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CAMES Oral History Collection, 1960s-1970s

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB
Prepared by Dalya Nouh

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: OH: 300

Library catalog ID: [b22094738](#)

Record Creator: Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Study American University of Beirut (CAMES)

Collection Title: CAMES Oral History Collection, 1960s-1970s.

Collection Dates: 1960s-1970s

Physical Description: 54 interviews

Abstract: After the Arab Israeli War in 1967, many Arab leaders came to Lebanon, the Arab Oasis. These personalities took refuge in Lebanon that held open arms to them. “Many came to Lebanon because it was a free, flourishing country.” as Samiha Fahas Mishalani, one of the interviewers said. The Center of Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) started an Oral History Project under the leadership Prof. Joseph J. Malone, of the Department of History, who attended the First National Colloquium on Oral History, at the University of California in September 1966. The interviews were conducted between September 1969 and August 1970 by Samiha Fahas Mishalani, Maroun Kisirwani, later AUB Dean of Students, and Gladys Salibi Boecker. The project advisor was Dr. Yusuf Ibish, AUB professor of political science.

Language(s): Arabic, English

Administrative Information

Source: Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Study American University of Beirut (CAMES)

Access Restrictions: The collection can be used within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.

Preferred Citation: CAMES Oral History Collection, 1960s-1970s, OH:300, name of interviewee, American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

Scope and Content

The CAMES Oral History Collection consists of interviews with prominent public Arab figures. Interviewers of the Center of Arab and Middle Eastern Studies conducted around 54 interviews to document the political, educational, social, cultural life in Lebanon and Middle East during late 1960 and early 1970s. The interviews yielded historical information that would otherwise have gone unrecorded from prominent persons of diverse backgrounds. The interviewees were Lebanese politicians, members of the parliament, ministers and prime ministers (Adel Ousseiran, Raymond Edde, Saeb Salam etc.) educators many of whom were women (Eleanor Kamar and Julinda Abou Nasr); Social activists (Anbara Salam); daughters and wives of Syrian Presidents (Hana Shukri al-Qawatli and Mrs. Barazi, both of Kurdish origins); Iraqi personalities (Ali Kamal and Ibrahim al Allousi) and Yemani leaders (AL Cheikh Ahmad Mohamad An-Nu'man, and Abdallah Bakr, etc.) along with many others.

Arrangement

The Collection is arranged in five series distributed according to the country of origin of the interviewed figure:

- Series I:** Cyprus
- Series II:** Iraq
- Series III:** Lebanon
- Series IV:** Syria
- Series V:** Yemen

Background History

The Oral History Interviews collection consists of audiotaped interviews with public figures in Lebanon and the Middle East during the late 1960's and early 70's. "Next Vision" transformed these audio tapes to digital format in August 1998. The interviews were either conducted by CAMES or gathered from other sources to document the political, social, and cultural scene during that time. CAMES researchers helped transcribe the interviews. Some of these interviews are made available to the public in collaboration with the Digital Documentation Center at AUB. <https://libwebarchive.aub.edu.lb/BorreLudvigsen/https://almashriq.hiof.no/ddc/projects/comes/interviews/index.html>

Subject Headings

Oral history -- Middle East.
Community Development -- Lebanon.
Political activists -- Lebanon -- History.
Lebanon -- History -- Civil War, 1975-1990.
Middle East -- Politics and government.
Arab-Israeli conflict.
Education, Higher -- Middle East.
Education, Humanistic -- Arab countries.
Nationalism -- Arab countries.
Autobiography.

Container List

Series I: Cyprus

- **Mr. Mavrouvoniotis**, AUB044A/B [62min.]; AUB045A/B [3h]

Series II: Iraq

- **Ali Kamal**, AUB059A/B [2h. 2min.]; AUB060A/B [2h. 1min.]; AUB061A/B [2h 4min.]; AUB062A [28min.]; AUB0603A/B [2h. 2min.]; AUB064A/B [2h 3min.]

- **Ibrahim Al Allousi**, Iraqi writer, journalist and linguist, AUB065A/B [2h. 3min.]; AUB066A/B [1h. 30min.]
- **Mohamad Al-Radi**, AUB046A/B [1h. 15min.]; AUB047A/B [1h. 46min.]

Series III: Lebanon

- **Abdallah Shehadeh**: AUB018A/B [2h]; AUB019A/B [1h. 51min.]
- **Adel Osseiran**, Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, and one of the founding fathers of the Lebanese Republic Lebanese deputy, prime minister, (مقابلة أجرتها ليلى رستم في برنامج سهرة مع الماضي) AUB097A/B [57min.]
- **Afif Osseiran**, brother of Adel Osseiran, Lebanese priest, AUB036 [46min.]
- **AL Amir Abdel Aziz Chehab**, June 15, 1970; AUB088A/B [2h. 3min.]; AUB089A/B [1h. 19min.]
- **Anbara Salam Al Khalidi**, a prominent women activist committed to education and women's rights, March 13, 1970; AUB072 [1h]
- **Antoine Diab Ma'louf**, AUB021A/B [2h]
- **Aref An-Nakadi**, Lebanese Druze aristocrat, in charge of the Dawudiyyeh School and the founder of the Druze orphanage May 1, 1970; AUB007A/B [62min.]; AUB008A [26min.]
- **Boutros Charbel**, AUB011A/B [2h]; AUB012A/B [2h]; AUB013A/B [2h]
- **Edmond Gaspar**, Prominent Lebanese lawyer, (مقابلة أجرتها ليلى رستم في برنامج سهرة مع الماضي) AUB099A/B [49min.]
- **Eleanor Kamar**, Lebanese educator, AUB039A [60min.]
- **Elias Brax**, Lawyer, member of the "Ahrar" (Liberals) Party, AUB014A/B [2h]
- **Elias El-Khoury**, Lebanese politician, deputy of Baabda, Minister of Health, AUB103A/B [50min.]
- **Farid Braydi**, AUB020 [57min.]
- **Habib Motran**, Lebanese deputy of Baalbak, vice president of the Wataniyyeen Ahrar party (Liberal Citizens Party), (مقابلة أجرتها ليلى رستم في برنامج سهرة مع الماضي) AUB096A/B [1h. 6min.]
- **Ibrahim Abou Khater**, (originally from Zahle); AUB016A [60min.]
- **Ibrahim Dammous**, Poet and follower of the transcendentalist Dahesh, AUB009A/B [2h. 1min.]; AUB010A/B [2h]
- **Jolinda Abou Nasr**, Founder of the Institute for Women's Studies at Lebanese American University (then Beirut Women's College), AUB043A/B [1h. 15min.]
- **Mariam Freiji**; AUB022A/B [2h. 6min.]
- **Masahet AL Ikar**, (property space of the Catholic community in Zahle) مساحة العقار لطائفة الروم الكاثوليك في زحلة AUB093A/B [1h. 53min.]; AUB094A/B [2h]; AUB095A/B [2h]
- **May 6 Martyrs** (مقابلة أجرتها ليلى رستم في برنامج سهرة مع الماضي) AUB104A/B [44min.]
- **Mickhael Darwish Al-Ma'louf**; AUB016B [57min.]
- **Minutes of Zahle Municipality** Meetings and documents of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (محاضر جلسات مجلس البلدية في زحلة ووثائق مطرانية الروم الارثوذكس) AUB090A/B [2h]; AUB91A/B [1h. 56min.]; AUB092A/B [2h]
- **Mustafa Khalidy**, Founder of Khalidi Maternity Hospital, AUB071A [47min.]

- **Najib Dahrouj**; AUB015A/B [2h. 3min.]
- **Nazem Al-Qadiri**, Lebanese deputy, assassinated during the Lebanese Civil War in the late 1980s, April 22, 1970; AUB107A [21min.]
- **Philip Al-Fata**; AUB038A [17min.]
- **Philip As-Saddi**, Head of the lawyers' syndicate, AUB023A/B [2h]
- **Raymond Eddé**, Lebanese legislator and minister, February 25, 1970; AUB055A [55min.]; AUB085A/B [2h. 3min.]; AUB086A/B [2h. 1min.]; AUB087A/B [1h. 40min.]; AUB105A/B [1h. 40min.]
- **Saeb Salam**; Prime Minister and member of the Lebanese Parliament during the 20th Century AUB056A/B [61min.]; AUB082A/B [2h. 4min.]; AUB083A/B [2h. 3min.]; AUB084A [34min.]; AUB106A/B [1h. 51min.]
- **Said Akl**, Lebanese poet, author, and founder of The Lebanese Genius party, (مقابلة أجرتها ليلي رستم في برنامج سهرة مع الماضي) AUB100A/B [62min.]
- **Shahin Al-Salibi**, AUB alumnus, eye surgeon fought in the Ottoman Army during World War I, November 1968; AUB035A [60min.]
- **Shawkat Al-Mulla**, Judge from Tripoli, November 1968; AUB040A [60min.]
- **Suleiman Al-Salibi**, Lebanese physician who served in the Egyptian army father of AUB Emeritus Professor Kamal Salibi, October 1968; AUB033A/B [1h. 26min.]; AUB034A/B [1h. 9min.]
- **The Emir Farid Chehab**, Lebanese Director of General Security and ambassador, (مقابلة أجرتها ليلي رستم في برنامج سهرة مع الماضي) AUB102A/B [62 min.]
- **Toufic Rizk**, Lebanese minister and Rizk hospital co-founder, AUB098A/B [45min.]

Series IV: Syria

- **Hana' Al-Quwatli**; Daughter of the first president of post-independence Syria, Shukri al-Qawatli of Kurdish descent AUB067A/B [2h. 4min.]; AUB068A [62min.]
- **Hassan Al-Quwatli**, eldest son of the first president of post-independence Syria, Shukri al-Qawatli June 20, 1969; AUB042A/B [1h. 44min.]
- **Husni Al Barazi**, Syrian Prime Minister of Kurdish descent, AUB024A/B [2h]; AUB025A/B [2h]; AUB026A/B [2h]; AUB027A/B [1h. 53min.]; AUB028A [1h]
- **Mrs. Husni Al-Barazi**; Wife of Syrian Prime Minister; AUB028B [56min.]
- **Nazem Al-Qudsi**, Syrian deputy, minister, president UB073A/B [2h]; AUB074A [14min.]
- **Nizar Qabbani**, Syrian poet and diplomat, (late 1960s early seventies); AUB101A/B [1h 2min.]
- **Salim Hariz** (or Hreiz), Lebanese Druze sheikh and writer, director general of the Ministry of Education, AUB017A [16min.]
- **Samih AL-Kasimi**, Syrian author of the Qamoos as-Sana'at ash-Shamawy (A Dictionary of Syrian Industries), AUB041A/B [37 min.]

Series V: Yemen

- **Abdallah Bakr**; AUB079A/B [2h. 4 min.]; AUB080A/B [2h. 4min.]; AUB081A [60min.]

- **Ahmad Al-Shami**, Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs, played a crucial role in dealings with Gamal Abdel Nasser in the early 1960s, 1970; AUB048A/B [1h. 56min.]; AUB049A/B [2h. 3min.]; AUB050A/B, [2h. 2min.]; AUB051A/B [2h. 1min.]; AUB052A/B [2h. 1min.]; AUB053A/B [1h. 53min.]; AUB054A/B [2h. 2min.]
- **Ahmad Ziara**; AUB069A/B [2h. 4min.]; AUB070A [40min.]
- **Al Cheikh Ahmad Mohamad An-Nu'man**, Prominent Yemeni aristocrat and government member known as “Abu El Ahrar” (Father of the Liberals), who quit political work after the assassination of his son in Beirut, 1968, Feb-May, Nov 1969; AUB001A/B [2h]; AUB002A [60min.]; AUB003A [38min.]; AUB004A/B [1h. 25min.]; AUB005A/B [2h]; AUB006A/B [2h]; AUB026A/B [2h]; AUB030A/B [62min.]; AUB031A/B [2h]; AUB032A [62min.]
- **Bishara An-Nu'man**; AUB037A/B [1h 12min.]
- **Mohamad Ahmad An-Nu'man**, 1970; AUB057A/B [2h. 4min.]; AUB058A/B [2h. 3min.]
- Unknown Yemeni Figure شخصية يمنية; AUB201 [34min.]

Related Material

Articles

- [Speak History, MainGate Magazine, summer 2010 p.46-49](#)
- Malone Attends Meet On Oral History in U.S., Faculty Bulletin v. 10, no. 3, October 29, 1966, p:4
- Dialogue Snapshot Oral History in the Middle East and Central Asia February 8-11, 2012, at The Hollings Center for International Dialogue

Books

- Grele, Ronald J. (1992) *International annual of oral history: subjectivity and multiculturalism in oral history*. New York: Greenwood Press, [J 907.2:I61i:1990:c.1](#)
- بوتشيش، إبراهيم القادري؛ كوثراني، وجيه، نصر، مارلين. (٢٠١٥). *التاريخ الشفوي*. بيروت: المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات. [CA 907.2:B987tA:v.1-3](#)

Oral History Collections

- **AUB 150th Oral History Collection, 2015-2016.**
20 oral history interviews conducted by Dr. Maria Abunnasr with members of the AUB community [OH 378](#)
- **Betty Anderson Oral History Collection, 2005-2006.**
Around 13 oral history interviews were conducted by Makram Rabah and Dr. Betty Anderson, Professor of Middle Eastern History at Boston University, in 2005-2006, as background research for her book *The American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism*

and Liberal Education”. The interviewees were AUB alumni, and members of the AUB administration. OH 320.54

- مقابلة مع الكولونيل توفيق وهبي، ١٩٧٠: توفيق وهبي (١٩٨٤-١٨٩١). سياسي، لغوي، وكاتب عراقي كردي بارز. خدم في الجيش العثماني يسرد الكولونيل سيرته الذاتية، ذكرياته عن تاريخ العراق وعادات وتقاليد الأكراد في أوائل القرن العشرين. [Sd:AUB:1970/12/13:A:pt.1-10](#)

Palestinian Oral History Archive (POHA)

- [Issam Fares Institute \(IFI\) Page](#)
- [University Libraries Page](#)
- [Al-Nakba: 1948 Palestinian Exodus: Oral History LibGuide](#)