

Thursday August 3, 2006

Dear all,

To begin with and just for the sake of clarity we think it's important to try to explain better our choice of using 'BEIRUT' rather than 'LEBANON'. After the events of 9/11 in NYC the famous 'I LOVE NY' became extremely popular and very visible here in the United States as well as all over the world. This phenomenon is something that we have become used to seeing very often. We are also at the moment in New York City and in saying something about the situation in Lebanon we were realistically dealing first hand with not only an American audience but a New Yorker audience, therefore we chose to give them something that they see very commonly everyday and re-introduce their 'I LOVE NY' as 'I LOVE BEIRUT' to create an immediate relation between Lebanon and them. In a sense it was the best marketing tool we could think of to get a message across as quickly and non-politically as possible. The 'I LOVE NY' is also something known worldwide and we thought that perhaps the equivalent for us as Lebanese would in fact be 'I LOVE BEIRUT'. It is really substituting their major city for ours. Beirut also itself has a strong resonance in the minds of people, i.e. even if you're not familiar with Lebanon you have at some point in your life heard of Beirut.

The aim of the Lebanon Chronicle has also been further developed as we received your wonderful emails. The original idea for the Lebanon Chronicle was to chronicle the life of a country that in a sense and in this time of crisis exists in our minds and our imagination. This is not to say that our country does not exist anymore because it does, but the attempt of the Lebanon Chronicle will be to provide the chronicling and documentation of our country, as we want to tell it. While the terrible events taking place in Lebanon right now are being documented and chronicled through the media and news sources we would like to present the Lebanon Chronicle in parallel to that, as our voice, and as our story. As history can never be tested or completely objective, it in a sense only exists in the minds of the people that experienced it and as they tell it whether fact or fiction. So we propose to write our history, as truthful as we would like or even as fantastic as we would like. The Lebanon Chronicle aims at recording and documenting our hopes, our dreams, our stories, our thoughts, our expressions and using those to tell the story of our country. It is the aim of keeping Lebanon alive, well and functioning even if that is not necessarily what is happening at the moment. We would like to materialize all of your input into an actual country...and as far as we're concerned if it exists somewhere (on paper, on screen, on whatever) then **IT IS**. It is keeping the Lebanon we know and love still here and now until we are allowed to go back and apply our energies in the for real and now.

So we ask of you a few things: ('You' meaning Lebanese and Non-Lebanese)

FIRST:

The first thing we ask and urge you to do is to as soon as you receive the PDF files please send us your and all those involved in the printing pasting etc.. process:

1. FULL NAMES

2. YOUR DESTINATION COUNTRY/CITY
3. YOUR EMAILS ADDRESSES/WEBSITES/LINKS etc...

We really urge you to do this, as we want to post all the names and relevant cities online

SECOND:

We ask you to conduct a small exercise that we want to publish on the websites and that will be compiled as part of the chronicle, it will really be your personal contribution to this project.

- 1.) Please answer the following question:
(This is a really open exercise and we really encourage you to take it in the direction that you feel comfortable with. Please also feel free to answer the question in any medium or manner that you wish (i.e. text, image, sound etc.)

WHY DO YOU LOVE BEIRUT?

Note* for those who would rather write about Lebanon itself or a different city or town or village in Lebanon please do so.

We really believe that our testimonies of love for Beirut/Lebanon will be a wonderful way to express our thoughts on what is happening and will be received very well by the international community. It may also be a wonderful exercise for us to remain strong united and sane. Please take time and do this for us as we have wonderful plans for all of your thoughts and really think it's a great follow-up to the stickers.

Note* we apologize for the lengthy letter and hope most of you are still reading....

LAST BUT NOT LEAST:

We want to provide you with a few notes/instructions/advice that may make your printing and pasting experience easier.

- 1.) We are attaching PDF images in inches for those who are in the inches planet and in centimeters for those who are in the centimeter planet.

Note* for all those cm. people the PDF is measured in relation to A4 size paper. For all those inches people the PDF is measured in relation to LETTER size paper.

- 2.) The image is also in vertical as after trial and error we found it was the best way to take advantage of printing cost and get the most out of paper size.

Note* if you are not printing on the traditional paper sizes then utilize the image in any way that you see fit...your printer person can help you with that

- 3.) We are also providing the layout we used with the three stickers on one sheet as well as individual stickers

WARNING: After your stickers are printed please be cautious as 'vandalism' is illegal in most countries and may lead you to trouble. We have found the best way around this is

to spread out at night and do it quickly and carefully (but please don't let this deter you, as you will see it FEELS REALLY GOOD!)

4.) After the pasting happens please SNAP A SHOT. Send us an image of your 'I LOVE BEIRUT' in your city so we can post it online and show the people of the world how much we love Beirut.

Ok we think that's it....

If for some reason it doesn't work or the file doesn't open or whatever please email us as soon as possible.

Due to the large number of emails please use banabou@gmail.com so that we can have them all coming into one place

Also please send us your why you love Beirut statement as soon as possible.

We send all of you our warmest and best regards and urge everyone wherever you are to stay safe and sane.

Note* for all those non-Lebanese who have shown their encouragement and support and are participating in this we salute you...

WE THANK ALL OF YOU VERY MUCH AND HOPE THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS WILL BE AS WONDERFUL AS OURS WAS

Please don't forget to send us your name and info and images of your stickers as we would like to upload them as soon as possible.

Also please check the sites periodically to see people's reactions to your stickers

ENJOY!!!!!!!!!!

Peace and Love to All,

B., S., M.

The Lebanon Chronicle

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