

Statement by Workers in the Public Cultural Sphere in Lebanon, July 27, 2006
(Signatures updated, July 31, 2006)

We the undersigned declare:

- 1) Our conscious support for the Lebanese national resistance as it wages a war in defense of our sovereignty and independence, a war to release Lebanese imprisoned in Israel, a war to safeguard the dignity of the Lebanese and Arab people.

- 2) Our unambiguous refutation of the logic that accuses HizbAllah of having provided the "pretext" for the Israeli invasion. Israel did not invade Lebanon, destroy its infrastructure, displace and murder its populace because of the heroic operation carried out by HizbAllah. Israel has never needed a pretext to breach the sovereignty of Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, or other nations. Rather, the recent Israeli aggression is the latest in a long series extending back to the founding of the Zionist state and motivated by both historical ambitions vis-à-vis Lebanese territory and waters and by a racist supremacist ideology that denigrates the indigenous population, their culture, and their very existence. The most recent aggression is, more specifically, the realization of a long-standing, openly professed desire of Israel to avenge for its humiliation at being driven out of most of Lebanon by the resistance operations that began in September 1982 and had their fruition in May 2000. Israel's very avowal of intent to implement by its own powers UN Resolution 1559 is itself proof that its invasion of Lebanon today surpasses any mere response to the above-mentioned operation and serves an American policy that aims at annihilating all viable opposition in the world at large, and at direct control of the Arab world and its resources in particular. How strange that Israel should wish to be the policeman in charge of executing UN Resolution 1559 when it has not yet executed any of the previously issued UN resolutions addressing its own actions, with the exception of the partial implementation of Resolution 425, which resulted essentially because of strikes inflicted by the armed Lebanese Resistance.

- 3) Our staunch condemnation of official American support for, and contribution to, the Israeli aggression. The war crimes Israel is currently committing, as well as those it committed in the past and will commit in the probable future, would not have occurred or occur yet without America's political and military support for Israel, that which is unmitigated by its allegedly unswerving espousal of Lebanese freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

- 4) Our utter rejection of the Lebanese government's decision to "not adopt" the Lebanese Resistance operation, thereby stripping the Resistance of political credibility before the adversarial international powers, when it behooved that government to deem the said operation as consistent with its Ministerial Proclamation in support of the liberation of the Lebanese prisoners in Israel, of Shebaa Farms, and of Kfar Shuba.

We the undersigned, in declaring our intentions, also therefore, call upon:

- 1) The Lebanese government, which we want to see leading a sovereign, democratic state for all Lebanese, to realize its full responsibilities, especially in terms of embracing the Lebanese Resistance in diverse ways, and particularly after the clarification of Israel's plan to destroy the infrastructure, institutions, and political entity of Lebanon.

- 2) Arab intellectuals to stand beside the Lebanese Resistance, to expose the Zionist

racist, supremacist impetus, and to document Israel's crimes against Arabs since its founding. Likewise, we ask our Arab colleagues to confront the continual calls for capitulation (wrapped in the cloak of "realism"), and to expose both the American bias towards Israel and the complicity of the majority of "rational" Arab governments against the Lebanese Resistance. We, also, ask that you take a stand against all kinds of normalization with Israel, by closing down the Israeli embassies and government offices located in Arab countries, and by boycotting products of Israeli and pro-Israeli companies, whatever their nationality.

3) Lebanese intellectuals, in particular, not to be swayed by the (il)logic that accuses HizbAllah of having destroyed the Lebanese economy, but instead to hold Israel fully responsible for its age-old policy of destruction and war crimes. The principle of the Lebanese Resistance is to be a deterrent force against Israel's ability to pursue that policy with impunity.

4) Free-thinking intellectuals the world over, and advocates of justice and peace, to publicize the history of Israeli aggression and to pressure the American and European governments to halt their military and material maintenance of the Zionist killing machine. Similarly, we call upon our peers in the world to announce a boycott of Israeli products, and of Israeli academic and scientific institutions that do not condemn the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Furthermore, we invite intellectuals the world over to visit Lebanon in order to stand by the side of their Lebanese colleagues and to view first hand the results of Israeli war crimes against civilians, schools, infrastructure, humane institutions (foremost among them the Lebanese Red Cross), and media (which, in addition to sustaining hits on its press convoys and aerial transmitters, most recently lost to Israeli fire the reporters Layal Najib and Sulayman Shidyak). The solidarity of world intellectuals with the Lebanese people, press, and culture-workers, in such direct terms, would constitute an international declaration of the refusal to permit Israel to treat Lebanon as a mere "military target" for its airplanes, warships, tanks, and "smart" bombs.

Resistance is an intellectual act par excellence. That is because the goal of intellectual activity, like resistance, is to defend the values of justice and equality of all people. For this reason we, the undersigned, consider, regardless of our varying intellectual inclinations, cultural and critical activity an integral part of Lebanese national resistance, indeed of resistance to injustice anywhere in the world.

Signatories in Lebanon:

Amine A. Abi Aad (Industrial Eng.)
Fares Abi Saab (Researcher & Editor)
Pierre Abi Sa'b (Journalist),
Sawsan Abdulrahim (Asst. Prof., Health Sciences, AUB, And Cultural Activist),
Gabi Abou 'Atmeh (Journalist),
Nidaa Abou Mraad (Prof., Musicology, Universite Antonine),
Nicholas Abou Mraad (Prof., Theology, University of Balamand)
Saqr Abu Fakhr (Journal of Palestine Studies),

Supporting Signatories Outside Lebanon:

Afaf Abdelmoaty (Continuing Education Inst., AUC, Egypt)
Mohammed Abed (Prof., Philosophy, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison)
Hany Abu Assad (Film-Maker, Palestine)
Bassam Abu Ghazale (Palestinian Writer, Jordan),
Yehya Abu Zakaria (Writer & Journalist, Algeria)
Nasr Hamed Abu Zayd (Theorist, Egypt),
Wassan Hadi Al-'Anbaki (Computer Eng., Iraq),

As'ad Abu Khalil (Prof. of Political Sciences, Univ. of California at Stanislaus),
Wadih Akl (Lawyer, Prof.),
Adonis Al-'Akra (Phd, Philosophy, Lebanese Univ.),
Ghada Ali Kalash (Writer & Journalist),
Sa'da 'Allaw (Journalist),
Firas Al-Amin (Writer),
Ibrahim Al-Amin (Journalist),
Adel 'Ammous (Publisher),
Jacques Al-Aswad (Art Critic & Lexicographer),
Wasef 'Awadah (Journalist),
Faraj Al-'Awar (Water Expert & Cultural Activist)
Khodor 'Awarika (Novelist & Political Essayist),
Maysa 'Awwad (Journalist),
Husayn Ayyoub (Journalist),
Omar Al-Ayyubi (Writer & Translator),
Dr.Nassif Azzi (Prof., Philosophy, Lebanese University),
Jumana B'albaki (Journalist),
Salwa Ba'lbaki (Journalist),
Hala Bajjani (Al-Akhbar Newspaper),
Sulayman Bakhti (Literary Critic),
Ahmad Bazzoun (Journalist),
Karma Bibi (AUB, Instructor of Sociology),
Martine Btaich
Rania Chaaban (Graduate Student)
Jean Cham'oun (Film Director),
Zeinab Charafeldine (Journalist),
Salah Dabbagh (Lawyer),
Camille Dagher (Writer),
Ahmad Dallal (Prof. of Islamic Studies, Georgetown Univ.),
Mahmoud Dandashly (Architect & Activist),
Marie Debs (PhD, Writer, Prof. Lebanese University)
Nada Dallal Doughan (Executive Director, Kitab fi Jarida)

Tariq `Ali (Pakistani Writer in Britain),
Jumaa Allami (Novelist, Iraq)
Kindy Amin (Graduate Student in IT, Jerusalem),
Masad Arbid (Arab Physician & Writer, US),
Hussein Al-Awadat (Writer & Journalist, Syria),
Mona Baker (Prof., Linguistics, University of Manchester),
Salwa Bakr (Novelist, Egypt),
Gaby Baramki (Prof., Birzeit Univ., Educational Consultant)
Majeed Barghouthi (Poet & Writer, Palestine)
Omar Barghouthi (Choreographer, Independent Researcher, Palestine)
Javier Barreda (Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Alicante, Spain),
Moustapha Bayoumi (Assc. Prof. English, Brooklyn College),
Faisal Ben Khadra (Banker, Member of Arab Nationalist Congress, Jordan)
Ahmad Ben Maymoun (Poet, Morocco),
Rana A. Bishara (Palestinian Visual Artist),
Kamal Boullata (Palestinian Visual Artist),
Hisham Boustani (Dentist & Cultural Activist, Jordan)
Ibrahim Dakkak (Chair, Board of Trustees, Birzeit Univ.),
Domenico Losurdo (Prof. of Philosophy, Urbino Univ., Italy),
Hamdi Elbatran (Novelist, Egypt),
Khalid Elkhayri (Physician, UK),
Reem Fadda (Curator, Palestine)
Nadia Fadil (Prof., Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium),
Fatin Farhat (Director, Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, Palestine),
Ahmad Founouni (Iraqi Architect, Canada),
Bassam Frangieh (Prof. Arabic Literature, Yale University),
Luz Garcia Gomez (Senior Lecturer, Universidad de Alicante, Spain),

Majdolene Darwish (Pres., Nadi al-Saaha Cultural Club)

Ibrahim Desouki (Sports Journalist & Cultural Activist)

`Afifi Diab

Tareq Ghaddar (Prof. AUB),

George Haddad (Writer),

Lamya Al-Hage (Prof.)

Nabil Al-Hage Ali (Engineer and Cultural Activist),

Dia' Haidar (Journalist)

Hanna Al-Hajj (Phd, Sociology),

Ibrahim Al-Halaby (Media Director, Activist)

Zein Hammoud (Journalist)

Charles Harb (Asst. Prof., Psychology, AUB)

Khalil Harb (Journalist),

Imad Haydar (Journalist),

Nabil Haytham (Journalist),

Mousa Al-Hindi (Cultural Activist),

Mahmoud Hojeij (PhD, Film-Maker),

Lama Al-Hurr (Poet)

Houda Ibrahim (Journalist)

Samah Idriss (PhD, Al-Adab Magazine)

Suheil Idriss (PhD, Novelist & Lexicographer)

Ghassan Issa (MD, Social Activist)

Tima Al-Jamil (Asst. Prof., Psychology, AUB),

Maher Jarrar (Prof., Chairperson, Civilization Sequence Program, AUB),

Suad Joseph (Anthropologist, UC-Davis),

Graziella Kallab (Psychotherapist),

Laila Kalot Nassar (Social Activist)

Juhayna Khalidiyyah (Journalist),

Laila Al-Khatib (Phd, Literary Criticism),

Firas Kobeissy (Cultural Activist),

Pascal Lahhoud (Phd),

Zeina Maasari (Asst. Prof of Graphic Design, AUB),

Mohammad Ali Makki (Elec. Eng. & Cultural Activist)

Muna Giacaman (Instructor, Birzeit University),

Jorge Gimeno (Poet, Spain),

Aiman Haddad (Palestinian Translator and Cultural Activist, New York),

Ziad Haidar (Journalist, Syria)

Samia A. Halaby (Palestinian Artist, New York),

Sondra Hale (Prof. Anthropology & Women's Studies, UCLA),

Hadi Hassan (Economist, Iraq)

Information & Rehabilitation Center for Human Rights, Yemen

Georges Jabbour (Doctor, Syria),

Islah Jad (Asst. Prof., Political Sciences and Gender Studies, Birzeit University),

Bakr Al-Jalaash (Graphic Designer, Egypt),

Ahmad Mahmoud Al-Khalil (Journalist, Syria)

Ahmad Al-Khamisi (Writer, Egypt),

Eyad Kishawi (Palestinian Biomedical Researcher & Social Activist, US)

Imad Kishawi (Palestinian Engineer & Activist),

Nadia Latif (Pakistani Graduate Student, Columbia Univ),

Sami Mahdi (Poet, Iraq),

Maher Makhoulf (Engineer & Activist, Egypt)

Suleiman Mansour (Visual Artist, Director of Al-Wasiti Cultural Center, Palestine),

Mohammad Mazloum (Poet, Iraq)

Ziad Mona (Writer & Publisher, Syria),

Shakir Moustafa (Asst. Prof., Modern Languages, Boston University),

Karma Nabulsi (Academic and Writer, Oxford University),

Ali Nassar (Palestinian Film Director)

Jamal Nassar (Managing Dir., Dubai)

Lama Nassar (Research Manager, US)

In'am El-Obeid (Birzeit University),

Sufian Obeidat (Lawyer, Jordan)

Nasser Rabbat (Agha Khan Professor of Architecture, MIT),

Jamil Malak (Researcher & Lecturer),
Sahar Mandour (Journalist),
'Imad Marmal (Journalist),
Mai Masri (Film Director),
Rania Masri (Asst. Prof., Fac. of Science,
University of Balamand),
Sa'dallah Mazra'ani (Journalist & Media
Commentator),
Sa'd Mehio (Journalist),
Sabine Menassa
Hasna Reda Mikdashi (Editor, Nur
Magazine)
Hilmi Mousa (Political Analyst),
Ahmad Al-Moussawi (Journalist)
Ali Munaim (School Teacher & Activist)
Omar Nashabeh (PhD in Criminology),
Husayn Nasrallah (Journalist, Al-Kifah Al-
'Arabi Newspaper),
Najib Nasrallah (Journalist),
Ghassan Nasser (Architect & Cultural
Activist),
Rana Nawfal (Publisher),
Amin Qammuriyyeh (Journalist),
Wafiq Qansoh (Journalist),
Nada Al-Qara (Cultural Activist & Health
Worker),
Hashim Qasem (Journalist),
Adib Qa`war (Writer & Researcher)
Fatin Qubaysi (Journalist),
Sharif Al-Rifa'i (Architect),
Michel Riyachi (Cultural Activist),
Ussamah Saab (Architect),
Rima Saba (Planning Consultant,
Anthropologist),
Nader Sabbagh (Journalist),
Khalid Saghiyyeh (Asst. Prof., AUB),
Adnan Al-Sahili (Economist & Journalist),
Ali Salman (Journalist),
Hanady Salman (Journalist),
Rabi'a Salman (Journalist & Teacher),
Talal Salman (Al-Safir Newspaper),
Georges Saliba (Prof., Islamic Sciences,
Columbia Univ.)

Wissam Rafeedi (Researcher & Lecturer,
Birzeit University),
Maya Al-Rahabi (Doctor & Social Activist,
Syria)
Ramzi Rihan (V-P, Community Outreach,
Birzeit University),
Ali Safar (Poet & Film-Maker, Syria)
Hana El-Sahly (Palestinian Physician,
US)
Fakhri Saleh (Literary Critic, Jordan)
Mahmoud Said (Iraqi Novelist, US)
Simon Samoeil, Curator of the Middle
East Collection, Yale University Library),
Deema Al-Shawa (P-R & Media Director
MUSAWA),
Muzna Shihabi (Graduate Student in Intl.
Studies, Palestine),
Ahdaf Soueif (Novelist, Egypt & UK),
Vera Tamari (Visual Artist, Lecturer,
Birzeit University),
Virginia Tilley (American Prof., Political
Science, Human Sciences Research
Council Pretoria, South Africa),
Salim Vally (Prof., Education, Wits.
University, South Africa),
Carlos Varea (Prof., Anthropology, Madrid
Autonoma University, Spain),
Mary Christina Wilson (Prof. of History,
Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst),
Ibrahim Yassir (Ambassador, Political
Analyst, Intl. Lawyer)
Ibtihal Younis (PhD, Egypt)

Joseph Samaha (Al-Akhbar Newspaper),
Madonna Sam'an (Journalist),
Hala Sayegh (Collections Librarian, AUB),
Nasri Al-Sayigh (Writer),
Rosemary Sayigh (Anthropologist),
Nadya Sbaiti (Graduate Student & Cultural Activist),
Kirsten Scheid (Asst. Prof., Anthropology, AUB),
Muhammad 'Ali Shamseddin (Poet),
Fatima Sharafeddine (Children's Author),
Walid Sharara (Journalist),
Stephen Sheehi (Asst. Prof, Civilization Sequence Program, AUB),
Sami Souaydane (Literary Critic, Prof., Lebanese University),
Rafif Srour (Res. Assc, Civil & Environmental Engineering, AUB)
Maysoun Sukarieh (Cultural Activist),
Mundhir Sulayman (Phd, Political Analyst),
Shadi Takieddine (Sales Manager & Activist)
Bisan Tayy (Journalist)
Jihad Touma (Phd, AUB),
Fawwaz Trabulsi (Prof., Political Sciences, LAU)
Najah Wakim (Political Essayist and Activist),
Zaynab Yaghi (Journalist),
Ranwa Yehya (Coordinator of an Arab Youth program),
Zeina Zaatari (PhD, Social Researcher),
Khalil Zahreddin (Geologist & Cultural Activist),
Samar Zebian (Asst. Prof., Psychology, AUB),
Omar Zein (Assistant Secretary General Arab Lawyers Union),
Ra'fat Zibdawi (Social Activist)

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*To add your name to this statement, please contact Samah Idriss at
<kidriss@cyberia.net.lb> It would be appreciated if you circulate the statement
to your contacts. Thank you.*