumaneh, Bsaba (Baabda), Majdelia (Zgharta), Mar Saba area (Bchari), Baskinta (North Matn), Kafar Qatra (Chouf).

Shia'a

- ⊙ Shaat – Baalbeck (35)
- ⊙ Bouday – Baalbeck (3)
- ⊙ Nabi Rshadeh – Baalbeck (22)
- ⊙ East Reesh area – Baalbeck (10)
- ⊙ Kfardan – Baalbeck (13)

Some members of the Shia'a Harfouch families are also located in other regions in small numbers such as: Bachoura, Mina Al-Hosn, Kwakh (Hermel), Halba (Akkar).

Druze

- ⊙ Bourghes, Hay Al-Ain, Fardis – Hasbaya (38)
- ⊙ Amatour – Chouf (14)
- ⊙ Baaklin Al-Fawqa – Chouf (25)

Sunni

- ⊙ Kroum Al-Arab – Akkar (33)
- ⊙ Al-Borj – Akkar (8)
- ⊙ Al-Hadadeen and Tabeneh – Tripoli (8)

Some members of the Sunni Harfouch families live in other regions such as: Mazboud (Chouf), Qarha and Sahleh (Akkar), Beera and Shikhlar (Akkar).

Orthodox: some members of the Orthodox Harfouch families are located in small numbers in Marjeyoun, Chekka (Batroun), Tahweetat Al-Nahr (Baabda) and Msaitbeh.

Catholics: some members of the Catholic Harfouch families are located in small numbers in Sin el-Fil, Jezzine and Baabda.

A'alawi

- ⊙ Qahra – Akkar (14)

ZABBOUGHA – QADA' OF MATN

Etymology

According to Anis Freiha in his book “Names of Lebanese Towns and Villages” that there is no root word for the name “Zabagh”, which implies that the name either is not available or is extracted from the word “sabbukha” a bushel where trees are wrapped.

Location

The town of Zabbougha is located in the qada'a of Matn in the Mohafaza of Mount Lebanon at an altitude of 1,000 meters above sea level. It lies 40 kilometers away from Beirut and 25 kilometers from the center of the qada'a and occupies an area of 280 hectares. It can be reached via Bteghreen-Kfar Aaqab or Bekfaya-Deir Shamra.

Population

There are around 800 registered residents, mainly Catholics and Maronites living in 100 houses.

Voters

In 2000, the number of registered voters was 513, 300 of whom cast their ballots. In 2005, the number of registered voters increased to 554, of whom 322 voted. In 2009, the number reached 610, 389 of whom cast their ballots. They belong to the following families:

Catholics

Maalouf: 48 voters
Kasouf: 31 voters

Maronites

- ⊙ Kerbaj: 86 voters
- ⊙ Zgheib: 63 voters
- ⊙ Karam: 54 voters
- ⊙ Al-Haibi: 36 voters
- ⊙ Khoury: 20 voters
- ⊙ Rizkallah: 17 voters
- ⊙ Qaei: 26 voters
- ⊙ Jadoun: 14 voters
- ⊙ Rached: 5 voters

Local authorities

There is no municipal council in Zabbougha. The local authority is represented by a mukhtar, Bchara Kerbaj, and a three-member ikhtiyariah body.



Education

The town does not have a school and students are enrolled in schools in neighboring towns like Baskinta and Bekfaya. The town has a cultural, social and sports club that was established in 1969.

Economy

The town's main source of income is from agriculture, especially the cultivation of grapes and some other fruits and the production of arak and wine.

Archeological sites

There are no archaeological ruins in the village.

Challenges

The town mainly suffers from droughts, especially in the summer season, and infrastructure. It also suffers from the emigration of the youth in search for job opportunities.

Of the village's prominent figures are: Antoine Kerbaj, an actor that has played in many theatrical, drama and TV productions, some of which were for the esteemed Rahbani brothers.



GEAGEA ON HEZBOLLAH

“We have reached two Lebanons not one Lebanon, the first is the Lebanon of Hezbollah and the second is the Lebanon of the others”

Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea has been critical of Hezbollah since his release from prison. He believed Hezbollah is trying to change the face of Lebanon. Geagea supports an agenda of state-building that he claims will protect Lebanon's sovereignty, and he sees Hezbollah's agenda as threatening that of the Lebanese state. As such Geagea perceives Lebanon as two separate 'Lebanons'.

“It is not right for Hezbollah to keep its weapons even if they are not carried in public because they endanger the Lebanese people.” (*Al-Akhbar on August 19, 2006*)

“Syria is trying to attain its interests through Hezbollah, which is the Lebanese face of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and is in harmony with its positions.” (*Al-Akhbar on August 14, 2006*)

“A solution to weapons of resistance is a precondition for the establishment of a state. It is difficult to establish a state in the presence of the mini-state of Hezbollah.” (*Al-Akhbar on September 26, 2006*)

“Every state in the world, even Arab states, do not recognize the legitimacy of Hezbollah's weapons even if it has what is called legitimate resistance. I call on the officials of Hezbollah to relinquish this arsenal to the Lebanese army to help it, when needed, to fulfill its duty in defending the south.” (*An Nahar on July 27, 2007*)

“Hezbollah acts based on the principle of ‘what is ours is ours and what is yours is yours’.” (*Al-Akhbar on June 26, 2008*)

“We are in front of a state called Hezbollah and it is not our state. The Lebanese state with its security services does not supervise anyone and I do not know what it does. But there is another state that supervises and evaluates the situation in the country.” (*An Nahar on June 26, 2008*)

“Hezbollah is trying to completely obstruct dialogue in the matter of strategic defense. The aim is to exert pressure, through Lebanon, to solve the Iranian nuclear crisis.” (*Al-Akhbar on August 2, 2008*)

“Hezbollah has become a great burden for Lebanon... The part has taken Lebanon and the Lebanese hostage when it considers it [the country] an Islamic, regional and international undeclared agenda... It wanted to liberate Palestine and throw the Israelis in the sea and force the Americans out of the region politically, economically and culturally. This is an agenda that has nothing to do with the Lebanese and it is not right to take the Lebanese people hostage to a project they do not want... and we do not accept

for Hezbollah to continue to control our fate and the fate of our children.” (*Al-Jazeera and agencies on April 12, 2007*)

“[Hezbollah] follows the method of revolution with violence and fire, and is what turns it into another Mahdi army in the allies and streets of Beirut... it takes decisions and hands out roles to others.” (*Al-Akhbar on March 8, 2008*)

“I object the promotion of resistance as we know it today. In other words, the Hezbollah experience, across the Lebanese regions.” (*Al-Akhbar on November 8, 2008*)

“Nasrallah is concerned over the tribunal and is scared of something... How did Nasrallah know about all those things? What are the precedents he relied on when he accused the tribunal of being politicized? As if the tribunal works for him, as if he has become a judge in it and wants only to implement the matters that please him and fall in his interest. The only conclusion I came out with is that ‘he who has got a needle in his arm-pit pricks himself.’” (*Al-Akhbar on May 25, 2009*)

“Think right and work for God not for Hezbollah.” (*Asharq al-Awsat on May 21, 2009*)

“... We are in the face of a political project that destroys Lebanon... our battle is with Hezbollah which wants to take Lebanon some place else... in case March 8 wins then Hezbollah will be the one governing and we have a history with the Islamic Republic with the victory of the revolution and the execution of any ally of Imam al-Khomeini is a lesson and a morale.” (*Now Lebanon website on June 4, 2009*)

“The party follows the policy of moral extortion through its statements on national unity although its leaders do not care to open dialogue with their partners in the homeland when it comes to Lebanon waging war... Hezbollah's presence, specifically after May 7 2008, unfortunately feeds, in an indirect way, the establishment of Sunni fundamentalist groups in Lebanon.” (*Asharq al-Awsat on October 4, 2009*)

“Hezbollah does not only carry out political work, rather its priority is to work on the military and security levels which forms a part of the greater Iranian system... therefore, any development on the level of confrontation between the Iranian Islamic revolution and an Arab, international or regional side will reflect on us in the south through the Hezbollah's military and security presence.” (*Al-Mustaqbal on October 21, 2009*)

“Hezbollah has the power of observation in the region; it covers for the launching of missiles until further notice.” (*Al-Akhbar on October 28, 2009*)

June 2010 Timeline in Lebanon

SYRIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS MOKHTARA;

A Mossad agent in mobile phone sector is uncovered; Berri seeks explanation for \$11 billion; Lebanon abstains from voting on Iran sanctions; division over “rights” of Palestinians and Jumblat accuses right of creating strife; Al-Mustaqbal wins Minnieh-Dinnieh by-elections; Geagea meets Mubarak; Sfeir meets Sarkozy and Suleiman meets Assad

Events and developments in June were mostly ordinary and not tense reflecting the state of anticipation that Lebanon is living. They also coincided with the mild summer weather compared to higher temperatures over the past years.

June 2: The Freedom Flotilla incident, in which the Israeli army raided a flotilla heading to the Gaza Strip to end the siege. The raid left nine Turkish activists dead while others were arrested among them Lebanese nationals sparking attention back home.

A Cabinet session approves all budgets and the 2010 draft budget is expected to be finalized in a final session on Friday.

June 3: Israel releases Lebanese detainees from the Freedom Flotilla and they arrive in Lebanon via the Naqoura crossing. Speaker Nabih Berri, after meeting President Michel Suleiman, states: “We are now waiting for the budget and we want an explanation for the \$11 billion spent outside the framework of the provisional twelfth.”

A Maronite archdiocesan commission from the Maronite League meets MP Suleiman Franjeh in Benshe’i calm emotions after the Dahr el-A’ain incident that left two Marada members dead.

June 4: Council of Ministers meets at the Grand Serail and approves the appointment of 300 full time contractors in the Lebanese University in addition to recruiting five officers and 500 agents in the Directorate General of General Security. It also announced that the directors general will be visiting Damascus on June 12-13 ahead of Hariri’s visit to sign agreements.

MP Walid Jumblat, on Kalam Al Nass talk show, criticizes the Iranian president’s remarks on wiping Israel from the map and wonders about the benefit of discussing Hezbollah’s weapons. Minister Gebran Bassil considers the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections as biased and calls for its dissolution.

June 5: A Hezbollah ceremony in support of the Freedom Flotilla. Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah calls on Egypt to open the Rafah crossing and calls for more freedom flotillas pledging to work for the release of the activists in case Israel detains them.

June 7: Dr. Ashraf Abou Sharaf, supported by the Free Patriotic Movement, wins the Beirut Doctors Syndicate elections defeating his opponents, Dr. Ghassan Skaff and Najib Jahshan, supported by March 14 forces, following the division of their supporters. Abou Sharaf won 1,312 votes compared to 1,110 votes for Skaff and 319 for Jahshan. 3,228 doctors cast their ballots out of 7,028 doctors who paid their fees. Dr. Fawwaz al-Baba, supported by Future Movement and March 14 forces, wins the elections of the Doctors Syndicate in the North defeating Dr. Omar A’ayyach of the opposition. Baba won 383 votes compared to 355 for his opponent. 777 doctors cast their ballots out of 1,048 doctors who paid their fees.

June 9: Hariri meets Nasrallah at the latter’s home. Hariri visits Jordan and meets King Abdullah II before leaving to Saudi Arabia where he meets King Abdullah. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Ali al-Chami tells As Safir newspaper: “I support a Lebanese position that votes against the sanctions on Iran.”

June 10: Hariri visits Egypt and meets President Hosni Mubarak in Sharm el-Sheikh. The Council of Ministers is divided into two camps (14 ministers in each camp with the absence of two ministers from the majority, had they attended they would have supported abstention). The first camp supports abstaining from voting on a Security Council resolution to impose sanctions on Iran. It included ministers from the Lebanese Forces, the Phalanges, Al-Mustaqbal, the Democratic Meeting.

The second camp opposes the sanctions resolution and



included the ministers of FPM, Hezbollah, Amal, Franjeh and the minister of the president (Ziad Baroud, Elias Murr and Adnan Sayyed Hussein). In the end the Lebanese envoy abstained from voting at the Security Council.

June 11: Hariri attends the Fifth Turkish-Arab Economic Forum in Istanbul and meets the Turkish prime minister. Suleiman refers the Lebanese-American security agreement to the Ministry of Justice's Department of Legislation and Consultations.

June 12: The Thought and Literature Forum in Sour (supported by Hezbollah) honors Syrian Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Abdel Karim al-Ali and former Minister Bahij Tabbara.

June 14: Al-Mustaqbal candidate Kazem Saleh al-Khair wins the bi-parliamentary elections in Minnieh-Dinnieh receiving 20,100 votes compared to his opponent Kamal al-Khair, supported by March 8 forces and who won 14,092 votes.

Samir Geagea visit Egypt heading an LF delegation. He meets Mubarak, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmad Aboul Gheit, intelligence director Omar Suleiman and Arab League secretary general Amr Moussa.

June 15: MP Ahmad Fatfat places his resignation from Al-Mustaqbal at the disposal of Hariri saying "what hurt me the most are the strikes from those who are politically close and those who are family". Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir meets in Paris the international envoy to the Middle East Terje Rod-Larsen.

June 16: Suleiman visits Damascus and meets Assad. They agree on convening the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council soon. A legislative session for Parliament ratifies a number of laws, appoints members of the Supreme Council to try presidents and ministers, refers to the management and justice commission proposals by Jumblat's bloc on giving the Palestinians their rights to work, social security, civil rights and real estate rights. The proposal causes divisions among MPs. Geagea arrives in France and meets Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner.

June 17: A large sit-in in front of OTV to oppose referring the station to the judge of urgent cases due to a law suit filed by Banque Societe Generale. MP Michel Aoun pledges to launch a campaign to reform the judiciary. Sfeir, still in France, meets French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Geagea. Jumblat, after visiting Berri, says: "The right creates strike and destroys societies, not only in Lebanon but worldwide."

June 18: The Higher Lebanese-Egyptian Joint Committee convenes its seventh session in Beirut, headed by the prime ministers of both countries, Ahmad Nazif and Hariri, in addition to concerned ministers. The committee signs 18 agreements and programs.

The National Dialogue convenes its tenth round with the absence of former PM Fouad Siniora, Geagea, Minister Mohammad al-Safadi. The meeting schedules the next meeting on August 19. Geagea meets Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Angel Moratinos in Spain. Moratinos says: "We support anything that can facilitate the lives of the Palestinians, but naturalization is a red line." The body of Al-Qassab (Lahham) Ismail is found in the stadiums of the town of Baysour.

The league of secondary learning teachers boycotts exam corrections after dialogue with Minister of Education Hassan Mneimneh was fruitless.

Michel Williams, the UN secretary general's representative in Lebanon, tells An Nahar newspaper: "Syrian confirmations of border demarcation."

June 19: Cabinet session ends with the unanimous ratification of the 2010 budget. Sami Gemayel, speaking at a press conference, says: "Jumblat lacks credibility and is not worthy of a response."

June 21: Sfeir visits the city of Zahle, on a historic trip, as it is the first time a Maronite patriarch visits the city since 1938. A mysterious accident (an explosion or a fire) takes place in the industrial city in Zahle on Saturday, on the eve of Sfeir's visit to one of the car mechanic shop. A man from Majdel Anjar (Ziad Hussein) is killed and two other people are injured (one of them, Mohammad al-A'ajami) later dies. Jumblat hosts a lunch on Saturday at his Mokhtara residence on the honor of the Syrian ambassador to Lebanon.

June 22: Cabinet ratifies the plan of Minister of Energy and Water Gebran Bassil to solve the electricity crisis. The plan seeks to provide 5000 megawatts by 2015 at \$6 billion, half of which is supposed to be secured by the private sector. Hariri meets the Syrian ambassador at the Grand Serail. Catholic Patriarch Gregarious Lahham, speaking at the opening of the holy synod, appreciates the return of fraternal relations with Syria and links the guarantee of Christians to "our Muslim compatriot brothers".

June 23: Assad meets Aoun, accompanied by Bassil, in Damascus.

Jumblat meets former MP Emile Lahoud in preparation for a meeting between the Druze leader and former President Emile Lahoud. Suleiman, Berri and Hariri participate in the opening of the Four Seasons hotel in Beirut in the presence of Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, the owner.

June 24: Cabinet ratifies the construction of a parking lot beneath Martyrs Square in Beirut. Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ziad Baroud receives in Spain the United Nations Award for Public Service. Ongoing debate in Lebanon over a proposed law for oil exploration.

June 25: Hariri, on an official visit to Tunisia, meets President Zain al-Abidin ben Ali. The Zouq Mosbeh aluminum plant collapses killing two Indian workers. A Lebanese worker survives the accident. Former President Amine Gemayel meets a Hamas delegation in Lebanon. US Ambassador to Lebanon Michele Sison tours Saida's old neighborhoods.

June 28: A celebration in Kfeefan to announce the beatification of Brother Astfan Nehmeh, in the attendance of representatives of the pope, the Maronite patriarch, the president and the prime minister in addition to other public figures and a large crowd.

The former head of the Tripoli Businessmen Association, Ma'moun Adra, hosts a lunch in the Quality Inn Hotel in Tripoli in honor of the Syrian ambassador.

June 29: Mahmoud al-Bizri, a former candidate who lost in the ikhtiarah elections in the Saida's Christian neighborhood of Mar Nicolas, is arrested for distributing leaflets against Christians in Saida. Charbel Qazzi, an employee at Alfa, is arrested on charges of collaborating with Israel and providing valuable data.

The joint committees convene in Parliament to discuss a law for offshore petroleum and oil resources, proposed by Amal

MP Ali Hassan Khalil. The meeting ends with a decision to continue discussion on July 12 and for the government to prepare a draft law in this regard within a maximum period of 15 days.

The Lebanese judiciary arrests three supporters of the FPM on charges of libel and slander against the president on Facebook.

An incident in Zahle on the eve of Sfeir's visit does not turn out to be a terrorist act.

June 30: Skirmishes erupt between residents of several southern villages and the UNIFIL, which was conducting maneuvers in the region.

Special Tribunal for Lebanon Judge Daniel Francine sets August 13 for a public hearing between General Gameel el-Sayyed and prosecutor Daniel Bellemare to discuss the issue of false witnesses and the proof they presented.

A dinner at former President Emile Lahoud's home is attended by Aoun and Franjeh.

Ba'abda court announces the bankruptcy of businessman Salah Izzeddin and requests creditors to prove their debts.

July 1: Suleiman states: "Prepared to sign on death sentence for spies."

Announcement of Israel's approval to withdraw from the Lebanese side of the town of Ghajar. 🇮🇱



ORGAN DONATION & TRANSPLANTATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The first successful renal transplantation in the Arab World, which happened to be from a deceased donor, took place in Jordan in 1972. Many Arab countries followed suit, starting their own transplantation programs in the 1970s and 1980s as depicted in Table 1, but all from living related donors.

Country	Year
Jordan	1972
Lebanon	1973
Sudan	1974
Egypt	1976
Syria	1978
Kuwait	1979
Saudi Arabia	1979
UAE	1985
Algeria	1986
Morocco	1986
Qatar	1986
Tunisia	1986
Oman	1988
Bahrain	1995

Source: Am J Kidney Dis. 2008 Jun;51(6):1033-46. Epub 2008 Apr 18.

Moreover, more than 29 countries, which make up a population of more than 600 million, including all Arab states, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and central Asian countries, are members of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT) established in Turkey in 1987, a nonprofit international scientific society aiming to:

- ⊙ “promote and encourage education, research and cooperation in the field of organ transplantation between medical centers in Middle Eastern, North African and neighboring mid-Asian countries for the purpose of advancing the art and science of transplantation, and to serve the patients of this region through the application of new knowledge and advances in the transplantation of organs for the treatment of human disease”
- ⊙ “create a scientific forum for discussion of all problems related to the field of transplantation, including medical, social and legal aspects”
- ⊙ “collaborate with existing public and private organizations to promote and encourage research and clinical applications related to transplantation, and to participate and assist in the coordination of efforts or the formulation of programs by all physicians, agencies, health personnel and scientists which will promote the donation of organs”.¹

The MESOT has organized 9 major congresses in the Middle East, the last one was held in Kuwait in 2006.

Nevertheless, many Middle Eastern countries still suffer from

insufficient preventative medicine, poor health infrastructure, a lack of awareness of the importance of organ donation and transplantation, very limited government support, a lack of professional courtesy amongst transplant physicians, an absence of planning for organ procurement and transplant centers, and ineffective health insurance.

Furthermore, social, cultural, religious and bioethical aspects render continuous reservation and hesitance in donating organs from cadavers, despite its great potential in the Middle East. As a result, the most common source of organ donation, which includes kidney and partial liver, is from living donors who are either predominately related to the recipients or by commercial means from genetically unrelated donors.

For deceased organ donations, even though religious acceptance in the Middle East exists, brain death is not considered to be legal death in some countries. Accordingly, legislation does not exist or has not been fully executed in Morocco, Syria, Sudan, and Libya. Moreover, organ transplantation and treatment is not perceived as a priority and does not receive much official attention as shorter term health problems such as the H1N1 virus, do possibly due to the cost and technology required.

Most MESOT countries lack an active organ sharing network. Under the current system, transplant surgeons depend on personal contacts in their own hospital or other hospitals that also suffer from extreme shortage of the number of donors (estimated at 3-4 donors per 1 million inhabitants in comparison to 20-35 in American and Europe).

The number of patients on waiting lists for organ transplants is increasing, and the gap is growing between supply and demand of organs in the MESOT countries. Table 2 shows the estimated average of patients per million population in need of kidney, heart, liver, and cornea transplants in 2009 in these countries. Unfortunately, most of these patients die while waiting.

Type of Organ Needed for Transplant	Patients per million (2009)
Kidney	200
Heart	15-20
Liver	40-50
Cornea	100

Source: Faissal A. M. Shaheen MD, “Organ Donation in the Middle Eastern Countries”, Ethnicity & Disease, 2009

1 - Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation website: www.mesot-tx.org

REAL ESTATE PRICE INDEX IN LEBANON – JUNE 2010

During the month of June, the real estate market started getting out of the stagnation that it had witnessed for the past few months. Recovery in the sales and purchase of apartments in the cities and its surroundings was noticeable, as well as the sales and purchase of lands in those surrounding areas and others in Jezzine, Bent Jbeil and Sour. As for the lands in the cities, their sales and purchase were limited due to their scarcity and high prices. This recovery in real estate activities did not increase the prices of properties but maintained its stability instead with a division in opinions on trends in the real estate market between those who believe that the market is heading for a decline in prices after the end of the summer season, and those who believe that the market is on the verge of recovery especially in the summer season, and even in a worst case scenario may witness stability.

Tables 1 and 2 show the prices of some real estates and apartments sold during the month of June 2010.

Prices of some estates sold in June 2010 Table 1

Location	Area m2	Price (USD)	USD/m2
Beirut			
Achrafieh (Tabaris)	490	4,042,500	8,250
Achrafieh (Siufi)	430	2,193,000	5,100
Achrafieh (Sassine)	510	3,366,000	6,600
Mdawar	500	2,425,000	4,850
Manara	1,400	32,200,000	23,000
Taiouneh	1,100	3,850,000	3,500
Baabda			
Hadath	6,400	3,840,000	600
Hadath	980	735,000	750
Furn El-Chabbak	290	493,000	1,700
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	880	2,948,000	3,350
Hazmieh	780	2,730,000	3,500
Matn			
Raboueh	1,800	2,070,000	1,150
Awakar	1,367	820,200	600
Mansourieh	1,000	1,000,000	1,000
Rabieh	890	1,343,900	1,510
Sin el Fil	720	2,232,000	3,100
Bourmana	1,300	481,000	370
Biet Mery	710	568,000	800
A'aley			
Bchamoun	1,100	572,000	520
Aramoun	1,400	602,000	430
Dhour Aabadieh	800	376,000	470
Hammana	1,200	300,000	250
Keserouane			
Adma	913	885,610	970
Klaiaat	800	400,000	500
Ajaltoun	1,400	294,000	210
Ghazir	1,500	405,000	270
Farayya	1,000	100,000	100
Kfar Hbab	1,100	847,000	770
Sahel Alma	630	756,000	1,200
Haret Sakher	650	455,000	700

Source: Information International June 2010

Prices of some constructed estates sold in June 2010 Table 2

Location	Area m2	Price (USD)	USD/m2
Beirut			
Achrafieh (Sassine)	400	800,000	2,000
Raouche	270	1,242,000	4,600
Dannawi	130	214,500	1,650
Aaicha Bakkar	160	408,000	2,550
Tallet El-Khayyat	300	1,140,000	3,800
Karakoul Druze	180	421,200	2,340
Ramlet el-Baida	240	926,400	3,860
Borj Abi Haidar	160	320,000	2,000
Koraitem	250	1,350,000	5,400
Baabda			
Hazmeih (Mar Taqla)	220	451,000	2,050
Yarzeh	225	609,750	2,710
Baabda	180	414,000	2,300
Hazmeih (Brazilia)	160	288,000	1,800
Jamous (Dahyeh)	150	195,000	1,300
Matn			
Mansourieh	140	177,800	1,270
Antellias	137	167,140	1,220
Broumanna	170	221,000	1,300
Sin el Fil	270	756,000	2,800
Horch Tabet	180	360,000	2,000
A'aley			
Doha El-Hoss	350	546,000	1,560
Doha El-Hoss	180	360,000	2,000
Doha A'aramoun	220	286,000	1,300
Khaldeh	190	190,000	1,000
Khaldeh	140	175,000	1,250
Chouifat	110	113,300	1,030
Keserouane			
Zouq Mosbeh	160	160,000	1,000
Sohaileh	180	198,000	1,100
Adonis	150	150,000	1,000
Ballouneh	220	330,000	1,500
Adma	170	280,500	1,650

Source: Information International June 2010

TOWARD A LEBANESE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: JUNE 2010

In June the prices of most 100 items presented in this articles either dropped or remained remarkably stable, reflecting two issues. First, the stagnation witnessed by the markets which lead to the drop. Second the competition in light of the presence of numerous stores that sell food and consumer products. The prices of 32 products have decreased, those of 26 items have increased and those of 42 remained stable meaning that the prices of 74 items were either stable or dropped. Table 1 shows the prices of 100 food and consumer products in June 2010.

Prices of consumer and food products in June 2010 (in LBP) Table 1				
Item and brand		Prices beginning of June 2010	Prices beginning of July 2010	% of price change
Oil				
Afia corn oil	(3.5 liters)	12,350	12,750	+3.2
Mazola corn oil	(3.5 liters)	13,750	12,950	-5.8
Mazola corn oil	(1.8 liters)	6,900	6,690	-3
Slim corn oil	(2 liters)	7,200	7,000	-2.8
Wesson corn oil	(2 liters)	8,800	7,250	-17.6
Ghandour soya oil	(3.8 liters)	10,700	10,500	-1.8
Alfa corn oil	(4 liters)	13,500	12,700	-5.9
Al-Wadi Olive Oil	(1/2 liters)	7,500	6,250	-16.7
Ketchup and Sauces				
Libby's Ketchup	(567 g)	3,100	2,960	-4.5
Extra Ketchup	(340 g)	1,400	980	-30
Extra Ketchup	(2.2 kg)	5,100	5,500	+7.8
Dolly's Mayonnaise	(500 ml)	4,500	3,900	-13.3
Al-Wadi Mayonnaise	(500 ml)	4,250	4,250	0
Al-Bsat Tahina	(900 g)	7,000	6,490	-7.3
Al-Bsat Tahina	(450 g)	4,000	3,500	-12.5
Taous tomato sauce	(70 g)	650	650	0
Taous tomato sauce	(425 g)	3,450	3,250	-5.8
Tala tomato sauce	(675 g)	3,250	3,000	-7.7
Fruits and Vegetables				
Orange	(1 kg)	1,250	1,500	+20
Tomatoes	(1kg)	1,250	1,000	-20
Cucumbers	(1kg)	1,000	700	-30
Bananas	(1kg)	1,000	1,250	+25
Lemons	(1 kg)	800	800	0
Apples	(1 kg)	2,000	2,250	+12.5
Potatoes	(1 kg)	500	500	0

Prices of consumer and food products in June 2010 (in LBP) Table 1				
Item and brand		Prices beginning of June 2010	Prices beginning of July 2010	% of price change
Dairy Products				
Candia full cream milk	(1 liter)	2,450	2,450	0
Candia full cream yoghurt	(2 kg)	5,250	4,500	-14.3
Bonjus labneh	(1 kg)	3,750	3,750	0
Taanayel labneh	(500 g)	5,250	5,400	+2.8
Candia labneh	(500 g)	5,250	5,250	0
Taanayel yoghurt	(1 kg)	2,750	2,750	0
Smeds cheese	(400 g)	4,400	4,250	-3.4
Picon cheese	(360 g)	3,250	3,500	+7.7
Picon cheese	(160 g)	1,625	1,700	+4.6
Double-crème cheese	(1 kg)	8,000	8,000	0
Fresh country cheese	(1 kg)	9,250	7,950	-14
Khashkawan cheese	(1 kg)	13,250	11,750	-11.3
Lurpak butter	(200 g)	2,500	2,500	0
Tatra butter	(200 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Al-Maalaqtain margarine	(2 kg)	7,500	7,950	+6
Al-Baqara al-Haloub margarine (2kg)		23,500	25,850	+10
Vegetaline margarine	(2 kg)	13,750	15,000	+9
Nido full cream milk (bag)	(2,250 g)	19,000	19,000	0
Nido full cream milk	(2,500 g)	23,100	23,100	0
Tatra full cream milk	(1,800 g)	17,500	17,500	0
Pasta				
Barilla spaghetti	(500 g)	2,050	2,100	+2.4
Antonio Amato spaghetti	(500 g)	2,850	2,200	+22.8
Monte spaghetti	(500 g)	2,150	2,150	0
Sugar and Salt				
Sugar	(2 kg)	2,400	2,500	+4.1
Al-Ousra Sugar	(5 kg)	7,250	7,250	0
Salt	(700 g)	475	475	0
Box of salt	(738 g)	1,250	1,250	0

Prices of consumer and food products in June 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand		Prices beginning of June 2010	Prices beginning of July 2010	% of price change
Cereals				
Khater white lentils	(1 kg)	3,250	3,650	+12.3
Khater chick-peas fahli	(1 kg)	3,000	2,950	-1.7
Khater beans	(1 kg)	1,950	1,990	+2
Peeled wheat	(1 kg)	1,550	1,550	0
Pineal Lima Bean	(1 kg)	3,500	3,250	-7.1
Brown Fine Burgul	(1 kg)	1,950	1,950	0
Egyptian rice	(1 kg)	1,900	1,900	0
American rice	(1 kg)	2,500	1,750	-30
Italian rice	(1 kg)	2,850	3,200	+12.2
Al-Wadi Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,000	1,100	+10
Chtaura Hommos Tahina	(380 g)	1,100	1,100	0
California Gardens beans	(450 g)	1,100	1,100	0
Al-Wadi beans	(450 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Chtaura beans	(480 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Libby's corn	(340 g)	1,500	1,550	+3.3
Halvah and Jam				
Al-Wadi halvah	(454 g)	3,850	3,850	0
Al-Bsat halvah	(450 g)	3,500	3,000	-14.2
Chtaura apricot jam	(1 kg)	4,620	4,250	8
Al-Wadi apricot jam	(1 kg)	4,450	4,350	-2.2

Prices of consumer and food products in June 2010 (in LBP) Table 1

Item and brand		Prices beginning of June 2010	Prices beginning of July 2010	% of price change
Meat, Fish and Eggs				
Zwan chicken	(200 g)	2,450	2,500	+2
Zwan beef	(200 g)	2,450	2,250	-8.1
Luncheon meat beef	(198 g)	1,250	1,150	-8
Al-Mona chicken	(200 g)	2,100	2,100	0
Al-Taghzia beef	(200 g)	1,750	1,925	+10
Al-Taghzia chicken	(200 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Geisha sardine	(125 g)	1,000	1,000	0
Deli sardine	(125 g)	990	1,100	+11.1
Milo sardine	(125 g)	990	990	0
Geisha tuna	(200 g)	2,500	3,500	+40
White Bell tuna	(200 g)	2,150	2,150	0
White Diamond tuna	(200 g)	2,250	2,250	0
Skipper tuna	(185 g)	1,750	1,750	0
Eggs	(30 eggs)	5,750	5,750	0
Beef	(1 kg)	14,500	15,000	+3.4
Sheep	(1 kg)	19,500	22,000	+12.8
Coffee and Tea				
Najjar coffee	(1kg)	12,000	12,000	0
Brazil coffee	(1 kg)	11,000	11,000	0
Al-Hisan tea	(180 g)	2,450	2,400	+2
Nestle	(250g)	2,500	2,500	0
Halvah and Jam				
Al-Wadi halvah	(454 g)	3,850	3,850	0
Al-Bsat halvah	(450 g)	3,500	3,000	-14.2
Chtaura apricot jam	(1 kg)	4,620	4,250	8
Al-Wadi apricot jam	(1 kg)	4,450	4,350	-2.2
Tissues and Detergents				
Mimosa tissues	(500 g)	2,800	2,800	0
Fine tissues	(200 tissues)	1,200	1,500	+25
Primo tissues	(200 tissues)	1,100	1,100	0
Gipsy tissues	(300 tissues)	2,400	2,400	0
Mimosa toilet papers	(4 rolls)	2,750	2,750	0
Yes detergent	(900 g)	2,300	2,300	0
Clorox	(1 liter)	1,450	1,500	+3.5
Persil	(4 kg)	18,500	18,200	-1.6
Ariel	(4 kg)	18,750	18,000	-4

Source: Information International June 2010



Statistics from Around the World

Ten Worst Aviation Accidents of the previous Century

- **583 deaths** were recorded when a KLM Boeing type 747 attempted to take-off and collided with a taxiing Pan AM 1736 at Los Rodeos Airport, Tenerife, Canary Islands on 27 March, 1977. A ground collision involving weather conditions, pilot error, and technical limitations was the official cause.
- **520 deaths** resulted from the crash of the in the Japan Airlines, flight 123 in Mt. Osutaka, Japan in the year 1985. In this crash, 520 died on board of a Boeing 747. The aircraft suffered an explosive decompression from the failed reparation of a pressure bulkhead, causing a loss of control.
- **349 passengers** and crew died as a result of a mid-air collision in 1996 when Saudi Flight 763 and Air Kazakhstan Flight 1907 collided over India. The crash was mainly the result of the Kazakh pilot flying lower than the allotted altitude.
- **346 people** perished as a result of a crash of the Turkish Airlines Flight 981 McDonell Douglas DC-10 in a forest northeast of Paris on March 3, 1974. The destination was London, and the plane crashed shortly after taking off from Orly. It was later discovered that the cargo door had fallen off, which caused an explosive decompression.
- **301 deaths** were recorded on August 19, 1980 when Saudi Flight 163 of aircraft type Lockheed L1011-200 TriStar caught on fire Riyadh's International Airport. The flight origin was Karachi Airport with a destination being the Jeddah International Airport. Because the pilot failed to depressurize the cabin, firefighters couldn't access passengers, and they died of smoke inhalation.
- **273 people** were killed after American Airlines Flight 191, a McDonnell-Douglas DC-10, crashed on takeoff from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois on May 25, 1979 after an engine fell off. The destination was Los Angeles International Airport.
- **264** of the 271 on board of the China Airlines Flight 140, an Airbus A300, died after the aircraft crashes while landing at Nagoya on April 26, 1994, in Japan, as a result of pilot error.
- **257 people** on board of Air New Zealand Flight 901, a McDonnell-Douglas DC-10, died after running into high terrain on Mount Erebus, Antarctica on November 28, 1979. The flight was originally supposed to be for sightseeing.
- **235 deaths** resulted from the crash of Garuda Indonesia Flight 152, an Airbus A300, into a mountain near Buah Nabar, Indonesia on September 26, 1997.
- **229 people** died on board of Swissair Flight 111, a McDonnell Douglas MD-11, on September 2, 1998 on a scheduled flight from the United States to Switzerland. Because of an on-board fire, the aircraft crashed into the ocean near Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Beirut International Airport

Rafic Hariri International Airport - Traffic June 2010

Number of departures is stable and number of arrival rose by 35.7%

While the number of departures stabilized in the month of June compared to May, the number of arrivals increased by 35.7%, or 78,698 passengers.

In comparison to June 2009, the number of arrivals increased by 5.1% and the number of departing passengers by 12.7%. It is apparent that air traffic increased between June 2009 and June 2010 by 11.9%, while the number of passengers increased by 8.2%.

Airport traffic in June 2010 compared to May 2010 and June 2009.

Table 1

Traffic	May 2010	Jun-2010	June 2009	% of change May/June 2010	% change June 2009/ June 2010
Arriving airplanes	2,617	2,871	2,565	+9.7	+11.9
Departing airplanes	2,624	2,862	2,556	+9	+11.9
Total # of airplanes	5,241	5,733	5,121	+9.4	+11.9
Arriving passengers	220,464	299,162	284,503	+35.7	+5.1
Departing passengers	196,026	195,570	173,422	-0.23	+12.7
Transit passengers	3,669	3,185	2,298	-13.2	+38.6
Total # of passengers	420,159	497,917	460,223	+18.5	+8.2
Imported goods (per ton)	3,766	3,422	3,242	-9.1	+5.5
Exported goods (per ton)	2,968	2,960	2,586	-0.27	+14.4
Total amount of goods (per ton)	6,734	6,382	5,828	-5.2	+9.5

Source: Information International and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Stats & Numbers

- **1,232** ATMs were located across Lebanon as of the month of April, 2010, compared to 1,144 machines in April 2009, marking an annual increase by 88 machines or 7.7%. The highest number of ATMs (615) is found in Beirut and its suburbs, in addition to 45,530 machines in shops and commercial centers.
- **LBP 60.6 billion** is the cost to repair damages to Lebanese homes in Nahr el-Bared camp in the aftermath of the 2007 war between the Lebanese army and Fatah al-Islam organization. 3,428 homes need to be repaired, 256 homes were partially damaged and 733 homes were completely demolished.
- **LBP 210 million** was paid by the Higher Relief Commission for pesticides to eliminate insects infesting the Nahr el-Bared camp following the 2007 war.
- **\$8.5 billion** was paid by the Lebanese state to the Lebanese Arab Consulting Engineering Company (LACECO) (chairman Salim Diab) via the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon in return for maps and studies on the construction of a mansion for conferences in A'ain el-Mreisseh (project was later cancelled). The amount covers the initial phase, knowing that the total value due for LACECO could have reached \$20 million had work on the project proceeded.



The Monthly Team with Sayyed Fadlallah in one of their meetings
February 2008

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
- 14- Municipal Elections 2010

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

The Monthly apologizes for interrupting in this issue its series on real estate foreign ownership. It will resume with the articles in its upcoming issues.

INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL

INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL sal

لبنان



To subscribe:

Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor, Martyrs Square
Beirut Central District
Telephone: 961-1-983008/9 961-3-262376
Fax: 961-1-980630
info@iimonthly.com
www.iimonthly.com

www.information-international.com
© Information International SAL All rights reserved
License No. 180/2003
Responsible Director: Hala Saghbini

AL A'ALAMA AL SAYYED MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN FADLALLAH

The Monthly Team met with the late Al A'alama Al Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, in an interview for the magazine back in the year 2004 (published in The Monthly issue # 19 of January 2004) where several issues were covered among which he mentioned:

“...the dynamism of Islam, which is based on ‘ijtihad’ [or jurisprudence and intellectual diligence], whereby future generations of ‘A'alama’ (religious men of knowledge) are enabled to understand the contents of the Holy Book in a different way than previous generations. This means that the mind does not stand still; it is continuously moving. Thus, the issue is not the permanence of the text, but the dynamism of the content, which might be subject to many intellectual interpretations.”

“...We are still living under emergency measures and laws, with security agencies interfering in everything under the pretext of the Israeli threat, while many have openly or secretly amended relations.”

“...I consider the issue of the moon as something that relates to astronomy, and we can refer to the people of science rather than to the religious people. If scientists and calculations are trustworthy, we can judge by that and determine the time of the Eid for the next 50 years.” On September 11 and clash of civilizations, he says “... most Westerners, like many Muslims, do not really live according to the spirit of their culture, but according to the slogans and headlines representing it – which is why I can't assume there is a clash of civilizations.”

The Monthly Team also met with the late Al-Sayyed in the year 2008. In the year 2009, The Monthly wrote to him inquiring about his views on the removal of confession from the civil registry records. He said: “This matter is subject to the choice and will of each human being because we believe that the problem is somewhere else. If it is resolved, then there is no problem in mentioning the confession and no problem in striking it off.” The Monthly issue # 81 of April 2009

Sayyed Fadlallah was also known for addressing all forms of women violence. On this issue he says:

“The trusteeship of men over women does not mean the rule of men, but rather holding the man responsible for the management of the family that he must not monopolize,

but to share with his wife all common matters between them as a couple.”

“Islam considers that a woman in wedlock has financial rights independent from the man; the man may not take her personal money or intervene in her business or her interests that do not concern him as a husband, or their family of which he is responsible.”

“Islam does not permit man to engage in any violence against a woman, both in her legitimate rights (which should be complied under the marriage contract), or in forcing her out of the home. This also includes insults, curses and the use of cruel words, which is a sin punished by God, and punishable by Islamic law.”

“Islam affirms that no one has authority over an independent, sane and adult female to govern herself, no one can impose on her a husband she does not want, and a marriage contract without her consent is invalid and considered void.”

“Islam emphasizes on the position of women alongside men in humanity, reason, responsibility and its consequences. It has established marriage life on the foundation of love and compassion, giving the family a humane dimension in which its members interact away from the vocabulary of legal rights which are living an emotional and spiritual drought. [Such humane dimension] is what gives spiritual wealth, psychological balance and cultural and intellectual advancement to the whole person, man or woman, as an individual or as a society.”

The Monthly Team would like to thank the media office of Al-Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah who provided us with his “fatawa” on the issue of violence against women. Information International and The Monthly Teams extend their deepest and most sincere condolences to his family, friends, supporters and followers.



Late Al A'alama Al Sayyed
Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah

