

Abdul Salam Cheaib

- **His life in lines**

- He was born in Saida in 1937.
- He received his elementary and complementary education at the Evangelical School in Saida, then he pursued his secondary studies at the International College (IC) in Beirut.
- He obtained the Suffomor Diploma- Arts from the American University in Beirut.

- **Scientific Diplomas**

- Bachelor's degree in law (Faculty of Law at the Lebanese University) in 1961.
- Diploma in the American law and the compared law from the Colombian University- Leiden in 1963.
- PHD in law from the University of Sorbonne in Paris in 1965.

- **Academic Careers**

- Lecturer Professor in the Faculty of Law and Political and Administrative Sciences at the Lebanese University since 1965 till now.
- Lecturer Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration and Economy at the Lebanese University from 1976 -1981.
- Supervisor Professor of the examinations at each of Saint Joseph University and Arab University from 1966 till 1973.
- Vice-President of the International Academic National Committee of the compared law since 2001.
- Member of the High Council of the Lebanese and International Arbitration since 1998.
- Member of the Legal Institution for Surveys, Consultations and Arbitration.

- **Current Professional National Activities**

- President of the Defense Committee of Public Liberties and Human Rights at the Bar of Beirut since 1996.
- Member of the National Authority for drawing up the election law in Lebanon.
- He supervises the Master and Doctorate theses in the private law and business law in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the Lebanese University.
- His last discussion of the theses that he supervised was titled “the role of joint-stock companies in the contemporary economic system in 2005”.
- **Previous careers and activities**
 - A Former Adviser at the Ministers Presidency for the Administrative Reform Affairs 1973-1977.
 - A Former Legal and Administrative Adviser for each of both Ministries of Finance and Labor for periods and since 1980-1990.
 - A Former President of the Disciplinary Council at the Bar of Beirut 1992-1994.
 - A Member of the Committee of Unifying and Updating Laws at the Ministry of Justice between 1992-1998.
 - A Member of the National Authority for Missing Persons during the war 2000-2003.
 - He participated with the Committees of the Ministry of Justice to draw up the project of the new Penal Procedure Code in 2000.
 - He represented Lebanon before the Supreme Commission for Human Rights-United Nations in Geneva in 2001 regarding the missing persons in Lebanon.
- **Researches and Lectures**
 1. The Democracy and the Labor Code in 1984, a lecture in the Cultural Council of South Lebanon.

2. Economical and Social Rights in the Lebanese laws. A lecture in Dar Al Nadwa upon the invitation of the Lebanese Assembly for Human Rights in 1988.
3. "Human Rights in the Balance". A lecture given through the Lebanese Radio in 1988.
4. "The Legal Status of the Woman in the Lebanese Legislation". A lecture given at the Lebanese American University in 1989.
5. "Visual-Audio Media Freedom". A lecture in the International Conference on the Visual-Audio Media at the Bar of Beirut in 1996.
6. "The Labor Code between Flexibility and Protection". A BOT seminar supervised by the Bar of Beirut and the International Union of Lawyers in 1997 in Regency Hotel -Adma.
7. "Media and Problems of the Civil Society". A lecture upon the request of the National Council of Media in 1999.
8. "Judges and Litigants guarantees". A lecture given at Unesco during "Justice Conference and Keeping up with times" drawn up by the Ministry of Justice in 2001.
9. "The Future of the Labor Code in the Arab Countries in the light of the Globalization". A lecture given in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the Jesuit University in 2002.
10. "The Arab Movement for Human Rights" (Problems-Prospects), intervention given during the Arab Lawyers Union Conference meeting in Beirut in 2001 in Commodore Hotel.

The speech of the Lawyer Haykal Dergham

Dear friends,

We meet tonight at the Lebanese Book Festival for the 25th year animated by the Cultural Movement- Antelias about the man of law and lawyer, the man of public liberties and human rights, the man of science, qualification, patriotism and

conscience, the man of tolerance, respect for diversity and acceptance of the other.

He was committed to human rights and public liberties as one of means to deepen the civic education by virtue of which the waves of chaos, dependance and backwardness can be faced.

Abdul Salam Cheaib belongs to the joy generation of Lebanon citizens, the generation which was contemporary with the invisible Iman Moussa Sadr, Raymond Edde, Kamal Joumblat, Maarouf Saad and many others.....

He is one of the Lebanese elite, the son of the South region coming to Lebanon, the coexistence, from the articular area between Chouf Mountain, Amel Mountain, Bekaa Plain and Saida Coast. Our connoisseur seized this characteristic earlier where he only found an incentive of meeting and matchlessness confirmation.

He was not frustrated by the setbacks and difficulties but rather strengthened his faith in the richness of the Lebanese fabric, participating in building the experience of success and hope in the lawyer's mission on the one hand, and the obsession of public liberties and human rights including an absolute value on the second hand. His obsession is Lebanon the State, crossing through Lebanon from mount fire to safety, from the point of underdevelopment to oasis of modernity and peace.

He vowed his life as a lawyer defending the human being to lift injustice and sufferance, exploiting his energies to raise the word in defense of the right and truth.

He started speaking at seventeen years old. Law firm is a struggle in defense of the Lebanese State Sovereignty, this State that he loved and worked for it, his work was characterized by the integrity, spontaneity, planning and disdain (He never received from the Lebanese State any sum of money for all works and assignments he undertook. He taught more than forty years at the Lebanese University where he never received any sum of money as a contribution on his behalf to raise the level of the University-Faculty of Law-Faculty of Business Administration and Economy-A former Adviser at the Ministers Presidency for Administrative Reform Affairs-A former Legal and Administrative Adviser for each of both Ministries of Finance and Labor).

He contributed to the unification of the terms of the Arab Labor Law.

A member of the National Authority related to draw up the elections law in Lebanon. He refused with great legal colleagues to receive the share from the credit assigned for and they returned the amounts to the treasury.

He represented Lebanon before the Supreme Commission for Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva in 2001 and speeched regarding the missing persons subject in Lebanon, and submitted a written memorandum.

He sought to teach in order that the Lebanese University is a center of excellence, privilege, a high arena of culture, a scope of freedom and knowledge transfer in its impact on the mankind future on the social level since the University is called upon to adapt itself to the changing needs of the society.

He was always afraid of the collapse of the higher education since the academic collapse is accompanied by a cultural retaliation. The cultural deterioration leads to a political desintegration and it is the source of breakdowns and confusions.

He was very inclined to draw up projects for the community reform and the Lebanese State.

He was engaged in many specialized committees dealing with fields that need to be reformed and that will enlighten the public and correct the administration.

A man of determination and persistence who sees that his moral duty is to enlighten legislators and the public to adopt the most appropriate options in the reform field.

He mocked at whoever sold intentionally or not his homeland, naïve or stupid, helpless or semi-free.

He condemned the undermining of the jurisdiction credibility as a result of interventions in its affairs. He did not yield to the temptations of the status quo, he never lost his mind to claim for Lebanon independance and freedom of decision. He consented to public freedoms, human rights and democracy fied, betting on the civil peace stability (He is currently the President of the Committee of Public Liberties and Human Rights at the Bar of Beirut).

He seriously resisted the false values imposed by the occupier and its assistants on the Lebanese society: prestige, money, bribe, forgery, stealing, indifference, greatness and megalomania.

He believed that our Lebanese people traditions through respecting the public liberties and at the forefront the freedom of meeting, media, expression, demonstration and other regular democratic pressure form are constant and cannot be tolerated whereof he had a condemned attitude towards all repressive measures beyond the axioms of the laws and regulations in force adopted by the authority in the previous days and he severely denounced the violence and the terrorism which hits Lebanon.

In our meeting tonight with Dr. Abdul Salam Cheaib, the Cultural Movement-Antelias paid tribute and appreciation to the President of the Bar, the friend Boutros Doumit, to all the assistance of his friends, family and competent, especially Dr. Mohamad Faek who honored us with his presence.

The Minister Dr. Mohamad Faek, the General Secretary of the Arab Organization for Human Rights is a great flag of our Arab culture and struggle flags. He is the result of the will responsive faithfully and by commitment to the fabric of principles that governed his mind. His will is solid that is not being softened or tired, in his biography, a thirst of knowledge that is not saturated, his manifestations transcended the borders of the small and large country of Egypt to reach the Arab countries.

Our great flag recognized the role of the General Secretariat of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, which is a non-governmental organization with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council. He is currently holding the office of the General Secretary, the member of the National Council for Human Rights, the Director and the owner of the Arab Future House for Publication and Distribution; he supervises and contributes to many institutions and humanitarian organizations in Egypt and the Arab World.

He worked as a General Secretary Assistant of the United Nations, a member of the International Committee for Investigating on Darfur in 2004-2005.

The Minister of Information-the Minister of State for Foreigner Affairs-the Minister of the National Guidance-Director of an office and the Adviser of the Late President Jamal Abdel Nasser for African and Asian Affairs, an elected member of

the Egyptian Parliament for Kasr Al Nil Department for two consecutive sessions, a Secretary of the Foreign Affairs in the Socialist Union.

Duties

He presided over Egypt delegation in the conferences of the African Summit of the African Unit Organization for three sessions, representing the President Jamal Abdel Nasser.

He represented Egypt in the fourth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations from 1962 to 1965. He contributed to the African Liberation Movement struggling for the independence of the African countries in 1953 and 1971.

A member of an institution in the solidarity movement of African and Asian People.

He represented Egypt in many international conferences, and he was the personal emissary of the President Jamal Abdel Nasser in official duties in the Arab and African countries.

He has many researches about African and human rights matters, his most important works the book "Abdel Nasser and the African Revolution".

This rich world with the test capacity knowing how to paint some Arabs with their images and how they introduce themselves- who honored us with his presence. The word to him.

The speech of Mr. Mohamad Faek

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Allow me to express my happiness to join the Cultural Movement-Antelias in honor of one of the freedom knights and one of the Bar symbols, that I am pleased to honor and proud of his friendship, who is Mr. Abdul Salam Cheaib.

His honoring at this particular time is a message to the people of Lebanon and the various political forces, since he embodies a set of values, ideas and attitudes that Lebanon needs today more than ever before.

He does not know hatred or fanaticism, he unites and does not separate, his patriotism transcends everything else. He has a sacred value.

I am also pleased to be here in Lebanon, the country of freedom and the homeland of free persons. Freedom in Lebanon.....It has a special taste that is different from it anywhere else-is an essential component in Lebanon through the history, but it is wholly accumulated in the Lebanese citizen, the individual himself and freedom because a part of the personality and the life of each Lebanese before he acquires it from a power regime or a constitution.

Up to me, it is the secret of Lebanon greatness and Lebanese strength and their ability to innovate and to create, overcoming challenges and difficulties.

It was not strange that a Lebanese, Charles Malek, contributed to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the basis of the International Human Rights Community and that an other Lebanese, Joseph Moughayzel, contributed to the constitution of the Arab Organization of Human Rights and to the establishment of a parliamentary committee of human rights in the Arab World.

Abdul Salam Cheaib is of the same rank and quality of these nobles, I knew him at the heart of the Arab Movement of Human Rights as one of the strongest advocates of freedom and respect for human rights in all its various dimensions, affirms the right of citizenship, the participation of women and their fairness, rejects the policy of exclusion and calls for a culture of tolerance that brings together individuals. Me and the other and not me or the other. Cheaib believes in diversity and he sees that difference should not be a cause of disagreement but rather a source of strength and a motivation for creativity.

Cheaib has many lectures and interesting contributions published on the concepts of human rights and culture, which has a key role in supporting the human rights movement and enlightening the minds not only in Lebanon but in the Arab World.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

These free persons, Cheaib, Moughayzel and Malek, and their similar Lebanese in different fields that you honor are those ones who have made Lebanon the center of cultural and civilizational thought and radiation in the Arab World.

Lebanese through its diversity and openness to the culture of the West and the spread of its immigrant citizens throughout the world while adhering to the roots and the Arab identity.

All this has made it a unique model and a locomotive for enlightenment and progress in our Arab homeland, joins between pluralism and unity. Lebanon unity, and it is a unit tested by the conflicts and the civil war from where Lebanese went out more convinced of their unity and more connected to their Arab Nation, and so always when things get confused in Lebanon and the sectarianism emerges on the surface, the Arab identity is the rescue belt that returns to Lebanon its unity and balance and when Lebanon recovers and transcends the sect and religions, Lebanon becomes a model and a useful mission to its Arab nation.

I was pleased to know the Cultural Movement-Antelias that took the freedom culture and the culture freedom as a basis for the unity of Lebanon and its independence, affirming its Arab identity and its openness to whatever is new in the world. It was natural that relationship is strengthened between Antelias and the Bar of Lebanese Lawyers, the fortress of freedom and the voice of whoever has no voice, especially the freedoms committee presided over by our knight Dr. Abdul Salam Cheaib.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Dr. Abdul Salam Cheaib has been elected as the President of Freedoms Committee at the Bar since 1996 to be the honored personality this year. This came in honor of all the principles for which the Cultural Movement-Antelias was founded and in honor of the Bar of the Lebanese Lawyers. Dr. Cheaib is one of the authentic knights of freedom, his honored history witnesses that either through his studies which started from Saida to the United States towards Sorbonne in Paris, his scientific degrees which qualified and provided him with knowledge about whatever is related to freedom, human rights, international law and humanitarian international law or through his practice and his struggles when he carried weapons against the Israeli invasion of the South and the struggle at the heart of the human rights movement and the Bar.

Most importantly, he was committed in all his life and in all offices he held in accordance with these covenants, human principles and moral values with a framework of true patriotism and the embodiment of the sweet Lebanese spirit and open mind to whatever is new in our vast world. In all this, Dr. Cheaib carries the concerns of his nation and his Arab roots that he derived from Lebanon, the pearl of the Arab Nation. Cheaib knew that we were in a world where small entities no longer exist and that Lebanon is a great Arab entity. He also knows

that large entities are only created by independent sovereign States and with free will. Freedom makes unity and therefore, Cheaib was always with independence for the Arab lands, keen to achieve their freedom as he is eager for Lebanon freedom and maintenance of its independence.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our nation needs all free fighters for the freedom and the respect of human rights, for example Abdul Salam Cheaib, men and women to liberate our Arab Nation from subjugation and repression, ignorance and poverty, from fragmentation, fanaticism and exclusion culture. We need Antelias culture that unites the nation, we need Lebanon, healthy united Lebanon, Lebanon the mission and model, Lebanon the resistance. Lebanon is the only Arab country that brought out Israel from its occupied land in the South without offering any waivers since all Lebanon as government and people stood for the resistance and bore its cost. I still remember the words of the martyr President Rafic Hariri via satellites screens saying “we are not the first people to resist occupation”.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In these accurate and difficult circumstances that Lebanon experiences, I believe that Lebanon is on the verge of a democratic transition that is so important to keep its people here in Lebanon, away from any external interferences.

Democracy is only founded by its people, it is not an exportable commodity and cannot be imposed on by abroad through occupation or aggression. Iraq occupation did not bring democracy, but it spread terror and withdrew the allegiance from the civil State to tribes and sects, threatened the nation unity, and in its existence, sectarian disputes burst that put Iraq on the threshold of a civil war. The occupation of any part of the Arab Nation is a declaration of our freedom and a threat of our safety. Our right but our duty is to resist it in Iraq, Golan, Shebaa and Palestine where Israel committed the most repugnant crimes against humanity and war crimes and established a wall of forced isolation contrary to the judgment of the International Court of Justice.

Lebanon was always a forum and a platform for all parties in the Arab Nation, do Lebanese parties succeed in their dialogue?

Our confidence in the people of Lebanon is great and illimited and we know that Lebanon will remain a model and a mission for all Arabs.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Words are not enough to give Dr. Abdul Salam Cheaib his right, but I wanted to set forth some of his thoughts, and the importance of this is that the man does what he says? He owns the ability to act through with his extensive Lebanese, Arab and international contacts, and by virtue of his active presence at the Bar of the Lebanese Lawyers, as well as in the heart of human rights movement. Greetings and congratulations to him from the heart, greetings to the Bar, greetings and appreciation to the Cultural Movement-Antelias and greetings to you brothers and sisters for your presence in honor of this noble man.

Live Lebanon free and peace be upon you and the mercy of God.

The speech of Dr. Abdul Salam Cheaib in his honoring day

Memories and events of the past come to mind on this occasion with their different illustrations, the luminous and the dark ones, the sweet and the bitter ones, and they simultaneously overlap with aspirations and hopes that still remain in the soul for the rest of the future.

They also seem in front of the life journey viewers which has not yet ended since its beginnings and in all its stages as it is a flash of time or an inadvertance thereof.

Today, I stop to wonder as everyone who comes up this platform does: did I perform my duty in the march of life and accomplish what I have painted for myself as aspirations and ambitions?

I was impressed in my life like others by the environment where I lived and which raised me.

I brought up in a house which taught me the love of people, the support of the oppressed and looking after others more than myself, in a city which established in myself the deep belief of the nation and which was always the ideal and example of coexistence among the Lebanese.

In a school that taught me the right science and planted in myself the human values, the virtue of tolerance and the respect for different religions.

Therefore, the universities in Lebanon and abroad where my specialization has been completed, have opened the horizons of cultures and civilizations and made me convinced that all different civilizations are streams which flow into one human civilization.

Thus, I know the life since awareness as a commitment and a mission, a commitment to the issues of man and society, and a mission in order to raise the nation standing and to spread good, love and peace therein.

My specialization in the study of law, my practice of law career and my teaching of law courses for forty years, then presiding over the Human Rights Committee at the Bar of Beirut for ten consecutive years and in difficult circumstances to deepen my faith in commitment and mission and to uphold the principles of freedom, justice and equality.

I return to answer the question that I asked previously, did I achieve the self and the mission?

I knew as people of my generation, two periods of time, the first one short bright where I achieved some of the self, and the other one long and dark which demolished many hopes and aspirations and where life in its majority was a loss.

The first period started at the beginning of our youth since we entered public life at the beginning of the sixties of the last century, where we accompanied the scientific, urban and social rise of Lebanon and contributed as our generation contributed through university education and participation in public work, then in that time, Lebanon appeared to be a country of cultural, scientific and humanitarian radiation throughout the region.

We witnessed the birth of the state of different administrative, economic, social and financial institutions and sovereignty of law. Development became the policy of the established State, job opportunities have been increased, the standard of living has been risen and differences between classes have been reduced.

As we saw many changes on the regional and international level and a vision for freedom, independence and social justice in the Arab and international world.

This era full of hopes and aspirations did not last long where Lebanon has been invaded by the region conflicts and foreign interventions.

The small country became the arena for the conflicts of others during fifteen years and the man in Lebanon was its tools and fuel simultaneously, the stone has been destroyed, human beings have been killed, the youth of Lebanon has been deserted, the nation has been ruined, the State foundations have been destroyed, mini-states of states have been established, hopes and aspirations were lost, and long and dear years of life were wasted.

At this stage our concern and our generation concern were to uphold the legitimacy of the State and to maintain the unity of the homeland.

Although the armed conflicts stopped on the land of Lebanon, however, the occupation continued and the guardianship was established by its ugliest forms of oppression, and humiliation. The human being in Lebanon was subjected to the worst kinds of violations of his political, economic and social human rights. The human being right to participate in the administration of the public affair became formal and democracy has been falsified and became formal without substance, the role of the middle class in Lebanon diminished and we became in front of two rich and poor classes, the role of civil society institutions has been disputed, the great corruption and organized crimes spread in the society and the state, the sectarian and confessional fanaticism extremely invigorated and the society has been transformed from a free society to a slave society where the human being is eager for a living and is driven by money and media instead of national and human values.

Despite the human being sufferance in Lebanon from domination, injustice, oppression and violation of dignity and rights, he was able to regain his dignity, his decision and his sovereignty, but the promise of change and reform has not been achieved, the rescue of the country became hampered by the absence of the unified national project, and the homeland came into the big hook.

Today, more than ever, believers believe in human rights and activists in their fields that the future of Lebanon depends on the future of the human being therein and away from any discrimination in sex or wealth or sect or doctrine, as man remains the basic value in the construction of nations and states.

With respect to all opinions, we are still looking forward to the establishment of a modern civil state. We saw some of its good news in the early sixties, a state of patronage based on the citizenship rather than on the familial or sectarian or

fanatic basis, where the human being is connected to the state without any intermediate, established a true democratic system with full parity and equality of opportunities among all Lebanese with the sovereignty of law and the jurisprudence independence.

We want a civil, organized, coherent and advanced society based on the reason, the science, the ethics and national and human values which equals among people as free citizens, benefits from the purposes of supreme human religions with their high values without making them tools for the political conflict and fight for power, and holds the different authorities responsible for all their acts.

It is not new if I say that Lebanese are really eager for change and reform and for a society like this. The Lebanese society is not a single case in the world, which is difficult for scientific research or objective analysis to be able to approach sectarian forms.

Frankly, we say that the cost of maintaining the sectarian system in Lebanon in its current condition is more expensive than the cost of starting its change.

The first thing that the west and the developed countries did to establish a modern state and to build pillars of their unity and strength was to set aside the ethnic, religious and sectarian differences.

The document of the national reconciliation, then the constitution drew the path of salvation from sectarian fanaticism, making the abolition of the political sectarianism a national goal, and drew together the way out of this situation in accordance with the phased plan gradually and thoughtfully.

Let us start the road and prepare the means for that, let the national authority be established as promised by the Ministerial Statement of the Government and let the required trend start.

The aspiration to establish a modern civil state and a coherent civil society must be accompanied by a sustainable development of the human being on all the cultural, knowledge, economy and sociology levels.

This will indeed happen in a free and democratic society that respects human rights. This is not currently available in the Lebanese civil society which is witnessing a worrying decline as this society is converted into multi-sectarian communities closed on themselves with their activities and institutions.

Therefore, we must return to the civil society its unity and openness to each other.

Finally, two things must be emphasized.

The first is the need to preserve the social safety nets for human beings in Lebanon such as the institutions of the social security, the social rehabilitation, the housing and the health after poverty had been entered Lebanese homes, and the role of the public sector is necessary in addition to strengthening the private sector, maintaining the middle class and forbidding human beings in Lebanon from being converted into a commodity as other ones under the new global economy and globalization.

The second, man must in Lebanon, owing to the human correlation that holds the world today each other, grobe for human matters everywhere, particularly in the Arab region and confront the despotism where it is.

He must not forget that Lebanon is one of the makers of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for more than fifty years.

Perhaps, the greatest challenge to the humanity and the international community in this century is how to preserve the right of the Palestinian man in his land and to ensure his return.

This right concerns all the humanity, not only the Palestinian or the Arab people.

In conclusion, we are confident that human beings in Lebanon, especially the civil society forces and rising generations will respond to the challenge without despair and will move towards making the future and building the desired homeland no matter how long.