

- STATE EMPLOYMENT IN 2014:  
69% MUSLIMS VS. 31% CHRISTIANS
- THE WOMEN OF LEBANON IN STATISTICS
- THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS POET  
JOU MANA CHAHOUD NAJJAR

## AGING POLITICIANS OF LEBANON

**FOUAD BOUTROS: 98**

**MICHEL EDDEH: 87**

**ABDUL LATIF ZEIN: 85**

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## THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA IN SYRIA

**Excerpts from chapters 15 and 16 of Margaret Mc. Gilvary's *The Dawn of a New Era in Syria*, a firsthand account of the relief operation in Syria during the First World War. Margaret Mc. Gilvary was the American Secretary of the Beirut Chapter of the Red Cross. The book was published in 1920 by Fleming H. Revell Company.**

“Those who were in Syria during the year 1918 are agreed that it was the saddest and hardest year of the whole war period. Conditions were steadily growing worse, the powers of resistance had been weakened, and hope was expiring. The end of the war still seemed out of sight, and there were uncertain indications that it might be months distant.

There was practically no alteration in the work in Lebanon. The soup-kitchens were enlarged somewhat to meet the increase need. It is curious that during this last year, when the Turks might almost be said to have been in sight of success in the extermination of the male population of Syria, they relaxed somewhat their efforts and permitted philanthropic interference more graciously than at any other time during the course of the war.

What true of Syria is undoubtedly true of other countries the world over.

In Syria to-day the whole theme of national consideration is the Future. The Past we have buried out of sight, and the immediate Present concerns us only in so far as it affects what is to come. Everything hangs in abeyance until the one vital question of Syria's political fate is solved.

Syria has lain at the point of death, and there were times when it seemed incredible that she should ever rally. She has drawn to the limit upon her physical resources, and it will take a long time to renew her exhausted powers.

A year ago we prayed for the occupation, and we dared not face the inevitable and terribly tragedy that must certainly ensue if no relief came before winter.

“As soon as a child learns to take its first step do we expect that it will henceforth be able to walk alone without further assistance from parents or nurse?”

Death is ahead, but they face it bravely, and without complaint. They are too proud to solicit charity, and yet they are the very ones who, for the sake of the country, should be saved for future usefulness.

The one thing that prevents Syria from rising unaided to her feet is the fact that there is no possible means by which she can provide employment for all who must work to live. The only hope for the country, therefore, lies in assistance from the outer world. Trade with Europe, America and South America must rehabilitate the depleted finances of this impoverished land.

There are many indications that Syria deserves to be consulted in regard to her destiny.

The curse of Syria has always been the religious fanaticism of her various sects. The increasing nationalistic tendency of to-day is, therefore, by far the most hopeful sign that Syria possesses latent elements of strength, and a spark of that divine fire which, if properly fostered, will fame into national enthusiasm and patriotism.

There is only one topic of conversation in all Syria to-day, and that is the political fate of the country. Moslem, Druze, and all sects of Christians, with but one notable exception, are united in their demand for an undivided Syria under an acceptable mandate.

The choice lies between two nations, England and America.

Syria is only one of the many small nations that has staked her future on America's good faith in abiding by President Wilson's “Fourteen points”, and so great is Syria's confidence in America's loyalty to principle that she is willing to entrust her national existence into our keeping.

There is one arrangement, however, for Syria's future which will never be acceptable to the people, and that is a settlement which will necessitate the division of her territory. Fear of such a contingency has frequently given rise to the rumor that Palestine was to be constituted a separate state under a separate administration, Damascus another, and northwestern Syria (enlarged Lebanon) yet a third. The slogan of the nationalistic party is first and foremost “Syria undivided”. Any refusal of this demand will lead to unrest, and in time to bloodshed, unless the cause of dissatisfaction be removed.

If, on the other hand, Syria's right to self-determination is disregarded, and the nation is forced under an administration that is generally unpopular, it is a foregone conclusion that the most desirable types of Syrian citizens will emigrate to other countries. They have suffered too long under a pernicious system of government to risk remaining in the country under such baneful circumstances. Then indeed is Syria doomed!

The present crying need is a complete reorganization of the administration, and the removal from office of those local officials who served under the Turks. They are, almost without exception, “grafters” and “crooks”. In the day of the Turk, they abused their power and preyed upon the people. To-day the same men, or men of the same spirit, conduct the administration along Turkish lines. Syria needs a political house-cleaning, and she has a right to demand that the power of the country should be entrusted to those who are fit to govern, and not to the worst type of political “boss”.

Does America realize the status of Syria to-day? The Syrians represent the highest type of culture and intelligence in the Arab-speaking world, which comprises one-fifteenth of the population of the globe... They might also be considered the leaven of the Orient.

If Syria turns to America with a prayer for assistance shall we lend a deaf ear? Shall we condemn her to exploitation by unscrupulous Powers who have no interest in her welfare, but who labor only for their own selfish ends? Shall we abandon those glorious “Fourteen Points” at the first test of their sincerity? Or shall we use all our influence to see that Syria gets justice?

Light has come, but is still too early to tell whether the sun will rise clear and fair, or whether it will be veiled in clouds. We are watchers before the dawn in Syria, but we do not yet know whether our day is to be one of sunshine or of storm.”

# AGING POLITICIANS OF LEBANON

## THE OLDEST OF THEM ALL ARE FOUAD BOUTROS AND ABDUL LATIF ZEIN

Generally speaking, the retirement age for employees in both the public and the private sector is 64. For judges, the retirement age is 68 and for officers and members of the military it is 60, depending on their military rank. The law does not establish a mandatory retirement age for the Governor of Banque du Liban or the directors of some companies or state-affiliated institutions. Moreover, there is no set legal retirement age in politics. Even after the expiry of their term of office, most politicians - presidents, ministers and MPs - continue to work in politics, although not in a formal capacity. However, whether their involvement in politics is formal or not, what is most striking about Lebanese politicians is that the majority of them is above the age of 64. According to Tables 1 and 2, the oldest among the politicians who are serving is MP Abdul Latif Zein, who is 85 years old, whereas the oldest among those not holding any political office currently is former Minister Fouad Boutros at 98 years old.

The following tables show that:

- 10 ministers out of 24 in the current government are over 64 years of age. The oldest among them is Minister of Defense Samir Moqbel at 76.
- 50 MPs out of 128 in the current Parliament are over 64 years of age. The oldest among them is Abdul Latif Zein at 85 followed by Dory Chamoun and Michel El-Murr at 84.
- Of those who held former ministerial or legislative positions, there are 79 political figures over the age of 64. Oldest among them is former Minister and MP Fouad Boutros at 98 followed by former Minister and MP Hassan Rifai at 92.

**Ages of Lebanese politicians over 64 years of age still in office**

Table 1

Name	Sect	Date of Birth	Age	Position
<b>Speakers and Prime Ministers</b>				
Nabih Berri	Shia'a	28-1-1938	77	Speaker of Parliament
Tammam Salam	Sunni	20-5-1945	70	Prime Minister- MP
<b>Ministers</b>				
Samir Moqbel	Greek Orthodox	13-11-1939	76	Minister of Defense
Ramzi Jreij	Greek Orthodox	18-8-1940	75	Minister of Information
Rashid Derbas	Sunni	17-6-1941	74	Minister of Social Affairs
Mohammad Mashnouq	Sunni	4-10-1941	74	Minister of Environment
Boutros Harb	Maronite	3-8-1944	71	Minister of Telecoms/ MP

## Ages of Lebanese politicians over 64 years of age still in office

Table 1

Name	Sect	Date of Birth	Age	Position
Alice Shabtini	Maronite	15-3-1946	69	Minister of the Displaced
Akram Chehayeb	Druze	17-10-1947	68	Minister of Agriculture/MP
Ghazi Zeaiter	Shia'a	30-9-1949	66	Minister of Public Works & Transport/MP
Arthur Nazarian	Armenian Orthodox	21-3-1951	64	Minister of Energy & Water/ MP

## MPs

Abdul Latif Zein	Shia'a	1930	85	Former Minister- MP
Dory Chamoun	Maronite	8-11-1931	84	MP
Michel El-Murr	Greek Orthodox	1931	84	Former Minister- MP
Edgard Maalouf	Greek Catholic	21-3-1934	81	Former Minister- MP
Nehmeh Tohmeh	Greek Catholic	1934	81	Former Minister- MP
Michel Aoun	Maronite	18-2-1935	80	Former Prime Minister- MP
Neematallah Abi Nasr	Maronite	1936	79	MP
Badr Wannous	Alawite	5-3-1937	78	MP
Antoine Saad	Greek Orthodox	5-12-1937	78	MP
Assem Qansso	Shia'a	1937	78	Former Minister- MP
Anwar Khalil	Druze	1938	77	Former Minister- MP
Marwan Hamadeh	Druze	11-9-1939	76	Former Minister- MP
Gilbert Zouein	Maronite	21-12-1939	76	MP
Elie Aoun	Maronite	1939	76	MP
Nicolas Ghosn	Greek Orthodox	18-6-1940	75	MP
Fouad Saad	Maronite	3-4-1941	74	Former Minister- MP
Mohamad Qabbani	Sunni	27-2-1941	73	MP
Robert Ghanem	Maronite	18-6-1942	73	Former Minister- MP
Naji Gharios	Maronite	21-6-1942	73	MP
Issam Sawaya	Greek Catholic	21-11-1942	73	MP

Ages of Lebanese politicians over 64 years of age still in office

Table 1

Name	Sect	Date of Birth	Age	Position
Fouad Seniora	Sunni	19-7-1943	72	Former Prime Minister- MP
Nicolas Fattoush	Greek Catholic	19-10-1943	72	Former Minister- MP
Mohammad Safadi	Sunni	28-3-1944	71	Former Minister- MP
Samir El-Jisr	Sunni	10-6-1944	71	Former Minister- MP
Ahmad Karami	Sunni	28-8-1944	71	Former Minister- MP
Mohammad Kabbara	Sunni	18-10-1944	71	MP
Salim Salhab	Maronite	13-11-1945	70	MP
Salim Karam	Maronite	21-5-1946	69	MP
Ali Ousseiran	Shia'a	6-8-1947	68	Former Minister- MP
George Adwan	Maronite	15-9-1947	68	MP
Farid Makari	Greek Orthodox	10-11-1947	68	Former Minister- MP
Youssef Khalil	Maronite	18-11-1947	68	MP
Marwan Fares	Greek Catholic	1947	68	MP
Atef Majdalani	Greek Orthodox	23-3-1948	67	MP
Abdul Majid Saleh	Shia'a	2-7-1948	67	MP
Walid Sukkarieh	Sunni	16-9-1948	67	MP
Kamel Al-Rifai	Sunni	1948	67	MP
Walid Jumblat	Druze	7-8-1949	66	Former Minister- MP
Michel Moussa	Greek Catholic	19-9-1949	66	Former Minister- MP
Riad Rahhal	Greek Orthodox	5-1-1950	65	MP
Nabil Nicolas	Maronite	14-9-1950	65	MP
Yassine Jaber	Shia'a	5-1-1951	64	Former Minister- MP
Qassem Abdul Aziz	Sunni	8-5-1951	64	MP
Asaad Hardan	Greek Orthodox	31-7-1951	64	Former Minister- MP

Ages of Lebanese politicians over 64 years of age who do not hold official positions

Table 2

Name	Sect	Date of Birth	Age	Position
<b>Former Presidents, Speakers and Prime Ministers</b>				
Salim El-Hoss	Sunni	20-12-1929	86	Former PM
Emile Lahoud	Maronite	12-1-1936	79	Former President of the Republic
Hussein El-Husseini	Shia'a	15-4-1937	78	Former Speaker of Parliament
Amine Gemayel	Maronite	1-7-1941	74	Former President of the Republic
Michel Suleiman	Maronite	21-11-1948	67	Former President of the Republic
<b>Former Ministers and MPs</b>				
Fouad Boutros	Greek Orthodox	1917	98	Former Minister and MP
Hassan Rifai	Sunni	23-8-1923	92	Former Minister and MP
Ali Eid	Alawite	1925	90	Former MP
Michel Khoury	Maronite	24-11-1926	89	Former Minister and Governor of Banque du Liban
Abdul Maji Rafei	Sunni	11-4-1927	88	Former MP
Mikhael Daher	Maronite	15-8-1928	87	Former Minister and MP
Pierre Dakash	Maronite	11-12-1928	87	Former MP
Said al-Asaad	Shia'a	1928	87	Former MP
Michel Eddeh	Maronite	1928	87	Former Minister
Bahij Tabbara	Sunni	10-7-1929	86	Former Minister and MP
Elie Salem	Greek Orthodox	5-3-1930	85	Former Minister
Adnan al-Qassar	Sunni	1930	85	Former Minister
Mohsen Dalloul	Shia'a	1930	85	Former Minister and MP
Michel Maalouli	Greek Orthodox	9-4-1931	84	Former MP
Mohammad Youssef Baydoun	Shia'a	20-5-1931	84	Former Minister and MP
Sayed Akl	Maronite	1931	84	Former MP
Habib Sadeq	Shia'a	1931	84	Former MP
Raymond Awdeh	Greek Catholic	6-11-1932	83	Former Minister
Elias Saba	Greek Orthodox	1932	83	Former Minister and MP
Sami el-Khatib	Sunni	10-12-1933	82	Former Minister and MP
Edmont Rizk	Maronite	11-3-1934	81	Former Minister and MP

Ages of Lebanese politicians over 64 years of age who do not hold official positions

Table 2

Name	Sect	Date of Birth	Age	Position
Gebran Tawq	Maronite	16-3-1934	81	Former MP
Hussein Yatim	Sunni	28-11-1934	81	Former MP
Omar Mesqawi	Sunni	15-1-1935	80	Former Minister and MP
Charles Rizk	Maronite	20-7-1935	80	Former Minister
Issam Fares	Greek Orthodox	17-8-1935	80	Former Deputy Speaker and MP
Issam Abou Jamra	Greek Catholic	6-2-1937	78	Former Minister
Mahmoud Tebbo	Sunni	8-2-1937	78	Former MP
Fawzi Hobeish	Maronite	13-5-1937	78	Former Minister and MP
Ghassan Achkar	Maronite	10-8-1937	78	Former MP
Mirna Emile Boustany	Maronite	20-12-1937	78	First woman MP in 1963
Joseph el-Hachem	Maronite	1937	78	Former Minister
Issam Naaman	Druze	1937	78	Former Minister and MP
Jean Oubeid	Maronite	8-5-1938	77	Former Minister and MP
Albert Mansour	Greek Catholic	19-5-1939	76	Former Minister and MP
Samir Azar	Maronite	10-10-1939	76	Former MP
Zaher el-Khatib	Sunni	25-2-1940	75	Former Minister and MP
George Qorm	Maronite	15-6-1940	75	Former Minister
Nayla Mouawwad	Maronite	3-7-1940	75	Former Minister and MP
Zouheir al-Oubeidy	Sunni	25-10-1940	75	Former MP
Adnan Addoum	Sunni	10-1-1941	74	Former Minister
Naji Boustany	Maronite	1941	74	Former Minister
Abdul Rahim Mrad	Sunni	17-10-1942	73	Former Minister and MP
Ghassan Matar	Maronite	1942	73	Former MP
Kamil Ziadeh	Maronite	20-3-1943	72	Former MP
Al-Fadl Chalak	Sunni	1943	72	Former Minister
Maurice Sehnaoui	Greek Catholic	1943	72	Former Minister
Karim Baqradoni	Greek Orthodox	18-8-1944	71	Former Minister
Khaled Qabbani	Sunni	15-2-1945	70	Former Minister

Ages of Lebanese politicians over 64 years of age who do not hold official positions

Table 2

Name	Sect	Date of Birth	Age	Position
Wajih el-Baarini	Sunni	5-6-1945	70	Former MP
Samir Frangieh	Maronite	4-12-1945	70	Former MP
Bechara Merhej	Greek Orthodox	4-3-1946	69	Former Minister and MP
Najah Wakim	Greek Orthodox	9-3-1946	69	Former MP
Nathem el-Khoury	Maronite	18-3-1946	69	Former Minister and MP
Talal Mere'ebi	Sunni	1-12-1946	69	Former Minister and MP
Elias Atallah	Maronite	15-5-1947	68	Former MP
Layla Solh Hamadeh	Sunni	25-9-1947	68	Former Minister
Salim Diab	Sunni	7-12-1947	68	Former MP
Ali Qansso	Shia'a	1947	68	Former Minister
Elias Skaff	Greek Catholic	1-10-1948	67	Former Minister and MP
Khalil Hrawi	Maronite	18-3-1948	67	Former Minister and MP
Michel Samaha	Greek Catholic	1948	67	Former Minister and MP
Joseph Sarkis	Maronite	8-1-1949	66	Former Minister
Solanje Gemayel	Maronite	19-3-1949	66	Former MP
Fayez Ghosn	Greek Orthodox	28-6-1950	66	Former Minister and MP
Faisal Daoud	Druze	9-8-1949	66	Former MP
Eli el-Ferzli	Greek Orthodox	22-11-1949	66	Former Minister and MP
Salim Saadeh	Greek Orthodox	25-11-1949	66	Former MP
Emile Nawfal	Maronite	14-12-1949	66	Former MP
Ibrahim Amine Sayyed	Shia'a	8-3-1950	65	Former MP
Ayman Choukeir	Druze	26-3-1950	65	Former MP
Antoine Andraous	Greek Orthodox	22-5-1950	65	Former MP
Ghassan Salameh	Greek Catholic	18-5-1951	64	Former Minister
Bassem Sabe'e	Shia'a	2-11-1951	64	Former Minister and MP

Sources: In cases where there was a contradiction between the ages reported by the different sources we used, we resorted to voter lists to resolve the contradiction. The sources included:

- Minutes of meetings of Parliament upon the holding of new parliamentary elections and the release of a list containing the names and ages of successful MPs by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.
- The Lebanese Ministerial Dictionary- Biography and References of Lebanon's Ministers 1992-2008 by Adnan Daher and Dr. Riad Ghannam.
- The Lebanese Parliamentary Dictionary by Adnan Daher and Dr. Riad Ghannam.

# STATE EMPLOYMENT IN 2014:

## 69% MUSLIMS VS. 31% CHRISTIANS AND NARROWING DIAPSRITIES IN HIGHER GRADES

Complaints from Christians have abounded in recent years over the increase in the numbers of Muslim employees in the public sector against the clear decline in those of Christians. Christians caution that this disparity could jeopardize the presence and the role of the Christian population in Lebanon, predicating their grievances not on delusive frustrations but on factual evidence represented by the number of employees appointed to public posts below Grade 1. These appointments attest clearly to the numerical superiority of Muslim employees in public service jobs and the year 2014 is one example illustrating this reality. However, it is noteworthy that there is a counter reality tied primarily to demographic factors and secondly to the unwillingness of some Christians to work in the lowest echelon of the military.

### Grade 1 Posts

According to Article 95 of the Lebanese Constitution, the principle of sectarian representation in public service jobs shall be cancelled except for Grade 1 posts and their equivalents which will be distributed equally between Muslims and Christians without reserving any particular job for any sectarian group. While equality is being respected in this grade, the commitment not to assign specific posts for specific sects is not. The BDL Governor position for instance is reserved for the Maronites and so are the positions of Army Commander and Director General of Finance. On the other hand, the post of the Internal Security Forces Director General is reserved for the Sunni and those of the General Security Director General and the Lebanese University President for the Shia'a. This has led some sects to perceive themselves as disadvantaged because, although all the said posts are within the same grade, some of them have a much more powerful standing.

### Employment in 2014

In 2014, 24 employees were hired in public service jobs in the state's administrations including 70 Christian employees, accounting for 31% of the total. The remaining 69% were Muslims as illustrated in Table 1. In addition, 1223 university professors were employed, of which the Christians accounted for 48% and the Muslims for 51%.

State employment by sect and administration in 2014		Table 1
Decree No.	Date	Post- Number of Appointees and Sectarian Distribution
11701	20-1-2014	<p>- Clerk in the Judicial Assistants Personnel at the Ministry of Justice. Clerks are in Grade 4/ Class 2/ Step 1</p> <p><b>87 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 30% (26)</li> <li>● Muslims: 70% (61)</li> </ul> <p>- Law officer in the Judicial Assistants Personnel at the Ministry of Justice. Law officers are in Grade 4/ Class 2/ Step 1</p> <p><b>18 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 11% (2)</li> <li>● Muslims: 89% (16)</li> </ul>

State employment by sect and administration in 2014

Table 1

Decree No.	Date	Post- Number of Appointees and Sectarian Distribution
11702	20-1-2014	<p>- Assistant Controller at the Customs- Ministry of Finance</p> <p><b>6 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 17% (1)</li> <li>● Muslims: 83% (5)</li> </ul> <p>- Experienced Assistant Controller at the Customs- Ministry of Finance</p> <p><b>57 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 35% (20)</li> <li>● Muslims: 65% (37)</li> </ul>
11950	23-5-2014	<p>- Appointment of passing candidates to Grade 2 and Grade 3 posts in the Administration of Central Statistics personnel</p> <p><b>Grade 3/ Class 2: 7 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 28.5% (2)</li> <li>● Muslims: 71.5% (5)</li> </ul> <p><b>Grade 4/ Class 2: 15 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 7% (1)</li> <li>● Muslims: 93% (14)</li> </ul>
1140	18-2-2014	<p>- Appointment of translators to a number of administrations- Grade 3/Step 1</p> <p><b>6 employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 83% (5)</li> <li>● Muslims: 17% (1)</li> </ul>
11280 and 11369	14-4-2014  25-4-2014	<p>- Appointment of newly graduated judges and their enrollment in the judicial studies institute</p> <p><b>28 newly appointed judges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 46% (13)</li> <li>● Muslims: 54% (15)</li> </ul>
Grand Total	—	<p><b>224 posts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians: 31% (70)</li> <li>● Muslims: 69% (154)</li> </ul>

Source: Official Gazette

## 45 VACANCIES ON BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

**Vacuum in the Presidency of the Republic since the expiry of President Michel Suleiman's term on May 25, 2014; a two-stage extension of the legislature's term by four years until June 2017; vacant Grade 1 posts in a number of public administrations and institutions and high vacancy rates in most of the Boards of Directors of public institutions, which continually fail to make alternative appointments.**

### Public Institutions

Decree no. 4517 issued on 12/13/1972 (General Regulation of Public Institutions) defines public institutions as 'institutions that handle a public facility. They have a moral character and enjoy financial and administrative autonomy. Public institutions are established, merged or abolished pursuant to a decree issued in the Cabinet. This decree determines the type, purpose and mission of the said institutions as well as their scope of work and the technical, administrative and financial instruments they need to operate. It also affiliates them, according to the nature of their work, with the relevant ministry, which exercises administrative custody over them. Some institutions are linked with the Prime Minister's Office; others are linked with the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Public Health or the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.'

### Management of Public Institutions

Public institutions are run by:

- A decisive authority vested in a board of directors appointed pursuant to a decree issued in the Cabinet upon the proposal of the custodial authority, after obtaining the opinion of the Civil Service Board. The board of directors consists of three to seven members including a chairman and a vice chairman and serves for three years, a term that may be renewed or extended.
- An executive authority headed by a Director General or a director appointed in the Cabinet. In some cases, the chairman of the board can also be the Director General. Except in particular cases where the chairman may work on a full-time basis, the chairman and the members of the board are not usually full-timers and are not paid monthly salaries; rather, they are indemnified for attending meetings.

The decree on public institutions stipulates that, at least two months prior to the expiry of the term of the board, the custodial authority must file a proposal to the Cabinet in order to form a new board of directors, provided that the outgoing board continues to operate until the new successor is appointed (Article 6). Accordingly, the members of 45 boards of directors continue in their positions, although their term has expired long ago, only because the government has not appointed any replacements to take over, as illustrated in Table 1.

Board of Directors with expired terms to which no successor has been appointed				Table 1
Board of Directors	No. of Members	Term of Office (years)	Current Situation	Indemnities per session
Board of Electricité du Liban	6 in addition to the Chairman/ Director General	3	Kamal Hayek was re-appointed Chairman and Director General on May 22, 2014. The term of members expired in 2006.	Chairman: LBP 300,000 Member: LBP 200,000 (5 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the National Institute of Administration	6 including the Chairman and the Vice Chairman	3	The term of members expired in 2004. On May 22, Jerjes Labaki was appointed Chairman with a monthly salary totaling LBP 6 million.	Member: LBP 100,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)

Board of Directors with expired terms to which no successor has been appointed

Table 1

Board of Directors	No. of Members	Term of Office (years)	Current Situation	Indemnities per session
Board of the Lebanese Petroleum administration	6	6 years extendable only once	13/12/2012	–
Board of the Lebanese Standard Institution	6 in addition to the Chairman	3	Appointed on 11/2/2013	–
Board of the Railway and Public Transport Authority	7	3	The term of members has expired and Ziad Nasr was appointed Chairman on January 2012.	Chairman: LBP 120,000 Member: LBP 80,000
Banque de l'Habitat board of directors	2 representing the State	–	–	–
Board of the National Audio Visual Council	10	3	The term has expired in 2008	–
Board of the Council for the South	–	–	–	–
Board of the Litani National Authority	7	3	The term has expired	Chairman: LBP 150,000 Member: LBP 80,000
Board of the State Employees' Cooperative	9	3	The term has expired	–
Board of the Tripoli Port Authority	7 including the Chairman	3	The term has expired	Chairman: LBP 60,000 Member: LBP 40,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)
Tele Liban Board of Directors	6 including the Chairman/Director General	3	The term has expired	–
Board of the Council for Development and Reconstruction	8 including 4 full-timers for 5 years and 4 part-timers for 3 years	–	The term has expired	Chairman: LBP 12,500,000 Member: LBP 9,500,000 Part-time member: LBP 2,800,000
Board of the National Council for Scientific Research	15	6	–	Chairman: LBP 150,000 Member: LBP 100,000 (60 annual sessions maximum)
Board of the Lebanese Accreditation Council	10	3	The term expired in 2009	–
Board of the Central Fund for the Displaced	8	3	The term has expired and only a new Chairman has been appointed	Chairman: LBP 400,000 Member: LBP 300,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the Economic and Social Council	Members representing economic committees	–	The term has expired	–
Cite Sportive Board of Directors	8 including the Chairman and the Vice Chairman	3	The term expired in 2006	Chairman: LBP 60,000 Member: LBP 40,000 (2 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the National Archives Center	7 including the Chairman	3	The term has expired	Chairman: LBP 60,000 Member: LBP 40,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the Housing Institute	5	3	The term has expired and a new Director General was appointed in 2014	Chairman: LBP 400,000 Member: LBP 300,000 (5 monthly sessions maximum)

Board of Directors with expired terms to which no successor has been appointed

Table 1

Board of Directors	No. of Members	Term of Office (years)	Current Situation	Indemnities per session
IDAL's Board of Directors	7 including the Chairman	4	The term has expired	Chairman: LBP 120,000 Member: LBP 80,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the National Institution for the Guarantee of Deposits	3 representing the State	3	The term has expired	Chairman: LBP 120,000 Member: LBP 80,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the Authority of Scientific Agricultural Research	6	3	The term has expired	–
Board of the National Employment Institution	13	3	The term has expired and Jean Abi Fadel was appointed Director General in 2014	Chairman: LBP 120,000 Member: LBP 80,000 (4 monthly sessions maximum)
Board of the Port of Tyre	6 including the Chairman	3	The term expired in 2005	–
Board of the Port of Saida	6 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Baabda's Governmental Hospital	9 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Rashaya's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Sir Donnieh's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Jezzine's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Saksakieh's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Nabatieh's Governmental Hospital	4 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Qartaba's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Zahle's Governmental Hospital	5 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Halba's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Dahr el-Basheq's Governmental Hospital	5 including the Chairman	3	–	–
Board of Sarafand's Governmental Hospital	–	–	–	–
Board of Hasbaya's Governmental Hospital	A Chairman and a member	3	–	–
Board of Batroun's Governmental Hospital	–	3	–	–
Board of Ehdén's Governmental Hospital	3 including the Chairman	3	–	–

Source: Official Gazette

# WHEN WILL MPS ATTEND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SESSION?

Twenty two parliamentary sessions have been held since the presidential seat fell vacant on May 25, 2014, none of which has resulted in the election of a new president. Politicians and religious scholars are urging MPs to head to Parliament and not to leave until a president is elected. Although calls to elect a new president come from prominent political and religious authorities with an established record in politics, they can be deemed as ‘ridiculous’: for it is no secret, based on the twelve presidential elections between independence and the most recent election in 2008, that MPs head to Parliament only to approve of whoever had already obtained regional and international consensus as a fit presidential candidate. They, in fact, have little if any part to play in the process and all they do is act upon the international will and grant it constitutional rank. Subsequently, and since little has changed over the decades, MPs will most likely decline to head to Parliament before agreement is reached over the identity of the president. Urging them today to play a new role, which should have been at the center of their duties earlier on, is not likely to pay off. In fact, the present presidential vacuum, although long overdue for a solution, is not the first of its kind in Lebanon’s political history and will not be the last if the crisis of our political system is to continue. The first vacuum to ever occur in the presidency of the republic dates back to 1988 after the expiration of President Amine Gemayel’s term of office and the second was in 2007 after the expiration of President Emile Lahoud’s term.

Below are the facts of the Lebanese presidential elections, which prove that MPs only ‘ratify’ an already agreed upon name, a reality evidenced by:

- The lack of real competition
- Advance knowledge of the name of the winner who is usually the sole candidate, before the voting session (except the session that resulted in the election of Frangieh)
- The large number of votes (usually indicating consensus) obtained by the candidate

## Former Elections

- **President Bechara Khoury** is the president under whom Lebanon obtained independence. He was elected to the presidency backed by Britain. He obtained 44 votes out of 55 in the voting session held on September 21, 1943. There were three blank ballots and the eight MPs supporting the rival candidate Émile Eddé absented themselves from the session.

- **President Camille Chamoun:** He was elected as a result of a Syrian-British agreement (Syrian President Adib Shishakli) which materialized on September 23, 1952 when MPs convened and voted him President. Chamoun obtained 74 votes out of 77. There was one blank ballot and another holding the name of Abdullah Haj. One MP was absent.

- **President Fouad Chehab:** He was elected following agreement between Egypt and the US. MPs attended Parliament’s voting session on July 31, 1958 and elected Army Commander Fouad Chehab President of the Lebanese Republic. Chehab obtained 48 votes against seven for his rival Raymond Éddé and one blank ballot. The MPs supporting President Camille Chamoun were 10 in total and did not attend the session. Parliament consisted of 66 seats at that time.

- **President Charles Helou:** he also came to presidency thanks to an Egypt-US agreement. In order to complete the direction of the play, MPs gave him a majority of 92 votes out of 99 on August 18, 1964. His rival Pierre Gemayel obtained five votes in addition to two blank votes.

- **President Suleiman Frangieh:** the presidential competition was too fierce between the two candidates Suleiman Frangieh and Elias Sarkis and contrary to the usual trend, the results were not known beforehand. Supporters of each candidate attended the session confident that victory would be theirs, with the balance tilting slightly in favor of Elias Sarkis. The voting session was held on August 17, 1970 and ended with the victory of Frangieh by 50 votes to 49 in the second round. Some believe that the shift in Egypt’s position,

which was backing the Chehabi candidate Elias Sarkis, did not arise on the spur of the moment. In fact, this shift dates back to 1969 when the Lebanese Intelligence foiled a Russian KGB operation that aimed to recruit pilot Mahmoud Matar to steal a Mirage Airplane from Lebanon to Russia, which was a close ally to Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser.

- **President Elias Sarkis:** he won after receiving support from the regime in Syria, which extended its authority over large areas of the Lebanese territory in the face of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Sarkis was voted President in the second round of the voting session held on May 8, 1976, when he obtained 66 votes while three were found to be blank.

- **President Bashir Gemayel:** he made it to the presidency backed by Israel, which had invaded Lebanon in June 1982. Gemayel was voted President in the second round of the voting session held on August 23, 1982, when he obtained 57 votes against three blank votes.

- **President Amine Gemayel:** he became President thanks to Israeli support after the assassination of his brother Bashir Gemayel. Amine Gemayel amassed 77 votes in the election session held on September 21, 1982. Blank votes totaled three.

- **President Rene Moawad:** he was elected as a result of the Saudi-Syrian-Iranian agreement, which yielded the Taef Accord. MPs headed to the Qoulaya'at military airfield north of Lebanon on November 5, 1989 and voted him President during the second round after he received 52 votes against six blank votes.

- **President Elias Hrawi:** he was elected President by Syria's will and obtained 47 votes during the second round of the voting session held at Park Hotel, Chtoura, on November 24, 1989.

- **President Émile Lahoud:** he was also elected President in conformity with the Syrian will. The Parliament's session held on October 15, 1998 resulted in the election of Army Commander General Émile Lahoud as President of the Lebanese Republic in the presence of 118 MPs who all voted in his favor. The remaining 10 MPs who belonged to Walid Jumblatt's bloc did not attend the voting session. Article 49 of the Constitution was amended prior to the election.



- **President Michel Suleiman:** he was elected President as a result of an agreement forged between Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iran and Egypt following meetings held in Qatari capital, Doha. MPs headed to Parliament on Sunday May 25, 2008 and cast 118 votes in favor of Army Commander General Michel Suleiman.

### Avoidance of Presidential Vacuum in the Future

The Lebanese might wait for a long time before seeing a new Head for their State because the decision does not lie in their hands (President is not elected by the people) nor in the hands of their representatives in Parliament who still await regional and international consensus so they can be guided into the voting session. Major modifications can be made to avoid presidential vacuum in the future, all of which necessitate a consensus:

- Direct election of the President by the people provided that the right to candidacy is limited to the Maronite community. This can be preceded by a first round whereby Maronite voters elect three potential candidates for the Lebanese to decide later on one.
- Submission of official candidacies accompanied by the required documentation to Parliament.
- Considering Parliament to be dissolved if it fails to fill the vacant presidential seat within a six-month period. This punitive measure may serve as a lesson urging MPs to live up to their responsibilities instead of lying in wait for foreign and external inspiration. ●

# VICTIMS OF GUNFIRE ON OCCASIONS OF JOY OR SORROW

The habit of firing bullets into the air as a form of celebration or manifestation of some kind of upset is an ancestral Lebanese habit that has escalated over the past few decades due to the spread of weapons and the declining power of the State. On both small and big occasions, after a television appearance of a political icon, in celebration of the success of a child or a grandchild, upon returning home after a long travel, after recovery from illness or surgery, at the funerals of the elderly or the young, across all regions and sects, shooting gunfire into the air from pistols or machineguns has become a standard means to display feelings of joy or distress. Some have even taken it as far as firing shells on such occasions.

Alas, this indiscreet gunfire has often led to the loss of lives and limbs and structural damage. In most cases, the perpetrators have gone unpunished and prove to be above the law and accountability.

What is the legal punishment for this practice and how many victims have fallen so far in similar incidents?

According to Article 75 of Legislative Decree no. 137/59 (Weapons and Ammunitions Law):

- He who shoots a firearm, licensed or unlicensed, into the air in populous areas or amidst a crowd of people shall be imprisoned from six months to three years or shall be fined LBP 500 to LBP 1000 or both.
- In no case shall the punishment be reduced below the sentence stipulated in the above article.

## Occasions of Gunfire

Foremost among the occasions marked by aerial gunfire:

- Televised speeches of Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Commitment to abstain from shooting into the air had not been reached until at the end of 2014.
- Televised speeches of former PM Saad Hariri.
- Funerals of the victims who have died in local clashes or battles.
- Muslim and Christian holidays, particularly on New Year.

6 people died and another 42 were injured in stray bullets between 2008 and 2014

Number of victims from gunfire between 2008 and 2014					Table 1
No. of Dead	No. of Injured	Date	Place	Occasion	
1	-	April 2008	Chiyyah	In celebration of former PM Fouad Seniora's appearance	
1	8	July 2012	Tripoli	In celebration of the explosion targeting a military post in Damascus	
-	4	February 2014	Tripoli	In celebration of Ashraf Rifi's appointment as Minister of Justice	
1	-	April 2014	Saida	Wedding celebrations	
-	9	August 2014	Beirut	In celebration of Speaker Nabih Berri's appearance	
-	4	August 2014	Beirut	In celebration of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's appearance	

Source: Local newspapers

# PORT OF BEIRUT

## PUBLIC SECTOR RUN BY A PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR 25 YEARS

The Port of Beirut boasts a strategic location on the Mediterranean coast, serving as a hub between several international sea lanes. It provides services not only for Lebanon but for many countries in the region, such as Syria, Iraq and Jordan. Yet, this vibrant and vital public facility suffers from several crises that result in the squandering of public funds and prevent the State from reaping large profits from the port.



Port of Beirut

### Establishment and Management

The port was officially inaugurated in late 1894. It was run at the time by a French company, ‘Compagnie du Port, des Quais et des Entrepôts de Beyrouth’, under a concession granted by the Ottoman authorities. It was not until in 1960 that the concession was withdrawn from the French company and ceded to a Lebanese company under the name ‘Compagnie de Gestion et d’Exploitation du Port de Beyrouth.’ Headed by Henry Feraoun, the company improved the port and transformed it into a bustling regional hub, a role that was largely undermined by the Civil War.

The concession expired at the end of 1990 and since then, the port has been managed by a temporary committee that was formed by the government until an alternative was found. However, until now, no alternative has been found and what started off as a temporary solution has turned into a permanent one.

### Temporary Committee managing the Port of Beirut

Upon expiration of the concession and the hand-over of the port to the state, the government formed a committee tasked with the management of the facility

on a temporary basis. However, having operated for such a long time, the committee has assumed more or less a permanent character than a short-lived one. Surprisingly though, it still lacks an institutionalized framework and does not fall under any supervision by the Audit Court or the Ministry of Finance although it manages a public facility and spends public funds exceeding USD 250 million annually.

Since the delivery of the port to the state, three temporary committees have been formed, the last of which is the current 7-member committee which came about in 2002 and has since been in charge of spending the funds it collects. The committee specifies the needed works and awards the corresponding contracts away from supervision. Despite the increase in the port's revenues, the mismanagement of the Port Authority has resulted in declining state revenues. In 2013, only LBP 30 billion were transferred by the Port Authority to the Lebanese Treasury. The transfers amounted to 'zero' in 2012 and LBP 48 billion in 2011, meaning that the state's share of the port's revenues is below 10%.

#### Basin 4

Considerable controversy has recently arisen over a plan by the Port Authority to contract out the filling of the fourth basin at the Port of Beirut to a private company at USD 130 million. This plan has caused all the more uproar because it was approved by the Minister of Public Works and Transport without referring the matter to the Cabinet or the Audit Court since the Authority is not subject to their control. Opponents of the project believe that:

- The port that the State had paid exorbitant amounts to build will sustain damages resulting from the filling of Basin 4.
- Basin 4 was established in 1996 pursuant to Decree no. 9040 and therefore it may not be filled except by a counter decree, not by a decision issued by the Port Authority's committee.
- Awarding a contract worth USD 130 million without monitoring or a tender process will, according to some estimates, result in squandering roughly USD 40 million to USD 50 million.
- The filling of Basin 4 will reportedly lead to a decline in the traffic of vessels carrying commodities (not containers) such as cars, iron and cattle. This allegation was denied by the Port Authority.
- The Port Authority may expand onto the territory surrounding the port at a lower cost than that of filling of the basin.

#### Port of Beirut in Figures

The Port of Beirut has a total area of 1.2 million square meters. It consists of four basins each covering 660,000 square meters and is 20 to 24 meters in depth.

These basins accommodate 16 quays that are 5155 meters long in total but not all of them are in use. Their current condition is as follows:

- Quays 1 and 2 are used by the Lebanese Army as a maritime base.
- Quays 3, 4 and 5 are subject to reparation. One of them is used for travel and tourism purposes.
- Quay 6 is 310 meters in length and 11 meters in depth.
- Quay 7 is 300 meters in length and 11 meters in depth.
- Quay 8 is 220 meters in length and is assigned to imported wheat. It has wheat silos used to store imported wheat before selling it to the mills. Silos can accommodate 145 tons of wheat and consist of 48 large containers each with a 2500 ton capacity and 50 small ones each with a 500 ton capacity.
- Quay 9 is 450 meters long and 10 meter deep and is designed for multiple purposes.
- Quay 10 is 379 meters long and 10 meters deep and is designed for multiple purposes.
- Quay 11 is 300 meters long and 12 meters deep and is generally assigned for hardware.
- Quay 12 is 330 meters long and 12 meters deep and is generally assigned for cattle.
- Quay 13 is 340 meters long and 11 meters deep and is designed for multiple purposes.
- Quay 14 is 450 meters long and 11 meters deep.
- Quay 15 is 205 meters long and 11 meters deep and is designed for multiple purposes.
- Quay 16 is 60 meters long and 15.5 meters deep and is designed for multiple purposes.

The Beirut Container Terminal Consortium company is responsible for operating quays 12 to 16.

Roughly 70% of trading between Lebanon and the world occurs through the Port of Beirut. An average of 170 vessels dock in the port on a monthly basis unloading roughly 700,000 tons and shipping roughly 70,000 tons. Average container traffic totals 23,000 every month. ●

# THE WOMEN OF LEBANON IN STATISTICS:

## 50% OF THE POPULATION, 25% OF THE LABOR FORCE AND 3% OF POLITICIANS

**Females in Lebanon account for half of the population. However, their role in the varied spheres of life and work is relatively modest compared to their numbers, which leads feminist associations to claim their rights and mobilize efforts to assign women a defined quota in public jobs, parliamentary elections and political posts.**

### Number of Females

Those Lebanese holding the Lebanese nationality totaled 5,135,338 in early 2015, divided equally between males and females.

- 2,564,372 females or 50%
- 2,570,966 females or 50%

The average annual number of births over the past five years (2010-2014) was 100,045 distributed as follows:

- 48,930 female births or 49%
- 51,115 male births or 51%

Contrary to common belief, the number of female births is slightly lower than that of male births.

The average annual number of deaths amounted to 24,968 over the past five years. They were distributed as follows:

- 11,363 female deaths or 45.5%
- 13,605 male deaths or 54.5%

According to these numbers, the Lebanese population increases annually by 75,077 people; 37,567 or 50% of whom are females and 37,510 or 50% are males.

### Females in Schools

Students in pre-university education totaled 975,695 in the scholarly year 2012-2013. Among those, 488,659 were females accounting for roughly 50% of the student population. By type of school, females accounted for 53.3% of the student population in public schools, 48% in free private schools and 48.5% in fee-paying private schools.

### Females in Universities

Females made up 54.4% of university students in the scholarly year 2012-2013, totaling 104,213 out of 191,788 students in higher education. This distribution varied by university. In the Lebanese University, female students constituted 66% of the total student population. This percentage drops down to 42.8% in Beirut Arab University and 38% in Notre Dame University. In the American University of Beirut, females accounted for 50.6% of the students, whereas they constituted 63.2% in the Université Saint Joseph.

**“The participation of females in the labor market is still modest with women making up no more than 25% of the total labor force or 235,000 female employees out of an estimated 1,300,000 in total”**

University graduates totaled 32,070, of whom 57.6% were females. Of the Lebanese university graduates alone, 71% were female. In the American University of Beirut and the Université Saint Joseph, females accounted for 51% and 67% respectively.

### Females in the Labor Market

The participation of females in the labor market is still modest with women making up no more than 25% of the total labor force or 235,000 female employees out of an estimated 1,300,000 in total. This percentage has increased in recent years from 13% in 1970 and varies from one profession to another as follows:

**Teaching:** this profession has the largest portion of female workers. In 2013, female teachers totaled 72,380 accounting for 76.6% of the total number of teachers in pre-university education. This percentage increased from 71% in 2003 when the number of female teachers was 59,860.

In higher education, the number of female teachers amounted to 7,607 accounting for 37.8% of the total teaching force, up from 28.8% or 3,226 teachers in 2003.

### Females in the Banking Sector

The percentage of women working in the banking industry has been increasing by the year and reached 45.9% in 2013 or 10,630 women out of 23,136 workers in total. In 1996, the percentage of female bank workers stood at 39% and increased to 42.7% in 2002. This upward curve signals that women will most likely constitute the majority of the banking employees in future.

### Industrial Sector

In the absence of accurate data on the number of workers in the industrial sector, it is estimated that women make up 15% of the total industrial workforce.

### Agricultural Sector

In the agricultural sector, women account for roughly 35% of the total agricultural workforce, a large part of which is family labor.

### Engineers

Of the engineers registered with the Orders of Engineers in Beirut and Tripoli, females make up only 11%.

### Physicians

Female physicians account currently for 27% of the total physicians of Lebanon, up from 12% in 1973.

### Pharmacists

The number of females employed in pharmaceutical jobs has increased in recent years reaching 39% of the total labor force in the industry.

### Lawyers

The percentage of female lawyers has been slightly

increasing at the Bar Associations of Beirut and Tripoli, reaching 28% in 2013 up from 23% in 2003. It is noteworthy that lawyers in both bars totaled roughly 8,900.

### Judiciary

The judiciary is one of the sectors that has seen a significant increase in the rates of female participation. From limited numbers in the past few decades, women have grown in recent years to make up 36% of the judiciary.

### Grade 1 Posts

Currently, women employed in Grade 1 positions total 18 out of 160, i.e. roughly 11.2% (See Table 1).

**“Women in Lebanon still have a long way to go in politics and their presence has been too limited in scope. Since independence, only 10 women were able to gain seats in Parliament”**

### Politics

Women in Lebanon still have a long way to go in politics and their presence has been too limited in scope. Since independence, only 10 women were able to gain seats in Parliament and some of them were able to do so only because they were married to or were daughters of, politicians. The first woman to ever become a Member of Parliament is Mirna Boustany who succeeded her father in 1963 and was not assigned any ministerial post until after 40 years from entering Parliament. Only seven women have been appointed ministers in modern history of Lebanon.

The present government (2015) has room for only one female minister out of 24, which accounts for 4.1% of the Cabinet. In Parliament though, there are four women out of 128 MPs or roughly 3.1%.

**The seven women who assumed ministerial portfolios are:**

- Omar Karami's government under President Emile Lahoud in 2004 and 2005:

- Layla Solh Hamadeh (Sunni): Minister of Industry
- Wafaa Dikah Hamze (Shia'a): Minister of State

- Fouad Seniora's government under President Emile Lahoud between 2005 and 2008:

- Nayla Mouawad (Maronite): Minister of Social Affairs

- Fouad Seniora's government under President Michel Suleiman between 2008 and 2011:

- Bahiya Hariri (Sunni): Minister of Education and Higher Education

- Saad Hariri's government under President Michel Suleiman between 2009 and 2011:

- Rayya Haffar (Sunni): Minister of Finance
- Mona Oufeish (Greek Orthodox): Minister of State

**Females who made it to Parliament are:**

- Mirna Boustany (Maronite): she won a seat in the Shouf district during the 1963 by-elections
- Maha Khoury Asaad (Maronite): she won a seat in the Jbeil district in the 1992 elections
- Nouhad Souaid (Maronite): she won a seat in the Jbeil district in the 1996 elections
- Nayla Mouawad (Maronite): she won a seat in the Zgharta district in the elections held in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2005
- Bahiya Hariri (Sunni): she won a seat in the Saida district in the elections held in 1992, 1996, 2000, 2005 and 2009
- Ghinwa Jalloul (Sunni): she won a seat in the Beirut 3 district in 2000 and 2005
- Gilbert Zouein (Maronite): she won a seat in the Kessrouan district in 2005 and 2009

- Strida Geagea (Maronite): she won a seat in the Bsharri district in 2005 and 2009
- Solange Gemayel (Maronite): she won a seat in the Beirut 1 district in 2005
- Nayla Touweini (Greek Orthodox): she won a seat in the Beirut 1 district in 2009



## Women in Grade 1 posts

Table 1

Name	Sect	Previous Post	New Post
Nada Aref Sardouk	Sunni	Educational Inspector at the Central Inspection	Director General of Tourist Affairs
Maralle Totlian	Armenian Orthodox		Director General of Central Statistics
Nathalie Marcel Yared	Maronite	First Controller at the Civil Service Board	Head of the Research and Orientation Authority
Mona Sassine Awad	Maronite	Head of the Department of Joint Affairs with Parliament	Director General of the Ministerial Affairs Department at the Cabinet
Yvette Joseph Antoine	Maronite	First Controller at the Civil Service Board	General Inspector- State Commissioner to the Higher Disciplinary Committee
Vatine Habib Joumaa	Shia'a	First Auditor at the Audit Court	General Education Inspector
Sanaa Mohammad Mounieb Sirwan	Shia'a	Head of the Planning and Programming Department in the Ministry of Environment	Director General of Technical Affairs at the Prime Minister Office
Faten Ali Youness	Shia'a	First Auditor at the Audit Court	Director General of Political and Refugee Affairs at the Ministry of Interior
Lana Youssef Dergham	Maronite	Head of the Technical Department at the Lebanese Standards Institute	Director General of the Lebanese Standards Institute
Fatima Youssef Sayegh Ouweidat	Sunni	Advisor at the State Shura Council.	Head of the Civil Service Board
Aurore Youssef Feghali	Maronite	Head of the Network Studies Department at the Ministry of Telecommunications' Directorate General of Installation and Equipment	Director General of Petroleum
Alya Abbas	Shia'a	Director of Expenses at the Ministry of Finance	Director General of Economy
Dalal Emile Barakat	Greek Orthodox	Head of Department at the Tenders' Authority	General Inspector at the Central Inspection
Khairiya Mayssam Abdul Qader Nouweiry	Sunni	Judge	General Director of the Ministry of Justice
Syzanne Fayez Khoury Youhanna	Maronite	Head of Registry at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities	Director General of Personal Status
Hoda Riad Salloum	Greek Orthodox	Engineering Inspector at the Central inspection	Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Traffic and Motor Vehicles Authority
Gloria Abou Zeid	Maronite	-	Head of the Administrative Committee
Faten Hamandi	Sunni	Head of Internal Investment Department at the Ministry of Telecommunications	Engineering General Inspector

Source: Official Gazette

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER BUILDING

## RENT AT LBP 304 MILLION AND AN URGENT NEED FOR A NEW BUILDING

**The National Archives Center operates from a rented building in Al-Hamra Street. The incapability to accommodate further archives in the present building has prompted search for a larger facility. Yet, despite the growing and real need for a new building, the matter is still under discussion.**

The National Archives Center was established in 1978 as a public institution affiliated with the Prime Minister's Office and aimed at safeguarding the Lebanese heritage, both private and public, and store the materials that are printed, published and registered in Lebanon as well as anything branded as 'archives' in audio-visual media. The Center's staffing table contains 76 posts, only 24 of which are occupied.

### Rent of the Picadelli building

The following areas are rented by the National Archives Center in the Picadelli building in Hamra Street and are used to keep records:

- Seventh floor covering 650 m<sup>2</sup>
- 450m<sup>2</sup> of the sixth floor
- Depot covering 750 m<sup>2</sup>

### Cost

The annual cost of renting the said building is LBP 304 million distributed as follows:

- Rent: LBP 243 million
- Services and maintenance: LBP 25 million
- Parking: LBP 24 million
- Subscription to a power generator: LBP 12 million
- The cost of renting one square meter would thus be close to LBP 227,000 which although unreasonably high, is not the main problem.

### Problem

Given the uninterrupted flow of materials from various administrations and institutions, the National Archives Center has become incapable of accommodating all new material due to restrictions on space, and furthermore, its lack of those standards required to render a facility

suited to preserve archives and documents. For these reasons, administrations have been requesting the state for years to find special headquarters for the National Archives Center to help it carry out its functions. It has been estimated that premises of at least 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> would be needed. This large area required meant abandoning the option of renting due to high costs. Instead, an option of finding a solution on constructing a building matching the required specifications on state-owned land in Beirut, with a possibility of expanding the area in the future, seems a better one.

The National Archives Center has been seeking a solution for this problem since 1994 and despite its appeals and follow-ups, no solutions have been figured out in the past 20 years. Today, in 2015, the crisis is still acute: failure to accommodate further archives and a fear of losing material believed by the public to be safely guarded and kept. ●



The National Archives Center- Photo by Mohammed Mashlab

# A STAR FROM MY COUNTRY DAN WRITERS FROM MY COUNTRY

**Dar Kutub has recently published two new books in the Bee Series entitled Writers from My Country and A Star from My Country. The books target children and young adults and are written by Dr. Sana Ali Harakeh.**

## *A Star from My Country*

*A Star from My Country* is 32 pages and is aimed to acquaint young adults with Lebanese diva Fairuz and to keep her name resonating in their minds and ears. The book recounts the story of a young adult student who seeks to understand what makes her parents so fond of the voice and music of Fairuz. Her curiosity drives her to start listening to Fairuz's songs on a daily basis in an attempt to comprehend the lyrics and refine her taste in music. Since the name of Fairuz has always been coupled with the Rahbani Brothers, the girl realizes through daily dialogues with her mom and dad that 'Assi and Mansour were brothers with two bodies, minds and hearts but with one pen, one musical instrument and one feeling.' The story proceeds to touch on a number of Fairuz's hits and plays and fulfills its objective of introducing new generations to the musical legacy of one of the most enduring artistic figures in the history of Lebanon. The book is accompanied by a CD featuring the story read by the author.

## *Writers from My Country*

This 28-page story is divided into five elaborately written chapters, in which Dr. Sana Ali Harakeh underlines the role of the Arabic book club launched at a school with the aim of deepening the love of Arabic among students and triggering their curiosity to explore and interpret the works of Lebanese literary pioneers such as Emilie Nasrallah, May Ziadeh, Toufic Youssef Awwad, Mikhael Naimeh, Salam al-Rassi and Gebran Khalil Gebran. Efforts are made at different places throughout the book to emphasize the responsibility of parents to instill in their children a fondness for reading and to raise their awareness of and respect for the value of the literary legacy that Lebanon's literary giants have passed down over the decades. ●



# THE EXTENSION OF PARLIAMENT'S TERM SPREADS FROM LEBANON TO YEMEN

Despite being part of the same Arab World, Lebanon and Yemen differ largely from each other. Yet, a common denominator brings them together, that is the extension of the mandate of their Parliaments. Lebanon prolonged the term of its legislature from 1976 until 1992, then again from 2013 until 2017. Likewise, the Yemeni elections, which were scheduled for 2009 were postponed and the term was extended by four years in two stages. The most recent parliamentary elections held in Yemen were in 2003.

## Parliament

The Yemeni Parliament is the country's legislative branch along with the Shura Council. It enacts laws and supervises the work of the Cabinet.

## Voting Age

Yemenis over 18 years of age are entitled to vote. They may cast their ballots, not only in their original constituency, but in any constituency they choose provided that they have spent at least six months in the said constituency.

## Candidacy Age and Requirements

To run for parliamentary elections, one must:

- Be a Yemeni national;
- Be at least 25 years old;
- Be literate;
- Independent candidates must secure the commendation of at least 300 voters representing the majority of electoral centers within the constituency where they intend to run. Each commending voter must be duly listed in voter registers within the constituency.
- Pay YR 5,000 (USD 24) as campaign fee to the local council in major city. The council shall take down all electoral posters and banners after the elections.
- Civil servant may not run for Parliament unless they have resigned three months prior to the opening of candidacy.

## Supervision of Elections

The Higher Commission for Elections and Referendums is the body responsible for supervising the electoral process. The Commission enjoys administrative and financial autonomy. It consists of seven members appointed by the President of the Republic from a 15-member list nominated by a majority of two-thirds

of Yemeni Parliament. The Commission mandate is for six years.

## Members of Parliament

The Yemeni Parliament consists of 301 MPs elected by direct vote for a six-year term starting from their first meeting.

## Electoral System

Yemen is divided into 301 single-member constituencies equal in number of population. The candidate with the most votes wins the seat.

## Results of most recent elections

The most recent parliamentary elections were held in Yemen in 2003. Later in 2009, after the expiry of Parliament's term on April 29, the ruling party (General People's Congress) and the opposition parties approved the February Agreement, which amended the Constitution, extending the term of the legislature by two years until April 27, 2011. Later in 2011, amidst the escalating conflict in Yemen, it was agreed once again to prolong the life of the legislature by another two years through what was known as the Gulf initiative.

The results of the most recent elections broke down as follows:

- General People's Congress headed by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh: 238 seats
- Yemeni Congregation for Reform (close to both Saudi Arabia and the Muslim Brotherhood): 46 seats
- Yemeni Socialist Party: 8 seats
- Nasserite Unionist People's Organization: 3 seats
- Arab Socialist Baath Party: 2 seats
- Independents: 4 seats ●

# GEORGE FRAM (1934-2006)

## “A PIONEER AND AN INNOVATOR”

**Of the Lebanese businessmen who chose to venture into politics, very few were able to succeed in both pursuits. Foremost among them is minister, MP and industrialist George Fram who followed in the footsteps of a few self-made men such as Emile Boustany, Najib Salha and Toufic Assaf. On the ninth anniversary of his death, we recall some of the highlights of Fram’s life and business and political career.**

### Birth and Family

George Fram Neematalla Fram was born in Harat Sakhr, Jounieh in February 1934. His mother was Mounira Barakat. He had a number of siblings including Jounieh’s current Head of Municipality, Antoine Fram.

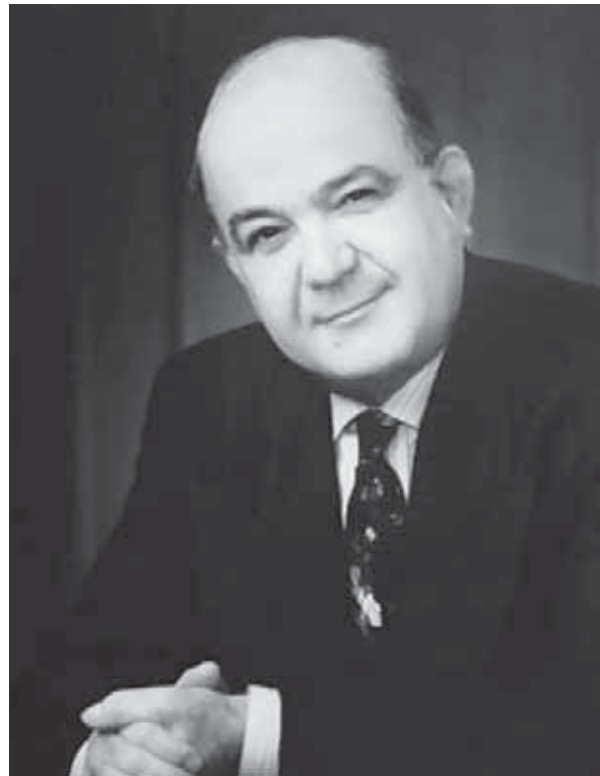
### Education

George Fram pursued elementary and intermediate education at the Ar-Rusul School in Jounieh, after which he moved to the United States of America where he obtained a degree in Industrial Management from Harvard.

### Professional Life

Driven by enthusiasm and a sense of initiative, Fram was involved from early on in the establishment of a number of industrial projects designed to meet the needs of the countries where he dwelled. In 1972, he launched an industrial development company, INDEVCO Group, which soon expanded into an international manufacturing group based in Lebanon. The Group employs over 10,000 people around the world and has over 51 manufacturing plants and 20 industrial and commercial companies. His business focuses on the production of paper, plastic and corrugated packaging as well as napkins, consumer products, industrial machinery and alternative energy sources in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the US, Britain, Ghana, the UAE, Greece and Iraq.

In fact, the Group’s success is attributed to its reliance on the founder’s philosophy, which has gone beyond the strict and narrow logic of profit thanks to its human dimensions and corporate responsibility. George Fram



George Fram

believed the industrial sector to be a primary national dimension and a fundamental part for the promotion of Lebanon’s competitive streak both in the region and worldwide. Through his management of the Group, Fram contributed to making Lebanon a platform for commercial and industrial activities and a source of inspiration for future plans and visions. His companies supported the Lebanese lira and promoted local production, which resulted in larger exports and higher job opportunities and helped mitigate brain drain and foster faith in Lebanon during the bleakest hours.

## Political Life

George Fram delved into politics and public affairs propelled by his influential role in industry and his affiliation with the Kessrouan region. He was appointed Minister of Post and Telecommunications and Minister of Industry and Oil from 7/10/1982 until 30/4/1984 in the Shafik Wazzan government, which was the first government ever to serve under President Amine Gemayel.

He returned to ministerial work by the end of the Civil War and the launch of the reconstruction process by the Rafik Hariri government under President Elias Hrawi. This time, Fram took charge of the Ministry of Water and Electrical Resources between 31/10/1992 and 11/6/1993 when he was dismissed from his position for differing in opinion from both Hariri and Hrawi over electricity. Pursuant to Decree no. 3602 dated 11/6/1993, the said ministry ceded to Minister Elie Hobeika while Fram was appointed Minister of State. The dismissal was a rare occurrence in the political history of Lebanon.

Some argue that had the plan of George Fram been accepted, power would have been available around the clock over the past few decades and Lebanon would have saved the billions of dollars spent on developing the electricity sector to no avail.

The ouster of George Fram from the ministry failed to force him away from politics. In 2000, he ran for parliamentary elections in the Mount Lebanon district (an eight-seat district, which consisted of the Qada'as of Kessrouan and Jbeil with seven seats allocated to the Maronite and one to the Shia'a), leading the list of Dignity and Regeneration against the rival Decision of the People list headed by Fares Boueiz, the son in law of the then President Elias Hrawi. George Fram's list won five seats out of eight and Fram amassed 40,637 votes out of 85,000. This landslide victory facilitated George Fram's return to the ministry and he was appointed again Minister of industry in the Hariri government under the term of President Emile Lahoud. He served in this position from 26/10/2000 until 17/4/2003.

In addition to his political career, George Fram was involved in major humanitarian and philanthropic work that has continued even after his death.

## Family Life

George Fram married Hayat Al-Khazen (born in 1943) and had five children with her: Faisal (b.1976), Bahjat (b. 1979), Rania (born in 1969 and married to the representative of Qada'a of Jbeil, MP Walid Khoury) and Hala (b. 1971).

## Death

George Fram died on May 5, 2006.

## What was said of him:

### Former Minister Jean Oubeid:

*“Never was George Fram mentioned without me picturing the image of a generous and faithful self-made man. He was a good and honest friend. While one's brother is kin of the body, one's friend is kin of the soul.”*

*“George Fram was wise and patient. He was one of those Maronite Christians who believed in prayers and philanthropy, not only in identity and heredity.”*

### Former Minister Ziad Baroud

*“The loss of George Fram serves as an example in public service; the man comes to you saturated with the ideas of development, reform and modernity and releases a swarm of bees among many. I looked up to him as a role model. In times of elections, he voted openly for the project of State-building, which has never reached completion; he voted for an era where politics becomes a platform for service not a ground for the charlatans of the temple.”*

### Former AUB President: Peter Dorman

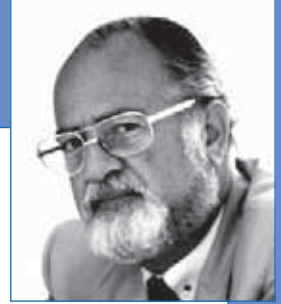
*“Whether in his industrial activity or performance in the government, George Fram has been an inspiration for all who knew him throughout his life and professional career.”*

*“He was very keen on his country and spared no efforts to steer it forward. “*

*“During his life, we knew him as a pioneer and an innovator.”* ●

## ETHICS AND DEEDS

Antoine Boutros



**I admonished the world and cried**  
*'until when will I continue to suffer*  
*An agony that does not seem to subside.'*

He who wrote this verse, may God rest his soul.

Was he a poet, a jurisprudent or a scholar? That delicate human who was concerned about 'the recurrent downpour of afflictions and the tumbling waves of sorrows;' the man sought by his fellows in their quest for 'words on how to approach God, seek proximity to Him and demand that He be pleased with them;' he who, despite his utter weakness and ruffled mind, accepted their solicitation and guided them on how to observe the 'light emanating from the greatness of their Beloved One.'

Our companion is Kazim Ibn Qassim al-Husseini Al-Rashti from the Al-Rasht towns in Iraq. He was 25 years old when he first wrote the Letter of Conduct for Ethics and Deeds. His ancestral library was one of the largest scientific libraries in Iraq.

Recently, the German Orient Institute of Beirut has bestowed upon us this letter realized by Dr. Wahid Bahmardi, a professor at the AUB's Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Language, who premised his work on three manuscripts of this letter.

According to its compiler, the letter falls under those works addressing ethics in terms of worship and conduct. He does not put forth an ethical philosophy but rather an opinion on ethics that is predicated on religious not philosophical principles and aims to strictly implement Sharia'a in order to reach happiness in this life and the afterlife and uncover the moral truths, all while abiding by the Sharia'a. However, this opinion contradicts the Sufi opinion, which holds that 'if the truths are revealed, the laws will cease to be', irrespective of the elevated stages that the seeker of the truth might reach in the ranks of the science of the truth.

"God Almighty is the ultimate cause of all causes and the reason behind all reasons without a reason," is perhaps one of Al-Rashti's most rational and fascinating sayings, for it sums up several debates that challenge the thought at all times and ages. Let then no one debate this matter, for God has created for all things both a general and a specific cause and 'we do not need Imams because the Quran reveals everything.'"

However, these words raised the ire of scholars who maintained that there should be religious authorities for the believers to look up to and model after and that said authorities should be responsible for guiding every detail of the lives of believers according to the principle of promotion of virtue and prevention of vice.

The moral objective of the letter was to draw attention to the fact that 'humans have become so absorbed by the languor

of bygone that their tempers have frozen and their instincts have been smothered. The flames of longing to God have been extinguished in their heart but the fire must be ignited again and the dust must be removed.

To think about the greatness of God and the humility of the soul is the first foray into the path towards God. The seeker must be conscious of what inflames his spirit and must always look for the greatness of God in his heart. When one compares themselves to lofty mountains, they look like a tiny particle in contrast. If, instead, they are on mountain top, they see everything smaller as they look down. However, when compared to the earth, the loftiest of mountains would be about one seventh the average width of a human hair compared to a ball of a 1-cubit diameter. The earth itself is 180 times smaller than the sun and hangs suspended somewhere in the universe. In the scope of the universe, the earth is insignificant. If the man, compared to mountains, is dwarfed and mountains, compared to the earth, are dwarfed, and the earth is in turn dwarfed by the universe, and the universe dwindles at the seat of God which again looks dwindled before the throne, then what of man before the greatness of his creator! How small and imperceptible is the standing of man compared to all those small perishable creatures.

The seeker must look inward and contemplate the humility of the self. He must seek what inflames his spirit and search for the greatness of God in his heart. If he looks into his body and digs beneath his skin, he will find nothing pure or pleasant. All that he discharges is either filthy such as urine, excrement, blood and sperm or viscous and malignant such as pus and saliva. Let everyone look at how those delicious and aromatic foods end up after they are consumed and masticated. If they spit them out of their mouths, they would never put any bite back in.

Let them reflect on the sin of the spirit. How come they conceal their evil deeds from people but do not conceal them from God! How come they notice the greatness of man but fail to notice that of his creator! Let the seeker know that the worth of man, his time, day and hour will all be marked and carved by his deeds much like everything else in the world and those deeds will be kept in the preserved tablet (Al-Lawh Al-Mahfouz) in the book of God until the Qiyamah Day.

The discovery of the required conduct to rekindle the fiery divine flames will not be completed except by persevering to think and seek knowledge and truth.

## THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS

# POET JOUMANA CHAHOUJ NAJJAR

*'I have been writing poetry for a quarter of a century and we all are students in Nizar Qabbani's school of poetry'*

When attending poetry evenings or cultural ceremonies, we often run into a handful of people who like to introduce themselves as 'poets' or 'writers'. But when we ask how many books or divans they have composed and published, we often find no satisfactory answer to our inquiries. It is then that we realize our encounter has been with typical Lebanese show-offs.

Conversely, we may occasionally stumble upon others who think of themselves as 'poets in the making' and do admit their desire to follow in the footsteps of the poetry giants they look up to. One such example is burgeoning poet Joumana Chaoud Najjar.



Joumana Chaoud Najjar

### **When did you start writing poetry?**

I started writing poetry at the age of 13. My talent was first discovered by my school administration, which would ask me to write national poems on national occasions and ceremonies. My talent was later nurtured and encouraged by my uncle, painter and visual artist Bakri Bahaeddine Bitar. I was bitten by the writing bug, driven by the support of my family and school.

### **What happened after you first foray into writing?**

Afterwards, I started devoting more time to read and write poetry. At the age of 16, I released a patriotic poem touching on martyrs, widowers and orphans and depicting the importance of martyrdom in our homeland. The poem was published in an art magazine and was greeted with acclaim. Positive reviews served as a great motivation for me and spurred me forward.

### **What are the images or thoughts that inspire you when writing your poems?**

Extreme contradictions in human feelings and emotions ignite my need for writing, from the utmost state of distress and suffering to the utmost state of joy and happiness. There is no room for a middle ground or a gray zone in my poetry. I am not an extremist. I only seek the meanings embedded between the lines and words. From a certain word or scene, I try to derive ideas for my new poem; ideas that originate from a genuine human condition, whether melancholic or ecstatic.

### **After this experience, what type of poems attracts you the most?**

I love to write about travel and loneliness. I am a traveler setting out on different journeys every day. As for loneliness, it has an infinite range of meanings and interpretations. It is more than just isolation. It is an urge

to flee from dull encounters and acquaintances towards a wider horizon. Loneliness teaches you several things. It can be entertaining when you are alone listening to music for example. Loneliness helps you maintain your life from different aspects. This is the reason I do not have a lot of friends. My friends can be counted on the fingers of both hands. I often enter into social circles but end up pulling away without much pain or regret when I realize that such environments contradict my nature.

### How many poems have you written so far?

Frankly, I cannot count them. The poems that need to be corrected and revised before presentation to the public in one or more divans are roughly a thousand.

### Where, in your opinion, lies the importance of both vertical and free poetry?

I most certainly favor the former. Vertical poetry gives great delight and has a symphonic musical tone to it. But readers, most of them at least, opt for the latter. Most poetry releases make part of free poetry. Writing vertical poems entails tact and capabilities that not all free poets have.

### Whose poetry do you read the most?

I read the works of Poet Suleiman Issa and the Prince of Poets, Ahmad Chawki. However, Nizar Qabbani has been my greatest influence. He is the veteran of free poetry and we are nothing but his pupils. Of ancient poets, I was inspired by Jamil Buthayna and Abi Nawwas.

### Which poems would you describe as your most beautiful works?

I leave it to up to my readers to decide. All my poems stem from my heart and mind. Some poets believe that they soar when they write about love; I soar when I write about jaundice and wrath as well as love. But I certainly prefer one poem to another in each poetic theme I choose.

### Is your new divan going to be out next month?

It is. The divan is entitled 'Tawqul Jouman' (The Collar of Pearls). It is known that 'Al-Jouman' is a Persian word meaning and referring to pearls. This divan is a collection of the best that I have written over the past two year on love, wooing, rebellion, the love of God, friendship and sacrifice. 🌟



# ANERA

## AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

Several initiatives arose in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli War of 1967 with an aim to provide relief and assistance to the victims of the war. American Near East Refugee Aid, ANERA, is a non-profit American NGO incorporated in 1968 to respond to the critical needs of Palestinian people caught up in the conflict. Having hosted thousands of Palestinian refugees since 1948, it stood to reason that Lebanon would be an essential target community for ANERA, together with Jordan and Palestine.

### Establishment

ANERA is one of the largest American non-profit organizations working solely in the Middle East. It was established forty years ago in order to ease the suffering of vulnerable communities inside Palestine. The growing dispersion of Palestinian refugees into neighboring countries entailed an expansion in ANERA's work and led it to launch operations in Lebanon and Jordan. With time, its assistance grew beyond helping the Palestinians alone, reaching out to all the poor and needy in these countries. Although its involvement in Lebanon dates back for decades, ANERA did not set up its official permanent office in Beirut until in 2006.

### Activities

ANERA responds to the economic, educational and health needs of vulnerable communities and provides humanitarian and emergency relief in times of crisis. ANERA strives to create sustainable solutions in these communities.



### Health

ANERA delivers vital medicines and equipment to the clinics and health centers affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs. It promotes healthy habits and responsible use of medicines through awareness campaigns launched inside camps and marginalized neighborhoods. Education on skin diseases and personal and public hygiene is also promoted in schools and camps; cleaning and personal care kits are distributed regularly.





Against the massive influx of Syrian refugees and the exacerbation of living conditions, ANERA's donations have increased to meet the growing needs. In 2012, medical assistance worth USD 4.5 million was offered to the needy, an amount that has grown to roughly USD 13 million in 2014.

**“In the Nahr El-Bared camp in northern Lebanon, ANERA has renovated all affected facilities and worked with local partners to revive and deliver vocational training programs to the youths including training on carpentry, aluminum work, nursing, electronic and computer skills”**

### Education

ANERA's contribution to the education sector is clearly perceived through the vocational training it has provided for refugee youth to improve their chances of landing good jobs. Sports fields and playgrounds were built to motivate communities and bring them together. Knowing that poverty and conflict do impede access to education, ANERA has also provided youths with the opportunity to obtain non-formal education through classes on job skills, language and computer skills offered across Lebanon. ANERA has organized learning support and remedial education programs, which are critical to keeping underachieving students in schools and boosting their self-confidence. Sports were integrated within the programs for development and character-building. In the Nahr

El-Bared camp in northern Lebanon, ANERA has renovated all affected facilities and worked with local partners to revive and deliver vocational training programs to the youths including training on carpentry, aluminum work, nursing, electronic and computer skills.

### Economic Development

ANERA is helping poor families and communities navigate hard times and improve their livelihood. To this end, it seeks to create jobs that build and upgrade schools, health clinics and water wells. It also designs training programs and help entrepreneurs set up small local businesses (Vocational Training Center nearby Nahr El-Bared Camp). In partnership with Ayadi El-Khair Society, ANERA renovated in 2008 a culinary school and established a hotel management training center and an IT Center at the Kafaat, which is a center providing medical, educational and rehabilitation services for people with special needs.

ANERA focused on the DHIAFEE Program, which helped upgrade the quality of accommodations in rural areas in conformity with the finest international standards concerning food security and hygiene

### Challenges

The growing prevalence of poverty and vulnerability comes together with bigger challenges and responsibilities. These challenges are exacerbated by the negligence of the state and its failure to play its vital developmental part, all this amidst concerns on how to secure perpetual inflow of funds. ●

## AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TUBINGEN

I used to spend around eight hours every day reading and learning vocabulary. I wrote down the past tenses and past participles of verbs on scraps of paper and reviewed them before going to bed and upon waking up. The teacher handed me a popular story, *The Student Prince*, which was filmed and adapted into an operetta attended by millions of people around the world. I wanted to see the University of Heidelberg where the beautiful plot unfolded. The General said ‘I will take you there on Sunday.’ We went accompanied by the two ladies and the Italian student; the General’s wife had given us ample journey provisions.

One day, the General told me ‘the junior German Army is carrying out a maneuver. I am pining after the military and planning to go and watch the maneuver. Will you come with me?’

His invitation made me happy. We walked behind the army from one hill and one valley to the next. The General was tracking the movements of the troops through large military binoculars. ‘The so and so corps is defeated. The so and so corps has won. A side arms’ epic there!’ I was like a deaf man in a parade! I spent blissful days at the Gunpowder Factory.

I returned to ‘Milady’. She was very pleased with my German. ‘Now you must gear up for winter. Winter here can be tough. I want to show you the coal depot and teach you to heat up the room. I will also introduce you to a student who is our relative. I want you to mingle with real Germans,’ she said.

The agreement between Mr. Littman and Milady stipulated that that I should rise early, head up to the dining room and have breakfast with the big family: six boys and a girl. The boys were God’s most beautiful creation: healthy, handsome and well-mannered. The girl was chubby. Venus had bestowed nothing of her gifts upon her.

Two dishes were laid on the table, each heaped with different types of sandwiches, and also butter, cheese, cold meat and sausages of all kinds, with large pitchers of hot creamy milk and chocolate. There were no spoons or plates. No salt nor sugar. Only huge tankards from which Germans drank beer. They were made locally. ●



## WILL SWALLOWED GUM STAY IN YOUR SYSTEM FOR YEARS?

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### **Myth:**

There is no doubt that this is one of the ancient myths that terrifies children; we were all surely warned at one point of our life, most likely by our parents, to never swallow chewing gum. For generations, people seemed to have confused the notion that it was indigestible and therefore assumed that it remains inside your stomach for years.

### **Fact:**

Usually what we put in our mouth takes hours or days to dissolve and excrete, your stomach is incapable of breaking down chewing gum the way it would other foods. Chewing gum is composed of gum base, sweeteners, coloring and flavoring. The gum base is indigestible, it is a mixture of elastomers, resins, fats, emulsifiers and waxes. This insoluble rubber-like material is made up of synthetic chemicals, which gives chewing gum the chewy texture that is designed to resist digestive properties of saliva in your mouth, causing gum to pass slower than food.

When your body recognizes the gum to be useless by the digestive system, our stomach muscles contract and relax slowly forcing it out. Your gut then moves the gum along through the intestines until it is finally eliminated as human waste. Studies have shown that it might take a day or two until the gum is eliminated from our system. Rare cases in which swallowing numerous or large amounts of gum over a short period of time may cause the blockage of the digestive tract.

If gum took years to digest, medical imaging tests like the MRI and procedures like endoscopy and colonoscopy would routinely turn up instances of old chewing gum in the digestive system. Maintaining this myth appears to be due to generations of parents trying to teach children not to swallow non-food items and the fear of stories and rumors about medical cases where swallowing gum had caused some serious health problems in children. The good news is that chewing gum won't remain in your system for years, and likely not even days. ●●

## BEIRUT: IMAGES IN MY MEMORY

PIERRE MAADANJIAN

*The fear that rampant urbanization might soon transform Beirut into a soulless concrete jungle with not even the slightest similarity to its original character has spurred many initiatives in recent years to retain or at least revive the true identity of the capital. One such initiative was Pierre Maadanjian's photographic record *Beirut: Images in My Memory*, which was issued in its first edition in 2009 in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Culture. The Ministry covered all printing costs in support of the cultural activities that were organized at the time in celebration of the UNESCO's declaration of Beirut as World Book Capital. The book has close to 400 photos of Beirut's squares and souks taken between 1965 and 1998. They document four main eras: prosperity and urbanism (1965-1974), destruction phase at the onset of the Civil War (1976), era of stability (1993) and era of archaeological exploration (1994- 1998).*

Having sensed that the existing trends were mostly oriented towards replacing the historic buildings of Beirut with modern housing, towering skyscrapers and commercial souks, Maadanjian suspected that the patrimonial heritage of Beirut, which is the sole memento to the city's architectural authenticity, would be buried in the foreseeable future. In a proactive attempt to mitigate the possible implications of such a radical transformation on our perception of Beirut, Maadanjian thought that the least he could do was to capture the distinct and original face of the city before its impending cosmetic surgery. This was when he started taking photos aimed at documenting the reality of Beirut from 1965 onwards.

In 1976, Maadanjian waited until the Battle of the Hotels ended and the truce was declared to take to those streets and buildings he once photographed and snap new photos of them as they lay lifeless under rubble. The amount of damage and destruction inflicted on the structures shocked him and thus he wanted people to see what he had seen and learn lessons from that, so



he took photos of all battle scenes and compiled them in a book.

Maadanjian loved Beirut and made it the center of his work and memories. He carried his life companion, the camera, and roamed the localities of the capital in its heyday. He longed for that heyday when the city suffered and mourned, and scrutinized when Beirut put on its beautiful Phoenician attire once again. Eloquent pages of Beirut's history come alive in these images. ●

## ..WA YAJI'OU YAWMON AKHAR

..Wa Yaji'ou Yawmon Akhar (..And Another Day Comes) is a children's book by the Jordanian Lebanese writer, Fairouz Karden Baalbaki, in the series *Nighttime Stories*, which has thirty stories covering social, environmental and medical issues concerning children in an informative and educational manner.

Addressing children between 6 and 12 years old, the book was published in its second edition in 2005 by Dar AL Elm Lil Malayeen. Because the author wanted real life heroes and relevant stories stemming from children's daily routines and their unique world, she chose her own children Mounir and Nour to be the principal characters of her story.

Another day starts every morning as Mounir and Nour wake up full of life and joy. They wash their faces and brush their teeth before greeting their parents who are busy making breakfast. They do not forget to make their beds before the school bus arrives to pick them up. The school day starts off with the Lebanese anthem and morning greetings.

Written in a narrative style, the story depicts the typical day of Mounir and Nour from dawn to dusk. Terminology and syntax are skillfully selected to match the readers' age and recommendations are offered to parents on how to read to their children and promote reading activities at home. ●



# TABEEKH FAMILIES

## SUNNI AND SHIA'A IN THE NORTH AND BEQA'A

**In the Arabic language, the word 'tabeekh' means cooked food. It usually refers to those foods containing rice, meat and vegetables. This word though has been assigned as name for a number of families in both Lebanon and the Arab World.**

No insight has been provided as to why these families were named Tabeekh. Chances are their forefathers worked as cooks or were fond of good food.

### Members

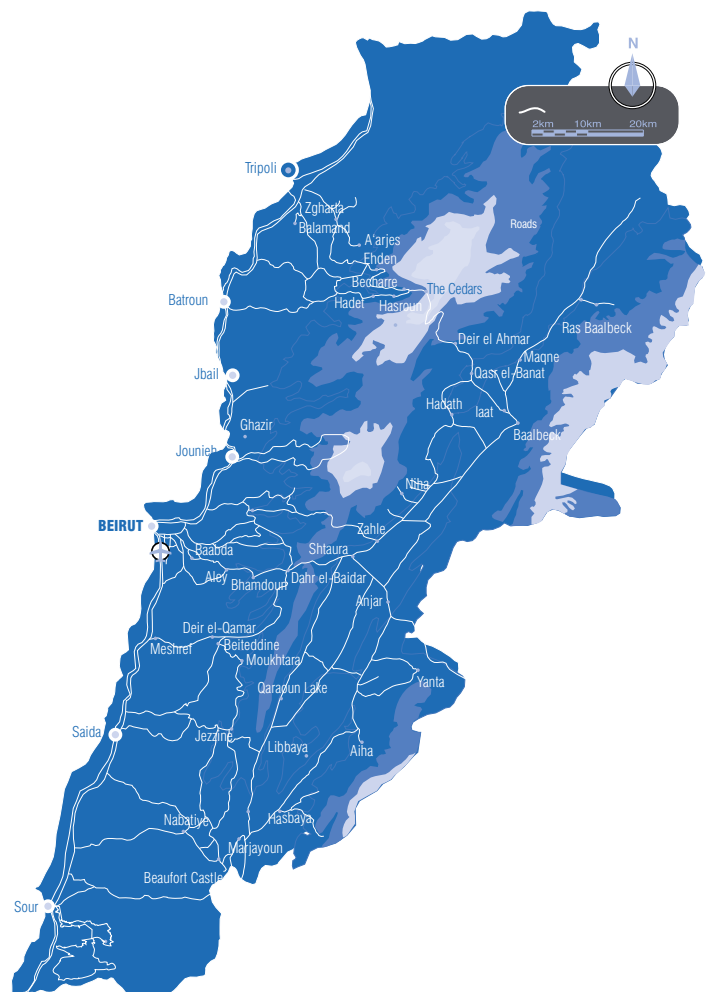
Those carrying the family name Tabeekh total 630 members. Another 70 hold a slightly different name, 'Tabeekha'. The Tabeekhs and Tabeekhas are divided almost equally among both Sunni and Shia'a communities. They are spread in the following areas:

#### Sunni

- Mina, Tripoli: 75 Tabeekh members and 17 Tabeekha members.
- Qebbeh, Tripoli: 42
- El-Mhatra, Tripoli: 10
- Al-Nouri, Tripoli: 55 Tabeekh members and 15 Tabeekha members
- Nabi Yashweh, Mennieh-Dennieh: 93
- Haddadine, Tripoli: 25 Tabeekha members

#### Shia'a

- Drous, Baalbeck: 310 members
- Haush al-Thahab, Baalbeck: 41 ●



# HAZMIEH

TWO TOWNS WITH ONE NAME IN MOUNT LEBANON AND THE NORTH

Resting on the fringes of Beirut, Hazmieh is a town within the Mount Lebanon Mohafaza most known for its orderly planning, beautiful houses and well-off residents. Another village in the North Mohafaza in the Mennieh-Dennieh Qada'a is called by the same name, Hazmieh.

## Etymology

Anis Fraiha's book, *The Names of Lebanese Towns and Villages*, proposes two assumptions for the origins of the word hazmieh.

The first suggests that hazmieh is an Arabic word deriving from 'al-hazm', Arabic equivalent of 'firmness and resolve'. The name of the town may have been inspired by the decisiveness of its residents.

The second assumption is that the word comes from the Syrian Aramaic language. It consists of two elements meaning 'the person who sees the unseen by staring into water.'

## Location

Hazmieh Samak is situated in the Qada'a of Mennieh-Dennieh, in the north of Lebanon. Geographically speaking, the town is 115 km from Beirut and 30 km from Tripoli at an altitude of 750 meters above the sea level. It covers a small area of 44 hectares and may be reached by heading from Sir el-Dennieh, to Qottin and finally to Hazmieh.

## Population

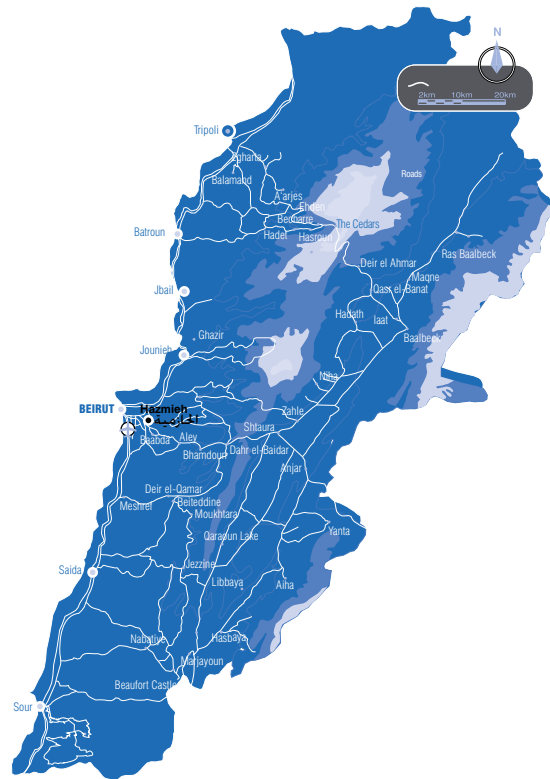
Hazmieh has an estimated registered population of 450 people, who are Sunni and are distributed over 50 houses.

## Voters

Registered voters in Hazmieh totaled 266 in 2000, 145 of whom exercised their right to vote. The figure rose to 300 in 2009 with 194 casting their ballots.

Voters are distributed among the following families:

- Omar: 85
- Asaad: 78
- Shafshaq: 64



- Hamdan: 40
- Dirani: 20
- Hassan: 15
- Shaker: 14
- Suleiman: 8

## Local authorities

The municipality of Hazmieh was established pursuant to Decision no. 1681 issued by acting Interior Minister Ahmad Fatfat on June 1, 2006. Its 9-member municipal council won by acclamation in the first election held afterwards.

The share of the Hazmieh Municipality of the Independent Municipal Fund revenues was LBP 52.6 million in 2006, decreasing to LBP 30.2 million in 2012.

The town has a Mukhtar and a 3-member ikhtiyariyah body.

## Educational institutions

The town does not have either public or private schools.

## Economic life

Residents live off agriculture and raising cattle; they suffer from poor economic conditions. ●

# AUSTRIA

## A TASTE OF CULTURE AND WINE

### Background

Once a dominant political force in Central Europe under the Habsburg dynasty, Austria lost its empire after its defeat in World War I. After its annexation by Nazi Germany in 1938 until 1945, Austria was occupied by the victorious Allies. However, the 1955 State Treaty ended the occupation and recognized Austria's independence declaring the country 'permanently neutral' and ensuring it did not suffer Germany's fate.

### Location

Austria, officially the Republic of Austria is a mountainous landlocked country in East Central Europe, which borders the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

### Area

Austria stretches across 83,879 square kilometers (32,383 sq miles) and has a highly mountainous terrain and an alpine climate.

### Population

Austria's population estimate in July 2014 was 8,223,062. About a quarter of the population lives in the capital, Vienna. Roughly 14% of total population are foreign citizens.

### Language

German is the national official language in Austria. It is used in the media, in schools and in formal announcements. Croatian, Slovenian and Hungarian are recognized as official languages of autonomous population groups in some regions.

### Religion

In Austria there is religious freedom. According to the last population census in 2001, the larger part of the Austrian population professes to be of Roman Catholic faith (around three quarters). This group is followed by persons without religious faith, Protestants, Muslims and Christian Orthodox.

### Economy and Culture

Industry is considered to be Austria's national growth engine and is mainly dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises. Mechanical and steel industries are the greatest contributors to Austria's total output followed by the chemical industry and the electrical and electronics



industry. Historically, Austria's economy has been closely tied to the German economy but its dependence on Germany has decreased since Austria became a member of the EU. In fact 72% of Austria's trade is with the other EU-27 countries with Germany being its largest trade partner. Tourism accounts for around 10% of the Austrian gross domestic product. Despite being only a small winegrowing country, Austria has gained an excellent reputation for producing some top-scoring wines. About 32,000 wineries produce an average of 2.5 million hectoliters of wine per year.

The Alpine republic has produced many famous thinkers, writers, composers, actors, scientists and philosophers over the past few centuries. People like Mozart, Johann Strauss and Sigmund Freud have left an indelible impression on the world.

### Political System

The Republic of Austria is a Federal State composed of nine autonomous federal provinces. Its federal nature is one of the principles laid down in the Constitution and can only be changed by referendum. The highest state representative is the Federal President, whose term of office lasts for six years. The two parliamentary chambers are the National Council (lower house) and the Federal Council (upper house) and these are the legislative bodies. Neutrality, once ingrained as part of the Austrian cultural identity, has been called into question since the Soviet collapse of 1991 and Austria's increasingly prominent role in European affairs. ●

# MARCH 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

**Persistence of presidential vacuum; appearance of former singer Fadl Shaker on TV and talks about resolving his status spark backlash; ongoing dialogue between Hezbollah and the Future Movement; March 14 Forces announce the formation of the National Council; Fouad Seniora gives testimony before STL; rows over the extension of the term of security leaders: those were the main highlights of March 2015. The detailed digest broke down as follows:**

## March 1

- A mass brawl interrupts the Sagesse-Riyadi basketball game on Riyadi's court at Manara, leading Sagesse players to withdraw from the game, thus resulting in awarding Riyadi a 20-0 win. Following the brawl, Minister of the Youth and Sports Abdul Muttaleb Hennawi bans fans from entering the stadium.

- Former President Michel Suleiman assures he will run again as for presidency to complete what he had started after the six-year term of the prospective president has expired.

- Former Minister Major General Issam Abou Jamra launches a new political party called 'The Independent Movement', criticizing the positions and actions of General Michel Aoun.

- The Popular Nasserite Organization rallies in the streets of Saïda in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Maarouf Saad's death. The Future Movement joins the rally and Osama Saad holds a telephone conversation with former PM Fouad Seniora. Saad also receives a PSP delegation including Taymour Jumblat and MP Alaa Terro.

- A rally in Hamra heading for the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities urges Interior Minister Nouhad Mashnouq to sign civil marriage contracts and Mashnouq insists that a civil marriage law must be approved first.

## March 2

- The Lebanese Army takes action to prevent tensions from flaring up in Tripoli and the north after the assassination of Badr Eid, brother of former MP Ali Eid in the town of Kuwaikhat in Akkar.

- The statement issued after the seventh dialogue session between Hezbollah and the Future Movement emphasizes the completion of discussions over security and political matters.

- Jenan Shattat, Director of the Islamic Makassed School, found dead in Tareeq Jdideh.

- The Regie Libanaise des Tabacs et Tombacs offers monetary rewards amounting to LBP 250 million to anyone who reports the location of those shops or warehouses selling smuggled tobacco products.

- Customs Clearance Offices go on strike to demand better equipment and less bureaucracy.

## March 3

- PM Tammam Salam urges the government to convene next Thursday and calls on facilitating the work of the State and shifting away from factionalism. His words came during the launch of the sustainable development strategy at the Grand Serail.

- Badr Eid, brother of former MP Ali Eid laid to rest in the town of Hokr Al-Dahri near the Syrian side. Ali Eid and his son appear for the first time since their departure from Jabal Mohsen eight months ago.

- Another baby dies after being refused admission to Akkar Hospital either because her family did not have enough money for her treatment or because of shortage of beds at the hospital.

- Joint Parliamentary Committees approve a draft law permitting contract-basis employees to benefit from the retirement system of the State Employees Cooperative, which serves 3600 retired employees.

- Lebanon's General Security bans French researcher and expert on Islamist extremism Roman Caillet from re-entering Lebanon after he left for Morocco and Caillet accuses Hezbollah of using its influence to prevent his return to Lebanon.

## March 4

- 'Political frivolity is preventing us from electing a president,' says former President Amine Gemayel after meeting PM Tammam Salam at the Grand Serail.

- MP Nawwaf Moussawi quotes Speaker Nabih Berri saying during Wednesday's meeting 'Lebanon is like an atom. If it is broken down, it will explode and blow up its surroundings.'

## March 5

- The Cabinet convenes at the Grand Serail to discuss the regulation of the Cabinet's work and approves a number of decrees.

- A Future Movement delegation holds a meeting with the Islamic forces of Ain El-Helweh Camp inside the camp.

- Security Forces arrest Syrian national Hussein Gherli, an ISIS official in Qalamoun, in a hospital in Beqa'a.

## March 6

- US Ambassador to Lebanon David Hale announces after visiting Interior Minister Nouhad Mashnouq that Hezbollah is making life and death decisions on behalf of Lebanon.

- The period to submit candidacies for the membership of the Constitutional Council is now open.

## March 7

- Bishop Boulos Matar denies the leaks about his meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry and says 'it was a brief encounter in Paris, not exceeding five minutes.'

- Former singer Fadl Shaker appears in an interview at his house in Ain El-Helweh Camp on LBC and makes statements insinuating repentance. Shaker reveals that his relationship with Salafist Sheikh Ahmad el-Assir had gone sour before the clashes of Abra and that he knows nothing about the Sheikh.

- Cases of food poisoning reported at a school in Tripoli after students had eaten cheese from the school's cafeteria.

### March 8

- Former PM Saad Hariri arrives in Cairo for talks with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Grand Imam of al-Azhar and announces that he wants natural relationship with Iran to the benefit of Lebanon.

- Radio reports reveal that one case of H1N1 flu was discovered in South Lebanon.

- Interior Minister Nouhad Mashnouq says during an interview with Sahifat al-Sharq al-Awsat 'according to reports, there is a high probability of potential assassinations in Lebanon.'

### March 9

- MP General Michel Aoun visits Speaker Nabih Berri and says small progress has been made in the presidential election crisis.

- In response to media reports, the Lebanese Forces Information Service asserts that the party has no veto on any presidential candidate.

- An NDU ceremony commemorates the Armenian genocide and speakers include Maronite Patriarch, former President Amine Gemayel and General Michel Aoun.

- Fadel Shaker's attorney May Al-Khansa announces that her client wishes to turn himself in.

- MP Walid Jumblat asserts in an interview with As-Safir that he will resign next May, which would entail holding by-election to fill his post. MP Sleiman Frangieh would likely follow Jumblat's example and Jumblat brands the Maronites as 'experts in suicide'.

- A boat carrying Palestinian migrants from the camps in Lebanon and a number of Lebanese and Syrians capsizes off Italy's coast and initial reports indicate a number of fatalities.

### March 10

- MP Ghazi Youssef continues his STL testimony describing Hezbollah and the Amal Movement as the offspring of the Syrian regime and noting that Ghassan Salameh warned Rafiq Hariri of possible elimination.

- Minister of Justice Ashraf Rifi continues his European tour, moving from Belgium to France where he met

the French Interior Minister Bernard Kazeneuve. Rifi addresses journalists saying there is an international agreement not to move fighting from Syria into Lebanon.

- MP Antoine Zahra announces the Lebanese Forces' objection to regular legislation amidst presidential vacuum.

- As-Safir quotes Speaker Nabih Berri as saying 'the dialogue between Hezbollah and the Future Movement makes the return of Saad Hariri to the office of prime minister possible.'

- Minister of Public Health urges the withdrawal of spices from the market after finding out that they contain carcinogenic materials.

- Agreement is reached over storing radioactive materials away from the town of Adloun in South Lebanon.

- An-Nusra Front official Abdullah Mohaisany cautions Fadel Shaker from the drawbacks of returning to the singing career.

### March 11

- Speaker Nabih Berri adjourns the 22nd parliamentary session held to elect a President until April 2 due to lack of quorum.

- The Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea rules out the likelihood of visiting Rabieh soon and pinpoints that Aoun refuses the third candidate for presidency.

- A 21-year-old student in the American University of Beirut is found dead after having fallen from a floor of a construction site near the university.

- The Special Tribunal for Lebanon discloses during the testimony of MP Ghazi Youssef an audio recording from a 2005 meeting that took place at the Quraitem Palace between late PM Rafik Hariri and Chief of Syrian Intelligence Rustom Ghazali in the presence of Ad-Diyar editor-in-chief. Hariri reiterated during the meeting the friendly relationships with Syria and the discussion covered the electoral law.

### March 12

- The Cabinet approves the appointment of the Banking Control Committee members. Samir Hammoud, backed by the Future Movement, was appointed President of the BCC and Amine Awwad was replaced by Joseph Sarkis, backed by the Free Patriotic Movement. The committee will begin its

work and take the oath later when a new President of the Republic gets elected.

- The United Arab Emirates departs 70 Lebanese nationals, most of which are Shia'a.

- A farm pond collapses in Hasroun in the Qada'a of Bsharri causing a torrent of muddy water to sweep through the town, injuring two people and blocking the main Hasroun-Bsharri road.

- On the sidelines during the Meeting of the Arab Interior Ministers, Interior Minister Nouhad Mashnouq, accompanied by General Security Chief Abbas Ibrahim, holds a meeting with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Mohammad Bin Nayef.

- MP Suleiman Frangieh reiterates on LBC his support for Aoun for presidency, noting that the equation might be a President from the March 8 Forces and a Prime Minister from March 14.

- Iran's Embassy in Beirut clarifies the statements made by Iranian presidential advisor Ali Younisi that the era of empires is long gone and stressing that parts of the advisor's statement have been omitted. The advisor had reportedly said 'Baghdad has become the capital of the Iranian empire.'

- Former Minister Faisal Karami holds a meeting at his residence for dignitaries from Jabal Mohsen and Bab Tebbaneh, paving the way for reconciliation between the two areas.

### March 13

- PM Tammam Salam speaks at the economic conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, stressing Lebanon's success in combating terrorism is thanks to its Army and the Saudi donation.

- The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants is officially informed that the United Arab Emirates has decided to deport 90 Lebanese nationals for security reasons. The Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office make phone calls with the Emirati authorities to discuss the matter.

- Speaker Nabih Berri reports that disruption has affected the presidency, the Cabinet and the legislature and discusses the salary scale with MP Ibrahim Kanaan.

- A shooting in the town of Kfifan results in critically injuring citizen Tanios Tamer and his wife. The shooter, identified as the retired Brigadier General George Zakhm, has perpetrated

the attack after the son of the victims had reportedly swindled roughly USD 500,000 from him.

### March 14

- Former PM Fouad Seniora reads out the political document issued at the March 14 Forces ceremony in BIEL, lashing out at Hezbollah and Iran and announcing the formation of the March 14 National Council.

- PM Tammam Salam returns from Sharm el-Sheikh after having met Saudi Crown Prince Moqrin Bin Abdul Aziz, his Egyptian counterpart and the UAE Vice President with whom he discussed the deportation of the Lebanese from the Emirates.

- General Michel Aoun assures during the Free Patriotic Movement's annual ceremony that the Doha mistake will not be repeated (i.e. the election of Michel Suleiman as President of the Republic).

- Families of the martyred soldiers of the Lebanese Army rally in Downtown, Beirut, in protest of any agreement with the former singer Fadl Shaker or any suspect accused of attacking the army. Protesters slam President Michel Suleiman and Bahiya Hariri.

- PSP supporters rally in Mukhtara to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the assassination of Kamal Jumblat and lay flowers on his grave.

- Groups of Lebanese deported from UAE arrive in Beirut without talking to the media.

- In an interview with As-Safir, General Michel Aoun opposes the extension of the term of the Army Commander and the ISF Chief.

- Former President Michel Suleiman describes in his interview with An-Nahar the boycott of the voting session as a 'white coup', stressing that he was to be elected President anyway and denying that Aoun had waived the presidency for him.

### March 16

- The STL listens to the testimony of MP and former minister Bassem Sabe'e who pinpoints the deterioration of relations between Syria and Rafik Hariri adding that Kanaan, Ghazali and Khallouf insulted him in the presence of Assad.

- The Baath Party holds a conference stripping former minister Fayez Chukor of his title and appointing lawyer Abdul Mouin Ghazi the new party leader in his place.

### March 17

- MP Walid Jumblat receives General Michel Aoun at his residence in Clemenceau and the latter reiterates his objection to the extension of the security leaders' terms of office no matter what. Jumblat describes the meeting as 'serious and amicable'.

- The joint parliamentary committees chaired by MP Ibrahim Kanaan convene to look into the salary scale issue amidst the boycott of March 14 Forces who protested at the chairmanship of Kanaan.

- The Change and Reform Bloc slams the March 14 Forces' National Council after its meeting.

- MP Bassem Sabe'e continues his testimony denying any tension between Hariri and Hezbollah before the assassination of the former. Sabe'e testifies that Jamil Sayyed was a political partner in the campaign against Hariri for he had communicated threats of murder, detention or exile to Hariri.

### March 18

- The eighth dialogue session between Hezbollah and the Future Movement begins at Ain Tineh, stressing the seriousness and persistency of discussions.

- Grand Mufti Abdul Latif Deryan calls for the election of the Higher Islamic Council on May 10.

- A brawl erupts at the ABC mall in Ashrafieh between Armenians and the security personnel of the Turkish embassy after the latter tried to stop the showing of the Turkish film Son Mektup at a Grand Cinemas movie theater.

### March 19

- A ruckus between Minister Ashraf Rifi and Minister Mohammed Fneish mars the Cabinet session after Rifi accused Hezbollah of tax evasion and money laundering.

- Former PM Fouad Seniora sues former Minister Wiam Wahhab for accusing him of being part of the Israeli scheme.

- Minister of Finance Ali Hassan Khalil tours the customs departments at the Port of Beirut and reveals that many items avoid customs duties, which results in massive losses for the Treasury.

### March 20

- UN Security Council urges speedy elections and lists the violations of Resolution 1701.

- Lebanese Army Commander General Jean Qahwaji reveals to a Press Syndicate delegation that the number of troops has increased from 58,000 to 70,000, describing the Saudi donation as a 'fortress'. Qahwaji notes that the manufacture of weapons takes time and calls ISIS members as liars.

- Minister of National Defense Samir Moqbel issues Decision 370/WD dated 19/3/2015, postponing the discharge of the Intelligence Chief Brigadier General Edmont Fadel until 20/9/2015 (6 months).

- The STL continues to hear the testimony of MP Ghazi Youssef who says the dialogue with Hezbollah did not pay off, noting that Hariri felt he was under surveillance.

- The Grand Mufti encourages the holding of Salat Al-Kusuf (Eclipse Prayers) following news forecasting solar eclipse on Friday.

### March 21

- French President Francois Hollande receives MP Walid Jumblat in France.

- Zahle's MPs ignore the decision of the State Shura Council to halt the construction works of the cement factory in Zahle.

### March 22

- Former President Michel Suleiman fires back at his critics in an interview with Al-Jadeed television channel.

- 'The presence of Hezbollah as a state impedes the building of a real state in Lebanon,' posts LF leader Samir Geagea on his Twitter account.

### March 23

- Former PM Fouad Seniora testifies before the STL recounting how the insults of Syrian President Bashar Assad brought Hariri to tears.

- PM Tammam Salam discusses the situation in Tripoli and the state of the business faculty in a meeting held at the Grand Serail with former PM Najib Mikati, MP Samir Jisr and MP Mohammed Kabbara.

- Minister of Education and Higher Education reiterates after meeting the faculty members of Tripoli's Business Faculty that Branch Director Jamilah Yammine, whose appointment was greeted with massive backlash, would remain in her post, until comprehensive appointments are made across all LU branches.

### March 24

- Seniors continues his STL testimony reporting that Hariri had informed him about several attempts by Hezbollah to assassinate him. The Future Bloc underlines that Seniors's testimony in the Hague justifies the campaign launched by March 8 Forces against him.
- Speaker Nabih Berri holds a meeting with the Parliament's bureau members to agree over the agenda items and the date of the next legislative session after consulting their blocs.
- The Army Intelligence arrests terrorists Omar and Bilal Mikati on charges of affiliation with ISIS and acts of terrorism including the slaughter of soldier Ali Sayyed.

### March 25

- Seniors does not accuse Hezbollah of assassinating Hariri and leaves it for the court to decide.
- In an interview with Future TV, Justice Minister Ashraf Rifi reveals that he had warned Hariri of a possible attempt on his life by Hezbollah.
- Former PM Saad Hariri meets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey emphasizing the moderation of Islam in combating extremism.
- Zahle's Greek Catholic bishop Issam Darwish holds a press conference in the presence of Pierre Fattoush, announcing that the latter has accepted to move the concrete mixer away from Zahle.

### March 26

- The Cabinet avoids taking a stand over the events in Yemen in order not to spark divisions and refers the Btedi'i crime to the Justice Council.
- Lebanese positions on the Saudi intervention in Yemen vary between supporters (Jumblat and Hariri) and those who oppose (Hezbollah).
- Interior Minister Mouhad Mashnouq emphasizes from Washington that Iran's policy in Lebanon perturbs its stability.
- Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Latif Deryan meets Prince Charles in Britain.
- Minister of Public Health Wael Bou Faour orders the closing of roughly 122 unauthorized day nurseries.

### March 27

- Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah delivers a televised speech lambasting Saudi Arabia for its attack on Yemen and

accusing it of vetoing the election of General Michel Aoun as President. Nasrallah emphasizes ongoing dialogue with the Future Movement and says the STL is the least of Hezbollah's concerns.

- In response to Nasrallah's speech, Hariri posts a tweet rebuking his words and branding them as hateful, yet reiterating the continuity of dialogue with Hezbollah.
- A storming army operation in the outskirts of Eرسال cuts off supplies from militants.
- Patriarch al-Rai receives a memorandum on the status quo of Christians, which he will file to the ambassadors of the five permanent UN member states.

### March 28

- A ministerial committee chaired by PM Tammam Salam heads for Sharm el-Sheikh to participate in the Arab Summit Conference. Salam voices his distress over the ongoing presidential vacuum and stresses Lebanon's support for the formation of a joint Arab force. He also holds meetings with several heads of states.
- Al-Jadeed TV criticizes Nasrallah's 'fiery speech', provoking his son Jawad to post a tweet offending the channel and its news director Maryam al-Bassam and saying that it sells people out for money.

### March 29

- Palm Sunday ceremonies according to the Gregorian calendar sweep across Lebanese regions and Patriarch al-Rai delivers a sermon reiterating relentless efforts to bring peace to the Lebanese people.
- Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Awad Asiri says Nasrallah has cast aspersions on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and asserts that the presidential election is a strictly Lebanese matter and that Saudi Arabia does not interfere in choosing the names of candidates.
- The Amal Movement convenes its 13th general conference and re-elects Speaker Nabih Berri as its leader.
- Minister Gebran Bassil denies the presence of a Saudi veto on General Michel Aoun.

### March 30

- Bkerki hosts an Islamic-Christian summit in the presence of all spiritual leaders and the final communiqué emphasizes the need to elect a President for only he can

guarantee the survival of the State. The summit decides to institutionalize its work and hold regular meetings.

- PM Tammam Salam, and his accompanying delegation, arrive in the State of Kuwait to take part in the donor's conference held to explore ways to support Syrian refugees. The Lebanese delegation is expected to request an assistance exceeding USD 1 billion.
- Minister of Industry Hussein Haj Hassan rebukes the words of PM Tammam Salam in Sharm el-Sheikh saying they do not reflect the positions of all the Lebanese.
- Saudi Ambassador responds to Nasrallah's comments in an interview on MTV saying his words reflect a mental problem.
- MP Walid Jumblat supports Saudi Arabia's attack on Yemen saying it is a legitimate reaction to the invasion of Yemen and suggesting renaming Iran 'Islamic Persia'.
- The British Embassy issues a statement noting that Britain has increased its contribution to the STL expenses to 1 million pounds.
- Families of the detained soldiers resume their protests, burning tires and blocking the road in front of the Phalanges Office in Saifi.

### March 31

- PM Tammam Salam returns from Kuwait after speaking at the donor's conference where he stressed that the exodus of Syrian refugees has gone beyond Lebanon's capacity and might become a real demographic and security tragedy.
- The Future Movement commends the comments of PM Tammam Salam at the Arab Summit.
- The Change and Reform Bloc supports the remarks made by the Minister of Industry and Hezbollah on the speech of PM Tammam Salam at the Arab Summit.
- Hezbollah's information officer Mohammed Afif clarifies Nasrallah's most recent statement saying Nasrallah did not pit Yemenis against each other but encouraged them to engage in dialogue.
- The Union Coordination Committee protests, demanding the approval of the salary scale. ●

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- LEBANON

## ISRAEL'S WARS ON LEBANON: OPERATION GRAPES OF WRATH

**Israel has waged multiple wars against Lebanon, starting from the Litani Operation in 1978 to the June War of 1982 up to the Operation Grapes of Wrath in 1996 and concluding with the July War of 2006. On the twentieth anniversary of the Operation Grapes of Wrath, we reminisce about the facts, background and results of the operation.**

### Beginning

Israeli hostilities against Lebanon began on April 11, 1996 under the pretext of retaliation against the operations that had targeted Israel, more precisely Hezbollah's shelling of northern Israel, which injured six Israelis on April 9. Hezbollah's rocket attack came in response to the death of a number of Lebanese in the town of Braashit hit by Israeli rockets.

However, Israel's ulterior motive was to dwarf or end the armed presence of Hezbollah in South Lebanon and to prevent it from firing rockets against Israel.

### Military action

Israel did not advance into the liberated Lebanese territory beyond the Blue Line, which was under its control, limiting its attack to air raids against Hezbollah's military strongholds and other civilian targets, which it raided with the intent of pitting residents against Hezbollah and displacing them from the South. Moreover, it laid siege to the Lebanese ports so as to prevent the delivery of weapons to Hezbollah. Israel's attack was not limited to South Lebanon, as Israeli aircrafts shelled several civilian targets, foremost of which were the power stations in the Al-Jomhour area near Beirut.

Hezbollah did target northern Israel with missiles but was not able to realize the so-called balance of terror against Israel.

### Damages

The damage arising from the war broke down as follows:

- Displacement of 150,000 to 200,000 Lebanese from South Lebanon.
- Death of 170 Lebanese most of whom died during the air raid conducted against a UN headquarters thought to be safe in the town of Qana.
- Injury of 350 Lebanese.

- Destruction of or damage to over 2500 residential units.

### End of the War

Cease-fire was announced on April 27 signaling the end of the war after both parties reached an agreement known as the April Ceasefire Understanding.

### April Understanding

The United States understands that after discussions with the governments of Israel and Lebanon and consultations with Syria, Lebanon and Israel will ensure the following:

- Armed groups in Lebanon will not carry out attacks by Katyusha rockets or by any kind of weapon into Israel.
- Israel and those cooperating with it will not fire any kind of weapon at civilians or civilian targets in Lebanon.
- A Monitoring Group will be established for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of the understanding stated above.
- It is recognized that the understanding to bring the current crisis between Lebanon and Israel to an end cannot substitute for a permanent solution. Toward this end, the United States proposes the resumption of negotiations between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel at a time to be agreed upon, with the objective of reaching comprehensive peace.
- The developments that unfolded afterwards proved that the understanding was nothing other than a mere truce as Israel resumed a massive attack on Lebanon in July 2006, which ended with Resolution 1701. ●

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- SYRIA

### EXECUTION OF ELI COHEN, THE MOST DANGEROUS SPY PLANTED IN SYRIA BY ISRAEL

**Eli Cohen, aka 'Fighter 88', is one of the greatest Mossad agents in history. He was executed in the Marja Square of Damascus on May 18, 1965 and his body was left hanging for six hours.**

Eli Cohen was a Jew of Syrian Aleppine origin. He was born in Alexandria where his ancestors had moved in 1924. In 1944, Cohen joined the Zionist youth organization in Alexandria, advocating Israel's hostile policy against the Arab World. Before moving to Israel, Cohen worked in Egypt under the leadership of Avraham Dar, aka John Darling, one of the most skilled Mossad officers in the 1940s and 50s, and began spying for Israel and assisting the Jews in migration and recruitment of agents. Cohen established an Israeli intelligence network in Egypt, which carried out a series of bombings against a number of US facilities in Cairo and Alexandria with the aim of ruining the relationship between the US and Egypt. In 1954, members of the network were arrested on charges of involvement in the Lavon Affair but Cohen was able to get away after convincing investigators of his innocence. He left Egypt in 1955, heading for Israel where he joined Unit 131 of the Israeli Army Intelligence.

Israeli intelligence sensed great potential in Cohen as a spy. Initially, he was trained to operate in Egypt but the plan was soon changed and Cohen moved to Damascus where he began his espionage activity. Israeli intelligence created a new Muslim identity for Cohen who now bore a new name, Kamal Amin Thabet. According to his fictional biography, Thabet and his family had migrated to Alexandria before they decided to move to Argentina in 1947 where Thabet's uncle had been living since 1946. His father died there from a heart attack in 1952 and his mother followed suit six months later. After the death of his parents, Thabet was left alone to handle the family's textile business.



Eli Cohen

Cohen was trained on radio transmissions and cryptography. He followed Syria's news closely and learned the names of its politicians, traders and economists. He mastered Quranic verses and the teachings of Islam. After extensive training, he headed for Buenos Aires where he, in cooperation with a number of agents, worked on establishing his cover as a Syrian émigré and gaining reputation as a successful Syrian businessman and a fervent

nationalist. This popularity has made it easy for him to weave close ties with Syrian diplomats, particularly with the Syrian embassy's military attaché, Colonel Amine Hafez.

**“In the first few months, Cohen continued to network with high-ranking army officers and was accustomed to visiting them in their headquarters where they freely discussed their military tactics in his presence, which allowed him to have an overall picture of the capacities of the Syrian Army and the military assistance it was receiving from the Soviet Union”**

Through lavish dinner parties and social occasions, Cohen or Kamal Amin Thabet, was able to penetrate the political and diplomatic Syrian strata and to express nostalgia for his homeland and his intent to return to Damascus. Having prepared the climate for his alleged return and after receiving the signal from Israel to start his mission, it was not surprising to see Cohen in 1962 in Syria posing as a businessman from Argentina who had returned to his native land.

In the first few months, Cohen continued to network with high-ranking army officers and was accustomed to visiting them in their headquarters where they freely discussed their military tactics in his presence, which allowed him to have an overall picture of the capacities of the Syrian Army and the military assistance it was receiving from the Soviet Union. Having been taken into the confidence of the highest echelons of power, Cohen was able to find out the details of the Syrian military operation planned with the knowledge of Soviet experts to invade northern Israel in case any war erupted. His connections permitted him to visit the Golan Heights defenses and

pass information and photographs of Syrian positions and fortifications onto Israel using a device fixated in his hand watch. Cohen sent first hand intelligence to Israel together with the names and movements of Syrian officers across all units and posts.

Eli Cohen's rise in popularity was further consolidated by the huge amounts of cash he lavished on the Baath Party. He escalated the echelons of power and bordered on being nominated as a Prime Minister and a Head of the Baath Party. Varied accounts were given concerning the fall of Eli Cohen. One of them reported that, in 1965, after four years of spying in Syria, Syrian authorities detected a Morse code message transmitted to Israel from the building where Cohen lived. Security forces besieged the building and questioned all residents without finding any suspect. Yet, after tracing the source of transmissions, they realized that Cohen was spying on them and arrested him. Another story recounts that the Indian Embassy, headquartered nearby Cohen's residence, had hard time transmitting coded information back to India at certain hours of the day and asked Syrian authorities to look into the interference, which sparked a hunt for a pirate radio operator and allowed them to trace Cohen's signal. ●



# TERRORIST GROUPS PRETENDING TO STAND FOR ISLAM (4)

## THE ARMED ISLAMIC GROUP IN ALGERIA

**Between 1992 and 1998, a fierce war erupted in Algeria in which the Algerian Army together with Security Forces fought against the Armed Islamic Group, following the cancellation of the results of the first round of Algeria's parliamentary elections, which was held in late 1991 and resulted in a landslide victory for the Armed Islamic Group. Had the results not been voided, this victory could have brought the group to power but the Algerian Army, backed by France, challenged the results paving way for a brutal war between the army and the Islamic Group.**

### Historical Background

France occupied Algeria in 1830 and tightened its grip on the country's economic resources, which triggered the birth of resistance movements, foremost of which was the movement led by Prince Abdul Qader Al-Jazaeri. The revolt against the French occupation began on November 1, 1954. Heinous battles and massacres unfolded against the rebels, resulting in the deaths of 1,500,000 Algerians. Yet, these movements managed to achieve the withdrawal of France and the declaration of Algeria's independence on July 5, 1962, after 132 years of occupation and eight years of rebellion.

Power was seized by the National Liberation Front, which was the only recognized party at the time. Algerian Army generals succeeded to the presidency of the republic of Algeria, and despite a period of quiet and stability, their rule lacked the economic and social development expected in a country with a considerable wealth of petroleum reserves. This socio-economic crisis, coupled with the rise of Islamic movements that date back to 1979 and which suffered from oppression, led to the emergence of popular movements in the Algerian capital and most of Algeria's cities in 1988.

### Intifada (Popular Uprising)

The popular *intifada* broke out, led by Abbas Madani's Islamic Salvation Front, resulting in drastic changes in the structure of the state. The single-party system was brought down giving way to a multiparty rule. Elections were held starting with the municipal elections which yielded the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front with 953 municipal councils out of 1539. This strong popularity enabled the Front to advance into the parliamentary elections of January 1991 and to win 188 seats out of 231 or roughly 80%. The Front's victory qualified it once again to be in power and decision-making position.

The Front's landslide win first in municipal, then parliamentary elections drove the government and senior army generals to take action in order to avoid losing the power they had seized for over thirty years. To this end, they made several arrests

amongst the members of the Front accusing them of armament and acts of terrorism aimed against the army and the civilians. In early 1992, Algerian President Al-Shazli Bin Jadid dissolved the Algerian parliament (People's National Assembly) and tendered his resignation. Afterwards, the Higher Security Council cancelled the results of the parliamentary elections and prevented the Front from reaching power after it had been dissolved by the Council and banned from being involved in politics. These measures sparked a military clash between the authority and the pro-Front Islamic groups or those groups opposing the state.

### Confrontations

After the cancellation of the elections and the dissolution of the Front, extremist members moved to work under the Armed Islamic Group, killing those Algerians who refused to support the group. The Armed Islamic Group assassinated and kidnapped prominent political and military figures and planted car bombs, thus plunging Algeria in a bloodshed. This persisted until 1998 when the Army managed to minimize the efficiency of the group and to paralyze its activity in key cities, although it continued to operate in remote border areas.

### Group's Doctrine

The Armed Islamic Group follows the jihadi Salafist discipline by seeking to establish the State of Islam using the legitimate religious methods. The Group challenges what it regards as "twisted ways" such as elections and has therefore used the cancellation of elections as no more than a pretext since it does not believe in democracy or electoral freedom.

For the purpose of establishing an Islamic State, all means and methods are permissible (extermination of the enemies of Islam including women, children and the elderly.) According to the group's doctrine, killing enemies is religiously legitimate, even if there were Muslims among the said enemies. However, the deliberate killing of a Muslim is not permissible whereas it is totally acceptable to rob banks and steal the resources of the state as these are considered to be spoils of war. ●

## REAL ESTATE PRICES- MARCH 2015

A slight upturn marked the real estate market in March 2015 amidst positive signals heralding the possibility of greater momentum in the coming months, providing no political or security drawbacks arise to perturb the current stability in Lebanon and the region.

Prices remained largely stable for small and medium size properties. The same applied to top of the market, expensive properties which maintained stable levels after the declines seen in the past few months.

The following tables illustrate the prices of some estates and apartments sold in March 2015.

Prices of some estates sold in March 2015			Table 1
Region	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Price (USD)	USD/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Beirut</b>			
Spears	350	3,50,000	10,000
Ras Beirut	500	6,250,000	12,500
<b>Baabda</b>			
Hazmieh	650	1,105,000	1,700
<b>Matn</b>			
Ain Saadeh	2,100	2,310,000	1,100
Roumieh	850	680,000	800
Rabieh	920	230,000	2,500
<b>Aley</b>			
Aley (Sinaiyah)	850	144,500	170
<b>Kessrouan</b>			
Ashqout	800	264,000	330
Faitroun	2,500	750,000	300
Ghazeer	1,200	720,000	600
Zouk Mikhael	900	837,000	930

Source: Compiled by Information International- March 2015

Prices of some apartments sold in March 2015			Table 2
Region	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Price (USD)	USD/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Beirut</b>			
Ras Nabe'e	150	345,000	2,300
Tallet Khayyat	200	730,000	3,650
Spears	210	724,500	3,450

Prices of some apartments sold in March 2015 Table 2

Region	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Price (USD)	USD/m <sup>2</sup>
Quraytem	250	1,100,000	4,400
Adliyah	230	667,000	2,900
Sioufi	100	260,000	2,600
Hekmeh (Ashrafieh)	240	552,000	2,300
<b>Baabda</b>			
Hazmieh (Sayyad)	100	200,000	2,000
Hazmieh (Mar Tawla)	150	330,000	2,200
Shiyyah (Kazma)	170	272,000	1,600
Ain Roummaneh	185	286,750	1,550
Baabda (Brazilia)	220	484,000	2,200
<b>Matn</b>			
Broummana	120	180,000	1,500
Jal el-Dib	190	361,000	1,900
Ain Saadeh	230	460,000	2,000
Antelias	100	150,000	1,500
Mansourieh	150	180,000	1,200
Dekwaneh	130	156,000	1,200
<b>Aley</b>			
Doha Hoss	190	342,000	1,800
Aley	180	198,000	1,100
Bshamoun (Yahoudiyeh)	170	161,500	950
Bshamoun (Madares)	120	120,000	1,000
Aramoun	140	161,000	1,150
Aramoun	160	160,000	1,000
<b>Kessrouan</b>			
Zouq Mosbeh	175	245,000	1,400
Souhaileh	210	273,000	1,300
Sarba	120	159,600	1,330
Ghadeer	200	300,000	1,500
Zouk Mikhael	190	266,000	1,400

Source: Compiled by Information International- March 2015

## Top Five Lost Treasures of the World

- **King John's Treasure- Britain:** King John was particularly fond of looting gold and jewelry. In 1216, on his way back to Newark Castle in Britain, his troops drowned and the treasure carts were lost and never recovered. The estimated value of King John's treasure is USD 70 million.
- **The Secret City of Paititi- Brazil:** Shortly before the end of the forty-year war between the Spanish and the Incas of Peru, the Incas had fled to a location in the rainforests of Brazil taking their vast treasure of Gold with them. The lost Inca gold is worth roughly USD 10 billion.
- **The Missing Kruger Millions:** During the Second Anglo-Boer War in South Africa, the Boer President, Paul Kruger departed, by trip, for France leaving behind lost treasures worth USD 250 million in the North Eastern Transvaal.
- **The Treasure of the Copper Scroll- Jordan:** This treasure was found in 1946 in the Qumran archaeological site, north of the Dead Sea, on scrolls made of copper and containing a list of 64 locations where significant amounts of gold and silver worth USD 1.2 billion had been hidden.
- **The Treasure of the Flor de la Mar:** Captain Alfonso de Albuquerque loaded his ship with a vast treasure and set sail for Portugal but was caught in a violent storm that caused the ship to drown. The treasure worth USD 2.6 billion was lost to the waves in the reefs of Sumatra.



Passenger traffic at the Rafic Hariri International Airport increased in March 2015 by 21% compared to the preceding month. In comparison with the same period last year, an increase of 11% was recorded.

A total of 1,374,253 passengers used the Rafic Hariri International Airport in the first three months this year, up by 9.3% from the same period last year. Table 1 illustrates airport traffic in March 2015 compared to February 2015 and March 2014.

## Beirut International Airport

### Rafic Hariri International Airport Traffic- March 2015 An Increase in Passenger Traffic by 21%

Airport traffic in March 2015 compared to February 2015 and March 2014					Table 1
Traffic	February 2015	March 2015	March 2014	% of Change February/ March 2015	% of Change March 2014/ 2015
Arriving airplanes	2,215	2,469	2,397	+11.4	+3
Departing airplanes	2,215	2,466	2,398	+11.4	+2.8
Total no. of airplanes	4,430	4,935	4,795	+11.4	+2.9
Arriving passengers	193,890	242,806	211,733	+25	+14.7
Departing passengers	199,693	233,260	217,920	+16.8	+7
Transit passengers	1,192	1,371	1,326	+15	+3.4
Total no. of passengers	394,775	477,437	430,979	+21	+10.8
Imported goods (per ton)	3,827	4,839	5,736	+26.5	-15.6
Exported goods (per ton)	1,946	2,060	3,266	+5.8	-37
Total amount of goods	5,773	6,899	9,002	+19.5	-23.4

Source: Compiled by Information International based on the Directorate General of Aviation

● **540** is the number of Brigadier Generals serving at the Lebanese Army at the beginning of 2015, although the staffing table has room for 160 Brigadier Generals only. Should the retirement age be raised from 58 to 60, the number will increase to 750.

● **LBP 38.5 million** is the worth of overtime pay owed to the workers and employees of the Directorate General of Roads, Buildings and Regional Directorates at the Ministry of Public Works for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998. These dues were paid in April 2015, 17 years after the completion of works.

● **LBP 5 billion** is the contribution of the Lebanese government through the Ministry of Social Affairs to the National Project for Monitoring Sudden Population Movements, which is partly funded by the US, although no tangible benefits have so far arisen from this project.

## Publications by Information International (in Arabic):

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

## Publications by INMA (in Arabic):

- 1- "I am Responsible, All of Us are Responsible"
- 2- "Our Environment is Our Home"
- 3- "My Society is My Responsibility"
- 4- "My Society is My Responsibility" Workbook
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- 6- "I am a Student, I am a Citizen: Ways Towards State Building" Workbook
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- 8- Discrimination in Lebanon
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## Publications by Kutub (in Arabic):

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- 11- Harakat Al Hadasa fi Al-She'r Al-Arabi Al-Mo'aser -Kamal Keir beik
- 12- Al Tanassot Ala Al Hatef fi Lebanon 1947-1958
- 13- Beirut *Daw' Ala Warak 1850-1915*
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# BOOK SIGNING CEREMONY

## **A STAR FROM MY COUNTRY**

### **DAN**

## **WRITERS FROM MY COUNTRY**

In the presence of 150 people, Dr. Sana Ali Harakeh signed on Friday, April 17, 2015, her two books, *A Star from My Country* and *Writers from My Country*, in a ceremony held at Librairie Antoine in Downtown, Beirut. Fairuz tracks played softly in the background creating a joyful mood. The titles allowed attendees to regain touch with music and literary giants who enriched the Lebanese and Arab libraries, all while using a simple and thrilling style.



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