

Summary of Press Releases

Title of Bayan	Date of Bayan	Objectives
Refusal of implementing law 174 is illegal	November 7, 2012	The objective of this statement is to assure that the refusal of implementing law 174 is an illegal act by the Lebanese government. The statement also clarifies that amending a law such as law 174 requires the issuing of another law by the Lebanese parliament who represents the Lebanese citizens, who already support the law 174. The statement assures that TCCW and AUB-TCRG totally support all the ministries and all efforts done to successfully implement law 174.
Minister Abboud, is it True?	December 3, 2012	The statement is addressed to Minister of Tourism Fadi Abboud, after it was mentioned in Al Binaa newspaper that Minister Abboud suggested allowing the violation of law 174 during the winter season until the law is amended in the first parliamentary meeting to come. TCCW and AUB-TCRG, and through this statement ask minister Abboud to clarify the position of the ministry from all what's being mentioned in the media, highlighting some facts regarding the duties of the touristic police in monitoring the implementation of the law 174.
May the judiciary accelerate in issuing the provisions to protect law 174.	December 19, 2012	The objective of the statement is to highlight the violations of the law 174 that are occurring in restaurants and cafes in Beirut. The statement mentions that only 62% of cafes and restaurants are implementing the law especially after what minister Abboud said regarding ignoring all violations of law 174 during winter and in holidays. The statement also clarifies the definition of a 'closed public place' and urges every Lebanese citizen to monitor the implementation of the law and report to TCCW in case they detected any violation.
Encouraging citizens to inform about any violation at the work place, and stressing on the government to issue all the fines.	December 27, 2012	This statement was sent after the ministry of work issued a statement to remind all workers and employees not smoke indoors at the working place abiding by the law 174, to encourage all citizens to inform about any violation of law 174 that they see. The statement encourages every citizen to monitor the implementation of the law 174 especially in working places. The statement also stresses on the importance of issuing all the fines at the Lebanese courts due to the great funds that it will provide to the government's treasury.
Mess should not be repeated on New Year's Eve.	January 3, 2013	This statement was issued after the violations of the law 174 that were detected during the feasts and holidays. The statement mention that law and regulations should be monitored and implemented on New Year's Eve same as they are being implemented during any other day. The statement also clarifies that the law 174 did not lead to decrease in the revenue of touristic enterprises, but this loss was due to political and safety reasons that lead to general economic losses in all government sectors. The statement assures that no licenses will be given to special cafes and restaurants to allow smoking indoors.
Concerned ministries shall issue a statement assuring the follow up on all law 174 violations.	February 3, 2013	The statement is a letter addressed form the civil society to the four concerned ministries that are responsible for implementing law 174. The statement asks the ministries to clarify who are the personnel responsible for monitoring the implementation of law 174 and where are they found. The statement also thanked the judicial authorities for releasing all the provisions related to the fines of law 174. The statement also replied to MP Ziad El Aswad's suggestion to pause the implementation of law 174 by reminding MP El Aswad that his role as an MP is to monitor the work of the government and thus assure the implementation of all the laws including law 174.

Who protects law 174? Who protects those who monitor its implementation?	February 15, 2013	This statement was issued after the incident that happened with Dalal Mawwad who entered to a pub and asked the waiter to ask customers to stop smoking inside as per the law 174. This request developed into a conflict between Dalal Mawwad and the pub's manager. The statement asks the government to protect law 174 and to protect all those who monitor its implementation asking all citizens to always report any violation they encounter.
190 billion Lebanese pounds is the treasury's revenue if tobacco taxes were increased.	March 12, 2013	This statement shows that the government's revenues will increase by 52% adding 190 billion Lebanese pounds to the government's treasury. Increasing tobacco taxes will provide extra funding sources for the government to be able to cover all its expenses. Moreover, increasing tobacco taxes will reduce the consumption of tobacco products especially by youth, and as such they will be avoiding many health problems.
A funeral for 10 Lebanese people today in front of the ministry of interior and tourism	May 8, 2013	The statement comments on a speech by the MP of tourism on the ministry not having the enough human resources to monitor the application of law 174 and thus giving touristic institutions a signal that the ministry will not follow up applying the law in the summer. Moreover, it claims that the delay in producing decrees for those transgressing the law is encouraging others to do the same. It held both the government and the courts responsible for the death of 10 Lebanese citizens every day.
A funeral for 10 Lebanese citizens in front of ministries of tourism and interior and ministers are responsible.	May 10, 2013	The statement was issued after a symbolic funeral in front of the ministry of interior and ministry of tourism that was held on May 10 for 10 Lebanese citizens who died from tobacco including 4-month-old infant Carol Mendalek. It claims that 10 Lebanese citizens die daily due to tobacco smoking and urges the government to take action and implement the law 174 everywhere.
Smoking Ban Adds 3% to the Revenues of Restaurants, Cafés and Pubs in Lebanon	May 20, 2013	The statement is about a research that was at AUB by Dr. Jad Chaaban, Dr. Nisreen Salti, and Dr. Rima Nakkash about the revenues collected after the implementation of law 174. This research note evaluates the impact of Tobacco Control Law 174, namely the indoor smoking ban, on the turnover of the restaurant, café, pub and nightclub sector in Lebanon. Unlike speculative or qualitative assessments, we rely on three years of historical official data of revenues in the sector to assess the immediate effect of the introduction of the smoking ban on the changes in turnover in the industry.
Implementing law 174: all will benefit	May 31, 2013	This statement was issued on the World Tobacco Day 2013 to stress on the importance of implementing law 174 due to the dangerous health effects of smoking. The statement mentions that revenues of the touristic enterprises increased after implementing the law 174 and that the government's revenues will increase in case tobacco taxed were increased.
Ministries of finance and health sacrifice the health of the Lebanese for tobacco companies.	September 26, 2013	This statement is issued after it came known in the media that ministry of finance postponed issuing the bylaw that asks all tobacco companies to place health warnings on all tobacco products. The objective of this statement is to assure the importance of having health warnings on tobacco products since it will reduce the consumption of tobacco products by youth which will protect their health from dangerous health effects. Moreover, health warnings will reduce smuggling between countries.