



# Hariri-Gram

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Building the human resources of Lebanon through education since 1985

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## Inaugural Rafik B. Hariri Lecture



While on his first official visit to Washington as Prime Minister of Lebanon, His Excellency Saad R. Hariri delivered the Inaugural Rafik B. Hariri Lecture at Georgetown University. The early evening event took place on May 25, 2010 at the Rafik B. Hariri Building, the new home of the McDonough School of Business, before a diverse audience of diplomats, university officials, professors and students, members of congress and the administration, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, and many distinguished guests from the Washington area.

When introducing Prime Minister Hariri, Georgetown President John

J. DeGioia directed the audience's attention to a cedar tree sapling which stood on his right, and explained, "As all of you know, it is a symbol of Lebanon, a tree that gives and serves. We plan to plant this cedar on our campus, where it will be seen as a living tribute to the spirit of Rafik Hariri and a growing symbol of the continuing and deepening friendship between the students of this campus and the citizens of Lebanon."

The occasion was a kind of homecoming for the Prime Minister since he had graduated from Georgetown with a degree in International Business in 1992. Recalling his days as a student at Georgetown, Mr. Hariri pointed

out the ironic contrast between his original plan to lead a life as far away from politics as possible and his position as leader of a political party and Prime Minister of Lebanon. Drawing upon his experience, he advised today's students that, "Things will never go as planned. Trust me."

Mr. Hariri spoke at length of his faith in the people of Lebanon to survive and flourish in a challenging geopolitical environment. Time and again after devastating destruction and loss of life, the Lebanese have shown that their capacity to spring back remained intact, and it was their example, he related, that served as his best teacher while learning the craft of leadership.

Mr. Hariri observed further that despite political division within their country and daunting threats to their welfare from without, the Lebanese people continue to aspire to peace, independence, and freedom as a nation. However, Mr. Hariri noted, their ability to attain these goals would continue to be impacted by

**"Mr. Hariri spoke at length of his faith in the people of Lebanon to survive and flourish in a challenging geopolitical environment."**

regional conflicts and by the failure of the world "to reach a just solution that will put an end to ... suffering and tragedy" in the region. This failure can no longer be ignored since it is now "a vital issue for everyone."

In closing, Mr. Hariri emphasized that military and security measures will not solve the long term problems of the Middle East. What it will take, he continued, is the concerted effort of the community of nations to solve "the square root of despair." Unless this is done, he concluded, the problem of terrorism would grow beyond its present level, and the stability and prosperity Lebanon its neighbors desire will continue to elude them. ■

## **Gebran Tueni Fellows Focus on Human Rights Education and the Effect of Conflict on the Social and Protection Rights of the Iraqi Girl Child**

Now in its second year at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights Fellowship program, which is funded by the Hariri Foundation, is hosting two human rights practitioners, Dr. Zeena Zakharia from Lebanon and Dr. Shoubo Jalal from Iraq. Both fellows are working on research topics which deal with human rights education and women's human rights while in residence at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School.

During her years teaching in Lebanese high schools, Dr. Zeena Zakharia integrated human rights education, conflict resolution, and peace building into courses on a variety of subjects including world history, world geography, environment and health, biology, and physics. In addition, these overriding concerns have figured greatly in her work as school administrator, education consultant, student advisor, and curriculum planner. Equipped with this wealth of relevant experience and knowledge, Dr. Zakharia has been using her fellowship period to investigate how young students acquire human rights knowledge in a post-conflict environment such as Lebanon where peace building and conflict management are vital national concerns.



*Dr. Zeena Zakharia*

"Over the years I have grown concerned about the ways in which messages about peace and human rights are conveyed in schools and their communities, including various norms of discrimination, racism, and violence," says Dr. Zakharia. "The vertical structure of schooling in itself delivers a message

about rights and freedoms, which is largely incompatible with the idea of peace and human rights, particularly where it constrains children and youth from horizontal organization, or from developing the ways and skills of thinking, communicating, and collaborating towards individual or collective social action, which is a significant aspect of democratic participation and the renewal of hope.”

The scope of Dr. Zakharia’s work in Lebanon includes “surveys, interviews, observations, and document analysis involving 100 schools, randomly selected from each of the government’s educational districts.” Dr. Zakharia plans to continue her study beyond the ten month fellowship period to pursue an understanding of “the lived experience of students as they gain human rights knowledge and how that knowledge is co-constructed in schools and around events and community experiences.” Dr. Zakharia elaborates, “By human rights knowledge, I refer to the values, skills, and legal aspects and procedures for the redress of the violations of these rights. In this way, human rights knowledge is linked to notions of social change.”

Her fellowship work and extended period of research will enable Dr. Zakharia to write a book “that will inform human rights education and educational policy more broadly in the context of post-conflict peace building.” While the book will derive in large part from her research in a Lebanese context, its value and applicability will extend far beyond her immediate area of concern.

Just as Dr. Zakharia intends to use the knowledge gained from her research to strengthen human rights in a social context, in a similar manner Dr. Shoubo Jalal hopes that her study will provide the government of Iraq with tools to promote gender equality and women’s development in Iraqi society, goals to which it has committed itself in its National Development Plan of 2010.

Under Iraq’s five-year plan, the government states that it will strive “... to reduce the discrepancies between men and women .... Making women better economically

enabled by achieving equality in education and employment opportunities and earning a fair income are considered among the fundamental bases to reduce the poverty among women. The social factors that cause their poverty are no less important than income factors, as social traditions impose restrictions that generate and reproduce poverty, especially in rural areas.”



*Dr. Shoubo Jalal*

In her research project as a Tueni fellow, Dr. Jalal has been investigating “... the social and protection status of the girl-child within the humanitarian context of Iraq and ... the current human rights status among Iraqi children in general with particular focus on violations and discrimination of the Iraqi girl child grouped into four age categories: age 1 to 5, age 6 to 9, age 10 to 14, and age 15 to 18.”

Because Dr. Jalal has been working for more than ten years as a communication for development specialist in programs to promote preventive health and the human rights of children and women, she is ideally suited to formulate communication strategies for advancing the kindred goals of Iraq’s National Development Plan. For the past eight years her work has been connected with the implementation of programs supported by UNICEF Iraq. Earlier this year Dr. Jalal learned that she was appointed by UNICEF to the senior post of Communication for Development Specialist with the Middle East and North Africa Region.

In addition to conducting a major research project, each Tueni fellow takes part in the academic life of Harvard by presenting lectures, teaching seminars, and participating in panel discussions on topics within their field of interest and expertise. Through these activities the fellows contribute significantly to the rich intellectual life of the university community. ■

# Hariri Foundation

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 715E, Bethesda, MD 20814

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## Message from the President

Guaranteeing that all children have access to a basic education should be one of the top priorities for any nation. Without an educated citizenry a nation cannot meet the challenges of today's global economy and cannot take its rightful place as a responsible member of the international community. Lebanon recognizes the need for universal education of the best quality possible. To assist Lebanon in attaining this goal, the United States Agency of International Development has awarded \$75 million to a consortium of partners for a 5 year project involving more than 1,300 public schools. The consortium will be led by the Education Development Center, a premier leader in this field, and includes as one of its five local partners the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Development. We look forward to providing our readers with progress reports as the project, known as D-RASATI ("my studies"), takes steps to enhance both the learning experience of the students and the teaching skills of their instructors.

In addition to providing the opportunity for a sound education to all of its citizens, a nation must also ensure that their basic healthcare needs are being met. Giving

Lebanon a major boost in this vital area, the Rafik Hariri Foundation Directorate for Health and Human Services operates 34 health centers throughout all parts of Lebanon. In addition, the Directorate has two mobile health clinics to serve the more remote areas of the country. Clients receive treatment for a nominal fee or no fee if unable to pay. The award winning computer network which connects the health centers and stores the medical records of the clients enables any of the centers to access a client's medical history in the event the client must seek treatment while away from home.

By addressing the education and healthcare needs of Lebanon's citizens, such efforts are laying a foundation on which successive generations can build. In making such positive, constructive, and lasting contributions to the nation's well-being, they nurture the hope which the Hariri Foundation continues to hold for Lebanon's future.

With warmest good wishes,

Rafic A. Bizri