

Popular solidarity with Palestinians: signs of vitality as well as fragmentation of civil society

Over the past months, Lebanon has witnessed increasing solidarity with the Palestinian people and its Intifada. Popular initiatives began as a spontaneous response to the Israeli occupation. These initiatives soon turned into daily activities throughout the country with broad support from most social and political groups, civil society organizations and members of the clergy. In this editorial, Majal will attempt to highlight just a few of these many initiatives.

Among the variety of actions were demonstrations, sit ins and candle vigils supported and attended by tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian women and men. Lebanon was also the platform for various statements and official declarations made with respect to the events in Palestine and in response to the suffering of its people. Local press coverage indicated that there were 10 to 20 solidarity events taking place daily, in addition to major demonstrations in various parts of the country. In fact, the first month of solidarity with the Palestinian people recorded over 300 different initiatives. The most prominent of these were undoubtedly the demonstrations which were called for by various on varied from a few thousand to tens of thousands of individuals. The demonstration called for by students and the education sector gathered some 75.000 participants all over the country.

The demonstrations called for by political groups included several government parties, Hezbollah, the new left/centrist political parties (the alliance between the democratic forum, the renewal democratic movement, and some pillars of Kornet Chehwan), the left parties of the National Salvation Gathering, as well as other Islamist political groups and parties.

Whether they joined forces or acted independently, they all called for solidarity initiatives. The role, however, of youth and civil society organizations was especially dynamic in being able to mobilize its constituency, at times, far more than political parties. The participation of professional and trade unions was particularly noted, especially at the level of workers, engineers and doctors.

The demonstrations organized by students and the education sector were by far the most successful, followed by those organized by political parties, trade unions and student groups. Initiatives organized by NGOs included symbolic sit-ins, fundraising campaigns and petition signing. The events organized by NGOs were held in Beirut and other urban centers. This included a number of local umbrella NGOs, representing more than 240 smaller organizations. Youth movements were certainly the most dynamic, radical and unrelentless but rather limited in terms of scope and geographical spread. The youth were in fact the first to start a sit-supporters and activists. NGOs set up a tent facing the UN building, one week after the start of events and dismantled it by the end of April. Hezbollah erected a third tent on 15 April and dismantled it one week later. The unorganized youth and student groups, however continued the sit-in following the withdrawal of the political parties.

Following the invasion of the Israeli army, the solidarity and protest movements in Lebanon turned into long-term action lead by youth, leftist and Islamist groups focussing increasingly on boycotting US products as well as international companies known for their support to Israel. Although this boycott campaign is still in its early stages, there are many signs indicating widespread sympathy and support to its objectives. A poll taken by Information International indicated that 45% of those surveyed have effectively boycotted US products whilst 30% have refrained from visiting the American University

Hospital since the start of the boycott campaign. The various youth groups are increasingly coordinating their actions in order to ensure the success of the boycott campaign.

The following points can be made in summarizing the various actions of solidarity:

- Spontaneous popular initiatives attracted many supporters in solidarity with the Palestinian people. These actions have yet to take on a strategic direction.
- Solidarity initiatives expanded beyond the capital, Beirut, though these did not necessarily receive media coverage.
- Competition in media coverage was rather obvious as well as lack of coordination.
- Though solidarity was a common theme, the threshold of initiatives varied greatly. In many cases, the slogans were too general and vague and lacked a practical vision.
- There was a noticeable harmony between street and political discourse to the extent that many political figures took active part in various solidarity events. It was also noticeable that most petitions were addressed to the UN and to various embassies. However, they remained vague and lacked clear demands from politicians and from the government.
- The financial contributions raised throughout that period remained relatively low particularly at the upper income levels, who are known to be more generous during times such as Ramadan.

II MONITORING OF CIVIL RIGHTS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

<<Human Rights>>

◀ **The state of human rights in Lebanon following the visit of UN HR Chief, Mary Robinson**

UN HR head, Mary Robinson, visited Lebanon from 3 - 6 March, 2002. Ms. Robinson met with the Prime Minister, some ministers, the Bar Association, Arab and foreign ambassadors, as well as representatives of several NGOs involved in Human Rights. Ms. Robinson ended her visit with a press conference during which she shared her insights and impressions on the state of human rights in Lebanon. There were three main objectives to her visit, viz.

- a) Evaluate the situation of human rights in Lebanon and the commitment of the government to the application of international human rights conventions,
- b) Take part in a regional workshop for Asia and the Pacific on Human Rights, and
- c) Reiterate to both the governmental and non-governmental organisations, the importance of protecting and respecting human rights in the region.

Robinson added that the situation of human rights in Lebanon could be considered good according to international standards, whilst adding that the situation of prisons needs to be improved. Robinson stated that trafficking in children is not a crucial issue in the country, and requested that further investigation be carried out on alleged sexual abuses against foreign domestic workers. (Al Safir, 7/3/2002)

Robinson also urged NGOs to develop annual reports on the status of human rights, particularly in a situation where the state fails to do so, or provides a picture, which does not accurately reflect reality. Robinson also informed NGOs that she discussed the issue of arbitrary arrests with the authorities as well as the need to lift current reservations on conventions related to the rights of women, children and the disabled. Robinson received a memorandum from the coordination committee of NGOs working with Palestinians in refugee camps, which details the social and economic situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the local discriminatory laws prohibiting access to property and formal employment. Another memorandum she received related to arbitrary arrests, the practice of torture, particularly against foreign workers, discrimination against women and the lack of implementation of the disability bill.

a press conference held at the Saint Joseph University, in the presence of several foreign ambassadors and consuls (USA, France, UK, EU, Hungary) as well as several university professors. The representative of the organisation in Lebanon, Dr. Elie Abou-Aoun, pointed to various negative issues related to the Lebanese laws namely the prerogatives bestowed to the district attorney and which in several cases undermine those of the judicial system, the immunity surrounding the military, the absence of the state from a number of areas and the predominance of political parties in some newly liberated villages in South Lebanon, in addition to the appalling situation of prisons and the discrimination against women, children and the disabled. The report also points to positive changes

the implementation of the disability bill, and the recent initiatives launched by the Ministry of the Environment.

(Al Safir and Al Nahar, 2/3/2002)

◀ **New calls for equality between men and women on the occasion of International**

and various initiatives calling for equality

and the NGOs Post-Beijing follow-up committee developed a joint petition focusing on three major issues:

- A call for equality between women and men in relation to the right to pass on nationality: This the two organisations felt was necessary, particularly since the convention for the rights of the

Moreover, the petition calls for the lifting of the reservat right to nationality (clause 9)

- absent from decision making in Lebanon, particularly in relation to the political and judicial systems. This matter has been regarded as critical by the Beijing Platform of Action a platform approved by the Lebanese government. The Beijing + 5 programme sees this issue as core to the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women. Though both organisations concede that the latest administrative nominations marked a positive turning point (given the nomination of women into senior administrative posts), yet the organisations pointed out that this trend will need to be consolidated and maintained.
- A call for equal opportunities in the electoral process: The electoral process is at the heart of democratic practice. Democracy for both organisations entails that all citizens, women and men, have equal opportunities to take active part in politics. This, however, needs to be ensured through appropriate electoral laws which do not discriminate against women. The current electoral laws do not encourage women to apply as candidates, thus limiting their political participation at both a local and national level.

Also, at the same occasion, the Machreq/Maghreb Gender Linking & Information Project (a project of the Centre for Research and Training on Development) launched its regional campaign for the full and unconditional right of Arab women to pass on their nationality to their children. This campaign is based upon the fact that women and men in the region do not share equal rights with respect to nationality. This undermines the very concept of equality amongst citizens and is a cause for serious social and economic problems. The regional campaign includes a number of local awareness raising and mobilisation workshops, targeting NGOs and development organisations aimed at introducing the issue of gender, citizenship and nationality.

The campaign also includes the carrying out of an empirical action-oriented research on the social and

nationality laws and international conventions, as well as massive mobilization of support around this issue.

For its part, the Ministry of Administrative Affairs recently submitted a law proposal for the feminisation of job titles according to the post holders. The Minister has declared that the proposal was submitted to the Prime Minister and relates to all public sector positions, with the exceptions of the judiciary and the armed forces (Al Safir, 8 March 2002).

◀ **Serious concerns over the implementation of the disability right charter**

Following the formation of the new National Council for Disabled Persons Affairs and the enactment of decree 7400, which relates to the setting up of a service support commission for the disabled (c.f. previous issue of Majal), extent to which it is committed to implementing the disability bill.

In early March, a new decree was promulgated (7603) which stipulates setting up a commission to implement the d the director general of MOSA (president), the director general of the National Employment Office (vice-president), and representatives of the National Service Council, the Ministry of Finance, the Council for Development and Reconstruction, the National Social Security Fund, the Industrialists Union, the Bankers Unions, private insurance companies, the General Workers Union and the National Council for the Disabled.

The new decree outlines the responsibilities of this new commission which include the following:

- 1) Monitoring the implementation of the disability bill so as to find a solution related to employment and social integration.
- 2) Assist the disabled to access the work market and ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination.
- 3) Identify and set up mechanisms which allow and assist disabled people in setting up their own businesses.
- 4) Coordinate projects amongst the various governmental structures and provide assistance where needed.
- 5) Coordinate between the public and private sectors in all matters relating to providing assistance for the disabled.

The 7603 decree was followed by a new decree (7784) specifying the eligibility criteria for the disabled to benefit from unemployment compensation and based on the recommendations of the Ministers of Social Affairs and Labor.

minimum wage (law 220, 29/5/2000), she/he will be required to fulfill the following criteria:

- Holder of the official disability ID
- Formerly registered with the National Employment office as seeking employment and holding a certificate indicating that she/he has continuously visited NEO for a period of three months
- Submit an application to the Ministry of Labor within one month of the issue of the above mentioned certificate
- The applicant should not have been unemployed for more than 5 years and no less than 6 uninterrupted months
- The applicant should have been forcibly unemployed.
- The decree also stipulates eight reasons for the halting the payment of the unemployment compensation.

Following the release of the decree, the Union of Associations of the Disabled in Lebanon issued a statement of concerns, particularly since the new decree drastically contradicts the disability bill, particularly clauses 70, 72, 73 and 74, which relate to

decrees, especially that the Council for Disabled Persons (12/4/2002)

Furthermore, the Union of Blind University Students addressed a special plea to the president of the republic requesting him not to sign this decree which was developed without consultation with the Council. The Union estimated that this decree would only serve a handful of persons out of an estimated total of 13,000 unemployed disabled. (Al Safir, 10/4/2002)

For its part, and in commemoration of labor day, the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union and the National Council for Disabled Persons, which were stipulated by law 220, requesting the full implementation of its clauses and provisions.

Moreover, the National Council for Disability Affairs held a meeting on 13 April in the presence of the Minister and Director General. The Council discussed its internal by-laws and approved them after introducing a number of amendments. Nominations for joint committees were also agreed and a small ad hoc committee was set up to advise on the new law related to unemployment compensation (Al Moustakbal, 13/4/2002).

<<Corruption in Lebanon>>

◀ \$1 billion are annually lost because of corruption

Lebanon wastes over \$1 billion a year because of corruption, according to a report by research company Information International. It is money the government badly needs as it struggles to control a public debt at 170% of gross domestic product. The Lebanese have long grudgingly accepted petty bribery as the grease that keeps the wheels of bureaucracy turning. But since the 15-year civil war in 1990, according to the report, the system has become so oiled it is slipping out of control. Relative opulence before the war disguised widespread corruption, but the debt accumulated by expensive post-war graft is a major disincentive for the foreign investors the government is trying so hard to lure. Businesspeople say paying bribes, giving gifts and donations or knowing which officials to see and how much commission they take, so we just work it into our costs. Here,

Fadi Abboud, who maintained that corruption was also rife in the private sector. Last year, electricity workers named and shamed dozens of politicians, businesspeople and pop singers they claimed had failed to pay bills. Electricite du Liban, which loses \$500 million a year, collects less than half its electricity bills. Ordinary people bribe electricity workers to set back their electricity meters while many buildings lack meters entirely. Residents of some poor areas illegally hook their lines to electricity pylons, stealing power. A public sector stuffed with political appointees and a private sector

of fair job opportunities. Some economists say low pay - the minimum wage is equivalent to \$200 a month - tempts staff to take bribes. Others claim the phenomenon is cultural. They say citizens are loyal to their religious sect or clan rather to the Lebanese state, and powerful politicians curry favor with their communities by granting them thousands of public sector jobs that they are often not qualified to fill. With 17 sects and dozens of feudal families all competing for power in this tiny country, buying off each sect and overlord can cost the Lebanese dearly. State contracts are often awarded to companies related to,

largest stakes in Solidere.- the company created to rebuild war-ravaged central Beirut- a fact many Lebanese feel blurs the line between public and private. The former government of Selim Hoss launched a high profile anti-corruption campaign that included the arrest of former oil minister for embezzlement and forgery. That campaign quickly petered out amid claims that it too was mired in conflict between vested interests. (The Daily Star, 15/3/2002)

<<Youth Rights>>

◀ Uncertainty over the proposed law to decrease voting age to 18 years

The month of March witnessed an intensive debate regarding the underlying reasons for the request to decrease the electoral age from 21 to 18. The proposed law was submitted to parliament in 1997 by a coalition of eight MPs. Youth groups extended much efforts in support of the campaign and collected the signatures and endorsement of some 90 MPs on a petition demanding the government to reconsider the electoral age.

The Administrative and Judicial Parliamentary Committee met in mid-March to discuss the proposed law reform. The discussions of the committee reflect the prerogative to revise the law amendment. As such, the amendment was referred to the house of parliament without any proposal from the committee. The committee explained its decision by saying that the proposed amendment was an amendment to the constitution, which can only be debated by the general parliamentary assembly.

<<Civil Rights>>

◀ Nine MPs refer the proposed bill on civil marriage to the house of parliament

The Gathering for an Optional Civil Marriage Law in Lebanon announced in a press conference organized on March 18, that ten MPs have signed their proposed bill calling for an optional civil marriage, drawn back in 1999. The press conference was attended by many MPs who had signed the proposed decree as well as representatives from non-

The gathering which was set up in 1998 and includes some 70 NGOs and political parties has chosen the March 18 to be the National Day for the Optional Civil Marriage, to commemorate the day the proposed bill was signed by the majority of the cabinet in 1998, despite never reaching Parliament. On that same day in 2000, the gathering organized a symbolic march from the seat of the government to the house of parliament at which occasion activists delivered the proposed bill, which was never discussed in parliament due to refusal by the Prime Minister. In 2001, another symbolic event was organized where couples embarked on mock boats to Cyprus as one option for contracting civil marriages. This year, with the endorsement of the core group of MPs, the proposed bill finally made Parliament, whilst the public awaits the final verdict. (Al Moustakbal, 19/3/2002)

III NGO NEWS

◀ Arab NGO Network holds its launching conference in Beirut & elects its board of trustees

On the invitation of Prince Talal Bin Abdel Aziz, the Arab NGO Network held its conference in Lebanon from 23 - 25 April with the participation of 900 individuals from 19 countries. The conference discussed the official launch of the network, the adoption of its by-laws, the election of a new board of trustees, and discussions on progress between 1997 and 2002, as well as the adoption of an action plan for the next five years. PM Hariri, as well as Lebanese and Arab MPs and representative of the EU, UN and other international agencies, attended the opening of the conference. A number of participants criticized the preparations for the conference and other issues, such as the mechanisms for the discussion of by-laws and the criteria for representation of participating countries, the opening up of membership to regional and international organizations and deciding on sources of funding.

The representative of the Near East Council of Churches for Refugee Relief in Jordan made a number of remarks with regards to how the network was set up, pointing out a number of legal irregularities with regards to the by-laws. He indicated that the constitution of the network was set up without consultation and expressed his concern that regional and foreign organisations may adhere to the network without any clear criteria covering their Arab identity. Another Algerian participant agreed with the criticisms, particularly with respect to the lack of consultation. She described the network as a farce, pointing out the nebulous nature and lack of accountability. Other participants questioned the decision to limit a

on voting rights undermines in fact the voice and representation of many countries. Concerns were also expressed as to the potential Israeli infiltration to the network via international funding organisations whilst many thought that as the network is Arab, it should seek funding from Arab sources only. The Conference elected Prince Talal as its president and a new board of trustees comprising ten members from Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, and Sudan.

The main resolutions and recommendations of the Conference included: a declaration of solidarity with and an appeal for support to the Palestinian people, the organisation of an international NGO conference on Palestine, the adoption of a transparency declaration for NGOs, the undertaking of training and research, supporting NGO law reforms, preparation of a legal guidebook on laws relating to NGOs, and consolidating dialogue with civil society organisations, Arab parliamentarians and governments. (Al Safir, 27/4/2002)

◀ **ALDHOM denounces the confessional system in Lebanon**

rights violations, particularly in relation to arbitrary arrests of individuals who are expressing their opinions through demonstrations and the distribution of leaflets. ALDHOM considered that the chief violation of human rights lies in the current confessional system, which contradicts the principle of equality amongst citizens.

In its statement, ALDHOM welcomed the recent visit of the UN Human Rights chief, Ms. Mary Robinson, and summarised the situation of human rights in Lebanon as follows:

1. The most recurrent human rights violation remains at the level of the various Israeli aggressions on Lebanon, viz. its frequent air raids, the number of detainees within Israeli prisons who do not benefit from any form of legal protection or representation;
2. There are various forms of state violations of human rights, from arrests to interrogations of individuals who express personal and/or collective opinions through demonstrations and the distribution of leaflets;
3. The Lebanese government and the house of parliament indirectly condones the practice of monitoring telephone communications;
4. Many Lebanese citizens are still among the disappeared during the Lebanese civil war - a tragic situation, which needs to see an end, immediately;
5. Many political refugees, who are requesting political asylum, have not yet been heard by the state of Lebanon nor the UNHCR;
6. There are hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who still live in refugee camps and who do not enjoy basic human and social rights such as the right to education and health services or decent livelihoods;
7. The major human rights violation in Lebanon remains in the current confessional system which violates the principle of equality among Lebanese citizens and is reflected in the confessional distribution of posts within the public sector and the diversity of religious and confessional courts;
8. Finally, the situation of prisons in Lebanon is appalling.

ALDHOM added that these violations need to be addressed openly and with determination and courage. The association noted some positive points, however, with respect to the declarations issued by some

officials as well as the ratification of a number of international conventions and the work of human rights organizations.

(Al Nahar, 7 March 2002)

◀ **The role of NGOs in Lebanon - strengthening the social fabric**

The Arab Cultural Club organised a seminar on 15 March to discuss the role of NGOs in strengthening the social fabric of Lebanon. Speakers and participants in the conference included the general coordinator of the Beirut Association for Social Development, Dr. Saleh Farroukh, and Fadia Kiwan, president of the national UNESCO

nineteenth century as a reaction to various missionaries and to the weakness of the local state and out of the need of confessional communities for social organisations and structures that would protect their -independence period but was briefly

followed by the Chehab mandate, which was characterized by a move towards creating institutions and the ensuing civil war where NGOs developed religious identities and allegiances and to present day Lebanon, which witnessed the come back of the role of the state, decline in foreign funding and the establishment of NGOs concerned with the environment, human rights and non- oukh noted that confessions play an important role in regulating civil life and that neighborhood and community ties strengthened during and after the war. Farroukh encouraged NGOs to look for more realistic solutions to address emergency situations and to challenge exclusion and foster solidarity and collaboration. The president of the UNESCO national committee, emphasized the importance of NGOs, saying that a community can only protect itself from globalisation through its civil society. She criticized the work of local NGOs and stressed the need to differentiate between religious and national NGOs,

serves to politicise these NGOs and transform them into parasites. Kiwan called for more transparent practice within NGOs, whilst maintaining it the freedoms and dignity of the society it represents.

(Al Nahar, 16/3/2002)

◀ **Heated debates about Prince Walid Bin Talal amongst Beirut NGOs**

Following the statements made by prince Walid Bin Talal during his visit to Beirut last March, a number of Beirut NGOs expressed their concerns and disagreements and attempted a protest visit to Dar el Fetwa for that matter though their visit was not allowed. The group of Beirut NGOs indicated that the -Saudi relation and clearly aggress the

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dispensary of the Gathering of Islamic NGOs in Tarik al Jadidah on 7/5/2002 and elected its founding committee.

(Al Nahar, 8/5/2002)

◀ **More community & local civil actions to protect the environment**

Various initiatives for environmental protection were noted during the period under review namely:

* *Protection of beaches and salt ponds in Anfeh and Ras el Natour*: 16 NGOs presented a petition to the Ministry of Environment calling for the protection of beaches and salt ponds in Anfeh and Dar el Natour especially since the latter are an important asset both in terms of heritage as well as a an important source of livelihood for the population. Former Minister of Environment Akram Shehayyeb joined the NGOs in signing the petition. (Al Dyar, 2/4/2002)

* *A campaign for the protection of El Kneysseh mountain*: 17 NGOs signed a national petition calling for an end to further construction on the top of El Kneysseh mountain in view of the wealth of the area in natural assets and resources. (Al Dyar, 6/4/2002)

* *The Municipal Council in Kferselwan*, which is in charge of the el Kneysseh mountain, invited environmental NGOs to access information available at the municipality on the new tourist resort which will be built on site and which will allegedly benefit inhabitants of the area and generate tourism and employment. The Municipal council confirmed that the contract of agreement with the contractor of this project is very strict on environmental protection. (Al Safir, 10/4/2002)

* : A new decree (7401/dated 11/2/2002) has allowed a contractor to use 16000 m. of public maritime property in Mina/Tripoli to set up an exhibition of rare animal species. This decree is in violation of decree 4801 issued on 5/6/66 as well as in violation of the decision of the constitutional council number 99/238 dated 13/7/2000 which rejects the new decree. Furthermore, the new decree was not approved by the higher council for urban planning and was not discussed with the Ministry of Environment as stipulated by law. Inhabitants of the area have strongly condemned the project and the decree authorizing it and the health hazards that it will entail as well as the negative impact on the environment. The Municipal Council had taken into consideration the prior preliminary approval of the Cabinet and endorsed the project as it deems that it will generate financial revenues to the area.

◀ **The Gathering of Community Organizations organizes a conference on child welfare**

The Gathering of Community Organizations, which includes the General Union for the Protection of Young Offenders, the General Directorate for prisons, le Bon Pasteur Association, Caritas, Dar al Amal,

The conference was held on 15 March and

Affairs, Minister Bechara Merhege, the president of the parliamentary commission on human rights, Moawwad as well as representatives of UNICEF, the Lebanese army, and security forces. The key note Nahar and Alsafir, 16/3/2002)

◀ **Arc En Ciel support to the Ministry of Social Affairs**

Arc En Ciel has organized IC

information and services through the use of technology. The programme also includes a grant of 20

will be computerized within a 2 years period. She added that this initiative started at a small scale some 7 years ago and involving technical assistance to the department for the disabled. The initiative is now funded by OMSAR, the World Bank, AGFUND and the CDR. (Daily Star, 13/3/2002)

◀ **The Lebanese environmental observatory organizes its last workshop**

The Lebanese environmental observatory project organised a workshop on 7 March, 2002, shortly before its closure at the end of March. The project, a joint initiative of the UNDP, the European Union and the Ministry of Environment, was launched two years ago. During its mandate, it produced 90 environmental indicators based on existing statistics and figures. The workshop was opened by the Minister of Environment, Dr. Michel Musa, the UNDP resident representative in Lebanon, and Ms. Miriam Pikaar of the European Union. The director of the project, Mr. George Akel, presented the achievements of the project, including the creation of an infrastructure for an environmental observatory

and database, the development of an environmental report, the publishing of an indicator guidebook, the development of a new map for soil coverage and the dissemination of information. The workshop included five sessions, covering the many achievements and activities of the project, sustainability, organisational structure, and suggestions for partners and stakeholders for future sustainability. Musa called on partner organisations to collaborate and cooperate in order to create an environment monitoring network (stipulated by governmental decree number 27 and dated 9 January 2002). Issue number 7 of Majal presented the decision of the Ministry of Environment to set up an environmental observatory network between governmental structures and institutions, relying on the use of indicators.

◀ **Gifts from the First Lady to eleven Charitable Associations**

As part of her support to charitable and humanitarian associations, First Lady Andree Lahoud distributed medicines and food supplies to 11 local associations, orphanages and rest homes. Beneficiaries of the donations included the Lebanese Child Home Association, the Abay Orphanage, the Mar Elias Orphanage, the Orphans Relief Foundation, the Sick Charitable Association, the Lebanese Evangelical Association and Dar Al-Inaya Sidon. The Orthodox Christian Charity Association in Mina Tripoli, Saydet Al-Najat Monastery- Dar Al-Inaya Foundation, Dar Al-Saada nursing home in Zahle and the Maronite Nursing Home also received supplies. Separately, Lahoud met with a delegation from Saydet Al-Najat parish in Dikwaneh to discuss their charitable activities, mainly assistance to children. (*The Daily Star*, 13/4/2002)

◀

Saida. This initiative is under the patronage of MP Bahya al Hariri, head of the parliamentary commission for education. The centre offers continuous training and rehabilitation in various specialities all over the country, targeting the Hariri Foundation and its affiliated organisations as well as the community at large. The first activity of the center was the holding of a training workshop for summer camp animators of the foundation. This workshop included artistic, folkloric, youth and heritage related activities. The workshop was held in time for the spring activity program for the children of the old Saida town organised at the historic Khan el Franj, where 200 children reportedly participated. (AlMoustakbal, 31/3/2002)

◀ **Opening of a new cancer centre for children in AUB**

A new cancer centre for children was opened at the American University Hospital in collaboration with the Saint Jude cancer centre for children in the USA. The centre will support the cost of treatment of 50 children with cancer each year, attended by a team of specialised physicians. The director of the board

Lebanon is growing into a regional centre for treatment of children with cancer. This has encouraged

affiliated to St. Jude and includes modern equipment, intensive care, resuscitation rooms, and medical and scientific laboratories, in addition to facilities for parents as well as electronic playrooms with video and other games. The cost of the centre has reached some \$2m dollars. A large contribution came from the late Pierre Youssef Khater among other individual benefactors. (Al Dyar and the Daily Star, 13/4/2002)

IV SPECIAL REPORT

◀

the future

fifteenth general conference from 15 to 17 March at the Unesco Conference Hall. The Conference was inaugurated by the Minister of Social Affairs representing the Prime Minister and a number of MPs and

politicians. The Conference covered four essential topics namely the future political vision, social and

At the end of the Conference, the League for Lebanese Women addressed to the Arab League of States which meeting was held in Beirut in March calling for solidarity with Palestinian and Iraqi women as well as several recommendations around the 4 main axis of the conference. The latter included the following:

1. Social and economic issues:

The Conference called for awareness regarding the potential implication of galloping globalization on women as well as the threats facing Lebanon namely the loss of economic independence as a result of economic liberalization and the privatization of services. The conference also called for support to productive sectors and the fair implementation of the policy of tightening the belt in addition to building a pressure group from unions and civil society organizations as well as strengthening the administrative reform policy.

2.

The League pointed out to various achievements though equality has yet to materialize. It called for coordination amongst the various actors and bodies conceiving a common national strategy, reach out to the younger generation and implement the provisions of the

reservation

cannot be achieved within the current sectarian system thus calling for the adoption of the 30% quota for women as indicated by the Beijing Platform of

Action.

During the conference, the president of the League, Ms. Linda Matar, presented a paper summarizing the achievements of the League and its position vis-à-vis the topics covered by the Conference notably women

of the women movement within civil society. Matar also provided an overview of current forms of legal discrimination against women as well as to the obstacles

notably the sectarian system, the traditional role of women and the lack of coordination amongst women groups.

3. A future vision for the youth:

The Conference debated on the problems of the youth in relation to employment and political

At the end of the conference, a new executive board was elected which in turn elected an executive bureau. (Al Moustakbal, 7-8/3/2002)

V WORLD NEWS

◀ The Monterey Poverty Summit: new financial pledges amidst fear from terrorism

The Monterey poverty summit was held in Mexico from 18 to 22 March and was devoted to discussions on ways to curb global poverty. The conference was attended by 52 heads of state and representatives from 170 countries, as well as representatives of international organisations such as the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO. This is the first summit in a series of events that the UN is hosting following the millennium summit in September 2000. The summit addressed the ambitious objectives of decreasing the number of people living in abject poverty to one half by 2015, decreasing the child mortality rate by two thirds, and increasing enrolments in primary schools for all children.

International statistics indicate that 1.2bn persons live on less than \$1 per day, while 3bn persons live on less than \$2 per day. In the coming forum, the UN estimates that it needs to double the size of official development assistance from 50bn to 100bn dollars annually.

100bn US dollars per year. As such, many international agencies have started to pressure rich countries to increase their current level of contribution to development aid assistance.

Arab representation at the Monterey summit included the presidents of Algeria and Tunisia as well as the Kings of Jordan and Morocco. Arab ministers as well as the ESCWA general secretary, Mervat Tellawi, also attended. In her key note address, Tellawi pointed out that despite its wealth in natural resources, Arab countries have not recorded any substantial gains from globalisation. She indicated that the fluctuation of oil prices as well as the Arab Israeli conflict have had their bearing on external remittances as well as the activities of the private sector. This has in turn led to increased unemployment and a decline in economic growth. Tellawi addressed the challenges faced by Arab countries in financing development whilst making reference to a number of both external and internal factors, which have posed as an obstacle to development. These include armed conflict, the imposition of sanctions on some countries, increased expenditure on military, limited external investments as well as the steadily increasing debt in several of the countries.

Tellawi added, however, that despite these challenges, Arab countries have taken critical steps such as establishing the Gulf cooperation council, aimed at creating an economic unit in the region benefiting from regional financial institutions. Tellawi also pointed out that the Western Asia region is the only region with a regional monetary fund and the mechanism for funding regional trade programmes. Increasing development financing will however require a series of measures, she added, namely strengthening the role of regional financing institutions so that they can become the prime sources of development funding. The role of international funding agencies such as the IMF is restricted to funding programmes aiming at economic restructuring, whilst the World Bank focuses on combating poverty, development finance and aiding cooperation between regional and international institutions.

The Monterey conference focused on six main issues, viz:

- Local resources mobilisation
- Increasing international investment and the movement of private capital
- Liberation of international trade vis--vis the products of the developing countries
- Increasing the level of international development aid
- Addressing the debt problem
- Strengthening the representation of developing countries within international circles

Despite the importance of all six issues, priority was directed at international development financing and efforts to pressure the USA into reviewing its negative position on potentially increasing international aid.

The USA appears skeptical w.r.t the effectiveness of international aid as a tool for development and for combating poverty. The USA prefers to focus on international investment and market liberalisation. The European Union on the other hand has taken a more moderate stance stressing the importance of aid as critical to capacity building and as an incentive for encouraging international investment and liberalisation of markets.

President Bush had announced that the USA plans to increase its international aid contribution by 50%, by 2006. Bush indicated that this increase was however conditional to the introduction of stricter political

\$10bn in 2001. The EU also declared that it will be increasing its development aid to \$32bn by 2006.

Despite the substantial size of current development aid, it is important to note that the total figure for developed countries reached \$56bn, in 2000. This constitutes a mere 0.22% of the combined total GNP. The UN target set in 1969 was 0.7%. The 50% increase promised by the US will mean a proportionate increase in development aid from 0.11% to 0.15% of its total GNP, by 2006. As for the EU, the increase in the development aid proportion of its GNP will be from 0.33% to 0.39%. Finland, on the other hand, is looking at doubling its development assistance from 0.4% to 0.7%.

The changing position of western countries can largely be related to the events of Sept 11 and its aftermath. The USA was until recently reiterating that achieving development and combating poverty can only be possible as part of a package which includes strict measures such as radical economic and political reforms, trade liberalization, decreasing debt and attracting investments. However, the aftermath of Sept 11th has meant a review of such policies and the use of development aid to combat terrorism. This was reflected in a number of official state statements made at Monetary Conference such as

to fight poverty as a response to terrorism. French President Chirac called for the setting up of an anti-poverty front, similar to the current anti-terrorism front, in favour of a more humane globalisation. Venezuelan President Chavez, who is the head of the G77, indicated that actions were more important than words, and specified that he is speaking for the world where no advances were made in combating poverty and expressed his concerns about Africa. The President of the UN general council concluded that the poorest countries are those conducive to despair and violence. He reiterated that after September 11th, it is not possible to differentiate between development, peace and security.

NGOs strongly criticised the positions of major countries as well as the declaration of the conference,

www.ffdforglobal.org

Furthermore, 2600 individuals from 280 NGOs met before the holding of the conference and requested that rich countries honor their commitment to allocate 0.7% of their GNP to development aid. The NGOs considered that the increases in EU and USA development aid are insufficient.

Finally, the following facts and figures may provide further insight as to how serious the new world order is in combating poverty in developing countries.

1. The total international development aid will at best rise to 68 billion USD by 2006 whereas at least some 100 billion are needed to reach the poverty reduction target set for 2015.
2. Major countries, particularly the USA are calling for the liberalization of world markets while heavily subsidizing their agricultural production by 300 billion USD a year thus making their products far more competitive than those of the third world. Subsidies to agriculture are 6 times more what is globally needed to combat global poverty.
3. The total private investment in development countries amounts to 160 billion USD. Half of this amount goes to three countries namely Mexico, Brazil and China whereas countries of sub-saharan Africa where 300 million poor live only have access to 3% of the total investment.
4. Despite the heavy inflow of investment into China, Mexico, and Brazil, the overwhelming majority of their population remains poor. No wonder that the fate of the poor and forgotten countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America is indeed very bleak.

Development aid in 2000 as per the World Bank:

Donor State	Percentage (% of the GNP)
Denmark	1.06
Netherlands	0.84
Sweden	0.80
Norway	0.80
Luxembourg	0.71
Belgium	0.36
Switzerland	0.34
France	0.32
Great Britain	0.32
Finland	0.31
Ireland	0.30
Japan	0.28
Germany	0.27
Australia	0.27
Portugal	0.26
Canada	0.25
New Zealand	0.25
Austria	0.23
Spain	0.22
Greece	0.20
Italy	0.13
United States	0.10

VI GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES INTERNATIONAL AID

◀ A memorandum of understanding between the Lebanese and the US government to strengthen public monitoring systems

The Lebanese government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the USA government represented by the USAID and the university of New York/Albany for the purpose of strengthening surveillance systems. This will take the form of provision of equipment and technical backstopping as well as organizing various training events. The project extends until 31 May 2003 and the activities will be organized by the legal studies department of the New York Albany University through their offices in Beirut. The beneficiaries of the project include the Council of Civil Service, central investigation and the

central financial register. These structures will also be linked to the municipalities within their jurisdiction. The programme includes a general mapping study, centralizing the database, organizing a series of seminars and workshops, preparing software, and staff training. The New York Albany university may implement other projects in coordination with the Minister of Administrative Development and so long as they do not conflict with this project and its attendant Memorandum of Understanding which stipulates that all equipment shall be the property of the beneficiary surveillance institutions. (The official gazette number 23, decree 7750, dated 18/4/2002)

◀ **The Ministry of Agriculture signs three agreements with the FAO**

The Minister of Agriculture has signed three agreements with the FAO involving the development of the Northern Bekaa, developing greenhouse agriculture in and reforming agricultural laws. In order to launch the first project, FAO has allocated some LBP 400 million for the cost of studies and research to be undertaken by international experts and with the help of local experts. The results of these studies should be forthcoming within the next few months along with an outline of the plan and cost of the new projects. The second project has a regional remit covering 12 countries and has been allocated an amount of LBP 600 million. LBP 180 million have been allocated for the third project and will be used for developing and reforming agricultural laws and well as bio-agriculture.

The Minister expressed his hope that donor countries will fulfill their financial commitments for the first project which will extend over 7 to 10 years.

◀ **ESCWA and the Fares Foundation sign a cooperation agreement**

The director of the Fares Foundation, Dr. Paul Salem, and the director of the social development department of ESCWA, Mr. Akil Akil, exchanged a memorandum of understanding whereby both organisations will collaborate in the identification of priority development activities in Lebanon and the Arab countries. The memorandum also stipulates that ESCWA will mobilise its technical expertise for implementing the joint initiatives with the Fares Foundation without financial implication. The social development department will be in charge of implementing all the clauses of the MoU. Akil stressed the importance of complementarity between the work of ESCWA and those of non-governmental organizations. (Al Dyar and Al Nahar, 23/3/2002)

◀ **The Anti-Globalisation NGOs Gathering calls for the boycott of the US Embassy and its development programmes**

The Anti-Globalisation NGOs Gathering (comprising more than 40 NGOs, grassroots groups, and other statement to all organisations addressing the following:

Through its full support to Israel, the USA government is striving to impose its military supremacy and to reinforce its economic and cultural domination on the peoples of the Arab region and more generally on people of countries of the South thus increasing their economic and social suffering.

In pursuing its goals, the United States is exploiting its leverage on international organisations such as the United Nations using the cover-up of the so-called war on terrorism. The NGO Anti-globalisation Gathering in Lebanon is extending this appeal to all popular, community and civil society organisations in Lebanon asking them to boycott the American Embassy, its American staff and USAID aid assistance programmes in Lebanon. The USAID represents insignificant financial assistance aiming to give credibility to the USA and assist it to develop links with in our communities that the US can then exploit for its own political ends in Lebanon and abroad.

The NGO Anti-globalisation Gathering emphasises that the boycott of the American Embassy and its aid programmes is a strong message of support and a true expression of solidarity with Palestinians, their

◀ **More Japanese aid to four NGOs totaling \$121,787**

The Japanese embassy recently issued two assistance grants to the total of \$ 71,632 for development projects in the areas of Saida and Shouf. The Japanese assistance covers the purchasing of 17 computers and audio visual equipment for the Saida technical institute run by the Mouassat Social Service Association (a total of \$25,655). The institute aims at empowering young women and men with skills, to allow them to secure gainful employment. The second grant was allocated to an environmental awareness programme for the Arz al Shouf reserve. This includes the purchase of lighting equipment and a heating system costing \$45,977. Furthermore, the Japanese embassy has offered two school buses to Dr. Khaled Social Foundations (\$35,000) as well as a \$15,155 grant for a cultural project proposed by the Lebanese German cultural association.

Since 1996, the Japanese embassy has provided assistance of \$2,423,018 to Lebanon for programme aimed at assisting municipalities, NGOs, hospitals, private schools, research centres and other non-profit development organisations.

(Al Dyar 2/3/2002), Al Mo ustakbal 14/3/2002), and Al Nahar 15/3/2002)



The British Embassy Small Grants Scheme has approved a grant to the Centre for Research & Training on Development for the completion of

involves learning and knowledge on gender and the economy within existing literacy programmes targeting rural women. In its first phase, the project involved the translation of a reference training guidebook on popular economic education as well as the training of literacy and field workers of the Moawwad Foundation and other active NGOs in the North on popular economy and the methodology of participatory training. In its second phase, the project involves the completion of the training and capacity building component, the development of a local guide on literacy and popular economic education and working with beneficiary women as well as the set up of a pilot economic alternative funds for rural women. In addition, this project involves direct work on engendering men in the family in an effort to contribute to positive transformation in gender relations.

◀ **\$7000 German donation to the Wildlife Center in Alieh**

Educational Centre for the Preservation of Wildlife, amounting to \$7,000. The department was set up in Aley, in 1993, as a pilot project in both Lebanon and the Middle East, to raise awareness on the importance of the preservation of wildlife through educational programmes, research and study tours. According to the director of the centre, Mr. Mounir Abi-Saeed, the centre receives some 30,000 visitors a year, primarily students. (Al Nahar, 12/4/2002)

◀ **\$50,000 Greek aid to the Saint George Hospital**

The Saint George Hospital received a grant of \$50,000 from the Greek embassy in Lebanon to support work at the hospital and as a contribution for the purchase of medicine.

The Greek embassy in Beirut finances several projects in health, education, environment, and agriculture implemented through Greek NGOs. The Greek government has also contributed an estimated 2m Euros to the demining efforts through a new programme, expected to begin in the coming spring. (Al Nahar, 21/3/2002).

◀ **Italian aid of \$300,000 in support of MoPH relief centre in Tripoli**

The Italian embassy has provided financial support amounting to \$300,000 in order to set up a training centre for rescue workers in Tripoli with the support of an Italian NGO and in collaboration with the

Ministry of Public Health. The centre will organise training workshops on rescue operations in emergency situations, such as accidents and natural disasters.(Assafir, 13/4/2002)

◀ **\$60,000 Korean assistance to Marjeyoun technical school**

The Marjeyoun technical school received a first payment of USD 60,000 from the Korean embassy as improving the quality of vocational training in Marjeyoun and enabling the youth, in the newly liberated Southern zones, access to adequate training. (Al Nahar, 22/3/2002)

VII ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Monitoring of laws and cabinet meetings

This section tries to outline the draft laws articles and decisions taken during the meetings of the Council of Ministers, concerning civil society organizations and their areas and sectors of activity.

Environment

1. A proposed bill to allow the Municipality of Saida to use public maritime property in Aldokerman area for setting up a solid waste disposal unit. (meeting of 7/3/2002)
2. A proposed bill for evaluating environmental impact (meeting of 14/3/2002)
3. A request from the Ministry of Environment to set up a committee for looking at the implementation mechanisms of law 341 dated 6/8/2001 and related to halting air pollution caused by vehicles and the use of less polluting fuel (meeting of 14/3/2002).
4. A request from the Ministry of Environment to declare 9 March as the international day for natural reserves (meeting of 14/3/2002).
5. A law proposal for clarifying the responsibilities and structure of the Ministry of the Environment developed by the Ministerial committee following a decision of the cabinet (23 dated 5/7/2002) (meeting of 21/3/2002).
6. A request by the Ministry of Environment to approve 3 projects related decrees aiming at accepting 3 grants from the European Union through the LIFE project for the following: a) A project for strengthening the permanent environmental awareness unit at the Ministry of Agriculture; b) a project for evaluating the environmental strategy for land use in Lebanon; and c) A project for setting up the Lebanese centre for clean production
7. A law proposal for identifying the types of wastes for health institutions and ways to dispose of them (meeting of 4/4/2002)

Aid and Development

1. A request from the Lebanese institute for the disabled (Bayt Chebab Hospital) for waiving custom tax requirements on assistance in kind (medicines, medical equipment, books and foodstuff) received from Canada (meeting of 14/3/2002)
2. A law proposal to waive taxation on meat received for Adha from the Iranian association IMDAD to the IMDAD Islamic charitable institutions in Lebanon (meeting 4/4/2002)

Health

1. A law proposal for setting up health centres (meeting of 7/3/2002)

2. A request from the Ministry of Health to approve a law proposal for accepting 6 equipped ambulances from the Italian government (meeting of 7/3/2002)
3. A request from the Ministry of Public Health to exchange a contract with the Islamic Health Council which is mandated to use a hospital in Bint Jbeil (meeting of 11/4/2002)

Social Affairs

1. A presentation from the Ministry of Social Affairs for setting up a permanent national council for volunteers (meeting of 7/3/2002)
2. A proposal by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host and rehabilitate Palestinian children disabled as a result of the Intifada according to the decision of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs. (meeting of 21/3/2002)
3. A law proposal for setting up standards and eligibility criteria for the disabled wishing to benefit from the compensation for unemployment according to clause 71 of decree 220 dated 8/6/2002 (meeting of 4/4/2002)
4. A request from the Ministry of Social Affairs to participate in the international assembly on ageing to be held in Madrid between 8 and 12 April 2002 including covering travelling and accommodation costs of 3 persons by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (meeting of 11/4/2002)

Civil Rights

1. A request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to participate in the 27th meeting of the UN General Assembly on children to be held in New York between 8 to 10 May 2002 (meeting of 21/3/2002)
2. A law proposal allowing the government to join the national protocol on the Convention for the participation in armed conflicts (meeting of 11/4/2002)

Education and Culture

1. Presentation of the report by the Ministerial committee requested by Ministerial decree number 54 and dated 3/1/2002 to lay the foundation for spreading culture and reading centres throughout the country (meeting of 21/3/2002)

Foreign Organisations

1. A presentation by the Ministry of Interior regarding the request for registration of a foreign

◀ Typology of NGOs registered in 2001

In the previous issue of Majal, we have attempted to provide a classification of NGOs registered in Lebanon during the year 2001. We would like to present a review of the typology presented during the previous issue especially since any attempt for such categorization exercise is indeed complex. We have attempted to follow an approach which will allow a first reading of the type, identity and profile of these NGOs in relation to the scope of their work as indicated in their declared objectives or its geographical coverage. Following the revised table, the reader will find methodological notes on how this classification was undertaken.

Categories:	Location & Scope of Action:						Total:
	Beirut	Southern Lebanon	Mount Lebanon		Northern Lebanon	On the National Level	
Environmental		1	2	1	2	5	11
Charity/Social	5	8	16	5	11	9	54
Local development			2	3	1	5 + 1 foreign	12
Friendship and professional		5	10	1	6	35	57
Women organisations	1		4	3	1	1	10
Cultural/social	9	3	13	4	5	13	47
Human rights						2+1 foreign	3
Family Associations	4	2	4	3		6	19
Disability Organisations			1		1	3	5
Political Associations						1	1
Total:	19	19	52	20	27	82	219

Remarks:

- In the case of many NGOs, the declared objectives often point out to various types of may relate to family/kinship NGOs, women, disabled, etc focused on the identity of the NGOs as reflected by its membership rather than the scope of work and activities.
- NGOs were redistributed according to their geographical coverage and not just in relation to the location of their headquarters as indicated on their registration.
- Friendship and professional NGOs were very diverse. Some are local and others focus overwhelmingly on a profession (engineers, physicians) whilst others are sectoral (merchants) or related to common interests and friendships (school alumni, museum
- A substantial number of NGOs is local (town, village, neighbourhood) but have been classified within their corresponding Mohafazat.

- The most challenging aspect is differentiating between social-cultural and social-welfare NGOs. The registration decrees for many cultural associations also point out to development or welfare objectives. In this case, priority was given to the cultural nature of the NGO. Social-welfare organizations are therefore those which provide services and welfare assistance to beneficiaries even if some of these services may be developmental in their scope.
- Women organizations may be charitable in nature or rights-based or may have developmental objectives. These have been listed under women NGOs.
- Rights in Lebanon. They have been listed under Human Rights. Another coordination organization relates to the disabled namely the Federation of the Associations of Blind Persons in Lebanon. It has been listed under disability.
- The list includes 2 branches of foreign NGOs namely Swedish Radda Barnen which was included under Human Rights and the Arab Organization for Health and School Environment which was included under developmental organizations.
- The list includes 1 political party namely the Movement for Democratic Renewal.

IX FROM THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

New Associations

1. The Al Farah Charitable, Cultural, Health & Social Association- Registration # 24/AD

Location: Hay Al-Sillom- Mohammed Haidar Bldg. (Farah academy for nursing)- Baabda Caza

Objectives:

- Collaborate with relevant parties in organising literacy courses as well as cultural seminars and lectures as well as training courses in nursing and first aid in compliance with local laws.

Founders: Nazem Hassan Haidar, Mohammed Nayef Shokor, Fatmeh Ali Dubyan, Mona Ali Marmal, Mona Mohammed Ali Sheikh

Official representative : Nazem Hassan Haidar

2. Constantine Zurayk Cultural Foundation Registration # 25/AD

Location: Beirut- Al-Basra Street- Cortas Bldg- Costantine Zureik Bldg.- 3rd Fl.

Objectives: Established to:

- Provide support to researchers and students wishing to undertake studies and research
- Organise cultural activities
- Undertake scientific research
- Organise social and scientific conferences
- Present scientific awards

Founders: Dr. Kheireddine Hassib Said, Dr. Hoda Kosti Zurayk, Dr. Nadim Emile Cortas, Dr. Hisham Abdel-Wahab Nashabeh, Minister Fouad Sanioura, Nadim Badr Dimashkieh, Dr. Fadi Joseph Moughaizel, Dr. John Waterbury

Official representative: Dr. Fadi Joseph Moughaizel

Registration # 26/AD

Location: Beit Mary- Mar Gerges Street- Metn Caza

Objectives: Established to:

- Consolidate social links amongst members and to improve their well-being
- Organise gatherings, social and tourism events for members to meet
- Collaborate with clubs and organisations working towards the same goals
- Organise cultural awareness raising seminars

Founders:

Fouad Touma, Joe Moussa Al-Rassi, Zher Jamil Thabet

Official representative :

Registration # 27

Location: Beirut- Raouche- Australia Street-

Objectives: Established to:

-
-
-
- Participate in conferences and publish booklets to disseminate information on the production of
- Represent the association and its interests vis--vis the relevant authorities.

Founders: Moustapha Mohammed Bakri Sakr, Issam Asaad Salameh, Wassim George Farah, Mohammad Yehya Yassine, Farid Nakhleh Zoughaib

Official representative: Moustapha Mohammed Bakri Sakr

5. Al Bizri Kinship Association- Registration # 28/AD

Location: Abra- Abra Al-Jadida Street- Shams Bldg.- Saida Caza

Objectives: Established to:

- Unite the family and raise its social, family and cultural levels by reinforcing solidarity and collaboration among its members.

Founders: Abdel-Wahhab Bashir Al-Bizri, Dr. Abdel-Rahman Nazih Al-Bizri, Hamzeh Mohammad Al-Bizri, Saleh Abdallah Al-Bizri, Dr. Mohammed Mounir Al-Bizri, Mahmoud Ahmad Al-Bizri, Zouheir Abdel-Sattar Al-Bizri, Mosbah Al-Hajj Ali Al-Bizri, Dr. Nazih Noureddine Al-Bizri, Mazen Rida Al-Bizri, Dr. Mohammad Hasib Al-Bizri, Jamal Youssef Al-Bizri, Khaldoun Mohammad Adib Al-Bizri

Official representative: Abdel-Wahhab Bashir Al-Bizri

6. The Association of Knowledge and Scientific Advancement Registration # 29/AD

Location: Tripoli- Abi Samra- Al-Sikka Al- - Maroun Beiruti Bldg. (Lebanese Lycee Campus)

Objectives: Established to:

- Collaborate with relevant parties in spreading higher education as well as education in various academic and vocational fields
- Collaborate with the relevant parties in setting up productive projects to secure resources required for reaching the objectives of the association
- Collaborate with relevant authorities in setting up a technical college

Founders: Marwan Moha
Youhanna Jamil Abdallah, Jouman Adnan Hajar, Adham Mahmoud Masri Shaarani

-Asaad, Dr.

Official representative: Marwan Mohammad Fouad Beiruti

7. FUCOLI: Lebanese Columbian Friendship Association Registration # 30/AD

Location: Dikwaneh- Cap Sur Ville- Bloc B- 3rd Fl. - Metn Caza

Objectives: Established to:

- Promote mutual cultural, social, economic and tourism relations between Columbia and Lebanon, without discrimination related to sex or religion.
- Unite Columbians residing in Lebanon
- Assist members in all means possible
- Support needy members both financially and morally
- Provide college and university grants
- Publish cultural and artistic news bulletin
- Organise scientific and cultural lectures
- Organise social and cultural meetings and gatherings

Founders: Ciliana Jirman Santos Montero, Sonia Issa Issa Merhej, Hussein Ali Hijazi, Fouad Gerges Hawshar, Bidad Hussein Nisr Makhia

Official representative: Ciliana Jirman Santos Montero

Association Registration # 31/AD

Location: Beirut- Achrafieh- beside Al-Roum Hospital- Elias Shedrawi Bldg.- 1st Fl.

Objectives: Established to:

- Disseminate popular Lebanese culture
- Commemorate popular culture and organize cultural events
- Set up and popular culture museum in collaboration with relevant Lebanese authorities
- Develop collaborative relations with various local, regional and international organizations involved in popular culture and heritage

Founders: Salman Halim Hamdan, Nisrine Mohammad Mansour, Kamal Khalil Nakhle, Riad Hussein Issa, Shawki Aniss Ammar, Dr. Samir Aniss Ammar, Dr. Claudia Elias Shamoun, Fadi Fayezi Abi Allam, May Youssef Fkih

Official representative: Fadi Fayezi Abi Allam

9. The Association of the ladies of Rimhala Registration # 32/AD

Location: Rimhala- Alieh Caza - Mount Lebanon Province

Objectives: Established to:

- Provide an efficient framework for mobilising women in order to promote and develop the town of Rimhala
- Promote a spirit of collaboration and solidarity amongst the inhabitants of Rimhala
- Collaborate with various governmental, non-governmental and international organisations in order to best achieve these goals

Founders: Mado Fayezi Abi Masbar, Leila Gerges Moukarzel, Samira Jibrael Abi Abdallah, Olga Shamel Al-Khoury, Itaf Aziz Saad, Ghada Daoud Jabbour, Ikhlas Doumian Sfeir, Nada Tanios Nassar, Ilham Aziz Saad

Official representative: Ilham Aziz Saad

10. English Speakers Union Registration # 33/AD

Location: Beirut- Clemenceau Street- Ossaily Bldg.

Objectives: Established to:

- Strengthen friendship links through using the English language
- Strengthen communal and individual links through the use of the English language
- Support cultural and educational exchange by adopting English as a means of communication
- Contribute to providing awards for scientific and cultural studies
- Work within the law to find all possible means for using English as the medium for communication

Founders: Princess Youmna Farid Shehab, Dr. Sherine Negib Khairallah, Rozanne Michel Saad, Habib Khalil Sayegh, Othman Ahmad Arakji, Amin Mohammad Daouk, Mona Rifaat Chahine

Official representative: Othman Ahmad Arakji

11. The Union of the Al Gharib families in Lebanon and abroad Registration # 34/AD

Location: Beirut- Tabariz- -Shams Al- - Dakdouk Bldg.

Objectives: Established to:

- Provide social assistance to family members in need as well as their relatives
- Raise the cultural awareness of family members
- Undertake charitable initiatives
- Strengthen the links amongst family members and communicate with those who are abroad, encouraging them to return to their home country

Founders: Kamal Asbar Al-Gharib, Abir Ismail Gharib, Abdallah Hanna Gharib, Samir Abdallah Gharib, Maurice Salim Gharib

Official representative: Kamal Asbar Al-Gharib

12. The Children of Life registration # 35/AD

Location: Al-Mahdathia- main road- Bassam Maroun Bldg. - Metn Caza

Objectives: Established to:

- Preserve the family structure. Introduce transformation within the school environment, into the proper environment for safety, welfare, health, social and cultural care for children.
- Ensure that the family is a responsible reference upholding the rights of its children and understands its responsibilities towards them.
- Discover, promote and encourage the talents and capabilities of children
- Collaborate with relevant persons in setting up cultural and health centres. Organise awareness raising campaigns by issuing publications and undertaking other activities to fulfil these objectives, legitimately.

Founders: Samia Salim Mazloum, Fayrouz Fouad Maroun, Souad Fouad Maroun, Esther Halim Bou-Antoun, Raymonde Bou Shebel

Official representative: Souad Fouad Maroun

13. The Union of Arab Hospitals Registration # 36

Location: Beirut- Museum area- Syndicate of Hospitals in Lebanon

Objectives: Established to:

- Promote collaboration amongst hospitals and Arab medical institution members in the union, in various scientific and technical fields
- Collaborate with Arab and international organisations in order to develop special training and staff development programmes to enable them to be acknowledged by the Arab hospitals board
- Use human and technological resources through the exchange of expertise and technologies amongst members
- Set up research centres for developing scientific and administrative capacities within member institutions
- Collaborate with relevant parties to develop a common basis for a unified hospitalisation system and lay the foundation for a hospitals accreditation system
- Issue specialised publications related to health awareness for Arab communities and publish a specialised hospital journal

Founders: Mohammed Al-Farkh (Makassed Hospital-Lebanon), Dr. Fawzi Odaimi (Saidat Lubnan Hospita- Lebanon), Dr. Aisha Al-Maneh (Al-Maneh general Hospitals - Saudi Arabia), Dr. Khaled Hamidi (Mohammad Al-Dousri Hospital- Saudi Arabia), Dr. Faysal Bashir Najjar (Special Medical Center- Saudi Arabia), Dr. Khalil Aridi (Ministry of Health- Bahrain), Faysal Al-Maskati (Al-Salmaniah Medical Center- Bahrain), Horst Shubert (Saudi-German Medical centers- Saudi Arabia)

Official representative: Dr. Fawzi Odaimi

14. Majd association Registration # 37/AD

Location: Tripoli- Al-Maarad Street- Al-Mawlawi Bldg.- 1st Fl

Objectives: Established to:

- Encourage social, educational, cultural and environmental activities and provide them with services and support. Set up premises to host such activities.
- Set up and encourage service and development projects throughout Lebanon
- Provide services and support related to health care (medical care and hospitalisation). Set up relevant centres and institutions
- Provide social welfare to the poor, the needy and the orphans
- Enable the youth to participate in social life
- Mobilise the Lebanese youth and its cultural and social capacities and promote their feelings of national identity

Founders: Mohammad Nagib Azmi Mikati, Ziad Elias Rouwayheb, Wassim Abdel-Wahed, Omar Mikati, Riad Zok

Official representative: Wassim Abdel-Wahed

15. The Association of Lebanese Australian Collaboration Registration # 38/AD

Location: Tripoli- Mina- Maarad Street- Nagib Mikati Bldg.

Objectives: Established to:

- Promote cultural and social links between Lebanon and countries of immigration. The association may purchase premises and set up various clubs according to the laws in force.
- Benefit from the experiences and capabilities of Lebanese immigrants in support of Lebanon
- Support Lebanese immigrants in finding solutions to problems facing them in Australia or in their home country, Lebanon.
- Exchange scientific, artistic and cultural expertise and strengthen links between Lebanese immigrants to Australia and their home country
- Promote a sense of national identity amongst Lebanese immigrants in Australia
- Encourage Lebanese immigrants to interact with their home country through development projects

Founders: Dr. Hamdi Mohammed Shouk, Dr. Moustapha Salem Adib Abdel-Wahed, Dr. Mirvat Al-Hoz, Dr. Omar Mikati, Dr. Ghassan Shamsieh

Official representative: Dr. Hamdi Mohammed Shouk

16. The Lebanese Democratic Party Registration # 39/AD

Location: Hay Al-Oumara- Alieh Caza

Objectives: Established to:

- Strive for achieving equality, equal opportunities and social justice
- Strengthen citizenship with respect to the international human rights charter and international humanitarian conventions
- Work for a national programme aiming at achieving comprehensive and balanced development as well as complete reform, and work to promote democracy

Founders: Prince Talal Majid Irsan, Hassan Qahtan Hamadeh, Walid Asaad Barakt, Marwan Mounir Abou-Fadel, Ziad Antoine Choueiry, Elia Seif Moukarzel

Official representative: Marwan Mounir Abou-Fadel

17. The social and cultural cell of the Yehya family Registration # 40/AD

Location: Ain Dara- Alieh Caza

Objectives: Established to:

- Contribute to charitable actions within the means available
- Call for conviviality and love amongst the family members and between the family and its surrounding community
- Undertake cultural and social activities
- Preserve Lebanese traditions and heritage

Founders:

Kassem Youssef

Official representative:

18. The Association of Agricultural Development (Baalbek) Registration # 41/AD

Location: Baalbek- Ras Al-Ein Street- Mashour Yahfouf Bldg.

Objectives: Established to

- Set up forest reserves in collaboration with municipalities and relevant associations
- Support the agricultural ties to lands
- Exchange contracts with engineers and experts for undertaking studies
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture for the benefit of agriculturalists
- Set up animal and poultry farms

Founders: Sawki Moustapha Yaghi, Ibrahim Mohammed Ali Yahfoufi, Bassam Ghazi Harb, Mashour Tawfiq Yahfouf, Mohammed Shafiq Abdallah

Official representative: Mashour Tawfiq Yahfouf

19. The Bekaa development and social association Registration # 42/AD

Location: Telbaya- Shtoura main road- Hajar Barakt Abbas Bg.- Zahle Caza

Objectives: Established to

- Undertake charitable actions and support needy communities in the Bekaa

- Organise lectures and contests in the fields of literature and culture
- Undertake initiatives related to social awareness and development
- Promote collaboration and friendship amongst people of the Bekaa by raising awareness and through various development and social activities

Founders: Omar Kamel Abdouni, Hussein Ali Amer, Damen Nagib Abou-Zour, Saad Ahmad Al-Jaroush, Mohammed Hussein Abdouni, Mounir Ali Al-Ahmar, Hussein Mohammed Deeb Yassine, Ali Baalbaki, Dr. Youssef Najm, Mounif Sabaali, Dr. Ali Abou-Shami

Official representative: Mohammed Hussein Abdouni

Registration # 43/AD

Location: Beirut- Mousaitbeh- Tabbara Bldg

Objectives: Established to

- Collaborate with relevant parties in organising vocational training courses according to local laws
- Provide social and educational support to the needy

Founders: Dr. Jalal Mahmoud Natour, Hassan Ibrahim Jaroudi, Nizar Twafiq Kassem, Noha Twafiq Tabarra, Sherine Adnan Tabarra

Official representative: Nizar Twafiq Kassem

X BOOKS AND RESOURCES

You are welcome to come and consult on site the new resources as well as other titles available at the CRTD offices (refer to the address indicated below) every weekday from 10 am to 2 pm. For a complete list of books and resources, kindly contact info@crted.org

Gender Linking and Information Project (MACMAG GLIP), please consult the MACMAG GLIP website at the following URL address:

http://: www.macmag-glip.org

TITLE	AUTHOR/EDITOR	PUBLISHER	YEAR	#OF PAGES
Unemployment				
ILO, Standard Setting and Organization-Report of the Director-General	International Labour Office	International Labour Office	1997	77
Le chômage et Travail des Enfants-Les enfants au travail	Bureau International du Travail	Bureau International du Travail		
Unemployment in Lebanon	Mona Chemali Khalaf	International Labour Organization	1998	42
Name of the Poor-Contesting Social Space for Poverty Reduction	Neil Webster/Lars Engberg-Pedersen	Zed Books	2002	279
	FIDA	FIDA	2002	143
Globalization				
State	William Blum	Ed Books	2002	308
Opening the Global Financial Architecture-Issues and Proposals	Yilmaz Akyuz	UNCTAD/TWN/Zed Books	2002	156
Violence Against Women				
Living a Life Free of Violence: and Communications Strategies Violence Against Women	UNIFEM	UNIFEM	2001	77
Living through the glass ceiling- Women in Management	Linda Wirth	International Labour Office	2001	186
Women and Men in the Arab Region: A Social Portrait	ESCWA	ESCWA	1999	57
Women and Words-The Emerging Voices of Arab Women Writers	Farzaneh Milani	I. B. Tauris	1992	295
Islamic Law				
Islamic Law in the Arab World		Edisud		158
		CNRS Editions	2001	270
Islamic Law and an Islamic Reformation-Civil Liberties, Human Rights, and International Law	Abdullahi Ahmed An-Nabi	Syracuse University Press	1996	253

For any queries, comments, feedback or contributions please write to info@crted.org

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