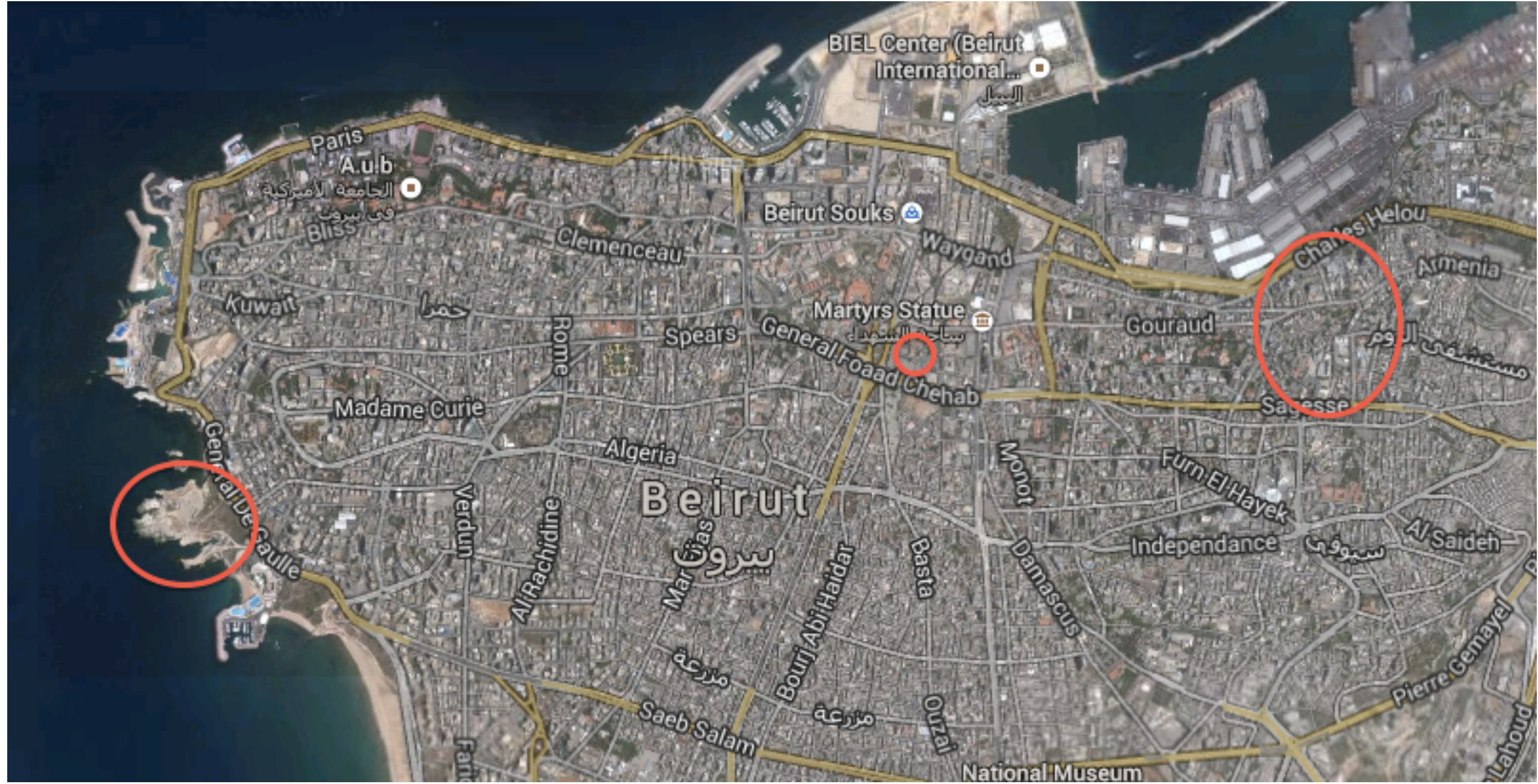


Activism, media and accountability

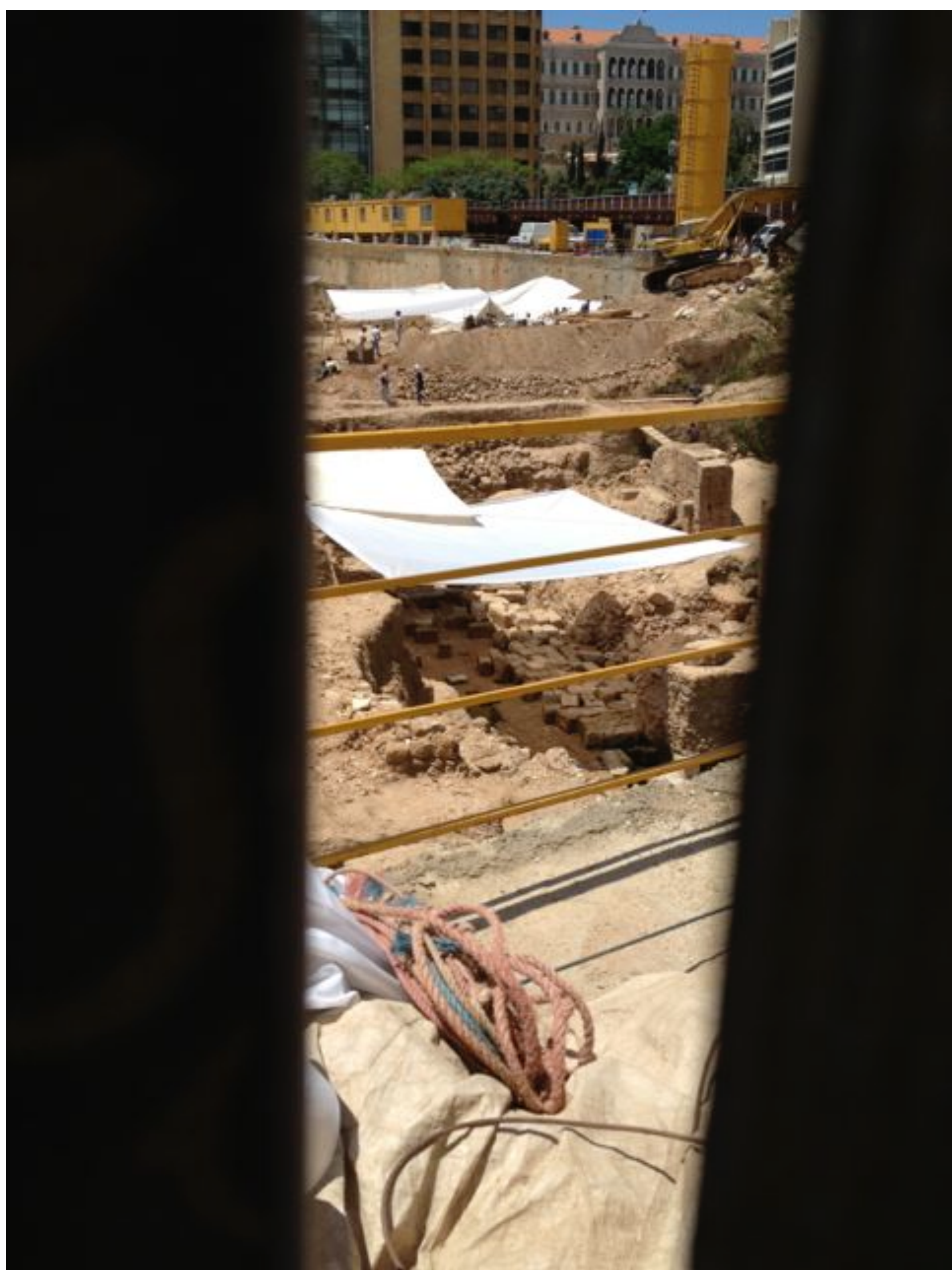
- Empowered activism
- New/old media hybridity
- Personalized politics
- New/digital accountability?















THE LANDMARK The City within the City

"There is a cultural heritage to reinterpret. Inside, outside, in between; terraces, loggias, atriums. There is light, brilliant sunlight, and its consequence, shade. There are the colors of the city: real golden stone and symbolic purple. There is vegetation. These are our points of departure, our architectural material. The whole thing is like a little city. Unique. It will have its place alongside the markers and the monuments of past centuries on the visitors' map of Beirut."

Jean Nouvel
Architect

















Archaeological ruins halt \$149M Landmark project

May 21, 2013 01:45 AM

The Daily Star





Before



After





[Home](#) > [Environment & Public Space](#) > [The “non-existent” trees of Boutros](#)

The “non-existent” trees of Boutros

Environment & Public Space

Jun 9, 2013

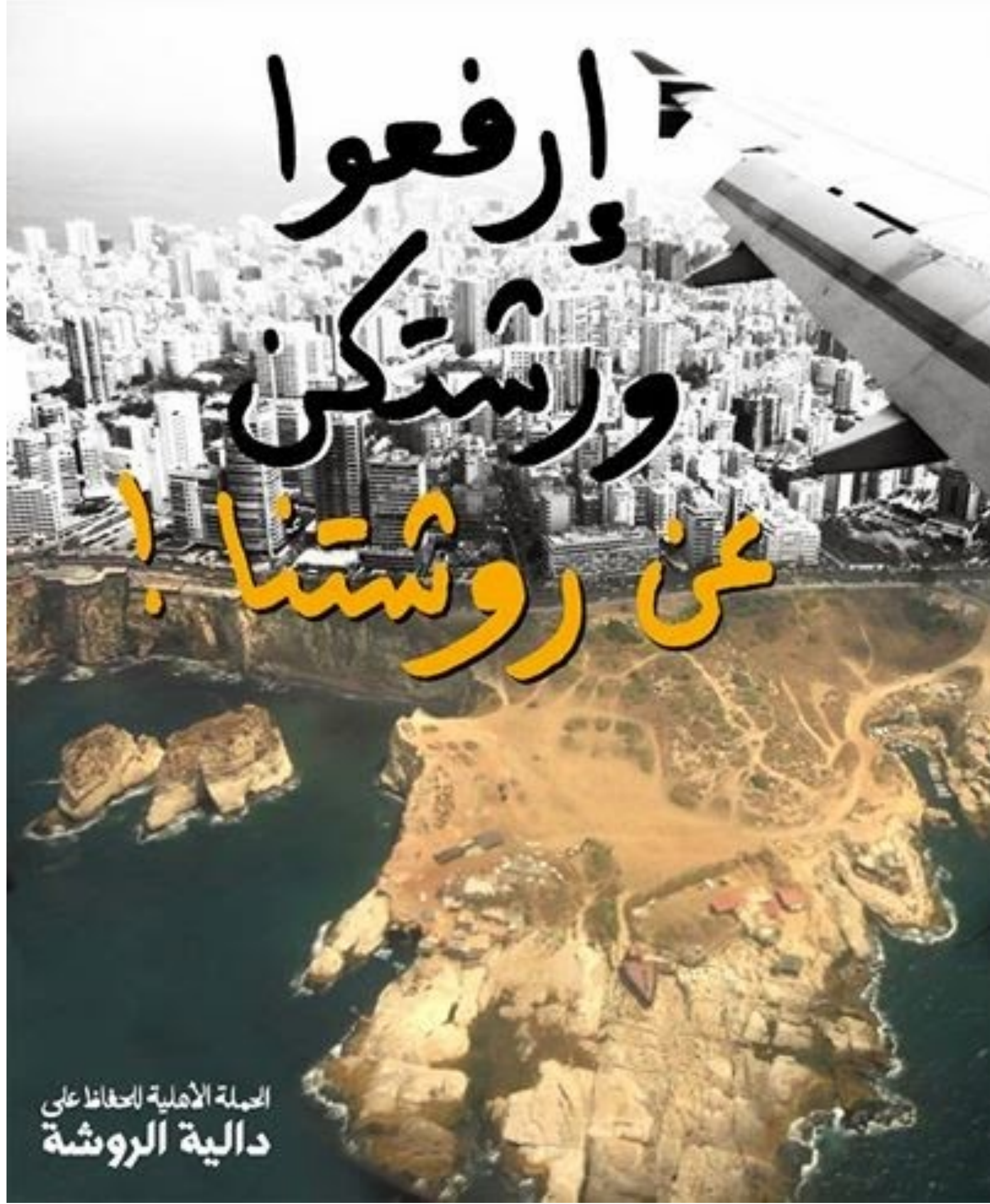
6











ارفعوا
رؤسكم

عن رؤسنا!

الحملة الاهلية للحفاظ على
دالية الروشة











"@" for internet, "y" for Why



What is an organization?

- focus on NGOs in past research
- infiltrated by political interests/weak, non-confrontational
- informal collectives, Facebook groups?
- issue-based politics?

#StopLira

- Draft media law leaked, shared
- Agenda setting: law named/hashtag-ed
- Minister meets activists, lawyer, says law ‘optional’
- Law removed from cabinet agenda
- Minister concedes: “new force”



Ontornet Meets with Minister of Information

On March 19, Ontornet met with Minister of Information M. Walid Daouk to discuss the latest law he submitted to the cabinet on March 7, the Lebanese Internet Regulation Act (LIRA) (مشروع قانون للإعلام الإلكتروني).

At the beginning of the meeting, Minister Daouk acknowledged that he should have met and consulted the online community before presenting the law to the cabinet; however his action was driven by his need to fill an urgent legislative gap concerning internet laws.

Ontornet: *Why did you withdraw the law from the cabinet agenda?*

Minister Daouk: The news that the law was withdrawn is totally wrong, the law was not withdrawn. When discussing it in the cabinet meeting, it was pointed out that there

Private sector accountability

- Citizen video reporting poor MEA service lead mainstream media, pressure company apologies, shift course from denial
- Citizen blogging racism at MEA, Viral media stream, pressure staff firing
- Shame supermarket chief, engage on social media, form union



New tools, amplified activism

- Digital documentation
- photos, visualizations, memes
- Social media broadcasting (vs traditional shows)
- Facebook pages, open walls (SBH) spaces for debate, mobilization
- Viral content

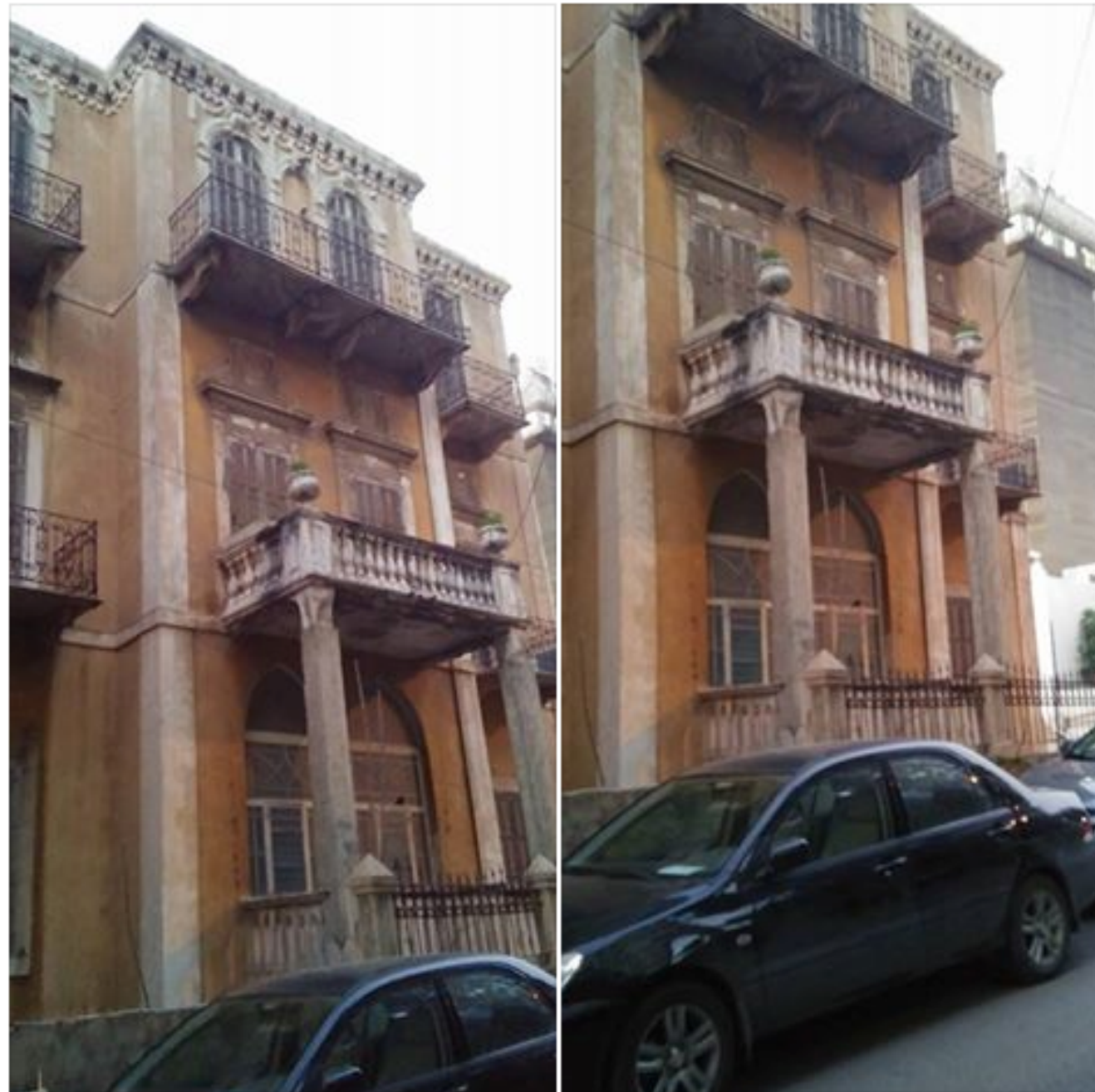


Ghena Samadi Beydoun

19 hrs

Rue Saint Joseph.Monot.

[See Translation](#)



[Unlike](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)



Mira Minkara shared her post.

January 20 at 1:55pm



Mira Minkara added 5 new photos.

Another old beautiful house is being destroyed between daraj masaad & roum hospital next to my place 😞 what a shame and what a pollution! The demolition sound and dust are super deranging! Not to forget the two other constructions around us!!

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)

👍 36 people like this.

[View 14 more comments](#)



Raffik Homsy

January 28 at 1:45pm

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/.../285557-anger-over-stadium-pla...>



Anger over stadium plan in Horsh Beirut

The Beirut municipality's plan to build a football stadium in the capital's largest park has sparked controversy, with many activists and MP Walid Jumblatt saying the project would damage one of few remaining green spaces.

DAILYSTAR.COM.LB

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)

👍 Michael Farah and 5 others like this.

[View 1 more comment](#)



Michael Farah Fuck the useless people in power who care more about their bank accounts than the betterment of the country.

January 29 at 1:20am · [Like](#) · 👍 1

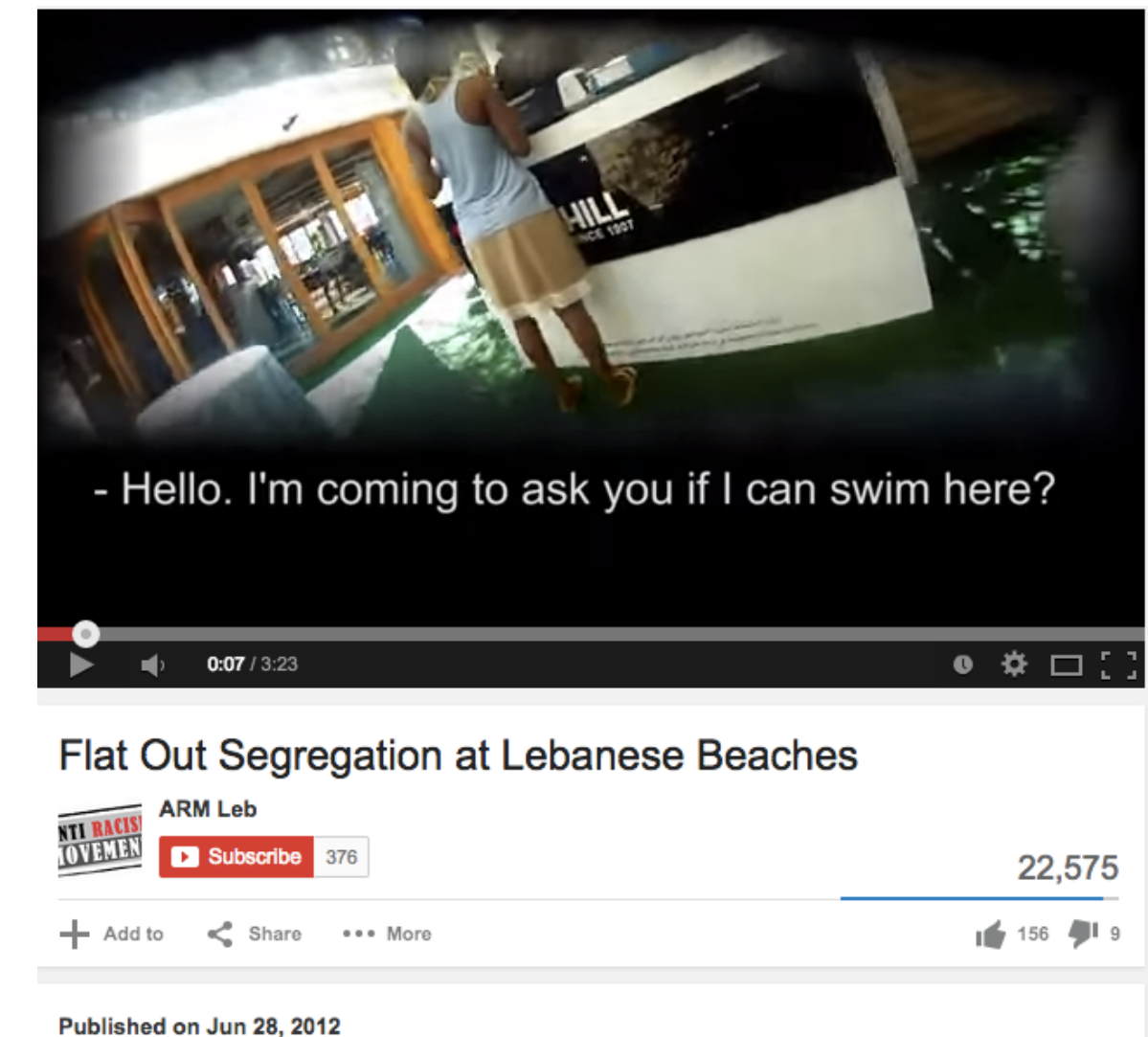
Influencing media

- Inciting coverage
- Expert research and investigation,
- Resources gap
- local issues, big audiences
- Popularization of genre
- Old logics/sectarian affiliation diminished?



Racism at resorts

- Media coverage precedes law passage
- ARM tests enforcement, undercover cameras
- Youtube videos inspire mainstream coverage on Al Jadeed (Agenda setting)
- Minister embarrassed, issues new warning
- New ARM filming reveals no violators





0 COMMENTS

NOW

Published: 26/11/2013 04:27 PM | Updated: 27/11/2013 11:10 AM

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November 27, 2013

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Cement factory militia attacks TV crew

Rule of Law

Crime

Media

Dec 12, 2014



In the video below, an Al Jadeed TV crew says they were assaulted by at least three car loads men with machine guns while investigating a controversial Bekaa cement factory connected member of parliament. The female reporter–Yumna Fawaz– says she was grabbed by the cc

Demand releases



- Video evidence contradicts official accounts
- Freeze frame on perpetrators

Beirut Municipality Sells Beirut's Collective Memory and the Last of its Green Spaces



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\$8.8 Billio
Anti-ISIS

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Lubnan

Feb. 03, 2015 | 12:22 AM

Activists battle for Beirut's heritage



Digital accountability?

- Concrete changes: Draft law withdrawn, staff fired, projects stopped, policies reversed, activists releases
- Officials compelled to engage (Spinneys, municipality, dir general)
- Reading pages, point-by-point defense
- Daouk: “Past would have been easy to pass law”

Digital Politicians



Nicolas Sehnaoui
@NicolaSehnaoui FOLLOWS YOU

Lebanese Citizen/Former-Minister/Geek -
Fan of Super Heroes, Pink Floyd & Star
Wars - Strong believer that the Power of
a young Digital Lobby can change
Lebanon



Tom Fletcher ✓
@HMA TomFletcher FOLLOWS YOU

British Ambassador to Lebanon Naked
Diplomat: nakeddiplomat.wordpress.com
Photos: flickr.com/ukinlebanon Youtube
videos: bit.ly/14vv6yA

📍 Beirutopia
🔗 gov.uk/government/wor...
🕒 Joined August 2011

A DIGITAL DIPLOMACY
**INTERACTIVE
DISCUSSION**

WITH **TOM
FLETCHER**
BRITISH AMBASSADOR
TO LEBANON @HMA TomFletcher

& **ALEC
ROSS**
SENIOR ADVISOR FOR INNOVATION
TO SECRETARY CLINTON @AlecJRoss

AND **JIMMY LEACH**
SENIOR ASSOCIATE AT PORTLAND COMMUNICATIONS
@PortlandComms How the Middle East Tweets

NOV 30, 2012 **11 AM - 1 PM** **AUB - ISSAM FARES HALL**
DATE TIME PLACE


#DigitalDiplomacy



Digital politicians

- Appropriating new media tools
- Fan pages, Facebook, Instagram, blogs
- Social media PR team
- ‘Engage’ new media, bloggers
- Tweet-ups, contests, #Betheminister
#Reinventtheworld
- Big prizes, prizes for all

Digital PR



Foreign &
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Tom Fletcher » British Ambassador to Lebanon

Parting Shots – An Alternative View of the UK in the Middle East

by Tom Fletcher | January 16, 2015 | [Reply](#)

All over the Foreign Office network, we draw on advice and analysis from our brilliant locally engaged staff. One of our colleagues here, Nadim Zaazaa, is leaving us to work on an exciting project – the UK-Lebanon Tech Hub. See here for more details. He shared with me some parting thoughts about the Middle East, and the UK's role in the region. These are not necessarily my views, nor those ... [Read more »](#)

59

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Tom Fletcher » Beirut, Lebanon



Tom Fletcher, British Ambassador to Lebanon

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Gino Raidy

Earlier tonite with the minister of telecom preparing for the Silicon Valley trip next month! — with [Nicolas Sehnaoui](#).



Like · Comment · Share · 2 hours ago via mobile · 

62 people like this.



Karl Sader !!!!!!!!!

2 hours ago via mobile · Like ·  1



Noelle Homsy I thought the pics were exclusive!

2 hours ago via mobile · Like ·  1



Rachid Akiki Hehe nice man

2 hours ago via mobile · Like ·  1



Write a comment...

“Be-the-minister” contest

BE THE MINISTER OF TELECOMS

Guess the Ministry of Telecoms' achievements and enter the draw
to be the Minister of Telecoms for 1 day or be 1 of 200 4G Pilot Testers

www.betheminister.com





Ministry as a showroom?

Internet Slow: Fta7 El 7annafiyyeh

JUNE 10, 2013 BY GINO — 7 COMMENTS



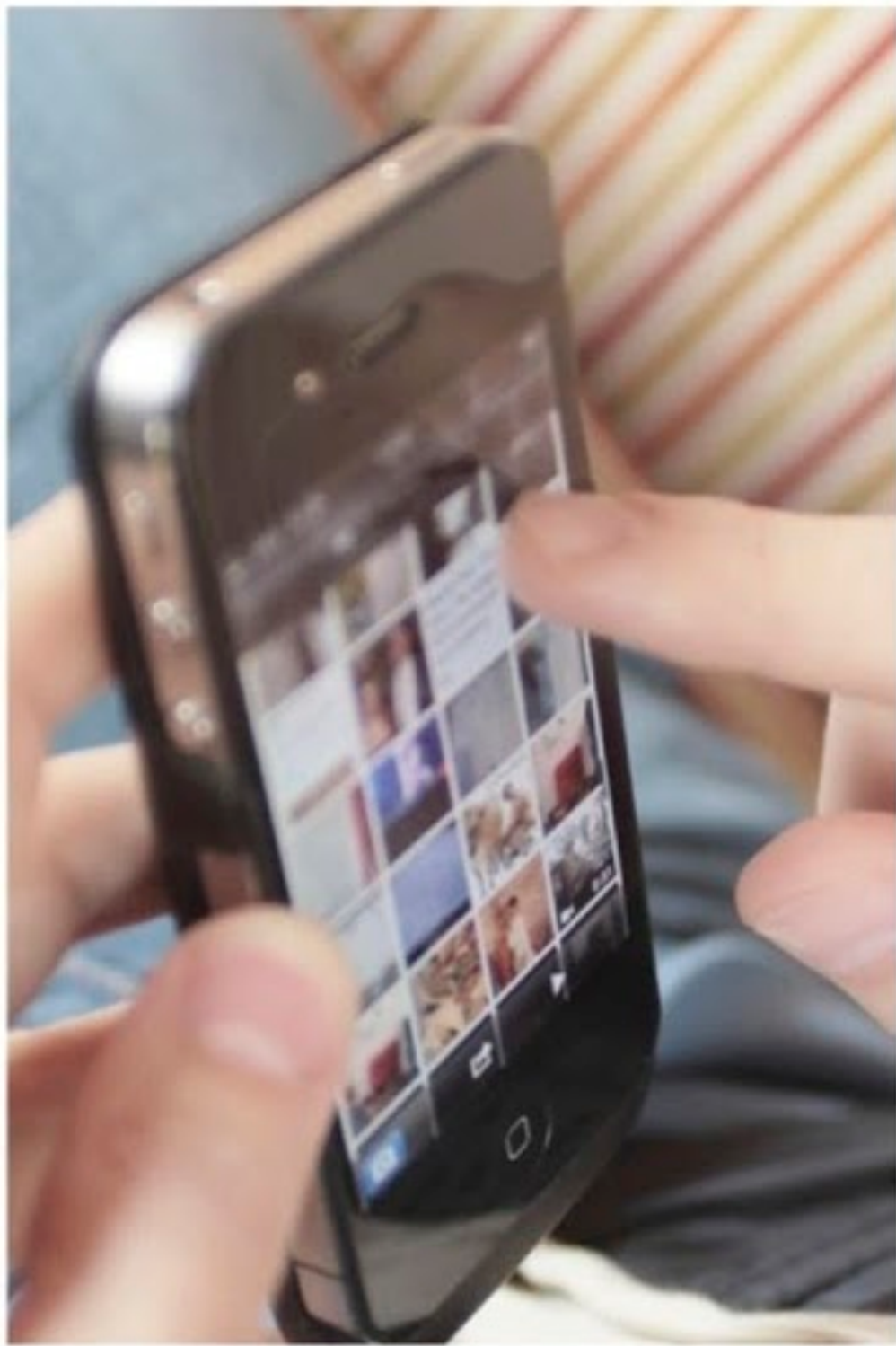
إفتح يا منعم!

Abdel Menhem Youssef taking
the Internet Bandwidth as a hostage.
**Pressure all politicians through
Social Media to force Youssef to**

#FreeTheBandwidth
#FtahElHanafiyye

If Minister Nicolas Sehnaoui was a fictional superhero, Abdel Menhem Youssef would be the fictional super villain. In an extremely childish manner, over many, many occasions,

#Transparency #Accountability #Diversion ?



editor's
opinion

I FELT LIKE POOR LITTLE E.T. WHEN HE
PLAINTIVELY SAID, "E.T. PHONE HOME."

If it is a "land call" that you use of the first sentence I heard when coming to Lebanon. I didn't know who anyone would want to "be a land call" nor did I understand the term. I would look down at my cell and wonder in disbelief and see a "land call" like some graffiti that after later many "Americans who came to Lebanon, I took their word of things for granted. "Why the hell can't people just call each other here? Why do we have "land calling" and are online questions that their answers are rarely correct. For the Lebanese making the switch, it's a challenge. Lebanon has with me for a reason which I explain in these words below. (The those words below, before you know I am that sort of person that can make the greatest of mistakes, are absolutely as accurate as I can be.)

THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES
There were times we not knew that in Canada, prior to moving to Beirut, I nearly missed 1000 minutes a month on my mobile, meaning I would spend an average of \$5 from per month calling on my mobile phone. And I've got the records to prove it. This adds to my memory, my dad and all the ones Lebanon, you know that to have thinking of \$5 from of calls that drinking up on your bill. For the you know how much that usually cost me \$5 from per month as I have per month now on the same number 1100. It's a far more plan and the difference that we will see here that in Lebanon seems to be all. In the this, you look at your monthly bill and see maybe \$100 or you can see it \$100 now if you've got a multi-month bill plan. You can get unlimited service, unlimited texting, unlimited data, but it's unlimited everything so if you do have a bad plan you have

only yourself to blame. I will have my "Canada mobile" that gives me unlimited texting, unlimited calling (local) and the whole deal, rates, data, everything included. Yes, sometimes and sometimes I am not calling Lebanon, my son is not calling his / the those about, so no calling in Lebanon, it's like a page down, leaving the words "Lebanon" and "Lebanon" in the same sentence. I recently like a strong need to re-read a childhood memory of mine, from Spielberg's "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" since 1982. "What because I had the phone from E.T. when he phoned me, "E.T. phone home" I should've message my son and have him and my family call me, since calling someone is not convenient from here, I am not really and I am being able to call them, and maybe that's why I had to use E.T. again. That's not the only thing I now about home that comes from a genuine perspective.





Nicolas Sehnaoui

@NicolaSehnaoui



Following

This is @fidachaaban tweeting from Mr. Sehnaoui's phone haha check out next issue of @RAGMAGLebanon



RETWEETS

12

FAVORITES

8



2:15 PM - 14 Feb 2013



Fida Chaaban @fida · 14 Feb 2013

@P_Kirakossian great. Mr. @NicolaSehnaoui is modern and very straightforward with his answers. @RAGMAGLebanon



Fida Chaaban @fida · 14 Feb 2013

@MariaFrangieh haha Mr. @NicolaSehnaoui is chill, he let me commandeer his Twitter



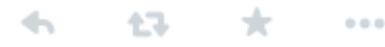


Mohammad Hijazi
@mhijazi



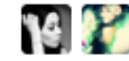
Follow

Chilling at @nicolasehnaoui's house with @fidachaaban and @youmnachagoury. Happy birthday Mr Sehnaoul!!!
[instagram.com/p/YdUqbYPm70/](https://www.instagram.com/p/YdUqbYPm70/)



FAVORITES

2



10:01 PM - 23 Apr 2013



Instagram





f طلعت ريحتكم Habib Home

<p>1,190 Likes · 27,409 views</p> <p>0:26</p> <p>ما ذنب الأطفال والمرضاء؟ حرق نفايات... إجرامي وممنهج جنب مدرسة</p> <p>338 Likes · 8,408 views</p>	<p>16,397 Likes · 1,040,618 views</p> <p>0:11</p> <p>الاجرام الممنهج مستمر في جميع المناطق، حريق النفايات يلتهم السيارات</p> <p>331 Likes · 8,908 views</p>	<p>1,054 Likes · 46,229 views</p> <p>0:08</p> <p>بلال علاو يعاني امه.. ويخرج حرا بسند... اقامة. شكرا لكل متضامن.. مبروك</p> <p>640 Likes · 40,082 views</p>	<p>913 Likes · 46,146 views</p> <p>0:22</p> <p>الاجرام الممنهج مستمر بحق المواطنين... خلف شارع حنكش/ميرنا الشالوشي</p> <p>365 Likes · 11,020 views</p>
<p>0:35</p> <p>في هذه الأثناء يتم الحرق اليومي الممنهج لجبل النفايات (أو ممكن أيضاً تسميته)</p> <p>381 Likes · 12,881 views</p>	<p>1:56</p> <p>لحظات الحرية الأولى</p> <p>566 Likes · 12,151 views</p>	<p>0:21</p> <p>لحظة وصول بيار ووارف الى المحكمة العسكرية للاحتفال بخروجهم. الحرية</p> <p>584 Likes · 16,684 views</p>	<p>0:20</p> <p>لحظة لقاء المعتقلين بيار ووارف ببعضهم البعض خارج الاعتقال التسعفي</p> <p>1,359 Likes · 27,721 views</p>
<p>0:24</p> <p>بدأت الاحتفالات بخبر اخلاء السبيل... المعتقلين بيار ووارف في ساحة</p> <p>570 Likes · 18,631 views</p>	<p>1:09</p> <p>Video: شباب وصبايا "طلعت ريحتكم" يوضبون النفايات في منطقة برج</p> <p>417 Likes · 11,368 views</p>	<p>1:00</p> <p>مواطنة من لبنان الى كل لبنان #مستمرون #طلعت_ريحتكم</p> <p>900 Likes · 21,212 views</p>	<p>0:30</p> <p>اليوم العاشر، وارف سليمان وبيار الحشاش، خيرة الشباب اللبناني الشجاع</p> <p>582 Likes · 10,208 views</p>

Arrests and Civil Disobedience

- 200 arrested, 1 critical condition
- Tens of thousands protested
- Taboo locations: police stations, ministries
- Online campaigns for releases
- memes, archives, video production, events (abou rakhousa)
- Govt task force, bids rejected, garbage remains

Media cooperation

- Live coverage for hours
- Journalists assaulted
- Reporters debunking police
- Activists press conferences, TV shows in the square, interviews
- Hashtags and compilation of police brutality
- Videos reposted/second life online

Critiques

- From civil disobedience to media stunts
- Vacation day, not strike (traditional left)
- Transparency and closed meetings
- Class: middle class protest/ “infiltrators”
- Sobiraj: new civil society groups often romanticized, overfocus on media- away from other organization activities, outreach, coverage often poor

Connective action

- Lance Bennett, Alexandra Segerberg
- collective asking/shaming
- peer production/crowd-sourcing answers/
research- personal action frames
- lowers barriers for participation
- New media logics shape political culture,
memes/pranks new grammar for critical

Lebanese context

- Personalized politics over feudal
- issue-focused politics, not sect-based
- Failure of parties and social/media institutions, infiltration of labor unions
- Lack of centralized power, media attention unlike other arab states
- window of protest space

Hybrid media power

- Andrew Chadwick: The Hybrid Media System
- all social institutions are media institutions
- blurring of boundaries between old and new, media and politics
- Politicians/media forced to adapt (power loss)
- new elites, questions of transparency
- Digital accountability => Digital citizenship?

BEIRUT بيروت

R E P O R T

@habib_b

habib.battah@gmail.com