



AL-RABAT

Arab Society for Economic Research

Curated by Al-Rabat's Editorial Team: Professor/ Khaled Al-Wazany; Ms. Hoda Hamouda; Ms. Mariam AbdelNabi and Mr. Ahmed Zaki - [Contact Us](#)

Editorial

This month's issue of Al- Rabat for this month varies in its coverage, and is distinguished by the contributions of ASFER's members and their interaction with the newsletter. The desire has become evident among colleagues to interact with the ASFER community through the written content they share, or by providing Al-Rabat and its team with news and contributions that help catalyze the bond and communication between everyone, across the space of our Arab world, as well as the seas and oceans outside of its sphere. This issue comes with stellar contributions, beginning with what His Excellency Dr. Taher Kanaan presents through an interactive article, in the blog corner of the newsletter, speaking transparently and clearly about "the continuous Israeli breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the commitment of the contracting parties signatory to it" and refutes objectively and frankly the positions taken with regards to that breach. As for the Arab Economy section, Professor Atef Qubrusi presents the second part of his interesting article on the Lebanese economy and the miracle that did not happen, but has not disappeared or ended, and talks about the devastating effects of the civil war that broke out in April 1975, including its impacts on brain drain, income decline and exploitation of resources. That said, he points out in the end that the Lebanese economy has the potential to restore the miracle that has strayed from its path, taking into account the need to overcome the obstacles and challenges mentioned in the article. The member snapshot for this issue sheds light on one of the distinguished and prominent members of ASFER with her knowledge, giving and experiences, providing a glimpse of Her Excellency Professor Naglaa Anwar Al-Ahwani's career as a former Minister of International Cooperation in Egypt, and as a board member at the Central Bank of Egypt and the Arab Society for Economic Research. To conclude, Al-Rabat contains, as usual, news and activities of ASFER's members, in addition to some international reports on the Arab economy, and some links and contributions that may interest members. We hope that this communication continues to disseminate more scientific and practical activities and contributions for ASFER's members across their presence in The Arab World and outside of it. And we look forward to meeting you in the next issue, and to receive more contributions and news from you.

Newsletter

- ASFER intends to hold its 17th scientific conference in partnership with the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government on the topic "Climate Change and Its Implications for Arab Economic Development" during the period 4-5 November 2023. A number of research proposals have been received and are being evaluated by the scientific committee. For more details, please visit ASFER's [website](#).
- ASFER announces the digitization of its Journal for Arab Economic Research and the uploading of all its issues on ASFER's website. The journal is also resuming issuances of its scientific journal with issue number 86/March 2023.
- The journal receives various contributions from research that can be arbitrated, in addition to special doors for opinion articles, book reviews, seminars, scientific conferences, and analytical presentation of Arab and international economic developments. To send scientific contributions, please register on the journal's website.
- ASFER's participation in the seventh Arab Development Report titled "Climate Change Challenges and their effects on Development in Arab Countries" in partnership with the Arab Planning Institute, the Egyptian Institute of National Planning, and OAPEC.



Members' News

- Professor Khaled Hanafy, ASFER Board Member and Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers selected for the board of trustees of the fund for enabling Jerusalem.
- Professor Gouda Abdel-Khalek, one of the founding members of ASFER, continues his participation in the Egyptian national dialogue and calls for the implementation of stronger economic policies to manage debt and government expenditures.
- Professor Mahmoud Mohieldin, ASFER President, elected President of the Board of Trustees of Nile University.
- Professor Ahmed Kamaly, Vice Minister at the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, participates in a session titled "The transformational capacity of continental voluntary reviews: Learning from peers and sharing experiences between Europe and Africa"

Member Snapshot

Professor. Naglaa Anwar Al-Ahwani, is a board member at ASFER and a professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University since 1998. Professor Al-Ahwani has worked at the faculty since her graduation and appointment as a teaching assistant in the Department of Economics in 1973. She has held the position of Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the French University in Egypt during the period 2017 - 2019, and currently serves, in addition to her work at Cairo University and the Supreme Council of Universities, the as a board member at the Central Bank of Egypt since January 2020. Prof. Al-Ahwani held the position of Minister of International Cooperation during 2015 - 2016, and represented Egypt in several international institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. She also served as an economic advisor and director of the technical office for different Egyptian Prime Ministers in different periods since 2011, alongside her work at the faculty. Professor Al-Ahwani also held the position of Deputy Executive Director and Senior Economist at the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies during the period 2006 - 2010, and the position of Director of the Center for European Studies at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science during the period 2002 - 2006, in addition to her work as an economic advisor to the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt and to the office of The International Labor Organization in Egypt, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. Prof. Al-Ahwani has curated and authored a large number of researches and scientific papers in the fields of employment and investment in human capital, workers' rights, poverty alleviation, labor productivity and skills migration, female employment and economic empowerment of women, in addition to analyzing the agreement on liberalization of trade in services and the construction sector, rural development, private sector participation in providing infrastructure services and borrowing policies, as well as research in the field of integration and expansion in The European Union and Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Prof. Al-Ahwani's work is published in Egyptian, Arab and international scientific journals since 1990. Further to Prof. Al-Ahwani academic and executive work, she engages in multiple other activities, including as member of the Board of Trustees of the ERRADA Initiative affiliated with The Egyptian Cabinet, The Advisory Board of The Center for Migration Research And Development at Coventry University, the General Assembly of the holding company for Tourism And Hotels, and has more recently Joined the Board Of Directors of Allianz Insurance Company. Prof. Al-Ahwani also served as board member at the Social Fund For Development, and the Board of Trustees of the Anti-Money laundering committee at The Central Bank of Egypt, the Board Of Directors of the General Federation Of NGOs, and the Egyptian National Council for Women. And on the level of civil service, Prof. Al-Ahwani serves as member of the Board Of Trustees of two Institutions working in the field of Public Health.



Professor / Naglaa
Anwar Al-Ahwani

Board Member, Arab
Society for Economic
Research

Board Member, Central
Bank of Egypt

Former Minister of
International
Cooperation, Arab
Republic of Egypt.

Blog

Israel's continued breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention

Professor/ Taher Kanaan - Chairman of the Board, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Qatar

The Palestinian, Arab and international reactions to the crimes committed by the occupying authority and its supporters in Hawara, Nablus, Jenin and other sites in the West Bank, which escalated during the current Netanyahu government and its pillars of extremists, are much weaker than to constitute sufficient pressure to thwart or reduce the pace of these crimes.

Perhaps one of the most important factors that weaken and curb the intensity of reactions, especially on the international level, to Israel's crimes and its continued violation of international law is the tendency of public opinion in most countries to believe that Israel, as it violates and breaches international law, is solely responsible for said violations and breaches, and that the role of other countries is to condemn and morally isolate this violating state. The truth that should be highlighted, however, is that the limitation of the international community's responsibility may apply here to Israel's violation of most international resolutions, but it certainly does not apply to Israel's violation and its continued stubborn violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, especially its violation of the following articles of this convention:

Article (49) [on settlement]: "Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive." "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."

Article (147) [on the subject of persecution and repression of the population under occupation] "Grave breaches to which the preceding Article relates shall be those involving any of the following acts, if committed against persons or property protected by the present Convention: wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person, compelling a protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile Power, or wilfully depriving a protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial prescribed in the present Convention, taking of hostages and extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly."

The convention mandates that each signatory country's adherence to the convention is not conditional only to cases where a signatory country is itself the settler, but also mandates its pledge to deter any country in violation of the convention to conform with its articles and retreating from its violations, as per the following articles in the convention:

Article (146) Each High Contracting Party shall be under the obligation to search for persons alleged to have committed, or to have ordered to be committed, such grave breaches, and shall bring such persons, regardless of their nationality, before its own courts. It may also, if it prefers, and in accordance with the provisions of its own legislation, hand such persons over for trial to another High Contracting Party concerned, provided such High Contracting Party has made out a prima facie case. Each High Contracting Party shall take measures necessary for the suppression of all acts contrary to the provisions of the present Convention other than the grave breaches defined in the following Article [147]

In light of these clear provisions, any Arab state, as a party to the Geneva Convention, alone or in solidarity with other countries, can call for an international conference for all countries that have signed the Fourth Geneva Convention to face their responsibility under the provisions of this convention and to explore ways to compel Israel to comply and retreat from all its violations of the convention, including issuing a resolution that compels this compliance from the Security Council under Chapter VII, and including engaging the participating countries in a boycott campaign that expands the scope of BDS to include the state of Israel itself and not just the settlements!

Arab Economy

What happened to the Lebanese Economic Miracle? Part II

Professor Atif Kubursi - Honorary Professor of Economics - McMaster University, Canada

The civil war that started on April 13th 1975 undermined and reversed the favorable factors that underpinned Lebanon's economic success processes and created some very negative mechanisms and attitudes of its own that proved to be difficult to reverse or moderate.

Without the war, the uneven sectoral, regional and class structures were bound to create social tensions, contradictions and conflicts. Whether it would have exploded into open warfare the way it did in 1975 is, however, debatable. Several mitigating factors could have easily thrown these tensions and inequities to simmer for a long time on the back burner of history. The new explosive opportunities in the Arab Gulf region were just beginning to loom on the horizon in the early 1970s. The uninterrupted and continuous growth that began in the early 1950s was just as solid in the early 1970s as it were in the 1950s. Furthermore, a new vigorous economic spurt was just about to begin fueled by the emergence of a vibrant and dynamic small scale manufacturing activity that was primarily export oriented. The war blunted this growth and sent the economy reeling on a contractionary spiral that lasted over 15 years.

Talents left the country, the educational system collapsed, transaction costs and risks escalated, unemployment climbed to historically high levels, currency depreciation fueled inflation and currency substitution in turn sustained inflation and cumulative depreciations, government revenues withered away usurped by warlords and the advantages that Lebanon had on its neighboring countries evaporated under the escalating cycles of violence, instability, a profuse brain drain and vigorous and dynamic developments in the Gulf countries.

From a relatively advanced and prospering economy in the 1970s, Lebanon teetered on the brink of total collapse in the late 1980s. It is miraculous that it did not implode the way most had expected. Surely, the Lebanese per capita income in US dollars slipped from a high of \$1800 in 1974 to below \$500 in 1989, from the ranks of middle income countries to the ranks of least developed countries, but the economy survived. The question is why it has survived and what accounted for this phenomenon.

A great deal of credit goes to the resilient Lebanese people that capitalized even on their troubles and kept the economy going. When electricity was cut, a number of local entrepreneurs started their own generators. Small shops selling all kinds of goods sprang on every corner and many families retreated into their villages and produced their own food and necessities. Equally as important was the fact that many left the country and emigrated to where jobs could be found. They showered Lebanon with remittances and reduced the social costs of unemployment.

The massive depreciation of the Lebanese pound acted as a shock absorber that moderated and fueled a countervailing adjustment process. Imports declined, real wages were eroded, debt was depreciated, rents were almost eliminated, barter emerged and Lebanese exports and assets became cheaper. Meanwhile, the Lebanese government that had shied away from the economy before the war played a significant balancing role during the war.

When the guns lay silent, there were ample reasons for believing that with political stability and the reconstitution of the Lebanese polity, the economy could be turned around and growth could again resume its normal course. There were, however, many obstacles to surmount before the economy could reclaim its health and vigor. First, the basic physical infrastructure that was destroyed during the war had to be repaired and rehabilitated quickly and effectively. Second, property rights that were usurped and violated needed to be re-established and protected. Third, the inherited rampant inflation had to be arrested and the depreciation of the Lebanese pound had to be stopped. Fourth, the profuse and continuous loss of Lebanese talents was steadily halted and the outflow turned around into an influx. Fifth, the proverbial Lebanese middle class that was decimated by war and inflation was slowly rebuilt. Sixth, the Lebanese government coffers were empty and fiscal order had to be restored. Seventh, the social and economic imbalances of the past whether those between regions, classes, sects and sectors had to be addressed and redressed.

This was a tall order even for a strong government and a healthy economy. It was doubly so for a fledgling government and a war-hampered economy. There was no time to spare and achievements had to be realized quickly and simultaneously. It has now become clear, however, that there were serious pitfalls in repairing a damaged economy and society without a coherent plan and a clear prior vision of the final outcome of the reconstruction program and the capacity to finance it without impairing the fiscal health of the economy.

ASFER members' contributions

- Professor Mahmoud Mohieldin: Localizing Development in a world of extreme change (1) - July 26th, 2023
- Professor Mahmoud Mohieldin: Localizing Development in a world of extreme change (2) - August 9th, 2023
- Professor Mahmoud Mohieldin: The Presumed Contradiction between Climate Action and achieving development - August 14th, 2023
- Professor Khaled Al-Wazany: Artificial Intelligence in Economics: Emirati excellence and initiative taking - August 13th, 2023
- Professor Khaled Al-Wazany: Special Developmental Economic Zones - August 12th, 2023
- Professor Gouda Abdel-Khalek: Where is social justice, Mr. Finance Minister? - August 2nd, 2023



Professor/ Mahmoud Mohieldin



Professor/ Gouda AbdelKhalek

Links and Resources

- [Fourth General Lecture - ASFER 2023](#)
- [Journal for Arab Economic Research](#)
- [Become a member](#)
- For more on ASFER, visit our [website](#)

Economic Reports on the Arab Region

- [The Unified Arab Economy Report - The Arab Monetary Fund](#)
- [Egypt and the International Monetary Fund - IDSC](#)
- [The Arab Economy Horizons - Arab Monetary Fund](#)