

**Lamia Joreige**

*Uncertain Times*

Gallery copy  
Please do not take

MARFA'  
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Marfa' is pleased to announce Lamia Joreige's *Uncertain Times*, her second solo exhibition at the gallery, opening on the 8th of November, 2022.

The exhibition *Uncertain Times* involves the research, writing and production of a body of work covering the period between the end of the Ottoman Empire and the beginning of the French and English mandate in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine (1914-1920). The Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Balfour Declaration, as well as the First World War and the famine of Mount Lebanon, which caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, led to a geographic, social and political transformation of this region, and had major consequences that still impact our lives today.

It is precisely today's feeling of anxiety and uncertainty in our region, which triggered the artist's interest in looking back at this turning point in history — a moment of rupture, of fragmentation and creation at once.

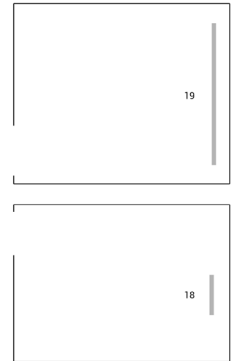
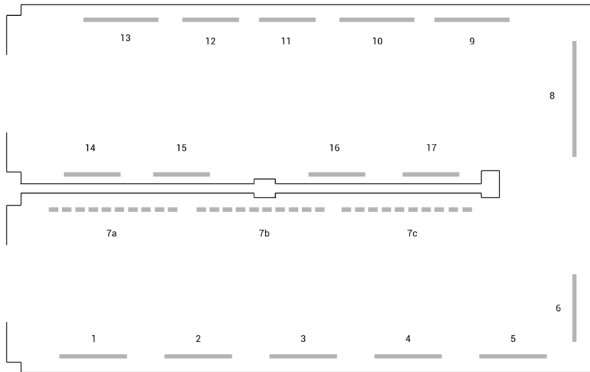
Lamia Joreige's work on the Lebanese Wars (1975-1990) and the post-war period in Beirut, was the beginning of a reflection on history and its possible narratives. In this project, she extends her research to a more distant period of our history, of which we have no direct experience but that nevertheless still affect our present.

While the artist highlights some historical events, her aim is not to produce a historical account in itself, but rather to draw a reflection on historical processes, as well as on notions of temporality from which we understand the past, present, and the future—the uncertain times. For that, Joreige is not only interested in the different subjective stories of this period and wishes to express the tensions and anxieties, but also the expectations felt by the population of that time.

The first iteration of this project, *Uncertain Times - Mapping a Transformation* was presented in the Istanbul Biennial in September 2022

This exhibition comprises a series of mixed media artworks that assembles various elements such as drawings, archival photographs and documents as well as her commentary in the form of personal texts, thus creating visual and textual correspondences. In this project, like in her previous works, the artist gives a central place to the notion of montage.

Alongside *Uncertain Times*, the artist will present for the first time in Lebanon her short video *Sun and Sea* made at the invitation of Etel Adnan for her first poem written in French in 1949.



**1** *Uncertain Times - The deadly fall of my great grandfather*

**2** *Uncertain Times - The visit of the french navy*

**3** *Uncertain Times - The Famine*

**4** *Uncertain Times - The diary of a young ottoman soldier*

**5** *Uncertain Times - Letters from plane*

**6** *Uncertain Times - The last days of an empire*

**7a** *Uncertain Times - The Fate of Palestine*

**7b** *Uncertain Times - Faisal's Dream*

**7c** *Uncertain Times - Creation of a Nation*

**8** *Uncertain Times - Unknown Future*

**9** *Uncertain Times Montage 1*

**10** *Uncertain Times Montage 2*

**11** *Uncertain Times Montage 3*

**12** *Uncertain Times Montage 4*

**13** *Uncertain Times Montage 5*

**14** *Uncertain Times Montage 6*

**15** *Uncertain Times Montage 7*

**16** *Uncertain Times Montage 8*

**17** *Uncertain Times Montage 9*

**18** *Uncertain Times Montage 10*

**18** *Sun and Sea*

## ***Uncertain Times***

2022

In this series the artist assembles drawings and writings on a digital print of selected archival documents and photographs from the WWI period in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. Joreige then adds in her own handwriting, personal observations as well as translations of the included documents.

The Photographs and drawings are based on images selected from: The Imperial War Museum archive; Fouad Debbas Collection at Sursock Museum; the American University of Beirut/Library Archives and Special Collections; Saleh Turjman collection; Daou Family, and online sources. The documents are selected from Başkanlık Osmanlı Arşivi, Istanbul (Ottoman documents) and the Institute for Palestine Studies (Excerpt from the diary of Ihsan Turjman).

# **1 Uncertain Times - The deadly fall of my great grandfather**

Mixed media on paper, 68 x 120 cm.



*I grew up not knowing anything about my great grandfather Ass'ad Daou. I was very close to my grand-mother Teta Emilie, yet I never knew that her father had died when she was ten in the most absurd circumstances. Emilie, who never talked about her father, was certainly the most anxious person one could ever meet. She must have known that death could strike at any moment.*

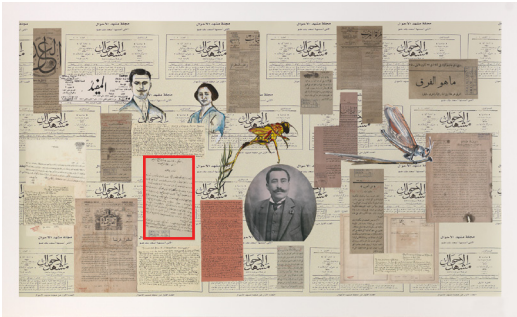
*Ass'ad, who was a lawyer, came from a well-off family of Batroun, a small picturesque town and district of Northern Lebanon, on the shore of the Mediterranean; today a summer destination, highly frequented for its beaches and night life.*

*In 1916, our region witnessed a massive locust invasion that contributed to the great famine by destroying its agricultural land. Ass'ad climbed on a rock overlooking the land to watch the cloud of locusts and fell of the rock. Was he scared by the dreadful sight of hundreds of thousands of insects hovering the sky or was he distracted and simply lost his balance?*

*Our family's belief is that Ass'ad did not receive proper medical treatment; he was immediately bandaged without any surgical intervention and died shortly after. He may have broken his spine, or hit his head provoking a blood hemorrhage. Nobody knows what really happened.*

*The little we know of him, is that he created a law school in Batroun, a unique place of its kind, and in 1910, launched the newspaper "Mashhad Al Ahwal", which publishing got interrupted by WWI. I couldn't find any copies of the newspaper, only partial reproductions with its logo. Ass'ad newspaper was one of many which saw the day in Lebanon and Syria from the nineteenth century onward, hence, expressing a vivid intellectual and cultural life and reflecting the deep social and political transformations of the time*

Lamia Joreige

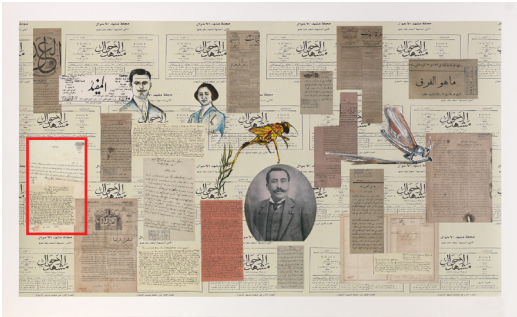


The Ministry of War  
The Office of Correspondence  
Number: 710  
To the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

My exalted sir,

The newspaper Zahle al Fatat, which is printed in Zahle, published the speeches made during the welcome ceremony organized for the French naval officers that visited Mount Lebanon, with a commentary on its issue dated November 1915. It is noteworthy that the newspaper explicitly declares that Mount Lebanon, which has been a hotbed of discord for the Syrian public opinion, hates the Ottoman government and invites foreign intervention. The continuation of such harmful publications poisoning the public opinion in the center of Syria and in the regions where the stability is sensitive may cause problems in the future. We should take the necessary precautions in this regard. The necessity of carrying out an investigation has already been declared to the 8th Corps Command via an official letter. We are sending this letter enclosed to this letter for your highness. A copy of the letter is to be sent to Mr. Caen for him to take the necessary actions.

6 December 1913  
Aide to his Majesty  
The Minister of War



The Ministry of War  
The Office of Correspondence  
Number: 710

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6 December 1913  
Aide to his Majesty  
The Minister of War



The Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Document Number : 806

Date: 7 January 1914

To the Province of Beirut;

The answer to the official letter, dated 18 December 1913.

The Sublime Port informed the Government (Mutasarrifate) of Mount Lebanon regarding the Council of Ministry's decision on the newspapers published in Beirut. From now on, if the newspapers print anything harmful, they will be suspended.



## The Death Penalty

There has been talk in public opinion about the death sentence passed out by a court against Emir Saad bin Majid Arslan and Rashid Takieddine, brother of Mahmoud Bey Takieddine, secretary of the council of Directors of Lebanon and Youssef Makhoul as well as Ibrahim Naaman Hobeich, all Lebanese. They have been sentenced to death by hanging, to the deprivation of their civic rights and to the seizure of all their properties, the crime of treason having been proved against them.



Today arrived from Lebanon Wadih Effendi Abboud, who was a high-ranking officer of the Lebanese army and who incited the Lebanese soldiers to undertake their famous revolution, which he led – a revolution which proved a noble spirit of nationalism and led to a decision increasing the wages of Lebanese soldiers.

Had the Lebanese intelligentsia encouraged it would have been more important and wider in scope. We welcome him and hope that he will meet success amongst us, because had Lebanon become too small for him and others like him, countries of immigration welcome many of our freedom fighters and intellectual.





## The Lebanese–Beiruti Association

A new idea has emerged in Beirut : Creating a Lebanese – Beiruti Association the aim of which is to merge Beirut and its dependencies with Lebanon, while bringing some amendments to the organization of the mountain, which means dividing Lebanon into small and administratively independent “ Mutassarifat”, and to elect for Beirut and Lebanon a large council with half its members Christians and the other half of different denominations, and to distribute the jobs pro rata the numbers. The Mutassarif is to be an Arab Emir whose summer residence would be in Lebanon, and winter residence in Beirut; and it would be preferable that the Emir be chosen from the Egyptian Khedive family, and approved by the states which protect Lebanon.

I said the idea was good had it not mentioned the Christians and others and distributed jobs according to the number of religious communities. However, this is the East and its sectarian diseases, this is the East - a sick man who cannot take any step without relying on others' states. As long as this situation remains unchanged, it is preferable that he should not renege his word.

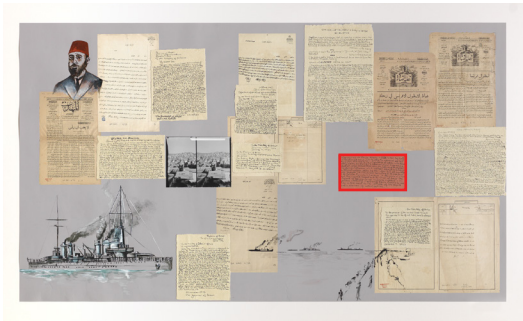
Lebanon suffers from the disease of sectarianism; we have to fight it by adopting a law allowing the true citizens to benefit from the jobs and not mention religious sect when we seek reforms.

If we cannot ensure reforms without resorting to religious sects than let us accept to remain in slavery until God puts an end to a situation we created.

## 2 *Uncertain Times - The visit of the french navy*

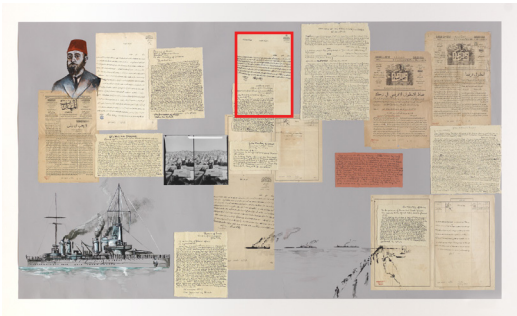
Mixed media on paper

68 x 120 cm



*The visit of the French navy in 1913 is not by itself an exceptional event, but the way the admiral and his men were received by the inhabitants of Zahle in the Beqaa valley and the reaction of the Ottoman power triggered my attention. What was at stake was the defense of the decaying empire from foreign influences, which had been attempting to undermine the Ottoman State often by their support to the various religious sects. Indeed, the French had been acting as the protectors of the Christian Maronites in the region, in the name of a mutual bond they claimed traced back to ancestral times. The allegiance of the population to France expressed in the speeches acclaiming the French navy, appears to me like a foreword to the collapse of the empire and a new era of colonization.*

LJ



The Province of Beirut

The Office of Correspondence

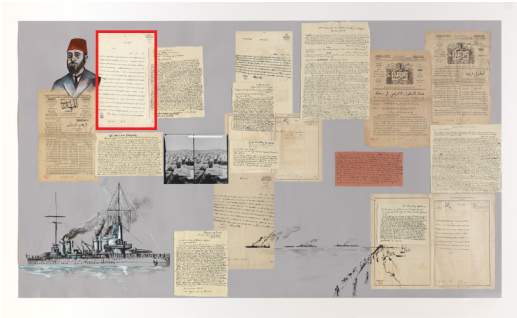
Public: 7776 - Private: 594

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs, To my exalted sir,

After the crowded welcome ceremony organized for welcoming the French Navy, who had recently visited Beirut and Syrian coasts, some newspapers in Mount Lebanon and Beirut began to publish in a way that could cause conflict and disorder among locals. We have friendly relations with France. The hospitality shown in Beirut and Lebanon to the admirals and officers of the France Navy, who came to visit us, matches with the glory of the Ottoman Empire, and such a warm welcome is found appropriate and necessary by the government. However, publishing articles that could cause hatred among the Ottoman Muslim and Christian elements, recognized by the state, is by no means impermissible. Because their hateful words can cause outrage among people and trigger the spread of empty rumors. Employing a language that can hurt the dignity of the religions, recognized by the Ottoman state, is illegal. Such an act is also contrary to the provisions of the Law of Press. Thus, we warned the Beirut Press to refrain from publishing inconvenient articles. Especially the Press of Mount Lebanon has gone too far in this regard. If you examine the content of «Zahle al-Fatat» you will see that they try to influence Muslim and non-Muslim communities, especially the ignorant ones. No doubt their illegal act requires strict punishment. We sent our report to the Mount Lebanon Government, offering that we should send a special notice/warning to the owner of «Zahle al-Fatat». Additionally, we should take legal action against him according to the related provision of the Law of Press. In this matter, to command belongs to him who commands all.

25 November 1913

The Governor of Beirut



Province of Aleppo  
Office of Correspondence  
Number: 523

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

My exalted sir,

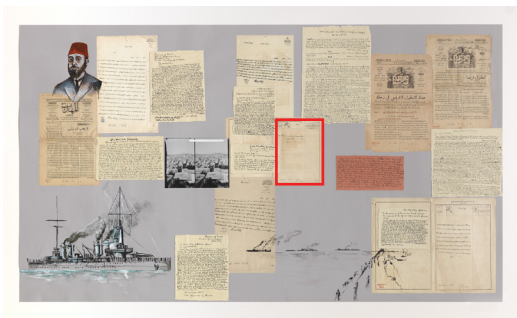
For your information, I submit the translations of the Arabic newspaper al-Muhezzeb, published in the center of Zahle district of Mount Lebanon, dated 29 October 1913. I kindly request you to pay particular attention to the article marked in red. In one of the Mutasarrifate and the provincial center of the state, somebody dared to give a speech in which he explicitly declared that they hoped Bekaa land to be annexed to Mount Lebanon. He also said that they wished the French would make another visit soon and, this time, stay longer. According to the addendum to the 54th article of the Penal Code in force; any person who attempts to annex a part of the Ottoman lands or one of the state's autonomous provinces entirely or partially to another autonomous province or to remove any part of the Ottoman territory from the Ottoman administration shall be executed. Despite the fact that the owner of the speech and the owner of the newspaper committed these two crimes (the bitter truth is that what they did to the state cannot be interpreted in any other way), each of which requires the death penalty, nothing has been done about them until now. This is surprising and disappointing. Now, we know those who promote Arabness and Turkishness are without public spirit because their minds were poisoned by the French schools. They are after gaining profit by leaving the Ottoman lands in foreign hands. Nevertheless, the speech mentioned above and similar publications did not serve any other purpose than creating a feeling of disgust

and hatred among the Ottomans (no matter which ethnicity they belong to) who pursue no other goal than serving their homeland. Even though there are a few miserable poisoned by the propagandists serving foreign interests, they have no impact on public opinion and sentiments. However, there are also inhabitants unable to distinguish good from evil, and these miserable people who spread gossip and attack the homeland may affect their thoughts. Thus, the state must punish those who provoke the locals with a conspicuous language. Also, pursuant to the requirements of the Penal Code, the newspapers published in Beirut, Syria, and Mount Lebanon must be punished as soon as possible.

26 November 1913

The Governor of Aleppo

Mehmed Celal



The Ministry of Internal Affairs

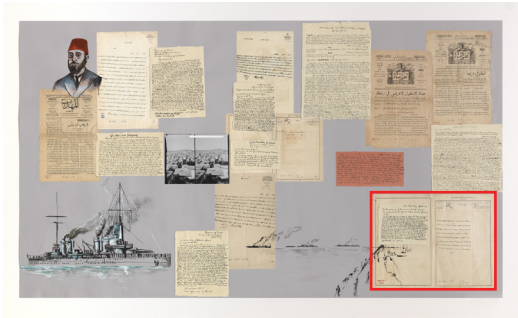
The Document Number : 806

Date: 7 January 1914

To the Province of Beirut;

The answer to the official letter, dated 18 December 1913.

The Sublime Port informed the Government (Mutasarrifate) of Mount Lebanon regarding the Council of Ministry's decision on the newspapers published in Beirut. From now on, if the newspapers print anything harmful, they will be suspended.



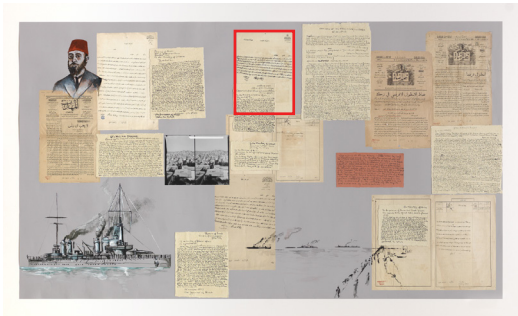
The Ministry of Internal Affairs

To the presence of the exalted Grand Vizierate.

The appendix to the official letter, dated 8 December 1913,

We are sending you an issue of Zahle al-Fatat newspaper, published in Zahle district, enclosed with this letter. This issue contains an article informing the reader about the details of the ceremony organized for the French navy officers, who visited Mount Lebanon, and the speeches delivered during that night. Published in Mount Lebanon, a place of discord and turmoil, this article expresses the hatred of the author against the government and explicitly invites foreign intervention. If such articles, poisoning people's minds, continue to be published at the center and the most fragile region of Syria, that would cause significant problems soon. The importance of taking urgent legal action against the newspaper is written in the letters received from the Ministry of War and the Eight Commandership of the Imperial Army. Thus, we kindly ask your permission to take the necessary actions.

9 December 1913



Sublime Porte  
Office of the Grand Vizier  
Department of Special and Autonomous Provinces - Number: 1647

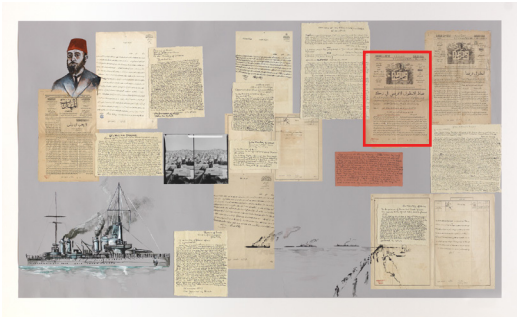
To the Ministry of Internal Affairs,

My exalted sir,

Münteshir al-Muhezzeb, the newspaper printed in the center of Zahle District, published a copy of the speech delivered during the French Navy's visit to Syria and Mount Lebanon. This speech is about the annexation of the Bekaa lands to Mount Lebanon and the extended stay of the French Navy. According to the Law, that speech and publication must be punished with the death penalty. The article mentioned above caused nothing but hatred in Aleppo. That's why an effective agenda shall be pursued to ban these publications. The administration of Beirut notified us that we should take necessary actions regarding the Zahle al-Fatat and other local newspapers, which also printed illegal articles that could cause conflict among different elements/communities of the society. Accordingly, we should start a prosecution against the publications published in Mount Lebanon, including inappropriate articles. The official note/order of the government, dated 8 December 1913 and numbered 1329, read aloud at the Council of Ministers, puts that if the local newspapers of Mount Lebanon continue printing illegal articles, the government shall suspend their publication. Notify the Mutasarrifate (Government) of Mount Lebanon about this official note/ order and inform us about their answers.

20 December 1913

In the name of the Grand Vizier Undersecretary



## Officers of the French Navy in Zahle

Proclaim in your newspaper that we greatly wish that other cities take lessons from Zahle on how military commanders should be welcomed. Confirm that our visit has introduced us to a novel world we had not envisioned existed as such, and that these astonishing details will reach the Admiral. They may have already altered the previously held notions of the French government to a great extent, in favor of Lebanon.

— Officers of the Navy

~

If France's heart has palpitated in Jounieh, in Zahle it has exploded.

— Editor-in-Chief of Al-Fatat

~

{ The sons of Zahle return a traditioned favor received from their fathers, 53 years later. }

## Speech of Al-Fatat's Editor-in-Chief

The astonishment left by the great festival that the city and I myself witnessed yesterday continues to take hold of my imagination, to the extent that it makes synthesizing my ideas and giving the festival its fair due in description quite difficult. For this reason, I will begin by translating into Arabic the speech that I gave in French at the residence of [unintelligible] to salute the Commandant and the Navy officers upon their arrival. Afterwards, I will attempt to describe the historic day that the city lived through yesterday. Amidst the sounds of the crowd, the boom of gunpowder, and the musical tunes, I proclaimed the following:



Esteemed Commandant and French Navy officers,

The great festivity with which the largest Lebanese city welcomed the French Navy was not solely for the purposes of honoring the sailors of the second country to which every human being present belongs to, but it was a popular demonstration sparked by a historic commemorative date forged in blood.

Oh sailors of France, the city which you visit today, in the name of the Admiral of the French Navy, knows you, as you yourselves know it. The flag which you have sacrificed your lives for, that which waves presently on the mountaintops above the waters of Beirut, once waved in this city's skies as well, as its valley echoed the French battle cry. This land, which you once arrived to in order to staunch its blood flow, shivers today under the feet of those which crossed its paths in a time of perturbation and turbulence. The wretched dawn of the year 1860 had no sooner arrived than this city, which today appears to you as an exquisite bride, became a prey in fire encircled by an accursed crow. The destiny of the civil war was overturned after it served the city for a long time. And after a massive battle that lasted an entire day, the enemy seized control and burned it to the ground.



[1913-10-12]

The French Navy

The French Navy has been welcomed with warm cheers and festivities on every coast, but when I came upon the land of Lebanon, I heard France's heart beating to a most enchanting tune. - Admiral Lacaze

In the past, Lebanon was a pool of blood. The country was set ablaze by policies of segregation, and fuel was added to fire by the political parties,

and so Lebanon burned. The Middle East is the cradle of religion and it cannot be spurred to action except by the power of the imagination and of religion, and so the Lebanese fought amongst themselves, as the crow of death cawed above the land, and the country tired of its own tumult. Then suddenly, a ray of light penetrated the dark veil, as a herald announced that the French fleet had come to revive the bones after they had been cast aside! For half a generation, our ancestors were reduced to corpses, or they were left wounded and without a penny to their name. They awaited salvation, and there arrived the troops with their caps and arms, ascending on Lebanon's mountaintops and spreading the flag of security, reassuring the soul and reviving the bones!

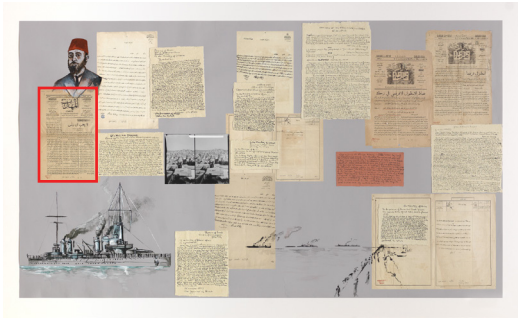
The French Navy docked in Lebanese water in the 1860, and on board were soldiers carrying the banner of peace. This is the memory that was invoked in the minds of the descendants, upon witnessing the fleet, warmly welcomed in Lebanon this morning. It is indeed the memory invoked by the fleet, as the hills of Lebanon witnessed the grandchildren of those intrepid soldiers whose ships docked in this land where ignorance had battled civic values, those ships for whom civic values were a slogan and banner.

In that era, the French Navy was formidable yet small in size. Today, however, it has crossed the Roman seas [unintelligible]. At that time, the fleet came to salvage Lebanon from its carnage and havoc, but today it arrives to perform a demonstration in front of a country which it knows, and a country which in turn knows it. The soldiers do not seek to occupy, but they wonder about what has befallen a mountain to which they are bound to with a historic covenant that is not to be forgotten. The armed battalions have docked in our waters this time. Were it not for France, the port in Jounieh would not have been established. Oh fleet of France! you who have sailed the high seas bringing our way a reminder of a painful past: we salute you and we salute the hope that lies in your soldiers' chests, akin to the seashells that adorn the steel of your armor.

The hope we attach to a tomorrow, for the future of a dejected nation which has despaired since its conception, living in the promise of a brilliant dawn. I fell in love with France in its schools, histories, and literatures. But my heart never palpitated for the tricolor flag until I saw the French soldiers climbing the hills of Lebanon, recalling to mind their fathers who occupied the land of my ancestors and rebuilt with bare hands their pillaged houses, returning the life to their souls. I took the train to Jounieh this morning, my mind alight with memories; no sooner did I arrive in Jounieh than my eyes fell upon the sight

of its bay, dressed as though for the holidays, welcoming the beloved fleet. The carriage drove us forward along the Jounieh Main Street underneath the decorative triumphal arcs, festooned with French flags alongside the Ottoman flag, that street where no building remained without a flag of the Republic waving atop it, surrounded by flowers and basil blossoms. All of this, amidst a Lebanese audience cheering at the top of their lungs: Long live beloved France!

In a great festival, we reached the Saray of Jounieh and found Contre-amiral Lacaze and his officials, and Monsieur Cojeh, Consul of France in Beirut who had just arrived in Jounieh from Beirut in the morning aboard the barge Brouix. And so he visited the Contre-amiral at sea, and their ships exchanged the customary cannon salute. Then, they entered the Saray surrounded by ecstatic Lebanese crowds, and the Qaimaqam of Keserwan, Sheikh Kanaan Daher made a toast to the fleet and to France, as Lacaze drank in honor of France and Lebanon, while some speeches were delivered. Beverages were served. Then, the convoy drove forth towards the Sisters of the Holy Family School, where they were welcomed by young Lebanese girls who sang a delicate chant. Then, they went to the Freres school where the Admiral, Consul, and their forty officials sat in a ring and were greeted by young schoolchildren who recited a French chant under the banner of "Glory and Hope." One of the schoolchildren then addressed the Admiral in a speech, delivered in French, urging France to put an end to the political hardships, heeding the call of its own emotion towards Lebanon. Then, he proclaimed brilliantly: "Lebanon slumbers every night under the covers of the French flag. As the sun sets over the country, its rays paint the sides of the Lebanese mountains in violet and red, the sky crystallizes into a blue, and the mountaintops are crowned with eternally white snows. In this manner, Lebanon resembles the colors of the French flag -- red, blue, and white -- as it goes to sleep every evening." The French Admiral was greatly touched by the speech, and he answered: "The French Navy has been welcomed with warm cheers and festivities on every coast, but when I came upon the land of Lebanon, I heard France's heart beating to a most enchanting tune."

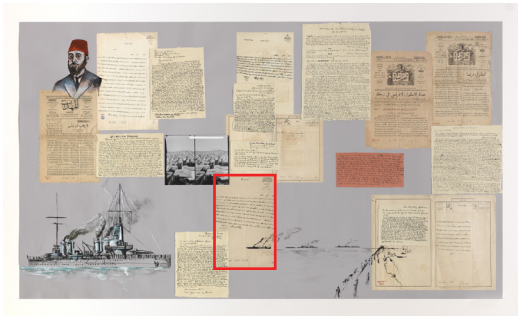


## We Must Not Despair

Penned by the Eloquent Writer whose Signature is Below

There comes a time when great nations are struck by calamity as though by lightning or faced with hardship as though with heavy seasonal rain; if the nation is brave at heart, if it is strongly built, it will withstand shifting turbulence and all sudden occurrences, like a salient mountain holding steadfast in the face of violent wind, or an immutable precipice against sweeping torrents. However, if it is ridden with cowardice and shakily built, it will be pulverized by thunder and swept out to sea by the deluge.

During the Balkan war, we witnessed such a fate, when catastrophes and tragedies befell us, destiny frowned at us after it had once smiled, the palms of the nations closed tightly after they had once been open, our skies darkened interminably with layers of somber clouds, cannonballs and bullets were fired at us with the intensity of a volcanic eruption, the kingdoms conspired against us as our friends forsook us, those same ones who in peacetime feigned amicability. We awoke from our slumber and found ourselves stranded in a violent sea of hardships, with no friend other than our sword, no championing ally other than our armor, in the same position where many a great nation has found itself after some historic stance. Yet, if our woes were great after that grinding war, they still did not compare to those of Rumiya, queen of the garrison towns when she was attacked by Hannibal, who plunged at her from the steep Mountains of the Alps like a hawk, sweeping her lands, and humiliating her peoples to the point of total subjection.



The Province of Beirut

The Office of Correspondence

Public: 7776

Private: 594

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs,

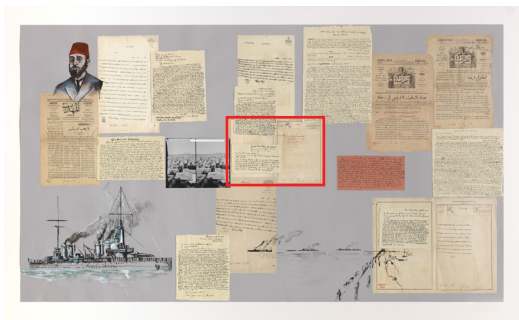
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The Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Document Number : 806

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### 3 *Uncertain Times - The famine*

Mixed media on paper

68 x 120 cm



*As Lebanon witnesses today its biggest social, economic and financial collapse since WWI, images and stories reminiscent of the great famine in our region, come to mind and overlap with present ones: The inflation, the speculation, the politization of the distribution of supplies, the corruption as well as the incompetence of the government in finding viable solutions, which led half of the population below poverty level and on the verge of famine. Are all famines man-made?*

*During WWI, the region mandatory military service was forced upon many peasant farmers, who obliged to fight in the war, were unable to till the fields. By November 1914, no flour or wheat could be found in the market. By 1915, the Ottoman regime was forcefully collecting grain from farmers in order to deliver crops to the government and the army. Then the locusts attacked in 1915, devouring and destroying the rest of the growing crops. At the time, the majority of the agricultural land of Mount Lebanon was used to cultivate mulberry trees for the trade of silk with France, hence could not provide crops to subsist during this period of scarcity.*

*Blockades have long been used unsuccessfully as a political tool to pressure populations and incite them to rebel against power. The coastal blockade initiated by the Entente Powers deprived the region from imported goods and even food-aid to reach the populations. Mount Lebanon suffered the most, as the Ottoman power also prevented the provisioning of grain from Syria's hinterland. When the prices of grain increased tremendously, the price of gold followed and the Ottoman paper currency no longer held value. The region was left bare of*

*money and food and a great number of people suffered of starvation. It is said that half the population of Mount Lebanon died as a result of the famine.*

*Political strategy and rivalry among nations are similar today, when it determines how food supplies and monetary aid is allocated to relieve populations from their hardship. Contemporary local speculators are making enormous benefits over the price of fuel and the dollar exchange rate, reminding us of the wealthy families of Beirut, who during WWI profited from hoarding, speculating and controlling the amounts of wheat distributed in the market.*

*Would Lebanon have its current borders had the famine not happened?*

*The famine must have been an additional argument in the negotiations to extend Lebanon's borders in 1920, adding to Mount Lebanon the fertile lands of the Beqaa and an access to the sea through Beirut.*

*and hatred among the Ottomans (no matter which ethnicity they belong to) who pursue no other goal than serving their homeland. Even though there are a few miserable poisoned by the propagandists serving foreign interests.*

*LJ*

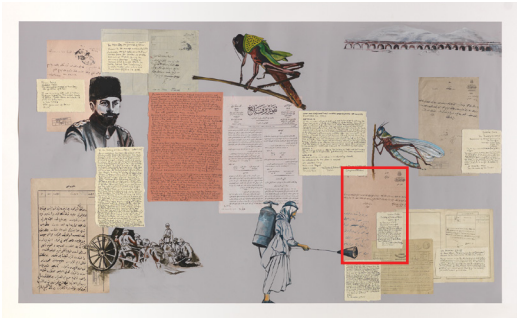




Until now, I managed to ensure the provision of Beirut with the tremendous and valuable favors and supports of Cemal Pasha, the commander of the Ottoman army. However, despite the apparent signs (of the impending famine danger), Damascus and especially Aleppo are led captive by the commissars of Damascus and Aleppo. Today, both cities run out of flour. I came to Riyag and transferred the Riyag's grain to Beirut. The miserable situation changed after the people of Beirut found enough grain. However, I cannot stand seeing that Beirut's government desperately depended on the commissariats. I wrote many petitions to the commissariats, but my efforts were shown to be futile. Although 14 wagons of grains belong to Beirut are waiting in Aleppo, people still suffer from hunger. I cannot serve further for the region while witnessing that Beirut and Lebanon are the victims of the Aleppo commissariats whose inconveniences are explicit. I'd kindly ask you to accept my resignation.

The Governor of Beirut  
Azmi

23 December 1915



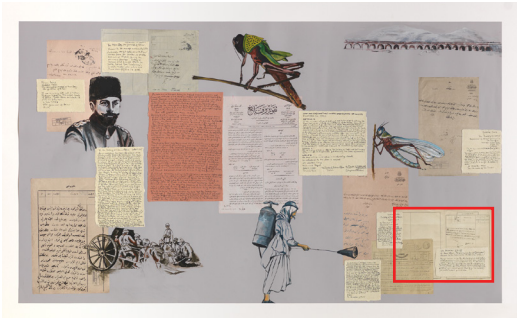
Sublime Porte  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Cipher Office  
24 December 1915

Damascus Headquarter

Today I learned from Azmi Bey, the governor of Beirut, that he asked for his resignation. Azmi Bey's resignation and departure from Beirut are not appropriate and permissible. I am personally dealing with the provisioning issue. I'd kindly ask you to refuse Azmi Bey's resignation.

The Commander of the Fourth Army

Ahmed Cemal



Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Private Secretariat  
25 December 1915

To Azmi Efendi, the governor of Beirut (telegram)

Answer to the letter dated 23 December 1915,

As you know, since the declaration of mobilization, transportation on the train lines has been conducted by the military administration. Due to the lack of vehicles, there has been difficulty transferring grain to several places. We are aware of the misconducts and inappropriate acts of the range commissars. For such reasons, you cannot resign, but if you are insisting, you must submit your excuses.



The Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Department of General Communication  
The First Office  
Number: public: 4324 private: 52  
Ciphred

To the government (Mutasarrifate) of Deir-el-Zor;

The grain, which exceeds the local needs, must be given to the military. The grain that belongs to the military cannot be sold. It is obligatory to leave enough food and seeds in the hands of the locals for their essential needs. The Ministry of Agriculture requested to send ten thousand liras for the expense of seeds.

21 December 1915

In the name of the minister



## Law and Regulation on the Annihilation of Locusts (dated 14 November 1912)

### Article 1:

If the number of locust seeds or nits is too many to cull by the local population in charge of annihilation of the locusts, they will be paid an additional fee for the extra seeds they cull after they finish culling the amount of seeds that the Commission of Locusts determined. The Locust Commissions will purchase the seeds and nits culled by the locals, who are not in charge of annihilation of the locusts and will pay them a fee (determined by the Central Provincial Locust Commission) for per kıyye (1,2 kilogram) locust seeds and nits. After the Commission of Locusts purchased all the culled seeds and nits and stored them, they will weigh and annihilate them as soon as possible to prevent any kind of abuse. After the culled seeds and nits are stored, the Provincial Administration will inspect the warehouses and weigh the total amount of seeds and nits to see whether the actual amount of seeds matches with the amount in the commissions' report. After the investigation is completed, the seeds and nits will be immediately destroyed.

### Article 2:

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture are responsible for executing the Law of Locusts.

### Article 3:

The Law will be valid after it is officially issued. An addendum to the Law is needed.

25 October 1913

Mehmed Reşad

Grand vizier	The Minister of Internal Affairs	The Minister of Trade and Agriculture
Mehmed Said	Talat	Süleyman Elbistani



From Beirut

Number: 3566

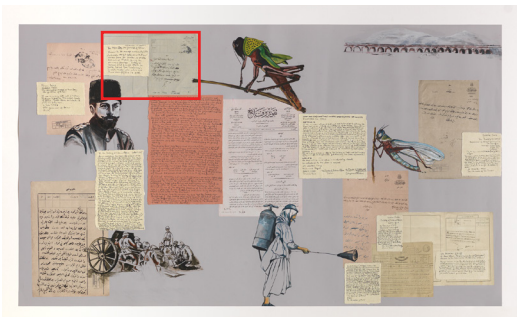
The decrypted message (24.3.1332) of Azmi Bey, the governor of Beirut;

I am in a very difficult situation. I ask you to send me two wagon loads of flour.  
Please inform me about its price via telegram.

6 June 1916

The Governor of Beirut

Azmi

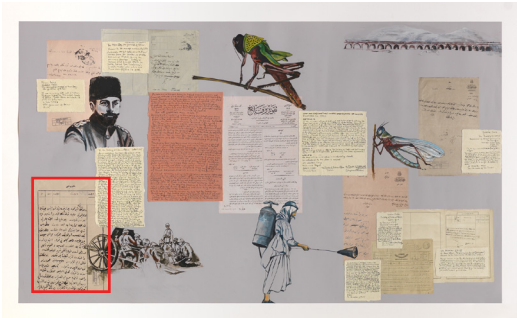


The Province of Aleppo

To Azmi Bey, the Governor of Beirut,

Answer to the message numbered 24.3.1332,

Last week we sent soldiers with flour taken from the stocks, so we also ran out of flour during the previous shortage. Today, we cannot find enough flour to bake bread for tomorrow. I will inform you when we have enough flour to send.



## The Office of Correspondence

Note: This letter is written jointly with the Governor of Beirut

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs,

Beirut and Lebanon have been suffering famine and high costs for a while because of the lack of grain. Even though Aleppo has grain stock, abundant and cheap enough to feed Lebanon for months, the means of transportation could not be arranged, and grain could not be imported to Lebanon. Aleppo has been struggling with a financial crisis since they cannot sell grain, their only commodity subject to trade. As a result of successive attempts, the government had allowed the transportation of 90 wagons of grain from Aleppo to Beirut, Lebanon, and Trablusşam (Tripoli). Ten days ago, The Ministry of War informed us about their decision to reduce the number of wagons to fifteen.

Today, we learn that all the wagons will be allocated for the transportation of the troops, so they will not transfer grain for the next ten days. However, Beirut and Lebanon can't tolerate the lack of grain for two days, and in Aleppo, grain is rotting in warehouses and stations. The population in Lebanon, Beirut, and Tripoli is more than 500 thousand, and they supplied grain from abroad until this year. Their daily need is more than at least half a million kilos of grain, so it is impossible to meet this need not with 15 wagons per week, but even with 90 wagons that would be sent with the decision of Commandership of the Fourth Imperial Army. If people of a country are starving to death, you can expect them to commit any evil acts. Consequently, in addition to the wagons returning to Damascus empty, ninety wagons of grain must be sent to Beirut and Lebanon weekly. Additionally, after the transportation of the troops ended,

which would probably continue for a week, at least 400 wagons of grain must be sent within twenty or thirty days to save their life and bring peace to the region. (The Governor and the Commander of Lebanon agreed with me). If the Riyaq-Beirut line is not appropriate for the transportation of 400 wagons grains, after the grains are brought to Riyaq, we will try to arrange private vehicles to transport the grain to Beirut and Lebanon. Hunger is threatening the lives of a hundred thousand people, and if we cannot prevent them from starvation, it will lead to grave consequences. Thus, we would kindly ask our letter to be considered with the degree of importance it deserves.

We are looking forward to hearing your answer.

30 April 1915

*\* The original document is three pages long*



#### 4 Uncertain Times - The diary of a young ottoman soldier

Mixed media on paper

68 x 120 cm



*The diary of Ihsan Turjman, a Palestinian soldier in his early twenties, enrolled in the Ottoman army during World War I, was published in The Year of the Locust. The young man shares his passion and anxiety as he platonically loves a woman whom he hopes to marry but doesn't know whether her parents will agree to their union.*

*Ihsan raises questions about the future of Palestine and interrogates notions of belonging, patriotism, and identity. He writes: However, I cannot imagine myself fighting in the desert front. And why should I go? To fight for my country? I am Ottoman by name only, for my country is the whole of humanity. Even if I am told that by going to fight, we will conquer Egypt, I will refuse to go. What does this barbaric state want from us? To liberate Egypt on our backs? Our leaders promised us and other fellow Arabs that we would be partners in this government and that they seek to advance the interests and conditions of the Arab nation. But what have we actually seen from these promises? Had they treated us as equals, I would not hesitate to give my blood and my life – but as things stand, I hold a drop of my blood to be more precious than the entire Turkish state. From the invasion of locusts and the scarcity of bread and cigarettes, he tells us about the daily humiliations imposed by a harsh military system during war time, on an impoverished population. His progressive views, when it comes to religion, citizen's rights and women's emancipation, even by today's standard, demonstrate the spirit of change of the time.*

*Ihsan writes in his diary's first pages: But what will be the fate of Palestine? We all saw two possibilities: independence or annexation to Egypt. The last possibility is more likely since only the English are likely to possess this country,*

*and England is unlikely to give full sovereignty to Palestine but is more liable to annex it to Egypt and create a single dominion ruled by the khedive of Egypt.*

*Ihsan Turjman, was assassinated by a soldier when he was 23 years old in 1917, before the end of the war. Was this a passion crime committed by the soldier in love with him? Was there an issue related to money or any other personal matter with the murderer? Was it an accident during a heated fight? Much of the ambiguity remains until today. Thus, Ihsan will not know about the end of the Ottoman Empire, he will not know the outcome of the war, he will not see Allenby entering his hometown Jerusalem, or the fate of Palestine and the conflicts that will later unfold in this region.*

LJ



The regulation about how the Locust

Commissions should act, dated 13 January 1914;

The Locust Commissions' honorary members failed to appreciate the importance of their duties. They did not work accurately in some regions. The experience we had so far proved that we could not benefit from the advantages of the Locust Commissions properly. According to the additional articles issued lately as an addendum to the Law of Locusts, in places where the number of seeds and nits are too many to be culled by the assigned workers chosen among the locals, unassigned inhabitants will help to cull seeds and nits. Tonight, the Locust Commissions will decide on the price (per kiyye) to purchase the seeds and nits culled by the workers. Since the duty of the Locust Commissions has become more critical, it is more crucial

now to choose commission members among the ones who can perform their obligation properly.

The Ottoman Public Debt Administration has branches all over the Ottoman Empire. According to the special articles of the Locust Law, other than the appointed members of the Locust Commissions, the chief director, director and the officers of the Debt Administration, or their deputies should be included in the Locust Commissions as commission members so that we can benefit from these officers' presence and work hours. As long as the culling and annihilation of locust seeds continue, the commission members must meet regularly, and the meetings must be led by the highest-ranking civil servant or his deputy. The commissions must work in accordance with the provisions of the Locust Law and Regulations as described below;

## Article 1

According to the Locust Law and Regulations, Locust Commissions are responsible for the annihilation of locust seeds and nits. They are obliged to perform their duties in a timely and accurate manner. According to the additional articles of the locust law, dated 25 October 1913, if it is observed that the locust seeds or nits are too many to collect by the local population in charge of annihilation of the locusts, the commissions will determine the fee to be paid to the workers for the extra seeds they cull after they finish culling the amount of seeds and nits determined by the commissions. The provincial administration of the locust commissions will decide on a price -upon the recommendation of the locust commissions' branches- for per kıyye (1,2 kg) locust seeds and nits.

The locust commissions must calculate;

- the width of the locust-infested areas within the region under their responsibilities,

- the amount/abundance of the locust seeds and nits,

- the number of workers in charge with the annihilation of the locusts,

- the amount of seeds a worker can cull,

- the fee (per kıyye) that will be given to the workers in charge of culling seeds and nits if they cull more seeds than they are obliged to do,

- the fee that will be given to the workers that are not in charge of annihilation of locusts for per kıyye seeds they cull.

The central administration of the locust commission must evaluate and

approve the calculated fee. After they decide on the price, the seeds brought by the workers will be weighed and purchased.

## Article 2

To ensure that the delivery and storage of the collected seeds is carried out in accordance with the law; there will be a warehouse for storing seeds and nits in each region under the responsibility of locust commissions;

the rented warehouses must be chosen close to the Ottoman Public Debt Administration, and these warehouses must be protected in all aspects,

a reliable and responsible warehouse officer to be appointed by the locust commissions, he will be responsible for the delivery and preservation of the seeds,

the rent of warehouses and the monthly wage of warehouse officers will be met from the budget allocated for the locust commissions.

## Article 3

The locust seeds and nits brought to the warehouses by the workers (the ones responsible for the annihilation of the locusts and the ones who are not responsible) will be weighed by the warehouse officers, and an official certificate will be given after the delivery. The locust commissions will check each certificate, and once they confirm them, the payment will be calculated and proceeded. The commissions will keep the printed receipts given in return for the payment.

## Article 4

The fiscal offices of the local Public Debt Administrations will be responsible for the preservation and the consumption of the money allocated to the commissions for the annihilation of locusts. Every day, warehouse officers will submit the registers showing the amount of the seeds delivered to the warehouses, and the commissions will conduct the required inspections. The total amount of the stored seeds will be registered in the account books daily. Also, the officers will record whether the total amount of the seeds corresponds to the number of seeds that need to be collected by the workers in charge of the annihilation of locusts. The commission will seal the warehouses' doors

every evening. They will open the seals on the following day before work begins.

## Article 5

After the culling and delivery processes are completed, or before they are completed, the provincial administrative councils will weigh the seeds stored in the warehouses. They will also calculate the actual weight of the seeds after they lost some of their weight due to the aeration and evaporation and see whether the actual weight corresponds with the weight registered by the locust commissions. After the end of the inspections, the locust seeds will be annihilated following the regulations.

## Article 6

The locust commissions work eagerly on the culling and the annihilation of the locusts. According to the Locust Law and the Regulations, they are also obliged to plow and dig the places where the locust seeds are on the soil and annihilate the remaining nits, which are small number, before they grow out of seeds in this coming spring.

## Article 7

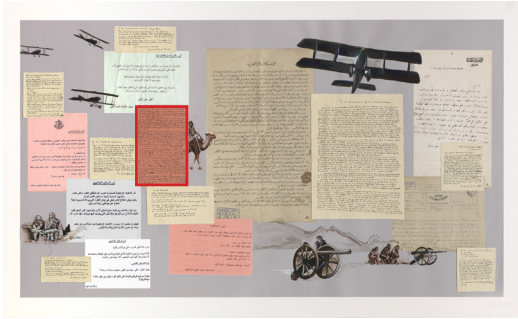
The Inspectors of Public Administration, Public Debt Administration, Agriculture, and Finance have the authority to inspect whether the Locust Commissions fulfill their duties properly. The inspectors will submit their reports to the provincial governors and the governors of the autonomous provinces. The reports will be examined by the central administration of the locust commission, and they will act accordingly.

We strongly recommend the articles mentioned above to be implemented as soon as possible because, even if the culling and the annihilation of the locusts have progressed as they should be, we have little time to complete the task.

## **5 Times - Letters from Plane**

Mixed media on paper

68 x 120 cm



*What do Great Powers have in mind when they decide to throw propagandist leaflet off military planes to the local inhabitants, whether the Entente in 1915 to the Arab population, or in 1982 and 2006 the Israel Defense forces to residents of Lebanon.*

*To the inhabitant of Arab territories is a long text, a chronical account and political negotiation to encourage Arabs to rise against Ottoman ruling. Good faith and deeds are underlined, such as providing grain in times of scarcity and hunger as well as the promise made by the British for an independent Arab state.*

*Did such texts contribute to the rise of Arab population against the Ottomans or were they merely rhetorical? 'The sincere promise that you shall become a nation, which knows all of the meanings of independence' must have led Arab troops to fight along with the British and their allies to defeat the Ottomans. Yet couldn't predict that they would be betrayed in return and their promised territory would be fragmented, then put under French and British protectorates.*

*The leaflets of 1982 and 2006 are simpler, like contemporary advertising lines. They state the greatness of Israel's power and minimize, even erase their responsibility in the war crime they're about to commit by just warning the inhabitants to flee. Yet how could they leave their home, belongings and land behind and betray their compatriot? Would they be given enough time to flee? Probably not. Would they have to flee for an hour, a day, a month, a year, or forever? The IDF doesn't specify and believes that a warning equals an apology, that what is forgiven will exempt them from any responsibility. Most people*

who found the means and time to “save their life” as they say, saw their house destroyed, other died or were injured under the rubbles.

*I can hardly imagine that inhabitants would side with a foreign enemy against a local force. Indeed, it would come at great cost, the cost of being considered a traitor, of being imprisoned or even killed.*



To the Ministry of Internal Affairs

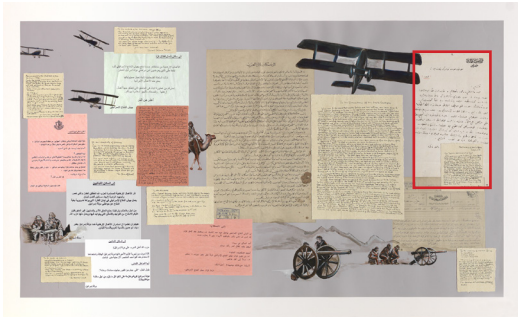
To: Al-Ta'if

Date: 17 July 1915

Number: 791/102

This morning at around half past six, an aircraft took off from an enemy battleship that came near the Ruus village in Jeddah, flew over the town, and threw leaflets. We sent you their translation enclosed to the letter, dated 8 June 1915 and numbered 87. We also sent you several issues of al-Muqattam newspaper. The officers in charge of bringing together such documents have collected six newspapers and eighty-three declarations so far. The government (mutasarrifete) of Jeddah informed us that the mentioned aircraft moved towards the north.

The Governor and the Commander of Al-Hejaz  
Galib



The Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Confidential

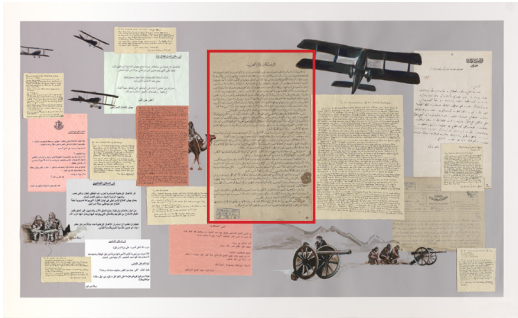
The Supreme Commissariat of Egypt;

Sir,

I am sending one of the leaflets sent from Egypt to the chiefs of the Arab tribes and Bedouins living in the provinces of Beirut, Syria and the town of al-Karak. The characteristics of the print letters suggest that these declarations were printed in Egypt. Moreover, since the text's dialect does not resemble the Muslim dialect, the declarations must be written by some of the Christian Syrians and especially by Ibrahim Selim El-Nassar, who is one of the reporters of the al-Ahram newspaper and currently residing in Cairo. The Commissariat should conduct a special investigation with great care and diligence to find out more clues. The Commissariat should also write a report for the Egypt Khedive Government to tell them why they should punish the publishers. Keep us informed about the results.

The Minister of Internal Affairs





## To the Inhabitants of the Arab Countries

You are fully aware that, as the British and their allies, we have gone to war against Germany only due to its aggression against the minor kingdoms that surround its borders, attacking these kingdoms without due reason, after it had itself guaranteed their independence through diverse treaties and covenants. You have also noted that when faced with dangers and perilous times, Germany has deceived the Turkish government in order to gain its support and alliance, and has been able to accomplish its goals by virtue of the exorbitant sums paid and the treacherous wishes expressed, aiming to obtain a command towards holy Jihad on the part of the Turkish Sultan, issued against us and against our allies, in light of the millions of Muslims who embrace our cause and who have joined our thousand armies, fighting alongside us against the Germans. Through this maneuvering, Germany hopes to turn the Muslims against us, even if, without a doubt, every Muslim whose heart is filled with the Islamic creed is wary of the paternalization and instrumentalization of his faith by a foreign country willing to make of him a sacrifice on the altars of its nationalist aspirations. The Muslims who are subjects of Great Britain, France, Russia, and their allies, are not alone in their devotion and loyalty, which they've expressed by sending their men, whilst in the flower of their youth, to aid us on the battlefield against Turkey—they are also joined by the mature classes of Turkish society who have expressed their discontent at the behavior of the Ottoman State.

There may be those among you who wonder about our intentions after the flames of this war have died down. To clear any doubts, we state the following: The government of his highness the King of Great Britain and Emperor of India has decided that one of the conditions for reconciliation at the end of the war will be that the Arab peninsula and the Holy Land which it includes will be

independent and that no inch of these lands will belong to us or to any other state, meaning that the independence of your countries has already been accomplished beyond a shadow of doubt. God willing, these guarantees will allow the Arab peninsula to bask in its freedom, regaining its original progress and vitality. By God, does this not satisfy you?

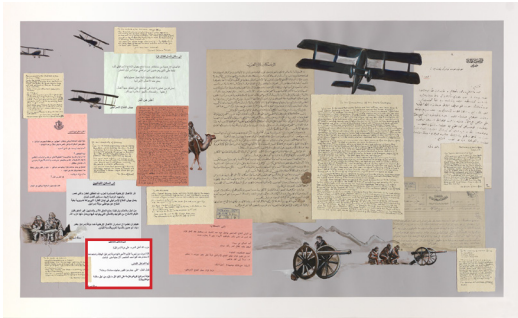
Some Arab sheikhs have expressed to us their desires to rid themselves of the Turkish upper hand, and some among them urge our armies forward. As for those of you who have similar wishes but are reticent to profess them, we address you with our words as follows: Have no suspicion towards us, and be patient ahead of the opportune moment, for it is coming without a doubt, and once you shed the robes of oppression and shake the dust of subjugation off of your shoulders, we will spare no effort in extending a helping hand to you, and we make a sincere promise that you shall become a nation which knows all of the meanings of independence, by the power and grace of God.

You are eager to learn of our intentions towards your honorable religion; know that Islam has always been respected by the British to the fullest extent, and that it has been held in the highest regard. History is the truest witness to our words.

It is for these reasons that we extended the hand of reconciliation to the Turkish Sultan, attempting to enforce the bonds of mutual amiability and geniality, but given that his ministers have now driven him towards ingratitude and antagonism after previous friendship, he must accept the consequences of his succumbing to their wills. However, our policy towards the Islamic religion and to the Muslim people is one of respect and friendship, and it shall remain unchanged.

The most evident proof of our words is our desire to aid the inhabitants of the lands of Hejaz by sending them rations of grain. However, German and Turkish officers confiscated the rations as soon as they arrived in Jeddah, thus obliging us to discontinue sending the grains, as they arrive to our enemies who satiate themselves while the famished poor continue to starve.

Despite these difficulties, and after hearing of the pain of hunger that the pilgrims and innocent inhabitants of the Arab lands are suffering, the British government has been compelled by sympathy and eternal friendship towards all of the Arabs, and has decided to mobilize shipments of food supplies to Jeddah through the maritime route. Let the Arabs assure themselves that these supplies are sustenance for them and their families, and let them remain diligent in preventing their confiscation by those who violate the agreed upon rules of war, snatching the morsel out of a starved man's mouth.



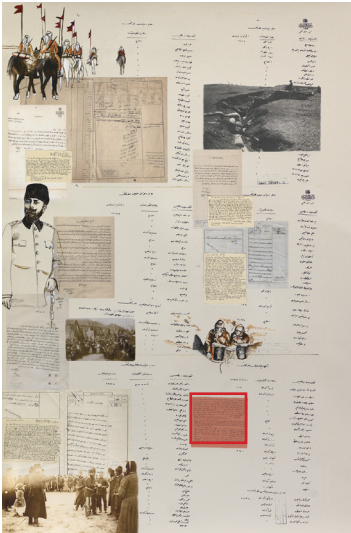
To the Inhabitants of Lebanon;

Due to the terrorist activities carried out by Hezbollah which destroys the effort to find a brighter future for Lebanon, The Israeli Army will continue its action in Lebanon for the period it deems necessary to protect the citizens of the State of Israel.

For your own safety and because we do not wish to cause any more civilian deaths, you should avoid all places involving Hezbollah's presence and actions.

You should know that persevering in terrorist activities against the State of Israël will be considered a double-edged sword for you and Lebanon.

The State of Israel

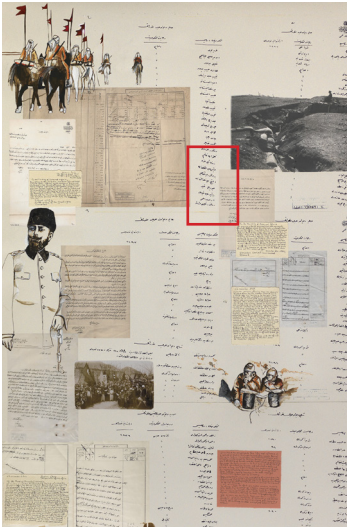


**6 Uncertain Times -Last Day of an Empire**  
Mixed media on paper  
150 x 80 cm

*It is hard to encompass the life and influence of a 400 years' empire through its last few years. During the years before its collapse, the Ottoman empire was already undermined by various foreign political influences. Was it the feeling of threat and the understanding of its ending that made the regime harsher in its last years of ruling? The list of people convicted of treason and executed or sentenced to exile is long, yet a few investigations condemned officials for applying hastily sentences without the final approval of the Sultan - signs of breaches in the well-organized bureaucratic system and its hierarchy.*

*There is no doubt about the coexistence of a great diversity of ethnicities and a certain freedom in the practice of religion, customs and language during the Ottoman empire, even though minorities were not equally treated and Ottoman Turkish was the official language. I try to imagine the effects of a sudden measure imposing the change of the names of villages, shops and street signs, from Arabic to Turkish. The outrage must have reinforced the emerging sentiment of an Arab Identity opposing the regime, instead of reviving Turkish language as expected.*

*Yet, as soon as the French took over their mandate, they too adopted measures of censorship and restricted freedom of expression by encouraging self-censorship while threatening to close newspapers based on their content.*



## ***Uncertain Times -Last Day of an Empire***

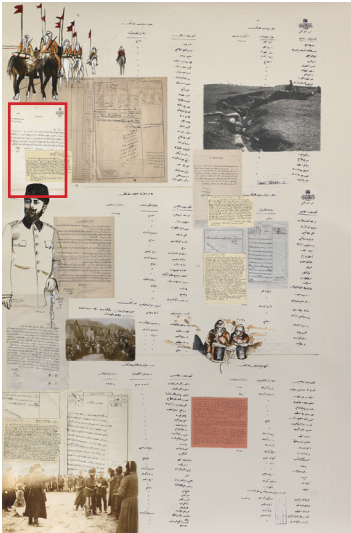
Mixed media on paper

150 x 80 cm

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs,

The governor of Beirut reported that there are seventy thousand letters, which are either open or closed, in the Beirut Post Office. These letters have not been yet censored because the officers in charge of censoring them refuse to perform their duties unless they are paid 3000 gurus wages. According to the regulation promulgated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, only the army has the authority to censor the letters. Thus, establishing a commission of censorship and making payment to the commission's officers is urgent. The General Inspector of the Ottoman Army kindly asks if you can send an officer, who knows French and Arabic, to work with the commission officers on the letters that have not been examined yet.

11 Teşrinisani 24] 1330 November 1914] Dersaadet/ Istanbul Central  
Commandant  
İsmail



Sublime Porte

The Office of Grand Vizier

The Office of Correspondence

Number: 2052

Summary: About the prohibition of the book that has been sold in Beirut with the name "The Arab Congress"

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs,

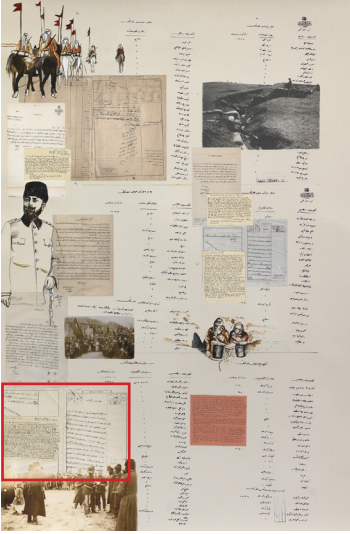
According to the resolution, numbered 350 and dated 4 March 1914, offered by the Intelligence Service and evaluated in the Councils of Ministers; the book (The First Arab Congress) consists of the speeches made in the previous Syrian Congress in Paris - and the letters and telegrams delivered to the Congress, is still on sale in Beirut. It was decided to prohibit its sale due to its harmful content. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Ottoman Post, Telegraph and Telephone Services must take the necessary actions.

7 March 1914

In the name of Grand Vizier

Counsellor

Signature



22 Muharrem 6 / 335 Teşrinisani 19 / 332 November 1916

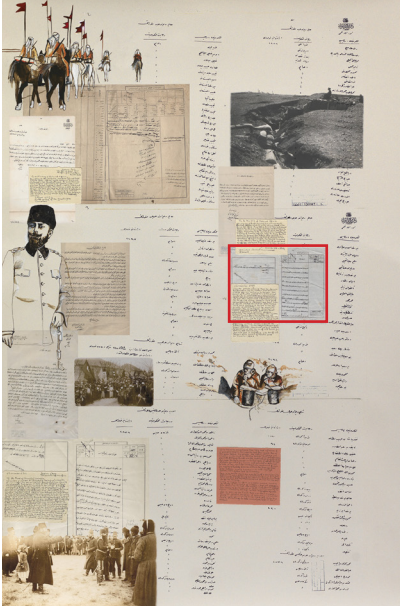
From: Sublime Porte Important Affairs Office

To the Head of Council of Notables:

It has been proved that el-Cemiyetü El-Lâ Merkeziye, a committee formed in Egypt, has been serving such treacherous plans as founding an independent Arab emirate in Syria and an Arab caliphate in Egypt and then entrusting the Syrian continent to the tutelage of France and England. Based on the documents and the confessions of the arrested and judged members of Cemiyetü El-Lâ Merkeziye, the martial court proved that following the Balkan Wars, the members of the committee, who were in Paris, called for international intervention through the press and other means. They did not only appeal to the foreign countries for support, but after the Ottoman state entered the World War, they formed gangs in Syria and in the Arabian Peninsula and published leaflets to incite people for uprisings. For ensuring public security, the martial court launched a legal investigation and proceedings against the committee. Respectively, the prominent members of the committee were arrested, trials were held, proceedings were concluded, the judges decided on appropriate punishments for them, and the penalties were imposed as soon as possible. It



is proved by his own confession, and the testimonies of other members of the committee, as well as the related documents that (unfortunately) Abdülhamid Zehravî Efendi, one of the members of the Council of Notables, was among the members of Cemiyetü El-Lâ Merkeziye. He was a leading figure in the committee, and he remained loyal to them until the last days of his life. The martial court sentenced him to death, and he has been executed.



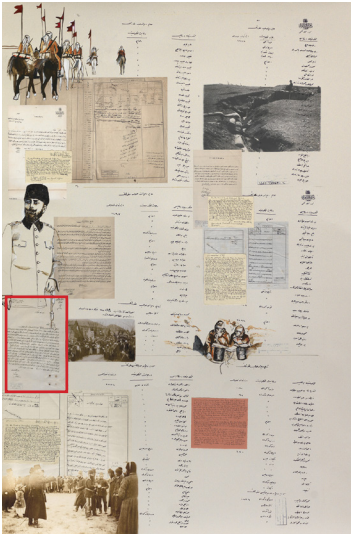
Date: 3 Rabiülevvel 26/1338 Teşrinievvel 26 ,1335 November 1919

To The Ministry of War

Upon the petitions claiming that the decisions handed down by the Supreme Martial Court a while ago are contrary to the law, the Council of Ministers ordered this controversial matter to be investigated by a commission. After the commission completed the evaluation, we sent their report and related documents via an official notice dated 30 April 1919 and numbered 1612. The report says that in order to decide whether the verdicts of the martial court were contrary to the law or not, the minutes of proceedings must be examined. However, this is not possible (he does not say why it is not possible). Anyway, it is explicit that the death sentences were executed without a sultanic decree,



including the imperial consent. The Supreme Martial Court has the authority to evaluate notices or complaints against any martial court, and The Supreme Martial Court must start an investigation against the commander who executed the death sentences without waiting to receive the sultan's decree. In this respect, the commission's report and other documents are sent back to the Ministry of War via an official letter for them to act accordingly. Let it be done in accordance with the official report of the Council of Ministers Dated 26 Teşrinisani 26 /1335 November 1919.



The answer to the official letter sent by the General Directorate of Police dated 21 Kanunusani 3) 1330 February 1919) and numbered 9.

No matter which nationality or gender they belong to, using foreign language on the shop signboards instead of the state's official language offends people's national feelings. No matter who the shop owners are (whether they are opponents or not); they must hang Turkish signboards over their shops. If they dare to violate the rules, they will be punished. We sent official letters to the provincial administrations and instructed them to remove the shop signboards written in a foreign language. Almost all the shop owners in Syria - except two German schools in Adana -accepted the rules and fulfilled the requirements. The objections were raised in Beirut prominently by the consul of our venerable ally. The opposition in Adana stemmed from the inappropriate opinions of Doctor Buke. I had been aware of his ideas and sent a telegram about him to your highness.

Let us come to the issue of «martial court.» I did not order shop owners, who violated the rules, to be sent to the martial court. All I did was instructing shop signboards to be removed and destroyed on behalf of the government. So, the matter of «martial court» is nothing but fabricated information circulated by civil service officials.

Let us come to the issue of the stamps, which belong to Messieurs. These stamps are exclusive to the use of Zionists. Putting the stamps out of use

-forever- will serve the state's interests. In order to subdue the spoiled Messieurs, who can only be intimidated by severe restrictions, it was announced that the ones who did not follow the rules would be harshly punished. However, we did not say that the violators will be executed. The precautions I took against the Zionists were so efficient and expedient that the German consul, who is next to me now, defined the process as a reconquest of Palestine and Syria. I kindly ask you to close your ears to such noise. Additionally, please warn the general consuls of our allies to enjoin their envoys to be meticulous in protecting our dignity. I also kindly ask you to let us know the final decisions taken by the central government regarding the scope of the measures to prevent any action against the state's interest.

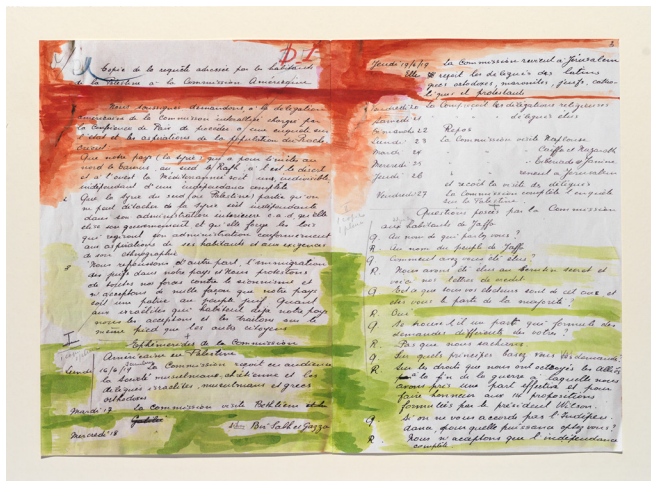
The Commander of the Fourth Army Commandery  
and the Minister of the Ottoman Navy

Ahmed Cemâl

***Uncertain Times,***  
***7a Fate of Palestine***  
***7b Faisal's Dream***  
***7c Creation of a Nation***  
**2022**

This series presents drawings based on a selection of documents from the Centre des Archives Diplomatiques de Nantes in France. Following an extensive research, the artist selects documents related to the fate of Palestine such as petitions by the population in preparation for the peace conference, letters of negotiations between the French authorities and King Faisal as well as documents about the delimitation of borders, leading to the creation of Greater Lebanon. While questioning historical processes, the artist reinvents new forms, highlighting important aspects of the documents and taking the freedom to drift away from the manuscript through the use of abstract and figurative drawing.

Mixed media on paper  
46.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)

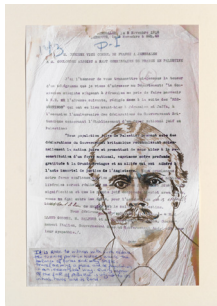


## **7a Uncertain Times**

### **Fate of Palestine 2**

Mixed media on paper

24 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Jerusalem, November 1918 ,5

Beyrouth, November 5, at 20.45

From: Mr. Durieux , Vice consul of France in Jerusalem

To: Mr. Coulondre, adjunct to the high commissioner of France in Palestine

I have the honor to transmit below the content of a telegram I have just addressed to the department: "The Zionist commission in Jerusalem has asked me to transmit to your excellence the following letter, written following the "RSS-Meetings" that were held the day before yesterday in Jerusalem and Jaffa, on the occasion of the anniversary of the British government's declaration on the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

"We, Jewish population of Palestine, noted the British government's declaration recognizing solemnly the Jewish nation and promising to help us reconstitute a national home, we express our profound gratitude to Great Britain and its allies who abide by the immortal act of justice in England. We proclaim our firm trust that the promises given by the liberal nations will be realized in their deepest and highest signification and that the Jewish people will soon cooperate with them on equal terms to acquire these eternal ideas, which were born on the ground of Palestine.

We wish this resolution to be sent to Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour and to the French government, Italian government, Greek government and American government to gain their sympathy ./.

DURIEUX

## **7a Uncertain Times**

### **Fate of Palestine 3**

Mixed media on paper

27.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)



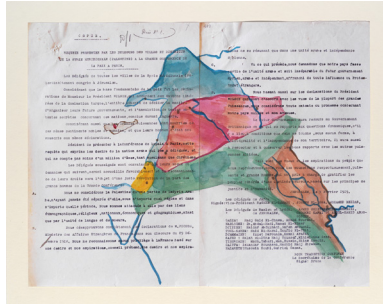
#### **The Muslim- Christian committee of Jerusalem**

As the legal representative of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, we submit to your honorable commission the wishes of the population as follows:

- 1) Full independence of Syria limited in the North by the Taurus and in the South by Rafah.
- 2) Interior autonomy of Palestine (Southern Syria) which must be considered as an indivisible part of Syria. All its public servants will therefore be recruited locally among the natives, and its interior laws will be established according to the wishes of the population and the local needs.
- 3) Absolute refusal of Jewish immigration. We categorically protest against the idea of making Palestine a Jewish National Home. While strongly protesting against Zionism, we consider that the local Jews who have been residing for a long time in the country, are Palestinian nationals, like the other inhabitants, therefore, they have the same rights and the same duties.

## 7a *Uncertain Times* *Fate of Palestine 4*

Mixed media on paper  
43 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Copy

The request presented by the delegates of the cities and districts of Southern Syria (Palestine) at the great Peace Conference in Paris.

The delegates of all the cities of Southern Syria (Palestine) holding a congress in Jerusalem:

Considering that the declaration of Mr. President Wilson was a fundamental base for peace, which granted the nations liberated from Turkish domination the entire freedom to decide on the way of organizing their future governments; and the cancellation of all secret agreements concerning these nations, which were made during the war.

Considering that the great powers are nourished by the same noble and humane feelings and that their statement have endorsed these declarations.

Decide to present at the Peace conference in Paris this request that expresses the wishes of the Arab nation, which delegated them, and which counts no less than a million souls, both Muslims and Christians.

The undersigned delegates are convinced that their wishes and requests below will be favorably received and that the recognition of their rights will be the focus of a fair resolution adopted by the prominent men at the great conference.

We consider Palestine as a part of Arab Syria, since it has never been separated from it, whichever the regime or the epoch. We are bound to it by ethnographic, religious, national, economic and geographic ties, as well as by the unity of language and customs.



We completely disapprove of the declaration of Mr. Pichon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, in his speech on December 1918 ,29. We don't acknowledge any privilege to France based on our wishes and aspirations as he pretends. Our wishes and aspirations can only be summarized in Arab unity and the independence of Syria.

In the light of the above, we demand that our country be part of the Arab unity and be inseparable from the future Syrian Arab independent government, free from any foreign influence or protectorate.

Basing ourselves on the declarations of President Wilson, which match the views of most great powers, we consider any agreement or promise regarding our country as null and void.

The future government will seek advice from the British government in matters of economy if needed on condition that it doesn't affect anyway the entirety and independence of its territory. It should also respect and maintain good relations with other allied nations.

Such are the wishes and aspirations of the people we represent; we submit them with due respect to you, powerful and great men who took upon themselves to grant freed people a happy fate, based on the principles of justice and humanity.

Jerusalem February 1919 ,5

The delegates of Jaffa

Signed: Vice - President Ragheb El Dajani, Joseph El Issa, Mohamed Beidas,

The delegates of Ramleh and Lydda

The delegates of Jerusalem,

Abou Gosche

Gazza:

Nablouse:

Djinine:

Toul-Karem:

Djammaine:

Safed:

Issa

Tiberiade:

Kawoir.

Caiffa:

Ibrahim

Nazareth:

Ahmed Seifidine El Hussein

Choucri Karmi and Abdul-Hamid

Hadj Said El-Chawa, Ahmed Sourani.

Ib. Abdul-hadi, Ramez El Nimer

Haidar Abdul-Hadi, Nafeh Abouchi

Said el Karmi, Toufic El- Tibi

Izzet Darouaza, Kamal Arafat

Salah el-Dine Hdj Youssef, Mihiedine

Mach. Tabari, Mah.Hussin, Elias

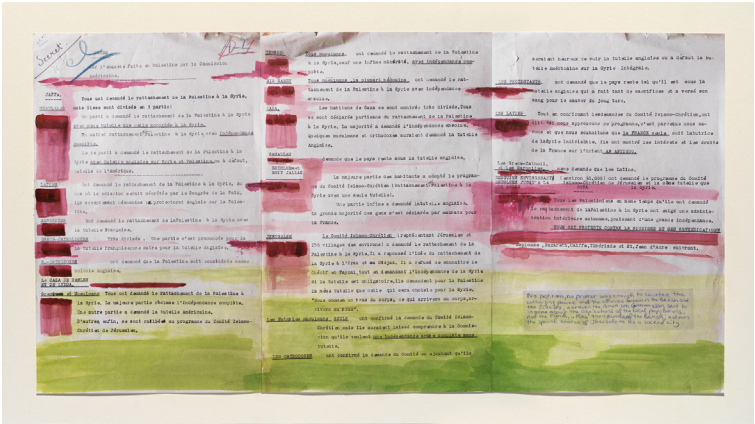
Iskandar Mounassa, Rachid Hadj

Hussein Zoubi, Gabriel Cazma

The translation is true to the original.

The secretary of the conference.Signed: Droza

7a Uncertain Times  
Fate of Palestine 5  
Mixed media on paper  
61.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)

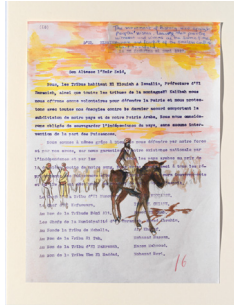


## 7a *Uncertain Times*

### *Fate of Palestine 6*

Mixed media on paper

26.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)



D'EI ERAMIEH.

November 1919 ,22

His Highness Emir Zeid,

We, the tribes living in Elouiah & Ismailia, the district of El Emranieh, as well as all the tribes of the El Kaliba mountain, offer our services as volunteers to defend our homeland and we protest with all our energy against the latest agreement entailing the subdivision of our country and our Arab homeland. We consider ourselves obliged to safeguard the independence of the country without any intervention from the Powers. We are able with the help of God, our strength, and our arms to defend ourselves, because we shall ensure our national existence through independence and through (...) of all Arab countries, until our last drop of blood. We have submitted this to all the representatives of the Powers, so they transmit it to their governments and to make sure they are fully informed about our state of mind.

The chief of El Menouara tribe.

The chief of El Kefauara.

In the name of the Beni Alt. tribe.

The chiefs of the municipality of El Emranieh.

In the name of the Mehalla tribe.

In the name of the El Tah tribe.

In the name of the El Makramah tribe.

In the name of the Ebn El Haddad tribe.

Ismail H zouasse.

Issa El Ghiane.

Ahmed el Chah.

Ahmed Ibrahim.

Aly Khafaf.

Mohamad Hassan.

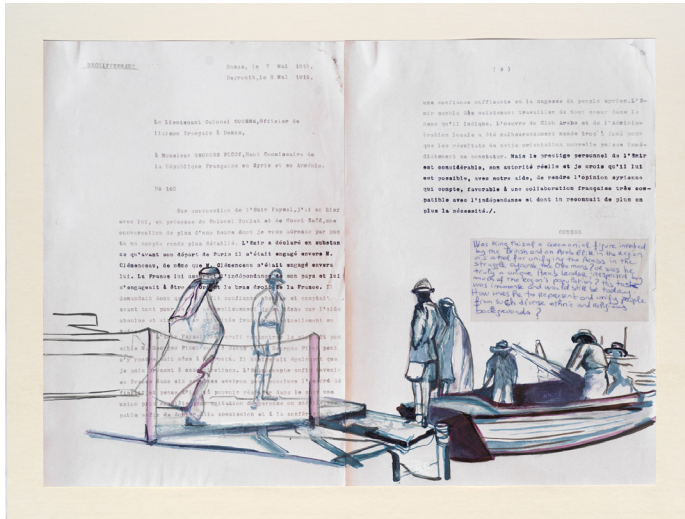
Hazem Mahmoud.

Mohamad Beri.

## 7b Uncertain Times

### Faisal's Dream 1

Mixed media on paper  
45.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)

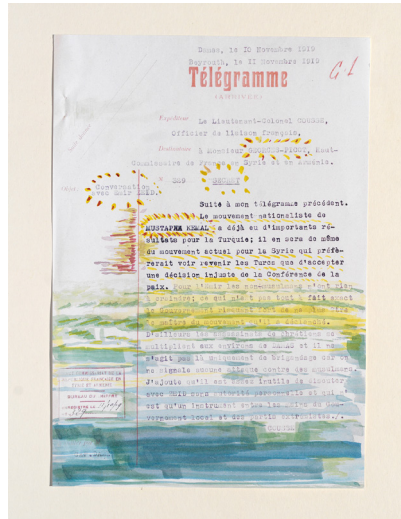


## 7b Uncertain Times

### Faisal's Dream 2

Mixed media on paper

27 x 34.5 cm (framed)



## 7b *Uncertain Times*

### *Faisal's Dream 3*

Mixed media on paper  
25.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Sender: Lieutenant Colonel Cousse,  
French Liaison officer

To: The High commissioner of France in Syria and Armenia

N : 356  
Confidential

Subject: Muslim delegation sent to Zeid

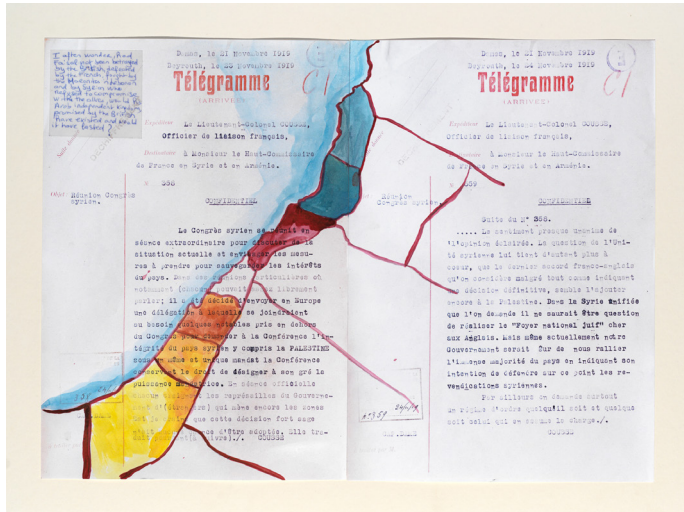
Following the proposal of Abderraman Pacha Youssef and of the Cadi and after rather difficult negotiations, the Muslim leaders of Damascus sent to ZEID a delegation to underline before him, the gravity of the present situation and the unfortunate consequences it may have on the present state of security and the future of the country. The delegates proved to the Emir the craziness of opposing an armed resistance to the decision of the Conference. And they asked him to recall the troops sent to the BEKAA, which include the cavalry, two battalions of infantry and a battery, one thousand men. The EMIR coached by Yassin answered that resorting to arms was the only way to defend the right of the nation, and whatever the probable issue of the fight, the honor of the Arabs demanded they engaged in the battle (...)

## 7b Uncertain Times

### Faisal's Dream 4

Mixed media on paper

46 x 34.5 cm (framed)



## 7b Uncertain Times

### Faisal's Dream 5

Mixed media on paper  
25.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)



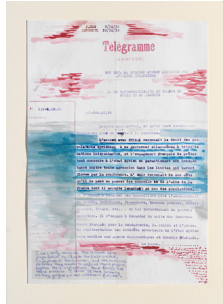


## 7b *Uncertain Times*

### *Faisal's Dream 6*

Mixed media on paper

25 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Paris, 19/12/9

Beyrouth 19/12/10

#### TELEGRAM

Sender: His excellency Mr. Stephen Pichon, Minister of Foreign affairs

To: The High commissioner of France in Syria and Armenia

N : 1.044.45.46

Acquired today, and to be loyally developed to reap all the benefits.

The agreement with Faisal recognizes the right of the Syrian population to self-government as independent nations, and the French commitment to help the Syrian state by guaranteeing its independence against any aggression within the limits, which will be established by the Conference. As for the Emir, he recognizes that he cannot do without the advice and the help of France, the mandate of which he accepts in the name of the populations. He undertakes to request advisors for the civil administration as well as in matters related to justice, finance, public works, education, customs, etc.; and to grant them an executive power.

He is committed to request immediately French instructors for the Gendarmerie, the Police and the army. The representation of the foreign interests of the Syrian state will be entrusted to the French diplomatic agents and consuls.

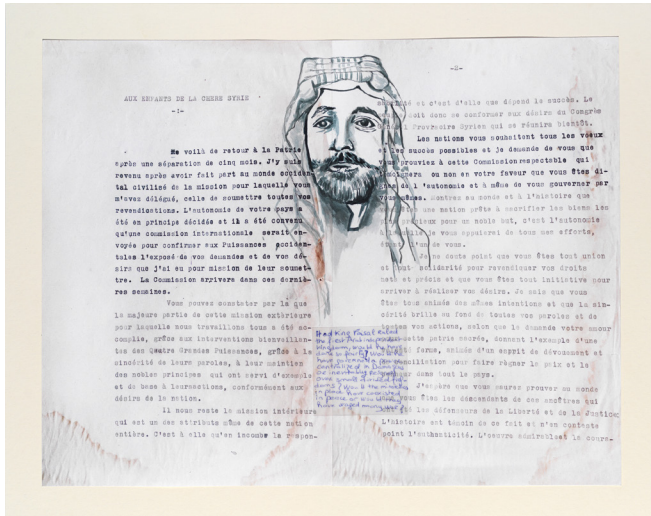
The Lebanon .....

## 7b Uncertain Times

### Faisal's Dream 7

Mixed media on paper

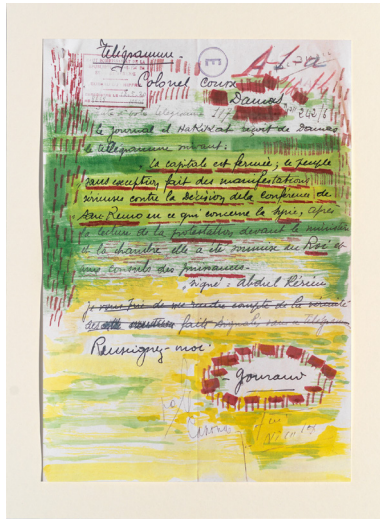
43 x 34.5 cm (framed)



## 7b Uncertain Times

### Faisal's Dream 8

Mixed media on paper  
25.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)

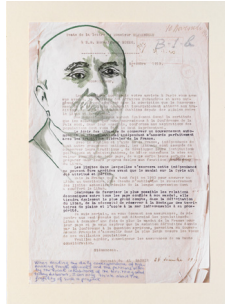


## **7c Uncertain Times**

### **Creation of a Nation 1**

Mixed media on paper

25.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Text of the letter of Mister CLEMENCEAU  
To his Monsignor HOYEK

Paris, November 1919 ,10

Monsignor,

The meetings you have held since your arrival in Paris with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and myself will have confirmed your conviction that the government of the republic remains invariably faithful to the traditions of mutual dedication, which have existed for centuries between Lebanon and France.

These meetings must also have reinforced your convictions that the solutions we are pursuing at the Peace Conference are mainly in conformity with the aspirations of the populations of whom you are the high representative.

The Lebanese wish to keep an autonomous government and an independent national status matches perfectly the liberal tradition of France.

With the support and the help of France, independently of any other national group, the Lebanese are sure to safeguard their traditions, develop their political and administrative institutions and to accelerate on their own the complete development of their country, and to see at last their children preparing themselves in their schools to fill the positions of the public service.

The limits within which this independence will apply cannot be determined before the mandate on Syria is attributed and defined.

But France, which has done everything possible in 1860 to ensure Lebanon the extension of its territory, does not forget that the narrowing of the current boundaries results from the long oppression imposed on Lebanon.

Wishing to develop as much as possible the economic relations between all the countries under its mandate, (France) will also give great attention while determining the limits of Lebanon, to the need of allotting to the Mountain a region in the plains and access to the sea, both indispensable to its prosperity.

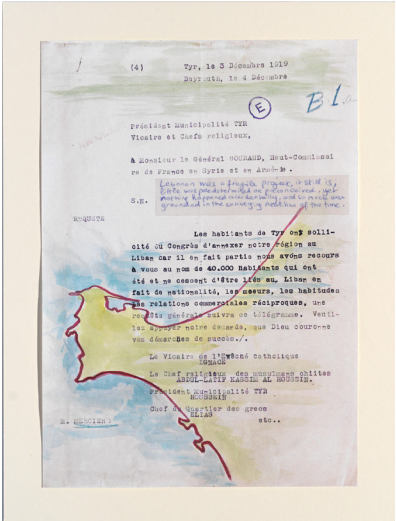
I am certain, that in giving you these assurances, I will respond to the feelings, which led the population of Lebanon to request once more the mandate of France for their country and I hope that the definitive solution given by the conference to the Syrian question will enable the French government to realize extensively the wishes of these courageous populations.

Please accept Monsignor, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Clémenceau.

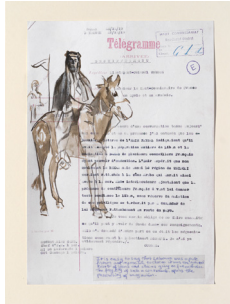
Excerpt from Al Bachir    December 1919 ,23

7c Uncertain Times  
Creation of a Nation 2  
Mixed media on paper  
26 x 34.5 cm (framed)



**7c Uncertain Times**  
**Creation of a Nation 3**

Mixed media on paper  
26 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Paris, 19/12/25  
Beyrouth 19/12/27

TELEGRAM  
Deciphering

Sender: Lieutenant Colonel Cousse,  
To: The High commissioner of France in Syria and Armenia  
N428

In the course of a conversation held today at ZEID's and in his presence, I heard that the latest letters of Emir Faisal indicated he had accepted the full separation of Lebanon and the appointment in Damascus of several French advisors holding executive power. The Emir hoped that not only the BEKAA but also the region of TRIPOLI would be integrated into the Arab zone, which would therefore obtain access to the sea. My interlocutors added that the presence of French controllers would give confidence to Lebanon and that, on condition of maintaining its privileges, Lebanon would itself soon request to be integrated with the rest of the country.

I would be grateful if you could let me know what truth there may be in this information. Moreover, Zeid asked me at what stage were the negotiations regarding Palestine and Mossul. I obviously could not answer. /.

COUSSE

**7c Uncertain Times**  
**Creation of a Nation 4**

Mixed media on paper  
26.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)



Beyrouth, March 1920 ,10

TELEGRAM

In clear.

Address:           Diplomacy – Paris  
N6/599

I have the honor to transmit the telegram that Monsignor HOYEK, Maronite patriarch, will address to your Excellence and to the Peace Conference.

“By virtue of the mandate granted to us by the Lebanese people to represent and defend its rights before the peace conference, we strongly protest against the decree adopted by the Syrian Congress in Damascus, which is contrary to the wishes of the Lebanese. We persist in demanding forcefully the claims expressed in the memorandum presented by us at the peace conference on October 1919 ,25. If some Lebanese took part in the Syrian Congress, they don't represent at all the Lebanese nation. We trust that the allies will give justice to the poor Lebanese, who suffered so much in their commitment to the cause of The Entente.

Becerki, Mount Lebanon, March 1920 ,10

Elias Pierre HOYEK  
Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and the whole of the Orient.

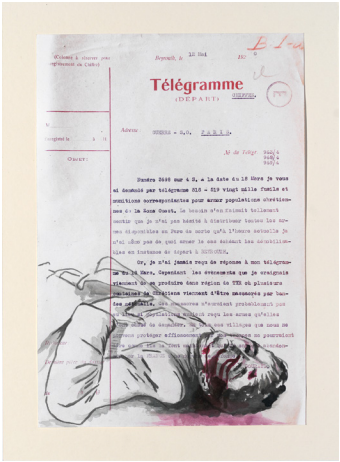
GOURAUD



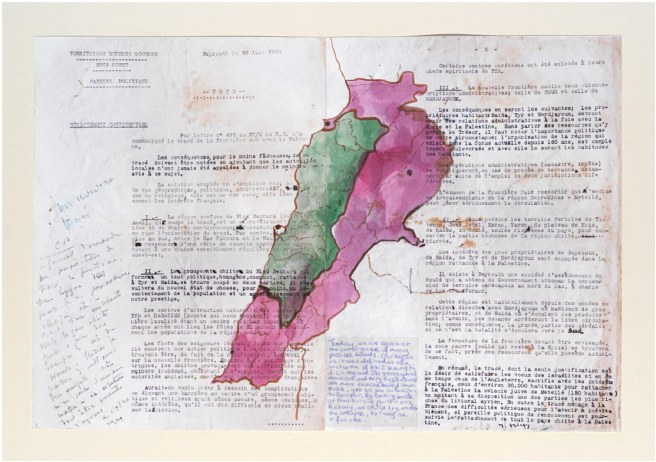
**7c Uncertain Times**  
**Creation of a Nation 5**  
Mixed media on paper  
47 x 34.5 cm (framed)



7c *Uncertain Times*  
*Creation of a Nation 6*  
Mixed media on paper  
25.5 x 34.5 cm (framed)

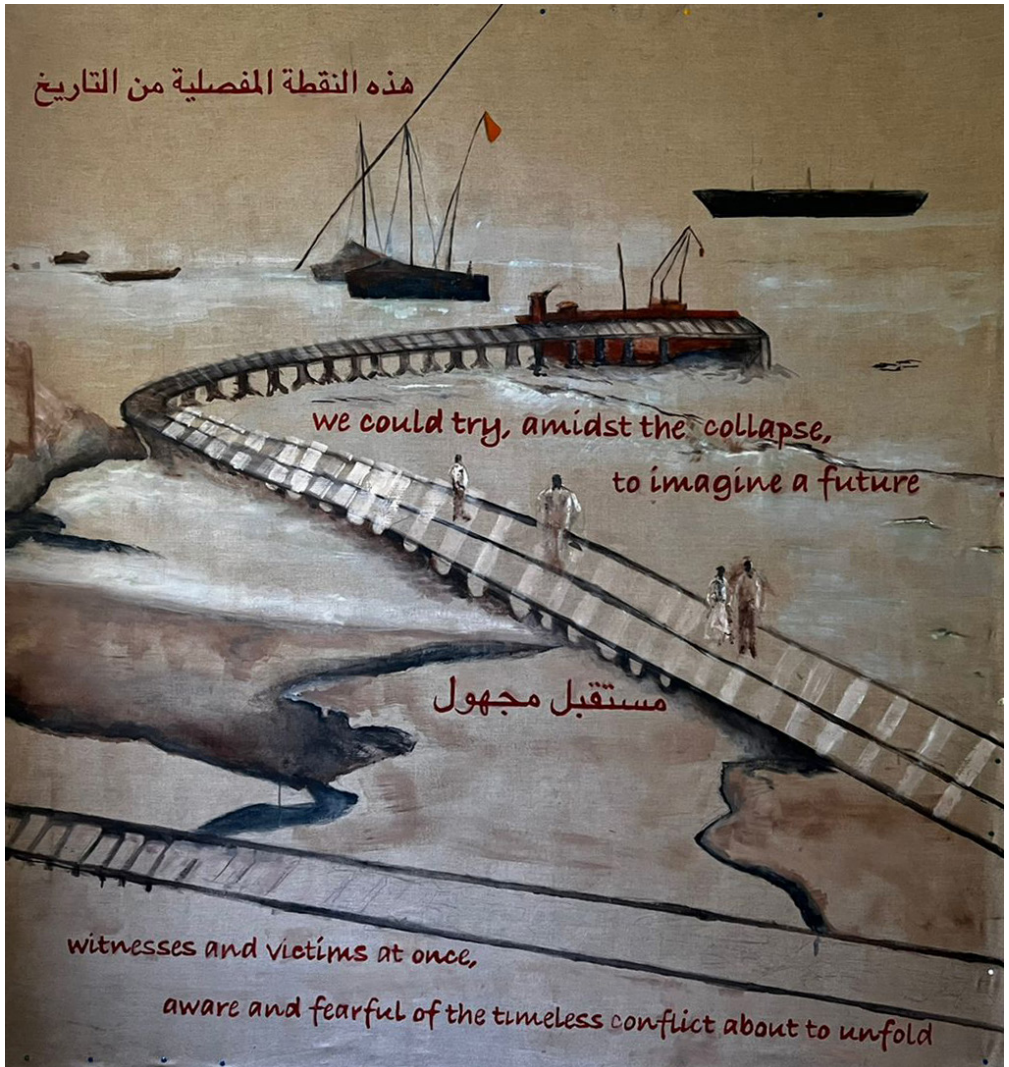


7c *Uncertain Times*  
*Creation of a Nation 7*  
Mixed media on paper  
49 x 34.5 cm (framed)



**8 Uncertain Times - Unknown Future**  
2022

200 x 200 cm  
Acrylic on linen



## ***Uncertain Times***

### ***Montage***

2022

In the Montage In this series the artist assembles drawings and writings of selected archival documents and photographs from the WWI period in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. The drawings are based on film stills from the Imperial War Museum archive; photographs from Fouad Debbas Collection at Sursock Museum, the American University of Beirut/Library Archives and Special Collections; The Arab Image Foundation (Collection and Photograph by Dr. Eugène Cottard); Saleh Turjman collection; the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. (Jerusalem in 1915 & Silk factories - Copyright by Underwood & Underwood.) as well as online sources.

The documents are selected from Başkanlık Osmanlı Arşivi, Istanbul (Ottoman documents); The Institute for Palestine Studies (excerpt from the diary of Ihsan Turjman), Linda Jacobs (The diary of her Grandmother Kate Milkie) and Ishac Diwan (Letter to Ishac Diwan from his brother Jacob, Aleppo August ,25 1914). Rare Map of Ottoman Lebanon During World War I, circa 1911 was originally published by Foster, Zachary.

## 9 *Uncertain Times - Montage 2*

Mixed media on paper

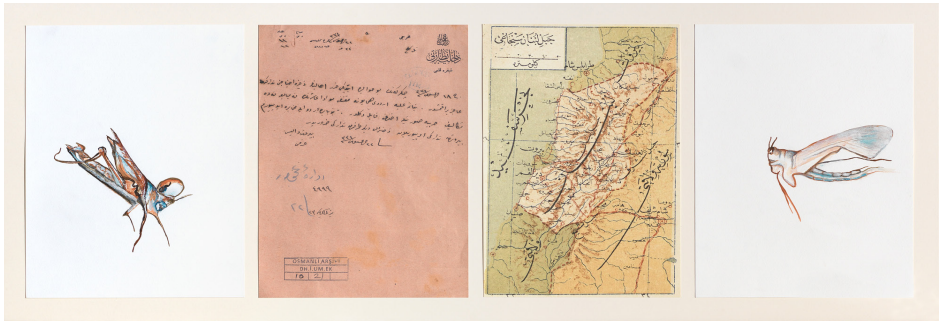
140 x 80 cm



## 10 *Uncertain Times - Montage 3*

Mixed media on paper

140 x 80 cm



Sublime Porte

The Ministry of Internal Affairs

Cipher Office

The dispatch date (of the telegram): 22 August 4) 1331 September 1915)

Where the telegram arrived: Telkelah

Answer: The damage caused by the locusts left locals incapable of meeting their grain needs. Therefore, provisioning the imperial army is not possible neither via war tax (in kind) nor purchasing food. I am corresponding with the army about this issue. The food supply, which was ordered to be obtained from Beirut, must be supplied from a different region.

The Governor of Beirut

Azmi



## 11 *Uncertain Times - Montage 4*

Mixed media on paper

48.5 x 97 cm



Sublime Porte

The Ministry of Internal Affairs

Department of General Communication

The First Office

Number: public: 4324 private: 52

Ciphered

To the government (Mutasarrifate) of Deir-el-Zor;

The grain, which exceeds the local needs, must be given to the military. The grain that belongs to the military cannot be sold. It is obligatory to leave enough food and seeds in the hands of the locals for their essential needs. The Ministry of Agriculture requested to send ten thousand liras for the expense of seeds.

21 December 1915

In the name of the minister



## 12 *Uncertain Times - Montage 5*

Mixed media on paper

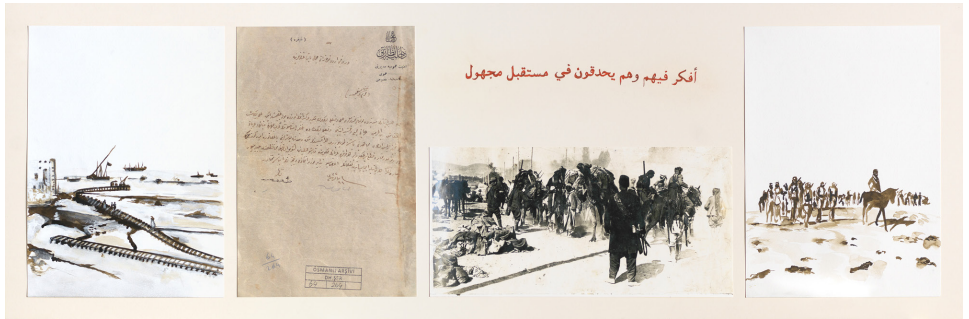
48.5 x 101.5



### 13 *Uncertain Times - Montage 6*

Mixed media on paper

48.5 x 146.5 cm



Sublime Port

The Ministry of Internal Affairs

General Directorate of Police

Private:1107

Ciphered

To Cemal Pasha, the Commander of the Fourth Army

The sons of Hussein Pasha, the Emir of Mecca, Ali Bey and Faysal Bey, who were in Medina, are now on their way to Mecca. Ali Bey congregated the bedouins of Beyne'l Haremeyn, and the tribes led by Faysal Bey are gathered on the western part of the Hafra(?) Station. Faysal Bey armed the bedouins that gathered around him. The armed warriors capture the posts/mails sent to Medina and Mecca, and then deliver the captured mails to Hüseyin Pasha. The guardianship (muhafızlık) of Medina informed us that not only the transportation and transportation are cut off but also the bedouins are encouraged to rebel against the government. Give the necessary instructions to Basri Pasha to take the necessary actions and keep us informed about the developments.

8 June 1916

The Minister

Talat

140 x 80 cm



## 15 *Uncertain Times - Montage 8*

Mixed media on paper

48.5 x 117.5 cm



## 16 *Uncertain Times - Montage 9*

Mixed media on paper

48.5 x 132 cm



Sublime Porte

The Office of Grand Vizierate

The Private Secretariat

The ciphered letter that is received from the Government (Mutasarrıflık) of Mount Lebanon.

The inhabitants of Mount Lebanon are suffering from the hardship of obtaining wheat from the Syrian Province's rural villages, which has critical importance for the subsistence of the locals and the elimination of food insecurity. The amount of wheat that was allowed to be sent from Aleppo to Mount Lebanon via trains was not sufficient to meet the demand of the region with a population of three hundred thousand people. Therefore, the complaints are constantly rising in the region. Furthermore, we are informed that the trains will be allocated to the Ottoman army to transport the troops, so the obtaining of wheat from Aleppo will stop for some time. The interruption in the transportation of wheat to Mount Lebanon and the coasts of Syria will cause famine and hunger. Moreover, such deprivation will harm the inhabitants' state of mind. Thus, the necessary precautions must be taken as a war measure. I kindly ask your permission to do what needs to be done as soon as possible.

2 May 1915

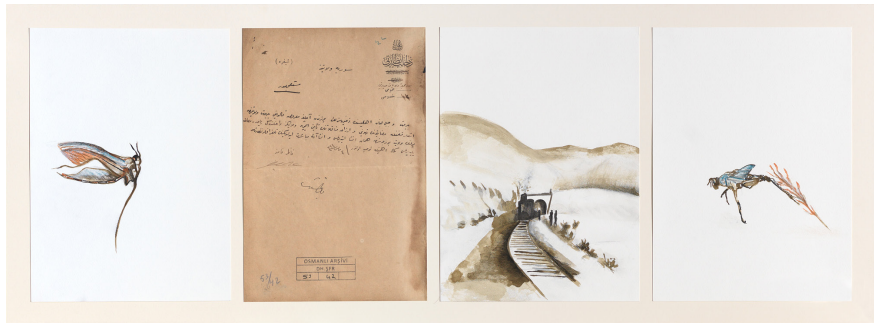
Governor (Mutasarrıf) of Mount Lebanon

Ohannes

## 17 *Uncertain Times - Montage 10*

Mixed media on paper

48.5 x 130 cm



Sublime Porte

The Ministry of Internal Affairs

Provincial Directorate of Local Affairs

Private: 11

Enciphered

To the provincial administration of Syria;

We urgently recommend you immediately build the Rayaq-Mu'allaq road in the province of Syria by using the budget allocated for provinces and ensuring that people in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, who are starving to death, are supplied with the necessary amount of food. Inform the Ministry of Internal Affairs via telegram about the starting date of the road's construction

17 May 1915

On behalf of the minister

Signature

## 18 *Uncertain Times - Montage 7*

Mixed media on paper

38 x 115.5 cm



August 1914 ,25

Excerpts from a letter from Yacoub Diwan to his brother Ishac Diwan;

(...)

I ask you to please inform me clearly on news concerning the military, whether or not I am conscripted in this round. Let me know immediately since there could still be great danger and punishment. On our side people are undergoing examination without their names being listed—on the contrary, they posted a notice in the city requiring that those from year 85/309 present themselves for examination and all people are being examined in this fashion. Let me know immediately what is happening on your side before I maybe am in danger... (repetition)... I have news that those who do not present themselves at the examination, and have their names listed as absent, and then are found after the troops have been sent away, will be executed if caught. And this news has me extremely worried. I plead with you not to delay in this matter. Please return to the Conscription Council about this, and inform me immediately via telegraph whether or not I am conscripted, because I am very concerned about this. We do not have any money at present, since all our money is locked up in the shop, and at the moment the whole city is without money. (...)

< You have informed us > that you are conscripted, as is the entire Jewish quarter, just like what is happening here. On this side, practically the whole city has been conscripted, and all of those from year 309/85 have been made soldiers. The news here is just like that on your side and the situation is very

bad, no trade, and it's been 25 days that our shop is closed due to the situation. May God in his kindness ends this well. (...)

In regards to your brother Youssef, I must tell you my dear brother that people at this moment are not thinking about marriage. If we asked anybody or looked for a bride for him, and made a proposal, people would laugh at us and consider us crazy. People are not thinking about engagement right now, rather their only desire is for this disaster to end. May God deliver us and you and all people from the evil of this year. The only hope is that you inform us immediately by telegraph (or) with the return of the post, so that we prepare ourselves.



## 19 Sun & Sea

Video 17 minutes, 2021

Written By Etel Adnan (1949)

Produced, directed and edited by Lamia Joreige

With the support of Martch art Gallery, Istanbul

Voice : Etel Adnan & Lamia Joreige

Sound & Music: Fadi Tabbal (Tunefork)

Translation to English Omar Berrada, Sarah Riggs and Lamia Joreige

*«In 2011, I shared some photographs I had taken during the summer on a Greek island, Etel Adnan admired the photos and me asked me to create a video based on her first poem, written in French in 1949.»*



Immolation of the pacified expanse,

## ***About the artist***

Born in Beirut in 1972, Lamia Joreige is a visual artist and film-maker who lives and works in Beirut. She earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, where she studied painting and film-making. She uses archival documents and elements of fiction to reflect on history and its possible collective memory.

Her practice, rooted in her country's experience, explores the possibilities of representing the Lebanese wars and their aftermath, particularly in Beirut, a city at the center of her imagery.

Her work is essentially on time, the recordings of its trace, and its effects on us. Joreige's artworks have been presented at various international exhibitions and venues, including: MAXXI, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Venice Biennale (Italy); Centre Pompidou and Musée Nicéphore Niépce (France); Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute and Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, the International Center of Photography, the New Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Taymour Grahne Gallery (USA); Istanbul Biennial (Turkey); Liverpool Biennial, Tate Modern, Serpentine Gallery and Cardiff National Museum (U.K.); Sharjah Biennial (UAE), Mathaf (Qatar) and Marfa gallery (Lebanon).

She presented her films at festivals such as: Medfilm Festival, Rome (Awarded Best film); FID Marseille; Les Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin; Paris Cinema; The Mediterranean Festival of Cinema, Montpellier; Home Works I, IV; VII (Ashkal Alwan), Festival du film libanais and Beirut Cinema Days in Beirut. Her publications include: Lamia Joreige, Works 2017-1994, Kaph, Beirut. Records for Uncertain Times, Taymour Grahne Gallery, 2015; Under-Writing Beirut – Mathaf, Sharjah Art Foundation, 2013; [hereandperhapselsewhere.com](http://hereandperhapselsewhere.com) online publication, 2009; Time and the Other, Alarm Editions, 2004 and Ici et peut-être ailleurs, Haus Der Kulturen der Welt, 2003. She has contributed writings and visual essays to various art periodicals such as TDR (MIT press Journal), Kamel Lazaar

Foundation Projects, Apexart, Afterall online magazine, Sarai Reader 7, Art Journal, Art Forum, and Camera Austria.

She is the recipient of a fellowship from Columbia University Institute of Ideas and imagination in Paris, for the year 2021. She was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University for the year 2017–2016, and was shortlisted for Artes Mundi 7, the United Kingdom's leading biennial art prize. She is a co-founder and board member of Beirut Art Center, which she co-directed from 2009 to 2014.

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