



Archives and Special Collections Department,
American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon
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Abdallah El-Yafi Collection, 1900s-1980s

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB
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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: A:320.1

Library Catalog ID: [b21062900](#)

Record Creator: El-Yafi, Abdallah, 1901-1986.

Collection Title: Abdallah el-Yafi Collection, 1900s-1980s.

Collection Dates: 1900s-1980s

Physical Description: around 5 linear feet (14 boxes)

Abstract: This collection of around two thousand photos (mostly black and white, including 1793 original photos, 126 duplicates, and 10 flyers) documents the official, political, and social activities of Prime Minister Mr. Abdallah el Yafi during his tenure as Lebanese Prime Minister as well as Parliament Deputy (twice). The collection also contains documents related to the political scene in Lebanon and the Arab world during the 50s, 60s and 70s. Included are also some personal and family photos as well as a few archival documents related to Mr. Yafi's political, social, and cultural activities.

Language(s): Arabic and French

Administrative Information

Source: The Abdallah el-Yafi Collection was donated by the family of the late Prime Minister Yafi in November 2017.

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

Photocopying Restriction: No photocopying restriction except for fragile and handwritten material.

Preferred Citation: Abdallah el-Yafi Collection, 1900s-1980s. A: 320.1 Box no., File no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

Scope and Content

The Abdallah el-Yafi Collection consists mainly of official photographs documenting Mr. Yafi's functions as Prime Minister during the Presidencies of Mr. Bechara El-Khoury, Camille Chamoun, and Charles Helou. The collection also contains photos of prominent Lebanese politicians, and of religious and social figures including photos of Mufti Muhamad Alaya, Mir Majid Arslan, Mr. Hussein El-Oueini, Mr. Adel Ousseiran, Mr. Rashid Karami, and Father Sami Khoury, and Mr. Saeb Salam, among others. The collection also features photos of Mr. Yafi's visits to Arab and foreign countries between the 1940s and the 1980s, most noteworthy of which are his participation in the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1945; the founding of the Arab League in Egypt in 1945; the 1956 Arab Summit in Beirut; and Mr. Yafi's visit to the Revolution Command Council in Egypt in the 50s.

Photos of many Arab and foreign world leaders during their visits to Lebanon are also included: the visits of King Saud Bin Abdul Aziz and Prince Faisal Ibn Abdul Aziz, later King Faisal of Saudi Arabia; King Idriss Al Sanussi of Libya; President Sukarno of Indonesia; Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra of Pakistan; Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India; King Haile Selassie of Ethiopia; King Hussein of Jordan; Egypt's leaders

after the 1952 revolution: Salah Salem, Mohammad Najib; Gamal Abdel Nasser; Anwar el Sadat.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series:

- Series I:** Personal Photos
- Series II:** Prime Minister Functions Photos
- Series III:** Member of the Parliament Functions Photos
- Series IV:** Miscellaneous photos
- Series V:** Archival Collection
- Series VI:** Related digital material

Biographical Sketch

Abdallah Aref El-Yafi was born in Beirut in 1901. He studied at the Jesuit *Université Saint-Joseph* and obtained his degree in law in 1923. He later pursued and obtained in 1925 a Ph.D. in Law from the Sorbonne University, Paris, thus becoming, along with Mr. Habib Abou Shahla, among the first Lebanese nationals to obtain a doctorate in law from the *Sorbonne*. In 1925, Mr. Yafi presided over the Syrian Arab Society in Paris. The title of his dissertation was “*Condition Privée de la Femme dans le Droit de L'Islam*”. This research would go on to influence many decisions he initiated or took in favor of women’s rights during his various political roles in the newly nascent Lebanese state.

Back in Beirut, Mr. Yafi established his law firm and practiced law. In 1938, he was appointed Prime Minister for the first time under President Emile Edde. This was followed, between 1938 and 1968 by eight different appointments as Prime Minister, under the Presidencies of Bisharah el-Khouri, Camille Chamoun & Charles Helou. During his tenure as Prime Minister, he lobbied for, and passed a bill granting the Lebanese women suffrage in 1952. This was followed by another law granting Lebanese women the right to run for elections.

Besides his functions as Prime Minister, Mr. Yafi was also elected Member of the Parliament for the district of Beirut for 7 terms between 1930 and 1972.

Mr. Yafi married Ms. Hind Al-Azm, and together, they fathered five children: Arif, Wathiq, Ghayath, Dr. Ghada, and Dr. Nahla. Prime Minister Yafi passed away in 1986.

Subject Headings

El-Yafi, Abdallah, 1901-1986.
Prime ministers -- Lebanon.
Presidents -- Lebanon.
Khūrī, Bishārah Khalīl, -- 1890-1964.
Chamoun, Camille, 1900-1987.
Hélou, Charles, 1912-2001.

El Solh, Riad, 1894-1951.
Selu, Fawzi, 1905-1972.
Chehab, Fuad 1902-1973.
Karami, Rashid, 1921-1987.
Eddé, Raymond, 1913-2000.
'Usayran, 'Adil, 1905-1998.
El Oueini, Hussein, 1900-1971.
Arslān, Majīd ibn Tawfīq, 1908-1983
Alaya, Mohamad, 1890-1967.
Khaled, Hassan.
Al-Atasi, Hashim, 1873-1960.
Maḥmaṣānī, Ṣubḥī Rajab, 1909-1986.
Malik, Charles Habib, 1906-1987.
Nasser, Gamal Abdel, 1918-1970.
Sadat, Anwar, 1918-1981.
Sālīm, Ṣalāḥ, 1920-1962.
Soekarno, 1901-1970.
Nehru, Jawaharlal, 1889-1964.
Ali, Mohammed, 1909-1963.
Awwad, Tawfiq Yusuf, 1911-1989.
Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, 1892-1975.
Quwatli, Shukri, 1891-1967.
Gandhi, Indira, 1917-1984.
Presidents -- 1950-1960.
Egypt -- Politics and government -- 1952-1970.
Lebanon -- Politics and government.
Lebanon -- History -- 1946-1975.
Lebanon -- Politics and government -- 1946-1975.
Lebanon -- Foreign relations.

Format

Group portraits--1950-1960.
Photographic prints--1950-1960.
Portrait photographs.

Container List

Series I: Personal photos

Box 1: Personal photos – Portraits, Family, Awards & Honors, Trips & Outings (140 photos + 17 duplicates: 2 colored & 138 black & white, 29.5 x 21 cm & smaller)

Series II: Prime Minister Functions

Local Functions (620 photos + 23 duplicates: black & white, 39 x 29 & smaller)

Box 2: Local Functions - with Lebanese Presidents: Bisharah Khuri, Camille Chamoun, Charles H  lou

Box 3: Local Functions - In the Parliament - with prominent figures – Political & Social: Ahmad Al Assaad, Sabri Hamadeh, Kamel al Assaad, Musa al-Sadr, Othman el-Dana, Rashid Karami, Fouad Shehab, Emile Boustani, Zalfa Chamoun, Saeb Salam, Raymonde Edde, Pierre Gemayel, Majid Arslan, Kazem al-Khalil, Hussein Oueini, Alfred Naccash, Takeddine Solh, Michel Sasin, Sami Solh , Philip Takla, Gabriel Trad, Habib Abou Chahla, Ghassan Tueini, Clovis Khazem, Mufti Muhamad Alaya, Mufti Toufic Khaled, Moutran al-Siryan.

Arab & International Relations (829 photos + 72 duplicates; 3 colored panoramic shots & 826 black & white photos: 33 x 24.5 & smaller)

Box 4: Regional Agreements: Egypt (Presidents Mohammed Naguib, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Anwar al-Sadat, Abdel Hakim Amer etc. Arab League founding members); Yemen (President Badr along with Lebanese Prime Minister Riad al-Solh)

Box 5: Travels to Arab & Foreign Countries - Arab Countries: Iraq, Jordan (King Hussein) Saudi Arabia (Prince Faisal, King Saud, Amir al-Medina al-Sheikh Abdel Aziz al-Sriri), Syria (Shukri al-Quwatli, President Hashim al-Atassi); Foreign Countries: Netherlands, Spain (Ambassador Toufic Awad, General Francisco Franco), United States of America (San Francisco Conference), Vatican (Pope Pius XI).

Box 6: Arab Visitors: Bahrain (Issa ibn al-Sheikh Salman al-Khalifa), Egypt (Salah Salem, Sheikh Abdul Basset Abdul Samad), Iraq (King Faisal I, Prince Abd al Ilah), Jordan (King Abdallah,) Kuwait (Abdallah Salem Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Salem al-Mubarak al-Sabah).

Box 7: Arab & foreign Visitors: Libya (King Idriss al Senussi), Saudi Arabia (King Saud ibn Abdul-Aziz, Crown Prince Faisal Bin Abdul-Aziz), Syria (Prime Minister Jamil Mardam Beik); Ethiopia (Emperor Haile Selassi).

Box 8: Foreign Visitors – India (Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi), Indonesia (President Ahmad Sukarno), Pakistan (Prime Minister Mohamad Ali Bogra), United States of America, Russia, Vatican. Visit to Embassies – Arab Embassies: Iraq, Libya (Ahmad al Bishti), Kuwait (Khalid Muhammad Jaafar), Morocco (Abdel Rahman Bader, Abdel Kader Sahrawi), Qatar (Mohammad bin Hamad bin Abdallah al Thani), Syria

Box 9: Visit to Embassies – Foreign Embassies – African, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Haiti, Hungary, India, Japan, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey, United States of America (Dwight Porter), Vatican (Archbishop Alfred Bruneira), Yugoslavia, USSR (Soviet Union)

Series III: Member of the Parliament Functions. (10 colored flyers; 193 photos + 14 duplicates: black & white, 24 x 18 cm & smaller)

Box 10: Parliamentary Elections Campaigns

Box 10: Public & Outreach Social Events

Series IV: Miscellaneous (11 photos: black & white, 25.5 x 20.5 cm & smaller)

Box 10: Miscellaneous unidentified photos

Series V: Archival Collection

Box 11: Personal Genealogical Information

Box 12: Minister & Prime Minister Functions: Correspondence, articles, decrees, statements

Box 13: As-Siyasa documents (newspapers & press clippings)

Box 14: Miscellaneous articles, brochures, (published thesis: *Condition Privée de la Femme dans le Droit de L'Islam.*)

Series VI: Related digital material

Box 15: Interviews: El-Yafi, A. (undated). El-Yafi, G. (2011)

Box 15: Government functions: Lebanese Parliament. (1937 – 1986). Parliament meeting minutes; Lebanese Parliament. (1922 – 2000). Parliament meeting minutes; Lebanese Parliament. (1920 – 2015). Parliament meeting minutes; Lebanese Ministry. (1951 – 1968). Cabinet decrees.

Box 15: Publications: Early draft of the Abdallah el-Yafi biography by Fatimah Kadoura al-Shami, scans of the As-Siyasa newspaper (1956 – 1963). Mokarzel, S.A... (1918 – 1926). *The Syrian-American commercial magazine* (Volumes 1-8)

Related Material at AUB

Publications

اليافي ، عبد الله. السياسة. 1956-1961. بيروت. [Mic-NA:0094](#)

Photographs

- American University of Beirut Commencement Ceremony, 1951
[Ph:AUB:1951/06\(02\):1-20:44](#)
- Inauguration of Annual Exhibition of Lebanese Industries and Services, 1968
[Ph:AUB:1968/03/04:01:52](#)
- Award distributed to Dr. Yusuf Hitti by A. Edden, British Ambassador to Lebanon, 1971 [Ph:AUB:1971/04/03:01:53](#)

Books

- Abdallah-el-Yafi & Université de Paris (1896-1968). (1925). Université de Paris. Faculté de droit. *La Condition privée de la femme dans le droit de l'Islam. Thèse pour le doctorat en droit (sciences juridiques)* Paris: Impr. graphique.
- El-Yafi, A., & Qurm, G. (2013). *La condition privée de la femme dans le droit l'Islam*. Paris: Geuthner.
- اليافي، عبد الله. (2011). *الوضع الخاص للمرأة في شريعة الاسلام*. المصيطبة، لبنان: دار ألف ياء للنشر والتوزيع. [J 305.485:Y127cA](#)
- الشامي، فاطمة قدورة. (٢٠١٦ م). *الدكتور عبد الله اليافي: إنسان، قانوني ورجل دولة*، ١٩٠١-١٩٨٦. بيروت، لبنان: دار النهضة العربية. [J 956.92044:Q612dA](#)
- *دولة رئيس الحكومة*. (٢٠٠٨). بيروت: المركز العربي للمعلومات [F 320.9004:M261mA:no.61:c.1](#)
- الكيالي، عبد الوهاب. (٢٠١٥-١٩٧٩). *موسوعة السياسة*. [J 320:K23mA:v.1:c.1](#)
- كرامي، ناديا، وكرامي، نواف. (١٩٥٦). *العالم العربي تاريخ ورجال*. صيدا: المطبعة المخلصية. [CA:R 920.02:K18aA:v.1:c.1](#)
- ضو، طوني. (٢٠٠٠). *معجم القرن العشرين: وجه لبنان الأبيض لبنان: دار أبعاد للنشر والتوزيع*. [RLEB 920.05692:D269mA:c.1](#)
- زيدان، نعمة. [١٩٥٦]. *عالمنا العربي سورية ولبنان*. بيروت: وكالة الصحافة الشرقية. [CA:R 920.05:Z391A:v.1:c.1](#)
- الزركلي، خير الدين. (2000-1998) *ذيل الاعلام: قاموس تراجم لاشهر الرجال والنساء من العرب والمستعربين والمستشرقين*. بيروت: وكالة الصحافة الشرقية. [CA:R 920.02:Z81a5A:Suppl.A:v.1:c.1](#)

Related websites

- [الجمهورية اللبنانية: رئاسة مجلس الوزراء](#)